BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 | 2022

NATASHA ROCKS AT MET GALA

Natasha Poonawalla looked drop-dead gorgeous as she showcased Indian fashion on the Met Gala 2022 red carpet

LEISURE P2



ALL FOR CEASEFIRE

PM Narendra Modi appeals for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy

INTERNATIONAL P10



CSK FACE RCB TODAY

Chennai Super Kings look to keep the winning momentum going when they face Royal Challengers Bangalore

SPORTS P12

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VOLUME 12, ISSUE 33 | www.orissapost.com

Curfew in Jodhpur after communal tension

Jodhpur/Jaipur: Communal tensions gripped Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's hometown Jodhpur hours before Eid Tuesday, prompting the authorities to suspend mobile internet services and impose a curfew in 10 police stations areas of the city. The chief minister has appealed to people to maintain peace and harmony. The Jodhpur deputy commissioner of police issued orders mposing a curfew till May 4 midnight besides suspending mobile internet services to check the spread of rumours. Tensions broke out past midnight over putting up of Islamic flags on the Jalori gate circle, which led to stone pelting in which five policemen were injured.



Don't feel for me, pray for Twitter: Parag

New Delhi: As Elon Musk prepares to hire a new CEO for Twitter once he takes over, current CEO Parag Agrawal is worried about the future of the micro-blogging platform, not his job. Amid multiple reports that Musk has lined up a new CEO to replace him, Agrawal has already said that he took the job to change Twitter for the better, course correct where we need to, and strengthen the service. "I feel for the current CEO of Twitter (@paraga) - he had all these plans and now lives with the same uncertainty of his whole team," posted a Twitter user. Agrawal replied, "Thank you but don't feel for me. What matters most s the service and the people improving it."



AHEAD OF PM'S VISIT

France pulls out of submarine project

Narendra Modi's visit to Paris

where he is scheduled meet re-

cently re-elected French President

Emmanuel Macron. AIP system

allows a conventional submarine

to stay submerged in water at

higher speeds for a longer period.

Ministry had cleared the P-75I proj-

ect and subsequently, RFPs were is-

sued to two shortlisted Indian com-

panies -- private company Larsen

and Toubro and state-run Mazagaon

strategic partners) have to tie up

with one of the five shortlisted for-

eign companies -- ThyssenKrupp

Marine Systems (Germany),

Navantia (Spain) and Naval Group

(France), Daewoo (South Korea)

and Rosoboronexport (Russia) --

and then respond to the RFP, as

The two Indian companie

Docks Limited.

In June last year, the Defence



File photo of INS Vagsheer, the last of the six Scorpene class submarines, built by the Naval Group under P-75 and launched in April 2022

■ Naval Group, a major French submarine maker, has pulled out of India's P-75I ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: French company Naval Group Tuesday said it is unable to participate in Centre's P-75I project, under which six conventional submarines are to be domestically built for the Indian Navy. due to conditions mentioned in the request for proposal (RFP) related to air independent propulsion (AIP) system.

Naval Group's announcement comes a day before Prime Minister per the Defence Ministry

The ₹43,000 crore-contract will be awarded by the Defence Ministry following a detailed evaluation of the responses sent by the two strategic partners. In a statement Tuesday, Laurent Videau, Country and Managing Director, Naval Group India, said, "Due to certain conditions in the RFP, the two strategic partners could not forward the request to us and few other FOEMs (foreign original equipment manufacturers) and thus we have not been able to place an official bid for the project.

Naval Group has always been ready to offer the best in class and adapted solution for Indian Navy's P-75I project, being fully in line with Aatmanirbhar Bharat principle, he said. "However, the present RFP requires that the fuel cell AIP (air independent propulsion) be sea proven, which is not the case for us yet since the French Navy does not use such propulsion system," he said.

Nevertheless, Naval Group strengthens its existing commitments and look forward for closer association with India, he said.

Notably, the P-75I is the second project to build submarines in India. The Naval Group just completed building six Scorpene class submarines under the P-75 in partnership with the Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilding Limited (MDL) in India. The sixth in the class was launched last month and is expected to be commissioned next year.



The Chandan Yatra of Srimandir deities commenced at Narendra pond in Puri on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Tuesday. The summer ritual is being organised with participation of devotees after two years

CM distributes ₹800cr KALIA aid

Around 40 lakh small & marginal farmers and landless farm workers, except those in Jharsuguda, received the benefit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday disbursed around ₹800 crore to farmers under the state's flagship KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme on the occasion of agrarian festival Akshaya Tritiva.

Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode, Patnaik disbursed the amount to 40 lakh small and marginal farmers, and landless farm workers, barring the peasants in Jharsuguda district where the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is enforced for the May 31 by-election to Brajarajnagar Assembly seat, it was learnt.

Each registered farmer will get ₹2,000 for Kharif crop.

Under the KALIA scheme, the state government provides ₹4,000 to farmers in two phases - once during Kharif and another in Rabi

Naveen greets people on Akshaya Tritiya

hief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday greeted the people on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Eid Ul Fitr and World Press Freedom Day. "Seek blessings of Lord Jagannath on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya and wish happiness and prosperity of farmers. I greet all the cultivators of Odisha on the auspicious Day (sic)," he said in a tweet. In another tweet, he said, "Warm greets on the auspicious occasion of #EidUllFitr. May the spirit of #Eid bring happiness, peace, prosperity and lead us in the path of compassion and love.'

season. Patnaik highlighted farmers' contribution to ensuring food security.

He also launched eight new programmes for agricultural development, including Panasa (jackfruit) Mission and Rejuvenating Watershed for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (Reward) programme.

Patnaik said the state government has allocated more than ₹20.000 crore under the agriculture budget for 2022-23 fiscal

He said that ₹500 crore has been allocated for Reward project to improve the productivity of cultivable land through equitable distribution of irrigation.

A total of ₹2,808 crore has been allocated under Millet Mission for farmers in 182 blocks in 19 districts, ₹97 crore under Jackfruit Mission, and ₹239 crore to include 1.8 lakh farmers in eight districts under special programme for promotion of integrated farming, he said.

Patnaik also launched 'Krushak Odisha' portal, where farmers can update their data to get necessary services and advices. Similarly, 'Go-Sugam' portal was launched for livestock farmers

freezes ₹6.57 crore POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, May 3: The

Fake loan app: EOW

Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch has frozen ₹ 6.57 crore bank deposits of Mahagram Payments Private Limited, a Mumbai-based firm which was not registered with Reserve Bank of India, for duping several persons through fake loan applications like KOKO and JOJO,

an official said Tuesday. The EOW crackdown came while investing a case (9/22) registered on the allegations of Bikash Kumar Sahu, one of the victims, of Turumunga area in Keonjhar: "Ram Shriam Pathade and Sudhir Shiram Pathade through their company, Mahagram Payments Pyt Ltd. cheated several people across the country, including in Odisha, through loan applications like KOKO and JOJO," said an official, adding that KOKO has been downloaded by around 1.5 lakh people.

loans ranging between ₹3,000 and 5,000 to the persons who approach them after downloading the apps from Playstore. Later, the accused would demand excessively high rate of interest on the principal. "The accused company through its recovery agents placed WhatsApp and live calls to the victims humiliating/abusing them to return the money with upto 5 times rate of interest within a week. They would also collect the contact list of the loanee and send ob-

The accused used to offer small

The EOW was yet to arrest accused Ram, Sudhir of Mahagram Payments, it was learnt.

scene pictures and messages to

them," said an official.

WEATHER 2.2mm cloudy sky

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

naxals. See, how much NRIs love me... and they never complain about anything!

2 hockey players electrocuted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, May 3: In a shocking incident, two young hockey players died due to electrocution at Gariamal village of Alanda panchayat under Rajgangpur block in Sundargarh district The deceased were iden-

tified as Birendra Kujur, 20, of Jahagadpur and Sujal Ekka, 19, of Pandaratoli village.

Sources said the two, along with a few others, had gone to practise While returning from the ground at 8 am, they found a utility pole near a hockey coach's house leaning on the road under the impact of a hailstorm. The wires had snapped and fallen on the road, it

was learnt. The hockey players tried to straighten the pole by using an iron pipe which came in contact

with an 11KV live wire. Four of them got the shock and were rescued by locals before being rushed to Rajgangpur Hospital, where the doctors declared two of

hockey at Gariamal village ground. Boudh sizzles at 44.5°C, 2nd-highest in India

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Boudh recorded the second-highest temperature in the country Tuesday as parts of Odisha boiled in the blazing sun, with 18 weather stations recording a maximum of 40 degrees Celsius or more, the Met of

Rain along with thunderstorms occurred in several places including Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The maximum temperature rose by around 1-2 degrees Celsius in some places and was above normal in several towns, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said. The temperature soared to 44.5 degrees Celsius in Boudh, the second-highest along with two other weather stations in the country.

Bhubaneswar and Cuttack received the season's first thunderstorm as squally winds and light rain brought much-needed relief to the people of the twin

■ Chandrapur in Maharashtra saw the day's highest temperature at 45.2 degrees Celsius



Chandrapur in Maharashtra saw Subarnapur, and 43 in Sundargarh, the day's highest maximum tem-Jharsuguda and Bolangir. It rose perature at 45.2 degrees Celsius. to 39 degrees Celsius in Bhubaneswar. three notches above average, it said. the Met said. The mercury was at 43.5 degrees Celsius in Angul and Baripada in Mayurbhanj district received 27.6 mm of rainfall till 5.30 pm, bringing the maximum temperature down to 30.2 degrees Celsius. There was moderate downpour in Rayagada, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Gajapati districts over a 24-hour period till 8.30 am, it said.

Bhubaneswar and Cuttack received the season's first thunderstorm as squally winds and light rain brought much-needed relief to the people of the twin cities. There was heavy downpour in Balasore town, and moderate rainfall in other parts of coastal Odisha.

Under the influence of the southwesterly winds from the Bay of Bengal, scattered or widespread rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds of around 40-50 kmph can occur across the state during the next three-four days.

LADY VARSITY STAFFER'S BF SPENT ₹50L ON GAMBLING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The twin city Commissionerate Police probing the misappropriation of funds of a university by one of its lady

employees here, Tuesday said that the woman's boyfriend had squandered ₹50 lakh out of the ₹97.54 lakh on online gambling.

The twin city police has arrested Bikas Kumar, the boyfriend of Payal BIKAS KUMAR Mohapatra, in Jharkhand and brought him to the City on a transit remand.

"Bikas is being interrogated by the Tamando police. He has confessed to having received around ₹97.54 lakh from the woman and spent ₹50 lakh of it on online gambling," said an official. Mohapatra, a resident of Cuttack,

was working as an office assistant in the accounts department of a university here since 2017. The accused used to collect

hostel and tuition fees from students at the university counter. During a recent financial audit, the university authorities came

to know that Mohapatra had not deposited the collected amount in the institution's bank account. The authorities lodged a complaint with the Tamando police, who arrested

Mohapatra last month.



eisure

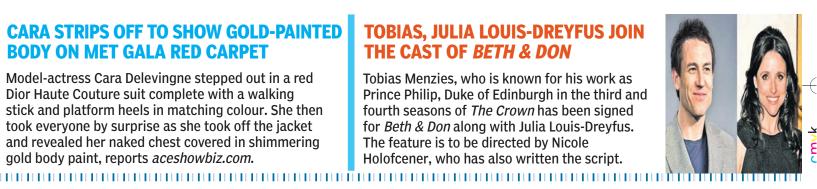


CARA STRIPS OFF TO SHOW GOLD-PAINTED **BODY ON MET GALA RED CARPET**

Model-actress Cara Delevingne stepped out in a red Dior Haute Couture suit complete with a walking stick and platform heels in matching colour. She then took everyone by surprise as she took off the jacket and revealed her naked chest covered in shimmering gold body paint, reports aceshowbiz.com.

TOBIAS, JULIA LOUIS-DREYFUS JOIN THE CAST OF BETH & DON

Tobias Menzies, who is known for his work as Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in the third and fourth seasons of The Crown has been signed for Beth & Don along with Julia Louis-Dreyfus. The feature is to be directed by Nicole Holofcener, who has also written the script.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

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Business affairs and love will flourish today. You can expect some monetary benefits and even some loans to be sanctioned. In love, you anticipate a romantic evening, where you will confide your deepest feelings to you beloved. Ganesha says you couldn't possibly ask for more.

TAURUS

Today, your passion for punctuality, for insistence on maintaining schedules is in for real appreciation. But, warns Ganesha, it could also create immediate and unexpected problems for some. You are like to become exceeding impatient restless as the day progresses.

GEMINI

The first half of the day may see you in a foul mood, and the reason for it is likely to be some mental worry that has been bothering you for quite some time now. If things worsen, it is best to see a doctor.

CANCER

You have a gift. You come across as a very approach-It's this attribute that makes people want to work with you and trust you, says Ganesha. But today is another day, and you may want a break from helping people fight their daily battles and spending some quality time with your family members.

LEO

Rise and shine, says Ganesha, as today will be a sunny day. You will start the day on a very positive note filled with unwavering optimism. Look forward to expressing your views clearly. In fact, the meetings may push you into the limeliaht.

In all probability, you would want to quarantine yourself today - mentally and physically. It's all got to do with the way you can challenge yourself and pool your own resources together to make the best of unpleasant conditions.

SCORPIO

your toes and make you dance around, says Ganesha, Success is likely to intoxicate you. Ganesha advises you not to let emotions influence your plans and strategies in any way.

Today you shall remain deep in thought. You may have plans to change the look of your home and a romantic evening with vour sweetheart is on the cards, says Ganesha. Fine gourmet and a nice ambience will arouse those senses more, informs Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

minded people is on the cards today, says Ganesha At work, you may try everything in your capacity to attain perfection, but perfection will remain restricted to your thinkyour mind will actually come into force. you will continue to remain optimistic and move ahead with equal enthusiasm.

AQUARIUS

Metaphysics and philosophy have aroused your interest. Instead of spending a huge amount on books on these subjects, Ganesha suggests that you keep a balanced approach and practice spiritual discipline. It's also high time you changed your dietary habits.

PISCES

Today is a day when the focus is solely on achieving your career goals. A joint venture you have been hankering after for guite some time ought to fall into place today. A tour for business purposes is also indicated. On the domestic front, all should



NATASHA nails Met Gala 2022 look

The entrepreneur nailed the 'Gilded Glamour' theme for he night while also bringing in a touch of Indian elegance by wearing a saree designed by Sabyasachi Mukherjee

> Mumbai: Indian socialite and businesswoman Natasha Poonawalla looked drop-dead gorgeous as she showcased Indian fashion on the Met Gala 2022 red carpet

> Natasha nailed the 'Gilded Glamour' theme for the night. She looked every-inch gorgeous in a fashion designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee's golden saree and jewels, whereas the bustier came from the house of Schiaparelli. The infusion of desi glamour and the American-inspired theme instantly made Natasha one of the best-dressed celebrities of the night.

> Pictures of Natasha's look for the event were oosted by the official Instagram account of Sabyasachi. Sabyasachi captioned the image: "For me the sari is a truly unique and versatile garment that owns its identity even as it transcends boundaries and geographies.'

> "Back when I was a young fashion student, I often wondered when I would see the sari at big global fashion events like the Met Gala. For the 2022 Met Gala, themed 'In America: An Anthology of Fashion', Natasha Poonawalla's vision was to interpret the dress code 'gilded glamour' with an Indian gaze that revels in its multi-culturalism and authenticity. Na<mark>tasha</mark> wore a <mark>"Sch</mark>iaparel<mark>li ha</mark>nd-forg<mark>ed m</mark>etal bustier paired with a custom Sabyasachi couture sari and trail.'

Sabyasachi contributed to Natasha's vision by celebrating Indian craftsmanship with a gold handcrafted printed tulle sari and trail embroidered with silk floss thread and embellished with bevel beads, semi-precious stones, crystals, sequins and appliquéd printed velvet.

Meanwhile, in her

last photo, the actress

enjoyed is seen spending

some quality time in the

Meanwhile, the

in Avan

newly-wed couple Alia

and Ranbir will be

Mukerii's fantasy

drama *Brahmastra*

September 9, 202

AGENCIES

Her third photo is a cute selfie from the sets of

Ayan Mukherji's Brahmastra, with her hair cov-

Besides, Alia is also working on the next

schedule of her upcoming film Rocky Aur RKi

Prem Kahani directed by Karan Johar, which also

ered in vellow petals

stars Ranveer Singh



Tara opens up about her Hollywood plans

Mumbai: Tara Sutaria's recent release Heropanti 2 opened to mixed reviews from the audience. The actress has been promoting the flick on various platforms. And during a recent interview, she opened up about her Hollywood plans.

During the conversation, Tara expressed that she aims to work in Hollywood as well. Talking about the same, the actress shared that the representation of Indians in Hollywood is less. She further added that she doesn't intend to stick to a bunch of Hindi flicks. However, she feels that it would be great to approach that as soon as possible because she doesn't want to regret it later. The actress went ahead to shared that her current focus is Bollywood. Meanwhile, Heropanti 2 features Tiger

Shroff as the male lead and Nawazuddin Siddiqui as the antagonist. Helmed by Ahmed Khan, the film hit the theatres April 29.





stone unturned to make his first theatrical release in post-lockdown times a memorable one. And it is perhaps the first time that a song launch has been planned at a massive scale The heartthrob will be promoting the song with a four-city tour starting from Chandigarh

who seems to be unstoppable, is leaving no

to Lucknow, Delhi to Gurugram. The actor has a strong mass appeal, and he loves to connect with his fans personally. With Covid-19 situation under control, he is making sure to make the most of it. The film's team has chalked out an extensive promotional plan with Aaryan to launch the much-

awaited track, which is one of the most important assets for the film. He will be visiting colleges, malls and theatres in these cities and launching the song with a live audience in a The teaser of the song was released Saturday and went on to get millions of views in just a couple of hours. Aaryan's catchy new hook step

in the teaser has already gone viral with fans and admirers. The song is composed by Pritam, recreated by Tanishk Bagchi for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, and

the vocals are by Neeraj Shridhar. In the number, which has been choreographed by Bosco Caesar, Aaryan is setting the dance floor on fire. The trailer for the movie was recently launched in Mumbai

> ing on YouTube. Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, directed by Anees Bazmee, also features actors Tabu, Kiara Advani and Rajpal Yadav in key roles. The film has been produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Murad Khetani and Anjum Khetani. The film will release in cinemas May 20.

amid much fanfare. The

trailer, which blew every-

one's mind, is still trend-

Today promises to be an action-packed day for you at work. So, get ready to take the bull by its horns, says Ganesha. Expect to handle a lot of unknown people and unfamiliar situations at work Evening might find you making a few trips to the market to buy some provisions. Also, love is in the air, and you are in demand. So, the opposite sex will be queuing up to catch a glimpse of you.

Business will keep you on

SAGITTARIUS

A memorable time with likeing. None of the innovative ideas striking But this will not deter you in any way, and

be well, says Ganesha.

PEANUTS

in the sun.



Alia shares her life

through selfies on Insta

Mumbai: Alia Bhatt, fresh from her dreamy wed-

ding with Ranbir Kapoor, shared her life through

four selfies where she posted her pictures from the

April. In the first selfie, the actor is seen basking

The second one shows a delighted Alia upon re-

ceiving a handwritten letter from Amitabh Bachchan

praising her performance in Gangubai Kathiawadi.

first four months of 2022.

her Instagram handle.

Sharing instances from her

life occasionally, Alia often leaves

her fans in awe of her beauty

with the pictures she shares on

Internet by storm when she

posted four pictures that give

us a glimpse of the actor at dif-

ferent times from January to

Similarly, Alia has taken the

CALVIN AND HOBBES

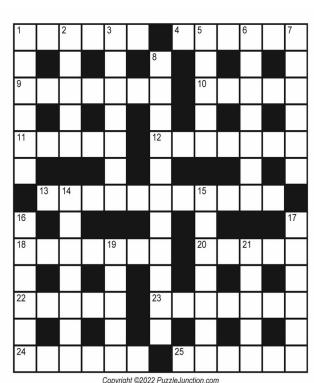


BREVITY



FUN

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com 22 Synthetic resin

24 Less of a mess

25 Salad green

23 Feeling

Across					
1	Snare				
4	Sanctuary				

- 9 Portable grill 10 Body part 11 Long-necked
- wading bird
- 12 Lift
- 13 Storm type
- **18** Liberate (3,4) 20 Arrive at

1 Moral

<u>Down</u>

- 3 Antediluvian
- principle 2 Part of the leg
- 5 Rock

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 17 Type of encounter
- 19 Limerick
- 21 Excuse

6 Suitcases

7 Chopped

14 Not silently

(3,4)

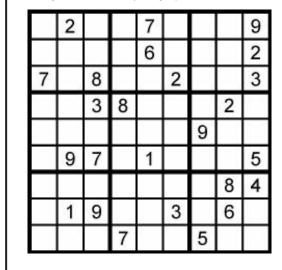
15 Steak cut

16 Appearance

8 Military vessel

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

UCYN

1 8 9 5 6 3 2 3 6 4 7 8 4 6 7 3 2 4 7 9 8 2 3 6 1 5 3 7 8 9 2 4 1 5 6 7 5 8 6 1 2 3 4 9 9 5

SUDOKU



downtown



RICH TRADITION

	222	COV	/ ID-1 9	TRACK	ER	
RICH TRADITION			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
Chandan Yatra of		World	51,40,41,109	46,88,33,325	62,63,628	-(
Lord Lingaraj being organised at		India	4,30,84,913	4,25,41,887	5,23,889	
Bindusagar tank in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday		Odisha	12,88,075	12,78,806	9,126	
		11111111	: 	: 	: 	(

Don't avail loans from illegal apps: EOW

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch Tuesday issued an advisory alerting people not to avail loans from unregistered and illegal loan applications available on internet and play store.

The people must not try to avail loans from illegal apps like INS loan, Beloan App, flipcash, Go cash , loan India , loan loan , Palm tree , cash cola , kreditbee, Asan loan , Rupee Wallet, fast Rupee, easy credit loan App, sunshine loan and Rupeeking loan App etc, said the EOW in its advisory.

The cyber criminals used to offer small amounts of loans ranging between ₹3,000 and ₹5,000 to the people who download these illegal apps from internet and play store. The accused also credit money to the accounts of many people without any formal requests in this regard, EOW sources said. Sandeep Nayak, a resident of ଅଥିନୈତିକ ଅପରାଧଶାଖ

On the pretext of advancing loans, the cyber criminals access/ hack all information from the customers' phones, which may later be used by the company to perpetrate some other financial crimes

IRC village under Nayapalli police limits in the city here, had received ₹5,220 in his account without requesting for loans from anybody. He had just downloaded a loan app after coming across it on Instagram.

Later, the cyber criminals sought unreasonably high interest rates from Nayak. They also hacked Nayak's phone and shared obscene Such loan apps also harass the customer by charging high rate

messages pictures to his contacts, EOW sources added.

of interest. The cyber criminals

also send obscene and indecent

photos to the victims' contacts

"It is hereby advised/requested to the public that they must not take any loans from unregistered/ illegal loan apps available on internet and play store. On the pretext of advancing loans, the cyber criminals access/ hack all information from the customers' phones, which

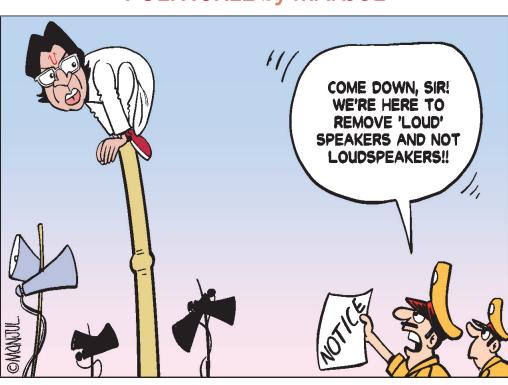
to perpetrate some other financial crimes. Such loan apps also harass the customer by charging high rate of interest. The cyber criminals also send obscene and indecent photos to the victims' contacts," said the EOW in its advisory.

This apart, the agents of the loan applications also constantly humiliate the victims and their family members before their contacts.

"In some states, many people have committed suicide after facing blackmail and humiliation from the recovery agents of these illegal loan apps. Not only the borrowers but their family members also faced harassment. The people should avoid downloading/using these illegal loan apps," added the EOW in

The EOW has advised people who have already downloaded the apps and taken loans through them, to inform the police regarding any harassment meted out to them by

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



New courts open in three districts

COURTS ARE INSTITUTIONS FUNDED BY PEOPLE AND ARE MEANT TO CATER TO THEIR NEEDS: CJ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: New courts of civil judge (junior division)cum judicial magistrate first class were opened at Kanas in Puri, Hemgiri and Hiramitrapar in Sundargarh and Thuamul-Rampur in Kalahandi in the presence of Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar, Tuesday.

The district judges, judicial officers, office bearers of the bar associations and the Collectors and Superintendents of Police of the three districts attended the event through virtual mode. Congratulating the people and the advocates of the four places, Chief Justice S Muralidhar said, "Courts are institutions funded by people and are meant to cater to their needs, and the bar should not hesitate attending the court to work under any difficulty

Chief Justice expressed concern over the recent practice of some bar associations in not attending regular court work in the pretext of scorching heat during summer.

and urged the legal fraternity to be sensitive to the plight of under trials and other litigant public who look up to the courts for justice. He also assured that all the infrastructural support would be provided to the bar. The chief justice called for the need of judicial system to work like the public health system which remains alert to serve the people day and night. He called upon the lawyers and judges to strive to deliver the constitutional promise of equal and fair justice.

Speaking on the occasion Justice Biswajit Mohanty, the administrative judge for Puri said it has been constant endeavour of the High Court to bring people closer to justice and new courts are being established for ensuring speedy access to justice for people living in far flung areas.

Justice KR Mohapatra, the administrative judge for Sundargarh said opening of the new courts in remote areas is meant to achieve the goal of access to justice and timely dispensation of justice for all



Inauguration of a new court at Kanas in Puri district

BJP urges Guv for withdrawal of 'false case' against MLA



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: A delegation of Odisha unit of BJP, led by party chief whip in Assembly Mohan Majhi, Tuesday met Governor Ganeshi Lal and sought his intervention in connection with the arrest of party MLA Subash Chandra Panigrahi recently.

The BJP delegation alleged that the police had falsely implicated Panigrahi and requested the Governor for withdrawal of the case against the legislator.

Panigrahi, the legislator fr Deogarh Assembly segment, was arrested Sunday for allegedly assaulting Tileibani BDO Krushna Chandra Dalapati.

"It is unfortunate that Opposition MLAs neither get respect nor feel safe under Naveen Patnaik government," said Majhi to media persons after meeting the Governor.

The BDO had misbehaved with Panigrahi. The police did not take any action even though the MLA had lodged an FIR in this connection. However, the police arrested

Panigrahi acting on the BDO's FIR filed at least three hours later, Majhi alleged.

According to Majhi, Panigrah had contacted the Tileibani BDO April 30 to discuss some important issues. The BDO first told Panigrahi to meet him at the block office and subsequently he changed the venue of the meeting to four different places one after another. However, the MLA could not find the BDO at any of these four places.

Finally, the MLA met the BDO at Bhaliagudi village. Upon seeing the MLA, the BDO scolded him and threatened him to life, the BJP leaders alleged in the memorandum submitted to the Governor.

Though several incidents of attack on BJP legislators have been reported in the recent past, no action has been taken against the culprits. However, Panigrahi, who had not assaulted the BDO, was arrested without proper investigation, alleged Majhi and sought the arrest of the BDO for violating Book Circular 47, a circular issued by the state government on observance of relationship between MP/MLAs and government servants.

The Book Circular 47 is not eing implemented properly and the officers are very carelessly dealing with the MPs and MLAs. It is seen that some officers are daring to ignore the Book circular- 47 at large for which the MPs and MLAs are feeling humiliated," said the BJP leaders in the memorandum.

The BJP leaders requested the Governor to instruct the state government to direct all the public servants to follow the Book Circular-47 properly for a conducive and congenial atmosphere between public servants and MPs /MLAs.

Cong MLAs summoned to meet Rahul May 9

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The Congress MLAs from the state have been summoned to New Delhi for a discussion with former AICC president Rahul Gandhi May 9.

Gandhi will hold discussions with the MLAs regarding the appointment of next president of Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC), said party legislator Suresh Kumar Routray here Tuesday.

'We all nine Congress MLAs will meet soon and deliberate upon the issues to be raised before the high command," said Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati. Bahinipati, however, reiterated

his demand for appointment of an MLA as the next OPCC president. AICC in-charge for Odisha, A

Chellakumar, had recently held discussions with the party MLAs and other senior leaders for the appointment of next OPCC president. According to sources, Gandhi may hold discussions with the Congress MLAs regarding the organisational changes in the party ahead of the 2024 Assembly elec-



Gandhi will hold discussions with the MLAs regarding the appointment of next Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president, said party legislator Suresh Kumar Routray

Gandhi may hold discussions with the Congress MLAs regarding the organisational changes in the party ahead of the 2024 Assembly election in state, sources said

Incumbent OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik had offered to resign from his post following party's debacle in the general and Assembly elections in 2019. But, he was asked by the party high command to continue with his post. Patnaik had recently said that the AICC should appoint a new president as early as possible to take the party forward.

Lopar likely over South Andaman Sea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 3: A low-pressure area (Lopar) is likely to be formed over the South Andaman Sea by the end of this week, the weather office said Tuesday.

In its tropical weather outlook, the weather office said that a cyclonic circulation is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and its

adjoining areas around May 4. Under its influence, a low-pressure area is likely over the region around May 6.

"Probability of cyclogenesis during next 120 hours high," the weather office said, even as it refrained from making any forecast on the path of the low-pressure system. "It is likely to become more marked during subsequent 24 hours," it said.

PREP FOR RATH YATRA



Carpenters began chariot construction work for this year's Rath Yatra in Puri on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Tuesday

Brisk walking may make you look younger: Study

orget botox, just doing brisk walking daily may shave off 16 years from your biological age by midlife, finds a study.

Researchers from the University of Leicester in the UK in a new study of genetic data of more than 400,000 adults revealed a clear link between walking pace and a genetic marker of biological age.

In the paper published in the journal Communications Biology, they confirmed a causal link between walking pace and leukocyte telomere length (LTL), an indicator of biological age; and found that a faster walking pace, independent of the amount of physical activity, was associated with longer telomere.

The team estimated that a lifetime of brisk walking could lead to the equivalent of 16 years younger

biological age by midlife. Telomeres are the acaps' at the end of each chromosome, and hold repetitive sequences of non-coding DNA that protect the chromosome from damage, similar to the way the cap at the end of a shoelace stops it from unravelling.

Each time a cell divides, these telomeres become shorter - until a



Researchers from the University of Leicester in the UK in a new study of genetic data of more than 400,000 adults revealed a clear link between walking pace and a genetic marker of biological age

The team estimated that a lifetime of brisk walking could lead to the equivalent of 16 years younger biological age by midlife

point where they become so short that the cell can no longer divide, known as 'replicative senescence'. Therefore, scientists consider LTL a strong marker for 'biological age', independent from when an individual was born.

Although the relationship between telomere length and disease is not fully understood, the buildup of these senescent cells is believed to contribute to a range of symptoms we associate with ageing, such as frailty and age-related diseases.

Data from wrist-worn wearable activity tracking devices used to measure habitual physical activity also supported a stronger role of habitual activity intensity (e.g. faster walking) in relation to telomere length.

The study "suggests measures such as a habitually slower walking speed are a simple way of identifying people at greater risk of chronic disease or unhealthy ageing, and that activity intensity may play an important role in optimising interventions", said Dr Paddy Dempsey, Lecturer and Research Fellow at the University. IANS

No eviction without

STATE LEVEL KRUSHI DIVAS

Odisha ploughed through hunger to abundance: Min



Bhubaneswar, May 3: Marking the occasion of Askhaya Tritiya, a state-level Krushi Divas was celebrated at the State Level Farm **Machinery Testing and Training** Centre here, Tuesday.

Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo took part in the Bhumi Puja ritual and inaugurated the Krushi Divas at the event.

Addressing the gathering, Sahoo said, "Farmers can benefit more by diversifying their crops in hilly and open areas. Mandia, also known as finger millet, has evolved from a poor man's meal to a healthy diet, which the state government is promoting in mission mode."

"We have become self-sufficient in production of fish, milk, meat, eggs and so on. The progress made in the field of agriculture in the last two decades will add

the unwavering courage of Odia farmers and joint efforts of the dominant government incentives," he said.

The minister went on saying, "As a result of our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's commitment to the agricultural sector and the adoption of many agricultural programs, the hunger-zoned state has turned into a land of development today."

"During the 1999 cyclone, our state was facing shortage of rice. In 2021, our state had already become a surplus state in terms of rice procurement vis-à-vis consumption," he pointed out.

An agricultural fair was organised on the occasion. Inaugurating the fair, the minister toured various stalls. The fair was attended by Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) through the Small and Medium Grain Mission.

CMC consent: Mayor POST NEWS NETWORK

As a result of our Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik's

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consumption

ARUN KUMAR SAHOO | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Secretary and Agriculture

Production Commissionner said

that targets of the agricultural de-

velopment schemes implemented

by the state government can only

be achieved through the partici-

pation and cooperation of farm-

ers. He encouraged ordinary peo-

ple as well to take part in

Director of Agriculture and

Food Production M Muthukumar

advised the farmers to take ad-

vantage of various mobile apps

of the Department of Technology

accomplishing this great task.

Sanjeev Chopra, Additional Chief

Cuttack, May 3: Mayor Subhash Singh Tuesday said that no slum dweller would be evicted in the city without any prior consultation with the authorities of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).

Singh made this statement a few days after the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation issued eviction notice for the construction of a drainage project to around 20 slum dwellers families, including that of Cuttack Deputy Mayor Damayanti Majhi residing in Jagatpur Industrial Estate.

"We would not oppose the drain construction work. But, no slum dweller would be evicted from any locality of the city without the consent of the CMC. We will discuss the issue with Idco and take all possible measures to execute the drainage project without evicting the slum dwellers' families from Jagatpur industrial estate," Singh said.



bound bus and reached City at

around 4am Tuesday. After get-

ting off the bus, Roul was waiting

for a ride to go his brother's house

when the miscreants threatened

him to surrender his money and

Akshaya Tritiya by KVK-Khurda, ICAR-CIFA

People offered mass prayer at Satichaura area in Cuttack on the occasion of Eid, Tuesday

City wakes up to looting & shooting, cops hit snooze

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: May 3: The Capital city has turned a happy hunting ground for criminals, with the occurrence of criminal activities like murders, snatching and robbery coming to fore regularly.

The City has rapidly been fast turning unsafe for businessmen as well as common commuters. Early Tuesday morning saw three bike-borne looters attack a youth at CRP Square and decamp with his mobile phone and cash. The victim sustained severe injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack.

The victim, identified as Deepak Kumar Roul, is a resident of Bhanjanagar area in Ganjam district. Roul's brother has been stay-

ing at Salia Sahi area under Nayapalli police limits.

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Akshaya Tritiya was jointly celebrated with lots of enthusiasm by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) – Khurda and ICAR - Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar Tuesday at Dhanahara village in Balipatna Block of Khurda district. ICAR-CIFA Director Saroj Kumar Swain performed the ritual of 'Akhi Muthi Anukula'. The occasion marks the commencement of agri-

POST NEWS NETWORK

tacked Roul with a knife and fled the spot with his mobile phone and purse. Police have initiated an in-

vestigation into the matter after registering a case (301/22) in this

Similarly, three miscreants opened fire at a jewelry shop owner and his staff after an unsuccessful robbery bid at Samantarapur area late Monday night. Prasant Sahu, the owner of Devidurga Jewelers, and one of his staff Rajendra Sahu sustained injuries in the firing. The Lingaraj police are yet to arrest



Artistes during staging of play NH-316, organised by Natyadhara, at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

ing programme on natural farm-

A clatter fading out, Daskathia echoes rescue

ing was organised too. Khurda AK Dash highlighted the scope and importance of natural farming in the district and urged

the farmers to diversify their crop

basket for sustainable income as well

cultural activities before the onset

of monsoon and farmers worship

The ceremonial act of sowing

seeds after ploughing was done in the paddy field of Prasanta Das, a

local, with much fanfare. A train-

Earth and Goddess Laxmi.

as to cope up with climate change. fish feed, CIFAX, battery operated SMS (Fishery Science) PR Sahoo welcomed the delegates and briefed about organic fish farming in-

cluding species diversification. SMS (Home Science) Harapriya Nayak stressed on the natural farming method which is a prominent strategy to save the planet and its potential in ensuring safe food and enhancing farmer's income. Vermicomposting and organic

input preparation were discussed by Surendra Singh, SMS (Crop Production) for popularisation among the farmers. Vermibeds,

Over 150 artistes across the state attended a two-day annual conference

he participants sought a training centre

for the young artistes of folk art as one

of the strategies to popularise Daskathia

he association also demanded an

₹1,200 to ₹4,200, which is at par with the

I increase in monthly pension from

of the NUDKS in Hinjili block of Ganjam

district Saturday and discussed the

difficulties they are facing at present

sprayers and vegetable seeds for kitchen garden were distributed to the members of Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs).

Three farmers were felicitated on this occasion for their valuable contribution in the field of agriculture. During the interaction with the women, the dignitaries acknowledged the efforts of KVK-Khurda for promoting income generating activities among the WSHGs for strengthening their livelihood. Around 140 participants attended

7 fresh Covid cases in state

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Odisha reported seven new Covid cases Tuesday, taking the tally to 12,88,075, the state Health department said in a bulletin. Among the seven new infected

individuals, one belongs to the age group of 0 to 18 years. The coastal state's coronavirus

death toll remained unchanged at 9,126, with no reports of any fresh fatalities, it added, Odisha had logged 11 cases and two deaths Monday.

The state now has 90 active cases while 12,78,806 patients have recovered from the disease so far, including four Monday, the Health bulletin said. Besides, 53 other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities to date, it added.

The district which currently are Covid free with zero active cases include Ganjam, Deogarh, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Mayurbhanj, Puri and Subarnapur.

ith only a few artistes practising 'Daskathia', an Odia folk art involving elements of storytelling with music and dance, and

rich tradition, practitioners are apprehensive that this unique art form may die a natural death, unless steps are taken to save it. Believed to have originated at Khandara village in Ganjam district in the 15th century, Daskathia comes from the Odia words 'Dasa'

most youngsters uninterested in the

areas of the state. It is performed by two artistes, one of whom is the lead singer (gayaka) and the other is his assistant (palia). Both of them use indigenous wooden clappers called 'Kathi' while singing

(devotee) and 'Kathi' (wooden stick).

The art form is popular in rural

or narrating the tale. The performers used to sing songs in praise of Lord Shiva and Parvati. and narrate stories based on mythological legends, with touches of satire. The Palia often played the role of an ignorant person to whom the

We're coming out with a new web application for registration of all cultural troupes so that we can assign them equal work in a transparent manner

MADHUSUDAN PADHI | SECRETARY, ODISHA LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

Gayaka gave pious discourses.

'Several artistes are now adopting modern songs too during performances," Nikhila Utkal Daskathia Kalakara Sangha (NUDKS) president Upendra Panigrahy said.

The attire of both the performers is exquisite in design and material and depicts their contrasting characters. Humorous interludes also add to the entertainment value of the folk art, practiced in rural

areas of the coastal state. However, all hope is not lost for the preservation of the art form.

THE LAST DANCE?

Odisha Language, Literature, and Culture Secretary Madhusudan Padhi said the department had been sponsoring Daskathia groups for performing on various occasions. "We're coming out with a new web application for registration of all cultural troupes so that we can assign them equal work in a transparent manner," Padhi told PTI.

Considering its potential for spreading messages, the government and other agencies use it to create awareness of social evils like child marriage, and female foeticide, motivating rural people to take polio vaccines or tablets for malaria instead of going to quacks. Now, the Daskathia performers are seen performing in

railway stations and bus stands. Padhi says the government is aware that many youths of the pres-

he remuneration for each performance I should also be hiked to ₹1,200 from ₹800

ent day are not adopting it, but ef-

forts are on to encourage them by giving pensions and remunerations.

Setting up a training centre for Daskathia is one of the ways to churn out more artistes and popularise the performing art, an official of NUDKS said. During a two-day annual conference of the NUDKS in Hinjili block of Ganjam district Saturday, the participants sought a training centre for the

"We have adopted a resolution in the conference and will submit it to the government soon," said Rabi Narayan Satapathy, the general secretary of the association.

Over 150 artistes across the state attended the conference and discussed the difficulties they are facing at present and the strategies to popularise Daskathia.

The association demanded that the government should increase their monthly pension from Rs 1.200 to Rs 4,200, which is at par with the Union government. The remuneration for each performance should also be hiked to Rs 1,200

from Rs 800, Panigrahy said.

The NUDKS stressed the need to provide more government programmes to the Dasakatha artistes. especially for campaigning for various welfare initiatives and at different festivals. "We are now getting very few programmes with a meagre remuneration. While the artistes are living in a very miserable condition, the youth aren't very keen to practice this folk art form," Satapathy added.

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SHORT **TAKES**

Bear kills woman in Boinda

Boinda: A woman was mauled to death by a bear in Takba iungle under Handapa police limits and Kishorenagar block of Angul district, Monday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Bimbala Sahu, 55, of Takaba village. Her family members recovered the body from the jungle, Tuesday. Police registered a case and sent the body for postmortem. Police said the woman had gone to the jungle to collect leaves but was killed in a bear attack.

Four boats seized for illegal fishing

Basudevpur: Four illegal fishing boats were seized in Padhuan and Kasia areas of Bhadrak, as the government has imposed restrictions on fishing along the coast to ensure safe breeding of marine species. Members of Chudamani Trawlers' Association, Radhanathpur Fishermen's Association and Adhuan Fishermen's Association came to know about four boats fishing in Adhuan and Kasia areas, violating the order. They intercepted the boats and handed them over to Chudamani marine police. Altogether 32 fishermen in the boats were detained by police.

2-time former sarpanch killed

Angul: Husband of a samiti member candidate Tuesday hacked a former two-time sarpanch to death over his wife's defeat during the recently-concluded panchayat election at Balaramprasad under Nalco police limits in Angul district. The deceased has been identified as Sibaram Sahu, 62, former twotime sarpanch, a zilla parishad member of Balaramprasad panchayat and a contractor by profession. Accused Deepak Behera has been arrested and has confessed to the crime, said the police. Sahu had contested for sarpanch post while Deepak's wife had fought for samiti member. Both of them defeated and had grudge against each other over the money spent during the rural polls.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CHARGE

Jharigaon MLA in soup

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur/Umerkote, May 3: Jharigaon MLA Prakash Majhi Tuesday landed in the soup after a woman lodged a complaint at Khandagiri police station in Bhubaneswar alleging sexual exploitation and murder threat by the former.

The district units of Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have alleged that police are not receiving her written complaint as Majhi is a BJD MLA.

Both the opposition parties staged protests and demanded stringent action against the MLA. They also burnt the effigy of the legislator during the protests. Tuesday

The Opposition alleged that the MLA, after having physical relationship with the woman for three years, has threatened to kill her

her. However, police are not registering the complaint against the MLA of the ruling party," district Congress president Muna Tripathy said. BJP has questioned as to whose behest the police are trying to protect the legislator. The saffron party has also demanded disqualification of the MLA.



BJP workers led by Umerkote MLA Nityananda Gond staged a demonstration outside Umerkote block office. Both the parties addressing separate press meets warned to intensify their agitation if suitable action is not taken against the accused MLA.

The MLA after having physical relationship with the woman for three years has threatened to kill mobile phone went in vain as his phone was found switched off.

Meanwhile, Khandagiri police denied lodging of any complaint by the victim. "No complaint has been lodged at Khandagiri police station in this regard. We will take action only after the alleged victim files a plaint," said Padmanav Pradhan, IIC of Khandagiri police station.

60 nabbed for attack on IIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lamtaput, May 3: At least 60 villagers of Kumar Gandhana under Lamtaput block in Koraput district were arrested Tuesday for attacking the inspector-in-charge (IIC) of Nandapur police station Praful Lakra Monday.

Situation in the village remained tense following the arrests.

According to sources, there is a China clay (kaolinite) mine at Kumar Gandhana. An agreement was signed between the villagers and the mining firm that the latter would first provide compensation to the villagers who would lose their land due to the mine.

Moreover, the company had assured the villagers of undertaking development works and providing jobs, but to no avail. Since then the villagers have been opposing the mining of China clay

On May Day, a few security guards had visited the mine when villagers spotted them and held them hostage. On being informed, a police team led by Nandapur IIC Praful Lakra rushed to the mining site to rescue the security guards. However, angry villagers instead attacked

the IIC and threw him inside a pit. Based on a complaint, cases were registered against 60 villagers.



TRYING THE LUCK

A tribal boy angling at Badaghagara waterfall in Keonjhar district

3 killed as bikes collide head-on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, May 3: At least three persons were killed and another was rendered critical after two bikes had a head-on collision on National Highway-220 near Patana-Dhenkikote-Kianali electric structure in Keonjhar district, late Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Trilochan Mohanta of Ambuapada village under Ghatagaon police limits, Ramakant Nayak of Soraskela village and Sunil Das of Rudhiapada village under Patana police limits in the district.

The mishap occurred when the motorcycle of Sunil and Ramakant, who were on the way to Patana, collided with the bike of Trilochan and Kamalakant coming from opposite direction.

On being informed, fire services personnel reached the spot and rushed the injured bikers to Patana community health centre in an ambulance. However, three of them died at the CHC while Kamalakant was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Police registered a case and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

Fresh pitch for port at Bahuda river mouth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 3: Various outfits have revived the demand for a riverine small port at Bahuda river mouth in Ganjam district as the state government, which had mooted a proposal to this effect 10 years ago, is not taking any step in this direction, said a report.

Gopalpur Port lying between Paradip and Visakhapatnam ports has to be transformed into a major port. Gopalpur Port had its humble beginning as a small port in 1980s' with an investment of ₹140 crore. In the 90s' marine trade through this port increased manifold. However, the 1999 Super Cyclone dealt a fatal blow to the port, leaving it in bad shape. Port activities remained in doldrums for some years till the state government thought of its privatisation to make it an all-weather port.

The government also mooted a proposal in this direction.

Although 22 years have passed since then, no action was taken on this proposal. The properties of Gopalpur Port have been handed over to a private company, local

alleged. A bout 10 years ago, a proposal was forwarded to the UPA government at the Centre to set up a small port at Bahuda river mouth, the area mostly populated by fishermen community. At that time, Paradip Port authorities were keen to execute the project and even proposed to sign an agreement with the state government in this regard. But the state government did not take any step and the dream of local people for a riverine port project remained unfulfilled

Locals urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who hails from Ganjam district, to pay attention to the proposed riverine port project at Bahuda river mouth.

Man kills self hours before daughter's marriage in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, May 3: A man jumped before the Sambalpur-Puri Inter City Express and committed suicide allegedly over domestic dispute just a few hours before her daughter's marriage, Tuesday. The deceased was identified as

Surath Behera of Parsumal village in Angul district. Locals spotted his mutilated body on the tracks of Talcher-Sambalpur route and informed Boinda Railway outpost police. The Government Railway Police (GRP) registered a case and sent the body to Talcher hospital for post-mortem. Police said marriage of

Behera's daughter was scheduled for Tuesday. He had purchased the necessary articles for his daughter's marriage and also availed a loan for the purpose. The reason behind his extreme step is stated to be a fight which he had with his family members on availing the loan, late Monday night. This pushed him into distress as he lost his mental balance and decided to end his life.

9 held for 2 BJD leaders' murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

days after the murder of two was struck by the BJD leaders – Sudarshan Suar and Sudhir Kant Patra - in Paljhadi village under Digapahandi police limits in Ganjam district, police Tuesday arrested nine persons including the mastermind Prashant Kumar Gouda and three supari killers.

The murder deal over po litical rivalry was struck at a mearge ₹50,000. The mastermind, a ganja trader, had

The murder deal Berhampur, May 3: Eleven over political rivalry mastermind, a ganja trader, at ₹50, 000

> given ₹30.000 as advance to the killers, Berhampur SP Pinak Mishra revealed at a presser here.

Sources said, Prashant's wife had contested for sarpanch post in the panchayat elections against Rabi

Gouda's wife. Though Prashant had spent ₹40 lakh, his wife suffered defeat. On the other hand, both

the deceased had campaigned for Rabi Gouda's wife. Infuriated over this, Prashant hatched a plan to eliminate the two and hired the supari killers Kuna Gouda, Budu Das and B Debaraj Reddy. He was also helped by Sumant Kumar Nahak, Santosh Kumar Pradhan, Basant Kumar Gouda, Krushna Chandra Gouda and

Substandard work alleged in Sanaghagara facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 3: While the state Tourism department is spending a whopping ₹4.26 crore for the renovation of famous Sanaghagara waterfall in Keonjhar district, locals have raised questions over the quality of the ongoing work. They accused the officials of not monitoring the work of the contractor.

Irate locals claimed that the beautification work is substandard as no government engineer is supervising the workers at the site. They demanded immediate replacement of the workers.

As per the project plan, parking slots, toilets, compound wall, entry gate, pavements, solid waste management system, cafeteria. photography zone, boating ghat, information signage, drinking water stand post and a watchtower would be built with the sanctioned funds. The project also includes development and beautification of adjacent areas of the waterfall.



However, it was observed that the paver blocks used to make pavements have not been placed with appropriate mixture of concrete.

Moreover, the quality of the payer blocks has not been tested. Worse, the paver blocks are being placed without levelling the surface of the under-construction road, many locals rued. In addition, the existing dilapidated entry gate is being renovated instead of constructing

Similarly, concrete guard wall of National Highway-49 is being fenced with wires, instead of proposed compound wall.

On the other hand, environmentalists have raised concerns over felling of trees for the development works.

Rubbishing the allegations, assistant engineer and project in-charge Sridhar Mahala said, "The development and beautification works are going on properly. Quality monitoring and supervision of every work is being done through WhatsApp. No question of irregularity arises at all."

It is pertinent to mention here that the state government has decided to transform the Sanaghagara waterfall into a world-class tourist site.

यूनियन बैंक 🕼 Union Bank REGIONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR 1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur - 768004 [RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Deogarh Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the sai Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India** for an amount mentioned below & interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DEOGARH BRANCH / me & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	of Possession	Secured Asset	
ırusottam Khadiratna, S/o: Ram	as on 29.11.2021 + Interest thereon No.: 516, Khata Ac.0.08 Dec., Kis Khadiratna, Bour	/ 28.04.2022 a No.: 107/24 sam: Gharaba nded by North	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Dist.: Deogarh, Mouza: Balita, Thana: Barkote, No.: 76, Tahasii: Barkote, O, Plot No.: 1142/1334, Area: ari in the name of the Mrs. Sujata: Govt. Land, South: Dandasingha Mahalaxmi Patra, West: Road	
ace: Sambalpur, Date: 02.05.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India				



EMPANELMENT/RE-EMPANELMENT OF ESCO Applications are invited from eligible organizations for empanelment/re-empanelment as Energy Service Company (ESCO) with Bureau of Energy Efficiency with effect from the

date of publication of this advertisement. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is promoting energy efficiency initiatives in the country under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, including promotion of energy conservation measures in existing facilities through ESCO model. ESCO is an organization engaged in a performance-based contract with a client firm to implement measures which reduce energy consumption and costs in a technically viable manner. BEE intends to prepare and

In order to get empaneled/re-empaneled as ESCO with BEE, all ESCOs have to submit complete application forms to the Grading Agencies CRISIL Ltd/CARE Advisory Research & Training Ltd /ICRA Analytics Ltd/IRR Advisory Services Private Limited/SMERA Gradings and Ratings Private Limited.

maintain a list of empaneled Energy Service Companies with validity of two years.

The advertisement and contact details of SEBI accredited agencies and process for empanelment can be downloaded from www.beeindia.gov.in. The application form for the grading process can be obtained from respective grading agencies. The last date for receipt of complete application forms to the above-mentioned grading agencies is within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Incomplete applications and those received after due date would be rejected.

davp 34106/12/0002/2223

(Secretary)

	भारतीय प्रौह INDIAN INSTITUT	E OF TECHI	NOLOGY B	HUBANESWAR	
ADVER	TISEMENT No. OS/ 0	2/ Non – Tead	hing / 2022	dt. 02/05/2022	
Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar invites online applications from the interested/eligible candidates for the following position to be engaged through OUTSOURCINGAGENCY. The position is purely temporary in nature.					
Name of	the Post	Nature of Engagement	No. of vacancies	Consolidated Remuneration	
Coach (Football, Cricket, Table Tennis, Volley ball and Badminton)		Through Outsource Agency	05 (One each)	Rs. 30,000/- P M to Rs. 40,000/- P M	
The aspiring candidates satisfying the eligibility criteria may apply through online starting from date 03/05/2022. The last date of submission					



के आधार पर भरने के लिए योग्य भारतीय नागरिकों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है: Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar invites ONLINE applications from eligible Indian Nationals for filing up the following Non-Teaching

頭. SI.	पद का नाम/ Name of the Post	रिक्तियों / Vacancies	वेतन स्तर / Pay Level as per 7 th CPC Pay Matrix
1.	कुलसचिव / Registrar	01 (UR-1)	Level-14 (₹ 1,44,200-2,18,200/-)
2.	उप कुलसचिव / Deputy Registrar	02 (UR-2)	Level- 12 (₹ 78,800-2,09,200/-)
3.	कार्यपालक अभियंता (सिविल)/ Executive Engineer (Civil)	01 (UR-1)	Level-11 (₹ 67,700-2,08,700/-)
4.	चिकित्सा अधिकारी / Medical Officer	02 (UR-1 & OBC-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
5.	सहायक कुलसचिव/Assistant Registrar	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
6.	सहायक कुलसचिव (वित्त और लेखा)/ Assistant Registrar (F&A)	01 (OBC-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
7.	सुरक्षा अधिकारी / Security Officer	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
8.	सहायक जनसम्पर्क अधिकारी / Assistant Public Relation Officer	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
9.	सहायक कानूनी अधिकारी / Assistant Legal Officer	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
10.	कार्यकारी प्रबंधक / System Administrator	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
11.	नेटवर्क प्रशासक / Network Administrator	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
12.	सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर / Software Engineer	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
13.	सहायक खेल अधिकारी / Assistant Sports Officer	01 (UR-1)	Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500/-)
14.	निजी सचिव / Private Secretary	01 (UR-1)	Level- 8 (₹ 47,600-1,51,100/-)
15.	कनिष्ठ अभियंता (सिविल) / Junior Engineer (Civil)	01 (UR-1)	Level- 6 (₹ 35,400-1,12,400/-)
16.	कनिष्ठ अभियंता (विद्युत) / Junior Engineer (Electrical)	01 (UR-1)	Level- 6 (₹ 35,400-1,12,400/-)
17.	हिन्दी अनुवादक / Hindi Translator	01 (UR-1)	Level- 6 (₹ 35,400-1,12,400/-)
18.	शारीरिक प्रशिक्षण प्रशिक्षक/ Physical Training Instructor	02 (UR-1 & OBC-1)	Level- 6 (₹ 35,400-1,12,400/-)
19.	वेब डेवलेपर / Web Developer	01 (UR-1)	Level- 6 (₹ 35,400-1,12,400/-)
20.	सहायक सुरक्षा अधिकारी / Assistant Security Officer	01 (UR-1)	Level- 6 (₹ 35,400-1,12,400/-)
21.	स्टाफ नर्स / Staff Nurse	02 (UR-1 & OBC-1)	Level- 6 (₹ 35,400-1,12,400/-)
22.	कनिष्ठ तकनीशियन (सिस्टम)/ Junior Technician (System)	01 (UR-1)	Level- 4 (₹ 25,500-81,100/-)
23.	कनिष्ठ तकनीशियन (नेटवर्क)/ Junior Technician (Network)	01 (UR-1)	Level- 4 (₹ 25,500-81,100/-)

ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की आरंग तिथि/The starting date of online application is: 04.05.2022 ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/The last date of online application is: 03.06.2022 आवेदन की हार्डकॉपी प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि / Last date for receipt of hardcopy of the application is: 13.06.2022 अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया देखें / For further details please visit- http://www.iitbbs.ac.i Sd/- कुलसचिव / Registrar



Man in the world's life works out the dreams of God.

SRI AUROBINDO



Pressure Point

n May last year, an 11-day war was fought between Israel and the Hamas, which governs Gaza, following clashes at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound A and weeks of civil unrest. Over 250 Palestinians, including 66 children and 13 Israelites, including two children, were killed. An almost identical situation has been created this May as well and nearly 300 Palestinians have been injured in the past two weeks in incursions by Israeli police forces at the Al-Aqsa compound. The possibility of a war like the previous year looms large, but things have not yet escalated to the extent that a bloody confrontation can take place immediately.

Last year, the hardline government of Benjamin Netanyahu was in place in Israel, while this time around the secular government of Naftali Bennett is in charge of the administration. That makes a huge difference in the two different scenarios. The present government is composed of disparate groups, including Right wing, moderate and even Arabs. A novel experiment of an inclusive government is on, though it is on the rocks following the resignation of a Right wing politician that has resulted in a precarious situation for the government which may even collapse when the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, resumes its session soon.

But, the new government has succeeded in good measure in keeping passions under check in the midst of serious provocations from the Hamas for whom the Al-Aqsa mosque is a rallying point for uniting Palestinians against Israel. It goes to the credit of the secular government that it has immediately fielded its foreign minister Yair Lapid to make sure the situation does not go out of hand and bloody confrontation does not erupt through disinformation campaigns by both sides. The 35-acre compound is referred to as al-Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary by Moslems and as the Temple Mount by Jews. The site is in East Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed in a move spurned by most of the international community.

Israel's incursions into the compound during this Ramadan met widespread $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left$ condemnation and raised fears of inflaming persistent Israeli-Palestinian tensions across Jerusalem. But Israel has insisted it has been compelled to act against operatives from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad groups. It says armed members threaten Moslem worshippers at Al-Aqsa and Jews praying at the Western Wall. Israel's foreign minister wasted no time and stressed that the government is committed to the status quo at the compound, meaning it will adhere to a longstanding convention that only Moslems are allowed to pray there. Moslem leaders have, however, been angered by a recent spurt in visits by Israeli devotees in connection with the Jewish religious event of Passover. Some voiced fears that Israel was seeking to divide the compound and create a space where Jews may worship. Lapid scoffed at the suggestion and said no such plan exists.

The marked difference in the handling of the situation by the Bennett government compared to the previous Netanyahu dispensation is that the Israeli police fired rubber bullets to make sure there were no casualties that might have triggered a war with the Hamas which is encouraging Palestinians to assemble at Al-Aqsa to provoke such an eventuality. An uneasy calm has been restored at the compound following the unrest that surrounded morning prayers, but tensions are running high.

The fresh unrest comes as the Ramadan period is over and Israel's High

Court approved the construction of a 31-unit six-storey apartment complex for settlers in the heart of the city. There were almost daily confrontations at the mosque this month when Ramadan overlapped with the Jewish celebration of Passover, which brought hundreds of thousands of Moslems and Jews to the heavily policed site in the Old City. However, the violence has abated this week following the end of Passover and after Israel halted Jewish visits to the huge compound, which is home to the gilded seventh-century Dome of the Rock and the eighth-century Al-Agsa mosque.

Over the decades, the site in Jerusalem's Old City has frequently been a flashpoint for violence between Palestinians and Israeli forces and hardline groups. It is a bone of contention and at the heart of competing historical claims. For many Palestinians, the mosque has served as a symbol of their resistance, culture and nationhood. The Temple Mount is a walled compound inside the Old City in Jerusalem and is the site of two structures - the Dome of the Rock to the north and the Al-Aqsa mosque to the south.

The Dome of the Rock is believed to be where the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven. To the southwest of the Temple Mount, is the Western Wall also known as the Wailing Wall, a remnant of the Second Temple and the holiest site in Judaism. The Al-Aqsa mosque is one of Jerusalem's most recognised monuments. The mosque's complex is one of Islam's most revered locations and the Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism.

In such a volatile situation, the Bennett government has tried to rise above partisan politics and till now has managed to control frayed tempers. The future is uncertain as the fate of the government itself is now hanging in the balance.

WISDOM CORNER

We are what our thoughts have made us: so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few

rops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of

IIDDII KRISHNAMIIRTI

WORDS**WORTH**

Stotting

You've probably seen nature films in which antelope or gazelle are suddenly surprised by a cheetah. Before they run away, and also while they are running, the animals do a weird pouncing prance, in which they leap into the air, all four legs stiff and back arched. This is stotting. Quite why they do it isn't understood, though it may be a form of alarm signal, or a good way to get a better view of the ground ahead, or they may have been bribed by the producer to make the pictures more interesting. The word comes from Scots, where it means to bounce, or to make something bounce against a surface. Its origin is sadly obscure. In Orkney, the same verb can mean to stutter, so it may be linked to that verb through Middle English stuten, to stutter, A rare native English sighting is in R S Surtees' Mr Sponge's Sporting Tour of 1851: "Up started a great hare; bang! went the gun with the hare none the worse. Bang! went the other barrel, which the hare acknowledged by two or three stotting bounds and an increase of pace. 'Well missed!' exclaimed Mr Sponge". There is a story that the famous Newcastle stotty cake - a flat disc of soft bread, traditionally baked from left-over dough in the bottom of the oven - takes its name from the same source. The story goes that no local cook would consider a stotty cake properly made unless it bounced when she threw it on the kitchen floor. Make of this item of comestible folklorics what you will. You may like to know that there's another name for the leaping run of the gazelle, pronk, which comes via Afrikaans from the Dutch pronken, to strut.

FOCUS INFLATION

COORDINATING IN THE DARK



Kaushik Basu

TODAY'S INFLATION IS UNEVENLY SKEWED ACROSS GOODS AND SERVICES, **AND RISING PRICES CANNOT BE CONFINED TO A COUNTRY BY A MERE EXCHANGE-RATE CORRECTION**

nflation has suddenly become a major problem in virtually all countries. What is unusual this time around is that advanced economies are at the forefront, with annual consumer price inflation currently 8.5 per cent in the United States, 7.5 per cent in the Eurozone, and 7 per cent in the United Kingdom. Among emerging markets and developing countries, traditionally more resilient Asian economies also are recording high inflation, with price growth in India, Bangladesh, and South Korea reaching 7 per cent, 6.2 per cent, and 4.1 per cent, respectively, in March.

In a few cases, sky-high inflation has country-specific causes. In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdo an is trying to run the central bank. In Sri Lanka, utter mismanagement of foreign-exchange reserves and agricultural policy are to blame.

In general, however, inflation is one of the least understood phenomena within economics. We do have enough knowledge to prevent major hyperinflationary episodes of the kind seen in the past, like the record-breaking cases in Germany in 1923 and Hungary in 1946, and in parts of Latin America and Africa in more recent times.

But the fine-tuned management of inflation now being attempted is an area where economics is at its weakest. The study of money in general equilibrium was abandoned because it is mathematically so difficult to model, and we continue to pay the price for that. Much of the expert conversation on inflation management sounds professional, but is like the twitter of birds. A non-expert voice will sound discordant, but the chatter may be meaningless

All we can do at this stage is use what knowledge of inflation we do have with caution. In addition, better global coordination of monetary policy is essential. These minimal steps are especially important for emerging economies in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, where inflation can tip large vulnerable populations into extreme poverty.

With US inflation reaching levels not seen since 1981, the Federal Reserve is coming in for a lot of blame. I believe the criticism is overdone. For starters, contrary to what some observers claim, the primary driver of the current in-



The fine-tuned management of surging inflation that is currently being attempted is an area where economics is at its weakest. Better global coordination of monetary policy is essential – and, as the world's largest economy, the United States will need to assume a disproportionate amount of responsibility for this effort

flation is not demand but supply, and in particular the bottlenecks and supply-chain disruptions triggered initially by the COVID-19 pandemic and exacerbated by the ongoing war in Ukraine.

When inflation occurs purely because of excess liquidity and demand, price increases across goods and services are more uniform. But today, food and energy account for a disproportionate share of the headline inflation figure. If we remove these items, Eurozone inflation drops sharply from 7.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent, while US inflation declines from 8.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent.

The difference in core inflation between the US and the Eurozone does suggest that aggregate demand, even if not the primary cause of today's price pressures, played a greater role in the US. Moreover, the rise in demand happened for a good reason. President Joe Biden's administration implemented one of the largest government spending packages in US history – with the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan forming part of a total pandemic stimulus of nearly 25 per cent of GDP - to support the more vulnerable segments of society during the COVID-19 crisis. Although inflation is high, poorer Americans are better protected than they otherwise would have been.

In the case of emerging economies with larger vulnerable populations, it is worth bearing in mind that when a country is experiencing mainly demand-driven inflation, and prices rise across the board, an exchange-rate correction can keep the effect largely confined within its borders. If prices of all goods and services in a country increase by x per cent and the currency depreciates by x per cent, there is little spillover to other countries. But today's inflation is unevenly skewed across goods and services, and rising prices cannot be confined to a country by a mere exchange-rate correction. Spillover effects are inevitable and are now happening.

Another reason why central banks seem relatively ineffective in tackling today's inflation is the advance of globalisation. It has been understood since the seventeenth century, when the Riksbank in Sweden (1668) and the Bank of England (1694) were among the world's first central banks, that a single economy should not have more than one money-creating authority. All the major economies of that time soon established central banks in accordance with this principle.

This system is now being challenged in an unexpected way. As

globalisation proceeds (notwithstanding recent supply-chain disruptions), and goods, services, and capital flow from one country to another, the world is increasingly becoming a single economy. But there are currently more than 150 central banks. We are returning to the situation seventeenth-century

policymakers sought to overcome. And that means trouble for inflation management. If one country tries to stem inflation by raising interest rates, money will flow into that country, cause the exchange rate to appreciate, and dampen exports. Each country will thus naturally be less enthusiastic about monetary tightening than they all would collectively wish.

As is true in many other areas of public policy, better global coordination is needed to overcome this collective-action problem. As the world's largest economy and the issuer of its main reserve currency, the US will need to assume a disproportionate amount of responsibility for this effort.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

SPECTRUM IN JEST THIS

It isn't easy to find a good roommate



Melvin Durai

IF YOUR PROSPECTIVE ROOMMATES ARE STRICT NON-VEGETARIANS. THEY MAY NOT **LIKE TO SHARE A KITCHEN WITH SOMEONE WHO FEELS SUPERIOR**

is heading off to college soon and looking forward to enjoying a little independence. She has spent her entire life at home, living with her parents and following their rules, and soon she will find out what it's like to live with a roommate and follow her rules.

Actually, her future roommate may not have many rules, but it will still be a strange situation for Divya. For the first time in her life, she will be living with someone who does not knock on her bedroom door at night and ask, "Did you finish your homework?"

Her roommate will probably also not cook meals for her, not do any cleaning for her, and not shoo away any potential boyfriends. Divya may view this as a positive thing, of course, not realising how much effort it takes to cook a good meal or wield a broom.

Her future roommate may not have as many rules as her parents, but everyone has rules. No one wants to live with a person who has no rules, because it means

y younger daughter, Divya, that anything goes—not just for you, but also the roommate. Just picture a prospective roommate saying to you, "I'm cool with anything. If you blast your music in the middle of the night, that's fine with me. If you walk around half-dressed, that's fine with me. If you grow marijuana plants, that's fine with me.'

Divya, of course, will be living in a university dormitory, and her residence director may say to her, "If you blast music in the middle of the night, that's a fine for you. If you walk around half-dressed. that's a fine for you. If you grow marijuana plants, that's an expulsion for you.

It's important to share some basic principles with your roommates: otherwise you are bound to clash with them. That's why many people conduct interviews before agreeing to share an apartment with a stranger. Being able to pay your share of the rent is a minimum qualification, as is the willingness to take an occasional shower.

A Twitter user named Astha recently shared some questions she received from prospective roommates in Bangalore. One of the questions is quite common in India: "What are your eating preferences (veg or non veg)?" This is an understandable question. If your prospective roommates are strict vegetarians, they may not like to share a kitchen with someone who cooks meat. And if your prospective roommates are strict non-vegetarians, they may not like to share a kitchen with someone who feels superior. Even if vou don't actually feel superior, you may make them feel uncomfortable, eating so much veg. They may even feel guilty, thinking to themselves, "We should be eating healthier food, too." And before you know it, the chicken biryani outlet near the apartment will be out of business.

Another question posed to Astha pertained to employment: "Where do you work and how often do you have to go to the office?" The first part of the question is to determine her ability to pay the rent (and also her social status); the second part is to make sure they'd get a break from her. No one wants a roommate who is always home, always witnessing what the other roommates are doing.

The shortest question Astha received was this: "Where are you from?" I hope she gave a short answer: "From my mother's womb." Other appropriate answers include "From India" and "From Earth."

A fourth question that Astha received is quite astute: "Are you a Phoebe, Monica or Rachel?" Her potential roommates want to know not only if she has watched the sitcom "Friends," but also if she tolerates silly questions.

When it comes to having good roommate relationships, tolerance is important. You have to tolerate not just silly questions, but also silly answers. If you ask your roommate why the bones from her chicken biryani have been sitting on the table for one week, don't be surprised if she says, "Because we don't have a dog.'

TO THE EDITOR

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

etters

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Stop acid attacks

Sir, A garment factory worker was attacked with acid by a 'spurned lover' in Bangalore the other day. This was the second acid attack in six months in the city. On an average, 300 to 400 cases of acid attacks on women are reported in a year in India though the actual number may be higher. Many girls and women who have survived acid attacks have lived with grit, courage, dignity and determination sending a firm message that their will power cannot be destroyed by meek sadists hoping to scar their bodies and mind. Unfortunately, governmental efforts to supplement the brave acid survivors are meagre. In 2013, the Supreme Court had mandated videography of acid-buyers by the sellers for easy identification; the rule has been, more often than not, flouted. States were directed to allow only select stores to sell acid, and ensure there was no over the counter business of acid. Further, governments were asked to make sure that both sellers and buyers possessed valid licences to transact the business. One cannot say the states have not taken stock of the situation. But it is also true that the top court order has not been implemented with utmost seriousness. Down the line, it is shocking that acids are sold like any other item even in small shops at a throw away price. Then there is the callous neglect on the part of states to provide compensation to acid attack victims. According to the law, an amount of ₹1 lakh has to be paid to the survivor by the state within 15 days of the attack, and ₹2 lakh within two months. A victim who suffers total disfigurement of body is to be paid ₹7 lakh, and ₹5 lakh is to be given to a survivor with 50 per cent burns. Money cannot buy peace, but acid attack survivors go through hell. Society, relatives and, sometimes, even parents shun them.

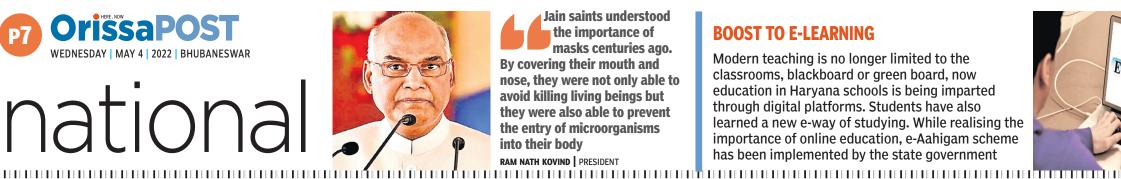
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Tax mop-up boost

Sir, Goods and services tax (GST) collections hitting record highs of ₹1.68 lakh crore in April should cheer the government. The April number is up 20 per cent from the year earlier and ₹25,000 crore more than the previous highest of ₹1.42 lakh crore in March this year. We believe improved recovery and compliance boost tax mop-up contributed to the tax bonanza. The increased GST collections also reflect that the economy is fast gathering steam.

> NJ Ravi Chander. BANGALORE

national



Jain saints understood the importance of masks centuries ago. By covering their mouth and nose, they were not only able to avoid killing living beings but they were also able to prevent the entry of microorganisms into their body

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

BOOST TO E-LEARNING

Modern teaching is no longer limited to the classrooms, blackboard or green board, now education in Haryana schools is being imparted through digital platforms. Students have also learned a new e-way of studying. While realising the importance of online education, e-Aahigam scheme has been implemented by the state government





Arvind Kejriwal running the

AMARINDER SINGH | FORMER PUNJAB CHIE

The need of the hour is to oust the anti-people BJP government and for that, all the small and big political parties should unite



The situation in

the country is policy of divide and rule and politics of isolation going on in correct. Do not be scared and keep

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF

SHORT **TAKES**

XE variant detected in India

New Delhi: One confirmed case of the XE Covid variant has been detected in India. according to the latest bulletin of the Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomics Sequencing Consortium (INSACOG). However, the location of this variant was not identified in the bulletin for April 25 released Tuesday. "As compared to the previous week, 12 states have shown an increase in cases, while 19 states have shown a decline," said the bulletin said. It said that suspected recombinant sequences are under further analysis. "BA.2.10 and BA.2.12 are BA.2 sub-lineages that have been detected and many old BA.2 sequences have been reclassified into these new sub-lineages. So far these sub-lineages are not reported to be associated with increased severity of

Major fire in scrap godown

disease," the bulletin said.

New Delhi: A major fire broke out in the scrap godown of MCD office in northwest Delhi's Keshav Puram Tuesday evening, officials said. No casualty was reported in the incident, they said. According to fire officials, information regarding the blaze was received at 5.25 pm following which eight to nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot. They said the fire broke out in the scrap lying in the MCD office godown.

Masked youth beat students

Gurugram: In a daring incident, three masked youth barged into the government senior secondary school at Abhaypur village in Sohna block and beat up several Class XII students with sticks. Following the incident Monday, angry villagers held a panchayat against the alleged attackers in the school premises Tuesday. The villagers decided that they will not send their children to the senior secondary school. Instead, the educated youth of the village will teach the students.

WB: 3 of family found murdered

Palashipara (WB): A 28-yearold woman and her parents were found dead with their throats slit in West Bengal's Nadia district Tuesday, police said. The incident happened in Raninagar in Palashipara police station area, they said. The reason behind the murders is not yet clear, police said, adding that an investigation is underway.

LOUDSPEAKER ROW

Raj Thackeray booked, MNS fears arrest

Aurangabad/Mumbai, May 3: The political temperature in Maharashtra soared as Aurangabad police on Tuesday filed a FIR against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray for alleged violations of police conditions at his mega-rally held in that city late Sunday.

Simultaneously, a Mumbai Police team is likely to go and serve a prohibitory notice under CrPC's Section 149 on Raj Thackeray, even as senior MNS leaders expressed apprehensions of his possible arrest in the case.

On a complaint lodged by Sub Inspector Gajanan Ingle, the City Chowk Police Station lodged the case against Raj Thackeray and others who organised the May 1rally for alleged utterances that could incite public passions and disturb peace, flouting police conditions permitting the rally at the MSC Grounds.

The developments came after the Aurangabad police teams went through Raj Thackeray's entire speech with a fine tooth-comb, saw CCTV footage, quizzed locals, etc.

Two tribal men beaten to death on suspicion of cow slaughter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seoni (MP), May 3: Two tribal men died after they were allegedly assaulted by a group of 15-20 people over suspicion of cow slaughter in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district, police said Tuesday.

Another person was injured in the incident, they said.

The complainant in the case and the opposition Congress in the BJP-ruled state have alleged the attackers belong to the Bajrang Dal. Some 20 people have been booked in connection with the incident, which took place at Simaria under Kurai police station limits between 2:30 am and 3 am Monday, including six on charges of murder an official said.

After the incident, a group led by Congress legislator Arjun Singh Kakodia started a protest on the Jabalpur-Nagpur highway. The Seoni Superintendent of Police and other officials visited the protest site. "Two tribal men have died. It was alleged a group of 15-20 people went to the victims' house, accused them of killing a cow and assaulted them. The two men died while being taken to hospital and another sustained minor injuries. A postmortem is yet to be conducted," Additional Superintendent of Police SK Maravi told PTI. "A case of murder has been registered at the Kuarai police station and police teams are searching for the accused. Some of the accused are named (in the complaint) and others are unidentified. We have taken 2-3 suspects into custody. Some 12 kilograms of meat has been found in the victims' house,"



ing MVA (Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress), the Samajwadi Party, the Sambhaji Brigade, the Bhim Sena, the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, and others demanded stringent action against him, including arrest.

Earlier Tuesday, Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil held meetings with Director General of Police Rajnish Seth, Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pande and

other top officials, followed by a meeting with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Sena MP Sanjay Raut.

DGP Seth had said before that the Maharashtra Police would initiate action against Raj Thackeray "today itself" - a day ahead of his 'Now OR Never' ultimatum to the state government to remove loudspeakers from all mosques by Wednesday (May 4) failing which his workers would blare Hanuman

'Play Hanuman Chalisa if you hear azaans'

MUMBAI: Setting the stage for a possible confrontation as he urged people to show the "strength of a Hindu now or never", Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray late Tuesday called upon the people to play "Hanuman Chalisa" outside those mosques where "azaans' (prayer calls) are sounded from Wednesday. "I appeal to all Hindus that tomorrow, the 4th of May, if you hear the loudspeakers blaring with azaans; in those very places, play the Hanuman Chalisa on the loudspeakers! That's when they will realise the hindrance of these loudspeakers!" he said.

The Maharashtra Police also launched a statewide crackdown against MNS workers, office-bearers and others with over 15,000 arrests, notices to 14,000, detaining a few leaders in some areas, and seizing loudspeakers stored for probable use from Wednesday.

India's press freedom ranking falls to 150 from 142 last year

New Delhi, May 3: Indian media continues to remain in a state of "crisis" as the world's largest democracy slipped eight places to 150th position in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index of 180 countries, as per the media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontieres) report. Last year, India was at 142nd position.

RSF stated that the Indian authorities should respect the right to freedom of expression and release any journalists detained on trumped-up or politically motivated charges for their critical reporting and stop targeting journalists and muzzling independent media. According to the report, the central government and its supporters "waged a guerrilla war



of lawsuits against media outlets whose coverage of the pandemic contradicted official statements".

"Indian law is protective in theory but charges of defamation, sedition, contempt of court and endangering national security are increasingly used against iournalists critical of the government, who are branded as 'antinational", the report added.

RSF also pointed out in its report that, "scribes who try to cover anti-government strikes and protests are often arrested and sometimes detained arbitrarily". As per the report, authorities in BJP-led Uttar Pradesh have repeatedly filed false charges against journalists for publishing content and social media posts critical of the government.

Communal tensions on Eid in Jodhpur

Clashes erupted after a disagreement over raising religious flags by both the communities in Jodhpur's Jalori Gate area



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jodhpur/Jaipur; May 3: Communal tensions gripped Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's hometown Jodhpur hours before Eid Tuesday, prompting the authorities to suspend mobile internet services and impose a curfew in 10 police stations areas of the city.

Rajasthan Minister of State for Home Rajendra Yadav said over 50 people have been arrested in connection with the incident so far. The Chief Minister has appealed to people to maintain peace and harmony. The Jodhpur deputy commis-

sioner of police issued orders imposing a curfew till May 4 midnight besides suspending mobile internet services. Tensions broke out past mid-

night over putting up of Islamic flags on the Jalori gate circle, which led to stone pelting in which five policemen were injured.

Situation was brought under control in the early hours Tuesday with heavy deployment of police but tensions escalated again in the morning after prayers at an

Shops, vehicles and houses were

pelted with stones near the Jalori gate area. Members of a minority community were installing Eid flags and they put up a flag on a roundabout alongside the statue of freedom fighter Balmukund Bissa

This led to a confrontation as members of the other community alleged that a saffron flag, which they had put up there ahead of Parshuram Javanti, had gone missing. The issue snowballed into stone pelting and clashes, officials said. Police rushed to the spot to control the situation during which five policemen were injured, the police control room said.

Police had to lob tear gas shells to disperse the mob. Mobile internet services were suspended in the area to check the spread of rumours, the officials said.

Gehlot in a tweet urged people to maintain peace and called the incident unfortunate.

The Chief Minister said leaders of all political parties should ask their workers to maintain peace and they all should remain united. Gehlot also chaired a highlevel meeting at the Chief Minister's office to review the sit-

Bommai to continue as CM

Bangalore: Amid speculation over leadership change in Karnataka, the state incharge of BJP Arun Singh has clarified that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai would continue in his post and there are no plans of changing the leadership. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Arun Singh maintained that, Bommai is a common man's CM. He is delivering good governance under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Even people want him to be continued in his position. There is no answer for questions framed out of imagination. The issue of change of leadership in Karnataka is a matter of surmise." he said Answering a question on whether CM Bommai will be projected as the CM candidate for the upcoming Assembly elections, Arun Singh said Bommai is a common man. People want Bommai to become CM again. It is people's wish that BJP should go to elections under the leadership of Bommai, he said. However, BJP MLA and cabinet post aspirant Basanagouda Patil Yatnal stated that there would be change of leadership in the state May 10.

Heatwave abates from all parts of country: IMD

New Delhi, May 3: Heatwave has abated from all parts of the country and the maximum temperature has further fallen by two to four degrees Celsius over Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and Haryana, the India Meteorological Department said Tuesday

No part of northwest, central and east India is likely to record a heatwave over the next five days, the MeT office said.

No significant change is predicted in the maximum temperature over most parts of northwest India and central India during the next two to three days. The mercury

is likely to increase by two to three degrees Celsius thereafter, it said in a statement.

Heatwave conditions will return to some parts of Maharashtra from Wednesday and isolated areas of Rajasthan from Friday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Under the influence of a Western Disturbance, isolated light rainfall, dust storm, and thunderstorm with winds gusting up to 50 kmph is very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the next two days

Banda in east Uttar Pradesh had logged a record high of 47.4 degrees Celsius for April on Friday.

Representational Image Allahabad, Jhansi and Lucknow

in Uttar Pradesh; Gurugram in

Haryana; and Satna in Madhya

PLACES IN THE **COUNTRY HAD LOGGED ALL-TIME HIGH TEMPERATURES** FOR APRIL WITH THE MERCURY LEAPING TO 46-47 DEGREES **CELSIUS UNDER** THE IMPACT OF THE TORRID **HEATWAVE**

Pradesh had also recorded alltime high temperatures for April at 46.8 degrees Celsius, 46.2 degrees Celsius, 45.1 degrees Celsius, 45.9 degrees Celsius and 45.3 degrees Čelsius, respectively on Friday.

At 43.5 degrees Celsius, Delhi saw its highest maximum temperature for a day in April in 12 years on Thursday and Friday.

On Saturday, Delhi's Sports Complex weather station recorded a maximum temperature of 47.1 degrees Celsius.

Amid the intense heatwave, India's peak power demand reached an all-time high of 207.11 GW Friday. A heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above normal.

INFLATION BITES

PVT SCHOOL ASPIRATION INCREASINGLY OUT OF REACH

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 3: Indian financial consultant Waqar Khan has seen his income drop by about a fifth since the coronavirus pandemic began. When his younger son's private school raised fees by 10% this year, he had no choice but to move him to the state system.

With three children and living in a small house in the capital. New Delhi, the 45-year-old can no longer afford private school fees for his boy of 10. He moved his older boy into a state school in early in 2021.

"I had no option," Khan told Reuters, adding that rising education costs had come on top of a nearly 25% increase in household expenses in the past two years.

While inflation is putting the heaviest burden on the poorest, the relatively well-off are coming under the sort of pressure to make cuts in household budgets not seen

Khan is among millions of parents who have moved children from private to state education since 2020, or from elite schools to cheaper ones. In 2021, four million children switched from private to state, more than 4% of all children in school.

That is a reversal of a trend that has swept India over the past two decades, as more families in an increasingly prosperous society opted for private education to give their children an advantage in the job market. But now inflation means that such aspirations are becoming unaffordable for some. For the fastgrowing middle class, the appeal of lessons in English and better teach-

The private sector covers a range of schools and fees, from a few dollars a month to hundreds, and so Representational Image

serves lower- and middle-income families as well as the wealthy.

On top of fees, transport companies that take children to school have raised prices by more than 15% this month in Delhi and some other places to cover higher wages and

fuel, parents' associations said. Arjun Singh, 47, who drives a

school van and owns three school cabs, said he increased his charges by up to 35% in April because of higher costs. Prices for compressed natural gas (CNG) for his vehicles had almost doubled, he said.

Broader inflation is biting hard, touching 6.95% in March - a 17month high and above the central Four million children left private system schools in

ndian households hit by pandemic and rising costs

Reverses a trend that saw private education expand

Schools say they have to raise fees to meet higher costs

bank's target, and economists say that households are bracing for worse as companies pass on the

Many private schools have raised fees and other charges by more than 15% this year, said Aparajita Gautam, president of the Delhi Parents Association, although some had delayed doing so during the

worst of the pandemic. In the city of Kolkata, nearly

70% of private schools raised fees by up to 20% last month, and some parents have asked authorities to press schools to soften the blow.

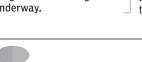
As parents defaulted, some schools cut teachers' pay and thousands of schools, particularly those catering to lower-income families, closed, according to school asso-

ciations and state authorities.

Enrolment in private schools has skyrocketed to more than 35% of students from about 9% in 1993, and nearly 50% of households spend nearly 20% of their earnings on children's education, according to government and industry estimates.

A family with monthly income of 20,000-50,000 rupees (\$260-\$650) might pay 2,000-10,000 rupees a month on tuition and another 1,500-5,000 rupees on transport. There are about 90 million Indian children in

private schools in total.











BIHAR TWO STATES





WEDNESDAY | MAY 4 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

Nitish keeps silence on Kishor's announcement Devotees throng mosques on Eid Kishor's announcement

PRASHANT KISHOR'S HINT AT LAUNCHING A POLITICAL PARTY FROM BIHAR EVOKED SHARP REACTIONS FROM RJD AND BJP. BUT JD-U CHOSE NOT TO REACT



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 3: A day after political strategist Prashant Kishor hinted about launching a political party, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar maintained a studied si lence on the development.

While interacting with media on the occasion of Eid Tuesday, the Chief Minister initially ducked the question, but on being asked repeatedly, he stated that he has nothing to do with it.

On Monday, Prashant Kishor hinted at launching a political party from Bihar. Taking to his official Twitter handle, he tweeted, "My quest to be a meaningful participation in democracy and help shape pro people policy led to a 10 years rollercoaster ride.

"As I turn this page, time to go to the Real Masters. The people to better understand the issues and to path to Jan Suraj - People good governance starting from Bihar,' he tweeted. His tweets evoked sharp reactions by RJD and BJP, but JD-U chose not to react.

It is well known that Nitish Kumar has good relations with mer has admitted several times on public platforms.

Several, however, see it a political ploy of Nitish Kumar to indirectly promote PK in the state so that the parties can be merged.

Currently, JD-U is undergoing a deep crisis especially after the second expansion of the Narendra Modi government. In that expansion. RCP Singh was given the charge to bargain with BJP but he opted otherwise and secured the cabinet berth for himself.

This led to other prominent leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias $Lalan\,Singh\,being\,upset\,with\,him.$ Nitish Kumar realised it and made him the party's national president. At present, there is a RCP Singh

group, Lalan Singh group, Upendra Kushwaha group, active in JD-U. Taking this in view, the JD-U

has issued an official notification directing that every poster and advertisement will have Kumar's photograph only. No other leaders are entitled to promote themselves through poster politics in Bihar.

It is well known that except Nitish Kumar, there is no political successor in JD-U who could hold the party together at present.

No future for any more parties, says Sushil Modi

n a veiled attack on political strategist Prashant Kishor over his rumoured entry in Bihar politics, as well as other smaller outfits, BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi Monday said there are only four mainstream political parties in the state "Apart from these four political parties, there is no future for other political parties. In democracy, anyone has the right to do political experiments or make political parties. There are hundreds of political parties in the country. If anyone wants to make a new canal, it would not affect evergreen rivers," he said.

The statement of Sushil Kumai Modi, the former Deputy Chief Minister, may not be taken kindly by smaller parties, especially Jitan Ram Manjhi-led HAM. It has 4 MLAs in Bihar and he is playing a role of king maker in the current NDA government led by Nitish Kumar. Still, Sushil Modi has not given any weightage to it. It will be interesting to see what would be the reaction of HAM. Manjhi is critical of the BJP's stand on several issues.

Neither RCP Singh, nor Lalan Singh or Upendra Kushwaha.

In that context, the political capability of PK is well established across the country. Hence, Nitish Kumar could give ideal play ground in Bihar to grow as a party and then merge into JD-U so that it would be easy for Nitish Kumar to hand over the responsibility to hold his legacy. Though, this is just an assumption of political analysts in Bihar, they also believe that no one, including his closest allies, know Kumar's take on it.

Muslims offer prayers at the Jama Masjid on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, in old Delhi, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: After a gap of two years, the Namaz of Eid was performed in mosques across Delhi, including at the historic Jama Masjid and Fatehpuri Masjid, as COVID-19 restrictions remain suspended due to a dip in

On Tuesday morning, several mosques shifted the Namaz timings, keeping in mind the summer heat. Some others held special prayers in two shifts to accomodate scores of devotees.

Tight security arrangements were put in place at major religious places and also in different parts of the city for peaceful progression of the Namaz

Festivities broke out with people greeting and hugging each other after the Namaz and shopping their favourite delicacies

and other items.

The Namaz of Eid is performed after sunrise and it used to be carried out around 8-9 am earlier. But this time, we preponed it keeping in mind the scorching heat these days, Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid Syed Ahmed Bukhari said.

The Namaz was performed at 6 am at the Jama Masjid. Many other mosques, including Fatehpuri, Sunehri Masjid, Shahjahano Masjid, Bhoori Bhatiyari and Dhaka Masjid, too held the Namaz between 6 am and 7 am.

Junglewali Masjid in Azad Market and a few other mosques held prayers in two shifts to accommodate the people.

In the last couple of years, people were forced to offer the Namaz of Eid at their homes as religious places remained closed as Covidinduced restrictions were in place

HINDUS, MUSLIMS CELEBRATE

New Delhi: Hindu and Muslim communities together celebrated Eid Tuesday at Jahangirpuri's Kushal Chowk by exchanging sweets and hugs, giving a message of peace and harmony in the area that witnessed communal violence last month. The locals also treated the security personnel deployed there to sweets. "Last month was quite tough for the people of Jahangirpuri. Today, on the occasion of Eid, we gathered at Kushal Chowk. We exchanged sweets and hugged each other and sent a message of harmony and peace. This shows people in Jahangirpuri live in harmony and respect each other's religions," a representative from the Muslim community Tabrez Khan said. Khan expressed hope that full normalcy will return in the area soon. The situation is improving. Normalcy has returned to a large extent and we are expecting complete normalcy in the coming days, he said. Police said they have ensured adequate security arrangements on the occasion of Eid. Meanwhile, shops in and around Kushal Chowk--except for the main lane in Block C where a mosque is located--- have reopened. Hawkers and customers have also returned fo business. Indramani Tiwari, the president of the Residents' Welfare Association, who represented the Hindu community, said Eid is being celebrated in a peaceful manner. "We are celebrating Eid together and expecting this harmony to remain among the people. There is peace in the area and we expect complete normalcy soon," Tiwari said.

Revise school timings or advance summer holidays, demand parents in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Worried about their children's health due to exthe Delhi government to either revise the school timings or advance the summer holidays

Several schools have already announced reduction in outdoor activities in view of the sweltering heat coupled with the ongoing spike in the number of Covid cases.

However, parents claim the school timings are not feasible for students to step out in this extreme heat.

The Haryana government Monday announced that due to intense heatwave prevalent throughout the state, the timings of all schools -- government and private -will be from 7 am to 12 pm for Classes 1 to 12 with effect from May 4

However, no such measures have been announced in Delhi yet.

On one side, the Centre advised not to go out in the sun, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm. But in Delhi, most of the schools timings are between 8 am-2 pm.

"Students reach home by 3 pm. That means during peak summer hours, students are out in the sun, which is really dangerous. We request Delhi government to either revise the school timings like other states are doing or pre-pone summer holidays," said Aparajitha Gautam, President, Delhi Parents' Association.

Amid the intense heatwaye across the country, the Centre had last week urged states and Union Territories to review their health facility preparedness for availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines and necessary

equipments while ensuring sufficient drinking water and continued functioning of cooling appliances

in critical areas.

ple to avoid getting out in the sun, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm, avoid strenuous activities when outside in the afternoon, avoid alcohol, tea, coffee, or drinks with large amount of sugar, stating these may lead to loss of more body fluid or cause stomach cramps.

The Centre had also advised people to avoid high protein food and stale food and not leave children or pets in parked vehicle.

During previous years, whenever the temperature used to rise. the schools used to pre-pone summer vacations but that is not an option this year considering schools have reopened after a long period due to Covid.

However, the heat is extreme this year and at least the schools can revise the timings for children to be less exposed, said Nidhi Vaishnav,

Another parent Sunil Joshi, said, 'My child's school is offering flexibility in attendance but we don't want to restrict children from going to school again as they are just getting into the groove. So, revision of school timings is the best solution in this case.

A torrid heatwave has sent the mercury soaring across large swathes of the country with the temperature in Delhi rising up to 46 degrees Celsius. Delhi also recorded its second hottest April in 72 years with a monthly average maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius.

Despite Covid cases rising in Delhi, I was sending both my kids to school because there has been lot of learning loss already.



Women buy jewellery at a showroom on the occasion of Akshay Tritiya, in New Delhi

Bihar Police crackdown on fake SIMs to stop spurt in sextortion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 3: The Bihar Police has ordered a crackdown on SIM cards procured through fake documents amidst a spurt in online sexual blackmailing cases.

The police have asked telecom companies to book customers with SIM cards issued on fake docu-

Cases of sextortion are increasing in the state. The Economic and Cyber Crimes Division (ECCD) of Bihar Police has registered around 15 such cases in the last three-four months. It has taken the shape of an organized crime, Additional Director General of Police (Economic Offences Unit),

Nayyar Hasnain Khan told PTI. There are several gangs based in Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand, and West Bengal that are extorting money from people by blackmailing them with WhatsApp video callings through their associates in Bihar, the ADGP said

These criminals use mobile SIM cards issued on fake and forged documents, this is the reason that we have asked telecom service providers to book customers with SIMs issued on fake documents, Khan said.

"We are in constant touch with

senior officials of Delhi, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and West Bengal Police to identify and arrest cyber criminals operating from there," he said. In most cases, cybercriminals mainly target men through WhatsApp chats from fake accounts. After sending some messages, the woman, a part of the gang, video calls the man after getting numbers during their conversation and starts stripping during the call. Then, with their naked video recordings as evidence, the criminals begin blackmailing the victim, threatening to upload their photos

After a gap of 2 years, Bihar celebrates Eid with abandon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 3: The festive ambience of Eid ul Fitr was back in Bihar Tuesday when the believers came out of their homes to celebrate the victory of faith over the gloomy spectre that the global pandemic had brought in its wake.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was back in the sprawling Gandhi Maidan in Patna, a practice he has followed all through his 16-year-long tenure, to join the namazis in the thanksgiving prayer that marks the conclusion of the gruelling austerities during the holy month of Ramadan.

"I have been coming here on Eid since 2016. For the last two years, the ceremony could not be held because of coronavirus. The festival teaches us the importance of mutual respect among people of different affiliations which is essential for the harmonious growth of a society, Kumar, who donned a skullcap offered by one of the clerics present on the occasion," told reporters.

It was a busy day for the septuagenarian whose mettle stood proven this Ramadan as the state, where his ally BJP is the numero uno party in terms of numerical strength, remained relatively free of the communal conflagrations and controversies around relay of azaan through loudspeakers.

After being through with the Gandhi Maidan function, Kumar. whose reverence for Sufi saints is well known, travelled to Phulwarisharif in another corner of the city and paid his homage at



CM Nitish Kumar was back in the sprawling Gandhi Maidan in Patna. a practice he has followed all through his 16-year-long tenure, to ioin the namazis in the thanksgiving prayer

Khanqah Mujibia, a shrine built in the memory of 18th century saint Hazrat Mujibullah Qadri.

Elsewhere in the state, it was time for men, women and children to get dressed in all their finery to greet each other Eid Mubarak. Shrieks of joy were heard from the little ones for whom the opportunity to amble around outdoors, receiving 'Eidi' offered by their elders, came after two years.

Shopkeepers dealing in vermicelli, milk and ghee were having a field day as householders kept pouring in to collect the essential ingredients for 'sevai' delicacy, considered a must-have for guests

Loco pilot stops passenger train midway for a drink!

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 3: In a state where liquor is completely banned, a loco pilot stopped a passenger train for an hour at the Hasanpur railway station in Bihar's Samastipur district for the 'forbidden' drink.

The train, which normally has a two-minute halt in Hasanpur, Monday evening remained stationed for an hour. It was only after the passengers protested that the railway officials came to know about the pilot's act.

The passenger train number

05278 started its journey from Samastipur railway station Monday at 4.05 pm and reached Hasanpur at 5.45 pm. The last destination of the train is Saharsa where normally it reaches by 8.30 pm.

"As the passengers were protesting at the railway station, we went to the driver's cabin. The co-pilot Karamveer Yadav alias Munna was missing from the engine room,' said Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, stationmaster of Hasanpur Railway Station, "We received information that a person was creating ruckus in the Hasanpur market in a



drunken state. When we reached there, we arrested him. He was identified as Karamveer Yadav,

loco pilot of the train stationed at Hasanpur. We also recovered half a bottle of liquor from his possession. Accordingly, we have arrested him and informed senior officials about it." he said

Following the incident, Alok Agrawal, the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Samastipur zone, called a high-level meeting with the senior officials.

After Karamveer Yadav was found in a drunken state, a loco pilot VC Rajkumar, who was on leave but was travelling in the same train and going to Saharsa was given the charge. The train finallyleft Hasanpur railway station at 6.45 pm.





national



The Tamil Nadu government will send rice, milk power and life saving drugs to Sri Lanka in the first phase

MK STALIN | TN CHIEF MINISTER

HIJAB ROW REACHES GHAZIABAD

A video of few girl students protesting in hijab in a Ghaziabad college has gone viral on social media. The video is said to be of Modi Nagar's Ginni Devi College





languages will play a crucial role in revolutionising the education system guided by the **National Education** Policy (NEP) 2020

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER







given importance to the people from the failure of the BJP-led government at the Centre in tackling inflation and unemployment

DIGVIJAYA SINGH | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT **TAKES**

Cop injured in encounter

Mumbai: A constable with the Gadchiroli police's C-60 commando unit was seriously injured in an encounter with Naxals in the insurgency-hit Maharashtra district Tuesday, a senior official said. The skirmish took place near Dodraj forest in Bhamragadh taluka of Gadchiroli, located over 900 km from the state capital Mumbai, when a team of C-60 commandos, a specialised combat unit of the Gadchiroli police, was patrolling in the area, he said The ultras, who had gathered in the forest, opened fire at the police patrolling team, following which the security personnel retaliated.

3 labourers die in blast

Panaji: Three labourers died in a blast in an undermaintenance ammonia tank at a plant of Zuari Agro Chemicals Ltd (ZACL) in Vasco town in south Goa Tuesday afternoon, company sources said. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant tweeted "It is very unfortunate to hear about the tragic death of three labourers in a blast of the under maintenance Ammonia Tank at Zuari Agro Chemicals Limited plant at Vasco. The State machinery has immediately responded and are making every effort to bring normalcy to the situation."

Tempo driver beaten to death

Gurugram: A 22-year-old auto rickshaw driver was allegedly beaten to death with sticks by more than half a dozen men over a debt, police here said Tuesday. One of the accused allegedly had a tiff with the older brother of the deceased, Sumit Solanki, they said. An FIR has been registered against seven named accused at Sector-9 A Police Station, they said. "We handed over the body to the kin of the deceased after conducting a post mortem today. We are raiding several locations to nab the accused," said Sector 9A Police Station SHO Manoj Kumar.

Three dead as car hits tree

Seoni: Three persons were killed and one injured when their speeding car hit a tree in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district, police said Tuesday. The incident occurred in Raivatwadi village late Monday night, Ari police station in-charge Davaram Sharnagat said, "Three injured persons died en route to hospital, while one man is undergoing treatment. The deceased are mechanics who were on their way to repair a harvester in Panwas," he said.

Coal usage in question amid crisis

With climate change exacerbating heatwaves, energy shortfalls will become more routine and demand will only rise further. But the answer is not to open new mines or add more coal to India's energy mix, because that will increase greenhouse gases that in turn will trap more heat, experts said

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Delhi, May 3: An unusually early and brutal heatwave is scorching parts of India, with acute power shortages affecting millions as demand for electricity surges to record levels. Supplies of coal at many thermal power plants are running perilously low, spawning daily power outages in several states.

The shortages are sparking scrutiny of India's long reliance on coal, which produces 70% of the country's electricity. The situation highlights India's pressing need to diversity its energy sources, as demand for electricity is expected to increase more than anywhere else in the world over the next 20 years as the densely populated country develops, according to the International Energy Agency.

The shortages hit as blisteringly high temperatures are sweeping over parts of the country, prompting authorities to close schools, sparking fires at gigantic landfills and shriveling crops as a cool spring turned suddenly into unrelenting heat.

India recorded its hottest March since 1901, and average temperatures in April in northern and central pockets of the country were the highest in 122 years, the Indian Meteorological Department said. Temperatures breached 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in 10 cities last week, although cloudy skies and rain could bring some relief soon. Climate change is making severe temperatures hotter and more frequent, with heat waves likely to strike India about once every four years instead of every five decades in the past, said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London.

Out of India's 165 coal plants, 94 are facing critically low coal supplies while 8 are not opera-



ndia urgently needs to prepare for record increases in power consumption as a result

urrent power cuts are hurting economic activity, which had been rebounding after pandemic shutdowns, and could disrupt essential services such as hospitals, experts warn

■ Many states including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are experiencing blackouts of up to seven hours

■ The railways ministry Friday canceled more than 750 passenger train services to allow more freight trains to move coal from mines to the power plants

data from the Central Electricity Authority.

This means stocks have dropped below 25% of normal levels. Government rules mandate that power plants maintain 24 days' worth of coal stocks, but many routinely don't, said Vibhuti Garg, an energy economist at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. Much of India had a cool spring this year before temperatures rose quickly and dra-"Then suddenly the demand

started picking up and the inventories started declining much. much faster than anticipated, Garg said. "And this becomes a kind of panic situation that they'll start running out of coal pretty soon." But the power outages are less the result of a dearth of coal than inadequate forecasts of dein time, experts said.

"We don't have enough resources to do proper forecasting. The hike in demand should not have come as a surprise," Garg said. "There is enough coal, but a lack of anticipation and planning" caused problems, said Sunil Dahiya, an analyst at the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air. "This could have been avoided." Some of the shortfall could also have been met with imported coal, Garg said. But global prices have shot up since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, reaching \$400 per ton in March, putting it out of reach for perennially cash strapped power distribution companies. Analysts expect demand to dip in the coming weeks, especially if the heat subsides, but it is likely to surge again in July and August, driven by rising humidity and the planting season in some

Bountiful rains pound east India, Northeast, Kerala

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 3: Large areas of all northeastern states, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Gangetic West Bengal Monday received bountiful rains, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

Heavy rainfall was also received by certain pockets in Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala.

For the 24 hours that ended at 8.30 a.m. Tuesday, several places in Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, coastal Andhra, Jammu & Kashmir, and Kerala received rainfall of more than 40 mm.

Under the influence of southwesterly winds from Bay of Bengal over east and northeast India in lower tropospheric levels, the IMD has again warned of fairly widespread/ widespread light/moderate rainfall is very likely over the northeast and West Bengal-Sikkim during next five days with isolated thunderstorm/lightning/gusty winds (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) over the region during next two days.



Isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, abd Tripura Wednesday and isolated to scattered light/moderate rainfall with thunderstorm/lightning/gusty winds (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) are very likely over Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha during next 3-4 days.

FUN TIME

Row over Rahul's Nepal club video

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: A video of Rahul Gandhi went viral on social media Tuesday triggering a row, with the BJP saying he was at a "nightclub" when his party is "exploding", evoking a sharp response from the Congress which said he was in Nepal to attend the marriage of a journalist friend. and that is "not a crime"

The BJP's social media department head Amit Malviya and Union minister Giriraj Singh also tweeted the video.

"Rahul Gandhi was at a nightclub when Mumbai (in 2008) was under seize(sic). He is at a nightclub at a time when his party is exploding. He is consistent. Interestingly, soon after the Congress refused to outsource their presidency, hit jobs have begun on their Prime Ministerial candidate...," Malviya said in the tweet. "Colourful programme,"BJP leader and Union minister Giriraj Singh in a tweet in Hindi while sharing the video. Shehzad Poonawala, a BJP spokesperson tweeted, "PM Modi visited Pashupatinath in Nepal. Rahul visits pub in Nepal.' He said Gandhi preferred pub to people and prayers. "That's ok.. He can have his choices. Ram Sanskar vs Rome Sanskar." Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala hit back, saying Gandhi was in Nepal for a private wedding and has not gone there uninvited. He also said it was not a crime to attend the wedding of a friend or a family member.

"Rahul Gandhi has not gone as an uninvited guest like Prime Minister Narendra Modi had gone to Pakistan to celebrate the birthday and cut cakes for the then Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif. Rahul Gandhi has gone to a friendly country Nepal to participate in a private marriage function of a friend. By chance, the friend also happens to be a journalist," he said.



RSS, saying it is not a crime to attend weddings of family and friends as it "is part of our culture, unlike the RSS'

"Last I checked, having a family in this country and having friends, attending marriage and engagement ceremonies is a matter of our culture and civilisation. It has still not become a crime in this country to be married, to be friends with someone or to attend their marriage celebration. Maybe after today. Prime Minister Modi or the BJP may decide that it is illegal to attend a marriage. They may say it is a crime to have friends or participate in family functions," he said. "But, do let me know so that we all change our status and habits and civilisational practices of attending marriages of friends, as also family members," Surjewala also said.

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra also slammed the BJP over the issue. "How on earth is it anybody's business whether @RahulGandhi or anybody else is in nightclub or at wedding in private time? Sick @BJP trolls in charge should stick to doing what they do best-leading double lives with beer in teapots,"she tweeted.

Rahul Gandhi arrived in Nepal Monday on a five-day private visit. According to The Kathmandu Post newspaper, the Congress leader is in the country's capital to attend the wedding of his Nepali friend

24 Rohingyas

Covovax now available for kids across India

New Delhi, May 3: Serum Institute of India's coronavirus vaccine Covovax is now available for children across the country, company CEO Adar Poonawalla said Tuesday. In a post on Twitter, he said Covovax, which has been devel-

oped by Novavax, "is now available for children in India" He further said, "This is the only vaccine manufactured in India

that is also sold in Europe and has an efficacy of > (more than) 90%. Official sources Monday had said children aged 12 to 17 years



SII's Covovax is now approved

Children can get the vaccine at private centres with a provision for it on the CoWIN portal

Currently, children aged 12 to 14 vears are vaccinated with Biological E's vaccine Corbevax

could henceforth now get the Covovax at private centres with a dose costing ₹900 plus GST, in addition to hospital service charge of ₹150. India's drug regulator had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults December 28 last year and in the 12-17 age group, sub-

ject to certain conditions, March 9. Price reduced: The Serum Institute of India (SII) Tuesday reduced the price of each dose of the vaccine from ₹900 to ₹225, excluding taxes. Following recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) the provision of the vaccine option was included on the



Tourists take a dip in the water during their visit to a beach in Kozhikode, Kerala

held in Unakoti⊸

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, May 3: Twenty-four Rohingya immigrants were de-

trict, police said Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, BSF intercepted three cars at Jiturdighipar

check-gate Monday evening, they said. They were on the way from Kumarghat to Kailashahar, police said. "On suspicion, all the suspected Rohingya immigrants were detained and taken to Kailashahar police station for interrogation. In the course of the interrogation, three people showed their refugee cards issued by the United Nations," Superintendent Police Kishore Debbbarma told PTI.

Among those detained were ten children, he said. Since they have UN-issued cards and have no adverse reports here, they will be set free as per the guidelines, he said.

They came from Jammu by train to Kumarghat via Kolkata and Guwahati, Debbbarma said. "They said they don't know where to go,' he added. However, sources said they planned to cross over to Bangladesh through the international border at Kailashahar

Eid celebrations in India break Covid squeeze

EID CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR ALSO COME IN THE BACKDROP OF THE CONTROVERSY AROUND THE USE OF HIJAB IN COLLEGES AND ANNOUNCING OF AZAAN ON LOUDSPEAKERS AT MOSQUES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated across the country Tuesday with people thronging Eidgahs and mosques, and families coming together for feasts after two years when the festivities were eclipsed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Tight security arrangements were put in place at major religious places in the city.

The Namaz of Eid was performed in mosques including at the historic Jama Masjid and Fatehpuri Masjid as Covid restrictions remained suspended due to a dip in Covid

In Jammu and Kashmir, rain failed to dampen the spirit of the faithful who celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr with traditional

Officials said no untoward incident was reported from any part of the Valley. The biggest gathering in Kashmir was witnessed at the Hazratbal shrine,

where an estimated 80,000 people braved the rain to offer

Authorities did not allow Eid prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta area of Srinagar as the management committee refused to accept their conditions.

Eid celebrations this year also come in the backdrop of the controversy around the use of hijab in colleges and announcing of Azaan on loud-

speakers at mosques. In Maharashtra, Director General of Police Rajnish Seth said the Aurangabad police will take appropriate legal action against MNS leader Raj Thackeray who had called for "silencing" loudspeakers at

mosques from May 4. Celebrations on Eid-ul-Fitr during the last two years were subdued with no major congregational prayers and community feasts due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

However, with the spread of the virus fairly under control and restrictions relaxed, people gathered at mosques across the vast expanse of the country for prayers

In Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, over five lakh people led by Imam Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali offered namaz at the Eidgah maidan.

Participating in Eid-ul-Fitr prayers held on a rain-drenched Red Road in Kolkata, TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appealed to people to fight against the "power which is trying to divide the country.'

In Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, Muslims offered special prayers at 51 mosques and Eidgahs.

Down south in Kerala, people celebrated Eid with full fervour offering special prayers and namaz at mosques.

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijavan wished the

people on the occasion. Sweets were exchanged between the Pakistani Rangers and the BSF on the occasion at the Attari-Wagah joint check post along the International

Border in Punjab. A similar exchange of sweets was done between the BSF and its eastern counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at several points across the front.



international



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky does not need a peace treaty as he will continue to beg for money and weapons from the West and will also continue to appear unshaven on camera DMITRY MEDVEDEV FORMER RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

HALTING THE EXTINCTION CRISIS

Scientists from the University of Queensland (UQ) have developed an app that provides users with information on endangered species in their local areas and ways for everyday Australians to take action





We're building a world-class Canadian auto industry for generations to come, an innovative economy, and a

clean, strong future for everyone. This is what a healthy environment and a healthy economy looks like JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PM

Russia has already made the decision to pull out of the International Space Station, likely in about two years time



DMITRY ROGOZIN | CHIEF OF ROSCOSMOS



opportunity. But we still have not had a response and we are still pushing, even if I fear that Putin cannot and does not want to have this meeting at this moment

SHORT TAKES

2 more survivors found in China

Beijing: Rescuers have found two more survivors in the rubble of a building in central China that collapsed more than three days ago, state media reported Tuesday. The official Xinhua News Agency said a man and a woman were pulled out on Monday afternoon and early Tuesday morning. The woman whose rescue came after being buried for 88 hours, alerted workers using life detection equipment to her presence by knocking on objects.

South Korea, US to begin air drills

Seoul: South Korea and the US plan to kick off regular combined air force drills next week, in yet another move to highlight their defence posture especially against North Korea's evolving missile threats, informed sources said Tuesday. The allies are set to Flying Training on May 9, the eve of the inauguration of President-elect Yoon Suk-veol. who has vowed to holster the Seoul-Washington security alliance under his slogan of "peace through strength".

Nuke envoys hold talks on Pyongyang

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Seoul: The top nuclear envoys of South Korea and China met here Tuesday to discuss security situations on the Korean Peninsula amid concerns about North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats. Liu Xiaoming, Beijing's special representative on Korean Peninsula affairs, is on his first visit to Seoul since assuming the post in April 2021 at a time of heightened tensions over Pyongyang's recent spate of missile launches and reported signs of preparations for another nuclear test, reports Yonhap News Agency. In his first public activity here, he had a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyuduk, at the foreign ministry building, apparently to share their assessments of the regional security situation.

7 killed in Brazil

Sao Paulo: At least seven people were killed and another 15 were injured Monday in an accident involving a minibus transporting elderly patients in southern Brazil's Parana state, regional authorities said. According to preliminary reports from the Health Consortium of Western Parana Municipalities, the vehicle belongs to the Health Secretariat of Pato Bragado, a city in the interior of the state. and was taking hospital patients to other cities for consultation with specialists, Xinhua news

MARIUPOL PLANT



Ukrainian woman Alyona, 20, holds her son Sergei, 1, as they wait for boarding during an evacuation of civilians in Kramatorsk, Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, May 3: Russian forces Tuesday began storming the steel mill that represented the last pocket of resistance in Mariupol, Ukrainian defenders said, just as a convoy carrying scores of civilians evacuated from the plant over the weekend reached the relative safety of a Ukrainian-controlled city.

Osnat Lubrani, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine, said that thanks to the evacuation effort, "101 women, men, children and older persons could finally leave the bunkers below the Azovstal steelworks and see the daylight after two

The news for those left behind was more grim. Ukrainian fighters said Russian forces started storming the sprawling plant, which includes a maze of tunnels and bunkers. Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, said the Russians were mounting a heavy assault with "the support of armoured vehicles and tanks, with attempts to land troops from boats and a large number of infantry"

The number of Ukrainian fighters holed up inside was unclear, but the Russians estimated the number at 2.000 weeks ago, and there were reports that 500 were wounded. A few hundred civilians also reDussian rockets pound parts of

Western powers pledge heavier weapons to boost Ukraine

This is Ukraine's finest hour,' UK's Johnson says, echoing

mained there, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk

"We'll do everything that's possible to repel the assault, but we're calling for urgent measures to evacuate the civilians that remain inside the plant and to bring them safely," Palamar said on the messaging app Telegram.

He added that throughout the night, the plant was hit with naval artillery fire and airstrikes. Two civilian women were killed and 10 civilians were wounded, he said.

The assault began almost two weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his military not to storm the plant to finish off the defenders but to seal it off.

It came as the first convoy of evacuees from the plant arrived in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia, some 140 miles (230 km) northwest of Mariupol. They were allowed to leave the steel mill during a brief ceasefire over the weekend, in an operation overseen by the UN and the

RUSSIA STORMS Modi calls for ceasefire in Ukraine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Copenhagen, May 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday appealed for an immediate cease path of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis, even as his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen hoped that India will use its influence over Russia to

The two leaders discussed the Ukraine crisis and several regional and global issues including increasing trade relations and cooperation in the field of mitigating the impact of climate change during their bilateral talks at the Danish Prime Minister's official residence in Mareinborg near here.

"We appeal for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy for resolving the crisis," Modi told reporters here. Frederiksen hoped that India will influence Russia on Ukraine and asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to "stop this war and end the killings"

"My message is very clear that Putin has got to stop this war and

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen, at her residence in Copenhagen, Denmark

My message is very clear that Putin has got to stop this war and to end the killings. I, of course, hope that India will influence Russia also in this discussion

statement issued after the talks, the

two Prime Ministers expressed se-

METTE FREDERIKSEN I DENMARK PM to end the killings. I, of course, hope that India will influence Russia also in this discussion," she said. In a joint

NARENDRA MODI I INDIA'S PM rious concern about the ongoing

We appeal for an

immediate ceasefire in

Ukraine and return to

the path of dialogue

and diplomacy for

resolving the crisis

humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. They unequivocally condemned civilian deaths in Ukraine. They reiterated the need for an immediate

PUTIN PUTS WEST ON NOTICE

LONDON: Russian President Vladimir Putin put the West on notice Tuesday that he could terminate exports and deals, the Kremlin's toughest response yet to the sanctions burden imposed by the United States and allies over the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Putin, Russia's paramount leader since 1999, signed a broad decree on Tuesday which forbade the export of products and raw materials to people and entities on a sanctions list that he instructed the government to draw up within 10 days.

cessation of hostilities. They emphasised that the contemporary global order has been built on the UN Charter, international law and respect for sovereignty and the territorial integrity of states," it said.

The two leaders also discussed the destabilising effect of the conflict in Ukraine and its broader regional and global implications and agreed to remain closely engaged on the issue



Wild bluebells turn the forest floor blue in the Hallerbos, also known as the 'Blue Forest', in Halle, near Brussels, Belgium

SJB submits no-trust motions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, May 3: Sri Lanka's main Opposition party SJB Tuesday handed over to the parliamentary Speaker motions of no-confidence against the SLPP coalition government and embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, even as the government announced the appointment of a Cabinet sub-committee to look into the proposal for a new Constitution.

"We met the Speaker at his residence and handed over two notrust motions, the first one against the President under Article 42 of the Constitution and the other against the government," Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara said.

Article 42 stipulates that the President is responsible to Parliament for the exercise, performance and discharge of his



We met the Speaker at his residence and handed over two no-trust motions

RANJITH MADDUMA BANDARA I SJB'S GENERAL SECRETARY

functions. Madduma Bandara said the party wants the motion to be taken quickly. The Parliament meets tomorrow for the first of eight sittings this month.

The SJB said they would field a

candidate for the post of Deputy tion has fallen vacant with the resignation of the incumbent Ranjith Siyamabalapitiya. Siyamabalapitiya is part of the SLFP of the former President Maithripala Sirisena which had split from the SLPP coalition. The main Tamil party along with the former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party's (UNP) are to jointly move a no trust motion against the president, which would imply that the House had lost confidence in the President

Experts said if the government would be defeated in the SJB motion, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Cabinet would have to resign. The TNA/UNP motion has no legal binding for the

President to resign. The TNA/UNP motion against the President has no legal binding on him to resign.

Muslims targeted with violence worldwide: Biden

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, May 3: Around the world, Muslims are being targeted with violence, US President Joe Biden said Monday asserting that Muslims make America stronger every single day even as they still face real challenges and threats in the society that they live in.

At a White House reception to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, Biden said he has appointed the first Muslim to serve as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.

'It's especially important because today, around the world, we're seeing so many Muslims being targeted with violence. No one, no one should discriminate against oppressed or be oppressed for their religious beliefs," he said to applause from the select gathering at the White House.



Arooj Aftab, a Pakistani vocalist and composer, was one of the speakers at the event along with First Lady Jill Biden and Dr. Talib M. Shareef, Imam of Masjid Muhammad, known as 'The Nation's Mosque' in Washington, DC.

"Today, we also remember all those who are not able to celebrate this holy day, including Uyghurs and Rohingyas and all those who are facing famine, violence, conflict, and

SHANGHAI HORROR

Declared dead, man found to be alive!

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Taipei, May 3: Six people are under investigation in Shanghai after an elderly nursing home resident was mistakenly declared dead, put in a body bag and taken by coroners to a waiting van before mortuary workers noticed he was

still alive, The Guardian reported. The incident, which took place on Sunday afternoon, was filmed by onlookers and the footage quickly spread online, sparking a furious backlash in the city which has been under a gruelling lockdown for five weeks. It also prompted concerns over the city's overwhelmed medical system.

In the footage, workers wearing protective clothing are seen pulling a body bag out of the mortuary van on to a trolley.

Deforestation slowing, but tropical rainforests under threat: FAO

THE LOSS OF TROPICAL FORESTS ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF THE GLOBAL DEFORESTATION FROM 2000 TO 2018. AT 157 MILLION HECTARES -- THAT'S ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF WESTERN EUROPE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Seoul, May 3: The rate at which the forests are disappearing slowed by nearly 30 per cent from the first decade of the century to the period from 2010-2018, a key report launched Tuesday by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN.

But the earth's tropical rainforests are still under the greatest threat, whether from livestock grazing in South America or expansion of croplands such as oil palm plantations in Asia.

Annual deforestation decreased by around 29 per cent -from 11 million hectares per year in the decade 2000-2010 to 7.8 million hectares per year in the period 2010-2018, according to the Global Forest Resources Assessment Remote Sensing Survey.

Net forest area losses have more than halved during the survey period, decreasing from 6.8 million hectares per year in 2000-2010 to 3.1 million hectares per year in 2010-2018. Looking it by region, the highest deforestation in 2000-2018 occurred in South America (68 million hectares deforested), followed by Africa (49 million hectares).

That's despite the fact that the rate of deforestation in fact slowed down in South America as it did in South and Southeast Asia between 2000-2010 and 2010-2018.

The loss of tropical forests accounted for more than 90 per cent of the global deforestation from 2000 to 2018, at 157 million hectares - that's roughly the size of Western Europe. Yet annual deforestation in the Tropical domain actually slowed significantly from 10.1 million hectares per year in 2000-2010



to 7 million hectares per year in the period from 2010-2018.

"This survey is important, not just for the new numbers it gives us but for what it tells us about forest area trends and what's driving deforestation, also the crucial ability it gives us to monitor how things are evolving," said FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo.

"Unsustainable agricultural development and other land uses continue to put intense pressure on our forests, especially in many of the poorest countries. But there are

win-win solutions which we can and must scale up to feed the world without destroying our forests." The main drivers of deforesta-

tion include cropland expansion (including oil palm plantations), causing almost 50 percent of global deforestation, followed by livestock

grazing, accounting for 38.5 per cent. Oil palm alone accounted for seven per cent of the global deforestation from 2000 to 2018. The survey suggest that tropical regions of Central America are those most severely threatened by land-use conversion: 30.3 per cent of forest in the Central America tropical moist ecoregion and 25.2 per cent of Central America tropical rain-

forest were lost in 2000-2018. Similar phenomena were detected in Central America's Tropical dry forest and Tropical shrubland. But the small number of samples in these eco-regions, means further investigations are needed to confirm these findings. Global annual forest area gain showed a slight increase, from 4.2 million hectares per year in the decade from 2000-2010 to 4.7 million hectares per year in the period 2010-2018.

Planted forest area increased by 46 million hectares in the period 2000-2018. Almost one-quarter of forests planted in this millennium replaced naturally regenerating forests, with half of this area in South and Southeast Asia.

The FAO-led study is based on the consistent analysis of 400 000 samples by more than 800 local experts from 126 countries and territories.

It has helped to build capacity at national level by training the experts in the visual analysis of remote sensing imagery to monitor forest and land-use changes.





business



We will manufacture green hydrogen at the most competitive prices RK SINGH | UNION POWER

As per the prospectus, out of the 22.13 crore shares offered for

sale, 5,93 crore shares were

reserved for anchor investors

Foreign participation included Government of Singapore,

Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Government Pension Fund Globa

Besides, investment was made by some domestic insurance

companies and pension funds.

this category included ICICI

SBI Pension Fund and UTI

Fund Scheme

Retirement Solutions Pension

Some of the prominent names in

Prudential Life Insurance, SBI Life

Insurance, PNB Metlife Insurance,

Insurance, Kotak Mahindra Life

and BNP Investment LLP

HYUNDAI DRIVES IN CRETA KNIGHT EDITION

Hyundai Motor India Tuesday said it has launched a new variant of its popular SUV Creta priced between ₹13.51-18.18 lakh (ex-showroom). With the launch of the new Creta Knight Edition, the automaker is once again offering customers an exciting choice of SUV that matches their aspirations with bold and sporty design enhancements, the company said.





FY22 was a remarkable year, not only from the perspective of numbers, but in terms of building a strong foundation on which the business can continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

ADIL ZAINULBHAI | NETWORK18 CHAIRMAN

With the international expansion in GCC markets and the first Tanishg store

coming up in the US. we are gearing up to touch new horizons in FY23 CK VENKATARAMAN TITAN MANAGING

The real estate





SHORT **TAKES**

AC sales hit record high

New Delhi: Driven by the early arrival of summer and intense heatwave, residential air conditioner makers are looking forward to record sales of around 90 lakh units this year, said Consumer **Electronics and Appliances** Manufacturers Association Tuesday. Already, in April the industry has clocked the sale of around 17.5 lakh units. which is also an all-time high for the month. However, the availability of certain products could be an issue in the next couple of months as manufacturers may not be in a position to supply their entire range of models to meet market demand. especially the energyefficient 5-star range, due to high demand and supply constraints of components such as controllers and compressors, said Eric Braganza, president of CEAMA (Consumer Flectronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association).

Adani Wilmar on buying spree

Mumbai: Adani Wilmar Ltd (AWL) Tuesday announced the acquisition of several brands, including the renowned 'Kohinoor' brand from McCormick Switzerland GMBH to strengthen its leadership in food business. The deal size was not disclosed. The acquisition would give AWL exclusive rights over the brand 'Kohinoor' basmati rice along with 'Ready to Cook', 'Ready to Eat' curries and meals portfolio under the Kohinoor brand umbrella in India, the company said in a statement. The addition of Kohinoor's domestic brand portfolio strengthens AWL's leadership position in the food FMCG category by augmenting a strong product basket with premium brands along with potential to scale value added products. The acquisition will fuel the next level of growth for AWL and widen the portfolio to cater to premium customer segments across rice and other value-added food businesses, it added.

Tata Steel Q4 net jumps 37%

New Delhi: Tata Steel Tuesday posted a 37 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹9,835.12 crore for the quarter ended March 2022, mainly on account of higher income. The steel major had reported a net profit of ₹7,161.91 crore in the year-ago quarter, it said in a BSE filing. During January-March 2022, Tata Steel's total income jumped to ₹69,615.70 crore from ₹50,300.55 crore earlier. Total expenses rose to ₹57,635.79 crore from ₹40,102.97 crore in the January-March period of 2020-21.

LIC raises ₹5,627cr from anchor investors Modi invites Danish

New Delhi, May 3: Insurance behemoth LIC Tuesday said it has garnered a little over ₹5,627 crore from anchor investors led primarily by domestic institutions ahead of its mega initial public offering

Anchor Investors' (AIs) portion (5,92,96,853 equity shares) was subscribed at ₹949 per equity share, the insurer said in an early morning filing to exchanges

Out of the allocation of about 5.9 crore shares to AIs, 4.2 crore shares (71.12 per cent) were allocated to 15 domestic mutual funds through 99 schemes, the filing said.

Besides, investment was made by some domestic insurance companies and pension funds. Some of the prominent names in this category included ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, SBI Life Insurance, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance. PNB Metlife Insurance, SBI Pension Fund and UTI Retirement Solutions Pension Fund Scheme.

Foreign participation included Government of Singapore, Monetary Authority of Singapore, Government Pension Fund Global and BNP Investment LLP.

As per the prospectus, out of the 22.13 crore shares offered for sale, 5.93 crore shares were reserved for



anchor investors.

The government by diluting 3.5 per cent stake in LIC would raise ₹21,000 crore, the biggest ever IPO in the Indian market. The previous such high fundraising was seen in the IPO of Paytm in 2021 at ₹18,300 crore and Coal India in 2010 at ₹15,200 crore.

The price band for LIC IPO is ₹902-949 per equity share. Policyholders will get a discount of ₹60 per equity share, while retail investors and employees will get a discount of ₹45 on each share.

Of the total 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 served for employees and policyholders.LIC would get listed and start trading on the stock exchanges

LIC's embedded value, which is a measure of the consolidated shareholders' value in an insurance company, was pegged at about ₹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 ₹6 lakh crore.

LIC was formed by merging and nationalizing as many as 245 private life insurance companies September 1, 1956, with an initial capital of ₹5 crore.

Its product portfolio comprises 32 individual products (16 participating products and 16 non-participating products) and seven individual optional rider benefits. The insurer's group product port-

folio comprises 11 group products. As of December 2021, LIC had a market share of 61.6 per cent in terms of premiums or GWP, 61.4 per cent in terms of new business premium, 71.8 per cent in terms of the number of individual policies issued, and 88.8 per cent in terms of the number of group policies issued.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Copenhagen, May 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesdav invited Danish companies and pension funds to invest in India's infrastructure sector and green industries. Addressing media after his talks with Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen, Modi said that over 200 Danish companies are already present in India and bene-

fiting from the 'ease of doing busi-

ness' initiative of the government.

"There are huge investment opportunities for Danish Companies and Danish Pension Funds in India's Infrastructure Sector and Green Industries," the Prime Minister said in a tweet. Danish companies are operating in various sectors like wind power, shipping, consultancy, food processing and engineering.

Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen hosted Modi during his official visit to Denmark.

Meanwhile, a India-Denmark Joint Statement issued during the visit of Modi said the two Prime Ministers underlined the importance of bilateral trade and investments and stressed the need to maximise the potential of economic ties between the two coun-



bilateral investments and trade flows through diversified, resilient, transparent, open, secure and predictable global supply chains would ensure economic security and prosperity of their peoples," it said.

The two leaders, it added, also welcomed Danish investments in India especially in the renewable energy, water, terminals and port modernisation and expansion, food processing and engineering sectors and India's investments in Denmark especially in the Information Technology sector.

"They noted that such investments have made India the country where Danish companies have the largest number of employees outside of Denmark," the statement said.

Exports up 24% in Apr; trade deficit widens

BSE smallcap, midcap

indices skid upto 4% YTD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Exports rose by 24.22 per cent to a monthly record high of USD 38.19 billion in April on account of healthy performance by sectors like petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals, even as trade deficit widened to USD 20 billion during the month, the commerce ministry said Tuesday.

Imports during the month under review grew by 26.55 per cent to USD 58.26 billion. The trade deficit in April 2021 was at USD 15.29 billion. Oil imports during the month rose by 81.21 per cent to USD 19.5 billion. Coal, Coke and Briquettes imports jumped to USD 4.8 billion as against USD 2 billion in April 2021.

Gold imports, however, dipped to

New Delhi, May 3: The BSE small-

cap and midcap indices have un-

derperformed the benchmark gauge

so far this year, falling up to 4 per

cent, with experts saying a hawk-

ish US Fed and soaring inflation

may lead to more market volatility

Domestic equity markets have

faced many headwinds in recent

times like the emergence of geopo-

litical tensions, inflation concerns

son to fall when they are trading at

all-time highs. And this year has

been full of negative surprises like

Ukraine war, record FII selling,

global economy losing its growth

momentum, inflationary head-

'Markets need just a single rea-

and FII selling, analysts said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in the near term.

USD 1.68 billion during the month under review from USD 6.23 billion in April 2021.

Engineering goods exports increased by 15.38 per cent to $\overline{\text{USD}}$ 9.2 billion while petroleum products exports soared 113.21 per cent to USD 7.73 billion.

However, gems and jewellery exports dipped by 2.11 per cent to USD 3.3 billion.

Commenting on exports, FIEO President A Sakthivel said that the "highest-ever exports" of over USD 38 billion, during the first month of the fiscal, shows the continuous impressive performance of the exports sector.

"The benefits of the newly signed FTAs and the PLI Scheme will further help us in building on the milestones achieved during the previous fiscal," he said.

winds," said Parth Nyati, Founder, Tradingo. He explained that the

smallcap and midcap indices con-

sist of stocks that have character-

istics like high growth, high re-

gains are magnified compared to

the large index. Thus, during a

market fall, small and midcap in-

dices underperform the largecap

The BSE smallcap index has

tumbled 1,095.98 points or 3.72 per

cent so far this year, while the mid-

cap gauge has lost 666.1 points or

In comparison, the Sensex is

down 1,277.83 points or 2.19 per

cent till May 2 this year. Stock mar-

kets were closed Tuesday (May 3)

"In other words, both losses and

turn and high volatility.

index," Nyati added.

2.66 per cent.

BIZ BUZZ



GLITTERING SALES: Customers buying jewellery items at a Khimji store on Cantonment Road in Cuttack on the occasion of Akshava Tritiva, Tuesday,

UAIL's UANAT transforming lives of farmers

BHUBANESWAR: Aditya Birla Group's Utkal Alumina International Limited's (UAIL) project 'UANAT (Utkal's Action for Agricultural Transformation)' launched in collaboration with Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF), is making a transformative change to the lives of more than 15,000 rural households of Kashipur Block in Rayagada district and Thuamul Rampur Block of Kalahandi district in Odisha through farm-based livelihood interventions. Launched in 2021, UANAT has so far impacted 5000 house holds of small and marginal farmers through farm intensive interventions. In Kashipur and Thuamul Rampur blocks, 44 Producer Groups (PGs) have been formed with 5.257 farmers as members. This helps forge community ownership. UANAT programme converges with potential Government programmes like MGNREGA, Odisha Livelihood Mission, Integrated



Watershed Development Programs, Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation and Odisha Agro-Industry Corporation. These are in sync with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. No poverty, zero hunger and self-reliance are the final goals. Briefing on its economic benefits, Mazhar Beig, the Unit Head of Utkal Alumina shares that, "Since its implementation, UANAT

has enabled generate an average additional annual income of ₹31,700 per farmer. The earnings from potato cultivation are recorded at ₹16000 for every farmer for every season while that of mushroom is Rs.3000 every month. In the last year itself ₹324.50 lakh have been garnered from various Government schemes and programs at both these blocks. These encouraging results have instilled confidence among the stake-

Coal output rises 28% in April on power demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: India's coal output soared by 28 per cent to 66.1 million tonnes in April amid high demand from thermal power plants as several parts of the country grappled with power shortage.

The overall coal production was at 51.6 million tonnes (MT) in April 2021. "During the month of April, 2022 India's total coal production stood at 661.54 lakh tonnes (66.1 MT)," the coal ministry said in a statement.

While Coal India Ltd (CIL) and its subsidiaries produced 53.4 MT of coal, production by Singareni Colleries Company Ltd (SCCL) stood at 5.3 MT and by captive mines at 7.3 MT during the last month.

According to the provisional data of the Ministry of Coal while the total offtake of the coal sector was 70.8 MT during the month, the power sector offtake touched 61.7 MT in April. At the same time, coal supplies to the power sector from Coal India alone stood at 49.7 MT. Coal supplies to the power sector by CIL were 15.6 per cent higher in the last month on yearly basis in the wake of high demand of the dry fuel from electricity generating plants. The coal ministry stressed that it is planning to augment its dispatches further, especially to power plants in the coming months.

With higher output, CIL is aiming to increase its dispatches further, especially to power plants in the coming months. Coal India, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, is one of the major suppliers of fossil fuel to the power sector. On an average, the PSU supplied 1.66 MT of coal per day to power utilities in April which increased to 1.73 MT during last week. Average supply per day is at par with what was programmed by CIL for this sector during the first quarter of FY23.

VENTURE CAPITALISTS CATCH THE CRYPTO FEVER

THE VC CRYPTO CRAZE IN 2022 HAS ALSO COINCIDED W A SLUMP IN THE TECH-HEAVY NASDAQ BENCHMARK, WHICH IS DOWN 21%

New York, May 3: Venture capital is making a big move on crypto in 2022. Scared of being left in the digital dust, private equity investors are stampeding towards crypto projects - blockchain-based apps and platforms fuelled by cryptocurrencies that are native to the virtual economies of the metaverse and Web3.

VC investment in such projects totalled \$10 billion globally in the first quarter of this year, the largest quarterly sum ever and more than double the level seen in the same period a year ago, according to data from Pitchbook.

A trickle has become a torrent: the full-year totals for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were \$3.7 billion, \$5.5 bil-

lion and \$28 billion. "You're seeing a lot of VC investment into a lot of protocols because they all believe, as we do, that some of these protocols are the infrastructure of the future," said Steve Ehrlich, CEO of crypto brokerage firm Voyager Digital. Such projects, which can range from crypto and NFT exchanges to decentralized finance applications and token issuers, are often known as protocols in reference to the rules embedded in their computer code. The recent action is different

from the past when venture investment levels tended to track the price of bitcoin, albeit with a short delay, according to Alex Thorn, head of firmwide research at blockchain-focused bank Galaxy Digital in New York.



Investment levels in crypto have continued to grow during a bitcoin price slump this year - it's down about 16% - as well as during another decline last summer. Thorn notes. "This decoupling is demon-

strative of investors' disbelief that a prolonged bear market in digital assets is forthcoming, as well as the significant amount of dry powder held by funds seeking to allocate to the sector," he wrote last week.

The VC crypto craze in 2022 has also coincided with a slump in the tech-heavy Nasdaq benchmark, which is down 21%

The number of M&A deals involving crypto target companies is also ballooning globally as the buzz grows around the metaverse of virtual worlds and the Web3 decentralized online utopia.

There have been 73 deals sealed so far in 2022 with a combined deal value of \$8.8 billion, according to Dealogic, versus 51 deals worth \$6.8 billion for the whole of last year. The funding rush means crypto firms can afford to be picky, said Mildred Idada, founding partner at blockchain venture fund and accelerator Open Web Collective. "Founders are saying, 'There's five funds that want to invest in us, which one is going to bring the most value?'," she said. In many cases, blockchain tech

firms are interested in the brand value of backing from established players and increasing integration with the financial system, Idada added.

Some firms have been creative in how they raise money. For example Polygon, a platform for developing and scaling applications on the Ethereum blockchain, raised \$450 million in February through a private sale of its cryptocurrency to investors including SoftBank's Vision Fund 2.

"The larger reason for that raise was to get the institutions on our side and increase the visibilityof Polygon," said co-founder Sandeep Nailwal.

KINGS OVERPOWER TITANS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, May 3: Shikhar Dhawan struck a fine half century (62 n o, 53b, 8x4, 1x6) as error-prone Punjab Kings finally produced a clinical performance to beat Gujarat Titans by eight wickets and end the IPL table leaders' five-match winning streak here on Tuesday.

Pacer Kagiso Rabada (4/33) snared four wickets as Punjab Kings restricted formidable Gujarat Titans to a below-par 143/8 after Hardik Pandya opted to bat first.

Punjab, who made a mess of what should have been a straightforward chase in their last game, learned from their mistakes to pace the innings much better and overcome the target in 16 overs.

Dhawan scored his third half century of the season and got good support from Sri Lankan Bhanuka Rajapaksa (40, 28b, 5x4, 1x6). As one of the senior batters in the team. Dhawan took the responsibility of finishing the game for his team and he did that with elan.

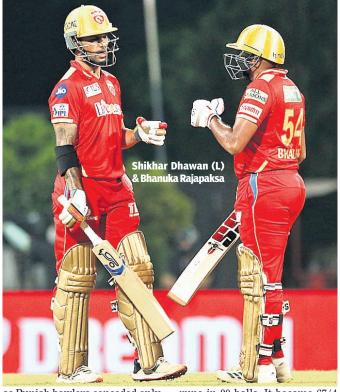
Skipper Mayank Agarwal dropped himself down the order to accommodate Jonny Bairstow (1) at the top of the order but the move did not work. However, the 87-run stand between the left-handers Dhawan and Rajapaksa, ensured Punjab got home comfortably.

Liam Livingstone (30 no, 10b, 2x4, 3x6) displayed some brutal hitting towards the end of the chase and smashed premier India pacer Mohammad Shami for four sixes including a monstrous 117m hit over deep square leg. The 16th over going for 30 runs also gave a big boost to PBKS' net run rate.

It was a much-needed win for Punjab, who have struggled for consistency this season with five wins and as many losses.

For Gujarat, who are set to make the playoffs, it was a timely wakeup call to fix their batting issues, especially at the top of the order. They have had somebody or the other to bail them out of tough situations but it was not the case Tuesday.

Earlier, Sai Sudharsan's unbeaten 65 (50b, 5x4, 1x6) was the saving grace in Gujarat's innings



as Punjab bowlers conceded only 11 fours and two sixes. Sudharsan ran out of partners as Gujarat skipper Hardik Pandya's decision to elect to bat backfired.

They lost openers Shubman Gill (9) and Wriddhiman Saha (21) cheaply. Gill, who had struck two boundaries, was dismissed courtesy a direct hit from Rishi Dhawan from cover, in the third over.

In the next over Saha, who started aggressively, gave a sitter to rival captain Mayank at mid-off, giving Rabada his first wicket. Saha, who had hit three boundaries and a six, was undone by the extra bounce, as he tried to play a lofted shot, but mistimed it and paid the price.

Gujarat further slipped to 44/3 as pacer Rishi (1/26) removed Hardik (1) early. Hardik tried to drive an outside the off length ball, but ended it nicking to wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma leaving his team in all sorts of trouble.

Then Sudharsan and David Miller (11) tried to rally the innings but managed to add only 23 runs in 30 balls. It became 67/4 after Livingstone (1/15) dismissed Miller, who miscued a lofted drive to be caught by Rabada at long-off. Sudharshan tried to change

gears from the 11th over, when he pulled Livingstone for his first boundary, but was unable to free his arms frequently. Rabada further pegged back

Gujarat by removing Rahul Tewatia (11) and Rashid Khan (0) in successive deliveries in the 17th over, with GT reeling at 112/6. Rabada capped off a memorable spell by dismissing Ferguson (5).

For Punjab, Sandeep Sharma (0/17), Arshdeep Singh (1/35), Rahul Chahar (0/11) and Livingstone also played their parts to perfection. **BRIEF SCORES**

Gujarat Titans 143/8 (Sai Sudharsan 65 n o, Wriddhiman Saha 21; Kagiso Rabada 4/33, Liam Livingstone 1/15) lost to Punjab Kings 145/2 (Shikhar Dhawan 62 n o, Bhanuka Rajapaksa 40, Liam Livingstone 30 n o; Lockie Ferguson 1/29) by 8 wickets.



IPL FINAL IN AHMEDABAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The IPL final will be played in Ahmedabad May 29 while the Women's T20 Challenge exhibition event will be played in Pune from May 23-May 28, the BCCI confirmed Tuesday.

As PTI reported last month, the IPL Qualifier 1 and Eliminator will be played in Kolkata May 24 and 25 respectively while Qualifier 2 and final will be played in Ahmedabad May 27 and May 29 in front of capacity crowd.

"Qualifier 1 will be held in Eden Gardens, Kolkata on 24th May followed by the Eliminator May 25. The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad will host Qualifier 2 and the TATA IPL final May 27 and 29 respectively," said the BCCI in a state-

After the BCCI Apex Council meeting last month, president Sourav Ganguly had said that the Women's T20 Challenge will be held in Lucknow but it has been moved to Pune. Three matches will be played before the final

The three-team event did not take place last year. The BCCI is planning a five or six team Women's IPL from 2023.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, May 3: Chennai Super Kings' fragile bowling vis-a-vis Royal Challengers Bengaluru's struggling batting line-up put the sides on an even keel as the two heavyweights face-off in an important mid-table clash of the IPL here Wednesday.

In cricket, when two strong and equally performing teams have a match-up, it promises a great contest but when two sides with specific weak-links are pitted against each other it makes the contest all the more exhilarating.

Sample this. In 10 games that RCB has played so far, only six half centuries have been recorded and out of them two belongs to skipper Faf du Plessis, which is a testimony to below-par batting show in the tourney.

In nine games that CSK have played so far, there hasn't been a single bowler (pacers and spinners), who has bowled at an economy rate of less than 7.50 runs an over. The best economy rate is of Mahesh Theeksana (7.54) while Dwayne Bravo (14 wickets) and Mukesh Choudhary (11 wickets) have had poor economy rates of 8.73 and 9.82 runs per over average.

The match also becomes an enticing one as Virat Kohli has finally found some form going his way and MS Dhoni is back in the saddle and would do everything under his control to plot the downfall of India's best batter.

Dhoni's return as CSK skipper replacing an out-of-sorts and more so bereft of ideas Ravindra Jadeja, proved beneficial as they outscored



CSK take on RCB in

a formidable Sunrisers Hyderabad keeping their campaign alive with six points from nine games

While RCB are still on fifth place with 10 points from as many games, they seemed to have lost a bit of momentum with three back-to-back defeats primarily due to shoddy batting shows.

They have been all-out for season's lowest score - 68 - and have also failed to chase a modest target of 145 in another game.

Young Rajat Patidar, after a below-par last season, has shown some spark but the likes of Dinesh Karthik (218 from 10 games) and Glenn Maxwell (157 from 7 games) perhaps will need to do more than what they are currently contributing.

Wednesday, RCB will face a bowling line-up which isn't an intimidating one with rookie Mukesh Choudhary or Simarjeet Singh, still trying to find feet in an elite league and the most experienced spinner Jadeja having completely lost form due to leadership burden, which he was forced to relinquish.

In such a backdrop, whoever wins will only add to the 'mid-table muddle' as most teams between six to 10 points are clubbed together making it an interesting next four weeks.



Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Chaos breaks out at KIUG closing ceremony



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Chaos broke Khelo India University Games (KIUG) after a scribe was told to remove his black coloured face mask owing to a directive asking people to not wear black on the occasion. Hosts Jain University claimed the Khelo India University Games championship title after finishing on top of the standings with 32 medals, including 20 gold.

"Whatever I have learnt is that the directive was from police, from security point of view as Home Minister Amit Shah was in attendance. The directive was for general public in attendance not for media. But later on it was resolved and everyone was allowed to enter," a source aware of the development said.

Before the situation was brought under control by the organisers, there was chaos while entering the venue because of security protocols as Shah was in attendance.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 3: Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Shreyas Iyer Monday lavished praise on Rinku Singh for showing "outstanding" calmness under pressure, calling him an "asset" for the team.

Singh smashed an unbeaten 23ball 42 studded with six boundaries and a six as he and Nitish Rana (48 not out) chased down a 153run target with ease for a sevenwicket victory over Rajasthan

"I was talking to my teammates in the dressing room and was like, the way he's maintaining his calm even in such pressure situations

playing his second or third game, it's outstanding," Iyer said during the post-match presentation cere-

"Building that partnership with Nitish Rana in that situation, it's something we have to praise about and he's a great asset for the future in the franchise. The way he has given starts right from the first game, he doesn't look like a newcomer in the team.

Iver also praised his bowlers, especially veteran Umesh Yadav (1/24) and Sunil Narine (0/19) for consistently producing the goods for KKR. "Right from the powerplay when our bowlers conceded just 36 runs and took a wicket, it was just

"We have been talking about Umesh right from the start. He has increased his pace, bowls those hard lengths and as a captain you

the start we needed," he said.

just have to give him the ball to_ deliver. Whenever I give Sunil Narine the ball, he gets me wickets, but the batsmen don't take chances against him. He is very economical, but when he gets a wicket, he gets a big one One area where KKR has strug-

gled is the opening slot and Iyer said they will have to address the issue. "We are looking for a good start. I love pressure, but it sweats a lot of me to build the innings in every

An upgraded event for football eves

SHAMBHU DATTA MISHRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Indian Women's League is a blessing in disguise for the Indian women footballers since its inception in 2016. And gradually, the event is gaining more attention as well as developing to an extent what could change the face of Indian women's football.

After missing out on 2020-21 edition due to Covid-19 pandemic following four successive seasons, IWL returned for 2021-22 season as an upgraded version. The event kicked off April 15 at the Kalinga Stadium here and will conclude May 26.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) is planning to find out talents through the event and groom them. To do so, in the first step they have changed the format and increased the number of matches compared to previous editions.

"IWL is being conducted to find hidden talents in the country. This year, we have changed the format and have kept a longer season with more number of matches," said AIFF Spokesperson Sunando Dhar.

"The players can get the game time and also it's a process of nurturing them for the selection for the national team. IWL is a platform where players from different states and regions participate which also helps in the overall growth, I believe. They get the experience of playing longer season which helps to groom them for their upcoming duties," Dhar added.

Even the situation has changed a lot compared to 2020 or 2021, the

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik poses alongside IWL's winners' trophy and the captains of participating teams during the inauguration at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, April 15

fear is still there for everyone for the virus. So organise such an

event in itself was a challenge. "Initially, due to the adverse effect of Covid-19 period on the sporting calendar, we had postponed the dates twice to

host the league. Thereafter the state implemented strict guidelines to cope with the situation," stated R Vineel Krishna, secretary of sports, Govt of Odisha when asked

about the challenges "Prior to the ongoing IWL, we had also successfully organised the Odisha Women's League (OWL) and the FIH Pro League 2021-22 at the Kalinga Stadium and all our system and processes related to the

virus were in place. "IWL which involved around

500 people, safety of the players and all involved was our top priority. The event is being conducted in a bio bubble. All players, coaching staff and organisers have under-

gone mandatory testing prior to the start of the event. Additionally, periodic or scheduled testing is also done to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the event," added Krishna.

Women's football is yet to attract a fanbase in the state. Speaking of this issue, Krishna said that OWL was a splendid initiative to get going in this matter. "Football, is amongst our priority sports. And in association with AIFF and Football Association of Odisha (FAO) we have been conducting many programs and events those are improving the football ecosystem in Odisha, particularly women's football," he explained.

"The recently concluded OWL was very well received by the players and supporters and now with the IWL, we have given an opportunity to our players to play with India's best women footballers. These inspire and attract budding players," an optimistic Krishna

In October, Bhubaneswar is co-hosting the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 for which "four new football training centres have been developed" and these are in addition to those within the Kalinga Stadium. "Collectively, these will play a significant role in the development of football in the state and its popularity,' Krishna signed off.

Gyaneshwari bags silver, Rithika wins bronze in Jr WWC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Gyaneshwari Yadav clinched the silver medal while compatriot V Rithika finished third to give India a double podium finish in the women's 49kg category at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships in Heraklion, Greece.

Chattisgarh lifter Gyaneshwari produced a total effort of 156kg (73kg+83kg) to take home the silver metal Monday night. The 18-yearold Rithika, on the other hand, heaved 6 kgs less than her compatriot - 150kg (69kg+81kg) to bagthe bronze medal in a depleted 10lifter field.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist and strong favourite Windy Cantika Aisah of Indonesia was crowned the champion in the category thanks to her total effort of 185kg (83kg+102kg).

The gulf between the Indonesian lifter, who won the Asian and world junior titles last year, and the 19-yearold Gyaneshwari was a whopping 29kg with Aisah even declined to take her final attempt. The field was missing lifters

from powerhouses China, North Korea and Thailand. The junior world record for the category sits at 206kg (92kg+114kg) in China's Jiang Huihua's name.

The podium finishes take India's medal haul to three in the ongoing event. Athletes from Russia and Belarus are banned from compet ing in IWF events.

Ronaldo on target in Man United victory

Manchester, May 3: Cristiano Ronaldo continues to be the shining light in an otherwise disappointing season for Manchester United.

Make that 18 goals in the English Premier League for the Portugal superstar after he converted a penalty that he earned himself in a 3-0 victory over Brentford Monday. Ronaldo also had a goal disal-

lowed at Old Trafford for a narrow offside as United saved one of its best performances of the season for its final home game. Bruno Fernandes and Raphael Varane – with his first in English football were the other scorers. The victory kept alive – at least

mathematically – sixth –placed United's chance of finishing in the top four and qualifying for next season's Champions League. United, though, has only two games remaining and is five points

behind fourth-placed Arsenal and three behind Tottenham, with both rivals still having four to play. Ronaldo, who has netted in each of his last four games, is third on

the league's list of top scorers behind Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (22) and Tottenham's Son Heungmin (19). And he'll be back again next season, unlike some of the other players in United's team.

United fans gave standing ovations to departing veterans Nemanja Matic and Juan Mata as they were



substituted on their final Old Trafford appearances. It was also the last home game in charge for interim manager Ralf Rangnick, who will be replaced by Erik ten Hag during the offseason.

Monday marked a year since the postponement of United's home match against Liverpool, when fans made clear their anger at the ownership of the Glazer family in the wake of the European Super

League debacle. It was the first match that Brentford had lost with Christian Eriksen in the team and he pulled the strings in the London club's \ first competitive match at Old

Trafford since 1975.

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