



ON A MISSION
Actor Nushrrat Bharuccha says she will continue to protest against miscreants who post vulgar comments on the internet
LEISURE P2



UKRAINE REPELS ATTACKS
Ukraine's military says it has recaptured some areas in the south and repelled Russian attacks in the east
INTERNATIONAL P10



REAL ENTER FINAL
Real Madrid pull off a stunning Houdini act to enter the CL final beating Man City
SPORTS P12

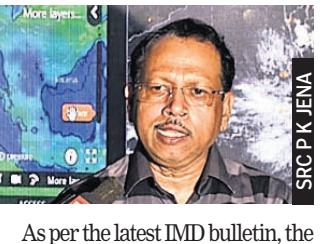
Devotees may pull chariots this year
Puri: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, devotees had not been allowed to pull the chariots during Rath Yatra in the last two years. However, there is a strong possibility that they may be allowed to do so this year when the nine-day sojourn of Lord Jagannath and his divine siblings, begin July 1. Puri District Collector Samarth Verma said Thursday that if the Covid-19 situation remains stable, Rath Yatra will be held with public participation. A congregation of around 15 lakh persons is expected this year. Arrangements will be put in place for the gathering, Verma informed.
MORE P3

Kishor to work for Bihar's development
Patna: Celebrated election strategist Prashant Kishor announced Thursday that he will cease to be a backroom operator for leading political parties of India. Kishor said he is now intent on creating a platform of like-minded people aimed at transforming his home state Bihar. He brushed aside speculation that he would be launching a new political party and said instead he would work for Bihar's development. "A new thinking and new attempt is needed to transform Bihar," said Kishor. He called his proposed drive 'Jan Suraj'. He informed that close to 18,000 people have agreed to join his developmental platform.
MORE P8

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Cyclone Asani: 18 districts put on high alert

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Even though the path of 'Cyclone Asani' over Bay of Bengal has not been predicted so far, the Odisha government has asked collectors of 18 districts to be prepared for all situations. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena held Thursday a review meeting with collectors of Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Kandhamal districts.



As per the latest IMD bulletin, the cyclonic circulation formed May 4 over the South Andaman sea continues to persist. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region around May 6. In a late Thursday evening development, the IMD said that 'Cyclone Asani' may turn into a very severe cyclonic storm, as indicated by the GFS model. "Whether there will be a cyclonic storm or not, it is unclear. The picture may be clear tomorrow (Friday) evening. Though details are not available, we have asked collectors of 18 districts to be prepared for all eventualities," Jena said. Jena held discussions with the authorities of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Fire Service and asked them to remain on their toes. **Contd..P4**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

EMIs too have gone up! I was thinking of buying groceries on an EMI plan!!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	55702.23	↑ 33.20
NIFTY	16682.70	↑ 5.10
DOLLAR	77.06	↓ ₹0.23
EURO	80.89	↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹51,142	↑ ₹532
SILVER	₹63,100	↑ ₹986

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	36.2°C	36.2°C
TEMP. MIN	27.4°C	27.0°C
Humidity	70%	82%
Rainfall	3mm	Trace
Forecast	Partly cloudy	sky

1 detained in Bolangir woman murder case

Police suspect the deceased may have been raped as liquor bottles were found at the spot

Bolangir, May 5: A woman, estranged from her husband, was brutally killed late night Wednesday in a farmland near her house at Larkipali village in this district. The deceased identified as Anjana Patel was 40 years old. Police have launched a probe and started a manhunt for miscreants. SDPO Tofan Bag and IIC of Town police station Priyanka Routray visited the crime scene Thursday. Police have detained a suspect and he is being interrogated in this regard. Sources said that Anjana had sent her son Hanubaba to buy eggs and went to a tube well to fetch water around 8.00pm Wednesday. When she did not return after a long time, her family members

began searching for her. They found her body in a pool of blood lying in the farmland. Her body had multiple injuries including one on the head. After a complaint was lodged at the Bolangir police station, cops reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem to the Bhima Bhoi Medical College & Hospital. A forensic team also visited the murder spot Thursday morning. Police suspected that Anjana might have been murdered after a being allegedly raped as some liquor bottles were found at the spot. A case in this regard has been registered under section 302 of IPC following a complaint lodged by her son. Sources said that more than one person may have been involved in the murder of the woman. It should also be stated her that Hanubaba has alleged that a person by the name of Dhruva is behind the alleged murder of his mom. He has informed police that Dhruva used to visit their home regularly.

TITILLATING TASTE BUDS



Children at a school in Patna enjoy slices of watermelons on the occasion of Fruits Day

Crorepati babu in Vigilance net

Cases of government servants with wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income is increasing in Odisha. Only a few days back a Gram Rozgar Sevak was arrested for owning 59 plots

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Sleuths of state Vigilance directorate tracked down Thursday another crorepati public servant with assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The accused identified as Jagannath Rout of Raghunathpur area works as a Livestock Inspector (LI) in the city. He was found in possession of 91 plots of land, 81 in Bhubaneswar and 10 in Cuttack, five buildings at prime locations in the twin cities along with other assets worth over ₹7.21 crore. Nine teams of vigilance carried out simultaneous raids at different locations belonging to Rout in Khurda and Cuttack districts. The teams led by five DSPs, 10 inspectors and other staff carried out the raids on the strength of search warrants issued by the Special Vigilance court, Cuttack. Sleuths found Rout in possession of one residential house at



A property belonging to accused in Bhubaneswar: (R) Jagannath Rout

WEALTH AMASSED
91 plots of land, 81 in Bhubaneswar and 10 in Cuttack found
Jewellery worth ₹21 lakh
₹40 lakh deposited in various bank accounts
5 buildings in prime locations of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

Royal Lagoon Apartment, three-storeyed market complex (Govinda Bhawan) of 6,000 square feet worth over ₹1.46 crore, another three-storeyed building at the backside of Govinda Bhawan worth over ₹47.64 lakh, a three BHK flat at Royal Arcade worth over ₹37.02 lakh, and another 3 BHK flat in Green Garden Apartment, worth over ₹34.27 lakh. All the assets are located at Raghunathpur locality. **Contd..P4**

Police can't summon orally: Allahabad HC

The bench observed that police will have to send a written notice to summon a person and that too after an FR I has been registered

Prayagraj, May 5: The Allahabad High Court at Lucknow has directed the Uttar Pradesh government that no person, including an accused, can be summoned to a police station orally by subordinate police officials. By doing so, the Allahabad HC has set a precedence which may prompt other courts in India to follow the same path. The high court bench comprising Justice Arvind Kumar Mishra and Justice Manish Mathur directed Wednesday that in case a complaint is made at any police station that necessitates an investigation and the presence of the accused, a suitable course of action as prescribed under provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) is to be followed, which contemplates serving a written notice upon such a person, but only after

a case has been registered. The bench emphasised that a person's life, liberty and dignity cannot be jeopardised based solely on the verbal orders of police officers. There is a lot of stigma attached when a person is summoned to the police station, the bench observed. The Allahabad High court made the observations while hearing a letter petition in which a girl (Sarojini) claimed that her parents (Ram Vilas and Savitri) were summoned to the Mahila Thana Police Station in Lucknow and did not return. The government counsel had April 8 informed the court that no such occurrence had taken place at the police station. Petitioners Savitri and Ram Vilas and their daughter appeared before the court April 13 and said that some police personnel summoned them to the police station, and when they arrived, they were detained and threatened by police personnel. The inspector of the concerned police station then confessed that the two had indeed been summoned, but were allowed to go after questioning. The court then said that no one can be summoned orally henceforth.

Boat capsizes in Chilika; 1 missing



POST NEWS NETWORK

Krushnaprasad, May 5: A man went missing after a boat with tourists on board capsized in the Chilika lake during a thunderstorm Thursday evening in Puri district. Eyewitnesses said that the boat tilted and swung before losing its balance due to high speed winds and severe rain caused by the thunderstorm. On being informed, fire personnel rushed to the spot and rescued 10 tourists and launched a search operation for the missing man. Ten of the tourists could be rescued as they were wearing life jackets. It is not known whether the missing person was wearing a life jacket or not. He was identified as a shopkeeper of Kalijai. Efforts to rescue him are on, police said. The accident occurred when the boat was returning from Kalijai. Luckily for those on the overturned boat, a team of Balugaon police on another boat was close by. It spotted the tourists in distress and started rescue operations before other help arrived.

Bhubaneswar finally certified 'Smart'

Since Smart Cities Mission started in June 2015, only seven cities including Bhubaneswar have taken the initiative to complete the projects

CITY	TOTAL PROJECTS	COMPLETED
Bhopal	942	862
Surat	1,219	1,005
Udaipur	947	739
Bhubaneswar	846	644
Ahmedabad	930	648
Indore	1,042	727
Varanasi	997	700

The first set of cities has been decided on the basis of completion of the projects to provide eco-friendly hi-tech solutions to urban problems, as per a report in the 'Economic Times'. It should be stated here that June 25, 2015, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had launched the 'Smart Cities Mission'.

It was done so to find solutions to problems faced by the urban populace in 100 cities across India. Bhubaneswar has seen completion of 76 per cent of the projects that were taken up under the smart city project. It is pertinent to mention that out of the seven cities that will feature in the first list, five are in states ruled by the BJP. Only Udaipur in Rajasthan (Congress) and Bhubaneswar in Odisha (BJD) are in non-BJP led states. The period for 'Smart Cities Mission' ends in June 2023. Bhopal by completing 92 per cent of the projects, leads the list. It is followed by Surat (82%), Udaipur (78%), Bhubaneswar (76%), Indore, Varanasi and Ahmedabad 70% (each). The seven cities are expected to complete the remaining projects by 2023. Five of the seven cities with maximum completed projects are in MP, Gujarat and Rajasthan, where elections will be conducted by 2023-end, the report said.

Rats nibble off newborn's limbs

Dhanbad, May 5: In a shocking case of neglect, rats have allegedly nibbled the knees and limbs of a newborn in a Jharkhand government hospital in Giridih, following which the services of two outsourced workers were terminated while the doctor on duty has been issued a show-cause, officials said, Thursday. The incident occurred May 2 at Giridih Sadar Hospital and the newborn girl child was rushed to Shahid Nirmal Mahto Medical College Hospital (SNMMCH) here in a critical condition, they said. However, now the condition of the infant is stable, doctors at SNMMCH said. Mamta Devi, mother of the infant

said that she saw deep wounds May 2 on the baby's knee when she went to see how her child, who was born April 29, was. She said that the nurse on duty had told her that the infant was infected by jaundice. However, when she asked about the wounds, the nurse did not have any explanation. The district administration has ordered a probe into the incident and action has been recommended against the doctor on duty, officials informed. "Deep wound injury was found on the infant's knee. A surgeon has been asked to attend the patient as the injury is deep," head of the department of paediatrics at SNMMCH, Avinash Kumar said.

leisure



SEX TAPE SCANDAL LEFT RAY J SUICIDAL

American singer Ray J claims his portrayal as a villain in the release of his and Kim Kardashian's sex tape damaged his career and left him suicidal. He insisted that a deal to release the x-rated footage was orchestrated by Kim, her mother and himself to help boost her profile.

HEARD THOUGHT DEPP'S FIRST VIOLENT ACT A JOKE

Actress Amber Heard says she thought it was "a joke" when Hollywood star Johnny Depp reportedly slapped her for the first time when she asked about one of his tattoos. Heard is being sued for defamation by her ex-husband Depp over a 2018 op-ed she wrote about being a victim of domestic abuse.



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ARIES
Today, you will appreciate beautiful things and exotic artefacts. You may even seriously think of pursuing a business related to such commodities. However, you may not be able to make up your mind, says Ganesha. However, you will decide to keep an open mind about it.

TAURUS
You may find it hard to stop the impending outflow of cash while shopping today, says Ganesha. You aren't the one to be dominated and God help anyone who tries to dictate terms to you today. You may end up spending a small fortune, more than lavish to be precise, on the opposite sex today.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to get encouragement and support for your endeavours from all quarters. You have a gift of gab and your ability to dispel tension with even the simplest of your remarks will be put to test. Still, you will rise to the occasion and prove your mettle. Taking good care of your health is important, and you are no exception.

CANCER
If you are a stockbroker, you may feel that things are not going too well for you. Today, you may regret being a stockbroker. Manufacturers must delay the launch of a new product. However, after a waiting game, you may go on to launch the product with a fanfare. Ganesha wishes you a good luck.

LEO
Everyone wants to be different. But little do they realise that they already are unique, says Ganesha. Today, you may meet a lot of such different people at work, some of whom may even test your patience. Always remember that working in a team means balancing a variety of egos and opinions. Ganesha's advice for you today is to learn to deal with different belief systems, and not simply to look for a way to avoid conflicts.

VIRGO
Ganesha says don't let set-backs cow you down today as you will emerge stronger from each one of them. It will be your logic and reasoning abilities that will aid you in gaining the perfection in completing your work. You may look forward to spending the evening with your beloved or a special friend. You will be engrossed in an animated conversation.

LIBRA
Being in charge was never easy, but it's not for nothing that leaders are made of sterner stuff. As a person in charge, you are expected to give directions in a manner that gets the best efforts out of your juniors. Move away from traditional dictatorial style, and build a consensus that enables you to pull off the spectacular, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
Work pressure will keep on mounting today, predicts Ganesha. But you shall handle it with great style, all thanks to your patience. But keep a watch on the radar and learn how to spot stress early and then act on it as quickly as you can.

SAGITTARIUS
Your ship may be rocked by stormy controversies today. Ganesha advises you to steer clear of people looking to give you a piece of their mind. The storm looks to ease away if you lend a patient ear to all such elements, and try and accommodate their views.

CAPRICORN
You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesha. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innovative. You will, however, work your way out by prioritising matters. By the end of the day, your efforts may get paid off, leaving you with the thought that it was all worthwhile after all!

AQUARIUS
Your ideas are bang on target today! Everything you touch turns into gold. You have it in you to make it big, and the time is now. When the going gets tough, the tough get going - you've heard this before, now it's time for some action, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Stabbing with a pen is so much more satisfying than slicing with a sword. With these lofty ideals in mind, you will launch an assault upon your unsuspecting prey with your lethal presentation skills, eliciting cries of sheer ecstasy and tremendous applause. Don't get carried away though, says Ganesha.



Tamannaah shares her experience of a lifetime

CHENNAI: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who has just wrapped up shooting for director Madhur Bhandarkar's *Babli Bouncer*, says that shooting for this film was an experience of a lifetime and that it was something she would cherish forever.

Taking to Instagram to announce that the shooting of the film had been wrapped, Tamannaah said, "*Babli Bouncer* for me is not just a film but an experience of a lifetime which I'll cherish forever. This film started off with an extremely well written and author-

backed character, which had everything that would be the right kind of meat for an actor to go all the way and give everything that they have." She continued: "Madhur Bhandarkar is one of the finest directors our country has and I'm so glad that I had this opportunity to work with him on a project like *Babli Bouncer*. And while working with him, I realised that he had this unique ability to keep an entire unit in their most optimum mental space of working so that everyone is at their creative peak and is performing out of a very passion driven space."

She signed off, "As we wrap up the final schedule of the film today, I am taking back some of the most precious memories and learnings. My heart is filled with immense gratitude that I got the opportunity to work on a project which is by far the best piece of content I've worked on with the team of most talented and kind hearted people. It's a wrap!"

Nushratt reacts to filthy comments on her post

MUMBAI: Nushratt Bharucha recently kicked off the promotions of her upcoming film *Janhit Mein Jaari* which revolves around spreading awareness about the use of condoms.

Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a bunch of posters of the film, one of which saw a condom tucked in Nushratt's back pocket. Almost 3 days after she shared the poster, Nushratt has now shared a video wherein she can be seen reacting to the negative comments of netizens slut-shaming her on the condom post. The video displays some of the nastiest comments made by netizens on her post and it concludes with the actress saying, "I am out to change this mentality and will continue to raise my voice against such miscreants."

Reacting to her post, a fan suggested, "Don't hide the names," referring to the star's decision to hide the user names of the individuals. Another said, "There are a lot of crazy people in this world and you just did the right thing by exposing their comments. You shouldn't have removed their names. These guys who posts filthy comments like these are total freaks who don't know the meaning of respect."



NATYADHARA: DAY 5



A scene from the Odia play Anubhabara Ishwara, staged by Sankalpa theatre troupe of Rourkela at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Written by Prabhakar Patra, the drama was directed by Prakash Sahani. Eminent theatre personality Samar Mudali, Odisha Natya Sangh(ONS) joint secretary Siba Sankar Tripathy and PRO Prakash Maharana were among the guests who graced the occasion. The state government sponsored monthly theatre show is being jointly organised by ONS, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and the department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture.

Madhuri joins Raja Kumari's upcoming anthem

MUMBAI: Twinkle toes Madhuri Dixit has teamed up with Indo-American rapper, songwriter and singer Raja Kumari as she pays tribute to her Indian heritage with her latest song *Made In India* created in collaboration with Metro Shoes.

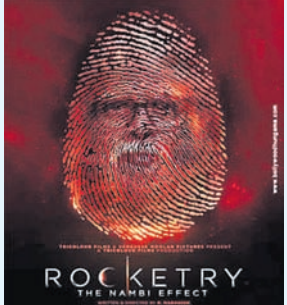


The upcoming song stars both Raja Kumari and Madhuri in super glamorous looks that accentuate the

narrative of aesthetics curated by homegrown labels. Sung and written by Raja Kumari as an interpolation of Alisha Chinai's *Made in India*, the upcoming anthem is a homage to the original song that inspired her as a child. Through the song, the hip hop artiste claims her Indian heritage with pride and encourages Indians worldwide to do the same. Raja Kumari adds, "Madhuri is the ultimate queen of expression and a dance icon. I've admired her inspiring work and it feels surreal that we've collaborated for my dream project *Made In India*." The anthem will be released May 6. IANS

Madhavan's movie to have world premiere at Cannes

MUMBAI: R Madhavan's directorial debut *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* is set to have its world premiere during the 75th Cannes Film Festival. The film, a biographical drama, is based on ISRO space scientist Nambi Narayanan, who introduced the liquid fuel rocket technology in India in the early 1970s. India's Ministry of Culture has officially selected the film for its Red Carpet World Premiere. Actor-turned-filmmaker Madhavan plays the role of the eponymous Indian scientist, Nambi Narayanan, and has also directed, produced and written the film. Speaking on the occasion, Madhavan said, "I'm in a



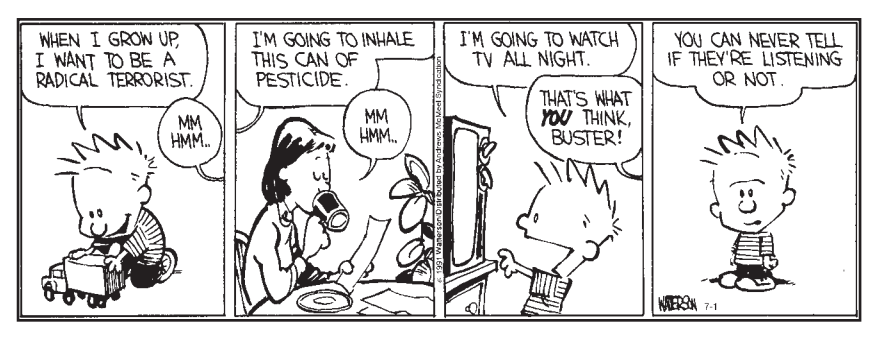
daze! I just started by wanting to tell the story of Nambi Narayanan and I'm unable to believe all that's happening. With God's grace, we've waited

long and I'm grateful and thrilled to watch all good things happening for the film." The Palais des Festival premiere will take place during a prime-time slot at 9 pm Thursday, May 19 as part of the celebration of India as the official country of honour at the Cannes Film Market this year - an inaugural tradition that will be continued at future editions. The launch of the festival tradition is particularly significant during its 75th year, coinciding with 75 years of Indian independence. IANS

PEANUTS



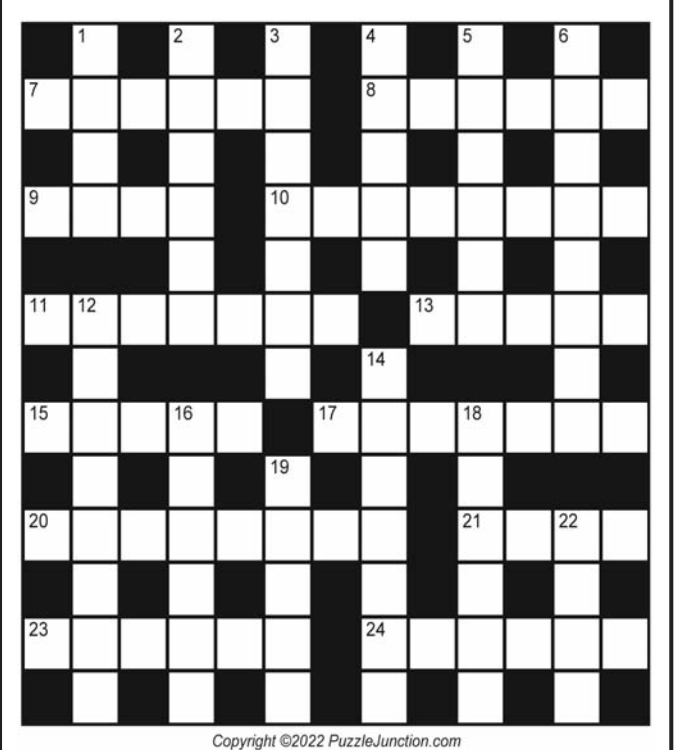
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



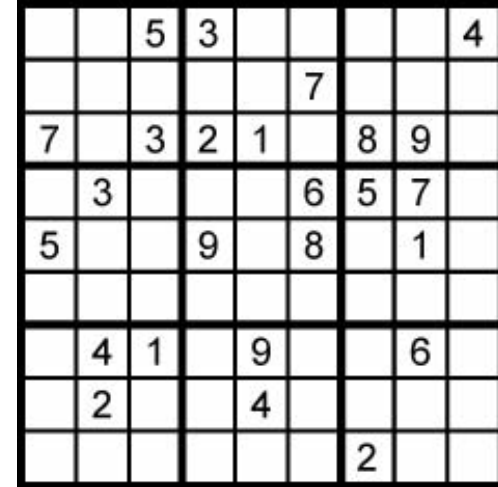
FUN post CROSSWORD



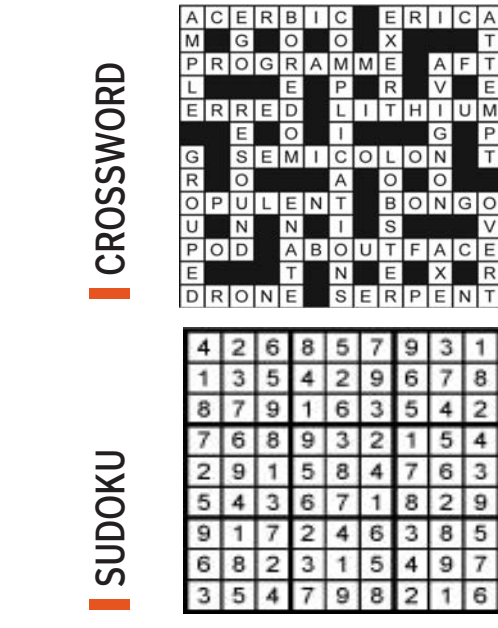
- Across**
- 7 Fix
 - 8 Spanish capital
 - 9 Parking place
 - 10 Martini ingredient
 - 11 Delivery aid (3,4)
 - 13 Off-center
 - 15 Incursion
 - 17 Spurns
 - 20 Pitiful
 - 21 German automaker
 - 23 Anise cordial
 - 24 Mal de mer, e.g.
 - Down**
 - 1 Blubber
 - 2 Plan of action
 - 3 Swagger
 - 4 On the ball, intellectually
 - 5 Detestable
 - 6 Abuse
 - 12 Remote
 - 14 Swordplay
 - 16 Capital of Greece
 - 18 Uris novel
 - 19 Short musical composition
 - 22 Shangri-la

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



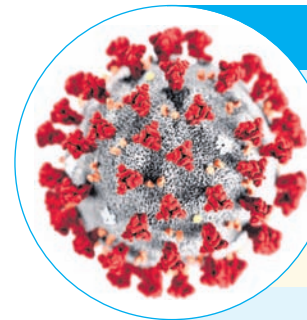
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



NEW LOOK

The renovation work of Taladanda canal is going on at full pace in Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	51,55,50,923	47,02,57,157	62,70,795
India	4,30,91,393	4,25,47,699	5,23,975
Odisha	12,88,103	12,78,839	9,126

Devotees may be allowed for this year's Rath Yatra



Carpenters busy constructing chariots at Rath Yard in Puri, Thursday OP PHOTO

The collector said the administration has two plans for the Rath Yatra—either holding the festival sans devotees as was the case in the last two years, or with the participation of the public

As the Rath Yatra was held without the participation of devotees for the last two years, the administration estimates that more than 15 lakh people may turn up this time

chariot construction, health facilities, sanitation, toilet construction, drinking water facilities, electrification, transport and communication, automated ticket counter, parking, law and order, tourist information centre and deployment of lifeguards on beach. "The carpenters require 865 pieces of wood for chariot construction this year. The Forest department has so far sent 675 pieces of wood to Rath Yard. We are hopeful that the department would send the remaining pieces of wood soon," said an official of the district administration.

As many as 212 doctors, 29 ambulances and five food safety officers will be on duty during the mega festival, he added.

Among others, sub-collector Bhabataran Sahoo, additional collector Pradeep Kumar Sahoo, superintendent of police Kanwar Vishal Singh, Srimandir administrator (development) Ajay Kumar Jena, regional transport officer Sameer Dalai and members of the temple managing committee were present at the preparatory meeting.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 5: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the Puri district administration are making arrangements for this year's Rath Yatra considering the emerging pandemic situation, said Collector Samarth Verma Thursday. The collector said the administration has two plans for the Rath Yatra—either holding the festival sans devotees as was the case in the last two years, or with the participation of the public. "People will be allowed to have darshan of the deities during the nine-day festival if Covid situation remains stable. However, the festival will be held sans devotees like the previous two years if cases rise in the coming days," Verma said after attending the first preparatory meeting for the annual car festival here.

This year, the nine-day festival will begin July 1. As the Rath Yatra was held without the participation of devotees for the last two years, the administration estimates that more than 15 lakh people may turn up this time, he added. "Considering the expected rush, all departments have been instructed to make arrangements accordingly for Snana Purnima and Rath Yatra," Verma said. All departments, including Health, Sanitation, Power, Police and Drainage, have been asked to stay prepared with their action plans to deal with the situation at least 10 days before the festival, he added. Srimandir Managing Committee member Durgaprasad Das, meanwhile, hoped that the devotees would be allowed to participate in the mega festival this year. The preparatory meeting discussed several issues including

Troupe management system launched

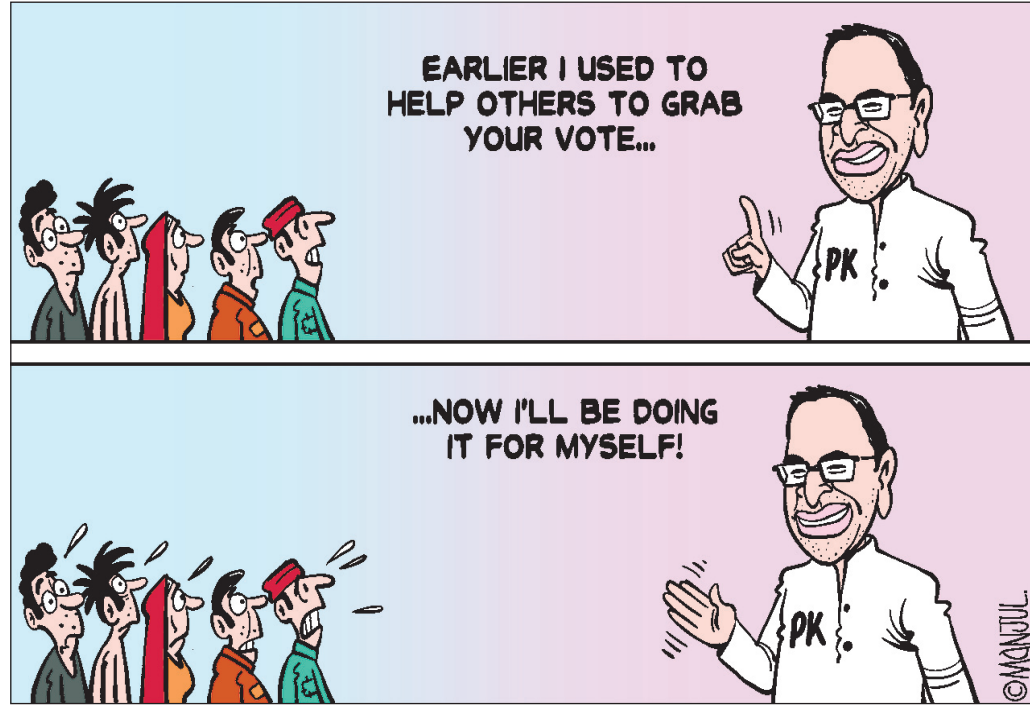
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Odia Language Literature and Culture (OLL&C) department Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi Thursday inaugurated the Cultural Troupe Management System (CTMS) at Sanskruti Bhawan here.

According to Panigrahi, CTMS has been designed to provide facilities for online registration of troupes and requesting agencies. "Registered requesting agencies can approach the OLL&C department for deployment of troupes in various categories like dance, music and art forms. The department the process the requests and assign troupes accordingly," he said.

After successful performance, troupes would submit invoice along with programme details to the department for processing of payment. CTMS sports a feature to accept requesting agencies' feedback on performance of the troupes, it was learnt.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



EARLIER I USED TO HELP OTHERS TO GRAB YOUR VOTE...

...NOW I'LL BE DOING IT FOR MYSELF!

Nor'wester respite for several districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Nor'westers brought down the mercury in several districts of Odisha even as western parts of the state continued to boil in the blazing sun Thursday, the Met office said.

Thirteen weather stations, as compared to eight on the previous day, recorded a maximum temperature of 40°C or more, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

The highest temperature in the state was recorded in Boudh and Subarnapur at 42.5°C each, according to the Met office. The hot weather baked Bolangir



People travelling amid the rain in Bhubaneswar, Thursday OP PHOTO

as the maximum temperature rose to 42.5°C in the district headquarters and 42.2°C in Titiligarh. It climbed by two notches above normal to settle at 42°C in

Jharsuguda. State capital Bhubaneswar and neighbouring Cuttack recorded 36.2°C each, the weather office said. Nor'westers with gusty winds

of 30-40kmph and light to moderate rain lashed Khurda, where Bhubaneswar is located, Cuttack and several districts in coastal Odisha, it said. Nayagarh received 54mm of rainfall till 5.30 pm, while there was moderate downpour in Angul, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak and Keonjhar districts. Light to moderate rain and thunderstorms are likely to occur over the next five days due to the south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal, the Met department said. However, there will be no large change in the maximum temperature over the next four-five days, it added.

Boyanika eyes ₹163 crore turnover in 2022-23 fiscal



Dignitaries at the foundation day celebration OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Handloom products from India have occupied a special place in the world due to their intricacy and exclusiveness. The contribution of Odisha to the Indian handloom sector is immense, opined dignitaries at the 66th foundation day celebration of Boyanika here Thursday.

Boyanika Managing Director Shyambhakta Mishra inaugurated the celebration in the presence of senior officials of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department at Boyan Bhawan in the capital city.

Boyanika has been considered as a model for the cooperative sector. It has achieved the dual goals of commercial success and sus-

tainable livelihoods for the weavers of state, said the dignitaries. Boyanika has achieved a turnover of ₹128.85 crore in 2021-22 fiscal and it has set a target to raise its turnover to ₹163.90 crore in 2022-23 financial year, sources said.

Apart from achieving commercial success, Boyanika has ensured socio-economic development for the weavers. It has taken several steps including participation in international events and organisation of handloom exhibitions for promoting the hand-woven products from Odisha, sources added.

Works dept told to submit report on infra work in colleges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The Higher Education (HE) department Thursday directed the chief engineer of Works department to submit a status report on the infrastructure development work in government colleges in the state.

In a letter to the Works department chief engineer, Higher Education department joint secretary Snigdha Champatiray said the department has accorded administrative approvals for various infrastructure development projects in the government colleges in 2021-22 fiscal.

Besides, the department had earlier accorded administrative approvals to some other projects in the government colleges. But, the department is in the dark about the progress of work for these projects, Champatiray said.

"You are therefore requested to furnish the progress report of all approved work till date and project-wise requirements for the first quarter of 2022-23 fiscal," Champatiray said in her letter to the Works department chief engineer.

Earlier, the department had directed all state public universities for execution of all infrastructure development work by Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OSPHWC).

'Joint effort needed to check pollution'



Speaker SN Patro presided over the House panel meet OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The first meeting of the House committee to look into the aspects of environmental pollution in the state was held Thursday under

the chairmanship of Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro.

On the occasion, Patro said a joint effort is necessary to control environmental pollution in Odisha. The meeting deliberated on measures to control en-

vironmental pollution and issues related to waste management, industrial wastewater discharge and sanitation.

Participating in the meeting, Forests and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha urged the Speaker to form a new sub-committee to formulate future course of action to deal with environmental pollution.

"Members of sub-committee will visit various districts and submit a report on environmental pollution to the House committee for consideration," said Patro.

MLA Amar Satpathy said better awareness on environmental issues and exemplary action against the violators of pollution norms can help us to tackle the situation.

Deputy Speaker Rajanikant Singh suggested that it would be better if were district-level committees to look into pollution related issues.

DEVELOPMENT OF SRI SRI BALDEVJEW BADA DANDA, KEONJHAR

Development work include :

- Decorative Floral Paint of Grand Corridor
- Depiction of various Bheshas of Sri Sri Baldevjew
- Uniform Artforms along the Corridor
- Construction of Pedestrian Pathways & Covered drains
- Organizing Vending arrangement
- Peripheral development of Mausima Temple, Water Body & Open Areas

SHORT TAKES

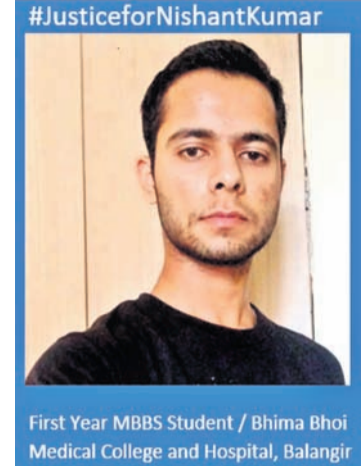
3 cops suspended for seeking ransom

Baripada: Three police officers have been suspended in Mayurbhanj district for allegedly demanding ransom from cattle traders, an officer said Thursday. The action came after an audio of a purported conversation between an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Jharpokharia police station and a cattle trader went viral on social media, he said. After an inquiry, ASIs Shrutiranjana Swain and Chandan Singh, and constable Deepak Palbabu were suspended by Superintendent of Police Rishikesh D Khilari Wednesday evening for "dereliction of duty", the police officer said. No case has been lodged against them yet, he added.

Liquor units raided; 7 held

Sambalpur: A joint team of Sambalpur Excise department raided multiple country liquor manufacturing units and confiscated huge cache of illicit liquor in Deulbandha area here. Seven people involved in the illicit trade were arrested. Following credible inputs, the joint team conducted raids at Deulbandha area where several illegal country liquor manufacturing units were operating. The raids led to the seizure of huge quantity of spurious liquor, chemicals, packing machine and logos.

WhatsApp chats put teachers in the dock



NISHANT DEATH AT BBMCH

In a chat with his friend, Nishant had revealed how seniors and lecturers tortured juniors in the college. The lecturers here force juniors to write the laboratory manuals of senior students, the chats revealed. **In a written complaint to Bolangir SP Nitin Kusalkar, Nishant's father demanded immediate justice for his son and sought stringent action against those responsible for his death**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, May 5: The death of Nishant Kumar, 19, a first year MBBS student at Bolangir-based Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH), allegedly due to ragging took a new turn Thursday after WhatsApp chats revealed involvement of some lecturers in the ragging.

Fresh WhatsApp chats that have gone viral on social media reveal that Nishant was not only ragged by his seniors, but also by his teachers. Nishant's father Krishna Kumar has brought serious allegations of sexual harassment, ragging and mental and physical torture on some seniors and lecturers. In a written complaint to Bolangir SP Nitin Kusalkar, he de-

manded immediate justice for his son and sought stringent action against those responsible for his death. He has also sought the intervention of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) through Twitter. In a chat with his friend, Nishant had revealed how seniors and professors tortured juniors in the college. The lecturers here force juniors to write the laboratory manuals of senior students. Furthermore, the juniors who have good handwriting are tortured to do all the homework of the seniors. Instead of taking action against ragging, the professors allegedly take the side of the seniors and make fun of juniors. Nishant further alleged sexual harassment on juniors in the WhatsApp chat. The seniors had created WhatsApp groups and were calling the juniors for ragging late in the night. Demanding immediate arrest of the teacher involved in the 'heinous act', Nishant's father sent a copy of the WhatsApp chats to the SP. Nishant died after allegedly falling off the roof of the hostel April 23, 2022. A native of Karnal in Haryana, Nishant was staying in the four-storied new boys' Hostel. Family members have alleged that he was 'murdered'. Worth mentioning, a girl student had committed suicide in this state-run medical college last year.

BRACING FOR STORM



A man carrying his harvested paddy for safe keeping ahead of the impending cyclonic storm 'Asani' in Baliapal area of Balasore district, Thursday

Sorcerer help sought for cellphone theft

Anandapur, May 5: In a bizarre incident, people did not go to police, but took the help of a sorcerer in an attempt to find a stolen cellphone at Jalasuan village under Ramchandrapur police limits in Keonjhar district Thursday. Nityananda Majhi of the village alleged that his son's phone was stolen three days ago but they failed to trace it. Upset over the issue, the family turned to a local sorcerer who performed puja and assured that the cellphone will be recovered from the house of the thief. He asked the family to follow his instructions. At the instruction of the black



magician, a group of four youths carried a bench on their shoulders and kept on moving in the village. The sorcerer said that the bench will expose the youth. The bench stopped near three houses of the village, but the owners of these houses were found to be gentle and innocent. The cellphone is yet to be found.

Croc kills man in Bhitarkanika

Kendrapara, May 5: The mutilated body of a fisherman, who is suspected to have been killed by a crocodile, was found on the bank of Brahmani river in Kendrapara district Thursday, officials said. The reptile pounced on Siba Prasad Behera, 40, while the latter was fishing near Nalapai village in Aul police station area Wednesday, a forest official said. The 40-year-old, half-eaten by the saltwater crocodile, is the latest victim in a growing number of crocodile attacks in the riverside villages in the vicinity of Bhitarkanika National Park. The deceased's family will be given ₹4 lakh as ex gratia, an official said. The Bhitarkanika national park and adjoining Mahanadi deltaic region is home to 1,784 saltwater crocodiles, according to this year's reptile census. The wildlife sanctuary, which is essentially a network of creeks and canals, is home to the largest congregation of the endangered saltwater crocodiles in the country.

ENTHRALLING MOVES



Dancers performed Odissi at Kapila Muni Mahotsav-2022 to the delight of spectators at Town Hall in Bhadrak

Illegal mining rampant in reserve forests

FOREST DEPT SEIZES JHARKHAND TRUCK LOADED WITH 30 TONNE IRON ORE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, May 5: Forest department officials Thursday seized a truck carrying around 30 tonne illegally extracted iron ore from Chamakpur protected reserve forest under Champua range of Keonjhar district, indicating rampant illegal mining in Joda circle despite measures taken by the Steel and Mines department. The department has also formed district and state-level squads to check illegal mining here. According to reports, a team of forest officials led by Champua ranger Sanjib Rout was patrolling in the area around 2am Thursday when they noticed light shimmering in Chamakpur reserve forest, raising suspicion.



When the team reached there, they found a 12-wheeler truck with Jharkhand registration number being loaded with iron ore. On seeing the forest officials, many of those engaged in loading the mineral escaped but one was detained. About 30 tonne illegally mined iron ore was seized from the truck. This seizure by the Forest department pointed to the laidback attitude of the Mines department, said a local. The department has put in place Integrated Mines, Minerals

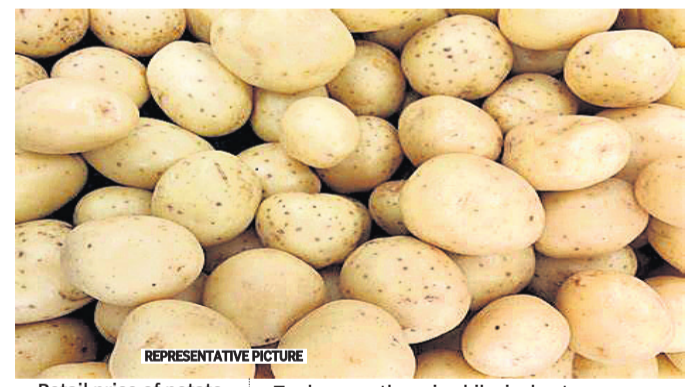
Mining mafia rule the roost in Mali hills

Tikiri: Rampant loot of valuable minerals like bauxite, manganese and graphite from Mali hills and Leliguma reserve forests under Kashipur block in Rayagada district has come to the fore. According to reports, Kondingamali and Sasubuhumali hills have huge bauxite reserves while other nearby hills are rich in manganese and graphite. However, mafia gangs are allegedly carrying out extraction and transportation of these minerals with impunity due to lack of vigil and patrolling by the Mines department. A couple of days ago, forest officials of Tikiri raided Leliguma reserve forest and seized a manganese-laden Hyva truck in Nisikhola area. However, the truck driver managed to escape. They also said that some out-riders strike deals with some local truck owners, transport agencies and mines owners to illegally transport minerals without doing registration in the i3MS portal.

Potato price hike pinches pockets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 5: Skyrocketing potato prices has been burning holes in consumers' pockets allegedly due to black marketing when there is adequate stock of the tuber in the Silk City. Reports said the price spiral is affecting the wholesalers, retailers and the consumers as well. Rama Krushna Sahu, a wholesaler in Bada Bazaar area, said, "The current wholesale price of potato is ₹21 per kg in Berhampur market. The traders buy 200-250 tonne potatoes from West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh on a daily basis to cater to the demand of the Silk City consumers. The prices might have gone up due to poor production in these two states this year."



Moreover, the markets remaining closed for three days in UP for Eid celebrations resulted in the price hike by ₹4 per kg, he added. The high price of the kitchen essential has hit the customers

hard which has forced them to reduce their purchase quota. A trader said that the wholesalers have enough stock of potato but the wholesale and retail prices of the tuber is shooting up daily. Meanwhile, locals blamed black marketing of the produce for the price hike. A 50-kg sack of potato is now being sold at ₹1,100 by the wholesaler as against ₹850 a week back. Some retailers were seen buying it at ₹1,280 per packet, Wednesday. Meanwhile, the retail price of potato has increased from ₹20 to ₹25 per kg within a week. The price rise has hit every section of the society with poor and middle-class being the worst affected.

Doctors' crunch hits services at MKCG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 5: Many specialist doctors have been transferred from Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Medical College and Hospital (MKCGMCH) here in Ganjam within a month affecting the health services at the facility. MKCGMCH is the lone government referral hospital in south Odisha. Many patients from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh also depend on it. At least 13 experienced doctors were transferred from here March 11 while only seven doctors have been appointed. In less than a month's time, eight more doctors of different departments were also transferred. Junior Doctors' Association (JDA) of MKCGMCH strongly opposed it and staged a protest a few days ago.

Lightning claims 2 in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyaganar, May 5: Two persons were killed after lightning struck them at a cashew orchard in Chakapal village under this police limits in Dhenkanal district, Thursday. The deceased were identified as Prakash Pradhan, 30, of Chakapal and his brother-in-law Debadutta Pradhan, 17, of Makuakateni village under Kankadahada police limits in Dhenkanal district. They had gone to collect cashew from Pradhan's orchard when heavy rain accompanied by lightning lashed the area. The duo took shelter under a tree when lightning struck them. Family members rushed them to Kamakhyaganar sub-divisional hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

Admin mulls recast in Kharif crop practice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, May 5: In view of adverse climatic conditions and shortage of water, the district administration here has planned to cultivate non-Kharif crops along with paddy during the Kharif season, a report said. Sources in the district administration said the plan will be sent to the state government for its approval before its implementation. Reports said most of the farmlands reel under water scarcity due to lack of irrigation facilities while the remaining are left uncultivated. Farmers borrow hugely to raise the crops but eventually fail to repay the loans due to crop loss, thanks to lack of irrigation facilities. Adverse climatic conditions and lack of irrigation facilities are blamed for the low output, which is

CLIMATE CHANGE BLUES IN ANGUL



weaning off the farmers from cultivation and forcing them to take up alternative livelihood opportunities. Sources said the district administration had set a target to bring 86,000 hectare of farmlands in the district under Kharif cultivation in 2021-22 fiscal. However, more than half of the farmlands in the district remained uncultivated due to scanty rainfall. Farmers who had taken up cultivation on fallow land could manage to harvest something but the harvest was not as per their expectation. The delayed rainfall helped only those farmers who had started

their cultivation late. This shattered the hopes of the district administration with 22,000 hectare of farmland remaining uncultivated. The district agriculture department even thought of asking farmers to take up cultivation of non-Kharif crops like vegetables, millets but lack of irrigation facilities put their plan on the back-burner. As per the draft plan, cultivation of non-Kharif crops will be taken up on 5,000 hectare. A workshop will also be organised to sensitise the farmers regarding cultivation of non-Kharif crops. Chief district agriculture officer (CDAO) Debaraj Mohanty said, "The new plan has been prepared as the district failed to achieve its target last year due to near drought like condition. The plan will be implemented in the district after the state government gives its nod."

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No.: ET-M-ROH-PRDP-187-2022
Name of Work: REPAIR OF WAGONS DURING ROUTINE OVERHAULING AT ROH SHED, PARADEEP & ATTENDING REPAIR OF SICK WAGONS AT PARADEEP FOR A PERIOD TWO YEARS.
Advertised Value: ₹8,56,68,460.18, EMD: ₹5,78,400/-, Period of Completion: 24 Months, Validity of offer (days): 30 days, Bidding Start Date: 10.05.2022.
Tender Closing Date & Time: at 1530 hrs. of 24.05.2022
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete details & e-tender documents will be available at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/PR-84/N/22-23 Khurda Road

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO. II BHUBANESWAR

eerb2_bbsr@yahoo.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No.-C.C. (R&B) - 02 e - Procurement Notice No. 05 of 2022-23 No. Bhubaneswar the -2022
No. B-138:- The Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.-II, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for Four numbers of Building Work to be received in online bidding. Single cover system for construction work as detailed in : <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 30.04.2022 to 5.00 P.M of 09.05.2022. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11.00 A.M. of 10.05.2022 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No-II, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, BBSR (R&B) Division No.II, BBSR
OIPR-34088/11/0007/2223

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CHHELIGADA HEAD WORKS DIVISION AT/PO: MAHENDRAGADA, VIA: CHANDRAGIRI, DIST: GAJAPATI, PIN - 761017

e-mail: eecwd@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. SE-CHWD-01/2022-23
No.A-126: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD., time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>
1. Type of the work :- Building work, electrical installation
2. No. of works :- 06
3. Class of contractor :- 'D', & 'C', Class with H.T. Electrical contractor
4. Bid Identification No. :- e-CHWD-01/2022-23 to e-CHWD-06/2022-23
5. Estimated cost :- Rs. 7.37 lakhs to Rs. 12.94 lakhs.
6. Period of completion :- 4 (Four) to 6 (Six) calendar months
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents :- 09.05.2022 to 20.05.2022 upto 5.00 PM
8. Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 20.05.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
9. Date of opening of bid :- 21.05.2022 at 11.30 AM., in the e-procurement cell, Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Berhampur, Dist: Ganjam.
10. Name of the Office Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Chheligada Head Works Division, Mahendragada, Dist: Gajapati. N.B:- 1) Any addendum/ corrigendum / cancellation of tender can be seen in the said website. 2) Further details can be seen from Government website: <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Chheligada Head Works Division, Mahendragada (Gajapati).
OIPR-32109/11/0002/2223

Material things are not to be despised - without them there can be no manifestation in the material world.



SRI AUROBINDO

Nostalgia Dies Last

Before the pandemic, nostalgia was a major force in global politics. Donald Trump rose to power by promising to "make America great again," and Brexiters won their political battle partly by idealising Britain's imperial past.

These inclinations were suspended when the pandemic forced everyone to focus on a more immediate crisis. But now that COVID-19 is gradually fading in the rearview mirror, nostalgia has returned with a vengeance.

As is typical of nostalgia narratives, Putin's account features a "golden age," followed by a "great rupture," leading to a current state of discontent.

Craving a return to bygone times is hardly innocuous. Sentimental, historically biased appeals to a romanticised past are the stock and trade of jingoistic leaders.

The Russian-American cultural theorist Svetlana Boym identifies two distinct types of nostalgia: reflective and restorative.

For all the obvious differences between Brexit and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both represent attempts to break from an unpleasant present by turning back the clock.

But the politics of nostalgia varies significantly between democratic and authoritarian settings. Unlike Putin, the Brexiters had to persuade a majority of voters to support their cause.

In authoritarian systems, where the opposition - if it exists at all - cannot respond openly to a regime's historical claims, nostalgia becomes more dangerous.

Unlike declining powers, though, an ascendant power can draw spiritual succor from the promise of restoring a lost homeland.

The writer is Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School.

WISDOM CORNER

- To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment. RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. CARL JUNG
- The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance. ALAN WATTS

WORDSWORTH

Strickle

For us moderns, this word hides its light under a bushel, which is appropriate because bushel and strickle go together like a horse and carriage or fish and chips. A bushel is an ancient volume measure for dry commodities, wheat in particular, equivalent to eight English gallons or about 36 litres.



Dhanada K Mishra

ALL PROGRESS THROUGHOUT HUMAN HISTORY HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE HUMAN QUEST FOR SHORTCUTS TO REDUCE DRUDGERY

Craving a return to bygone times is hardly innocuous. Sentimental, historically biased appeals to a romanticised past are the stock and trade of jingoistic leaders

SPECTRUM GROWTH

Building infrastructure for recovery

Physical infrastructure has a critical role to play in supporting the post-pandemic recovery and in laying the longer-term foundations for green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Yet, across much of the developing world, infrastructure remains woefully inadequate. Some one billion people live more than a mile from an all-season road, 760 million lack access to electricity at home, and 450 million live beyond range of a broadband signal.

Even before the pandemic, investment in infrastructure was well below the levels needed to achieve global development goals.

Second, new projects must be designed to promote economic and social resilience to extreme weather and other external shocks.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

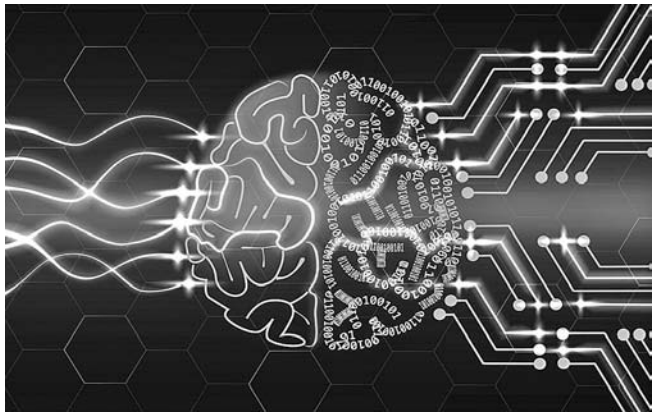
OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

NO SHORTCUTS?

There are no shortcuts in life! Or is there? "Thinking Better: The Art of the Shortcut in Math and Life" is a recently published book by the Oxford University mathematician Marcus du Sautoy.

In 18th century Germany, a schoolboy, then 8-9 years old, was sitting in the math class. The teacher was looking for a bit of a rest and decided to give the class the seemingly lengthy exercise of adding all the numbers from 1 to 100.

Taking shortcuts in life often means choosing the easier path, preferring the less difficult option or often resorting to unscrupulous means.



With the advent of machine learning and artificial intelligence, it would appear that the day is not far when continuously self-improving machines will rule over us

are well described by Greek philosopher Aristotle. The first of his ideas of two kinds of work was praxis or work that you love doing for its own sake.

Nobel Prize winner for economics and psychologist of Israeli-American origin Daniel Kahneman wrote the New York Times best-seller "Thinking, Fast and Slow" published in 2011.

Sometimes, we apply the fast mode of thinking to situations that are more appropriate for the second category, resulting in wrong conclusions or undesirable outcomes.

In the Indian epic Ramayana, there is a famous story about Lord Rama and Laxmana being taken by sage Vishwamitra to the forest to defend the sages against demons.

ent opportunities to innovate or solve problems for society or make it easier for others to follow the same path. This story is often cited as an example of how the righteous path often goes through many hardships in life but is worth taking.

All progress throughout human history has been made possible because of the human quest for shortcuts to reduce drudgery. Imagine the thousands of experiments conducted by Thomas Alva Edison before he came up with the light bulb or the efforts to make a heavier than air machine like an aeroplane fly.

There are no shortcuts in life to achieve anything worthwhile! Any meaningful goal would always require hard work and perseverance.

The author is a civil engineer, academician and technologist who is currently based in Hong Kong.

Even before the pandemic, investment in infrastructure was well below the levels needed to achieve global development goals. And since the pandemic, spending has been squeezed further.

Climate change is already causing severe damage to existing infrastructure. For example, in January, Tropical Storm Ana took out around half of Malawi's meager power-generation capacity.

Same crisis every year

Sir, Satellite images of land surface that indicate temperature between 55 and 60 degree Celsius over areas of northwest India lend credence to the World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) recent warning that extreme heat was gripping large parts of India and Pakistan.

The fiscal space for such measures. The last G7 summit highlighted this issue, as leaders called for enhanced efforts to fund infrastructure development in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

To maximise infrastructure's contribution to the global economic recovery and support green, resilient, and inclusive growth, additional investment must be channelled into effective programmes.

For starters, meeting global climate targets requires an unprecedented wave of investment in green infrastructure. Energy and transportation systems together account for around two-thirds of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Second, new projects must be designed to promote economic and social resilience to extreme weather and other external shocks.

Such direct infrastructure damage is already valued at around \$18 billion annually. Enhancing infrastructure resilience would add only a few percentage points to existing investment needs.

During the pandemic, the number of internet users globally jumped by 800 million, and data traffic in emerging economies increased by 25-50% as more and more activities moved online.

The third imperative is to invest in sustainable infrastructure that promotes social inclusion and addresses different dimensions of inequality.

This digital divide has led to serious inequities in development outcomes. According to UNICEF, lack of access to relevant technologies prevented at least 463 million, or 31%, of schoolchildren worldwide from participating in digital and broadcast remote learning.

The writer is Vice President for Infrastructure at the World Bank.

Lastly, the overall effect of physical infrastructure on development depends on how investments are coordinated with each other and complemented by supportive policy measures.

Different types of infrastructure can boost the benefits of others. Across fragile regions of rural Africa, investments in rural roads have accelerated the movement of workers out of subsistence agriculture into higher-wage jobs in manufacturing and services.

Infrastructure has much to contribute to the post-pandemic recovery as well as to longer-term growth, resilient, and inclusive development, especially in LMICs, where the need for investment is especially urgent.

The writer is Vice President for Infrastructure at the World Bank.

A fallen star

Sir, The two-and-a-half year sentence to imprisonment of tennis ace Boris Becker for hiding his assets relating to his 2017 bankruptcy, is nothing short of a tragedy.

national

of the day quote

Today, the law and order situation of the state is worst in the entire country, the highest number of notices by the Women's Commission are being served to the Uttar Pradesh government

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving ahead with a dedicated spirit to realize the dreams of 'New India'

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

The political upmanship undertaken by Smriti Irani at Wayanad has been dismissed by the people as all know that in the state the maximum development has taken place in Wayanad constituency. One fails to understand why she did this. This is nothing but cheap politicking and we wish to point out that Wayanad is not a fertile ground in which to play communal politics

RAMESH CHENNITHALA | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Jet Airways conducts test flight in Hyd

New Delhi: Jet Airways conducted its test flight to and from the Hyderabad airport Thursday in a step towards obtaining the air operator certificate. Jet Airways, which has not flown since April 17, 2019, is currently in the process of re-launching operations under its new promoters Jalan-Kalrock Consortium. On Thursday, the airline's CEO Sanjiv Kapoor said on Twitter that the test flight's operation was a very emotional moment "for all the wonderful folks who have been working hard to get Jet back in the skies".

Woman found dead in hotel

Ghaziabad (UP): A 48-year-old woman was found dead in a hotel room in Bajariya market here, police said Thursday. On Wednesday around 11.20 pm, the woman had checked in a hotel with a man, Circle Officer City 1st Swatantra Singh said. In the morning when the house keeping staff went there to clean the room they found the woman lying dead on the bed, he said. Prima facie it seems that the woman was strangled to death by the man, who had checked in with her.

Maid thrashed badly in PS

Lalitpur (UP): Two police personnel, including a woman sub-inspector, have been suspended for mercilessly beating a maid in Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur district, police said Thursday. A case has been registered against a constable and his wife for thrashing the domestic help at their official residence in Mehrauni area on suspicion of her involvement in a theft at their home. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Imran Ahmad, said that a constable Anshu Patel and his wife first badly beat up their 32-year-old housemaid and her husband at their home.

14-yr-old allegedly gangraped in UP

Basti (UP): A minor was allegedly gang-raped by three youths when she went out to defecate. All the three accused were arrested within 24 hours, police said Thursday. The 14-year-old girl from a village in Rudhauri police station area felt the urge to relieve herself late Wednesday and hence she ventured out to a field. All the accused belong to her village, police said.



The series of price hike of auto fuel and cooking gas have made people's lives miserable. Now the Union government is even increasing the prices of life-saving medicines used in the treatment of cancer, which were hiked twice in the recent past

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

With many candidates raising the issue of their RRB-NTPC exam centres being far away from their home towns, the Indian Railways has decided to run more than 65 special trains across the country for the convenience of the aspirants appearing for their examinations May 9 and 10

HYDERABAD HORROR

Hindu man killed after marrying Muslim girl

The incident happened Wednesday night when the victim, B Nagaraju, was travelling on a motorbike with his wife and was confronted by his attackers, who came on a scooter and attacked the man. Both persons have been arrested



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 5: A 25-year-old Hindu man was brutally killed in broad public view here by his Muslim wife's brother and another person in a case of suspected honour killing, with the incident sending shockwaves after the gory murder that was caught on camera went viral.

The incident happened Wednesday night at Saroornagar when the victim, B Nagaraju, a Dalit was travelling on a motorbike with his wife and was confronted by his attackers -- Syed Mobin Ahmed and Mohammed Masood Ahmed -- who came on a scooter, stopped the couple on the road and attacked the man in full public view with an iron rod before stabbing him with a knife, killing him on the spot, police said. Both persons have been arrested.

Police said Syed Mobin Ahmed was opposed to his sister's relationship with Nagaraju, and had even warned her against it.

After stopping the couple, the duo pushed Nagaraju to the ground and beat him up indiscriminately with the rod and stabbed him to death and finally fled the place, police said. Both the accused were arrested Thursday.

The case would be tried in a fast-track court, the DCP added. The victim's distraught wife told the media she knew her husband for the last 11 years and claimed five persons attacked him. The Hindu-Muslim couple were classmates in school and college and were in love for more than five years even as her family was against the relationship. They got married in January this year against the wishes of her family members, police said. Mobin Ahmed had warned his sister in the past, police said, adding she subsequently walked out of her house to marry Nagaraju.

Since then Mobin Ahmed was nursing a grudge against Nagaraju, police said. He had been planning to eliminate Nagaraju and along

with his relative hatched a plan and implemented it on Wednesday, police said. The victim's father also alleged Mobin Ahmed was opposed to the inter-faith marriage.

Condemning the incident, Telangana BJP president and Lok Sabha member Bandi Sanjay Kumar said Nagaraju was targeted because he married a Muslim woman and dubbed it as a "religious murder".

He demanded that the culprits should be identified and "the forces and organisations behind them be made public".

"Love jihad" is a term used by the saffron party and right wing organisations to claim religious conversion of non-Muslim women, mainly Hindus in the guise of love by Muslim men. The "pseudo-secularists" should tell people what type of incident the present murder is, he said. Kumar also asked as to why "progressive people" and "progressive media" who were vociferous over "honour killing" at Miryalguda in the past were tight-lipped now.

Jignesh Mevani gets 3 months in jail for 2017 'Azadi' march

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mehsana, May 5: A magisterial court here Thursday convicted Gujarat independent MLA Jignesh Mevani and nine others in a five-year-old case of holding an 'Azadi march' without permission and sentenced them to three months' imprisonment.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate JA Parmar held Mevani and nine others, including NCP functionary Reshma Patel and some members of Mevani's Rashtriya Dalit Adhikar Manch, guilty of being part of an unlawful assembly, under section 143 of the Indian Penal Code.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹1,000 each on all the 10 convicts. The Mehsana 'A' division po-



lice had lodged an FIR under IPC section 143 against Mevani and others for taking out the 'Azadi march' from Mehsana to Dhanera in Banaskantha district without permission in July 2017.

Reshma Patel, then a supporter of reservation for the Patidar community, was not a member of any political party when she took part in the march.

Of the total 12 accused named in the FIR, one had died, while one is still absconding.

SC TO REGAIN FULL STRENGTH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Supreme Court is all set to regain its full strength of 34 judges with the apex court collegium headed by CJI N V Ramana recommending names of Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court Judge Justice Jamshed B Pardiwala for elevation to the apex court, sources said. Justice Pardiwala would go on to become the CJI for over two years if the recommendation is accepted by the Centre, they said.

Justice Dhulia, who will be the second judge to be elevated from the Uttarakhnand High Court, is the sibling of national award-winning film director and actor Tigmanshu Dhulia and would have a tenure of little over three years.

While Justice Pardiwala will be the fourth one from the Parsi community to adorn the top court bench and the first High Court judge from the minority community who has been elevated in the last five years after Justice S Abdul Nazeer. Justice Nazeer was elevated to Supreme Court in February 2017. With the retirement of Justice R Subhash Reddy on January 4

this year, the total strength of apex court judges had come down to 32 against the sanctioned strength of 34 and now with the fresh recommendation, if acted upon, will ensure full strength in the top court.

Justice Dhulia, born August 10, 1960, hails from Madanpur, a remote village located in Pauri Garhwal District of Uttarakhand, and joined the Bar at Allahabad High Court in 1986. Justice Pardiwala, born August 12, started practicing Law in the High Court of Gujarat in the year 1990. The Collegium, which consists of CJI Ramana and Justices U U Lalit, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud, and L Nageswara Rao, decided in its recent deliberations of the collegium, the sources said. The CJI, who himself will demit office on August 26, this year, has been successful in evolving consensus in the 5-judge collegium to unanimously recommend a record number of 11 names so far, since August last year. The apex court, which did not get a single judge after the superannuation of the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi November 17, 2019, had nine existing vacancies when CJI Ramana had taken over and the high courts had around 600 vaca

Will implement CAA once Covid ends: Shah

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 5: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday asserted that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act will be implemented in the country once the Covid-19 pandemic ends. Addressing a public rally at Siliguri in north Bengal, Shah accused the Trinamool Congress of spreading canards about the Act.

Shah launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and said the BJP would not rest until it uprooted her tyrannical rule from West Bengal. "We had hoped that Mamata Banerjee would rectify herself after being

voted to power for the third time. We waited for an entire year for her to rectify herself, but she didn't change. It is the ruler's law that prevails in the state," he said.

He thanked people for raising BJP's tally in West Bengal Assembly to 77 from 3. Asserting that the BJP is the only party which thinks in the interest of Gorkhas, the Union home minister alleged that Banerjee always misled the community for vested political interests.

Shah also assured that a permanent political solutions to all problems of the Gorkha region will be found within the limits of the Constitution.



Tough days: A man bathes to get respite from the heat in Ajmer

Cong Working Committee to meet May 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Ahead of its 'Chintan Shivir' in Rajasthan's Udaipur, the Congress' top decision-making body CWC will meet at the AICC headquarters here May 9 to deliberate on the agenda for the brainstorming session as well as the party's future strategy.

The party had last month announced that the 'Chintan Shivir', a three-day brainstorming session from May 13-15, would be held in Udaipur, where party leaders from across the country will discuss internal issues confronting

it and come up with solutions to galvanise the organisation.

About 400 top party leaders are expected to attend the camp. Senior leaders including those in the Congress Working Committee (CWC), members of parliament, state in-charges, general secretaries, and state presidents will participate in the Chintan Shivir.

"A meeting of the Congress Working Committee will be held on Monday, the 9th May 2022 at 04.30 PM at AICC Office, 24 Akbar Road, New Delhi, to discuss about the 'Nav Sankalp Shivir - 2022' to be held from 13th to 15th May, 2022 at Udaipur, Rajasthan,"

Congress general secretary, organization, K C Venugopal, said in a tweet.

Senior Congress leaders Venugopal, Ajay Maken and Ashok Gehlot had on Wednesday took stock of the preparations for the Chintan Shivir.

Buffeted by a string of electoral reverses, the Congress had earlier also announced that an empowered group would be constituted to address the political challenges ahead and prepare the strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, days after deliberating on a revival plan presented by poll strategist Prashant Kishor.

Drone threat a major challenge during Amarnath Yatra

Admitting that a possible threat from drones is looming over the Amarnath Yatra this year, sources in the Central Reserve Police Force said that they have been preparing to thwart the threats

poses a major challenge for the security forces, they are procuring hardware to counter the drones and thwart terrorist designs.

Admitting that a possible threat from drones is looming over the Amarnath Yatra this year, sources in the Central Reserve Police Force said that they have been preparing to thwart the threats.

With the Amarnath Yatra commencing June 30 after two years, the forces have to gear up to ensure foolproof security for the annual pilgrimage.

Sources also said that security agencies are on the highest alert as an attack by drones is the new com-



ponent in the terror domain. The security grid has been asked to put



in all efforts to make the pilgrimage to the Holy Cave incident-free.

Highly placed sources in the security grid said that the anti-drones mechanism will be put along the routes up to the cave and at the assembly points at the base camp in Baltal and Pahalgam.

Sources have revealed there are possible threats from Lashkar-e-Taiba and TRF and therefore, security will be tightened right from entering at Lakhanpur border. The individual or public vehicles carrying the pilgrims will be given a RFID tag so that the security agencies can know their location.

They also indicated that the anti-drone systems will be deployed at the key checkpoints of the

Yatra to thwart any threat from drone attacks.

As of now, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the National Security Guard (NSG) have the drone detection system and they will also be roped in to sensitise the routes.

The first drone attack took place at an IAF station in Jammu on the intervening night of June 26-27 last year. Apart from this, there were incidents in Jammu and Kashmir where drones coming from the Pakistan side carried arms, ammunition and IEDs in October last year in Jammu.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 5: As the threat from drones to the Amarnath Yatra

national

of the day quote

Thank you Hon'ble Thiru Naqvi Mukhtar for your assurance that Chennai will be considered as an Embarkation point for Haj from 2023 onwards



M.K. STALIN | TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

The Delhi government will now ask people whether they want to avail subsidy on electricity. From October 1, only those consumers who opt for it will be provided the subsidy



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

They (BJP and RSS) are trying to instigate people of a particular community to react to it so that they could riot. Such a situation is very bad for the country



LAJU PRASAD | RJID PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Bus catches fire, 35 escape unhurt

Nagpur: Thirty five passengers of a bus had a narrow escape after the vehicle caught fire in Maharashtra's Nagpur city Thursday, a fire official said. The incident took place near the Reserve Bank square around 9.20 am when the bus, run by the city civic body, was going from Mor Bhawan to Khaparkheda area, Nagpur Municipal Corporation's chief fire officer Rajendra Uchake said.

Gujarat ATS seizes large cache of arms

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat ATS is in hyper active mode as the elections are approaching. Earlier the sleuths seized a big amount of drugs and now it's the turn of illegal arms. The Gujarat ATS busted a big illegal arms racket in just 24 hours and seized around 54 arms from 24 accused. Gujarat ATS police inspector Harsh Upadhyay got the lead that accused Devendra alias Dendu and his accomplice Champaraj Khachar, who were on a parole jump from Limdi sub-jail, kept illegal weapons in their possession.

Man blows up wife, children, kills self

Thiruvananthapuram: In a ghastly incident, a man in Kerala's Malappuram Thursday killed his wife and two children in a blast before committing suicide. The incident occurred in Perinthalmanna area of the district. The man, identified as Mohammed, had come from Kasargode in the morning and went in a three-wheeler to the house where his wife was staying. There, he called her and their two children to sit in the vehicle, and as they did, set it afire.

Gurugram: 3K illegal shanties demolished

Gurugram: The enforcement team of the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) carried out a massive demolition drive in Saraswati Kunj colony located along the Golf Course Road Thursday, in which 3,000 shanties out of 15,000 were demolished. The DTCP officials said around ₹2,000 to ₹3,000 rent was also being extracted by the locals for these illegal shanties.

BJP fields Dhmi for Champawat by-poll

New Delhi: After announcing Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhmi's candidature for the by-poll in Champawat assembly constituency in Uttarakhand, the BJP has started reaching out to the influential people from the state living in the national capital. The BJP officially announced Dhmi as its candidate for the Champawat by-poll Thursday.



A language should neither be imposed nor opposed
M VENKAIAH NAIDU
VICE PRESIDENT

FLOATING RESTAURANT

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is planning to build a floating restaurant in Prayagraj. This will be the first such restaurant in the state. The Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) has already started upgrading facilities at the Boat Club which will also have a Yoga centre and facilities for water sports



POLLUTION WOES



A farmer burns stubble in a field following the harvest season, on the outskirts of Amritsar in Punjab
PTI PHOTO

4 terror suspects detained in Karnal; explosives recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 5: Four suspected Pakistan linked terrorists on their way to Telangana to deliver explosives were nabbed in Haryana's Karnal Thursday and arms, ammunition and IEDs were recovered from the vehicle they were travelling in, senior police officials said.



A large cache of arms, ammunition and explosives were seized from their possession at Adilabad in Telangana, the police said

They were allegedly in touch with a Pakistan-based man, who is involved in terror activities and who used to send locations through an app to them to deliver explosives and weapons, Superintendent of Police, Karnal, Ganga Ram Punia told reporters in Karnal.

Director General of Haryana Police P K Agrawal said the four were arrested in a joint operation carried out by Haryana and Punjab police based on intelligence inputs of central agencies. "In an intelligence-led operation, Punjab Police and Haryana Police arrested four persons today at Karnal with the recovery of 3 IEDs weighing 2.5 Kg each and one pistol. Further investigation is on," the Punjab Police said in a tweet.

The four – all residents of Punjab – were nabbed near Bastara toll plaza, Karnal Range Inspector General of Police, Satender Kumar Gupta, said. "Three containers each weighing 2.5 kg suspected to contain RDX, a pistol and 31 round live cartridges, besides ₹1.3 lakh cash have been seized from the vehicle," Gupta told PTI over phone.

Punia told reporters that the four identified as Bhupinder Singh from Ludhiana and Gurpreet Singh, Parminder Singh and Amanpreet Singh from Ferozepur were headed to Adilabad in Telangana to deliver a consignment of explosives.

They will be produced before a court and taken on police remand after which they will be questioned in detail. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Rohtak,

Grishma murder case: Stalker Fenil Goyani sentenced to death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surat, May 5: A court in Surat Thursday sentenced stalker Fenil Goyani to death for killing 21-year-old college student Grishma Vekariya in February this year, terming it as a "rarest of the rare" case.



Citing the Nirbhaya case of Delhi, Surat's Principal Sessions and District Judge V K Vyas said strict punishment is needed to deter people from indulging in such crimes against women. Vekariya's parents and Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi welcomed the court's verdict. The police had filed a 2,500-page charge sheet within a week of the incident, and later also submitted 120 documentary pieces

Half of Cov deaths not counted in India: WHO

INDIA STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THE USE OF MATHEMATICAL MODELS BY THE WHO FOR PROJECTING EXCESS MORTALITY ESTIMATES LINKED TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 5: More than 4.7 million people in India - nearly 10 times higher than official records suggest - are thought to have died because of Covid-19, according to a new World Health Organisation (WHO) report. The WHO report said that almost half of the deaths that until now had not been counted were in India. The report suggests that 4.7 million people died there as a result of the pandemic, mainly during a huge surge in May and June 2021.

The Indian government, however, puts its death toll for the January 2020-December 2021 period far lower: about 480,000. WHO said it had not yet fully examined new data provided this week by India, which has pushed back against the WHO estimates and issued its own mortality figures for all causes of death in 2020. Tuesday, WHO said it may add a disclaimer to the report highlighting the ongoing conversation with India.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THERE WERE 4.7 MILLION COVID DEATHS IN INDIA -- 10 TIMES THE OFFICIAL FIGURES AND ALMOST A THIRD OF COVID DEATHS GLOBALLY

INDIA LIKELY TO RAISE THE ISSUE AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND REQUIRED MULTILATERAL FORUMS, SOURCES SAID

INDIA HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OBJECTING TO THE METHODOLOGY ADOPTED BY THE WHO TO PROJECT EXCESS MORTALITY ESTIMATES BASED ON MATHEMATICAL MODELS, THE UNION HEALTH MINISTRY SAID

overwhelmed during huge waves of infection. It also accounts for deaths averted during the pandemic, for example because of the lower risk of traffic accidents during lockdowns.

But the numbers are also far higher than the official tally because of deaths that were missed in countries without adequate reporting. Even pre-pandemic, around 6 in 10 deaths around the world were not registered, WHO said.

The WHO panel, made up of international experts who have been working on the data for months, used a combination of national and local information, as well as statistical models, to estimate totals where the data is incomplete – a methodology that India has criticised. However, other independent assessments have also put the death toll in India far higher than the official government tally, including a report published in Science which suggested three million people may have died of Covid in the country read more Other models have also reached similar conclusions about the global death toll being far higher than the recorded statistics.



REUTERS FILE PHOTO

POWER CRISIS

Rlys cancels 42 passenger trains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Railways has cancelled 42 passenger trains in order to prioritise coal rake movement across the country to deal with a shortage of the vital input at thermal power plants, the national transporter said Thursday.



While 40 of these trains will remain cancelled till May 24, the other two will be restored by May 8. The transporter, which has prioritised the movement of coal rakes in the last few weeks, has pushed in 86 per cent of its open wagons towards carrying the essential commodity to the power plants. "The total number of trains cancelled is 40, which includes previously cancelled trains. Total number of trips cancelled is 1,081, which will remain cancelled till May 24," a spokesperson for the Railways said.

While most of the affected trains (34) are in the South East Central Railway zone, the Northern

Railways has cancelled eight trains, two of which will be restored by May 8, he said. While 26 mail/express trains have been affected, 16 passenger specials or MEMUs have been affected due to the focus on coal movement.

The central government expects the electricity demand to rise this month, and hence, wants to move as much coal as possible to the power production plants in various states.

As per official data, following the cancellations, the Railways has raised the average daily loading of coal rakes to over 400 per day, which is the highest in the past five years.

45% of recorded deaths in '20 didn't receive medical care: Data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: A whopping 45 per cent of the total 82 lakh people who died in India in 2020 did not get any medical attention at the time of death and just 1.3 per cent of the total registered fatalities during the year received medical care from a qualified professional, according to data prepared by the Registrar General of India (RGI).

The proportion of people dying in the absence of medical attention in 2019 was 34.5 per cent

19 was first reported in the country, 1.48 lakh people lost their lives due to the pandemic, which is substantially lower than 2021 when 3.32 lakh people died due to the disease. "About 1.3 per cent of the total registered deaths during 2020 have received medical attention from qualified allopathic professionals and practitioners of other system together and 45 per cent of the deceased did not receive any medical attention at the time of death," the RGI's report said. The proportion of people dying in the absence of medical attention in 2019 was 34.5 per cent. As many as 28 per cent of



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

About 16.4 per cent of the registered deaths were reported under 'medical attention other than institutions'.

The RGI report said complete information on medical attention received by the deceased at the time of death has been received from 34 states and UTs. Two states – Maharashtra and Sikkim – have submitted only partial data and therefore their numbers have not been used while consolidating the data.

Referring to the infant deaths, the report said the share of registered infant deaths in rural areas is only 23.4 per cent while that of urban area is 76.6 per cent during the year.

Jodhpur violence: 211 arrested so far

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, May 5: As many as 211 persons have been arrested with regards to the Jodhpur communal violence that broke out May 3, Director General of Police ML Lather said here Thursday.

The situation is under control and the police is taking all possible measures to maintain peace and order in the city, he said. Peace committee meetings are also being organised to create goodwill among the people.

Of the 211 held so far, 191 have been arrested under section 151 and 20 under other sections. Also, 19 FIRs have been registered – four by police and 15 by the general public.

According to the DGP, the general public has been appealed to maintain peace, not to believe in rumours and to immediately inform the local police officials about the rumours, he said.

Meanwhile, the state government has extended the curfew imposed in ten police stations of city till May 6 midnight.

Internet services shall also remain suspended till further orders, officials said. The curfew has been extended as a precautionary measure, said the DGP, adding that students who need to take exams, are being allowed.

On Wednesday, the Commissionerate Court remained open till midnight and granted bail to 60 people. A meeting of two communities was called during which both the communities agreed to maintain peace.

India, Australia discuss ways to combat terrorism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: India and Australia have strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms including the use of cross-border terrorist proxies and emphasised the need for strengthening global cooperation to deal with the challenge in a comprehensive manner.

The two sides discussed ways to combat terrorism at the 13th meeting of the India-Australia joint working group on counter-terrorism that took place in Canberra Wednesday. A joint press statement said Australia reiterated its condemnation of terrorist attacks in India, including the 26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot and Pulwama attacks, and extended its support for the people and the government of India in the global fight against terrorism. In the meeting, both sides underlined their commitment to coordinate and collaborate on tackling terrorism in line with the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. "India and Australia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasised the need for strengthening international co-operation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner," said a joint press statement. It said both sides condemned the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, seen as a reference to Pakistan.

international

of the day quote

The government has requested Saudi Arabia not to withdraw its deposits given to the State Bank of Pakistan and extend its oil facility for Islamabad

MIFTAH ISMAIL | PAKISTAN FINANCE MINISTER

I had to face mafias, the biggest of which is the Sharif mafia... They always attack on a personal level because are indulging in corruption for the past 35 years. When someone (points out) their corruption, they attack a person's character

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAKISTAN PM

In 2019, prior to the pandemic, tourism contributed \$3.5 trillion to global GDP. The precipitous drop during the pandemic is estimated to have cost up to 120 million jobs

ABDULLA SHAHID | PRESIDENT OF UNGA

SHORT TAKES

Queen to miss summer parties

London: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will not be attending the summer garden parties over coming weeks as other members of the royal family step in, Buckingham Palace said Thursday. The 96-year-old monarch, who has reportedly been experiencing some age-related mobility issues, traditionally hosts a series of parties in the garden of Buckingham Palace over the summer months. This year many of these parties also coincide with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, marking 70 years of her reign.

Flight forced to turn back

London: A Virgin Atlantic flight to New York was forced to turn back to the Heathrow airport in London after the co-pilot admitted that he hadn't passed his last flying test, Daily Mail reported. The plane was over Ireland when the captain was told that the first officer had not completed his training. The Airbus A330, just 40 minutes into its flight, was ordered to return to Heathrow. Passengers landed in the US almost three hours later than planned after the jet - which can carry nearly 300 passengers - was forced to wait on the runway while a qualified replacement was found, Daily Mail reported.

NASA scientist wins World Food Prize

Des Moines (US): A NASA climate research scientist who has spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate was awarded the World Food Prize Thursday. Cynthia Rosenzweig, an agronomist and climatologist, was awarded the \$250,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modeling of the impact of climate change on food production.

Richard Verma to monitor US spies

Washington: US President Joe Biden has named Indian American Richard Verma, who is also a former ambassador to India, to a White House body that advises the President on the effectiveness of the country's sprawling intelligence community. Biden also named retired Admiral James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld as chair of the body - President's Intelligence Advisory Board, - and Janet Napolitano, a former secretary of the department of homeland security (a cabinet position) and Gilman G. Louie as members, like Verma.

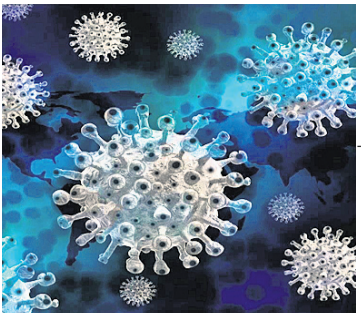


Donors should actually increase funding for global aid so as not to "undermine" development activities in Africa and other parts of the world

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

STUDY DISCLOSURE

People are 1,000 times more likely to get Covid from the airborne viral particles they breathe than from the surfaces they touch, according to a study



Mariupol plant battle rages

Russia has carried out simulated launches of nuclear-capable missiles from an enclave of territory in mainland Europe, amid growing fears Russian President Vladimir Putin could press the button as the war in Ukraine goes against him, media reports said



Civilians will need to be dug from bunkers under a steel works that is the last holdout of resistance in Ukraine's Mariupol

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

An international donors conference in Warsaw collecting funds for Ukraine hosted on Thursday raised 6.5 billion dollars to help the war-torn country

MATEUSZ MORAWIECZ | POLAND'S PRIME MINISTER

'US helped Ukraine kill Russian generals'

Washington: The US has assisted Kyiv's forces in killing Russian generals by sharing intelligence on their location inside Ukraine, a media report said citing senior American officials. The US reportedly provided Kiev with information on Russia's mobile military headquarters, which are said to relocate frequently in the conflict zone, said The New York Times report. Kiev then combined this data with its own intelligence to carry out artillery strikes or other attacks that led to the deaths of commanding officers, sources told the paper, RT quoted the report as saying. The US officials, however, declined to specify how many Russian generals exactly were killed with America's help.

lowing several earlier attacks on railway stations across the country. The sirens sounded anew early on Thursday in the western city of Lviv, which has been a gateway for western arms and served as a relative safe haven for people fleeing fighting farther east.

The flurry of attacks come as Russia prepares to celebrate Victory Day on May 9, marking the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany. Some observers have speculated that President Vladimir Putin wants to declare some sort of victory on that day — but with the date looming and his troops only making slow progress, that looks increasingly difficult. Others have suggested he could expand what he calls the "special military operation". A declaration of all-out war would allow Putin to introduce martial law and mobilize reservists to make up for significant troop losses. The Kremlin has dismissed the speculation.

An assessment by the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said Russian forces were struggling to gain traction. "Ukrainian defences have largely stalled Russian advances in eastern Ukraine," it said late on Wednesday. "Russian forces intensified airstrikes against transportation infrastructure in western Ukraine (on Wednesday) but remain unable to interdict Western aid shipments to Ukraine," it added.

AGENCIES

Lviv (Ukraine), May 5: Ukraine's military Thursday said it recaptured some areas in the south and repelled Russian attacks in the east, as a bloody battle raged at a steel mill in Mariupol where Ukrainian troops are holed up in tunnels and bunkers, fending off a Russian onslaught.

Ten weeks into a devastating war, Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting village by village, as Moscow struggles to gain momentum in the eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas. Russia

LOOMING RISK

Brussels: The European Union's Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) regulator warned Thursday of increased risks to airlines due to the war in Ukraine, such as civil planes being accidentally targeted as well as an increased risk of cyber attacks. "As shown by previous wars, misidentification is easy in confused arenas of warfare. The development of this risk is common to all combatants. If we add in the likelihood of jamming of electronic aids that may be involved with navigation and or...identification tools, then it is easy to see the potential for innocent aircraft being subject to missiles or radar laid weapons," it said in a document published online. The EASA's statement did not specify that its warning related to Ukraine's airspace, but was more generically related to risks to planes from the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

switched its focus to that region — where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces for years — after a stiffer than expected resistance bogged its troops down and thwarted its initial goal of overrunning the capital.

In an interview, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said he hadn't expected the Russian offensive to "drag on this way". Some Russian troops used ally Belarus as a launch pad for the invasion on February 24, and Lukashenko publicly supported the operation. "But I am not immersed in this problem enough to say whether it goes according to plan, like the Russians say, or like I feel it," the authoritarian leader said. He added it would be "unacceptable" to use nuclear weapons, but he couldn't say if Russia has such plans.

In addition to heavy shelling of the Donbas, Russian forces also kept up their bombardment of rail-

road stations and other supply-line targets across the country — part of an effort to disrupt the supply of Western arms, which have been critical to Ukraine's defence.

Ukrainian forces Thursday said they made some gains on the border of the southern regions of Kherson and Mykolaiv and repelled 11 Russian attacks in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions that make up the Donbas.

Five people were killed and at least 25 more wounded in shelling of cities in the Donbas over the past 24 hours, Ukrainian officials said. The attacks damaged houses and a school as well.

Air raid sirens sounded in cities across the country on Wednesday night, while Russian attacks were reported near capital Kyiv; in Cherkasy and Dnipro in central Ukraine; and in Zaporizhzhia in the southeast. In Dnipro, authorities said a rail facility was hit — fol-

SCANDALS OVERSHADOW VOTE

Boris faces litmus test



London, May 5: Voters in Britain went to the polls in local government elections Thursday where they are expected to punish Prime Minister Boris Johnson over a cost-of-living crisis and fines for breaking his own COVID-19 lockdown rules.

The elections are seen as a test of support for Johnson, who became the first British leader in living memory to have broken the law while in office when he was fined last month for attending a birthday gathering in his office in 2020. A sharp rise in global energy prices that has pushed up consumers' gas and electricity bills is now also feeding through to the cost of goods in shops, putting more pressure on household budgets.

A poor set of results will increase pressure on Johnson, who has been under pressure for months and faces three investigations and

These elections are without doubt the biggest test of Boris Johnson since the 2019 general election and come after what has been a very difficult time for him and his government

TONY TRAVERS | PROFESSOR AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

the possibility of more police fines over his attendance at other lockdown-breaking gatherings.

"These elections are without doubt the biggest test of Boris Johnson since the 2019 general election and come after what has been a very difficult time for him and his government," said Tony Travers, a professor at the London School of Economics.

But some lawmakers among Johnson's governing Conservatives say that while the party may perform badly in some of its traditional supportive regions in south-east England, critics may not have the numbers to trigger a coup against the prime minister.

"I don't think they have the numbers. It's not wise to move until you do have the numbers," one Conservative former minister said on condition of anonymity.

FRIENDLY INTERACTION



Pope Francis greets children after the weekly general audience at Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican

Flights suspended, Iraqis struggle to breathe

Baghdad, May 5: Hundreds of Iraqis rushed to hospitals with breathing problems Thursday and the Baghdad airport suspended flights for several hours as a thick sandstorm blanketed the country, the fifth to engulf Iraq within a month.

Iraqi state media said most of the patients suffered respiratory issues as clinics across the country's north and west struggled to keep up with the influx. Authorities urged citizens to stay indoors.

Iraqis awoke to an ochre-colored sky — and a thick blanket of dust covered the roads and buildings with an orange film. Visibility was low and drivers kept car headlights on to see the road.

Flights scheduled to depart overnight and on Thursday morning were postponed, an airport of-

ficial said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. Flights resumed by the afternoon, when the dust began to clear.

Iraq is prone to seasonal sandstorms but experts and officials are raising alarm over their frequency in recent years, which they say is exacerbated by record-low rainfall, desertification and climate change.

Lankan tea pickers' dreams shattered by economic crisis

Bogawantalawa, Sri Lanka, May 5: On a lush plantation in Sri Lanka, Arulappan Idejody deftly plucks the tips of each tea bush, throwing them over her shoulder into an open basket on her back.

After a month of picking more than 18 kg (40 lb) of such tea leaves each day, she and her husband, fellow picker Michael Colin, 48, receive about 30,000 rupees, worth about \$80 after the island nation devalued its currency.

to eat two vegetables, now we can only afford one." She is one of millions of Sri Lankans reeling from the island's worst economic crisis in decades. The COVID-19 pandemic severed the tourism lifeline of the Indian Ocean nation, already short of revenue in the wake of steep tax cuts by the government.

Left critically short of foreign currency to buy essential supplies of food, fuel and medicines, Sri Lanka has turned to the International Monetary Fund for an emergency bailout. Rampant inflation and shortages sparked weeks of protests that have sometimes turned violent.



Plantation workers like Arulappan, who hail predominantly from the island's Tamil minority, are affected more than most, as they own no land to provide a cushion against soaring food prices. Her family is one of 17 living in traditional "line homes", or box-like, single-storey terraces unchanged in design from the days of Britain's colonial rule, which ended in 1948.

Emerald-green hills stretch for miles around, while rising over the cottages is fragrant woodsmoke from burning tea branches the families use for their cooking fires. Their fortunes mirror the rise and fall of an economy that emerged from a decades-long civil war in 2009. Buoyed by a booming tourism industry and exports of items such as garments and plantation products like tea, rubber and cinnamon, Sri Lanka attained a GDP double almost that of neighbouring India in 2020. Arulappan left school at 14 and worked in a garment factory before marrying and moving to the plantation in Bogawantalawa, a valley in the central highlands reputed for its fine teas and a drive about four hours east of Colombo. The job's flexible hours allowed her to care for her children and start a small business selling vegetables to other workers on credit. But the pandemic was a setback for the

HK reopens beaches, Beijing eases rules

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, May 5: Hong Kong Thursday reopened beaches and pools in a relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, while China's capital Beijing began easing quarantine rules for arrivals from overseas. Hong Kong had closed water sports venues amid an outbreak of the highly transmissible omicron variant but has been tailing off restrictions as new case numbers fall. Deaths from COVID-19 have fallen from a high of almost 300 per day in March to zero in recent days.

Restaurants are also allowed to seat up to eight customers to a table — from four previously — and masks will no longer be required during outdoor exercise, a change that's important mainly to organizers of group sporting events.

"We're looking forward to Mother's Day, and being able to have up to eight people sitting at a table," said William So, assistant general manager of the London Restaurant, a long-time destination for traditional dim sum.

"Business will go up, three generations of a family can sit down and eat together," said So, as carts piled high with steaming bamboo baskets full of savory dumplings circulated through the packed dining room.

MAJOR VICTORY

Colombo: In a major victory for Sri Lanka's embattled Rajapaksa clan, their nominee on Thursday emphatically won a key vote for the position of Deputy Speaker in Parliament, demonstrating the government's ability to prove their parliamentary majority despite raging public protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for mishandling the worst economic crisis in decades.

family and the country, shuttering the economy for months and cutting off the tourism sector; a key earner of foreign exchange.

business

of the day quote

India has the potential to become a gaming hub of the world. It is imperative to create requisite infrastructure for making world-class games to help achieve the country's vision to make the Indian digital gaming sector a world leader

Paytm is committed to safe and secure online payments, and in that direction, RBI's tokenisation effort is a key milestone for the industry. We recognised the need for tokenised cards and implemented the same on the Paytm app

We are convinced that globally proven solutions like New Skies and SkyLedger will power our tech-enabled strategy and help us run reliable operations and offer affordable travel options to our customers

SAI SRINIVAS | CEO & CO-FOUNDER, MPL

VIJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA | FOUNDER & CEO, PAYTM

ANAND SRINIVASAN | CO-FOUNDER & CIO, AKASA AIR

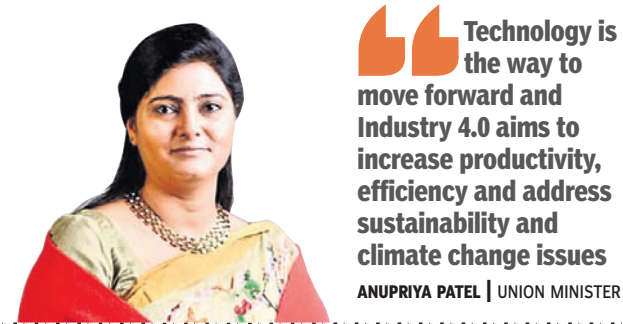
ARCCELORMITTAL Q1 net jumps over 80%

Adani Power profit rises in March qtr

Delhivery sets IPO price band

Odisha yet to float bid for coal import

Delhivery sets IPO price band



Technology is the way to move forward and Industry 4.0 aims to increase productivity, efficiency and address sustainability and climate change issues



TATA MOTORS UNVEILS ACE EV Homegrown auto major Tata Motors Thursday unveiled the electric version of its popular mini truck, Ace, as it continues the drive for electrification of its portfolio.

FULLY SUBSCRIBED ON DAY 2

LIC IPO sails through

The record \$2.7 billion initial public offering (IPO) by LIC was oversubscribed Thursday, helped by attractive pricing, making way for gains over the listing price later this month



- According to data from BSE, investors made bids for 16,68,60,765 equity shares compared to the 16,20,78,067 equity shares offered for the subscription...

New Delhi, May 5: LIC's public offer, the country's biggest-ever IPO, was fully subscribed on the second day of bidding Thursday. Against 16,20,78,067 shares on offer, 16,68,60,765 bids were received -- translating into a subscription of 1.03 times, as per data on stock exchanges as of 7 pm.

We see the arrival of external shareholders with experience of the insurance industry as a further key benefit of the IPO. We believe the presence of foreign stakeholders will bring particular benefits in the areas of capital adequacy, financial flexibility and governance standards, enhancing LIC's credit profile

OFFER TO REMAIN OPEN ON WEEKEND

LIC public offer will remain open for subscription even on weekend to enable people to participate in the mega IPO of the state-owned insurer. This is perhaps for the first time the special dispensation is granted to any public offer.

Banks pass on RBI repo rate hike to borrowers

The increase in the repo by RBI will push up the cost for most of the personal loans, auto and home loans for customers as the new loans post-October 2019 are linked to the repo rate



New Delhi, May 5: Private sector lender ICICI Bank has revised its external benchmark lending rate (EBLR) to 8.10 per cent, and state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has raised the rate to 6.90 per cent with immediate effect after the RBI hiked the key repo rate.

Auto retail sales up 37% in April

New Delhi, May 5: Automobile retail sales in India increased by 37 per cent in April on a low base of Covid-hit April last year, automobile dealers' body FADA said Thursday.



April 2022 when compared with April 2019, reveals that we are still not out of the woods and the RBI's move to increase the repo rate by 45 basis points will make vehicle loans expensive

Wall St tumbles, Nasdaq drops 5%

New York City, May 5: Wall Street's main index fell sharply Thursday in a broad-based selloff as the Federal Reserve's less hawkish tone failed to ease investors' expectations of bigger interest rate hikes this year to tame surging inflation.

UU, HDFC ink MoU to boost startups in state

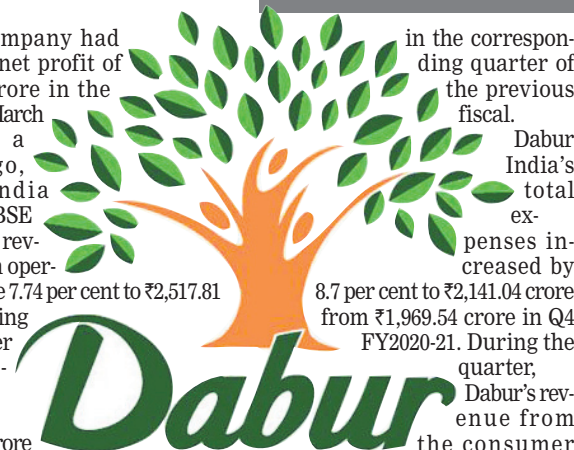
Bhubaneswar: With efforts to support startup ecosystem in Odisha, an MoU was signed between Centre for Innovation & Incubation at Utkal University (UU) here at Krishi Bhawan, Thursday.



Dabur becomes ₹10,000cr company

In a separate filing, Dabur India said its board has recommended a final dividend of 270 per cent, which is ₹2.70 per equity share having a face value of ₹1 for the FY2021-22

The year 2021-22 was a strong year for Dabur as we ended with an industry-leading Revenue growth of 13.8 per cent in our India Business, with an underlying FMCG Volume Growth of 10.1 per cent for the full year



Warner, Powell lift DC DÉJÀ VU IN MADRID



David Warner (L) and Rovman Powell during their partnership

Mumbai, May 5: Explosive Australia opening batter David Warner (92 n o, 58b, 12x4, 3x6) saved the best for his former franchise as his magnificent knock powered Delhi Capitals to a 21-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match here Thursday.

Warner made his highest score of the season in a power-packed batting display and shared 122 runs with Rovman Powell (67 n o, 35b, 3x4, 6x6) for the unconquered fourth wicket to guide the Capitals to 207/3 after being asked to bat.

The Capitals then restricted the Sunrisers to 186/8 with Khaleel Ahmed (3/30) and Shardul Thakur (2/44) sharing five wickets between them to notch up their fifth win of the season.

The Capitals jumped two places to fifth with 10 points from 10 matches while the Sunrisers slipped a spot to sixth after their third consecutive loss.

Warner was sacked from cap-

Warner struck his fourth half century of season and it was his best and Capital's highest individual score this season.

The marauding Australian also taught some lesson on pace sensation Umrans Malik (0/52), who bowled this season's fastest delivery at 154.8kmph, punishing the youngster for 32 runs in his first spell of two overs. Powell smashed Malik for three fours and one six in the final over which yielded 19 runs.

Warner smashed Malik for two fours and a six in the fourth over which yielded 21 runs as the Capitals ended the powerplay at 50/2. Mandeep Singh (0) was dismissed by Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/25) off the fifth ball of the innings while Mitchell Marsh was caught and bowled by Sean Abbott in the fifth over.

The ninth over yielded 23 runs and one wicket, that of captain Rishabh Pant (26) who hit three successive sixes and one four off Shreyas Gopal. Pant, however, dragged the last delivery of the over on to his stumps. The Capitals were poised for a big total as they reached 91/3 at the halfway mark.

Warner completed his fifty with a four off the first ball of the 12th over bowled by Malik with one delivery clocking 154.8 kmph, the third fastest in IPL history.

Big-hitting Powell, who was dropped when on 18 by Kane Williamson off Malik, joined the party later on, hitting Abbott for two consecutive sixes in the 17th over which yielded 18 runs.

BRIEF SCORES
DC 207/3 (David Warner 92 n o, Rovman Powell 67 n o; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1/25) beat SRH 186/8 (Nicolas Poooran 62, Aiden Markram 42; Khaleel Ahmed 3/30, Shardul Thakur 2/44) by 21 runs.



Santiago Bernabeu witnesses yet another miraculous come-from-behind victory as Real Madrid set up Champions League final date with Liverpool breaking Manchester City hearts

Madrid, May 5: The "Si se puede! (Yes we can!)" chants gradually faded at the Santiago Bernabeu as the minutes passed and Real Madrid looked beaten.

As the end of regulation approached, many in the stands — and on the field — were close to giving up as Manchester City defended their 1-0 lead. It seemed that there would be no magical night at the Bernabeu for the 13-time European champions this time.

But Madrid took their Champions League comebacks to another level Wednesday, rallying late with two goals in two minutes by substitute Rodrygo to force extra time and defeat Manchester City 3-1 to reach the final — a showdown with Liverpool.

Karim Benzema, the hero of Madrid's previous comebacks this season, converted a penalty kick in extra time for the decisive goal that allowed Madrid to advance 6-5 on aggregate after a 4-3 first-leg semifinal loss in which it escaped losing by a bigger margin.

Madrid had already pulled off thrilling comebacks at the Bernabeu against PSG in the round of 16 and Chelsea in the quarterfinals. By doing it again against City, Madrid booked a spot in the May 28 final in Paris against Liverpool. Madrid defeated Liverpool in the 2018 final, when the Spanish powerhouse clinched its record-extending 13th title.

The result ended City's latest quest for its first Champions League trophy. Pep Guardiola's team lost in the final last year to Chelsea.

Madrid looked defeated near the end of regulation before Rodrygo scored his goals two minutes apart. Riyad Mahrez had put City ahead in the 73rd but the Brazilian forward equalized in the 90th and got the go-ahead goal with a header a minute into stoppage time.

A few minutes before Rodrygo's first goal, Ferland Mendy had saved Madrid from conceding a second goal that could have sealed City's qualification by clearing the ball in front



SO NEAR YET SO FAR: Man City players look dejected after their loss in Madrid

It's an image that has come to define Pep Guardiola on his biggest nights in the CL with Man City. That one of him leaning back, knees bent, hands covering his face in anguish. Pep did it again as he witnessed the latest collapse of his team in a competition he was brought in 6 years ago to win. And still hasn't.

the City defense.

Benzema set up Rodrygo's first goal from inside the area, and Marco Asensio flicked Dani Carvajal's cross for the Brazilian's stunning header in stoppage time.

Rodrygo had scored twice when Madrid clinched the Spanish league title in advance at the Bernabeu Saturday, when celebrations went late into the evening with players and coach Carlo Ancelotti asking for the fans' support against Man City.

Fans had already given players a spectacular welcome as the team's bus arrived before the match Wednesday, crowding the streets around the Bernabeu.

Sports Odisha suffer 0-4 loss versus Sethu FC

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Sethu FC earned their sixth consecutive victory in the Indian Women's League (IWL) after beating Sports Odisha 4-0 at the Capital Stadium here Thursday.

A brace from Durga ensured full points for the Chennai-based side as they maintain the top position in the league table.

Kenyan forward Elizabeth helped Sethu bag an early lead within the fourth minute of the game. Renu came up with a cross from the right flank which Elizabeth made no mistake while finding the back of the net.

Gujarat look to fix batting woes vs MI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 5: Table-toppers Gujarat Titans would look to plug the holes in their top-order and seal a place in the playoffs by returning to winning ways against an already out-of-contention Mumbai Indians in an IPL match here Friday.

GT got a timely wake-up call in an eight-wicket loss to Punjab Kings in their last match, which snapped their five-game winning streak.

An inconsistent batting department, especially top-order has been GT's thorn in the flesh throughout the tournament so far and it's time the IPL newcomers fix the issue going into the business end of the league.

Despite the loss, GT are sitting pretty at the top of the 10-team standings with 16 points from 10 games and a win Friday would make them the first team to cement their spot in the playoffs.

Young Shubman Gill has failed to live up to expectations at the top, while veteran Wriddhiman Saha, who was a great replacement for struggling Matthew Wade, got a start before fizzling out.

B Sai Sudharsan, who has been the team's weak link so far, was the only saving grace for GT in their last match, where everyone failed, scoring a 50-ball 65.

The likes of skipper Hardik Pandya, David Miller; Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan, who had produced stellar performances and played a key role in GT's success so far, have floundered against Punjab.

But the quartet would be very well aware about their importance in the side and look to rise to the occasion to make a comeback, in what has been a remarkable opening season. In Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson, Alzari Joseph and Rashid, Gujarat have one of the most lethal attacks in this year's IPL.

TODAY'S MATCH

GT vs MI

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Sethu doubled the lead in the blink of a minute with Karthika scoring from a header in the fifth minute. Sports Odisha afforded Sethu FC a lot of space at the back leading the latter to create a plethora of chances.

And it cost Odisha as Sethu increased the lead to 3-0 within eight minutes of the game, this time midfielder Durga taking the chance of a chaotic situation inside the Odisha box.

Just at the half an hour mark Durga completed her brace with a terrific goal. Sethu FC continued to dominate the game going into the breather. After the break, Odisha seemed to be the better side. They created few chances but failed to convert.

Ronaldo's record in a single season.

Wednesday's game started tighter than last week's back-and-forth first leg in Manchester, but City eventually opened the scoring when Mahrez found the top corner with a firm left-footed one-timer from inside the area following a pass by Bernardo Silva, who attracted the Madrid defenders before feeding the ball to his teammate.

Mahrez became the first City player to score seven times in a single Champions League campaign. Madrid had scored 22 goals in its last eight games in all competitions but struggled to get past

explain'.

MUNDO DEPORTIVO, a publication aligned with Barcelona, had a more begrudgingly complimentary headline. They went with: 'Groundhog day', citing Real Madrid's remarkable ability to produce late goals and stage unlikely comebacks.

SPORT emblazoned the word 'Incredible' on their front page. They added: 'Once again, Madrid came back in a surprising way when they were close to death.'

SPANISH PRESS HAILS LOS BLANCOS

Real Madrid's astonishing victory over Man City has been deemed something 'Only God can explain' by the Spanish press as they delighted in Pep Guardiola's misery. The national papers reacted to Real's dramatic late comeback with incredulity after Carlo Ancelotti's men staged an unlikely revival when they looked dead and buried

AS ran the headline: 'Real Madrid are from another world'. They added: 'The most sought-after image doesn't disappoint: Guardiola's face is GOLD!'

MARCA opted for a similar front page of the players running towards fans at full time in scenes of jubilation, along with the words: 'A day only God can

Mumbai, May 5: Dinesh Lad, who has coached the likes of India players Rohit Sharma and Shardul Thakur, is now giving cricketing lessons to former South African pacer Makhaya Ntini's son, Thando.

The 21-year-old Thando, a left-handed batter and a right-arm medium pacer, was a part of South Africa's 2018 U-19 World Cup side. He is training at the Swami Vivekananda School in suburban Borivali, where Rohit and Shadrul have also trained.

Ntini, 44, was in search of a good coach for his son when he learnt about Lad, a well-known name in the Indian domestic circuit.

"Actually he (Thando) came through one of my Railways student. He was a masseur of the South African team for the Legends tournament and he knew Makhaya.

"Right now there is off-season in South Africa and Thando was sitting idle. So Makhaya got in touch with my railway student asking

whether there was any good coach in India. My student in turn suggested my name. And that is how he came to me," Lad told this agency Thursday.

"We started his training from Wednesday and I rectified his couple of mistakes. He will be in Mumbai till June 2, training with me and the teenager terms the assignment as a challenge," said Lad, who added that he isn't taking any fees from the South African.

"He might play for his country. He looks focused and wants to become a good cricketer. We have been told not to give him anything luxurious and he is residing at an ordinary hotel. He is a good learner. Today he wasn't able to balance while batting, so I guided him about it," added Lad.

According to Lad, in the near future he may guide the sons of former West Indian all-rounder Carl Hooper and ex-Australian player Andrew Symonds.



THANDO NTINI

ting idle. So Makhaya got in touch with my railway student asking

Nadal off to fine start on return

Madrid, May 5: Rafael Nadal got off to a good start in his return from injury, defeating Miomir Kecmanovic in two sets to reach the third round at the Madrid Open.

Nadal showed few signs of rustiness in his 6-1, 7-6(7-4) opening win at home Wednesday. He cruised in the first set and recovered in the second after twice losing his serve following a rain interruption.

The victory lasted nearly two hours, but it was fast enough to allow Nadal to watch Real Madrid's Champions League match later Wednesday night in the Spanish capital. Tournament organizers said Nadal asked to play in the afternoon so his match would not coincide with Madrid's semifinal game against Manchester City, which the hosts won 3-1 to advance to the final.

The fourth-ranked Nadal had been out for nearly 45 days after a



rib stress fracture halted his great start to the season, highlighted by winning his record 21st Grand Slam title with victory at the Australian Open.

Nadal was cruising before getting injured in the semifinals in Indian Wells, where he lost the final to Taylor Fritz for his first defeat of the season.

Nadal could face a quarterfinal against Spanish teenage sensation Carlos Alcaraz, and a semifinal against either top-ranked Novak Djokovic. If he wins in Madrid, Nadal will move level with Djokovic on a record 37 titles in Masters 1000 tournaments.