BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, MAY 6 | 2022

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 35 | www.orissapost.com

comments on the internet

Ukraine's military says it has recaptured some areas in the south and repelled Russian attacks in the east

INTERNATIONAL P10

Real Madrid pull off a stunning Houdini act to enter the CL final beating Man City SPORTS P12 12 PAGES | ₹5.00



Devotees may pull chariots this year

LEISURE

protest against miscreants who post vulgar

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 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.



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 Suraaj'. He informed that close to 18,000 people have agreed to joir his developmental platform.



Cyclone Asani: 18 districts put on high alert

POST NEWS NETWORK

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, Gajapti, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Malkangiri, Koraput,



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!!

SENSEX **55702.23** 👚 33.20 16682.70

₹51,142

VARIATION

MARKET WATCH

INDEX

VIFTY

EURO

GOLD

SILVER

DOLLAR **77.06**

1 detained in Bolangir woman murder case

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

LATING 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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 location Bhubaneswar and Cuttack buildings in prime locations of

Royal Lagoon Apartment, threestoreyed market complex (Govinda Bhawan) of 6,000 square feet worth over ₹1.46 crore, another threestorey 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

A lot of a stigma

is attached when

a person is called

to the police station. So the

person should be

summoned

following proper

procedure

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

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 no tice upon such a person, but only after

a case has been registered. The bench emphasised that a per-

son'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 in-

police station then confessed that the two had indeed been summoned, but were allowed to go after questioning.

spector of the concerned

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 touristsin distress and started rescue operations before other help arrived.

Bhubaneswar finally certified 'Smart'

5.10 ■Since Smart Cities Misson ₹0.23 started in June 2015, only seven **1** ₹0.11 cities including Bhubaneswar **↑** ₹532 have taken the initiative to **1** ₹986 complete the projects

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, May 5: Odisha capital Bhubaneswar is most likely to feature in the first list of 'smart cities' which the Centre will announce at the end of the year. The six cities, other than Bhubaneswar, that will feature in the list are Bhopal, Surat, Udaipur,



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'.

COMPLETED **TOTAL PROJECTS** 942 862 1.219 1.005 739 846 644 648 930 1,042 727 700 Varanas 997

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. Guiarat and Rajasthan, where elections will be conducted by 2023-end, the report said

Rats nibble off newborn's limbs

AGENCIES

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.

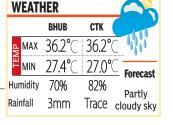
The incident occurred May 2 at Giridih Sadar Hospital and the newborn girl child was rushed to Shahid Nirmal Mahto Medical College Hospital (SNMMCH) here in a critical condition, they said. However, now the condition of the infant is

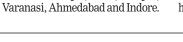
stable, doctors at SNMMCH said. Mamta Devi, mother of the infant

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 SN-MMCH, 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.





GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

Today, you will appreciate ful 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, 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

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.

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.

Ganesha says don't let setbacks 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.

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 snot 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 accommo date 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 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, elicit ing cries of sheer ecstasy and tremendous applause. Don't get carried away though, says Ganesha



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 cher-

ish forever Taking to Instagram to announce that the shooting of the film had been wrapped, Tamannaah said "Rahli Rouncer 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 au-

backed character, which had right kind of meat for an actor to go all the way and give everything that they have."
She continued: "Madhur

space.

She signed off, "As we wrap up the final schedule of the film today, I am taking back some of the most precious

> 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!'

> > AGENCIES

everything that would be the

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

memories and learnings.

in the USA for a few years, I completely resonate with the sentiments with which Raja Kumari created Made In India. It is an anthem for every Indian born in and outside of the country. It is truly exciting to have united with such a feisty artist for a song that envelopes the

spirit of India.

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



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. Madhuri says, "Having lived

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

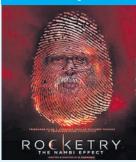
MUMBAI: R Madhavan's directorial debut Rocketry: The Nambi Effect is set to have its world premiere during the 75th Cannes Film Festival.

The film, a biographical drama, is based on ISRO space scientist Nambi Naravanan, 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 Madhayan 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 With God's grace, we've waited

Madhavan's movie to have world premiere at Cannes



ing to tell the story of Nambi Narayanan and I'm unable to believe all that's happening.

SUDOKU

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 inde-

pendence. IANS

PEANUTS

ing of respect." AGENCIES



CALVIN AND HOBBES

Nushrratt reacts to

filthy comments

MUMBAI: Nushrratt Bharuccha recently

kicked off the promotions of her upcoming

film Janhit Mein Jaari which revolves

around spreading awareness about the use

Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a

bunch of posters of the film, one of which saw

a condom tucked in Nushrratt's back pocket.

Almost 3 days after she shared the poster,

Nushrratt has now shared a video wherein

she can be seen reacting to the negative com-

ments of netizens slut-shaming her on the con-

dom post. The video displays some of the nas-

tiest 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

hide the names," referring to the star's deci-

sion to hide the user names of the individuals.

Another said, "There are a lot of crazy peo-

ple in this world and you just did the right thing

ov 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 mean-

Reacting to her post, a fan suggested, "Don't

my voice against such miscreants.

on her post

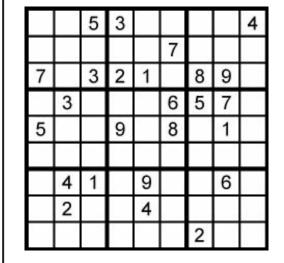


BREVITY



CROSSWORD

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

24 Mal de mer,

Down

Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com

20 Pitiful

21 German

7 Fix automaker 8 Spanish capital 23 Anise cordial

FUN

POST

9 Parking place

Across

- 10 Martini ingredient
- 11 Delivery aid
- (3,4)
- 13 Off-center
- 15 Incursion
- 17 Spurns
- 3 Swagger
- 2 Plan of action
- 1 Blubber
- 19 Short musical composition

4 On the ball,

5 Detestable

6 Abuse

12 Remote

14 Swordplay

16 Capital of

Greece

18 Uris novel

intellectually

22 Shangri-la

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



The collector said the administration has two

ast two years, or with the

participation of the public

plans for the Rath Yatra—either holding the festival sans

devotees as was the case in the

s the Rath Yatra was held

devotees for the last two years,

the administration estimates

that more than 15 lakh people

chariot construction, health facil-

ities, sanitation, toilet construc-

tion, drinking water facilities, elec-

trification, transport and

communication, automated ticket

counter, parking, law and order,

tourist information centre and de-

ployment of lifeguards on beach.

pieces of wood for chariot con-

struction this year. The Forest de-

partment has so far sent 675 pieces

of wood to Rath Yard. We are hope-

ful that the department would send

the remaining pieces of wood soon,"

said an official of the district ad-

As many as 212 doctors, 29 am-

bulances and five food safety offi-

cers will be on duty during the

Bhabataran Sahoo, additional col-

lector Pradeep Kumar Sahoo, su-

perintendent of police Kanwar

Vishal Singh, Srimandir admin-

istrator (development) Ajay Kumar

Jena, regional transport officer

Sameer Dalai and members of the

temple managing committee were

present at the preparatory meeting.

Among others, sub-collector

mega festival, he added.

ministration.

The carpenters require 865

may turn up this time

NEW LOOK

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

222	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER	
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
	World	51,55,50,923	47,02,57,157	62,70,795	L
	India	4,30,91,393	4,25,47,699	5,23,975	
	Odisha	12,88,103	12,78,839	9,126	ľ
	11111111	: 	: 	: 	

Devotees may be allowed for this year's Rath Yatra



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

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 participa-

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

tion of devotees for the last two

vears, the administration estimates

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

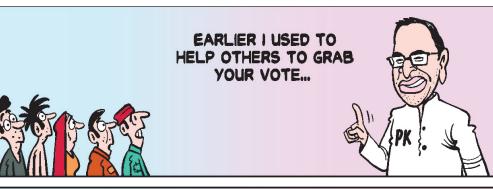
POST NEWS NETWORK

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

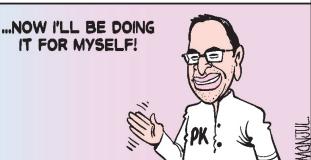
According to Panigrahi, CTMS has been designed to provide facilities for online registration of troupes and requesting agencies. "Registered requesting agencies can approach the OLL&C department for deployment of troupes in various categories like dance, music and art forms. The department the process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







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

as the maximum temperature rose Jharsuguda. 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

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

Light to moderate rain and thunderstorms are likely to occur over the next five days due to the southwesterly 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.

Boyanika eyes ₹163 crore turnover in 2022-23 fiscal



Dignitaries at the foundation day celebration

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

Boyanika has been considered as a model for the cooperative sector. It has achieved the dual goals of commercial success and susBoyanika has achieved a turnover of ₹128.85 crore in 2021-22 financial year

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.

Higher Education (HE) departengineer of Works department work in government colleges in

In a letter to the Works department chief engineer, Higher Education department joint secretary Snigdha Champatiray said the department has accorded administrative approvals for variprojects in the government col-

department is in the dark about the progress of work for these projects, Champatiray said.

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

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

Works dept told to submit report on infra work in colleges

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The ment Thursday directed the chief to submit a status report on the infrastructure development

"You are therefore requested

Corporation (OSPHWC).

POST NEWS NETWORK

ous infrastructure development leges in 2021-22 fiscal. Besides, the department had earlier accorded administrative approvals to some other projects in the government colleges. But, the

engineer.

'Joint effort needed to check pollution'



Speaker SN Patro presided over the House panel meet

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

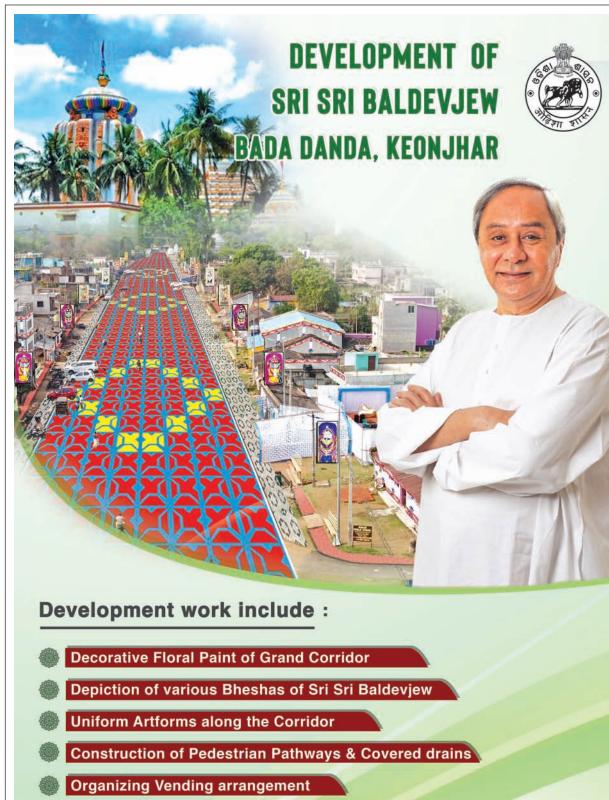
On the occasion, Patro said a joint effort is necessary to control environmental pollution in Odisha. The meeting deliberated on measures to control environmental pollution and issues related to waste management, industrial wastewater discharge and sanitation.

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

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



Peripheral development of Mausima Temple, Water Body & Open Areas

Cyber frauds dupe 261 of ₹76.55 lakh in April

As per the monthly data released by the City police, the cyber help desk functioning at DCP office received 313 complaints from victims across the state last month

DOCT MEMIC MEMICON

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The sleuths are verifying the details about investments in insurance and other schemes. The technical wing of vigilance department is carrying out detailed measurement, assessment and valuation of the buildings and plots.

Meanwhile, people of capital city alone have lost more than ₹76.55 lakh to cyber fraudsters in April. As per the monthly data released by the City police, the cyber help desk functioning at DCP's office received 313 complaints from victims across the state last month.

As many as 261 victims from the Capital city sought the help of cyber help desk after losing their hard-earned money to cyber fraud-



The cyber criminals duped 114 persons through UPI fraud while another 74 lost their income in credit and debit card frauds

However, the City police managed to retrieve and refund ₹9,69,563 to the victims with the help of the respective financial institutions

The help desk has blocked ₹1,31,566 being transferred to the accounts of cyber

sters in April.

The cyber criminals duped 114 persons through UPI fraud while another 74 lost their income in credit and debit card frauds. The cyber conmen siphoned off ₹76,55,661 from the accounts of 261 victims from the Capital city in

last one month

However, the City police managed to retrieve and refund ₹9,69,563 to the victims with the help of the respective financial institutions. The help desk has blocked ₹1,31,566 being transferred to the accounts of cyber criminals.

BRACING FOR IMPACT



District civil supplies officials took stock of the essentials at the Chhatra Bazar vegetable market in Cuttack, Thursday, ahead of the possible cyclone Asani

SCB central ICU running sans dialysis

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 5: A critical patient in urgent need of dialysis breathed his last at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack allegedly due to delay and mismanagement.

"Had the central intensive care unit (ICU) of SCBMCH been equipped with dialysis facility, my brother would have survived," younger brother of the patient stated Wednesday afternoon in his tweets to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Health Minister Naba Kishore Das.

Seeking immediate intervention of the CM and health Minister, the victim's younger brother Rajeeb Kumar Nayak from Boudh district added, "There is an acute shortage of stretchers in SCBMCH. It is very difficult to find one in order to take a patient to the dialysis centre which is located far below

the central ICU."

According to a source, the victim Sanjit, 54, was admitted to SCBMCH March 30 and was kept in the general ward after he was detected with jaundice.

Sanjit was shifted to ICU April 1 after his condition became critical. Subsequently, jaundice spread from his liver to kidney and doctors treating him at the SCBMCH advisesd for dialysis, which started April 9.

In the absence of dialysis facility at the central ICU, Sanjit had to

be carried five floors down to the dialysis centre.

On the first day of dialysis, Sanjit's family managed to take him on a manual stretcher. Again, after lots of difficulty, they could arrange a wheeled-stretcher April 11. However, a security guard at the ICU building did not allow them to take the stretcher outside. The patient, already in a critical condition, was detained for hours.

On the other hand, the responsibility of a patient in ICU lies

completely on hospital staff as family members are not allowed inside. However, nurses are hardly present near the patient, alleged Rajeeb. Late April 11 night, someone informed Rajeeb while he was outside the ICU that Sanjit's ventilator was not functioning. Doctors or nurses were nowhere near the ward and he himself had to run seeking help. Sanjit died while undergoing treatment April 12 early morning.

"We brought him (Sanjit) here, all the way from Boudh, hoping for better treatment. But my brother died due to the mismanagement here," he said.

When contacted, SCB Medical superintendent Lucy Das said, "There is no dialysis facility available at the central ICU. I have no information regarding patient's death due to dialysis. Steps will be taken if any written complaint in this regard is received."

Oppn targets BJD over 'sexual assault charges' against MLA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Opposition BJP and Congress Thursday targeted the state government over the alleged sexual harassment charges against BJD MLA Prakash Majhi.

BJP, who is on a protest path following the arrest of party MLA Subash Panigrahi, alleged that the government has resorted to dual legal policy while taking action against MLAs.

Holding a press conference here, state BJP general secretary Lekhashree Samantasinghar said, "While BJP MLA Subash Panigrahi was arrested without proper investigation into the complaint lodged by the BDO, no action has been taken against BJD MLA Majhi even five days after allegations surfaced that he sexually abused a woman and threatened to kill her."

Alleging that police refused to register the woman's complaint, she asked the police to clarify where the victim is and is she safe? The BJP leader demanded Majhi's immediate arrest before he gets time to erase evidences.

erase evidences.
Similarly, state Congress president Niranjan Patnaik also questioned the police inaction in this case. "Jharigaon BJD MLA Prakash Majhi had physically exploited a woman & threatened to kill her. Khandagiri police refused to file a complaint. This is CM Naveen's model of women empowerment.



BJP general secretary Lekhashree Samantasinghar at the press conference in Bhubaneswar. Thursday

The two opposition parties have been demanding the immediate arrest of Majhi after a complaint was reportedly filed before the Khandagiri police station in Bhubaneswar accusing him to have sexually assaulted a woman

Meanwhile, the BJP has decided to hold demonstrations Friday before all SP offices across the state over the arrest of party MLA Panigrahi

block office demanding the arrest of the ruling party
MLA Tuesday

fore all SP offices across the state over the arrest of party MLA

ongress workers held a

at Jharigaon Chhak

Wednesday while the BJP

workers led by Umerkote

MLA Nitvananda Gond had

staged a protest before the

rally and staged a protest

Shame! Odisha Congress will not stop till the victim gets justice," he tweeted.

The two opposition parties have been demanding the immediate arrest of Majhi after a complaint was reportedly filed before the Khandagiri police station in Bhubaneswar accusing him to have sexually assaulted a woman. Meanwhile, the BJP has decided to hold demonstrations Friday be-

over the arrest of party MLA_Panigrahi.

Congress workers held a rally and staged a protest at Jharigaon Chhak Wednesday while the BJP workers led by Umerkote MLA Nityananda Gond had staged a protest before the block office demanding the arrest of the ruling party MLA Tuesday.

18 districts put on high alert for Cyclone Asani In the wake of the possible cy-

clone, the state government has kept 17 NDRF, 20 ODRAF and 175 Fire Services teams on standby mode. These personnel will be deployed as per needed, the SRC said. Jena said he has asked the power

distribution companies of south, north and central Odisha to remain in readiness.

Jena has asked the Collectors to ensure the functioning of the District Emergency Operation Centre and control rooms round the clock with adequate manpower they have been asked to identify all vulnerable people and be ready with a plan to shift them to safety.

All safe shelter buildings should be geo-tagged and a team comprising three local officials – two male and one woman such as ASHA workers, lady teachers, lady constables and home guards should be put in charge of each of them. This must be completed by May 6 and information on identified shelter buildings indicating latitude and longitude, names of the officials in charge and their mobile numbers must be sent to the SRC.

Crorepati babu in Vig net

"The registered sale deed (RSD) value of the 91 plots is approximately ₹3.33 crore. However, the actual value is likely to be much higher. It is suspected that the plots were undervalued during registration. A thorough probe has been initiated in this regard," revealed Vigilance sources. This apart, Rout was also in possession of gold, diamond and silver ornaments worth ₹20.60 lakh.

Rout has reportedly deposited ₹39.48 lakh in bank accounts and various insurance schemes. He also owns a four-wheeler (Maruti Swift ZXI) worth ₹7.97 lakh, one two-wheeler and cash and household articles worth over ₹15.16 lakh.

World Hand Hygiene Day held at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: When a health facility's 'quality and safety climate or culture' values hand hygiene and infection prevention & control (IPC), it results in patients as well as health workers feeling protected and cared for, said AIIMS-Bhubaneswar infection control officer Bijayini Behera as the premier hospital celebrated World Hand Hygiene Day, Thursday

Addressing faculty members, nursing officers, sanitary staffers and general public at the event, Behera highlighted the importance of hand hygiene in IPC.

"In order to prioritise clean hands in health facilities, people at all levels should realise the significance of hand hygiene in preven-



tion and control of infections as it would go a long way saving lives. In other words, health workers at all levels and people accessing health care facilities need to unite on ensuring clean hands," Behera said.

Medical superintendent Sachidananda Mohanty highlighted this year's theme for World Hand Hygiene Day. This year's theme is focused on recognising that we can add to a facility's climate or culture of safety and quality through cleaning our hands but also that a strong quality and safety culture will encourage people to clean hands at the right times and with the right products," Mohanty said.

A selfie point and signature board was special attraction of the event. The infection control nursing team performed a dance explaining hand washing steps. It was followed by hand hygiene badge distribution and campaign by the infection control nursing officers.

Six elephant tusks seized, one held

Bhubaneswar: Six elephant tusks weighing nine kg were seized and one person was arrested in this connection from Bolangir district Thursday. According to the Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police, a team with the help of forest officials conducted a raid near Malpada village under Bolangir Town police station and seized the elephant tusks from a wildlife criminal identified as Nurin Set. Later, the police handed over the accused to the district forest officials for legal action at their end, it said. Since 2020, the task force has seized 24 elephant tusks and arrested several wildlife criminals involved in the illegal trade.



18 new Cov cases in state

KIIT hosts 20th MANLIBNET Convention

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The 20th Convention of MANLIBNET, a joint initiative of KIIT Deemed-to-be-University and Management Libraries Network, was inaugurated at the varsity campus Thursday. The three-day-long event is on the theme "Libraries of the future: Emerging Trends".

Virtually inaugurating the event, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Chairman Bhushan Patwardhan said, "Libraries must utilise modern IT tools to make them future-ready. Librarians must prepare themselves for the challenge as well. They should also bank on more creative ideas to make the libraries places of attraction, so



that the users would be interested to join in and be part of the knowledge-gaining experience."

Speaking on the occasion, KIIT VC Sasmitarani Samanta said, "Knowledge is an essential for all in every stage of life. The libraries must utilise the best of the technologies so that more and more readers would come to the temples of knowledge and in this process, the librarians have a cru-

cial role to play."

Stressing on adopting new creative ideas to attract visitors to the libraries, she added, "We must look into the aesthetics and overall environment of our institutional libraries. The central library of KIIT University has emerged as one of the best libraries in India. Other institutions should build quality libraries that students would spend more time among the books."

MANLIBNET General Secretary and Librarian of Hyderabad-based Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Akhtar Parvez called upon a sea of change in the attitude of the librarians to be more and more creative and attract visitors to the libraries of the future.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Odisha recorded 18 more coronavirus cases Thursday with four in the age group of newborn to 18 years, while there was no new fatality for the third consecutive day, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

Currently, there are 99 active Covid cases and 11 more patients have recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours.

Out of the total 18 new infections, 11 were reported from quarantine centres while seven persons contracted the virus locally.

sons contracted the virus locally. Khurda district registered the highest number of new cases at seven, followed by Nuapada with three new infections.

Other districts that reported fresh Covid cases are Balasore (2),

Bolangir (1), Keonjhar (1), Sambalpur (2) and Subarnapur (1).

The State Pool reported only one new case to have come from outside Odisha and tested positive.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.11 per cent and four children were among the newly infected, it said, adding that 15,933 samples were tested in the last 24 hours. The state had logged 10 infections and zero death

Wednesday.

The state's Covid death toll stood at 9,126 and these are confirmed as Covid deaths after an audit. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to official data. The recovery tally rose to 12,88,103, including 12,78,825 recoveries, the Health bulletin added.

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SHORT **TAKES**

3 cops suspended for seeking ransom

OrissaPOST

Baripada: Three police officers have been suspended in Mayurbhani 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 subinspector (ASI) of Jharpokharia police station and a cattle trader went viral on social media, he said. After an inquiry, ASIs Shrutiranjan 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 Deulabandha area here. Seven people involved in the illicit trade were arrested. Following credible inputs, the joint team conducted raids at Deulabandha 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 The lecturers here force juniors to revealed how seniors and lecturers | write the laboratory manuals of

tortured juniors in the college 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.

Odisha

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

In a written complaint to

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'

BRACING FOR STORM



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

Sorcerer help sought for cellphone theft

POST NEWS NETWORK

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



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

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

Croc kills man

in Bhitarkanika

Kendrapara, May 5: The mutilated

body of a fisherman, who is sus-

pected to have been killed by a

crocodile, was found on the bank

of Brahmani river in Kendrapara

district Thursday, officials said.

Prasad Behera, 40, while the latter

was fishing near Nalapai village in

Aul police station area Wednesday,

The reptile pounced on Siba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.



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Manual offers are not allowed against thi shall be ignored

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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.-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

Bhubaneswar the No. B-138:- The Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division

Worth mentioning, a girl stusome seniors and lecturers. thief. He asked the family to follow dent had committed suicide in this his instructions. At the instruction of the black Bolangir SP Nitin Kusalkar, he de-

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 Keonihar 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 simmering 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

and Management System (i3MS) to check illegal exploration and transportation of minerals.

Mining experts of the area alleged that officials managing the i3MS software and those engaged at weighbridges are hand in gloves with some mafia plundering minerals in the area

It was alleged that illegal mining of iron and manganese in Bansapani, Jurudi, Bamebari, submergence-prone area of Kanpur irrigation project and Bileipada is on the rise.

Doctors' crunch hits

als like bauxite, manganese and graphite from Mali hills and Leliguma reserve forests under Kashipur block in Rayagada district has come to the fore.

Mining mafia rule

the roost in Mali hills

Tikiri: Rampant loot of valuable miner-

According to reports, Kondingamali and Sashubohumali 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 outsiders strike deals with some local truck owners, transport agencies and mines owners to illegally transport minerals without doing registration in the i3MS portal.

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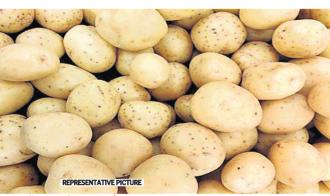
Potato price hike pinches pockets

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

Dancers performed Odissi at Kapila Muni Mahotsav-2022 to the delight of

affecting the wholesalers, retailers and the consumers as well. Rama Krushna Sahu, a whole-

saler 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.



Retail price of potato has increased from ₹20 to ₹25 per kg within a

Traders say the price hike is due to poor production of the tuber in UP and West Bengal while locals blamed it on black marketing of the kitchen essential

Moreover, the markets remainprice hike by ₹4 per kg, he added. ing closed for three days in UP for The high price of the kitchen Eid celebrations resulted in the 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 wholesalers 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.

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

be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Sd./- Superintending Enginee

OIPR-34088/11/0007/2223 BBSR (R&B) Division No.II, BBSR OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

CHHELIGADA HEAD WORKS DIVISION AT/PO: MAHENDRAGADA, VIA: CHANDRAGIRI, DIST: GAJAPATI, PIN - 761017

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 een in e-procurement portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in :- Building work, electrical installation

:- 06

Type of the work No. of works

Class of contractor

Bid Identification No

Estimated cost

Period of completion

of bid documents in the portal

Last date / time for receipt :- 20.05.2022 upto 5.00 P.M. of bids in the portal.

:- 21.05.2022 at 11.30 AM., in the

upto 5.00 PM

:- 'D', & 'C', Class with H.T.

Electrical contractor

:- e-CHWD-01/2022-23 to

e-CHWD-06/2022-23 :- Rs. 7.37 lakhs to Rs.12.94 lakhs.

:- 09.05.2022 to 20.05.2022

:- 4 (Four) to 6 (Six) calendar months

Date of opening of bid 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

Lightning claims 2 in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanagar, 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 Kamakhyanagar 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



weaning off the farmers from cultivation and forcing them to take up alternative livelihood

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.

REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

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.'



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

SRI AUROBINDO



Edoardo Campanella

Craving a return to

hardly innocuous.

historically biased

romanticised past

are the stock and

trade of jingoistic

bygone times is

Sentimental,

appeals to a

leaders

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 Brexiteers won their political battle partly by idealising Britain's imperial past. While Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a "great rejuvenation of the Chinese people," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo an pursued neo-Ottoman ambitions, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán lamented the Kingdom of Hungary's territorial losses after World War I.

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. Russian President Vladimir Putin has taken this form of politics to an extreme by justifying his war of aggression against Ukraine on the false grounds that Russia's neighbour "is an inalienable part of our own history, culture, and spiritual space."

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. The golden age was the Russian empire, of which Ukraine was a fully integrated satrapy. The rupture came when Vladimir Lenin created a federation of Soviet national republics out of the ethnic diversity of the former Russian empire. According to Putin, it follows that "modern Ukraine was entirely created by Russia or, to be more precise, by Bolshevik, Communist Russia." Finally, the current discontent is attributed to the persistence of this separation. As Putin stated in March 2014, "Kyiv is the mother of Russian other"

In many ways, nostalgic nationalism is the political malaise of our time. The Brexiteers were unwilling to accept Britain's transformation into an ordinary medium-size country after centuries of imperial glory. And the de-

nouement of American liberal hegemony has created opportunities for post-imperial powers such as China, Russia, Turkey, and even Hungary to reassert their lost status on the world stage, albeit with widely varying degrees of conviction and determination. Trump tried to contain these centrifugal forces with his "America First" agenda, and his spectre still haunts American politics.

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. Nostalgia becomes a tool for manipulating a polity's perception of the present, setting the stage for radical and often dangerous policy shifts. Reviving moments of past glory can motivate a polity to test boundaries, take risks, and defy the prevailing global order. Nostalgia and nationalism are closely linked, especially in aging societies where a larger share of the population is more inclined to idealise the past.

The Russian-American cultural theorist Svetlana Boym identifies two distinct types of nostalgia: reflective and restorative. Reflective nostalgia is generally benign. It scrutinises the past critically, recognising that while some good things have been lost, much has also been gained along the way. By contrast, restorative nostalgia – the dominant form today – seeks to rebuild what was lost.

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. The Brexiteers want to return to the Edwardian age, or at least to the 1970s, before Britain joined the European project; and Putin wants to return to the czarist era.

But the politics of nostalgia varies significantly between democratic and authoritarian settings. Unlike Putin, the Brexiteers had to persuade a majority of voters to support their cause. In democracies, mainstream parties can challenge nostalgic populist movements' effort to monopolise the country's history. They can confront restorative nostalgia with reflective nostalgia, pointing out, for example, that the British empire had plenty of blood on its hands. Instead, the Remain camp's technocratic "now and here" strategy amounted to bringing charts and graphs to a flag fight.

In authoritarian systems, where the opposition – if it exists at all – cannot respond openly to a regime's historical claims, nostalgia becomes more dangerous, especially when its emotional appeal fuels the leader's own solipsism. In these cases, one of the only solutions is international engagement with the alienated power to help it alleviate its sense of loss. Such an approach may also be necessary for a re-emerging power like China, which feels that the world is keeping it marginalised and not paying due respect to its long history.

Unlike declining powers, though, an ascendant power can draw spiritual succor from the promise of restoring a lost homeland. That is why Xi often asserts a continuity in Chinese history, linking the ancient imperial past to the People's Republic. The idea of a great rejuvenation provides a roadmap to a better future without the need for a rupture with the present.

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

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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.

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

ALAN WATT:

WORDSWORTH

■ Strickle

or 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. In the proverbial phrase the bushel is the container for measuring out the wheat, eminently suitable for a light to shyly hide under. A true bushel was level measure, not heaped. The container was filled to overflowing and a straight-edged piece of wood, the strickle, was used to push off the surplus corn that stood above its edges. The Oxford English Dictionary traces it to Old English, though then it meant a pulley or a teat. It is very probably not the same word. Wooden tools of similar kind are recorded in English dialect under names such as strike, stroke, strick and stritch. Scots have straik in senses that match, such as straik measure for level measure: this seems to be from stroke. It's more likely that strickle is from the action of striking off surplus material. However, the bushel container was also known as a strike, from the old Anglo-French term estrike, so strickle and its variations may instead be from that. The otherwise incomprehensible English pub name Bushel and Strike comes from the measuring process, though it's uncertain whether it refers to the container and its wooden tool or to two names for the container. Strickles have turned up in all manner of trades, such as a tool in thatching or for trimming flax, a pattern or template in carpentry or a straight-edge for levelling sand in moulding.

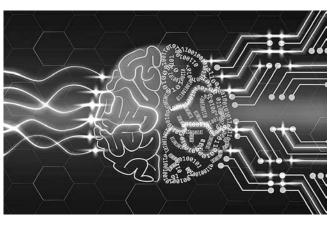


NO SHORTCUTS?

here 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. He argues that shortcuts are more common than most think in all aspects of lifebe it music, psychotherapy, or even politics.

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. While the rest of the class started adding the numbers in sequence and the teacher started preparing to take a break, young Gauss wrote down the answer in a jiffy in his slate. The teacher couldn't believe what he saw and was sure it couldn't be the correct answer - yet it was. The boy explained how he arrived at the answer. Instead of adding the numbers serially, he realised that adding the first and the last gives a total of 101, the sum of the second and the last, but one also gives 101 and so on, such that it all ends up with 50 pairs of addition each adding to 101. Hence the answer was 50 x 101 = 5050. This boy was none other than the math prodigy named Carl Friedrich Gauss, famously known as the last mathematician who knew all of the mathematics known at the time. Some consider him the greatest mathematician of all time at par with Newton and Euler. He demonstrated the power of the shortcut like no other.

Taking shortcuts in life often means choosing the easier path, preferring the less difficult option or often resorting to unscrupulous means. However, real shortcuts often involve hard work and a lot of effort that makes what is complex and difficult look easy. These two aspects of shortcuts



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, so you don't want a shortcut. The other was poiesis, which is work to attain a goal or objective. And in general, the latter is the one for which you want a shortcut but not by cutting corners in any negative sense.

Nobel Prize winner for economics and psychologist of Israeli-American origin Daniel Kahneman wrote the New York Times bestseller "Thinking, Fast and Slow" published in 2011. It talks about two modes of thinking in humans. The first is an intuitive, almost unconscious and quick mode of thinking we apply to most day-today simple situations such as distance of objects, sources of sound reading a billboard or driving on an empty road. The second is the more deliberative and conscious effort to think about less obvious tasks such as parallel parking in a tight space, finding someone in a crowd, finding all the vowels on a page, and carrying out non-trivial arithmetic operations. 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. The argument is that the second mode of thinking must be slow and deliberative as it needs to be more analytical to get the correct answers. The power of shortcuts is most valuable in such second category situations where tools like math and probability ensure that it doesn't have to be slow.

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. On the road, there comes a bifurcation, and the sage asks the young princes which road to take? One of the roads was a long route but safe from demons, whereas the other was a shorter road to the same destination but infested with demons. Rama, without even thinking, takes the shorter route. It's an example where taking the so-called shortcut is often not necessarily the easier option. It does come with its challenges but can present 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. Today, as the modern technological revolution brings amazing and rapid changes at lightning speeds, the debate rages on when humans will be left behind by machines that are far more powerful with infinitely large memory and computing capacity that no human can match. 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. These astounding advances and possibilities result from man's unrelenting quest for shortcuts. Paradoxically, it is the same human tendency to constantly look for shortcuts to ensure that machines would never be able to outsmart us. As long as we have not been able to programme the machine to be lazy like some of us are and look for shortcuts, it will not be possi-

ble for humans to be superseded.

There are no shortcuts in life to achieve anything worthwhile! Any meaningful goal would always require hard work and perseverance. It's only by understanding the true nature, meaning and purpose of shortcuts that we can advance human civilisation by pushing our boundaries of knowledge!

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

SPECTRUM GROWTH

Dhanada K Mishra

ALL PROGRESS

THROUGHOUT

HISTORY HAS

BECAUSE OF THE

HUMAN QUEST

FOR SHORTCUTS

BEEN MADE

TO REDUCE

DRUDGERY

POSSIBLE

HUMAN

Building infrastructure for recovery



Riccardo Puliti

THE DISRUPTIONS
CAUSED BY
UNRELIABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE
COST INDIVIDUALS
AND BUSINESSES
HUNDREDS OF
BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS
ANNUALLY

rivisical 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. A growing body of evidence highlights its contribution to a wide range of development indicators, including employment, productivity, income, inequality, trade, and human-capital formation.

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 where these services are available. they are frequently erratic and unaffordable. The disruptions caused by unreliable infrastructure cost individuals and businesses hundreds of billions of dollars annually, and the world's poorest and most fragile countries have the most expensive broadband, electricity, and transportation services.

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. While many developed economies have implemented stimulus packages to support economic recovery – often with infrastructure components – the world's poorest states lack

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 channeled into effective programmes. Four imperatives stand out.

For starters, meeting global cli-

mate 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, and LMICs will account for much of the projected increase in emissions in the coming years. Investments in renewable electricity, energy efficiency, charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, climate-smart urban transport systems, and emerging green hydrogen supply chains are cost-effective options that simultaneously abate CO2 emissions and create jobs. In parallel with such new investments in green infrastructure, additional capital will be needed to support the accelerated retirement of coal-fired power stations.

Second, new projects must be designed to promote economic and social resilience to extreme weather and other external shocks. 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. The following month, a volcanic eruption and tsunami disconnected Tonga's submarine internet cable.

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, but the anticipated benefits exceed the costs by a factor of four to one.

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. Digital applications that support online service delivery and remote work enabled firms and governments to continue operating.

The third imperative is to invest in sustainable infrastructure that promotes social inclusion and addresses different dimensions of inequality. Despite the surge in digital connectivity during the pandemic, as of 2021, 2.9 billion people remain offline, including more than 50% of the population in LMICs and as much as 81% in the least-developed countries. Substantial disparities between urban and rural areas, and between men and women in some parts of the world, also remain.

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 during the pandemic. Only 6% of children in Sub-Saharan Africa were reached by internet-based remote learning programmes.

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. But the economic impact of roads can be several times larger in communities where electricity also is available.

Infrastructure has much to contribute to the post-pandemic recovery as well as to longer-term green, resilient, and inclusive development, especially in LMICs, where the need for investment is especially urgent. Meeting that need will be a daunting challenge, but also one that can be turned into an opportunity for all.

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

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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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. In fact, this unusual rise in temperature has perplexed the scientists who have been observing the climate change across the world. The Central government has taken some steps to monitor the heatwave conditions and review the health emergency preparations. On the other hand, at the time of such a crisis India needs more than that. The National Meteorological and Hydrological departments are working in unison with health and disaster management agencies to implement plans for dealing with the crisis. In fact, without a comprehensive approach the crisis created by extreme rise in temperature cannot be resolved. Heatwave poses a multidimensional threat. It has impacts on health, ecosystem, agriculture, water, energy sources and different sectors. In fact, India's efforts to ease the crisis are not in proportion to the challenges posed by heatwaves. Even though information about high temperature is given by IMD every year, the government fails to devise and implement comprehensive plans. Consequently, we face the same crisis every year. It is a fact that heatwaves are related to climate change. On the other hand, climate change alone is not the cause of heatwaves. Given that 60 degree Celsius can damage infrastructure and cause serious health problems to living beings, we need to be alert. We need to change our lifestyles to suit extreme heat. Venu GS, KOLLAM

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. Becker, who won six Grand Slam singles titles and took the tennis world by storm by winning his first Wimbledon title as an unknown 17-year-old boy, gained more scurrilities for his misadventures off the tennis court. He hasn't been able to keep his head above the water, as personal and financial troubles have dogged him since he hung up his racquet. It is ironic that Becker who was once "Great Britain's favourite German," has now been condemned to the level of an "offender" and has been jailed by the same country. Becker's is a sad saga of a fallen star, who still reminds legions of fans what it means to have both talent and virtuosity.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

national



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





Today, the law 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

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



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-vear-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 Rudhauli 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.



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 rela-



tionship 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

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-

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 fiveyear-old case of holding an 'Azadi march' without permission and sentenced them to three months' im-

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate J A 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 vears if the recommendation is accepted by the Centre, they said.

Justice Dhulia, who will be the second Judge to be elevated from the Uttarakhand 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

RANAS WALK

Mumbai, May 5: Independent MP

Navneet Rana and her-MLA hus-

band Ravi Rana walked out of jail

Thursday, a day after a Mumbai_

court granted them bail, more than

a week after they were arrested in

After they were granted bail

Wednesday, the necessary docu-

ments had not timely reached the

prisons where they were lodged.

On Thursday, Navneet Rana,

the Lok Sabha memer from

Amravati in Maharashtra, came

out of the Byculla women's jail

in south Mumbai around 2 pm,

She waved at media persons and

then headed for suburban Bandra

in a police escort. Navneet Rana's

an official said.

an alleged case of sedition.

OUT OF JAIL

Will implement CAA once Covid ends: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the inauguration of Narmada, Sutlei

and Kaveri floating border posts built by the central government to protect the

inaccessible area of the Sundarbans on the Indo-Bangladesh border PTI PHOTO

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 Baneriee 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.



hospital for a check-up and doctors will decide further course of treatment, the lawyer said. Later, the parliamentarian's husband Ravi Rana, the MLA from Badnera in Amravati, was also released from the Taloja jail in neighbouring Navi Mumbai around 4 pm.

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

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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

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.





TWO STATES





J&K gets redrawn constituencies Kishor to go on 'padyatra',

DELIMITATION COMMISSION SIGNS FINAL ORDER FOR REDRAWING ASSEMBLY SEATS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY, A DAY BEFORE ITS TERM ENDS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 5: The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir Thursday finalised the delimitation order and submitted it to the Election Commission of India wherein it has recommended 43 Assembly seats for Jammu division and 47 seats to the Kashmir region.

For the first time, nine Assembly Constituencies (ACs) have been reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. out of which, six are in Jammu region and three in Kashmir. The constitution of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state had no provision for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly

As per the final Delimitation Order, out of the 90 Assembly Constituencies in the region, 43 will be part of Jammu region and 47 for Kashmir region keeping in view the provisions of Section 9(1)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 60(2)(b) of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. the Delimitation order said.

The six new Assembly constituencies in the Jammu region are expected to be carved out from Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Kathua, and Samba districts.

The one new seat for the Kashmir Valley would reportedly be carved out from the Kupwara district.

As of now there are 46 seats in Kashmir region and 37 seats are in Jammu division.

There are five Parliamentary Constituencies in the region. The Delimitation Commission has seen the Jammu & Kashmir region as one single union territory. Therefore, one of the Parliamentary Constituencies has been carved out combining the



The commission has proposed increasing the number of seats in the UT from 83 to 90. Besides, there are 24 seats in PoK that continue to remain vacant. As of now, the

For the first time, nine seats have been proposed for **Scheduled Tribes** out of which, six are in Jammu region and three in Kashmir

Kishtwar, Kathua, and Samba districts while one new seat for the Valley would reportedly be carved out from with regard to the relevant provisions of the Constitution (Article 330 and Article 332) and sub-sections (6) and (7) of Section 14 of the

Jammu

The six new Assembly Constituencies in

and

Reorganisation Act 2019, the num-

ber of seats to be reserved for the

Scheduled Castes (SCs) and

Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the

Legislative Assembly of the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

was worked out on the basis of

2011 Census. Accordingly, the

Delimitation Commission has re-

served nine ACs for STs for the

names of a few Assembly

Constituencies after hearing from

the people and representatives of

EARLIER IN THE DAY,

TROOPS HAD FOILED

THE BSF SAID ITS

DESIGNS OF

PAK-BASED

TERRORISTS TO

DISRUPT THE

AFTER FINDING

THE TUNNEL

UPCOMING

The Commission has changed the

first time and seven for SCs.

the Jammu region are expect-

ed to be carved out from

Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur,

Kupwara district

Kashmir

Anantnag region in the Valley and Rajouri and Poonch of Jammu region. By this reorganisation each Parliamentary Constituency will have an equal number of 18 Assembly Constituencies each, the order further said. The Commission headed by

retired SC Judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, and Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, and Election Commissioner of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir KK Sharma as Ex-Officio members of the Delimitation Commission met Thursday to finalise the Delimitation Order for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Commission also said that

the political parties. These name changes included naming Tangmarg-AC as Gulmarg-AC, Zoonimar-AC as Zaidibal-AC Sonwar-AC as Lal Chowk-AC Padder-AC as Padder-Nagseni-AC Kathua North-AC as Jasrota-AC Kathua South-AC as Kathua-AC, Khour-AC as Chhamb-AC, Mahore-AC as Gulabhgarh-AC, Darhal-AC as Budhal-AC, etc. In addition to these, there were

many representations pertaining to shifting of Tehsils from one AC to another and some of them which Commission found logical were accepted. Additionally, there were some requests for minor changes in the territorial jurisdiction of proposed ACs, which were thoroughly analysed in the Commission and a few of them, which were logical, have been incorporated in the final Order.

The Delimitation Commission was constituted by the Centre March 6, 2020 in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002), for the purpose of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Commission associated in its work, five members of the Lok Sahha elected from the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. These Associate Members were nominated by the Lok Sabha Speaker.

The Delimitation Commission was entrusted with the work of delimiting the Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of 2011 Census and in accordance with the provisions of Part-V of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (34 of 2019) and the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002(33 of 2002).

won't float party for now

Prashant Kishor held out the possibility of his project 'Jan Suraaj', a platform aimed at transforming his home state Bihar, metamorphosing into a political party at a later stage INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 5: Prominent political strategist Prashant Kishor Thursday finally revealed his plan -- a year to connect with the common people in Bihar before deciding to take any big political step.

Kishor, while interacting with the mediapersons here, said that he will start 'padyatra' from Gandhi Ashram in West Champaran from October 2 this year and cover 3,000 km across Bihar to communicate his ideology with the people of the state and take their feedback.

"The idea is to connect with the people of Bihar and understand what they are thinking about the current government and the governments in the past. In the last 30 years, two political parties with different ideologies and policies have ruled the states. Lalu Prasad led the RJD-rule for 15 years while the JD(U)-BJP combine government is ruling at the moment for the last 15 odd years. What kind of change the people of Bihar are expecting... I believe, by and large they failed to deliver good governance," Kishor said.

As per the plan, he wants to communicate with 17,000 - 18,000, who are socially active and intellectuals in the state as their feedback was important for him. The idea is to include them or take support of these



people for the movement in the next three to four months and then

he will start 'padyatra' in Bihar. Reacting on Lalu Prasad, Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav's comments, he said, "They are big leaders of the country. Hence, it is not necessary for them to take notice of a small person like me. Even those who are commenting on me

after my tweet, they are wasting

their own time. I am a very small

person from the state," Kishor said. "Leaders like Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar emerged from the JP movement, but we have to think about whether the goal of that movement was achieved or not. In my opinion, it was not achieved, hence, we have to deeply analyse with my team for more than 1 year before deciding to go to the people of Bihar," Kishor added.

Earlier in the day, the BSF said

its troops had foiled designs of

Pakistan-based terrorists to dis-

rupt the upcoming Amarnath Yatra

BSF spokesman, Deputy

Inspector General of Police (DIG)

SPS Sandhu said in a statement,

"Denting the nefarious designs of

Pakistan, the BSF Jammu detected

a cross border tunnel May 4, 2022

in the area of BOP Chak Faquira

This is the fifth tunnel detected

in less than one and half year,

said the BSF. Sandhu said, "This

tunnel detection was the result

of rigorous and consistent efforts

of BSF troops during a fortnight

long anti-tunnelling exercise car-

ried out in this area. This tunnel

is freshly dug out and is suspected

to be about 150 metres long orig-

'With the detection of this tunnel,

BSF Jammu has foiled the nefar-

ious designs of Pakistan-based

terrorists to disrupt upcoming

tunnel size, the DIG said, "The

tunnel opening is about 2 feet and

added that the efforts of the BSF

will continue further to detect any

While giving details about the

Amarnath Ji Yatra.

inating from the Pakistan side.

after finding the tunnel.

opposite samba area.'

"After that JP movement, there

has been no such movement in Bihar. I am not saying that our initiative would turn out to be similar to that of the JP movement, but I must say that one movement is required here in Bihar. Who has done 3,000 km 'padyatra' earlier? If we want to change in Bihar, we have to change the thinking of the people at the mass level," he said.

"In the last 10 years, I was involved in making strategies for different political parties. Now, I want to start a political journey from zero in Bihar. I will go before the people of Bihar and if results are positive then we will decide for the next move of - whether I would form a political party or not. At present, we are not going to form any political party," he stated.

Reacting on his relationship with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Kishor said, "My relationship with Nitish Kumar is like father and a son, but that doesn't mean son would not choose another path. I have chosen the path of struggle. Whenever I meet with Nitish Kumar. I meet him like he is my father and he has also given respect

to me like a son.'

Moderate intensity earthquake jolts J&K

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, May 5: A moderate intensity earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter scale jolted Jammu and Kashmir Thursday; although no report of any casualty or damage to property has been received from anywhere so far.



Officials of the disaster management authority said an earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter scale occurred in J&K at 5.35 am Thursday The epicentre of the earthquake was in Gorno-Badakhshan area of Tajikistan. Its coordinates are latitude 37.49 degrees north and

longitude 71.85 degrees east. "It occurred 108 km inside the earth's crust." an official of the disaster management authority said. There was no immediate report of any casualty or damage to property so far although the tremors were felt in Srinagar city and some other parts of the Valley.Kashmir is situated in a seismologically sensitive region and temblors have wrought havoc here in the past. Over 80,000 people were killed on two sides of the line of control (LoC) by an earthguake that occurred October 8, 2005. The earthquake measured 7.6 on

Bihar emerging as most favoured destination for investment: Shahnawaz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Bihar is emerg ing as the country's most favoured destination for industrialists with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as its brand ambassador, BJP leader and state Industries Minister Shahnawaz Hussain said Thursday while announcing an international investors' summit of Bihar May 12.

Hussain said big firms such as Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Adani Group and the Dubai-based Lulu Group will participate in the investors meet which will be organised in the national capital.

"Bihar has huge investment potential and is now emerging as the most favoured destination for investors, particularly in the sectors of textile, food processing and leather, as it comes under the SAARC corridor," he said.

Praising JD(U) supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Hussain said he has done a lot for

First ever J&K Nat'l Film

Festival from June 15-20

the state in terms of infrastructure development.

"Nitish Kumar has laid the runway for development of Bihar. Now under his leadership, the state will take off for a new era of development," Hussain told a press conference at the Bihar Bhawan here. On a question on the state's

brand ambassador, he said, "Nitish Kumar ji is Bihar's brand ambassador and under his leadership, the state is emerging as the country's most favoured destination for industrialists."

He said special emphasis is being laid on changing the perception and image of Bihar. Under the BJP-JD(U) alliance government, the state has been transformed, the law and order is being maintained and there is a very conducive atmosphere for investment.

Discussing the industry prospects in the state, Hussain said Bihar is moving towards becoming the country's ethanol hub.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 5: The BSF will lodge a strong protest with its Pakistani counterpart after a tunnel was detected at the International Border in the Samba sector of Jammu, the 11th since 2012.

The tunnel was detected Wednesday. Inspector General Border Security Force (BSF) Jammu DK Boora said in a press conference here Thursday that the detection of the tunnel was a big success and goes on to prove the alertness of the troops.

'We will lodge a strong protest with Pakistan on the issue," he said. He said 11 tunnels have been detected by the BSF at the International

border in Jammu since 2012. He said it was a speculation that this tunnel was used by the ter-



11 tunnels found by BSF at IB since 2012

BSF personnel stand near a suspected underground tunnel which was detected near the Indo-Pak IB in the Samba district of J&K, Thursday рті рното

rorists to infiltrate into India for carrying out the attack in Sunjwan ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu in April. "An attempt is being made to

link this tunnel to the Sunjwan attack, but that is just a speculation, and there is no evidence vet." he said. He said there were no markings on the sand banks found on the

so far 21 sand bags have been recovered which were used to strengthen the exit of tunnel. Detailed search of the tunnel will be carried out during the day." He

further possible tunnels. the Richter scale. ASI for inclusion of trade route in UNESCO Heritage Sites

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 5: The Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council in collaboration with National Film Development Corporation and the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is organising the first-ever National Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir from June 15-20, officials said.

The film festival, which will be a congregation of the best of films and music, film-makers, music artists, other allied talent, will serve as a reservoir of creativity and inspiration for anyone across the world who aspires to live, love and breathe films and music.

The idea behind this film festival is to highlight the film, music and creative ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, along with its natural and social-cultural beauty that Jammu and Kashmir has been blessed with, to rest of India and the world.

The Indian filmmakers and music producers, artists have been



invited to submit their original films -- fiction, documentary, OTT Films or shorts and Music Videos for the first National Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir for a chance to win numerous awards under three broad categories including Feature Films, Non-Feature Films and Music Videos.

There are over 40+ awards to be given during the Film Festival Award ceremony and the winners will receive mentioned cash component as well a certificate and a

medal or trophy. The list of awards and prizes, rules and terms have been mentioned in the official website. The last date for receiving entries on the website is May 16, 2022.

THE TRADE ROUTE **CONNECTED THE ANCIENT CITY OF** PATLIPUTRA (MODERN PATNA), THE CAPITAL **OF THE MAURYAN AND** THE GUPTA EMPIRES, WITH THE SOUTHERN **REGION OF NEPAL**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 5: The Archaeological Survey of India has decided to propose an ancient trade route of the Mauryan and the Gupta periods along the north Gangetic region of Bihar for inclusion in the tentative list of the UNESCO

World Heritage Sites, an official said Thursday.

The Patna circle of ASI is preparing a dossier to place the proposal to authorities concerned, she said.

The ancient trade route includes several archaeological sites across four districts of the state - the Buddha Relic Stupa in Vaishali, Ashokan Pillar at Kolhua in Muzaffarpur, Kesaria Buddha Stupa and four Ashokan Pillars at Areraz in East Champaran, Rampurva and Nandangarh in West Champaran.

The trade route connected the ancient city of Patliputra (modern Patna), the capital of the Mauryan and the Gupta empires, with the southern region of Nepal. "We have decided to send a detailed proposal for the inclusion of the trade corridor in the tentative list of the UNESCO World Heritage



Sites," ASI (Patna circle) Superintending Archaeologist Goutami Bhattacharya told PTI.

Cities located along the ancient trade route in Bihar can be developed as tourist destinations once the corridor is included in the tentative list, she said. "We have already started preparing a dossier for its inclusion in the list. The proposal will be sent to the ASI headquarters in New Delhi and then it will be for-

warded to UNESCO," she said. Under the Mauryan dynasty, international trade was given much importance, while many Buddhist

temples, stupas and pillars were built in Vaishali, Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts during Ashoka's reign, Bhattacharya said.

Commenting on the ASI's initiative, state's Art, Culture and Youth Department Additional Secretary cum Director Deepak Anand said the government will provide all possible support to the survevor.

"It's a great initiative by the ASI and we will provide all possible support for developing the ancient trade route as a tourist destination in the state. We are quite hopeful that this proposal will be accepted by UNESCO and the corridor will get the tag of a world heritage site," the official told PTI.

A historical site has to be first included in the tentative list to be apart of the UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, Bhattacharya said.

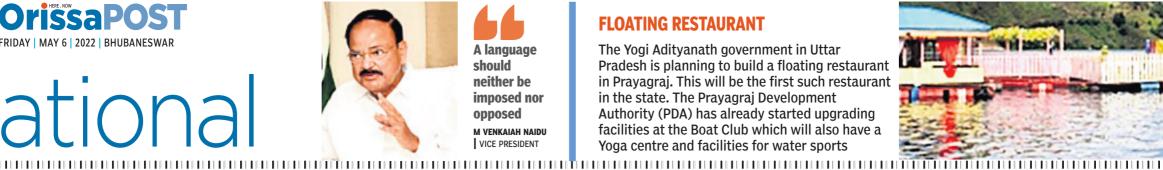
national



A language should neither be imposed nor opposed M VENKAIAH NAIDU

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





Thank you Hon'ble Thiru Nagyi 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 do riots. Such a situation is very bad for the country

LALU PRASAD | RJD 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-, 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 Dhami for Champawat by-poll

New Delhi: After announcing Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami'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 Dhami as its candidate for the Champawat by-poll Thursday.

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

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 vet 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.

Almost three times as many people have died as a result of Covid-19 as the official data show, according to the report, the most comprehensive look at the true global toll of the pandemic so far.

There were 14.9 million excess deaths associated with Covid-19 by the end of 2021, the UN body said Thursday. The official count of deaths directly attributable to Covid-19 and reported to WHO in that period, from January 2020 to the end of December 2021, is slightly more than 5.4 million.

The WHO's excess mortality figures reflect people who died of Covid-19 as well as those who died as an indirect result of the outbreak, including people who could not access healthcare for other conditions when systems were

CCORDING 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**

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

NDIA 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.



POLLUTION WOES



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

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 Harvana's Karnal Thursday and arms, ammunition and IEDs were recovered from the vehicle they were travelling in, senior police officials 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 Punjak - were nabbed near Bastara toll plaza, Karnal Range Inspector General of Police, Satender Kumar Gupta, said.

"Three containers each weigh-



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

ing 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 Amandeep Singh from Ferozepur were headed to Adilabad in Telangana to deliver a consignment of explosives.

They will be produced before 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, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said investigations in the case were underway and police were conducting an in depth probe.

Harvana's Home Minister Anil Vij told reporters that "four terrorists were going in the Innova vehicle. We arrested them on the basis of inputs and arms and ammunition has been recovered. Further probe is on".

Harvana Police has constituted a Special Investigation Team to conduct further probe. A case under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and under the provisions of the Arms Act and the Explosive Substance Act has been registered.

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.

Wednesday. On 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 counterterrorism 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 cooperation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner," said a joint press statement. It said both sides condemned the use of terrorist proxies forcross-border terrorism, seen as a reference to Pakistan.

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 can-



celled 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

Fenil Goyani sentenced to death

Grishma murder case: Stalker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surat, May 5: A court in Surat Thursday sentenced stalker Fenil Goyani to death for killing 21-yearold 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



of evidence to strengthen the case. Many onlookers had captured the entire incident on their smartphones. The video clips and the eyewitness accounts of 25 people proved as crucial pieces of evidence for the prosecution. He was upset after she refused to be in a relationship with him. He had also stabbed Vekariya's brother and uncle.

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).

However, the RGI's report 'Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System' for 2020 did not give the number of people

who succumbed to Covid-19. According to the Union Health Ministry data, in 2020, when Covid-

The proportion of people dving 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 med-



ical 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

the total registered deaths have occurred in institutions and is on a higher side than that of other places from where the deceased had received medical attention.

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

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.

international

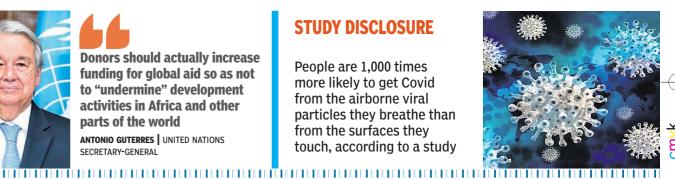


Donors should actually increase funding for global aid so as not to "undermine" development activities in Africa and other parts of the world

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UNITED NATIONS

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





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



trillion to global GDP. The precipitous drop during the pandemic 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 copilot 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.

Mariupol plant battle rages

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

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.



'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.

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 railroad stations and other supplyline 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 Kviv: in Cherkasy and Dnipro in central Ukraine; and in Zaporizhzhia in the southeast. In Dnipro, authorities said a rail facility was hit — fol-

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

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY I

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 MORAWIECK I POLAND'S PRIME MINISTER

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.

Modi, Macron discuss bilateral, global issues



Modi and Macron held discussions on the entire range of bilateral issues, including cooperation in

defence, space, blue economy, civil nuclear and people-to-people ties, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, May 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron held extensive discussions on a range of bilateral and pressing global issues, including the raging conflict in Ukraine, the situation in the Indo-Pacific and terrorism, as the two top leaders agreed on a blueprint to work together in making the India-France strategic partnership a force for global good.

Modi, who arrived here on a brief working visit from Denmark on the final leg of his three-nation European tour, held one-on-one and delegation-level talks with Macron at the Elysee Palace on Wednesday night in their first meeting after the French leader was recently re-elected in the presidential election.

Modi and Macron held discussions on the entire range of bilat-

eral issues, including cooperation in defence, space, blue economy, civil nuclear and people-to-people ties, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press re-

"Delighted, as always, to meet friend President @EmmanuelMacron. We talked at length about bilateral as well as global issues. India and France are proud developmental partners with our partnership spread across different sectors," Modi tweeted in English and French languages along with a photograph of him and Macron hugging each other.

The two leaders also took stock of the regional and global security outlook and discussed ways to work together in making the India-France Strategic Partnership a force for global good.

The Prime Minister's visit to France displayed the strong friendship and goodwill not only between the two countries but also between the two leaders, the release said.

Tweeting a photograph of his meeting with Modi, Macron said, "Tonight, with @NarendraModi, we discussed the different ongoing international crises as well as our strategic partnership. We also talked about food security issues and the FARM initiative, in which India will play a key role.'

Prime Minister Modi invited President Macron to visit India at the earliest opportunity, the MEA

SCANDALS OVERSHADOW VOTE

Boris faces litmus test



REUTERS

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

without doubt the biggest test of general election and come after what has been a very difficult time for him and his government

TONY TRAVERS I 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 southeast 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.



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

Flights suspended, Iraqis struggle to breathe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad, May 5: Hundreds of Iragis 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 official 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 recordlow rainfall, desertification and climate change.

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.

Lankan tea pickers' dreams shattered by economic crisis

REUTERS

Bogawantalawa, Sri Lanka, May 5: On a lush plantation in Sri Lanka, Arulappan Ideijody 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.

"It is not close to enough money," Arulappan, 42, said of their earnings, which must support the couple's three children and her elderly mother-in-law. "Where we used 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 predomi-

nantly from the island's Tamil mi-

nority, 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

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 a 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 cuttingoff the tourism sector, a key earner of foreign exchange.

business



Technology is the way to move forward and **Industry 4.0 aims to** increase productivity, efficiency and address sustainability and climate change issues ANUPRIYA PATEL | UNION MINISTER

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. The company has also signed pacts with leading e-commerce players such as Amazon, BigBasket, City Link, DOT, Flipkart, LetsTransport, MoEVing and Yelo EV, to supply the Ace EV and it has already received orders for 39,000 units





potential to gaming hub of the world. It is imperative to create requisite

making world-class games to help achieve the country's vision to make the Indian digital gaming sector a

SAI SRINIVAS | CEO & CO-FOUNDER, MPL

Paytm is committed to safe and secure online payments, and in that direction. **RBI's tokenisation** effort is a key



VIJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA FOUNDER & CEO, PAYTM

We are convinced that globally proven solutions like New Skies and SkyLedger enabled strategy and

will power our techhelp us run reliable operations and

offer affordable travel options to our

ANAND SRINIVASAN CO-FOUNDER & CIO, AKASA AIR

SHORT **TAKES**

ArcelorMittal Q1 net jumps over 80%

New Delhi: Global steel giant ArcelorMittal Thursday posted 80.52 per cent growth in net income at \$4,125 million (about ₹31,350 crore) for the first quarter ended March 31, 2022. It had posted a net income of \$2,285 million for the year-ago quarter, the company said in a statement. "ArcelorMittal recorded net income for 1Q 2022 of \$4,125 million as compared to a net income of \$2,285 million for 1Q 2021," the Luxembourg-based firm said.

Adani Power profit rises in March atr

New Delhi: Adani Power's consolidated net profit jumped to ₹ 4,645.47 crore in the March year-ago period, mainly on the back of higher revenues. Total income of the company rose to ₹13,307.92 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2022 from ₹6,902.01 crore in the same period a year ago, it said in a statement Thursday. The consolidated net profit for 2021-22 climbed to ₹4,911.58 crore from ₹1,269.98 crore in 2020-21.

Delhivery sets IPO price band

New Delhi: Supply chain company Delhivery Thursday fixed a price band of ₹462-487 a share for its ₹5,235-crore initial public offering (IPO). which will open for subscription May 11. The three-day initial share will conclude May 13 and the bidding for anchor investors will open May 10. The size of the IPO has been cut to ₹5,235 crore from ₹7,460 crore planner earlier. The public issue now comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth ₹4,000 crore.

Odisha yet to float bid for coal import

New Delhi: The power ministry

Thursdaysaid Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand have not yet issued tender or taken any significant actions to import coal to ensure the fuel supply to their power plants. In a statement, the ministry advised states to import coal for blending purposes so that traditional coal reaches power plants this month only. 'The states were advised to place orders for importing of coal for blending purpose so that the additional coal reaches power plants from the month of May 2022 itself,"

the ministry said.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

However, the Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB) and Non-Institutional Investor (NII) portions have received a tepid response so far. Non-institutional investors segment was subscribed 47 per cent, while QIBs' portion was slightly lower at 40 per cent.

Retail individual investors picked up nearly 93 per cent of the 6.9 crore shares set aside for this segment. Of the total, the policyholders' portion was subscribed a little over three times, while that for employees was subscribed 2.21 times.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has fixed the price band at ₹902-949 per equity share for the issue. The offer includes a reservation for eligible employees and



We see the arrival of

external shareholders with

industry as a further key

the presence of foreign

stakeholders will bring

financial flexibility and

governance standards.

MOODY'S INVESTOR SERVICE

₹60 per share.

particular benefits in the

areas of capital adequacy,

enhancing LIC's credit profile

policyholders. The retail investors

and eligible employees will get a dis-

count of ₹45 per equity share, while

policyholders will get a discount of

will close May 9. The government

aims to generate about ₹21,000 crore

by diluting its 3.5 per cent stake in

LIC reduced its IPO size to 3.5

per cent from 5 per cent decided

earlier due to the prevailing choppy

the insurance behemoth.

The initial public offering (IPO)

experience of the insurance

benefit of the IPO. We believe

investors made bids for 16,68,60,765 equity shares compared to the 16,20,78,067 equity shares offered for the subscription

According to data from BSE.

- Among the categories, employees and policyholders quotas were fully subscribed, with the given portions getting oversubscribed 3.02 times and 2.21 times, respectively
- The portion for retail bidders fetched 93 per cent bids, followed by non-institutional bidders, whose portion was subscribed 47 per cent. The allocation for QIBs received 40 per cent bids

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. The issue period also includes bidding Saturday, May 7. 2022 and Sunday, May 8, 2022, LIC informed exchanges. The government in order to facilitate bidding for LIC IPO, has requested that all bank branches designated to process ASBA (Application Supported by Blocked Amount) applications may be kept open for public May 8, 2022 (Sunday), RBI had said in a statement, Generally, ASBA is the mechanism through which investors apply for shares in a public issue.

market conditions. Even after the reduced size of about ₹20.557 crore. LIC IPO is going to be the biggest initial public offering ever in the country.

So far, the amount mobilised from the IPO of Paytm in 2021 was the largest ever at ₹18.300 crore. followed by Coal India (2010) at nearly ₹15,500 crore and Reliance Power (2008) at ₹11,700 crore.

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

Its product portfolio comprises 32 individual plans (16 participating and 16 non-participating) and seven individual optional rider benefits. The insurer's group product portfolio comprises 11 group products

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

DESPITE INFLATION WOES

Services growth touch 5-month high in April



NINTH STRAIGHT MONTH, THE **SERVICES SECTOR SAW AN EXPANSION** IN OUTPUT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Services sector activities improved further and touched a five-month high in April driven by a surge in incoming new work orders that boosted business activity and supported a renewed increase in employment, according to a survey.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index jumped to 57.9 in April, from 53.6 in March, highlighting a sharp rate of expansion that was the fastest since last November amid mounting price pressures

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"In isolation, the PMI data for the services sector were mostly encouraging, as surging demand underpinned quicker increases in new business inflows and output," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global.

The Indian services sector growth continued to gain momentum amid a near-record upturn in input costs.

Selling prices rose at the fastest rate since July 2017 and inflation concerns continued to dampen business confidence, the survey noted.

"Service providers reported hav

ing paid more for food, fuel and materials, with some mentions of higher wage costs also pushing up overall expenses. The overall rate of inflation quickened to the second-highest in the survey history, leading companies to hike their selling prices to the greatest extent in close to five years," Lima added. Survey members continued to suggest that the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions led to greater consumer footfall and a general improvement in demand.

Inflation concerns restricted business confidence in April. Although still positive overall, the level of sentiment slipped from March and was much lower than its long-run average.

On the employment front, companies resumed their hiring efforts in April, as seen by the first increase in employment since last November Those firms that took on extra staff linked the rise to ongoing growth of new business, the survey said.

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 reporate









सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

Likewise, two other public sector banks -- Bank of India (BoI) and Central Bank of India -- have also raised the repolinked lending rate.

In an out of turn Monetary Committee Meeting (MPC), the Reserve Bank Wednesday announced to hike the benchmark reporate -- the short term lending rate it charges to banks -- by 0.40 per cent to 4.40 per cent with immediate effect, aimed at taming the rising inflation caused by the global geopolitical situation.

RBI policy repo rate effective May 4, 2022, is 4.40 per cent, ICICI Bank said. "ICICI Bank External Benchmark Lending Rate (I-EBLR) is referenced to RBI policy repo rate with a mark-up over reporate. I-EBLR is 8.10 per cent P.A.P.M. Effective May 4, 2022," the bank said. The EBLR moves up or down in accordance with the movement in the reportate.

State-owned Bank of Baroda also revised the external benchmark linked lending rate, with effect from May 5, 2022. "For retail loans applicable BRLLR is 6.90 per cent with effect from May 5, 2022 (current RBI repo rate: 4.40 per cent plus mark up of 2.50 per cent),"

Bank of Baroda said.

BoB had introduced Baroda Repo Linked Lending Rate (BRLLR) in respect of all retail lending products from October 2019. Bank of India said the RBLR (Repo Based Lending Rate), with effect from May 5, 2022, is 7.25 per cent as per the revised reporate (4.40 per cent).

The state-owned Central Bank of India has also revised the RBLR by 0.40 per cent, with effect from May 6. The revised RBLR of Central Bank of India will be 7.25 per cent plus the credit risk premium (CRP), from the existing rate of 6.85 per cent plus CRP, the lender said.

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) charges the EBLR at 6.65 per cent plus the credit risk premium, with effect from April 1, 2022. EBLR is a sum of external bench-

mark rate (EBR) and credit risk premium (CRP). Last month, SBI hiked the marginal cost-based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all tenures With the revision, SBI's bench-

mark one-year MCLR -- against which most of the consumer loans are priced -- increased to 7.10 per cent per annum. In September 2019, the Reserve

Bank had advised all banks to mandatorily link the interest rate to an external benchmark (which is the reporate) for all new floating rate personal or retail loans as well as for floating-rate loans to MSMEs, with effect from October 1, 2019.

Auto retail sales up 37% in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

Total sales across categories rose to 16.27.975 units in April, as compared to 11,87,771 units in the year-ago period. On a year-on-year basis, all vehicle categories including passenger vehicles and two-wheelers were up as compared with April last year. Passenger vehicles registrations stood at 2.64.342 units last month, up 25 per cent from 2,10,682 units in April last year. Similarly, two-wheeler sales were at 11,94,520 units, up 38 per cent from the year-ago period.

Commercial vehicle retails stood at 78,398 units in April, up 52 per cent from 51,515 units in April 2021. Three-wheeler sales were up 96



per cent, while tractor registrations were up 26 per cent as compared with April last year.

'While YoY comparison with April 2021 shows all categories in green with high growth rate, it is important to note that both April 2021 and April 2020 were affected by nation-wide lockdown due to phase one and two of the Covid wave, which witnessed no-to-negligible business," Federation of Automobile

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 reporate by 45 basis points will make vehicle loans expensive

Dealers Association (FADA)

On business outlook, Gulati said the Russia-Ukraine conflict and China lockdown will continue to create demand-supply mis-match thus delaying the availability of passenger vehicles.

High interest rates on vehicle loans will be an additional blow for the auto segment and would certainly slow down sales and dampen the sentiments further, Gulati said.

Wall St tumbles, Nasdag drops 5%

REUTERS

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

The Nasdaq dropped 5% and the S&P 500 looked set to erase all of its gains from the previous session after Google-parent Alphabet Inc, Apple Inc, Microsoft Corp , Meta Platforms, Tesla Inc and Amazon.com fell between 4.8% and 7.3%

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 1,056.76 points, or 3.10%, at 33,004.30, the S&P 500 was down 157.38 points, or 3.66%, at 4,142.79, and the Nasdaq Composite was down 634.50 points, or 4.89%, at 12,330.35.

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 and Utkal University (UU) here at Krishi Bhawan, Thursday. The MoU was signed in the presence of Arun Kumar Sahoo, Minister of Higher Education. The event was chaired by Sabita Acharya, Vice Chancellor of Utkal University and Deepak Kumar Singh, Zonal Head, HDFC Bank, Odisha among other senior officials from state government. Speaking at the event, Sahoo highlighted the initiatives of HDFC as a pioneer in supporting educational institutions through its CSR programme. He also appreciated the work done by Utkal University in setting up Centre for Innovation and Incubation for promoting startups and creating an entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem for students. Meanwhile



Acharya expressed that Utkal University is poised to act as the catalyst for student entrepreneurs in creating innovative ideas and carrying them forward. She spoke about the strengths and heritage of the University which can be leveraged to establish a collaborative path for nurturing young minds of the state.

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

New Delhi, May 5: Homegrown FMCG major Dabur India Thursday reported a 21.98 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹294.34 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022, on account of inflationary headwinds and impairment of goodwill in its international business.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

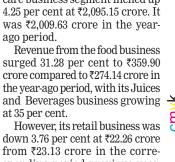
In terms of turnover, Dabur has now become a ₹10,000 crore company, a milestone that very few homegrown FMCG firms have achieved. Its revenue from operation in FY22 touched ₹10,888.68

The company had in the corresponposted a net profit of ding quarter of the previous ₹377.29 crore in the ₹377.49 CL January-March quarter a year ago, 🥌 India's Dabur India 🔵 said in a BSE filing. Its revpenses inenue from opercreased by ations rose 7.74 per cent to ₹2,517.81 8.7 per cent to ₹2,141.04 crore from ₹1,969.54 crore in Q4 crore during the quarter FY2020-21. During the under requarter, Dabur's revenue from view. against

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 IOHIT MALHOTRA | CEO, DABUR INDIA

> care business segment inched up 4.25 per cent at ₹2,095.15 crore. It was ₹2,009.63 crore in the yearago period. Revenue from the food business surged 31.28 per cent to ₹359.90 crore compared to ₹274.14 crore in the year-ago period, with its Juices

at 35 per cent. However, its retail business was down 3.76 per cent at ₹22.26 crore from ₹23.13 crore in the corresponding period previous year. Revenue from other segments rose-28.01 per cent to ₹30.66 crore against



taincy and dropped from the

Sunrisers playing eleven under con-

troversial circumstances last season.

Sunrisers made a disastrous start

as they were three down for a mere

37 runs at the end of seventh over

as Abhishek Sharma (7) and Rahul

Tripathi (22) as well as captain

Kane Williamson (4) got out early.

spite some heroic efforts by Aiden

Markram (42, 25b, 4x4, 3x6) and

Nicholas Pooran (62, 34b, 2x4, 6x6).

Markram and Pooran stitched 60

runs from 5.5 overs to keep the

Sunrisers in the hunt. After

Markram was out in the 13th over.

Pooran continued his onslaught

but the asking rate kept on rising.

final five overs but once Pooran, who

was dropped twice, was out in the

18th over, the match was as good as

Earlier, Warner and Powell

scored 70 runs from the final five

overs, going hammer and tongs

against a hapless SRH attack.

The Sunrisers needed 74 from the

They fell short in the end de-

Chasing a stiff target of 208, the



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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-

Sports Odisha

suffer 0-4 loss

versus Sethu FC

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Sethu FC

earned their sixth consecutive vic-

tory in the Indian Women's League

(IWL) after beating Sports Odisha

4-0 at the Capital Stadium here

A brace from Durga ensured

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

full points for the Chennai-based

side as they maintain the top po-

sition in the league table.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thursday.

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 Umran 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 Pooran 62, Aiden Markram 42; Khaleel Ahmed 3/30, Shardul Thakur 2/44) by 21 runs.

Warner, Powell lift DC DÉJÀ VU IN MADRID



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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 guest 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. Rivad 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 minbefore utes 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

of the goal line while tumbling backward to keep an attempt by Jack Grealish from going in. Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois moments later saved a Grealish shot with the bottom of his cleat.

Madrid carried all the momentum into extra time and Benzema gave the hosts the 3-1 lead by converting a 95th-minute penalty

kick after he was fouled inside the area. It was the 15th

emirates

FLYBETTER

Champions League

Benzema, the com-

goal this season for

petition's leading scorer.

It was his 10th goal in

the knockout

stage alone,

Cristiano

tving

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

Ronaldo's record in a single season.

than last week's back-and-forth

first leg in Manchester, but City

eventually opened the scoring when

Wednesday's game started tighter

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

aligned with Barcelona, had a more begrudgingly

'Groundhog day', citing Real Madrid's

kable ability to produce late goals and

RT emblazoned the word 'Incredible

on their front page. They added: 'Once

way when they were close to death.

again, Madrid came back in a surprisi

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.

SPANISH PRESS HAILS LOS BLANCOS

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

mistake while finding the back of the net **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

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





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 replace-



ment 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, Alzzari Joseph and Rashid. Guiarat have one of the most lethal attacks in this year's IPL.

TODAY'S MATCH



TELECAST Star Sports channels & Hotstar



Ntini's son under coaching in Mumbai

fifth-seeded Casper Ruud 7-6(9-7). 2-6, 6-4, while ninth-seeded Cameron Norrie defeated American John Isner 6-4, 6-7(5-7), 6-4. Daniel Evans defeated 17th-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(7-2).

In the women's draw, Jessica Pegula defeated home-crowd favorite Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-4, 6-2 to set up a semifinal against with Jil Teichmann, who beat Ukrainian Anhelina Kalinina 6-3 6-4.

Eighth-seeded Ons Jabeur made her second WTA 1000 semifinal by defeating two-time Madrid champion Simona Halep 6-3, 6-2. Jabeur will next face Ekaterina Alexandrova, who defeated American Amanda Anisimova 6-4, 6-3,



has coached the likes of India players Rohit Sharma and Shardul Thakur, is now giving cricketing lessons to former South African pacer Makhava Ntini's son. Thando.

The 21-year-old Thando, a lefthanded 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 sit



THANDO NTINI

ting 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.

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

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.

Defending champion Alexander Zverev earlier rallied past Marin Cilic 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Tsitsipas won 6-3, 6-4 against Lucas Pouille, while eighth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated Cristian Garin 6-3, 6-0.

Qualifier Dusan Lajovic upset

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159