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Held by Punjab cops, 'rescued' by Delhi cops

New Delhi/Chandigarh: Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga was arrested by Punjab Police from his home, stopped in Haryana while being taken to Punjab and brought back to the national capital by Delhi Police hours later, on a Friday of dramatic developments that drew in the police of three states and led to a BJP-AAP slugfest. The BJP accused Punjab Police of 'abducting' its leader, who has been vocal in his criticism of Arvind

Kejriwal, and accused the Delhi CM of pursuing vendetta. The AAP rejected the charge and said the Delhi BJP spokesperson was arrested for allegedly stoking communal tension in Punjab. Delhi Police registered a case of kidnapping based on a complaint by Bagga's father Preetpal Singh. AAP rules Delhi and Punjab while BJP governs Haryana. However, Delhi Police comes under Union Home Ministry and not the AAP-led Delhi government. **MORE P7**



Loudspeakers in mosques not fundamental right: HC

AGENCIES

Prayagraj, May 6: The Allahabad High Court has dismissed a petition that sought the installation of loudspeakers in mosques, saying it is "not a fundamental right."

A division bench comprising Justice Vivek Kumar Birla and Justice Vikas said: "The law says that it is not a constitutional right to use loudspeakers in mosques."

The petition, filed by Irfan, challenged the order issued by the Bisauli Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Badaun district December 3, 2021.

The SDM had earlier refused permission to install a loudspeaker at Noori Masjid in Dhoranpur village for 'azaan.' In his plea, the petitioner said that the SDM's order was 'illegal' and that it "violates the fundamental rights and legal rights."

The controversy over the use of loudspeakers at religious places sparked across several states, including Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the sound from loudspeakers at religious places should not be heard outside the premises.



An interfaith couple from India is here, sir. They are volunteering to go to any planet which has no life!

State braces for cyclone

Low pressure to intensify into cyclone by May 8 ■ System likely to reach north Andhra and Odisha coasts May 10 ■ Heavy rain likely in Ganjam, Khurda, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts

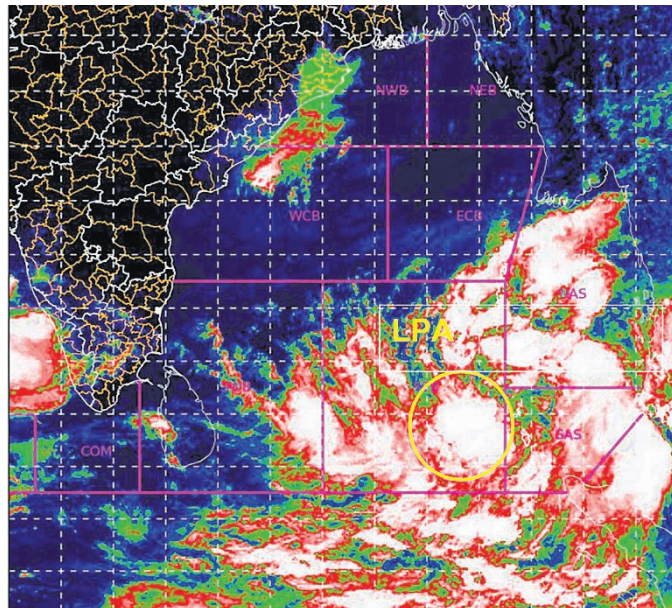
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: A low-pressure area formed over the South Andaman Sea Friday is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm May 8 and reach Andhra-Odisha shores by May 10, IMD Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

The low-pressure area is very likely to move northwards and intensify into a depression by Saturday. The system is likely to further intensify into a cyclonic storm by Sunday evening, he said.

"We have not yet made any forecast on where it will make landfall. We have also not mentioned anything on the possible wind speed during the landfall," Mohapatra said. "When the system approaches the coast, we can say where it will make landfall."

Under the impact of the weather system, light to moderate rainfall is very likely at many places over the districts of coastal Odisha and heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Ganjam, Khurda, Puri



and Jagatsinghpur, the IMD said.

The state government said disaster response and fire services teams were kept on standby following the forecast. Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said 17

teams of NDRF, 20 teams of ODRAF and 175 fire services teams have been put on high alert. There is nothing to panic about as the state government is well-prepared to face any cyclone, the SRC said.

Odisha cops arrest man from UP in fake loan app scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Odisha police has arrested the proprietor of IWT India from Ghaziabad, UP for allegedly cheating people through a fake loan mobile app, police said Friday.

The accused Mohd Javed Saifi was arrested May 4 for his role in lending money at a high interest rate and harassing the defaulters through coercive methods.

The arrest was made on the basis of complaints filed by victims and RBI relating to illegal functioning of loan apps which are not registered as non-banking financial companies under the RBI Act.

The EOW took up investigation in respect of one such loan app Koko and its sister version called Jojo. More than 1.5 lakh people, including many from Odisha, have downloaded the two fraud loan apps.

The IWT India was working as a shell company to divert the money and its proprietor Saifi used to get a small commission for it. The police found that crores of rupees had been transacted through the account of IWT India, and Saifi, the account holder, was not able to give satisfactory answers about the transactions.

EOW found that the apps offered small loan amounts ranging from ₹3,000 to ₹5,000 to its customers through their bank accounts through UPI or a link.

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Three militants killed near Amarnath route

Srinagar: Three Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, including a self-styled commander of the outfit, were killed in an encounter with security forces near the route of the annual Amarnath Yatra in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir Friday, police said. Based on specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Srichand Top forest area in Pahalgam, Anantnag, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the hiding terrorists fired at the security forces. In retaliation, three terrorists were killed, the official said.

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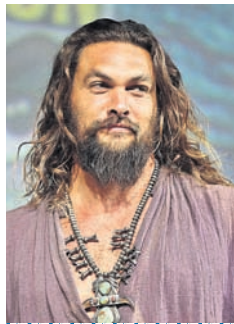
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JASON MOMOA TO STAR IN WARNER BROS' NEXT

Aquaman star Jason Momoa is set to star in the tentatively titled *The Executioner*, which will be produced by Warner Bros. The project will be produced by Kaz and Ryan Firpo, who are known for their work on Chloe Zao's *The Eternals*.

KIM CATTRALL REVEALS HER SUCCESS MANTRA

For *Sex and the City* star Kim Cattrall, saying 'no' at crucial moments of her life has bore fruits of success. The British-Canadian actress said this during her speech at *Variety's* Power of Women dinner presented by Lifetime.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

An enterprising day. The stars say you may visit an ancient place. A museum, perhaps, or a historical place. But your health may require some attention, says Ganesh. If so, it's a good idea to spend an evening by yourself.

TAURUS

Today, Ganesh sees your mind shifting from your professional affairs and drifting, time and again, towards your home and family. You are likely to return home early and get happily engrossed in discussing pressing domestic issues with your family members.

GEMINI

Your desire for a clean house will reach the level of obsession, predicts Ganesh. You may plan to wash your car, clean your yard and arrange your wardrobe. And you don't trust the housemaid with any of the chores, because no one can clean the house better than you.

CANCER

Though your thoughts and views may be quite radical, you will be largely restrained while acting on them, predicts Ganesh. You will have no problems starting a new venture or love affair, and taking the required action to keep them afloat. You'll be a Pied Piper to the women, or le belle dame sans merci (the beautiful young merciless woman) to the men.

LEO

'One small drop at a time fills an ocean over time'. Remember this lesson, says Ganesh, and continue to concentrate your efforts on your goal without losing heart. There may be times when you sit back and think twice, but know that all it takes is a small effort and that is what shall enable you to reach the zenith. Ganesh advises you to keep on trying, and success shall indeed come to you.

VIRGO

Take a break today, says Ganesh. Replace the mundane with something exotic. Attend private dos and social meets and be gregariously gregarious.

LIBRA

You will be very unpredictable today, and your mercurial tendencies will remain till the evening. After that, be prepared to get a pleasant surprise. Just bear in mind that being prepared is always a good idea, since you never know when the perfect moment arrives. But everything considered, all Ganesh has to say is, "Stop worrying and start living!"

SCORPIO

Today, the sugar and spice of work and home are delicately balanced to bring out the best in you, says Ganesh. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at your desk. In the evening, however, mental exercises will be substituted for pleasure and fun with friends and family.

SAGITTARIUS

Chances of you hitting a roadblock today are high. But remember the saying, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.' So don't succumb to pressure, advises Ganesh, but rise up to the occasion and show who's the boss.

CAPRICORN

You'll have apparently no time for anything else, as partnerships and projects will keep you on your toes. You communication skills and diplomacy will fetch you accolades in meetings, and also enable you to judge a person or a situation correctly, and form the right opinion.

AQUARIUS

Today is an auspicious day, particularly for astrologers, healers, spiritual guides and gurus, says Ganesh. One will think twice before challenging you today. Greed is not a word in your dictionary, and today, you are even more inspired to work for humanity.

PISCES

Just as melting ice caps on faraway mountains can swell the oceans, concerted efforts you make now will have far-reaching beneficial consequences, says Ganesh. Do not be disheartened in the face of obstacles and keep soldiering on.

'I'm not trying to be preachy'

Mumbai: In her forthcoming feature, *Chhatriwali*, Rakul Preet Singh plays the quality control head of a condom factory and says the film aims to destigmatise the conversation around the use of protection in a subtle, entertaining way. The film has been directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar.

"In the film, I play a small-town girl, who happens to stumble upon this job and like anybody, looks down upon it but realises that this conversation is the need of the hour. The conversation around the use of protection must destigmatise. We have ads on protection, so why not a film? That was the thought," said the *De De Pyar De* actress.

She said *Chhatriwali* tells its story in a family-friendly manner.

"I'm not preaching to anyone, it is a slice of life family film, without any scene where you might feel awkward. It is a dialogue that needs to be had and we are having it in a subtle, entertaining way. I'm not trying to teach anyone a lesson or be preachy," she added. IANS



Israeli actor Halevi open to Indian offers

New Delhi: Israeli actor Tsahi Halevi of *Fauda* webseries fame has said he would be happy if he gets an offer from the Indian film industry, as he emphasised that art and cinema can act as a bridge between two nations.

On his first visit to India on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of Israel's Independence Day, Halevi, also said, he is also involved in a first of its kind Indo-Israel co-production that is sort of on a government-to-government level.

"I am going to visit Mumbai too, and trying to meet as many people as I can from the (entertainment) industry. There is no specific opportunity as such or any offer, but maybe I might get an offer when I travel to Mumbai. Yes, I would love to, if I get an offer; the actor said, when asked if he would like to act in Hindi films

if he gets an offer," the actor said.

Halevi, 47, is also a singer, and earlier had shot to fame with his globally hit number 'Tamally Maak' that he sang in Arabic, and which also became a rage in India, and spawned an Indian version too.

India and Israel share a special relationship, and a lot more creations and collaborations can come out of it, he added. PTI



NATYADHARA COMES TO AN END



Nupur theatre troupe from Baripada staged Odia play *Shunya Ilakara Pakhi* on the sixth and concluding day of the festival at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Friday. The drama was written and directed by Kumarmani Nayak.

Odia plays enthrall audience in Qatar

Bhubaneswar: Dhenkanal-based Alternative Rhythm Theater (ART), a prominent theatre troupe of Odisha, presented two Odia plays - *Mu Chakara Kahuchhi* and *Mukti Salita* on digital screens at the Indian Cultural Center (ICC) in Doha, the capital city of Qatar, Wednesday.

The event was part of the 87th Utkal Diwas and the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* celebrations, organised by Utkalika Qatar, an association of non-resident Odias.

Indian Ambassador in Qatar, Dr Deepak Mittal inaugurated the event while several other dignitaries including Kuljit Singh Arora, Secretary, Education and Culture of the Indian Embassy, and Subramaniam

Hegelu, Vice President of the ICC graced the occasion as guests. Utkalika Qatar president Dr. Basant Kumar Kabi told the Odia immigrants about the history, culture and legacy of Odisha.

The plays were based on the sacrifices made by revolutionary Chakara Bisoi and 12-year-old martyr Baji Rout. ART founder Dinesh Das, who penned *Mukti Salita*, directed both the plays.

Nihar Ranjan Mohanty, vice-president, Utkalika Qatar, Abinash Acharya, general secretary, Bibhu Acharya, joint secretary, Ipsita Satapathy, cultural secretary and Om Prakash Parida, cultural joint secretary, were present on the occasion. PNN

Doctor Strange 2: Roller coaster ride of sorcery, witchcraft

This film, directed by Sam Raimi is the 28th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It is a mindboggling roller coaster ride of sorcery and witchcraft that barely pauses to breathe between its fantastical set-pieces and well-choreographed action sequences.

The film begins on an innocuous note with Dr. Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) having a dream where he meets America Chavez (Miss America in the comics), played with wide-eyed calmness by MCU newcomer Xochitl Gomez. Soon after, he is awake and attends the wedding of his former lover, Dr. Christine Palmer (Rachel McAdams).

The wedding celebration is interrupted when a monster destroys the city while chasing America Chavez. Dr. Strange dashes down to the streets to save her from the one-eyed octopus-like beast.

After the annihilation of the monster,



Chavez tells Strange that she is capable of travelling between multiverses and that she can't control the power- which she manifests. The only way she could do it is- if she

can get hold of the Book of Vishanti, a collection of all-powerful spells. She also tells him that his dreams have something to do with the multiverse.

Director: Sam Raimi

Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Elizabeth Olsen, Benedict Wong, Rachel McAdams, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Xochitl Gomez, Michael Stuhlbarg

From thence, Doctor Strange and Wong (Benedict Wong), who is now the Sorcerer Supreme at Kamar-Taj, take it upon themselves to protect and save her from her pursuers after they realise that the monster was summoned with witchcraft, not magic. They take on a psychedelic journey that reaches far into the limits of the imagination where they meet Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth

Olsen), the Scarlet Witch, as they try to uncover the dark mystery of what is going on with her.

The screenplay has tonal problems as it blends comedy, action, drama, romance, and horror with mixed results.

On the performance front, Cumberbatch, Wong, Elizabeth Olsen, Rachel McAdams, and Chiwetel Ejiofor have delivered brilliant performances. But the surprise packet is Xochitl Gomez, as America Chavez. She is a breath of fresh air with her impishly delightful on-screen presence.

On the technical front, the film boasts of great visual effects, sound design, great score, and elaborate costumes but nothing of it is outstanding that it registers in your mind space after you leave the theatre. IANS



Film Review

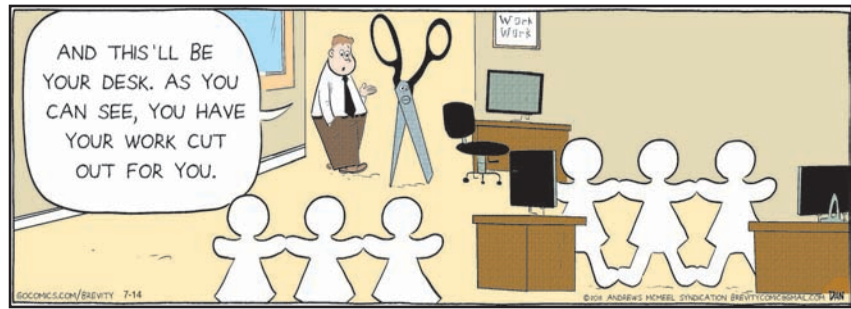
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

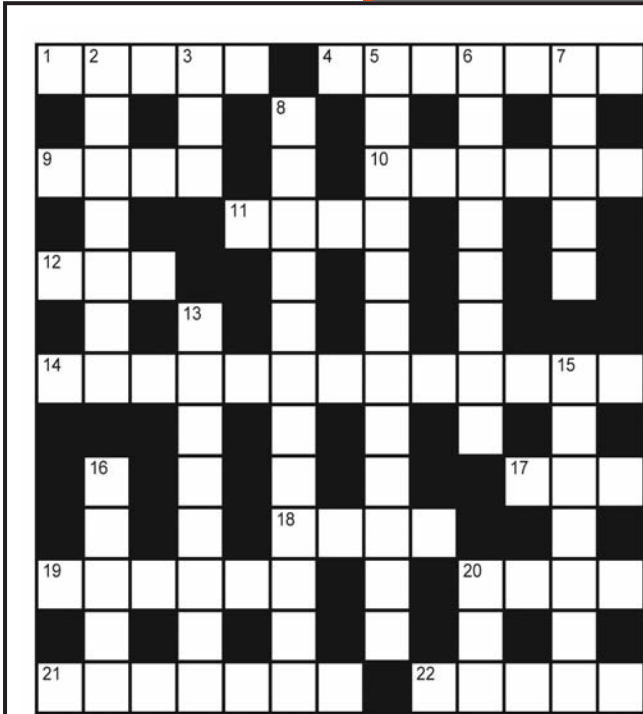


BREVITY



FUN post

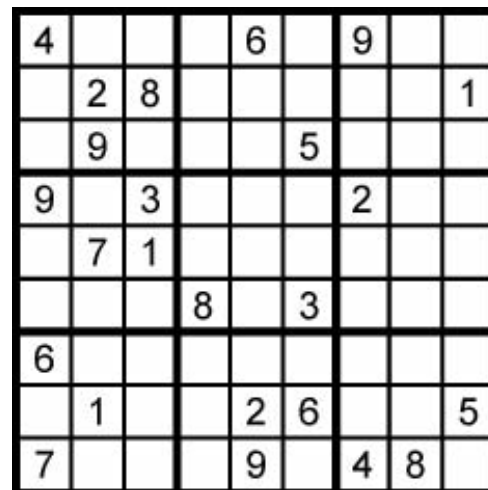
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 English Channel isle
 - 4 Occurrence
 - 9 "Tristia" poet
 - 10 Trick-taking card game
 - 11 Sacred Egyptian wader
 - 12 Expression of disgust
 - 14 Screaming meemies (6-7)
 - 17 Suds source
 - 18 Kind of cheese
 - 19 Pampas cowhand
 - 20 Burlap fiber
 - 21 Blotches
 - 22 Nine-headed monster
 - 3 Mortar porter
 - 5 Politician's handout (5,7)
 - 6 Gives up the ghost
 - 7 Churchill
 - 8 Down's event
 - 8 Incomprehensible jargon
 - 13 Roadblock
 - 15 Great circle
 - 16 Navigational aid
 - 20 Exultation
- Down**
- 2 Fashionable (2,5)

SUDOKU

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

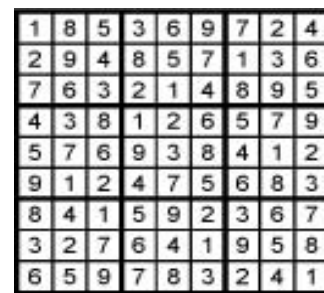


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



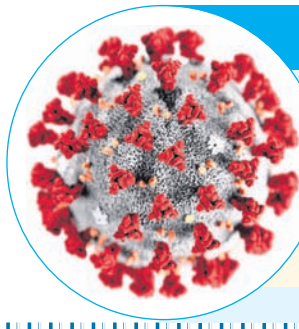
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



GOING GREEN

The newly-installed eco-friendly bamboo barricades along Janpath median in Bhubaneswar



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	51,60,91,759	47,08,66,191	62,72,841
India	4,30,94,938	4,25,51,248	5,24,002
Odisha	12,88,117	12,78,839	9,126

SAGARMALA APEX COMMITTEE MEET

Govt plea for maritime varsity in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: With an aim to boost maritime trade, the state government Friday urged the Centre for establishment of Indian Maritime University in Odisha.

Transport and Commerce Minister Padmanabha Behera raised this demand during the third meeting of the National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) held under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, in New Delhi.

Maritime transport is very much important for the economic development of our country. About 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 70 per cent by value is being carried out through maritime transport, which shows the importance of ports and their contribution in sustaining the growth of the Indian economy, Behera said.

"The establishment of a Maritime University is necessary



Odisha has a coastline of around 480 kms. The state government has already identified 14 potential sites for development of non-major ports

Transport and Commerce Minister Padmanabha Behera urged the Centre to help Odisha establish the university for the development of maritime sector in the east coast of India

Behera also sought funding for Gopalpur-Rairakhol, Buramara-Chakulia and Badampahar-Keonjhar rail link projects under the Sagarmala scheme

to facilitate and promote maritime studies, training and research," Behera added.

He urged the Centre to help Odisha establish the university for the development of maritime sector in the east coast of India.

Behera also raised certain objections and put forth several suggestions made by the state government on the draft Port Bill.

The state government, in June

2021, had raised certain issues regarding inalienable independence of coastal states in the matter of regulation and administration of non-major ports and non-nationalised waterways.

"The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, in its letter dated August 11, 2021, had given an assurance to address our concerns appropriately. However, the Government of Odisha would still

request the Centre to examine the issue properly at the time of finalising the Indian Port Bill, which would strengthen the spirit of co-operative federalism," Behera said.

Behera also sought funding for Gopalpur-Rairakhol, Buramara-Chakulia and Badampahar-Keonjhar rail link projects under the Sagarmala scheme.

Odisha has a coastline of around 480 kms. The state government has already identified 14 potential sites for development of non-major ports, he said.

The minister further said the state government has received a proposal for setting up of ship building and ship recycling industries at Chandabali in Bhadrak district.

Similarly, Odisha has six national waterways (NW-5, 14, 22, 23, 64 & 96). At present, the NW-5 is under active mode of being developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA), he pointed out.

COURTESY CALL



Indonesia's Ambassador to India Ina Hagniningtyas Krisnamurthi called on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the latter's residence in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Six investment proposals worth ₹493.62cr get nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Friday gave in principle approval to six investment proposals worth Rs 493.62 crore that would generate jobs for around 1,317 people in Odisha.

Jatia Steel Limited's proposal to set up a 2,50,000 MT TMT rebar and 2,50,000 MT wire rod mill at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur got the SLSWCA go ahead. With an investment of Rs 125 crore, the project would generate employment opportunities for over 150 people.

The committee approved a downstream steel unit project of Sarangi Metal Works International Private Limited at Jajpur's Kalinga Nagar with an investment of Rs 65.37 crore. The project would generate jobs for around 568 people.

JRS Ventures Private Limited's proposal to set up a 100 KLPD Ethanol Plant along with 2.5 MW Co generation power plant at Sonepur also got in principle approval. With an investment of Rs 121 crore, the project is likely to generate employment opportunities for 114 people.

The SLSWCA approved the proposal of SNM Hotels and Resorts Private Limited to set up a hotel and resort facility at Somolo Island in Ganjam. With an investment of Rs 80.25 crore, the hotel and resort facility would provide jobs for 185 people.

Daniell Corus Refractory



COMPANY	PROJECT & SITE	INVESTMENT	JOB
Jatia Steel Limited	2,50,000 MT TMT rebar and 2,50,000 MT wire rod mill at Kalinga Nagar	₹125cr	150
Sarangi Metal Works International Pvt Ltd	Downstream steel unit at Kalinga Nagar	₹65.37cr	568
JRS Ventures Pvt Ltd	100 KLPD Ethanol Plant along with 2.5 MW Co generation power plant at Sonepur	₹121cr	114
SNM Hotels and Resorts Pvt Ltd	Hotel and resort facility at Somolo Island in Ganjam	₹80.25cr	185
Daniell Corus Refractory Solutions Pvt Ltd	Carbon/graphite block cutting and machining facility in Khurda	₹51cr	150
Ashirvad Pipes Pvt Ltd	18,000 MTPA HDPE and PVC Pipes manufacturing unit at Tangi	₹51cr	150

Solutions Private Limited's plan to set up a carbon/graphite block cutting and machining facility with a capacity of 1500 MT per annum in Khurda at an investment of Rs 51 crore also got the state nod. The unit would provide jobs to 150 people.

The committee also approved the proposal of Ashirvad Pipes Private Limited for an 18,000 MTPA HDPE and PVC Pipes manufacturing unit at Cuttack's Tangi. The company has promised to invest Rs

51 crore on the project, which will provide jobs to 150 people.

Mahapatra directed the departments concerned to make realistic assessments of the required land and water for the approved projects and facilitate their early grounding.

The Chief Secretary directed the Tourism department to prepare a master plan for development of tourism in Chilika Lake and Somolo island.

Overcast skies after nor'westers bring breather for state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Overcast skies prevailed across Odisha Friday as nor'westers in the previous night took the mercury level down by several notches in most parts of the state, the Met office said.

The maximum temperature was below normal in many areas, and only six weather stations, as compared to 13 on the previous day, recorded a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius or more, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

There will be no large change in the maximum temperature during the next four-five days

The highest temperature in the state was in Bolangir as the district headquarters and Titlagarh recorded 41.2 degrees Celsius each.

The temperature was below normal by four notches each to settle at 33.5 degrees Celsius in the capital and 34 in Cuttack, the weather office said. Nor'westers with gusty winds of 50-65 kmph and moderate to heavy rainfall occurred in several districts of the state Thursday evening, it said.

Khurda town received 86 mm of rainfall the previous day, the highest in the state, while there was downpour also in Nayagarh and Ganjam cities. Light to moderate rain can occur in the state Saturday due to the southwesterly winds from the Bay of Bengal, the Met office said.

There will be no large change in the maximum temperature during the next four-five days.

Pact with UNDP for dry waste mgmt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) department Friday signed an agreement with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote sustainable and inclusive dry waste management in the state.

As per the agreement, the UNDP will be the technical partner of the state government in providing hand holding support for 'Wealth Centres' and facilitating setting up of downstream facilities with private investment for value addition in recyclable dry waste, including plastic waste, for a period of four years.

The partnership will also aim at promoting capacity building and skill enhancement, including digital skills of the community partners associated with dry waste management, to ensure better working conditions, improved incentives, and access to social protection schemes of the government.

"This will ensure circular economy and will create additional livelihood opportunities for the waste pickers and Mission Shakti Self Help Groups. It will also improve efficiency in the dry waste processing in the urban areas," a senior government official said.

The agreement was signed by H&UD department Principal Secretary G. Mathi Vathanan and Shoko Noda, Country Head, UNDP India in the presence of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, sources said.

"The state government has made



The agreement was signed by H&UD department Principal Secretary G. Mathi Vathanan and Shoko Noda, Country Head, UNDP India in the presence of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra

significant progress in solid waste management in recent years. This partnership is a reflection of our vision to ensure urban-rural convergence in improving waste management facilities across the state towards achieving circular economy, said the Chief Secretary.

Emphasizing the need for efficient waste management, Shoko Noda said, "Effective dry waste management offers many opportunities and benefits to the economy people and the environment. The UNDP is committed to scale-up sustainable waste management models while making a lasting impact on the lives of waste pickers. We are thankful to the Government of Odisha for this partnership."

PLEA OVER PG ADMISSION

AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur counsels summoned by SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 6: The Supreme Court Friday summoned the counsels of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and AIIMS, Jodhpur to appear before it in a petition challenging the existing system for institutional preference in postgraduate admissions.

A two-judge bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai said that it would pass the orders next week and asked the counsels to get instructions from AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and AIIMS, Jodhpur. The case will be taken up for hearing May 13.



Senior advocate Arvind Datar submitted that the court had earlier asked the health institutes to have a fair system for institutional preference for postgraduate admissions. "However, they (AIIMS) say that you get an order from the Supreme Court," noted the plea.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by AIIMS Students' Association seeking the introduction of the roster model of Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) for institutional preference in postgraduate admissions in the premier health institutes.

SRIMANDIR RITUAL



Representative deities of Lord Jagannath and his siblings being taken in a procession to Narendra pond in Puri for Chandan Yatra, Friday

59th WODC meet reviews projects taken up in 11 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The 59th meeting of Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) was held under the chairmanship of its chief Asit Tripathy here Friday.

The meeting reviewed the projects taken up in 11 districts of western Odisha. The MLAs from western Odisha and the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) were present at the meeting.

The meeting appreciated the efforts of the WODC for effective implementation of various developmental projects. It also appreciated the SOP prepared for the implementation of various projects in the western Odisha districts.

The SOP has helped systematise the process of scrutiny of the project proposals, according administrative approvals, and sanctioning and release of funds.

The meeting also appreciated the efforts of the WODC for taking up projects like modern auditorium in each district headquarters towns in western Odisha. Due



The meeting appreciated the efforts of the WODC for taking up projects like modern auditorium in each district headquarters towns in western Odisha

to the efforts of WODC, the district administrations have been encouraged to sponsor critical projects which are not covered under

any state or central schemes, revealed the meeting.

The council has been successful in sponsoring unconventional projects taken up by the district administrations. The state government's Odisha State Workflow Automation System (OSWAS) has been implemented for processing of files to ensure faster decision making and transparency.

The council has been studying the growth potentials of each district in western Odisha and taking concerted efforts to strengthen handloom and other sectors in the region.

UU fund plea to OMC declined

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The Higher Education department Friday declined the proposal of the Utkal University which sought financial support from the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) under Industry-Academia collaboration for development of the Geology department.

The university in the state Capital had proposed for a one-time financial support of Rs 10 crore and annual financial support of Rs 2 crore for 10 years, aiming to develop its Geology department.

Higher Education Secretary Saswat Mishra, in a letter to Utkal University VC Sabita Acharya, said that the university is getting funds from government regularly for various purposes, so much so that it currently has a huge amount of available fund, totaling more than Rs 500 crore. A big portion of that available fund is meant for infrastructure development of the university. There is no need to seek external financial support, either from OMC or from anybody else, he added.

Foundation stone laid for 'Akanksha'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The foundation stone of a multipurpose building 'Akanksha' was laid Friday at University High School, Vani Vihar, in presence of School and Mass Education Secretary Bishnupada Sethi, Mo School Chairperson Susmita Bagchi, Odisha Skill Development Authority Chairman Subroto Bagchi and Utkal University VC Sabita Acharya.

The project cost of ₹1.5 crore was mobilised by the alumni association of the University High School under the Mo School Abhiyan. On the occasion, Susmita said that the new building will have facilities for science and technology, libraries and indoor games among others, and will be beneficial for the development of students.

Odisha logs 14 new Cov cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Odisha recorded 14 new Covid cases Friday, while there was no new fatality for the fourth consecutive day, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

There are 99 active cases and 14 more patients have recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours, according to the bulletin.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate stood at 0.09 per cent and two children were among the newly infected. Out of the total 14 new infections, eight were reported from quarantine centres while six persons contracted the virus locally.

Gajapati district registered the highest number of new cases with three persons testing positive for the disease. It was followed by Bolangir, Kandhamal and Khurda districts with two new infections each.

Other districts that reported fresh Covid-19 cases include: Bargarh, Deogarh, Jajpur, Nuapada and Sambalpur (one each).

The new cases were detected after testing 15,288 samples in the last 24 hours. The state had logged 18 cases Thursday.

Odisha's Covid death toll remained at 9,126. A total of 53 patients have died of comorbidities so far. The state has reported 12,88,117 cases to date.

The State Pool did not report any new case of persons coming from outside Odisha and testing positive for the disease. A total of 3,13,95,428 swab samples have been cumulatively tested so far.

Meanwhile, state Health Minister Naba Kishore Das has directed the department to take special measures for screening passengers who are returning from the National Capital Region (NCR) by trains and flights as cases are rising there.

State, UNFPA pact to empower 60L women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The Mission Shakti Department and the United Nations Population Fund, India (UNFPA) signed an agreement Friday to launch an initiative that would accelerate progress in bridging gender, financial, digital and social gaps by strengthening Mission Shakti's Self Help Group (SHG) network.

The initiative 'Social Empowerment of Women through the Women Self Help Groups of Mission Shakti in Odisha' is backed by a comprehensive plan of action and concrete resources. It will play a crucial role towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the state, particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality).

Speaking at the signing of the agreement, Mission Shakti Commissioner-cum-Secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan said, "Our experience shows that investing in women's social and economic empowerment pays huge dividends; both in terms of collective social progress and accelerated local economic growth and development. With this timely and crucial partnership between Mission Shakti and

Our experience shows that investing in women's social and economic empowerment pays huge dividends; both in terms of collective social progress and accelerated local economic growth and development. With this timely and crucial partnership between Mission Shakti and UNFPA, we are poised to take significant leaps towards our goal of 'Empowered Women - Empowered Odisha'

SUJATA R KARTHIKEYAN | MISSION SHAKTI COMMISSIONER-CUM-SECRETARY



With this visionary Mission Shakti initiative, over 6 million women will gain powerful digital and financial skills along with increased control over their sexual and reproductive health. This is a definitive win-win for both the women as well as the socio-economic development of Odisha and beyond, if these transformative results can be replicated elsewhere

ANDREA M WOJNAR | UNFPA INDIA REPRESENTATIVE

UNFPA, we are poised to take significant leaps towards our goal of 'Empowered Women - Empowered Odisha'."

The targets of the three-year project focus on promoting digital and financial literacy amongst SHG members of Mission Shakti for improving their social and economic positions. Digital literacy would enable women to be better connected, more informed and com-

municate with the external world. It would also enable them to find, use, and create content for their social and economic development.

This would also be useful to improve their knowledge and help them access public services and welfare schemes, which are increasingly being made available online. Financial literacy would equip these women with knowledge and skills to effectively manage money.

It would also entail the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, including personal financial management, and investments. It would enable women to reach out to cooperative societies and banks for loans.

In this connection, the MoU with UNFPA will equip and certify nearly 6,00,000 WSHGs with digital and financial skills such as accessing online public services, banking

services and social media. Known as Digi Shaktis, these women will in turn reach out to millions of other women to educate them on these skills.

The project, harnessing the Mission Shakti platform, has remarkable scope to reach out to marginalised women. State-wide implementation will also ensure coverage of women from tribal and scheduled caste communities and the rural and urban poor households, thus leaving no one behind.

This project will train over 2,50,000 women as champions of sexual reproductive and social rights of women, who will be empowered to address violence, discrimination and regressive social norms such as child marriage, witch-hunting, and dowry in their communities.

"With this visionary Mission Shakti initiative, over 6 million women will gain powerful digital and financial skills along with increased control over their sexual and reproductive health," said UNFPA India Representative Andrea M Wojnar. "This is a definitive win-win for both the women as well as the socio-economic development of Odisha and beyond, if these transformative results can be replicated elsewhere," she added.

EOW arrests lady in ₹7cr chit fund scam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state crime branch has arrested the woman director of a chit fund firm for allegedly duping 43 investors of around ₹7 crore under the pretext of various lucrative schemes.

The accused Pallavi Mishra of Banasingh in Dhenkanal district is the director in the sham chit fund firm 'Purple Qualves Financial Services Pvt Ltd' located at DLF Building in Patia under Infocity police limits here.

Pallavi was arrested in EOW PS Case No 10 registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Kamalakanta Sahoo and Subrat Kumar Das of Dhenkanal.

Pallavi and her husband Satyaranjan Hota lured 43 persons from Dhenkanal and Jajpur district into investing in share market promising high returns. "Believing in their version, 43 investors have deposited approximately ₹7 crore

in the Purple Qualves Financial Services Pvt Ltd through bank transaction and cash. Initially, in order to build confidence amongst the investors, Pallavi Mishra and her husband had made some initial payments as promised to some investors. But, subsequently they failed to return the promised amounts despite repeated requests of the complainant," claimed EOW in its press note.

The sleuths also came to know during the course of investigation that the firm is authorised neither by the RBI to receive the public deposits nor by the SEBI to invest the money in share market. The accused couple handed over cheques with false signatures to the victims when they asked their money back and the cheques bounced.

Notably, Hota sustained severe injuries when he tried to run away after being accosted by the complaints few days back. The Dhenkanal police had earlier arrested Hota by registering a case (131/22) in this regard.

Bad trip for 3 as NCB seizes 506kg ganja

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested three drug peddlers and seized 506kg Ganja during a raid at Chandaka on the outskirts of the city here late Thursday night.

The accused have been identified as Balwaan Singh, 31, of Hisar

in Haryana and Jaspal Singh, 35, and Jashnoor Singh, 2, of Patiala in Punjab.

Following a tip-off, a team of NCB here intercepted a Tata 12 wheeler Truck (PB-11CR-2958) at a spot near SOG Training Centre in Chandaka on the Pitapalli to Barang Road here Thursday. Upon search, the sleuths found contraband ganja

weighing 506kg concealed in the vehicle.

The contraband was reportedly being carried from Annakapali in Andhra Pradesh to Hisar while the NCB foiled the trip. The individuals and seized properties were Friday produced before the Court here that later send the accused trio to judicial custody.

WORLD RED CROSS DAY



The Odisha State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society held a walkathon from Raj Bhawan to Red Cross Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

GPS satellites may warn of tsunamis faster than seismic sensors

GPS satellites orbiting the Earth may be more effective and much faster than the seismic sensors in detecting tsunamis, finds a study.

The method could serve as an effective warning system for countries worldwide, said the researchers at the University College London, UK.

Tsunami waves are low in deep water but can travel at the speed of a jet, up to 800 kilometres an hour in a deep sea, and as they enter shallow waters, they slow down, growing in height.

Though the waves are typically a few centimetres high, it nonetheless causes a disturbance in the Earth's upper atmosphere by pushing up air and creating an acoustic wave that is amplified as it goes higher.

This acoustic wave can reach 300 km high in the ionosphere, in about seven minutes, and the depression in electron density that occurs as a consequence could be detected via satellite



signals in 10 to 15 minutes, the researchers found.

As the density of electrons in the area is reduced, it affects radio signals sent by GPS satellites to GPS receivers on the ground, delaying or speeding up different parts of the signal, or changing the signal's direction, depending on frequency, the team explained in the paper published in Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences.

While some tsunamis reach coasts in under 10 minutes, the researchers pointed out that the method could also be used to predict second or third waves, helping determine whether a tsunami warning should be cancelled or maintained after the first wave.

"Our study demonstrates a new method of detecting tsunamis that is low-cost, as it relies on existing GPS networks, and could be implemented worldwide, complementing other ways of detecting tsunamis and improving the accuracy of warning systems," said Professor Serge Guillas from UCL Statistical Science.

For the study, researchers from UCL and universities in Japan looked at GPS data at the time of the devastating 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake and tsunami.

They found that a tsunami warning could have been issued with confidence within 15 minutes of the earthquake occurring - that is, at least 10 minutes

prior to the first tsunami hitting Japan's east coast.

They also found that a warning could have been issued using data from only 5 per cent of Japan's 1,200 GPS receivers - meaning that the method could be used in countries with a sparser GPS network than Japan's.

The team said the next step in the research will be to investigate this further to see if the method could be used for more precise predictions of tsunami size and range.

Our study demonstrates a new method of detecting tsunamis that is low-cost, as it relies on existing GPS networks, and could be implemented worldwide, complementing other ways of detecting tsunamis and improving the accuracy of warning systems

SERGE GUILLAS | PROFESSOR, STATISTICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, UK

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SHORT TAKES

Geetanjali Dash new VC of BU

Bhubaneswar: Governor Ganeshi Lal Friday appointed Prof Geetanjali Dash as Vice Chancellor of Berhampur University (BU) for a period of four years with effect from the date when she would assume office or until further order whichever is earlier. Dash, a retired Prof of Political Science in Fakir Mohan University, has more than 36 years of teaching experience including 12 years as Professor. She has authored five and successfully guided four PhD and 35 MPhil scholars. Speaking to Orissa POST, Dash said her immediate task will be to remain prepared for visit of NAAC team. She also said that



her focus will be to bring students to classroom and give them safe environment and provide them best education.

Leopard skin seized; 1 held

Bolangir: Continuing its crackdown on wildlife traffickers, the Special Task Force of Crime Branch (CB) Friday arrested a person and seized a leopard skin from his possession. The STF conducted a surprise raid on Tikrapada-Saintala road under Saintala police limits in Bolangir district late Thursday night and made the seizure. The accused has been identified as Adikanda Gheewala of Tikrapada area under Saintala police limits in Bolangir district. Sources said Gheewala was finalising a deal to sell out the hide to interstate smugglers. Acting on reliable inputs, the STF conducted the raid with the help of Bolangir forest officials and arrested him. The raid team has seized a leopard skin and other incriminating materials from his possession.

Keonjhar Badadanda renovation on cards



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 6: The state government has decided for redevelopment and renovation of Puruna Bazaar, Sri Sri Baldevjew temple

and Old Town here in line with the initiatives taken up in Puri.

As per sources, the development work on the temple premises is in progress while the administration has announced development work for Badadanda, Gundicha temple and its peripheral areas.

Collector Ashish Thakare said that the aim is to develop the holy place and improve its social environment. The Collector announced it at a programme organised at Old Town here Friday.

Puruna Bazaar will be decorated and illuminated to attract tourists and devotees. Beautification of the 540-metre long Badadanda will be carried out along with seating facility for devotees and drinking water provision. Small shops will also be set up alongside the road. Hadabandha pond will also be renovated.



Clouds of black smoke billowed out as a fire broke out in the computer lab of Kodagadia High School at Champua in Keonjhar, Friday. Assets worth ₹10 lakh gutted

Sorcerer rapes woman for 80 days

THE VICTIM'S MOTHER-IN-LAW PERSUADED HER TO SLEEP WITH THE 'TANTRIK' FAILING WHICH, SHE SAID, HER HUSBAND MIGHT DIE AND EVIL THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO THE FAMILY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, May 6: In a horrific incident, a woman was held captive in an isolated room and brutally raped for 80 days by a 'tantrik' (sorcerer) with the help of her in-laws. The heinous incident reported from Raibania area under Jaleswar district late Thursday came to light after the woman lodged a complaint Friday.

As per the complaint, the victim was married to a shopkeeper four years back. Within six months of marriage, her husband started an illicit relationship with another woman following which their marital went into a tailspin. Meanwhile, her mother-in-law, father-in-law and brother-in-law started torturing her for more dowry.

Promising to resolve the marital dispute, one day her mother-in-law took the victim to SK Shoraff, a Muslim sorcerer. Shoraff forced



the victim to establish physical relationship with him in front of her two and half-year-old son to ward off evil happenings in the family. Her mother-in-law also persuaded the victim to sleep with the 'tantrik' failing which her husband might die and evil things will happen. Later, after a few weeks, her

HORROR IN BALASORE



modesty for 80 days. Last week, the sorcerer forgot his mobile phone in the room after sexually abusing her, the complainant alleged. Taking advantage, the woman called up her parents, who had earlier lodged a missing complaint. Her parents informed Morada police, who rushed to the spot and rescued the victim and her child. But, the sorcerer managed to give the police a slip. The victim has sustained injuries because of the sorcerer's torture. The accused has also assaulted her son, causing fracture in his hand. A case has been registered under Section 498-A, 294, 323, 342, 417, 109, 376(2)(n), 506 and 34 of IPC, and Sec 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 and Sec 5 and Sec 6 of the Odisha Prevention of Witch-hunting Act 2013 against her husband, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law and the tantrik, police said.

GREEN NORM VIOLATION
₹25cr fine on Vedanta's Lanjigarh unit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of ₹25 crore on Vedanta Limited for violating the environmental norms by expanding its plant at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district.

A special bench of NGT chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel was dealing with an appeal against the environmental clearance dated November 20, 2015 granted to Vedanta Limited (formerly Sesa Sterlite Ltd.), Bhubaneswar, for expansion of Alumina Refinery and Captive Power Plant at Lanjigarh.

"In the present case, the prosecution has been initiated for illegal expansion. Liability for compensation on the polluter pays princi-



ple is assessed at ₹25,00,00,000 (Rupees twenty five crore only) having regard to the clear violation and financial capacity of the unit to be used for the restoration of the environment in terms of the environment plan to be prepared and executed as per the direction in later part of this order," said the green court in the order passed May 2.

It directed the company to deposit the amount with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) within one month to be kept in a separate account. The fund will be utilised for the restoration of the envi-

ronment. As per the company, it has invested ₹50,000 crore and has undertaken all mitigation measures for the protection of the environment. It has also complied with all statutory requirements, the project proponent argued.

The green court held the company accountable for the violation of a partly undertaken expansion without prior environmental clearance from the MoEF&CC.

Another issue was lifting of water from River Tel. Though it is stated that using the river water may not affect the flow of the river, considering the increasing need for water from the river not only by the PP but also by others, permissibility of 'drawal' of water should not remain static and unconditional forever, the NGT noted.

HM faces music as students dance to 'Pushpa' tune

AGENCIES

Berhampur, May 6: The headmistress of a high school in Ganjam district has been suspended after a video of some students dancing in a classroom to a song of Telugu blockbuster 'Pushpa' went viral on social media, an official said.

Several Class X students had assembled in the smart classroom of the Barumandali High School in Shergarh block. The teachers provided the students some tips for the High School Certificate examination, but left without locking the room.

Some students, who were present in the class room, might have linked the TV with their mobile phones, according to the district official. Two dancing videos of 14

and 24 seconds duration went viral on social media platforms recently and they could be seen dancing to the tunes of 'Srivalli', a popular song from the Allu Arjun starrer. The music was playing on the LED television, which was installed in the classroom to impart teaching to the students under the school transformation scheme.

BEO Bhaskar Lenka claimed that headmistress Sujata Padhy was served a show-cause notice, but she did not reply satisfactorily. Padhy was suspended Wednesday for negligence of duty, district education officer Binita Senapati said. The official added that an inquiry is on and action would be taken against some more teachers for dereliction of duty.

Tehsildar suspended for illegal sand mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 6: Badashi tehsildar Mumtaz Maharana was suspended Friday for her alleged role in illegal sand mining at Arpada and Dingira quarries of Budhabalanga river in Mayurbhanj district. The Revenue and Disaster Management department has issued an order (14502.6/5/2022) in this regard.

A case regarding the illegal sand mining is sub judice with the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Earlier, a sand quarry leaseholder Pradip Bindhani has been arrested. On the other hand, the administration has imposed Section 144 on both the sand quarries.

Badasahi police registered two cases against the leaseholder and the tehsildar after the eastern bench of NGT issued an order to the Mayurbhanj district administration in this regard. Sadar sub-collector Anya Das

directed assistant collector Geeta Murmu to file complaint with Badasahi police. The district administration had also recommended the state Revenue and Disaster Management department to suspend Mumtaz and take disciplinary action against her.

The issue came up before the NGT after Radhamohan Singh, a local, filed cases with the apex green body alleging illegal mining and transportation of sand from Arpada sand quarry of the Budhabalanga river.

Judicial member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta heard the matter and directed the leaseholder to pay over ₹17.3 crore as penalty. The bench also directed the district Collector to register cases under relevant Sections of IPC, CRPC and Misappropriation of Public Funds Act-2002 against the Badasahi tehsildar and the leaseholder.

Student falls to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, May 6: A Class X student, who was appearing for this year's HSC exams, died after allegedly falling off the hostel roof Thursday night. The deceased was identified as Bharat Bidika of Ghantikhal village.

He was a student of a residential school at Kopapadar village in Bissamcuttack block of Rayagada district. Sources said, Bharat was residing at the school hostel and appearing for the ongoing matriculation examination. He fell off the hostel roof at around 8pm Thursday. Fellow students rescued him and rushed him to Bissamcuttack CHC where doctors declared him brought dead. Locals, however, suspect foul play and demanded a probe into the incident.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the below mentioned share certificates of Orient Paper and Industries Limited, having their Registered Office at: UNIT 8, PLOT NO 7, BHOINAGAR BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA-751012 are lost/misplaced and the Company is in the process of issuing duplicate share certificates in lieu thereof on request made by the Registered shareholder and on execution of documents required for issue of duplicate share certificates. Folio No: 545, Name of registered shareholder: Kate Accles Erukak, Share certificate nos: 1452, Distinctive nos: 903961 to 987960, No of shares: 84000 shares. Any person who has a valid claim on the said shares may lodge such claim with the Company at their Registered Office within 15 days hereof failing which the Company will issue duplicate share certificates and no claim will lie thereafter. Name of the applicant: Mr. Ajit Jude Ireaneus Lobo Constituted Attorney of Mrs. Katherine Clerides Place: Odisha, Date: 07.05.2022

17-time cost overrun in dam project



FILE PHOTO

The then Chief Minister Janaki Ballabh Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the project in tribal-dominated Kankia-Tamana area under Berhampur sub-division in 1987

Though 35 years have passed, the project is yet to see the light of day

Its initial cost was estimated at ₹10 crore, but it has now escalated to ₹172 crore - over 17 times of the original estimate

POST NEWS NETWORK

17 times of the original estimate.

Notably, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, ST Secretary VK Pandian, additional chief secretary of the Water Resources department Anu Garg visited the spot and took stock of the progress of the project about a week ago. The review revealed the whopping cost overrun.

The delay in the construction work is attributed to the delay in granting of environmental clearance by the Union Forest and Environment Ministry.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone of the project again during his third term. Initially, dis-

placement posed a setback for the project. People of Sarakote and other tribal villages faced issues of displacement and rehabilitation. The government resolved the issues in a phase manner.

The work gathered pace since 2020 and the government has set a target to complete the project by December, 2022. The Chief Secretary had directed the construction agency to expedite the work. The dam is being constructed across Ghadaka creek near Kankia-Tamana under Kukudakhundi block of Digapahandi assembly constituency. After completion of the project, it would irrigate 500 acres of land in Kukudakhundi and Rangeilunda blocks, apart from providing drinking water to 75,000 people of Gosaninuagaon area. The Water Resources department is executing the project.

It was in the first week of July 2019 when the project was reviewed for the first time at a meeting presided over by then revenue divisional commissioner (southern range) Chandrasekhar Kumar in the presence of then Ganjam Collector VK Pandian, and MLAs of Khallikote, Chhatrapur, Gopalpur and Berhampur. A decision was taken to adequately compensate the land losers and the displaced along with their proper rehabilitation.

Several other projects like Baghua, Baghalati and others have remained incomplete with their costs escalating over the years.

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भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर निम्नलिखित गैर-शिक्षण पदों को प्रत्यक्ष/प्रतिनिधित्व के आधार पर भरने के लिए योग्य भारतीय नागरिकों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है: Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar invites ONLINE applications from eligible Indian Nationals for filling up the following Non-Teaching posts on Direct/Deputation basis:

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

ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि / The starting date of online application is: 04.05.2022
ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि / The last date of online application is: 03.06.2022
आवेदन की हार्दकीय प्रत जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि / Last date for receipt of hardcopy of the application is: 13.06.2022
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FOCUS PM'S EUROPE TOUR

TAKEAWAYS FOR INDIA



Prime Minister's emphatic presentation of India as a secure and grown-up economy was perhaps aimed at enticing the Indian diaspora to globalise 'Indian story'

Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen. In particular, Modi will nudge these leaders for India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic. Significantly, Sweden and Finland possible membership of NATO and a threat of strong retaliation with nuclear bombs may figure in the deliberations with Modi.

There is also a brief stopover in Paris for Modi to congratulate President Emmanuel Macron, who won a hard and bitterly fought presidential election on April 25. Modi and Macron have been active around the Russia-Ukraine war, Paris and New Delhi have a strategic partnership. Both the leaders might explore the next phase of this important partnership. France is holding the EU presidency this year, hence Macron's role in European politics, including Ukraine will be closely watched.

Prime Minister Modi's three-day visit to Europe, to three countries mentioned above, was hectic and packed. Modi, as usual, used the opportunity to have a dig at his opponents back home and exulted in India's economic achievements.

Prime Minister's emphatic presentation of India as a secure and grown-up economy was perhaps aimed at enticing the Indian Diaspora to globalise 'Indian story'. He also wanted to attract European business into the Indian market. He even mentioned Article 370 to boost up the morale of Indian diaspora on India's unity, strength and integrity. This is alright for psychological and cultural diplomacy with the Diaspora, which usually feels nostalgic.

In sum, Modi's visit in these tumultuous times in Europe will bring rich political and economic dividends for India if he has managed to correct the perception that India is beholden to Russia and therefore could not take a bold stand even when international political norms are violated. Many observers and supporters of South Block and Prime Minister Modi will endorse India's position on Ukraine as pragmatic and prudent. Will Europe, which professes openly democracy, human rights and freedom in relation to individuals or countries, be convinced by such logic?

INFA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dashed off to three countries in Europe from 2-4 May 2022. He went to Germany, Denmark and for a stopover in Paris on the way back home. This is his first visit to Europe since the war in Ukraine last month which has engaged almost the entire international leadership on its repercussions on world politics. The point to note is the divergence of reactions to the war: Europe calling Russia out as the aggressor and India remaining neutral. Modi has had to wade through this heavy diplomatic division with Europe.

To recall a slice of history, India has taken a critical posture towards Europe, mainly the construction of the European Union. Prime Minister Nehru in the 1960s, as the European Union was being shaped up, derided its prospect by calling it a 'capitalist club'. He may have detected a colonial bent in building of the European Economic Community in 1957 under the Treaty of Rome as, at the same time, Nehru alongwith Tito Nasser was crafting the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). What happened to NAM and the EEC could be evaluated by contemporary political historians. Suffice to say that NAM disappeared in the sands of history, whereas EEC emerged as a big economic block, transforming into a political entity called the European Union.

The misreading of the growth of the EU in its formative stage by Nehru reflected a serious mismatch between India's economy and foreign policy. Since the foreign policy was security driven, the focus of our bilateral relations was on Pakistan and Russia. Pakistan has been the adversary and Russia an ally for defence supplies. Europe was overlooked although about 60 per cent of our trade deficit was accounted for by the EU. India's economy suffered from lack of investment, technology and market. Curiously, the same trend continues even today as is seen in India's stand on Ukrainian war. New Delhi is not able to name Russia.

Although Modi has been critical of fault lines in India's foreign policy created by Nehru, he

has not been able to correct these. This has been experienced in New Delhi's relations with Beijing, with Moscow and in unresolved tensions with Islamabad. Even under globalisation when growth in the economy became a measure of a country's strength, India lagged behind despite its demographic dividend and the size of the market. Will it change now, in regard to Europe, as Modi has acknowledged the European countries as "India's important partners in her quest for peace and prosperity?"

On the first leg of the tour, Modi landed in Germany to co-chair the 6th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultation (IGC), along with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, from the Progressive Social Democratic Party. Notably, IGC is a unique biennial format which India conducts only with Germany. India and Germany have had a long historic relationship. India was one among a few countries to extend diplomatic recognition to the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War. Berlin and New Delhi have been strategic partners since 2000. Germany became economically strong and the leader of the EU attracting several economic and trade partners, including India. Currently, Germany holds the G-7 presidency. Modi's diplomacy will show if he gets India invited to the

G-7 outreach summit in June. Modi and Scholz would have jointly thought about dealing with Russia. Germany is trying to reduce its energy dependence on Moscow. Likewise, New Delhi should strive innovatively to reduce its dependence on Moscow for its defence supplies. Both countries in their respective ways should try to extricate themselves from Russian bear-hug. Russian gas pipelines were coming through Ukraine to Germany carrying major energy supplies. If Berlin could forgo that supply due to its solidarity with NATO allies, New Delhi could do so in the defence procurement.

The next stop for Modi was Copenhagen. He had twin purposes in visiting Denmark - to consolidate bilateral relations with the country and to attend the second India-Nordic summit in Copenhagen. On bilateralism, Copenhagen and New Delhi have become green strategic partners since September 2020. New Delhi could explore new elements of partnership with resourceful Copenhagen in the field of skill development, shipping, agro-technology and mobility. These are the prospective areas indicated by Indian Foreign Secretary Kwatra.

Modi will look up for four Nordic leaders - Prime Ministers of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland in addition to the host,



DK Giri

ALTHOUGH MODI HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF FAULT LINES IN INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY CREATED BY NEHRU, HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CORRECT THESE

The Best way to express one's gratitude to the Divine is to feel simply happy.

THE MOTHER



Cooperation overrides politics

Kerala Chief Secretary VP Joy's recent visit to Gandhinagar to study the dashboard system for e-governance in Gujarat is full of portent for good governance if picked up by other states.

The dashboard monitoring system was started in 2019 when Vijay Rupani was the Chief Minister. Apparently, Joy was impressed with it and said it was good for monitoring the delivery of services and collecting citizens' feedback. It is evident that Joy's visit had the support of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government of Kerala, even though opposition parties in the state read 'politics' in the visit. But clearly, the Pinarayi Vijayan government believes that adopting e-technology for good governance transcends partisan politics.

Sources have informed DKB that the decision to study the 'Gujarat model' was taken after a recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vijayan in the capital. After returning to Kerala, the Chief Minister directed Joy to study the system.

Interestingly, a similar 'experiment' by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann when he sent a team of state IAS officers to the Delhi government 'for training' has been criticised by opposition parties and some sections of the public for being against the interests of the state. Mann was accused of being 'remote-controlled' by the AAP government led by Arvind Kejriwal. Yet, politics apart, this new 'trend' shows that state governments are now willing to overlook partisan politics and seek expertise from wherever it is accessible.

Blame it on idealism

After resigning from the civil service in 2019, Kashmiri IAS officer Shah Faesal is back in babudom and now blames his misplaced idealism for his action. Sources have informed DKB that the Centre has accepted Faesal's application for withdrawing his resignation and reinstated him in service early last month.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Faesal was the first Kashmiri to top the civil services exam and served in the state in various capacities including in the education and power development departments. He had resigned in protest after the Centre repealed J&K's special status. After a failed attempt at forming a political party, the Jammu & Kashmir People's Movement, Faesal had tried to go to the United States but was detained at Delhi airport and sent back to Srinagar and placed under detention, which was revoked four months later. For some time, he had been dropping hints of his return to bureaucracy. The Home Ministry and the Department of Personnel and Training (DopT) accepted his plea and reinstated him. His new posting will be announced soon.

Interestingly, another IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, from Kerala too had resigned from service to protest against the abrogation of Article 370. He has become an activist.

Not quite an interim woman

The uncertainty has finally ended. Following the superannuation of JB Mohapatra, the Centre has appointed Sangeeta Singh as interim Chairperson of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for three months or until the appointment of a regular chairperson. It is widely accepted that she will be 'regularised' after some time. There had been intense speculation in Delhi's babu corridors on whether the government would retain Mohapatra or let him retire. In the end, it let him go.

Sangeeta Singh was one of the two women members of CBDT eligible for Mohapatra's job, the other being Pragya Sahay Saksena, Member, Legislation and Systems. Before her elevation, Singh was Member, Audit and Judicial. Even in the run-up to the appointment, many believed that Singh had a slight edge over her rival for having held two additional charges. Moreover, she is in the good books of the powers that be. The new chairperson has also edged out two other senior CBDT members Anuja Sarangi and Nitin Gupta, for the coveted post.

WISDOM CORNER

- Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**
- Die to everything of yesterday so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigor and passion. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**
- Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. **MOTHER TERESA**

WORDSWORTH

Agnotology

Agnotology is the study of culturally induced ignorance. Historians of science have tended to focus on the processes by which scientific knowledge gets accepted. In recent decades, some scholars have come to see that processes that impede or prevent acceptance of scientific findings are also important. Such processes include the very human desire to ignore unpleasant facts, media neglect of topics, corporate or government secrecy, and misrepresentation for a commercial or political end. They often generate controversy, much of it ill-informed. Examples include the health implications of tobacco and of genetically modified plants, the safety of nuclear power, the environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and the existence or extent of man-made climate change. The word's earliest appearance seems to have been in a book of 1995, The Cancer Wars: How Politics Shapes What We Know and Don't Know About Cancer. This was by Robert Proctor, a historian of science at Stanford University in California. He coined it from the classical Greek agnōsis, not knowing, plus the suffix -(-o)logy, a subject of study, from Greek logos, word or speech.

Cachinnatory

Cachinnatory refers to loud or immoderate laughter. Though this may seem to be celebrating boisterous high spirits, it dates from the early nineteenth century, at a time when gentlemen in England did not laugh out loud, at least not in public. It has about it a sense of the distaste we feel when persons nearby are carousing too loudly for comfort. That master of the second-rate novel, Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton, was a great user of the word and illustrated its exuberance in his Paul Clifford of 1842: "If Paul's comrade laughed at first, he now laughed ten times more merrily than ever. He threw his full length of limb upon a neighbouring sofa, and literally rolled with cachinnatory convulsions; nor did his risible emotions subside until the entrance of the hung-beef restored him to recollection". It also appears in Fan by Henry Harford, published in 1892, in which the heroine is visiting London Zoo: "The laughing jackasses laughed their loudest, almost frightening her with their weird cachinnatory chorus". The Romans clearly knew of this unrestrained outpouring of immoderate humour, since the word is from Latin cachinnare with the same sense.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

How women can break the bias



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Lilian Best

THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC, WOMEN HAVE SHATTERED THE MYTH THAT STRATEGIES BASED ON COMPASSION AND CONSENSUS-BUILDING ARE WEAK AND INEFFECTUAL

Since 1911, societies around the world have dedicated days, months, and even decades (in Africa's case) to celebrating women's achievements and promoting solutions to new and persistent challenges. But over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has expanded the plight of women to outsize proportions, sharply highlighting the urgency of this year's International Women's Day theme: "Break the Bias."

The onus is on us, the world's women, to fulfill this charge. Relying on our own ingenuity, we must shift our focus, refresh our global discourse, and usher in a new era for women's leadership.

There is no doubt that women have borne the brunt of the pandemic's costs. Many were forced to shelter from a silent enemy that we now know to be less lethal than their own closest kin. Many women were victims of what UN Women calls the "shadow pandemic," suffering beatings, rape, insults, and psychological trauma in what should have been a safe haven from a biological scourge.

Among the more staggering statistics from this period is one documenting the number of women

who didn't suffer or witness domestic violence: one in ten. You read that right: In Liberia, just one in ten survey respondents reported not witnessing sexual or gender-based violence, and only two in ten reported not experiencing it, during the COVID lockdown.

There is a clear inverse correlation between education and susceptibility to sexual and gender-based violence. Less-educated cohorts are generally more vulnerable, because they tend to have low economic and political agency and scant access to the health systems that could detect and address risks. These women suffer alone but together, listening to each other's cries through windows and walls.

Despite the structural disadvantages we face, women have risen to the occasion. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is one of the many women leaders stretching the bounds of ingenuity and determination to save lives. From Ethiopia, Germany, and Slovakia to Denmark, Namibia, and Finland, the world's 21 women heads of state and government serving when the pandemic erupted led the charge against it with transparency and integrity, outstripping their male

counterparts with effective public-health policies.

Throughout the pandemic, women have shattered the myth that strategies based on compassion and consensus-building are weak and ineffectual. Rather than being defeated by the double standards held against us, women leaders have remained humble, diligent, and collegial.

Moreover, we have been learning from our experiences to assess accurately the uneven social and political terrain on which we operate, so that we can approach our conditions more strategically. In addition to sharpening our awareness of the difference between pandemic and endemic, COVID-19 and flu, we have also directed more attention to sexual and gender-based violence.

This problem has long been considered endemic—a cyclical scourge flowing from the honeymoon to the hospital. We should now treat it the same way we do a virus. That means isolating perpetrators and bringing them to justice, establishing systems to detect and address cases, and engaging with communities to stop the spread. We must devise curative and preventive

measures that include men and boys, so that a lasting cultural transformation occurs.

We must target and reform the justice and social systems that have left women to the wolves, and we must harness the indirect, outsize force that politically and economically empowered women can bring to bear against violence. We must crowd legislatures and government offices with women, creating a critical mass that can shift the paradigm on justice, peace, security, and health.

Breaking the bias may not lead to an immediate ceasefire in domestic settings. But with more women leading at every level, we will gradually increase our collective access to education, gainful employment, and all the other resources needed to help women escape violence. If you are a woman reading this, we challenge you to consider pursuing a public leadership role, starting in your own community. We dare you, and we believe in you.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is a former President of the Republic of Liberia and Lilian Best, Head of the financial market development section of the Central Bank of Liberia.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Power of PIL

Sir, The Supreme Court and the High Courts which are the watchdogs of Indian society, have been flooded with Public Interest Litigations (PILs). Actually, it was when Justice Bhagwati held the SC judge's post for twelve years from 1973 that he brought into being the phenomenal trend of PILs. Then, the 'revolutionary' dissenting judgment of Justice HR Khanna, upholding the fundamental rights even during instances of Emergency, is still a path-breaker. However, later, not many government decisions were contested in the apex court. There were apprehensions in some quarters that the judiciary, in its eagerness to raise the bar, was usurping the power of the executive and legislature. This apprehension has been underlined by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana at the recent joint conference of chief ministers and chief justices. He said that many PILs have turned into personal interest litigation thereby stalling important projects and putting pressure on governments. However, it cannot be missed that the courts were only upholding the rights enshrined in the Constitution for the common man.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Tough time ahead

Sir, Many commercial banks have followed in RBI's footsteps by hiking their lending and deposit rates. The central bank had rolled the markets a day earlier with a surprise repo rate change. The increase in lending rates will mean expensive home, auto, and SME loans as banks pass on their increased costs of funds to fresh and existing borrowers. Moreover, rising geopolitical tensions and RBI contemplating another rate hike in the next quarter could lead to more pain.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Delimitation in J&K

Sir, The prolonged process of delimitation in J&K has completed and the commission proposes increasing seven assembly seats for J&K. Out of these seats they reserved nine seats for people of Scheduled Tribes. The next assembly elections will be the first elections in J&K to have reservation since the people who belong to SC/ST never had an opportunity as they have in the other states of India. The delimitation commission has advised the Central government to consider the provision of two members of which one should be a female in the legislative assembly by the appeal from Kashmiri migrants of PoK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir). The Central Government must keep this in mind and give opportunities to the Kashmiri migrants.

Ishika Sahu, UJJAIN

national



Riots occurred in seven states on the pattern of Karauli, which should be probed. If Amit Shah Ji has the courage then he should form a committee headed by a Supreme Court or High Court judge to get into the root cause behind the riots that occurred in seven states after the Karauli incident

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

200 MILITANTS READY TO ENTER J&K: ARMY

Northern army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi Friday said that infiltration is drastically down, yet currently there are 200 terrorists staged across border ready to be launched into Jammu and Kashmir



of the day quote

I have been told that despite busy traffic, the dutiful people of Aizawl refrain from honking. This practice is worth appreciating and may be adopted by people in other cities too

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

To reduce the dependency on imported petroleum products, the country should march towards running trains, airplanes, vehicles and factories on hydrogen fuel

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Regionalism has no place in the "bipolar" politics of Madhya Pradesh

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MP CM

'ISI pushing pro-Khalistani elements to carry out terror strikes'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: Sources in the intelligence agencies said that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is pushing pro-Khalistani elements to carry out major terror strikes in India. The sources, quoting intelligence inputs, said that pro-Khalistani entities with the help of ISI are continuing with their efforts to smuggle IEDs, arms, ammunition and explosives into Punjab to carry out terrorist strikes in major cities of the country. They also said that the ISI, in collusion with foreign based pro-

Khalistani entities, is planning to use gangsters and local criminals in Haryana and Punjab to accomplish its terrorist agenda.

Haryana Police on Thursday claimed to have foiled a major terror attack bid with the arrest of four 'highly radicalised' Punjab-based terrorists, who were in touch with the ISI, from the Bastara toll plaza in Karnal in a joint operation with their Punjab counterparts and Central security agencies.

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



the police said. Besides key accused Gurpreet Singh, who had met Rajbir Singh, an associate of Pakistan-based handler Harjinder

Singh Rinda, in jail, the other suspects have been identified as Bhopinder Singh, Amandeep Singh and Parminder Singh, all from Punjab.

They were arrested from the toll plaza when they were on their way to Delhi in a white Toyota Innova. Rinda's name had cropped up in connection with the blast in a court in Ludhiana last year.

Additional Director General of Police (law and order), Sandeep Khirwar, said the police have recovered three IEDs, one Pakistan-made pistol, 31 cartridges and Rs 1.30 lakh in cash from the arrested persons in Karnal.

Officials said the weapons were air-dropped using a drone at the behest of Rinda in Ferozepur, Punjab. During interrogation, Gurpreet confessed that they received the explosives from across the border.

Recently Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), on ISI's behest, had posted a message on social media threatening the chief ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab that banning the Khalistani campaign might lead to an armed conflict, the sources in the intelligence network said.

SFJ is a US-based separatist group that supports the secession of Punjab from India as Khalistan.

High drama over BJP leader Bagga's arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Chandigarh, May 6: Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga was arrested by Punjab Police from his home, stopped in Haryana while being taken to Punjab and brought back to the national capital by Delhi Police hours later, a Friday of dramatic developments that drew in the police of three states and led to a BJP-AAP slugfest.

The BJP accused Punjab Police of "abducting" its leader, who has been vocal in his criticism of Arvind Kejriwal, and accused the AAP chief and Delhi chief minister of pursuing vendetta through the state police. The Aam Aadmi Party rejected the charge and said the Delhi BJP spokesperson was arrested for allegedly stoking communal tension in Punjab.

Delhi Police registered a case of kidnapping based on a complaint by Bagga's father Preetpal Singh. The Punjab government, on its part, moved the high court against the "detention" of its police team in Kurukshetra, Haryana. The AAP rules Delhi and Punjab while the BJP governs Haryana.

However, Delhi Police comes under the Union Home ministry and not the AAP-led Delhi government.

As tempers ran high with multiple claims and counter-claims coming in with dizzying rapidity, Preetpal Singh alleged that a team of 15-20 Punjab Police personnel barged into their Janakpuri home around 8 am, punched him in the face and did not allow his son to put on his turban while they were arresting him.

Recounting the events of the morning, he said the family, including Bagga, had finished breakfast when two Punjab Police personnel entered their west Delhi home. The two policemen had visited the family earlier as well. "We offered them tea... A few minutes later, 10-15 Punjab Police personnel broke in. They dragged Tajinder out and did not allow him to cover his head. When I tried to make a video of the incident, my mobile phone was snatched and I was punched in the face and forced to sit down," Bagga's elderly father told reporters. Soon after, the cavalcade of vehicles with Bagga was on its way from Delhi to Mohali in Punjab, about 250 km away, when it was held up in Kurukshetra, about



BJP leaders demonstrate against arrest of party spokesperson Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga outside AAP office in New Delhi

halfway between the two cities. Asked why the Punjab Police team was stopped, a Haryana Police official said there was information that Bagga had been "forcibly" picked up from his residence. "We have to verify and crosscheck these things," he said.

In the high-voltage drama that followed, a Delhi Police team reached Kurukshetra and took 'custody' of 36-year-old Bagga from Punjab Police. The exact reasons for Bagga's

arrest and the legality of it were not clear. Addressing a press conference, Delhi BJP leader Nupur Sharma cited a court ruling to say that police from another state must inform the local police before making any arrest. Punjab Police's action, she said, was illegal as it did not inform its Delhi counterparts.

The Punjab cops had not informed the local police in Delhi before arresting Bagga, a Delhi Police official said. Though AAP chief spokesper-

son Saurabh Bharadwaj referred to the clashes in Patiala on April 29, Punjab Police said it arrested Bagga in connection with a case registered in Mohali on April 1.

The April 1 FIR referred to Bagga's remarks on March 30, when he was part of a BJP youth wing protest outside Kejriwal's residence. Punjab Police had booked Bagga on charges of making provocative statements, promoting enmity and criminal intimidation. The case was registered on a complaint of AAP leader from Mohali Sunny Ahluwalia.

Bagga had also come under AAP fire for his tweet against the Delhi chief minister over the film "The Kashmir Files". Defending the Punjab Police's action, Bharadwaj told reporters that the state police registered a case against Bagga last month after the BJP leader, through his social media posts, "tried to create communal tension and incite violence in the state". "Because of such statements, the Punjab Police lodged an FIR and now arrested Bagga. His statements were communal in nature. A lot of BJP-linked people were instigating the violence in Patiala," Bharadwaj alleged.

SC Collegium proposes 15 names as High Court judges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana has recommended to the Centre 15 names of judicial officers and advocates for appointment as Judges in the High Courts of Delhi, Patna, and Andhra Pradesh.

In three separate Collegium resolutions, uploaded on Friday on the Supreme Court website, seven practicing advocates have been recommended for appointment as judges in the Delhi high court.

Similarly, the Patna High Court is also set to get seven judges who will be elevated from the lower judiciary. One advocate will be made a judge in the Andhra Pradesh High Court if the Centre agrees to the recommendation.

The lawyers whose names have been proposed for Delhi High Court are -- Vikas Mahajan, Tushar Rao Gedela, Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora, Sachin Datta, Amit Mahajan, Gaurang Kanth, and Saurabh Banerjee.

The Delhi High Court has a sanctioned strength of 60 judges. In another decision, the Collegium in its meeting held on May 4, 2022, also approved the proposal for the elevation of the seven Judicial Officers as Judges in the Patna High Court.

The name of the judicial officers includes --Shailendra Singh, Arun Kumar Jha, Jitendra Kumar, Alok Kumar Pandey, Sunil Dutta Mishra, Chandra Prakash Singh, and Chandra Shekhar Jha. Besides this, the Collegium also approved the proposal for the elevation of advocate Mehabub Subhani Shaik as Judge in the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Besides Ramana, Justices U U Lalit and A M Khanwilkar are part of the three-member Collegium which takes decisions with regard to high court judges.

SHORT TAKES

600 fishermen seek euthanasia

Ahmedabad: As many as 600 Muslims from Gosabar in Gujarat's Porbandar district have filed an application in the high court seeking nod for euthanasia. A hearing on the petition will be held in the coming days. This is the first that as many as 600 people have applied for euthanasia at the same time. The petitioners said that over the last 100 years, around 600 people from 100 families have been involved in the fishing business and the Fisheries Department had granted them fishing licence. However, the authorities of the department concerned do not allow them to anchor boats at Gosabar or Navi Bandar port and have been harassing them since 2016 due to which they are facing a lot of hardships and want to end their lives, the plea said.

Rahul rules out alliance with TRS

Warangal (Telangana): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday ruled out any alliance with the TRS in Telangana and launched a scathing attack on its president K Chandrashekar Rao, saying he was acting like a "king" instead of a chief minister. Addressing the 'Rythu Sangharshana Sabha' - a farmers' rally organised to highlight their plight - Rahul Gandhi said as soon as the Congress forms its government in Telangana, farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh will be waived and farmers will get right MSP of crops.

Compensate or pay fine: DGCA

New Delhi: Airlines are indulging in "unfair practice" of denying boarding to passengers even when they report for their flights at the airport on time, Indian aviation regulator DGCA has stated. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) -- in an e-mail on May 2 -- asked all Indian carriers to give compensation and facilities to passengers affected by such denial of boarding, failing which it would impose financial penalties on them. Sources alleged that Indian carriers have been overbooking their flights as COVID-19 cases are receding, and when the number of passengers exceed the number of seats in the aircraft, the airlines do not take them on-board.

Seven killed

Mumbai: At least seven persons including five women were killed and six others injured after a truck hit an auto rickshaw and a motorcycle in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra on Friday, police said. The incident took place around 8 in the morning near Masudpur Phata outside Koparganj city, 240 km from Mumbai, an official said.

Constitute Covid commission: Cong



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: After the WHO released its report on the Covid deaths, the Congress Friday demanded the constitution of a Covid commission and a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the families who lost their members in the pandemic.

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh said, "Heeding to our demand for the last two years, the government must immediately form a Covid commission with members from all parties to analyze the deaths that happened due to unavailability of Oxygen, broken supply chain in case of vaccines and medicines and plan for better management during such pandemics and pay Rs 4 lakhs to the families of the people who have died due to

Covid. If it can't provide the medical care and facilities, this is the least the Modi government can do to pay respects."

The Congress spokesperson said the Modi government has let India down on the World Stage once again as the mismanagement of the Covid pandemic by the BJP government is not hidden from anyone. He said the apathetic attitude has been evident all along. "The nation saw people gasping for oxygen during the second wave... India was shamed at the world stage when pictures of the bodies floating were circulated in the International Media."

Referring to the WHO report, he said it has exposed the death toll in India due to Covid between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021.

He said as per the government data, there has been only 5.24 lakh deaths due to Covid in India so far, but the few key points highlighted by the WHO report are that the world saw 1.49 crore excess deaths associated with the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

One in three deaths in the world due to Covid happened in India. India had 47 lakh deaths due to Covid-19 between January 2020 and December 2021.

Parties wooing 'game-changing' tribals in Gujarat

Even after 27 years of rule and almost three decades of grassroots work, the BJP has been unable to make major inroads into the Congress' forte in the tribal belts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, May 6: With Gujarat, which has a sizeable proportion of tribal population (14.8 per cent), slated to go to the polls later this year,

all political parties are making all out efforts to woo tribal voters.

The tribal voters can be the game-changers in Gujarat politics as of the 182-member House, 27 seats are reserved for them. Even after 27 years of rule and almost three decades of grassroots work, the BJP has been unable to make major inroads into the Congress' forte in the tribal belts. And the tribal voters, by and large, have remained loyal to the grand old party.

On April 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the tribals in Dahod, while on May 1, Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind



Tigers inside an enclosure on a hot day, in Lucknow zoo

PTI PHOTO

HC admits plea against conversion in schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, May 6: A vacation bench of the Madras High Court Friday admitted a public interest litigation plea to stop forcible conversion of students in schools and ordered notice to the Tamil Nadu government, returnable in four weeks.

The bench of Justices R Mahadevan and S Ananthi admitted the petition after having satisfied themselves that the issue raised, was maintainable. The matter will be posted before a regular bench after the summer vacation, which will come to an end on June 6.

Meanwhile, the petitioner, B Jagannath, a city-based advocate, filed an additional affidavit which alleged forcible conversions in more places. As per a secret probe carried out by a private TV channel, similar incidents of forcible conversion had occurred in five more places in the state, the counsel told the judges.

The original petition prayed for a direction to the government to frame effective guidelines and take all steps necessary, including corrective measures, to prohibit/prevent and ban proselytisation and forced religious conversions in



government and government aided schools and other educational institutions, both primary and higher secondary level.

In support of his petition, the petitioner cited the recent incident that

happened in Thanjavur district, where Lavanya, a student, had committed suicide over alleged pressure to convert to Christianity. The Court had ordered a CBI probe into the matter and the Supreme Court had also confirmed it, petitioner claimed.

Petitioner also referred to another incident in a government school in Kanyakumari district where a student was allegedly forced to kneel down for not acceding to the demand for conversion. The petitioner wanted firm steps against conversion by some persons.



Kejriwal shared the stage with Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) leader Chhotu Vasava and addressed a village at Chanderia village in Valia Taluka. Now, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is slated to address the 'Adivasi Satyagrah' rally at Dahod on May 10.

To counter Rahul Gandhi's rally,

the BJP has organised its tribal cell national convention at the Statue of Unity from May 9 to 11, in which the party's tribal cell office-bearers, leaders, MPs and MLAs from across the nation will participate.

Party sources said that in this convention, the saffron party may float an idea of projecting a tribal leader as President of the country and spread it in the tribal belts across the nation. In that case, the front-runner for BJP's Presidential nominee will be senior tribal leader Anusuiya Uikey, currently serving as the Governor of Chhattisgarh.

The tribal belt in the state is spread on the eastern border of

Gujarat from Danta in the north to Dangs in the south. If one goes by the electoral history of the 27 reserved tribal seats, in 2012, Congress had won 15 seats, the BJP 10 while the JD(U) had won 2 seats. In 2017, Congress had again bagged 15 seats, followed by BJP (9), Bharatiya Tribal Party (2), while one seat was won by an Independent candidate. Even after working for more than three decades in the tribal belt through sister concerns of RSS such as the Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad, Hindu Jagaran Manch and other organisations, and despite then BJP General Secretary Suryakant Acharya spending almost four years in the adivasi belt,

the saffron party has not been able to end Congress' domination in the area. Same is the story of BTP leader Chhotu Vasava and Dadra & Nagar Haveli MP late Mohan Delkar. Both tried to be tribal leaders of the entire belt, but failed. The root cause of the failure might be the strong sub-castes in tribals like Kotwaliyas in Banaskantha and Sabarkantha, Bhils in Dahod and Panchmahal, Rathwa in Chhotaudepur, Vasvas in Bharuch and Narmada districts, Chaudhary, Gamit, Dhodhiya in Surat and Tapi district, and Halpati, Nayakas, Kharva, Varli, Kumbhi and Kotwaliyas in Dangs, whose traditions are different.



5-judge bench to decide Delhi-Centre row

The plea by the Delhi government arises out of a split verdict of February 14, 2019, in which a two judge-bench of Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan, both retired since, had recommended to the Chief Justice of India that a three-judge bench be set up to finally decide the issue of control of services in the national capital in view of its split verdict



five-judge bench, a plea which was strongly opposed by the AAP-led Delhi government. While reserving the order, the bench had said in the case, that it decides to constitute a five-judge bench to hear the issue then the hearing has to be concluded before May 15 so that the vacation time can be used for preparing the judgement. Singhvi had said "This court is not here to refer every time the slightest thing is pointed out. How does this matter, if there were three or five judges. It is not about why not, it is about why."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: The Supreme Court Friday referred to a five-judge Constitution bench the dispute between the Centre and the Delhi government over control of services in the national capital for an "authoritative pronouncement" on the issue.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, however, said all other issues, except the issue of control over services, had been "elaborately dealt with" by the previous Constitution bench in 2018 and they will not be revisited.

"Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Article 239AA (which deals with Delhi's power) of the Constitution and considering the Constitution bench judgement (of 2018), it appears that all the issues except the one pending consideration before this bench have been elaborately dealt with there-

fore, we do not deem it necessary to revisit the issues that already stand settled," the CJI said while reading out the operative portion of the verdict.

The limited issue that has been referred to this bench relates to the scope of legislative and executive powers of the Centre and the Delhi government with respect to the terms of services, the verdict said. "The Constitution bench of this court while interpreting Article 239AA of the Constitution did not find any occasion to specifically interpret the dispute herein... We therefore deem it appropriate to refer the above limited question for an authoritative pronouncement by the Constitution bench," it said.

"We are listing it on Wednesday. Please, do not ask for any adjournment (May 11)," the CJI said.

The bench had reserved its order April 28 on the Centre's submission that the dispute over the control over services be referred to a

out from that interpretation only.

The solicitor general had also said the model of governance of the NCT of Delhi would invariably require the Union government to play a central role, even if a legislative assembly or council of ministers is introduced.

The central government had also sought a joint hearing of two separate petitions of the Delhi government on control over services and challenging the constitutional validity of the amended GNCTD Act, 2021 and the Transaction of Business Rules, which allegedly give more powers to the Lieutenant Governor respectively, saying they are prima facie correlated. Justice Bhushan had ruled the Delhi government had no power at all over administrative services. Justice Sikri, however, made a distinction.

He said the transfer or posting of officers in top echelons of the bureaucracy (joint director and above) can only be done by the Central government and the view of the lieutenant governor would prevail in case of a difference of opinion on matters relating to other bureaucrats. In the 2018 judgement, a five-judge Constitution bench had unanimously held that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is bound by the "aid and advice" of the elected government, and both needed to work harmoniously with each other.

To find new lease of life, MP women revive village pond



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, May 6: Chabutara village in Madhya's Pradesh's Khandwa district has always been arid.

The water-scarce summer months were particularly difficult in this primarily tribal village, with lack of water resulting in the death of cattle.

Women would need to trudge miles in search of drinking water. Most villagers would leave for cities and towns to earn a living.

Yet, in spite of back-breaking work for over three months, there was hardly much made to live on when they returned home.

Women take the lead. Typically patriarchal, Chabutara had never believed in letting its women access their rights as individuals.

Notwithstanding their contribution to running the household, women rarely had a say in any decision. Nor were they extended support when they needed it.

Take the case of Budhiyabai. After losing her husband, Budhiyabai had returned to her parents' home in Chabutara with an infant son. But they had refused to take her back, compelling her to set up a home in a little hut all by herself.

However, matters changed when she joined a local women's Self-Help Group (SHG), Durga Mahila Samuha. Budhiyabai was soon joined by Ramkali, Setibai, Rukmabai and many others, all of whom had been migrating every summer in search of work.

Following the death of several heads of cattle during a particularly difficult summer,

Budhiyabai decided to address the situation by appealing for help through Spandan, a local NGO that had been working with her SHG on nutrition. She took up the matter with Spandan social worker, Seema Prakash.

"Water was a major problem here, but we didn't have the means to help the women," Prakash recalled. "So we took the matter up with our partner, Goonj, which is a nationwide NGO. Goonj decided to pay them in the form of 2 kg of rice (given daily) per person and clothes every fortnight, and the women went on to dig a dried-up [5-acre] pond so deep that it would hold water all through the year."

"We then helped them access a government loan to opt for pisciculture," Prakash added.

"The loan helped them buy fingerlings to start their venture. The women pooled in money through their SHG and bought fishing nets and fish feed for fish cultivation. In three months, the fish grew big enough for the market. Thus, the women's group earned a neat ₹20,000 on their investment after a period of four years."

Rather than exhausting the money, they decided to save the amount to return the loan. But even as their venture gathered steam, with regular harvests and the sale of fish in the weekly market, problems reared their ugly head.

The women fought a long battle against patriarchy and braved many underhanded activities perpetrated by the men in the village to scuttle their efforts at financial independence.

It was the consistent support of a few allies that helped them turn the tide.

Luck shines on MP farmer as he mines 11.88 carat diamond

AGENCIES

Panna (MP), May 6: A farmer in Madhya Pradesh had a great stroke of luck as he stumbled upon a 11.88 carat good quality diamond in a small, leased mine in Panna, famous for diamond mines.

The small-time farmer, Pratap Singh Yadav, who also works as a labourer, found this diamond from a mine in Patti area in the district, diamond officer Ravi Patel told reporters. This good quality diamond will be put up for sale in the upcoming auction and the price will be fixed as per the government guidelines.

Talking to reporters, Yadav said, "I am a poor man with a small agricultural land. I also work as a labourer. I have been working hard in this mine for the past three

STEPS TOWARDS GOOD HEALTH



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav and the Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey perform yoga at the celebration of Yoga Utsav 2022 in New Delhi

Vegetable vendor's daughter becomes civil judge in Indore

NO DREAM IS UNACHIEVABLE, AND PROVING THE SAME IS A VEGETABLE VENDOR'S DAUGHTER IN MADHYA PRADESH WHO ACHIEVED HER CHILDHOOD DREAM OF BECOMING A JUDGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, May 6: Overcoming several hurdles, the daughter of a vegetable vendor in Madhya Pradesh's Indore has become a civil judge after she cleared the recruitment examination in her fourth attempt.

Speaking to PTI Thursday, 29-year-old Ankita Nagar said despite failing to clear the recruitment exam thrice, she did not deviate from her goal of becoming a judge.

"I have cleared the civil judge Class-II examination in my fourth



attempt. I don't have words to express my happiness," Ankita said. Ankita's father Ashok Nagar is a vegetable vendor in Musakhedi



area of the city, and after completing her preparations for the examination, she said she even used to help him in his work.

Ankita, who had completed her masters degree (LLM), wanted to study law since childhood and while pursuing her bachelor's degree in law, she had decided to become a judge. "Despite three unsuccessful attempts, I did not give up and remained focused on achieving my goal. This struggle opened doors for me and I kept moving forward," Ankita said. After commencing her stint as a civil judge, Ankita said she will focus on ensuring justice to anyone comes to her court.

'Delhi startup policy to boost entire ecosystem'

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said that the government will provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to youth who want to build startups

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) Friday welcomed the Delhi Startup Policy which aims to support 15,000 startups by 2030 and generate new avenues of employment.

"The National Capital Region, which is already a hub for start-ups in India, will see an accelerated transformation under the aegis of these integrated and effective policy pillars in the coming years," the ADIF said in a statement.

"The multiplier effect of this ambitious policy will help boost the startup ecosystem of our entire nation," added the foundation that represents hundreds of startups.

The Delhi government will pay up to 50 per cent of the rent of a startup's office lease or pitch in for a portion of the salaries that these startups will pay to their employees. "We will also reimburse them



for the costs incurred on applying for patents, copyrights and trademarks," Kejriwal said. According to the Economic Survey 2021-22, Delhi has replaced Bengaluru as the startup capital of India.

Between April 2019 to December 2021, more than 5,000 recognised start-ups were added in Delhi while 4,514 startups were added in Bengaluru. The Delhi government said it would also offer collateral-free and interest-free loans to in-cubate incubation centres and fabrication labs.

A 20-member task force will also be set up to oversee the registration of startups.

MP: Over 150 people fall sick after eating at a function in Betul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Betul, May 6: Over 150 people fell ill after having dinner at an engagement function in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, an official said Friday.

The incident took place Thursday night at Pindrai village in Multai police station area, about 90 km from the district headquarters, district collector Amanveer Singh Bains said. More than 150 people, including the woman who got engaged, fell ill. Two of the affected persons are in a critical condition. Most people who took ill after having dinner have been discharged from different hospitals, the collector said. According to Dr Amit Nagvanshi of Multai hospital, nearly 160 people flooded different hospitals, complaining of vomiting and dysentery around 11 pm after having dinner at the engagement function.

The food department has collected samples of the dishes served at the function for testing, and officials suspect that a dessert served during the meal might have caused food poisoning, it was stated.

Cow dung waste to wealth, Delhi youths' venture for sustainability

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: What do you do when you have 9,000 cows generating 1 lakh kgs of cow dung daily? Few enterprising youngsters of the city have found a way to not only generate wealth from it but also provide livelihood to several.

Coming into existence in 2017, the 'Arth' is a venture started by a bunch of IIT alumni with the help of ENACTUS, IIT Delhi. With four machines, they started turning cow dung at Shri Krishna Goshala in north Delhi's Bawana into cow dung logs first and then diya, havan cups, rakhis and now, the team has filed a patent for cow dung clay.

On Friday, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala handed over yet another machine prepared by Rashtriya Godhan Mahasangh to them. "It needs woods from two fully grown trees to create a body. All those trees can be saved of people adopt such practices. It can also help the gaushala to clear roughly 150,000 to 170,000 kg of processed cow dung every month



UNIQUE INITIATIVE

The cow dung log machine, 'Go Kashi', is used to manufacture cow dung-based fuel wood in long log-like shape

It has mixture of cow dung and cattle waste (like dried waste paddy). This log is then Sun dried and can be later used as a fuel wood in various situations

It can produce 1,500 kg of cow dung-based logs that can be used as firewood for the cremation of five-seven bodies, saving roughly two trees in each cremation

and earn through it," Rupala told mediapersons. Hoping that more and more goshalas adopt such practices, the minister also promised Rashtriya Godhan Mahasangh to facilitate including such machines under Agriculture category to be eligible for a subsidy. Earning by goshalas (cow shelters) is important as most of the Gau Shalas have large number of non-milking cows. And process of preparing mix for cow dung cakes provides solution to waste management problems, pro-

vide an additional source of employment to its employees or nearby villagers, and contribute in reducing deforestation. "We have a tripartite arrangement with the Shri Krishna Goshala. We have trained people from the Goshala to use the machine, prepare logs and then leave it for sun drying. The products we sell to corporates," Arth's Ayush Sultania told IANS after the event, and added that the revenue is shared equally by themselves, goshala owner and workers.

Light rain in parts of city, more to follow, says IMD



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: Some parts of the national capital witnessed light rain Friday, leading to a surge in humidity, an Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) official said.

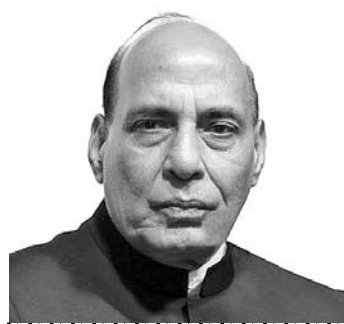
Isolated pockets reported drizzling with strong winds.

"The city has witnessed 'very light' to 'light' rain due to local development. The winds from Arabian Sea or Bay of Bengal have led to some moisture incursion which in turn led to cloud formation hence the rain," IMD scientist Charan Singh said. More rain is likely in some areas of the city.

"Thunderstorm with light to moderate intensity rain and gusty winds with speed of 30-40 kmph would occur over few places of North Delhi, North-East Delhi (Burari), Model Town, Karawal Nagar, Lodhi Road, Safdarjung, RK Puram, Hauz Khas, Malviya Nagar, Mehrauli, Chattarpur, IGNOU, Ayanagar, Deramandi in South Delhi and NCR, including Kotputli, Alwar, Palwal, Hodal, Gurugram and Faridabad during the next two hours," the weather department stated in the afternoon.

In the morning, the department had predicted partly cloudy sky in the capital with the maximum temperature likely to settle at 39 degrees celsius.

No heatwave conditions have been predicted for the next three days, IMD official added.



The nature of future wars can be assessed through a closer look at the situation in Syria, Afghanistan and the recent Ukrainian conflict

CREATING AWARENESS

The Tamil Nadu Official language, Tamil culture, and Archeology ministry have decided to conduct Tamil folk and classical arts at parks, beaches, and museums across the state.



of the day quote

India and Israel have a truly special relationship and since the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to that country in 2017, the ties between the two nations have really taken off

Is it a crime to demand that the land of Dalits that has been illegally occupied for decades by some people, be returned to them. It seems this has become a crime in (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji's Gujarat because this cannot be a crime in Babu's (Mahatma Gandhi's) Gujarat, it cannot be a crime in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Gujarat because Gujarat is the land of justice and on that land of justice Jignesh Mewani is being sent to jail because he took out protest march as the land of Dalits was being occupied

The sedition law is against the conscience of the Indian nation and it is high time the Supreme Court considers abrogating it from the pages of criminal law

SHORT TAKES

Jilted lover held

Kanpur: The Kanpur police have arrested a man identified as Ajay Kumar, who threw acid on a 35-year-old widow in Tulsipur in Bidhnoo. The police said that after the death of a friend, the accused was pressuring his deceased friend's wife to marry him and when she spurned his marriage proposal, he attacked her with acid.

Three killed

Agartala: An elderly couple and their son were killed and four others critically injured during a fight over an alleged land dispute between two families in Tripura's Dhalai district, police said Friday.

Teacher suspended

New Delhi: The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has decided to suspend the principal and a teacher, and terminate the services of the contractual staff of a school in the national capital's Bhajanpura area where two girls were allegedly molested by a man.

Blast in Manipur

Imphal: A powerful bomb, detonated by remote control, rocked Manipur's Imphal East district early Friday, partially damaging four cars, police said.

Robber arrested

New Delhi: A seasoned criminal was arrested for allegedly stealing the mobile phone of a man at a liquor shop in north Delhi, police said Friday.

Scorching heat adds to despair of Indian women

REUTERS

Hinauti, India, May 6: India's scorching summer heat adds new risks this year to an energy-sapping challenge that tribal woman Munni Adhivasi has surmounted every day for two decades, by trudging for miles to carry home water.

water needed for drinking and cooking for four children and three goats," added Munni, who carries home on her head all 30 litres (8 gallons) her family and livestock need each day.



lages in the area who draw water from their usual source, a reservoir beside a quarry where many of

their husbands find daily employment. The heat wave has killed more than a dozen people nation-

wide since late March. India has urged its officials to draw up action plans to ameliorate the temperatures, and is working to step up drinking water supplies to more than 50 litres a day for each person in the countryside by 2024.

Increase in cases of cruelty to dogs in UP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 6: Even as cases of stray dogs attacking children increase, cases of cruelty to animals are also on the rise.

Animal rights activist Kamna Pandey, former member of Animal Rights Commission, said that she has lodged FIRs in two cruelty incidents and is getting multiple complaints on a daily basis from animal lovers.

"We have also got reports that some people have hired private persons to kill stray dogs in their localities. People must understand that killing dogs is not the solution, and, in fact, it leads to retaliation by animals in self-defence.

Cases of cruelty to animals have been reported from Prayagraj where a youth tied crackers to the tail of a stray dog in Naini area and set it on fire. The dog suffered burn injuries and later succumbed.

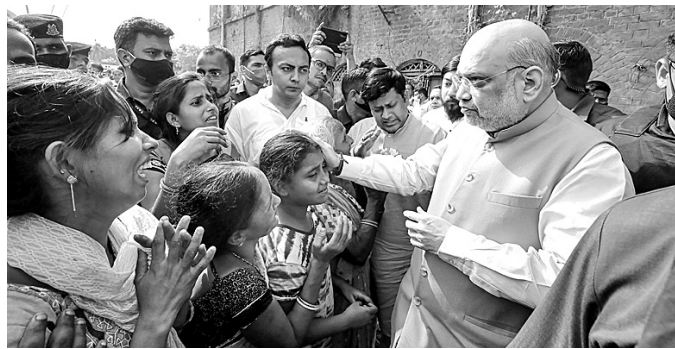
Police action in these cases has not been reported. After the last month's Thakurganj incident in which a minor girl was mauled to death by stray dogs, Lucknow Municipal Corporation has stepped up its drive to sterilise stray dogs.

"Some volunteers have informed that LMC squads are using wired iron rods to catch pigs at some places, which is banned under the Prevention of Cruelty Act 1979," Pandey informed.

Shah demands CBI probe into BJYM worker's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 6: Claiming the death of BJYM worker Arjun Chowrasia in Kolkata's Kashipur was a "political murder", Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanded a CBI enquiry into it on Friday, as Calcutta High Court ordered a post-mortem to be conducted at the Command Hospital here.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah meets the family of BJP worker Arjun Chowrasia, in Kolkata. Chowrasia, a member of the BJP's youth wing, was found hanging in an abandoned building near his home

The Home Minister added that his ministry "is taking serious note of Chowrasia's death and has sought a report on it"

Shah who is on a two-day visit to the state, visited Chowrasia's home after news broke that the worker had been found hanging in an abandoned building in the area in mysterious circumstances.

The BJP leader who had crossed swords with West Bengal's chief minister Mamata Banerjee last year during a campaign for the elections to the state assembly, said the BJP party will demand "the strictest punishment" from the courts of law for "whoever is guilty of the gruesome crime".

"BJP's Arjun Chowrasia has been murdered politically. His family members claimed that he was murdered. "Yesterday TMC celebrated one year of its third term in office ... and the tradition of political violence and killing has again started," Shah claimed.

One of the main electoral planks of the BJP in last year's high decibel elections which saw the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC come back to power for a third term, winning over 213 seats, was the issue of political

violence in the state.

The Home Minister also added that his ministry "is taking serious note of Chowrasia's death and has sought a report on it." He also said Chowrasia's family had complained that his body had been taken away forcibly. Shah said no one state in the country had witnessed so many cases being handed over to the CBI.

"It is an attempt to create a fear psychosis across the state. No other state has witnessed so many cases being handed over to the CBI. This only proves that courts don't have faith in police and state administration," he alleged. Shah's comments drew sharp reactions from the ruling TMC, which wondered how the Home Minister had branded the death

as "murder" even before a probe was over.

"Any death is painful, but how come the Union Home Minister is calling it a political murder even before the probe is over? "Has he turned into a political astrologer? He should stop spreading canards against the TMC government," senior TMC leader and Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said.

The Calcutta High Court Friday ordered that post-mortem of BJYM worker Chowrasia, be conducted at the Army's Eastern Command Hospital here, after BJP leader and lawyer Priyanka Tibrewal moved the court on behalf of Chowrasia's mother.

Nitish snubs Kishor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 6: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Friday asserted that he attached "no importance" to his administration's uncharitable assessment by Prashant Kishor, who has taken the political plunge giving up his earlier role of a backroom operator for other players.

Kumar was asked by journalists about the remarks of Kishor, popularly known as PK, who on the previous day here launched "Jan Suraj", a campaign aimed at providing a political alternative in the state which might, at a later stage, evolve into a party fighting elections.

"I give no importance to whatever somebody says. It is for you journalists to decide whether or not my administration has been able to meet expectations," said Kumar with a smirk.

Kishor had contended that Kumar's administration had brought in economic growth but did not succeed in propelling Bihar for a great leap forward, a reason why the state was still at the bottom of the country in terms of various

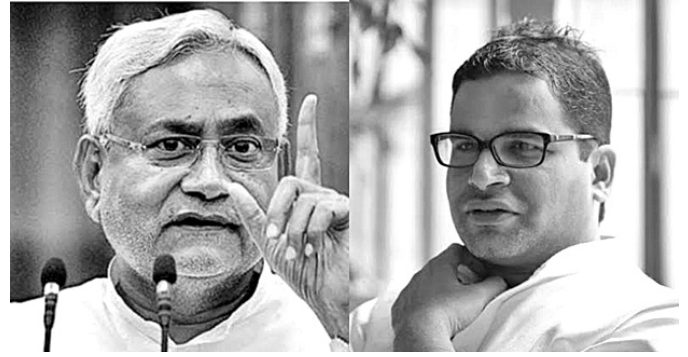
development indices.

Incidentally, Kishor had also handled Kumar's campaign for the 2015 assembly polls and, upon a huge success at the hustings, was later rewarded by the latter as he was appointed as an advisor to the chief minister - a cabinet rank post.

The chief minister, however, ducked queries about Union Home Minister Amit Shah's aversion that the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be implemented once the Covid pandemic is over.

"This is a policy decision of the Centre which we will look into separately. As of now, our primary concern is Covid cases are again on the rise and protecting people against the fresh surge is our priority," said Kumar.

The CAA has been a thorny issue for Kumar's JD(U) which voted in favour of the bill proposing expedited citizenship for non-Muslims fleeing Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan because of "religious persecution" but has been opposed to a nationwide NRC which the BJP keeps pressing for as a subsequent measure.



BJP workers carry matka (earthen water vessel) during a protest against the municipal corporation over water scarcity in Thane

ED raids multiple locations

JHARKHAND MGNREGA FUNDS FRAUD CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Ranchi, May 6: The ED Friday conducted raids at multiple premises, including that of Jharkhand Mining Secretary Pooja Singhal and her family, in connection with a money laundering probe linked to the alleged embezzlement of over Rs 18 crore MGNREGA funds in Khunti district of the state during 2008-11, officials said.



The agency seized a total of Rs 19.31 crore cash from two premises that were searched in state capital Ranchi. About Rs 17.51 crore cash has been recovered from the premises of a Ranchi-based Chartered Accountant-cum-fi-

nancial advisor whose links with the IAS officer and her family are under the scanner, they said. Around Rs 1.8 crore cash has also been recovered from another location in the city, they said. The officials said a number of "incriminating documents that indicate political and higher bureaucracy links with alleged illegal mining activities in the state" have been seized.

The raids that were continuing till late evening are being carried out under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at about 18 premises in Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab, and a few other states, they said. The officials said the premises of Singhal, an IAS officer and secretary of the Department of Mines and Geology of the Jharkhand government, in state capital, Ranchi, are also being covered as part of the action.

Singhal is a 2000 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and was posted as the deputy commissioner in Khunti district earlier.

Stunting dips, obesity rises in most states: NFHS-5

The report said the level of stunting among children under five years has marginally declined from 38 to 36 per cent since the last four years

peated infection and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. The NFHS-5 (2019-21) report comprises detailed information on key domains of population, health and family welfare and associated domains like characteristics of the population, fertility, family planning, infant and child mortality, maternal and child health, nutrition and anaemia, morbidity and health-care and women's empowerment.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

New Delhi, May 6: The level of stunting among children under five years has marginally declined from 38 to 36 per cent in the last four years while obesity has increased in most states and union territories, according to the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, re-

The report said the level of stunting among children under five years has marginally declined from 38 to 36 per cent for India since the last four years.

stunting was observed in Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim (7 percentage points each), Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur (6 percentage points each), and Chandigarh and Bihar (5 percentage points

women and 19 per cent to 23 per cent among men. More than a third of women in Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Manipur, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Punjab, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep (34-46 per cent) are overweight or obese," the report said.

The main objective of successive NFHS rounds has been to provide reliable and comparable data relating to health and family welfare and other emerging areas in India. The NFHS-5 survey work has been conducted in around 6.37 lakh sample households from 707 districts (as on March 2017) in 28 states and eight UTs, covering 7.24,115 women and 1,01,839 men to provide disaggregated estimates up to the district level, the report said.

It also provides data by socio-economic and other background

characteristics, useful for policy formulation and effective programme implementation. The NFHS-5 shows an overall improvement in Sustainable Development Goals indicators in all states and UTs.

"The extent to which married women usually participate in three household decisions (about health care for herself; making major household purchases; visit to her family or relatives) indicates that their participation in decision making is high, ranging from 80 per cent in Ladakh to 99 per cent in Nagaland and Mizoram. Rural (77 per cent) and urban (81 per cent) difference is found to be marginal. The prevalence of women having a bank or savings account that they use has increased from 53 to 79 per cent in the last four years," the report said.

international

of the day quote

From the potential moment Sweden is applying, and NATO says that they want Sweden to join, there is a very strong obligation from NATO to be able to guarantee Sweden's security

The government has decided to form an inquiry commission to probe Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) claims about a foreign conspiracy to dislodge Imran Khan, which will be headed by an impartial person so that no one would be able to raise a finger against him

A major wildfires disaster exists in the State of New Mexico. Federal aid can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help local residents and business owners recover from the damage of the wildfires

SHORT TAKES

Indian climber dies

Kathmandu: A 52-year-old Indian climber died while ascending the peak of Mt Kanchenjunga in Nepal, according to the organiser of the expedition. Narayanan Iyer, a resident of Maharashtra, died Thursday at 8,200 metre altitude of the world's third highest mountain peak lying at the India-Nepal border, Nivesh Karki, executive director of the Pioneer Adventure, the organiser of the expedition, told PTI. According to the preliminary report, the Indian climber died due to high altitude sickness, some 386 metre below the 8,586 metre high peak.

More hurdle for Imran Khan

Islamabad: After ousting Imran Khan from power and tackling his claims of corruption against opposition party leaders, the incumbent government of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to scrutinise the legality and value of the former premier's assets and income. As per sources, the federal government has decided to launch a thorough inquiry and scrutiny of Khan's assets and income, including details of at least four of his employees, who are under the payroll of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and dig deeper into finding irregularities, which may be used to book the ousted leader on assets beyond means, undeclared income and illegal inflow of huge sum of funds from unknown sources and accounts.

Boeing gets global HQ in Virginia

Washington: US aerospace major Boeing announced that its Arlington, Virginia, campus outside Washington, DC will serve as the company's global headquarters. The company said that its employees in the region support various corporate functions and specialise in advanced airplane development and autonomous systems.

8 dead as blast destroys hotel

Havana: A powerful explosion damaged a hotel in the Cuban capital Friday and officials reported at least eight people had died. The blast at the Hotel Saratoga, a 19th century structure in Old Havana, apparently was due to a gas leak, according to the Twitter account of the office of President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who went to the site.



Our military is well aware that the United States, Britain and NATO as a whole are constantly transmitting intelligence and other parameters to the Ukrainian armed forces

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE TO BECOME THE 1ST BLACK WH PRESS SECY

Karine Jean-Pierre will be the new White House Press Secretary, President Joe Biden has announced, becoming the first Black and openly gay person to hold the high-profile job



ECONOMIC CRISIS DEEPENS LANKA UNDER STATE OF EMERGENCY AGAIN

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has declared a state of emergency from midnight amid protests against a massive economic crisis that has crippled the island nation with external debt



AGENCIES

Colombo, May 6: Embattled Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared a state of emergency with effect from Friday midnight, the presidential media division said, the second time in just over a month amidst countrywide public protests over the worst economic crisis.

The state of emergency gives the police and the security forces power to arbitrarily arrest and detain people.

Rajapaksa's decision was to ensure public security and maintain essential services so as to ensure a smooth functioning of the country, the presidential media division said. The decision came amidst weeks of public protests demanding the resignation of the President and the government. On Friday, Sri Lankan student activists warned to lay a siege to Parliament as trade unions launched a crippling island-wide strike to demand the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his government over their inability to tackle the economic meltdown which has caused unprecedented hardships to the public. Sri Lanka is going through its worst economic crisis in its history with the shortage of essentials, and power outages caused by a severe forex crisis.

Rajapaksa had declared emergency April 1 also after a mass protest opposite his private residence. He had revoked it April 5. Since April 9, the protesters have been staying near the presidential secretariat in the 'Gota go home gama' or Gotabaya Go home

Mahinda under pressure to resign

Colombo: Sri Lanka's beleaguered Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has made it clear that he will not quit from his post, came under unexpected pressure to resign at the special Cabinet meeting held Friday. "There were opinions during the Cabinet, some even suggested the prime minister must resign. The President (Gotabaya Rajapaksa) was keen to see an end to the political crisis even with the resignation of the prime minister," a ministerial source said.

village and since April 26 the 'Mynah go home village' or 'Mahinda Go Home Village'. Sri Lanka is currently in the throes of unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets across Sri Lanka since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

Despite mounting pressure, President Rajapaksa and his elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa have refused to quit. On Thursday, they won a key election in Parliament when their candidate convincingly won the race for the post of Deputy Speaker.

China installing ex-secy chief as Hong Kong leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hong Kong, May 6: China is installing a career security official as the new leader of Hong Kong in the culmination of a sweeping political transformation that has gutted any opposition in the Asian financial center and placed it ever more firmly under Beijing's control.

John Lee, formerly the city's No. 2 official, is the only candidate Sunday in what is an election in name only. Well over half of the 1,500-member Election Committee that selects the chief executive has already endorsed him and he needs only a simple majority to win. Speaking to supporters Friday, Lee acknowledged that Hong Kong has deep-rooted problems and reiterated his intention to bring a "results-oriented" approach. "Hong Kong has to seize its opportunity, we cannot afford to wait, we cannot be late," the 64-year-old former police officer said. Lee will replace Carrie Lam July 1. Her 5-year term was marked by Hong Kong's most tumultuous period since the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.



John Lee

British colony was returned to China in 1997.

3 Israelis killed in stabbing attack near Tel Aviv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tel Aviv, May 6: Israeli security forces Friday launched a massive manhunt for two Palestinians suspected of carrying out a stabbing rampage that killed three Israelis in the predominantly ultra-orthodox town of Elad on Israel's Independence Day, the latest in a series of deadly assaults deep inside the country in recent weeks.

Police have launched a massive search operation for the assailants, identified as As'ad Al-Rafa'ani, 19 and Sabhi abu Shakir, 20, both residents of Jenin area in the West Bank, setting up roadblocks and dispatching a helicopter.

The stabbing on Thursday night, Israel's Independence Day, is the seventh such incident in the past 45 days, taking the death toll from such attacks in Israel to 19, police said. It came as Israeli-Palestinian tensions were already heightened by violence at a major holy site in Jerusalem sacred to Jews and Muslims.

On Friday, Israeli Police and the Shin Bet security services released the names of the two suspects and said both are residents of Jenin area in the West Bank.

SPACEX BRINGS 4 ASTRONAUTS HOME



AGENCIES

Cape Canaveral (US), May 6: SpaceX brought four astronauts home with a midnight splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico on Friday, capping the busiest month yet for Elon Musk's taxi service.

The three US astronauts and one German in the capsule were bobbing off the Florida coast, near Tampa, less than 24 hours after leaving the International Space Station. NASA expected to have them back in Houston later in the morning. "That was a great ride," said Raja Chari, the capsule commander. As for the reintroduction to gravity, he noted: "Only one complaint. These water bottles are super heavy." NASA's Chari, Tom Marshburn and Kayla Barron, and the European Space Agency's Matthias Maurer, were out of the capsule within an hour of splashdown, waving and giving thumbs-up as they were hustled away on rolling chaises for medical checks.

FUN TIME



People wearing face masks as a precaution against the coronavirus ride GYRO Drop ride as they visit Children's Grand Park on Children's Day in Seoul, South Korea

Russia must face war crimes justice, says AI

AGENCIES

Kyiv, May 6: Amnesty International says it has documented extensive war crimes by Russian forces in communities around the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, including arbitrary executions, bombardments of residences and torture.

"The pattern of crimes committed by Russian forces that we have documented includes both unlawful attacks and willful killings of civilians," Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said in a statement Friday. "It is vital that all those responsible, including up the chain of command, are brought to justice." The organisation said it collected evidence and testimony in eight cities near Kyiv, including Bucha.

After Russian forces retreated from Bucha in April, corpses were found lying on streets, many with their hands bound behind their backs, and in mass graves. Kyiv regional governor Oleksandr Pavlyuk said that at least 1,235 civilian bodies have been found in the region. Russia has consistently claimed that it hits only targets with military values. It has denied war-crimes allegations and claimed that the Bucha corpses were falsified as a "provocation." AI's report described the shoot-



Zelenskyy invites German leaders

London: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says he has invited Germany's head of government and its head of state to visit Ukraine May 9, the day Russia marks the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany in World War II. Western officials believe Russian President Vladimir Putin could use the Victory Day holiday to make an announcement about the war — either declaring a victory or escalating the conflict.

ing in Bucha of Yevhen Petrashenko, a 43-year-old sales manager, who was shot in his kitchen while his wife and children were hiding in the basement.

The Russian military allowed his wife, Tatiana, to enter the apartment, where she found her husband's corpse.

"Yevhen was lying dead in the kitchen. He had been shot in the back, (near his) lungs and liver. His body remained in the apartment until 10 March, when we were able to bury him in a shallow grave in the courtyard," the report quoted her as saying. Their neighbor Leonid Bodnarchuk, a 44-year-old

construction worker, was shot dead by Russian soldiers as he climbed the stairs, and then the military threw a grenade into the stairwell, the report said. The executions in Bucha were carried out with specialized rifles used by some elite Russian units, the report said. Amnesty International staff found 7N12 armour-piercing rounds with a 9x39mm black tip at the murder scene, which are used by elite units of the Russian army. The investigation also described bombardment of the city of Borodyanka, in which at least 40 people were killed in indiscriminate bombings that destroyed eight residential buildings.

Indian firms register growth in UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 6: Indian-owned companies operating in the UK have multiplied in the past year, up from 850 to 900, with a corresponding hike in revenues and job creation figures, according to latest research released here.

The 2022 'India Meets Britain Tracker', launched on Thursday, revealed these companies employed 141,005 people, up from 116,046 in 2021, and had combined revenues of 54.4 billion pounds, also up from 50.8 billion pounds last year.

"India is a very special place, and its growth has been nothing short of remarkable," said Lord Gerry Grimstone, Minister for Investment in the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT).

"This growing, confident, outward looking India has benefited the world and certainly benefited the UK. Our relationship is defined by our peoples, our mutual investment and mutual trade. In the last five years, Indian investment into the UK has more than quadrupled and we calculate that it supports almost half a million jobs



on our shores," he said, pointing to the ongoing India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) negotiation as the "biggest deal yet to come". The

Tracker, released annually by professional services firm Grant Thornton and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to analyse the contribution of Indian businesses to the UK economy is now in its ninth edition. "The pandemic has created uniquely challenging economic circumstances over the past two years. Despite this, Indian businesses in the UK have succeeded in expanding their combined turnover and increasing the number of jobs they support," said Gaitri Issar Kumar, Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

Experts worried by rise of cocaine processing in Europe

BETWEEN 2018 AND 2020, 45 ILLICIT PRODUCTION LABORATORIES WERE DISCOVERED IN THE EU

AGENCIES

Brussels, May 6: Records amounts of cocaine are being seized in Europe while manufacturing of the drug is now taking place inside the the European Union, officials in charge of fighting and monitoring drugs use in the bloc warned Friday.

More than 214 tons of cocaine were seized in Europe in 2020, a 6% increase from the previous year, and experts from the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) believe that amount could reach 300 tons in 2022.

With a market retail value estimated at 10.5 billion euros in 2020 and about 3.5 million European citizens reporting having used it in

the past year, cocaine is the second most used drug in the EU after cannabis.

Its availability in Europe has never been higher, with extremely high purity and low prices. While most cocaine manufacturing still occurs in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, EU experts are worried by the processing now taking place inside the 27-nation bloc, particularly in Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands.

Speaking at a news conference in Brussels, Laurent Laniel, a scientific analyst at the EMCDDA, said that cocaine powder is often smuggled from South America to Europe in carrier materials such as charcoal and plastics, then extracted in local laboratories. Alexis Goosdeel, the EM-



European market for cocaine worth over 10 billion euros a year From major importer, Europe becoming also producer, exporter

EMCDDA director, said the availability on the continent of large

new forms of highly addictive crack emerging on European markets.

"We are now facing a growing threat from a more diverse and dynamic drug market that is driven by closer collaboration between European and international criminal organizations," he said. "This has resulted in record levels of drug availability, rising violence and corruption, and greater health problems."

The expansion of the cocaine market also saw a rise in violence and corruption in the EU, with fierce competition between traffickers leading to a rise in homicides and intimidation.

"Violence nowadays is a key feature for criminal organizations to make sure that they are

the strongest in their business area," De Bolle said. "The violence has also a direct impact on citizens on the streets because we see people dying on the streets in the European Union."

EU experts also looked at the growing methamphetamine market, which has been spreading in recent years after being initially concentrated in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In 2020, a total of 215 methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled in the region, according to reports from nine EU countries.

According to Europol, the EU agency for law enforcement, European manufacturers of synthetic drugs are working in cahoots with Mexican cartels to increase production.



India will be able to conclude a free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union by next year

GUCCI TO ACCEPT CRYPTO PAYMENTS

As cryptocurrencies move to broader acceptance, Italian luxury brand Gucci said it will accept payments in digital currencies in some of its stores in the US from the end of this month.



of the day quote

As many as 1,537 projects at an estimated cost of around ₹6.5 lakh crore have been identified for implementation as a part of the Sagarmala programme

I am donating all the proceeds from these ESOPs (net of taxes) towards the Zomato Future Foundation (ZFF). The ZFF will cover education of up to two children of all Zomato delivery partners, up to ₹50,000 per child per annum on actuals who have been on our fleet for more than five years

Given the high dependence on rock phosphate imports, which is a key raw material for manufacturing phosphoric acid, the proposed investment will be a step towards achieving long term sustainability and supply security goals for meeting country's fertilizer needs

AMID HIGH POWER DEMAND

Coal plants to run at full power

The international price of coal has gone up in an unprecedented fashion. It is currently around \$140 per tonne. As a result of this, the import of coal for blending, which was of the order of 37 million tonne in 2015-16, has gone down, leading to more pressure on domestic coal, the ministry said



The ministry noted that the power demand has gone up by almost 20 per cent in energy terms and the supply of domestic coal has increased but the rise in the supply is not sufficient to meet the increased demand for power

Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi Friday said that with the target to minimise the import of thermal coal, Coal India Ltd is going to offer its 20 closed/discontinued underground mines to private players on a revenue sharing model

The need for coal is going to be double by 2040 with the rise in electric vehicles and the increased demand for electricity. Therefore, we need to ramp up our coal production to meet this growing energy requirement

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION COAL AND MINES MINISTER

EV FIRES

Probe finds defect in battery cells, modules

In March, India launched an investigation over safety concerns after a spate of e-scooter fires



REUTERS

New Delhi, May 6: Faulty battery cells and modules have been identified as the leading cause of electric scooters catching fire in India in recent weeks, according to the findings of an initial federal investigation, two government sources told Reuters.

The probe looked into fire incidents involving three companies, including Ola Electric, which is backed by Japan's SoftBank Group, and was the country's top-selling e-scooter maker in April.

"In Ola's case, the battery cells were found to be an issue as well as the battery management system," said one of the sources, who has direct knowledge of the report.

In March, India launched an investigation over safety concerns after a spate of e-scooter fires, including one where a man and his daughter died when their e-bike "went up in flames".

India wants e-scooters and e-bikes to make up 80% of total two-wheeler sales by 2030, from about 2% today. But concerns over safety

jeopardise consumer confidence and could derail growth of a sector that is key to the country's carbon reduction goals.

"The government has taken samples of cells from the three companies to make further checks," the person said, adding that the final investigation report is expected in about two weeks.

The government probe also looked into fire incidents involving scooters built by Indian startups Okinawa and PureEV. In Okinawa's case there was an issue with the cells and battery modules and for PureEV it was the battery casing, said the first source.

The initial findings of the investigation have prompted the government to consider testing battery cells of e-scooters before they are allowed to launch, said the second source.

India currently tests the battery packs but not the cells which are mainly imported from South Korea or China. "If India decides to test the cells, it will have to build the infrastructure and expertise," said the person.

SHORT TAKES

Mahindra weighs splitting auto biz

Mumbai: Indian auto-technology conglomerate Mahindra Group has begun a restructuring process to split its automobiles business into three separate units, the Economic Times reported Friday. The exercise, which is in the early stages, is aimed at splitting the auto operations into electric vehicle (EV), tractor and passenger vehicle businesses via a demerger process, the newspaper reported, citing people familiar with the talks.

Xiaomi gets relief in royalty case

New Delhi: An Indian court has put on hold a federal enforcement agency's decision to seize \$725 million from local bank accounts of China's Xiaomi Corp for suspected violations of foreign exchange laws, two sources told Reuters Friday. The Enforcement Directorate last week seized the bank assets of Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited, saying it had found the company illegally remitted funds to three foreign-based entities, including one Xiaomi group entity, "in the guise of royalty" payments.

Kotak raises fixed deposit rates

New Delhi: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (Kotak) announced an increase in interest rates on fixed deposit across multiple tenor baskets for its retail customers by up to 0.35 per cent. The increase in FD (Fixed Deposit) rates comes after the Reserve Bank of India announced a 40 basis points hike in the repo rate, Kotak said in a release. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in a surprise hike the benchmark repo rate -- at which it lends short term money to banks -- by 0.40 per cent to 4.40 per cent in order to contain inflation.

ONGC wins 18 oil, gas blocks

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has won 18 out of the 21 areas offered for finding and producing oil and gas in the sixth bid round under Open Acreage Licensing Policy, according to the upstream regulator DGH. Oil India Ltd (OIL) walked away with two blocks and Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd got one block, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons said announcing the winners of the OALP-VI round.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: The power ministry has directed all imported coal-based plants to run on full capacity amid the ongoing dry fuel shortage at thermal plants crippling electricity generation.

In an office order issued in this regard Thursday by the ministry, it is noted that most of the states have allowed pass-through of the higher cost of imported coal to consumers, which aided to make operational 10,000 MW capacity out of the total 17,600 MW imported coal-based thermal plants in the country.

However, the ministry said that "some imported coal-based capacity is still not operating".

The ministry issued directions under Section 11 of the Electricity Act. It has directed that all imported coal-based power plants shall operate and generate power

to their full capacity.

In the case of imported coal-based plants under the insolvency proceeding, the resolution professionals will take steps to make them functional.

These plants will supply power in the first instance to the PPA (power purchase agreement) holders (discoms). Any surplus power left thereafter or any power for which there is no PPA will be sold in the power exchanges, the ministry said. Where the plant has PPA with multiple discoms then in such cases, one discom does not schedule any quantity of power according to its PPA, that power will be offered to other PPA holder(s) and any remaining quantity thereafter will be sold through the power exchanges, it added.

Considering the fact that the present PPAs do not provide for the pass-through of the present high cost of imported coal, the

rates at which the power shall be supplied to the PPA holders (discoms) shall be worked out by a committee constituted by the Ministry of Power (MoP) with representatives from the ministry, CEA (central electricity authority) and CERC (Central Electricity Regulatory Commission).

This committee will ensure that benchmark rates of power so worked out meets all the prudent costs of using imported coal for generating power, including the present coal price, shipping costs and O&M (operation and maintenance) costs and a fair margin, the official order stated.

Where the generators/group companies or coal mines abroad, the mining profit will be set off to the extent of the shareholding of the generating / group company in the coal mine.

The PPA holders (discoms) shall have an option to make payment to

IT SERVICES GIANT

LTI and Mindtree announce merger

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 6: Aiming at bigger deals from clients looking for digital services, L&T Group Friday announced a merger of L&T Infotech and Mindtree, which will create the country's sixth largest information technology company with combined revenue of \$3.5 billion.

The engineering, projects and construction major, which already owns a majority stake in both the companies, said as per the all-stock deal, shareholders of Mindtree will get 73 shares of LTI (L&T Infotech) for every 100 shares they hold.

The merger is expected to be completed in the next eleven months after required approvals. The merged entity will be led by Debashis Chatterjee. LTI's chief executive Sanjay Jalona has resigned due to "personal reasons", L&T's chairman A M Naik told reporters here.

Naik said the average deal size for the companies has been \$25 million right now, and it has already had clients suggesting a merger, which will help it participate in bigger projects. Naik said it will be able to bid for deals of over \$100 million once the merger creates a bigger entity.

The merger announcement comes at a time when the bigger players in the IT industry have



L&T will hold 68.73% in the merged entity which will be called 'LTI Mindtree'

been speaking about deal sizes getting smaller as a large part of the contracts now are digital deals. The L&T management, however, said that it is not able to participate in bigger deals because of smaller revenue and balance sheet sizes, and asserted that this was the right time to go for the merger.

He exuded confidence that the revenue of the merged entity will touch \$10 billion in five years from the present \$3.5 billion, and stressed that all the budgets and targets of both the companies for FY23 will be chased independently.

An integration committee will be put in place to anchor the entire merger process that will create a single entity with over 80,000 people, and the same will be independent of the business teams, who will continue to chase business amid the surge in demand for IT.

FIRST IN INDIA RIL hits \$100bn annual revenue

Reliance's earnings rose because of a rise in broadband subscribers, online retail gaining traction and new energy investment picking roots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Friday reported a 22.5 per cent rise in net profit for the quarter ended March on the back of bumper oil refining margins, steady growth in telecom and digital services and strong momentum in the retail business.

The oil-to-retail-to-telecom conglomerate's consolidated net profit rose to ₹16,203 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2022 from ₹13,227 crore, the firm said in a statement.

Net profit, however, fell 12.6 per cent sequentially -- breaking a six-quarter chain of quarter-on-quarter improvement. Consolidated revenue of the nation's biggest company by market value rose 35 per cent year-on-year to ₹2.32 lakh crore in



the fourth quarter of FY22.

For the full fiscal 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022), Reliance reported a net profit of ₹60,705 crore on a revenue of ₹7.92 lakh crore (\$102 billion). It is the first Indian company to have crossed \$100 billion revenue in a year.

The firm reported the highest-ever quarterly EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) of ₹33,968 crore, up 28 per cent year-on-year.

O2C (oil-to-chemical) business EBITDA was up 25 per cent at ₹14,241 crore, while digital services pre-tax earnings at ₹11,209 crore

were 25 per cent more than last year.

Retail EBITDA was up 2.5 per cent at ₹3,712 crore and gas production from satellite fields in the KG-D6 block boosted oil and gas EBITDA over three folds to ₹1,556 crore. Consumer business now accounts for nearly 45 per cent of segment EBITDA.

Commenting on the results, Mukesh D Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Limited, said: "Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and heightened geopolitical uncertainties, Reliance has delivered a robust performance in FY2021-22."

Our relentless focus on customer satisfaction and service has led to higher engagement and increased footfalls, driving robust revenue and earnings figures across our consumer businesses

MUKESH D AMBANI | CHAIRMAN & MD, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

"The gradual opening up of economies coupled with sustained high utilization rates across sites and the improvement in transportation fuel margins and volumes have bolstered our O2C earnings," he added.

"Our retail business has crossed the 15,000 store benchmark," he said. "JioFiber is now the largest broadband provider in India within two years of launch. Oil and Gas business is now contributing 20 per cent of domestic gas production."

LIC IPO day 3: Retail portion fully subscribed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: LIC's public offer, the country's biggest-ever IPO, witnessed full subscription of the retail portion on day three Friday. The overall issue was subscribed 1.38 times, according to data posted on stock exchanges.

Against 16,20,78,067 shares on offer, 22,36,98,915 bids were received. However, the Qualified

Institutional Buyer (QIB) and Non-Institutional Investor (NII) portions are yet to be fully subscribed.

Subscription for non-institutional investors' segment stood at 76 per cent, while that for QIBs' portion was lower at 56 per cent.

Retail individual investors bid for 8.53 crore shares as against 6.9 crore shares set aside for this segment -- translating into oversubscription of 1.23 times.

Of the total, the policyholders' portion was subscribed a little over four times, while that for employees was subscribed three times.

The offer includes a reservation for eligible employees and policyholders. LIC's public offer will remain open for subscription even on weekend to enable people to participate in the mega IPO of the state-owned insurer. The initial public offering (IPO) will close May 9.

Tesla boss 'could make Twitter worse': Gates

PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS ZEROED IN ON GATES' RELATIONSHIP WITH MUSK IN RECENT WEEKS AFTER MUSK TWEETED AN UNFLATTERING PICTURE OF GATES AND ACCUSED HIM OF SHORTING TESLA'S STOCK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, May 6: Despite a strong track record with his other business ventures, tech honcho Bill Gates said that Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk could potentially make the micro-blogging site Twitter a "worse" platform.

According to CNN, Gates sounded a note of caution on Musk's \$44 billion takeover deal of Twitter, saying Musk "actu-

ally could make it worse".

While Gates did not precisely define what he meant by "worse" in remarks at the Wall Street Journal's CEO Summit, he questioned whether Musk is committed to preventing the rapid spread of public health misinformation and vaccine skepticism on social media.

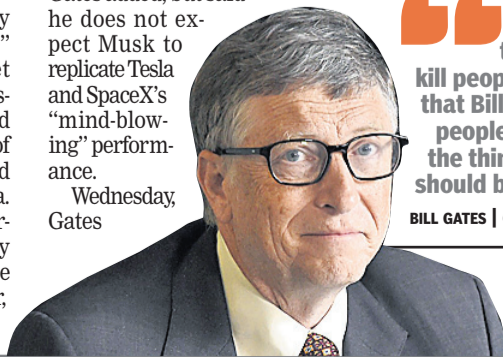
"If all you need is money and hiring great engineers, he is probably as good a person as any" to guide Twitter through its next chapter,

Gates added, but said he does not expect Musk to replicate Tesla and SpaceX's "mind-blowing" performance.

Wednesday, Gates

How does he feel about something that says vaccines kill people, or you know, that Bill Gates is tracking people -- is that one of the things he thinks should be spread?

BILL GATES | CO-FOUNDER, MICROSOFT



said that Musk's tweeting "doesn't bother

me" and declined to say whether he has bet against Tesla. "It's possible that the stock went down and whoever shorted the stock made money, I don't know," he added.

"Did it go down in the last month? I don't know. I don't think whether one is short or long Tesla is a statement about your seriousness about climate change. I am putting billions of dollars into climate change innovation; I applaud Tesla's role in helping with climate change," he added.

Union Bank gets new regional head for Sambalpur



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Pankaj Kumar Kapsime, Friday, joined as the Regional Head for Union Bank for Sambalpur Region, which covers seven districts Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sundergarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Sonepur and Nuapada along with 67 branches. Kapsime has over 27 years of banking experience spanning across various states like Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi and Gujarat.

He envisages scaling up of digital adoption of banking services and advances under thrust sectors like retail, agriculture and MSME. Additionally, he aims to improve the asset quality of the region by reduction of stressed and NPA portfolio.

Sams, David fashion MI win

RR aim to return to winning ways

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 6: Pacer Daniel Sams (0/18) displayed ice-cool temperament as he conceded just three runs in the last over to help Mumbai Indians pull off a stunning five-run victory over table-toppers Gujarat Titans in an IPL game Saturday.

MI were seemingly down and out with the Titans' opening pair of Wriddhiman Saha (55, 40b, 6x4, 2x6) and Shubman Gill (52, 36b, 6x4, 2x6) sharing a 106-run partnership in 12.1 overs while chasing 178.

However, the Titans kept losing wickets, including two crucial run-outs as they required nine runs in the last over to win the match. They could score just three, while losing one wicket to slump to their second successive defeat in the season.

For MI, who were already out of contention for a play-off berth, it was only their second win of the season as they remained at the bottom.

Opting to bowl, Gujarat restricted MI to 177/6, despite quickfire innings from opening pair of Rohit Sharma (43, 28b, 5x4, 2x6) and Ishan Kishan (45, 29b, 5x4, 1x6) and Tim David (44 n o, 21b, 2x4, 4x6).

Rashid Khan was the most successful bowler for the Titans with his two wickets for 24, while Pradeep Sangwan and Lockie Ferguson got one each. Alzarri Joseph also took a wicket but he bled 41 runs in his four overs.

Chasing 178, Saha looked in full flow as he cracked two fours and a six off Jasprit Bumrah's first over, before smashing Riley Meredith



CRUCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: Daniel Sams bowled a splendid final over; Tim David (inset) was excellent with the bat

for two boundaries.

Gill slog-swept Murugan Ashwin for a six, before picking up another four as the fifty-run stand came up in quick time, taking the Titans to 54/1 in six overs.

The Chandigarh batter exploded in the eighth over with three boundaries off Sams, who had bowled a brilliant opening over.

Kumar Kartikeya was next in line as he yielded 15 runs with Saha smashing his first ball for a four and Gill producing a clean hit over long

off before slog-sweeping the bowler for another four.

Soon, 100 was up in 11 overs with Saha also completing his fifty. Gill too joined him as his single off Pollard took him to a 33-ball half century. A bizarre hit wicket ended Sai Sudharsan's (14) innings, while Hardik Pandya (24) fall short after going for an unnecessary single.

Needing 20 off last two overs, Miller deposited Bumrah over deep mid-wicket but the Titans couldn't score nine of the last over lose the

match.

Earlier, invited to bat, Rohit seemed to be in good touch after a series of low scores as he took the early initiative, dominating the proceedings with his strokeplay as Kishan played the second fiddle.

The MI skipper was particularly harsh on Joseph as he smashed the bowler for four boundaries and a six, while Kishan joined the party in the fifth over, slamming Rashid Khan for a couple of fours to bring up their 50-run partnership.

Rohit then hit Ferguson for a four as MI posted 63 for no loss, their best in the powerplay this season. Rashid produced the breakthrough in the eighth over, removing the dangerous Rohit, who was trapped in front while looking to play a reverse shot.

Kishan then took over, dancing down the pitch to send Rahul Tewatia over mid-wicket. Suryakumar Yadav produced his trademark whip for a maximum but perished in his next attempt off Pradeep Sangwan.

Back into the attack, Joseph then struck with a slower delivery which Kishan ended up sending to Rashid at mid-wicket as MI slipped to 111/3 in 12 overs.

Pollard lived dangerously with Sangwan and Ferguson bowling two quiet overs and was eventually cleaned up by Rashid, who set up the West Indian with two googlies.

MI thus seemed to have frittered away the solid start but Tilak Verma (21) and David then tried to put together a partnership with the latter launching Mohammed Shami for two fours at mid-off and long leg respectively.

Varma was run-out with Pandya producing a direct throw, while Sams too perished with a second-ball duck. However, David smacked Shami for two maximums in the last over to take the team past 170-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES: MI 177/6 (Ishan Kishan 45, Tim David 44 n o, Rohit Sharma 43, Rashid Khan 2/24) beat GT 172/5 (Wriddhiman Saha 55, Shubman Gill 52; Murugan Ashwin 2/29) by 5 runs.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 6: Rajasthan Royals will look to sort out their batting woes and bring their campaign back on track, while an inconsistent Punjab Kings will be eager to keep the winning momentum going in their IPL game here Saturday.

The Royals were at one point giving Gujarat Titans a strong fight for the top position but the former champions have recently faced minor hiccups. They enter the upcoming fixture with back-to-back losses including to eighth-place Kolkata Knight Riders and lag-guards Mumbai Indians.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, will be high on confidence after inflicting a morale-boosting eight-wicket defeat on table toppers GT. The Mayank Agarwal-led side will be eager to keep the winning momentum going as they try to get out of the mid-table logjam an inch closer to sealing a playoff spot.

Rajasthan are third on the points table, and it is mostly because of the flamboyant Jos Buttler. The Englishman is currently the league's leading scorer with 588 runs. Against Mumbai he waged a lone battle with the bat while he failed to capitalise on his start against KKR. Rajasthan lost both games.

The two other men at the top – skipper Sanju Samson and Devdutt Padikkal – have been good in patches and need to shoulder more responsibility, especially with the team shuffling the number four spot. If they get going alongside the big-hitting Shimron Hetmyar, the trio can tear apart any bowling attack.

The inaugural edition winners also need to step up their game while batting first, three of Rajasthan's four losses have come while setting a total. The Royals have one of the best, if not the best,

bowling attacks this season but the bowlers failed to defend 158 and 152 in their previous two games.

They definitely have the chops to defend below-par totals. Yuzvendra Chahal leads the bowling charts this season with 19 wickets, while the likes of Trent Boult, Kuldeep Sen and Prasad Krishna have also done well. It will therefore be a tall task for the Punjab batters to tackle the Royals bowling.

The Punjab batting unit has been plagued by inconsistencies. The likes of Shikhar Dhawan, who has been the side's best batter, Liam Livinstone and Bhanuka Rajapaksa can tonk the ball, but they need to fire in unison to build or defend a huge total.

Jonny Bairstow has failed to play the explosive innings he is known for, while skipper Mayank has also looked off colour and will be eager to be back among runs.

The bowling attack was right on the money in the win against Titans, restricting them to below 150. After a relatively underwhelming season by his standards, pace spearhead South African Kagiso Rabada has been on a roll, snapping four wickets apiece in the previous two games.

Punjab have a strong and varied bowling attack. Arshdeep Singh has also been brilliant this season, and although the 23-year-old hasn't picked too many wickets, he has bowled economically.

TODAY'S MATCHES			
RR	VS	PBKS	
Time: 03:30 pm			
LSG	VS	KKR	
Time: 07:30 pm			
TELECAST			
Star Sports channels & Hotstar			

NADAL SAVES 4 MATCH POINTS TO ADVANCE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, May 6: A day after rushing in from his victory to watch Real Madrid play Manchester City in the Champions League semifinals, Rafael Nadal needed the same fighting spirit as his favorite team showed to avoid his own elimination at the Madrid Open.

"The 'Si se puede!' ('Yes we can!') chants that echoed at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium Wednesday were also present at the 'Caja Magica' Thursday after Nadal saw himself against the ropes, like Madrid was the night before.

While Madrid scored twice in the final minutes to force extra time and defeat Man City, Nadal saved four match points to secure a three-set win over David Goffin and reach the quarterfinals.

"Our trajectory is about fighting, is about believing, is about trying till the last, until the match is done," Nadal said. "We are a kind of team and player that we try till the end and we believe. So, yeah, yesterday (has) been unforgettable. Today of course for me is too."

Nadal asked tournament organizers not to schedule his opening match Wednesday in the afternoon session so he could make it to the Bernabéu. He is an honorary member of the club and last week gave the ceremonial kickoff before the team clinched the Spanish league title with a win against Espanyol.

The third-seeded Nadal will next face Carlos Alcaraz, the youngster touted by many in Spain as Nadal's successor: The ninth-ranked Alcaraz marked his 19th birthday by defeating Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-7(4-7), 6-3. Tournament organizers greeted him with a cake on the court after the match, and the home crowd sang "Happy Birthday."

The fourth-ranked Nadal needed more than three hours to defeat

the 60th-ranked Goffin 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(11-9) in only his second match after a six-week layoff because of a rib stress fracture.

Nadal was up 5-3 in the second set before being broken twice and squandering a couple of match points to allow Goffin to even the match. He also struggled in the third and faced four match points in the tiebreaker. The first was saved with an ace, and Goffin hit the net on the second. On the next two, Nadal needed a couple of perfectly executed drop shots to stay in the match.

Nadal's 1,050th career victory came after Andy Murray withdrew from his match against Novak Djokovic because of a stomach illness.

Djokovic automatically advanced to the quarterfinals, where he eased to a 6-3, 6-4 win over Hubert Hurkacz Friday. Djokovic, a three-time champion in Madrid, had little trouble on the outdoor clay against Hurkacz, whose poor hitting ended any thoughts of a quarterfinal upset.

Andrey Rublev, who beat Djokovic in the Serbia final, advanced to the quarterfinals after a hard-fought 7-6(9-7), 7-5 win over Daniel Evans. Rublev will next face fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas, who comfortably defeated Gregor Dimitrov 6-3, 6-4.

Defending champion Alexander Zverev advanced after qualifier Lorenzo Musetti retired with a left thigh injury while losing 6-3, 1-0.

In the women's semifinals, eighth-seeded Ons Jabeur comfortably defeated qualifier Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the final. The Tunisian is the first Arab player to reach a WTA 1000 final.

She will face 12th-seeded American Jessica Pegula, who defeated Jill Teichmann 6-3, 6-4 to also make her first WTA 1000 final. Pegula and Jabeur are tied 2-2 in head-to-head meetings.

Pant heaps praise on Warner display

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 5: David Warner's unbeaten 92 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here Thursday was one of the best innings Rishabh Pant witnessed from the sidelines, the Delhi Capitals skipper himself said.

Warner's 58-ball magnificent effort helped Delhi beat SRH by 21 runs. "The way he batted, the way he paced the innings, it's one of the best innings I have seen (in the Delhi camp)," said Pant at the post-match presentation.

He also praised Rovman Powell who made an unbeaten 67 off 35

balls. "We knew what he (Powell) can give us, we backed him and he's coming out with flying colours now. We are just taking one game at a time and trying to give our 100%. Good and important win for us."

Playing against his former franchise, Warner said he did not need extra motivation. "It's a really nice wicket, I've had some success here. I knew if I played my strokes, it was going to come off."

"Challenging here in Mumbai with the humidity and I was cooked there towards the back end, I am getting older. Having Rovman at the other end was amazing. I didn't need extra motivation, we've seen

what's happened before, it was good to get the win," said the Australian.

SRH suffered their third loss in a row. "You know for us it is just going back to the drawing board. Outstanding knock from David Warner and later by Powell. Fantastic learning opportunities for everyone. Umran has been a fantastic find," said skipper Kane Williamson.

"You learn from the best when you come up against them. Things can change quickly if we put things together. They have had rhythm batting in the middle order. Those two (Poonar and Markam) have been good."

Odisha Police beat Sirvodem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Odisha Police edged past Sirvodem SC 2-1 in their Indian Women's League (IWL) football clash at the Capital Ground here Friday.

Sarojini Tirkey gave the local side the lead in the 18th minute before Shibani Mundari made it 2-0 in the 75th minute off an assist from substitute Sasmita Ekka. Defender Femina Raj Valappil pulled one back for Sirvodem in the 85th minute.

In another match of the day played at 7th Battalion Ground, Indian Arrows registered a 2-0 win over Hans Women FC.

The All India Football Federation's developmental side took an early lead through Apurna Narzary in the 10th minute before skipper Naorem Priyanka Devi doubled the lead in the 23rd minute.

Hangzhou Asian Games postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tashkent/Beijing, May 6: The Hangzhou Asian Games, which were scheduled to take place from September 10 to 25, were Friday postponed indefinitely amid a recent surge in COVID-19 cases in China, a development that was on expected lines and evoked mixed reactions from Indian athletes. The new dates will be announced in near future.

An air of uncertainty had been hovering over the 19th edition of the multi-sports Games ever since Shanghai came under a fresh wave of the pandemic, forcing a lockdown in the city.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Executive Board met in Tashkent Friday to discuss the situation and felt postponing the Games was the best decision under the circumstances.



"Following detailed discussions with the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) and the Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC), the OCA Executive Board (EB) today decided to postpone the 19th Asian Games, which were scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China, from 10 to 25 September 2022," the OCA said in a statement, posted on its website.

"The new dates of the 19th Asian Games will be agreed between the OCA, the COC and the HAGOC and announced in the near future," the statement added.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said the postponement of the Games is "certainly a sort of a setback" for some athletes.

"The postponement of any big event or Games is a disappointment for the athletes. They become older by some months or one year whatever is the case when the Games are rescheduled," IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta told this agency.

"Many of our athletes had already started training and preparations for the Asian Games, and IOA feels for them. The postponement was on expected lines due to COVID-19 but this was not in our hands."

The OCA said the HAGOC was

well prepared to deliver the Games on time despite global challenges. However, after carefully considering the pandemic situation and the magnitude of the Games, the decision was taken by all the stakeholders.

The name and the emblem of the 19th Asian Games will remain unchanged, and the OCA believes that the Games will achieve complete success through the joint efforts of all parties.

Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang province, is some 175 kilometres southwest of Shanghai. As per the latest update, Zhejiang has recorded 3124 positive cases and one death.

Additionally, the 3rd Asian Youth Games, which was scheduled from December 20-28 in Shantou, China have also been cancelled. The next Asian Youth Games will therefore be held in 2025 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Frankfurt set up Europa League final vs Rangers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frankfurt, May 6: Eintracht Frankfurt reached its first European final in 42 years by knocking West Ham out of the Europa League, setting up a title game against Scottish club Rangers.

Frankfurt beat 10-man West Ham 1-0 at home to complete a 3-1 aggregate victory in the semifinals, while Rangers overturned a 1-0 deficit from the first leg by defeating RB Leipzig 3-1 at a raucous Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow.

It is Frankfurt's first European final since beating Borussia Monchengladbach in 1980 in an all-German matchup in the UEFA Cup, the predecessor to the Europa League. Rangers will be playing its first European final since losing to Zenit St. Petersburg in the UEFA Cup in 2008. The Scottish club is looking for a first European title in 50 years, after winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972.

In the inaugural Europa



Conference League, Jose Mourinho will have a chance to add another trophy to his collection after his Roma set up a final against Feyenoord in new third-tier competition.

Tammy Abraham scored the only goal as Roma beat Leicester 1-0 at home to advance 2-1 on aggregate. Feyenoord held Marseille to a 0-0 draw in France after win-

ning the first leg 3-2.

Rangers roared into a 2-0 lead after just 24 minutes in front of a frenzied home crowd. James Tavernier met a cross from Ryan Kent at the far post in the 19th minute for the seventh goal in the competition, and Glen Kamara doubled the lead five minutes later by calmly slotting in a shot from the edge of the area.

Christopher Nkunku pulled Leipzig back level on aggregate with a goal in the second half, but John Lundstram then netted the decisive goal in the 81st minute, converting a rebound from close range.

Frankfurt's progress was more straightforward after Aaron Cresswell was sent off for a last-man foul on Jens Petter Hauge in the 19th

minute and Rafael Borre scored seven minutes later to give the team a two-goal cushion on aggregate. The defender was initially shown a yellow for his foul on Hauge but the referee changed it to a red after watching a replay on the pitchside monitor.

Trying to mount a comeback a man down, West Ham striker Michail Antonio looked too isolated up front while every attack opened space for Frankfurt's counters. Tomas Soucek came close to scoring for the visitors in the final seconds with a header off a corner that went just wide.

Frankfurt fans flooded the pitch to celebrate after the final whistle. More than 30 arrests were made before the game after supporters of the two clubs clashed in several locations in Frankfurt, police said.

The final will be played at the Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán Stadium in Seville on May 18, with a place in next season's Champions League also at stake.