



TALKING BIG

Actor Kangana Ranaut has said being in a position of power she wants to establish the highest standards of righteousness

LEISURE P2



RUSSIA MARKS V-DAY

Russian President Vladimir Putin uses the major patriotic holiday Monday to again justify his war in Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P10



ALCARAZ TRIUMPHS

Carlos Alcaraz comfortably overcomes Alexander Zverev test in the Madrid Open final for his fourth title of the year

SPORTS P12

BRAJARAJNAGAR BYPOLL

BJD fields ex-MLA Kishore's wife Alaka

Press Trust of India

RUPEE SLUMPS TO ALL-TIME LOW AGAINST DOLLAR

New Delhi: Extending its losses for a second day, the rupee Monday slumped by 54 paise to close at a record low of 77.44 against the US dollar, pressured by the strength of the American currency overseas and unabated foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 77.17 against the greenback, and finally settled for the day at 77.44, down 54 paise over its previous close. During the trading session, the rupee touched its lifetime low of 77.52. Friday, the rupee had slumped 55 paise to close at 76.90.

MORE P11

INDIGO ROW: DGCA FORMS 3-MEMBER TEAM

New Delhi: India's aviation regulator DGCA has formed a three-member team to conduct a "fact-finding enquiry" into IndiGo recently barring a specially-abled child from boarding a flight at the Ranchi airport as he was in a "state of panic", officials said Monday. "They will visit Ranchi and Hyderabad (place of stay of the family concerned) and collect appropriate evidence within one week from today. Based on the outcome of the said enquiry, further action shall entail," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) noted in a statement.

MORE P9

The Leaders' Choice

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DRONE DOWNED

Bhubaneswar, May 9: The ruling BJD Monday named deceased MLA Kishore Mohanty's wife Alaka as its candidate for bypoll to Brajaraj Nagar Assembly seat in Jharsuguda district.

The election was necessitated following Mohanty's demise last December. Mohanty had won the seat in 2019, defeating BJP's bypoll pick Radharani Panda by a margin of 11,634 votes. A section of BJD workers had been rooting for the daughter of Health Minister NK Das Deepali, but the top brass chose Alaka from the seat. Political analysts pointed out that BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik has all along fielded family members of sitting MLAs, who died vacating a seat. Sources in the Congress stated that the party has zeroed in on senior leader and former speaker Kishore Patel, but an announcement to that effect is yet to be made. By-election to Brajaraj Nagar Assembly segment is scheduled to be held May 31, from 7am to 6pm. Votes will be counted June 3.



Border Security Force DIG Bhupinder Singh along with other personnel displays the drone from Pakistan that was shot down near Bharopall village of Amritsar district, Monday. The BSF also recovered 10.6kg of heroin it was carrying. PTI PHOTO

ICG airlifts 11 stranded fishermen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopalpur, May 9: At least 11 fishermen who were stranded for eight hours in the rough sea near Sonapur beach in Ganjam district were airlifted safely by the Coast Guard Monday as cyclone 'Asani' rages in Bay of Bengal.

According to sources, 11 fishermen from Markandi village under Rangeilunda block had been to

CYCLONE ASANI

Kakinada of Andhra Pradesh to buy fishing nets and boats May 7. After buying the fishing nets and boats worth ₹11 lakh, the fishermen set off back home through the sea Sunday night.

However, they were stuck in the sea after the boat's motor broke down half-way. The fishermen managed to call their families and the village head to inform about their condition. However, due to the rough conditions in the sea, other fishermen feared to go to their rescue.

Later, following information from the Ganjam Collector, the



Coast Guard with the help of helicopters from Paradip airlifted all the 11 fishermen and admitted to local hospital for medical check-up.

"We had been to Andhra to buy fishing nets and boats. Half-way, strong waves hit the boat and a fan of the motor was broken. We were stuck in the middle of the sea and unable to negotiate through the rough waters due to the high tide in view of the cyclonic storm Asani," a fisherman informed.

The IMD had said that very high sea conditions were likely to prevail over west-central and adjoining south Bay of Bengal and asked fishermen not to venture out in the region from Tuesday for at least two days.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Rupee has fallen so much that everybody wants bribe in dollars!

Project work might have damaged Srimandir: ASI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, May 9: The ongoing Puri Heritage Corridor construction work might have caused damage to the 800-year-old Srimandir there and the state government project was being carried out without valid permission from the competent authorities, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Monday informed the Orissa High Court.

Hearing a PIL claiming that construction work for the project has affected the health of the temple, the court had asked the ASI, the custodian of the 12th-century shrine, to undertake a joint inspection of the site with the state government and file a report to the court.

"There is every possibility that the construction agency OBCC (Odisha Bridge Construction Company) during the excavation and removal of the earth might have destroyed the archaeological remains of the heritage site," the ASI said in an affidavit.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar, however, said the report is vague and fails



to be specific as to whether any actual damage has been caused to the temple.

Asking the state government to file its reply to the ASI's affidavit, the bench posted the matter to be heard again May 22.

Later, the state government said in a statement that the "most important fact" is that the court allowed it "to continue with the work at Parikrama Site in cooperation with ASI and rejected the prayer of the petitioner to stay the construction work."

Petitioner Dilip Baral, on the other hand, claimed that his assertion that the state government has been undertaking construction work without proper permission

has now been proved to be true.

"We urge the court to ensure that the law of the land is properly implemented while carrying out construction works in the sensitive heritage site like Shree Jagannath Temple," he said.

The ongoing construction work of the project being carried out by the Odisha government inside the "prohibited area of the ancient monument has no valid permission or no objection certificate (NOC) from the competent authorities, it said.

The state had informed the court that correspondences were exchanged between the Odisha government and the National Monuments Authority (NMA), which functions under the Union Ministry of Culture and is responsible for grant of permission for construction-related activity in the "prohibited and regulated" areas.

Appearing for the state, Advocate General AK Parija submitted that the NOC was granted by the NMA September 4, 2021. He also produced a copy of the document.

Contd... P4

Mahinda steps down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, May 9: Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned Monday after clinging on to power for weeks, following unprecedented anti-government protests demanding his ouster as well as the administration led by his younger brother and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power.

Mahinda's resignation comes hours after his supporters attacked anti-government protesters outside President Gotabaya's office, leaving at least 154 people injured and prompting authorities to impose a nationwide curfew and deploy army troops in the national capital. At least two people, including a ruling party MP, were killed during violent clashes.

Prime Minister Mahinda, 76, sent his resignation letter to President Gotabaya after violent scenes were witnessed in Colombo.

"Effective immediately I have tendered my resignation as Prime Minister to the President," Mahinda tweeted. Mahinda in his resignation letter said that he is stepping down to pave the way for the All-Party Interim Government to be formed.

He said that he will be ready to make any sacrifice even in the future in order to help the people and the government overcome the



I am resigning with immediate effect so that you will be able to appoint an all-party government to guide the country out of the current economic crisis

MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA | SRI LANKAN PM

present crisis. The Cabinet was also dissolved with the resignation of the Prime Minister.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Mahinda's supporters attacked anti-government demonstrators at MynaGoGama and GotaGoGama protest sites. The tents opposite Temple Trees, the official residence of the prime minister, were dismantled by a mob.

Police used water cannons to disperse the unruly ruling party protesters. The police formed a human chain to prevent the protesters from entering GotaGoGama. However, the mob pushed their way past the police human chain and attacked GotaGoGama. Around 154 people were injured in the violence.

14 YRS IMPRISONMENT FOR PRAMODINI ACID ATTACKERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, May 9: A local court Monday sentenced two persons to 14 years of imprisonment (RI) Monday after convicting them in the sensational Pramodini Roul acid attack case.

The convicts, identified as Santosh Bedant of Jorgadia in Bhadrak district and Biswajit Dalasingh alias Anil of Nayagarh district were awarded the punishment after they were proven guilty in the case during trial. The assistant sessions and women court judge Rashmita Sahu also slapped a penalty of ₹15,000 each on them, apart from the punishment. In default, they have to undergo an additional nine months of imprisonment each, the judge observed in her order.



Notably, the heinous acid attack that took place April 18, 2009 had sent shockwaves across the state. Pramodini, then a college girl from Kanakpur village in the district, was attacked with acid by Santosh. Pramodini had sustained 80 per cent burn injuries and lost her eyesight. Expressing that she was not satisfied with the judgement, she said that she would move the High Court seeking stricter punishment for her tormentor.

Demolition drama in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh

SDMC BULLDOZERS IN SHAHEEN BAGH FACE LOCALS' IRE, RETURN WITHOUT ACTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: Protests erupted at Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, the epicentre of stir against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Monday with hundreds of people, including women, opposing an demolition drive of the SDMC as bulldozers rolled into the area in the presence of a huge number of police personnel, even as the civic body team was forced to return without carrying out the exercise.

Following the protests, the SDMC officials returned with the bulldozers, an official said.

The protesters raised slogans

against the BJP-ruled South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) as well as the Centre and demanded that the action be stopped. Some of the women protesters even stood in front of the bulldozers to prevent the exercise.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea filed by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) against the demolition drive at Shaheen Bagh, saying it cannot interfere in the matter at the instance of a political party.

A bench of justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai asked the Left party to approach the Delhi High Court instead. "Why is the CPI(M) filing a petition? What is the fun-



Security personnel try to stop locals staging a protest in front of a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) bulldozer at Shaheen Bagh area during an anti-encroachment drive in New Delhi, Monday. PTI PHOTO

damental right that is being violated? Not at the behest of political parties. This is not the platform. You go to the high court," the bench said. Earlier in the day, leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress reached the spot and staged a dharna.

The protests caused traffic snarls at Shaheen Bagh, Kalindi Kunj, Jaitpur, Sarita Vihar and Mathura Road, among other places. In December 2019, Shaheen Bagh was the epicentre of protests and sit-ins against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). The sit-in was called off in March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic struck the city.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you will focus your lens on the one you've taken a fancy to! You are high on energy, but low on commitment to work. It won't be surprising if your bosses are miffed. But still, says Ganesha, it's a day of flowers and love notes.

TAURUS
Light bulbs will flash relentlessly today, as you ideate in the fervour of a creative mood. Your business acumen will help you negotiate problems with ease. The reticent Taurus charm will ring out loud in your laughter, as you deal with your bosses and colleagues at the workplace, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, your emotions will cloud your ability to reason. You may try to find a refuge in devotional and spiritual activities. A visit to a couple of religious places may help you restore your peace of mind. A laid-back mindset will work wonders for you today.

CANCER
Today is a fabulous day for your love life. Your happiness may make a few people go green with envy, but they can do you or your relationship no harm, so ignore them. However, it may be important for you to make sure that you safeguard your reputation.

LEO
No matter how far you go, there is always a horizon that you desire to reach. And what holds true for all outer projections of life most certainly holds true for one's inner self as well, reminds Ganesha. Bear this in mind as you strive to improve yourself in as many ways as possible.

VIRGO
Today, your power and finance will be greater than ever before, says Ganesha. You will also be inclined to make monetary provisions for any future economic instability that may arise. The people around you will stand up and take notice of the leader in you.

LIBRA
Today promises to be a busy day that will keep you occupied. You may also engage in written correspondence to re-establish some old contacts. Ganesha doesn't rule out optimum use of the phone for this purpose. When it comes to the work front, Ganesha predicts you will be asked to bring order to the workplace.

SCORPIO
You've been keeping things within for too long now, and today may just be the day when you vent it all out, says Ganesha. This overwhelming pressure may have an effect on your health. Ganesha counsels you to spend quality time with your loved ones to ease up a bit.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesha sees a spectacular day in store for you, especially if you are an artist. Radio jockeys will be heard and cheered for. Television anchors will receive thundering applause and golden opportunities. Go ahead - seize the day!

CAPRICORN
Opportunities are rare, and good opportunities rarer still. Today, you will run to grab an opportunity and will make the most of it, says Ganesha. This move will yield instant results, and place you better in comparison with your opponents. Rivals, in fact, will try to do you down but will fail miserably in their attempt. Your social standing, on the other hand, will grow manifold and all because of your extraordinary traits.

AQUARIUS
You have changed your approach towards life from materialism to mysticism. Your friends and family members are pleasantly surprised to see this change. Later on the day, you may plan to visit a temple or other religious places, foresees Ganesha.

PISCES
You are striving hard to influence your destiny. You are not going to kneel down without a fight against heavy odds. With persistent efforts you will succeed in achieving your goals. While victory is a given, hard work will be necessary.



PARIS SLAMS UNREALISTIC BEAUTY STANDARDS

Hotel heiress and socialite Paris Hilton has spoken out about the unrealistic beauty standards seen on social media and said using filters on pictures can be harmful for youngsters. Hilton gave her thoughts on platforms like Instagram which have picture editing tools, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

LIAM GALLAGHER QUILTS PARTYING FOR A MONTH

The former Oasis singer Liam Gallagher is giving up alcohol for a month to prepare for his huge solo shows at Knebworth. Gallagher is known for his wild partying ways but he's determined to 'stay out of trouble' and be in the best shape possible for the gigs, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



Akshay rues over Prithviraj's depiction in history books



Mumbai: Actor Akshay Kumar, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming biographical period film *Prithviraj*, has said that he wants the story of Prithviraj Chauhan to reach the young generation because not many people know about such a great warrior.

Akshay was speaking at the sidelines of the film's trailer launch. Elaborating on the same, Akshay said, "I have been working in the industry for thirty years and I have to say that I haven't seen a historical film of this scale in my career spanning three decades. I felt a sense of accomplishment after portraying the character of such a great man, I would like to thank my director Chandraprakash Dwivedi and producer Aditya Chopra."

He further mentioned how he got to know the titular character beyond the scope of the script through a book, "When we were about to embark on the journey of the film, the director gave me a book on Prithviraj Chauhan. After reading that book I realised how great warrior is Prithviraj Chauhan."

"It's sad that history books today just have one paragraph on Prithviraj Chauhan. Every kid should know who Prithviraj is and his acts of bravery", he concluded.

Kangana talks on righteousness

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut has shared her experience of hosting the just-concluded reality show *Lock Upp*. After streaming for 72 days, the show recently wrapped up as Munawar Faruqui won the trophy for the first season.

Kangana said: "*Lock Upp* has been an absolute game-changer in the OTT reality space. I am glad that I chose such a strong and impactful project to make my OTT debut with."

"The country loved a bold yet original concept like *Lock Upp* and I had an incredible time playing the host in this badass jail at the same time hosting came with great responsibility as I had to also choose the worthy badass winner."

She congratulated the winner Munawar Faruqui and added: "Many congratulations to Munawar for winning the *Lock Upp* trophy of Season 1. Today when I am in a position of power I want to estab-

lish the highest standards of righteousness. He deserves the trophy of the first successful season of *Lock Upp*."

MOTHER'S DAY POEM PLAGIARISED

Kajal tenders apology, credits original poet

Mumbai: On the occasion of Mother's Day, Kajal Aggarwal shared a lengthy poem on Instagram, which was titled *Dear Mum*. The actress paid an ode to her mother with the soulful verses.

However, her post was soon called out by an anonymous social media handle and the original writer Sarah had also reacted to the same.

Soon after, Kajal apologised to the original writer and gave her due credit in the post. Speaking about the same, Sarah wrote on Instagram, "To follow up on the events of last night, I thought I'd share that I had a direct message from Kajal Aggarwal apologising for what happened. I also had some interesting messages from those who I assume might be fans of the actress. It's all a little bit more than anything I would like to have been involved in, so I'm very glad it's over. Thanks to everyone who supported me in getting my original work credited. I'll be happy when this has drifted away."



Nat'l theatre fest in City from May 12



Bhubaneswar: After organising state-level theatre festivals for the last four years, City-based theatre troupe Bidyakanak Srujanusthan is all set to hold a five-day multilingual national theatre festival here at Rabindra Mandap from May 12.

Apart from two theatre troupes from Odisha, one each from Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh will participate in the event, said organisation's president Sudhakar Patri and secretary Subhankanta Padhi Monday at a presser.

The plays to be staged during the festival are - *Harkindas Hero* by Bidyakanak Srujanusthan of Odisha (playwright- Hemendra Mohapatra, director -Jagadish Rana, language-Odia), *Unchai* by Seagull Theatre of Assam (playwright- Jean-Paul Sartre, director -Baharul Islam, language-Hindi), *Chua Chandan* by Thealight of West Bengal (playwright- Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay director -Atanu Sarkar, language- Bengali), *Muntazir* by Nipa Rangamandali of Lucknow (playwright- Bharatendu Kashyap and Suryamohan Kulshreshtha, director -Suryamohan Kulshreshtha, language- Hindi) and *Sunset Guest House* by Samparka of Rourkela (written and directed by Bhaskar Chandra Mohapatra, language- Odia).

Secretary Padhi has requested the drama lovers to buy tickets for the growth of theatre in Odisha.

HC ON JAYESHBHAI JORDAAR TRAILER

Pre-natal sex tests can't be trivialised

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday said an act like pre-natal sex-determination cannot be trivialised.

The court made the observation while hearing a plea against a scene in the trailer of upcoming Ranveer Singh-starrer film *Jayeshbhai Jordaar*, showing the use of ultrasound technology for gender selection.

"There is nothing to show in the trailer that the lady is taken to the doctor clandestinely. What is coming out is, any pregnant woman can be routinely taken to the centre with sonography machine and this can be done without any fetters," said the bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla

after watching the trailer.

Petitioner Youth Against Crime, an NGO, filed through Advocate Pawan Prakash Pathak said: "The ultrasound clinic scene where the technology of ultrasound for sex selection is being advertised openly without censor and as per section 3, 3A, 3B, 4, 6 & 22 of the PC & PNDT Act, same is not allowed & hence the instant PIL."

Though the film is to promote the "Save Girl Child" slogan and it is against female foeticide, the trailer of the film advertises the use of ultrasound technique, as per the petitioner.

The film has been directed by debutant Divyang Thakkar and is releasing May 13.



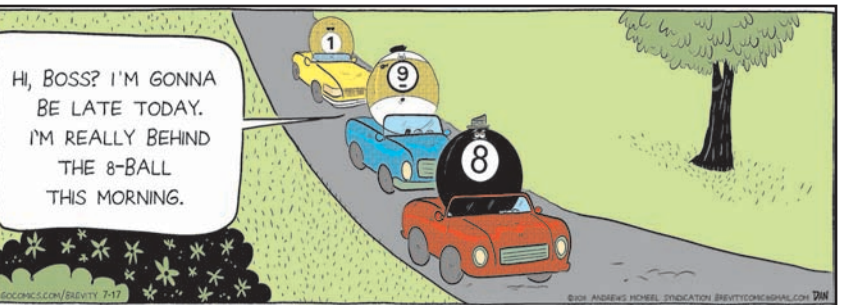
PEANUTS



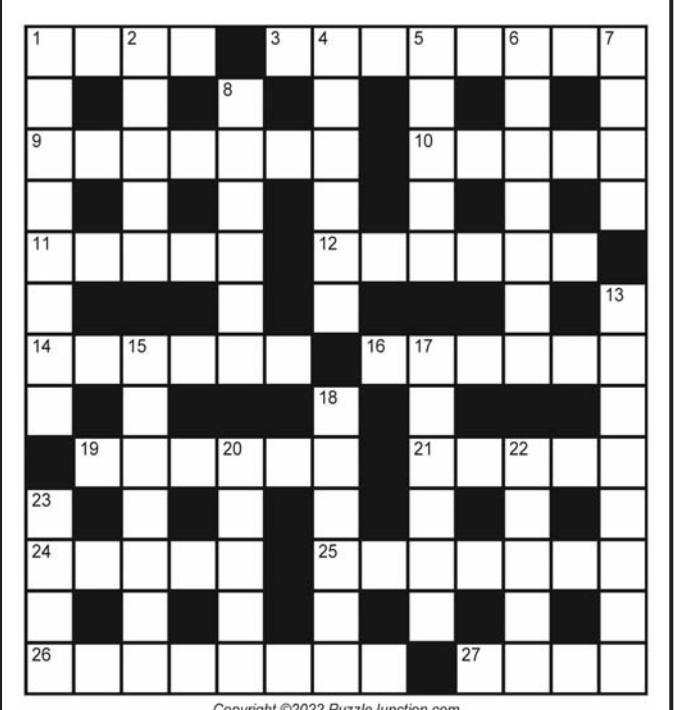
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



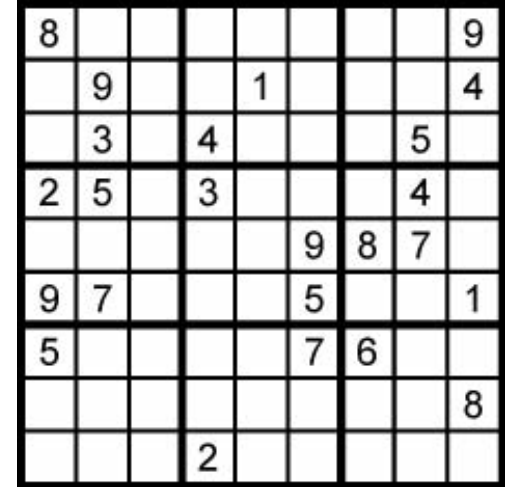
FUN post CROSSWORD



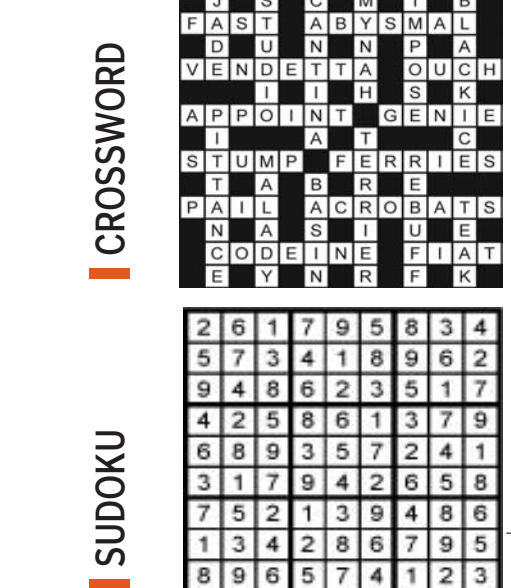
- Across**
- 1 King or queen, e.g.
 - 3 Ostracised
 - 9 Apathy
 - 10 Shelf
 - 11 Trowel wielder
 - 12 Coagulate
 - 14 Reading material
 - 16 Multitude
 - 19 Cream puff
 - 21 Fragrance
 - 24 Lying facedown
 - 25 Haiphong locale
 - 26 Pause
 - 27 Fishing spot
 - 6 Spanish nobleman
 - 7 Exploit
 - 8 Rabbit warren (3,5)
 - 15 Savage
 - 17 Accelerate
 - 18 Hot dish support
 - 20 Ward off
 - 22 Lassitude
 - 23 Moonfish
- Down**
- 1 Lotion type
 - 2 Wedding items
 - 4 Cameroon locale
 - 5 Slacker

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



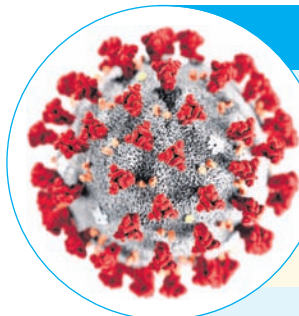
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



ANNUAL DAY

Divine Dance and Music Academy celebrated its annual day at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	51,74,24,256	47,22,63,756	62,76,905
India	4,31,05,401	4,25,60,905	5,24,093
Odisha	12,88,210	12,78,870	9,126

DEOs told to probe absence of 43.5k from Class X exam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: The state government Monday directed the District Education Officers (DEOs) to make school-wise analysis to find the reason behind the absence of 43,489 students in the matriculation examination this year.

In a letter to all DEOs, State School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said that 43,489 candidates have not appeared in the annual HSC examination (SA-II), conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha.

"The absence of such a huge number of candidates in the examination is definitely a matter of concern. The absence was highest in districts like Mayurbhanj, Ganjam and Bolangir," he said.

It is supposed that these students must have appeared the SA-I examination and must have done



the physical form filling work, he noticed. However, he said, it is not understood how, despite making the form fill-up work, they refrained from physically appearing the SA-II examination.

"The reason for non-appearance in the examination is to be found out and it can be done only if school-wise analysis is made. You are therefore requested to make a school wise analysis on the reason for absence pertaining to your district in the form of Google Form

The absence of such a huge number of candidates in the examination is definitely a matter of concern. The absence was highest in districts like Mayurbhanj, Ganjam and Bolangir

BISHNUPADA SETHI, S&ME DEPARTMENT PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

and update the same within next 10 days positively without fail," Sethi told the DEOs.

S&ME Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Sunday said that no application fee was charged from students this year. The government had announced a waiver of fee in view of the pandemic.

As the students of Class VIII got promoted to Class X, mandatory form fill-up for matriculation examination were done without any fee.



AT LORDS' SERVICE

Maharana servitors carved hubs for chariots at Rath Yard in Puri, Monday

OP PHOTO

Healthcare top priority: Naveen

ESI HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES IN STATE GET 55 DOCTORS AND 59 PARAMEDICS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: The state government is giving top priority to healthcare and making relentless efforts to provide affordable and quality health services to people, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Monday.

The Chief Minister's statement came while inaugurating the orientation programme of the newly-recruited 55 doctors and 59 paramedics for Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals and dispensaries in the state.

Joining the programme digitally, the CM said, "It's a huge step in strengthening our healthcare delivery system, particularly for the 8 lakh insured persons."

Naveen said the state government is fully committed to making desirable policy provisions in order to attract and retain human resources for healthcare in the tribal



CM Naveen Patnaik addressed the newly-appointed doctors and paramedics

districts through financial and non-financial incentives to doctors working in the KBK and remote areas.

He hoped that the ESI hospitals and dispensaries would function as major public healthcare providers catering to the special needs of the

insured persons working in different regions of the state.

Stating that 5T and 'Mo Sarkar' initiatives are directed to transform governance and empower people, the Chief Minister said as per the feedback received, over 92

per cent of patients are satisfied with the services at public health facilities.

Doctors belong to one of the noble professions and people see them as saviours of their lives, he said expecting all the new doctors to live up to the expectations of the people and devote themselves to making Odisha a leading state in providing quality healthcare to all the people.

Labour and ESI Minister Sushant Singh said that the CM has given approval for the opening of four more ESI hospitals and 12 dispensaries in the state.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said with increasing industrialisation, new workforces are being created and they will be benefited from the ESI health insurance system.

Mahapatra also highlighted the government's initiatives for quality healthcare across the state.

Shot in the arm: Cops get tabs to log road mishaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: In order to record the details of motor vehicle accidents under the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) project, the state Transport department Monday gave 150 tabs to Odisha Police for timely information exchange among departments and detailed investigations.

Commerce and Transport department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi handed over the devices to Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal.

Speaking at the event, the DGP said, "Data is the key to find the root cause of road accidents in the state. These tabs will help investigating officer collect accident data on the spot and facilitate timely exchange of information. In turn, this will help us establish an accurate and uniform accident data collection



Last year, a total of 10,984 road accidents were reported in which 9,782 people were hurt while 5,081 died, contributing to a 7.24 per cent rise

mechanism."

The tabs will be used by the investigating officers to maintain database of road accidents in their jurisdictions. It will be more convenient on part of officers to enter and navigate through the information digitally.

Sethi said, "Police and Transport department can work cohesively to reduce road accidents in state.

Accident data will help us analyse the problem and find a solution accordingly."

As per the data released by the state government, Odisha has recorded an increase in road fatalities by about 7.24 per cent in 2021 as compared to 2020. Last year, a total of 10,984 road accident cases were reported in which 5,081 people died and 9,782 were injured.

STORM PREPAREDNESS



Fire Services personnel in Puri brace for Asani, Monday

OP PHOTO

Vanya Silk Programme to boost livelihood of forest communities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: In a bid to provide livelihood to forest communities, the state government Monday inked a pact with the Central Silk Board for 'Vanya Silk Programme in Odisha' at an event organised at the state guest house here.

The tripartite MoU between state's Forest, Environment and Climate Change department, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts (HT&H) department and the Central Silk Board for 'Vanya Silk Programme in Odisha' will pave way for implementation of the Odisha Tusser Silk Development Project (O-TSDP) that aims at creating livelihood through tusser sericulture activities.

The proposed five-year project will lead to creation of livelihood for the members of VSS by adopting sericulture farming. Besides, it will cre-

ate a wider scope for sustainable development and women empowerment along with employment generation through Mission Shakti women SHGs, said an official.

Tusser forestry activities cover the plantation of Asan and Arjuna food plants for the rural, especially, the tribal farmers, it was learnt.

Tusser worm rearing and cocoon production will be taken up by the Forest department through VSS in 18 forest divisions of the state. The sericulture wing of HT&H department will provide technical support for tusser favouring host plantation and take up the marketing of tusser cocoon through network of 59 Primary Tusser Rearer Cooperative Societies and Serified. The Central Silk Board will support the programme under Silk Samagra-II for the proposed project.

VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

12TH Best Engineering Institution of India
NIRF ranking (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
*Vellore and Chennai Campus

12,836+ Total Number of Offers
2500 offers by Cognizant in IT services making National Record in placements (Includes Internships and Placements)

VITEEE 2022
Computer Based Test at designated centres
30TH JUNE to 06TH JULY
LAST DATE TO APPLY 30TH MAY 2022

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Stage set for Brajarajnagar by-election

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: The stage is all set for the by-poll to Brajarajnagar Assembly seat as all three major political parties in the state—BJD, BJP and Congress have announced their candidates for the big fight.

Ruling BJD Monday announced Alaka Mohanty as its candidate for the by-poll while Congress declared that former Speaker Kishore Patel will be its pick for the poll. On Sunday the BJP chose former MLA Radharani Panda as its candidate for the by-poll.

The by-election was necessitated following the untimely demise of BJD's Kishore Mohanty last December. Alaka, the widow of late Kishore Mohanty, entered into direct politics and will fight the Assembly election for the first time.



Alaka Mohanty (BJD)



Radharani Panda (BJP)



Kishore Patel (Congress)

A section of BJD workers had been rooting for Health Minister Naba Das' daughter—Deepali, but the top brass chose Alaka for the seat, it was learnt.

Political analysts pointed out that BJD supreme Naveen Patnaik has all along fielded family members of sitting MLAs, who died vacating a seat.

Alaka thanked Patnaik for selecting her for the by-poll. "Naveen Patnaik government has floated several schemes starting from the birth of a

child to death of a person. I'll approach the voters with these schemes," she said.

BJP pick Panda has already once been elected to the Assembly from the Brajarajnagar constituency by defeating BJD's Anup Kumar Sai in 2014. She, however, lost to BJD's Kishore Mohanty by a margin of 11,634 during the last Assembly polls held in 2019. The saffron party has given another chance to Panda.

Similarly, Congress has also nominated its senior leader and former speaker Kishore Patel for the by-election. Patel has been elected to the Assembly thrice from Sundergarh—in 1977, 1980 and 1995. However, he unsuccessfully fought the Brajarajnagar seat in 2014. In 2014, Patel had polled 38,175 votes. In 2019, Congress had left the seat for CPI as part of its understanding.

The Election Commission of India has announced May 31, 2022 as the date for the by-election to the Assembly seat. Voting will be held from 7am to 6pm. The last date for filing nomination is May 11.

The nominations will be scrutinised May 12. The nominees can withdraw their candidature by May 17. Counting of votes will be done June 3, it was learnt.

INDIAN COAST GUARD, HEADQUARTERS No-7 (ODISHA) BADPADIA, PARADIP, ODISHA-754142

(RECRUITMENT FOR THE CANDIDATES OF ODISHA STATE ONLY)

1. Applications invited from male Indians for Direct Recruitment to the post of Enrolled Followers (Sweeper/ Safaiwala) in Indian Coast Guard.

Post/ Classification	No. of Post	Place of Work	Pay Band	Education & qualification	Age limit for direct recruits
Enrolled Follower/ Safaiwala	ST-01	Transferrable all over India (incl A&N and Lakshadweep islands)	21700-69100 (Level -03)	10th/ITI or equivalent	Between 18-25Yr as on 30.05.22 (Relax for Govt. servant in accordance with instructions/ orders issued by Central Govt.). Upper age relaxation of 5yrs for ST candidate (30 May 1992 to 30 May 2004)

2. Physical Standards: (A) Height. Min-157cms (B) Chest. Well proportioned & Min expansion 5 cms (C) Weight. Proportionate to height & age (+10% acceptable) (D) Eye Sight. 6/6 (Better) 6/12 (Worse) without glass. 6/9 (Better) 6/12 (Worse) with glass 3. How to apply: Apply on plain paper (typed/ handwritten English/ Hindi). Envelope superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF ENROLLED FOLLOWER" By ordinary post only to The Recruitment Officer, HQ No.7, Coast Guard District (Odisha), Paradip, Opp Port trust Admin Building, Badpadia, Paradip-754142, To reach till 30.05.22. Download application from CG Website: www.indiancoastguard.gov.in.

Sd./- Recruiting Officer

Project work might have damaged Srimandir: ASI

...continued from P1

In its 70-page affidavit to the high court, the ASI said that the drawings and structural designs included in the revised detailed project report (DPR) are different from the ones presented to the NMA.

The ASI has observed that the construction work of the project is in progress within the prohibited and regulated areas of the monument. As directed by the high court, the ASI along with officials of OBCC, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration and the Puri Collector made a joint inspection of the site last week.

The affidavit claimed that during the joint inspection, the OBCC managing director said that till date no permission or approval from the NMA or any competent authorities was available for structural activities and the design of the project. "The MD has further informed (the ASI) that there are deviations in plan and elevation as well as in the project design. In the revised proposal, the height of various structural units had been increased and more units have been added."

"No heritage impact assessment studies have been conducted before commencement of the project. At several locations stratified deposits of about 15 to 20 ft have taken place, which has caused irreparable damage to the heritage site", the ASI said in its affidavit.

The petitioner has prayed that the court give an order to stop the construction activities undertaken by the state administration for a developmental project near the temple allegedly violating the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

According to the provisions of the Act, the area within 100 meters from a monument is a 'prohibited' zone while that within 200 meters falls under the 'regulated' category, the petition said.

The state government has not taken permission from the ASI for the construction work, the petitioner submitted. "Cracks have appeared in the Nata Mandap of the 12th-century shrine due to these construction activities" and continued construction work will pose a threat to the structure of the temple, it said.

Hygiene awareness drive by CSIR-IMMT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar, is currently holding a 15-day long awareness drive on hygiene, in which more than 150 staff of the IMMT are participating.

CSIR-IMMT Director S Basu inaugurated the initiative May 1 at the Children's park in the institute premises. The initiative saw members participating in a morning march holding placard on environmental cleanliness. Students of the institution and local kids from nearby schools participated in a fancy dress competition on the topic 'Plastic Girl and Hygienic Girl'.

Under the leadership of Basu, all participants took the 'Swachhata' pledge to maintain cleanliness and create awareness in society on the same. Also, competitions are being held between departments on the subject. Prizes and certificates will be distributed on the closing day.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

ITIs, polytechnics will shape the future: Bagchi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: Industrial training institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics in the state will not only be the centres of skill development but also the hubs of human transformation, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) chairman Subroto Bagchi said Monday.

Bagchi's statement came while addressing the OSDA-organised leadership development workshop for heads of 49 ITIs and 37 polytechnics at World Skill Center here.

Giving a presentation on ways ITIs and polytechnics can provide new direction at the block and district levels, Bagchi said Odisha's ITI and polytechnic institutions will shape the future.

The first step is to strengthen the infrastructure of the training institutions and make them more attractive. Students in eighth and



ninth grades at nearby schools need to be made aware of ITI and polytechnic training, he said. The state has about 6,00,000

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students. Awareness programmes should be carried out in schools to encourage students to

wards skill training. At least 10 trainees from each ITI will be initially trained in polytechnics and later in Skill

Our main aim is to involve more and more women in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system
REGHU G I DTET DIRECTOR

Development Institutes or World Skills Centres and will take part in competitions.

ITI and polytechnic institutes can partner with the local hospitals and extend a helping hand in the event of an emergency.

Directorate of Technical Education and Training (DTET) director Reghu G said, "Our main aim is to involve more and more women in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system," he said.

Must be cautious about repeat offenders: Swain

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: The proposal to decriminalise certain provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, needs thorough examination before going for amendment and there must be a balance between ease of doing business and interest of the consumers, said Ranendra Pratap Swain, state Minister of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare.

Ranendra said so while deliberating at the National Workshop of Ministers of Consumer Affairs of States and Union Territories on the matters pertaining to de-

criminalisation of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Monday. The workshop was chaired by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and participated by Principal Secretaries of Consumer Affairs, Controllers of Legal Metrology of different states/UTs and industry/association.

Ranendra said offences which attract minor penalty may be decriminalised. This is a welcome step keeping in the mind the changing business ecology and for creating a conducive business environment. But in case of major penalties, one must think seriously

since decriminalising such offences will encourage the offenders to repeat such offences. With no provision for imprisonment, the offenders may be encouraged to commit such offences again and again. In order to protect the interest of consumers, some sort of deterrent law should be there.

"In order to maintain the balance, the state government agrees to most of the proposed amendments except a few, particularly Section-30, which deals with penalty for transactions in contravention of standard weight or measures; Section 34, which deals with penalty for sale or delivery of commodities

etc by non-standard weight or measures; Section 37(2) which is on penalty for contravention by government approved test centre; and Section 41(1) which deals with penalty for giving false information," he added.

In all the aforesaid provisions, there must be prescribed punishment for the second and subsequent offences which is more deterrent than the first offence. The existing provisions bring fear in the minds of the offenders and prevent them from committing the second and subsequent offences because of the provisions in place like imprisonment, he pointed out.

Amar among MPs in US to study climate change

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 9: Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) Rajya Sabha member Amar Patnaik is in the multiparty delegation, comprising nine Members of Parliament (MPs) from different states, to the US for this year's Legislator's Program which is to be hosted at the University of Chicago.

To augment the capacity of India's political leadership in advancing policies that provide lasting environmental benefits, EPIC India is hosting the Indian MPs at the University.

The multiparty delegation will meet University of Chicago scholars, policymakers, and opinion leaders in Chicago during their visit till May 12.

Along with Amar Patnaik, there are Rajya Sabha Members Priyanka Chaturvedi (Shiv Sena), CM Ramesh (BJP); Lok Sabha Members Brijender Singh, Shivkumar Udasi, A Rahul Kaswan and Heena Gavti (all from the BJP); Kotagiri Sridhar (YSR Congress Party) and Ritesh Pandey (Bahujan Samaj Party) as the members of the team.

Sharing his excitement about the knowledge exchange, the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and director of EPIC, Michael Greenstone said, "Innovative policies work when policymakers are ready to experiment. From our working for several years in Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar and other Indian states, we know that Indian lawmakers have been at the forefront of trying groundbreaking policies to balance India's growth story and environmental concerns."

During this edition of the Legislators Program, the MPs will interact with the university faculty and experts on wide-ranging policy

Seven idols stolen from City temple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: Temples across the state have turned soft targets for idol smugglers while the cops seem busy patting their own backs by arresting some local con-

ducts only. In the latest case of temple theft, miscreants decamped with seven precious octo-alloy (Ashtadhatu) idols from the Laxminarayana temple in the Maa Tankapani temple premises in Baliaanta on the outskirts of the City Sunday night. Sources claimed the 500-year-old antique idols worth over ₹40 lakh will be valued in crores in the international markets.

Monday morning, the priest Pramod Panda spotted the temple's back gate broken and idols missing. Surprisingly, the smugglers did not take gold and silver ornaments. Five such thefts have been reported in the locality in the last few months.

As many as 11 such cases have been reported in Puri district alone between January and March, 2022. The miscreants have reportedly stolen 30 idols.



From our working for several years in Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar and other Indian states, we know that Indian lawmakers have been at the forefront of trying groundbreaking policies to balance India's growth story and environmental concerns. Therefore, we are thrilled to learn and share best practices with Indian MPs and join them in accelerating positive change for citizens across India

MICHAEL GREENSTONE | MILTON FRIEDMAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR IN ECONOMICS, DIRECTOR OF EPIC

areas, including climate policy, carbon markets, air pollution and water quality. The visit will also facilitate interaction with young minds studying at the University of Chicago.

EPIC India's Executive Director Sidhartha Vermani added, "This is the third edition of the legislator's program, and as we learn from the experiences of our MP's, we are also trying to share EPIC's global and India-specific research findings to co-identify priorities and solutions that may be implemented in individual constituencies. The goal is also to carry out groundbreaking research that addresses global and local challenges."

CUTTACK'S NEW DCP TAKES CHARGE



IPS officer Pinak Mishra took charge as Cuttack DCP at an event organised at the Commissionerate Police headquarters in Bhubaneswar, Monday. Twin city police commissioner SK Priyadarsi, additional police commissioner Umashankar Dash and City DCP Prateek Singh were present

Global warming making oceans lose 'memory'

The team suspects that ocean memory decline might also affect forecasting land-based impacts on temperature and precipitation as well as extreme events due to their dependence on the persistence of sea surface temperature as a predictability source

Most of the world's oceans are steadily losing their year-to-year 'memory' under global warming, researchers have warned.

Ocean memory decline is found as a collective response across the climate models to human-induced warming. As greenhouse-gas concentrations continue to rise, such memory decline will become increasingly evident.

The study published in the journal Science Advances compared the fast weather fluctuations of the atmosphere, only to find that the

slowly varying ocean exhibits strong persistence or "memory", meaning the ocean temperature tomorrow is likely to look a lot like it does today, with only slight changes.

"We discovered this phenomenon by examining the similarity in ocean surface temperature from one year to the next as a simple metric for ocean memory," said Hui Shi, lead author and researcher at the Farallon Institute in Petaluma, California. "It's almost as if the ocean is developing amnesia," she added.



Ocean memory is found to be related to the thickness of the uppermost layer of the ocean, known as the mixed layer. Deeper mixed layers have greater heat content, which confers more thermal inertia that translates into memory.

However, the mixed layer over most oceans will become shallower

in response to continued anthropogenic warming, resulting in a decline in ocean memory.

Along with ocean memory decline, the thinning mixed layer is also found to increase the random fluctuations of the sea surface temperature.

As a result, although the ocean will not become much more variable from one year to the next in the future, the fraction of helpful signals for prediction largely reduces. "Reduced ocean memory combined with increased random fluctuations suggests intrinsic changes in the system and new challenges in prediction under warming," said Fei-Fei Jin, an atmospheric sciences professor at the University of Hawaii. Ocean memory loss doesn't just impact the prediction of physical variables, but could also influence the way we manage sensitive marine ecosystems. Besides ocean prediction, forecasting land-based impacts on temperature and precipitation as well as extreme events might also be affected by ocean memory decline due to their dependence on the persistence of sea surface temperature as a predictability source, the team said.

CLASSIFIED LOST By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary Nayagarh, I Prakash kumar Sahoo, S/o-Naba kishore Sahoo At / Po / Ps - Itamati (Jagannath Sahi) Dist- Nayagarh, Odisha do hereby declared notified for the information that in my name with the name my younger brother Ramesh kumar Sahoo's name jointly stand as vendees in one Original Registered sale deed No-11371702130 dt.12/06/2017 has been actually lost on dt.23/04/2022. We have not mortgaged the said sale deed before any financial institution or availed any loan on it. Sd/- Prakash kumar saho

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TROPICAL DELIGHT



A roadside vendor makes brisk business by selling litchis at Jeypore in Koraput district, Monday

OP PHOTO

Pihu mom's plea for euthanasia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, May 9: After fighting every odd to find her two-year-old child, who has been missing since August 9, 2020, a woman from Madhusudanpur under Binjharpur police limits in Bari block of Jajpur district has pleaded for passive euthanasia Sunday.

Losing all hopes, Pihu's mother Monalisa Nayak has urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to allow her for 'passive euthanasia'.

A copy of the 'mercy killing' petition has also been forwarded to the President, Chief Justice of India, Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal and Orissa High Court Chief Justice.

According to the petitioner, it was a normal day August 9, 2020, when Pihu was playing near their house courtyard while her mother Monalisa was busy in household chores, but suddenly the child went missing.

Despite repeated searches, family members failed to trace her. Later, Monalisa approached Binjharpur police to lodge a missing complaint on the same day.

However, police took the case casually and did not lodge any complaint, she alleged.



Instead of making efforts to find Pihu, police have been 'mentally harassing' Monalisa and her family members

Instead of making efforts to find Pihu, Binjharpur police has been repeatedly calling Monalisa and her family to the police station and mentally harassing them, she said. With no other options left, the hopeless mother has requested for 'mercy killing'.

"I request CM Naveen Patnaik to take the case from Binjharpur police and hand it over to the CBI. I have been living with the pain of losing my daughter. I cannot live anymore. If the administration and officials who run the country cannot find my child, I request them to grant me 'mercy killing,'" said Monalisa while bursting into tears.

EX-HM GETS 4-YR JAIL FOR BRIBERY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 9: A special Vigilance court Monday sentenced a retired headmistress to four years of imprisonment after convicting her of demanding and accepting ₹4,000 bribe from the secretary of a self-help group (SHG) engaged in mid-day meal preparation in Saharpada UP/ME school.

The convict has been identified as Gouri Prasad Naik. Special Vigilance judge Arabinda Pattnaik also slapped a penalty of ₹2,000 on the former headmistress, apart from the punishment. In default, she has to undergo an additional one month of imprisonment.

According to the case diary, a sum of ₹79,590 was sanctioned to the school for preparation of mid-day meal in the school April 13, 2015. The retired HM was supposed to give the money to Panmati Mohanta, the secretary of the SHG engaged in preparation MDM.

However, the HM demanded ₹4,000 bribe from Mohanta to release the money. Mohanta expressed her inability to pay the bribe but finally paid ₹3,000 after the HM insisted on it.

Later, Mohanta informed the Vigilance officials in Keonjhar who laid a trap and caught Naik re-handled April 16, 2015. She was then arrested and later released on bail.

Mining mafia use new tricks



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, May 9: A decade after the mining scam in 2009 rocked Odisha, the state government and Centre had tightened the noose around the mining mafia but smuggling of iron ores continues unabated in Keonjhar district with the plunderers adopting novel means.

The way miscreants used to smuggle iron ores from Jurudi under Joda mining circles has changed now. Earlier, the Mines department had seized thousands of tonnes of unclaimed iron ores and had dumped them at Jurudi railway siding.

However, the ore stocks have started declining as the Mines department has failed to take steps to ensure that the stocks are not looted.

It is alleged that illegality is taking place with the involvement of transport

contractors and iron ore smugglers. The contractors entrusted with the task of loading iron ores in the rail rakes of goods trains engage earthmovers to load the dumped iron ores on rakes when there is a shortfall of iron ore in the rail rakes.

Locals noticed such illegality Sunday afternoon when they found an earthmover carrying the dumped iron ores and loading it on the rakes of a goods train. On the other hand, the Railways is digging up a trench for construction of a drain at the railway siding.

The contractor has engaged an earthmover to dig the trench and to facilitate it, tractors were seen shifting the dumped iron ores elsewhere. It is alleged that these dumped iron ores are later sold off to traders from outside of the state by these unscrupulous contractors.

Similarly, iron ores ferried from min-

ing sites by trucks for transportation by trains are not unloaded at the railway siding.

The transport challan is received at the railway siding but the truck is asked to move to a particular destination where the ores are sold for a premium, said the sources. The transport contractors deliberately reduce the quantity of fresh ores in the rail rakes and fill it up with dumped iron ores, they added.

Later, the fresh ores extracted from mines are smuggled outside for a premium. As a result, thousands of tonnes of iron ores have been stolen over the years leading to loss of crores of revenue to the state government.

The exact amount of revenue loss by the state government could be ascertained if the Mines department makes an assessment of the amount of iron ores dumped in 2009-10 and the present stocks available at the railway siding.

A mines official said they would soon conduct a probe and verify the allegations. Meanwhile, locals alleged that the drain construction has affected the forest cover in the area.

When contacted, Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD said he has no information regarding such ore theft but very soon he would visit the spot and take stock of the situation.

Attack on addl tehsildar; 2 held

GANJAM: Police Monday arrested two persons on charge of assaulting an additional tehsildar and three revenue inspectors during a raid at a sand quarry in Rushikulya river near Mali Jagannathpur in Ganjam district, Sunday. SDPO Goutam Kishan is personally monitoring the probe. The incident occurred when Ganjam additional tehsildar Subhendu Kumar Jena and revenue inspectors Bhaskar Sahu, Sitaram Sahu and Susant Kumar Behera raided the sand quarry at around 3am Sunday. Two out of four miscreants, who had attacked them, were held.

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Tender Closing Date & Time: 27.05.2022 at 1500 hrs.
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, ANGUL
No. 766 Date:02/05 / 2022
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e- Procurement Notice
Bid ID. E.E. M.I. Division, Angul No. - 02 /2022-23
E-mail ID: eemidivision_angul@yahoo.com
1. Name of the works : Improvement to Minor Irrigation Projects under different Block of Angul District under R,R &R for the year 2022-23.
2. No. of works : 05 (Five) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Approximately Rs.24.60 Lakhs to 39.80 Lakhs.
4. Cost of Tender Paper : Rs. 6000 /- (Non-Refundable) to be paid electronically through the payment gateway of designated Banks
5. Class of contractor : "C" and "B"
6. Period of Completion : 9 (Nine) calendar months.
7. Available of bid documents : From dt. 11-05-2022, 10 A.M. to dt.20-05-2022, upto 5.00 PM in web site (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
8. Date of opening of bid documents : On dt.21-05-2022 at 09.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Angul.
9. Dt.25.05.2022 at 10.00 AM
10. Date of lottery if required : The Bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
11. Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder. : <http://dowr.orissa.gov.in>
12. The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website.
13. Name & Address of the OIT : Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Angul. At / P.O.: Hakimpada, College Square, District :Angul, PIN-759143, Ph. No. : 06764-236522 Email ID: eemidivision_angul@yahoo.com
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place. <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>
Sd./- Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Angul
OIPR-32284/11/0002/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-144:
e-Procurement Notice Online Tender
BID Identification No. EEMIDBNJ-01/2022-23
Name of work : Civil Construction Works.
No. of work : 5 Nos.
Estimated cost : Rs. 36.05 Lakh to 39.98 Lakh
Period of Completion : 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
Date & Time of availability of : From: 11.05.2022 to 20.05.2022
Bid Documents in the portal : up to 17.00 Hours
Date for opening of Bid : 21.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
Lottery Date if required : 23.05.2022 at 10.30 A.M.
Name & Address of the OIT : Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation Division,
Bhanjanagar
Further Details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-32287/11/0003/2223

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RWS&S DIVISION, NABARANGPUR - 764059 No. O-178
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 02 of 2022-23 Dated: 30.04.2022
1. Name of the work : Procurement of MS Pipes
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.41.45 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion : 1 (One) Month
4. Date and time of availability of : 11.05.2022 (5.00 P.M.) to bid documents in the portal 26.05.2022 (5.00 P.M.)
5. Last Date/Time for receipt of : 5.00 P.M. of 26.05.2022 bids in the portal
6. Date and time of submission : 5.00 P.M. of 26.05.2022 of technical bids
7. Date & time of opening of : 12.30 P.M. of 27.05.2022 Technical Bids
8. Date and Time of Opening of : To be decided Financial Bids
9. Name & address of the : Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Officer Inviting Bid Division, Nabarangpur
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
RWS&S Division, Nabarangpur
OIPR-25028/11/0003/2223

IDCO 'fails' to reclaim land from Mesco Steels



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, May 9: Despite Supreme Court's order in September 2019, the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) has reportedly failed to reclaim 15-acre land owned by Mesco Steels Ltd at Kalinganagar Industrial Estate in Jakhapura area of the district.

As per reports, IDCO has sent at least six letters to Mesco authorities and Kalinganagar ADM between July 24, 2020 and February 2022 in this connection but the land is yet to be reclaimed.

Locals suspect that some IDCO officials are hand in glove with Mesco for which they are intentionally delaying the reclaiming of the 15-acre land on which a hotel-cum-guest house has been built.

Many casual workers and employees of the steel plant owned by Mesco, which has remained shut for the past five years, are leading a miserable life. Reports said uncertainty looms large on the future of over 800 employees and casual labourers who worked in the Mesco plant.

Members of at least 172 displaced families who have lost their houses and ancestral properties due to the ambitious project are now staring at a bleak future with no job or source of livelihood.

This development is in contrast to the state government's claim that establishment of industries in Kalinganagar has helped solve unemployment problem in Jajpur district, said the locals.

Notably, Kalinganagar industrial complex was established in 1990s. People in the district had wholeheartedly welcomed this step of the

Locals suspect that some IDCO officials are hand in glove with Mesco for which they are intentionally delaying the reclaiming of the 15-acre land on which a hotel-cum-guest house has been built

Many casual workers and employees of the steel plant owned by Mesco, which has remained shut for the past five years, are leading a miserable life

state government for industrialisation in Jajpur as it had opened the gates for employment for local youths. Mesco was the first private industrial unit which had set up its plant in the industrial estate.

Later, the industrial house obtained two iron mines under Joda mining division. Following the hearing of a case on gross irregularities by Mesco, the Supreme Court had imposed a penalty of ₹924.75 crore on the company.

The company had to shut down as it could not pay the penalty.

Similarly, the SC had directed the administration to collect penalties worth crores of rupees from many other defaulting mining firms and shut them down. However, the amount is still pending.

On the other hand, growth of downstream industries in Kalinganagar Industrial Complex has been disappointing as companies have not received land from IDCO for establishing their units. It has happened because many companies are occupying vast tracts of land and are not handing them over to IDCO.

Among the major land grabbers is the Mesco Group, said sources, adding it has taken 1,500 acres in the last 24 years.

Girl found dead in hotel room

BARGARH: A 17-year-old girl was found dead under mysterious circumstances at a hotel room in Gaisilet area in Bargarh district Monday. The deceased was a Plus II student, police said. Meanwhile, police have detained the alleged 'boyfriend' of the girl who is a resident of Paradhiapali village under Bolangir Sadar police limits. The youth had taken the minor girl to the hotel room. Later, the girl was found dead following which the hotel staff informed the cops. While the exact reason of her death is yet to be ascertained, police suspect that the girl could have been killed by her boyfriend over an affair with her.

NATIONAL SUGAR INSTITUTE
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Admission Notice - 2022
National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India for various Courses invites applications from eligible candidates who wish to seek admission for the academic session 2022-23. For details see our prospectus available at our website.
IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT
Online submission of application forms : From 11th April, 2022 onwards
Last date for submission of Online Applications (Foreign Candidates) : 6th May '2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
Last date for submission of Online Applications (Indian Candidates) : 27th May '2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
Last date for receipt of downloaded printout of duly filled & signed online application forms at NSI, Kanpur by hand or by Post (Indian Candidates) : 10th June '2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
Application Fee - For all candidates except SC/ST : Rs.1500/-
Application Fee - for SC/ST Candidates : Rs.1000/-
Application fee to be sent in the form of DD drawn in favour of "Director, National Sugar Institute" payable at Kanpur
Downloading of Admit Cards from website by Indian applicants : From 17th June' 2022 onwards
Admission Test (Only for Indian Candidates) : 26th June' 2022 (Sunday) at Pune, Chennai, Delhi, Kanpur, Kolkata, Patna, Meerut & Gorakhpur etc.
Address for all Correspondence/Submission of application form by Registered Post/Speed Post : Director, National Sugar Institute, Kalyanpur, Kanpur - 208017, India <http://nsi.gov.in>
Contact us: nsikanpur.edu@gmail.com
davn 08202/11/0001/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 7 of 2022-23
No.O-186: 1.Name of the Work :- Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of packaged water treatment plant (unconventional type) with other ancillary works for water supply to Govt. I.T.I, Phulbani. (Refer DTCN available in the website :- tendersorissa.gov.in)
2. Total No of work : 1 No.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 30.00 lakh
4. Eligible Bidder : Reputed Manufacturer / Authorised Distributor / Authorised Dealer / C&B class Contractor
5. Period of Completion : 03 months (Refer DTCN available in the website tendersorissa.gov.in)
6. Other Details :
Procurement Officer : Bid Identification No. : Availability of tender online for bidding : Date and Time for opening of Bid :
Superintending Engineer, RWS&S (Division, Phulbani) : 7 of 2022-23 : Dt.12.5.2022 At 10.00 Hrs. : Dt.26.05.2022 Upto 17.00 Hrs. : Dt.27.5.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in website only.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
RWS&S Division, Phulbani
OIPR-25006/11/0012/2223



In our defeated hearts God's strength survives.

SRI AUROBINDO



Lankan Drama

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's resignation submitted to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, his younger brother, is but a desperate attempt by the ruling family to appease an infuriated population reeling under extreme economic hardships. The resignation followed violence that erupted when supporters of the ruling party attacked protesters at a site outside the presidential office in Colombo recently. This shows the hostile mood of the people and the ruling clan is left with no other option but to concede the demand for installation of an all-party government. Reports claim at least 78 people were injured in the unprovoked attack on peaceful protesters. Meanwhile, curfew has been imposed across the island nation of 22 million people after the violence.

Mahinda Rajapaksa's spokesman Rohan Weliwita said the 76-year-old leader sent his resignation to clear the way for a "new unity government" suggested by the President to fight the country's worst economic crisis since independence from British rule in 1948.

The mood of the people on the verge of starvation due to the colossal economic mismanagement by the government suggests sacrificing the Prime Minister for the President's survival is not something that they want. The popular demand is for the resignation of both the PM and the President as is reflected in the two no-confidence motions brought by the Opposition party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). Interestingly, the resignation came the day the date for taking up the two motions was to be fixed at a meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena at the Parliament Complex. The Speaker had already announced a number of issues, including the current crisis in the country, would be discussed. It might be that the ruling family had realised the motions could be passed despite the re-election of Ranjith Siyambalapatiya as Deputy Speaker backed by MPs belonging to the ruling party late last week. This is because the Deputy Speaker had resigned within 24 hours of getting the votes of a majority of MPs.

The US ambassador to Sri Lanka condemned the violence against peaceful protesters and called on the government to conduct a full investigation, including the arrest and prosecution of anyone who incited violence. No wonder the President immediately tweeted, strongly condemning the violent acts by "those inciting and participating, irrespective of political allegiances." Violence, he said, would not solve the current problems.

Truth is the violence could easily have been avoided. It is unfortunate that when Sri Lanka is plunged into the worst ever economic crisis, its parliament had to witness a theatre of the absurd. The need of the hour is to reform the island country's political structure, form a credible inclusive government and overhaul its ravaged economy. Instead of confronting the crisis head-on, both the ruling party and the Opposition went about scoring over each other. The latest unseemly drama was the resignation, re-election and resignation of Siyambalapatiya from the post of Deputy Speaker in the span of only a few weeks. He had first resigned from the post April 5, paving the way for the election of a new Deputy Speaker after several parties, including the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, which he represented, became independent and joined the Opposition in parliament. His resignation after re-election could be in response to Opposition criticism that he had become a "government stooge" as ruling party MPs voted for him. However, he said, as if to explain his case, that he had expected to be a consensus candidate. This might have unnerved the ruling family and it feared losing power through the no-confidence motions.

Sri Lanka is facing a political and economic emergency due to government mismanagement. People have revolted against the government for its inept handling of the economy through widespread protests demanding immediate steps to bring down the spiraling food and energy prices. The country has now the world's worst performing currency. In fact, Sri Lanka has been financially mismanaged for years. As a result, food inflation is running at 25 per cent and overall inflation at 18 per cent. This has led to dangerous shortages and a threat of starvation is staring at the country's population of 22 million.

With shortages, power cuts for hours and nationwide protests, Opposition parties are cautiously trying to get a simple majority in the parliament needed to bring a no-confidence motion against the government of Rajapaksa. A draft bill that seeks to reform the current governance system, including abolishing the executive presidency and passing on its powers to the prime minister, has been presented in parliament. These are good signs for recovery.

The outcome of the voting for the election to the Deputy Speaker's post prompted the Opposition Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP Shanakiyan Rasamanickam to say that the "government-backed Deputy Speaker candidate revealed the likelihood of the government defeating the no-confidence motions."

The Opposition decided to go ahead with the motions whatever the outcome in order to show to the people who among the MPs are "true patriots" who can challenge the clout of the Rajapaksa family and come forward to save the country from the government's ruinous economic policies.

It appears as if India, too, has reached a stage where it needs a verification of who the 'true patriots' are. The economy in this country is also crashing fast and, as with the Rajapaksa supporters resorting to violence in Sri Lanka, those who support the government here are finding trivial excuses to divert attention of the general public from intrinsically dangerous fallouts of wrong policy decisions that are impacting every sphere of life and activity.

WISDOM CORNER

Money is numbers and numbers never end. If it takes money to be happy, your search for happiness will never end. BOB MARLEY

Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end. JOHN LENNON

If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be. MAYA ANGELOU

WORDSWORTH

Subnivean

Classical scholars will spot the wintry associations of this word; it derives from Latin nix for snow, which becomes niv- in compounds such as nivālis, snowy or snow-covered. Etymologists point out that the English snow and the Latin nix both ultimately derive from the same ancient Indo-European root. But then humans in Europe have long had plenty of experience of the white stuff. About four centuries ago, English scholars borrowed nivālis to make the adjective nival to add to our snowy (though French got there first, at least a century earlier). We also have the more recent technical term nivation, not - as you might guess - meaning snowfall but the erosion of ground around and beneath a snow bank that is seasonally melting. Subnivean is another member of the group, nearly two centuries old. This refers to something that happens underneath snow such as the activities of animals that survive winter beneath it. Very recently that word has been joined by the linked noun subnivium for the area between soil surface and snowpack. It was coined by a group led by Jonathan Pauli of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They wrote in a paper in Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment in June 2013: "For many terrestrial organisms in the Northern Hemisphere, winter is a period of resource scarcity and energy deficits, survivable only because a seasonal refugium - the 'subnivium' - exists beneath the snow."



Jagdish Rattanani

FELT OR LIVED INFLATION IS INEVITABLY WORSE THAN REPORTED INFLATION

As the price of tomatoes nears Rs 100 a kilo, it is time to bring some of the strong vocabulary on inflation that was in vogue with some of the old-time central bankers. Savak Tarapore, the illustrious former deputy governor of the RBI, never minced words. He wrote way back in 2007: "Tolerating inflation is like dancing with the devil and those who argue against strong monetary measures to control inflation are the sinners of society." The noted Prof. PR Brahmananda had said: "Not caring about inflation is like going into battle without caring for the wounded, the dying and the dead."

So, the policy repo rate hike of 40 basis points, from 4.0% to 4.40%, announced at an unscheduled Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting called May 2 and 4, barely a month after the same MPC met and decided to keep the status quo (April 6-8) is nothing short of a dramatic event. At the April meeting, the MPC knew that Jan and Feb 2022 retail inflation numbers had breached the upper tolerance level of 6% - they came in at 6.01% and 6.07% respectively. The March 2022 retail inflation numbers, which arrived later April 12, confirmed the uptrend by coming in at 6.95%. The unscheduled hike in repo rate along with a simultaneous Cash Reserve Ratio hike of 50 basis points to suck out "excess" liquidity is a strong signal now that priorities have changed from protecting, supporting and even pushing growth while closely watching if not tolerating inflation to attacking inflation at the cost of growth. In theory, repo rate changes are expected to transmit (though in practice they may not always do so appropriately or speedily enough) through the money market to the entire financial system, which, in turn, influences aggregate demand - a key determinant of inflation and growth, as the RBI puts it.

What happened to cause a sudden reversal of rate action?

The April inflation number was probably a key trigger, or some-

FOCUS ECONOMY

THE INFLATION DEMON



Inflation at work has to be seen in the heat and dust of the markets, in the decisions that countless Indians make today to buy less or even turn away because prices are unaffordable

thing more out on the horizon that caused the discomfort and indicated more pain is coming. Whatever the reason, the fact is that inflation, which in the language of the ordinary person is a measure of the rising prices of goods and services, now takes on a new focus as it has reached levels that it can no longer be handled tentatively.

Under the current policy that goes by the acronym of FIT, or Flexible Inflation Targeting, the MPC (which is not the RBI though it is influenced by the RBI since three of the six members are from the central bank) has to keep inflation at an average of 4%, with a leeway of two percentage points up or down, so that inflation between 2% to 6% is the range within which the MPC meets its mandate. The MPC has to achieve this while keeping in mind the objective of growth. In the words of the RBI: "The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. Price stability is a necessary precondition to sustainable growth."

If the MPC crosses the 2% to 4% band on either side, it fails. If the

average inflation level for three quarters in a row breaches the tolerance band, the MPC must explain its failure and how and when it can correct the situation. Some say there is a risk that this might happen for the first time in the history of the MPC, given that inflation for the coming months is expected to be above 6%, the monsoons are an unknown factor yet and the international geopolitical situation is on a boil. Fuel prices can be expected to go much higher. So, expect more rate hikes in the coming months; the demon on inflation will not be slayed easily.

The numbers and finer points of policy however; never tell the full story of what is being felt in the market. To an ordinary citizen, any talk of inflation dynamics, the Ukraine war, a repo rate hike or an accompanying CRR rise to suck out liquidity, as was announced, has little meaning because the wallet is strained at every visit to buy staples. This pain cannot be easily understood by policymakers. Felt or lived inflation is inevitably worse than reported inflation. Inflation at

work has therefore to be seen in the heat and dust of the markets, in the decisions that countless Indians make today to buy less or even turn away because prices are unaffordable. Prices are higher than they come across in press releases and data sheets. Ask any common person on the street and the heat of raging prices stands out.

What this demands now is not merely the technical and forced corrections that must be injected at top speed to stop the situation from deteriorating but a political leadership that responds to the pressures on the common citizen. It should be clear by now that the failed project on the farm laws sought to bring in monumental change against the wishes of the majority at precisely the wrong time. The intended scrapping of the laws against hoarding (and the strife the laws caused among farmers) could have made it even more difficult to control prices. Similarly, the new labour code will make it easier for businesses to hire and fire, making firms more efficient but exposing workers to the vagaries of the market, with nothing to fall back on.

In a recent report, the RBI wrote that economic progress rides on seven wheels - aggregate demand; aggregate supply; institutions, intermediaries, and markets; macroeconomic stability and policy coordination; productivity and technological progress; structural conditions; and sustainability. Seven is an odd number of wheels for a vehicle to move on. The missing eighth wheel is sensitivity to the poor and commitment to uplift every citizen so that the benefits of growth, slower if it be, are more evenly distributed. When it comes to making policy, it is important to realise that often "the choice is not between inflation and growth but between inflation and the distribution of income," to quote SS Tarapore.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM DISASTER MITIGATION

Building resilient coastal infra vital



Biswanath Dash

A FOCUS ON RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE WILL NOT ONLY SAVE LIVES BUT ALSO SAVE LIVELIHOODS

The coastal districts in Odisha are on high alert for the impending cyclone 'Asani' even though the forecast is that it will spare Odisha coast by not making a landfall and is likely to travel parallel to the coast. The India Meteorological Department predicts significant rainfall under its impact and news reports highlight premature harvest in many areas. A near similar scenario was witnessed during the last cyclonic storm 'Jawad' in December 2021. In view of the climatic change projection which indicate intensification of cyclonic activities over the North Indian Ocean, it is time the state government gives due attention to building resilient coastal infrastructure. While saving human lives certainly should be the top most priority but it should also be recognised that most cyclonic storms are not the deadliest category as witnessed during 1970, 1991 or 1999. Thus a focus on resilient infrastructure will not only save lives but also save livelihoods.

There are three important aspects to building resilient coastal infrastructure to be considered on a priority basis. The first is a focus on minimising farm sector losses. It should include a range of measures; for example, providing ap-

propriate advisories to farmers at local level on projected cyclonic impact of forecasted rainfall pattern, wind speed. This can be facilitated by the district administration and executed on real time basis in coordination with meteorological, agricultural, panchayati raj departments. The purpose should be to convert the cyclonic risk in terms of its impact on a variety of crops and communicate the same so that farmers are better informed on their decision on premature harvest.

The second aspect is to assist as and when there is a real danger of heavy losses to agricultural crops including horticulture such as coconut, cashew and groundnut. Mechanisation of harvest for example for major crops such as paddy is a potential solution and yet there is very little discussion on its use in India. Individuals who have the means are currently using such harvest machines but it requires to be done at a much larger scale and with greater participation of local authorities. How and what should be its process requires deliberation but it certainly is a far more cost effective measure as compared to the compensation disbursed post impact or the overall loss which are incurred

to the state economy. There are also two related aspects to a large scale distress harvest: a) procurement by the state and; b) availability of cold storage. In a situation as we see currently, farmers growing crops which are perishable require different kinds of support from the government. A procurement policy for example at a district level for such emergency situation or at the least providing farmer's access to cold storage would ensure that they do not end up selling their produce at a throw-away price. In any case availability of cold storage network is essential to avoid wastage of procured perishable produce.

The third aspect concerns with development of the kind of infrastructure which will withstand different types of disaster risks including cyclones. Take for example, power sector where the state is yet to transform its distribution system to underground, particularly in the hinterland. The kind of multiplying impact power outage causes was evident during cyclone Fani in May 2019 and hence lessons need to be learned for building long term resilience. Housing is yet another dimension which remains peripheral so far as coastal readiness is concerned.

It is true that in the last few decades large parts of rural areas have seen construction of large number of concrete houses, but there are still a significant number of people living today in kuchha houses. It is this last mile which requires attention and will otherwise remain the most vulnerable not just for cyclones but also for a variety of other disasters such as fire, storm, and flood.

The state of Odisha views itself as a model state for disaster management which others can emulate. To reach that position requires continual planning, innovative thinking, proactive measures and constructive review of its performance so that important lessons are learned. Being on the coast and considering nature projections for a climatic impact in foreseeable future means there should be far greater focus on the coastal area development on long term basis within which each cyclonic or other disaster risk will be the means to test resilience standards.

The writer teaches at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus.

Stop crimes against kids

Sir, Any criminal act against children is reckoned as an unpardonable sin by any sensible human mind. In every civilized country there is provision for stringent punishment for those guilty of such horrendous crimes. But, all right-thinking people of our country are observing with grave concern that alongside harrowing economic crisis including alarming price rise, there is rapid proliferation of liquor and drug addiction. As result, atrocities against women including girl children are growing at an alarming proportion. It is coming to light that children staying in government homes are often used for illicit sexual activities and filming of pornography, subjected to inhuman physical and mental tortures and even trafficked outside. When the situation is so traumatic, the BJP-led government at the Centre has brought a new amendment to the Juvenile Justice Act and got it passed in both Houses of the Parliament. As per the amendment, the aforesaid brutal crimes committed on children would no more be regarded as cognisable offences for the purpose of registering FIR and investigation by the police. So those guilty of such crimes would no more have any fear of prosecution. A united voice can only break this move. Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Deplorable incident

Sir, It has been reported that Khalistan flags were found tied to the main gate and boundary wall of the Himachal Pradesh Legislature Assembly Complex in Dharamshala. It is deplorable that no action was taken even when the police had reportedly written to the Assembly Secretariat requesting to install CCTV cameras in the outer periphery of the complex. The chief minister has expressed shock and dismay at the action of the secessionists. At least now, the government should take action to install CCTV cameras and initiate action to book the culprits. It has been recalled that the police found pro-Khalistan graffiti on boulders and parapets on the roads connecting Anandpur Sahib and Naina Devi last year. Last year, Sikhs for Justice (SJF), a US-based secessionist outfit, had reportedly threatened the Himachal chief minister not to hoist the Tricolour on the day of independence. Again last month, the SFJ leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun had allegedly called for hoisting the Khalistani flag in Shimla. The Khalistan movement was given death-blow during the regime of KPS Gill who was Director General of Police of Punjab. Cowards are testing the water. Any attempt to give life to the Khalistan movement should be nipped in the bud. KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

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

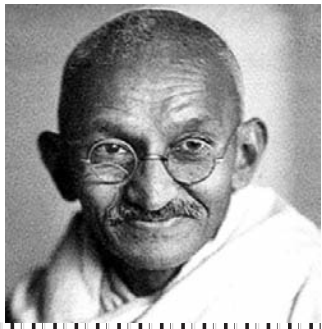
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Many people ask me with whom will we do a national alliance. I do not know how to do politics. I don't understand alliances of 10 and 20 parties to defeat anyone. I don't want to defeat anyone, I want the country to win. I will only enter into an alliance with 130 crore people of the country to make India number one in the world

GANDHI'S BELONGINGS TO FETCH NEARLY ₹5 CR

Mahatma Gandhi's personal belongings kept in Britain will be auctioned and are likely to fetch ₹4.74 crore (5,00,000 British pounds), a media report said



of the day quote

The Prime Minister has sought to introduce a new political culture in the country, rising above considerations of vote bank politics or subjective preferences

Many attempts were made to destroy the Shiv Sena but those who tried were finished

The Jammu and Kashmir administration is committed to preserving and developing ancient sites of cultural and religious significance

Will re-examine sedition law, Centre tells SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: The Centre Monday told the Supreme Court not to invest time in examining the validity of sedition law as it has decided to go for re-consideration of the provisions by a "competent forum".

The Centre also said it was cognizant of various views, and concerns about civil liberties while being committed to protecting the "sovereignty and integrity of this great nation".

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in an affidavit, referred to the views of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on shedding "colonial baggage" and said he has been in favour of the protection of civil liberties and respect of human rights, and in that spirit, over 1500 outdated laws and over 25,000 compliance burdens have been scrapped.

It said the prime minister has said that India, as a nation, has to work even harder to shed colonial baggage that has passed its utility which includes outdated laws and practices. A bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli on May 5 had said it would hear arguments on May 10 on the legal question of whether the pleas challenging the colonial-era penal law on sedition be referred to a larger bench for reconsidering the 1962 verdict of a five-judge constitution bench in the Kedar Nath Singh case.



The government said concerns have been raised about the application and abuse of sedition law for purposes not intended by the provisions

The government urged the top court that in view of the decision to reconsider the law, "this court may not invest time in examining the validity of section 124A once again and be pleased to await the exercise of reconsideration to be undertaken by the Government of India before an appropriate forum where such reconsideration is constitutionally permitted"

The affidavit, filed by Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Additional Secretary of the MHA, said there are divergences of views expressed in the public domain by various jurists, academicians, intellectuals, and citizens in general.

"The Government, being fully cognizant of various views being expressed on the subject of sedition and also having considered the concerns of civil liberties and human rights, while committed to maintain and protect the sovereignty and integrity of this great

nation, has decided to re-examine and re-consider the provisions of Section 124A of the IPC which can only be done before the competent forum," it said.

The government urged the top court that in view of the decision to reconsider the law, "this court may not invest time in examining the validity of section 124A once again and be pleased to await the exercise of reconsideration to be undertaken by the Government of India before an appropriate forum where such reconsideration is con-

stitutionally permitted."

The government said concerns have been raised about the application and abuse of sedition law for purposes not intended by the provisions. "The Prime minister has been cognizant of various views expressed on the subject and has also periodically, in various forums, expressed his clear and unequivocal views in favour of protection of civil liberties, respect of human rights, and giving meaning to the constitutionally cherished freedoms by the people of the country," it said.

It said the prime minister has repeatedly said one of India's strengths is the diverse thought streams that beautifully flourish here. "The PM believes that at a time when the country is marking 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (75 years since independence), we need to, as a nation, work even harder to shed colonial baggage that has passed its utility which includes outdated laws colonial laws and practice," it said.

Various offences which were causing mindless hindrances to people have been decriminalised, it said. It said the public at large including jurists agrees about the need for statutory provisions to deal with serious offences of divisive nature affecting the very sovereignty and integrity of the country. "Requiring a penal provision for such purposes is generally accepted by everyone in legitimate State interest," the affidavit said.

Army has robust posture: Army Chief

The Army chief said that his aim and intention is to establish status quo ante prior to 2020 and re-establish trust and tranquility

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 9: China seems to lack the intention to find a resolution to the border dispute at the Line of Actual Control, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said Monday, stressing that Indian troops continue to hold important positions along the LAC.

During an interaction with media persons, General Pande said, "Our guidance to them (troops deployed at LAC) is to be firm and resolute and prevent any attempt to alter the status quo."

Talking about the current situation at the border and China's intention, General Pande stated: "The basic issue remains the resolution of the border. What we see is that China's intent has been to keep the boundary issue alive. What we need as a country is a 'Whole of nation' approach and in the military domain, this is to prevent and counter any attempt to alter the status quo at the LAC."

The Army chief said that his aim and intention is to establish status quo ante prior to 2020 and re-estab-



Our guidance to them (troops deployed at LAC) is to be firm and resolute and prevent any attempt to alter the status quo

GENERAL MANOJ PANDE | ARMY CHIEF

lish trust and tranquility. But he clearly stated that it can't be a "one way affair" and efforts should be made from both sides.

He stated that in the last couple of years the Indian Army has taken the decision to rebalance and reorient to deal with the situation in Eastern Ladakh.

SHORT TAKES

Techie kills self

Amaravati: A software engineer in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district Monday shot dead his lover and later killed himself with the same weapon. The shocking incident occurred at Tatiparti in Podalakuru mandal. M. Suresh Reddy shot dead Kavya, also a techie, and later turned the gun on himself to end his life. The couple was in love for last few years. They were earlier working together at the same IT company in Bengaluru but for last few months, were operating from home.

Terrorist arrested

Kolkata: A terrorist associated with the banned Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) was arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal Police from Kharibari area at the India-Nepal border near Siliguri in the state's Darjeeling district early Monday police said. Deputy Superintendent of Police, STF, Sudip Bhattacharya identified the arrested terrorist as Dhankumar Burman, 26, a resident of Bakshihat of Cooch Behar district in north Bengal.

Abhishek Banerjee to visit Assam

Kolkata: Eyeing the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Trinamool Congress' national vice-president Abhishek Banerjee will tour the northeastern state of Assam this week. In all probability, he will be visiting Assam on May 11 and will stay there for a day or two, a senior leader of the party said on condition of anonymity. He said that during his visit, Banerjee will hold meetings with the newly appointed state president of the party in Assam, Ripun Bora and Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Sushmita Dev to identify those Lok Sabha seats in Barak Valley, Cachar and Silchar, with substantially Bengali-speaking voters, where the Trinamool Congress can field candidates and can hope for positive results. Both Dev and Bora have joined the Trinamool Congress ending their long association with the Congress.

Couple found dead in Bhopal

Bhopal: The police Monday recovered the bodies of a married couple from a rented room here. As per the police, Jitendra and his wife Ranjeeta from Khandwa were staying at their relative, Kaluram's rented accommodation in Shahpura area. Ranjeeta had filed for divorce in Khandwa. A senior police official in the Shahpura police station said that a team has been sent to Khandwa. While the woman's body was found on the bed, Jitendra was found hanging. Prima facie, it appeared that the man must have committed suicide after killing his wife, but the doctors ruled out any strangulation marks on the neck of the deceased, police said.

SC asks states to ensure children attend school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: Concerned over students who had to drop out of school because their parents or guardians lost their jobs or livelihood due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Supreme Court Monday said there is an obligation on all the states and Union Territories to ensure that children attend schools.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai directed NCPDR to initiate a portal where the action taken by all the states and UTs in this matter is uploaded. The top court asked the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) to file an affidavit after examining a report from the states and UTs within eight weeks. It also directed the States to appoint a district-wise nodal officer either from the education or women and child department who in turn shall instruct Anganwadi workers to personally inform the parents of students who have dropped out about steps taken by NCPDR and get them enrolled.

The apex court asked the authorities to provide wide publicity to be given to the measures and orders passed by it. The top court had earlier directed all the state gov-

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai directed NCPDR to initiate a portal where the action taken by all the states and UTs in this matter is uploaded

The top court asked the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) to file an affidavit after examining a report from the states and UTs within eight weeks

ernments and the UTs to implement the SOP, prepared by NCPDR, for the care and protection of children in street situations.

It had said the steps taken so far have not been satisfactory and rescuing children should not be a temporary exercise and it should be ensured that they are rehabilitated. The top court had earlier directed states and Union Territories to link the children orphaned due to the COVID-19 pandemic and their family members to various welfare schemes. It had taken suo motu cognisance concerning Children in Street Situations (CISS) who have lost their parents to COVID-19.



WATER SCARCITY



Women wait with vessels to collect drinking water from a tubewell outside a temple in Ahmedabad

PTI PHOTO

Court pulls up Delhi police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: A Delhi court has observed that there was "utter failure" on the part of Delhi police in stopping the unauthorised Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri last month that triggered communal clashes in the locality.

The court made the observation while rejecting a clutch of bail pleas, and said that the issue seems to have been simply brushed aside by senior officers, and complicity, if any, of police personnel needs to be investigated.

"The issue seems to have been simply brushed aside by the senior officers. The liability on the part of the concerned officials needs to be fixed so that in future no such incident takes place and the

police is not complacent in preventing the illegal activities. Their complicity, if any, also needs to be investigated." Additional Sessions Judge Gagandeep Singh said.

The court directed that a copy of the order, passed on May 7, be sent

JAHANGIRPURI VIOLENCE

to the Commissioner of Police for information and remedial compliance. "It is fairly admitted... on behalf of the State that the last procession which was passing through, during which the unfortunate riots took place, was illegal having no prior permission from police," the judge said.

The court said that the sequence of events that took place on

Hanuman Jayanti on April 16 and role of the local administration in preventing the incident and maintaining law and order needed to be seen. The contents of the FIR itself show that the local staff of the police station in Jahangirpuri, as well as other officials were "accompanying the said illegal procession" on its route instead of stopping it.

"It appears that local police, instead of performing their duty in stopping the said illegal procession in the beginning itself and dispersing the crowd, was accompanying them to the entire route which later on led to unfortunate riots between the two communities," the judge said. The court was hearing the bail applications, that claimed that the accused had been falsely implicated and were not present at the spot on the day of the incident.

NIA detains Haji Ali dargah's trustee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 9: The NIA Monday detained gangster Chhota Shakeel's aide Salim Qureshi aka Salim Fruit and a trustee of Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai after conducting raids at over 20 places here and in adjoining Thane district against associates of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, an official said.

The agency also conducted a search at the residence of bookie-turned-builder Ajay Gosalia in Borivali area here, he said. The NIA picked up Salim Qureshi, the husband of Chhota Shakeel's sister-in-law, from his residence in Bhandi Bazar area of south Mumbai, he said.

It also detained Sohail Khandwani, the trustee of the Haji Ali Dargah and Mahim Dargah, from his residence in Mahim area, the official said. A team of NIA officials also searched Khandwani's Mahim-based office, and questioned a number of people, including builder Aslam Soratia and beef exporter Fareed Qureshi, he said.

Some other people residing in Bandra and Mahim areas were also questioned, the official added. Since morning, the central agency conducted raids at a housing society in Mumbai's Nagpada area, Bhandi Bazar, Santacruz, Mahim and Goregaon areas of the city. Mumbai in Thane and other places against associates of 1993 Mumbai blasts' mastermind Dawood Ibrahim.

Several 'hawala' operators and drug peddlers were allegedly associated with Ibrahim, official said. In February this year, the ED had questioned Salim Qureshi as part of its probe in a money laundering case linked to Dawood Ibrahim.

Families of bride & groom clash over 'sherwani'

As per locals, the incident in a village of Dhar district took place Saturday night after a tribal groom reached the bride's home in a 'sherwani' instead of the traditional 'dhoti-kurta'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, May 9: A squabble over a groom wearing 'sherwani' instead of the traditional attire, took a violent turn with the families of



the bride and groom clashing and pelting stones at each other in a Madhya Pradesh village, police officials said on Monday.

As per locals, the incident in a village of Dhar district took place Saturday night after a tribal groom reached the bride's home in a 'sher-

wani' instead of the traditional 'dhoti-kurta'. The bride's family took an objection to it which led to a heated argument which turned violent. "The groom (Sundarlal) was wearing a 'sherwani', while the bride's relatives insisted that the marriage rituals be performed in 'dhoti-kurta', which led to a heated argument between the two sides and then a violent clash," the officials said.

Members from both the sides later lodged police complaints, based on which a case was registered against some persons under Indian Penal Code Sections 294 (obscene act), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation). Groom Sundarlal later told re-

porters that there was no issue with the bride's family, but claimed some of her relatives were involved in assaulting people. "The dispute started over the attire. I only want action against those who were involved in assault and stone-pelting," groom Sundarlal was heard saying to the press on Sunday.

After the incident, a large number of people, including women, reached Dhamnod police station and staged a protest. Some women at the police station alleged that stones were hurled at them by the bride's relatives, causing injuries to some. However, later both families agreed and the marriage function was completed.

Loudspeaker row: K'taka to act in a restrained way

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 9: At a time when the loudspeaker issue in Karnataka is refusing to die down, the ruling BJP in the state has decided to handle the sensitive matter in a restrained way.

Sources in the ruling BJP explained that the state government would not blindly support the Hindu organisations and activists who have kicked-off a campaign to chant Hindu prayers in temples against azaan.

Reacting to the latest development on the loudspeaker issue, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Monday stated that there is a Supreme Court order in this regard. "It applies to everyone," he said.

"We will implement the orders in the most cordial way in Karnataka. We have seen what is happening in other states. The High Court has also given orders to implement the Supreme Court guidelines strictly," he said.

"I am discussing the issue with the senior officers and will give necessary directions," he said.

Meanwhile, a delegation of legis-



lators from the Congress party met Bommai and submitted a memorandum and requested him to ensure that Muslims are not targeted in the backdrop of the loudspeaker row.

Senior leaders UT Khader, NA Haris and Nazir Ahmad urged Bommai to initiate strict action to ensure communal harmony. They have also ensured that mosques will follow the court guidelines.

Former Minister and Congress MLA UT Khader stated that 99 per cent of people in the state are peaceful. "A few forces are bringing in dis-

We will implement the orders in the most cordial way in Karnataka. We have seen what is happening in other states. The High Court has also given orders to implement the Supreme Court guidelines strictly

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | CHIEF MINISTER



cord. The government should establish a peaceful and harmonious society," he added.

Bangalore Police Commissioner Kamal Pant met Bommai and briefed him about the situation in the capital city in the backdrop of the loudspeaker issue.

BJP top brass to restore order in Raj unit

MOST OF THE LEADERS IN THE SAFFRON PARTY ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE POLLS BE FOUGHT UNDER COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 9: Rajasthan will become a political hotspot in the ongoing month as the country's two biggest parties - the BJP and the Congress - are scheduled to hold meetings in the desert state in view of the upcoming Assembly elections.

While the Congress is scheduled to hold a two-day Chintan Shivir from May 13-15 in Udaipur to discuss how to improve its prospects, the BJP will May 20-21, hold a meeting of national office bearers in Jaipur to strengthen the organisation and prepare for the upcoming elections in the state.

Both parties will also formulate strategies for the Assembly elections in nine states to be held in 2022 and 2023.

Sensing the BJP high command's desire, BJP national vice president and former Rajasthan Chief



Minister Vasundhara Raje has started efforts for reconciliation. Though Raje's and party high command's up and down relationship is well-known, for the past month and a half, she has been trying to improve the ties.

In this time, she has met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national President JP Nadda, and Union Minister and former party chief Nitin Gadkari to present her point of view.

March 24, Raje met the Prime Minister Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Rajasthan BJP in-charge Arun Singh. Raje, who had gone to Dehradun for attending the oath-taking ceremony of Uttarakhand Chief Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhami, met Amit Shah at airport. March 29, she met Nadda in the national capital.

Now the question arises that whether Raje's efforts bore fruit? What is the BJP high command thinking about Rajasthan? Will BJP fight the polls announcing a Chief Ministerial candidate or under the collective leadership.

Talking to IANS, a senior BJP leader said currently, the party will try to root out factionalism prevalent in the state unit. That's why April 19, Nadda had advised party workers to fight unitedly against the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government.

The meeting that lasted for around four hours and 45 minutes

at Nadda's place was attended by national general secretary, organisation, BL Santosh, Arun Singh, Raje, party state president Satish Poonia, Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Arjun Ram Meghwal (both hailing from the state), state general secretary, organisation, Chandrashekhar, Leader of Opposition in Assembly Gulabchand Kataria, among other top leaders.

How important is Rajasthan for the BJP can be gauged from the fact that before the May 20-21 meet of the party, Nadda will visit the state for two days from May 10. Amit Shah will be visiting tribal areas of the state this month while Arun Singh will be on a seven-day visit to the state.

Prez polls give JD(S) chance to reinforce its secular image

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, May 9: The approaching presidential polls have once again put the spotlight on which way the Janata Dal (Secular) will vote in Karnataka. In the only southern state where the national parties, BJP and Congress are directly ranged against each other, the JD(S) has occasionally emerged as a kingmaker.

Over time, the party founded and headed by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, has largely remained confined to Karnataka. During this period, it has separately formed government in the state with either of these national parties on different occasions. Currently, with the BJP enjoying a comfortable majority in the 224 seat Assembly, the JD(S) with 32 seats is biding its time till the elections due early next year.

Although the 2022 presidential polls are not exactly a challenge for the BJP-led NDA, the votes of neutral parties like the BJD in Odisha, and the YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh will prove crucial for them this time.

Unlike these parties, the JD (S) is a marginal player with limited scope for bargaining. Political analyst Ramakrishna Upadhyaya feels that the JD(S) may use the presidential polls to send out their messaging to the general electorate.

"It will be about posturing. They may try to say we are against the BJP. We are for the Muslims and secularism. They could even vote with the other group too. With Assembly elections due soon, they will try to set themselves apart from the BJP. They may play their cards but it won't have an impact on the final outcome of the presidential polls."

As far as Lok Sabha votes are concerned, the BJP is firmly in the driver's seat, with 25 of the 28 seats in its kitty. It can also bank on the vote of the sole independent candidate, actor Sumalatha who is the

VOICE OF MINORITIES

WITH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS DUE IN LESS THAN A YEAR'S TIME, THE JD(S) WILL BE IN NO MOOD TO DISTURB ITS SECULAR CREDENTIALS

ESPECIALLY, SINCE IT HAS BEEN TRYING TO NUDGE OUT THE CONGRESS FROM ITS POSITION AS VOICE OF THE MINORITIES

THE RECENT PAST HAS SEEN A NUMBER OF ANTI-MUSLIM DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE IN KARNATAKA

WHILE THE CONGRESS REMAINED SILENT, IT WAS THE JD(S) THAT RAISED ITS VOICE OVER TARGETING OF MUSLIMS BY PRO-HINDU ORGANISATIONS AND SEVERAL BJP LEADERS

wife of late Ambareesh. The remaining two seats are with the Congress and JD(S).

In the Assembly, the ruling BJP has 122 seats, followed by the Congress with 69 seats, and the JD(S) with 32. In Karnataka, the BJP and JD(S) are currently sworn rivals. Although party supremo Deve Gowda is known to enjoy a cordial equation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the compulsions of state politics may not allow the JD(S) to extend a helping hand to the BJP in these presidential elections.

"Theirs is a small shop. They will be content with bagging around 30 seats in the next Assembly elections. The JD(S) will focus on remaining relevant in the state. That's their main focus," Upadhyaya explains. In an apparent bid to further seal its pro-Muslim credentials, the party has recently appointed CM Ibrahim as its Karnataka president.



Congress leader seeks probe into 19 lakh 'missing' EVMs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 9: Senior Karnataka Congress leader and MLA HK Patil called on Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri Sunday and sought a probe into the issue of 19 lakh 'missing' Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

A delegation led by Patil submitted a memorandum to the Speaker, demanding that the probe has to be conducted by the Special Committee headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Patil stated that he had submitted 2,750 pages of documents in this regard. The document comprised the RTI replies by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and issues that have been taken up by the courts. Addressing press conference after submission of documents, Patil expressed his anger over inordinate delay in taking up petitions by the courts regarding election petitions and EVMs.

"There has been debate in the country and the issue is surrounded by too much of confusion. The ECI should organise ethical hackathon in Vidhana Soudha (Legislative



Assembly," Patil said.

"I have raised issues related to financial transactions that are taking place within the Election Commission. I have also discussed about voters being paid through digital platforms," he asserted.

"In backdrop to this, we have urged to form a special committee headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court to look into the matter of 19 lakh missing voting machines. I have provided inputs of Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

submitted by RTI activist Manoranjan Roy," the Congress leader told the mediapersons.

"EVMs which are older than 15 years should not be used. There had been a committee report in 2007 on how to dispose old EVMs. From 2007 to 2018, for 12 years, the Election Commission turned a blind eye to this recommendation," Patil said, adding that the Speaker should issue summons to the Election Commission and resolve this matter.

Raj's 'classroom on wheels' to bridge digital divide

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, May 9: The digital revolution in Rajasthan is delivering a doorstep education model, ushering in a new wave of productivity both for students as well as professionals.

As digitalisation remains the single most talked about topic among business leaders, this digital revolution is shattering old business models, creating innovative thinking to resolve problems, and bringing in new solutions.

One such example is Classroom on Wheels, a new concept launched in Rajasthan to deliver doorstep education to rural kids.

This Digital Classroom on Wheels, also known as the 'Shiksha Rath' aims to provide affordable education to 5 million students living in villages and remote areas. This 'Shiksha Rath' is the first-of-its-kind initiative rolled out to promote innovative learning in North India by providing a live digital learning experience to students in Rajasthan in the first phase.

As quality teachers are scarce in many cities and villages, parents will now be able to see the working of a digital studio and experience how their children can have a better learning experience from top educators helping 'Shiksha Rath' to act as an enabler to spread awareness of the benefits of digital education.

The 'Shiksha Rath' started its journey April 13. In the pilot phase, it will cover small towns and villages



in Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts.

Dr Nirmal Gehlot, who conceptualised this project says, "Through this initiative, we aim to reach out to more than 5 million students in the next 2 years. Our Shiksha Rath will initially travel to the Hindi heartland of the country -- Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. We will be launching 10 more Shiksha Rath across India in the next 5 years."

The digital classroom in the Shiksha Rath has high-speed internet connectivity, through which live classes will be conducted on various social media platforms. Just like the vanity van of a celebrity, the Shiksha Rath has all the facilities like bedroom, kitchen, dining area and washroom.

Besides educationists, the professionals from the state are also riding the digital wave and spreading their knowledge across the world.

Rishabh Jain, a Bombay IIT graduate, recently envisioned simplifying the labour laws for people after seeing a professional who was unaware about managing payrolls despite being hired as a payroll manager.

"We came across a case where a professional being hired as a Payroll Manager didn't know how to manage a payroll as this was not taught to them in the educational institutes. Similar challenges were faced by professionals in taxation and legal

fields. This was a pain point which triggered the idea to roll out payroll, HR, taxation and legal world courses on digital media where professionals teach short capsule courses which have practical aspects of the job."

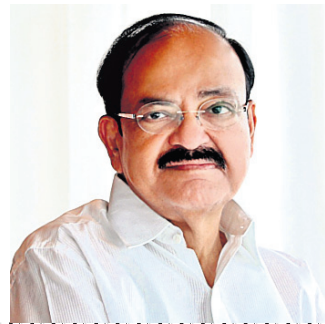
This YouTube channel ranked No.1 as the most viewed finance channel in India in 2021. It crossed 3 million subscribers.

"Our vision was to simplify labour laws for the common man. Now, with over 3 million subscribers, our channel has evolved into a one-stop solution for labour laws, finance, investing, and business related content," says Rishabh.

The best part is that the innovations are helping those residing in remote areas and facing financial constraints.

Says Sourav Sharma, "I took up this course when I was facing the worst financial constraints during the pandemic. However, the concepts helped me to learn new facts which helped me progress in my career." He thanked the team.

Speaking on the current education trends, Abhishek Maheshwari, CEO, Aakash+BYJU's said, "Education is an evolving system and we can see things evolving fast in India. There are positive changes being seen across, internet penetration has gone strong and hence the rural side of the country will benefit as they can now enjoy learning from professionals who can be far off from their location but they stay within their reach while learning newer lessons."



A progressive, modern India must have a police force which meets democratic aspirations of the people

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

SC REGAINS FULL STRENGTH

The Supreme Court Monday regained its full strength of 34 judges as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court judge Justice Jamshed B Pardiwala took oath as apex court judges



of the day quote

Since the liberation of Goa, the Uniform Civil Code is being followed in the state... There has not been any communal tension or any other issues due to the UCC in the state. About one-third of Goa's population belong to minority communities which include 27 per cent Christians and five to six per cent Muslims, and there have not been any complaints or problems

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

The central government is making efforts to ensure development of border areas

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

If we understand the meaning of these words (death sentence), we won't use such words... This should serve as a lesson for Assamese youths who may want to join ULFA (I). If Assamese people continue killing fellow citizens, development cannot happen. That is why I have repeatedly asked ULFA (I) to come for talks

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

HP seals borders after flags surface



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, May 9: Himachal Pradesh Police have tightened security and sealed all interstate borders following the hoisting of banners and graffiti of Khalistan on the outer boundary of the Vidhan Sabha in Dharamsala.

The state police have registered a first information report (FIR) against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, General Counsel to the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ). Section 13 of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) has been added to the FIR.

The Director General of Police has issued directions to the field formations to remain on high alert from Sunday while the ADGP (CID), the IG and the DIG ranges and the district SPs have been directed to seal all interstate borders or barriers and keep strict vigil at the places of probable hideouts i.e. hotels and sarais, etc.

They have been directed to keep the Special Security Units, Bomb Disposal Squads and Quick Reactions Teams (QRTs) in position

The incident will be investigated quickly and strict action will be taken against the culprits. I would like to tell those people that if you have the courage, then come out in the light of day, not in the dark of night

JAIRAM THAKUR | HIMACHAL CM

and on high alert and strengthen the security of dams, railway stations, bus stands, towns, government buildings and vital installations.

Chief Minister Jairam Thakur has described the incident a cowardly act. "The incident will be investigated quickly and strict action will be taken against the culprits. I would like to tell those people that if you have the courage, then come out in the light of day, not in the dark of night."

No magic wands: Sonia ahead of Chintan Shivir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: Ahead of the Congress' Chintan Shivir in Udaipur, party president Sonia Gandhi Monday sought the cooperation of all leaders in sending across a message of unity, cohesion and commitment to ensure the party's accelerated revival.

Addressing top Congress leaders at the party's working committee meeting, she said the Chintan Shivir should not become a ritual and noted that it should herald a restructured organisation to meet the ideological, electoral and managerial challenges ahead.

"There are no magic wands. It is only with selfless work, discipline and a sense of consistent collective purpose that we will demonstrate our tenacity and resilience," Sonia Gandhi said.

"The party has been central to the life of each and every one of us. It has expected our total allegiance and has been good to each and every one of us. Now, when we are at a crucial juncture, it is imperative that we step forward and repay our debt to the party in full measure," she said at the party's top decision-making body -- Congress Working Committee (CWC) -- meeting here.

Sonia Gandhi said around 400 Congress members will be attending the Chintan Shivir in Udaipur from May 13 to 15 and stressed on the message of every leader holding one party post. The party has made every effort to ensure a balanced representation from every angle, she said.

The Congress president also said, "Self-criticism is of course needed



Sonia Gandhi said around 400 Congress members will be attending the Chintan Shivir in Udaipur from May 13 to 15 and stressed on the message of every leader holding one party post

Sonia Gandhi talked about the deliberations at the Shivir that will be held in six different groups - taking up political, economic, social justice, farmers, youth and organisational issues

It is only with selfless work, discipline and a sense of consistent collective purpose that we will demonstrate our tenacity and resilience

SONIA GANDHI | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

will be held in six different groups - taking up political, economic, social justice, farmers, youth and organisational issues.

The Congress chief said delegates have already been informed about the group in which they are expected to participate and on May 15, the party will adopt the 'Udaipur Nav Sankalp' after it has been approved by the CWC there.

"I request your full cooperation in ensuring that the single over-riding message that goes forth loud and clear from Udaipur is one of unity, cohesion, determination and commitment to our party's accelerated revival," she said.

Sonia Gandhi also said that an amendment to the party's constitution will be done to include digital membership.

Telangana accident kills 9

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, May 9: The death toll in Sunday's road accident in Kamareddy district of Telangana mounted to nine as four more persons succumbed since last night, officials said on Monday.

Sixteen other injured were undergoing treatment at a different hospital and the condition of two of them was stated to be critical.

The accident occurred when the Tata Ace vehicle in which 25 people were travelling collided with a truck coming opposite direction near Hasanpalli Gate in Yellareddy mandal. Five persons, including the driver of the trolley auto, died on the spot.

The deceased and injured hail from Chialrgi village in Pitlam mandal of the same district and were returning to their village after attending 'Dasha dina karma' ritual of a relative who died recently in a neighbouring village. According to police, overspeed and negligence by the driver of Tata Ace led to the collision.

The deceased were identified as driver Saiulu (25), Lachhava (45), Anjavva (40), Veeramani (38), ASayavani (40), Veeravva (70), Gangavah (45), Yellaiah (45) and Pochaiiah (44).

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed grief over the road accident and announced financial assistance to the families of the deceased and injured.

"Distressed by the loss of lives due to an accident in Kamareddy district, Telangana. Condolences to the bereaved families and prayers with the injured. Rs. 2 lakh each from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of the deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000: PM Modi," tweeted PMO.

SHORT TAKES

Blast in Punjab

Chandigarh: An explosion took place at the headquarters of the Punjab Police's intelligence wing in Mohali Monday night, police said. The explosion took place at around 7:45 pm and there was no report of any damage to property or injury to anyone, they said. The police have cordoned off the area. Senior police officers reached the spot and forensic teams were called in. The explosion came close on the heels of the recovery of an explosive device near the Burail jail in Chandigarh on April 24.

LeT terrorist associate held

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police along with security forces arrested a terrorist associate of proscribed terror outfit LeT in Baramulla along with arms and ammunition, police said Monday. Police said during the investigation of the recent killings of outside labourers and grenade attacks in multiple locations, suspected individuals from various places were detained and during their sustained questioning, role of LeT terrorist organisation has been surfaced behind these heinous crimes.

Vikas Dubey's property attached

Kanpur: The Uttar Pradesh government has seized properties worth ₹67 crore belonging to slain gangster Vikas Dubey and his relatives. Attachment orders for these properties have been issued by the court of the district magistrate. The 13 immovable and 10 movable properties that have been attached are in the names of Vikas Dubey's wife Richa Dubey, his mother Sarla Dubey and two sons Akash and Shanu. The properties are located in the Bikru village, Chaubeypur, Kanpur Dehat and Lucknow.

Mortar shell found, defused

Srinagar: An old live mortar shell was found on Monday in J&K's Tosamaidan tourist destination in Budgam district. Police sources said the live shell was found by the locals who informed the police about it. "A bomb disposal squad was called in and the mortar shell was successfully defused," police said. Tosamaidan was the Army's artillery range practice area for 50 years in the past.

LAKHIMPUR CASE

ALLAHABAD HC DENIES BAIL TO FOUR ACCUSED

The court said political persons should not make irresponsible statements because they are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with their status and the dignity of the high office they hold



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 9: The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court Monday denied bail to the four prime accused in the October 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

The bench of Justice D.K Singh, while rejecting bail of Ankit Das, Lavkush, Sumit Jaiswal and Shishupal, observed that the incident might not have occurred if the Union Minister of State for Home did not make alleged utterances threatening farmers to chase them out of the district.

The court said political persons should not make irresponsible statements because they are

expected to conduct themselves in accordance with their status and the dignity of the high office they hold. It also emphasised that lawmakers cannot be seen as law-breakers, and it is difficult to believe that the Deputy Chief Minister of the state was unaware that provisions of Section 144 Cr.P.C. were clamped and any assembly or gathering was prohibited.

Notably, the court praised the Special Investigation Team for conducting a free, fair, impartial, and scientific investigation into the crime. The bench noted that the charge sheet revealed overwhelming evidence against the accused applicant and co-accused for the com-

Notably, the court praised the Special Investigation Team for conducting a free, fair, impartial, and scientific investigation into the crime

mission of the heinous, diabolic, brutal, barbaric, depraved, gruesome, and inhumane crime.

The court also observed that because the accused-applicant and the main accused, Ashish Mishra, come from very powerful political families, the prosecution's fear of them interfering with the course of justice, tampering with evidence, and influencing witnesses cannot be ruled out at this stage, and thus, the bail pleas of all four accused have been dismissed.

Ashish Mishra was arrested in the October 3, 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case in which eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed and several others were injured when a convoy of SUVs, including a Thar allegedly owned by his father, had mowed down four farmers.



A farmer harvests strawberries inside a farm, on the outskirts of Srinagar

pti photo

BSF shoots down Pak drone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 9: The BSF shot down a drone that entered the Indian territory from Pakistan with a consignment of heroin in Punjab's Amritsar, said the force Monday.

The Border Security Force (BSF) said they recovered nine packets of heroin, thwarting a smuggling bid from across the border. The BSF troops also lodged a protest with the



Pakistani Rangers for the drone coming from across the border: "Frontier #BSF troops foiled another smuggling attempt through

Pak drone. Vigilant BSF troops fired at the drone coming from Pak & brought it down. Drone carrying 9 packets suspected to be #Heroin (10.670Kgs) in a bag were also recovered," said the BSF in a tweet.

Talking to reporters later in Amritsar, BSF Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Bhupinder Singh said the troops fired nine rounds at the drone which travelled around one kilometre and was flying at a height of 300 metres.

IndiGo offers e-wheelchair to child barred from flight

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has asked the Jharkhand police to lodge an FIR against IndiGo as there was a prima facie violation of section 7 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which is cognisable in nature

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: India's aviation regulator DGCA has formed a three-member team to conduct a "fact-finding enquiry" into IndiGo recently barring a specially-abled child from boarding a flight at the Ranchi airport as he was in a "state of panic", officials said Monday.

"They will visit Ranchi and Hyderabad (place of stay of the family concerned) and collect appropriate evidence within one week from today. Based on the outcome of the said enquiry, further action shall entail," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) noted in a statement.

IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta expressed regret Monday over the incident and offered to buy an elec-



tric wheelchair for the specially-abled child. Dutta said the airline staff took the best possible decision under difficult circumstances.

Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Twitter that no human being should have to go through this and he himself is investigating the Ranchi incident. Meanwhile, the National Commission for Protection of Child

Rights (NCPCR) has asked the Jharkhand police to lodge an FIR against IndiGo as there was a prima facie violation of section 7 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which is cognisable in nature.

NCPCR Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo has also asked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to initiate an inquiry in the matter and take necessary action against the airline and its manager. The incident came to light after other passengers highlighted it on social media Sunday. DGCA chief Arun Kumar said Sunday that the aviation regulator has sought a report from IndiGo on the matter. The DGCA is probing the incident and will take appropriate action, he said. In a statement, Dutta said, "We recognise too well that parents who dedicate their lives to the caring of physically-challenged persons are the true heroes of our society." "We offer our sincere regrets to the affected family for the unfortunate experience and as a small token of our appreciation of their lifelong dedication, would like to offer to purchase an electric wheelchair for their son."

As the boy was prohibited from boarding the airline's Ranchi-

Hyderabad flight on Saturday, his parents - who were accompanying him - also decided not to enter the plane. Dutta said, "Having reviewed all aspects of this incident, we as an organisation are of the view that we made the best possible decision under difficult circumstances."

"Throughout the check-in and boarding process, our intent of course was to carry the family. However, at the boarding area, the teenager was visibly in panic," he added. "While providing courteous and compassionate service to the customers is of paramount importance to the airline, the airport staff, in line with the safety guidelines, was forced to make a difficult decision as to whether this commotion would carry forward aboard the aircraft", the IndiGo CEO stated.

international

of the day quote

I want to thank the central government again for taking resolute measures when Hong Kong faced unprecedented challenges. It formulated the National Security Law, which helped Hong Kong transform from chaos to order, and also improved Hong Kong's electoral system so that we can achieve long-term peace and stability

CARRIE LAM | HONG KONG POLITICIAN

The people of Northern Ireland deserve a stable and accountable devolved government and I will continue to urge the leaders of Northern Ireland political parties to fulfill their responsibilities and form an Executive as soon as possible

BRANDON LEWIS | NORTHERN IRELAND SECY

Peace is a condition of survival for us, a condition of prosperity. I sincerely hope that efforts for denuclearisation and institutionalisation of peace will continue with the resumption of dialogue between the South and the North Korea

MOON JAE-IN | OUTGOING SK PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

SK: Yoon faces tough challenges

Seoul: Former top prosecutor Yoon Suk Yeol takes office as South Korea's president Tuesday, facing a tougher mix of foreign policy and domestic challenges than other recent South Korean leaders encountered at the start of their presidencies. Yoon's single, five-year term begins at midnight Monday before he takes the oath of office Tuesday morning at a formal ceremony in Seoul.

Cholera outbreak in South Sudan

Juba: South Sudan's Ministry of Health has declared a cholera outbreak following the confirmation of eight cases in Rubkona county. The Ministry said the move follows tests conducted by the National Public Health Laboratory in Juba that confirmed the outbreak, reports Xinhua news agency.

Hotel explosion toll reaches 35

Havana: More bodies were pulled from the ruins of a luxury hotel in Cuba's capital Monday, bringing the official death toll of a powerful explosion at the iconic building to 35. Cuba's Fire Department Chief Luis Guzman told state TV that three more bodies were recovered overnight as search crews with dogs hunted for hours through debris in the 19th century structure of the Hotel Saratoga. The Ministry of Health later said the toll of dead had risen to 35, with 20 injured patients still hospitalised.

Japan joins G-7 effort

Tokyo: Prime Minister Fumio Kishida says Japan will slowly phase out Russian oil imports in unity with the Group of Seven's effort against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Leaders from the G-7 countries met online Sunday and announced their commitment to ban or phase out Russian oil imports in their latest effort to pressure Moscow into ending its aggression on Ukraine.

Quake jolts Taiwan

Taipei: A strong earthquake struck off the east coast of Taiwan Monday, shaking buildings in the capital, Taipei. No serious damage or injuries were reported, and authorities said there was no danger of a tsunami. The magnitude 6.1 quake was centered 27 kilometers (17 miles) deep and about 90 kilometers (56 miles) offshore from the city of Hualien, Central Weather Bureau said.



Pakistan cannot be surrendered and compromised over one person's ego, arrogance, and blatant lies. Imran Khan first conspired to destroy economy of the country and was now planning to trigger a civil-war in Pakistan

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

EARLY VOTING BEGINS AHEAD OF Oz ELECTION

Early voting began Monday in Australia's federal election with the opposition party hoping the first ballots will reflect its lead over the government in opinion polls



LANKA BURNING

World reacts as SL hit with political crisis, protests

Ancestral home of ex-PM Mahinda Rajapaksa and houses of several MPs were set on fire by mobs Monday. Earlier Monday, the Lankan police imposed a nationwide curfew after clashes broke out between rival political camp in Colombo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, May 9: Foreign envoys in Colombo Monday reacted with shock and dismay as Sri Lanka was hit with chaos and disarray when violence between pro- and anti-government protesters left at least 150 people injured and one MP killed, prompting authorities to impose a nationwide curfew and deploy army troops in the capital.

Reactions from the envoys began to pour in. Calling on the Sri Lankan government to conduct a full investigation, US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Julie Chung, said the government must ensure the "arrest and prosecution of anyone who incited violence". Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, 76, resigned hours after his supporters attacked anti-government protesters outside President Gotabaya

Rajapaksa's office.

Tweeting about the deteriorating economic situation in Sri Lanka, the UK embassy in Sri Lanka asked its citizens to avoid any demonstrations or large gatherings. The advisory said the UK's citizens in Sri Lanka should avoid all protests and follow the advice of local authorities.

Sarah Hulton, the UK High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, strongly condemned the violence against peaceful protesters. Urging the authorities to safeguard citizens' rights to protest peacefully, Hulton asked the government to "hold the perpetrators of violence to account". "Violence against peaceful protesters in Sri Lanka is unacceptable. Those responsible for attacks should be held to account," she tweeted. The European Union in Sri Lanka also called



Anti-government demonstrators set fire on the house owned by minister Sanath Nishaneta of resigned Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's cabinet

REUTERS

on the government to protect people and to "hold accountable those having instigated violence". The EU encouraged all parties to "act with restraint and refrain from violence for the country's interest". French Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Lavertu Eric, said he was "deeply

shocked" and disturbed by the shameful and cowardly attacks on peaceful protesters. Urging the government to safeguard the rights of the people of Sri Lanka, the French ambassador tweeted that the political leaders should "ensure

peace and justice".

Similarly, Holger Seubert, the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka, called on all sides for calm and restraint. The current "developments hurt my heart", Seubert said, adding that the country, which used to be an example of a well-functioning democracy where people peacefully exercised their right to free speech, had turned into a tense confrontation.

Thousands of demonstrators hit the streets across Sri Lanka since April 9 seeking the resignation of President Gotabaya and Prime Minister Mahinda as the country is currently in the throes of unprecedented economic turmoil.

Three people were killed, including a ruling party MP, and more than 150 injured in violence in the capital. There have been protests over soaring prices and power cuts since last month. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948

Dictator's son far ahead in Philippine presidential vote



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, May 9: The son and namesake of ousted Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos took a commanding lead in an unofficial vote count in Monday's presidential election in the deeply divided Asian democracy.

With more than 70% of the votes tabulated, Marcos Jr. Had more than 23.5 million, far ahead of his closest challenger, current Vice President Leni Robredo, a champion of human rights, who had 11.1 million. The election winner will take office June 30 for a single, six-year term as leader of a Southeast Asian nation hit hard by two years of Covid-19 outbreaks and lockdowns.

Still more challenging problems include deeper poverty and unemployment and decades-long Muslim and communist insurgencies.

The next president is also likely to hear demands to prosecute outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte for thousands of killings during his anti-drug crackdown — deaths already under investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Duterte's daughter, southern Davao city Mayor Sara Duterte, is Marcos Jr.'s vice presidential running mate in an alliance of the scions of two authoritarian leaders who concern human rights groups.

The tie-up has combined the voting power of their separate northern and southern political strongholds, boosting their chances but compounding worries of human rights activists. Sara Duterte also had a formidable lead with more than 23.3 million votes for vice president in the unofficial count from the Commission on Elections server. The president and vice president are elected separately in the Philippines.

"History may repeat itself if they win," said Myles Sanchez, a 42-year-old human rights worker.

No end in sight for war as Putin hails Victory Day



AGENCIES

Putin leads celebrations of Soviet victory in WW2

Russian forces storm Azovstal steel works, Ukrainians say

Volodymyr Zelenskyy released a video address to the war-ravaged nation, marking the defeat of the Nazi Germany in the World War II, and promising that Ukraine will soon have "two Victory Days."

the steel plant would be a symbolic achievement on the 75th day of a war that has cost many Russian lives and isolated its economy, but failed to capture any major city.

Putin had told his defence minister not to storm Azovstal to avoid loss of Russian lives but Ukraine's defence ministry said on Monday Russian forces backed by tanks and artillery were conducting "storming operations".

Moscow has denied previous Ukrainian allegations of storming the complex, where civilians have also been sheltering. On Saturday Kyiv and Moscow said all the civilians had now been evacuated from the facility, but there are still people hoping to flee the wider city of Mariupol.

"There's lots of people still in Mariupol who want to leave but can't," evacuee Viktoria Andreyeva, a 46-year-old history teacher, said in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia, about 230 km (140 miles) northwest of Mariupol.

Just before the troops and tanks paraded in Moscow's Red Square, Russian satellite television menus were altered to show viewers in the Russian capital messages condemning the war in Ukraine.

"The TV and the authorities are lying. No to war," screenshots obtained by Reuters showed before they disappeared.

SIMMERING ANGER



Activists shout slogans as Russian Ambassador to Poland, Sergey Andreev, left, is covered with red paint in Warsaw, Poland. Protesters have thrown red paint on the Russian ambassador as he arrived at a cemetery in Warsaw to pay respects to Red Army soldiers who died during World War II

PTI PHOTO

Unionist party refuses to form new N Ireland govt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 9: Northern Ireland's largest unionist party, which lost last week's local elections, refused Monday to return to a power-sharing government saying it will not do so until its demands over post-Brexit customs arrangements are met.

Democratic Unionist Party leader Jeffrey Donaldson was among political leaders meeting with Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis, who urged them to come together to resurrect a paralysed Northern Irish government.

Northern Ireland has been without a functioning government since February when the DUP's leader at the time, Paul Givan, quit as first minister in protest over the post-Brexit rules.



Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein's Michelle O'Neill, center, poses for a family photo with her party's newly elected members of the legislative assembly outside Parliament Buildings at Stormont, Belfast, Northern Ireland

AP PHOTO

Britain's Conservative government is trying to get the EU to agree to major changes, but negotiations have faltered. Officials have acknowledged that they must address the post-Brexit challenges to bring

stability to Northern Ireland. The talks came after nationalist party Sinn Fein, which seeks union with Ireland, scored a historic victory in last week's Northern Ireland Assembly elections. Sinn Fein over-

took the rival DUP to become the first Irish nationalist party to top the voting in Northern Ireland's history.

It was a milestone for a party long associated with the paramilitary Irish Republican Army, which sought to use violence to take Northern Ireland out of UK Rule. While Sinn Fein now has the right to the position of Northern Ireland's first minister, a functioning Executive cannot be formed unless the DUP, as the largest unionist party, agrees to take the role of deputy minister under the region's mandatory power-sharing rules.

Donaldson said Monday he made clear to Lewis that the DUP will not nominate ministers to the Executive unless the UK government takes "decisive action" on new Brexit customs rules known as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Elon Musk's cryptic tweet sets Twitter abuzz

World's richest person Elon Musk, who recently bought Twitter in a multi-billion-dollar deal, kicked off a storm on social media Monday by posting a speculative tweet over the possibility of his death under "mysterious circumstances"

AGENCIES

New York, May 9: Tesla CEO Elon Musk Monday sent another cryptic tweet about his death under "mysterious circumstances", a post which his mother Maye Musk did not like at all. "If I die under mysterious circumstances, it's been nice knowin ya," tweeted Elon Musk.

His mother replied: "That's not funny". Elon then said: "Sorry! I will do my best to stay alive."

The tweet sparked buzz over social media among his over 91 million followers.

"No, you will not die. The world needs you to reform," posted one user. Another tweeted: "We must protect you at all costs. Humanity is counting on you."

This is not the first time Elon, set to acquire Twitter for \$44 billion, posted a cryptic tweet about his death.

In March this year, he tweeted that death would come as a relief to him. In an interview with Mathias



Dopfner, the CEO of German publishing company Axel Springer, Elon Musk said that he would like to maintain health for a longer period of time.

"I think for political leadership, you want to be ideally within 10 or at least, 20 years of the average age of the population. And for me, I certainly would like to maintain health for a longer period of time. But I am not afraid of dying. I think it would come as a relief." Elon Musk, however, said that he

would like to live long enough to see the vision of SpaceX come true. "My biggest hope is that humanity creates a self-sustaining city on Mars," he added.

Answering the question on if he is happy at the moment, Elon Musk said: "I think there are degrees of love. But certainly, for one to be fully happy, I think you have to be happy at work and happy in love. So, I suppose I'm medium happy." He had said that we should not try to have people live for a really long time.

Shanghai, Beijing ratchet up Cov curbs

REUTERS

Shanghai/Beijing, May 9: China's two largest cities tightened Covid-19 curbs Monday, fuelling public angst and even questions about the legality of its uncompromising battle with the virus that has battered the world's second largest economy.

The restrictions have taken a heavy toll on China's economy

In Shanghai, enduring its sixth week of lockdown, authorities have launched a new push to end infections outside quarantine zones by late May. While there has been no official announcement, residents in at least four of Shanghai's 16 districts received notices at the weekend saying they wouldn't be allowed to leave their homes or receive deliveries, prompting a scramble to stock up on food.

business

of the day quote

India does not manufacture battery cells at the moment. What (battery) cells India is getting may not be suitable for Indian conditions. So what is important is when we import cells, we should do our own screening and rigorous testing system

VK SARASWAT | NITI AAYOG MEMBER AND EMINENT SCIENTIST

We have sought information from cab aggregators how they handle cancellation charges and surge pricing and how they calculate fare

ROHIT KUMAR SINGH | CONSUMER AFFAIRS SECRETARY

We are delighted to share a strong set of results for Q4 2022, and another record year for UPL FY22 was a year of challenging macro-environment, input cost inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions and we chose to prudently invest towards ensuring reliable growth going forward

JAI SHROFF | CEO, UPL

SHORT TAKES

Peerless Group MD passes away at 78

Kolkata: Kolkata-based Peerless Group managing director Sunil Kanti Roy, popularly known as SK Roy, passed away at a city hospital here Monday morning. He was 78. Peerless Group is engaged in diversified business activities including finance, hospitality, healthcare, insurance and securities. Roy is survived by his wife, son, daughter and two grandchildren. Family sources said that Roy was suffering from age-related ailments for quite some time and was admitted to a city-based hospital recently.

Insolvency ordered against Birla Tyres

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered the initiation of insolvency proceedings against Birla Tyres Ltd in a case filed by multi-business chemicals firm SRF Ltd, an operational creditor of the BK Birla group firm. A two-member Kolkata bench of the NCLT has also appointed Seikh Abdul Salam as Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) to run the operations of the company after suspending the board and also declared a moratorium as per the procedures of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board (IBC).

HDFC hikes lending rates by 0.25%

Mumbai: Joining its peers that have raised lending rates after the surprise tightening of the monetary policy by the RBI, the country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank has also upped rates on its offerings by 0.25 per cent. The bank has hiked the marginal cost of funding based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.25 per cent across tenors from May 7, as per its website. The 1-year MCLR - the rate to which a majority of consumer loans are linked - has been revised to 7.50 per cent, while the overnight MCLR is 7.15 per cent, it showed.

AAHL raises \$250mn

Mumbai: Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) Monday said it has raised \$250 million through a 3-year ECB facility through a consortium of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) and Barclays Bank PLC. The facility has an option to raise additional \$200 million. The freshly raised capital will be used for capital expenditure and development of six airports, the company said in a release.



China hopes India will provide a fair, just, non-discriminatory business environment to Chinese companies with investments and operations in India, carry out investigations in compliance with the law, and enhance international investor confidence

ZHAO LUJIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

NEW FEAT FOR MG MOTOR

MG Motor India Monday said it has crossed 1 lakh cumulative sales milestones in the country since the launch of its first vehicle in June 2019. "This marks a new milestone in the brand's journey centred on constant innovation, experiential customer service, and a dedication to sustainability and community," MG Motor India said



Bitcoin value crashes by 50% since Nov peak

THE SLIDE IN THE VALUE OF DIGITAL ASSETS COMES AS STOCK MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD ALSO DROPPED IN RECENT DAYS



I think everything within crypto is still classed as a risk asset, and similar to what we've seen with the Nasdaq, most crypto currencies are getting pummeled

MATT DIBB | COO, STACK FUNDS

benchmark Nikkei index down by around 2 per cent.

Bitcoin accounts for about a third of the cryptocurrency market with a total value of \$650bn, BBC reported. Ethereum, the second biggest cryptocurrency in the world, has also fallen in value, down by more than 10 per cent in the last week.

Although much of 2022 had been relatively quiet for the cryptocurrency market, volatile trading in digital assets has not been that unusual in previous years.

Trading was dominated for years by individual investors, but more

recently the market has seen an influx of professional investors, such as hedge funds and money managers. With more traditional investors trading digital assets, cryptocurrencies have increasingly followed the movements of global stock markets.

Many of the institutional investors that buy cryptocurrencies treat them as risk assets, similar to technology stocks. In times of market uncertainty traditional investors will often sell what they see as riskier assets and move their money into safer investments.

Central Bank returns to black



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: State-owned Central Bank of India Monday reported a standalone net profit of ₹310 crore in quarter ended March 2022, on the back of less provisioning for bad loans.

The lender had posted a net loss of ₹1,349 crore in the same quarter a year-ago. Total income during Q4 of FY22 rose to ₹6,419.58 crore, from ₹5,729.38 crore in the same period of FY21, Central Bank of India said in a regulatory filing.

For the full fiscal year 2021-22, the bank witnessed a turnaround and recorded a net profit of ₹1,045 crore. It had a net loss of ₹888 crore in 2020-21. Total income during the year rose to ₹25,770.13 crore, from ₹25,845.90 crore in FY21.

The lender improved on its asset quality and brought down the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) to 14.84 per cent of the gross advances at the end of March 2022, as against 16.55 per cent in the year-ago period. Net NPAs or bad loans fell to 3.97 per cent, from 5.77 per cent.

Fall in bad loan proportions significantly reduced to ₹1,061 crore for Q4FY22, as against ₹3,080 crore put aside for the year-ago quarter. For the full year, the provisioning for contingencies reduced to ₹3,480 crore, from ₹5,902 crore. The bank's total business increased to ₹5,32,404 crore, from ₹5,06,886 crore registering a growth of 5.03 per cent year-on-year, it said.

Total deposits have increased by ₹12,719 crore and stood at ₹3,42,692 crore as March 31, 2022, as compared to ₹3,29,973 crore, reflecting an increase of 3.85 per cent, said the lender.

Credit cost for FY22 improved from 2.95 per cent to 1.41 per cent, registering an improvement of 154 basis points (bps) year-on-year.

Slippage Ratio for the fiscal year 2021-22 stood at 3.20 per cent, compared to 4.40 per cent during the previous fiscal year, registering an improvement of 120 bps, it said.

Further, the bank said that the business per employee for FY22 has increased from ₹15.60 crore, to ₹17.15 crore on an yearly basis, registering a rise of nearly 10 per cent.

INFLATION EFFECT

Rupee hits all-time low

Forex traders said risk appetite has weakened amid rising bond yields in the US and mounting concerns about inflation that may trigger more aggressive rate hikes by global central banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

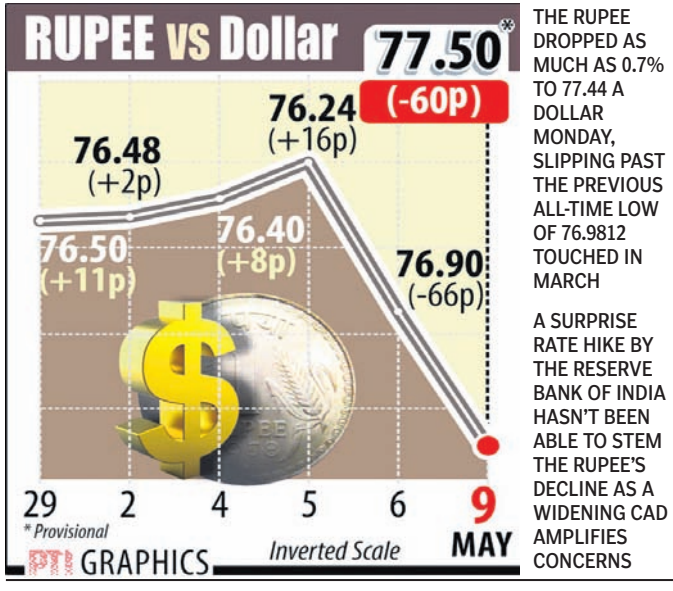
Mumbai, May 9: Extending its losses for a second day, the rupee Monday slumped by 54 paise to close at a record low of 77.44 against the US dollar, pressured by the strength of the American currency overseas and unabated foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 77.17 against the greenback, and finally settled for the day at 77.44, down 54 paise over its previous close. During the trading session, the rupee touched its lifetime low of 77.52. Friday, the rupee had slumped 55 paise to close at 76.90.

In the last two trading sessions, the rupee has lost 109 paise against the greenback. "Indian Rupee spot plunged to record lows, tracking weakness in Asian peers amid a stronger dollar index and surging treasury yields in the US," Royce Varghese Joseph - Research Analyst - Currency and Energy, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.33 per cent higher at 104, tracking rising US yields amid fears about higher interest rates.

"Rupee fell to fresh all time lows on Monday as the dollar rose broadly against its major crosses. Last week's central bank policy action led to heightened volatility in most of the currencies. Stronger dollar and sustained up move in global crude oil price is weighing on the overall market sentiment," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.



MARKETS PLUMMET AMID GLOBAL ROUT

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks began the week on a downbeat note Monday, weighed by heavy selling in market heavyweight Reliance Industries and persisting weakness in global bourses. Slipping for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex shed 364.91 points or 0.67 per cent to close at 54,470.67. During the day, it tanked over 900 points to 53,918.02. Similarly, the NSE Nifty tumbled 109.40 points or 0.67 per cent to end at 16,301.85. Reliance Industries was the top drag on the Sensex pack, dropping 3.97 per cent, after the company's March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. The oil-to-telecom conglomerate had on Friday reported a 22.5 per cent annual rise in net profit for the March quarter at ₹16,203 crore. Net profit, however, fell 12.6 per cent sequentially -- breaking a six-quarter chain of quarter-on-quarter improvement. IndusInd Bank, Nestle India, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra,

- Investors' wealth tumbled over ₹7.73 lakh crore
- International oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.17% to \$111 per barrel
- Foreign institutional investors continued their selling spree, offloading shares worth a net ₹5,517.08 crore Friday

SBI, HUL and ITC were among the other major laggards, losing as much as 2.97 per cent. In contrast, PowerGrid, HCL Technologies, Infosys, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv and HDFC featured among the gainers, climbing up to 2.83 per cent. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 1.67 per cent and the midcap index dipped 1.89 per cent. As many as 2,416 stocks declined, 1,052 advanced and 146 remained unchanged.

New regional head for Union Bank, Cuttack

Bhubaneswar: Tushara Kanta Kar has joined as the new Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Cuttack Region. Prior to this, Kar was serving the bank as the head of Mumbai, South and MSME Processing Centre. He was working in the bank as a Senior Manager in 2009 in Salem, Tamilnadu. Kar was working in different capacities in different places in Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Raipur, Mumbai and gained 18 years of long banking experience. During his tenure as Regional head in Cuttack Region, he is likely to give more emphasis in digital banking, retail, MSME sector, SHG finance and improve digital platform service in the bank.



RBL becomes official retailer of Italian lux brand Tod's

Listed on the Milan stock exchange, Tod's distribution network includes 318 directly operated stores and 88 franchise stores globally. It was founded as a small shoe factory in Casette D'Ete over a century ago. All Tod's products are entirely made in Italy, a distinctiveness that has been kept throughout generations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: Reliance Brands Ltd (RBL) Monday said it has entered into a long-term franchise agreement with Tod's SpA to be-



come the official retailer of the Italian luxury lifestyle brand for the Indian market.

As per the agreement, RBL is the official retailer of the brand across all categories, including footwear, handbags and accessories in the Indian market, said a joint statement.

Moreover, RBL would also take

over the management of Tod's existing stores in India, which is present in the country since 2008 with mono-brand stores in DLF Emporio, New Delhi and Palladium, Mumbai and multi-brand e-commerce platform Ajio Luxe.

"The management of existing channels will be taken over by RBL and the focus will be on enhancing

We are very pleased to partner with the country's leading luxury retailer as we believe that our common passion for quality and a modern and sophisticated lifestyle will allow us fully to express the potential of this important partnership

CARLO ALBERTO BERETTA | GENERAL MANAGER, TOD

the brand's potential in the market and strengthening their digital presence," the statement said.

Commenting on the development RBL MD Darshan Mehta said Tod's has crafted a unique space for itself on the global luxury front.

"A name that conjures images of luxe leathers and soigne materials, we are thrilled to partner with the brand to uphold its core values of exceptional quality, craftsmanship

Cryptos may soon attract 28% GST

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The 28% GST will be in addition to the 30% income tax on earnings from crypto asset transactions

ing, according to reports. The date of the next GST meeting is yet to be finalised.

The Ministry of Finance has already imposed a 30 per cent tax on profits made from the transfer of crypto assets and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

India distinguishes between cryptocurrencies and crypto assets, and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the Union Budget 2022-23 in February announced a 30 per cent tax on income from these transactions, which includes a 1 per cent TDS (tax deduction at source). Her proposal of levying a 30 per cent tax on crypto earnings came into effect April 1. Gifts in crypto and digital assets are also taxed.

A new section called '115BBF' has been added in the Income Tax Act, 1961, to tax digital assets.

'RIL to clock \$20bn EBITDA by end 2022'

New Delhi: A refining golden age, tightening global gas markets and improving telecom subscriber quality point to a \$20 billion-plus EBITDA run rate for Reliance Industries Ltd by end-2022, Morgan Stanley said Monday. Post becoming the first company to hit \$100 billion revenue in the fiscal year ended March 31, "Reliance is on a path toward a \$20 billion+ EBITDA run rate inflection, with five-pronged support" of high refining margin, telecom revenue per user rising, global gas market tightening, rising traction on digital commerce and superior petrochemical spreads, it said in a note. Friday, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) reported a consolidated EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization) -- a measure of a company's overall financial performance -- of ₹1,25,687 crore (\$16 billion) for April 2021 to March 2022 fiscal (FY22), up 29 per cent year on year. A 26 per cent surge in net profit at ₹67,845 crore (\$8.8 billion) was led by its three super-star businesses -- oil to chemical (O2C), telecom and retail. "Refinery margins could nearly double and be sustained at high levels for the next half-decade, with global fuel markets seeing sustained lower supply due to a lack of investments," the brokerage said.

and effortless elegance in the Indian market," he said.

RBL is a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd

(RIL). It started operations in 2007 with a mandate to launch and build global brands in luxury to premium segments across fashion and lifestyle.

KKR RUIN BUMRAH PARTY

Titans, LSG aim to seal playoff berths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, May 9: On a slippery slope after back-to-back losses, Gujarat Titans will need their batters to fire when they take on high-flying Lucknow Super Giants as both teams look to seal IPL playoffs berth here Tuesday. The two new entrants are having a dream run in their maiden season.

While Gujarat led the points table for most part of the league, Lucknow moved ahead of them to take the top spot. The Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat side's winning streak came to an end with back-to-back losses against Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians last week.

Both teams have 16 points each from 11 outings and a win for either of them will confirm the passage to the next stage.

LSG, who have won their last four games, would be brimming with confidence as they head to the fixture with a morale-boosting 75-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders.

KL Rahul has led from the front and the opener is the second highest run scorer in the tournament, collecting 451 runs from 11 games with two hundreds and as many fifties.

The team has relied heavily on him to get the job done with the bat. But the likes of Quinton de Kock and Deepak Hooda have taken more responsibility in the recent games which will definitely take the pressure off Rahul.

Their bowling unit has been right on mark. While LSG were able to defend 153 against Punjab Kings, they polished off KKR for just 101, with pacers Avesh Khan



and Jason Holder proving to be too hot to handle for the former champions.

Pacers Mohsin Khan (5.35) and Sri Lanka's Dushmantha Chameera (7.90) have bowled economically as has Krunal Pandya (6.64), while Ravi Bishnoi (8.23) and Avesh (8.14) have been a tad expensive. But the bowling unit has often found a way to get over the line.

Gujarat's stellar run in the IPL can be attributed to their ability to come back from tough situations. They had different players winning games for them but that was not the case against MI when they failed to get nine runs off the last over in what should have been an easy run chase.

The batting department needs to be more consistent. The top order batters have failed to take their innings deep. Shubman Gill has endured a hot and cold season, while Wriddhiman Saha has shown good intent.

Skipper Pandya, David Miller and Rahul Tewatia have also looked

off colour recently and need to get into the groove again in the business end of the tournament.

Gujarat have a lethal bowling attack, studded with world-class bowlers like Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson and Rashid Khan.

But Shami hasn't been able to live up to expectations recently. The senior India pacer has given away 124 runs while taking only two wickets in the last three games.

However, he can wreak havoc with the new ball while Ferguson's ability to generate extra pace is a cause of concern for any batting line-up. Rashid continues to remain economical but the star Afghan spinner will be eager for more wickets.

TODAY'S MATCH

GT vs LSG

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar



Pat Cummins (L) is delighted after dismissing a Mumbai Indians batter



Jasprit Bumrah is mobbed by his teammates after getting a wicket, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, May 9: Kolkata Knight Riders finally found the team balance they were looking for to outclass Mumbai Indians by 52 runs here Monday and keep their slim IPL playoff hopes alive.

Lead Mumbai Indians pacer Jasprit Bumrah picked up his maiden five-wicket haul (5/10) in IPL history to restrict KKR to 165 for nine after fine knocks from Venkatesh Iyer (43 off 24) and Nitish Rana (43 off 24).

Barring a 43-ball 51 from Ishan Kishan, Mumbai batters struggled to get going in the chase as their innings ended at 113 all out in 17.3 overs.

KKR finally played Tim Southee (1/10) and Pat Cummins (3/22) together and the move worked with the seasoned pacers sharing four wickets. Andre Russell too chipped in with couple of wickets.

Another big positive was the return to form of Venkatesh Iyer, who had to be dropped earlier in the competition due to his lean run after a sensational debut season in 2021.

While MI were already out of the play-off race, KKR, who have five wins from 12 games, can still sneak into the top four with two games remaining.

Earlier, KKR openers Venkatesh and Ajinkya Rahane (25 off 24

balls) added 60 runs in just 5.4 overs after they were put into bat but the Shreyas Iyer-led side failed to capitalise on that promising start.

Rana blazed his way to a 26-ball 43, with three boundaries and four sixes, but it was Bumrah, who took five wickets in two overs, to put the brakes on KKR, who suffered a middle-order collapse.

In the 15th over, Bumrah removed Russell (9) and Rana and then clinched three wickets - Sheldon Jackson (5), Cummins (0) and Sunil Narine (0), in the 18th over, a maiden, to bring MI back into the game.

Venkatesh smashed three boundaries and four sixes, but perished in the sixth over, giving a sitter to Daniel Sams at point, with spinner Kumar Kartikeya Singh (2/32) getting his first wicket.

Venkatesh was brutal on spinner Murugan Ashwin (1/35), hitting him for his first maximum, a pull shot and then hammered a boundary.

The southpaw then walloped his second six over deep mid-wicket off Daniel Sams (1/26), as KKR raced to 26/0 after three overs. He then targeted Riley Meredith (0/35), hammering him for boundary and a six, a scoop shot, in the fifth over where KKR amassed 17 runs.

Mumbai bowlers conceded only 23 runs from overs 7-10. Kartikeya

cleaned up Rahane, with a full delivery that turned in as the opener was beaten while attempting a reverse-sweep.

After Rahane's dismissal, Rana upped the ante and launched into Kartikeya, hitting him for two successive sixes, one over long-on. He then tore into Kieron Pollard, hammering two sixes and a boundary in the 13th over, where the side got 17 runs. But then it was Bumrah,

who wreaked havoc with the ball and firmly brought MI back into the contest.

BRIEF SCORES

Kolkata Knight Riders 165/9 (Venkatesh Iyer 43, Nitish Rana 43; Jasprit Bumrah 5/10, Kumar Kartikeya 2/32) beat Mumbai Indians 113 (Ishan Kishan 51; Pat Cummins 3/22, Andre Russell 2/22) by 52 runs.

Conway credits MSD for big score against DC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, May 9: Coming down the track and hitting spinners over the ropes was not his biggest strength but CSK opener Devon Conway tried it with great success on captain MS Dhoni's advice in the win against DC in the IPL.

After helping CSK to 91-run win with a 49-ball 87, laced with seven fours and five sixes, Conway revealed that Dhoni's advice on handling spinners helped him score his third straight half-century this season.

"I have got to give credit to MS actually," Conway said after the match. "In the last game, I swept quite a lot, and I unfortunately got out playing the sweep. But he

(Dhoni) told me 'I think the guys are going to try to bowl fuller to you tonight. So maybe come out and try to hit them straight.' He sort of gave me the guideline to try to execute that," the New Zealander said.

Conway, who has scored an unbeaten 85 and 56 in earlier games, usually plays the sweep shot against spin but was dismissed when he attempted one against leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga in CSK's last game against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Against DC, he not only swept and reverse-swept but also charged at the DC bowlers to hit them down the ground. In all, he stepped down to hit four balls from spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav and all went for sixes.

Another CSK stalwart who has been helping Conway is assistant coach and former Australia batter Mike Hussey with whom the Kiwi chats before matches.

"I think I've heard that a few times now, which is quite good," Conway said at the post-match conference on people comparing him with Hussey.

"To get compared to one of the greats, Mike Hussey. It's pretty special to be possibly in that bracket. He's got so much knowledge, so much experience. Not only in the IPL, but throughout the world. It's just very important for me as a player to continue talking to him and learning from him and just getting some guidelines when I need it."



Atletico beat champions Real



Yannick Carrasco (L) celebrates his goal against Real Madrid with a teammate

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, May 9: After keeping a promise that it wouldn't give Real Madrid an honor guard before the game, Atlético Madrid went on to beat the newly crowned Spanish league champion 1-0 and moved closer to securing a Champions League spot.

Atletico clinched the victory in the last city derby of the season with a 40th-minute penalty kick converted by Yannick Carrasco in the first

win against its rival since 2018.

It gave fourth-place Atletico a six-point advantage over fifth-place Real Betis, the first team outside the Champions League spots with three rounds to go. Betis lost 1-2 at home to second-placed Barcelona Saturday. Sevilla stayed one point in front of Atletico after salvaging a stoppage-time 1-1 draw at Villarreal earlier Sunday.

Madrid clinched their record-extending 35th league title last weekend with a 4-0 home win

against Espanyol.

Madrid's fans wanted Atletico to keep a tradition whereby players line up to applaud their opponents as they enter the field before kick-off. But Atletico said ahead of the match that it was not going to do this to avoid upsetting its fans at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium.

Madrid were coming off their epic victory over Manchester City to advance to the Champions League final. Ancelotti rested some of his regular starters, including goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, midfielder Luka Modric, forward Vinicius Junior and striker Karim Benzema. Modric and Vinicius came on as second-half substitutes. Rodrygo, who scored twice late to force extra time against Man City Wednesday, started the game.

The penalty came after a video review to check on a controversial foul by Madrid defender Jesús Vallejo on Atletico forward Matheus Cunha.

Atletico had won only one of its last six games in all competitions - 2-1 against Espanyol in the Spanish league two rounds ago. Since then it had drawn at home against relegation-threatened Granada and lost at Athletic Bilbao.

Tonali helps Milan reclaim top spot



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, May 9: Sandro Tonali celebrated his 22nd birthday by scoring two goals that took AC Milan a step closer to its first Serie A title in 11 years.

Milan won 3-1 at Hellas Verona Sunday thanks mainly to a goal in each half from Tonali after Davide Faraoni had given the home

side the lead. Rafael Leão set up both goals for Tonali. Substitute Alessandro Florenzi sealed the match late on, two minutes after coming off the bench.

Stefano Pioli's side moved back to the top of the standings, two points above city rival Inter Milan after the defending champion beat Empoli 4-2 on Friday. There are two rounds remaining.

Tonali almost got a hat-trick. He thought he had opened the scoring in the 16th minute but it was ruled out for offside on video review.

Instead it was Verona which took the lead as a great team move was finished by Inter youth product Faraoni heading in Darko Lazovic's cross.

Milan levelled on the stroke of halftime when Leao mazed his way into the left side of the area and rolled across for Tonali to slot into the far bottom corner.

Leao had been causing problems with his pace and did so again five minutes after the break as he ran from inside his own half to the byline and once again rolled the ball across for Tonali to tap in.

Atalanta boosted their chances of qualifying for Europe with a 3-1 win at lowly Spezia, which was still not safe from relegation.

Berat Djimsiti headed in his first Serie A goal of the season in the 73rd minute to restore Atalanta's lead after Daniele Verde had canceled out Luis Muriel's opener in the first half. Muriel also helped seal the match as he threaded the ball through for Mario Pasalic three minutes from time.

PSG held to 2-2 draw at home

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 9: French champion Paris Saint-Germain threw away a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 with 15th-place Troyes in another disappointing performance.

PSG were in control of the league game after 25 minutes with goals from central defender Marquinhos, after Angel Di Maria's pinpoint cross, and forward Neymar, who scored from the penalty spot after Kylian Mbappe was fouled.

But poor defending cost PSG again, as it has several times this season, and Canada forward Ike Ugbo pulled one back in the 30th following a clumsy mistake by defender Nuno Mendes.

Two minutes after the break, PSG central defender Presnel Kimpembe fouled forward Renaud Ripart. Midfielder Florian Tardieu stepped up to beat goalkeeper Keylor Navas with a neat Panenka-style penalty for modest Troyes, which was promoted last season.

Neymar scored again in the 57th, but his goal was ruled out after a video replay showed Mbappe pushing a Troyes player in the back before Neymar received the ball.

ALCARAZ REIGNS SUPREME IN MADRID

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, May 9: When Carlos Alcaraz played in his first Madrid Open as an 18-year-old, his goal was to gain experience and learn from the top players. Only a year later, Alcaraz already feels he belongs among the best.

The Spanish teenage sensation capped another impressive week with a straight-set victory over Alexander Zverev Sunday to win the Madrid Open and become the second-youngest player to win two Masters 1000 titles.

His comfortable 6-3, 6-1 win over Zverev followed victories over his idol Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals and top-ranked Novak Djokovic in the semifinals.



Alcaraz became the youngest winner in Madrid, and the second youngest to win two Masters 1000 trophies after Nadal won in Monte

Carlo and Rome in 2005 as an 18-year-old. Alcaraz had already become the youngest to enter the top 10 since Nadal did it in 2005.

It was the seventh straight win over a top-10 player for Alcaraz, and his tour-leading fourth title of the year. He also has the most wins this season with 28, one more than Stefanos Tsitsipas.

For Zverev, who was trying to win his second consecutive Madrid title - and third overall - there was no doubt about who was playing the best tennis.

Alcaraz had won his first Masters 1000 tournament in Miami earlier this year. He had also won in Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona. His first career title came in Umag last year.

Verstappen wins inaugural Miami GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Gardens, May 9: His first day racing around the new Formula One circuit in Miami was absolutely horrible. Then he made a mistake in qualifying that cost him a spot on the front row.

By the time race day rolled around, Max Verstappen had knocked it all out of his system. Verstappen was explosive at the start Sunday and used a pair of aggressive passes to get past Ferrari and current championship leader Charles Leclerc. Once out front, the reigning world champion controlled the inaugural Miami Grand Prix for his third win in five races to start the season.

The 23rd win of the Dutchman's



Verstappen sliced knocked eight points off Leclerc's lead in the standings. Verstappen now trails him by 19

points headed into the Spanish Grand Prix in two weeks.

Verstappen started third Sunday after Ferrari locked out the front row with Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr. In qualifying. But in the end, Red Bull got the best of its new rival for a second consecutive race.

Verstappen went unchallenged until a late crash between Lando Norris and Pierre Gasly brought out the safety car and setup a 10-lap sprint to the finish on the 19-turn, 3.36-mile circuit (5.41 kilometers) built around Hard Rock Stadium.

Ferrari settled for second and third for Leclerc and Sainz, while Perez was fourth. Mercedes showed much improvement with fifth and sixth-place finishes for George Russell and Lewis Hamilton.