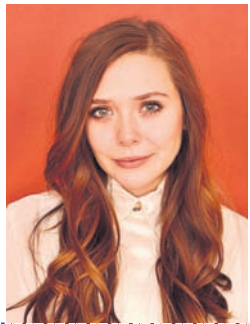




# leisure



## OLSEN DEFENDS MARVEL MOVIES FROM BEING CALLED LESSER ART

Elizabeth Olsen, who is currently getting a lot of positive response for her role as Wanda Maximoff in the recently released *Doctor Strange 2*, has strongly defended Marvel films from filmmakers such as Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola, who have earlier bashed them as lesser art.

## MONROE'S HAIR GIFTED TO KIM WAS FAKE: EXPERT

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian was given a fake lock of Marilyn Monroe's iconic platinum hair, claimed by an expert of the Hollywood icon. According to *aceshowbiz.com*, Scott Fortner, a historian refuted that Kim was presented with a real piece of Marilyn's hair by Ripley's.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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**ARIES**  
If you have children, it's likely you'll spoil them today. After all, it's for days like these that you work hard, says Ganesh. You will also complete pending assignments and it's a productive day for those in medical professions and public services.

**TAURUS**  
You will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesh. People whom you trusted to watch your back might let you down today. Remember, what you sow is what you reap, so do not fall short of putting in the effort required to make something fruitful. Be careful and cautious in dealing with people, advises Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, a strong emotional link with someone special may get established, predicts Ganesh. So you will remain delighted and elated for most part of the day. Still, some petty problems may spoil your happy mood later in the day. Diffuse tension with a light-hearted approach.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will realise that in this materialistic world, everything is judged by its appearance, and what is unseen counts for nothing. You will work hard to be seen and will crave for attention. Though Ganesh strongly suggests that this will only bring you grief as the most beautiful of flowers shrivel and your appearance will not help you beyond a point, you are not likely to follow his advice.

**LEO**  
The thing with skills is that they are not static; they are as dynamic as anything else. It is akin to being on a treadmill – you need to continuously keep moving just to stay in the same place, says Ganesh. So keep refreshing yourself by learning new things in order to sustain your progress. What you need is passion to help you shine in your profession, according to Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Financial doldrums are headed your way today. In order to seek what you desire, expect shelling out a hefty price. You might just net those short-term goals in the evening. Ganesh foretells large and important business deals will end the day on a high note.

**LIBRA**  
Today will be fabulous for you, especially if you are in the world of business. Long-term deals seem to be on the cards for you. If you happen to be a government officer, luck favours you today. Keep your ears and eyes open, there may be news of a possible promotion.

**SCORPIO**  
In all probability, you are set to shine out as a man of care and kindness. Ganesh advises you to shut the doors on worries and open the windows to let merrymaking and happiness sweep you off your feet today. The social bug will bite you hard, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your dedication to work is set to shift to the top gear. Find yourself swamped by excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a fun-filled, exciting evening.

**CAPRICORN**  
As the day begins, you may get a strong urge to leave everything and set off on a backpacking trip. So strong the wanderer in you may be now that it may even momentarily take over the famed Goat caution. Yet alas, this being only a fleeting moment, you may soon don your dapper avatar, and head to work.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will take the road to spirituality today and give a miss to materialism. You will visit temples, other religious places, and spiritual leaders to find answers for some of your questions.

**PISCES**  
You will not take matters to heart needlessly today, and will instead calmly evaluate the bitter words of others to see if there is a grain of truth in them somewhere. This is a good practice and one that should be continued. While you won't be in the mood to tolerate any injustice, you will be able to forgive those who have wronged you and will thus be able to refrain from stoking further, the fires of enmity, says Ganesh.

# The strings fall silent

**PT. SHIVKUMAR SHARMA ENSURED THAT HIS MUSIC BONDED WITH THE AUDIENCE. LET'S HOPE THAT THE TECHNIQUE HE INVENTED IS NOT LOST—AKADEMI AWARD WINNING KATHAK DANCER SHOBHA KOSER**

mensely for making the Santoor stand out. Decades of riyaz, single-minded focus and absolute commitment made him the man he was."

In the last two years the nation has lost several major pillars, and now, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma. His passing on is an end of an era, says, Veena player Sailil Bhat.

Vocalist, Pt. Ajay Pohankar, who belongs to the Kirana school feels that the Santoor owes its widespread recognition to Pt. Shivkumar Sharma.

The demise of Santoor maestro has not only impacted the Indian classical music fraternity, the exit also has left the Hindi film industry in a state of shock.

Hema Malini tweeted a picture with Shivkumar Sharma, whom she tagged as a 'gentle-

man to the core.' "One more legend, Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma, Santoor maestro, passes away. A gentleman to the core, he will be missed by many associated with him as also his admirers all over the world. My heart goes out to his family."

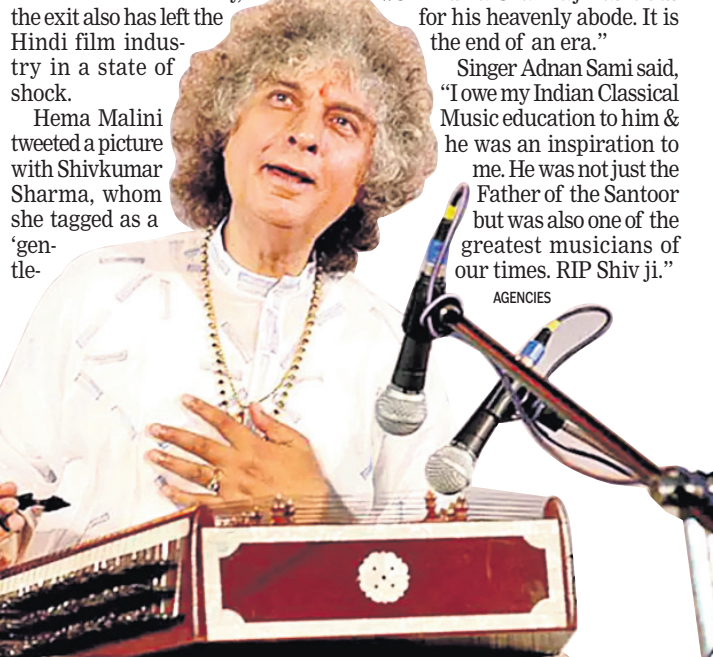
Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur said that the 'beautiful sounds' from Shivkumar Sharma's santoor will always be in his heart.

Deeply saddened by his demise, acclaimed singer Shreya Ghoshal shared, "Very sad to know that the great Padma Vibhushan Pandit #ShivkumarSharma ji has left us for his heavenly abode. It is the end of an era."

Singer Adnan Sami said, "I owe my Indian Classical Music education to him & he was an inspiration to me. He was not just the Father of the Santoor but was also one of the greatest musicians of our times. RIP Shiv ji."

New Delhi: For someone who has been witnessing Pt. Shivkumar Sharma's growth ever since he was a young man, Shobha Koser from Pracheen Kala Kendra, remembers "He ensured that his music bonded with the audience - they became one. Let us hope that the technique he invented is not lost forever. It is sad that in my lifetime, I am witnessing an entire generation of Indian classical musicians passing on."

Musician Abhay Sopori hopes that the stature achieved by the Santoor remains intact and the coming generations continue to contribute towards its depth and popularity like Pt. Shivkumar Sharma. "I met him several times and respected him im-



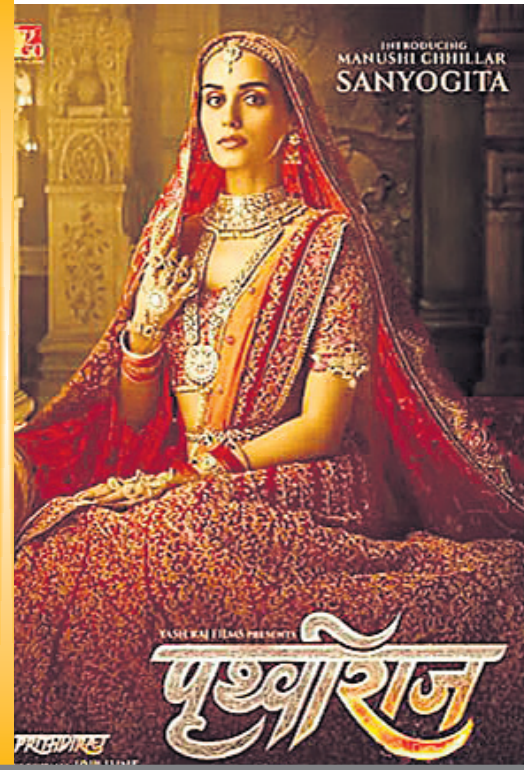
## Sharmila Tagore returns to films

Mumbai: Veteran actress Sharmila Tagore is set to return to films after 11 years as she will be seen playing the grand matriarch of the Batra family in *Gulmohar*, the shooting of which was wrapped up recently.

The film, directed by Rahul Chittella, also stars Manoj Bajpayee, Simran Singh Bagga, Amol Palekar and Suraj Sharma and will release in August.

The film tells the story of the multi-generation Batra family which is set to move out of their 34-year-old family home. The move sets the motion for a re-discovery of the bonds that have held them together as a family, while grappling with personal secrets and insecurities.

Commenting on the development, Sharmila Tagore said, "After a considerable gap, I am very happy to be in the familiar and well-loved ambience of a film set. I agreed almost immediately to be a part of team *Gulmohar* - after the moving narration of this heartwarming and beautifully written story/script. It is a very layered and absorbing family drama. And I am sure many will enjoy watching it together with their loved ones in the comfort of their homes." IANS



## Manushi calls Prithviraj her dream debut

Mumbai: Actress and former Miss World Manushi Chhillar, who is gearing up for her debut film *Prithviraj*, has called her role of Princess Sanyogita a dream-come-true debut as she got to work with a superstar like Akshay Kumar and a director like Chandraprakash Dwivedi who worked on the script for 18 years.

Thrilled with the response to the recently launched trailer of the film, the debutante said, "It is amazing that people are appreciating my performance from what they have seen and experienced in the *Prithviraj* trailer. This is a dream come true of a debut for me and I'm hugely grateful that I'm getting to bring Princess Sanyogita's life come alive on the big screen."

"A debut like this, opposite one of the biggest superstars of the country like Akshay Kumar, is a lot of responsibility and I think I have given my everything to ensure that I play this role with utmost sincerity and dedication," she added.

The movie is based on the book *Prithviraj Raso*, which documents the life and valour of the fearless Rajput king Prithviraj Chauhan. IANS

### PEANUTS



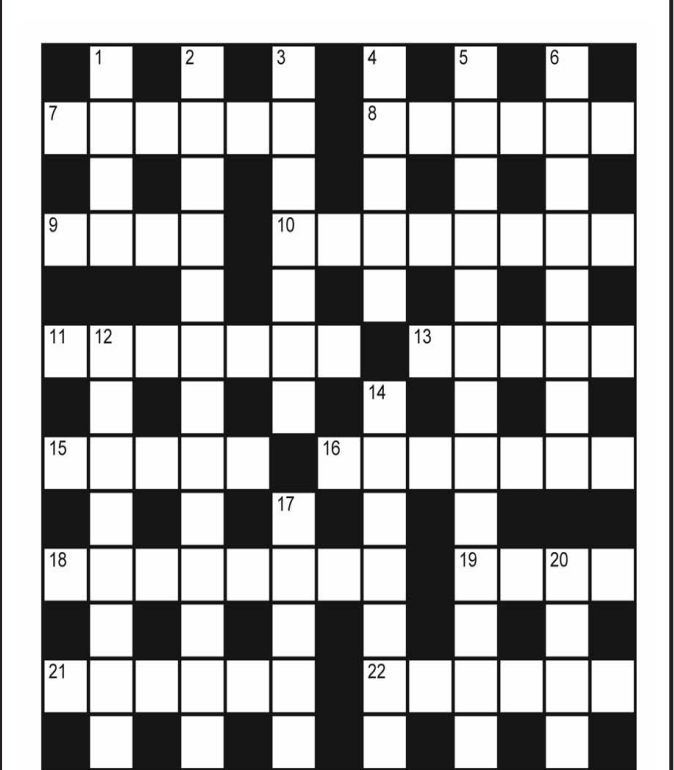
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



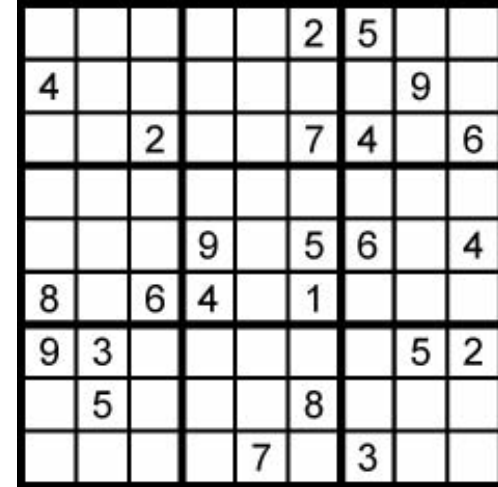
### FUN post CROSSWORD



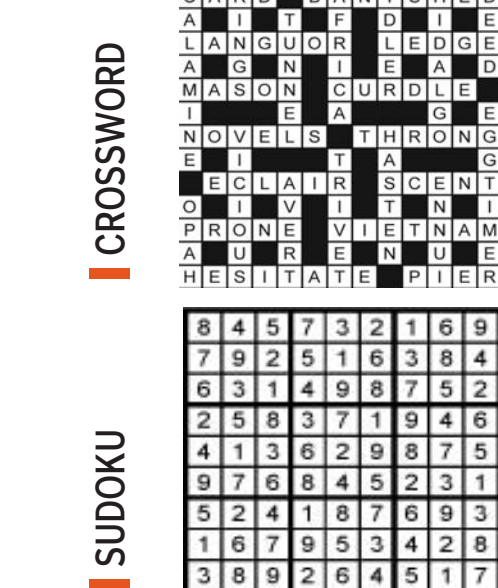
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Sudden violent storm
  - 8 Angel
  - 9 Canine tooth
  - 10 Soak
  - 11 Tasteless
  - 13 Fish and
  - 15 Antsy
  - 16 Cézanne, e.g.
  - 18 Cinematic stand-in (5,3)
  - 19 Tolstoy hero
  - 21 Beach accessories
  - 22 Big cat
- Down**
- 1 Prefix with plane or lung
  - 2 Thrifty shopper (7,6)
  - 3 Charge card
  - 4 Intense
  - 5 Deplorable
  - 6 More than one
  - 12 Footnote, e.g.
  - 14 Exaggerate
  - 17 Demolish
  - 20 Family member

### 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



# ITI likely in Bolangir MDC building

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Bhubaneswar, May 10:** The Higher Education department Tuesday wrote to the Skill Development and Technical Education (SD&TE) department secretary to open a new industrial training institute (ITI) in lieu of the model degree college (MDC) at Jogimunda under Patnagar subdivision in Bolangir.

Rajashree Mohanty, state project director of RUSA and special secretary to Higher Education department, said Bolangir collector had submitted a proposal to the director of Technical Education and Training to convert the model degree college at Jogimunda into an ITI to enhance the skills and employability of the local youths.

In her letter to the SD&TE department secretary, Mohanty said, "A decision has been taken to make alternative use of model degree college buildings to provide skill development and vocational education to the youths. I would therefore



request you to take action on the proposal of the Bolangir collector so that our department can start the process of handing over the MDC building to Skill Development and Technical Education department for the purpose."

Earlier, the Higher Education (HE) department had directed the Collectors of Gajapati and Kandhamal districts for alternative use of MDC buildings, constructed under RUSA 2.0.

The MDC buildings at Tamayapeta in Kashinagar tehsil in Gajapati district and K Nuagaon in Kandhamal district are being constructed with an expenditure of Rs 12 crore each under the Rashtriya

Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA 2.0). The two buildings are expected to be completed by the end of this month, sources said.

"Since a couple of general degree colleges are located nearby, it is not desirable to open another general degree college in shape of this MDC. The locals of both areas have also submitted a representation to the government requesting to use the MDC building for imparting skill development courses instead of general degree courses," Higher Education Secretary Saswat Mishra had said in the letter to the collectors.

"In view of the above, you are requested to explore possibilities of alternative use of the aforesaid MDCs such as vocational or skill development centre, school/college hostel, Adarsha Vidyalayas, housing and any other government or public office, and submit your proposal to the department at earliest for further action," the letter read.



Student Congress activists stage a demonstration at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, to protest against the recent hike in cooking gas price

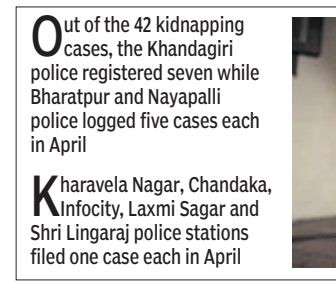
# 42 abduction cases filed, 65 rescued in April

POLICE SOURCES SAY THE KIDNAPPING AND MAN MISSING CELL LAUNCHED LAST YEAR HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE RESCUE OF 407 VICTIMS IN 394 CASES FROM MAY 2021 TILL THE END OF APRIL THIS YEAR

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Bhubaneswar, May 10:** As many as 42 kidnapping cases were reported at different police stations in the Capital city during April 2022. The City police, in a press release Tuesday, revealed that the Khandagiri police had received maximum numbers abduction complaints in the last month.

The Khandagiri police registered seven kidnapping cases while Bharatpur and Nayapalli police filed five cases each during the period. Kharavela Nagar, Chandaka, Infocity, Laxmi Sagar and Shri Lingaraj police stations filed one case each in April



Lingaraj police stations filed one case each in April.

Meanwhile, acting upon complaints, the City police managed to rescue 65 victims in April, out of which 12 individuals were abducted

The City police managed to rescue 65 victims, out of which 12 individuals were abducted in April only while the rest 53 victims rescued were of cases which were filed in previous months.

Khandagiri police rescued nine missing persons while Baliaanta and Mancheswar police rescued eight and seven victims respectively during the above period.

Saheed Nagar, Balipatna, Nayapalli, Chandrasekharpur, Badagada and Jatni police have rescued four victims each during April.

Officials in Bhubaneswar UPD closed 44 cases after completion of investigation into the allegations of kidnapping last month. On the other hand, the Kidnapping and Man Missing Cell launched last year has played a major role in the rescue of 407 kidnapped victims in 394 cases from May 2021 till the end of April this year.

Notably, a total of 28 kidnapping were reported at City police stations in February which rose to 42 in April. As many as 258 kidnapping cases were registered at different police stations during 2021.

# Curtains down on 2-day event 'Advantage Angul'



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Angul, May 10:** The concluding event of the first ever two-day district level investment promotion event 'Advantage Angul', held at the Angul Aluminium Park Tuesday, was as interesting and engaging as the opening day.

Sessions on the MSME ecosystem, sustainable development through industrialisation, creation and role of circular economy, food processing, carbon trading, green industrial hubs and green buildings attracted overwhelming response from the audience and MSME and start-up ecosystems alike.

Concept pitches from innovative start-ups in the social and renewable sectors provided a futuristic perspective of doing business as well as sustainability. Asit Kumar Tripathy, Principal Advisor to the Chief Minister of Odisha, was the Chief Guest on the concluding day as well.

The program was also graced by MSME Principal Secretary Ranjana Chopra, IPICOL and IDCO MD Bhupendra Singh Poonia, UNEP-India Head Atul Bagai, and Industries Director Sadique Alam. Senior representatives from Start-up Odisha, MSTC Odisha (MMRPT) and

Development Alternative Group amply represented the private sector and facilitated an open house dialogue with all the stakeholders on a single platform.

The event on the second day attracted over 200 delegates from various MSMEs and start-ups. Angul Collector and District Magistrate Siddharth Shankar Swain set the context and delivered the welcome address. Speaking about the MSME ecosystem in Odisha, Sadique Alam provided insights on the multiple government initiatives being undertaken by the MSME department.

Ranjana Chopra spoke on the role of sustainable development in delivering overall economic and social growth in the state. Start-Up Odisha Executive Chairman Omkar Rai provided an overview on the start-up ecosystem in state and also the support being provided by the state government to encourage upcoming start-ups.

The keynote address was delivered by the Tripathy, who spoke about the importance of MSMEs and start-ups in propelling the state's economic growth.

The session concluded with the Angul district administration signing two MoUs with IIT Kanpur and Development Alternatives.

**Guv hails Berhampur ITI**

**Bhubaneswar:** Appreciating their skilled workmanship, Governor Ganeshi Lal awarded ₹25,000 to each Berhampur ITI student who visited his residence here and gifted sculptures made from wastes.



ITI Berhampur students and Principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi presented a nameplate and a wall clock made of machine wastes to Governor Ganeshi Lal at the Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## CLASSIFIED

### LOST

ପୁ, ଭବତ ତାରଣ ଚରଣାୟକ, ପିତା-ଭବାନୀ ଶଙ୍କର ଚରଣାୟକ, ଗ୍ରାମ-ପଦସମା, ଥାନା-କୁଣ୍ଡେଇଗୋଳା, ଜିଲ୍ଲା-ଦେବଗଡ଼ ଯୋଗାଣା କରେ କି, ମୋର ଓରିଜିନାଲ B.Tech. Certificates and Marksheets, Regd. No. 0821214018/ ଡା.୧୫.୦୨.୨୦୨୨ରେ ବରମୁଣ୍ଡା ବସଷ୍ଟାଣ୍ଡରେ ହରାଇଲି।

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam, Odisha, I have rectified the name of my Son as Bikash Rauto, S/o. Babindra Rauto and Smt. Abanti Rauto vide Army Number - 7242730X, Rank-L/DFR as Bikash Rauto in Birth Certificate and other documents to avoid future complications. Henceforth, he shall be known as Bikash Rauto, S/o. Babindra Rauto and Smt. Abanti Rauto in all respect. Sd./- Babindra Kumar Rauto, Lalsingi, P.S.: Bhanjanagar, Ganjam, Odisha.

I, Bhima Charan Majhi, S/o. Ratnakar Majhi of village Bhadrasia, PO: Chhanua, PS: Basta, Dist: Balasore have changed my name to Nimai Chandra Majhi vide affidavit No.8847, dtd.6.5.2022 sworn before Notary S.K. Biswal, Balasore.

# Draft report on desertification and drought on COP15 table

This COP15, to be held from May 9 to 20, will bring together leaders from governments, private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders from around the world to drive progress in the future sustainable management of land, and will explore links between land and other key sustainability issues



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established at the COP14. A draft report has been prepared and will be discussed during the current session of COP15," said an official from MoEF&CC.

In another significant development during India's presidency, the G-20 leaders recognising the importance of combating land degradation and creating new carbon sinks put up an aspirational goal to collectively plant 1 trillion trees, urging other countries to join forces with G20 to reach this global goal by 2030.

This COP15 from May 9 to 20 will

Leaders are meeting in Abidjan against the backdrop of a stark warning issued by the UNCCD that up to 40 per cent of all ice-free land is already degraded, with dire consequences for climate, biodiversity and livelihoods

Drought, land restoration, and related enablers such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top items on the Conference agenda

The high-level segment to be held May 9-10 includes a Heads of States Summit, high-level roundtables and interactive dialogue sessions, as well as numerous other special and side events

ers from around the world to drive progress in the future sustainable management of land and will explore links between land and other key sustainability issues.

These issues will be discussed during the high-level segment May 9-10, including a Heads of States Summit, high-level roundtables and interactive dialogue sessions, as well as numerous other special and side events.

Drought, land restoration, and related enablers such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top items on the Conference agenda. "Through its decisions adopted by the UNCCD's 197 parties, the COP15 is expected to galvanise sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience, with a strong focus on future-proofing land use," the officials said.

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UP POST POLLS SCENARIO

Most parties 'headless' after Assembly election

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, May 10:** Major political parties in Uttar Pradesh are 'headless' even after it has been two months since the Assembly results were announced.

The BJP, Congress, Rashtriya Lok Dal are among the parties that do not have a state head at present.

Most parties are working out caste arithmetic for the next Lok Sabha elections before they appoint a state head. Some are even waiting for rival parties to announce their state presidents before they do so.

The BJP for instance, is working out caste equations before it announces the name of its state president.

The present state president Swatantra Dev Singh has been inducted into the council of ministers and the party, for all practical purposes, is headless.

As the BJP strictly adheres to the principle of 'one man one post', a new face is sure to take command of the state organisation soon.

The party's focus is on managing caste balances for the 2024 elections and it is this factor that will decide the name of the new state chief.

Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu was asked to resign in March after the party faced its worst ever debacle in Uttar Pradesh.

Party sources claim that some leaders have even been shortlisted to revive the party, but most of them have expressed reservations



The BJP, Congress, Rashtriya Lok Dal are among the parties that do not have a state head at present

Most parties are working out caste arithmetic for the next Lok Sabha elections before they appoint a state head

Some are even waiting for rival parties to announce their state presidents before they do so

about working under Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's coterie.

The party remains in a state of inertia in Uttar Pradesh since the past two months and even the general secretary in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has kept away from the state.

Rashtriya Lok Dal state president Dr Masood Ahmad had resigned immediately after the announcement of the Assembly results in March. He levelled serious allegations against the party leadership be-

fore leaving. The RLD leadership, since then, has not found a suitable successor to Dr Masood Ahmad and the party also remains headless.

If sources are to be believed, the Samajwadi Party (SP) is also planning a major revamp. SP state president Naresh Uttam Patel is expected to be elevated to the national level and the party wants a younger and more energetic leader to head the state.

The decision on this is pending. The Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL) is also headless at the moment.

PSPL president Shivpal Yadav had dissolved all organisational units a few weeks ago. Last week he appointed heads of various front units, but did not name a new state president.

Sources said that Shivpal would first decide his future course of action in politics before naming a state president.

UP TO MODERNISE OVER 2K RICE MILLS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 10:** In a first, the Uttar Pradesh government will undertake the task of modernising over 2,000 rice mills across the states to ensure quality-control, so that the finished rice fetches a better price.

According to Sorabh Babu, Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, the private rice mills will be modernised and, in this regard, some mandatory provisions will be made by the government. The department will soon hold a meeting with the UP Rice Millers Association and millers to encourage them toward the same. Rice milling is the oldest and the largest agro-processing industry in the country.

There are about 757 large mills having a milling capacity of 4 tonnes per hour or more in the state, while the number of smaller units is about 1,157 having less



The move is aimed at achieving the state government's goal of self-sufficiency in food and nutrition security, employment creation, and wealth generation

than 4 MT per hour milling capacity. The smaller scale mills are equipped with the traditional machine due to which the quality of rice deteriorates and does not fulfill the norms and standards of FCI (Food Corporation of India).

PRESIDENTIAL POLL

How Kerala will vote is a foregone conclusion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, May 10:** The election to the office of President is likely to be held in the last week of July, and there is no suspense on how Kerala will vote as it will be against the candidate fielded by the NDA.

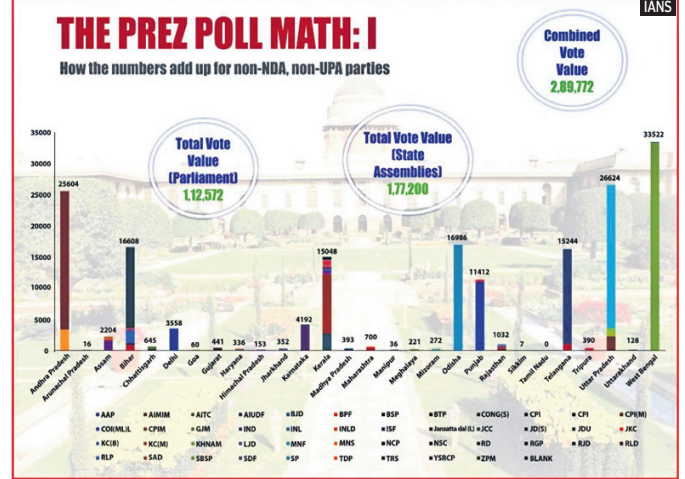
In Kerala, the Left with 99 seats is ruling the state while the opposition UDF led by Congress has 40 seats in the 140-member assembly. One seat has fallen vacant after the death of Congress legislator PT Thomas and the by-election to the Thrikkakara seat which he represented is to take place May 31.

Senior leader of the CPM and special invitee of party Central Committee, S Ramachandran Pillai told IANS, "The CPM is a political party that is stiffly against the BJP. We will be taking a stand for the president election according to our policies. However, the party has to take a decision on the same of the days to come."

The senior leader, however, said that the party committees have to finalise the decision. He did not comment on whether the party will be voting along with the Congress from Kerala.

While the CPM and the Congress are jointly opposing the BJP at the Centre, in Kerala, the two are opposed to each other and hence the CPM and the Left parties will have to tread a cautious line while voting in the presidential elections.

The Congress party in Kerala is of the opinion that the strategy



The Left parties have categorically said that the main agenda of the 23rd party Congress is to bring down the BJP government led by Narendra Modi at the Centre

This is a clear indication that the party will all out oppose the candidate put up by the NDA for the presidential elections

With the BJP or the NDA not having any legislators from Kerala, the vote for the candidate put by the BJP led NDA in the presidential election will be zero

Former state president of the Kerala unit of the Congress party, Mullappally Ramachandran told IANS, "The Congress is the main opposition party to the BJP at the Centre and as far as the presidential election is concerned, the election will be held in July last probably and hence the party has time for that."

The CPM and CPI, the two major Left parties, will take a decision only after the Politburo and Central secretariat meetings respectively but by and large, the leaders agree that the main agenda will be to defeat BJP's presidential candidate.

With Kerala having no BJP representation or for that matter from the NDA, the candidate put up by the NDA for the post of president is certain to get no votes in the state.

regarding the election to the President post will be decided only after the Congress Working Committee meeting.

Olympics, Asian Games medal winners to be appointed in UP govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, May 10:** The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to appoint international sports medal winners, including those who won them in Olympics, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games, on 24 posts in nine departments of the state.

The state cabinet also gave its consent to hold the session of the UP Legislature from May 23.

Briefing reporters here, UP's Finance minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said, "The sportspersons, who have a domicile of Uttar Pradesh, and have won medals in international sports events, will be posted on gazetted posts on 24

A committee under the chief secretary will select these sportspersons. This will help in developing a sports culture in the state

SURESH KUMAR KHANNA | UP'S FINANCE MINISTER

posts in nine departments". The nine departments where these appointments will be made are rural development, secondary education, basic education, home department, panchayati raj department, youth welfare department, transport department, forest department, and revenue department."

Girish Chandra Yadav, minister of state (independent charge) Sports and Youth Welfare, called the step "historic". "This will help promote sports in the state, and will give a boost to the sportspersons. Similar scheme is currently operational in other states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar," he said.

Yadav said the decision will consider sportspersons who won medals by September 1, 2020 for the scheme.

The posts been kept outside the ambit of the Public Service Commission by the department of Personnel, the government said in a statement here.

NO RESPITE



Commuters use scarves to shield themselves from the heat while riding a two-wheeler on a summer day in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Six Dhanwantri Mega Health Parks in UP soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 10:** The Yogi Adityanath government will soon set up six Dhanwantri Mega Health Parks with an investment of about ₹30,000 crore in the state.

The government has set in motion processes to further improve and develop the health infrastructure in the state.

According to a government spokesperson, these Mega Health Parks will make the state self-reliant by enhancing big time the production of health and medical facilities like surgical instruments and medicines. Along with this, under the Maharishi Sushruta Health Infrastructure Mission, health infrastructure will also be improved at every level at a cost of more than ₹10,000 crore in the state.

The state government will be doubling the number of seats for medical courses in the state and more than 6,000 doctors and 10,000 paramedical staff will be appointed in various healthcare facilities across the state.

Along with this, doubling the number of ambulances equipped with state-of-the-art life support facilities in Uttar Pradesh, dialysis centres in every district, expanding the network of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, making Uttar Pradesh a TB-free state by 2025 and availability of affordable essential medicines will be ensured.

Sister Lismy: Kerala's cinematographer nun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thrissur (Ker), May 10:** Wearing the long traditional habit and holding a rosary in hand, the nun roamed around the sprawling grounds of the famed Vadakkunnathan temple here with her video camera seeking good angles and shots.

Though she did not go inside the shrine, dedicated to Lord Siva, the Catholic nun shot charming visuals around the temple from outside and captured the excitement, anticipation and spirit of the upcoming "Thrissur Pooram" with ease and grace recently.

For Sister Lismy Parayil, wielding the camera for a video album on a Hindu temple festival was also part of her service to the God as she believed that she was presenting the beauty of His creations transcending religious divide through the initiative.

An inmate of the Congregation of Mother of Carmel (CMC) for the last 22 years, this intense pas-



Sister Lismy Parayil

sion and worship for video cameras has helped the 37-year old to take up a career as a professional cinematographer along with her spiritual service.

Basking in the recent recognition of the India Book of Records as the first nun professional cinematographer, Sister Lismy said she was seeing her love for camera

and technology as a God-given talent to propagate His goodness in the society

She also wholeheartedly thanked the CMC Nirmala Province here, her convent, for extending support to enable her chase her dreams. "I got the first chance to operate a camera according to my imagination after I joined the convent," she told PTI.

The tech-savvy nun still cherishes the vivid memories of shooting videos using the tiny motion camera brought from Rome by her superior nuns.

The words of appreciation showered on a music video directed by Sister Lismy, based on a song by renowned gospel singer Kester, gave her self a reassurance in her inborn talent as well as helped to gain the trust of her superiors.

Over 1,500 professional videos including music albums, short films, documentaries and devotional songs in the nun's credit earned her the status of first "cinematographer nun" of Kerala, perhaps the only one in the country also

FUNNY, BUT TRUE

WASPS FOIL SUICIDE BID BY WOMAN IN KER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Alappuzha(Ker), May 10:** Wasps prevented a suicide attempt by a woman in Kerala's coastal district of Alappuzha a day ago.

The woman Monday evening had climbed a BSNL mobile tower in Kayamkulam here threatening to jump off it if her baby was not returned by her husband.

Attempts by the police and the fire force personnel to talk her out of it did not fructify and that is when nature intervened.

Visuals of the incident on TV channels showed that as the woman was busy climbing to the top of the mobile tower, she disturbed a wasp nest there and predictably,

sensing a threat to them, the wasps swarmed around her with some stinging her.

Panicked and stung, the woman abandoned her suicide attempt and started to rapidly climb down the ladder on the side of the tower, screaming all the way as the wasps swarmed around her.

As she neared the bottom, she jumped the last few feet into the rescue net being held at the base of the tower by the fire force personnel.

The rescue personnel were heard saying in the video that if not for the wasps, the woman would not have come down. An officer from Kayamkulam police station said the woman, a native of Tamil Nadu, was hospitalized after the incident and was under observation.







# international



The international community would hold to account those responsible for the killing of civilians in the Ukrainian town of Bucha during Russia's war

## PFIZER TO BUY REST OF BIOHAVEN FOR \$11.6 BLN

Pfizer Inc. Tuesday said it agreed to buy the rest of Biohaven Pharmaceutical Holding Co. for about \$11.6 billion, giving the New York drugmaker full ownership of the Nurtec ODT migraine franchise



### of the day quote

Pakistan will continue its efforts to enhance cooperation with China through CPEC, to advance its national implementation of SDGs, in addition to participating actively in the work of the GDI Group of Friends to promote the common aspiration of a peaceful, prosperous and shared future for all mankind

Old age is a time of life that isn't understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it

The ultimate goal is to maintain stability on the continent. Relying on the EU only is not enough

## SL forces ordered to open fire on rioters

AGENCIES

Colombo, May 10: Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence Tuesday ordered the Army, the Air Force and the Navy personnel to open fire on anyone looting public property or causing harm to others amidst violent protests in the island nation over the unprecedented economic and political crisis.

The order came after embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa urged people to stop "violence and acts of revenge" against fellow citizens and vowed to address the political and economic crisis facing the nation.

Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary General (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne Tuesday urged protesters to exercise calm and not resort to violence. He warned if looting and property damage continues, the Ministry of Defence will be compelled to strictly enforce the law against the violators.

"Appeal young men and women to refrain from engaging in violence. Do not set fire to public and private property, and engage in your struggle in the democratic & peaceful manner," he said.

The Defence Secretary warned that looters have taken the opportunity to commit crime under the guise of the peaceful protests,



Sri Lankan soldiers stand guard next to burnt buses

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948

The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices

adding that it is a very unfortunate situation. His stern warning came amid reports that anti-government protesters were demonstrating outside the Trincomalee Naval Base where former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his family have reportedly taken refuge.

Meanwhile, the death toll rose to eight in the unprecedented violence that erupted after supporters of then prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa attacked anti-government protesters here Monday.

Nearly 250 people have been injured in the violence in Colombo

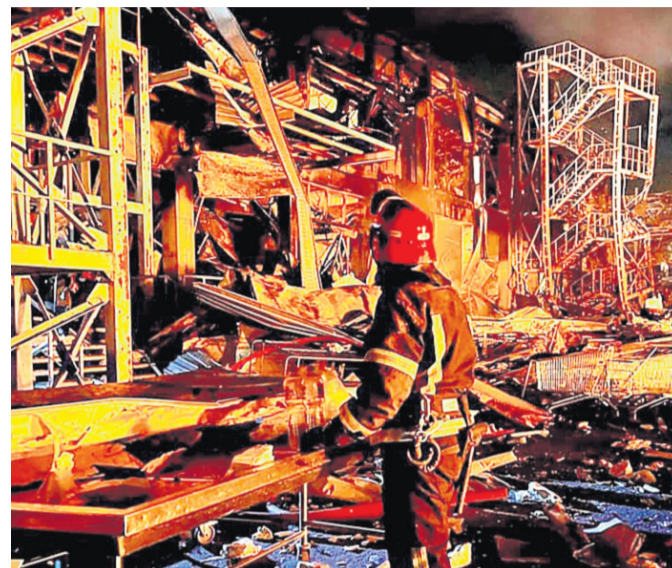
### China closely following situation

Beijing: China Tuesday said it is "closely following" the violent turn of events in Sri Lanka, where it has substantial investments, and asked the Chinese nationals working in the island nation to be alert and on guard against risks.

Earlier, The Ministry of Defence said it has ordered the tri-forces to open fire on anyone looting public property or causing harm to others. A curfew is in force across the island nation after mobs burned down the ancestral home belonging to the ruling Rajapaksa family amid mounting anger at the worst economic crisis.

Anti-government protesters have also set up a checkpoint on the road leading to the Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo to prevent the Rajapaksa family loyalists from fleeing the country.

## Ukraine pushes Russian troops back



- UKRAINE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE COULD SHIFT WAR'S MOMENTUM
UKRAINIAN FORCES SEEKING TO CUT OFF RUSSIAN SUPPLY LINES
SETBACK FOR MOSCOW AT MOMENT WHEN PUTIN HAD AIMED FOR VICTORY

REUTERS

Kharkiv, Ukraine, May 10: Ukraine said Tuesday its forces had recaptured villages from Russian troops north and northeast of Kharkiv, pressing a counter-offensive that could signal a shift in the war's momentum and jeopardise Russia's main advance.

Tetiana Apatchenko, press officer for the 92nd Separate Mechanized Brigade, the main Ukrainian force in the area, confirmed that Ukrainian troops had recaptured the settlements of Cherkaski Tyshky, Ruski Tyshki, Borshchova and Slobozhanske, in a pocket north of Kharkiv in recent days.

Yuriy Saks, an adviser to Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov said the successes were pushing Russian forces out of range of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, which has been under perpetual bombardment since the war began.

The counterattack could signal a new phase in the war, with Ukraine now going on the offensive after weeks in which Russia mounted a massive assault without making a breakthrough.

Kharkiv since the start of the invasion, the Ukrainians are moving into striking distance of the rear supply lines sustaining the main Russian attack force further south. "They're trying to cut in and behind the Russians to cut off the supply lines, because that's really one of their (the Russians') main weaknesses," said Neil Melvin of the RUSI think-tank in London.

### CHALLENGES

The setbacks near Kharkiv deal a blow to Moscow's war plans at precisely the moment when Western capitals believe President Vladimir Putin had been hoping to announce a major victory for a holiday marking the end of World War Two.

On Monday, Putin presided over a huge Red Square military parade for Victory Day. Western countries had worried that, in the absence of major battlefield success to announce, he might instead order a nationwide mobilisation.

US Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said on Tuesday Washington believes Russia still plans for a long war, aiming to capture more of Ukraine than just the eastern Donbas region that has been the main focus of its assault this month.

### SHORT TAKES

#### 18 migrants found dead

Rabat: Eighteen migrants were found dead and 203 others rescued by the Moroccan navy off the country's coasts, state-run MAP news agency reported.

#### Delivery workers go on rare strike

Dubai: Food-delivery workers protesting meager pay and inadequate protections have walked off the job across Dubai, their company confirmed Tuesday, marking the second strike in as many weeks in an emirate that outlaws dissent.

#### Heavy fighting erupts in Yemen

Sanaa: Heavy fighting broke out between forces of the Yemen government and the Houthi militia despite a two-month truce brokered by the UN, a military source said.

#### 43 inmates killed in prison riot

Quito: The number of prisoners killed in a pre-dawn prison riot in Ecuador's north-central province of Pichincha climbed to 43, the national Prosecutor's Office confirmed.

### Marcos Jr wins Philippine presidency

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila (Philippines), May 10: The namesake son of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos appeared to have been elected Philippine president by a landslide in an astonishing reversal of the 1986 "People Power" pro-democracy revolt that ousted his father.

Marcos Jr. Had more than 30.8 million votes in the unofficial results with more than 97% of the votes tabulated as of Tuesday afternoon. His nearest challenger, Vice President Leni Robredo, a champion of human rights, had 14.7 million votes in Monday's election, and boxing great Manny Pacquiao appeared to have the third highest total with 3.5 million.

His running mate, Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing president and mayor of southern Davao city, had a formidable lead in the separate vice presidential race.

The alliance of the scions of two authoritarian leaders combined the voting power of their families' political strongholds in the north and south but compounded worries of human rights activists.



Dozens of anti-Marcos protesters rallied at the Commission on Elections, blaming the agency for the breakdown of vote-counting machines and other issues that prevented people from casting their votes.

Election officials said the impact of the malfunctioning machines was minimal.

A group of activists who suffered under the dictatorship said they were enraged by Marcos's apparent victory and would oppose it.

### GRAND EVENT



Britain's Prince Charles, center, reads the Queens Speech as he sits next to the Imperial State Crown with Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, right, and Prince William during the State Opening of Parliament, in the Houses of Parliament, in London.

## Will support if NK denuclearises: Yoon Suk

North Korea's advancing nuclear program is a vexing security challenge for Yoon Suk Yeol, who won the March 9 election on a promise to strengthen South Korea's 70-year military alliance with the United States and build up its own missile capability to neutralise North Korean threats

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, May 10: Yoon Suk Yeol, a conservative political neophyte, took office Tuesday as South Korea's new president with a vow to pursue a negotiated settlement of North Korea's threatening nuclear program and an offer of "an audacious plan" to improve its economy if it abandons its nuclear weapons.

Yoon is starting his single five-year term during one of the most

challenging situations of any recent new president, facing a mix of significant security, economic and social problems that are besetting the world's 10th largest economy. There's widespread skepticism that an increasingly belligerent North Korea will give his offers much consideration, and South Korea's deep political and social divides, as well as growing worry about the state of the pandemic-hit economy, are reflected in a recent poll showing that Yoon faces lower



popularity numbers than the departing liberal president, Moon Jae-in. Yoon had promised a tougher stance on North Korea during his campaign, but he avoided harsh rhetoric during his inaugural speech amid growing worries that the North is preparing its first nuclear bomb test in nearly five years.

## UK, US, EU accuse Russia of series of cyberattacks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 10: Russia has been behind a series of cyber-attacks linked with its conflict with Ukraine earlier this year with wide-ranging impact across Europe, the European Union (EU), the UK and the US said Tuesday.

The western allies said the most recent attack was on the communications company Viasat in Ukraine, which had a wider impact across the European continent, disrupting wind farms and internet users in central Europe.

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) assesses that the Russian Military Intelligence was "almost certainly" involved in the January 13 defacements of Ukrainian government websites and the deployment of a destructive malware called Whispergate.

"This is clear and shocking evidence of a deliberate and malicious attack by Russia against Ukraine which had significant consequences on ordinary people and businesses in Ukraine and across Europe," said UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss.

## Black hole hunters cast gaze at center of the Milky Way galaxy

THE RESEARCHERS INVOLVED IN THIS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION HAVE DECLINED TO DISCLOSE THE NATURE OF THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT AHEAD OF SCHEDULED NEWS CONFERENCES BUT ISSUED A NEWS RELEASE CALLING IT A "GROUNDBREAKING RESULT ON THE CENTER OF OUR GALAXY"

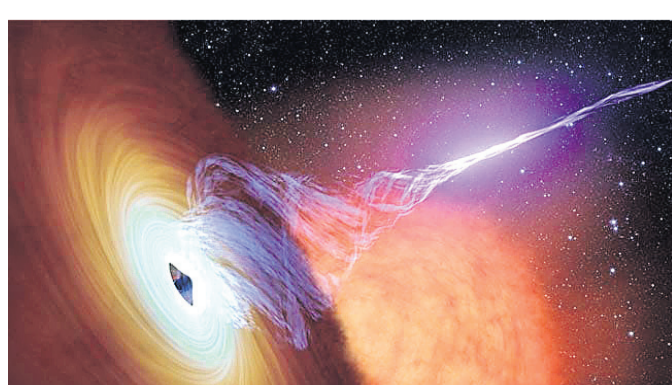
REUTERS

Washington, May 10: Residing at the center of our spiral-shaped Milky Way galaxy is a beast - a supermassive black hole possessing 4 million times the mass of our sun and consuming any material including gas, dust and stars straying within its immense gravitational pull.

Scientists have been using the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), a global network of observatories working collectively to observe radio sources associated with black holes, to study this Milky Way

denizen and have set an announcement for Thursday that signals they may finally have secured an image of it. The black hole is called Sagittarius A\*, or SgrA\*.

"One of the objects that we hope to observe with the Event Horizon Telescope... is our own black hole in our own backyard," Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics astrophysicist Sheperd



Doeleman, the former EHT project director, said during a July 2021 scientific presentation. Black holes are extraordinarily

dense objects with gravity so powerful that not even light can escape. There are different categories of black holes. The smallest are so-called stellar-mass black holes formed by the collapse of massive individual stars at the ends of their life cycles. There also are intermediate-mass black holes, a step up in mass. And finally there are the super massive black holes that inhabit the center of most galaxies. These are thought to arise relatively soon after their

galaxies are formed, devouring enormous amounts of material to achieve colossal size. The EHT project was begun in 2012 to try to directly observe the immediate environment of a black hole. A black hole's event horizon is the point of no return beyond which anything - stars, planets, gas, dust and all forms of electromagnetic radiation - gets dragged into oblivion.

In 2019, the Event Horizon Telescope team unveiled the first-ever photo of a black hole

**We will continue to leverage the voice of our company and brands to raise awareness on issues that matter and partner with expert organisations and individuals to address them**

**MADHUSUDAN GOPALAN** | P&G INDIAN SUBCONTINENT CEO

**MERCEDES-BENZ DRIVES IN C-CLASS SEDAN**

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz Tuesday said it has launched the all new version of the C-Class sedan in India, priced between ₹55 lakh and ₹61 lakh (ex-showroom). The company has launched the new C-Class in three trims; petrol powered C 200 is priced at ₹55 lakh while diesel powered C 220d and 330d are tagged at ₹56 lakh and ₹61 lakh, respectively.



of the day **QUOTE**

At the industry (level), we are engaging with the government and have submitted a presentation on how 30 per cent tax and more than that, 1 per cent TDS is detrimental to the growth of the industry

**SUMIT GUPTA** | COINDCX CEO & CO-FOUNDER

As a company, our focus has been to strengthen our after-sales services to ensure a hassle-free experience for our D2C and B2B customers

**SOHINDER GILL** | HERO ELECTRIC CEO

The domestic corporate travel has opened across segments, and we expect that the growth will accelerate in the times to come

**RAJESH MAGOW** | MAKEMYTRIP CO-FOUNDER & GROUP CEO

**At 18-month high: Inflation likely surged to 7.5% in April**

**Bangalore, May 10:** India's retail inflation likely surged to an 18-month high in April, largely driven by rising fuel and food prices and staying well above the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit for a fourth consecutive month, a Reuters poll found.

The jump has been long anticipated following the Indian government's decision to wait until after key state elections in March to hike fuel prices. Energy prices globally have soared since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February.

Food inflation, which accounts for nearly half the consumer price index (CPI) basket, reached a multi-month high in March and is expected to remain elevated due to higher vegetable and cooking oil prices globally.

These factors likely pushed inflation in Asia's third-largest economy to 7.5% on an annual basis in April, according to a May 5-9 Reuters poll of 45 economists, from 6.95% in March.

If realised, that would be the highest inflation rate since October 2020 and well above the RBI's upper 6% limit.

Forecasts for the data, due to be released at 1200 GMT May 12, ranged



between 7.0% and 7.85%.

"CPI inflation appears to have surged higher still in April on the back of higher food and fuel prices. The bulk of the impact of the recent fuel prices hikes will be felt in April," said Shilpa Shah, senior India economist at Capital Economics.

"We wouldn't be surprised if core inflation has risen too. The risk is that sustained higher inflation drives up inflation expectations, which push core inflation even higher."

To make matters worse, the local price of oil, India's biggest import, has also been subject to upwards pressure from the roughly 4% drop in the rupee this year, with the

**Govt warns taxi aggregators over unfair trade practices**

**New Delhi, May 10:** Cab aggregators, including Ola and Uber, have been warned of strict action unless they improve their systems and redress rising consumer complaints, a senior government official said Tuesday.

The government held a meeting Tuesday with the ride-hailing platforms amid a rise in consumer complaints of alleged unfair trade practices by them, including ride cancellation policy, as drivers force customers to cancel trips after accepting bookings, which results in customers paying cancellation penalties. "We told them about the rising consumer complaints against their platforms. We gave them the statistics also. We have asked them to improve their system and redress the consumer complaints otherwise the competent authority will take strict action," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said after the meeting.

Hinting at the scale of customer unhappiness against the cab aggregators, he said the complaints on the Jago Grahak Jago helpline are just the tip of the iceberg.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare said the cab aggregators should immediately come out with solutions.

**Equity MFs' inflow dips 44% month-on-month**

**INVESTORS GOING CAUTIOUS GIVEN THE ONGOING VOLATILITY IN THE STOCK MARKET**

**MUTUAL FUNDS**

**AGENCIES**

**New Delhi, May 10:** Sustaining positive momentum for the 14th straight month, equity mutual funds attracted a net sum of ₹15,890 crore in April amid heightened volatility in stock market and consistent selling by foreign portfolio investors.

This was 44% lower compared to a record net inflow of ₹28,463 crore seen in the preceding month, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Tuesday.

The lower quantum of net inflow from the previous month could be attributed to investors going slightly cautious given the ongoing challenges to the investment environment, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said.

Akhil Chaturvedi, Chief Business Officer, Motilal Oswal AMC, said that it will be interesting to see ongoing investment trends, given the intensity of volatility being very high, and expect positive trend to continue going forward though.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021, after the second wave of COVID-19 resulted in the correction in the markets, highlighting the positive sentiment among investors.

Prior to this, such schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore.

All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in April with sectoral/thematic funds category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹3,843 crore. The segment also saw a launch of a

new fund -- ICICI Prudential Housing Opportunities Fund, which mobilised ₹3,130 crore.

This was followed by large- and mid-cap fund and that witnessed over ₹2,000 crore net infusion.

"Despite volatility in markets and fear around macros both globally and locally, it is good trend to see continued positive flows in equities. Though lower than last month, which may be due to NFO allotment, SIP flows are holding strong, which is also very positive," Chaturvedi said.

Monthly SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) contribution dropped to ₹11,863 crore in April compared to ₹12,328 crore in March.

However, the number of SIP accounts stood at all-time high in April at 5.39 crore. During the month under review, 11.29 lakh SIP accounts were added.

Apart from equities, the debt segment saw a net inflow of ₹69,883 crore in April after witnessing a net outflow of ₹1.5 lakh crore in the preceding month.

Also, gold exchange traded funds experienced a net inflow of ₹1,100 crore in the month under review.

Overall, the mutual fund industry registered a net inflow of ₹72,846 crore last month as compared to a net withdrawal of ₹69,883 crore in March.

"It has been a good start to new fiscal (FY23) with net flows for overall mutual funds schemes in the positive territory and continued positive equity flows for consecutive 12 months. Despite market volatility in April 2022, retail investor trust on mutual fund asset class continues to be strong," N S Venkatesh, Chief Executive, AMFI said.

**SHORT TAKES**

**BoB hikes lending rate**

**New Delhi:** State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) Tuesday announced an increase in its lending rate by up to 10 basis points (0.1 per cent), joining its peers that have raised rates after the surprise tightening of monetary policy by the RBI last week. The bank has hiked the marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by up to 0.1 per cent on various tenures effective May 12, BoB said in a regulatory filing. The 1-year MCLR -- the rate to which a majority of consumer loans are linked -- has been revised to 7.40 per cent from 7.35 per cent, an increase of 5 basis points. Similarly, MCLR for three-month and six-month tenures has been increased by 5 basis points to 7.15 per cent and 7.25 per cent, respectively.

**Sony's profit surges 67%**

**Tokyo:** Sony's fiscal fourth quarter surged 67 per cent to 111.1 billion yen (USD 852.7 million) from the previous year, as the Japanese entertainment and electronics company racked up profits in video game and movie divisions. Tokyo-based Sony Corp.'s January-March quarterly sales edged up 1 per cent to 2.26 trillion yen (USD 17 billion), as its music operations also did well, boosted by the popularity of streaming services, the company said Tuesday. For the full fiscal year ended in March, Sony racked up a profit of 882 billion yen (USD 6.8 billion), down 14 per cent despite the success of "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which contributed to theatrical revenue.

**VIL losses narrow to ₹6,563 crore**

**New Delhi:** Telecom operator Vodafone Idea Tuesday reported narrowing of its consolidated losses to ₹6,563.1 crore for the fourth quarter ended March compared to same period of the previous year, while its realisation per user or ARPU improved sharply on a sequential basis. The losses were at ₹7,022.8 crore in the year-ago period, according to a company filing. Its revenue from operations rose 6.6 per cent year-on-year to ₹10,239.5 crore in Q4 FY22. Seen sequentially, the revenue was up 5.4 per cent, supported by tariff hikes effective November 25, 2021, the company said in a statement. The realisation per user measured in terms of ARPU came in at ₹124, rising from ₹115 in the prior quarter. This resulted in sequential increase of 7.5 per cent in Average Revenue Per User (ARPU). For the full year FY22, the losses narrowed sharply to ₹28,245.4 crore, from ₹44,233.1 crore in the previous financial year. Revenue from operations for the year ended March 2022 came in at ₹38,515.5 crore.

**BharatPe to sack several employees**

**Bangalore, May 10:** Indian payments startup BharatPe said Tuesday its board had recommended several measures, following a corporate governance review, including termination of several employees and vendors and filing criminal cases against them for misconduct.

IPO-hopeful BharatPe, which allows shop owners to make digital payments through QR codes, had initiated a corporate governance review in January hoping to soothe investor worries over a public spat involving personal investments by one of its co-founders.

The firm, which competes with apps including SofBank's Paytm and Google Pay in India's booming payments market, came under intense investor and media scrutiny after co-founder Ashneer Grover sought damages from Uday Kotak, head of Kotak Mahindra Bank, alleging that the bank declined him financing for a personal investment.

In January, Reuters had reported that the audit would assess if BharatPe's senior executives are making proper internal disclosures about personal investments and check for conflicts, leading to a new code of conduct. After a detailed review of a report to determine wilful misconduct and gross negligence by a former founder over the last two months, the board of BharatPe has recommended several decisive measures that are being implemented, the firm said in a statement. BharatPe said it was introducing a new vendor procurement policy to mitigate any risk of employees indulging in suspicious transactions to enrich themselves.

**Equities end lower for 3rd day**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**BSE Sensex** MAY 2022 10

55000

54,364.85

54000

99:15

16:00

-105.82

**TOP GAINERS**

HUL	3.24	Tata Steel	-6.95
Asian Paints	2.46	Sun Pharma	-2.74
IndusInd B	2.40	NTPC	-2.33
UltraTech C	2.22	Titan	-2.15
Maruti Suz	2.14	Bajaj Fin	-1.80

**NSE Nifty** MAY 2022 10

16400

16,240.05

16200

99:15

16:00

-61.80

**TOP GAINERS**

HUL	3.03	Coal India	-7.54
Asian Paints	2.85	Tata Steel	-7.27
IndusInd B	2.38	ONGC	-7.04
UltraTech C	2.30	JSW Steel	-5.14
Eicher Motors	2.18	Hindalco	-4.88

**WITI GRAPHICS**

**Investors poorer by ₹11.22L cr in 3 days**

**NEW DELHI:** Equity investors have become poorer by over ₹11.22 lakh crore in three days following a sell-off in markets amid weak global cues. In three days, the benchmark has tumbled 1,337.38 points or 2.40 per cent. Weak trend in equities have eroded ₹11,22,389.2 crore from the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms in three sessions. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms now stands at ₹2,48,42,500.17 crore.

and energy (2.51 per cent). Bank, finance and FMCG ended modestly higher.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul ended lower, while Shanghai settled in the green. Equity markets in Europe were quoting higher in the afternoon session. Stock exchanges in the US had fallen sharply Monday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 1.82 per cent to USD 104 per barrel.

"Wall Street plunged to its lowest level in more than a year on Monday, as markets were already hit by rising interest rates. Following the decline in global stocks, Indian equity indexes may face some pressure. Asian markets are trading down on expectations of an economic downturn as a result of growing inflation, higher interest rates and harsh COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in Shanghai," said Mohit Nigam, Head - PMS, Hem Securities.

**Bol donates traffic barricades**



**BHUBANESWAR:** Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Zone has donated 24 traffic barricades for creating traffic awareness. The barricades will be installed in different traffic check posts of Bhubaneswar. On this occasion, Zonal Manager Priyabrata Pattanayak handed over the traffic barricades to Swastik Panda, ACP Traffic, Bhubaneswar. Panda has expressed his gratitude to Bank of India for this initiatives.

**Parag's wife Vineeta linked with Musk's Twitter takeover**

*Her role as general partner at Andreessen Horowitz which has agreed to pay \$400 million as part of Musk's new \$71 billion financing commitments is set to create a conflict of interest*

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**

**New Delhi, May 10:** Vineeta Agarwala, the wife of Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, is now making headlines amid Elon Musk's \$44 billion takeover deal.

Her role as general partner at Andreessen Horowitz (a16z) -- a

top US VC firm which has agreed to pay \$400 million as part of Musk's new \$7.1 billion financing commitments -- is set to create a conflict of interest.

As a general partner at Andreessen Horowitz, she leads investments for the firm's bio and health fund across therapeutics, life sciences tools/diagnostics, and digital health, with a focus on companies leveraging unique datasets to improve drug development and patient care delivery.

Andreessen Horowitz is also one of the biggest backers of Facebook (now Meta). Prior to joining a16z, Vineeta held many different roles in the healthcare space.

She was a physician taking care of patients, an operator at healthcare startups and as a ven-



ture investor on the Google Ventures life sciences team.

She was an early data scientist at Kyruus, a management consultant for biotech, pharmaceutical, and medical device clients at

McKinsey & Co; and a director of product management at Flatiron Health.

She has collaborated with academic researchers at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Broad Institute, where she did graduate work in computational biology and human genetics.

Vineeta holds a Bachelor of Science in biophysics from Stanford University, and MD and PhD degrees from Harvard Medical School/MIT.

She continues to see patients at Stanford as an adjunct clinical professor in the Division of Primary Care and Population Health.

Vineeta serves on a number of portfolio company boards, including BigHat Biosciences, GC Therapeutics, Memora Health, Thyme Care, Pearl Health, and Waymark.

Parag studied BTech in Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Bombay and completed his PhD from Stanford University.

They have a son named Ansh and the couple is based in San Francisco, California.

Meanwhile, there are doubts over Parag's future once Musk takes over, as the Tesla CEO himself can become a temporary CEO of the platform. According to reports, Musk may have also lined up a new Twitter CEO.

Parag is likely to receive nearly \$39 million due to a clause in his contract once he leaves Twitter. His total compensation for 2021 was \$30.4 million, largely in stocks.

