

**KIARA'S REVELATION**  
 Actor Kiara Advani talks about her superstitions while appearing on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'

LEISURE P2

**NO END TO DEADLOCK**  
 SL President Gotabaya Rajapaksa continues talks with ruling party dissidents and main opposition SJB to end political impasse

INTERNATIONAL P10

**CSK TAKE ON MI**  
 MS Dhoni-led CSK face MI in a battle of survival and pride in the IPL today

SPORTS P12

**Al-Jazeera journalist killed in Israeli firing**  
 Jerusalem: Shireen Abu Akleh, a journalist for Al-Jazeera was shot and killed while covering an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin early Wednesday, the Palestinian health ministry said. It stated that Akleh who was a reporter for the broadcaster's Arabic language channel was shot and she died soon after. The ministry also informed that another Palestinian journalist working for the Jerusalem-based 'Al-Quds' newspaper was wounded but is in stable condition. In the video footage, Akleh can be seen wearing a blue flak jacket clearly marked with the word 'PRESS' when she was shot.

P10

**Minor stabs youth to death in Sambalpur**  
 Sambalpur: A minor boy stabbed a youth over past enmity during a wedding feast at Saideipur Kalyan Mandap under Burla police limits late Tuesday night. The critically injured youth identified as Sumit Sandha (26), breathed his last Wednesday while undergoing treatment at VIMSAR. Sumit was serving food to the guests when the minor attacked him with a knife. Police have detained the accused and launched a probe into the incident. Sources said families of the deceased and the juvenile have been involved in fights in the past. The boy had tried to harm Sumit several times in the past, but was unsuccessful.

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**SDJM court blow to Puri project**

**The petitioner had approached the SDJM court after the police allegedly refused to register a case of illegal construction**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 11: The Court of SDJM here directed Wednesday the police for filing of cases against Puri District Collector Samarth Verma, Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation (OBCC) and Tata Projects. The SDJM court gave the direction while hearing a petition over the on-going Shree Jagannath Temple Heritage corridor project in the pilgrim town.

Adjudicating over the petition filed by Bibhuti Shankar Tripathy, secretary, Puri Bar Association, the court had earlier posted the matter for hearing May 11.

The petitioner had earlier approached the Singhadwar police alleging illegal construction of projects on the prohibited zone

near the temple without the permission of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The petitioner had demanded registration of a case against the three parties under the AMASAR Act. However, police allegedly refused to register any case in this connection. The petitioner had then moved the SDJM court here.

It should be stated here that May 9, ASI had informed the Orissa High Court that no valid permission was given for the Heritage corridor project being constructed around the Srimandir.

While hearing a PIL, a division bench of the high court headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar had directed the ASI to conduct a joint

inspection of the site with the Odisha government and submit a report before the court.

The ASI also informed the high court that the drawing and structural designs included in the revised detailed project report (DPR) were quite different from the one presented to the National Monument Authority (NMA).

The ASI in its affidavit had also said there is every chance that construction agency OBCC, during the excavation and removal of earth, may have destroyed the archaeological remains of the heritage site.

However, the high court, in its order, said that the above observation of ASI is vague and fails to be specific as to whether any actual damage has in fact been caused to any archaeological remains at the heritage site.

The high court has asked the Odisha government to file an affidavit in response to the one of the ASI on or before June 20. The next hearing has been scheduled for June 22.

**INNOVATIVE MINDS**



Youngsters examine a product Wednesday at the science exhibition held at CSIR-IMMT in Bhubaneswar to mark National Technology Day

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



**Mathura, Kashi, Qutub...all fine! But we'll require more fresh issues so that noise from Sri Lanka don't reach public**

**Sedition law put on hold**

All pending cases, appeals and proceedings with respect to charges framed for sedition will now be kept in abeyance as per the apex court order

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 11: Putting on hold the sedition law, the Supreme Court stayed Wednesday the registration of FIRs, ongoing probes and coercive measures on the matter across India until an 'appropriate forum' of the government re-examines the colonial era penal law.

In its significant order on the law that has been under intense public scrutiny, a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said there was need to balance the interest of civil liberties and interests of citizens with that of the state. Taking note of the concerns of the Centre, the apex court said the 'rigours of Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC is not in tune with the current social milieu' and permitted reconsideration of the provision.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli directed the Centre and states to not register any fresh FIR invoking sedition charges until the sedition law is 'under reconsideration'.

The court listed the matter in the third week of July and said its di-



rections shall continue till further orders.

Any affected party is at liberty to approach concerned courts that are requested to examine the reliefs sought taking into the consideration the present order, the apex court said and hoped that its observations will be followed without any questions.

"We hope and expect that the states and the Centre will restrain (themselves) from registering any FIR, continue any investigation or taking any coercive measures by invoking section 124A of the IPC till the aforesaid provision of law is under re-consideration," ordered

**Supreme Court has finally spoken in a historical verdict by staying the sedition law. A clear cut message has gone today to suppressors and subjugators of public opinion, of dissent, of everyone who criticises the autocratic and dictatorial rulers and their policies**

RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS

the bench. "The Attorney General, on previous date of hearing, had given some glaring examples of misuse of the sedition law like in a case of recital of 'Hanuman Chalisa'..Therefore, we expect that till the re-examination of the law is complete, it will be appropriate not to continue with the usage of the aforesaid provision of the law by the governments," the CJ said in the order.

The bench did not agree to the Centre's suggestion that a superintendent of police ranked officer be made responsible for monitoring the registration of FIRs for the offence of sedition.

MORE P4

**CONTROVERSIAL CASES**

- In January 2022, a Delhi court framed sedition charges against JNU student Sharjeel Imam for his speech during the protests against the CAA and NRC in Delhi. Sharjeel has been in custody since January 2020.
- Climate activist Disha Ravi charged with sedition in February 2021 in connection with a 'toolkit' relating to farmers' protest. Granted bail after a week
- Manipur-based journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem charged with sedition and arrested in September 2020 for criticising PM Narendra Modi, RSS and Chief Minister N Biren Singh.
- Former JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar and nine other students, including Umar Khalid, were charged with sedition for allegedly raising anti-India slogan during a protest in the university campus in 2016. Khalid is still in prison for his involvement as a 'key conspirator' in the 2020 Delhi riots

**Odisha demands immediate release of ₹10K cr food subsidy**

Swain said that delay in providing the subsidy had led to additional interest burden of over ₹5,000 crore which the Centre should bear

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 11: Odisha's Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain wrote a letter Wednesday to his counterpart at the Centre, Piyush Goyal for release of food subsidy of ₹10,334 crore to the state. In his letter, Swain also requested Goyal to resolve issues regarding evacuation of surplus rice, lifting of wheat from FCI godowns and allocation of 100 per cent rice under public distribution system.

Swain raised concern over the delay in release of food subsidy by the Centre. As per the MoU signed between the State and Centre, there has to be zero financial liability on the State procuring agency with regard to permissible items of cost for procurement of rice to be borne by the Centre, Swain said in the letter.

Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCS), the major procuring agency of the State government is to receive ₹7,931.90 crore

as provisional subsidy and advance subsidy of ₹2,402.19 crore. So, the total subsidy claim stood at about ₹10,334 crore by the end of April, 2022, the minister pointed out.

The additional interest burden incurred till March, 2022 because of delay in release and short release of subsidy comes to around ₹5,454.67 crore which remains unrecovered and should be paid by the Union government, wrote Swain.

In the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2021-22, out of 52 lakh MT of estimated procurement of rice, Odisha's own consumption is about 39 lakh MT under PDS and other welfare schemes. So, the State is likely to have a surplus of 13 lakhs MT of rice which should be lifted immediately for smooth procurement operation, Swain stated.

In addition to this, Swain said, the Odisha government has taken all necessary steps to deliver five lakh MT of fortified parboiled rice to FCI as per target given by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

Swain also requested Goyal to provide the required wheat stocks for Puri, Khurda and Nayagarh districts. He said the wheat stock is available at the FCI depot at Jagatpur in Cuttack district.

**'Asani' effect: Over 1cr Ridley turtle eggs destroyed**

Due to high tides at various beaches, a large quantity of eggs that were ready to hatch were washed away

**Berhampur, May 11:** Cyclone Asani may have fizzled out without causing extensive damage to human beings and properties. However, the fallout of the cyclone has affected birth of the Olive Ridley turtles. Over one crore eggs of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles have been destroyed due to high tides caused by Cyclone Asani at different beaches of Odisha. This information was given by Berhampur divisional forest officer (DFO) Amlan Nayak here Wednesday.

The officer however, said that exact amount of damage done to the turtle eggs can only be ascertained after May 14. Then only will a clear picture emerge about the total



number of eggs destroyed by the high tides. The IMD has said that high wind speed and rough sea conditions will continue till May 14. So there are chances of many more eggs being washed away due to natural calamity. Approximately 5.5 lakh mass

nesting of Olive Ridley turtles take place on the beaches of Odisha every year. Usually one turtle lays 100 eggs. Keeping this in mind it can safely be assumed that a total of five crore eggs had been laid during the nesting, said Nayak.

Every year 10-15 per cent of the eggs buried under sand get destroyed. Also beach erosion leads to eggs getting exposed to natural calamities and leads to their destruction. "This year, the Asani-induced high tide has led to destruction of more number of the eggs. An additional 15-20 per cent of the turtle eggs may have been destroyed due to Asani," stated Nayak.

Most of the eggs laid by the endangered turtles on Rushikulya mouth have been washed away. A large chunk of the eggs that

were set for hatching have also been washed away due to rapid erosion of beaches caused by the high tides.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has already done beach profiling at different places following which further clarity can be achieved, Nayak said. "So it means that over one crore eggs may have been destroyed due to the effects of Cyclone Asani," he informed.

Officials also informed that out of every 100 eggs a turtle lays, at the most, 10 survive to give birth. So the destruction of over a crore of eggs will definitely affect the annual rate of production and will have a huge effect on the total population of Olive Ridley turtles.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	54088.39	↓ 276.46
NIFTY	16167.10	↓ 72.90
DOLLAR	77.89	↓ ₹0.06
EURO	81.50	↑ ₹0.22
GOLD	₹50,764	↑ ₹178
SILVER	₹61,212	↑ ₹594

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	32.8°C	33.5°C
MIN	24.6°C	24.6°C
Humidity	100%	97%
Rainfall	Trace	4.8mm
Forecast	Light rain	very likely



## EVA MENDES HINTS AT ENDING HER 10-YR BREAK FROM ACTING

Actress Eva Mendes has floated a potential end to her near-decade long hiatus from acting. Mendes has not starred in a feature film since a small supporting role in partner Ryan Gosling's directorial effort *Lost River* in 2014, although she lent her voice to a role on an 2021 episode of Children's TV series *Bluey* in 2021.

## ANISTON TO APPEAR ON LAST EPISODE OF THE ELLEN DEGENERES SHOW

Jennifer Aniston will appear on the last ever episode of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. The former *Friends* star was interviewed on the debut episode of the week day talk show hosted by Ellen DeGeneres in 2003, nearly 20 years ago.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
A plain Jane day. Work goes on as usual, and there is progress. But as Ganesha says, it's an ordinary day. Hum, whistle, doodle, and sip your green tea. While day dreaming, start planning your dream home. After all, that's where the first plan takes shape.

**TAURUS**  
Luck is a four-leaf clover in your pocket. You might get the long desired success in education related matters today – a favourable result of a competitive examination, maybe. You will proudly smile at your power of resilience and sense of proportion, says Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
You will be afforded full co-operation by your relatives and friends. You will also be able to provide a solution to their problems by utilising your practical thinking. You will be influenced by your emotions while choosing between multiple alternatives. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of any decision you make today, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Your speech will today explode your thoughts. You will ponder over new deals and decide to act only after much thought. Ganesha feels that you met with success in your ambition to achieve a breakthrough.

**LEO**  
You will feel a little uneasy today. You will feel that nothing is going right. You will try to organise yourself and concentrate your scattered energies today. This phase of uncertainty will be gone in a few days, assures Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
A day to look inside and contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesha. Clam up like those oysters and discover the pearl within you. A fine helping hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesha.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha has a feeling that today may not be the best day to undertake any government dealings. Call it red-tapism, or bureaucratic procrastination, but it is highly unlikely that such tasks shall be fruitful today. This may test your patience, and in doing so, bring out your competency and efficiency to the fore, especially if you happen to be a public servant. Touché!

**SCORPIO**  
If you have recently started a joint business venture, today you may take your first step towards sealing a profitable deal. However, you should buy some time before signing any contract today; also, be cautious that you do not get the short end of the stick. The best thing is to go through the finer prints of the deal in order to avoid any misgivings in the future, suggests Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You wake up with a smile today. According to Ganesha, you have a knack of solving problems, which you may use it to the optimum. Be cautious of people around you, as their envious nature may affect your work. Ignore them and keep the optimism alive.

**CAPRICORN**  
Singles, you may meet the one of your dreams today and plan about a future together. You will feel and enjoy the exciting feeling of meeting your life partner and letting your heart open in front of somebody, says Ganesha. All of this will not be one sided. Your sweetheart will also shower love and affection upon you unconditionally.

**AQUARIUS**  
Listen to your inner voice, follow what your heart says and you will not need anyone else guiding you on your path. At work, you will have a smooth sailing today, as superiors will be supportive of your actions and decisions. Go on a romantic date in the evening, and mark a perfect ending to the day, feels Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
If you are the leader of a project or a team, then today is your day. Your enthusiasm and creativity will give a sense of purpose and direction to your colleagues. You are more concerned about the means rather than the ends. Today is a good day to progress on the work-front. While no remarkable events are likely to occur in your personal life, your family will expect you to pay attention to their needs, says Ganesha.

## Nargis shares her aspirations



MUMBAI: Nargis Fakhri who was seen in interesting roles and special numbers in Hindi films wanted to rejuvenate at her home in the US and is now in India exploring projects that give her an opportunity to showcase her artistic skills. In her

second innings as an actor, Nargis is now looking at doing a lot more. She shares, "I am definitely looking to do a lot more. I am really open to doing all sorts of roles that come my way. But if you ask me to talk about genres, then I would definitely like to explore films that are drama, action and comedy." The actress says that as she hails from a foreign land and looks a certain way, it is important that filmmakers fit her into interesting characters. "The roles I played in my past films, I feel, they fit me in pretty well. I know I look a certain way and you want to cast me to fit a certain character. In my previous projects I did

pretty good I think. Now, I am all the more open to trying new things." She further adds, "India and its film industries are so big that I know I will get accommodated here. I am sure there are scripts that would demand characters that suit me. Also, it's a time where the country is exploring the OTT space. I have heard so much about Indian web shows, the concepts and the writing that I feel I have arrived at exciting times here." AGENCIES

## KIARA ON HER SUPERSTITION

MUMBAI: Actress Kiara Advani, who is appearing on *The Kapil Sharma Show* to promote her new film *Bhoolaiyaa 2*, reveals how she is just superstitious about one thing in life. She is coming with co-actors Kartik Aaryan and Rajpal Yadav along with director Aneez Bazmee. After making her debut in the comedy film *Fugly*, Kiara played a supporting role in the sports biopic *M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story*. She also got appreciation for the anthology film *Lust Stories*. The actress also rose to fame with her roles in Telugu political thriller *Bharat Ane*

Nenu and the Hindi films such as *Kabir Singh* and *Shershaah*. In conversation with host Kapil Sharma, Kiara said: "I am not at all superstitious, except for one thing. I believe that till the time I don't actually sign a film, I won't tell anyone." To this Archana Puri Singh complimented Kiara on being wise. *The Kapil Sharma Show* airs on Sony Entertainment Television. AGENCIES



## Chicago-born Emily Shah debuts in Hindi cinema



MUMBAI: American actress Emily Shah is all set to make her debut in Hindi cinema opposite actor Abhay Deol in the upcoming film *Jungle Cry*, which is slated to release in June. Chicago-born, New Jersey-raised Emily, who speaks Hindi and Gujarati fluently, says, "Jungle Cry is a heartfelt story that displays the determination and heart of underprivileged tribal children, who rise to the occasion under extreme circumstances. I play the sports physiotherapist Roshni and I chose the name as she brings light to the film. I had Roshni written in as an effervescent character who uplifts the story and supports the children's journey and growth with compassion." The film will release on Lionsgate Play. It will get a theatrical release overseas May 20. The attractive and graceful actress plays the role of a Rugby physiotherapist in the film, based on true events, that tells the story of 12 underprivileged tribal orphans from Odisha, who play sports barefoot, and yet, go on to win the prestigious Rugby World Cup in England. Emily's first international film was *Fortune Defies Death*. She has assisted Clint Eastwood on *Jersey Boys* and later went on to assist in other blockbusters such as *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *Monster Trucks* and *Fast & Furious 7*. IANS

on the opening day of Cannes Film Festival May 17. Thakur will lead the delegation from India to Cannes and the list of celebrities comprises actor Akshay Kumar, music composers AR Rahman and Ricky Kej, folk singer and music composer Mame Khan, actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, actresses Nayanthara, Pooja Hegde, Tamannaah Bhatia and Vani Tripathi, chairman CBFC Prason Joshi, actor R Madhavan, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur. The Ministry said that the in-

### 75TH CANNES FEST

## Top Indian cine celebs to walk RED CARPET

India is the Official Country of Honour at the Cannes Film Market (Marche' Du Film) in this edition of the festival



MUMBAI: Cinema celebrities from across India will walk the Red Carpet along with Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur at this year's Cannes Film Festival. The Ministry in a statement said that the Red Carpet event at the 75th Cannes Film Festival is going to be a gala event for Indian audience as celebrities from the cine world across India are set to walk as part of Indian delegation

tent is to showcase the rich flavour and diversity of India - culture, heritage, legacy, and developments through its cinema. The delegation has been hand-picked from across the length and breadth of the country to represent different strengths and aspects of the country.

"Several new initiatives were undertaken at the recently concluded 52nd International Film Festival of India like collaboration with OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime amongst others; recognition to 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow and the BRICS film festival. In the same spirit, several new and exciting initiatives are lined-up this year for Cannes," the ministry said.



India is the Official Country of Honour at the Cannes Film Market (Marche' Du Film) in this edition of the festival. This is the first time this honour has been bestowed on any country and comes at a time when India celebrates its Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. IANS



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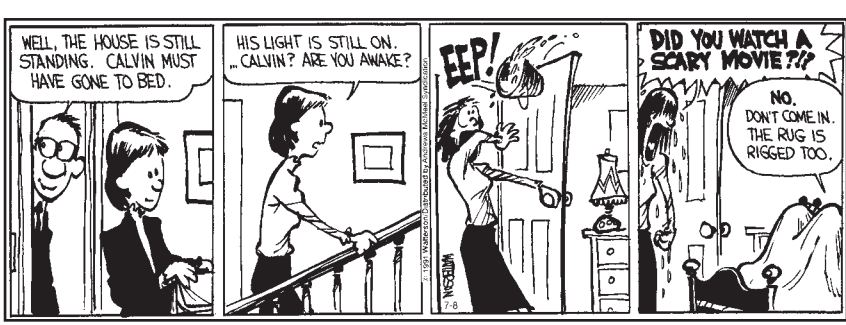


### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



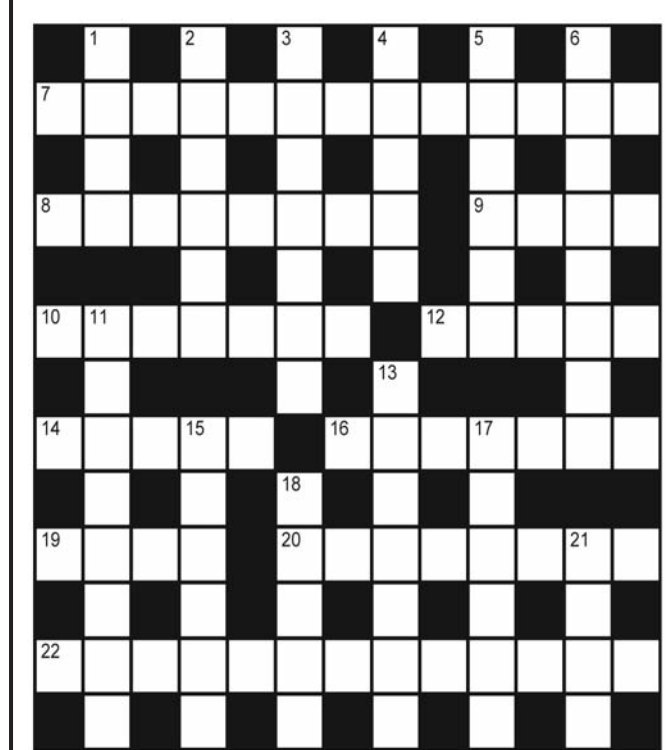
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



#### CROSSWORD



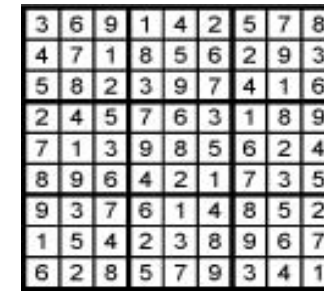
- Across  
7 Baking salt (5,2,6)  
8 Hawaiian capital  
9 Bawl out  
10 Support and strengthen  
12 Strait-laced  
14 Cousin of a mink
- Down  
16 Blight  
19 Squal  
20 Source of pain  
22 Persistence
- 4 Pompous walk (3-3)  
5 Plant disease  
6 Reckless  
11 Foreigner  
13 Dictatorship  
15 Young bird  
17 Shack  
18 Beat  
21 Basketball shot

#### 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



SUNDARGARH ELECTROCUTION DEATHS

NHRC seeks ATR from Energy dept



POST NEWS NETWORK  
Bhubaneswar, May 11: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Wednesday sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the Principal Secretary of the Energy department within four weeks in connection with the electrocution death of two hockey players in Sundargarh district earlier in the month.

Two budding hockey players—Sajal Ekka, 19, and Birendra Kujur, 20—were electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire at Gariamal village under Alanda panchayat in Sundargarh May 3

Quoting media reports, Nayak had informed the commission that two budding hockey players—Sajal Ekka, 19, and Birendra Kujur, 20—were electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire at Gariamal village under Alanda panchayat

May 3 morning.  
“The duo had gone to a coaching centre at Gariamal for practising hockey at 6am. While returning home after practising for around three hours, the duo was electrocuted as they tried removing an electric wire lying on the road using an iron rod,” Nayak said, adding that they were rushed to the community health centre at Rajgangpur where doctors declared them dead on arrival.  
Alleging that it is a violation of human rights under Article 21 of the Constitution, Nayak approached the NHRC. He urged the rights body to direct the Chief Secretary to pay compensation of Rs 30 lakh to each of the victims’ family.  
The rights activist also urged the NHRC to direct the Energy department Principal Secretary and Sundargarh District Magistrate to investigate if the incident is a fall-out of any negligence by Energy department officials.

STUDENTS’ DEMO



Students of Shailabala Women’s Autonomous College stage a demonstration on the institution premises to press for fulfilment of their demands

State records 17 fresh Cov cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Bhubaneswar, May 11: Odisha recorded 17 more coronavirus cases on Wednesday, while there was no new fatality for the eight successive day, the health department said.  
There are 131 active COVID-19 cases and 52 more patients have recuperated from the disease, according to a bulletin.  
The daily positivity rate was 0.11 per cent and a child was among the newly infected, it said, adding that 15,103 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, the bulletin stated.  
The state had logged 12 infections and zero death on Tuesday.  
The toll stood at 9,126 and these are confirmed as Covid deaths after an audit. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to data.  
The tally rose to 12,88,239, including 12,78,929 recoveries, it added.

East coast to receive heavy rain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Bhubaneswar/Kolkata, May 11: Several parts of Odisha and West Bengal are bracing for heavy rain as severe cyclone Asani weakened to a cyclonic storm Wednesday, barreling towards north coastal Andhra Pradesh, packing a wind speed of 85 kmph, the Met Department said.  
The weather system is likely to further lose steam and turn into a depression by Thursday morning, it said.  
“It is very likely to move nearly northwards for next few hours and recurve slowly north-northeastwards along Narsapur, Yanam, Kakinada, Tuni and

Visakhapatnam coasts during noon to evening Wednesday, and emerge into west-central Bay of Bengal off North Andhra Pradesh coasts by night,” the India Meteorological Department said in a bulletin.  
**ASANI WEAKENS**  
In this situation, the Odisha government said the system will have no major impact on the state except heavy rainfall in some southern districts.  
The Odisha government has put five southern districts - Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Ganjam and Gajapati - on “high alert”, as they are likely to be affected by the system.  
“It is unlikely to have much im-

pact on Odisha. It is likely to make landfall between Kakinada and Narsapur of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday night,” Odisha Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) P K Jena said.  
Light to moderate rain or thundershower was experienced in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar; the Regional Meteorological Centre said.  
Jena said 60 ODRAF (Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force) units and 132 teams of fire service personnel have been deployed in the state, considering the emerging situation.

DRIEMS chairman awarded honorary doctorate degree

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Bhubaneswar, May 11: Founding chairman of DRIEMS Group of Institutions, Pramod Chandra Rath, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree at the World Researchers’ Summit. The PhD was conferred by the Theophany University at the event held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.  
An eminent educationalist, industrialist and philanthropist, Rath was awarded the degree for his contributions in the field of professional education leading to the socio-economic development of rural Odisha.

In 1999, Rath started DRIEMS at Tangi in Cuttack district.  
Since then, the institution has been serving as a growth engine, delivering high quality professional education in the areas of engineering, management and medical sciences.  
He has been conferred with various prestigious awards for his works in the fields of education, healthcare and social service.  
Rath expressed his gratitude to the organisers of the event and gave his regards for all the stakeholders of DRIEMS for guiding and supporting him during his journey.

Sedition law put on hold

...Continued from P1  
The Centre had also said the registration of FIRs on the matter cannot be prevented as the provision dealt with a cognisable offence and was upheld by a Constitution bench in 1962.  
The bench, which rose for a few minutes to discuss the orders after taking note of the Centre’s response, came back to pronounce the directions and said it has considered the issues elaborately.  
The apex court also extended interim orders granting relief to those accused of sedition. All pending cases, appeals and proceedings with respect the provision of sedition would be kept at abeyance and the adjudication of other offences, if any, could proceed, the order said.

VIT-AP’s 2-day int’l conference

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Bhubaneswar, May 11: Vellore Institute of Technology- Andhra Pradesh (VIT-AP) University in association with SICOM (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) and Geo Climate Risk Solutions Private Limited (GCRS) has recently organised an international conference—Climate Crisis and Future Implications, an official said Wednesday.  
SICOM (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) mission head Sanjal Jalla inaugurated the two-day event in presence of VIT-AP University Vice-Chancellor SV Kota Reddy.  
Speaking on the occasion, Jalla emphasized on the importance of responsible production as well as consumption of resources in mitigating the impacts of climate change.  
The conference brainstormed policies, economic and legal strategies while keeping climate at the centre of it.  
VIT-AP School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean Rajanish Misra, VISH Associate Dean Susmita Shyamsundar, Tania Chakravarty, Arenkala Kichu and Priyanka Ghosh were present at the mega event that concluded May 8.



People under the banner of ‘Sikhya Banchao, Odisha Banchao’ stage a dharna in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday condemning alleged irregularities in teacher recruitment

NEP group interacts with Mo School chairperson

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Bhubaneswar, May 11: Members of a focus group of National Education Policy (NEP) interacted with the Mo School chairperson Susmita Bagchi on the topic ‘Emerging Role of Community in Education’ Wednesday.  
In the backdrop of National Education Policy 2020, twenty-five national focus groups have been constituted at the national level for development of curriculum framework related to Early Childhood Care & Education, School Education and Teacher Education and Adult Education.  
The meeting commenced with the introductory remarks of Susmita Bagchi who briefed the delegates on the functioning and modalities of Mo School Abhiyan and how the state govt-run initiative has grabbed eyeballs by hosting the world’s largest alumni connect programme.

Bagchi shed light on the journey of the initiative by signifying the pivotal role that alumni involvement has played in transforming the educational sector of the state. Not only have the schools across the state reaped the benefits of infrastructural transformation, but the academic results have also improved. Likewise, under School Adoption Programme and High School Transformation Programme, the lost glory of the government aided schools has been restored.  
On the occasion National Focus Group Chairperson Padmashree Girish Prabhune said, “With the collaborative efforts of alumni networks, community, non-profit organisations and Govt. of Odisha, Mo School has set benchmarks in the transformational journey of govt and aided schools. Prabhune advised the forum to carry out suggestive measures to promote the art, folk arts and cultural heritage of the state through Mo School Abhiyan.

Common Symptoms: fatigue, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), nausea or vomiting, lack of appetite, bleeding or bruising, dark urine. Includes an illustration of a human torso with a liver diagram.

ACUTE HEPATITIS AMONG CHILDREN SPREADS TO 21 COUNTRIES: WHO

The mysterious acute hepatitis condition among children has spread to 21 countries with 348 probable cases, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said.  
The liver disease that was first reported in the UK in April has reportedly seen five child deaths in the US, and three in Indonesia, while about 26 children had to undergo liver transplantation.  
“To date, 348 probable cases have been reported in 21 countries, with 26 children requiring liver transplantation,” the WHO said in a statement.  
“Fifteen countries have reported 5 or fewer cases,” it added.  
On April 5, the United Kingdom International Health Regulations (IHR) reported 10 cases of severe acute hep-

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Adenovirus has been detected in blood or plasma samples for many of the cases, but in low viral loads.  
However, the global health body noted that since “adenovirus has not yet been identified in the liver tissue samples analysed and therefore, could be a coincidental rather than a causal factor”.  
The UK currently leads in cases with around 163, and only six countries are reporting more than five cases. The US Friday announced it was investigating 109 probable cases of “unknown origin”.  
According to Philippa Easterbrook, a senior scientist in the WHO’s hepatitis department, adenovirus type 41 was most common among the cases, which typically causes diarrhoea, vomiting and fever, as well as respi-

ratory symptoms, Global.ca reported.  
Easterbrook said more data from the UK, expected this week, will reveal whether the adenovirus is a correlation or causal.  
Covid-19 was also detected in 18 per cent of the UK cases and the WHO is investigating how many of the total hepatitis cases previously had the virus.  
“An important consideration is the role of Covid, either as a co-infection or past infection,” Easterbrook was quoted as saying.  
The WHO is currently working closely with all regions in its active investigation, and is co-ordinating with the UK Health Security Agency.  
Hepatitis impacts the liver and can be detected by the onset of jaundice (yellow eyes), dark urine and/or pale stools.  
IANS

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Asmi Pathi, S/o. Balakrushna Pathi, R/o. Plot No. J-11, Lewis Road, BJB Nagar S.O., Khordha, Orissa - 751014, have changed my name to Asmit Pathi for all purposes.

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### of the day quote

About 700 acres of grassland in Belagavi is under the control of the Defence ministry. It actually belongs to the state government. We have appealed to transfer the land to the state government. Rajnath Singh has responded positively to the request



**BASAVARAJ BOMMAI** | KARNATAKA CM

The Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir in Udaipur will prove to be very important in deciding the future strategy



**SACHIN PILOT** | CONGRESS LEADER

There is no way out because of the circumstances Jammu and Kashmir is going through after August 2019, these circumstances demand that we unite. People from all walks of life, be it Gujar, Pahari, Kashmiri, youth, women



**MEHBOOBA MUFTI** | PDP PRESIDENT

### SHORT TAKES

#### ED arrests J'khand mining secretary

**Ranchi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Wednesday Jharkhand mining secretary Pooja Singh in money laundering probe linked to the alleged embezzlement of MGNREGA funds and other charges. The probe agency had grilled Singh and her husband Abhishek Jha here Tuesday for over nine hours and had again summoned her for questioning Wednesday. The ED had conducted raids at various places in Jharkhand and had recovered over ₹19 crore in cash following which it had summoned the 2000-batch IAS officer.

#### Bulldozers again roll in Delhi

**New Delhi:** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Wednesday continued its drive to demolish illegal encroachments in several parts of the national capital, while left parties protested against the government accusing them of spreading a communal atmosphere. The places where the demolition is being carried out are Tilak Nagar, Dwarka, Lodhi Road, Najafgarh, Aya Nagar, among several other areas. Meanwhile, demolition will not be carried out in New Seelampur as an adequate number of police force could not be provided.

#### 30 injured as bus overturns

**Jammu:** At least 30 persons were injured Wednesday when a passenger bus turned upside down after it collided with a truck in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The accident took place near Khandli village and all the injured were rushed to Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri for treatment, they said. The officials said the bus was on its way to Rajouri town from Preeri when it collided with a truck.

#### 3 naxals nabbed

**Narayanpur:** Three naxals, two of them allegedly involved in the Bukintor blast in 2021 in which five security personnel were killed, were arrested in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Wednesday morning, a senior police official said. The arrested rebels were identified as Maniram Darro alias Ranjit, Ramdhar Korram alias Raisingh and Bhagat Korram (40). Maniram and Ramdhar were allegedly part of the Maoist squad which blew up a bus carrying police personnel near Bukintor village between Kanhargao and Kadenar using an improvised explosive device (IED) March 23, 2021. Five jawans were killed and 13 others injured in the incident.



The way the court hearing is going on, Samajwadis hope that justice will be done to Azam Khan

**AKHILESH YADAV** | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

#### 19% HOUSEHOLDS DO NOT USE TOILET

Even though India was declared Open Defecation Free by the government in 2019, the latest NFHS survey conducted in 2019-21 showed that 19 percent of households do not use any toilet facility. However, the report said the percentage of households practising open defecation decreased from 39% in 2015-16 to 19 per cent in 2019-21



## Birds fall from the sky as heatwave scorches India

REUTERS

**Ahmedabad, May 11:** Rescuers in India's western Gujarat state are picking up dozens of exhausted and dehydrated birds dropping everyday as a scorching heatwave dries out water sources in the state's biggest city, veterinary doctors and animal rescuers say.

Narendra Modi to warn of rising fire risks. Doctors in an animal hospital managed by non-profit Jivdaya Charitable Trust in Ahmedabad said they have treated thousands of birds in the last few weeks, adding that rescuers bring dozens of high flying birds such as pigeons or kites everyday.



A vet provides medicine to an eagle after it was dehydrated due to heat at Jivdaya Charitable Trust, during hot weather in Ahmedabad

Manoj Bhavsar, who works closely with the trust and has been rescuing birds for over a decade. Animal doctors at the trust-run hospital were seen feeding birds multi-vitamin tablets and injecting water into their mouths using syringes Wednesday. Health officials in Gujarat have issued advisories to hospitals to set up special wards for heat stroke and other heat-related diseases due to the rise in temperatures.

## Tomato flu detected in Ker



AGENCIES

**Bangalore, May 11:** Kerala, which is in shock over the death and hospitalisation of 58 people due to food poisoning, is now grappling with another mysterious disease - the "tomato flu".

More than 80 children are affected by the disease, also called as "tomato fever", according to local media reports. All the cases have been reported from Kollam.

Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar Wednesday said there is no need to panic about reports of tomato flu in neighbouring Kerala, as it is endemic to that State, and instructed authorities in the border district to remain vigilant aimed at controlling its spread.

Tomato flu is a rare viral disease, which causes red-coloured rashes, skin irritation and dehydration, and the disease gets its name from the blisters it causes, which look like tomatoes. "Though some symptoms are similar to Covid-19, the tomato flu has nothing to do with Covid-19. These symptoms are usually seen in other types of viral infections also. There is no need to panic as the authorities have been asked to remain alert. Moreover, the tomato flu is endemic to Kerala," Sudhakar said.

### SC SEDITION ORDER

## Voice of truth can't be suppressed now: Oppn



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** As the Supreme Court put the application of sedition law on hold, the Opposition Wednesday hailed the decision, saying the voice of truth can no longer be suppressed even as the government invoked the "Lakshman Rekha" to assert that none of the institutions should not cross the "boundary".

It wishes to examine the matter. It has been duly accepted by the court." The Congress hailed the Supreme Court's decision, saying a clear cut message has gone to subjugators of dissent that "you can no longer suppress the voice of truth" and those critical of the government must be heard.

## Cong conclave to focus on party revamp, stance on key issues: Report

CONGRESS IS HOLDING THE CHINTAN SHIVIR AT UDAIPUR IN RAJASTHAN FROM MAY 13 TO 15 AFTER A GAP OF ALMOST NINE YEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** The three-day brainstorming conclave of the Congress will focus on time-bound party restructuring for strengthening the organisation and making it battle-ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.



Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said "telling the truth is patriotism, not treason" and listening to the truth is 'Rajdharm', while crushing the truth is 'arrogance'. Do not fear, he urged people in his Twitter post reacting to the top court's decision.

structural changes will be discussed and implemented within the set timelines, the leader said. "The mandate is to make the conclave meaningful and make the Udaipur declaration actionable. The Congress would also come out with solutions and positions on issues confronting it," he said.

## 4 sentenced to death for gangrape, murder

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, May 11:** A court in Bihar's Supaul on Wednesday sentenced to death four persons convicted in a 2019 gang rape and murder case. The four, identified as Mohamad Ayub, Mohamad Alisher, Mohamad Jamal, and Annmol Yadav, and were convicted under Sections's 376D (Gang rape) and 302 (Murder) and the POCSO Act.

the accused raped her while she was in an injured position. The accused also damaged her internal organs as well." After committing the crime, the accused fled from the spot. The minor victim released the male members of the family, and the injured woman was taken to the hospital where she succumbed due to multiple injuries, she added.

### BRAVING ROUGH WEATHER



Fishermen spread fishing nets in the Hooghly river as dark clouds hover in the skies owing to Cyclone Asani in Nadia, in West Bengal

## '50% of women aged 15-24 still use cloth for menstrual protection'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** About 50 per cent of women aged 15-24 years still use cloth for menstrual protection, according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report, with experts attributing it to lack of awareness and taboo existing around menstruation.

Locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins, tampons and menstrual cups are considered to be hygienic methods of protection. On exposure to infections due to unhygienic menstrual practices, Dr Ashta Dayal of the obstetrics and gynaecology department at the CK Birla Hospital in Gurugram said, "Many studies have shown reproductive tract infections like bacterial vaginosis or urinary tract infections (UTI) could occur which eventually become pelvic infections."



IN INDIA, 64 PER CENT USE SANITARY NAPKINS, 50 PER CENT USE CLOTH, AND 15 PER CENT USE LOCALLY PREPARED NAPKINS, THE REPORT STATED

The NFHS report also stated that women with 12 or more years of schooling are more than twice as likely to be using a hygienic method as women with no schooling (90 per cent versus 44 per cent). "Women in the highest wealth quintile are almost twice as likely to use a hygienic method as women in the lowest wealth quintile (95 per cent versus 54 per cent). Seventy-three per cent of rural women use a hygienic method of menstrual protection, compared with 90 per cent of urban women," it said.

Overall, 78 per cent of women in this age group use a hygienic method of menstrual protection. The lowest percentages of women use a hygienic method of menstrual protection in Bihar (59 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (61 per cent) and Meghalaya (65 per cent).





