BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, MAY 12 | 2022

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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 Jerusalembased '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.



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 INNOVATIVE MINDS

■ 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 ongoing 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.



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

ОР РНОТО

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

Balasore lawyer consumes poison in front of judge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, May 11: Frustrated at not getting a favourable decision in her favour, a woman lawyer consumed poison in front of the judge of a family court here Wednesday.

Sources said Rajashree Barik, a

resident of Satyanagar area under Sadar police limits, has been fighting a legal battle for separation from her husband for the last 10 years. Barik was immediately rushed to the district headquarters hospital here and her condition is stated to be critical.

Barik had filed the separation case more than 10 years ago. She and her husband are both lawyers working in the Balasore court. During the hearing, the judge of the family court had directed her husband to pay her maintenance. The case has been pending since 2010.

Both the parties were summoned Wednesday for hearing. As the proceedings continued, a visibly frustrated Barik wrote a suicide note, then consumed poison in front of the judge and fainted soon. However, her fellow colleagues immediately rushed her to the DHH.

"Despite the court's earlier directive, my client is not getting the maintenance amount. Today, she felt exasperated by the judge's behaviour in the courtroom and took the drastic step," said Rajashree's lawyer Niranjan Parida.

Others who had accompanied Barik said that despite repeated pleas, the court had not taken any steps so that she could get maintenance from her husband.

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'

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 CJI 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 arrest
 ed in September 2020 for criticis ing 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

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

Odisha demands immediate

release of ₹10K cr food subsidy

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 (OSCSC), 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 unrecouped and should be paid by the Union gov-

ernment, 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 pro-

curement 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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 Asaninduced 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 destruction of the turtle eggs may have been destruction."

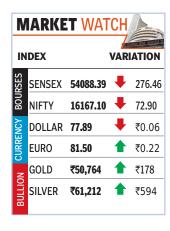
stroyed due to Asani," stated Nayak.

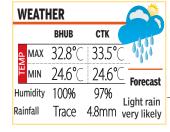
Most of the eggs laid by the
endangered turtles on Rushikulya
mouth have been washed away.
A large chunk of the eggs that

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 Cylcone 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.







leisure

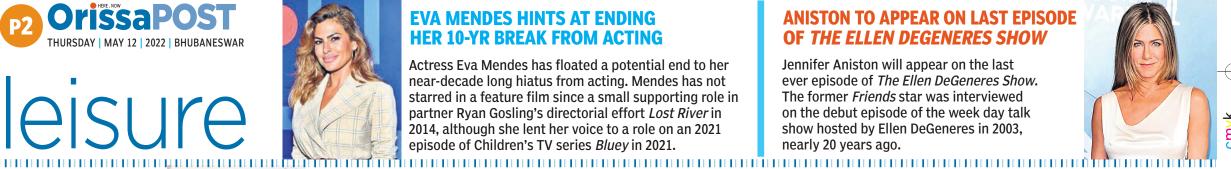


EVA MENDES HINTS AT ENDING HER 10-YR BREAK FROM ACTING

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.



75TH CANNES FEST

Top Indian cine celebs to walk

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks,com accuracy • reliability • trust

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

TAURUS

Luck is a four-leaf clover in your pocket. You might get education related matters today - a favourable result of a competitive examination, maybe. You will proudly smile at your power of resilience and sense of pro portion, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

You will be afforded full cooperation 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 nros 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.

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

You will feel a little uneasy

VIRGO A day to look inside and

contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesha. Clam up like those oysters and discover the neal 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 gov ernment 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 vou. 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 excit-ing 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 vour 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

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 her artistic

MUMBAI: Actress Kiara

Advani, who is appearing on

The Kapil Sharma Show to

promote her new film Bhool

Bhoolaiyaa 2, reveals how she

is just superstitious about one

She is coming with co-actors

Kartik Aaryan and Rajpal Yadav

along with director Anees Bazmee.

comedy film Fugly, Kiara played a

supporting role in the sports biopic

M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story. She

also got appreciation for the an-

thology film *Lust Stories*. The actress

also rose to fame with her roles in

Telugu political thriller Bharat Ane

After making her debut in the

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

KIARA ON HER

Nenu and the Hindi

films such as Kabir

Singh and Shershaah.

host Kapil Sharma,

Kiara said: "I am not at all superstitious, ex-

cept for one thing. I be-

I won't tell anvone.

lieve that till the time I

don't actually sign a film,

Singh complimented

The Kapil Sharma

Show airs on Sony

Entertainment

Kiara on being wise.

To this Archana Puran

In conversation with

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



tent is to showcase the rich flavour and diversity of India - culture, heritage, legacy, and developments through its cinema.

The delegation has been handpicked from across the length and breadth of the country to represent different strengths and aspects of the country.



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



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 Prasoon Joshi, actor R Madhavan, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur.

The Ministry said that the in-

SUDOKU

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SOLUTIONS

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any



cluded 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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Chicago-born Emily Shah debuts in Hindi cinema vescent character who uplifts the story and supis all set to make her debut in Hindi cinema opposite actor Abhay Deol in the upcompassion.' coming film Jungle Cry, which is slated to The film will release on Lionsgate Play. It will

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 efferports the children's journey and growth with

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

FUN

PEANUTS



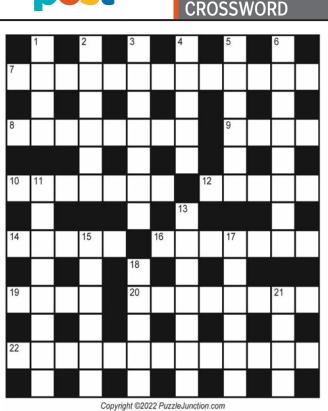
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a



Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com

20 Source of pain

22 Persistence

1 Wynken,

16 Blight

19 Squeal

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

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Blynken and

2 Celebrated

21 Basketball

3 Intent

4 Pompous walk 5 Plant disease

(3-3)6 Reckless

11 Foreigner 13 Dictatorship

15 Young bird 17 Shack

18 Beat

shot

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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

downtown



FOR A BIG CATCH

A fisherman casts his net into Mahanadi river near Naraj anicut in Cuttack, Wednesday

	COV	/ID-19 ⁻	ΓR
		INFECTED	RE
	World	51,87,14,171	47,3
	India	4,31,10,586	4,2
	Odisha	12,88,239	1
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2023	COVID-19 TRACKER				
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
	World	51,87,14,171	47,35,80,754	62,80,972	-(
	India	4,31,10,586	4,25,66,935	5,24,157	
33 20	Odisha	12,88,239	12,78,939	9,126	
	11 11 11 11 1				ľ

WITH DEVOTION & CARE



Carpenters busy constructing chariots for this year's Rath Yatra at Rath Yard in Puri, Wednesday

VIOLATION OF MV RULES

STA cancels fitness certificates of 465 vehicles during spl drive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 11: In a special drive against the violators of the Motor Vehicle (MV) rules, the State Transport Authority (STA) Wednesday cancelled the fitness certificates of 465 transport vehicles for having non-functional tail lamps/ headlights or retro-reflec-

During the special drive, the enforcement squad of the STA checked at least 2,468 vehicles across the state. Altogether 406 vehicles were found with defective tail lamps, 34 vehicles with defective headlights and 128 with defective retro reflective tapes. The fitness certificates of 465 vehicles were cancelled while challans were issued against 350 vehicles, sources said.

It can be mentioned here that as per the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 104 to 104E retroreflective tapes are compulsory in commercial vehicles. Using these tapes reduces the safety risk at night and in times of low visibility. Commercial vehicles are often found plying while flouting

During the special drive, the enforcement squad of the State Transport Authority checked at least 2,468 vehicles Altogether 406 vehicles were found with defective tail lamps, 34 vehicles with defective headlights and 128 with

The fitness certificates of 465 vehicles were cancelled while challans were issued

these CMVRs.

against 350 vehicles

The special drive was extensively carried out in regions having industrial and mining activi-

ties as it is most commonly seen that many goods carriers plying in these areas do not comply with these MV rules causing accidents at the night.

Enforcement squads have been asked to conduct such drives at regular intervals. In the recent past, several road accidents took place at the night causing the deaths of quite a few people, sources said.

Fake disability certificates: Admission of six more students to be cancelled

The Higher Education

OCAC to cancel the

certificates

certificates

department directed the

admission of six students

submitting fake disability

The department had earlier

cancelled the admission of

28 students of Bhadrak

Autonomous College for

The state government had

asked all degree colleges

to verify the disability

certificates of students

admitted under the PwD

quota in the last three

the chief district medical officers

(CDMOs) of their respective dis-

academic years

furnishing fake PwD

of Rajdhani College for

Bhubaneswar, May 11: The Higher Education department Wednesday directed the Odisha Computer Application Center (OCAC) to cancel the admission of six students of Rajdhani College in the city here for submitting fake persons with disabilities (PwD) certificates.

In a letter to the OCAC, Higher Education department deputy director Rajesh Kumar Sahoo said, "I am directed to inform you for cancelling the admission of six students of Rajdhani College who had taken admission by producing the fake PwD certificates for the academic year 2021-22."

The students who had submitt fake PwD certificates are Sishir Kumar Dehury, Chinmay Maharana, Priyanka Priyadarshi Rout, Biswa Prakash Sahoo, Bhagabat Jena and Uttam Panda, sources said.

The Higher Education department directed the OCAC to make necessary changes in this regard in the SAMS website, sources added.

The authorities of Rajdhani College had earlier lodged an FIR against six students for taking admission by furnishing fake PwD cer-

Notably, the disability certificates of at least 27 students of Rajdhani College had been sent to tricts for verification. The CDMOs had informed the col-

lege authori-

ties that the

PwD certificates of six students were fake ones, sources said. Subsequently, the college authorities convened a meeting of the admission committee and lodged an FIR with Khandagiri police in accordance with the state government guidelines, sources added.

Earlier, the authorities of BJB Autonomous College in the city here had also filed a complaint with the Badagada police against eight students were found to have submitted fake disability certifi-

It is worth mentioning here that the state government had asked all degree colleges to verify the disability certificates of students admitted under the PwD quota in the last three academic years.

The state government gave this direction after several students of Bhadrak Autonomous College and BJB Autonomous College were found to have submitted fake dis-

ability certificates, sources said. The Higher Education department had earlier cancelled the admission of 28 students of Bhadrak Autonomous College for furnishing fake PwD certificates,

Candidates of 3 major parties file papers

Bhubaneswar, May 11: The battleground for by-election to Brajarajnagar Assembly seat is ready with the filing of nominations by the candidates of all three major political parties in the state. Ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD)

candidate Alaka Mohanty, BJP's Radharani Panda and Congress nominee Kishore Patel filed their nomination papers for the bypoll Wednesday, the last day for filing nominations. The candidates of BJD, BJP and

Congress took out rallies and went to the office of Jharsuguda subcollector and returning officer for the bypoll for filing the nomination papers.

Senior BJD leaders Naba Kishore Das, Padmanabha Behera, Tukuni Sahu, Prasanna Acharya and Susanta Singh accompanied party's nominee during the rally.

The BJD leaders claimed that the ruling party will win the bypoll with a margin of over 50,000 votes. "Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik always stands with the people through thick and thin. Deceased BJD MLA Kishore Mohanty was a popular leader in this constituency. So, we will definitely win the bypoll with a margin of over 50,000 votes,' Behera said.

BJD leader and minister Naba Das too claimed that the ruling party would win the by-election comfortably.

Similarly, BJP candidate

'Diabetes almost doubles risk of death from Covid-19'



BJD nominee Alaka Mohanty submits her notation for the bypoll

nomination paper to the sub-collector in the presence of Odisha BJP president Sameer Mohanty, Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari and former Union Minister Jual Oram.

"The conscious citizens of Brajarajnagar segment will definitely reject the false promises of BJD and vote for the BJP candidate," said Mohanty.

The BJP, which had won the MLA seat in 2014 polls, will try its best to win this bypoll, said Suresh Pujari.

After filing his nomination, Congress nominee Patel said, "We will go to the voters and make them the ruling parties at the state and Centre have failed to resolve." Alaka, the widow of deceased

BJD MLA Kishore Mohanty, is contesting the polls for the first time while BJP nominee Radharani Panda had been elected to the Assembly from the seat by defeating BJD candidate Anup Kumar Sai in 2014. She, however, lost to BJD's Kishore Mohanty by a margin of 11,634 votes during the last Assembly polls in 2019.

Congress nominee Kishore Patel, a three-time MLA from Sundargarh, had unsuccessfully contested the poll in 2014. Patel had managed to secure 38,175 votes in that poll. The Congress party had left the seat for CPI candidate during 2019 elec-

The by-poll was necessitated following the untimely demise of BJD's Kishore Mohanty's in last December. The by-election will be held May 31 while counting of votes will be done June 3.





BJP candidate Radharani Panda and Congress nominee Kishore Patel (R) submit their papers

108 ambulance fleet employees felicitated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 11: The operating agency for 108 ambulance services in state, Ziqitza Healthcare Limited (ZHL), has felicitated its ambulance employees for their humanitarian work in the difficult times.

The agency also felicitated 13 meritorious children of its staff members who were the top scorers in the Class X examinations.

Altogether seven cluster leaders, seven maintenance executives, a quality auditor, 21 crew members were awarded for their distinguished service. Speaking on this occasion, ZHL Odisha unit head Sabyasachi Biswal said. "Our employees are always committed to serve the public with utmost care. Our crew members have shown their highest resolve in serving people in difficult times. Starting from bringing patients in stretchers from their houses in the absence of proper road communication to donating blood to patients in difficult times, they have shown the highest devotion towards their duty. Our employees have also served the people during natural calamities.

eople with diabetes were almost twice as likely to die with Covid-19 and nearly three times as

likely to be critically or severely ill compared to those without the disease, according to a study. The researchers from the University of Aberdeen in the UK reviewed data from hundreds of thousands of people from all over

the world, and found that good

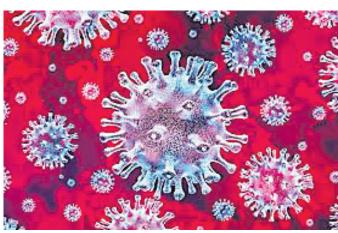
management of disease can miti-

The team, including researchers from King's College, London, found that while diabetes presents a significant risk of severe illness and death with Covid-19, good control of blood sugar in these patients can significantly reduce this risk.

gate the risks

The researchers reviewed findings from 158 studies that included more than 2,70,000 participants from all over the world to determine how Covid-19 affects people

living with diabetes The pooled results showed that people with diabetes were 1.87 times more likely to die with Covid-19. and 1.59 times more likely to be admitted to ICU, according to the researchers



They were also 1.44 times more likely to require ventilation, and 2.88 times more likely to be classed as severe or critical, when compared to patients without diabetes,

they said. The study, published in the journal Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, looked at the risks of Covid-19 in patients with diabetes while factoring in the patients' location and thereby highlighting potential healthcare resources available as well as possible ethnic differences and other societal factors.

Data was gathered from all over the world including China, Korea US, Europe and the Middle East.

The researchers found that patients in China, Korea and the Middle East were at higher risk of death than those from EU countries or the US.

They suggest this may be due to differences in healthcare systems and affordability of healthcare which may explain the finding that maintaining optimal glycaemic control, significantly reduces adverse outcomes in patients with

The researchers from the University of Aberdeen in the UK reviewed data from hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world, and found that good management of disease can mitigate the risks

The team found that while diabetes presents a significant risk of severe illness and death with Covid-19, good control of blood sugar in these patients can significantly reduce this risk

The researchers reviewed findings from 158 studies that included more than 2,70,000 participants from all over the world to determine how Covid-19 affects people living with diabetes

diabetes and Covid-19. "We found that following a Covid-19 infection, the risk of death for patients with diabetes was significantly increased in comparison to patients without diabetes. Stavroula Kastora, who worked on

the study, explained.
"Equally, collective data from studies around the globe suggested that patients with diabetes had a significantly higher risk of requiring an intensive care admission and supplementary oxygen or being admitted in a critical condition in comparison to patients without diabetes," said Kastora.

However, the researchers, including Professors Mirela Delibegovic and Phyo Myint, found that the studies that reported patient data from the EU or US displayed less extreme differences between the patient groups.

"Ultimately, we have identified a disparity in Covid-19 outcomes between the eastern and western world. We also show that good glycaemic control may be a protective factor in view of Covid-19 re-

lated deaths," said Kastora. "In light of the ongoing pandemic, strengthening outpatient diabetes clinics, ensuring consistent follow up of patients with diabetes and optimising their glycaemic control could significantly increase the chances of survival following a Covid-19 infection," the researcher added.

be held at CUO in Dec POST NEWS NETWORK

edition of Odisha Environment Congress (OEC) is scheduled to be held on the campus of Central University of Odisha, Koraput, in the third or fourth week of December this year.

Bhubaneswar, May 11: The 13th

13th edition of OEC to

The theme of the 13th edition of OEC is 'Environment and Tribal'. sources said. "The OEC has

completed 12 years of its successful journey. The theme of this year's edition is 'Environment and Tribal'. No one can look after the forests and environment better than ethnic people. The survival and identity of the tribal people depend on forests.

of OEC. The 12th edition of OEC was held at Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, from December 18 to 20 last year. The theme of the 12thedition of OEC was 'Environment

The ethnic people are the best con-

servationists," said BB Samanta

and Pandemic', sources added.

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.

The NHRC move came in response to a petition filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak.

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, Navak had informed the commission that two budding hockey players—Sajal Ekka, 19, and Birendra Kujur, 20, of the tribal-dominated district were electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire at Gariamal village under Alanda panchayat

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 Raigangpur 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 fallout of any negligence by Energy de-



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

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.

(Ministry SICOM Environment, Forest and Climate Change) mission head Saniai 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

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.

AFFIDAVI

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.

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, barrelling 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 is very likely to move nearly northwards for next few hours and recurve slowly north-northeastwards along Narsapur, Yanam, Kakinada, Tuni

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.

In this situation, the Odisha government said the system will have no major impact on the state except heavy rainfall in some southern dis-

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

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

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

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

Sedition law put on hold

...Continued from P1

 $T^{he \, Centre \, had \, also \, said \, the \, reg-}_{istration \, of \, FIRs \, on \, the \, matter}$ 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

FOR A CAUSE



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 Chairman 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.

ACUTE HEPATITIS AMONG CHILDREN SPREADS TO 21 COUNTRIES: WHO

Common Symptoms

he 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 transplanta-

tion," 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-

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

epatitis impacts the liver and can be detected by the onset of jaundice (yellow eyes), dark urine and/or pale stools

atitis of unknown etiology in previously healthy young children (ages ranging from 11 months to 5 years old) in Scotland.

While so far there is no reason identified, adenovirus - a common family of infections responsible for illnesses from colds to eye infections - is suspected to be causing the condition.

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 respiratory symptoms, Global.ca reported. Easterbrook said more data from the IJK expected this week will reveal whether the adenovirus is a cor-

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.

relation or causal.

"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.

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SHORT **TAKES**

OrissaPOST

Man critical in bear attack

Boinda: A man sustained critical injuries when a bear attacked him in a forest near Phasipal village under Kishorenagar block in Angul district. Wednesday. The injured was identified as Kirtan Sahu, 45, of the village Family members rescued him in critical condition and admitted him to Kishorenagar community health centre. He had gone to the nearby jungle and was collecting leaves when a female bear attacked him. Bamur sarpanch Sanjiv Kumar Pradhan has demanded financial assistance from the government for the victim.

Two arrested for killing deer

Baripada: At least two persons were arrested for allegedly killing a Sambar deer at Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district, a forest official said Tuesday. The two poachers were nabbed during patrolling by Similipal Tiger Reserve staffers Monday. Meat of the wild animal, two antlers, a bow and arrows were seized from their possession, Kendumundi wildlife range officer Thakurdas Hembram said.

Dam quenches thirst of villagers

Malkangiri: Though the state government has launched Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (Basudha) scheme to ensure safe drinking water to people in rural areas, many pockets in Malkangiri district are grappling with shortage of potable water. Sindhekela village, 15 km from the district headquarters, is a case in point where two out of three tube wells are defunct. Most of the time, people have to trek 2 km to fetch water from a dam. The village with a population of 400 has to depend on one tube well, which is unable to cater to their needs. On the other hand, the rural water supply sanitation (RWSS) department has failed to repair the tube wells despite reminders, it was alleged. Locals demanded implementation of Basudha.

Hardcore criminal's illegal building pulled down

Baliapal, May 11: The administration has pulled down an unauthorised building of notorious criminal Sahabuddin Shah at IDCO Chhak in Baliapal town of Balasore district Wednesday.

The administration has re-



dismantling the unauthorised structure made by Sahabuddin, a wanted criminal in a murder and an attempt to murder cases

Baliapal tehsildar Dipak Kumar Das and IIC Parsuram Sahu along with police force carried out the demolition drive.

It may be noted here that local

The administration reclaimed government land from Sahabuddin

BJP workers had staged protests May 28 and 29 in front of the police station, demanding demolition of the illegal house and action against the criminal. Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi was also present during the protests. The administration had assured the BJP workers of taking action against Sahabuddin.

Though police had been carry ing out raids at different places, it has failed to arrest the accused.

Notably, Sahabuddin had brutally attacked one Rajatulla of Kachuapada April 22 over past enmity. Following a complaint, police had arrested Sahabuddin, but later released him.

He is also the main accused in a minor boy's murder at his roadside dhaba two years ago. Angry locals had set his eatery ablaze.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Two ODRAF teams reached Malkangiri, Wednesday, as part of the preparedness for cyclonic storm Asani. One team was stationed at Motu while the other was deployed at the district headquarters

IDCO serves show-cause notices on 3 industrial units

Sambalpur, May 11: The Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) has issued show-cause notices to three industrial units in Sambalpur and neighbouring Jharsuguda district for alleged violation of lease agreements and use of industrial sheds granted to them for purposes other than setting up of their units. Sources said, IDCO's Sambalpur

head Bidhan Chandra Majhi issued the show-cause notices to these industrial firms seeking their replies within a fortnight failing which their lease deeds will be cancelled.

The first notice has been issued to Gopal Garg, proprietor of Chemical Industries and Equipment Co on shed no-C/1 at Jharsuguda Industrial Estate. The firm is accused of using the shed for purposes other than the purpose mentioned in the lease agreement. Moreover, the unit, which is lying closed for a long time, is accused of making unauthorised additional con-

THE FIRMS HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF NOT UTILISING THE SHED FOR THE PURPOSE AS MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT

structions without approval from

competent authority of IDCO. The second notice has been issued to Shyam Sundar Lath, proprietor of Reliable Packagers on Plot No-14/2 of the industrial estate in Bareipali in Sambalpur. The firm has been accused of not submitting the no-objection certificate (NOC) from the competent authority as per allotment letter clause no-08 and to have made construction without the approval from the IDCO. Moreover, the firm has been accused of not utilising the shed for the purpose as mentioned in the agreement.

to Gopal Garg, proprietor

of Chemical Industries

and Equipment Co on

Jharsuguda Industrial

Estate, Shyam Sundar

Reliable Packagers on Plot

No-14/2 of the industrial

Sambalpur and Debendra

Kumar Lath, proprietor of

Konark Soap Product on

Lath, proprietor of

estate in Bareipali in

Plot No-14/1 at Gole

Bazaar in Sambalpur

shed no-C/1 at

The third notice has been issued to Debendra Kumar Lath, proprietor of Konark Soap Product on Plot No-14/1 at Gole Bazaar in Sambalpur. The firm is accused of using the allotted land as a godown instead of establishing its plant. It has also utilised the plot for out-of-the-agreement purpose.

Bhangabandh MIP work left halfway

Ragadi, May 11: In a bid to boost agriculture in Jajpur district, the state government has been executing a number of minor irrigation projects but implementation of some of them has been dismal while work of others has been abandoned. At the same time, contractors have raked in moolah by compromising with the quality of work.

Reports said many minor irrigation projects (MIPs) do not come to the use of farmers in crisis. Bhangabandh MIP, which is supposed to irrigate 70 acres of land in Korei block, is a case in point. The contractor abandoned its work three years ago and got away with money.

Villagers of Talagada panchayat alleged that a contractor has misappropriated lakhs of rupees meant for repair of Bhangabandh MIP

near Mangarajpur. Jajpur MIP division had sanctioned ₹58.40 lakh for restoration of the MIP in FY 2019-20. As per the agreement with the contractor, the work should have been started February 4, 2019 and completed by December 3, 2019. However, the contractor and officials of the depart-



ment botched up the restoration work to misappropriate funds, villagers alleged. The bill of the work, however, has been cleared to the contractor.

Executive engineer of the MIP division G Ramkrishna had directed the contractor to undertake the work as per the scheme guidelines, but it yielded no results. People of Mangarajpur, Bandi and Kantajhari alleged that despite restoration, the project is of no use.

Ramkrishna, however, explained that the work of MIP has not been completed due to land dispute. The Revenue department has been intimated to find a solution to the dispute. He denied allegation about

2 dead, 5 critical as bus hits trailer

Koraput: Two persons died and at least five others sustained grievous injuries when a bus carrying a marriage party had a head-on collision with a trailer on National Highway-26 near Devighat in Koraput district, Wednesday. According to sources, the ill-fated private bus, 'Annapurna', was on its way from Jeypore to R Udayagiri when the accident occurred. The injured were rescued by locals and admitted to Sahid Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH). The condition of the three of the injured is stated to be critical. The deceased are yet to be identified. The number of casualties is likely to rise, said sources. "Health condition of at least five passengers who were travelling in the bus is critical," a doctor treating them at SLNMCH in _ Koraput said. On being informed, SDPO Manoj Pujari and cops from Koraput and Kolab police stations reached the spot. Police have registered a case in this connection and launched detailed a probe.

DESCRIPTION: SUPPLY AND FITTING OF PNEUMATIC PIPELINE SYSTEM (LEADING SPECIFICATION AT ANNEXURE

AND LAYOUT ATTACHED), QUANTITY 2626 MTR. SL. NO. 02 : TENDER NO. 92225331, DESCRIPTION: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TRIAL RUN, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC MICROPROCESSOR BASED DISTRIBUTOR VALVE TEST BENCH WITH DIGITAL PRESSURE GAUGE AND TIMER (COMPUTER BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM) FOR TESTING OF NDIAN RAILWAY COACHES/WAGONS (SPECIFICATION AT ANNEXURE)

QUANTITY: 01 NO. available at website http://www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Materials Manage Carriage Repair Workshop

HSC exam absenteeism rocks Bangiriposi too

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bangiriposi, May 11: As many as 263 students have not appeared for the HSC examinations at eight centres in Bangiriposi block of Mayurbhani district. Their absence has set various social circles abuzz with allegation of ghost registration at the school level. Many have wondered why the candidates had made the registration for the examination if they had to bunk it later.

Reports said 30 students at Bangiriposi Government High School, 27 at Gourachandra High School, 31 at Dwarasuni High School, 32 at Netrapat High School, 31 at Kusumbandh High School and 29 at SSD High School did not turn up for examinations.

One of the headmasters came out with a strange explanation saying that as classes remained sus-



pended for a long period due to Covid pandemic, many students in the tribal pockets had migrated elsewhere in search of work and they have not returned. Others raised doubt as to who on behalf of the students had filled up their forms, if this is the case?

As per rules, forms for HSC examinations are filled up usually after the end of first summative examination. Some other headmasters and teachers said that they are unaware of such developments.

Curbs on gathering at Gopalpur beach

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopalpur sea beach Tuesday wore a deserted look after district Collector imposed restrictions on public gatherings for two days.

The decision comes in the wake of cyclonic storm 'Asani', which lies centered over west-central Bay of Bengal about 490 km south-southwest of Gopalpur.

All the beaches in Ganjam district were closed for public for Tuesday and Wednesday, Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange asserted.

Moreover, fishermen have been advised not to venture into sea till May 13 morning. Local cautionary signal No.3 (LC-3) has been hoisted at Gopalpur. As some fishermen are venturing into the sea in spite of warning, the Collector has advised all concerned officials to do public announcements in the areas & advise fishermen not to venture into the sea till May 13.

Risking life in croc-infested rivers to eke out a living

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, May 11: Hunger pangs can drive people to take life risks and a case in point is fishing by Bengali community women in crocodile-infested Mahanadi and Gobari rivers here.

According to sources, many women of this community in Jambu, Kanshphal, Ramnagar, Petchhela, Badadandua, Bagagahan, Pankapal, Badapal, Kandra Patia, Kharinasi, Batighara, Tantiapal and Sasan areas under this block in Kendrapara district are prime examples of taking such risks to catch prawn spawns of

Bagda variety to earn a living. They catch the spawns which are of the size of a pin and sell them to traders at a throwaway price of ₹200 per 1,000 spawns. These traders then transport the



product to the fish hatcheries in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh for a premium.

The women enter rivers and water bodies when tides begin to ebb and catch the spawns with the help of a thin fishing net known as 'Ganja net'. Their dare devilry in crocodile-infested river helps them earn around ₹500 each.

These water bodies which flow to the brim are home to ferocious crocodiles but they brave the odds to feed their families. "Lack of

proper employment opportunities, poor earning by male members and lack of awareness force us to adopt such risky means," said Lata Mandal, Mamata Sardar, Radharani Mandal, Sarojini Mandal and Rama Gayan of the area.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR

AWARENESS PROGRAM Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:

Saturday, 14th May, 2022 and Sunday, 15th May 2022; 6:00 p.m. Onwards. at Sankar Bhavan (Hotel), Ramalingam Tank Road, Berhampur - 760 002. For registration, please contact: Ashish Sahoo, Mobile: 82802 71280.

Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm.
It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.
No walk-ins will be allowed.



MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, CUTTACK

Letter No.810/ Dt.10.05.2022 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. online EECMID-01/2022-23 eemidcuttack@yahoo.co.in

No.A-151: Name of Work

Total Number of Work 3. Estimated Cost Tender paper Cost (Online)

Bid Security (Online) Availability of Bid Document

Last date & Time of receipt of: Bid through online

Date of Opening of **Bid Documents**

10. Date of Lottery, if required

Office of the EE, MI. Division, Cuttack :- 01.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the EE, M.I.Division, 11. Name and Address of the OIT:- Executive Engineer, M.I.Division,

27.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M in the

Renovation of MIPs in MI Sub-

Varies from Rs. 24.30 lakhs to

From 17.05.2022, 10.00 AM to

(www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

26.05.2022 at 5.00 P.M.

26.05.2022, 5.00 P.M. in website

Division Athagarh and Banki

6 (Six) nos.

Rs. 44.09 lakhs

As per DTCN

As per DTCN

through online

Varies from Rs. 6000/-

Cuttack, P.O:- Navabazar, Cuttack Phone: - 0671-2443622 PIN CODE :- 753004

Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Cuttack OIPR-32121/11/0002/2223



toric Jagannath Sagar at Jeypore town of Koraput district is going to get a new lease of life, fulfilling the long-standing demand of the locals. Jagannath Sagar, the oldest and largest man-made lake of the state.

Jeypore, May 11: Finally, the his-

POST NEWS NETWORK

was dug by royals of Jeypore 300 years back to meet the drinking water and irrigation needs of Jayanagar area. It was originally spread across 300 acres but over the years, it shrank

to only 55 acres, thanks to rapid urbanisation and rampant encroachments. Moreover, it has turned into a dumping ground and now it is full

of solid waste and effluents dis-

charged from various sources of

the Jeypore town. The district administration and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have already signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the makeover of the sprawling



pond at an expenditure of ₹7 crore

in three years Koraput Collector Abdaal M Akhtar took stock of the project Wednesday. He discussed with officials about development of the

pond from near Panchanana temple. The Collector directed executive

officer of the Jeypore Municipality Siddhartha Pattnaik to make an estimate for the development of a park, installation of chairs, construction of pavements and a café near the pond.

As per the MoU, HAL will spend ₹7 crore for the renovation of the histure of ₹7 crore in three years

Koraput Collector Abdaal M Akhtar took stock of the project Wednesday

The Collector directed executive officer of the Jeypore Municipality Siddhartha Pattnaik to make an estimate for the development of a park installation of chairs, construction of pavements and a café near the pond

toric water body in three phases from its corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. The public enterprise will spend ₹1 crore in the first year (2022-23) and ₹3.50 crore the next year and ₹2.50 crore in the final year. Jeypore civic body will implement the development project by floating tenders

In the past, local MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati had assured the Jeypore

spent on renovation and development of the massive water body. The MLA said that the water

Last week, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra had reviewed the Jagannath Sagar project and directed the administration for further development. He revealed that the state government has already sanctioned ₹10 crore for the project

to be developed as a tourist desti-

the district.

It will be given a complete relook to attract visitors as Jeypore Municipality has undertaken a massive cleanliness of the water body February 18. Locals had been drawing attention of the district administration towards the issue as the water body is a big draw for tourists.

Last year, Nalco had assured to provide ₹1 crore for the lake's beautification under its peripheral development funds.



Love is the keynote, Joy is the nusic, Knowledge is the performer, the Infinite All is the

SRI AUROBINDO



Amit Tyagi

The relationship

growth, poverty,

and inequality is

complex, and the

influence it in richer

countries may not

be at play in India

forces that

between economic

The Billionaire Raj?

everal reports in the last few months have sounded the alarm about growing income and wealth inequality in India. The statistics cited are not wrong, but they are incomplete. And they have produced sensational,

For example, an article based on Oxfam's recent "Inequality Kills" report notes: "India has the third-highest number of billionaires in the world." The story points out that India has 142 billionaires but ignores that India has 1.4 billion people. Only one in ten million Indians is a billionaire, whereas such "billionaire density" is eight in Russia, three in Brazil, more than four in China, and 22 in the United States. Likewise, while "India has more billionaires than France, Sweden, and Switzerland combined," in terms of billionaire density, these three countries together have 18 times more billionaires than India

It should come as no surprise that rich countries have more billionaires relative to their populations than poor countries do. For a more accurate comparison, consider billionaire density in middle-income countries. Relative to the world's top 20 middle-income economies, India ranks quite low. Countries like Brazil, Malaysia, and Thailand have a far greater number of billionaires relative to their size.

Oxfam is not the only organisation to point out India's wealth gap. In December, the World Inequality Report 2022, the flagship publication of the World Inequality Lab at the Paris School of Economics, included India among the world's most unequal countries. This research. coordinated by leading economists, fuelled sensational headlines – "Poor Country with Affluent Elite, India Is Going Nowhere," or, even worse, "How Hindu Nationalism Enables India's Slide into Inequality" – that turned the topic into a domestic political issue.

To be sure, both income and wealth inequality have increased in India in recent years. According to the World Inequality Report, the richest 10 per cent of Indians account for 57.1 per cent of all income, compared to only 13.2 per cent for the poorest half. And wealth inequality is more pronounced. The poorest half of the Indian population possesses just 5.9 per cent of the country's total wealth, whereas the richest 10 per cent controls 64.7 per cent.

But do these figures really support the claim that India is one of the world's most unequal

Although India's poorest half holds a small percentage of the country's total wealth, its members are still better off than their peers in most countries. Whereas India ranks 67th among the world's 100 largest economies in

terms of income earned by the poorest 50 per cent, it ranks 17th in terms of the percentage of wealth held by the poorest half.

In any case, statistics that compare the top 10 per cent and bottom 50 per cent, while easy to comprehend, are not the only measures of inequality. Calculated from the World Inequality Report data, India's Gini coefficient – a widely used indicator that ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality, to 1, for perfect inequality – is 0.6 for income inequality and 0.7 for wealth inequality. Compared to the largest 100 economies of the world, India lies in the middle for wealth inequality and among the top 20 for income inequality.

On balance, India is no paragon of egalitarianism, but nor is it one of the world's most unequal countries.

A more fundamental question is whether India should continue to focus on economic growth to reduce poverty, even if it increases inequality. The answer, according to the Indian government's 2020-21 economic survey is, unsurprisingly, an unqualified yes. The government is betting that a rising tide lifts all boats, and the facts seem to support this maxim.

In the decade from 2006 to 2016, the Indian economy averaged 7.6 per cent annual growth - one of the fastest ten-year expansions in the country's history. Concurrent with that growth was an increase in inequality: the share of income going to the richest 10 per cent increased from 47.8 per cent to 57.1 per cent, while the share of the poorest half declined from 16.1 per cent to 13.1 per cent. But, over the same period, the number of people living in multidimensional poverty - a broad measure covering health, education, and standard of living – decreased from 642 million to 370 million.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic reversed some of these gains, a recent working paper by the National Bureau of Economic Research shows that income inequality in India declined. Richer Indians experienced a steeper drop in income than poorer ones, as their businesses were most affected by the economic downturn. And demand for the kind of service-sector jobs held by wealthier Indians fell sharply. The International Monetary Fund forecasts 24 per cent growth for the Indian economy in 2021-23, which one hopes will reduce both poverty and inequality.

The relationship between economic growth, poverty, and inequality is complex, and the forces that influence it in richer countries may not be at play in India. Economic growth has lifted more than 250 million Indians out of poverty in a relatively short time. As a result, inequality has increased - but not to levels that should trigger alarm bells.

The writer is Chief Risk Officer of Zand. The views expressed in this commentary are solely of the author.

WISDOM CORNER

The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.

Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.

The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live the life of your

WORDSWORTH

■ Supererogation

n early September 2011, the publicists at Collins Dictionaries produced a list of words which the dictionary's editors considered to be obsolete and which were to be removed from the next edition of its dictionary. One of them is supererogate, to do more than is required of one, to go beyond the call of duty. The related noun, supererogation, is still used enough to be retained, however. It comes from Latin supererogare, from super-, beyond or above, plus ērogāre. The latter originally meant to pay out public money after asking the consent of the Roman people (it's from rogāre, to ask). Supererogare literally meant to pay more than was necessary. In its figurative sense it appeared first in the parable of the Good Samaritan in a Latin translation of the New Testament. Supererogation has long had a special meaning within the Roman Catholic church for acts that are morally good but not required for salvation by God. Church doctrine holds that such good works make up a reserve fund of merit that can be drawn on by prayer in favour of sinners. In recent decades, supererogation has taken on another sense in philosophy, for a much-debated topic that refers to the nature of duty and to what extent moral actions can be optional. More loosely, supererogation can refer to something that's unnecessary or perhaps even undesirable: For the rest, the staging is an act of supererogation, a distraction from the grandeur of Gluck's opera.-- The Times, 30 Oct. 2010.

FOCUS HEAT WAVE

WHEN WORKERS BURN

prescient science-fiction novel The Ministry for the Future begins with a stark description of a major heat wave in a northern Indian city that kills millions of people. The novel is set some decades in the future. But, with people across northern and central India and Pakistan suffering an unprecedented heat wave since late March, it seems terrifyingly current.

In April, usually a time of late spring weather with average maximum temperatures of at most 35° Celsius (95° Fahrenheit), daytime temperatures in New Delhi exceeded 46°C. Temperatures in many places in the region have hovered around 45°C for two months, reaching 49°C in Jacobabad, Pakistan, on April 30, and 47.2°C in Banda in central India. This was the hottest April weather in at least 120 years.

Although the heat has abated slightly since the start of May, the region's hot season has barely begun. Meteorologists are already predicting that, partly owing to less rainfall than usual in this period, temperatures will rise above 50°C across much of South Asia as summer sets in. The effects can be lethal because the combination of extreme heat and high humidity can prevent sweat from evaporating, reducing the body's ability to cool down.

This is why the so-called "wetbulb" temperature, which accounts for both heat and humidity, is significant. When this temperature is around 32°C, outdoor activity becomes difficult and enervating. If it exceeds 35°C, then spending even a few hours outside in the shade with no physical activity can lead to death. Several Indian cities have recently experienced wet-bulb temperatures of close to 30°C. These could increase in coming heat waves and kill people, in exactly the way Robinson describes in his novel.

But this evidence that climate change is outpacing even some of the most pessimistic scientific predictions does not seem to be generating any official urgency to change economic strategies, in



More frequent and intense heat waves are poised to become bigger killers in the Indian subcontinent than the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. But the government is essentially leaving people to fend for themselves in a foreseeable tragedy, and envisages continued investment in fossil fuels for decades to come

India or elsewhere. Like too many other governments around the world, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has shown no appetite for undertaking the policy changes and public spending required to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and cut pollution, which are essential to avert a climate disaster.

In fact, the government is not even doing the absolute minimum necessary to help India's predominantly poor population cope with the climate changes already affecting them. Modi has asked state governments to take measures to prevent deaths due to heat waves and fire incidents, but how exactly are they to do this? The National Action Plan on Heat-Related Illnesses does not focus on protecting people from heat exposure, but rather outlines relatively minor strategies for dealing with the consequences, and is really intended to be used by government health departments and private health-care facilities.

That will do nothing for the nine out of ten employed people in India who are engaged in informal activities with no legal or social protection. These workers have virtually no fallback option if they do not go out to earn their living, no matter how terrible the

weather. An International Labour Organisation (ILO) report on heat stress and work identified agriculture and construction – the two largest employers in India – as the sectors that will be worst-affected in terms of deteriorating conditions and working-time losses as the planet warms. Other at-risk occupations like refuse collection also are dominated by very poor and low-paid informal workers.

These are the activities most likely to lead to serious health problems, and even death, if performed in extreme heat and humidity. But the hundreds of millions of Indians who work such jobs typically have no choice but to keep doing them.

One aspect of heat stress at work that even the ILO ignored concerns the unpaid work of hundreds of millions of women and girls in India who fetch water for daily household use. Scorching heat dries up existing surface water sources and reduces ground water supplies, forcing women and girls to walk longer distances and spend even more hours collecting and carrying water. It also makes these tasks more arduous and potentially life-threatening.

The ILO emphasises that governments have to be the main drivers of adaptation to higher tem-

peratures with respect to heat stress at work, including by providing universal social protection and ensuring occupational safety even for informal work. But the Indian government's public pronouncements and stated policies contain nothing of the kind, even as more intense and frequent heat waves are poised to become bigger killers in the subcontinent than the

ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The government is essentially leaving people to fend for themselves in a foreseeable tragedy And it envisages continued investment in fossil fuels for decades

"Mother Nature is just chemistry, biology, and physics. That's all she is," the environmentalist Robert Watson has said, "Mother Nature always bats last, and she always bats 1.000."

Governments must recognise that fundamental truth. But if record heat waves cannot persuade them, it is not easy to see

The writer, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

Jayati Ghosh

GOVERNMENT

IS NOT EVEN

DOING THE

ABSOLUTE

MINIMUM

POOR

NECESSARY TO

PREDOMINANTLY

HELP INDIA'S

POPULATION

CLIMATE

CHANGES

ALREADY

THEM

AFFECTING

COPE WITH THE

THE

Innovations for nation-building



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

STREAMLINING OUR EFFORTS IN THE RIGHT **DIRECTION WILL** TRANSFORM INDIA **INTO A GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY HUB**

Operation Shakti in the Pokhran range of the Indian Army in the deserts of Rajasthan was a stupendous feat. The tests achieved their main objective of giving India the capability to build both fission and thermonuclear weapons with yields up to 200 kilotons capacity sufficient to deter the enemy. This had several implications: Firstly, India became a nuclear power to enter the world nuclear club as the sixth nation after the USA, Russia, China, Britain and France and established itself as a formidable world power to be reckoned with. Secondly, while the nuclear programmes of some countries were clandestine and acquired by unscrupulous methods, the Indian tests came as an offshoot of a well established scientific research base in the country with a legacy of many brilliant nuclear physicists founded by Homi Bhaba. Thirdly, and most importantly. India demonstrated its tremendous technological prowess by show-casing the perfection and credibility of the design of its scientists and engineers in mastering the frontier technology which will be ultimately used for peaceful purposes like harness-

The series of nuclear tests ing energy for national develop- created history by detecting water the Government of India has declared 11 May as National

Technology Day. Since then, India has made rapid strides in the technology and innovation sectors in various fields. Major contributions to the country's technological development have come from agencies like the DRDO and the ISRO in the defence and space exploration sectors respectively some of which are chronicled here. On the same day of the Pokhran-II test, India also flew its indigenously built two-seater aircraft named Hans-3 and test-fired its surface-to-air missile Trishul. India developed the world's first and most formidable anti-ship supersonic cruise missile named BrahMos in 2006 and launched the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant in 2009. India's single-engine, fourth-generation, multi-role light fighter aircraft Tejas took its first flight in 2001.

Not lagging behind, ISRO launched the Mars Orbiter Mission 'Mangalyaan' in 2013, making India the first Asian nation to reach the Martian orbit and the first nation to do so in its maiden attempt. ISRO launched the Chandravaan-1 orbiter mission to the Moon that

detonated by India 11 May ment. To commemorate this land-in extensive areas of the Moon. ceeded in projecting India as a reover two decades developing their own cryogenic engineering technology for their rockets when the technology transfer from Russia was denied under US pressure in 1992. ISRO finally succeeded in launching its own liquid-fueled cryogenic engine powered rocket named GSLV D 5 in 2014. ISRO's PSLV C-37 rocket first time placed a record-breaking 104 satellites in orbit in a single launch in 2017. ISRO made a path-breaking discovery in 2020 by inventing an atomic clock useful in navigating satellites in space and measuring its precise location data. ISRO is also rapidly moving ahead to launch humans into space by 2023 in its Gaganyaan mission for which most of the crucial technologies have been tested.

The most remarkable achievement of India in recent times was, however, the development of its own COVID vaccine Covaxin which allowed the immunisation of a largely populated country like India and gained worldwide acceptance. DRDO has also developed an antiviral oral drug to be administered to severe COVID patients under the name 2-deoxy-Dglucose (2-DG).

an era of hopes for vast technological developments. While many technological breakthroughs have been accomplished in the post Pokhran-II era, a lot more is to be done. The defence sector, in particular, is the major importer of weapons as the bulk of its equipment like combat aircraft, helicopters, air defence systems are acquired mostly from Russia and Western countries making India the second largest importer of weapons in the world after Saudi Arabia. India also depends heavily on foreign countries for electrical and electronics goods, computer hardware, fertilizer, artificial intelligence, smartphone devices, nuclear reactors, boilers, and medical equipment like ventilators. Most of our energy sources, at present, are fossil fuel based and we are yet to find alternative sources to switch over to green technology solutions for harnessing power. Streamlining our efforts in the right direction will transform India into a global technology hub to realise our dreams of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

End of an era

Sir, The passing away of Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma marks the end of an era. He was the pioneer of Santoor and his contribution is unparalleled. Santoor, originally a folk instrument, became an instrument for Indian classical music through his internationally recognised playing style. Sharma took the stringed instrument to the global stage and successfully straddled the worlds of classical and film music. He composed the background music for one of the scenes in V Shantaram's film Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje in 1956. Not many people know that he has played the Tabla in the very popular song 'Mo se chal kiye jaaye' sung by Lata Mangeshkar in the 1965 movie Guide, on the insistence of RD Burman. In 1967, he teamed up with flautist Hari Prasad Chaurasia and guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra to produce a concept album, Call of the Valley, which turned out to be one of Indian classical music's greatest hits. Further the duo Shiv-Hari composed the music for films produced under the prolific banner Yash Raj Films. Starting with Silsila (1981) their association continued with Faasle (1984), Vijay (1988), Chandni (1989), Lamhe (1991) and Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR Darr (1993).

Court language

Sir, The influence of local languages on the Indian society is unambiguous. In the same vein, the power of English as a link language is unmistakable. States have been using their official language admixed with English as and when needed. Executive and legislature have been fairly successful in assimilating the nuances of local language in administration. But what about the judiciary? Are local languages in use in different high courts of the country? In a recent conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi batted for the use of local language in courts for common man's easy understanding of judicial process. Modi is not the first politician to pitch for local languages in courts. According to several former chief justices of high courts use of language of the state in courts would bode well for justice dispensation. So much so, many high court judges have penned judgements in the language of a particular state. But the fact remains that English is indispensable and irreplaceable in courts. Court proceedings are being conducted in English in high courts from time immemorial. The Constitution of India has authorised English as the court language "unless the law provides otherwise." For smooth proceedings and quick judgements any language, other than English, can be a stumbling block. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

national



So it could be Uri and Balakot, it could be Doklam and Ladakh but you can see today this is not a country that shies away from its hard security challenges S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

FRESH GUIDELINES

The government has made it mandatory to quote either PAN or Aadhaar for depositing or withdrawing over ₹20 lakh in a financial year or opening of a current account





PM Modi has changed the state of education in Gujarat, where the dropout ratio has come down drastically. Whatever one may say, Gujarat's primary education is a model for the whole

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

The way the Centre had been spreading propaganda, using agencies to destabilise a democratially

elected state government in Jharkhand, it can be compared to Russia's military action to demilitarise and wipeout Ukraine. Russia had thought it could knock down Ukraine in a day or two, but look how Ukraine is staging a counter-offensive, with the war going on for three months now

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CHIEF MINISTER



officials or influential people, to leave the illegal possession by May 31

BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Terrorist killed in encounter

Srinagar: One terrorist has been killed in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces in a forested area of Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora Wednesday, police said. "One terrorist killed. One AK rifle, three magazines recovered. The killed terrorist was a part of newly infiltrated terror group. Search for other two terrorists is in progress," Jammu and Kashmir Police said in a tweet, quoting Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar.

Jacqueline moves **Delhi court**

New Delhi: Actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who is under the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with her alleged links with conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, approached a court here seeking permission to travel abroad, Jacqueline, who wants to attend the International Indian Film Academy Awards in Abu Dhabi. has approached the Patiala House Court seeking its nod for her visit to the UAE, France and Nepal. The court will hear the matter May 18. The ED has interrogated Jacqueline multiple times after her alleged friendship with conman Sukesh

Cops attacked with Molotov cocktails

Chandrashekhar came to light.

Chennai: A police team Wednesday was attacked with Molotov cocktails, while they were on a raid to apprehend a gang, involved in stealing scrap materials from an abandoned petroleum refinery in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district, but no one was injured, officials said.

Woman faints at Delhi airport

New Delhi: A passenger apparently fainted at the Delhi airport last week when she was not allowed to board Air India's Delhi-Vadodara flight for being late, with her relatives alleging she was not immediately provided any medical assistance The airline. however, refuted the charge. saying a doctor had arrived at the spot "immediately" but the passenger was already feeling better. When asked about this incident, Arun Kumar, the chief of Indian aviation regulator DGCA, told PTI, "We are seeking a report from the airline concerned."

Marital rape: Delhi HC delivers split verdict



Rapid growth in locals

joining terror ranks

in J&K, say officials

New Delhi, May 11: The Delhi High Court Wednesday delivered a split verdict in the marital rape criminalisation case, which challenged the exception to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code.

A bench of Justice Rajiv Shakdher and Justice C Hari Shankar expressed different opinions in the judgement on the exception to Section 375 of the IPC. which exempts forceful sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife from the offence of rape.

Justice Shakdher stated that the exemption of the husband from the offence of marital rape is unconstitutional while Justice Hari Shankar said he does not agree with Shakdher.

'The impugned provisions in so far as they concern a husband having intercourse with his wife without consent are violative of Article 14 and are therefore struck-

New Delhi, May 11: The "expo-

nential growth" in local young-

sters joining terrorist ranks in

Jammu and Kashmir over the last

two years is a cause of concern

for the security establishment with

officials saying such operatives

constitute about 60 per cent of the

total active strength, CRPF sources

At the same time, as per the

sources, out of the around 150-163

active terrorists in the Union

Territory at present, 85 are stated

to be foreigners, largely Pakistanis.

grown" terrorists among the over-

all numbers of these operatives

has grown exponentially over the

last about two years time. The

share of local terrorists over these

years has been as high as about

foreign terrorists comprising about

60-70 per cent of terrorists operating

in the Kashmir valley and parts of

Earlier, it used to be reverse with

60 per cent, the sources said.

The share of local or "home-

said Wednesday.

Disappointing, says activists

erming the Delhi High Court's split verdict on the issue of criminalisation of marital rape 'disappointing", some women activists here expressed hope that the Supreme Court will exercise "much more wisdom" in the matter, saying the current provisions are discriminatory against one category of rape victims. Following the verdict, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Swati Maliwal said that marital rape is a reality and it is high time for an action against it.

down," said Justice Shakder. A detailed judgement on the matter will be made available later in

the day. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared on behalf of the Centre, submitted that

MATTER OF CONCERN

There have been 187 local terrorist

recruits in 2018, 121 in 2019, 181 in

2020, 142 in 2021 and 28 in 2022, as

per data updated till May 8

Kashmir continue to be the "hotbed"

of terrorism as most local recruits are

from this region

This is a cause of concern but it

is also to the credit of the security

forces that the situation has been

The reasons for these high num-

ber of local youth joining terror

ranks can be attributed to radi-

calisation, including through on-

line means, by operatives from

within the country and across the

rorist ranks has been by-and-large

hovering around the same num-

The recruitment of locals in ter-

There have been 187 local ter-

Officials also said districts in

rorist recruits in 2018, 121 in 2019,

181 in 2020, 142 in 2021 and 28 in 2022,

south Kashmir continue to be the

"hotbed" of terrorism as most local

The Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF) has deployed as many as 60

battalions in J&K for undertaking

counter-terrorist operations and

as per data updated till May 8.

recruits are from this region.

under control, the sources said.

Jammu, they said.

border, they said.

bers, officials said.

agencies.

were foreign terrorists

Officials also said districts in south

Chronology of marital rape exception under Indian law the wife not being under fifteen collowing is the chronology of events on years of age, is not rape.

the marital rape exception in criminal law and the issue of its criminalisation **1860:** Indian Penal Code (IPC) comes into force with the marital rape excep-

tion being applicable to women above

10 years of age. 1940: IPC is amended and the marital rape exception is made available to women above 15 years of age.

Jan 11, 2016: Delhi HC issues notice to Centre and seeks its stand on the first petition challenging marital rape excep-

Aug 29, 2017: Centre tells HC that marital rape cannot be made a criminal offence as it might destabilise the institution of marriage

Oct 11, 2017: Supreme Court reads down the marital rape exception and rules that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape. Earlier, exception 2 to section 375 stated that sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife,

considering the far-reaching consequences, it has sent a communication to all states and union ter-

ceived. However, the bench refused to grant further time to the Centre to make its stand clear

Jan 18, 2018: Delhi government tells

cruelty under the law and a woman is

entitled to refuse sexual relations with

hearings on the petitions seeking crimi-

Jan 7, 2022: HC begins day-to-day

Jan 13: Centre tells HC it is "already

ing a "constructive approach" to the

seized of the matter" and was consider

issue of criminalising marital rape and

has sought suggestions from stakehold

ers including state governments and

Jan 17: HC asks Centre to clarify its in-

principle position after time is sought to

formulate and place its "considered

Jan 24: Centre urged before HC to

rape involves issues that cannot be

grant it a "reasonable time" to place its

position, says criminalisation of marital

looked at from a "microscopic angle".

nalisation of marital rape.

union territories.

HC marital rape is already an offence of

Jan 28: HC asks Centre to inform whether it wishes to withdraw its 2017 affidavit which said that marital rape cannot be made a criminal offence.

Feb 1: Centre tells HC it is "re-looking" at its earlier stand which was brought on record by way of an affidavit filed several years ago and sought time to state its stand.

Feb 3: Centre urges HC to defer hearing on pleas to criminalise marital rape and said it will provide a time-bound schedule within which it will carry out an effective consultative process on the issue.

Feb 7: HC grants two weeks to the Centre to state its stand on the petitions

Feb 21: HC reserves verdict on petitions, refuses to grant more time to Centre say ing it was not possible to adjourn an ongoing matter as there is no definite date by when the government's consultations would be over on the issue.

May 11: HC delivers a split verdict on the issue of criminalisation of marital rape and granted leave to the parties to file an appeal before the Supreme Court.

to criminalise marital rape, main-

tained that it was examining the

issue of broad changes in crimi-

Raj Thackeray gets death threats, MNS warns state will burn

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, May 11: Claiming that Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray has received death threats, a party leader Wednesday warned that even if his hair is touched, "entire Maharashtra will burn"

MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar met Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil and apprised him of the alleged threats -- coming reportedly from some Muslim organisations -- being received by Raj Thackeray and himself.



A letter said to be penned in Urdu was received at the MNS office and another in Hindi by Nandgaonkar, after which he warned that "even if one hair on Rai Thackeray is touched, the entire Maharashtra will go up in flames'

He claimed that after listening to him, Walse-Patil spoke with the Commissioner of Police, Sanjay Pandey, and assured a probe.

Nandgaonkar said the antecedents of the purported letter, who wrote it or when, are not known, but repeated the dire consequences if the MNS chief is touched. He added that the MNS has been demanding security for Raj Thackeray and his family and both the Centre and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra must take note of it.

The MNS has launched a statewide movement to remove all loudspeakers from mosques, threatening to play 'Hanuman Chalisa' opposite those that flout laws and relay 'azaan' on public address systems, even as the MVA launched a crackdown against the MNS activists.

In retaliation, Raj Thackeray Tuesday flayed the MVA for gunning for his men and also warned his estranged cousin and Chief Minister Uddhay Thackeray that governments come and go and nobody remains in power forever.

ritories asking their comments on nal law of the country and that the on the issue. Recently, the Centre in a fresh petitioner could also give their the issue and urged the court that the proceedings be adjourned affidavit in the High Court, in resuggestions to the competent till the time the inputs are response to the clutch of petitions authorities.

Just chilling: A Rose-ringed parakeet eats a fruit while sitting on a tree, in Chennai

Chariot-like structure washes ashore in Andhra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 11: A goldcoloured chariot-like structure washed ashore in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district apparently due to turbulence in Bay of Bengal under the impact of cyclonic storm 'Asani'.

The mysterious chariot washed ashore at Sunnapalli coast Tuesday evening. The structure resembles the shape of a monastery. Locals say the chariot may have washed ashore due to high tidal waves from Thailand, Japan, Cambodia, Indonesia or Malaysia



Schools may relax norms about uniforms, and canvas shoes may be allowed instead of leather

ones, the guidelines stated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 11: The Ministry of Education Wednesday issued guidelines to schools for combating heatwave, asking them to relax the uniform norms and modify

A torrid heatwave had sent the mercury soaring across large swathes of India with the temperature in Delhi rising to 46 degrees Celsius. The national capital also recorded its second hottest April in 72 years with a monthly average maximum temperature of



40.2 degrees Celsius.

HEATWAVE: GOVT ISSU

The guidelines by the Ministry of Education asked the schools to modify timings and reduce the number of school hours each day.

The ministry also said that schools should ensure that fans are functional and also may arrange for power backup.

Revising school timings, restricting outdoor activities, stocking ORS and glucose sachets, and constantly motivating children to stay hydrated are among the steps schools are taking because of the heatwave conditions in the national capital region. The India Meteorological

Department (IMD) had earlier this week said a fresh spell of heatwave is likely to begin over northwest India from May 7 and over central India from May 8. However, closing schools due to

heatwave is not an option as suggested by experts as offline classes have started from the new session after nearly two years due to the Covid-induced pandemic.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had May 5 chaired a meeting to review preparations for heatwave management and monsoon preparedness in which he stressed the need to take all measures to avoid deaths due to heatwave or

Industrial effluent, sewage used to brew illicit liquor in Pb!

THIS FACT CAME TO LIGHT IN A SEARCH **OPERATION BY THE EXCISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT IN THE BET AREA OF LUDHIANA** DISTRICT THAT FALLS ALONG THE SATLUJ RIVER WHERE ABOUT 2.80 LAKH KG OF UNCLAIMED **'LAHAN' (RAW MATERIAL USED FOR** PRODUCING ILLICIT LIQUOR) AND 100 LITRE OF **ILLICIT LIQUOR WAS DESTROYED ON THE SPOT**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, May 11: Industrial effluent and sewage are used to brew illicit liquor in Punjab.

This fact came to light in a search operation by the Excise and Taxation Department in the Bet area of Ludhiana district that falls along the Satluj river where

about 2.80 lakh kg of unclaimed 'lahan' (raw material used for producing illicit liquor) and 100 litre of illicit liquor was destroyed on the spot, officials said on Wednesday.

As many as 60 members of search teams carried out the extensive search Tuesday in some 40 km in which a shocking fact came to the fore that in order to distill the illicit liquor from 'lahan', the water used was the one which came from the sewage of industrial units of Ludhiana city.

On seeing the Excise teams, the people involved in the distillation ran away, leaving behind 30 working stills, six quintals of wood, 15 iron drums, two alu-



minium vessels, plastic pipes and 12 bags of jaggery, an official statement said.

During the operation, excise staff from Jalandhar was also called at other end of the river for combing operations. The operation was aimed to deter the people involved in the illicit distillation of liquor from 'lahan' in the Mand areas and areas along the banks of the rivers of the state.

The teams observed the water being used for the liquor distillation was full of the chemical waste and toxins releases from the industrial units.

The illicit brewing of liquor has become a big challenge in areas along the river beds and border areas that are not only having adverse impact on the sale of country-made liquor but also impending threat of hooch tragedies, said the statement.

To end illegal and illicit activities, the department has launched an extensive statewide drive. On the directive of Excise and Taxation Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Excise Commissioner Varun Roojam constituted four teams to launch the search

The teams were constituted under Deputy Commissioner (Excise) Shalin Walia by Shivani— Gupta, Assistant Commissioner (Excise), Ludhiana Range.



TWO STATES





THURSDAY | MAY 12 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

Anything may happen anytime: Bommai

THE CM IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM ASPIRANTS TO EXPAND HIS CABINET AT THE EARLIEST, AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS NEXT YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bangalore, May 11: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavarai Bommai, who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the much awaited expansion or rejig of his Cabinet Wednesday, said the BJP central leadership would communicate its decision in this regard after discussions, and that anything may happen at

He said the party high command would take a decision based on the developments during the next couple of days.

"I have met and spoken to Amit Shah on several issues, discussions have also taken place regarding the Cabinet. I have brought to his notice regarding the political situation and on matters re quired to take a decision regarding the Cabinet," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters, he said Shah has stated that he would speak to BJP national president JP Nadda and other central leaders of the party and take appropriate decisions

"Based on the development over the next two-three days, we will decide and communicate, this is what he (Shah) has told me," he added.



The Chief Minister is under pressure from aspirants to expand his Cabinet at the earliest, ahead of Assembly polls next year.

To a question whether this means that there won't be Cabinet expansion or rejig for now, Bommai said, "Anything may happen at any time...As a political party this has to be decided. Based on the political situation such decisions are taken and in this backdrop I have informed him (Shah) what the current situation is.'

The Chief Minister's meeting with Shah gained significance as Bommai Tuesday had said that he would not be holding consultations regarding Cabinet with the BJP central leadership during this Delhi

visit, citing their non-availability.

Amid murmurs in BJP circles that a top-to-bottom overhaul of the Cabinet cannot be ruled out, ministerial aspirants are hopeful that a decision is likely soon regarding Cabinet expansion or reshuffle, and there are even talks that several incumbents could make way for fresh faces.

There are currently five positions vacant in the Cabinet, which has 29 ministers, including the Chief Minister, against the sanctioned strength of 34.

Some legislators have even been advocating a Gujarat-like overhaul of the Karnataka Cabinet soon to make way for new faces, ahead of the Assembly elections.

Asked whether it would be expansion or rejig or on the Gujarat or Uttar Pradesh model, Bommai said a decision would be taken based on the political situation and administration in Karnataka, and inputs have gone from the party's state unit too.

"Ño names were discussed...He (Shah) said we will let you know, after that discussion of names will be done," he said.

Stating that the next one week is very important politically, the Chief Minister said elections for local bodies might have to be held across the state, its implications would also be discussed by the Central leaders, and, they will in-

He said during his meeting with Shah, he also discussed the Supreme Court's order, its ramifications and the decision the State Election Commission might take.

He said discussions also took place regarding the upcoming Rajya Sabha, Legislative Council and local bodies polls.

Himanta's faux pas on Modi-Shah sparks row

is now being used by the Opposition

parties in Assam to question the

agenda behind this interchange

of designations of the two top BJP

The Congress sharing the clip in

its social media accounts referred

to similar 'faux pas' concerning

Sarma and his predecessor

"When @sarbanandsonwal Ji

was the CM, MP @pallablochandas

on several occasions referred to

cabinet minister @himantabiswa

ji as the CM in public!" it tweeted.

@PMOIndia replacing @naren-

dramodi Ji or a campaign has been

launched to promote @AmitShah

ji as the PM" the Congress ques-

Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP)

"Has #BJP decided its next

Sarbananada Sonowal.

leaders.

The BIP maintains it was a 'human error', while the Opposition smells conspiracy to promote Shah as the next PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, May 11: A slip of tongue by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at a public rally where he interchanged the official designations of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah has kicked off a political controversy in the state.

The BJP maintains it was a 'human error', while the Opposition smells conspiracy to promote Shah as the next prime minister.

The faux pas occurred while Sarma was speaking at a public rally here Tuesday to mark the first year in office of his government, which was also attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

During the course of his speech, Sarma expressed his gratitude to 'Prime Minister Amit Shah and our dear Home Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president JP Nadda' for their guidance and inspiration.

The nearly 15-second video clip

and its spokesperson Ziaur Rahman tweeted claiming that Sarma addressing Shah as prime minister is not a slip of tongue but one of his He referred to Sarma being ad-

dressed as chief minister by Lok Sabha MP Pallab Lochan Das and others towards the end of Sonowal government's term in the state.

Rahman said, "The main agenda behind such an address became clear later. So, in today's context it is not hard to understand the agenda behind Chief Minister Sarma addressing the union home minister as prime minister." BJP spokesperson Rupam

Goswami, however, rubbished the Opposition's claims maintaining that it was a mere mistake. "It was a human error, just a

slip of tongue. It can happen to anybody." Goswami told PTI. He also maintained that the error has not caused any public damage

or harmed the people of the state in any manner. Even Narendra Modi and Amit

Shah are not angry over it, he added. Goswami said the Opposition

parties should concentrate on listening to the problems of the public and speak on real issues concerning the people instead of focusing on such matters

NAGALAND ASSEMBLY POLLS

Congress demands ballot paper system

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kohima, May 11: The opposition Congress in Nagaland Wednesday demanded ballot paper voting system in the Assembly polls, slated for early next year, replacing the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), as, according to it, these had been proven several times to be tampered.

Nagaland Congress President K Therie said that the EVMs can

EVMs have been in use in India for almost two decades even as many of the advanced countries have abandoned EVMs because it lacks transparency, he told the media. Therie said that after the BJP came to power, in between 2014 and 2018, 19 lakh EVMs were found missing after being supplied by the two government-owned EVM manufacturing companies -- Bharat Electronics Ltd and Electronics



Saying that the EVM issue would

also be raised on other platforms on the same day.

A state unit delegation recently

including with the Election Commission, the Congress leader requested all political parties to support the demand for transparency in voting and counting process. Therie also suggested one day polling with counting of votes

met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and raised the EVM issue, and Therie said that he has assured to take up the issue with the appropriate authorities

K'taka: BBMP, local body elections soon



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bengalore, May 11: Karnataka government is considering holding the long pending Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and local body elections soon.

The civic body polls in Bangalore and local body elections are regarded as semi-finals for general assembly elections, according to sources in the government.

Ruling BJP leaders alleged that their government was not keen on holding BBMP elections. Presently, the matter is also before the Supreme Court following the appeal by the ruling BJP government. The polls are not being conducted for two years for BBMP. The polls for Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat are due for over one year.

The Karnataka government and State Election Commission are $considering \, expediting \, the \, process$ after the Supreme Court order regarding conducting local body elections in Madhya Pradesh. The apex court had clearly stated that not conducting elections for 23,000 local bod-

ies for two years is a clear violation of the law.

Also, the legal experts are being asked to study the order of the Supreme Court and recommend on conducting elections in the state. Revenue Minister R. Ashok has stated that now with the SC order, the state government will have to conduct BBMP elections for 198 wards in Bangalore and there is confusion regarding the reservation.

The state government claimed that BBMP elections would be conducted only after the reorganisation of wards in Bengaluru.

In December 2020, the Karnataka High Court had given direction for the State Election Commission to hold BBMP elections

But the state government appealed against the order and claimed that the process of reorganisation of wards is underway. and it would want to hold an election for 243 wards. Presently, BBMP has 198 wards.

The ruling BJP is hesitant to conduct elections as it fears backlash from dejected candidates. With the state Assembly elections being held in 2023, the ruling party thinks that the dissidence would affect its prospectus in Bangalore city.

However, the opposition Congress is pressuring the ruling BJP to conduct local body elections, especially BBMP polls. With cabinet expansion on the cards, and the number of aspirants of the Legislative Council growing, local body elections would be a challenge for the ruling BJP in the state.

K'taka warns of action against violations of loudspeaker rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 11: With the Karnataka government issuing a circular regarding use of loudspeakers following the Azan and Hanuman Chalisa row, state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra Wednesday said its implementation will be strictly monitored and action will be taken as per law in case of any violations.

He also said fair and transparent probe are on into the police sub-inspector recruitment scam and the alleged suicide of contractor Santosh Patil.

Regarding the loudspeaker issue, guidelines have been issued yesterday and 15 days' time has been given to file applications, (designated) authorities have also been mentioned in it (guidelines). It is being strictly followed up, loudspeakers cannot be used between 10 pm to 6 am. Jnanendra said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said strict action will be taken in accordance with law, in case of any violation.

Without permission no one can use loudspeakers, and everyone should abide by the guidelines issued, he added.

The circular issued by the government Tuesday mandates users of loudspeakers and public address systems to obtain written permission from the designated



authority within 15 days.

It also bans the use of loudspeakers between 10 pm and 6 am except during public emergencies.

Recently, some Hindu groups, including Sri Rama Sene, had launched a campaign alleging failure on part of the government to take action against loudspeakers installed at mosques, by playing 'Hanuman Chalisa', 'Suprabhata' 'Omkara' and other devotional songs at temples in different parts of the state.

On contractor Santosh Patil suicide case, the Home Minister said there is no attempt to shut the case, police teams are investigating it under the leadership of

Superintendent of Police, Udupi, and a detailed inquiry is on.

To a question whether former Minister KS Eshwarappa has been issued any notice, he said, probe is on from all angles....If there is a need he will be served notice, if not it will not be, police investigating the case will decide

Santosh Patil, a Belagavi-based contractor, was found dead at a hotel in Udupi last month, weeks after accusing Eshwarappa, who is also a senior BJP leader, of cor-

As political furore erupted following the contractor's death, Eshwarappa, against whom police have booked a case of abetment to suicide, resigned as the Rural Development and Panchavat Rai (RDPR) Minister.

To another query regarding th PSI recruitment scam probe, Jnanendra said, Congress people are also involved.....No matter of any party affiliation....All those behind the scam will be found, arrested and it will be ensured that they are punished in accordance with law.

The scam is about large-scale rigging or malpractices in the examination that was held in October last year to recruit 545 police sub-

inspectors in the State. The state government had annulled the results of the examination held for the recruitment and decided to hold a re-exam



A commuter drags her two-wheeler through a waterlogged street after rainfall, in Agartala, Wednesday

Mysuru Zoo: White tigress births 3 cubs—

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mysuru, May 11: A white Tigress Zoological Gardens has given birth to three cubs.

Animal activists and wildlife lovers are celebrating the moment as the pictures of the tigress with her cubs went viral on social media.

According to the official communication by the zoo authorities. the cubs are born to the tigress 'Tarili' and tiger 'Rocky'. Tigress Tarili gave birth to triplets April 26, the authorities said Tuesday.

The zoo authorities are giving special attention to the care of mother and her triplets and all four are responding well, said the

officials. Tigress Tarini is 8-year-

old and tiger Rocky is 4-years-old. The zoo has nine male tigers and seven tigresses Tarini is taking care of the cubs

well and the zoo authorities are monitoring them around the clock. This is the second time Tarini is giving birth. Earlier, it had given birth to a cub which died soon

Mission Lakadong changing lives in Meghalaya

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, May 11: A humble Rhizome is all set to propel socio-economic development of cultivators in the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya. Thanks to Mission Lakadong, a unique variety of turmeric, native to this part of the country, will soon overthrow imposters and gain its rightful place in the market.

Major pharmaceutical companies and spice sellers have already started lining up for a share of the pie. Some have even offered to set up processing units in the region that will lead to generation of jobs and further economic development. Lakadong Turmeric gets its

name from the Lakadong village in the West Jaintia Hills district. Once the potency of this variety of turmeric came to be known to the world, not only as a spice or dye but also a pharmaceutical product, several locations across India, as well as countries in Southeast Asia, started claiming that they grow it too. Much more worrying is the fact

that fake Lakadong Turmeric is

being packaged and sold online at

a premium with a tag that the prod-

uct has been sourced

from Meghalaya.

So, what is so great about this turmeric? Lakadong variety Turmeric, among other things, contains curcumin. While researchers had already established that curcumin works against vector-borne diseases like malaria and filaria that continue to claim thousands of lives in third world countries and render many incapable of normal movement, it has now come to be known Curcumin also works

No wonder, some

an

as

anti-

of the largest pharmaceutical companies have started lining up at Jaintia Hills.

The Jaintia Hills and turmeric are synonymous in a way. While Lakadong Turmeric that has 2 per cent more curcumin than other varieties of turmeric, the growers were not aware of the value of their product. Primarily, they were disorganised with no research available. Many fell prey to middlemen and unscrupulous traders who paid them a pittance and sold the Lakadong Turmeric at a premium. Modern ways of farming, irrigation and



Meghalaya grows three varieties of turmeric - Lakadong, Laskein and Ladaw. Of these, Lakadong has the greatest demand. It has 7.4 per cent curcumin content with very high commercial value. The volatile oil content in dry turmeric of this variety is between 3.6 per cent and

4.8 per cent. High quality Lakadong turmeric is grown on about 1,898 hectares in Meghalaya. Nearly 58 per cent of this is in the West Jaintia Hills and the West Garo Hills has about 20.2 per cent due to favourable soil and climate. The state produces nearly

16,000 tonnes of turmeric annually. Of this, 72 per cent is contributed by the Khasi-Jaintia Hills and 28 per cent by the Garo Hills.

The produce could have been much higher had villagers not been attracted towards coal mining in the region. Fortunately coal mining activity has been stopped after a National Green Tribunal order of 2014. Villagers are now returning to farming. However, there was no organised set-up to arrange for the disposal of the crop though efforts were made. That is where Mission Lakadong is important. Researchers are of the opinion that the land for Lakadong cultivation can be increased. The aim is to produce 50,000 metric tonnes of this variety of turmeric by 2023, an official said.

So far, Mission Lakadong has been able to increase production to 11.832 tonnes. This has benefitted more than 13,000 farmers. To help out small scale farmers, 15 Collective Marketing Centres have been set up along with two pro-

cessing units. The effort has not gone unnoticed. Trinity Saioo, a local agri-entrepreneur was conferred the Padma Shri for mobilising women to set up Self Help Groups (SHGs) and grow the Lakadong variety of turmeric. The government of Meghalaya has as sured all help in training farmers, providing them with better seeds and granting loans. Irrigation facilities will also be provided. Mission Lakadong will also ensure postharvest storage and educate farmers to deal with buyers so they receive a fair price for their produce. In this case, a fair price means a lot given the demand for Lakadong turmeric globally.

In cafes across the world, a small quantity of Lakadong Turmeric is sprinkled into cups of latte and a premium rate charged. Most importantly, efforts are on to get a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Lakadong-Turmeric to prevent imposters from selling fake products.



national



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

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





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



There is no way out because of circumstances Jammu and Kashmir is going through after August 2019, these

circumstances demand that we unite. People from all walks of life, be it Gujjar, 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 Singhal in money laundering probe linked to the alleged embezzlement of MGNREGA funds and other charges. The probe agency had grilled Singhal 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 Raniit. 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 Kanhargaor and Kadenar using an improvised explosive device (IED) March 23, 2021. Five jawans were killed and 13 others injured in the incident.

Birds fall from the sky as heatwave scorches India

Ahmedabad, May 11: Rescuers in India's western Guiarat 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.

Large swathes of South Asia are drying up in the hottest pre-summer months in recent years, prompting Indian Prime Minister 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.

This year has been one of the worst in the recent times. We have seen a 10% increase in the number of birds that need res-



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

cuing, 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.

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"

With the Opposition targeting the Centre after the Supreme Court's decision, the ruling BJP said the order must be viewed in the context of the overall positive suggestion of the government that it wishes to examine the matter which has been "duly accepted" by the court. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju invoked "Lakshman Rekha" guiding different institutions, including the Executive and the Judiciary, and said no one should cross their "boundary".

Responding to queries by reporters soon after the top court gave its directions, Rijiju said, "We

respect each other. The court should respect the government, the legislature, so as the government also should respect the court. We have a clear demarcation of boundary

and that 'Lakshman Rekha' should

not be crossed by anybody."

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, stayed all proceedings in sedition cases while directing the Centre and states to not register any fresh FIR invoking sedition charges until the sedition law is "under reconsideration".

The government in an earlier affidavit had said that it was willing to consider the issues involving the law. Referring to the affidavit, BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli said, "The Supreme Court order must be viewed with the overall positive suggestions of the government that

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.

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

Hitting back at Gandhi for his remarks, Rijiju dubbed Congress as the "antithesis" of freedom, democracy and respect for institutions and said these were "empty words" by the Congress leader. Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said speaking truth to power cannot be sedition for it is "true nationalism and the true test" of how committed one is to the country and to the people.

"The CPI(M) has always opposed the sedition law, saying it is anachronistic, brought in by the British to crush our freedom struggle and it has no place in the statute books in independent India. It's good that the SC has now ordered that this section must be kept in abeyance," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said at a press briefing here.

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 threeday 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.

Top Congress leaders will come out with solutions and clear the party's stance on key issues including polarisation, Centre-state ties, forming of alliances and attempts at bringing in "uniformity", especially in the Northeast, that are confronting the country and the party, Congress sources said.

The party is holding the Chintan Shivir at Udaipur in Rajasthan from May 13 to 15 after a gap of almost nine years while facing "an unprecedented crisis" as it remains in power on its own in just two states and has less than 100 members in both Lok Sabha and Rajva Sabha. Unlike in the past, when Chintan Shivirs did not set any set timelines, the Udaipur declaration will state time-bound initiation and accomplishing of structural changes in the organisation at all levels. "We have to make changes which are meaningful and not merely cosmetic" in order to revamp the party, a senior leader said ahead of the session. These



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.

The last such conclave was held in Jaipur in 2013 when the Congressled UPA was in power. It focussed on the elevation of Rahul Gandhi as vice president of the party. The earlier 'shivirs' were held in Pachmarhi in 1998 and Shimla in 2003. While stressing the importance of alignment of non-BJP forces, Congress leaders on Wednesday said the party would need to be internally strengthened first to gain a pole position in the event of an opposition understanding for the 2024 general elections. They noted that no opposition alliance could be viable without the Congress

Tomato flu



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 af-

fected 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 dehvdration, 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.

Congress leader $^{\prec}$ Sukh Ram no more



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla/New Delhi, May 11: Veteran Congress leader from Himachal Pradesh and former Union minister Sukh Ram died early Wednesday at a Delhi hospital. He was 94.

The Congress leader, who was airlifted and admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi May 7 after suffering a brain stroke in Manali in Himachal Pradesh, died at the hospital at 1:35 am, hospital sources said.

Sukh Ram's grandson Aashray Sharma said his body will be kept at Seri Manch in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi to enable people to pay their last respects Thursday.

"Goodbye grandfather, the phone won't ring now (alvida dadajee, abhi nahi bajegee phone ki ghanti)," Sharma said in a Facebook post around 2 am Wednesday. In another post, Sharma said Sukh Ram's body will reach his home city Mandi Wednesday at 6 pm. "With a very heavy heart I bid

farewell to my beloved Dadaji Pandit Sukh Ram Sharma. Even though you're gone, I know you'll always be with me, guiding me, looking over me and blessing me like you always do.Rest in peace dadaji, you will be dearly missed," the Congress leader's other grandson Aayush Sharma posted on Instagram.

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 Avub, Mohamad Alisher, Mohamad Jamal, and Anmol Yaday, and were convicted under Sections's 376D (Gang rape) and 302 (Murder) and the POCSO Act.

Giving the facts of the case, Public Prosecutor Neelam Kumari said: "Nine members of a family were returning home to Teentolia village after watching Durga Puja celebration on October 8, 2019, when they were intercepted at Pratappur by a gang of robbers. They had tied all male members to trees and blind-folded them. A woman and a minor girl were taken and gang raped by four persons.

"During the incident, the woman tried to escape but failed as she was shot by the accused. Some of the accused raped her while she was in an injured position. The accused also damaged her internal organs

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.

Following the incident, local police prepared the sketches of the accused on the basis of descriptions given by the minor victim and managed to arrest them.

During court appearance, the minor rape victim identified the accused. After two years of trial. ADJ-6 Alok Kaushik convicted them of gang rape and murder charges, and announced the quantum of punishment on Wednesday.

Terming it the rarest of rare crime, he said he was giving the death penalty to all the four accused.



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

'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.

The experts also said that if an unclean cloth is reused, it increases exposure to multiple local infections. In the recently released NFHS-

5, women aged 15-24 years were asked what method or methods they use for menstrual protection, if anything

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 Astha 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.

"As these infections can travel up to the pelvis, they can cause difficulties in getting pregnant or preg-



IN INDIA, 64 PER CENT USE SANITARY : OVERALL, 78 PER CENT OF NAPKINS, 50 PER CENT USE CLOTH, AND ! WOMEN IN THIS AGE GROUP 15 PER CENT USE LOCALLY PREPARED : USE A HYGIENIC METHOD OF

nancy complications like preterm labour (resulting in premature birth)." she said

long-run, as one of the risk factors for this cancer is poor local hy-Besides, poor hygiene can ingiene, Dayal said.

NAPKINS, THE REPORT STATED MENSTRUAL PROTECTION

crease cervical cancer risks in the

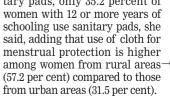
The NFHS report also stated that women with 12 or more years of schooling are more than twice as likely to be using a hygienic method as women with no schooling (90 per cent versus 44 per cent).

'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). Seventythree per cent of rural women use a hygienic method of menstrual protection, compared with 90 per cent of urban women," it said.

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). Poonam Muttreja, executive di-

rector at the Population Foundation of India, said the NFHS-5 shows a direct link between education, wealth and hygienic methods of menstrual protection.

While 80 per cent of women with no schooling reported using sanitary pads, only 35.2 percent of women with 12 or more years of schooling use sanitary pads, she said, adding that use of cloth for menstrual protection is higher among women from rural areas-(57.2 per cent) compared to those



international



Today I can announce that **New Zealand fully reopens** to the world by July 31, completing our reconnecting work two months ahead of schedule JACINDA ARDERN | PM, NZ

TOKYO'S TAKE ON SAME-SEX UNIONS

Japan's capital has announced it will start recognizing same-sex partnerships to ease the burdens faced by residents in their daily lives, but the unions will not be considered legal marriages. Support for sexual diversity has grown slowly in Japan, but legal protections are still lacking for LGBTQ people





worried about the prospect of war in Europe - we do attention to the fact that it is the West that is constantly and persistently saying that in this situation, it is necessary to defeat Russia. Draw your own conclusions

SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

The Secretary General is deeply concerned about the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka. He continues to encourage all Sri Lankan stakeholders to find a solution to the current challenges through dialogue FARHAN HAQ DEPUTY SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

EU proposals fail to properly address the real issues affecting Northern Ireland and in some cases would take us backward.

Our preference has always been for a negotiated solution but we will not shy away from taking action to stabilise the situation in Northern Ireland if solutions cannot be found

LIZ TRUSS FOREIGN SECRETARY, UK

SHORT TAKES

EU lifts mask rule for air travel

Berlin: The European Union will no longer require masks to be worn at airports and on planes starting next week amid the easing of coronavirus restrictions across the bloc, authorities said Wednesday. The **European Union Aviation** Safety Agency said it hoped the joint decision, made with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, would mark "a big step forward in the normalization of air travel" for passengers and crews.

HK police arrest **Catholic cardinal**

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's Wednesday arrested Cardinal Joseph Zen, one of the most senior Catholic clerics in Asia and four others who helped run a now-disbanded humanitarian fund for protesters, media reported. One legal source familiar with the matter told Reuters that five people had been arrested including Zen, 90; senior barrister Margaret Ng, 74; activist and pop singer Denise Ho; former lawmaker Cyd Ho; and former academic Hui Po-keung.

Polls likely in Pak before November

London: The Defence Minister of Pakistan, Khawaja Asif, Wednesday revealed the possibility of general elections in November, prior to the appointment of the new army chief, Geo News reported, In an interview with BBC, Asif said that there is a possibility that the caretaker government will leave before November and a new government will come into power. Regarding the extension of Chief of Army Staff General Oamar Javed Baiwa's tenure. he said the army chief had announced that he wasn't seeking an extension.

Cuba hotel blast toll rises to 43

Havana: The elegant Hotel Saratoga was supposed to reopen in Havana Tuesday after a two-year pandemic break. Instead, it was a day of mourning for the 43 people known to have died in an explosion that ripped the building apart. Emergency workers continued to hunt through the ruins for other victims as experts began to consider the fate of 19th century building, a former warehouse that had been converted into hotel early in

SRI LANKA CRISIS

Talks on to end political impasse

Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as Prime Minister Monday amid unprecedented economic turmoil in the country, hours after his supporters attacked anti-government protesters, prompting authorities to impose a nationwide curfew and deploy army troops in the capital. The attack triggered widespread violence against pro-Rajapaksa politicians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, May 11: Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was having talks with the ruling party dissidents and the main Opposition SJB Wednesday to end the political impasse after the resignation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

After nearly two days of political deadlock, the stakeholders are engaged in prolonged talks to try and appoint a successor to Mahinda Rajapaksa.

"We will have more talks today (Wednesday). Hopefully we will see an end (of the political impasse) today," Anura Yapa, a senior leader of the independent group that had split from the ruling SLPP coalition, told PTI.

The main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), the ruling party dissidents and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa have been holding talks for the last two days without much success, according

The SJB said that its leader Sajith Premadasa would not be taking over the premiership under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

"He must resign, he has lost both local and international support," SJB spokesman Lakshman Kiriella said. Meanwhile, the Marxist JVP said that they would



Calls for Mahinda's arrest are increasing for his alleged instigation of a mob which went on to attack anti-government

protesters who are calling

for the Rajapaksa family

At least 8 people have died while over 250 people have been injured in the clashes which also saw scores of properties belonging to ruling party politicians

Sri Lankan President refuses to quit; says he will appoint new PM this week as army marches on streets of Colombo

like to form an interim government if Gotabaya Rajapaksa steps

If he does not resign, then the party would give an external support from the Opposition to the interim government.

Parliamentary sources said Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeyawardene's plan to hold a party leaders' meeting on the re-

This is the time for all Sri Lankans to join hands as one, to overcome the economic, social & political challenges I urge all #Srilankans to reject the subversive attempts to push you towards racial & religious disharmony Promoting moderation, toleration & coexistence is vital

convening of Parliament before its scheduled date next week has become difficult as parties had

OTABAYA RAJAPAKSA | PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

raised safety issues in the current volatile situation.

The main Opposition had

India refutes speculative reports on sending troops to Lanka: Indian mission

Colombo: The Indian High Commission here Wednesday categorically dismissed speculative media reports about New Delhi sending its troops to Sri Lanka, saying India is fully supportive of the island nation's democracy, stability and economic recovery.

The denial from the Indian mission came a day after it refuted as "fake and blatantly false" local social media speculation that former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his family members have fled to India.

The whereabouts of Mahinda Rajapaksa has been speculated since his resignation Monday. It was reported that Mahinda had left his office-cum-official residence, Temple Trees. In its first reaction to the situation in Sri Lanka, India Tuesday said that it

is "fully supportive" of the island nation's democracy, stability and economic recovery.

'The High Commission would like to categorically deny speculative reports in sections of media and social media about #India sending her troops to Sri Lanka. These reports and such views are also not in keeping with the position of the Government of #India." the Indian mission said on Twitter. These reports and such views are also not in keeping with the position of the Government of India, it said.

'The Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs of India clearly stated yesterday that India is fully supportive of Sri Lanka's democracy, stability and economic recovery," the Indian High Commission said in another

handed over a motion of no trust against the government. But the Speaker said it would be no longer relevant as the government had already stepped down.

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.

China berates Tedros. rebuffs WHO criticism of its zero Covid policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, May 11: China Wednesday scampered to censor WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' sharp criticism of its much-touted dynamic zero Covid policy as unsustainable, while the foreign ministry curtly told him to refrain from making "irresponsible remarks"

"We hope the relevant individual will take an objective and reasonable view of China's epidemic protocol and policy and try to get a better understanding of the facts and refrain from making irresponsible remarks," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here answering a spate of questions on the criticism by the Director-General of the World Health Organisation.

Zhao said no matter how hard it is, the Chinese people and the government have every confidence to bring the virus under control.

'We have the foundation and capability to successfully carry out the zero Covid policy which is a protocol that suits China's national conditions," he said.

Earlier, Chinese sensors scampered to scrub the Chinese social media, especially Weibo, which is akin to Twitter, to remove Tedros comments sharply critical of Zero Covid policy of putting a number of cities on either lockdowns or semi-lockdowns to deal with the spread of the Omicron variant.

Tedros, said Tuesday that the zero Covid policy which drew criticism from the Chinese public is unsustainable.

Scribe shot dead during Israeli raid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, May 11: A veteran journalist working for Al Jazeera was killed Wednesday during an Israeli operation in the West Bank city of Jenin, prompting the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Qatar-based network to blame the Israeli Army for her death.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said that 51-year-old Shireen Abu Agla, a Jerusalem-based journalist for Al Jazeera, was hit in the head by live fire.

A second from Al-Quds newspaper sustained a gunshot wound to the back and is in stable condition, the ministry said.

The Israeli military denied that its forces targeted the journalists and called for a "joint pathological analysis and investigation" to



establish the truth

Israeli forces were operating in the Jenin refugee camp and several other areas of the West Bank to apprehend "terror suspects," the military said.

According to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), the militants opened fire at the Israeli forces and hurled explosives at them during the raid,

Al Jazeera said that she was killed "in cold blood," in what the news network called a "horrifying crime that breaches international norms"

before the soldiers returned fire. The IDF was looking into "a possibility, now being looked into, that reporters were hit – possibly by shots fired by Palestinian gunmen" the Israeli army said. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he holds Israeli forces "fully responsible" for Abu Aqla's death.

"We condemn this heinous crime, intended to prevent the media from carrying out its message, and we hold the Israeli government and the occupation forces responsible for her death," the channel wrote on Twitter.

"We call on the international community to condemn and hold the Israeli occupation forces accountable for the deliberate killing of our colleague Shireen Abu Aqla, it said. In footage from the scene, Abu Aqleh was seen wearing a PRESS vest and a helmet and was hit below the ear in an area not covered by her helmet

Israel's defense minister promised a thorough investigation of the killing of Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh Wednesday and asked that Palestinian officials hand over the bullet that killed her. Benny Gantz told reporters that Israel has been in touch with US and Palestinian officials, and said all parts of the investigation would be made public.

NATO BIDS LOOM

UK strikes security pact with Sweden & Finland



REUTERS

Stockholm, May 11: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson Wednesday said he had agreed new deals with Sweden and Finland to bolster European security, pledging to support both countries' armed forces should they come under attack.

The agreements, described by Britain as "a step-change in defence and security cooperation", will go some way to assuage fears in Finland and Sweden over threats made by Russia should either nation decide to join NATO.

"What we are saying, emphatically, is that in the event of a disaster or the event of an attack upon Sweden, then the UK would come to the assistance of Sweden with whatever Sweden requested,' Johnson said after meeting Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson.

Johnson would not say whether the UK would send troops to Sweden in the event of an attack.

Are we safer with this declaration? Yes. The support will be given on request by the affected country and may include military resources

MAGDALENA ANDERSSON | PM, SWEDEN

"It is up to Sweden to make the request and to spell out exactly what support is requested," he said.

Sweden and Finland have also received assurances of support from the United States and Germany.

The British statement said the new arrangements would intensify intelligence sharing and accelerate joint military training, exercises and deployments.

Sweden and Finland already have close ties with Britain and are part of the Joint Expeditionary Force, a multinational military group focused on security in the High North, North Atlantic and Baltic Sea regions.

Ukraine restricts gas flow to Europe Russia's war in Ukraine grinds into its third month UKRAINE REDIRECTING RUSSIA GAS TO EUROPE

with little sign of a decisive military victory for either side and no resolution in sight

REUTERS

Kyiv, May 11: Ukrainian forces reported battlefield gains Wednesday in a counterattack that could signal a shift in the momentum of the war, while Kyiv shut gas flows on a route through Russian-held territory, raising the spectre of an energy crisis in Europe.

Following days of advances north and east of the second largest city

Kharkiv, Ukrainian forces were within just several kilometres of the Russian border on Wednesday morning, one Ukrainian military source said on condition on anonymity. Before the advance, Russian forces had been on the outskirts of Kharkiv, a city 40 km (25 miles) from the frontier.

Wednesday's separate move by Ukraine to cut off Russian gas supplies through territory held by



Russian-backed separatists marked the first time the conflict has directly disrupted shipments to Europe.

Shipments from Russia's export monopoly Gazprom to Europe via US APPROVES \$40BN IN UKRAINE AID,

BEEFING UP BIDEN REQUEST Ukraine fell by a quarter after Kyiv

said it was forced to halt all flows from one route, through the Sokhranovka transit point in southern Russia.

US emphatically approved a fresh \$40 billion Ukraine aid package as lawmakers beefed up President Joe Biden's initial request, signalling a magnified, bipartisan commitment to thwart

'IT'S ROAD TO ATLANTIS'

'Yellow Brick Road' found in Pacific Ocean bed off Hawaii

The survey, being undertaken by the Ocean Exploration Trust, is being transmitted live and a recently published highlight reel on YouTube captured the moment researchers operating the deep-sea vehicle "stumbled upon the road to Oz"

Indo-asian news service

Washington, May 11: An ongoing underwater exploration expedition in the Pacific Ocean, just off the Hawaiian Islands, has come across what seems to be a "Yellow Brick

Road", like the one taken by Dorothy and her friends to reach the 'Wizard of Oz', as per the engaging children's fable, reports said. Exploration vessel Nautilus,

Papahanaumokuakea Marine which is currently surveying the National Monument (PMNM), one of the largest marine conserva-

tion areas in the world and larger than all the national parks in the

so far, came across this "road", over 3,000 metres underwater, ScienceAlert reported.

"It's the road to Atlantis," a researcher on the radio can be heard exclaiming

"The yellow brick road?" another voice countered. "This is bizarre," added another

member of the team. "Are you kidding me? This is crazy.'

Despite being located under about thousands of metres of ocean, the lake bed, where the "road" was found, looks surprisingly dry. On the radio, the team notes that the ground looks almost like "baked

crust" that could be peeled off. In one tiny section, the volcanic rock has fractured in a way that looks strikingly similar to bricks.

'The unique 90-degree fractures are likely related to heating and cooling stress from multiple eruptions at this baked margin," read a cap tion to the YouTube video.

Further, the researchers explained that the "unique" pattern of fractures in the rock that give it its cobbled formation is probably the result of repeated heating and cooling over time due to multiple volcanic eruptions. They have also stated that the team never surveyed the area before, but now they will take a deeper look at life on andwithin the rocky slopes of the ancient seamounts.

Lili'uokalani ridge within the US combined, but barely surveyed



Fare cap is a protector on both sides, on the upper side and the lower side... As soon as that (stable) period comes into place... I have the least desire to interfere and I need to create a nice feel so that you guys (industry) can play JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

GREAT START FOR DELHIVERY IPO

Supply chain company Delhivery's initial share sale got subscribed 21 per cent on the first day of subscription Wednesday. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) received bids for 1,32,64,410 shares against 6,25,41,023 shares on offer, according to data available with the NSE





popularity of khadi as compared to other leading players in the Indian fashion industry. Our designers must introduce such appealing designs in khadi that people are tempted to buy khadi as

much they buy other clothing

NARAYAN RANE UNION MINISTER

relationship between UAE highest peak at this time. There is a lot of interest by UAE companies to invest in India. CEPA is going to be the foundation on which things are going to be built

ADEEB AHAMED | MD, LULU FINANCIAL

It would be a triple whammy -- the industry loses out, the government loses out on tax revenue and players loses out as they would be exposed to unscrupulous operators

TRIVIKRAMAN THAMPY CO-CEO, GAMES24x7

SHORT **TAKES**

BSE Q4 net profit climbs two-fold

New Delhi: Leading stock exchange BSE Wednesday reported an over two-fold iump in net profit to ₹71.52 crore for the three months to March 2022. In comparison. the exchange had posted a net profit of ₹31.75 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal, BSE said in a regulatory filing to the NSE. The exchange's revenue from operations rose to ₹204.59 crore in the period under review from ₹152.18 crore in the quarter ended March 2021.

Vi shares give up early gains

New Delhi: Shares of telecom operator Vodafone Idea gave up early gains and settled 1 per cent lower amid profittaking Wednesday. In early trade, it had gained 4 per cent, a day after the company reported narrowing of its consolidated losses to ₹6,563.1 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022. The stock jumped 3.31 per cent to ₹9.03 during the day on the BSE. However, later it gave up early gains and settled at ₹8.65 apiece, down 1.03 per cent.

Tata launches **Nexon EV MAX**

New Delhi: Tata Motors Wednesday expanded its electric vehicle range in the country with the launch of Nexon EV MAX, priced between ₹17.74-19.24 lakh (exshowroom). Equipped with a 40.5 kWh lithium-ion battery pack, the Nexon EV Max offers 33 per cent higher battery capacity than the Nexon EV. delivering ARAI certified range of 437 km (under standard testing conditions), ensuring uninterrupted inter-city travel.

Artha makes 1st African investment

Mumbai: Artha India Ventures (AIV), a family office, is targeting to invest \$20 million in African countries by 2024, a senior official said Wednesday. The family office, which previously had invested in companies in the US and Israel, announced its first investment in the continent, with a bet on Kenyan re-commerce startup Badili. Artha India Ventures director Anirudh Damani told PTI that Africa is where India - now home to the third largest startup ecosystem was over a decade ago, and some countries like Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia and Egypt offer good prospects.

INFLATION, GLOBAL SLOWDOWN

Morgan Stanley cuts growth hope for fourth day; bank

Stating that "macro stability indicators are set to worsen," Morgan Stanley said it expects "both inflation and the current account deficit to deteriorate". It expects support from the government's supply-side response and the reopening vibrancy to help counter the downside on the growth front

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 11: American brokerage Morgan Stanley Wednesday cut its India growth estimate by 30 basis points for 2022-23 and 2023-24 on global headwinds, and warned that macro stability indicators like inflation are set to 'worsen'' going ahead

The brokerage expects India to clock a real GDP growth of 7.6 per cent in the ongoing FY23, as against its earlier estimate of 7.9 per cent. while the rate will slide further to 6.7 per cent in FY24 as against the earlier expected 7 per cent, it said.

Many analysts have been worried

of Donald Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ownership.

Musk says he would

reverse Twitter's ban

insurrection at the US Capitol

was a "morally bad decision" and

cause it alienated a large part of

the country and did not ultimately

result in Donald Trump not hav-

ing a voice," said Musk, adding

that he preferred temporary sus-

pensions and other narrowly tai-

lored punishments for content

that is illegal or otherwise "de-

CEO Jack Dorsey voiced his agree-

ment in a Tuesday tweet in which

he said "generally permanent

bans are a failure of ours and

Shares of Twitter dropped 1.5%

Tuesday to \$47.24 per share. That's

13 percent below the offer of \$54.20

per share — or \$44 billion — that

Musk made on April 14, a reflec-

tion of Wall Street's concerns

that the deal could still fall

through. Musk emphasised

Tuesday that it is "certainly not

Musk has repeatedly criticised

Twitter's content moderation de-

cisions, including banning Trump

for "incitement of violence," but

had mostly avoided saying what

he would do about Trump's ac-

count. He was pressed for more de-

tails Tuesday by Peter Campbell,

an automotive correspondent for

the Financial Times, which hosted

the auto conference.

Twitter co-founder and former

structive to the world."

don't work.

a done deal.'

"I think that was a mistake be-

"foolish in the extreme"

An Andundandundandundande

about the impact on the GDP growth

as a result of the ongoing geopo-

litical events, which have fanned in-

flation and led central banks, in-

cluding the RBI, to prioritise price

rise over growth by hiking rates to

higher commodity prices, and po-

tential risk aversion in global cap-

ital markets expose India to down-

side risks. The key channels of

impact will likely be higher infla-

tion, weaker consumer demand,

tighter financial conditions, the

adverse impact on business sen-

timent, and a delay in capex re-

It said the reopening vibrancy

will benefit the informal sector

"A slowdown in global growth,

cut demand in the economy.

and in turn, support the consumption story growth which has been a "laggard", and private capital expenditure will recover in the next 6-9 months as the government's infra spending will in-

crease the utilisation levels. The retail inflation will average at 6.5 per cent for FY23, as against the 6 per cent upper band comfort available to the RBI, and the currenyt account deficit will reach a ten-year high of 3.3 per cent on the back of commodity price pressures.

The RBI will hike rates by 0.50 per cent each at the June and the August reviews, and take the repo at which it lends to be at 6 per cent

Central banks rate hikes to dampen demand, recovery

Tightening of policy rates by major central banks, including the RBI, would adversely impact demand in the next 6-8 months and slow down the recovery process, sources said. According to sources, decision of various central banks will have a bearing on the demand, thus hurting the global economy which has yet to reach prepandemic level. Even in the past. sources said, inflation was mainly on account of supply constraints which have worsened due to the war. The RRI according to sources, has also been intervening in the forex market for the last few days to check rupee volatility. The rupee plunged to its lifetime low of 77.44 against the US dollar earlier this week, before staging a modest recovery. Sources said the RBI action was not targeted at finding any particular level for the rupee but to avoid sharp movements. On the declining forex reserves. sources said it is due to valuation losses because the dollar is gaining strength. Next reading of the forex reserve would be positive unlike the past week when it witnessed a decline, they added. India's forex reserves have slipped below the \$600 billion mark, as per latest data published by RBI. It had touched a high of \$642.54 billion in September 2021.

Sensex licks wounds stocks buck trend





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 11: The Sensex and Nifty spiralled lower for the fourth session on the trot Wednesday as investors remained on edge ahead of US inflation data, which will give clues on the Federal Reserve's policy tightening trajectory.

Unabated selling by foreign institutional investors and a jump in crude prices also weighed on sentiment, traders said. Despite a firm start, the 30-share

BSE Sensex failed to carry forward the momentum and ended at 54.088.39. lower by 276.46 points or 0.51 per cent. During the day, it tumbled 845.55 points to 53,519.30. Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 72.95 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at 16,167.10. Larsen & Toubro was the top

laggard in the Sensex pack, tumbling 2.34 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid, NTPC, Infosys, Maruti, ITC, Tech Mahindra and Wipro. In contrast, Axis Bank, IndusInd

Bank, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank were among the gainers, jumping up to 1.92 per cent.

"Investors continue to remain wary despite global markets trading in green due to drop in domestic investors confidence and FII selling. The market turned volatile waiting for the release of April US inflation data, which is expected to cool down marginally. Inflation will continue to be elevated

A four-day decline in stocks has wiped out over ₹13.32 lakh crore from the market capitalisation of **BSE-listed firms**

but the chance of major reactions is low because it has been factored in by the markets. The major determinant for market direction would be the pace of decline in inflation in response to the Fed measures," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 2.23 per cent while the midcap index dipped 0.46 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, capital goods tanked 1.63 per cent, followed by IT (1.50 per cent), industrials (1.39 per cent), telecom (1.22 per cent) and teck (1.07 per cent). Realty, bank and finance were the gainers.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai ended with gains, while Seoul settled marginally lower. Equity markets in Europe were quoting higher in the afternoon session.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 3.12 per cent to USD 105.7 per barrel. The rupee appreciated further by 10 paise to settle at 77.24 (provisional) against the US dollar Wednesday as the American currency retreated from its 20-vear high levels.

BLACK SEA SUPPLIES FALL

India sells record wheat in April

REUTERS

covery," it said.

New Delhi, May 11: India ex-London, May 11: Elon Musk ported a record 1.4 million tonne of wheat in April, four trade sources said Twitter would reverse its ban of former President Donald said, providing some relief to grain Trump if his purchase of the somarkets as buyers scramble for alcial media company goes through, ternatives to Black Sea supplies signalling just how permissive hit hard by the war in Ukraine. the platform could become to-April is the first month of the fisward free speech under his

cal year. India, the world's second biggest wheat producer, exported Speaking virtually at an auto a record 7 million tonne of the conference, the Tesla CEO said grain in fiscal 2021-22. Tuesday that Twitter's ban of India is the only major supplier Trump following the Jan 6, 2021

of wheat at this time of year, and its exports of the grain have surged since Russia invaded Ukraine in late February. It exported just 242.857 tonnes of wheat in April 2021.

With the new season crop gathered in April, wheat shipments



could rise further this month.

In May, shipments could rise to 1.5 million tonne, said a New Delhibased dealer with a global trading firm. Wheat supplies and railway cars' availability have improved in the last few weeks and that will help ship out more wheat in May.

Buvers from Asia and the Middle



from India India also exported wheat to other new markets such as Israel, Turkey, Indonesia, Mozambique, and Tanzania, traders said.

In addition, the United Nations World Food Programme sourced wheat from India to supply to Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti,

'Bauxite mining helpful for developing lush green forest' Bhubaneswar: A national conference of mine and mineral based industries, Geomintech 2022 was held in

Bhubaneswar with large number of participants from mining and other industries coming from different parts of the country. After the pandemic, this is one of the highly attended conferences in Bhubaneswar. The theme of the 22nd Annual Conference was 'New Equipment - New Technology Management and Safety in Mine and Mineral Based Industries'. The conference was inaugurated by Chief Guest Tanan Chand, Resident Director of Vedanta Limited and DD Mishra, Chairman, IIT, ISM Dhanbad, In his keynote address. DD Mishra appreciated the contribution of mining industry in growth and development. In the conference. Chand told that 'Consent to Operate' (CTO) needs to be taken from the society apart from the government. Taking the society on board will help miners in doing smooth mining. Scientific mining, zero

wastage mining, zero discharge mining, use of new technology like IoT, Artificial Intelligence, AR&VR, drone etc need to be promoted. Beautifully explaining how bauxite mining is not harmful but helpful for making green forest growth, Chand told that bauxite ores do not allow percolation of water and that is the reason why big and deep rooted trees do not grow in areas having bauxite. Once the bauxite is removed, the soil becomes fertile and develops lush green forest. In this context he informed that Vedanta is not having any captive mines of bauxite yet it makes full value addition by purchasing bauxite and importing bauxite from outside. The conference will continue for two days with many scholars and luminaries addressing the session and presenting papers. National Geomintech conferred Lifetime Achievement Award on Tapan Chand. Mishra. Chand and other dignitaries felicitated OP Singh, CMD MCL for his outstanding performance. Manoj Kumar, CMD CMPDIL was also felicitated in virtual mode.

inaugurates new premises Bhubaneswar: The new premises of UCO Bank, Kolar branch under Jagatsinghpur

UCO Bank, Balasore branch

district was inaugurated by Tirtol BDO in presence of Lalatendu Behera, Zonal Head, UCO Bank, Balasore. Among others, local Sarpanch, Director, RSETI, Jagatsinghpur and ex LDM Satis Patra were also present. A credit camp was also organised by the bank under the supervision of Behera and Sanjaya Behera, Branch Manager who provided sanction letter of ₹1.01 crore to the beneficiaries. Moreover, the bank also provided ₹76 lakh to SSGs, ₹20 lakh to UCO traders and ₹5 lakh to vehicle loan.



JSPL to provide farm mechanisation equipment to marginal farmers Bhubaneswar: With an objective to increase agricultural productivity and the income of farmers, JSPL Foundation Wednesday launched a special programme 'Jindal Krishi Vikash' in Odisha and Chhattisgarh where the foundation will support small scale farmers with farm-mechanisation equipments. Under the programme, the farm mechanisation machinery will be procured by JSPL Foundation and placed with a local farmers' organisation like Farmers' Producer Organisation (FPO), Agro Service Centres, Farmers' Club (FC), Farmers' Club Federation (FCF) among others. The farmers' organisations will have to sign an agreement with JSPL Foundation to ensure that the small and marginal farmers will be getting the

maximum benefit from the machinery. Farmers can use the placed machinery on a custom hiring basis paying a nominal amount to the farmers'

organisation. The amount will be used for maintenance/replacement of the equipment. "Mechanisation of farming is an important input in modern agriculture practices to enhance agricultural productivity. Most of the marginal farmers in our country are not able to afford the same, which adversely affects their farm income and overall quality of life. Our initiative will help in sustainable increase in production, productivity, and access to cash income. This will also reduce human drudgery, and the cost of farming," said Shallu Jindal, Chairperson, JSPL Foundation. Each local farmers' organisation can get farm mechanisation machinery up to ₹15 lakh excluding the subsidy given by the government.

Apple's final reminder: It's end of the line for iPods

LATE APPLE CO-FOUNDER STEVE JOBS INTRODUCED THE IPOD NEARLY 21 YEARS AGO WITH HIS LEGENDARY SHOWMANSHIP FLARE, AND THE SMALL, EASY TO OPERATE PLAYERS HELPED THE COMPANY REVOLUTIONISE HOW MUSIC WAS SOLD

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

San Francisco, May 11: Apple Tuesday put out word it is no longer making iPods, the trend-setting MP3 players that transformed how people get music and gave rise to the iPhone.

It packed "a mind-blowing 1,000 songs" the company said at the time. and together with Apple's iTunes shop established a new distribution model for the music in-

dustry. Buying complete albums on vinyl gave way to paying 99 cents a piece for selected digital

Industry trackers and Californiabased Apple itself have long acknowledged that the do-it-all iPhone would eat away at sales of onetrick devices such as iPod MP3

The trend toward streaming music services, including one by Apple, has made devices designed



around less enticing for consumers.

Music has always been part of our core at Apple, and bringing it to hundreds of millions of users in the way iPod did impacted more than just the music industry. It also redefined how music is discovered, listened to, and shared GREG JOSWIAK | SENIOR VP

(WORLDWIDE MARKETING), APPLE just for carrying digital tunes

Apple said in a blog post that

the current generation of iPods

will only be available as long as current supplies last.

"Since its introduction over 20 years ago, iPod has captivated users all over the world who love the ability to take their music with them on the go," Apple said in a blog post.

"Today, the experience of taking one's music library out into the world has been integrated across Apple's product line - from iPhone and Apple Watch to iPad and Mac."

In addition, the Apple Music subscription service provides streaming access to more than 90 million songs, the Silicon Valley giant said.

The iPod endured despite analyst worries that the release of the iPhone in 2007 would destroy demand, since the smartphones provided much more than just digital music. News of the end ofthe line for iPod prompted a flurry of sad, nostalgic posts on Twitter.

Marsh, Warner lift Delhi

Navi Mumbai, May 11: Riding on Mitchell Marsh's all-round heroics (2/25; 89, 62b, 5x4, 7x6), Delhi Capitals got their act together in the nick of time to upstage Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets and keep their IPL playoffs hopes alive here Wednesday.

After their bowlers restricted RR to 160/6, Marsh's splendid knock and David Warner's unbeaten 52 (41b, 5x4, 1x6) helped the Capitals complete the task with 11 balls to spare for their sixth win of the season that saw the team suffer setbacks both on and off the field, including multiple COVID-19 cases in its camp.

With the ball, Marsh had picked up the two important wickets of Yashasvi Jaiswal (19) and Ravichandran Ashwin (50, 38b, 4x4, 2x6).

DC lost Srikar Bharat in only the second ball of their innings to Trent Boult (1/32). That was followed by a maiden over by Prasidh Krishna and then the Kiwi speedster bowled another economical over as DC struggled to force the pace early on, reaching 5/1 in three overs.

The introduction of Ashwin saw Marsh launching the off-spinner over long-off for a six. Marsh did the same to Prasidh to give the much-

needed impetus to the DC innings. By the time the 143-run stand was broken by Yuzvendra Chahal

New Delhi, May 11: Senior India

and Chennai Super Kings all-

rounder Ravindra Jadeja was

Wednesday ruled out of the re-

mainder of the IPL due to a rib in-

jury, days after quitting the lead-

"Ravindra Jadeja won't be play-

ing CSK's next two games as he

has suffered a rib cage injury. He

has already gone home," CSK CEO

Kasi Viswanathan told this agency.

Jadeja apparently didn't play

the match against Delhi Capitals

due to an upper body injury, sus-

tained during an earlier match

Jadeja, who captained CSK in the

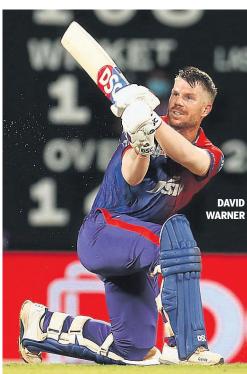
first eight games, had a forgettable

season as all he could manage was

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ership role.

against the RCB.



(1/43) with the wicket of Marsh, the match was almost in DC's bag.

Earlier, striking at better than most of the top batters, premier off-spinner Ashwin recorded his first half century in T20 cricket, while Devdutt Padikkal struck 48 (30b, 6x4, 2x6) after RR were asked to bat first.

The Capitals were off to fine

just 116 runs at an average of 20 in

10 games and only five wickets at

given for Jadeja's unavailability

is injury, sources tracking devel-

opments in the CSK camp claimed

that the all-rounder has been

Jadeia has also unfollowed CSK

on instagram," an IPL source told

PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Jadeja's decision to unfollow the

franchise on social media, didn't

stuff like instagram and twitter

and so I won't be able to tell you

much about these things," the CEO

want to read too much into it.

The CSK CEO when asked about

"I have no clue about all this

'It seems there is more to it.

While the official reason being

an economy rate of 7.51.

start as left-arm pacer Chetan Sakariya (2/23), playing the mustwin game in place of Khaleel Ahmed, dismissed RR's top batter

Buttler (7) cheaply in the third over. With Buttler gone early, DC were on top and looked to assert their dominance at the DY Patel Sports Complex. They gave very little away and kept RR to 43/1 in the six

INJURED JADEJA RULED OUT OF REMAINDER OF IPL

power play overs

Coming off his blazing half-century in the previous game, Jaiswal produced a lovely on-drive off Anrich Nortje (2/39) and then smashed the South African pacer for a six over third man.

MITCHELL MARSH

Jaiswal (19) impressed again, but not for long as Marsh cramped him up for room with a bouncer, Padikkal to join Ashwin in the

Looking confident after having hitting a few boundaries, Ashwin went along nicely and brought up his half century in 38 balls. However, the premier off-spinner got out soon after reaching the landmark with Marsh coming back into the attack to give DC the breakthrough.

Meanwhile, Padikkal smashed Axar Patel for two sixes - one over deep backyard point and another over long-on – as RR looked to force

Padikkal then scored two successive fours off Marsh, even as Nortje had RR skipper Sanju Samson (6) caught by Thakur at mid-wicket. As the DC players rejoiced, Kuldeep Yadav was seen walking off the ground holding his left shoulder, having hurt himself while going for a catch in the previous over

Riyan Parag hit Nortje for a massive six before Sakariya cut short his brief stay in the middle, and Padikkal too followed suit, thanks to brilliant catch running by substitute fielder Kamlesh Nagarkoti.

BRIEF SCORES

Rajasthan Royals 160/6 (R Ashwin 50, Devdutt Padikkal 48; Chetan Sakariya 2/23, Mitchell Marsh 2/25, Anrich Nortje 2/39) lost to Delhi Capitals 161/2 (Mitchell Marsh 89, David Warner 52 n o; Trent Boult 1/32) by 8 wickets.

mantle back from Jadeja, had in a

roundabout manner claimed that

the all-rounder was told during

the last season that he would be

handed captaincy for 2022 edition.

It was typical Dhoni-style subtle

message about the Saurashtra

At 33, Jadeja is a senior India star

and decorated performer in his

own right. It appeared that he was-

n't given full charge during the

time he was at the helm, an indi-

cation of that was when he was

Those who have keen \bar{l}_y followed

CSK franchise over the years have

observed that if a CSK player is in-

jured, he normally doesn't come to

the ground. Only those who are

dropped sit in the dug-out. And for

the record, Jadeja was in the dug-out.

seen fielding in the deep.

player not doing his homework.

from their 91-run win over Delhi Capitals in their last outing and hope the batters build on their brilliant showing. Opener Devon Conway is in sublime form and has hit three backto-back half centuries. He tore apart the Delhi Capitals attack

but can be more consistent. The season got worse for

to be seen if he is back in action against Mumbai. If CSK have to post a big score, like they did against DC, all batters will have to fire in unison. Last time when the two sides met, a





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 11: Their IPL playoff hopes hanging by a thread, Chennai Super Kings will face their fiercest rivals, a down and out Mumbai Indians, in their bid to stay afloat in the competition here Thursday.

This has been a season to forget for both Mumbai and CSK. While Mumbai will be playing for pride, CSK still have an outside chance to progress if they win their remaining games and other results

CSK will be eliminated if they lose to Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium, The MS Dhoniled side would take confidence

with his whirlwind 87 and would need to provide an aggressive start with fellow opener Ruturai Gaikwad, who too has found form

Ravindra Jadeja who was left out for the last game against Delhi due to an injury after handing back the captaincy to Dhoni. It remains

vintage Dhoni, 'the best finisher' sealed the game on the last ball of the game.

CSK bowlers were right on the

money when they bundled DC for 117. Tweaker Moeen Ali picked three wickets, while young pacers Mukesh Choudhary and Simarjeet

Singh also fared well.

The trio will need to once again deliver along with key spinner Maheesh Theekshana, whose four overs can also change the game's fate. Another important cog is Bravo, who has the knack of breaking partnerships. For Mumbai, all the remaining games are 'dead rubbers' and they would need to give a 'complete performance' with an improved batting show.

Skipper Rohit Sharma' (200 runs) will need to lead from the front and Ishan Kishan (321 runs) can build on his half century in the last game. MI's middle order batters, which crumbled against KKR, will also need to get the act right.

With Suryakumar Yadav ruled out, the likes of Tilak Varma, Tim David, Ramandeep Singh and Kieron Pollard, who has been a failure, will need to take greater responsibility.

In bowling, Bumrah found his mojo back and clinched a maiden five-wicket haul in IPL history. But he needs support from other bowlers - Daniel Sams, Riley Meredith and Kumar Kartikeya Singh, who will need to contain the CSK batters.

While Mumbai would eye revenge, for Chennai the game is about 'survival'.

TODAY'S MATCH



TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

JYOTHI BREAKS

Indian archers reign supreme at Asia Cup

JUNIORS SECURE EIGHT GOLD, FOUR SILVER AND TWO BRONZE MEDALS





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 11: A month after her wind-assisted effort was not registered as a national record, hurdler Jvothi Yarraji has finally made the mark her own while winning a 100m event in Cyprus with a timing of 13.23 seconds.

The 22-year-old Andhra athlete

Tuesday won the gold in Cyprus International Meet at Limassol under a head wind speed of 0.1m/s. The old national record of 13.38 seconds was in the name of Anuradha Biswal since 2002. Jyothi, who trains under Joseph

Hillier at Odisha Athletics High Performance Center in Bhubaneswar, had clocked 13.09 seconds during the Federation Cup in Kozhikode last month but since the wind speed was +2.1 m/s, more than the permissible

+2.0 m/s, it was not counted. Another Odisha Athletics High Performance Center trainee Amlan Borgohain, who smashed the national record during the Kozhikode Federation Cup, finished third in men's 200m race with a time of 21.32 seconds.

The 24-year-old from Assam had clocked 20.52s in Kozhikode. In other result, Lili Das won the women's 1500m race with a time of 4 minutes 17.79 seconds

Sulaymaniyah (Iraq), May 11: The Indian junior archers capped a stunning show by winning eight gold, four silver and two bronze medals to top the medals tally at the Asia Cup Stage 2 here Wednesday.

On the concluding day, India bagged five gold, four silver and one bronze that included a rare clean sweep in the compound men's individual section, adding to their Tuesday tally of three gold and one bronze.

Recurve archer Mrinal Chauhan spearheaded the Indian challenge on the final day to finish with double gold medals, while Prathamesh Fuge reigned supreme in the compound section by signing off with

games losing six and winning two,

the 'Yellow brigade' has won three

India thus upstaged Bangladesh who failed to replicate their Stage 1 show in Bangkok where they had topped the medal standings in March. India had sent a junior team for the continental event which had a depleted field without Asian heavyweights Korea, China and Chinese Taipei.

India's golden day began with the recurve women's team of Bhajan Kaur, Avani and Laxmi Hembrom edging out Bangladeshi trio of Akter Nasrin, Diya Siddique and Beauty Ray in a thrilling final to bag the day's first gold on offer.

Down 0-2, India bounced back to level 4-4 and the shoot-off too was a locked affair as both teams shot identical scores of (10-10-9) and India

a hat-trick of gold medals. were declared winners after it landed the recurve men's individual bronz one of the 10s closer to the centre.

out of four games since Dhoni is

back as the leader.

The men's recurve team, on the other hand, had it easy against their Bangladeshi rivals winning it 5-1. Having started off with identical 55s, the trio of Parth Salunkhe, Mrinal Chauhan and Juyel Sarkar stepped up, winning the next two sets (57-55, 56-54) to grab the second gold on offer on the day.

India however failed to replicate the success in the recurve mixed team final as the duo of Salunkhe and Bhajan squandered a 2-0 lead to go down to Uzbekistan's Abdusattorova Ziyodakhon and Amirkhan Sadikov 4-5 (18-19) to settle for a silver.

In the afternoon session, Salunkhe defeated Sadikov 6-4 to bag as he signed off with three medals - one team gold, mixed team silver and an individual bronze.

Bhajan Kaur lost the recurve women's individual final with a 2-6 defeat to Mahta Abdollahi to settle for silver. Chauhan won the recurve men's individual title, with a lopsided 6-2 win over top-ranked recurve archer in the fray, Ruman Shana (world rank 42).

The compound individual section saw an all-Indian finals. Sakshi Chaudhary won the women's title beating Parneet Kaur 140-138. In the last event of the meet, Fuge upset Rishabh Yadav (No.66), the topranked compound archer in fray, with a narrow two-point margin (146-144) to secure a hat-trick.

Liverpool equal City's point-tally

ASSOCIATED PRESS

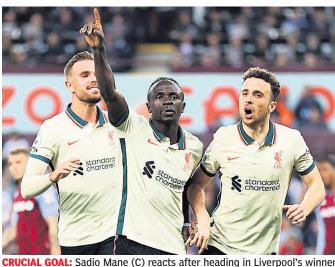
Birmingham, May 11: Liverpool have ensured the Premier League's thrilling title race will stretch into the final week of the season.

A come-from-behind 2-1 win at Aston Villa, sealed by a 65thminute header by Sadio Mane, showed Liverpool's heart for the fight and moved Jurgen Klopp's team level on points with Manchester City on Tuesday.

City still lead thanks to their superior goal difference of 3 to Liverpool. The defending champions play their game in hand Wolverhampton against Wednesday, after which the two title rivals will have only two more league games to play.

The earliest City could now clinch the league is Tuesday, when Liverpool play their next league game — at Southampton. Before that, City play twice, against

Wolves then West Ham Sunday. The Reds, who drew 1-1 with Tottenham Saturday, avoided having their title bid further derailed



CRUCIAL GOAL: Sadio Mane (C) reacts after heading in Liverpool's winner against Aston Villa, Tuesday

by a Villa team managed by one of their greatest players.

Steven Gerrard, a boyhood Liverpool fan and former star midfielder, insisted his focus was purely on winning the game for Villa and saw midfielder Douglas

Luiz — who was once on Man City's books — give his team the lead in the third minute. The Brazilian forced the ball in from close range after his initial header was only parried out by Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker

Villa held the lead for less than three minutes, with Joel Matip equalising by converting into an unguarded empty net after fellow center back Virgil van Dijk had a shot saved by goalkeeper Emi Martinez.

Liverpool lost Fabinho in the 30th minute to a hamstring injury that could potentially rule the holding midfielder out of the FA Cup final against Chelsea Saturday. Liverpool had regained control by the time Mane twisted his neck to meet a cross from the left from Luis Diaz with a header into the bottom corner.

Now playing more as a central striker following Diaz's arrival, Mane has become a pivotal player in recent months for Klopp, who gave the Senegal international a big hug after the fulltime whistle that came as Liverpool's away contingent sang the club's an-

them - 'You'll Never Walk Alone'. As for City, Pep Guardiola's team might need to claim seven points from its remaining three games to win a sixth title in 11

Aubameyang brace -

seals Barcelona win

Barcelona's goal scorers Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (C) and Memphis Depay (R) have something to talk about during their match against Celta Vigo, while Ronald Araujo, who was taken to hospital, looks on

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Madrid, May 11: Barcelona moved a step closer to securing second place in the Spanish league by defeating 10-man Celta Vigo 3-1 despite defender Ronald Araujo leaving the field in an ambulance with a head injury after colliding with a teammate.

Barcelona said Araujo "has suffered a concussion and has been taken to the hospital to undergo further testing" after he and Gavi Paez hit their heads while going for a ball near midfield in the 61st minute at the Camp Nou Stadium. The Uruguay defender seemed OK at first but collapsed after taking a few steps.

The game was interrupted for nearly eight minutes as Araujo received medical assistance and the ambulance was brought onto the field to transport him to the hospital.

Memphis Depay put Barcelona

ahead in the 30th and Aubameyang added to the lead in the 41st and 48th minutes. Aspas pulled the visitors closer in the 50th. The goal came after Araujo misplayed a pass by goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen, allowing the ball to be stolen by Celta. Celta defender Jeison Murillo was sent off in the 58th for a foul to stop a Barcelona breakaway.

The victory left Barcelona seven points in front of Sevilla ahead of the rival's home match against relegation-threatened Mallorca on Wednesday. The Catalan club was eight points ahead of fourthplace Atlético Madrid, which visits Elche Wednesday.

Finishing second is important because it guarantees a place in the lucrative Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia. There will be two rounds left after the mid-week games are completed. Real Madrid, which hosts Levante Thursday, clinched the title two rounds ago.

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