



### Bypoll to 1 RS seat in Odisha June 13

New Delhi: Bypoll to one Rajya Sabha seat in Odisha will be held June 13, the Election Commission announced Friday. The seat fell vacant following the resignation of BJD MP Subhas Chandra Singh in April. The poll is being held for the rest of the period that is from April 24, 2022 to April 24, 2026. While the notification for this poll will be issued May 26, last date of making nomination is June 2, scrutiny of nominations June 3. last date for withdrawal of candidature is June 6 and the poll will be held June 13 between 9 am to 4 pm.



## Vig inspector caught taking ₹10L bribe

Bhubaneswar: The Internal Vigilance Unit of the Vigilance Directorate in Cuttack Friday caught a lady inspector of Sambalpur Vigilance division red-handed while she was accepting a bribe of ₹10 lakh through a private person. Vigilance sources revealed that after getting informed Thursday by the complainant the sleuths laid a trap to nab the accused, Manasi Jena. As per the plan, Jena was Friday caught red-handed while receiving ₹10 lakh from a government official through the private person for the closure of a petition against him which was being investigated by the accused. MORE P3





A blacksmith shaping iron nails for chariot construction in Puri, Friday

# **TWITTER DEAL ON HOLD: MUSK**

London: Elon Musk said Friday that his planned \$44 billion purchase of Twitter is "temporarily on hold" pending details on spam and fake

accounts on the social media platform. The announcement that the Tesla billionaire tweeted is another twist amid signs of internal turmoil over his planned buyout of Twitter, including that the social media company fired two of its top managers Thursday. It wasn't clear

### **HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT** MONSOON TO HIT **Court notices to KERALA MAY 27** AGENCIES **Centre, state** New Delhi, May 13: South-west monsoon, considered as the lifeline of India's agri-based economy, is likely to bring first showers to Kerala by May 27, five days earlier than the normal onset date, the

# **DEFT HANDS** 26 perish in building blaze

Inferno rips through three-storey commercial building in national capital used for providing office space to companies

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 13: A massive fire ripped through a three-storey commercial building near Mundka metro station in west Delhi Friday evening, leaving at least 26 dead and 12 injured, police said.

"Over 50 employees and workers have been reportedly evacuated, while rescue teams have so far recovered 26 bodies," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Sameer Sharma, said.

According to fire department officials, information about the blaze was received around 4.45 pm following which more than 30 fire tenders were pressed into service. The fire broke out in the building near pillar number 544 of the Delhi metro.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ex-



pressed shock over the accident and offered condolences to the bereaved families. "I wish for speedy recov-

ery of the injured," Kovind said.

"Extremely saddened by the loss of lives due to a tragic fire in Delhi. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I wish the injured a speedy Narendra Modi. 'Shocked and pained to know abt this tragic incident. I am constantly in touch wid officers. Our brave firemen are trying their best to

control the fire and save lives. God

bless all," Kejriwal tweeted.

recovery," tweeted Prime Minister

Woman, two kids charred to death; husband detained

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 13: In a horrific\_ incident, the charred bodies of a tribal woman and her two children were recovered under mysterious circumstances from their house in Mayurbhanj district Friday, the police said. Alleging foul play, the woman's brother lodged an FIR in the Jharpokharia police station, accusing his brother-in-law, Mangal Marandi, 28, of murder. When the police reached the spot at Dhipasahi, the bodies were lying inside a room with a gas stove. However, no traces of a blaze were spotted inside the building. The deceased have been identified as Surukuni Marandi, 24, her daughter Sarita, 5, and threemonth-old son. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and a case has been registered, the police said.

whether the fake account issue could scuttle the Twitter deal. Stocks in both Twitter and Tesla swung sharply in opposite directions, with Twitter's stock tumbling 18% and Tesla, which Musk had proposed using to help fund the Twitter deal, jumped 5% MORE P11

# IRREGULAR by MANJUL

My faith in iudiciary has started dwindling...a few of them are talking about Constitutional rights

| MARKET WATCH |        |          |     |        |  |  |
|--------------|--------|----------|-----|--------|--|--|
| IN           | DEX    |          | VAR | ATION  |  |  |
| BOURSES      | SENSEX | 52793.62 | ₽   | 136.69 |  |  |
|              | NIFTY  | 15782.20 | ₽   | 25.80  |  |  |
| CURRENCY     | DOLLAR | 78.24    | ₽   | ₹0.01  |  |  |
| CURR         | EURO   | 80.61    |     | ₹0.26  |  |  |
| NOI          | GOLD   | ₹49,953  | ₽   | ₹221   |  |  |
| BULLION      | SILVER | ₹59,273  |     | ₹522   |  |  |



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 13: The court of Puri Civil Judge Senior Division Friday accepted a petition filed by the Puri Lawyers' Association and sent notices to multiple parties including the Union Ministry of Culture, the National Monuments Authority, the Archaeological Survey of India and Puri Collector Samarth Verma.

The court has directed the parties to file their responses and scheduled the next hearing for June 26. Notices have also been sent to Puri municipality, TATA Projects, Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation (OBCC) and the chief administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration. Notably, the court of SDJM had directed Wednesday for filing of cases 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 asked the Singhadwar police to receive the complaint and register cases against Puri District Collector, OBCC and Tata Projects under Section 30A of the AMASAR Act-1951 and 166A of the IPC and initiate a probe.

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

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

May 9, the ASI had informed the Orissa High Court that no valid permission was given for the heritage corridor project being constructed around the Srimandir.

weather office announced Friday.

"This year, the onset of southwest monsoon over Kerala is likely to be earlier than the normal date of onset. The monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be May 27 with a model error of four days," India Meteorological Department said.

In 2009. the south-west monsoon had reached Kerala May 23. Weather scientists attribute the early onset of southwest monsoon over Kerala to the influence of the remnants of cyclone Asani that triggered the cross-equatorial flow, a key factor for the seasonal rains.

The early arrival of the south-west monsoon comes at a time when parts of north-west India were experiencing extremely high maximum temperatures. "In association with enhanced cross equatorial winds, conditions are becoming favourable for the advance of Southwest Monsoon into South Andaman Sea, Nicobar Islands and some parts of southeast Bay of



Bengal, around May 15," the IMD said in a statement.

At the same time, the weather office made it clear that past data suggest that there is no association of the date of monsoon advance over the Andaman Sea either with the date of monsoon onset over Kerala or with the seasonal monsoon rainfall over the country. The IMD said due to strong westerly flow from Arabian Sea to south peninsular India in lower tropospheric levels fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall with isolated thunderstorm/lightning/gusty winds likely over Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karaikal, south interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep over the next five days.

SP Rishikesh Khilari visited the spot and a forensic team is investigating the matter.

# Give us grandchild or **₹5cr: Couple sues son**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dehradun, May 13: An Indian couple is taking their son to court demanding that he and his wife produce either a grandchild within a year or cough up almost \$650,000.

Sanjeev and Sadhana Prasad said that they exhausted their savings raising and educating their pilot son and paying for a lavish wedding. Now they want payback.

"My son has been married for six vears but they are still not planning a baby. At least if we have a grandchild to spend time with, our pain will become bearable," the couple said in their petition filed with a court in Haridwar last week.

The compensation they are demanding – ₹50 million – includes the cost of a wedding reception in a five-star hotel, a luxury car worth \$80,000 and paying for the couple's honeymoon abroad. The parents also forked out \$65,000 to get their son trained as a pilot in the United States only for him to return to India unemployed.

'We also had to take a loan to build our house and now we are going through a lot of financialhardships," the couple said in their petition.

# In a first, scientists grow plants in soil from Moon

Researchers at the University of Florida show plants can successfully sprout and grow in lunar soil

#### AGENCIES

Washington, May 13: Scientists have for the first time grown plants in lunar soil brought back to Earth by astronauts in the Apollo missions, a step towards producing food and oxygen on the Moon or dur-

ing future space missions. The researchers at the University of Florida (UF) showed that plants can successfully sprout and grow in lunar soil.

Their study, published in the journal Communications Biology, also investigated how plants respond biologically to the Moon's soil. also known as lunar regolith, which

is very different from soil found on Earth. This research comes as NASA's Artemis Program plans to return humans to the Moon.

"Artemis will require a better understanding of how to grow plants in space," said Rob Ferl, one of the study's authors and a professor at UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

"For future, longer space missions, we may use the Moon as a hub or launching pad. It makes sense that we would want to use the soil that is already there to grow plants," Ferl said. The researchers designed a simple experiment: plant seeds in lunar soil, add water, nutrients and light, and record the results. They only had 12 gm -- just a few

teaspoons -- of lunar soil with which to do this experiment. On loan from NASA, this soil

was collected during the Apollo



11.12 and 17 missions to the moon. The researchers applied three times over the course of 11 years for a chance to work with the lunar regolith. To grow their tiny lunar garden, the researchers used thimble-sized wells in plastic plates normally used to culture cells. Each well functioned as a pot.

Once they filled each "pot" with approximately a gram of lunar soil, the scientists moistened the soil with a nutrient solution and added a few seeds from the Arabidopsis plant which is widely used in the research because its genetic code has been fully mapped.

Growing Arabidopsis in the

lunar soil allowed the researchers more insight into how the soil affected the plants, down to the level of gene expression.

As points of comparison, the researchers also planted Arabidopsis in JSC-1A, a terrestrial substance that mimics real lunar soil, as well as simulated Martian soils and terrestrial soils from extreme environments.

The plants grown in these nonlunar soils were the experiment's control group. The researchers found that nearly all the seeds planted in the lunar soils were able to sprout.

'We were amazed. We did not predict that. That told us that the lunar soils did not interrupt the hormones and signals involved in plant germination," said Anna-Lisa Paul, one of the study's authors and a research professor of horticultural sciences in UF/IFAS.









# elsure

# **XCX LETS 80S MUSIC INFLUENCE ON HER NEW ALBUM CRASH**

Singer Charli XCX is currently 'very inspired' by music from the 80s. The 29-year-old pop star told People magazine: "At the moment I'm very inspired by a lot of '80s music. My current record Crash was really heavily inspired by that, both sonically and visually."

# **COPPOLA LOCKS CAST OF HIS DREAM PROJECT**

Superstar director and five times Academy Award winner Francis Ford Coppola has locked the star cast of his upcoming dream project Megalopolis. The film is set to star Adam Driver, Forest Whitaker, Nathalie Emmanuel, Jon Voight and Laurence Fishburne.



# FORTUNE FORECAST



You will understand that being generous with your knowledge is a very satisfy ing thing. Ganesha says when you give something, it will be returned to you nine fold in the future. Since you have decided to be more open-minded and considerate you will gain a lot by way of respect.

# TAURUS

Ganesha promises you a bright, eventful day ahead. The day is likely to commence with a series of important meet-

ings and conferences. Later, you will be motivated to take up something extraor dinary, something challenging and

### GEMINI

You face a hectic and challenging day up ahead. You will be busy trying to complete long pending projects at the office and in trying to fulfill all your responsibilites. This will leave you feeling tired and listless.

### 

Today, you will show others, literally, how to be successful in life, feels Ganesha. The example that you will set here is likely to become a benchmark for your company. Despite your tendency of getting into confrontations with your seniors, you are likely to be compliant and cooperative at work

## LEO

You are destined to play the superhero, at least as far as trade and commerce are concerned. Ganesha feels that today, you shall be more tied up in your daily work than is usual. But the upshot of it all is that all your actions seem to get the desired approval as the day progresses

## VIRGO

Ganesha predicts an imaginative and fruitful day for you at the workplace. You will feel your professional best in the afternoon. With your elegance, you will manage to put your ideas across the table and win the approval of your boss. You may pamper your beloved lavishly later in the evening



# **Chitrangada reboots her relationship with Mumbai**

Mumbai: Actress Chitrangada Singh, who made her web debut with the anthology Modern Love: Mumbai, says the show has given her a chance to reboot her relationship with the city. The actress is playing a housewife, with the desire to become a novelist, in the segment titled 'Cutting Chai' opposite Arshad Warsi, also says that women tend to prioritise family over

career most of the time. As the culture of 'cutting chai' is quite synonymous with the Mumbai city, Chitrangada, shares how her relationship with the city and its energy, local trains, 'cutting chai' and other elements, shaped her as a professional actress

'Being an outsider of Mumbai, as you know I lived in Delhi before, every thing that I have achieved as a professional, is the result of my hard work and a gift of Mumbai. Mumbai is my karambhoomi. Initially, when I came to the city it was a little overwhelming and fascinating at the same time because there is so much hustle-bustle that everyone is dealing with. Mumbai is a city of enthusiasts, there is madness and I am now addicted to it!, said the Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi fame actress.

The segment is directed by Nupur Asthana. Modern Love: Mumbai streaming on Prime Video.



The Abhay Deol-starrer showcases the riveting story of of Social Sciences(KISS), Bhubaneswar

Mumbai: The trailer of the Abhav Deol-starrer Jungle Cry was released Friday. The film, based on a true story of unsung heroes, chronicles the journey of 12 underprivileged and orphan children winning the presti gious U-14 Rugby World Cup held in London in 2007

The sports drama is directed by Sagar Ballary, and is inspired by the lives of Indian rugby coach Rudraksh Jena essayed by Abhay Deol, Paul Walsh played by Stewart Wright, and Professor Achyuta Samanta, the founder of Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)

gripping insight into the journey of India's U-14 rugby team's challenges and struggles as they go on to corner glory in the prestigious international event.

Deol shared that he was in awe of the children who won the U-14 Rugby World Cup, and the coaches who never gave up on them.

Produced by Prashant Shah under

**BIDYAKANAK SRUJANUSTHAN'S** NATIONAL THEATRE FEST- DAY 2



A scene from the Hindi play Unchai presented by Seagull Theatre troupe of Assam. The play, an adaptation from Erostratus by French playwright Jean-Paul Sartre, was directed by Baharul Islam. The central character of the play was inspired by Erostratus, an insane man of ancient Greek, who torched a temple of western Turkey in 356 BC to become famous overnight. Baharul Islam, Nirmali Sharma, Prashant Kalita and Devoiit Barthakur performed on stage. Among the dignitaries. Odia Language, Literature and Culture director Ranjan Kumar Das, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi president Aruna Mohanty, eminent theatre director Dhirendranath Mallick and Rotarian Prabhudutt Subudhi were present at the event. Troupe's secretary Shubhakanta Padhi coordinated the event.

# Hindi play Bhagwaan Jagannath Katha today



The cast and crew of the troupe at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Friday

Bhubaneswar: Bhandira Tree Theatre Group of Mumbai in collaboration with The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and Odia Language Literature & Culture Department, Government of Odisha will present, Bhagwaan Jagannath Katha, a Hindi play based on the legends of Lord Jagannath from Skanda Purana, here at Bhanjakala Mandap, Saturday.

of the theatre troupe. For the unversed, the troupe has ome of the talented actors, who have been working as professional actors in Hindi film industry for nearly 15 years, as its members.

Jungle Cry trailer offers insight into struggles of orphan kids from Odisha

India's U-14 rugby team who were from the Kalinga Institute

Commenting on the occasion, Abhay

**Utkal Tycoons Awards** 

Bhubaneswar: In an effort to recog-

nise the icons of Odisha's business

circle, Utkal Updates and Addiction

Fashion Management and

Consultancy will organise Utkal

Tycoons Awards with Bhubaneswar

Runway Week Season-6 in

On this occasion John Ajay,

"The event is being organised to

identify and recognise the tycoons of

the business fraternity. Besides, the

designers will showcase their cre-

ations in Bhubaneswar Runway

Week season-6. As many as 30 mod-

els will participate in the event,'

said John Ajay, the director of Utkal

Updates and Addiction Fashion

Founder of the organisation

Sushree Sangita Sahu said "Many

startups of Odisha are doing ex-

cellent work in the field of busi-

ness. We will honour and recognise

their contribution at the event.

Ollywood celebrities like Elina

Samantray and Bhoomika will grace

Season-6 will have designers and

brands like Prieya S (Priya

Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das),

TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi),

AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashon)

and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly

The Bhubaneswar Runway Week

the occasion."

Studio) at the event.

Management and Consultancy.

Director, Bhubaneswar Runway said

Bhubaneswar, Sunday.

that, '

to be held May 15

He said in a statement, "In the land of cricket, where there is hardly any noise about rugby, 12 young children from rural India made history.

The play will be staged under the the banner of Bollywood Hollywood Horizon Series of the troupe.

feet and with large eyes and large lips. The six-hour play also showcases the Navaras of Natya Shastra.

"Besides, the play will also explain the philosophy of Sanatan Dharma and its practice of idol-worship. Our younger generation must know the scientific aspects of this eternal religion," said Dhananjay Kapoor, the writer-director-producer and founder

your workplace, but you shall be able to negotiate this tough state of affairs with deftness, predicts Ganesha. Patience is your key to get over psychological turmoil.



The day will usher refreshing changes into your per-sonal life, foresees Ganesha. No matter which side of the bed you woke up on, the day promises to

present itself in a cheerful light. You will build and eniov harmonious and cordial relations with your peers at work

### SAGITTARIUS

Cash transactions will 'flow your way. Money comes easy to itching palms, says Ganesha, and you will enjoy the green scene as you take stock of your finances with precision. Beware of people with a negative attitude as it might inflict worry on your fortunes, says Ganesha.

# CAPRICORN

You will be brimming over with power and energy, so much so that you may go head first into a new business venture, something that can match your ability and bring you the desired satisfaction Pending work will be done away with, leaving you more time for recreation, says Ganesha.

## **AQUARIUS**

Today is a day for creative expression! Sing away to glory, for you may discover you have a wonderful voice. Focus and precision are your best tools today, says Ganesha. But some event may cast a shadow over your clarity in the evening

## **PISCES**

You might as well drive into a brick wall and hope it is spongy, as expect to achieve a lot of success today. However, this does not mean that you ought to give up. Indeed. it is the Herculean efforts that you put in today that will bring you many laurels and much appreciation, as well as stupendous success in the near future, says Ganesha.

played by Atul Kumar.

The trailer which has a runtime of little less than three minutes, offers a

Productions, and directed by Sagar Ballary, the movie will release on Lionsgate Play June 3.

FUN

The plot revolves around the appearance of Lord Jagannath, Baladev and Subhadra without their hands and





# CALVIN AND HOBBES







# SUDOKU

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

| 4         | 6 |   |   |   |   | 8 |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2         |   |   | 4 |   |   | 3 | 5 |   |
|           |   | 7 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |
| · · · · · | 1 |   |   | S |   | 5 |   | 8 |
| 5         |   |   | 7 | 4 |   | 1 |   |   |
|           |   |   | 2 | 1 |   |   |   |   |
| 2 2       |   | 3 |   | 8 | 7 |   |   | 9 |
| 8         | 7 | 5 | - | 1 | 9 | - |   | - |

# SOLUTIONS

|           | C                               | A                     | S                               | U                                    | A | L   |                                      | L                   | A  | R                                    | 1                                    | A | T                          |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
|           | н                               |                       | A                               |                                      | С |   | P                                    |                     | N  |                                      | Μ                                    |   | E                          |
|           | A                               | D                     | М                               | 1                                    | R | E   | _                                    |                     | J  | A                                    | Ρ                                    | A | Ν                          |
| 2         | S                               |                       | В                               |                                      | 0 |   | Е                                    |                     | 0  |                                      | U                                    | _ | А                          |
| 0         | Т                               | W                     | A                               | 1                                    | Ν |   | М                                    | А                   | U  | D                                    | L                                    | 1 | Ν                          |
| ž         | E                               | -                     | _                               | _                                    | Y |   | 0                                    |                     |  | _                                    | S                                    |   | т                          |
| $\geq$    |                                 | С                     | Н                               | Е                                    | М | 1   | Ν                                    | D                   | Е  | F                                    | Е                                    | R |                            |
| CROSSWORD | A                               |                       | А                               | l                                    |   |   | 1                                    |                     | М  |                                      | 10                                   |   | G                          |
| S         | V                               | А                     | L                               | 1                                    | Α | Ν   | Т                                    |                     | В  | А                                    | В                                    | Е | L                          |
| ×         | 0                               |                       | 1                               |                                      | R |   | 1                                    |                     | R  |                                      | R                                    |   | А                          |
| Ľ.        | С                               | Α                     | F                               | Е                                    | S |   | 0                                    | V                   | Α  | Т                                    | 1                                    | 0 | Ν                          |
| 0         | E                               |                       | А                               |                                      | 0 |   | Ν                                    |                     | С  |                                      | В                                    |   | С                          |
|           |                                 |                       |                                 |                                      |   |   |                                      |                     |  |                                      |                                      |   |                            |
|           | Т                               | A                     | Х                               | 1                                    | Ν | G   |                                      | R                   | E  | С                                    | E                                    | D | Е                          |
|           | т                               | A                     | X                               | 1                                    | N | G   |                                      | R                   | E  | С                                    | E                                    | D | E                          |
|           | T                               | 4                     | X<br>3                          | 7                                    | N | G   | 6                                    | R                   | E  | 9                                    | E                                    | D | E<br>8                     |
|           | т<br>4                          | 4<br>9                | X<br>3<br>8                     | 7                                    | N | G<br>1<br>4                               | 6                                    | R                   | E  | 9<br>2                               | 5<br>7                               | D | 8<br>6                     |
|           | T<br>Q<br>Q                     | 4<br>9<br>5           | ×<br>3<br>8<br>2                | 1                                    | N | G<br>1<br>4<br>9                          | 6<br>5<br>7                          | R                   | 2<br>3   | 9<br>2<br>4                          | 5<br>7<br>3                          | D | 8<br>6                     |
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| IDOKU     | T 49 6 7 11 12                  | A<br>4<br>7<br>3<br>1 | × 3 8 2 5 4 9 7                 | 7<br>1<br>5<br>6<br>8<br>2<br>4      | N | G<br>1<br>4<br>9<br>8<br>2<br>7<br>3      | 6<br>5<br>7<br>3<br>1<br>4<br>8      | R 14 13 80 69 69 11 | E<br>2<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3   | 9<br>2<br>4<br>1<br>7<br>6<br>5      | 5<br>7<br>3<br>4<br>9<br>8           | + | 8<br>6<br>1<br>2           |
| SUDOKU    |                                 | A<br>3<br>1<br>2<br>5 | × 3 8 2 5 4 9 7 1               | 7<br>1<br>5<br>6<br>8<br>2<br>4<br>3 | N | G<br>1<br>4<br>9<br>8<br>2<br>7<br>3<br>6 | 6<br>5<br>7<br>3<br>1<br>4<br>8<br>9 | R 2 2 8 0 5 1       | E<br>2<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3 | 9<br>2<br>4<br>1<br>7<br>6<br>5<br>8 | 5<br>7<br>3<br>4<br>9<br>8<br>6<br>2 | t | 8<br>6<br>1<br>2<br>5<br>3 |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





# downtown



# TILLING TIME

A piece of land at OUAT in Bhubaneswar was ploughed for farming, Friday



# **COVID-19 TRACKER**

|       | INFECTED     | RECOVERED    | DEAD      |
|-------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| orld  | 51,99,79,083 | 47,47,01,454 | 62,85,196 |
| dia   | 4,31,16,254  | 4,25,73,460  | 5,24,190  |
| disha | 12,88,272    | 12,78,980    | 9,126     |

# **IREDA keen to promote green energy in state**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK, AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Friday said it is keen to promote more green energy projects in Odisha and has already sanctioned loans worth Rs 670 crore within one year of opening its branch in the state.

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a public sector non-banking financial institution, has been engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for projects related to new and renewable sources of energy.

Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of IREDA, Friday met Odisha Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, a company statement said.

During the meeting Das said that the IREDA is keen to promote more renewable energy projects in Odisha, realising the immense green energy potential in the state. In August 2021, the IREDA opened a branch office in

CHIFF SECRETARY SC MAHAPATRA AND IREDA'S CMD PRADIP KUMAR DAS HAD A POSITIVE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NUMEROUS EFFORTS MADE BY THE AGENCY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES IN ODISHA

Bhubaneswar, following which the company sanctioned five hydro power projects with total capacity of 80.5 MW and a 1.5-MW energy access project.

the presence of witnesses.

by the Vigilance department.

The Vigilance officials have launched

'We have activated the Internal

a probe into the matter after regis-

tering a case (5/12) against the duo.

Vigilance Unit which is operating

corrupt practices," informed Director

Vigilance YK Jethwa.

Following the opening of its branch office in Odisha, IREDA

IREDA, A PUBLIC SECTOR NON-BANKING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN PROMOTING, DEVELOPING AND EXTENDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

has sanctioned loans of Rs 670 crore and disbursed Rs 348 crore, it said. The state Chief Secretary and

IREDA's CMD had a positive discussion about the numerous efforts made by IREDA in the last

two years and future opportuni ties in Odisha, the statement said, adding that opportunities for promoting the usage of Renewable Energy (RE) in the state were highlighted throughout the conversation.

According to the statement, the chief secretary praised IREDA's efforts in Odisha and assured the state government's complete support for RE development.

Das said that apart from hydro and access to energy, several projects for Odisha related to biomass and manufacturing are also under consideration.

He informed the Chief Secretary about the company's recent initiatives, achievements and future plans for the RE sector's expansion in line with the central government's target to have a 50 per cent share of total energy use from non-fossil fuels by 2030.

The IREDA should also encourage solar rooftop, solar heating and solar lighting systems for household use in Odisha, the Chief Secretary was quoted as having said in the statement.



**CIVIC WOES** 

A portion of the Grand Road in Puri near the Market Square was inundated with drain water, Friday OP PHOTO

# Vig inspector caught taking ₹10 lakh bribe

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: A woman inspector of Sambalpur Vigilance division was caught while accept ing bribe of Rs 10 Lakh through a middleman Friday.

Vigilance inspector Manasi Jena was caught by the Internal Vigilance Unit of the Vigilance Directorate at Cuttack, sources said.

The Vigilance sleuths laid a trap after receiving a tip-off in this regard Thursday. Jena was receiving the money from a government official for closure of a petition against the latter. Incidentally, Jena was investigating the case against the government officer, sources said.

Jena reportedly used Mukesh Sahoo of Bargarh as a conduit to receive the money from the gov

#### POST NEWS NETWORK ernment official. The money re-

ceived by Sahoo on behalf of Jena Bhubaneswar, May 13: The state has been recovered from him in government has pulled up the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for its non-coopera-"Simultaneous searches have been launched at several locations related tion in implementing the road safety to Jena and Sahoo at Sambalpur, measures and negligence in maintaining a stretch on Dwarasuni ghat Sundargarh, Bhubaneswar and Bargarh," read a press note issued on NH-49 in Mayurbhanj district. Transport and Commerce de-

partment principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi has written to the Chief General Manager and Regional Officer of NHAI, Odisha, in this regard recently.

'You are aware of the fact that

#### ransport and Commerce department principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi has written to the Chief General Manager and Regional Officer of NHAI, Odisha, in this regard recently

NHAI pulled up for poor upkeep of Dwarasuni ghat

Sethi claimed that Dwarasuni ghat is a hazardous spot in the district as on an average two to three accidents occur on it every month

A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE MAYURBHANJ RTO ON THE DWARASUNI GHAT INDICATES THAT THERE ARE MANY POTHOLES ON THE ROAD. THE STRETCH LACKS CRASH BARRIERS, SIGNAGE AND REFLECTIVE TAPES

> curred in the district in 2021. At least 312 people were killed in these mishaps. There are 13 black spots in the district as per the road accident data from 2017 to 2019." He further said that Dwarasuni

# Former MLA goes missing from home

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. May 13: Congress leader and

ghat is a hazardous spot in the district as on an average two to three accidents occur on it every month. As per the information provided by the Mayurbhanj collector, this issue is regularly discussed in the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meetings.

"In spite of intimation to attend the DRSC meetings, the project director, NHAI, Balasore never feels it necessary to attend the same. The project director always sends his representatives to the meetings which indicate his negligent attitude towards road safety and the direction of Supreme Court Committee,' Sethi said.

The representatives who attend the meetings on behalf of the project director, NHAI, Balasore express their inability to repair this stretch in the view of a plan to

potholes on the road. The stretch lacks crash barriers, signage and reflective tapes. The NHAI regional head has been urged to instruct technical officers from his office and the proj-

widen the road. But, human lives

are not so cheap to be sacrificed

till the stretch is converted into a

Mavurbhani RTO on the Dwarasuni

ghat indicates that there are many

A survey conducted by the

4-lane road, Sethi added.

ect director, Balasore, to visit the Dwarasuni ghat, conduct a survey, find out the defects and rectify them in consultation with the Mayurbhanj collector and RTO.

The NHAI official was also asked to submit a compliance report to the Transport department at the earliest for the kind perusal of the Chief Secretary.

### 'Rape' cuffs on City bizman POST NEWS NETWORK visits to a relative's house in the

#### Bhubaneswar, May 13: The with the accused at a pub in Commissionerate Police has Chandrasekharpur area a few arrested a 24-year-old busi-

Capital city. She came in contact

she dares to reveal the matter before anyone. Later, the victim filed a com-

plaint with Pahala police May 6. The police Thursday arrested



within the Cell Division of Vigilance loss of lives in road accidents is a Directorate. The unit is keeping tab on the activities of Vigilance officials. matter of grave concern for all of Stating Mayurbhanj district as We are committed to take stern acus. During the last decade, about tion against anyone indulging in one of the vulnerable districts with

45,000 people have died due to road accidents in Odisha. Most of them are the young people and bread

earners of their families," Sethi said in his letter.

regard to road safety. Sethi said,

"Altogether 540 road accidents oc-



Women used umbrellas to protect themselves from the scorching heat in Bhubaneswar, Friday OP PHOTO

#### former legislator from Aska, Saroj Kumar Padhy, reportedly went missing from his residence here Thursday.

Padhy's son Sangeet has lodged a missing report at Capital police station, sources said.

In his complaint, Sangeet claimed that the former MLA left his residence in Unit VI area around 8 am Thursday for some work. But, he did not return home.

Padhy's mobile phone was found switched off when his family members tried to con him, said the complaint.

Padhy's son also claimed that the ex-MLA under severe mental pressure as he had ceived repeated calls from an unknown per in the last few days. However, Padhy did tell thing regarding the caller and his intention anyone.

Padhy's family members suspected some miscreants might have abducted the mer legislator. Notably, Padhy was elected f Aska Assembly constituency on Cong ticket in 2004.

# SSB to conduct entran test for teaching cours

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The Higher Educa department Friday directed the State Selec Board (SSB) to conduct OMR-based entra tests for selection of candidates for their rolment in teacher education programme the academic session 2022-24

In a letter, HE department additional secre Ramakanta Nayak said, "The government entrusted the SSB with the responsibility of ducting the entrance exam for selection candidates to B Ed, BH Ed and MH ED for academic session 2022-24. The applicants s apply online for the exam through SAMS tal from June 1 to 27.

The entrance exam needs to be conducted all the districts as far as possible in last v of July preferably July 31, 2022, the le further said.

The department said the SSB's response ities to this effect include selection of cen as per the number of candidates applied for different courses, preparation of question all the above three courses, preparatio OMR sheets, issuance of admit cards, con of entrance exam in all centres in a day, uation of papers, publication of results and h ing over the result to the department safe

nessman for allegedly sexually abusing a woman at his Pahala residence on the outskirts of City in April this year.

The accused was identified as Kishan Agarwal of Rasulgarh area under Mancheswar police limits. Sources said the victim, who hails from Cuttack, often

months ago. It was April 29, when the accused reportedly forced the lady to go with him to his rented accommodation at Pahala. Subsequently, Agarwal allegedly raped the lady, who was under the influence of alcohol. He also allegedly threatened the victim of dire consequences if

Agarwal after registering a case (6/22) on the matter.

The accused was Friday produced before the court that sent him to judicial custody. Meanwhile, a city-based rights activist filed a petition before the NHRC seeking a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the victim.

| hold<br>11.0<br>lega<br>repa   | s is to inform the public that inspite of repeated reminders the for<br>aid their loan. If they do not repay their outstanding debts before<br>d as collateral will be auctioned to the premises of our <b>Conc</b><br><b>20 A.M.</b> The Bank will not be liable for any inconvenience or loss<br>al action against them if the Bank loses where necessary. En<br>aying the outstanding debt before the auction take place.   | e the auction, their gold<br>erned Branches on 3<br>to the borrowers and the   | ornaments v<br>0.05.2022<br>Bank will ta   |
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| SI<br>No   | Name & Address of the Borrower(s)  | Outstanding Amount<br>+ interest thereon   | (in Gram   |
| Br   | TRISULIA CHOWK EAB BRANCH (18701), Trisuli<br>ahmanigaon, Via: Baranga, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha, P   |  |  |
| 1.   | Susant Kumar Sahoo, S/o: Bishnu Charan Sahu, Madhupur,<br>Baranga, Cuttack, Pin- 754005.   | Rs.1,80,695/-<br>+ interest thereon  | 49.20  |
| 2.   | Susant Kumar Sahoo, S/o: Bishnu Charan Sahu, Madhupur, Baranga, Cuttack, Pin- 754005   | Rs.1,91,515/-<br>+ interest thereon  | 52.10  |
| 3.   | Sumitra Sahoo, W/o: Chittaranjan Sahoo, At: Bhola Sahi, PS.:<br>Nandankanan, Bhubaneswar, Pin- 754005 .  | Rs.72,036.04<br>+ interest thereon   | 19.58  |
|  | PARADEEP UBI BRANCH (48060), Bank Street,<br>Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, 754142, Mol  |  | o, Dist:   |
| 1.   | Jitendra Kumar Sahu, S/o: Harekrushna Sahu, Nua Bazar, Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Pin - 754142.  | Rs.36,247/-<br>+ interest thereon  | 11.00  |
| A  | NGUL ECB BRANCH (14332), Plot No.961/1890<br>Market Complex, Angul, Odisha-759122  | & 1891, 1st Floor,<br>Mob.:7978925458  | Sreeram  |
| 1.   | Bibhuti Bhusan Pati, At/PO: Gurudwara, GP Gobara, PS:<br>Bikrampur FCI, Talcher, PO.: South Balanda, Pin- 759122.  | Rs.5,14,773/-<br>+ interest thereon  | 167.92   |
| 1) F<br>(2) / 3) in<br>(2) / 4) / 4<br>5) in<br>(4) / 4<br>5) in<br>(5) in<br>(5) in<br>(6) 1<br>(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) | rson willing to participate in the auction should obey the<br>Person willing to participate in the auction must deposit Rs.1,000/<br>EMD) two hours before the scheduled auction time .<br>After depositing the EMD, person who willing to participate in the<br>The person who make the highest offer shall have to deposit<br>in the Bank . After making the highest offer, if the person un<br>offer, then his EMD will be forfeited and that person will not be<br>process further .<br>Auction for another account will begin only after the auction and<br>been completed .<br>The Bank is not completed to accept any auction calls . The<br>assigning any reason therefor .<br>The person whose highest bid will be accepted by the Branch<br>be compelled to deposit the remaining 75% of the auction are<br>totice of confirmation of the auction . Otherwise 25% of the de<br>vill be forfeited . | I - in the form of Earnest I<br>e auction can inspect th<br>it 25% of the said offe<br>able to deposit the 25<br>allowed to participate<br>I amount deposit of one<br>Bank may cancel the a<br>Office of the Union Bar<br>mount within 3 days of<br>posited amount and the | e ornaments<br>r immediate<br>% of the sa<br>in the auction<br>account ha<br>uction without<br>receiving the<br>EMD depose |
| v<br>7) li   | f Union Bank of India, Branch Office cancel/postpone any higher<br>EMD amount will refunded to the depositor without any interest  |  | siled amou   |

# 236 CCTVs for this year's Rath Yatra

This was revealed by Puri district Collector Samarth Verma after the second preparatory meeting for the festival Friday

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, May 13: The state government has decided to install at least 236 CCTV cameras at Srimandir and Shree Gundicha temple during the annual Rath Yatra festival.

This was revealed by Puri district collector Samarth Verma after the second preparatory meeting for the event here Friday. He said the tender process for the installation of CCTV cameras has been completed. Earlier, Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra and DGP SK Bansal



had issued a direction in this regard after the temple kitchen was vandalised last month.

Verma said the district administration has drawn up two plans for smooth conduct of Rath Yatra - one with full participation of devotees and another without them like in 2021 and 2020 because of the pandemic.

At the meeting, all the departments associated with the festival submitted their plans regarding

the festival which marks the annual journey of sibling deities - Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra-from Srimandir

to the Gundicha Temple. Verma said the administration is expecting a devotee turnout of about 15 lakh if the government allows their participation this time. The meeting was also attended

by chief administrator of Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration Vir Vikram Yadav.





# downtown

# **Reception centre to be** shifted to regulated zone

The proposed reception centre will

come up in the regulated zone -- the

area extending 200 metres from the

prohibited zone. Though

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, May 13: Amid the row over the Puri Heritage Corridor Project, the Cultural Advisory Committee has decided to shift the Shree Jagannath Reception Centre out of the prohibited zone of 100 metres around the 12th-century shrine, officials said Friday.

The proposed reception centre will come up in the regulated zone -- the area extending 200 metres from the prohibited zone. Though digging had begun within the prohibited zone for the reception centre, construction was yet to start, thev said. The decision was taken

Thursday at a meeting chaired by Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb. It was attended by members of the committee and senior officers of the state government, including the Principal Secretary of the Works department and Engineer-in-Chief and Managing Director of Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC).

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had told the Orissa High Court in an affidavit May 9 that the state government did not take its permission for the heritage corridor project.

The state government also informed the court that the reception centre will be moved out of the 100-metre prohibited zone.

A 600 people capacity reception centre, a cultural centre, an integrated command and control centre, a pilgrim centre and a multi-level car parking lot are part of the project, which aims to make Puri an international place of heritage.

digging had ٩ begun within the prohibited zone for the reception centre, construction was yet to start ------

After examining the current availability of land for the Heritage Corridor Project, the meeting decided to develop the Outer Access Road (OAR) with the available width and after acquisition of more land, required extensions may

be made. It was also decided to keep the design of the amenities simple, in tandem with the temple complex. A PIL in the high court has claimed that the construction work has affected the health of the temple.

Superintending ASI's Archeologist, Bhubaneswar Circle, Arun Mallick visited the Jagannath temple Friday morning.

This is for the first time that an ASI official visited the shrine after the affidavit was submitted in the high court. Incidentally, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator VV Yadav also visited the temple around the matter in the high court.

The decision was taken Thursday at a meeting chaired by Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb. It was attended by members of the Cultural Advisory Committee and senior officers of the state government, including the Principal Secretary of the Works Department and Engineer-in-Chief and Managing Director of Odisha Bridge **Construction Corporation** 

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) had told the Orissa High Court in an affidavit May 9 that the state government did not take its permission for the heritage corridor project. The state gov ernment also informed the court that the reception centre will be moved out of the 100-metre prohibited zone

#### the same time.

It was not known whether they held a meeting on the corridor project. The residents of the pilgrim town are protesting the project, claiming that the state government violated the norms of the Ancient Monument and Archeological Sites and Remains Act (AMSAR), 1958. On a petition filed by some advocates of Puri, a court has asked

Thursday evening.

police said.

were killed in the accident,

Family members got the news

at around 10:30 PM Thursday and

have immediately left for Raipur.

The funeral will be conducted ei-

ther in Raipur or Captain Panda's

native village after the body is

The helicopter caught fire when

the pilots were trying to land the

helicopter. Both the pilots on board

handed over to his family.

the police to file a case against the state government for allegedly violating the AMSAR Act. Meanwhile, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) urged Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik for temporary suspension of all activities in the excavated area of the heritage corridor. In a letter. INTACH state convener AB Tripathy appealed that the construction works should be suspended, pending the disposal of pilot was among the two who were killed after a helicopter crashed at an airport in Chhattisgarh's Raipur Captain Gopal Krushna Panda from Baham village in Sambalpur district and Captain AP Shrivastava

> died in the accident. There were no passengers on board

The incident took place during a flying practice at the Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur under Mana police station limits at around 9:10 pm, said Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Prashant Agrawal.

SOA awarded with QS I-GAUGE 'Institutions of Happiness' cert

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), ranked as one of the top educational institutions in India, has found a place in the QS I-GAUGE list of 'Institutions of Happiness'

QS I-GAUGE, Indian subsidiary of UK-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds, after a rigorous assessment exercise covering more than 100 institutions across the country conducted in association with industry body ASSOCHAM, had prepared the list comprising 33

source added

The actual cause behind the crash is yet to be ascertained. An elaborate technical investigation shall be carried out on behalf of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Chhattisgarh Government to figure out the exact reason behind the accident.

OP PHOTO

Taking to official Twitter handle, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed his grief and condolences. Baghel wrote, "Just got the shocking news of helicopter crash at Raipur airport. The tragic incident took away the life of both our pilots - Captain Panda and Captain Srivastava. May the Almighty give strength to their families and peace to the departed souls."

# BJP core panel meeting begins

Bhubaneswar: The two-day core committee meeting of Odisha BJP began here Friday to take stock of the present political situation in the state and prepare a road map for the May 31 bypoll to Brajarajnagar Assembly seat. The meeting was chaired by BJP state president Samir Mohanty and attended by the party's Odisha in-charge D Purendeswari, the coin-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, Union Minister Biswaswar Tudu, Sundargarh MP Jual Oram, Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari and other senior leaders, party sources said. The meeting decided to give Brajarajnagar bypoll

# Finnish team for honing skills of Indian students

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: A dele gation from Embassy of Finland at New Delhi, Friday, visited the Asian Institute of Public Health (AIPH) University here and had an interactive session highlighting study, research and career opportunities for the Indian students and professionals in the European country

While hosting the delegation, AIPH University vice chancellor Aditya Prasad Dash deliberated upon how the varsity is offering a wide scope for education, research and skilling in the areas of public health, biological sciences and other health sciences Leading the delegation of Government of Finland Talent Boost Programme, Mikka Tirronen, Counsellor of Education and Science, Embassy of Finland, elaborated on various opportunities in higher education and research in Finland for Indian students. While appreciating the concept, courses and research facilities offered at AIPH University, Bhubaneswar, he invited the students and professionals to explore opportunities in Finland. As a part of the Finnish delegation, Global Head of Talent Boost International, Santeri Ojala, highlighted the Business and Startup opportunities in Finland for Indian students, working professionals and entrepreneurs. Debpriya De and Karan Menon, India Knowledge Partners Talent Boost, were also part of the visiting team Notably, this was a cross-administrative programme of the Finland government coordinated by Union Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education and Culture, aimed at attracting overseas students and professionals

# MED COLLEGE TEACHERS' MEET





The council meeting of Cuttack Municipal Corporation was organised at Biswanath Pandit conference hall in the Silver City, Friday

# THRUST ON CIVIC ISSUES





investigation shall be

the DGCA and the

Chhattisgarh Chief

condolences

The helicopter caught fire while

the two pilots were trying to land

the aircraft. The tragic incident

took place during a flying practice

at Swami Vivekananda Airport

in Raipur leading to untimely

death of both the pilots. No other

crew member was on board

during the fatal incident, the

carried out on behalf of

Chhattisgarh government

Minister Bhupesh Baghel

expressed his grief and

SOA was ranked as the 20th institution in the university category by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2021. Speaking on the occasion, Ashwin Fernandes, CEO and Director of QSI-GAUGE said, "Quality and excellence were of great significance in imparting education as it enhanced the capacities and capabilities of the learners who could bridge the gap between the underdeveloped and developed nations. QS I-GAUGE was actively involved in providing global expertise to Indian institutions in this journey.'

The visit also looked forward to explore partnership between Finnish and Indian educational institutions.



OPSC Chairman Satyajit Mohanty inaugurated the conference of Odisha Medical College Teachers' Association at SCBMCH in Cuttack, Friday OP PHOTO

universities, colleges and schools.

The certificates were awarded at an event held in New Delhi Thursday by Smriti Irani, Union minister for Women and Child Development. Amit Banerjee, SOA's Pro-Chancellor and Pritam Nayak, Officer-on-Special Duty received the certificate on behalf of the institution. Incidentally, SOA is the only institution from Odisha to find a place in the list.

responsibility to Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari. Apart from byelections, source said the meeting discussed on how to strengthen party organisations the sources said. The meeting is likely to make an analysis of the outcome of the results of the panchayat and civic body polls in the state in which the saffron party fared miserably.

# 'Khao Gali' closure hits bizmen in City

# Australian researchers find cause behind SIDS

SIDS REFERS TO THE UNEXPLAINED DEATH OF **INFANTS UNDER A YEAR OLD, AND IT USUALLY OCCURS WHILE THE CHILD IS ASLEEP** 

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sydney, May 13: In a breakthrough, Australian researchers have identified a biomarker that can detect babies more at risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) while they are alive.

SIDS is the unexplained death of an apparently healthy infant less than one year of age, during a period of sleep.

The incidence of SIDS has been more than halved in recent years due to public health campaigns addressing the known major risk factors of prone sleeping, maternal smoking and overheating. However, the rate of SIDS remains high, con-

tributing to almost 50 per cent of all post-neonatal deaths in Western countries. A team at the Children's Hospital

at Westmead (CHW) identified Butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) as the biochemical marker that can help prevent death in infants.

In the study, published in The Lancets eBioMedicine, the team analysed BChE activity in 722 Dried Blood Spots (DBS) taken at birth as part of the Newborn Screening Programme.

BChE was measured in both SIDS and infants dying from other causes and each compared to 10 surviving infants with the same date of birth and gender.



The findings showed BChE levels were significantly lower in babies who subsequently died of SIDS compared to living controls and other infant deaths, said lead author Dr Carmel Harrington, research student at CHW, who lost her own child to SIDS 29 years ago.

BChE plays a major role in the brain's arousal pathway and researchers believe its deficiency likely indicates an arousal deficit,

This discovery has opened up the possibility for

intervention and finally gives answers to parents who have lost their children so tragically. These families can now live with the knowledge that this was not their fault

CARMEL HARRINGTON | RESEARCH STUDENT, CHW

which reduces an infant's ability to wake or respond to the external environment, causing vulnerability to SIDS.

"Babies have a very powerful mechanism to let us know when they are not happy. Usually, if a baby is confronted with a lifethreatening situation, such as difficulty breathing during sleep because they are on their tummies, they will arouse and cry out. What this research shows is that some babies don't have this same robust arousal response," Dr Harrington said.

"This has long been thought to be the case, but up to now we didn't know what was causing the lack of arousal. Now that we know that BChE is involved we can begin to change the outcome for these babies and make SIDS a thing of the past.'

After losing her son, Damien. to SIDS, Dr Harrington has dedicated her career to finding answers for the condition. Harrington said these results not only offer hope for the future, but answers for the past. The next steps for researchers is to begin looking at introducing

the BChE biomarker into newborn screening and develop specific interventions to address the enzyme deficiency.

Bhubaneswar: The BMC's decision to close 'Khao Gali', a popular food lane on Ram Mandir Square-Housing Board Square stretch, has come as a big blow to the street vendors. The most sought-after food destination in the Capital city for families, students and youngsters had started buzzing again with the night out experience while the joy of eating out had just returned after the decline in Covid infections and withdrawal of curbs. However, the sudden decision by the BMC to close the food lane has severely hit the vendors. The traders lamented the decision as it would incur huge losses to them. Notably, Mayor Sulochana Das, along with BMC officials, during a surprise visit Tuesday found gross violation of norms by the vendors. Das ordered closure of all shops until the vendors provide in writing to abide by the rules to run businesses in the area.

# FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488. Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.







# state

# **BSF IG reviews anti-Naxal ops**



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, May 13: Inspector General (IG) of Border Security Force (BSF) Satish Chandra Budakoti, Friday, reviewed the security situation and deployment of forces in Malkangiri, and the ongoing anti-Maoist operation in bordering areas of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. He also visited the company operating bases (COBs) Friday

The BSF IG along with DIG (Operations) Dhirendra Kumar and IG, Commandant 151 Battalion Ajay Kumar visited the COB

ground, MV-72, Badigota, MV-88, Dandabadi camp and COB Ramagiri under Boipariguda in Tulasi foothill areas

They also visited Bhejangiwada, Silakota and Udaygiri forests. He held a meeting at the head-

quarters of 151 BSF Battalion and took stock of the security scenario in Tulasi Reserve Forest area. He also assessed the security framework and working style of the security forces while interacting with the commanders and troops of BSF.

Ajay Kumar, Commandant, apprised the officers about security scenario of the area and briefed them about confidence building

measures among the people. He reminded the BSF jawans about their commitment to eliminate Naxalism and assist the civil administration in implementation of various developmental works in the district. The BSF IG appreciated the high standards of professionalism of BSF personnel and complimented proactive approach of the troops in undertaking humanitarian assistance to the locals. Budakoti appreciated the ongoing

operations of BSF assisted by Odisha police in security-vacuum areas of Tulasi reserve forest and its northern areas. He directed the jawans to step up more aggressive operations in the area.

He also underscored the need for the BSF to push further the outreach programmes in the area and asked the unit to establish more sports clubs in far-flung villages to encourage the youths in sports activities.



Children of Patrapalli Primary School in Tankapanthi panchayat under Khaprakhol block in Bolangir district were taught under a tree after three people of the same village locked the school, Friday, claiming the ownership over the school land

formed for the purpose

The main treatment plant and

sump will be set up at Gayaganda

under Jagannath Prasad block for

which 10 acre land has been ac-

quired. It was learnt that drinking

water will be provided to 703 vil-

lages. Currently, per head drinking

water supply is 70 litre. After com-

pletion of the project, per head

There are 3, 28, 572 households

in 11 blocks. Drinking water is

being supplied to 1, 60, 529 house-

holds. As for the project, assistant

engineer of the Bhanjanagar RWSS

division, said that the project has

been approved by the government

and its work will start after the

tender is finalised.

supply will reach 85 litre.

# WOMAN'S CHARRED **BODY FOUND AT SPINNING MILL**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 13: Police recovered the charred body of a 41-yearold woman from the premises of Kathapal Spinning Mill under Betanoti police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Friday. The deceased was identified as Krishna Devi, wife of Dinesh Sharma, an employee of the spinning mill.

Police registered a case and started an investigation with a scientific team. Police suspect it to be case of pre-planned murder.

Police said family members of Krishna Devi had gone to sleep after dinner Thursday night. The family members were shocked to see the charred body of Krishna Devi on the verandah, Friday morning.

It was learnt that the bereaved family had enmity with a neighbouring family. Both sides had filed cases against each other at the police station April 14. Police had arrested some people of both the families.

In such a situation, recovery of the burnt body of the woman has pointed the needle of suspicion towards a possible murder, it was said.

# Preactivated SIMs: One more arrested

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The Crime Branch (CB) investigating the preactivated SIM card case. Friday ar-

While only 40% of households in 11 blocks are being supplied with piped water, drinking water needs of the remaining households will be met through the upcoming mega water project

for Mayurbhanj farmers

varieties of

initial gestation period.

material costs will be

borne through MGN-

REGA. The administration

also aims to help the farm-

ers with fertilisers, ma-

nure, boundary wall con-

struction, deep borewell

and digging of ponds to

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, May 13: As the state government has set a target to provide safe drinking water to all households by 2024, a mega drinking water project worth ₹1,807 crore has been approved for 11 blocks in Ganjam district. Various departments like AG and Finance have been intimated about the same.



cent of the households in 11 blocks are being supplied with piped water; drinking water requirements of the remaining 60 per cent households will be met through the upcoming mega drinking water project. The project will be executed under Jal Jeevan Mission, in partnership with the Union government.

The upcoming drinking water project would cater to the needs of people in Bhanjanagar, Belaguntha, Jagannathprasad, Buguda, Polsara, Sorada, Aska, Dharakote, Purusottampur, Kabisuryanagar and Beguniapada blocks for which tenders will be floated soon.

**₹1,807cr drinking water project gets nod** 

A decision was also taken to spend ₹10.76 crore on solar plants to run drinking water projects in the areas where erratic power supply is a concern.

The administration has decided to set up solar power plants at Tadama, Ulinkia, Bhalinkia, Panguli and Gadapadar villages.

The project entails extraction of water from Mahanadi near Badamula under Gania block. On July 30, 2021, then executive engineer of the Panchayati Raj and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department Sarbeswar Barik had visited Ganjam and Nayagarh districts to take stock of project site and existing drinking water infrastructure. The project was sanctioned by the government after Bhanjanagar MLA Bikarm Keshari Arukha and other people's representatives fought for it, said sources. Meanwhile, the administration has completed the land acquisition process for the sump of the project

while land acquisition at several other places will be accomplished soon. A committee has been

# Woman killed at daughter's wedding

Bargarh, May 13: A woman was axed to death late Thursday night by two of her relatives when the wedding ceremony of her daughter was underway at Salepalli under Melchhamunda police limits in Bargarh district. The deceased was identified

as 44-year-old ASHA worker Kishori Tandi, wife of Jadumani, from the village. Reports said the groom's

with Kishori over some issues. However, things took an ugly turn when, in a fit of rage. the duo attacked the woman

Kishori fell down and was rushed to Bargarh DHH where she was declared brought dead. Police registered a case and launched an investigation. They have detained two suspected persons.

procession was going on near

the bride's house. The two

relatives had an altercation

# E-Tender Notice No. PCEECoR2223TP03. Dt.: 12.0

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF COMPLETE LINER LESS FASTENING SYSTEM, ALONG WITH ITS COMPONENTS, INCLUDING HIGH PERFORMANCE RAIL PAD WITHOUT CHANGE IN EXISTING DESIGN OF PSC SLEEPERS INCLUDING RAIL SEAT AND THE INSERTS, SO AS TO USE THE PROPOSED LINER-LESS FASTENING SYSTEM ON PSC SLEEPERS OF IR i.e. (I) RT-8746, <u>QUANTITY</u>: 4150 SETS AND (II) RT-2496, <u>QUANTITY</u>: 4150 AND (II) RT-2496, <u>QUANTITY:</u> 4150 SETS FOR TRIALS ON DESIGNATED STRETCHES OF INDIAN RAIL WAYS. Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs of 16.06.2022

No manual offers sent by Post/ Cou Fax or in person shall be accepted agains such E-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letterhead and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration Complete information including E-tende documents of the above tender is avail in website http://www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer/TP Bhubaneswa



Any Corrigendum / Addendum/cancellation of tender will be displayed in the website said only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.II OIPR-34136/11/0007/2223

# **Horticulture Mission boon** POST NEWS NETWORK

rested another accused identified as Gvana Ranjan Sahoo, 24, a resident of Navagarh, Police said Gyana was supplying preactivated SIMs in bulk to Dusmanta Kumar Sahoo, the mastermind of the racket.

With the recent arrest, the number of accused arrested so far in the case has reached six. Worth mentioning, the Crime Branch April 30 had recovered as many as 19,641 pre-activated SIM cards, 48 mobile phones, laptop, photocopies of several photo identity cards, other important documents and ₹14.32 lakh in cash during the raid in Dhenkanal. The CB has also frozen two bank accounts of the mastermind Dusmanta with ₹7.95 lakh. Police has also seized two UPI accounts having ₹1.6 lakh of Dusmanta.

Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for financial year 2022-23, reports said Friday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mayurbhanj, May 13: The

Directorate of Horticulture,

Mayurbhanj has decided to

undertake a massive fruit

sapling plantation in 2.950

hectare land under

Mahatma Gandhi National

The drive aims to promote large-scale fruit tree plantation as part of poverty reduction strategy in rural pockets of the tribal-dominated district. This will also give a source of livelihood to debt-ridden farmers who are reeling under crop loss due to various reasons.

As part of the initiative. the administration aims to grow cashew nuts in at least 1,960 hectare, mango in 650 hectare, lemon in 50 hectare and guava in 25 hectare. Moreover, saplings of berry, jackfruit, litchi and other

grown in 250 hectare of land. also grow vegetables, pulses The saplings will then be and other seasonal fruits inside the orchards. This provided to farmers with proper assistance under the will help the farmers earn job guarantee scheme. handsomely both from the Generally, poor farmers will fruit orchards as well as be given priority during sefrom the farming activities. lection of beneficiaries and

"The aim is basically to financially empower they will be encouraged to transplant at least 40-50 plants the below poverty line (BPL) farmers and give which could fetch them a handsome amount after the them a fair chance to live a life of dignity," a senior Necessary labour and official said.

ensure precision farming.

trees is generally three-four

years, poor and margin-

alised farmers generally do

not find horticulture plan-

tation as a lucrative option.

tree plantation, farmers can

So, in addition to fruit

As the period of fruit

"Most of the lands are either barren or infertile. Farmers are unable to take up farming due to potential risks and uncertainties. But, the government will provide assistance to the farmers." the official added.

# Three-year-old Nayagarh boy shines in India Book of Records

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, May 13: Bringing laurels to the state and his hometown, a threevear-old Odia boy from Lathipada village under Nayagarh block has made it to the India Book of Records by dint of his sharp memory.

The prodigy, Avash Om Prakash Sahu, has set the record for remembering all the English alphabets, names of four seasons, one Hindi and five English rhymes and the names of 12 months in a year at this tender age.

Youngest son of Prabhas Kumar Sahu and Madhusmita Sahu, Om has received medals and appreciation letter for his rare talent. He also can recite the names of 10 vegetables, eight planets, 13 animals, 10 vehicles, 16 body parts, some opposite words, 1-100 in words and Sanskrit shlokas. He can also sing the National Anthem. Sahu's mother had recorded the activities of Om and sent them to India Book of Records.



Avash Om Prakash Sahu

"He has a very strong memory since his childhood. He was very curious since birth. So, we started teaching him English words and rhymes and the national anthem. He grasped everything so quickly when he was only 9-month-old. So, we decided to register his name for IBR quiz." said Om's mother Madhusmita. "He has made us proud and brought laurels for Odisha. Although we stay in

he prodigy, Avash Om Prakash Sahu, has set the record for remembering all the English alphabets, names of four seasons, one Hindi and five English rhymes, and the names of 12 months in a year at this tender age

oungest son of Prabhas Kumar Sahu I and Madhusmita Sahu, Om has received medals and appreciation letter for his rare talent

Bangalore, we are Odias by heart and will be so forever," she added.

"He has always been curious to know about everything that he comes across. He loves to know more about things like country, continents, oceans, space, etc. The older he gets, the more is his interest in gaining knowledge about everything. We are also supporting him in every step," his father added.

"It is a joyful moment for us and we pray that he keeps ascending new heights and make Nayagarh and Odisha proud,' his father concluded.

with an axe.



S.O. 1970(E).-Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intension to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 on the stretch of land from Km. 98 to Km. 111 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhandaripokhari, At/Po/PS- Bhandaripokhari, Dist-Bhadrak, Pin-756120, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Samaj" and "The Orissa Post" both dated 10.03.2022; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas no objections have been received from any corner by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Go mment;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances

#### SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH 16 in the stretch of land from Km. 98 to Km. 111 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhandaripokhari, At/Po/PS- Bhandaripokhari, Dist-Bhadrak, Pin-756120, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA.

| C          | ate: ODIS        | Type of     | Nature of   | Area in   | District: BHADRAK<br>Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person Part Survey No.  |  |  |  |  |
|------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sr.<br>No. | Survey<br>Number | Land        | Land        | Hectare   | Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person Part Survey No.   |  |  |  |  |
| 1          | 2                | 3           | 4           | 5         | 6  |  |  |  |  |
| Tal        | uk: Bhand        | aripokhari  | -           |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vill       | age : Pahir      | mahura - 21 |             |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1          | 708              | Private     | Jalasaya-II | 0.0404694 | Suka Parida, W/o-Nityananda Parida, Raja Parida, S/o-Sagara Parida, Bhima Parida,<br>Krushna Parida, Gokuli Parida, Gour hari Parida, S/o-Mani Parida, Sukadeva Sahoo,<br>S/o-Jagaei Sahoo, Caste-Niari, Panchali Das, Janjali Das, S/o-Banchanidhi Das,<br>Caste-Chasa, Vill-Pahimahura |  |  |  |  |
| 2          | 716/844          | Private     | Gharabari   | 0.0080939 | Tapasa Ranjan Pradhan, S/o-Hrusikesha Pradhan, Caste-Chasa, Village-<br>Jayakrushnapur   |  |  |  |  |
|            |                  |             | Total       | 0.0485633 |  |  |  |  |  |
|            |                  |             | 6 A         |           | [F. No. NHAI/BOT/11012/58/2005/Pt./LA/NH-16/3D]<br>RAJESH GUPTA, Director  |  |  |  |  |





# power post

## FOCUS HEALTH INFRA

The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught. SRI AUROBINDO



# **Tough Talk**

ad' data is all around. Even as the Centre is vigorously questioning the WHO's Covid death figures in India during the Covid pandemic, B the WHO's Covid dealer right es in india during the covid dealer right is the states to the it also has issues with information supplied by the states to the

Finance Ministry for the release of funds under centrally sponsored schemes. Apparently, the problem has grown so alarmingly that Finance Secretary TV Somanathan has to step in.

Sources have informed DKB that Somanathan recently fired off a stern missive to all chief secretaries warning that providing false information for borrowing purposes will lead to stringent action against those responsible. Apparently, there have been several instances in which the ministry was provided wrong information, either deliberately or negligently, by states. In one case, this led to over-borrowing by a state during the tenure of one government and therefore deduction of that amount during the tenure of its successor, which created a big problem for the Centre.

In his missive, Somanathan has warned that if a state is found to have submitted false or wrong information, the concerned IAS or IPS officers will face action which can affect their empanelment, central or inter-cadre deputation, and even foreign training and assignments. That's tough talk.

Babus may do well to remember that during the Modi sarkar, senior IAS, IPS and IFS officers have been dismissed from service for misconduct, disproportionate assets and inefficiency.

#### PMO team strengthened

The appointment of former Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor as Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes as no surprise to most babu-watchers, though there may have been some who expected to see the return of Bhaskar Khulbe to the PMO after his term ended in February. For now, at least.

Kapoor is known to be close to Modi and played a key role during the pandemic, and earlier as the one who worked hard to implement one of Modi's pet projects, the development of city gas distribution networks, among other assign-



ments. He may be one of the very few IAS officers to have served the Manmohan Singh government as well as the Modi sarkar. He may be seen as "old school" and "low profile", but there is a teeny whisper that his appointment to the PMO may also have something to do with him being from Himachal Pradesh, which is due for elections later this year.

But apart from Kapoor, Modi has fortified the PMO by inducting two additional secretaries Atish Chandra and Hari Ranjan Rao, raising the number of additional secretaries to five as against four joint secretaries. This imbalance, some say, will be rectified with the possible induction of some joint secretary-level officers shortly.

#### Change of guard at DoPT

The appointment of a new Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in the secretary-level reshuffle came as a surprise to some babus, especially those from the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) cadre. The incoming secretary S Radha Chauhan replaces Pradip Kumar Tripathi who has been shifted out as Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

The view emerging from the CSS cadre babus is that Tripathi's transfer is related to the long-pending promotion-related issues of CSS officers, which have not been resolved by DoPT even after clear instructions from above. Also, since 2014, at least, secretaries in DoPT have usually served until their superannuation and not changed midway through their tenure. Tripathi was slated to continue in the post until June 2024.

But the more plausible reason has nothing to do with this viewpoint. Sources have informed DKB that the timing of Tripathi's transfer to the Cabinet Secretary should be seen in the context of the Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba whose term is ending in August this year. The CSS version, sources say, is more likely aimed at pushing the DoPT and its new secretary to fasttrack action on their demands. What's your take?

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

# **INVESTMENT IN OXYGEN**

OVID-19 has taken at least 18 million lives, and it is anyone's guess how many of those deaths were due to a lack of medical oxygen. Governments don't want to talk about the issue, because that could mean admitting that thousands or even hundreds of thousands of their citizens died unnecessarily. But unless health systems take steps to ensure a sufficient supply of oxygen in the future, they will be risking a repeat of the past two years.

While high-income countries are already working to secure their supplies of medical oxygen. many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will continue to need international support. Deaths from a lack of medical oxygen in these countries preceded the pandemic, because global health and development agencies made no serious effort to help LMIC governments close the gap between need and supply.

That gap is one factor underlying LMICs' stubbornly high newborn and child mortality, adult deaths from infectious and chronic conditions, and deaths from injuries that require surgery. Research published prior to the pandemic found that four out of five children hospitalized with pneumonia in Nigerian hospitals did not receive the oxygen they needed, and that simply putting oxygen into pediatric wards could reduce child deaths by 50%

As Mike Ryan of the World Health Organization puts it, COVID ripped a bandage off an old wound, driving a tenfold increase in the need for oxygen in the space of iust weeks in some countries. LMICs now need about 500,000 large oxygen cylinders every day to treat COVID patients, and this is the just the tip of the iceberg. For every COVID patient who needs oxygen, there are at least five other patients who also need it, including the 7.2 million children with pneumonia who enter LMIC hospitals each year.

The main vehicle for the international response is the ACT-Accelerator (ACT-A) COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce, expertly chaired by Unitaid, which has built a system to help LMICs



Not only is oxygen an essential treatment for almost all of the health conditions targeted by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, it is also a critical pillar of effective pandemic preparedness and response

COVID management, oxygen pro-

duction and distribution systems

will need to be embedded in global

health infrastructure. International

organizations with mandates to

improve newborn and child sur-

vival, infectious- and chronic-dis-

ease management, and PPR all

have a stake in access to oxygen.

These agencies should formalize

their nascent ACT-A oxygen part-

nership by transforming it into a

Global Oxygen Alliance with a

mandate extending to 2030 (to align

with the SDGs), and with a mem-

bership broadened to include in-

ternational agencies focused on

a successful alliance to close the

oxygen access gap. First, LMIC

governments and the national in-

stitutions responsible for provid-

ing medical oxygen need to take the

lead. Ideally, they would be guided

by politically endorsed national

plans for oxygen access, with gov-

ernments financing the effort as

Second, LMIC governments that

need external support to finance

their national plans should be able

to leverage loans and grants from

a variety of multilateral, bilat-

eral, and philanthropic sources.

The Global Fund should continue

to provide grant funding as part

of its new PPR objective, and mul-

tilateral development banks should

part of their health budgets.

There are five components to

chronic diseases.

prevent oxygen shortages. To date, the Taskforce has delivered almost \$1 billion – including \$560 million from the Global Fund alone – to LMIC governments and their United Nations and NGO partners. This money has been spent on liquid oxygen, pressure swing absorption oxygen-generating plants, mobile oxygen concentrators, oxygen therapies, and the workforce needed to install, operate, and maintain the equipment.

This funding has helped more than 100 countries, mostly in Africa and Asia. But there are still LMICs struggling to provide oxygen, so the Taskforce has asked for another \$1 billion in 2022. US President Joe Biden's Second Global COVID-19 Summit this week also will emphasize the issue with an appeal to governments, companies, and philanthropies to do more.

The case to make to donors is clear. There is a moral obligation to treat COVID patients and to flatten the pandemic death curve once and for all. Investments in oxygen will serve that goal and also save lives in the future. Not only is oxygen an essential treatment for almost all of the health conditions targeted by the UN Sustainable Development Goals; it is also a critical pillar of effective pandemic preparedness and response (PPR).

As the world pivots to long-term

provide loans for this purpose as well

Third, oxygen producers should be given more incentives and opportunities to work in partnership with LMIC governments and global health and development agencies. Memoranda of understanding, non-disclosure agreements, and transparent and competitive tenders for equipment procurement, installation, and maintenance should all be made available, building on the ACT-A COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce's existing blueprint [15] for industry partnerships. Moreover, development finance institutions should offer loans, equity, and guarantees to oxygen producers, and support LMICs seeking to reduce their dependence on oxygen imports and fragile global supply chains.

Fourth, UN agencies and NGOs with a strong LMIC presence must continue to support these governments as they develop national oxygen plans, collect data, procure supplies, train health-care workers and biomedical engineers, and monitor and evaluate progress. To do so, they will need ongoing funding from bilateral development agencies.

Finally, LMIC governments need access to high-quality, timely data on national oxygen needs-such as the annual number of hypoxemic patients and how much oxygen they require-and oxygen capacity in the health system so that they can move quickly to close deficits. And independent agencies such as the Access to Medicine Foundation should be funded to hold the oxy gen industry accountable.

The next six months are critical as we move beyond the acute phase of the pandemic. Ideally, by September, the ACT-A COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce will have become a Global Oxygen Alliance, chaired by Unitaid and continuing to meet regularly to coordinate investments, mobilize resources, and monitor the impact of efforts to ensure equitable access to an essential medicine.

The author is Coordinator of the Every Breath Counts **Coalition** ©PROJECT SYNDICATE, 2022.

# SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Leith Greenslade

OXYGEN

PRODUCERS

SHOULD BE

**GIVEN MORE** 

**TO WORK IN** 

**COUNTRIES** 

AND GLOBAL

**HEALTH AND** 

AGENCIES

PARTNERSHIP

WITH LOW- AND

**MIDDLE-INCOME** 

GOVERNMENTS

**DEVELOPMENT** 

**INCENTIVES AND** 

**OPPORTUNITIES** 

India's role in Lankan crisis

WISDOM CORNER

When everything is easy one quickly gets stupid. MAXIM GORKY If a person wants to become big, then he should do even the smallest work. ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR

If you find my stories dirty, the society you are living in is dirty. SAADAT HASAN MANTO

### WORDS**WORTH**

### Agog

t comes, like much of our language, from French. Middle French had gogue, entertainment, fun or amusement. From this developed en gogues, in good humour. English took it in and gave it a home, but changed the first element to on and then to a-, at the same time shortening the unpronounced ending. It's still widely to be found, though its usage has dropped off in the last half century. Standard dictionaries say it has the sense that you're using - eager or curious to hear or see something. The compound all agog ("I was all agog to discover who the new Dr Who would be") has an air of bouncy immature anticipation that makes it difficult to use in serious contexts.

Looking around, I discovered that agog is having serious identity issues. Typical of recent usage was a headline in the Irish Times in 2011, "Americans left agog at confused cruelty of Irish abortion law". To me, agog can't mean "astonished", but its entry in the Oxford English Dictionary, revised in 2012, says it now can. There's also the alliterative compound agog and aghast, or aghast and agog, which seems destined to become a set phrase: This feels quite wrong - agog for me lacks the implications of shock and horror that accompany aghast. Might its users have been confusing it with goggle? Another compound form, less common, is agape and agog, which communicates a sense of utter gobsmacked astonishment.

Incidentally, a related Middle French form was à gogo, uninhibitedly or joyfully, probably formed from gogue by reduplication. This is still in the French language and appeared in Paris in 1952 in the name of the nightclub and pioneering discotheque called the Whisky à Gogo (that is, Whisky Galore, presumably from the film of the book by Compton Mackenzie). The format became fashionable and it and the name were brought into English, leading to the modified version a-go-go appearing all over the place during the 1960s as a fashionable creation meaning fashionable. This presumably influenced go-go, a native English reduplication of go that appeared about the same time, especially in the erotic dancers called go-go girls, as well as the triply emphatic go-go-go for continual movement, hustle and bustle.

### LOL

# Wise cooking advice

This weekend, I discovered a cooking tip I haven't seen listed in any cookbooks. While you are preparing the food, and after the guests have arrived, you contrive to fill the house up with smoke, preferably enough to get at least two smoke detectors going. Then you go rushing about the house, opening all



setting up fans, and generally doing everything short of calling the fire department. Let the guests sit for about 1/2 hour at 50 degrees (as a result of opening the windows) and serve the food. By this point, you have established expectations in your guests' minds that you can't fail to exceed!



**WE OUGHT TO NOTE THAT A CRISIS LIKE WHAT WE PRESENTLY SEE IN SRI LANKA IS** WAITING TO **HAPPEN IN ANY COUNTRY UNLESS ECONOMY IS** EFFICIENTLY

MANAGED

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

he Sri Lankan civil unrest starting from the second week of March. reached the violent nadir last Monday, May 9, when eight lives were lost and about 200 injured. The supporters of Mahinda Rajapaksa, the head of one of the powerful political families in South Asia. the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, attacked the peaceful protesters demonstrating outside his house in Colombo. The video footage of goons and musclemen beating up a lone lady amongst the demonstrators unleashed a wave of anger across the country. The protesters damaged public property, torched the city buses, and in South Hambantota, the ancestral house of Rajapaksa was burnt down.

Rajapaksa himself was escorted out of Colombo to a naval base in Trincomalee where he is hiding with his family.

Immediately after the unexpected and unprovoked violent clashes outside his official residence in Colombo, Rajapaksa resigned as the Prime Minister. He said, he did it, in order to pave the way for formation of a united government in Sri Lanka to handle the present crisis, which is one of its kind

since the Island nation got independence in 1948.

At the same time, on that Monday, one Sri Lankan lawmaker from Rajapaksa's party shot to death a 27-year-old young man and then killed himself as he was overpowered by the crowd. Mahinda's resignation has not assuaged the anger of Sri Lankans across the country, who are demanding that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa must also quit. On the contrary, the President has imposed emergency for the second time this year. The economic crisis was the sec-

ond blackest phase of Sri Lanka's modern history, 13 years after the civil war, which caused heavy bloodshed, while depriving and displacing a large number of Tamils, fight ing for a separate homeland in Jaffna area. Even the majority Sinhalese community suffered from the civil war and the government lost personnel and property.

How did the current economic impasse come about? Observers and experts would say that it is mainly the result of gross economic mismanagement. The Rajapaksa government introduced deep tax cuts since 2019 when it took office, the Sri Lankan tourism,

the main revenue spinner, was hit badly by the Covid-19 pandemic, the remittance from abroad reduced. and inflexible foreign exchange rate hit Sri Lankan trade. The rating agencies lowered the ranking of Sri Lanka since 2020 and thereby locked it out of international financial markets. Consequently, the foreign exchange reserves depleted by more than 70 per cent.

Rajapaksas did not handle the situation prudently. They dithered in negotiation with IMF for a bailout package in the hope that the tourism industry will bounce back, and remittances will recover. They perhaps thought shrewdly that by seeking help from India and China, they could tide over the economic mess which could just be a bad patch. They were wrong in their calculation.

Talking of India's response to the Sri Lankan crisis, New Delhi has remained politically neutral. The Indian government has neither criticised the Sri Lankan government nor has supported it. New Delhi has obliquely commented that, "India backs peoples' rights, democracy, stability and economic recovery". An MEA statement has further said that "India will be

guided by the best interests of the people of Sri Lanka expressed through a democratic process" India has supported Sri Lanka with \$3.5 billion. The Union Government and the Government of Tamil Nadu have sent rice and other supplies in order to mitigate the shortages of essential items. New Delhi has also promised a hand to Sri Lanka in working out a bailout plan from the World Bank.

In sum, we ought to note that a crisis like what we presently see in Sri Lanka is waiting to happen in any country unless economy is efficiently managed. In particular, the basic items for human needs should be available and the prices of essential goods should be under control, like the prices of petrol and diesel. Furthermore, Sri Lankan crisis tells us that muscular nationalism and majoritarian mobilisation may not be an endless source of support. New Delhi, as the biggest country in South Asia and in a sense, 'the big brother', should take serious note of Sri Lankan developments, help them steer out of the crisis by all possible means, and legitimately reclaim the leadership of South Asia. --INFA

### LIC at crossroads

Sir, The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is deeply rooted in the lives of Indian people. The LIC today is, however, at a crossroads where the danger of that flame being put off. The Department of Investment and Public Assets Management is giving final touches to the procedure for finalising bids for the ultimate privatisation of the LIC. The LIC derives its strength from the confidence of the country's common people. The corporation's history showcases the efforts of its 1, 08,684 employees and 10, 69,816 agents. In a little more than 60 years, in excess of 28 crore Indians became the company's policy holders and its assets grew to Rs 32-lakh crore from Rs 5-crore. The dividend given to the government by the LIC in 2018-19 alone was Rs 2,610-crore. The volume of LIC's share in various public projects amounts to more than Rs 28 lakh crore. The COVID-19 has taught the world a great lesson that the private sector is least committed to social responsibility. It is the public sector that has come forward to respond to the pressing needs of the people. The argument for privatising the LIC is based on the thinking that the move will augment the corporation's efficiency. But surely the LIC couldn't have grown from a Rs 5-crore company to one worth 32 lakh crore if it lacked efficiency. The LIC has a more than 76-per cent share of the country's insurance market, even after the government and the insurance regulatory authority allowed private players to compete with. Does that make the LIC incompetent? Every right thinking person must protest this step. *Asit Mohanty*, JAJPUR

### Inflation woes

Sir, Driven by continued global crude price upsurge India's April 2022 CPI inflation turned out to be at a 95month high of 7.8%. This is the fourth month in a row that retail inflation has remained above 6%, which is the upper tolerance threshold for inflation under the monetary policy framework. Economists said the sharp acceleration in retail inflation explained the central bank's rush to raise interest rates. Food costs led the surge with inflation measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) jumping to a 17-month high of 8.4% from March's 7.7%. Food prices rose at a faster clip of 8.5% in rural India. It is expected that the inflation rate will cool in May due to base effects. But it would still likely hover above 6.5%. Moreover, there has been an uptick in the average prices of some vegetables like tomatoes, potatoes, ginger, iodised salt, and fruits like apples and papayas. Housewives are shedding tears as theyfail to manage their monthly budget and expenses.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

01







### **GEARING UP**

Lucknow is gearing up for Bada Mangal celebrations. Bada Mangal is a festival held on all Tuesdays falling in the Hindu month of Jyeshtha in which devotees worship Lord Hanuman





Congress-free India and those wishing so will themselves be decimated

ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

The Legislature cannot make a law. nor can a law be allowed to remain on the statute book, that violates the Fundamental Rights. The sedition law, in the view of many legal scholars, violates Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution

P CHIDAMBARAM CONGRESS LEADER

India is a fast growing economy and is continuously making its mark on the global economy. The paper industry plays an all-

round role in this economy and is on the way to development, so we need to contribute more in the interest of this industry and give it more strength at the technical leve

ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURE

# SHORT TAKES

### Tight security for Amarnath Yatra

New Delhi: At least 12,000 paramilitary troops and hundreds of Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel. with the help of drone cameras, will guard the Amarnath yatra which is scheduled to begin on June 30 after a gap of two years. officials said. Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Friday reviewed the security preparedness for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine located in south Kashmir at an altitude of 3.888 meters. The Amarnath vatra could not be carried out in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, while it was cut short in 2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370.

India announces state mourning



The circumstances before our organisation are unprecedented. Extraordinary situations demand extraordinary action. I am fully alert to this. The organisation has to bring changes, not just to stay alive but to move forward. We are in dire need of improvement and changing strategy SONIA GANDHI I CONGRESS PRESIDENT

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Udaipur, May 13: Top Congress leaders began their three-day brainstorming conclave here to revive the organisation ahead of the upcoming election cycle, with party chief Sonia Gandhi calling for urgent reforms and changes in its day-today functioning saving "extraordinary situations demand extraordinary action"

The 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' which opened with Sonia Gandhi's remarks is expected to witness major structural reforms including the 'one family, one ticket' formula with exceptions based on high levels of performance in a party role for five years. The formula will pave the way for leaders like Priyanka Gandhi and Vaibhav Gehlot to contest elections as they have worked in party positions since

2019.

Sonia Gandhi also launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of keeping the country in a state of permanent polarisation, "brutalising" minorities and "threatening" political opponents by misusing institutions. The Congress president set the tone for the deliberations again reminding leaders that time had come to repay the debt to the or-

**SAYS SONIA AT 'CHINTAN SHIVIR'** 

ganisation, while stressing that the party's revival would only happen with grand collective efforts and those cannot be put off. Sending out a clear message to

Congress ranks, she said the party will have to change its style of functioning with changing times and urged them to keep the organisation above their personal ambitions. She urged around 450 delegates to deliberate with an open mind but send out a single message of a strong organisation, resolve and unity

"In one way this (Congress transformation) is the most fundamental issue. Our revival is only possible through collective efforts. Such collective efforts will not be deferred. This 'Shivir' is the start of the journey," she said.

"The circumstances before our organisation are unprecedented Extraordinary situations demand extraordinary action. I am fully alert to this. The organisation has to bring changes within itself, not just to stay alive but to move forward. We are in urgent need of improvement and changing strategy, she also said.

Noting that this shivir in this journey is an important step, she noted "We are not oblivious to the recent failures nor are we oblivious to the struggle we have to undertake to win. We are not unaware of the expectations of the people."

The Congress president asserted that all have gathered to take a collective and individual resolve to bring the party in the same position it once had and play the role that people expected it to play in these "deteriorating circumstances". Taking on the government, she said, it has become "painfully clear" what Modi and his colleagues really mean by their frequently-used slogan 'maximum governance minimum government'

"It means keeping the country in a state of permanent polarisation, compelling people to live in a constant state of fear and insecurity. It means viciously targeting. victimising and often brutalising of minorities who are an integral part of our society and equal citizens of our republic," she noted.





Muslims arrive to offer Friday prayers, at Gyanvapi Masjid in Varanasi PTI PHOTO

In his order on Thursday, District

Civil Court (Senior Division) judge

Ravi Kumar Diwakar turned down

a plea by the mosque committee

to replace Ajay Kumar Mishra,

who was appointed advocate com-

missioner by him to survey the

Gyanvapi-Gauri Shringar complex.

more advocates to help the com-

missioner with the survey and said

it should be completed by Tuesday.

Lawyers representing the Hindu

and Muslim sides were present at

meeting held Friday by the dis-

Also on Friday, the Supreme

Court refused to grant an interim

order of status quo on the survey.

The top court, however, agreed to

consider listing the plea of a Muslim

Anjuman Intezamia Masjid

Committee's joint secretary Sayyad

Mohammed Yaseen said it will

think about moving the high court

against the local court's order after

the Supreme Court delivers its rul-

ing. "Till then we will cooperate

with the district court order in the

party against the survey

trict magistrate.

matter," he said

The judge also appointed two

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP). May 13: The stalled videography survey of Gyanvapi Masjid complex is set to resume Saturday and the mosque management committee has indicated that it will cooperate for now with the team assigned the task by a local court.

"An important meeting was held with all the concerned parties on Friday. An appeal was made to them to cooperate in the commission's work and the maintenance of law and order." Varanasi district magistrate Kaushal Rai Sharma said. He said the survey will begin Saturday.

A mosque committee member said it is waiting for the Supreme Court ruling on the matter but till then it will cooperate with the district court, which has ordered the survey

The mosque is located close to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and the local court is hearing a plea by a group of women seek ing permission for daily prayers before the idols on its outer walls.

# 2 LeT terrorists killed

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 13: Two Lashkare-Taiba (LeT) terrorists who had recently infiltrated into Kashmir were killed in an encounter with security forces in Bandipora district Friday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in Brar in the Aragam area of Bandipora in north Kashmir following inputs about the presence of terrorists there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the hiding terrorists fired upon security forces personnel, who retaliated. In the ensuing exchange of fire, two terrorists were killed, he said.

The official said the identity of the slain terrorists was being as certained. Earlier in the day, Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the two terrorists trapped in Brar were Pakistani and belonged to the LeT. They had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir recently. They had managed to escape during an encounter in the Salinder forest area on Wednesday, he said. The terrorists were tracked down and trapped in Brar in Bandipora on Friday, the IGP said in a tweet.

# **Booster dose** gap reduced for travellers abroad

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Those travelling abroad for jobs, education and business purposes can take the precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine anytime after three months from the second dose as required by the destination country, the Centre said on Friday, a day after it relaxed the stipulated ninemonth waiting period for international travel.

In a letter to states and union territories, the Centre said necessary provisions have been made on the Co-WIN portal to enable updation of the precaution dose so administered and citizens will not be required to upload documents such as visa

The Health Ministry received several requests for the early administration of precaution dose to those who need to undertake international travel for educational purpose, employment opportunities, participation in sports tournaments, attending bilateral and multilateral meetings as part of India's official delegation, and business commitments, Additional Secretary in the ministry Manohar Agnani said. In this context, to facilitate international travel for such genuine reasons, the necessary provision of early administration of precaution dose for these travellers has been done on the Co-WIN portal under the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, Agnani said in the guidelines shared by him. Based on the recommendations of experts, the competent authority has approved early administration of precaution dose as required by the destination country for these overseas travellers, subiect to a minimum period of 90 days between the second dose and the precaution dose. "The necessary provisions for the same have been made on Co-WIN," Agnani stated."It is requested that the guidelines may be widely publicised to all government and private CVCs and for general public and all necessary measures be taken immediately for the implementation of the same," he said.



"The key conspirator who organised all logistics in this case is Tarn Taran resident Lakhbir Singh, who used to be a gangster and had shifted to Canada in 2017." the DGP said



New Delhi: India announced one day of state mourning on Saturday following the demise of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. According to a communication issued by the Union Home Ministry to all states and union territories on Friday, as a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, the Government of India has decided that there will be one day's state mourning on May 14 throughout the country. On the day of mourning, the national flag will be flown at half-mast on all buildings where it is flown regularly, the communication said.

### Amanatullah Khan gets bail

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New Delhi: A court here Friday granted bail to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan, who was arrested a day before for 'rioting' and 'obstructing' South Delhi Municipal Corporation officials during an anti-encroachment drive in the Madanpur Khadar area of the national capital. As per the FIR. the AAP legislator along with five of his supporters was charged under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. Khan was granted bail by the Saket Court of the city.

Three arrested

at its intelligence headquarters in Mohali and said a nexus of militant outfit Babbar Khalsa International. Pakistan's spy agency ISI and gang-

Chandigarh, May 13: The Punjab

police has arrested five people in connection with the RPG attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



sters is behind it.

Addressing a press conference here Friday evening, Director General of Police V K Bhawra said a sixth accused is in police custody in a separate case. "In addition, two people--Mohd Nasim Alam and Mohd Sharaf Raj-have been brought for questioning from Noida. They originally hail from Bihar. We have not arrested them yet and they are being questioned," said the DGP.

In an audacious attack on Monday. a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was fired at the state police's intelligence wing headquarters in Mohali's Sector 77. Bhawra said the plot behind the incident has been

traced and a nexus of militant outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and gangsters at the behest of the Pakistan's ISI has come to the fore.

'The key conspirator who organised all logistics in this case is Tarn Taran resident Lakhbir Singh, alias Landa, who used to be a gangster and had shifted to Canada in 2017," the DGP said."He is a close associate of gangster-turned-terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda, who operates from Pakistan." he said.

The DGP said Landa was the key handler, who provided the RPG, AK-47 and the local network of criminals for logistic support to carry out the attack. When asked from where the RPG came, he said going by the markings on it, it appears to be either from Russia or Bulgaria, which made it's way from Pakistan into Tarn Taran, Punjab's border district.



Police personnel and forensic experts inspected the charred remains of a bus that caught fire on its way from Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine base camp to Jammu, in Katra. At least 4 people died and 20 sustained burn injuries in the fire

# PLEA AGAINST DELIMITATION COMMISSION SC seeks Centre, J&K admin, EC replies

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The Supreme Court Friday sought a response from the Centre, Jammu, and Kashmir administration, and Election Commission of India (ECD) on a plea of two Kashmir residents challenging the government's decision to constitute the delimitation commission for redrawing the assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union Territory. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh issued notice to the Centre and Election Commission of India and sought their responses within six weeks and said that the rejoinder affidavit shall be filed in two weeks thereafter.

At the outset, counsel appearing for two Srinagar residents Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Dr. Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, said that contrary to the scheme of the constitution, this delimitation exercise was carried out and alteration of boundaries and inclusion of extended areas could not be done.

The bench said that the delimitation commission was formed sometime back and asked the petitioners, where were they during that time and why did not they challenge the constitution of the commission.

# ISRO carries out static test of Gaganyaan rocket's booster

THE HS200 IS THE HUMAN-RATED VERSION OF THE S200 ROCKET BOOSTER OF SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE GSLV MK III. POPULARLY KNOWN AS LVM3, THE BANGALORE-HEADQUARTERED SPACE AGENCY NOTED IN A STATEMENT

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram: A Gurugram police crime branch team has arrested three persons, including a fake army officer with a bogus identity card, for allegedly smuggling expensive liquor from Gurugram to Ahmedabad. the police said Friday. The police have recovered 224 bottles of liquor, one Maruti S-Presso car and two fake ID cards. Acting on a tip-off, a police team nabbed the accused from Krishna Chowk in the Palam Vihar area Thursday along with illegal liquor bottles.

#### Bangalore, May 13: The Indian Space Research Organisation Friday successfully completed the static test of a human-rated solid rocket booster (HS200) for the

Gaganyaan programme at Satish it said. Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The HS200 is the human-rated version of the S200 rocket booster

of satellite launch vehicle GSLV Mk III, popularly known as LVM3, the Bangalore-headquartered space agency noted in a statement.

"The successful completion of this test marks a major milestone for the prestigious human space flight mission of ISRO, the Gaganyaan, as the first stage of the launch vehicle is tested for its performance for the full duration,"

The event was witnessed by ISRO Chairman and Secretary in the Department of Space, S Somanath, and Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) S Unnikrishnan Nair along with other ISRO scientists. The design and development of

the HS200 booster were completed at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram and propellant casting was completed at SDSC, Sriharikota. The S200 motor, which is the first stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle intended for launching a 4,000 kg class satellite to the geosynchronous transfer orbit, was configured as a strap-on rocket booster.

Based on the successful launch pedigree of this launch vehicle including the Chandrayaan mission, the LVM3 has been identified as the launcher for the Gaganyaan mission. For the manned space mission,

LVM3 launch vehicle underwent improvements stipulated by the requirements of human rating, it was stated.

Accordingly, a host of design improvements aimed at increasing the safety and reliability of various systems were implemented in the S200 booster like all other systems. These include additional safety features for motor case joints, robust insulation and ignition systems. The control system used in this booster employs one of the world's most powerful electro-mechanical actuators with multiple redundancies and safety features, ISRO said.

The system is indigenously designed and developed by ISRO in participation with various industries spread across the country. "Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, ISRO could complete the entire design, development, realisation and testing process within a short span of two years,' the statement said.

The HS200 booster loaded with 203 tonnes of solid propellant wastested for a duration of 135 seconds.









### **CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS**

# 'Delhi, Mumbai will be 5°C warmer in 2080-99 period'

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 13: Delhi and Mumbai's mean annual temperature will be five degrees Celsius higher in the 2080-99 period as compared to the 1995-2014 period if global CO2 emissions double by 2050, according to Greenpeace India's new heatwave projections based on Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's sixth assessment report.

A recent heatwave in Delhi saw the maximum touching 43.5 degrees Celsius April 29, which is well above the average maximum temperature for the month. An analysis of the historical daily temperature for April from 1970 to 2020 shows that only four years have recorded a value higher than 43 degrees Celsius, it said.

Chennai will be four degrees Celsius warmer than now on average with a projected mean annual temperature of 31 degrees Celsius. Its annual maximum temperature will increase from 35.13 degrees Celsius at present to 38.78 degrees Celsius in the 2080-99 period.

Such a drastic and rapid increase in temperature will mean India will experience more unprecedented and prolonged heatwaves, extreme weathers, increased hospitalisations and irreparable damage to agriculture and wildlife risking food and nutritional security, Greenpeace India said.

"Heatwaves are fatal for public health and the economy. It also puts ecosystems at risk. We have enough science to link such extreme weather events to climate change.



he national capital's annual maximum temperature (the median of June month record from 1995 to 2014) stands at 41.93 degrees Celsius

t will leap to 45.97 degrees Celsius in the 2080-99 period and can go up to 48.19 degrees Celsius in 'some extreme years', as per the NGO report

Unfortunately, if we do not act now, the threat is only going to increase in frequency duration and magnitude," said Avinash Chanchal. Campaign Manager, Greenpeace India. Inland cities are at a higher risk of heatwaves in the absence of regulation by oceans and a higher temperature range than coastal areas. The impaling temperature rise is expected to severely impact citizens particularly in cities like Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Jaipur and Kolkata which share similar tem-

perature patterns, he said. Unfortunately, it will be the vulnerable communities who will face

Mumbai's mean annual temperature will be five degrees Celsius higher in the 2080-99 period as compared to the 1995-2014 period and the annual maximum temperature will increase from 39.17 degrees Celsius at present to 43.35 degrees Celsius, the report said

the crisis in its worst form. The most vulnerable populations, including the urban poor, outdoor workers. women, children, senior citizens, sexual minorities etc are at a significantly greater risk, as they lack adequate access to protective measures, Chanchal said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. Its sixth assessment has been published in three parts with the first in August 2021, the second in February 2022, and the third in April 2022.

# Maha villagers clash over Shivaji statue, naming of entry gate

**THE FIGHT STARTED AFTER ONE GROUP** WANTED THE **VILLAGE ENTRY GATE TO BE NAMED AFTER CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ AND OPPOSED THE REMOVAL OF A STATUE** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/Jalna, May 13: Over 30 policemen received minor injuries after two groups clashed in a village in Maharashtra's Jalna district over the installation and removal of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and naming a village entry gate after late BJP leader Gopinath Munde, resulting in over 300 people being booked for vio-



lence, officials said Friday.

The additional superintendent of police of the region was among those who was injured in the stone pelting that took place Thursday in Chandai Eko village under Hasnabad police station limits in Bhokardan tehsil, over 400 kilometres from the state capital, they added.

"Two groups entered into an argument over the statue as well as

naming the entry gate after the BJP leader. As it degenerated into a violent scuffle, a team from Hasnabad police station arrived at the site to take control of the situation," an official said. 'In the evening, a group from the

village blocked a road, and then pelted stones at a police team that went to clear the route. Among the 30-odd policemen who received minor injuries was Additional

Delhi HC asks Centre to take steps to save vultures NDMC seals

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The Delhi High Court Friday asked the Centre to examine a petition raising concerns over the decline in vulture population allegedly on account of the use of certain veterinary drugs, and asked it take measures to save the birds that are an important link in the food chain.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi issued notice to the Centre, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation. the National Biodiversity Authority, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute as well as the Bombay Natural History Society on the public interest litigation by lawyer Gaurav Kumar Bansal and sought their response



"We direct respondent 1-3 (Centre) to examine the aspect raised by the petitioner in the petition and take whatever measures that are called for to save vultures which are an important link in the food chain and are essential for maintaining the environment. Response be filed in four weeks, said the bench also comprising Justice Navin Chawla.

The petitioner sought the protection and conservation of vultures and claimed that there are certain veterinary drugs in the market which are harmful and toxic to these birds and yet no serious efforts have been made by the authorities till date to ban them.

According to the Bombay Natural History Society, population of Oriental White Backed Vulture and Long Billed Vultures had declined by more than 92 per cent between 1991 and 1993 and also in 2000.

As per one more study, by the year 2007 the population of vultures had declined by an astonishing 99.9% for Oriental White Backed Vulture and Long Billed Vultures, the petition submitted.



Superintendent of Police Vikrant Deshmukh. A gas gun had to be

used to bring the mob under con-

trol and restore law and order," he

said. Three police vehicles were

damaged in the incident, which saw three FIRs being registered

under various IPC sections, lead-

ing to over 300 people being booked, of which 34 were arrested, the of-

As per an official, the fight started

after one group wanted the village

entry gate to be named after

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and

opposed the removal of a statue

of the legendary warrior-king that

gate be named after Munde. When

local authorities brought an exca-

vator to remove the statue, ten-

sions flared up, resulting in stone-

pelting at the machine and then

Villagers said 10 people were in-

jured in police action, which they

claimed included firing in the air

apart from lobbing tear gas shells.

100 meat shops

in one week

at each other," he said.

"Another group sought that the

had been installed at the site.

ficial informed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Hundred meat shops in north Delhi have been sealed by the area's civic authorities for violation of norms as part of an ongoing drive that began a week ago, official said Thursday.

North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) Thursday also took action to remove illegal temporary structures in areas falling in Rohini and Karol Bagh zones. The civic body had started a drive May 4 to curb illegal selling of meat through shops or by vendors on the streets.

Since then, NDMC authorities have "sealed 100 meat shops and 70-80 temporary structures have been removed" from areas under its jurisdiction, the NDNC said in a statement. On May 4, health department teams at the BJP-led North Delhi Municipal Corporation had conducted "raids" across it's six zones and sealed several meat shops who were selling it illegally, officials had earlier said. NDMC zones are -- City Sadar Paharganj Zone, Karol Bagh Zone, Rohini Zone, Keshavpuram, Civil Lines zone and Narela Zone. "Such raids would continue in coming days to curb the illegal selling of meat," the NDMC had said in the statement. NDMC Commissioner Sanjay Goel May 5 had said such action would continue in the to curb illegal sale of meat. On May 4, a team in City Sadar Paharganj Zone had sealed 10 illegal unlicensed meat shops -- three meat shops in Nabi Karim in ward 91, three shops in Quresh Nagar in ward 89 and four such shops on Minto Road, Shakur ki Dandi in ward 88. Along with this the City SP Zone had removed illegal meat vendors for JJ Cluster Daya basti in ward 82.

# Shiv Sena slams Owaisi for visiting Aurangzeb's tomb

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad/Mumbai, May 13: The Shiv Sena Friday said AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi's visit to the tomb of Aurangzeb at Khuldabad in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district was aimed at vitiating the atmosphere of the state and the followers of the 17th century Mughal emperor will meet the same fate as his.

OWAISI THURSDAY VISITED AURANGZEB'S TOMB BEFORE ADDRESSING A RALLY IN AURANGABAD CITY

SANJAY RAUT SAID THAT BY OFFERING NAMAZ AT GZEB'S TOMB, THE OWAISI BROTHERS



Shiv Sena MP and party spokesperson Sanjay Raut said Aurangzeb fought against Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and after his death with the Marathas for 25 years.

"He was an aggressor who invaded Maharashtra and destroyed its temples." Raut told reporters.

"Owaisi brothers are doing politics with an aim to vitiate the atmosphere of Maharashtra. We have accepted this challenge. We buried Aurangzeb in this soil. His (Aurangzeb) followers, who want to do politics, will meet the same fate in Maharashtra."

"You keep coming to Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) and pay obeisance to Aurangazeb, you needle us and Maharashtra. But I would like to say that the Marathas entombed Aurangzeb in the soil of Maharashtra. You (Owaisi) are now reading namaz on his tomb. Time will come that you will be in the same grave," he said.

Aurangzeb, considered the last effective Mughal emperor, ruled for nearly 49 years until his death in 1707. In the last two decades of his rule, he shifted his focus on the Deccan which brought him in direct conflict with the Marathas. Accused of being a bigot and a religious fanatic, Aurangzeb had ordered the execution of Sambhaji, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji

Former Shiv Sena MP Chandrakant Khaire and the party's Aurangabad district unit chief and MLC Ambadas Danve took a strong objection to Owaisi's visit to the tomb. But All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Lok Sabha MP Imtiaz Jaleel said there was no need to draw a "different meaning" out of it.

Defending Owaisi, AIMIM leader Jaleel said, there are many tombs in Khuldabad and they have a history.

Talking to reporters, BJP MLA Nitesh Rane said, "Akbaruddin Owaisi knows that there is a weak government in Maharashtra and nobody can even touch him (even after visiting the tomb). This is the true Hindutva of this government!"

"Later, he also tweeted saying, "I appeal to the police to stay away for 10 minutes. And after that, if we do not send him (Owaisi) to Aurangzeb, then we are not the true soldiers of Shivaji Maharaj."

Maharashtra Congress spokesman Sachin Sawant took a swipe at the BJP for demanding action against Owaisi.



Flock of flamingos stand in a pond on the eve of World Migratory Bird Day in Navi Mumbai

РТІ РНОТО

# Delhi stares at water crisis, sends SOS to Haryana

**THE DELHI GOVERNMENT HAS NOW TARGETED INCREASING THE** WATER SUPPLY TO **998 MGD TO MEET** 

**THE GROWING DEMAND THIS SUMMER SEASON AND TO 1,180 MGD BY JUNE 2023** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The Delhi government Thursday sent an SOS to Haryana, the third time in two weeks, urging it to release additional water in the Yamuna river to prevent a water crisis in the national capital.

"Haryana is releasing less water in the river due to which the water level at the Wazirabad pond has

dropped to a critical low of 671.80 feet, as against the normal level of 674.5 feet. Several areas in Delhi may face water shortage," an official said.

The India Meteorological Department has issued a 'yellow' alert, warning of a heatwave at most places in the capital Friday and Saturday. An 'orange' alert has been issued to caution people about a severe heatwave Sunday.

The mercury is predicted to leap to 46-47 degrees Celsius at isolated places in the coming days, weather experts said.

'Even the flow via CLC (Carrier-Lined Channel) and DSB (Delhi Sub-Branch) is fluctuating ... The lifting of 120 cusec of water from the Wazirabad pond is affected due to the low pond level. This will affect water production adversely. Due to peak summer, the water requirement is more," the SOS sent to the Haryana irrigation department read.

'It is requested to supply 150 cusecs of raw water additionally through DD-8/river route, to ensure that 120 cusec of raw water



reaches the Wazirabad pond in this time of crisis, till the arrival of monsoon," it said, adding, "This may be treated as an SOS in the larger public interest of the national capital.'

Officials said operations at

Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla water treatment plants have been affected. Starting Friday morning, the water supply will remain affected till the water level at the Wazirabad pond returns to normal. The city government had ear-

lier written to the Haryana irrigation department in this connection May 3 and April 30.

Haryana supplies 610 million gallons of water a day to Delhi through two canals -- Carrier-Lined Channel (CLC) and Delhi Sub-Branch (DSB) -- and the Yamuna.

The CLC and the DSB are supplied water from Hathni Kund via the Munak canal and the Bhakra Beas Management Board.

Besides, Delhi receives 253 MGD from Uttar Pradesh through the Upper Ganga Canal, and 90 MGD is drawn from ranney wells and tubewells installed across the city.

The Chandrawal and Wazirabad water treatment plants have a capacity of 90 MGD and 135 MGD, respectively.

The two plants lift raw water from the Wazirabad pond, treat it 🛁 and supply it to northeast Delhi, west Delhi, north Delhi, central Delhi, south Delhi, including Delhi Cantonment, and New Delhi Municipal Council areas.

Delhi requires around 1,200 MGDof water, while the DJB supplies around 950 MGD.



# national



In Uttar Pradesh and other BJP ruled states. like the Congress, the manner in which poor, Dalits, tribals and Muslims are being harassed by making them victims of atrocities and fear is very sad, whereas their (BJP) kindness is continuing in the affairs of others MAYAWATI BSP SUPREMO

# **NEW INITIATIVE**

"Purna-Unnati ki Sajhedaari," an initiative that aims to transform 100 waste workforce into waste professionals, was launched in Mathura Friday. The initiative will be accomplished by developing a circular, equitable and inclusive model of effective waste management in Mathura-Vrindavan with an endeavour to make Mathura-Vrindavan one of the cleanest cities of India



# Massive protests in Kashmir over Bhat's murder SC refuses to postpone uote

It is our prime duty to prevail upon such singers not to encourage violence through their songs which often pervert

the youth especially the children with impressionable minds. Initially, we request them not to prop up such trend failing which the government would be forced to act sternly against them

BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CM

Under the double-engine government. the rate of crime has risen with double speed. Police stations have become

hotspots of anarchy. While development has been set aside by the government, hatred and activities to divide the society are being promoted

AKHILESH YADAV SP PRESIDENT

Tamil Nadu governmen will take al possible steps, including legal and political, to obtain its due share of Cauvery water from Karnataka MK STALIN TN CM

# SHORT TAKES

## One killed in blast

Patna: One person was killed and two others injured in an explosion in an ice cream factory in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district Thursday evening, officials said. SDO, Muzaffarpur, West, Brajesh Kumar said that the incident occurred in Motipur area. "We have rescued the injured persons and taken them to a private hospital. Their condition is stable. The victims were employees of the ice cream factory.

# Boy found dead

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Lucknow: The body of a five year-old boy was found in a scrap dumping yard in Lucknow, the police said. The howling of stray dogs at the site attracted the attention of locals who then saw the body

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 13: Angry Kashmiri Pandits held noisy demonstrations in several places in Jammu and Kashmir Friday, a day after the killing of community member Rahul Bhat by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in his office, and were met with force by the police which used teargas and lathi-charge to disperse them.

Raising slogans against Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and the administration, the demonstrators. mostly government employees posted in the troubled valley and their kin, demanded that they be provided adequate security or be transferred to Jammu. The employees also threatened en masse resignation from their jobs.

A rattled administration pleaded with the demonstrators to call off their protests and announced that the Lt Governor had set up an SIT to probe the killing of Bhat in the Tehsil office at Chadoora in Budgam district. The Sheikhpora camp, located in Budgam of central Kashmir, where Bhat had been provided accommodation along with other government employees, was the epicentre of the protests with people marching towards the airport road to block it before they were intercepted by the police.



requesting them to disperse failed to yield any result, leading to clashes during which the security forces had to resort to lathi-charge and firing teargas shells

perse failed to yield any result, leading to clashes during which the security forces had to resort to lathi-charge and firing teargas shells

There were no reports of any injury but some purported pictures of people allegedly wounded during the police action circulated on social media. The demonstrators then staged a sit-in and raised slogans against the Jammu and

PTI PHOTO The protestors raised slogans against the Jammu and Kashmir administration and demanded that Lt Governor Manoj Sinha should come and assure them about their safety

Kashmir administration and demanded that Lt Governor Manoj Sinha should come and assure them about their safety. However, the Lt Governor was in Sopore attending a function at that time.

The protestors were carrying placards that read, "I need to be able to tell my children that I did not stay silent", and also displayed the wounds that they had received during the lathi charge. They also

# THRILLING RIDE

Tourism is not normalcy; it's a barometer of economic activity. Normalcy is the absence of fear, the absence of terror, the inability of militants to strike at will, the presence of democratic rule & by any yardstick you choose to use, Kashmir is far from normal today OMAR ABDULLAH I NC VICE PRESIDENT

claimed that four of their men had been detained by the police. However, there was no official confirmation for this.

Later in the evening, it was claimed by protesters that the gates of the Sheikhopora Migrant Colony were locked from the outside by police allegedly to prevent them from coming out. The LG's office tweeted that the Lt Governor had met the relatives of Bhat and "assured justice to the family'

Bhat, 35, was shot dead by two Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists at his Tehsil office in Chadoora of Budgam district on Thursday. The protests were held at Baramulla. Kupwara (North Kashmir), Vessu, Mattan, Qazigund (South Kashmir), and various parts of Jammu including the Jagti camp, where Kashmiri Pandit migrants have been provided concrete accommodation since 2007.

# NEET-PG 2022 exam



*A* bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud noted that postponing the exam will impact the patient care and also prejudice to over two lakh students who have registered for the exam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 13: The Supreme Court Friday declined to entertain pleas seeking the postponement of NEET-PG 2022 scheduled for May 21, saying it will create "chaos and uncertainty"

A bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud noted that postponing the exam will impact the patient care and also prejudice to over two lakh students who have registered for the exam

The bench, also comprising Justice Surya Kant, said as the country gets back on the rails after which was caused due to the pandemic, the time schedule must be adhered to, and any delay in con-

ducting the exam will result in fewer number of resident doctors. The top court's order came on pe-

titions by the doctors seeking to postpone the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Postgraduate (NEET-PG) 2022 exam, citing a clash with ongoing counselling for NEET PG 2021. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati represented the Centre in the top court.

Dismissing the plea to postpone the exam, the bench noted that the request cannot be entertained, as it would affect the patient care and the career of the doctors, and emphasised that these are matters belonging to the policy domain.

The bench pointed out that over two lakh doctors have registered, and it will cause prejudice to them if the exam is further postponed. The Centre contended that the academic session was supposed to commence from May 1 in a given year. However, it will begin on September 1 for this academic year, therefore, it is not in the best academic interest of the students to further delay the

# Prof sacked for terror links

examination.

since last year.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 13: A Kashmir University Professor was among the three people sacked by the union territory administration Friday for their alleged links with terror groups, officials said.

Altaf Hussain Pandit, a chemistry professor, was terminated following a recommendation of a designated committee constituted under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution that allows dismissal without an inquiry in the interest of the State's security. With these three fresh termi-

Jamaat-e-Islam (JeI). He had crossed over to\_ Pakistan for terror training and remained an active terrorist of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front for three years before his arrest by the security forces, sometime in 1993. He continued to be an active cadre of JeI and worked as a terror recruiter. He was instrumental in organising stone pelting and violent protests over the killing of terrorists in 2011 and 2014, the officials said.

the special provisions in Jammu

and Kashmir has gone up to 37

Hussain Pandit was actively as-

sociated with the proscribed

# 4 boys sexually abuse classmate

A heavy posse of police per-

sonnel stopped the protesters after

appeals requesting them to dis-

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 13: Four boys, all 14year-olds, were booked under the Prevention of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act and sent to a correctional facility in Kellys, Chennai for raping their classmate at her residence a few days ago.

no penetrative sex, the boys were regularly watching pornographic movies and tried it on their classmate at her home in Royapuram where they often visited for combined studies. The incident occurred a few days ago and came to light when the younger sister of the girl informed their mother. The girl said that one day when both the parents had gone out to office, the boys had come to their home and asked the younger sister to go out and play as they had to study. The girl told the mother that after some time when she came back home, the door of the room in which her sister and her classmates were 'studying' was closed but not latched and she barged in and found her sister without clothes with hands and feet tied. The younger sister was asked to keep her mouth shut by the elder sister. However, police said that after a few days both of them had a spat and the younger sister informed their mother about the incident and lodged a complaint at the Royapuram police station on Wednesday. Police after a thorough investigation charged the boys under the POCSO Act and sent



Police said that while there was



and informed the police. The police said that the boy might have suffocated in the dump as there were no marks of injury on his body. The victim was a resident of Mawaiya and his mother identified the body.

### **Cop dies**

Srinagar: A constable of Jammu and Kashmir Police, who was shot at by terrorists and injured Friday morning in South Kashmir's Pulwama district has succumbed to his injuries, officials said. The constable, identified as Revaz Ahmad Thoker, was shot near his residence in the Gudoora village. "Injured Police Constable Reyaz Ahmad Thoker succumbed to his injuries at hospital. We pay rich tributes to the martyr and stand by his family at this critical juncture," police said.

#### Man injured

New Delhi: In yet another tragic incident involving Ola Electric's controversial 'reverse mode'. a 65-year-old man in Jodhpur suffered serious injuries after the Ola e-scooter unexpectedly went into a reverse mode at ful speed. Pallav Maheshwari, who is the son of the victim and returned to India last year and was 'ecstatic' about the country's EV revolution posted on LinkedIn that his father suffered serious injuries in the incident.

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Five arrested

Baruipur (WB): Five people were arrested with arms and ammunition in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police said Friday. Acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted at Taldi's Biswaspara Choumatha in Canning police station area on Thursday night and the five people were caught, they said.

them to the correction facility. The girl was sent to a rehabilitation centre for counselling. M.R. Mayangana, a medical doctor turned social activist said. "Parents should keep an eye on the children as to what they are watching, whom they are meeting, and what is transpiring between them to prevent such incidents that would leave a mental scar on all of them."



Tourists ride a boat over high sea waves at Grove beach in Thiruvananthapuram

nations, the total number of government employees sacked using

# 1995 CUSTODIAL DEATH CASE Three IAF personnel get life

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: A special CBI court in Ahmedabad has sentenced three Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel -- two retired and one serving -- to life imprisonment for the custodial murder of a cook 27 years ago, officials said here Friday.

Girija Rawat, a cook at the air force station in Jamnagar, was tortured to death in November 1995 after it was suspected that he stole liquor from the canteen. The convicted officers are Anoop Sood, then a Squadron Leader at the Air Force-I in Jamnagar, and then Sergeants Anil K N and

Girija Rawat, a cook at the air force station in Jamnagar. was tortured to death in November 1995 after it was suspected that he stole liquor from the canteen

Mahendra Singh Sherawat. Sood. who retired as Group Captain, claims to be an orientation programme speaker and a trained commando from the NSG on his social media profile. Anil has also



PTI PHOTO

retired from the IAF, while Sehrawat is still serving.

The CBI had taken over the case on February 22, 2012 on the orders of the Gujarat High Court on a plea of Rawat's wife."...It was further alleged that on November 13, 1995, 10-12 Air Force Police Officials,

including then Squadron Leader Anoop Sood, conducted searches at the residence of Rawat and took him with them forcibly to confess about stealing of liquor from the Air Force Canteen." CBI Spokesperson R C Joshi said.

He said Rawat's wife visited the guard room in the evening seeking release of her husband.

"She was told that her husband would be released soon. The accused allegedly tortured him which caused his death. On November 14, 1995, she was informed about the death of her husband and was asked to collect the body," Joshi said.

# Pani puri sellers speak Hindi, says TN minister

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore, May 13: Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy Friday asserted that the state government will continue with the two-language formula as its policy, and decried any attempts of alleged Hindi imposition and questioned claims that learning the language will fetch jobs.

Taking a dig at those who insist jobs will be available for those who learn Hindi, the minister asked who are selling 'pani puri' in the city now, an obvious reference to the predominantly Hindi-speaking vendors involved in the trade.

His comments came at the 37th convocation of Bharathiar

University here, presided over by state Governor R N Ravi, also the varsity Chancellor, where the minister reiterated the ruling DMK's stand against 'impo-

sition' of Hindi Many claim said you will get which jobs if you learn Hindi. Is it so...Look here in sought Coimbatore, who is selling to dispani puri. It is them (Hindi-speaking by sayindividuals)

K PONMUDY I "there is HIGHER EDUCATION no question MINISTER, TN of imposi-

Hindi or any other language on anyone.

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Ravi

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Ponmudy said he used the platform to highlight Tamil Nadu's sentiments over the language issue as the Governor would convey them to the Centre. He recalled that English and Tamil have been in vogue in Tamil Nadu for long and that the same will continue while students were not against learning other languages, including Hindi. "Many said you will get jobs if

vou learn Hindi. Is it so...Look here in Coimbatore, who is selling pani puri. It is them (Hindi-speaking individuals)," he said."If a cat can go through a hole, can't a rat," he asked cryptically

Ponmudy said students of the state were ready to learn any language and that they were not against other languages including Hindi. Noting that the state government was ready to adopt good schemes in the New Education Policy (NEP 2020), the minister said there should not be any imposition of Hindi

and students can prefer any language as the third option, but the state will follow the system prevailing now.

Alleging Hindi imposition through NEP 2020, the Tamil Nadu government has already said the two-language policy, comprising Tamil and English, will continue to remain in practice. "We don't want to agitate against the good things in NEP. We are ready to follow them. But at the same time, in Tamil Nadu we should have our own language. India is a land of unity in diversity. In Tamil Nadu we should follow our own education system...We should follow certain good policies from the NEP,' Ponmudy added.

There was a time when society barred education to women. However, the 'Dravidian Model' has created a system, where education was for all and women students outnumber their male counterparts in higher education, as this is social reformer Periyar's land, he said. Chief Minister MK Stalin has formed a committee to formulate an education policy and based on its recommendations a policy will formulated, he said.

Ravi, in his address, denied Ponmudy's claims of Hindi imposition and highlighted Tamil's richness and wealth which he wanted to be spread across thecountry by enabling more people learn the language.







international

**Russian President Vladimir Putin is** humiliating himself on the world stage LIZ TRUSS UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

# **50.000 AFFECTED BY HEAVY RAIN IN CHINA**

Some 50,000 residents of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have been affected by floods caused by extensive heavy rain that began May 8, the regional emergency management department said Friday



INDO-ASIAN NEW SERVICE

announced.

Dubai, May 13: The President of

the United Arab Emirates (UAE),

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al

Nahyan (73), passed away Friday,

the Ministry of Presidential Affairs

The ministry also confirmed

there will be 40 days of official

mourning with flags across the

UAE drawn at half-mast, and the

work of all UAE ministries at the

federal and local levels, as well as

those of the private sector, will

also be suspended for three days,

beginning Friday, Xinhua news



Market awaiting policy & action, which Imported Govt has failed to provide. Both myself & Shaukat Tareen had

warned the 'Neutrals' that if conspiracy succeeded our fragile economic recovery would go into a tailspin. That is what has now happened IMRAN KHAN PAKISTAN'S FORMER PM

We are following developments concerning Sweden and Finland carefully but we are not of a

favourable opinion RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN TURKISH PRESIDENT



ROBERT HABECK GERMANY VICE-CHANCELLOR

# SHORT TAKES

### Missile attack kills **10 Syrian soldiers**

Beirut: A missile struck a Syrian military bus in the country's north early Friday. killing 10 soldiers, Svria's state-run media and an opposition monitor said. It wasn't immediately clear who was behind the attack, one of the deadliest since a truce deal reached more than two years ago. The official news agency SANA said "terrorists" targeted the bus in the western countryside of Aleppo. in the Aniara area. Nine soldiers were wounded in the attack, the report said. There was no claim of responsibility.

**Queen** attends horse show

London: Queen Elizabeth II attended the Royal Windsor Horse Show Friday, watching her beloved equines from the comfort of a Range Rover before walking to her box in her first public appearance in person in weeks. The monarch sat in the front passenger seat and spoke to a small group through the window after pulling up to the parade ground near Windsor Castle, where she has spent much of the past two years. The queen seemed relaxed and smiled while dozens of photographers a few feet away tried to capture the moment.

# **North Korea reports 6** deaths after admitting Covid-19 outbreak

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, May 13: Six people have died and 350,000 have been treated for a fever that has spread "explosively" across North Korea, state media said Friday, a day after the country acknowledged a Covid-19 outbreak for the first time in the pandemic. North Korea likely doesn't have

sufficient Covid-19 tests and said it didn't know the cause of the mass fevers. But a big coronavirus outbreak could be devastating in a country with a broken health care system and an unvaccinated, malnourished population.



One of the six people who died was infected with the omicron variant. KCNA said. But it wasn't immediately clear how many of the total illnesses were COVID-19

The North's Korean Central News Agency said of the 350,000 people who developed fevers since late April, 162,200 have recovered. It said 18,000 people were newly found with fever symptoms Thursday alone, and 187,800 are being isolated for treatment.

One of the six people who died was infected with the omicron variant, KCNA said. But it wasn't immediately clear how many of the total illnesses were Covid-19.

North Korea imposed a lockdown Thursday after acknowledging its first Covid-19 cases. Those reports said tests from an unspecified number of people came back positive for the omicron variant.

It's unusual for isolated North Korea to admit to the outbreak of any infectious disease, let alone one as menacing as Covid-19, as it's intensely proud and sensitive to outside perception about its selfdescribed "socialist utopia."

While North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had occasionally been candid about his worsening economy and other problems, he had re-

### **SL Oppn refuses to be part of new govt UAE** President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed passes away

### AGENCIES

Colombo, May 13: Most of the Opposition parties in Sri Lanka Friday announced that they would not become a part of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's interim government but would support its economic policies from outside to help the debt-ridden island nation's early recovery.

The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader was appointed as Sri Lanka's 26th Prime Minister Thursday as the country was without a government since Monday when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the antigovernment protesters by his supporters. The attack triggered widespread violence against Rajapaksa loyalists, leaving nine people dead and wounding over 200 others.

"We cannot become a part of this Rajapaksa-Wickremesinghe government," Wimal Weerawansa, a legislator for the independent group from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's SLPP said. Former President Maithripala Sirisena's SLFP central committee has also decided not to be part of the government.

The Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) said they would also not be part of the government while the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) said United National Party (UNP) leader Wickremesinghe has no legitimacy



# INDIAN ENVOY CALLS ON WICKREMESINGHE

The Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay Friday became the first foreign envoy here to call on the new Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and discussed with him continued cooperation between the two countries for economic recovery and stability in this island nation. Wickremesinghe, 73, was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister Thursday to stabilise the country's debt-ridden economy and end the political turmoil. Baglay visited Wickremesinghe immediately after the latter assumed duties in his office Friday, Prime minister's office sources said. They discussed the current situation in the country amid the ongoing economic crisis, the worst since the country gained independence in 1948.

as he was not even elected in the 2020 parliamentary election.

SJB general secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara said the party would not accept ministerial positions and called for Wickremesinghe's resignation.

JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake said the decision taken by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to appoint Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister, is one that was made with zero regard to the voice

of the people. The JVP leader ridiculed the decision, saying the appointment has no legitimacy and has no democratic value.

'Wickremesinghe is a person who held the post of Prime Minister, formed governments, and yet could not even win a single seat at the last General Election. He did not even have the required number of votes to enter parliament. If an election is used to measure the consent of the people, elections have shown

#### that he has no mandate, and that is why the people sent him packing,'

he said The interim government idea was mooted by the powerful Buddhist clergy and civil society as a means to find a solution for the ongoing economic crisis. With Mahinda Rajapaksa's resignation Monday, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he was talking to political parties to set up an interim government.

Wickremesinghe, who had been sworn in as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on five occasions before. said his primary task was to tackle the worst economic crisis with assistance from all parties.

The new Prime Minister, who has only his seat in the Parliament, said he commanded a majority coming from both sides.

Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis has provoked widespread protests calling for political reform and the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. On April 1, President Rajapaksa imposed a state of emergency, lifting it five days later.

The government reimposed a state of emergency May 6 after police fired teargas and arrested students protesting near parliament, which was adjourned until May 17.

Although the protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, the police fatally shot a protester April 19, and on several occasions have used teargas and water cannons against protesters.



No official word is given yet on the cause of death. However, in a statement published in Arabic by state news agency WAM, the ministry expressed its condolences to the people of the UAE and the Arab nations "on the death of the leader of the nation and the guardian of its journey, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the country"

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed served as the President of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi since November 3, 2004.

# Russia takes losses in failed river crossing

#### AGENCIES

Kyiv, May 13: Russia lost sign ificant numbers of troops and important equipment when Ukrainian forces thwarted their attempt to cross a river in the east, British officials said Friday, another sign of Moscow's struggle to win decisive victories and salvage a war gone awry.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, opened the first war crimes trial of the conflict, in proceedings that will be closely watched by international observers eager to ensure atrocities are fairly prosecuted. A Russian soldier



# Indian Embassy in Ukr to resume ops

ndia Friday announced that its embassy in Ukraine would



unchanged

### Nepal holds local elections

Kathmandu: Nepal Friday conducted local elections across the country even as reports of sporadic violence trickled in from various parts of the nation. The National Human Rights Commission said the local level polls held Friday could not become peaceful as expected. Violent activities were reported from several places across the nation during the local elections held in a single phase. The activists of rival political parties clashed in some places.

peatedly expressed confidence about pandemic response and wasn't seen wearing a mask in public until Thursday

Sri Lankans protest demanding president Gotabaya Rajakasa's resignation and decrying the appointment of Prime Minister Ranil Wickeremesinghe in Colombo, Sri Lanka

# Protesters vs cops as scribe's coffin heads for burial

AGENCIES

Jerusalem, May 13: Thousands of people packed Jerusalem's tense Old City Friday for the burial of veteran Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh, after Israeli police reached the spot during the start of the funeral procession.

Israel and the Palestinians have traded blame over the fatal shooting of the Palestinian-American on Wednesday during an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank.

The interim findings of an Israeli army investigation could not determine who fired the bullet that killed Abu Akleh, the military said.

But an army statement noted a soldier could have fired the bullet that killed the 51-year-old journalist, in what Al Jazeera called a

# **AL JAZEERA JOURNALIST FUNERAL**



deliberate "killing in cold blood". 'The investigation shows two possibilities for the source of the shot that killed her." the army said. The first could have been "massive fire of Palestinian gunmen (at Israeli soldiers), as part of which hundreds of bullets were shot from a number of locations.

"The other option is that during

the gunfight, one of the soldiers shot a few bullets from a jeep using a telescopic scope at a terrorist who was firing at his vehicle."

TV images showed Abu Akleh's coffin nearly falling to the ground as Israeli police grabbed Palestinian flags from the crowd around the procession outside Saint Joseph's hospital in Israeli-annexed east

Jerusalem. Israel forbids public displays of Palestinian flags and often storms individuals who hoist them at rallies or protests in the city.

#### **'SISTER OF ALL PALESTINIANS'**

Thousands of mourners attended the funeral at a church in Jerusalem's Old City in the afternoon. Roads were closed along the route of the procession as Israel bolstered security to "ensure the funeral takes place safely and without violence that could endanger participants or others", an Israeli police spokeswoman said.

In a sign of Abu Akleh's prominence, she was given what was described as a full state memorial Thursday at Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's compound in Ramallah before being transferred to Jerusalem.

stands accused of killing a Ukrainian civilian in the early days of the war.

The trial gets underway as Russia's campaign in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas makes faltering progress. Ukraine's airborne forces command has released photos of what it said was a damaged Russian pontoon bridge over the Siversky Donets River and several destroyed or damaged Russian military vehicles nearby.

Ukrainian news reports said troops thwarted Russian passage across the river earlier this week, leaving dozens of tanks or military vehicles damaged or forcing troops to abandon them. Britain's Defense Ministry said

Friday that Russia lost "significant" elements of at least one battalion tactical group — about 1,000 troops — as well as equipment used to quickly deploy a makeshift floating bridge while trying to cross the river. They have struggled to do so, even after diverting troops from other parts of the country to the Donbas, the statement said. Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials

resume its operation from the Ukrainian capital Kyiv from May 17. The embassy was temporarily operating from Warsaw in Poland since mid-March. "The Indian Embassy in Ukraine, which was temporarily operating out of Warsaw (Poland), would be resuming its operation in Kyiv with effect from May 17," the Ministry of External Affairs said. It said the embassy was temporarily relocated to Warsaw March 13.

claimed another success in the Black Sea, saying their forces took out another Russian ship, though there was no confirmation from Russia and no casualties were reported. The Vsevolod Bobrov logistics ship was badly damaged but not thought to have sunk when it was struck while trying to deliver an anti-aircraft system to Snake Island, said Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to the Ukrainian president. In April, the Ukrainian military sank the Moskva cruiser, the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet. In March it destroyed the landing ship Saratov.

### 11 dead, 31 rescued after boat capsizes

Washington: Eleven people died and 31 others were rescued after a vessel capsized off the coast of Puerto Rico, the US Coast Guard said Friday. The Coast Guard tweeted that responding crews have rescued 31 survivors -- 11 female and 20 male, adding that "11 deceased have been recovered", reports Xinhua news agency The vessel, which capsized approximately 19 km north of Puerto Rico's Desecheo Island, was suspected of taking part in an "illegal migrant vovage", the Coast Guard said, adding that most of the people on the boat were reportedly from Haiti.

# Taliban enforce gender segregation for restaurants

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kabul, May 13: The Taliban in Herat province have implemented a gender segregation plan in the province's restau-

rants, media reports said. Men are not permitted to dine with their family members in family restaurants, according to sources, Khaama Press.

Owners have been verbally reminded that the rule applies "even if they are husband and wife", according to Riazullah Seerat, a Taliban official at the Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the report said.

According to a woman who did

not wish to be identified, the manager of a Herat restaurant Thursday told her and her husband to sit separately.

Seerat also stated that the ministry has issued a directive requiring Herat's public parks to be gender segregated, with men and women authorised to attend only on separate days, Khaama Press reported. "We told women to go to parks on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The other days are set aside for males to visit for leisure and exercise," he said. Since regaining control in August

last year, the Taliban have increasingly implemented restrictions that separate men and women.



Last week, Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada had issued an order in Afghanistan, saying that if a woman

did not cover her face outside Men are not her home her father or permitted to dine closest with their family male relative would members in family be sum restaurants moned and eventually incarcerated or fired from government jobs, Khaama Press reported

At a press conference in Kabul, a spokesman for the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice read out a statement from the Afghan supreme leader: The statement detailed the procedures taken by the Ministry authorities to supervise the process of mandatory hijab. The initial stage in this procedure is to locate the residences of unveiled ladies and to counsel and warn the ২ women's parents. The woman's father or guardian is summoned to the relevant department in the second stage, and in the following steps, a case is lodged against the woman'sfather or parents, and the person's trial begins, Khaama Press reported.





# business



So my sense is that CEPA will give a big boost to economic growth, to jobs. And the opportunities it opens not only in the UAE, but in the larger ground for the African region. (It) should significantly give a bump up to the Indian economy as well

PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

## **VIL SEES NEW 5G TRIALS RECORD**

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) and Ericsson Friday announced achievement of a technology milestone during the ongoing 5G trials, by demonstrating a peak download speed of 5.92 gigabits per second. Earlier, during its 5G trials and use cases' showcase in Pune, VIL had demonstrated speeds of over 4 Gbps



uote

It is heartening to see that customers are back in the stores, shopping and retailers are witnessing quantity growth in sales

KUMAR RAJAGOPALAN CEO, RAI

Currently around \$196.98 billion worth of projects are underway in India. I once again invite all the developed countries and major RE players to utilise the opportunity India is offering to the world

BHAGWANT KHUBA UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

We have demonstrated good growth in FY22 through relentless focus on execution of our strategies and tapping new horizons

MURUGAVEL JANAKIRAMAN CHAIRMAN AND MD, MATRIMONY.COM

# SHORT TAKES

# Swiggy acquires

Bangalore: Online food delivery platform Swiggy Friday announced it has acquired Dineout, a dining out and restaurant tech sum. Reliable sources told IANS that the acquisition size could be around \$200 million. Dineout, which serves millions across its network of 50,000 restaurants in 20 cities, will continue to operate as an independent app post the acquisition.

SBI reports highest ever quarterly profit

Mumbai: The country's largest lender SBI Friday reported a 41.28 per cent rise in

standalone profit after tax at `9,114 crore for the quarter ended March 2022, its highest ever quarterly profit, driven by healthy interest income and

### **STABLECOIN** COLLAPSE

*Crypto assets have also* been swept up in broad selling of risky

investments on worries about high inflation and rising interest rates. Sentiment is

particularly fragile, as tokens supposed to be pegged to the dollar have faltered

#### Bitcoin set for record losing streak LISTING MAY 17 Centre fixes LIC issue I don't think the worst is In Asia, Hong Kong-listed Huobi REUTERS price at ₹949 a share

May Singapore, 13: Cryptocurrencies nursed large losses Friday, with bitcoin back above \$30,000 and but still set for a record losing streak after the collapse of TerraUSD, a so-called stablecoin, rippled through cryptocurrency markets.

Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency by total market value, managed to bounce in the Asia session and traded at \$30,335 at 0843 GMT. It has staged something of a recovery from a 16-month low of around \$25,400 reached Thursday.



But it remains far below weekago levels of around \$40,000 and, unless there is a rebound in weekend trade, is headed for a record seventh consecutive weekly loss. BEYOND BITCOIN

Crypto-related stocks have taken

over. I think there is more downside in the coming days. I think what we need to see is the open interest collapse a lot more, so the speculators are really out of it, and that's when I think the market will stabilize SCOTTIE SIU I INVESTMENT DIRECTOR, AXION

GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

a pounding, with shares in broker Coinbase steadying overnight but still down by half in little more than a week.

Technology and BC Technology Group, which operate trading platforms and other crypto services. eyed weekly drops of more than 20%. But broader financial markets have so far seen little knock-on effect from the cryptocurrency crash. "Crypto is still tiny and crypto integration within broader fi-

nancial markets is still infinitesimally small," said James Malcolm, head of FX strategy at UBS. "This idea that what goes on in crypto stays in crypto - that's in many ways where we still are at the moment."

LIC POLICYHOLDERS AND RETAIL INVESTORS **HAVE GOT THE SHARES** AT A PRICE OF ₹889 AND ₹904 A PIECE. RESPECTIVELY

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The government has fixed the issue price of LIC shares at ₹949 apiece, the upper end of the IPO price band, ahead of the listing of the country's largest insurer May 17.

The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) closed May 9 and shares were allocated to bidders May 12. The government sold over 22.13 crore shares or 3.5 per cent stake in LIC through the IPO at a price band of ₹902-949 a share.

The retail investors and eligible employees of LIC were offered a discount of ₹45 per equity share over the issue price, while policyholders got a discount of ₹60 per share.

As per the prospectus filed by LIC on May 12, the offer price of the share sale has been fixed at ₹949 per equity share. Shares were allocated to policyholders and retail investors after applying the discount applicable to them. The share sale fetched the government around ₹20,557 crore.

The LIC IPO - India's largest to date - closed with nearly 3 times subscription, predominately lapped up by retail and institutional buyers, but foreign investor participation remained muted.

LIC had last month reduced its IPO size to 3.5 per cent from 5 per cent decided earlier due to the prevailing choppy market conditions. Even after the reduced size of over ₹20,557 crore, LIC IPO is the biggest initial public offering ever in the country.

LIC will list on the stock exchanges and its shares will start trading from May 17.

# **Tesla ices India entry plan**

**DEADLOCK ON TARIFFS** 

As recently as January, Chief Executive Elon Musk had said Tesla was "still working through a lot of challenges with the government" in regard to sales in India. But the strong demand for Tesla's vehicles elsewhere and the standoff over import taxes prompted the shift in strategy, the sources said

**Dineout for \$200mn** 

platform, for an undisclosed

REUTERS New Delhi, May 13: Tesla Inc has put on hold plans to sell electric cars in India, abandoned a search for showroom space and reassigned some of its domestic team after failing to secure lower import taxes, three people familiar with the mat-

ter told Reuters. The decision caps more than a year of deadlocked talks with government representatives as Tesla sought to first test demand by selling electric vehicles (EVs) imported from production hubs in the United

States and China, at lower tariffs. But the Indian government is pushing Tesla to commit to manufacturing locally before it will lower tariffs, which can run as high as 100% on imported vehicles.

For months. Tesla had scouted for real estate options to open showrooms and service centres in the key Indian cities of New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore but that plan is also now on hold, two of the sources said. Tesla has assigned additional

responsibilities for other markets to some of its small team in India. Its India policy executive Manuj Khurana has taken on an additional "product" role in San Francisco since March, his LinkedIn profile shows



eassigned some of its domestic team after Tesla's price tag of \$40,000 at minimum would put it in failing to secure the luxury segment of the Indian market, where sales lower import make up just a tiny fraction of of about 3mn annually

Tesla had set itself a deadline of tions were private. Feb 1, the day India unveils its budget and announces tax changes, facturers with a "Make in India" to see if its lobbying brought a recampaign, but his transport minister. sult, the sources with knowledge Nitin Gadkari, said in April it would of the company's plan told Reuters. not be a "good proposition" for When Prime Minister Narendra Tesla to import cars from China to Modi's government did not offer a India. Governmnet had clinched a concession, Tesla put on hold the win in January, when German luxplans to import cars into India. urv carmaker Mercedes-Benz said added the sources, who sought it would start assembling one of

anonymity because the delibera-

Musk halts Twitter deal over fake account data

REUTERS

Washington, May 13: Elon Musk tweeted Friday that his \$44-billion cash deal for Twitter Inc was "temporarily on hold" while he waits for the social media company to provide data on the proportion of its fake accounts.

Twitter shares initially fell more than 20% in premarket trading, but after Musk, the chief executive of electric car market Tesla Inc, sent a second tweet saying he remained committed to the deal, they regained some ground.

The shares were down 8.6% to \$41.19 in midday trading Friday, a steep discount to the \$54.20 per share acquisition price.

Musk, the world's richest person, decided to waive due diligence when he agreed to buy Twitter April 25, in an effort to get the San Francisco-based company to accept his "best and final offer." This could make it harder for him to argue that Twitter somehow misled him.

Since then, technology stocks have plunged amid investor concerns over inflation and a potential economic slowdown.

The spread between the offer price and the value of Twitter shares had widened in recent days, implying less than a 50% chance of completion, as investors speculated that the downturn would prompt Musk to walk or seek a lower price.

"Twitter deal temporarily on hold pending details supporting calculation that spam/fake accounts do indeed represent less than 5% of users," Musk told his more than 92

यको बैंक

UCO BANK

Spam or fake accounts are designed to

like Twitter. Some create something or someone is more popular

million Twitter followers.

diate action as a result of Musk's comment, people familiar with the matter said. The company considered the comment disparaging and a violation of the terms of their deal contract, but was encouraged by Musk subsequently tweeting he was committing to the

Musk tweeted a Reuters story from ten days ago that cited the fake account figures. Twitter has said that the figures were an estimate and that the actual number

has held steady below 5% since 2013. why Musk was raising it now.



manipulate or artificially boost activity on services

an impression that

Twitter is planning no imme-

acquisition, the sources added.

may be higher. The estimated number of spam accounts on the microblogging site prompting some analysts to question

better asset quality. Its standalone profit after tax (PAT) stood at `6,451 crore in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal. For the full year ended March 31, 2022, PAT grew by 55.19 per cent to `31,676 crore as against `20,410 crore in FY21.

### Vegoil imports fall 13% in April: SEA

New Delhi: Imports of vegetable oils, comprising edible and non-edible oils. fell 13 per cent to nearly 9.12 lakh tonne during April, according to industry data. The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) said in a statement that import of vegetable oils stood at 9.11.846 tonne in April 2022 compared to 10,53,347 tonne in April 2021. The import of edible oils fell to 9,00,085 tonne from 10.29.912 tonne, while shipments of non-edible oils declined to 11.761 tonne from 23.435 tonne.

# BEARS TIGHTEN GRIP Markets lurch lower for 6th day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

eign investors.

per cent to settle at 15,782.15.

The rupee pared its initial gains and settled Mumbai. May 13: Equity bench-5 paise lower at its fresh marks capitulated in fag-end trade Friday to post their sixth straight lifetime low of 77.55 session of loss as investors fled for against the US dollar safety amid dismal macroeconomic data and persistent selling by for-

> were among the other losers, shedding as much as 2.65 per cent.

Building on a firm start, the 30-In contrast, Sun Pharma, M&M, share BSE Sensex rallied over 800 Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Titan, points in afternoon trade but buckled under intense selling pressure Reliance and Nestle India were to finish 136.69 points or 0.26 per cent among the gainers, climbing up lower at 52,793.62 -- its lowest closto 3.76 per cent.

ing level since July 30, 2021. On On a weekly basis, the Sensex similar lines, the broader NSE lost 2,041.96 points or 3.72 per Nifty dipped 25.85 points or 0.16 cent, while the Nifty plunged 629.10 points or 3.83 per cent. SBI was the top laggard, tum-Continuing their selling spree, bling 3.76 per cent. ICICI Bank, foreign institutional investors NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, offloaded shares worth a net Axis Bank, Maruti and Tata Steel ₹5.255.75 crore Thursday.

# UCO Bank Q4 net jumps over three-fold

Bhubaneswar: State-owned UCO Bank Friday posted an over three-fold jump in net profit at 312.18 crore for the quarter ended March 2022 as a fall in bad loans lowered the provisioning requirement. The lender had posted a net profit of ₹80 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Total income during the fourth quarter of 2021-22 was, however, down at ₹4,362 crore, as against ₹4,637 crore in the year-ago period, UCO Bank said

Modi has sought to lure manu-

its electric cars in India

in a regulatory filing. For the full fiscal FY22, the bank's net profit grew more than five times to ₹930 crore from ₹167 crore in FY21. Total income during the year was at ₹18,082 crore, up from ₹17,870 crore in the preceding fiscal. The lender brought down its bad assets portion significantly as the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) came in at 7.89 per cent by end of March 2022, as against 9.59 per cent by end of March 2021. Value-wise, the gross NPAs fell to ₹10,237 crore from ₹11,352 crore. Similarly, the net NPAs were down at 2.70 per cent (₹3,316 crore) from 3.94 per cent (₹4,390 crore). Thus, the provisioning for tax and other contingencies also fell to ₹466 crore in Q4 FY22 from ₹982 crore earlier. Besides, the Kolkata-headquartered lender said it is holding ₹4,707.36 crore provisions (including technical write-offs) -- 100 per cent of the requirement for accounts covered under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). On prudential framework of resolution of stressed assets, the bank holds additional provision of ₹702.32 crore in nine accounts, it added.

# Chandi Bhandar launches new collection 'Panihari'

#### Bhubaneswar: Recognising the power

**BIZ BUZZZ** 

and commitment of women in our society, Chandi Bhandar, Friday, launched its brand new collection of jewellery 'Panihari' ahead of the auspicious Raja and Savitri festival Odisha's largest silver jewellery store, Chandi



Bhandar's new collection includes intricately-designed sterling silver statement jewellery like chokers, pendants, bracelets, adjustable straps earrings, finger rings, payals among others. Originating from the heart of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, Panihari, stands for the perfect balance between modernisation while sticking true to its origin nature and styles. Chandi Bhandar also invitied its patrons to visit their stores between May 21 to May 27 and have a first-hand experience of the magical collection of Panihari and their latest range of oxidised jewellery among others. Moreover, the brand also mentioned that the customers can avail their special Raja Savitri offer where they will get up to 30% off on making charges from May 13 to June 16 at their outlets in Shaheed Nagar and Patia in Bhubaneswar and in Udit Nagar, Rourkela.

New Delhi: India's biggest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki (MSI), will build a manufacturing plant that can produce up to 250,000 cars a year on an 800-acre site in northern Haryana state, it said Friday. The plant is expected to produce its first car by 2025, and the company would invest over ₹110 billion (\$1.42 billion) in the first phase of the project, it said. The investment by Maruti, which accounts for nearly half the cars produced in India, marks the first major planned investment by a carmaker in years.

### MSI to set up mfg plant in Haryana

**RETAIL CONGLOMERATE** 

**RECORDED SALES OF \$104.6 BILLION BETWEEN APRIL 2021 AND MARCH 2022, BECAME THE FIRST INDIAN COMPANY TO GENERATE OVER \$100 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE** 

**RELIANCE, WHICH** 

#### OIL-TO-TELECOM-TO-PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd climbed two spots to No 53 on Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide.

Forbes Global 2000 ranks the largest companies in the world using four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value, Forbes said releasing the 2022 ranking of the world's top 2,000 companies.

"Energy and banking sector corporations were among the highest-ranking Indian companies in Forbes' Global 2000 list of public companies this year," the publication said.

"On the Global 2000, Reliance climbed two spots to No 53 among all public companies worldwide and



ranked first among Indian companies," it said. "Earlier this year, Forbes estimated Ambani's net worth to be \$90.7 billion, landing him at No 10 on this year's billionaires list.'

Mukesh's father Dhirubhai launched the business in the early 1960s, starting with import and export licences for nylon, rayon and polyester. Today, the company's businesses include plastics and petrochemicals, mobile telecom services and retail.

With a market cap of \$56.12 billion, SBI grabbed the No 2 spot on the list of India's largest. "The bank, headquartered in Mumbai, has 24,000 branches and 62,617

Reliance is the top-ranked Indian firm on the list, followed by State Bank of India at No 105, HDFC Bank at No 153 and ICICI Bank at No 204

ther top 10 Indian firms on Other top 10 include state-owned ONGC at 228 rank. HDFC at 268. IOC at 357. TCS at 384. Tata Stee at 407 and Axis Bank at 431

ATMs across the country. Private sector banks ICICI and HDFC followed next on the Global 2000 list of Indian companies, highlighting the growth of the banking sector in India.'

Some notable newcomers to the list include billionaire Gautam Adani's companies: Adani Enterprises Limited, Adani Transmission Ltd and Adani Total Gas Ltd. "Adani made headlines when he became the richest Asian billionaire in history. Earlier this year, Adani passed Warren Buffett to become the 5th richest person in the world," Forbes said.

His companies include a mix of businesses ranging from power generation and transmission to edible oil, real estate and coal. Adani Enterprise is ranked at No 1,453 in the Forbes list, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone at No. 1,568, Adani Green Energy at 1,570, Adani Transmission at No. 1,705 and Adani Total Gas at 1,746.

Gautam Adani, 59, is a college dropout who started a commodity export firm in 1988. He first appeared on Forbes' list of the World's Billionaires back in 2008 with a networth of \$9.3 billion, which he has multiplied to a whopping \$90 billion.









**INDIA ENTER THE FINAL OF THE THOMAS CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE EVENT IN 1949** 

# PRANNOY REWRITES INDIAN **BADMINTON HISTORY**

AT A GLANCE

Lakshya Sen lost to Viktor

Axelsen 13-21, 13-21

Shetty & Satwiksairaj bt of

Astrup & Mathias 21-18, 21-23,

22-20

Kidambi Srikanth bt Anders

Panjala & Krishna lost to

13-21

13-21, 21-9, 21-12

Lakshya Sen 21-13, 21-13. the Indian

shuttlers

history books of Indian badminton. Next up was the ever-improving doubles combo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairai Rankireddy. They defeated the Danish pair of Kim Astrup and Mathias Christiansen in a three-game thriller 21-18, 21-23,

it was expected to be. Olympic the 80 minutes. champion Viktor Axelsen gave With the scores level, all eyes Denmark a flying start beating

However,

Antonsen 21-18, 12-21, 21-15 never lost hope and Rasmussen and Sogaard 14-21, came back strongly to etch their names in the HS Prannoy bt Rasmus Gemke

were on Kidambi Srikanth. Could he pull it off against Anders Antonsen? Antonsen had defeated Srikanth twice in the past before. 22-20 in a match that lasted close to However, Srikanth came good when it mattered the most, and overcame the Danish challenge 21-18,

#### 12-21, 21-15.

Not much was expected from the Indian doubles combo of Vishnuvardhan Panjala and Krishna Garaga in the fourth rubber and they went down tamely to Anders Skaruup Rasmussen and Frederik Sogaard 14-21, 13-21. The tie was level at two-all and all depended on Prannoy.

The Indian did not start off as he wanted to and lost the first game 13-21 to Rasmus Gemke. However, Prannoy shrugged off the momentary aberration and came back strongly to win the next two 21-9, 21-12 with ease and guarantee a silver medal for India. He had ensured India's first medal in the history of the competition by ensuring a semifinal berth. He went a step further Friday and ensured a silver medal. A night indeed to remember for

Indian badminton.

Birendra named India

Odisha's Neelam will replace the unfit drag-flicker

skipper after injury forces Rupinder out



AGENCIES

Bangalore, May 13: Bad luck for a person may turn out to be a blessing in disguise for another. The Indian men's hockey team was Friday dealt a big blow as captain Rupinder Pal Singh was ruled of the upcoming men's Asia Cup hockey tournament due to a wrist injury. It meant that Odisha's Birendra Lakra, who had earlier been named deputy to Rupinder, will now lead the side, Hockey India (HI) said in a release Friday. Forward SV Sunil was named vice-captain of the Indian squad.

Ace drag-flicker Rupinder, who came out of retirement, injured his wrist during a training session, HI said in a release.

Rupinder's injury turned out to be a blessing for Odia player Nilam Sanjeep Xess who was named as his replacement in the 20-member Indian squad.

The Asia Cup starts May 23 in Jakarta. India are the defending champions in the tournament.

"It is unfortunate that Rupinder has picked up an injury during

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 13: International

Chess Federation (FIDE) president

Arkady Dvorkovich has announced

former World Champion

Viswanathan Anand as the candi-

date for the deputy president's post.

He is is again running for the president's post. According to a FIDE

official, if Dvorkovich wins the

the training session and will not be a part of the Asia Cup. Both Birendra and Sunil are vastly experienced and have been part of the leadership group for many years now," coach BJ Kariappa said.

"While we will miss Rupinder, we have plenty of options available in the pool. We've got a very talented group of players, and they are looking forward to utilising this opportunity at the Asia Cup,' Kariappa added.

It should be stated here that experienced players like Manpreet Singh, PR Sreejesh and a few others have been rested for the tournament.

The squad: (Goalkeepers): Pankaj Kumar Rajak, Suraj Karkera; (Defenders): Yashdeep Siwach, Abhisek Lakra, Birendra Lakra (captain), Manjeet, Dipsan Tirkey, Neelam Sanjeep Xess; (Midfielders): Vishnukant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Mareeswaren Sakthivel, Sheshe Gowda BM, Simranjeet Singh; (Forwards): Pawan Rajbhar, Abharan Sudev, SV Sunil (vice-captain), Uttam Singh and S Karthi.

# **NEWS IN BRIEF Odisha eves thrash** HP, seal last 8 spot Bhopal: Odisha thrashed

Himachal Pradesh 8-0 in their final Pool H match to qualify for the quarterfinals of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championships 2022, here Friday. In the other matches of the day, Kerala outplayed Telangana by an identical 8-0 margin in Pool H, while Delhi defeated Goa 5-1 in a Pool G contest but the wins were not enough for both the sides to make it to the last eight round. In the quarterfinals to be played Saturday, Maharashtra will face Jharkhand, Haryana will be up against Uttar Pradesh. Puniab play Karnataka and hosts Madhva Pradesh will take on Odisha.

AGENCIES

Bangkok, May 13: He did it

Thursday when he ensured a his-

toric Thomas Cup medal for India

by winning the deciding singles

against Malaysia. Shuttler HS

Prannoy was again in the thick of

things Friday as India defeated

Denmark 3-2 with the Indian win-

ning the deciding rubber of the

# Friendly called off

New Delhi: Three days after officially confirming their availability to play a friendly match against India, the Football Association of Zambia in a letter to AIFF has informed that they 'regret' they won't be able to play the 'Friendly' game against India in Doha which was supposed to be played June 25. "We regret to inform you that our effort to secure our professional players for the game against India has proved futile. Most of the players'

# **BAIRSTOW, LIVINGSTONE KEEP KINGS IN PLAY-OFF CONTENTION**

WITH JUST A FEW GAMES TO GO, PUNJAB STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ENTER KNOCKOUT PHASE

#### AGENCIES

Mumbai, May 13: Punjab Kings (PBKS) kept their hopes alive of playoff spot in the IPL semifinals defeating Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) by 54 runs here Friday. In comparison to RCB's 14 points from 13 games, PBKS now have 12 points from 12 games. So if both RCB and Delhi Capitals (also on 12 points) lose their remaining games, and if PBKS win theirs, then they will go to the play-offs. A long shot indeed, but then the victory Friday gave PBKS some semblance of a hope.

tie. The victory assured India's

entry into the final of the Thomas

Cup for the first time since the

tournament began in 1949. Now

only Indonesia stand between India

and a historic gold when the final

It was as pulsating an affair as

comes off, Sunday.

Jonny Bairstow's (66, 29b, 4x4, 7x6) opening blitzkrieg found its ideal match in Liam Livingstone's (70, 42b, 5x4, 4x6) finishing carnage as PBKS put up an imposing 209 for nine wickets in a must-win game against RCB.

Chasing such a big total, RCB needed a perfect start. However, Virat Kohli (20) again failed and so did skipper Faf du Plessis (10). Youngster Rajat Patidar (26) and veteran Glenn Maxwell (35) did offer some resistance, but even then there was no hope for RCB. Once the two went, RCB collapsed like a



nament, was back in his elements hitting the ball at will during a knock where he literally went hell for leather. Such was his dominance that by the time six overs of power play ended, Bairstow had already hit seven towering sixes and Shikhar Dhawan (21) rubbed salt to the wound with another one which made it eight in all. PBKS, who had set the template of blazing power play starts, got 83 in the first six overs with Glenn Maxwell (1/17 in 2 overs), Josh Hazlewood (0/64 in 4 overs) and Mohammed Siraj (0/36 in 2 overs) being treated with utter disdain.

While Maxwell did manage to dismiss Dhawan, both Hazlewood and Siraj were guilty of bowling short on a pitch offering true bounce. Bairstow effortlessly pulled and flicked them into the stands and by the time, deliveries pitched up, they landed in the stands as well

the flow of runs with some tight wicket-to-wicket bowling.

Bengal left-arm spinner Shahbaz was rewarded for his tight lines as Bairstow finally mistimed one and Siraj did well to pouch the skier. After 83 in the first six, there was a drastic dip in scoring as 22

elections, Anand will be his deputy. On his part Anand tweeted, "Hope to be part of a brighter and support Arkady better future for Chess. #SayChess because the team led by him has done Last month, Anand had announced a lot for the sport. The that he will be supporting Dvorkovich in the FIDE elections. At that time,

Anand set for FIDE role<sup>-(</sup>

responsibilities I will have will be decided later VISWANATHAN ANAND

season-ending matches are close to the scheduled date making it practically impossible to join the camp," general secretary Adrian Kashala wrote to his AIFF counterpart Kushal Das. Zambia FA had officially confirmed their participation for the game May 9.

## **Pugilists shine**

New Delhi: Indian boxers Shiksha (54kg), Jaismine (60kg) and Anamika (50kg) showed their skills and maturity Thursday to advance to the pre-quarterfinals at the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships, in Istanbul. Shiksha, who faced Argentina's Herrera Milagros Rosario displayed brilliant temperament to win by unanimous decision. However, Jasmine had to face a tough challenge from Thailand's Porntip Buapa before winning 4-1. Anamika was up against Romania's Eugenia Anghel and launched an aggressive attack from the beginning to win 5-0.

### Shooters in gold rush

New Delhi: Indian shooters continued Friday to dominate the proceedings at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. The shooters won four gold medals in the women's and men's air rifle and air pistol team events Friday. It took their gold medal tally to eight in the competition. The men's 10m air rifle trio of Rudrankksh Patil. Paarth Makhija and Umamahesh beat Spain to win the gold. The iunior women's 10m air pistol team of Manu Bhaker, Palak and Esha Singh then outplayed Georgians Salome Prodiashvili, Mariam Abramishvili and Mariami Prodiashvili 16-8 to get India's second gold. The third gold came in the women's team air rifle event when the trio of Arya Borse, Zeena Khitta and Ramita overcame the Korean's 17-9 while the fourth came in the men's air pistol segment. AGENCIES

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house of cards.

Kagiso Rabada (3/21) was the pick of the PBKS bowlers and among his victims was Kohli. The duo of Rahul Chahar (2/37) and Rishi Dhawan (2/36) shared four wickets between them.

Bairstow, who was rusty during the earlier phase of the tour-

Siraj had a forgettable first spell where he was hit for four sixes, while Hazlewood in his first over had gone for 22. The Australian had his worst IPL figures ever.

However post-power play, once Wanindu Hasaranga (2/15 in 4 overs) and Shahbaz Ahmed (1/40 in 4 overs) started operating, RCB stemmed

came in between seventh and 10th overs. Then Livingstone took over BRIEF SCORES: PBKS 209 for 9 (Liam Livingstone 70, Jonny Bairstow 66, Harshal Patel 4/34, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/15) bt RCB 155 for 9 (Glen Maxwell 35, Kagiso Rabada 3/21, Rishi Dhawan 2/36) Rahul Chahar 2/37) by 54 runs.

Spurs win north London derby

Antonio Conte's men keep Champions League hopes alive

with 3-0 hammering of 10-man Arsenal

port Arkady (Dvorkovich). We have discussed this but we haven't decided yet in what role or capacity I will be involved.'

However, he had confirmed his in-

volvement in the elections. "We have

discussed that Viswanathan (Anand)

Anand had said, "I have agreed to sup-

#DvorkovichTeam2022."

will be a huge part of our team," Dvorkovich had said last month. The Anand at that time had categoriincumbent deputy president of FIDE cally denied that he will be contestis Bachar Kouatly. ing for any FIDE office-bearer's post.

Interestingly, Anand was appointed as Asia's Continental Assistant to FIDE president by Dvorkovich in 2019.

# **BENZEMA EQUALS RAUL'S RECORD**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, May 13: Karim Benzema continued to add his name to Real Madrid's record books as he scored his 323rd goal to draw level with Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Benzema netted in the first half of Madrid's 6-0 rout of last-place Levante in the Spanish league Thursday, with the team having secured the La Liga title a few rounds ago.

Benzema's trusted attacking partner all season Vinícius Júnior, scored a hat-trick for Madrid as it continue to prepare for the Champions League final May 28 against Liverpool in Paris. They will try to win a record-extending 14th European title. Ferland Mendy and Rodrygo were the other scorers for Madrid

Benzema is now 128 goals shy of the 451 scored by Ronaldo, who played at the club until 2018. Raúl, the coach of Madrid's 'B' squad, played for the club in the 1990s and 2000s.

Benzema's close-range header in the 19th minute off a cross by Vinícius gave the French striker his league-leading 27th goal, which is nine better than any other player in the competition this season. He has scored more than a third of Madrid's 79 league goals so far. He could have added another goal but unselfishly fed Vinícius the ball <del>(</del> for the team's fifth after clearing the goalkeeper inside the area.

# Injured Rafa bows out of Italian Open

Foot problem a cause for concern ahead of French Open

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, May 13: With just 10 days to go before the French Open, Rafael Nadal is struggling with an injury again. Nadal was hampered by a foot problem towards the end of a 6-1, 5-7, 2-6 third-round loss to Denis Shapovalov at the Italian Open here Thursday.

At one point, the 35-year-old Nadal walked over and leaned on his towel box and grimaced in apparent pain. He also limped between points. Nadal missed a large portion of last year with a left foot injury.

"I hurt my foot again with a lot of pain," Nadal said after the match. "I'm a player living with an injury. It's nothing new. It's something that is there, unfortunately. Day by day it is getting difficult," the Spaniard added.

It is a worrisome scene for Nadal, especially with the French Open starting May 22. "What can happen in the next couple of days, I don't know," said Nadal, who has won Roland Garros a record 13 times. "What can happen in one week, I really don't know now," he added.

Nadal double-faulted twice then missed a backhand long to hand Shapovalov a break of his serve and the second set. Shapovalov then took complete control when

### **AT A GLANCE**

Rafa Nadal lost to Denis Shapovalov 6-1, 5-7, 2-6 Novak Djokovic bt Stan Warinka 6-2, 6-2

Iga Swiatek bt Viktoria Azarenka 6-4, 6-1

Alexander Zverev bt Alex De Minaur 6-3 7-6 (5)

he won 14 straight points late in the third.

Earlier, top-ranked Novak Djokovic was untroubled in a 6-2, 6-2 win over Stan Wawrinka, who was playing only his second tournament after undergoing two surgeries on his left foot.

Djokovic, a five-time champion here, will next play Felix Auger-Aliassime, who ended the run of American qualifier Marcos Giron with a 6-3, 6-2 victory. It will be the first meeting between Djokovic

and Auger-Aliassime. In the women's segment, topranked Iga Swiatek was tested before pulling out a 6-4, 6-1 victory over former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka to reach the quarterfinals and extend

her winning streak to 25 matches. She will next face 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu, who eliminated Croatian qualifier Petra Martic 6-4, 6-4.

AGENCIES

London, May 13: Mikel Arteta launched a scathing attack on referee Paul Tierney after Tottenham Hotspur beat 10-man Arsenal 3-0 Thursday to keep alive their hopes of finishing in the Premier League's top four: Antonio Conte's side would have been eliminated from the race to qualify for next season's Champions League if they had lost to their bitter north London rivals.

Harry Kane tormented Arsenal once again as the Tottenham striker opened the scoring with a controversial penalty. Crucially, Arsenal's Rob Holding was sent off for two bookings in seven minutes.

Kane netted again before the interval and Son Heung-min bagged Tottenham's third in the second half. Spurs were the better side and dominated for the better part of the game.

Instead of sealing a return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2016-17 season, fourthplaced Arsenal now face a nervejangling conclusion to the top-four battle. Spurs on 65, are just a point behind and any mistake by Arsenal would benefit them. Both sides have two games left.

Tottenham host Sunday a struggling Burnley and then travel to relegated Norwich. On the other hand Arteta's men visit Newcastle Monday and then entertain Everton.



On paper, Gunners have difficult matches in comparison to Spurs. Gunners boss Arteta was furious

with both the penalty and red card. "If I say what I think I'm suspended for six months. I don't know how to lie, so I prefer not to say what I think. I think you can read my body language very clearly," Arteta said after the match.

"I want the referee to come in front of the camera and explain his decisions. It's a shame because such a beautiful game was destroyed today (Thursday)," he added.

It was Tottenham who landed the first blow after 22 minutes. Cedric Soares collided with Son as they contested Dejan Kulusevski's cross in the six-yard box and the contact was enough to convince Tierney to award a penalty. Arsenal surrounded Tierney to complain angrily, but Kane stepped up to send Aaron Ramsdale the wrong way with a nerveless spot-kick.

Arsenal were shell-shocked and the game shifted decisively in Tottenham's favour in the 33rd minute. Eric Dier's long pass targeted Son and Holding crudely blocked his path with his shoulder, a needless offence that prompted Tierney to send off the defender for his second booking.

Then came the second goal for Spurs. Rodrigo Bentancur flicked on a corner and Kane stooped to head home from virtually on the line as Conte celebrated with a jig of delight.

The night got even better for Conte in the 47th minute as Kane rolled Gabriel and the ball broke for Son to clip a deft finish into the corner.

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