



## SRK'S GOLDEN RULE

SRK shares the golden rule of the profession with his girl Suhana ahead of her debut in *The Archies*

LEISURE P2



## WORLD'S LONGEST

World's longest suspension bridge has been opened for tourists in Czech Republic

INTERNATIONAL P10



## THOMAS CUP SHOWDOWN

India will again look to punch above their weight when they run into 14-time winners Indonesia today

SPORTS P12



## Md bin Zayed UAE's new President

**Dubai:** Rulers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced Saturday that they appointed Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the President of this hereditarily ruled nation on the Arabian Peninsula. The state-run WAM news agency said the rulers of the country's seven sheikhdoms made the decision at a meeting held in Al Mushrif Palace in Abu Dhabi. It comes after the late President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan died Friday. WAM described the vote as unanimous among the rulers of the country's sheikhdoms.



## Poachers kill 3 policemen in MP

**Bhopal:** Three policemen were killed after poachers opened fire at them at a village in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh in the wee hours of Saturday, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said. The incident occurred on Shahrok Road near Saga Barkheda village under the jurisdiction of Aron police station, some 160 km from the state capital, around 3am when the police personnel had gone to nab the miscreants following a tip-off, he said. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a high-level meeting, following which he announced an ex gratia of Rs 1 crore and government jobs to the kin of each of the martyred cops.

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## DELHI TRAGEDY AFTERMATH

# State gears up to counter fire



## 30 FEARED DEAD IN MUNDKA BLAZE

**New Delhi:** About 30 people could be dead from the inferno that tore through a building in Mundka and 29 are missing, officials said Saturday. They hope that some people could still be alive in the smouldering embers of the fire that broke out the day before ebbing by the hour. Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said there was only a single entry and exit point. It also did not have a fire safety certificate or fire-fighting equipment.

Fire Services DG SK Upadhyay asks officials to strictly enforce Odisha Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Rules, 2017

Assistant fire officers of the districts, deputy fire officers of all circles and range fire officers of the state to strictly enforce the guidelines of Odisha Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Rules, 2017 and the subsequent amendment thereof.

He asked the officials to conduct fire safety audit of installations of different institutions like hotels, lodgings and guest houses, educational buildings above 12 metres in height, cinema halls, multiplexes, clinical establishments, business or office buildings above 12 metres, places of congregations like auditorium, convention halls, coaching centres/ hostels, factories and industries among others. Upadhyay has also instructed for

fire safety audit/inspection of all district headquarters hospitals, collectorates and high-rise government buildings on priority basis by May 21 where the frequent movement of public occurs. Fire safety officials were asked to ensure appointment of fire safety supervisors and display of photo copies of fire safety certificates in all such major buildings.

Vendors are advised not to use loose or open electrical wiring to avoid short circuit due to overheating. Further, he advised the fire station officers to liaise with concerned fire safety supervisors of different establishments. In case of fire related hazards, citizens are advised to dial 112.

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** In the wake of the fire tragedy in Delhi, Director General of Fire Services, Odisha, Santosh Kumar Upadhyay has ordered fire safety audit of all vital establishments including hospitals, industries and market complexes across the state, officials said Saturday. Upadhyay has instructed all as-

## Manik Saha to be new Tripura CM

**Agartala, May 14:** In a surprise move, BJP made Rajya Sabha MP Manik Saha the new Chief Minister of Tripura, succeeding Biplab Kumar Deb who resigned earlier Saturday.

Saha, the BJP's state president, was elected the Legislature Party Leader at a meeting at the Chief Minister's official residence soon after a crestfallen Deb tendered his resignation to Governor SN Arya. Saha would be sworn-in as 12th



Chief Minister of the state Sunday. As Deb proposed the 69-year-old Saha's name in the meeting, minister Ram Prasad Paul protested, which led to a scuffle

among MLAs. Paul also broke a few chairs before the situation was calmed, sources said. Paul wanted Deputy CM Jishnu Dev Varma, a member of the erstwhile Tripura royal family, as the next Chief Minister of the state, they said.

Senior BJP leaders Bhupender Yadav and Vinod Tawde were observers for the election of the legislature party leader. Deb, 50, resigned a day after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda in New Delhi.

## TOGETHER FOR PEACE



Burqa-clad women hold the national flag as they participate in a rally organised for communal harmony at Udupi in Karnataka, Saturday

## Immolation bid near Ganjam SP office

**Berhampur, May 14:** A 28-year-old man attempted self-immolation in front of the office of the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Ganjam district Saturday.

Badal Sahu, a resident of Borigaon under Rambha police station, poured petrol on his body before setting himself afire. Police rescued Sahu and sent him to Chhatrapur hospital in a critical condition, sources said.

SP Brijesh Rai said a minor case was pending against the victim at the police station for the last few months after a villager had lodged a complaint against him for abuse. Sahu did not meet him before trying to immolate himself, he said. "We are yet to ascertain the exact cause behind the move and an investigation is on," the officer added. Sources, however, said his family has been ostracised by the villagers for the past several years.

## Graft cuffs on 2 lady officers

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** Vigilance sleuths Saturday arrested two women officers on charges of corruption and possessing properties disproportionate to their known sources of income.

The two women officers - Neena Beura, in-charge Superintendent of Excise, Rayagada and Manasi Jena, inspector of police, Vigilance, Sambalpur division. This apart, another person was arrested for assisting Jena in the corruption, the official said.

Vigilance Director YK Jethwa said, "Odisha Vigilance is committed to take strong actions against corrupt practices of government functionaries, including its own." Stating that intelligence gathering has been intensified and search and interception teams are kept in readiness round the clock in the state for acting on verified inputs, Jethwa said, "An internal vigilance unit has been activated



under the Cell Division at Vigilance Directorate which exclusively keeps a watch on the activities of Vigilance Officials. With these steps we hope to continue strong measures against corruption." On arrest of Beura, he said she was caught with bribe money received as illegal gratification from IMFL and country liquor vendors. The Vigilance sleuths were keeping a close watch on the movement and activities of Beura, he said. Accordingly, late Friday night, the officers intercepted her near

Totapada Chhak in Khurda district while she was returning from Rayagada to Bhubaneswar in a private vehicle. During interception, suspected ill-gotten cash of Rs 6,29,000 was found in Beura's possession. Search is continuing at various locations of Beura in Bhubaneswar, Rayagada and Cuttack. In this connection, Bhubaneswar Vigilance has registered a case under provisions of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 against Beura and she was arrested Saturday.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	35.5°C	35.0°C
TEMP. MIN	27.3°C	27.0°C
Humidity	75%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky

# Maha woman declared 'male' in test to get police job

## BOMBAY HIGH COURT RULING

**Mumbai, May 14:** The Bombay High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to finalise within two months the appointment in the state police department of a woman, who had qualified for the concerned exam, but lost out on the post after a medical test revealed that she was a 'male'.

A bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Madhav Jamdar passed the order last week after the state's counsel, Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, told the court that the state government had decided to take a sympathetic view in the present case and appoint the woman in the police department, but in a "non-constabulary post".

Kumbhakoni said the special IG (Nashik) will submit a recommendation to the additional chief secretary of the state Home department keeping in mind the woman's qualifications. He told the bench that the terms

- A 23-year-old woman, who had applied for Nashik Rural Police Recruitment 2018 under the Scheduled Caste category, had qualified for the written and physical tests
- However, a subsequent medical exam showed that she did not have a uterus and ovaries
- Another test showed she had both the male and female chromosomes and it opined that she was "male"

and benefits of employment for the petitioner woman will be at par with other employees of her level, who are recruited through the standard procedure. The bench accepted the state's submission and accordingly granted the state government and the Police department two months to complete the process.

"It is an extremely unfortunate case. No fault can be found in the petitioner as throughout, she has pursued her career as a female," the bench said while passing the order. The bench was presiding over the plea of a 23-year-old woman, who had applied for the Nashik Rural Police Recruitment 2018 under the Scheduled Caste (SC) category. She qualified for the written and physical tests. However, a subsequent medical exam showed that she did not have a uterus and ovaries. Another test showed she had both the male and female chromosomes and it opined that she was "male".

The woman then moved the high court, saying she had been unaware of the anatomical anomaly. She said she had lived as a female right from birth and all her educational certificates and personal documents were registered with a female name. She cannot be denied recruitment only because of the karyotyping chromosome examination had declared her male.

## WHEAT EXPORTS BANNED TO TAME INFLATION

**New Delhi, May 14:** India has banned wheat exports with immediate effect as part of measures to control rising domestic prices, according to official notification. However, the export shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) have been issued on or before the date of this notification will be allowed, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated May 13.

"The export policy of wheat... is prohibited with immediate effect..." the DGFT said. It also clarified that wheat exports will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments. In a separate notification, the DGFT announced the easing of export conditions for onion seeds.

# leisure



## 95TH OSCARS LOCKED FOR MARCH 12, 2023

The 95th Oscars will be held March 12, 2023, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the American television network ABC announced Friday (US Pacific Time).

## 'DOCTOR STRANGE' CASTS A SPELL ON BOX OFFICE

Disney/Marvel's 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' easily will extend its reign over the global box office in its second weekend without any truly fire-breathing competition from rival majors.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
If you get a chance to display your presentation skills, don't lose it, says Ganesh. Your eloquence may receive wide acclaim. Your children too may give you reason to be proud. Do remember to take time out for the elderly in your family.

**TAURUS**  
Chaos will reign supreme as unexpected things occur and expected ones are missed out on, says Ganesh. Luck will favour you and nothing is powerful enough to hamper you other than your own thoughts. You will dodge any trouble that is headed your way and escape easily, much to the embarrassment of others.

**GEMINI**  
You will be able to put forward your proposal and explain your feelings to someone dear to you, and can expect a positive response from them. You will come across as honest and sincere and hence will be accepted. An auspicious and joy-filled day awaits, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will help others and be cheerful, feels Ganesh. You will inspire and encourage others. Closeness with beloved will gladden you. You will be attracted to special person, and it could benefit you.

**LEO**  
You will spend the day with your family and friends today and feel closer to them. You will try to help others, as always. You will like to guide someone if your own situation is comfortable today. You will be able to fulfill the expectations placed upon you by someone and will garner a lot of well-wishes, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Consumption of work and success will be the high points today, says Ganesh. You will gain the much needed appreciation for your dedication to work and your desire to succeed in whatever you do. A long-awaited promotion may materialise today, and there is also the bright prospect of some monetary arrears coming your way.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says those of you in the field of business will find this to be a good time for them. In any work that you undertake your vision and ability will be showcased. You will have to spend more time at your workplace. Ganesh says you should try and maintain a balance between your work and your family.

**SCORPIO**  
Relationships are the crux of life. It's very important how you make your near and dear ones feel when you are around. Make someone feel special today. Try to sort out misunderstandings if any. Don't dominate your friends or family members, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You feel like going back to carefree, childhood days. You even practice that by taking an impromptu pleasure trip, in the outskirts of the city. And bumping into an old pal, reliving your past is like an icing on the cake. As Ganesh says, golden moments are best undescribed and you too, by the end of the day, are speechless for this wonderful day!

**CAPRICORN**  
Normally, others, especially colleagues get jealous of one's success, but yours is a different case. They will not only motivate you, but also guide you while you take up new projects and assignments. Not everyone is blessed with such cooperative colleagues, says Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will finally end today and you will enjoy the fruits of your hard-work. You are very good at considering all the pros and cons of every situation/project, drawing a plan on paper and distribution of responsibilities, however, execution of those plans is a problem area for you.

**PISCES**  
You will come up trumps against your competition today. This will make you enthusiastic about your future prospects. You shy away from the spotlight usually, but today you will find yourself thrust into the role of a leader, as you take on new assignments. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesh.

## SRK's golden advice for Suhana Khan



**Mumbai:** As SRK's daughter Suhana Khan sets out to start her acting journey with Zoya Akhtar's 'The Archies', the superstar shared the golden rule of the profession with his girl - "make as many smile as you can".

SRK took to social media to share his thoughts as a proud father and as "another actor".

"And remember @suhanakhan2 you are never going to be perfect.... But being yourself is the closest to that. Be kind and giving as an actor..." SRK wrote on Instagram.

"The brickbats and applause is not yours to keep.... The part of you that gets left behind on screen will always belong to you.... U have come a long way baby.... But the road to peoples heart is unending...."

Stride forth and make as many smile as you can. Now let there be Light.... Camera and Action!" he added, signing off as "Another Actor".

Megastar Big B also expressed his happiness on grandson Agastya Nanda being a part of the highly anticipated project.

The legendary star took to his

Instagram and wrote, "another SONrise Khan sets out to start her acting journey with Zoya Akhtar's 'The Archies', the superstar shared the golden rule of the profession with his girl - "make as many smile as you can".

Meanwhile, Khushi Kapoor's sister Janhvi Kapoor cheered for her. Janhvi Kapoor shared an extensive note and she wrote: "Can you keep calm? I can't. Can you breathe? Because I can't. If this isn't the most exciting thing ever IDK what is? You guys have been working tirelessly for months to create this world, find these characters and start living this journey and there's no one better than Zoya Akhtar to guide you through this and create this most special and wholesome world of Archies."

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## 'Dabangg' Khan to return in style for Eid next year

**Mumbai:** 'Dabangg' actor Salman Khan took to Instagram to share a picture from the sets of his upcoming film, the details and title of which he has smartly concealed.

Sharing the picture, he wrote in the caption, "Shooting commences for my new film". The picture shows him holding a steel rod that hides his face. Holding the rod with his turquoise bracelet clad hand, Salman looks seeped in his action spirit as he sports long hair and a pair of black sunglasses.

Although, Salman hasn't specified the name of the film, it appears to be from his next, 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali' where he co-stars along with his brother-in-law Aayush Sharma.

Salman's long hair somehow reminds of his friend and actor Shah Rukh Khan's look from YRF's spy-thriller 'Pathan' where the latter stars alongside John Abraham and Deepika Padukone.

**Mumbai:** Producer Vijay Kiragandur has confirmed that the shoot for KGF Chapter 3 will begin by the end of October.

"Director Prashant Neel is currently busy with Salaar. Around 30-35% of the shooting is done. The next schedule is slated to begin next week. We hope to complete it by

October-November this year. So, we plan to begin the shoot for KGF after October this year. We hope to release the film by

2024." Asked if any new actor would join or Yash would reprise the role again, the producer added, "Going forward, we are going to create a Marvel kind of universe. We want to bring different characters from different movies and create something like Doctor Strange. The way it happened in Spider Man Home Coming or Doctor Strange."

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## 'Indian theatre suffers from lack of clarity'



**Bhubaneswar:** On the centenary birth anniversary of Kamal Lochan Mohanty, the Kamal Lochan Mohanty Foundation organised a centenary lecture by HS Shivaprakash on Contemporary Theatre at Soochana Bhawan Saturday.

Prof Shivaprakash is a pioneering Kannada playwright, poet, editor, translator, former professor of JNU and former director, Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany. Contemporary theatre is hybrid work that integrates text, physical theatre/dance, visual theatre, non-linear form, objects, music, costumes, lighting, image, sound, sets, and vocal expression into complex interactive systems. On the occasion, Shivaprakash talked about how Indian theatre suffers from lack of clarity as many

people have less knowledge about the vast area and scope of theatre.

He said that in the past theatre plays used to be the only form of entertainment before the arrival other forms of entertainment. Theatre in many states of India, including Odisha, has a rich history which many people don't know. There are many traditional theatre forms in different states which are struggling but still not giving up.

Jnane Debashish Mishra, associate professor at Ravenshaw University said that people of today's generation must read Kamal Lochan Mohanty's plays to understand and learn about society Mohanty's plays showcase the struggle of people in society, Mishra said.

## One month of Ranbir-Alia

**Mumbai:** After dating each other for around 5 years, power couple Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor tied the knot April 14 in an intimate ceremony. It was a dreamlike wedding which was attended by the couple's respective family and close friends.

Ever since her marriage, Alia has been treating fans with beautiful pictures from the wedding celebrations. And

now, after completing a month of togetherness, Alia has treated fans with some unseen pictures from their post-wedding celebrations which are nothing but only love.

Taking to her Instagram, the 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania' actress shared beautiful pictures from her post-wedding celebrations. The first picture has Alia and Ranbir sharing a mushy moment as the actress wraps her arms around her main man.

The next picture has Ranbir holding Alia close to him during a get-together party at their residence post their wedding. In the last picture, the power couple can be seen sharing a hearty laugh as they enjoyed their time at the party.

### PEANUTS



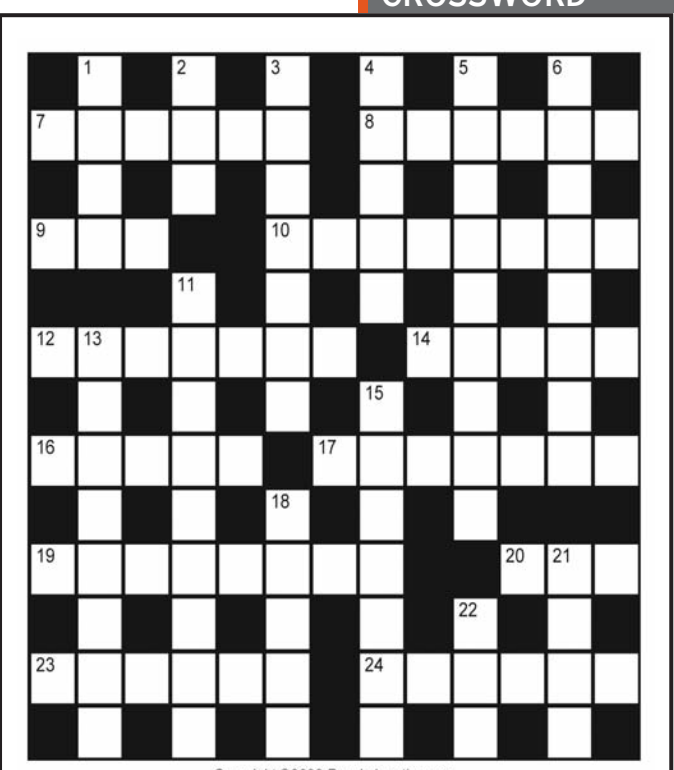
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



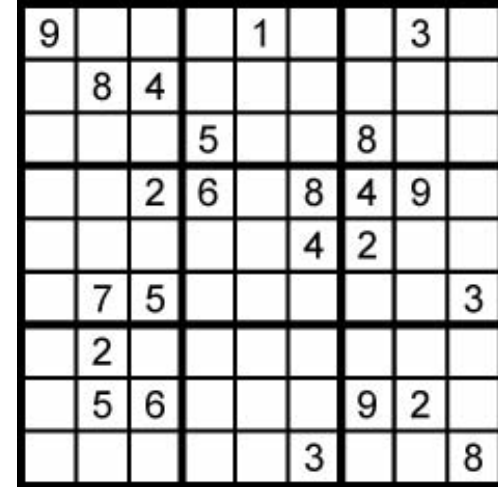
### FUN post CROSSWORD



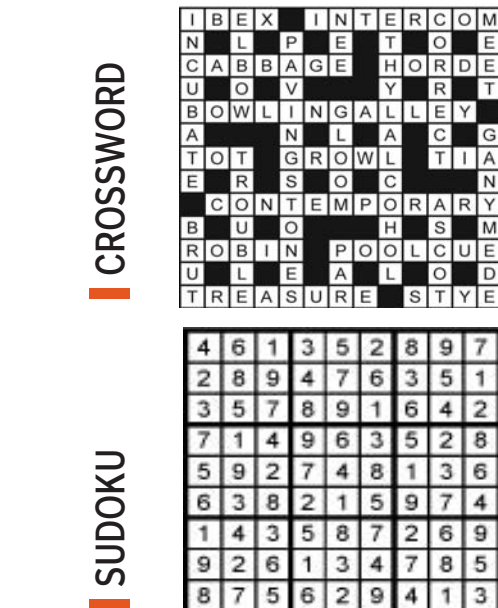
- Across**
- 7 Exaggerate
  - 8 Stunned
  - 9 Eskimo knife
  - 10 Flat tyre
  - 12 Self-love
  - 14 Light refreshment
  - 16 Express a thought
  - 17 Own
  - 19 Abstruse
  - 20 Meddle
  - 23 Allergic reaction
  - 24 Pie chart part
  - 4 Heavenly gift
  - 5 Asian cuisine type
  - 6 Cranes
  - 11 Veal cutlets dish
  - 13 Type of force
  - 15 To the point
  - 18 Packing heat
  - 21 Laughfest
  - 22 Make a move

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



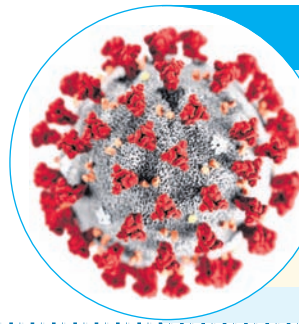
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## AT LORD'S SERVICE

An artisan engraved figures on a piece of wood as part of chariot construction at Rath Yard in Puri, Saturday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	52,05,75,375	47,51,39,237	62,87,172
India	4,31,19,112	4,25,76,815	5,24,201
Odisha	12,88,290	12,78,980	9,126

# 30 pc students didn't return to schools after pandemic

The S&ME dept has asked the district collectors to devise a location-specific strategy to bring back the absentee students to the classrooms



POST NEWS NETWORK/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** After discovering that about 30 per cent of students have not returned to schools as classroom teaching resumed after a gap of two years due to the pandemic, the Odisha government has asked the district collectors to try reversing the alarming trend.

Analysing the daily attendance data from schools collected by DEOs, it was seen that around 70 per cent of students are attending the classes, School and Mass Education (S&ME) department secretary BP Sethi said in a letter to district collectors.

On detailed analysis, it was seen that the attendance in classes I to V in districts such as Malkanagiri, Boudh, Gajapati, Sambalpur and Nuapada was less than the state average, he wrote.

The performance of Malkanagiri, Boudh, Sambalpur and Nuapada is also poor in case of attendance in classes VI to VIII, he added.

In the secondary section, attendance in schools in Gajapati, Bolangir, Bargarh, Sonepur, Nuapada, Cuttack, Khurda, Koraput, Ganjam, Boudh, Malkangiri, Keonjhar, Sambalpur is less than the state average, Sethi said.

The overall attendance in higher secondary classes is abysmally low in Gajapati, Sonepur, Baragarh, Kandhamal and Nuapada, which is a matter of concern, he mentioned.

"The above figures lead us to believe that thorough analysis has

to be made to know the whereabouts of the absentee students. It may so happen, these students who are not attending the offline classes might have dropped out/ moved out along with their parents/ lost interest in academic activities due to non-continuance of the teaching schedule due to the pandemic situation and many other reasons, which need analysis," he noted.

A review by the S&ME department also found that many students passing out of class VIII are not taking admission in class IX.

"We have to devise a location-specific strategy to bring back the students to the classroom," Sethi told the district collectors.

Noting that the department has prepared a strategy to bring back the absent students, he asked the collectors to conduct a school-level survey to list the students who are not attending classes.

"The junior teachers who are posted in schools may be sent to the houses of the absentee students

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Noting that the department has prepared a strategy to bring back the absent students, he asked the collectors to conduct a school-level survey to list the students who are not attending classes

The junior teachers who are posted in schools may be sent to the houses of the absentee students to know the reason for their absence from the school," he said.

"These junior teachers should also motivate students and their parents to send their wards to the school and explain the benefit of sending the students to school and steps taken by the government to provide free books, free uniform, MDM (mid-day meals) and scholarships to students..." he said.

Panchayat members and woman self-help groups can also be roped in for the exercise, Sethi said.

As a Learning Recovery Plan (LRP) is under implementation by the government to help the students recover from the learning loss, maximum attendance of students should be ensured, he said.

## THEATRE FEST



Artists from Thealight, Kolkata, staged Bengali play - Chuya Chandan - during the National Theatre Festival organised by Bidyakanak Srujananusthana at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

# Brown sugar worth ₹3cr seized in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, May 14:** The police Saturday claimed to have arrested three drug peddlers at Mangalaghat Square and seized over 3 kg of brown sugar from their possession.

The accused have been identified as Sushant Patnaik, Rajkishore Sahu and Manas Sahu of Kanas area in Puri district. The market value of the seized contraband was estimated to be around Rs 3 crore, police said.

"The accused trio came to Puri city to sell the brown sugar. We suspect the involvement of a syndicate in the illegal drugs trade," said Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh at a press conference here.

There were intelligence reports that some drug peddlers would bring huge quantities of brown sugar to Puri city through Mangalaghat Square. Acting upon the information, officials of Baseli



The seized items

Sahi police and members of a special squad carried out the raid in the early morning, Singh said.

A four-wheeler, Rs 20,000, four mobile phones and a cash counting machine were also seized from the accused. A case has been registered and the accused were produced in a local court, Singh added. "We will seek the permission of the court to take the three accused

on remand for further investigation into the case. We will interrogate the accused and try to collect information regarding the other members of the drug syndicate," said the SP.

The Puri police have seized 4.8 kg of brown sugar and arrested 33 drug peddlers this year, sources said. "We have issued a helpline number (773584886) to collect informa-

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Acting upon the information, officials of Baseli Sahi police and members of a special squad carried out the raid in the early morning

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# HC sets aside conviction of food seller in 28-yr-old case

PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, May 14:** The Orissa High Court has acquitted a food seller after 25 years of his conviction for not possessing a valid licence to run the business.

While setting aside his conviction by a lower court, a single bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar also discharged his bail bonds.

According to the case details, during a surprise inspection at roadside eateries in the Agalpur area of Bolangir May 26, 1994, then food inspector Chittaranjan Das found exposed snacks at the stall of Tengunu Sahu.

Asked to produce the food licence, Tengunu's father Bhika Sahu, who was present at the stall during the inspection, could not produce any, it was learnt.

After verification, the food inspector found that Tengunu's food licence was valid up to December 31, 1988.

Subsequently, the father-son duo was booked for flouting Section 7(iii)(v) of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA Act) and 50 of the PFA Rules.

The local health authority-cum-CDMO

moved the JMFC court at Loisingha in this regard. After taking into account the statements of witnesses by the prosecution November 26, 1997, the court convicted the father-son duo under Section 16(1)(a)(ii) of the PFA Act and sentenced them to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for six months. The court slapped a penalty of Rs 500 on each of the convicts and in default of which they had to undergo another month of RI. The jail term was later reduced to three-month RI without altering the penalty amount, it was learnt.

Challenging the lower court's conviction, the petitioners moved the HC. Meanwhile, Bhika died in the period.

As Bhika died during the interim period, the HC stressed that the crucial part of the discussion is regarding the presence of Tengunu at the stall at the time of inspection.

"If indeed Tengunu was not present, the question of his selling any food articles without a licence in the shop in question did not arise at all," the court observed while setting aside the conviction by the lower court.

# Chief Secy inspects Brahmani bridge

AGENCIES

**Rourkela, May 14:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra inspected the crucial Brahmani bridge near here Saturday and directed the construction agency to complete the work on the approach road by next month.

The bridge is one of the most important projects in the area and is part of the National Highway 143.

On the second day of the trip to Sundargarh district, Mahapatra said once the new bridge was complete, the traffic problem on the other lone bridge would be sorted out.

"I've instructed the agency to complete the work of the approach road by June-end," he told reporters.

Mahapatra reviewed the progress of the Birsra Munda International Hockey Stadium which will co-host the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, District Collector Nikhil Kalyan said.

He directed the officials for timely completion of the infra work, the Collector added.

# Poet Jayanta Mahapatra's autobiography launched



Poet Jayanta Mahapatra (C) and other dignitaries at the book launch ceremony at the Press Club of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** The autobiography of renowned writer and poet Jayanta Mahapatra, titled *Bhor Motira Kanaphoola*, was launched at the Press Club of Odisha here Saturday.

Many dignitaries, literature lovers and media persons were present at the book launch event. Thousands of admirers of Mahapatra's literary works joined the programme through Facebook live.

Retired Justice and writer Arun

Parichha graced the occasion as chief guest while author and columnist Gourahari Das was the chief speaker.

Rabindra Kumar Swain of Ketaki Foundation Trust moderated the programme while Ramahari Jena offered the vote of thanks. Mahapatra, a noted English poet from Odisha, has also penned several poems and books in Odia. He also wrote his autobiography in Odia.

Mahapatra's autobiography, published by Ketaki Foundation Trust, is more contemplative in nature than offering anecdotes and events in his life. Mahapatra, a poet of international repute, has turned into a lyrical Odia prose writer by penning his autobiography.

The avid readers of Mahapatra's poetry will be delighted to have his autobiography

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## Fraud victim's wife to get ₹20L frozen by EOW

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** The court of the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM), Bhubaneswar, has directed the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) to return ₹20 lakh to the wife of a victim who was illegally made to transfer the said amount to the corporation's account by some fraudsters back in 2020.

Bijayini Mohnaty, victim Tapan Kumar Mohanty's wife, had earlier approached the court pleading it to instruct the ITDC officials to deposit the amount into her account as a completely bed-ridden Tapan cannot operate his account.

Tapan got paralysed after he suffered a severe brain stroke when he came to know that he had been cheated of ₹50 lakh.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch that is investigating into the fraud had frozen the amount too.

Tapan Kumar, the Proprietor of TK Egg & Chicken Centre in Puri district, came into contact with accused Chandan Akash Mohanty, Anikesh Sahu and Bikash Moharana during January 2020. While Chandan pretended to be a senior officer of ITDC Ltd, Anikesh introduced himself as a contractor working with different projects of ITDC. Bikash posed as a clerk of ITDC. They persuaded Tapan to purchase the Nilchal Ashok Hotel, which is under ITDC, by paying ₹15 crore including ₹3 crore under-the-table.

In order to win his trust, the accused instructed Tapan to deposit ₹20 lakh in the official account of ITDC maintained at Delhi. They also took another ₹30 lakh in cash.

Tapan came to know about the fraud when he did not receive any communication from ITDC, and subsequently suffered a brain stroke.

## Mercury on the rise in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** The mercury rose in Odisha Saturday after a spell of pleasant weather in the wake of Cyclone Asani.

The temperature rose by around 1-3°C at a few places, while it was above normal in several areas, the Met office said.

Nine places, mostly in interior western Odisha, recorded a maximum of over 40°C, according to the department.

Titlagarh in Bolangir district recorded 43.2°C, the highest in the state, followed by 43°C in Subarnapur. The temperature in the Capital settled at 35.5°C, it said.

The Met office said that rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm and dusty wind is likely in Odisha over the next five days due to strong south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal to the northeast and eastern India and east-west oriented trough.

## Odisha reports 18 new Covid cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** Odisha recorded 18 new Covid cases Saturday, of which 13 are in the age group of newborn to 18 years, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

Out of the total 18 new infections, five were reported from quarantine centres while 13 persons contracted the virus locally.

Nuapada district registered the highest number of new cases with 13 individuals testing positive for the disease. It was followed by Cuttack with two new infections.

Other districts that reported fresh Covid-19 cases include Khurda, Rayagada and Sundargarh (one each). The new cases were detected after testing 15,049 samples, recording a cumulative test positivity rate (TPR) of 0.13 per cent. The state had logged 19 cases Friday.

# Mechanism to watch direct selling entities soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** The state government is working on setting up a mechanism, as provided under the direct selling rules recently framed by the Union government, to supervise the activities of direct selling entities and protect the interest of the consumers, said Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain.

Addressing the Odisha Direct Selling Conference, organised by Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA) here Saturday, Swain urged the association to provide all information to the state government regarding direct selling entities and direct sellers operating in the state about their local contacts, official address, extent of their workforce and their products so that it will let consumer distinguish between fraud and genuine sellers.

Consumer's interest being paramount must be protected in the



**Entity or seller resorting to pyramidal schemes in the guise of direct selling cannot be tolerated. Such an entity or seller must be taken to task. The state government has zero tolerance towards such activities where the consumer becomes victim of any fraud or illegal business activity**

RANENDRA PRATAP SWAIN | FOOD SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER WELFARE MINISTER

operation of direct selling business. Consumers must be given sufficient opportunity to scrutinise the products of direct sellers, he said.

Stating all that glitters is not gold, Swain said, "Consumers should scrutinise everything and should not be swayed away with

misleading promises. The IDSA must ensure product quality and ethical standards in the direct selling business."

State Institute of Consumer Awareness and the consumer counseling centres operating in the state will create consumer awareness regarding direct sell-

ing business, he added.

Entity or seller resorting to pyramidal schemes in the guise of direct selling cannot be tolerated. Such an entity or seller must be taken to task, warned Swain.

He further said that the state government has zero tolerance towards such activities where the

consumer becomes victim of any fraud or illegal business activity.

Addressing the conference, Assembly Speaker Surya Narayan Patro said protection of consumer interest and direct selling business must go hand in hand and product quality must be ensured.

Consumer Welfare advisor to state government Bijon Mishra said direct selling business must grow, but at the same time, they must win the trust and confidence of the consumers.

Association chairman Rajat Banerjee said Odisha continues to be a key market for the direct selling industry. With a double-digit growth of over 13 per cent, Odisha was the 5th largest market for the industry during the financial year 2020-21.

IDSA General Manager Chetan Bhardwaj suggested the state government to take the association's consultation of setting up the mechanism to regulate the direct selling business in Odisha.

## VWDCs unveiled at 15 district courts

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 14:** To facilitate examination of vulnerable witnesses in congenial atmosphere during Court proceedings, Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres (VWDCs) in 15 District Courts in Odisha were inaugurated at the auditorium of Odisha Judicial Academy in Cuttack, Saturday.

Virtual court rooms in nine districts and e-Filing stations in 17 districts were inaugurated on the occasion as well. A one-day training workshop for the judicial officers and public prosecutors of the state on the functioning of the VWDCs was also held.

SC Justice L.Nageswara Rao inaugurated the VWDCs, virtual court rooms and e-Filing stations in the presence of Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court Gita Mittal. VWDC Committee Chairperson Justice SK Sahoo and several other Orissa High Court Judges were also present on the occasion.

## Put heritage corridor project on hold, INTACH urges CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** The Odisha chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to put on hold the construction of the heritage corridor project near Srimandir in Puri till completion of hearing in the matter in the Orissa High Court.

In a letter to CM Patnaik, INTACH's state convener AB Tripathy said a PIL is pending in the HC which is seized of the matter, the substance of which is violation of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act), as pointed out by ASI.

He also said that the ASI has also not given permission to the proposed construction of various facilities within the 100-metre prohibited area.

The blame game around the project has taken a political hue as happens in several cases. Allegations and counters are flying

thick surcharging the atmosphere while the common toot, devotee of Lord Jagannath is totally confused, feeling hurt to no end, said Tripathy.

He stated that INTACH is above all political predilection and is in a unique position of feeling the pulse of the people through its members from 12 chapters spread through the length and breadth of the state.

"I don't know what feedback the concerned agencies are giving to the government. But our feedback is that they feel hurt as their supreme deity Lord Jagannath's abode is in controversy which has gone to the highest court for decision," Tripathy said.

It seems the ASI DG after visiting the corridor was of the opinion that basic facilities like toilets can be built as this will not affect the foundation and strength of the Meghanada Pachery (wall).

"Since the High Court is hearing the case and if work is stopped in the interim period, it will make no difference to the execution of the project. At the end, in case of a negative judgement, the basic facilities will go ahead and in case of a favourable judgment, there will be green light for all. So, sir, why not call a halt till the disposal of the case?" he asked.

"Your mandarins will advise that work must go ahead as there is no stay order. But you, an ardent Jagannath devotee and the highest decision-making authority in the state, will be giving the healing touch to the troubled minds of the people of Odisha," he added.

## BOOST TO JUDICIARY



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar (C) and Supreme Court Justice L Nageswara Rao (R) graced the inaugural ceremony of VWDCs in 15 district courts, and a one-day training workshop at the Odisha Judicial Academy in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

## 2-day training on mapping, developing urban water bodies

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** A two-day training programme on mapping and developing urban water bodies was concluded at Unnati Bhavan here Friday.

The programme was organised by the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

The training programme was held for corporators, ward officers, municipal engineers, city mission managers and community organisers where information was given regarding about mapping and developing urban water bodies.

About 45 officials from Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Khurda municipality, Jatni mu-

nicipality and Choudwar municipality took part in the training which included a field visit to three water bodies in Bhubaneswar.

Senior officials of the H&UD department, PHEO, CGWB, Town Planning and NIUA-Delhi along with a group of high-level experts provided the training. This is in accordance to the departments' vision and mission of rejuvenating all urban water bodies across the state in a planned and sustainable way.

Moreover, the NIUA has partnered with the H&UD department for capacity building of municipal functionaries of the state under the CITIIS programme aided by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union (EU).

Among others, H&UD Special Secretary Sagarika Patnaik and former Principal Chief Conservator Forests (PCCF) Ajit Pattanaik imparted the training programme.

## WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

# Light pollution threatens feathered species globally

**O**n the occasion of the World Migratory Bird Day 2022, light pollution and its impact on migratory birds is a focus with a global campaign that aims to raise awareness about migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them, with the theme 'Dim the Lights for Birds at Night'.

World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on two days. Traditionally observed on the second Saturdays of May and October, the celebrations of World Migratory Bird Day are a way to reflect the cyclical nature of bird migration as well as the fact that there are varying peak migration periods in the northern and southern hemispheres.

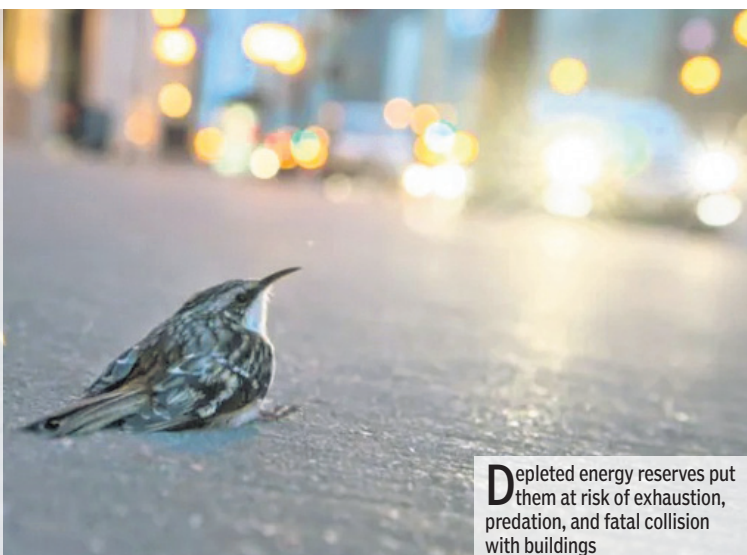
Light pollution is increasing around the globe. More than 80 per cent of the world's population is currently estimated to live under a "lit sky", a figure closer to 99 per cent in Europe and North America.

The amount of artificial light on the Earth's surface is increasing by at least two per cent each year

**L**ight pollution is a significant and growing threat to wildlife including many species of migratory birds

**I**t alters the natural patterns of light and dark in eco-systems and can change birds' migration patterns, foraging behaviours, and vocal communication

**A**ttracted by artificial light at night, particularly when there is low cloud, fog, rain or when flying at lower altitudes, migrating birds become disorientated and may end up circling in illuminated areas



**D**epleted energy reserves put them at risk of exhaustion, predation, and fatal collision with buildings

and could be much greater, a release said.

Amy Fraenkel, executive secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) said, "Natural darkness has a conservation value in the same way as clean water, air, and soil. A key

goal of the World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is to raise awareness of the issue of light pollution and its negative impacts on migratory birds. Solutions are readily available, and we hope to encourage key decision-makers to adopt measures to address light pollution."

The Convention on Migratory

Species (CMS) is an environmental treaty of the United Nations and provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.

Light pollution is a significant and growing threat to wildlife including many species of migra-

tory birds. Every year, light pollution contributes to the death of millions of birds. It alters the natural patterns of light and dark in eco-systems. It can change birds' migration patterns, foraging behaviours, and vocal communication.

Attracted by artificial light at night, particularly when there is low cloud, fog, rain or when flying at lower altitudes, migrating birds become disorientated and may end up circling in illuminated areas. Depleted energy reserves put them at risk of exhaustion, predation, and fatal collision with buildings.

Jacques Trouvilliez, executive secretary of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) said, "An enormous diversity of birds, active at night, experience the impacts of light pollution. Many nocturnally migrating birds such as ducks, geese, plovers, sandpipers and songbirds are affected by light pollution causing disorientation and collisions with fatal consequences. Seabirds such as petrels and shearwaters are attracted by artificial lights on land and become prey for rats and cats."

Guidelines on light pollution covering marine turtles, seabirds, and migratory shorebirds were endorsed by the CMS Parties in 2020. The guidelines set forth six principles of best lighting practices and call for Environmental Impact Assessments for relevant projects that could result in light pollution.

These should consider the main sources of light pollution at a certain site, the likely wild species that could be impacted, and facts about proximity to important habitats and migratory pathways.

Numerous governments, cities, companies, and communities around the world are already taking steps to address light pollution.

Director of the Environment for the Americas Susan Bonfield said, "World Migratory Bird Day is a call to action for international migratory bird conservation. As migratory birds' journey across borders, inspiring and connecting people along the way, it is our aim to use the two days in 2022 to raise awareness of the threat of light pollution and the importance of dark skies to bird migrations." IANS

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# Gold hunting starts in Keonjhar

Survey has spread cheers among the people who have nicknamed it as KGF (Keonjhar Gold Field) on the lines of super hit Kannada film KGF

POST NEWS NETWORK

## ODISHA'S OWN KGF?



Keonjhar, May 14: Years after a survey was undertaken for gold mines in Telkoi block of Keonjhar district, a similar survey has been re-launched at Jaldih village near Taramakanta tea garden under Banshapal block of Keonjhar district.

However, the survey in Telkoi block had been abandoned after it was found that mining the gold wouldn't be feasible. Few months back, the Centre-owned Geological Survey of India (GSI) re-launched the survey at Jaldih village and collected samples.

After a brief lull, the sample collections have started again in the area stirring up hopes on presence of a gold reserve in the area.

The survey has spread cheers among the people who have nicknamed it as KGF (Keonjhar Gold Field) with the area bearing resemblance to the super hit South Indian film KGF (Kolar Gold Fields).

The GSI is conducting the survey at 15 different locations and collecting ore samples by drilling the area for over 100 feet with machines. The GSI has set up camps in the area and engaged experienced and expert labourers for the survey works. The gold sam-

ples are being collected by identifying the locations through satellite mapping methods.

It is said that the move will be successful only after the GSI makes an analysis and verification of the survey works. Rajat Kumar Kar, joint director, state geology department said earlier his department used to conduct such survey works which is now being done by the GSI.

Asit Behera, deputy director, mines said that he has no information regarding the survey and could only tell if someone applies for lease of any gold mine.

Reports said that the hills in

Keonjhar district are rich in mineral deposits like iron ores, manganese, chromite, bauxite, pyrophyllite, quartzite, gold and several other precious minerals.

The claim of gold deposits in Telkoi, Harichandanpur, and Banshapal blocks are doing rounds since long years.

A long standing tradition of gold collection by people of Sunapentha and Saleikena villages from river and creeks still continues. People in these villages collect the gold and sell it to traders and middlemen.

The traders buy these gold deposits from people and sell it to gold-

smiths in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts. This has fueled hopes of presence of gold mines in the area.

However, the amount of money that will be spent on gold mining and the type of gold that will be available after mining is still not clear. The future of gold mining will be clear only after the GSI makes a proper verification of the survey and finds out the viability of gold extraction from this area.

Locals said that the fate of Banshapal block and Keonjhar district will change once the GSI finds gold mining profitable in the area.

# Gem rush forces admin to clamp 144 in Boudh village

FRENZIED PEOPLE THROUGH A POND DIGGING SITE AT SARADHAPALLI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, May 14: After reports of availability of valuable gemstones during digging of a pond at a village here led to a mad rush of frenzied people searching for precious stones Saturday, the Boudh district administration clamped prohibitory orders under Section-144 and deployed police personnel in the village.

The incident reported from Saradhapalli under Sagada panchayat of the district has now become the talk of the town after a video of the gem rush went viral on social media.

The matter came to the fore after reports of availability of gemstones in the pond which was excavated for renovation under rural job scheme Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the village.

After the news surfaced, hundreds of residents thronged the spot and were seen frantically searching for precious stones braving the scorching blaze and rain. Reports said that some people



managed to get some stones which they sold and earned a premium.

Sources said that some locals found a gemstone-like material during the digging of the pond two days back and since then, people have been searching the area daily to try their luck. Later, some influential people kept the pond in their possession allowing only own people to go near the pond.

Meanwhile, the administration has not confirmed of any discovery of precious metals from the spot and at the same time, no reaction has been obtained from the authorities in this connection.

On being tipped off about the

mad rush of people for gemstone, the district administration clamped prohibitory order and deployed police personnel at the site. It also launched an investigation.

Sub-Collector Sanat Kumar Nayak accompanied by Boudh BDO-cum-tehsildar Debiprasad Das and police personnel visited the site and took stock of the situation, Saturday. The administration will inform the mines officials in Kandhamal district to ascertain truth behind the claim.

Recently, two persons died allegedly due to suffocation while searching for gemstones in a forest well in Bolangir district.

# Mother & child care centre in limbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, May 14: A mother and child care centre at Shyamagudia in this district has been moving at snail's pace as nearly four years have passed since the commencement of the work for the project, a report said. Moreover, 134 out of 224 sanctioned posts of doctors required for healthcare services are lying vacant in various hospitals in the district.

The health centre at Shyamagudia about four km from Kendrapara dis-

trict headquarters hospital (DHH) is under construction since December 2018. The project is not making any headway even after 5T secretary VK Pandian visited the worksite in 2019 and directed to finish the works within a period of four months.

Moreover, the DHH lacks special facilities for the pregnant women and newborns. Treatment of newborns and their mothers is not up to the mark for which the state government decided to construct a 100-bed care centre at Shyamagudia.

## The delay in making the centre operational has led to an outflow of pregnant women and newborns to private hospitals

The delay in making the centre operational has led to an outflow of pregnant women and newborns to private hospitals.

The ordeal of women and newborns does not end with their shifting to private hospital where they end up getting fleeced. There is an acute shortage of labourers which has resulted in delay in the construction of the centre.

ADMO Dr Sachhidananda Mishra said, "Outbreak of Covid-19 coupled with labour crunch had led to the delay in the construction. However, work has started moving faster after the consultancy agency was pulled up."

# 7 injured in group clash

Simulia: At least seven persons were injured with two of them rendered critical after two groups of villagers clashed with each other over property disputes at Andaral village under this police limits in Balasore district, Saturday. Police registered separate cases over complaint against 14 persons lodged by the two groups. Police arrested two persons and seized firearms from the spot. The accused were identified as Somanath Moharana, 70, and Gopinath Moharana, 42, of the village. Two of them, Mahendra Moharana, 52, and Surendra Moaharana, 50, sustained critical injuries and were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Khagendra Moharana, 50, and Prafulla Moharana, 33 were admitted to the Bhadrak district headquarters hospital. Both the groups belong to one family.

# Cops attacked while raiding ganja smugglers

Malkangiri: Police personnel were brutally attacked by villagers and ganja smugglers while the former were conducting mid-night raids at Matikhala village under Machhkund police limits of Koraput. Later, a team of police rescued the other team. Reports said, police got intelligence inputs about ganja smuggling in Matikhala village late Friday night. A team of 30 police officials from Mathli, Gobindapalli and Malkangiri police stations rushed to the village. The police raided a house. On seeing it, angry villagers reportedly attacked the cops. To save themselves, police had to resort to blank firing to disperse the crowd. A group of people had detained a constable identified as Pradip Nayak and thrashed him severely. The constable was critically injured. The villagers also vandalised two motorcycles of police. On being informed about the incident, Machhkund police rushed to the village and rescued the police personnel from the clutches of the villagers.

# Mao items seized in Malkangiri

Malkangiri: BSF jawans seized huge cache of Maoist items at Ghanabeda under Chitrakonda block of Malkangiri district while carrying out combing operation in the area Friday. Acting on intelligence inputs, assistant commandant of Ghanabeda BSF camp Ramesh Paul, inspector Ajay Singh and jawans started a combing operation in Pechlipadar forest. They seized telescopic binocular, 17 electric buzzers, four auto conductors, four soldering iron, wire cutters, amplifier meters, testers, circuit plates, mobile battery chargers, button conductors, various electrical equipments.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
RWS&S DIVISION, RAYAGADA  
E-mail: eerwssrgd@gmail.com, Phone-8280408061  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-Procurement  
Tender Identification No.01/RWSS/RGD/2022-23  
No.O-193:1) Name of Works:- 1) Laying of Rising Main, Connection with existing pipe line, lowering of pump set in new production well & other ancillary work for RPWS to Akhusing of Akhusing GP under Padmapur Block in Rayagada District.  
2) Total Number of Works :- 1 No. (Detailed list available in the website  
3) Estimated Cost :- Rs.16.16 Lakhs  
4) Class of Contractor :- D & C Class  
5) Period of completion :- 6 Months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Rayagada	Online Tender/ 01/RWSS/RGD/2022-23	18.05.2022 at 12.00 Hours	27.05.2022 upto 13.00 Hours

NB:- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Rayagada  
OIPR-25007/11/0002/2223

Form No.INC-25A  
Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Eastern Region in the matter of the Companies Act,2013, Section 14 of Company Act, 2013 & Rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014.

AND  
In the matter of M/s.KTL Logistics & Services Limited having Registered Office at Kandoi House, Matha Sahi, Chaliaganj, Cuttack, Orissa-753003 (CIN:U60100OR2007PLC009645). (APPLICANT)  
Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Company intending to make an application to the Central Government under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a Private Limited Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 14.05.2022 to enable the Company to give effect for such conversion.  
Any Person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by Registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Nizam Palace:III MSO Building, 3rd Floor, 234/4 A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020, within fourteen days from the date of Publication of this Notice with a copy to the applicant Company at its Registered Office at the Address mentioned below.  
For and on behalf of the Applicant.  
Ganesh Prasad Kandoi, Director, DIN: 01807178.  
Registered Office: Kandoi House, Matha Sahi, Chaliaganj, Cuttack, Orissa-753003.  
Date:14.05.2022

NOTICE  
The notice for Bhubaneswar Rest House (Lodge) between Susanta Kumar Jena (Lessor / Land Lord) and Bikram Kishor Jena-(Lessee / Tenant) have been expired on Dt.31.03.2022. No further extension is done.

UNION BANK OF INDIA  
REGIONAL OFFICE : CUTTACK, M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph.: 0674-2537900  
MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable/immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable/immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 17.06.2022 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM for recovery of outstanding dues to the Union Bank of India from the Borrowers & Guarantors mentioned below. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit is stated in the column respectively.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees/Co-Appliers/ Co-Obligants/Outstanding Dues	Description of Properties to be Auctioned	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment	Account Details for EMD Submission
1.	<b>JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 9439799686</b> Borrower: Mr Sarada Prasad Sahoo, S/o: Niranjan Sahoo, Prop.: M/s New Umasankar Jewellers, At: Mukundapur, Sipi- 754103, Guarantor: Mr Manash Ranjan Sahoo, S/o: Niranjan Sahoo, At: Mukundapur, Sipi, PO/PS/Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Pin- 754103 / Outstanding: Rs.9,84,274.47 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	EM of Land & Building -Plot No.2258 of Khata No.709 (Ac.0.06 dec.) of Mukundapur Mouza & Village Jagatsinghpur Tahsil, total extent of Ac.0.06 or 2613 Sqft, situated at Mukundapur, PO/PS: Jagatsinghpur, Near Mukundapur Sipi Chack, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha- 754103 in the name of Mr Manash Ranjan Sahoo & Mr Sarada Prasad Sahoo.	Rs.18,35,000/- / Rs.1,83,500/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 600101980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0560014
2.	<b>CUTTACK BUXI BAZAR BRANCH, (1)Mr Pradip Chandra Moharana, (2) Mrs Laxmi Priya Moharana, Address: At: Santi Vihar, Kanika Road, Tulaspur, Cuttack, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha- 753008, Outstanding: Rs.15,57,191.17 as on 06.04.2022 with further interest, cost &amp; expenses</b>	All the piece and parcel of Residential Land at Mouza: Nuapada, Cuttack Tahsil No.246, PS: Cuttack Sadar, Dist: Cuttack, ROR Khatiyan No. 614/2616, Plot No. 2532/6091, Area: Ac.0.036 dec., Plot No.2531/6092, Area: Ac.0.056 dec., Kisan: Gharabari, Total Area of two Plots Area: Ac.0.092 dec. in the name of Mrs Laxmi Priya Moharana, property bounded by: North-Sub plot 10 and 11, South- Road, East-Sub Plot No.29, West- Road.	Rs.69,78,000/- / Rs.6,97,800/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 008711980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0800872
3.	<b>CDA BIDANASI BRANCH, Mob.: 9918301433</b> Borrowers: (1) M/s D P Polymer, Prop.: Mrs Rekha Bhawsinka, (2) Mrs Rekha Bhawsinka, W/o: Mr Om Prakash Bhawsinka, Guarantors: (1) Legal heir of the deceased Mr Dwarika Prasad Bhawsinka, represented by (a) Mrs Uma Modi, D/o: Late Dwarika Prasad Bhawsinka (Daughter), W/o: Narendra Kishore Modi, SHK Prasad Matha Residency, Flat No.401, 50-50-35/2, B S Layout, Vishakhapatnam-530013, (b) Mrs Parbati Agarwal, D/o: Late Dwarika Prasad Bhawsinka (Daughter), At: Old Post Office Road, Karanjia, Dist: Mayurbhanj, (c) Mr Om Prakash Bhawsinka, S/o: Late Dwarika Prasad Bhawsinka (Son), At: Matamatha, Cantonment Road, P.O.: Buxi Bazar, Cuttack-753001, (d) Mrs Binita Modi, D/o: Late Dwarika Prasad Bhawsinka (Daughter), W/o: Kishan Kumar Modi, At: Nayasarak, P.O.: Chandini Chowk, PS: Purighat, Dist: Cuttack-753009, (e) Mrs Anita Saraogi, D/o: Late Dwarika Prasad Bhawsinka (Daughter), W/o: Ranjit Kumar Saraogi, At: Ranchi Road, Purulia, Municipality Ward No.3, Taxi Stand, Purulia, West Bengal, Pin- 723101, Outstanding: Rs.2,86,51,624.31 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All that piece and parcel of Land & Building situated at Khata No.38/10 of Plot No.24, Area: Ac.0.152 dec., Mouza: Cuttack Town, Unit No.-17, Machhua Bazaar, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha-753001 in the name of Late Dwarika Prasad Bhawsinka, property is bounded by: North- Radheshyam Goenka, South- Sajjan Bhawsinka, East- Road, West- Radheshyam Goenka.	Rs.6,03,45,000/- / Rs.60,34,500/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 588601980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0558869
4.	<b>CUTTACK e-CB BRANCH, Mob.: 7008422377</b> (1)M/s Sai Baba Glass House, Prop.: Mr Jayant Prasad, S/o: Lt Paramananda Prasad, Ranihat, Near Radhakrishna Temple, PO.: Buxi Bazar, Cuttack- 753001, (2) Prop.: Mr Jayant Prasad, S/o: Lt Paramananda Prasad, (3) Mrs Chaya Devi, W/o: Lt Paramananda Prasad, both are resident of At: Jobra, Pareswar sahi, PO.: College Chhaka, PS.: Malgondan, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha- 753003, Outstanding: Rs.24,61,057.40 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All that piece and parcel of Residential Land and Building situated at Khata No.758/218, Plot No.297/2268, Area: 0.024 dec., Village/Mouza: Cuttack Town, Unit No.-24, College Chhak, PS: Malgondan, Dist: Cuttack, State- Odisha in the name of Mrs Chhaya Devi, W/o: Lt Paramananda Prasad, Bounded by: North- Municipality Road, South- Paleswar Mahadev, East- Rev. Plot No.298, West- Part of this plot.	Rs.30,00,000/- / Rs.3,00,000/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 021121980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0202110
5.	<b>DHENKANAL BRANCH, Mob.: 8968009286</b> (1) Maa Tarini Barta Bhandar, Prop.: Mr Babuli Das, (2) Mr Babuli Das, S/o: Late Raghunath Das, (3) Mrs Pratima Das, W/o: Babuli Das, (4) Mr Manoj Kumar Das, S/o: Babuli Das, all are resident of Kumbhar Sahi, Kanchan Bazar, Dhenkanal- 759001, Odisha, Outstanding: Account No.128813100002193- Rs.21,11,056.26 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses, Account No.128831100000511- Rs.13,99,326.60 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses, Account No.128830100024034- Rs.3,45,129/- as on 15.11.2021 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Residential Land and Building having Plot No. 5008 (Area: Ac.0.0057 dec.), Plot No. 5008/6147/21268 (Area: Ac.0.0027 dec.), Plot No. 5008/21267 (Area: Ac.0.0183 dec.), Plot No. 5008/6147 (Area: Ac.0.0053 dec.) of Khata No.3470/3455, Mouza: Dhenkanal Town, Measuring Area: Ac.0.032 dec. belonging to Mr Babuli Das, S/o: Late Raghunath Das, Indipur, Luni, Dhenkanal-759025, Boundary: North- Dayanidhi Sen, South- Bhamrarabara Sahoo, East- Road, West- Road.	Rs.66,91,000/- / Rs.6,69,100/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 197921980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0919799

Date & Time of Inspection of Property for intending purchasers : Before 16.06.2022 on any working day during banking hours  
DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 17.06.2022 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM  
Last Date & Time of EMD Submission : on or before the commencement of E-Auction  
Details of encumbrances if any : NIL  
For registration and login and bidding rules visit https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp, www.unionbankofindia.co.in  
For further detailed any query please contact: Mr Rishikant Prasad, Mob.: 9769987208  
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) / RULE 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002  
This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / Rule9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.  
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 13.05.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

UNION BANK OF INDIA  
REGIONAL OFFICE: CUTTACK  
M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003  
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES-2002]  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Jagatsinghpur Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 (Act. No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors in loan Account mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Jagatsinghpur Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the Secured Assets.

JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrowers & Guarantors	Liabilities due as per Notice(in Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Properties
Borrowers:(1) Mr Bimadhar Swain, Prop.: M/s Laxmi Priya Pharmaceuticals, (2) Mrs Laxmi Priya Swain, W/o: Bimadhar Swain, Address: At: Jayabada, PO/PS/Dist: Jagatsinghpur	Rs.30,71,000/- as on 07.02.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	14.02.2022 / 12.05.2022	All that piece and parcel of property situated at Plot No.88/697, Khata No.280, Mouza: Jayabada, PS: Jagatsinghpur, No.228, Dist: Jagatsinghpur.
Borrower:Sri Prajna Pranab Acharya, S/o: Late Pradyumna Kumar Acharya, Prop. Acharya Non Woven Fabric, At: Palkana, Kaliabara, Jagatsinghpur- 754103.	Rs.17,88,000/- as on 07.02.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	14.02.2022 / 12.05.2022	Homestead Land bearing Khata No.363/280, Plot No.45, Mouza: Paikana, Area: A0.12 dec., Village: Paikanakaliabara, PO.: Odisho, PS/ Dist: Jagatsinghpur.
Borrower:Mr Khirod Sethi (Prop.: M/s Swostik), Guarantor: Smt Pushpalata Sethi, both are resident of At: Bagasahi, Jagatsinghpur, Dist: Jagatsinghpur.	Rs.6,97,722.56 as on 09.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	25.10.2019 / 12.05.2022	EM of Land & Building at Plot No.87/4931 & 88/4932, Khata No.275/18, at Mouza: Makundapur, Sipi Square, Jagatsinghpur in the name of Khirod Kumar Sethi.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:13.05.2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

FOCUS **INVASION OF UKRAINE**

# HEROES OF APOCALYPSE



**The war has already been strangely 'normalised,' accepted as a process that will continue indefinitely. Fear of a sudden, dramatic escalation will haunt our daily lives**

We should not underestimate the effectiveness of this propaganda. In Serbia, the latest opinion polls show that, for the first time, a majority of voters now oppose accession to the European Union. If Europe wants to win the new ideological war, it will have to alter its model of liberal-capitalist globalisation.

The world is dealing with multiple, simultaneous crises that evoke the four horsemen of the apocalypse: plague, war, hunger and death. These riders cannot simply be dismissed as figures of evil. As Trevor Hancock, the first leader of the Green Party of Canada, has noted, they are "remarkably close to what we might call the four horsemen of ecology, which regulate population size in nature." In ecological terms, the "four riders" play a positive role by preventing overpopulation. But when it comes to humans, this regulatory function hasn't worked: "The human population has more than tripled in the past 70 years, from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 7.8 billion today. So what happened... Why are we not controlled? Is there a fifth horseman that will cause our populations to crash at some point, as lemmings do?"

Until recently, Hancock observes, humanity was able to hold the four riders in check with medicine, science, and technology. But now the "massive and rapid global ecological changes we have triggered" are moving beyond our control. "So, although of course an asteroid strike or super-volcano eruption could wipe us out, the greatest threat to the human population, the 'fifth horseman' if you like, is us." Whether we will be destroyed or saved is up to us. Yet while global awareness of these threats is growing, it has not translated into meaningful action, so the four riders are galloping faster and faster. After the plague of COVID and the return of large-scale war, hunger crises are now looming.

We should, of course, resist the temptation to glorify war as an authentic experience to lift us out of our complacent consumerist hedonism. The alternative is not simply to muddle through. Rather, it is to mobilise in ways that will benefit us long after the war is over. Given the dangers we face, military passion is a cowardly escape from reality. But so, too, is comfortable, non-heroic complacency.

*The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School.*  
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Toward the end of April 2022, barely two months after Russia invaded Ukraine, the world became aware of a deep change in what the war means for the future. Gone is the dream of a quick resolution. The war has already been strangely "normalised," accepted as a process that will continue indefinitely. Fear of a sudden, dramatic escalation will haunt our daily lives. Authorities in Sweden and elsewhere are apparently advising the public to stock up on provisions to endure wartime conditions.

This shift in outlook is reflected on both sides of the conflict. In Russia, talk of a global conflict is growing louder. As the head of RT, Margarita Simonyan, put it: "Either we lose in Ukraine, or a third world war begins. Personally, I think the scenario of a third world war is more realistic."

Such paranoia is supported by crazed conspiracy theories about a united liberal-totalitarian Nazi Jewish plot to destroy Russia. Upon being asked how Russia can claim to be "denazifying" Ukraine when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is himself Jewish, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov replied: "I could be wrong, but Hitler also had Jewish blood. [That Zelensky is Jewish] means absolutely nothing. Wise Jewish people say that the most ardent anti-Semites are usually Jews."

On the other side, especially in Germany, a new version of pacifism is taking shape. If we look past all the lofty rhetoric and focus on what Germany is actually doing, the message is clear: "Given our economic interests and the danger of being pulled into a military conflict, we must not support Ukraine too much, even if that means allowing it to be swallowed by Russia." Germany fears crossing a line beyond which Russia will become truly angry. But only Vladimir Putin decides where that line lies on any given day. Playing on Western pacifists' fear is a major part of his strategy.

Obviously, everyone wants to prevent the outbreak of a new world war. But there are times when appearing too cautious will only encourage an aggressor. Bullies by nature always count on their victims not to fight back. To prevent a wider war – to establish any kind of deterrence – we, too, must draw clear lines.

So far, the West has done the opposite. When Putin was still only preparing to launch his "special operation" in Ukraine, US President Joe Biden said his administration would have to wait and see if the

Kremlin would pursue a "minor incursion" or a full occupation. The implication, of course, was that a "minor" act of aggression would be tolerable. The recent shift in outlook reveals a deep, dark truth about the Western position. While we previously expressed fears that Ukraine would be quickly crushed, our real fear was exactly the opposite: that the invasion would lead to a war with no end in sight. It would have been much more convenient if Ukraine had fallen immediately, allowing us to express outrage, mourn the loss, and then return to business as usual. What should have been good news – a smaller country unexpectedly and heroically resisting a large power's brutal aggression – has become a source of shame, a problem we don't quite know what to do with.

Europe's pacifist left warns against any re-embrace of the heroic-military spirit that consumed earlier generations. The German philosopher Jürgen Habermas even suggests that Ukraine is guilty of moral blackmail vis-à-vis Europe. There is something deeply melancholic in his position. As Habermas well knows, post-war Europe was able to renounce militarism only because it was safely beneath the US nuclear umbrella. But the return of war to the continent suggests that this period may be over and that unconditional pacifism would require deeper and deeper moral compromises. Unfortunately, "heroic" acts will be needed again, and not only to resist and deter aggression, but also to cope with problems such as ecological catastrophes and hunger.

The Western media are full of reporting on the billions of dollars that have been sent to Ukraine; yet Russia is still receiving tens of billions of dollars for the gas it

delivers to Europe. What Europe refuses to consider is that it could exert an extraordinarily powerful form of non-military pressure on Russia while also doing much for the planet. Moreover, to renounce Russian gas would allow for a different kind of globalisation – a sorely needed alternative to both the Western liberal-capitalist variety and the Russian-Chinese authoritarian brand.

Russia does not only want to dismantle Europe. It is also presenting itself as an ally of the developing world against Western neocolonialism. Russian propaganda ably exploits many developing and middle-income countries' bitter memories of Western abuses. Was the bombing of Iraq not worse than the bombing of Kyiv? Was Mosul not flattened as ruthlessly as Mariupol? Of course, while the Kremlin presents Russia as an agent of decolonisation, it lavishes military support on local dictators in Syria, the Central African Republic, and elsewhere.

The activities of the Kremlin's mercenary organisation, the Wagner Group, which is deployed on behalf of authoritarian regimes around the world, offer a glimpse of what Russian-style globalisation would look like. As Yevgeny Prigozhin, the Putin crony behind the group, recently said to a Western journalist: "You are a dying Western civilization that considers Russians, Malians, Central Africans, Cubans, Nicaraguans, and many other peoples and countries to be Third World scum. You are a pathetic endangered bunch of perverts, and there are many of us, billions of us. And victory will be ours!" When Ukraine proudly declares that it defends Europe, Russia responds that it will defend all of Europe's past and present victims.



Slavoj Žižek

**EUROPE'S PACIFIST LEFT WARNS AGAINST ANY RE-EMBRACE OF THE HEROIC-MILITARY SPIRIT THAT CONSUMED EARLIER GENERATIONS**



THE MOTHER  
Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.

## Outdated Laws

The Supreme Court has put a stay on the sedition law, and the Union government has also said the prime minister wants colonial era legislation to be phased out. This is a good moment. The law said: "Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life."

The website Article-14.com has done great work in compiling the misuse of the law by the government and is responsible for the issue being in the public domain. Experts have cautioned that firstly, sedition cases can still be filed by the government and second that there are many other laws that are problematic and can be misused. Both of these are true. However, we must rejoice and take heart in the general direction. Once it dawns on the judiciary that some laws are out of place in a 21st century democracy, then problematic laws will fall. Nations reform themselves internally when they realise such truths.

India has many laws that need to be examined in light of individual liberties guaranteed to us in the Constitution. And sedition is not the only type of colonial law that we face. The Rowlatt Act that Gandhi opposed and led to the massacre of Jallianwala Bagh did away with fundamental principles of the rule of law. It could detain people without charge or trial and it did away with jury trials, in favour of in-camera trials by judges. This is called administrative detention, meaning the jailing of someone without a crime having been committed, merely on the suspicion that they will commit a crime in future.

But we have several such laws in India today. In 2015, over 3,200 people were held in "administrative detention" in India. Gujarat has the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act of 1984. It allows for detention without charge or trial for a year. Uttar Pradesh has the National Security Act allowing detention without charge or trial for a year to "prevent a person from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, or the security of India" or "from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State, or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order, or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community."

This law has been used to jail Muslims accused of cattle smuggling and slaughter in Madhya Pradesh. Tamil Nadu has the Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug-offenders, Forest offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand-offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum-grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982. It allows the state to jail without trial or charge "any bootlegger or drug offender or forest offender or goonda or immoral traffic offender or sand offender or slum-grabber or video pirate... to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order."

Karnataka has the Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Acid Attackers, Bootleggers, Depredator of Environment, Digital Offenders, Drug Offenders, Gamblers, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Land Grabbers, Money Launderers, Sexual Predators and Video or Audio pirates Act, 1985.

It allows for detention without charge or trial of "up to 12 months of "any acid attacker or bootlegger or depredator of environment or digital offender or drug offender or gambler or goonda or immoral traffic offender or land-grabber or money launderer or sexual predator or video or audio pirate... to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order."

Assam has the Preventive Detention Act, 1980. It can jail individual for two years, without charge or trial.

Bihar has the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Act, 1984. It allows for "detention without charge or trial for up to two years to prevent a person from i) smuggling goods, or (ii) abetting the smuggling of goods, or (iii) engaging in transporting or concealing or keeping smuggled goods, or (iv) dealing in, smuggled goods otherwise than by engaging in transporting or concealing or keeping smuggled goods, or (v) harbouring persons engaged in smuggling goods or in abetting the smuggling of goods."

Jammu & Kashmir has three laws, one allowing detention without charge or trial for six months, another for a year and third for two years. West Bengal has the Prevention of Violent Activities Act of 1970. Journalists in Chhattisgarh are regularly jailed under the NSA and kept in prison for a year for their reporting.

As we can see from the dates, none of these are so-called colonial laws. These are laws we have gifted ourselves. Every state uses them liberally and there is no resistance from the judiciary. These days we have classified sections of the Indian people as the enemy through the use of the phrase anti-national.

We do not have Jallianwala Bagh-type gatherings today and if we did, against such laws, we would be called anti-national. But that does not change the fact that these laws are as out of time and place today as the Rowlatt Act was a century ago. Once that realisation dawns on us as a nation, and especially in the higher judiciary, we can expect that there will be reform of the sort that we have just seen with sedition. And that is something to be hopeful about for our future.



Aakar Patel

**India has many laws that need to be examined in light of individual liberties guaranteed to us in the Constitution**

SPECTRUM **WORKPLACE**

## A closer look at the 'monkey business'



Shivaji Mohinta

**FAIRNESS, APPRECIATION, INCLUSIVENESS AND RECOGNITION STILL REMAIN THE FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS IN BUILDING TRUST**

Post pandemic, India Inc. is witnessing the "Great Resignation Drama" unfolding. The attrition rate projected in 2022 is 19 per cent which is a 57 per cent increase over last year (as per data for 100 plus firms across 18 sectors). In some of the IT firms it is over 30 per cent. The study reveals that India ranks the highest (amongst Asia Pacific markets) in terms of professionals intending to move out from their current jobs, in the next six months. All these movements are not merely for the sake of money. The key non-monetary reasons are unhappiness with indifferent treatment, mistrust, inequity, unfairness and non-inclusion.

Way back in 2003 there was an experiment done with Capuchin monkeys by two behavioural scientists -- Sarah Brosnan and Frans de

Waal. Capuchin monkeys are the most intelligent New World monkeys and their exhibited social behaviours are quite close to humans in several aspects. They can be trained to perform several tasks like handling tools, cracking nuts and opening drink bottles!

These monkeys were kept in separate enclosures in the lab and were given some tokens, resembling coins. They were taught to handover a token in lieu of a slice of cucumber. The attendant would give a piece of cucumber and the monkey would hand over a token. This went on perfectly fine till one was given a grape while the other a cucumber. The other monkey who saw that she was given a cucumber instead of a grape slowed down but still did the given task. When this was repeated a few times, the aggrieved monkey dis-

played her anger by thumping her chest and tried to pull down the iron grills of the cage. Not only she stopped completely but threw back the cucumber on the attendant! In fact, she rejected the unequal pay for the same efforts in an animated manner. Then, the researchers put curtains in between the cages and continued to give grapes to one, cucumber to another. Now both the monkeys performed their tasks with the same speed, in isolation, although the neighbour was getting a better reward (One undistinguished lesson - if you are not fair don't try to be transparent!).

These behaviours and reactions are perfectly similar to humans when faced with inequity, injustice and status demotion. Even in today's fast paced digital world some core values are deep rooted

in our genes and like our primal ancestors we consider them as non-negotiable. Fairness, appreciation, inclusiveness and recognition (FAIR) still remain the foundational pillars in building trust in workplace, which in turn works in favour of the organisation. Without these, the other motivators might only address the symptoms but not the root causes. When the fundamental principles of reciprocity are violated it not only hurts the simians but humans too. In most of the times our primal brain decides the behaviour which triggers action.

So, is there anything to learn from this monkey business? Surely, please take a closer look.

*The writer is a corporate professional, business advisor and a startup mentor.*

**WISDOM CORNER**

- Our anxiety does not come from thinking about the future, but from wanting to control it. **KAHLIL GIBRAN**
- You can avoid reality, but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality. **ATN RAND**
- No matter how far you travel, you can never get away from yourself. **HARUKI MURAKAMI**

**WORDSWORTH**

**Supernaculum**

In 1592, the London writer Thomas Nashe published Pierce Penilesse His Supplication to the Divell, a brash and witty survey of London types, written as though from a penniless scribbler who tries in desperation to seek patronage from Lucifer. In passing he mentions a drinking game that had newly "come out of France." When a man had finished a drink, he had to turn his cup upside down and put its lip on his thumb nail. If there was more liquid left in the cup than would form a pearl on the nail, he would have to drink again as a penance. This seems to have gone down a treat in the taverns of Southwark. Nashe called the game, drinking super nagulum, which pretty soon turned into supernaculum. It's a bilingual pun of a type that delighted the wits in that circle of pamphleteers and playwrights that included Nashe and Shakespeare. The first bit is the Latin prefix super-, above. The remainder comes from German Nagel, a nail. The word and the game mirror a German one that was usually referred to in the phrase auf den Nagel trinken, to drink on the nail, to finish off liquor to the last drop. Drinkers became rather casual about the custom and just inverted their cups or mugs to prove that they'd drunk to the last drop. Supernaculum could mean this, or the last remaining drop of a drink, or a cry to indicate that one had done it.

**Habit of losing**

Sir, Successive electoral humiliations have pushed the Grand Old Party of India to a corner. Shockingly, though the party leaders scurried for cover after early losses, losing seems to have become a habit for the Congress - a dangerous reality. The biggest bane of the party is undoubtedly its leaders - big and small. Introspection was thrown out, and top leaders appeared to be just going through the motions. Recent flop show in Punjab revealed how listless the party leaders had become. The top two - Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi - have miserably failed to revive the party and enthuse workers at the grassroots. In the Chintan Shivir at Udaipur, Sonia has spoken for change in working style. She has used words like "extraordinary" and "unprecedented" to get out of a rut. Though she pretended to be aggressive, her address was lacklustre. There was nothing new in it. Past "Shivirs" of the Congress have yielded precious little. Leaders and cadres are all ears when their boss speaks; everything is forgotten once they are out. Another loss, and the cycle repeats. Change in working style, asking questions, new "committees" are all hogwash until the biggest demand of a section of the party is met: new leadership. Family rule has disillusioned a lot of party workers and the party supporters as well. If democratic voices in the party have to be heard, then an "outsider" has to be made the Congress president. Rahul has displayed a chronic aversion to ambition and responsibility. Without these two traits, a leader cannot go half the way in politics. What the Congress direly needs is a 24-hour-leader at the top. Staying united is a good thing but unity without electoral victories means nothing. Time is running out for the Congress as more and more regional parties are making their presence felt in national politics.

**Shining shuttlers**

Sir, The Indian men's badminton team deserves accolades for scripting history and reaching their maiden Thomas Cup Final. The Indian team, which had never gone beyond the semi-finals after 1979, came back from behind to down 2016 champions, Denmark. With the tie locked 2-2, HS Prannoy produced a remarkable rally in the decisive match to take India home. The Indian outfit had earlier humbled five-time champions Malaysia in the semis. A victory in the finals would be the perfect icing on the cake.

**NJ Ravi Chander,**  
BANGALORE

## Letters

**TO THE EDITOR**

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

**Ganapathi Bhat,** AKOLA

## of the day quote

The city government will set up a nine-member committee to suggest alternatives to overcome the shortage of land for tree plantation in the national capital

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Population is only one of the criteria of the delimitation. Besides population, there are four other criteria as per provisions of the Delimitation Act and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act which say that consideration will also have to be given to the physical conditions, and communication facilities, public conveniences and the administrative units of that area. So these are four other criteria that have to be looked into. It (population) is one of the important criteria but not the sole criteria. That one should keep in mind

SUSHIL CHANDRA | CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Government has initiated the process of creating a state-of-the-art river terminal on the mighty Brahmaputra here, equipped with shopping centres, restaurants and parking facilities

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Cows burnt to death in Delhi

**New Delhi:** In yet another tragic fire incident, over a dozen cows were burnt alive as a blaze engulfed a cow shelter on Delhi's outskirts Saturday, officials said. According to information, the fire in Savada area broke out at 1.15 p.m. and on being reported, ten fire engines were sent to extinguish the blaze. The fire personnel took four hours to bring the fire under control.

### Fire in hospital, no casualty

**Chandigarh:** A massive fire broke out in government-run Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in Amritsar on Saturday but a major tragedy was averted as patients and their attendants were all safely evacuated, police said. Three floors of the building have been damaged but hospital authorities said no one injured in the incident. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has expressed anguish over the incident, and said that he was monitoring the relief work.

### No VIP culture in Punjab jails

**Chandigarh:** In a major crackdown on the nexus of gangsters and criminals operating from jails, the Punjab government teams have confiscated 710 mobile phones from prisons in a specially-launched drive. Additionally, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has decided to abandon the special cells in jails for VIP prisoners. Divulging the details, the Chief Minister said that "during this special drive carried out between March 16 and May 10, a total of 710 mobile phones have been recovered from jail inmates".

### NGT seeks action

**New Delhi:** The National Green Tribunal has directed Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary to look into the river polluting industrial activities and take action against the discharge of untreated sewage in River Bhella, which ultimately meets the river Ganga. NGT chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel-led bench was dealing with the execution of a tribunal order passed last year, in which directions were issued for remedial action against the pollution in the river Bhella which meets Kosi river in Rampur, a tributary of Ramganga that reaches Ganga.



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are very emotional about Kashmiri Pandits and there were talks of their return to the Valley. But even those who are left behind are not allowed to stay there. They are being killed. The home minister must take these incidents very seriously**

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

## RAJ REELS UNDER HEATWAVE

Rajasthan is reeling under a severe heat wave as nearly all its districts have registered a temperature above 45 degrees in the last 24 hours



# Mundka fire: 29 missing, toll may rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 14:** About 30 people could be dead from the inferno that tore through a building in Mundka and 29 are missing, officials said on Saturday, the hope that some people could still be alive in the smouldering embers of the fire that broke out the day before ebbing by the hour.

Piecing together the events of Friday, when the blaze started on the first floor of the four-storey building in outer Delhi around 4.45 pm before quickly spreading, Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said there was only a single entry and exit point. It also did not have a fire safety certificate or fire-fighting equipment.

"The building had a single escape route which is why there were so many casualties. Twenty-seven people have died," Garg told reporters. "The building also did not have a proper blueprint. Most of the bodies were found on the second floor."

## DESPAIR AND GRIEF



Brothers Harish and Varun Goel, owners of a CCTV camera and router manufacturing and assembling company in whose office the fire is suspected to have started, have been arrested, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sameer Sharma said. Their father is missing. The building's owner Manish Lakra will soon be arrested, police officials said. An estimated 29 people are unaccounted

for, they added.

As rescuers looked for survivors and distraught relatives gathered outside the building in the congested outer Delhi industrial locality and hospital, officials said charred human remains were found during cooling operations in the morning. This could take the toll from 27 to a possible 30, they said.

Referring to the remains found, Garg said it is difficult to ascertain

**It is a very unfortunate incident. I have ordered a magisterial enquiry. The guilty won't be spared. Two brothers have been arrested so far. The bodies have been badly burnt. An FSL team has also been roped in to identify the bodies. I pray that god gives strength to the bereaved families to bear this unbearable agony**

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

whether they are of one person or more. He added that it is suspected an explosion in an air-conditioner may have triggered the fire.

The intensity of the fire has made it difficult to identify the bodies with police officials saying eight of the 27 killed can be named - Tania Bhushan, Mohini Pal, Yashoda Devi, Ranju Devi, Vishal, Drishti, Kailash Jyani and Amit Jayani.

Ankit, who works at an office in the building, recounted his escape. "I

am very fortunate that I am alive. I could have also lost my life. A motivational session was being held on the second floor of the building when we noticed the blaze. We broke the glass windows and somehow managed to escape," he said.

A police official said there is no information on the motivational speaker or his whereabouts. The soot blackened walls of the building and the piles of rubble told their own story of the intensity of a fire, the largest since a blaze at a factory in the Anaj Mandi area in December 2019 killed 44 people and the second largest since the Uphaar Cinema tragedy in 1997 in which 59 people lost their lives.

Delhi Lt Gov Anil Bajjal said he was "deeply pained" by the loss of lives and called for immediate steps to prevent such incidents in the future. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who visited the spot with his deputy Manish Sisodia, announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured.

## Denial of justice would lead to anarchy, says CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, May 14:** It is imperative for a healthy democracy that people feel their rights and dignity are recognised and protected, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana said Saturday, stressing that denial of justice would ultimately lead to anarchy.

Addressing a function in Srinagar, the CJI urged lawyers and judges to create a congenial environment for litigants who are often "under a lot of psychological stress". He lamented that the justice delivery mechanism in India is very "complex and expensive" and the country is far behind in making courts inclusive and accessible.

"For the functioning of a healthy democracy, it is imperative that the people feel that their rights and dignity are protected and recognised. Expedient adjudication of disputes is the hallmark of a healthy democracy. Denial of justice would ultimately lead to anarchy. Soon the institution of the judiciary would be destabilised as people will look for extrajudicial mechanisms," the CJI said.

The Chief Justice of India was here to lay the foundation stone of the new complex for the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Peace should only prevail when people's dignity and rights are recognised and protected," he said.

Chief Justice Ramana said in India, the courts have the constitutional duty of adjudication of rights and upholding the aspirations of the Constitution.

"One of the major challenges to the protection of rule of law and human rights is the inability of the formal justice system to deliver speedy and affordable justice to all. The justice delivery mechanism in India is very complex and expensive," he said.

He said the judiciary must be at its innovative best to ensure that the challenges to its working are met with just and Constitutional measures.

## MATCH FIXING IN IPL?

# CBI books 3 with links to Pakistan

*The accused had allegedly opened multiple bank accounts using forged documents and by bribing bank officials to route hawala money involved in the IPL betting racket*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 14:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting search operations in four cities in connection with an IPL betting racket involving a Pakistani national.

The searches are going on in Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad and another city. The agency has recovered a few incriminating documents during the raids so far. The CBI has lodged an FIR against three persons who have been identified as Dileep Kumar, a resident of Delhi's Rohini area, and Gurram Satish and Gurram Vasu, both residents of Hyderabad. The trio allegedly influenced IPL matches in 2019 on the instruction of a Pakistani handler.

They were in touch with a Pakistani national named Waqas Malik, who used to call them frequently from across the border. The accused had allegedly opened multiple bank accounts using forged documents and by bribing bank

officials to route hawala money involved in the IPL betting racket. "Reliable information was received about a network of individuals involved in cricket betting by influencing the outcomes of Indian Premier League (IPL) matches based on inputs received from Pakistan. They were cheating the general public by inducing them for betting," a CBI official said.

The official added that a part of the money received from the general public in India on account of such betting activities was shared with their associates based in foreign countries using hawala transactions. As per the information received, the said network of individuals was involved in cricket betting since 2013. "The trio and others were in contact with one Pakistani suspect named Waqas Malik, who contacted Kumar and Satish and some unknown persons in India using a Pakistani number. They were all part of a network involved in illegal betting activities," the CBI official said.

Kumar, Satish and Vasu used different IDs in KYC forms of the bank accounts in connivance with unknown bank officials. Transactions worth over Rs 45 lakh were found to be suspicious in one of Kumar's accounts.

This network of individuals was involved in betting in IPL matches held in 2019. They were routing the money for illegal purposes.



## CAPTURING THE MOMENT



People click photos of a flock of flamingos during the Flamingo Festival on the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day, at Talawe wetlands in Navi Mumbai

## HEATWAVE BROILS DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 14:** A tormenting heatwave turned Delhi into a hot cauldron Saturday, pushing the mercury to an unbearable high of 47.2 degrees Celsius at Mungeshpur and 47 degrees Celsius at Najafgarh, both at least seven notches above the normal.

The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's base station, recorded a maximum temperature of 44.2 degrees Celsius, which was five notches above the normal and the highest this season so far. It was 42.5 degrees Celsius on Friday.

Delhi saw the mercury rise to 46.9 degrees Celsius at Sports Complex, 46.4 degrees Celsius at Pitampura, 45.8 degrees Celsius at Jafarpur and 45.4 degrees Celsius at Ridge and Ayanagar. All the weather stations in the capital recorded a heatwave day, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Weather forecasters predicted the heatwave spell to worsen Sunday.

## Congress to provide 50% quota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Udaipur, May 14:** The Congress is set to provide 50 per cent representation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities at all levels in the party organisation as part of its social engineering efforts to win back the confidence of the weaker sections. In a change in stance on "quota within quota" in the women's reservation bill, the party is likely to resolve to demand that from out of the reservation for women in Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies, there should be proportionate reservation for SC, ST and OBC women.

Addressing a media briefing on the deliberations of the panel on social justice and empowerment formed by party chief Sonia Gandhi to lead discussions on this issue at the Congress' three-day 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' here, senior leader and Union minister Salman Khurshid said establishing a social justice advisory council to the Congress president has also been recommended by the panel.



There will be an attached department that will collect data for "social engineering" and will make it available for Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) and other party units, said Khurshid, who is the convener of the panel on social justice and empowerment. Social justice is a principled commitment but the basic instrument for that is "social engineering", he said.

K Raju, a panel member and co-ordinator to oversee the activities of the Congress' SC/OBC/Minority Departments, said the party's con-

stitution as of now provides for 20 per cent reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities. "The group has discussed and decided that in the short run we must step up this to 50 per cent. Fifty per cent reservation in all the committees starting with both committees, block committees, district committees, PCCs and the CWC, be provided," he said. "There is a view from some of the participants that we need to go beyond 50 per cent but members felt that let us step it up first from 20 per cent to 50 per cent," he said.

# AAP, BJP trade barbs as bulldozer politics heats up

## RIGHT FROM JAHANGIRPURI TO SHAHEEN BAGH, BULLDOZERS ARE BEING ROLLED OVER ENCROACHMENTS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 14:** After Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, bulldozer politics is now heating up in Delhi and political parties are trading barbs against each other.

Right from Jahangirpuri to Shaheen Bagh, bulldozers are being rolled over encroachments in the national capital. After the Hanuman Jayanti violence on April 20, bulldozers removed the encroachments in the Jahangirpuri area. After that, the issue snowballed and reached the court, which put a stay on the demolitions.

After the court's verdict, bulldozers stopped in Jahangirpuri but started rolling in Shaheen Bagh. When the CPM moved the Supreme Court about that matter too, expecting similar kind of relief as in Jahangirpuri, the top court reprimanded why a political party has come here.

The apex court refused to listen to the plea and said the case of Jahangirpuri was different. "If anybody is having any problem with the anti encroachment drive, then he/she should have moved the High Court first and then to the Supreme Court," the top court



had said. After the issue at Shaheen Bagh took a back seat, the bulldozer started rolling in Madarpur, where stones were pelted at the MCD officials after which police lathicharged the protesters. AAP MLA Amanutullah Khan was arrested

in this connection and later he got bail.

BJP leaders claimed that two rooms in AAP's office in Rouse Avenue are illegal and demanded its demolition. Delhi BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor has written a letter in this regard to North

NDMC. However, the civic body is yet to respond over the issue.

AAP MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said: "BJP has wreaked havoc in Delhi. Their men are threatening Delhiites and asking them to provide Rs 5-Rs 10 lakh failing which their houses will be demolished."

The bulldozers are being rolled over the houses of poor, unauthorised colonies, and JJ Colonies but not over the homes of JP leaders or MCD officials who have connived to build these illegal constructions, Pathak added. Pathak claimed that illegal construction has been made at Adesh Gupta's house.

Pathak alleged that Adesh Gupta has captured the school land and made his office. "We have officially complained to the Mayor and

Commissioner but they don't have the courage to take action," Pathak added. Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has called for a meeting of legislators at his residence to discuss anti-encroachment drive.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has shot off a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah appealing him to stop the BJP-ruled municipal bodies from "destruction in the name of anti-encroachment drive".

Sisodia claimed that the Municipal bodies have plan to demolish 63 lakh slums of the national capital. In the past few days, demolition drive was conducted in Shaheen Bagh, Madanpur Khadar, New Friends Colony, Mangolpuri, Karol Bagh, Khayala and Lodhi Colony, among others.

# Pandit employees demand relocation

**PANDITS HAVE BEEN DEMANDING THEIR RELOCATION TO SAFE ENVIRONMENTS IN THE WAKE OF A SPURT IN THE ATTACKS ON THE MINORITY COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE VALLEY**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sheikhpora, May 14:** Fear and anger were writ large on the faces of Kashmiri Pandit employees and their family members as they continued their protest Saturday at the Sheikhpora transit camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district against the killing of Rahul Bhat and demanding their relocation to safer places outside Kashmir Valley.

A posse of security personnel stood guard outside the camp, ostensibly for their protection. The protesters, however, claimed that the security forces prevented them from taking out a protest march. The camp, which houses the families of Bhat and other Kashmiri Pandits who were employed under the prime minister's package in 2008, has become an epicentre of protests in the aftermath of the killing of Bhat, who was shot dead by terrorists in his office in Chadoora Thursday.

The protesters have been demanding their relocation to safe environments in the wake of a spurt in the attacks on the minority community members in the Valley.

Saturday, over a hundred employees - men and women - sat under a large makeshift tent, in order to protect themselves from the scorching heat prevalent across the Valley, as they protested against



Women from the Kashmiri Pandit community during their sit-in protest against the killing of government employee Rahul Bhat, after police stopped their protest march towards Srinagar, at Kashmiri Pandit transit camp in Sheikhpora, near Srinagar, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Bhat's killing as well to press for the acceptance of their demands.

So far, they said, there were no visible signs of any resolution to the problems.

"This is the failure of both the central as well as the union territory governments. This is the ninth killing (of minority community members), we are facing huge problems, but there is no redressal," Vimal, a Kashmiri Pandit employee, told PTI at the camp.

He said for the migrant employees to work freely, a safe and secure environment should be created.

"There has to have fool-proof security arrangements for us to work. We cannot work like this and so, we are planning to submit mass resignations," Vimal said.

Friday, there were reports of mass resignations by the employees, especially in the militancy-hit south Kashmir, but the government dismissed those. Instead, it said, their service-related issues

**There has to have fool-proof security arrangements for us to work. We cannot work like this and so, we are planning to submit mass resignations**

VIMAL

were being addressed in a time-bound manner within a week.

Vimal, however, said the government's intentions were not clear. "For the time-being, two years, three years, we should be relocated...Till the time they control the situation. They are not doing anything except telling us that there is no provision to relocate them," another employee from the community, Aparna Pandit, said.

The Kashmiri Pandits said they have never come out on roads or

raised their voice, but Bhat's killing has "shook us".

"Do they want us dead? We will submit mass resignations as the government has totally failed because now employees are killed inside their offices. Where is the security? Why is there no provision for us to be transferred outside Kashmir? People can come from Bihar and Maharashtra to work here, but we cannot go outside," she said. They claimed their problems will continue as the government was "making us sacrificial lamb".

Another Kashmiri Pandit, who did not wish to be named, said the government wants to create an atmosphere of fear.

"They do not want us to live happily here. We left our families, our children were living happily and studying well when they told us they will rehabilitate us. Is this what that rehabilitation is? Has Rahul Bhat been rehabilitated?" he said.

# BULLDOZER POLITICS WILL POLARISE GUJARAT VOTERS

*In the name of removing encroachments the government is making the poor and the lower middle class homeless or snatching away their livelihood, say social activists*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ahmedabad, May 14:** The bulldozer politics started in some parts of the state by the ruling BJP will polarise the voters and reap electoral benefits for the party, but it will come at a cost because it is a double-edged sword, said analysts. Even the poor, middle class Hindus have suffered along with the minority community. Just because the affected Hindus are in negligible numbers, the ruling party is taking it as collateral damage, which according to it will have less impact on the election results.

On Ram Navami, in many parts of the state, processions taken out by Hindus were targeted and stones were pelted by anti-socials. In a swift action, the government bulldozed illegal constructions of such anti-social elements. Taking a cue from Madhya Pradesh, the Gujarat government for the first time used a JCB in Khambhat town and demolished butchers shops. Then the bulldozing of illegal constructions was extended to towns like Himmatnagar, Modasa, Kadi, Botad and cities like Ahmedabad, Surat and some other parts.

Every action has a reaction, was the response of Ranchhod Bharwad from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. He added that had the 'anti-social' and 'anti-national' elements not targeted the Ram Navami processions, they would not have had to bear the brunt of the government action.

These illegal constructions have become the hub of anti-national activities, such dens need to be demolished for the safety of the Hindu community and the nation's integrity, said Neeraj Vaghela, spokesperson of the International Hindu Parishad.

If Vaghela is to be believed, only



Muslim illegal constructions are being demolished, but the reality is that Hindus are also suffering because of this drive. One such victim is Parag Patel, whose ice cream parlour on the outskirts of Ahmedabad was demolished. He had pleaded with the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority officials to give time, but his plea went unheeded.

He is not alone. In Kadi town of Mehsana district, 550 properties or a part of the properties were demolished for road alignment and other projects in the last four days. The traders, the majority of them Hindus, requested for more time but the authorities went ahead with their demolition plans.

In Ahmedabad city, a Damocles sword is hanging over 280 properties near Bakra Mandi in Ranip area. Nearly 100 of these properties are owned by Dalits, Thakors and Devpujyak Hindus along with Muslims. They will be rendered homeless once the JCB moves in, said Samshad Pathan, an advocate and human rights activist.

Pathan said that human rights and social activists will always stand by the government if it is demolishing illegal constructions by land mafias, bootleggers or gangsters. However, in the name of re-

moving encroachments the government is making the poor and the lower middle class homeless or snatching away their livelihood. It seems the ruling party in this way wants to create an India where there are no poor or low income groups, he added.

This action will benefit the ruling party, because the narrative is being peddled that only Muslims' property is being demolished, which is welcomed by the middle and upper middle classes, he explained.

The state claims it is demolishing illegal constructions, but here people or social activists have to fight to get government land freed from such encroachments. One such activist Chandujii Darbar recently staged a protest outside the Viramgam Mamlatdar office. He has been fighting since 2019 to remove encroachments on government land near the railway station, near Rokadia Hanuman temple. Even after raising the issue at the highest level no action has been taken.

In 2021, then Revenue Minister Kaushik Patel had said that 345 cases were filed for land grabbing and encroachment, some 28.61 crore square meters of land had been grabbed or illegally encroached. Its market value then was ₹730 crore.

# Omar concerned over 'dangerous game' of polarisation in country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, May 14:** National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah Saturday expressed concern over the "dangerous game" of polarisation "being played" in the country and claimed that even his party is being looked at with suspicion despite thousands of its workers sacrificing their lives in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The people are frightened to go outside Jammu and Kashmir because of the prevailing situation in the country, where the first person under attack is a Muslim... A dangerous game is being played by exploiting the sentiments of a particular community (against another)," Abdullah said addressing a party workers' rally in Poonch district.

Accompanied by senior NC colleagues including general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar and former minister Mian Altaf, Abdullah travelled from Srinagar to Poonch through the historic Mughal Road and offered prayers at 'Peer Ki Gali' shrine enroute for peace and prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking strong exception to the developments over azan (Muslim call for prayer), 'halal' meat and hijab (head scarf) in the recent past, the former chief minister said "some people have problems with everything about Muslims" even as the Constitution treats every religion equally.

"There should be no religious difference. By pitching one religion against another, India is being destroyed," he warned.

In an apparent reference to the BJP,

**We do not understand what our fault is. We linked with the country, gave numerous sacrifices as thousands of our workers and leaders were killed and those at the podium are the ones who had a narrow escape (in terror attacks)**

OMAR ABDULLAH | FORMER CM

the NC leader said they are looking at his party with suspicion. "We do not understand what our fault is. We linked with the country, gave numerous sacrifices as thousands of our workers and leaders were killed and those at the podium are the ones who had a narrow escape (in terror attacks)," he said. Abdullah said the National Conference (NC) is targeted because it talks about having friendly relations with the neighbouring country.

"When it (BJP government) holds talks with them (Pakistan), there is no problem but when we advocate for dialogue (for peace in the region) we are dismissed as anti-nationals," he said and referred to the statement of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee that 'Dost Badle Ja Sakte Hain, Padosi Badle Nahi Ja Sakte' (you can change your friends but not neighbours).

"We were reminding them of the statement of Vajpayee so that there is peace on the borders and the border residents can take their livestock across the fence for grazing. War is not going to take us anywhere but friendship will," he said.



# J&K parties protest against BJP over killings in Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, May 14:** Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir staged separate protest demonstrations Saturday against the BJP over killings by terrorists in the Valley.

Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit government employee, and Special Police Officer Riyaz Ahmad Thokar were killed by terrorists at Chadoora in Budgam and Pulwama Thursday and Friday, respectively.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Congress members came out on the streets outside their party headquarters in Shaheed Chowk and Gandhi Nagar areas, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) activists staged a protest near Press Club, officials said, adding the protesters later dispersed off peacefully.

"We are holding this protest to condemn the killing of Bhat and SPO by terrorists. Every now and then, an innocent person is being killed in Kashmir as the government has miserably failed to provide a secure environment to the people," PDP vice president Chudhary Abdul Hamid told re-



porters. He demanded a high-level inquiry into the killings and adequate compensation for the bereaved families.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) activists led by working president Raman Bhalla slammed Pakistan for its alleged continued support to terrorism.

The party members also de-

nounced the BJP-led central government for its alleged failure to stop targeted killings of innocents, especially Kashmiri Pandits and non-locals, in the Valley.

"We strongly condemn the barbaric killing of Bhat inside the high security tehsil complex. The Centre has totally failed to protect the minorities in Kashmir as targeted killings are contin-

**Militancy had almost died down in Jammu and Kashmir during the popular governments but the reckless experimentation of the present rulers has resulted in gradual deterioration of the security scenario creating the early 1990s-type situation in the erstwhile state**

HARSH DEV SINGH | FORMER MINISTER

uing unabated," Bhalla, a former minister, said.

Senior AAP leader and former minister Harsh Dev Singh said the BJP's "impudence and flawed policies" have resulted in unabated bloodshed and mayhem.

"Militancy had almost died down in Jammu and Kashmir during the popular governments but the reckless experimentation of the present rulers has resulted in gradual deterioration of the security scenario creating the early 1990s-type situation in the erstwhile state," he said.

# Pvt hospitals remain shut to protest new rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, May 14:** Private hospitals and nursing homes in Ahmedabad in Gujarat Saturday downed shutters for two days while doctors, nurses and healthcare workers took out rallies to protest against a rule making 'Building Use' certificate mandatory for renewal of registration of the units.

OPD services and planned surgeries across most of the 1,700-odd private hospitals and nursing homes in the city were shut on Saturday, and around 4,500 doctors, nurses and healthcare staff took to the streets to protest, an official of the Ahmedabad Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (AHNHA) said.

The Association's protest was against the decision of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to make BU permits mandatory for renewal of Form-C, which is required under Bombay Nursing Homes Act, 1949 to register an entity as a medical establishment. Earlier, it was renewed without any hassles.

# Will Hardik Patel's Congress stint end soon?

**FOR THE LAST ONE MONTH PATEL STARTED SENDING SIGNALS THAT HE IS REVIEWING HIS POSITION, STAND, AND ASSOCIATION WITH THE PARTY**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Gandhinagar, May 14:** The Hardik Patel-Congress marriage seems to be heading for a divorce after just three years.

Patel, who joined the Congress in March 2019 and is currently the state Working President, has, since the last one month, started sending signals that he is reviewing his position, stand, and association with the party.

Congress sources said even before he made his dissent public through interviews, Patel had started acting against the party interests, and claimed that he had blocked the state organisa-



tion's plan to have four to five Working Presidents.

The party's state President Jagdish Thakor and his team wanted to give importance to four to five castes that have good dominance in the state and can help the party in creating a new social engineering. Towards this end, it wanted to have Working Presidents from the Patidar, Koli, Rajput, Brahmin/Baniya, and the Muslim community.

However, sources said Patel opposed the plan demanding that

there should be only one Working President - that should be him and no one else, otherwise it has no meaning. Posed this question by IANS through a text message, Patel preferred not to comment.

According to sources, Patel had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in April during the latter's visit to Ahmedabad, when his entry into the BJP was worked out.

Sources however said that his entry into the state's ruling party is not going to be a cake walk as one stalwart BJP leader is opposed to

him since the leader's political career was jeopardised by the Patel-led Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti agitation.

Recently, Patel had been constantly alleging that a few state Congress leaders are sidelining him in the party, he is not given work to do, otherwise he is ready to give 100 per cent to the party. He had appealed to the central leadership to intervene, but, at the same time, he also praised the BJP, removes the Congress symbol from his Twitter and other social media accounts. He has also started calling himself "hardcore Hindutvavadi".

However, Thakor maintained that Patel was never sidelined and always given due importance in the party, adding that whenever the Patidar leader publicly dissented, he or Gujarat in-charge Raghu Sharma has tried to reach him out and discuss the issues and tried to resolve them.

Congress leaders attended the condolence meeting on his father's first death anniversary condolence meeting, though some of us were not invited, Thakor said. He did

accept that the party's second phase reorganisation is delayed, but did not agree that it is because of Patel.

Asked what if Patel quits the party, Thakor, avoiding directly answering the question, said that the Congress is not dependent on one or few leaders or few MLAs, and even if few MLAs or leaders quit the party, it will have little impact on the party prospect in the coming elections. The party is prepared for all consequences, he added.

Political analyst Dilip Gohil said that Patel has been planning to quit Congress for the long-term benefit, as he does not see his future in the party. "He wants to become a victim so that he gets sympathy from the community and voters, that is why he is making allegations against state leaders, so they suspend him from the party, which is not likely to happen," he added.

Gohil said his reading of Patel's activities and statements over the last one month is that he is acting as per scripted plan given to him, but said his quitting Congress will have little impact, as shown by the 2017 Assembly elections results.



## of the day quote

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government is committed to make India a 'vishwa guru' or world leader

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

Like Uttar Pradesh, the Aam Aadmi Party will not be able to open its electoral account even in Himachal Pradesh

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

I have written to him (Shah) saying that this (demolition drive) should be stopped. If bulldozers are to be used, they should be used to demolish the houses of those BJP leaders and civic body representatives who took bribes to allow such structures to be constructed

MANISH SIDOSIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Acid attacker hurt

**Bangalore:** The Karnataka police have allegedly shot an acid attacker on the leg while he was attempting to escape Saturday. According to police sources, the acid attacker Nagesh, who was absconding, had managed to escape from the police since April 28. The shootout took place when the police were bringing him back to Karnataka from Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu. The police allegedly shot Nagesh on the right leg while he attempted to escape from them on the pretext of attending nature's call. He has been admitted in a hospital.

### Infant rescued

**Panaji:** An 11-month-old who was kidnapped from Goa's Vasco has been rescued from Mumbai's Mahim and the two culprits arrested, police said Friday. Superintendent of Police, South Goa, Abhishek Dhania, informed that the police team, along with the child and both the accused, are on the way to Goa. Deepak Yadav alias Langda and Kani were arrested in this case, which was solved within 24 hours by Vasco police.

### Jawan injured

**Bijapur:** A jawan of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) was injured when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED), planted by Naxals, exploded in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh Saturday, police said. The incident occurred around 11 am near Pandemurga village under Nelasnar police station limits, where a road opening party (ROP) of the CAF's 8th battalion was out for patrolling, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

### Tiger kills woman

**Chandrapur:** A 65-year-old woman was mauled to death by a tiger in the buffer zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district Saturday, a forest official said. The incident took place near Sitarampeth village in Moharli buffer range, where the victim Jaibai Mahadev Gengthe had ventured out to collect tendu leaves in the morning, said Dr Jitendra Ramgaonkar, chief conservator of forest of TATR.

### Jawan ends life

**Banihal/Jammu:** An Army jawan died by suicide in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Ravi Kumar (25), a resident of Haryana. He was on guard duty at Neel top post in Banihal on Friday evening when he shot himself with his service rifle, a police official said.



Poor people have an equal right to sustainable cooling and that closing the cooling access gap for vulnerable populations is essential for economic growth and development

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

## UNDER SCRUTINY

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia assured that he will examine the matter of passengers being charged extra for generating boarding passes at the airport



# Filming at Varanasi mosque ends peacefully

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi, May 14:** The videography survey of the Gyanvapi Masjid complex in Varanasi which resumed on Saturday following a local court order was carried out without any interruption as all parties cooperated, officials said.

The survey work will continue Sunday. The survey was stalled last week amid objections by the mosque committee, which claimed that the advocate commissioner appointed by the court for the survey did not have the mandate to film inside the premises.

"The survey work went on in a peaceful manner. There was no objection from anyone. Everything is normal and conducive, and all parties co-operated," Police Commissioner of Varanasi A Satish Ganesh said. "Today's survey is over, and it will continue tomorrow," he said.

District Magistrate of Varanasi Kaushal Raj Sharma said, "Amid tight security arrangements, the videography of the Gyanvapi Masjid complex was held on Saturday, and almost 50 per cent of the survey work has been done." "The survey will continue on Sunday as well. It was conducted from 8 am to 12 noon. The Varanasi police commissioner and a trustee of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust were also present during the survey," Sharma said.

"Survey of more than 50 per cent of the place has been done. The survey work is confidential, and is



The survey was stalled last week amid objections by the mosque committee, which claimed that the advocate commissioner appointed by the court for the survey did not have the mandate to film inside the premises

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

done under the monitoring of the court. So, information regarding the places where the survey was done and what was found cannot be shared now," he added. Sharma also said that all parties were satisfied with Saturday's survey, and it will resume on Sunday.

All parties, their advocates, court commissioners and videographers were present during the survey, Sharma said. The mosque is located close to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and the local court is hearing a plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily prayers before the idols on its outer walls.

An important meeting was held

with all parties concerned on Friday, Sharma had said earlier, and added that an appeal was made to them to cooperate in the commission's work and the maintenance of law and order. More than 1,500 policemen and PAC jawans have been deployed as part of the security arrangement.

The officials said movement of people has been stopped at a distance of 500 metres from the Gyanvapi complex. The police have also stopped vehicular movement coming from Godaulia and Maidagan areas of the city. Before entering the Gyanvapi premises, advocate Madan Mohan Yadav, who is appearing for the Hindu

# SHAH SOUNDS POLL BUGLE IN TELANGANA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, May 14:** Sounding the poll bugle in Telangana, Union Home Minister and BJP veteran Amit Shah Saturday hit out at the TRS government in the state for alleged corruption and unkept promises and said his party is ready to face the polls, due in the state next year.

Addressing a public meeting here which marked the culmination of state BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's second phase of 'padayatra' (foot march), Shah appealed to the electorate to defeat the ruling TRS and make the saffron party successful in the 2023 elections.

The BJP is ready to face elections even if they are held "tomorrow" and he can see the writing on the wall about the defeat of TRS in the polls, Shah claimed. "Do we need to change the Nizam of Telangana or not," he asked the gathering, in an obvious reference to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Accusing the TRS government of failing to fulfil the major planks of separate Telangana agitation of "water, funds and jobs", Shah said BJP, if elected to power, would implement them. He also said his party would end minority reservations in the state and provide the benefit to STs, SCs and backward classes.

The senior BJP leader, whose party won two Assembly by-polls and made significant gains in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation election in the last two years, expressed confidence of BJP coming to power in the state in the hustings next year and urged the voters to elect the saffron party to usher in a secure and prosperous Telangana.

## COOLING OFF



Boys take a bath in a tubewell to beat the heat on a hot day in Jalandhar

## Trinamool MLAs daughter-in-law alleges domestic abuse

**Kolkata:** In a major embarrassment for the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, the daughter-in-law of a senior party leader and MLA has moved the court levelling domestic abuse charges against the latter's family. The lady also claimed that despite lodging several complaints at the local police station, the police refused to take any action because of the political clout of her father-in-law. Trinamool MLA Khageswar Roy is a three-time legislator from the Rajganj constituency in Jalpaiguri district, and the petitioner is his daughter-in-law, Pinky Roy. The petitioner got married to the MLA's son, Dibakar Roy, in 2019. In her petition, Pinky Roy has complained that she had been subjected to mental and physical torture by her husband and mother-in-law, Pratima Roy.

# Good luck and goodbye Congress: Jakhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, May 14:** "Good luck and goodbye Congress", former Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar said Saturday as he announced his decision to quit the party which had last month removed him from all positions for alleged anti-party activities.

The 68-year-old disgruntled Congress leader, whose decision comes as the electorally battered party discusses the way forward during a three-day 'Chintan Shivir' in Udaipur, went live on his Facebook page to make the announcement.

"It is my parting gift to the party. These are my last words to Congressmen. Good luck and goodbye Congress," Jakhar said while asserting that it was the end of an association that spanned 50 years and three generations. "You broke (my) heart," Jakhar said in a no-holds-barred attack.

Jakhar's is the latest high profile resignation from the party. Among those who have exited the party recently are Amarinder Singh, Ashwani Kumar and RPN Singh, all long-time leaders of the party.

During his 'dil ki baaf' Facebook live, Jakhar said the Udaipur meeting was nothing more than fulfill-



Do not drift from your ideology. You are losing your intellectual moorings

SUNIL JAKHAR | FORMER PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF

ing a formality and should have been a "chintan shivir" instead of a "chintan shivir", more about 'worry'

Offering advice to Rahul Gandhi, Jakhar said he should learn to make the distinction between friend and foe

than 'introspection'. Stating that Congress governments had always faced allegations of kitchen cabinet and coteries, Jakhar alleged that in his 20 years of active politics "coteries have now turned into gangs". "I am saying this with full responsibility," he said. Offering advice to former pres-

ident Rahul Gandhi, Jakhar said he should learn to make the distinction between friend and foe. He also asked him to take reins of the party in his hands and stay away from 'chaploos' (sycophants).

Stating that the Gandhi family's presence in the party was essential, Jakhar called Rahul Gandhi a very good, very fine and upright person and said it was because of him that he had been in the Congress for so many years.

"If you cannot understand the difference between friend and foe, then understand between assets and liabilities," he said in his message to Rahul Gandhi.

# After ban on buffalo sacrifice, K'taka villagers choose ox

THE NEW LAW IN EFFECT REGARDING ANIMAL SACRIFICE WAS PASSED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR. IT BANS THE SLAUGHTER OF COWS, CALVES OF A COW AND BULL, BULLOCK OF ALL AGES, AND BUFFALO UNDER THE AGE OF 13 YEARS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Tumakuru (Karnataka), May 14:** The Tumakuru district administration in Karnataka is worried over villagers choosing to sacrifice ox instead of buffalo to appease deities.

The new law in effect regarding animal sacrifice was passed in December last year. It bans the slaughter of cows, calves of a cow and bull, bullock of all ages, and buffalo under the age of 13 years.

The move has caused concern as the ban on animal sacrifice is intended to create awareness about

cruelty against any creature. However, the villagers who have been sacrificing animals to deities for hundreds of years are adamant on continuing with the practice.

The villagers of Bellibatlu village in Tumakuru district have sacrificed oxen instead of buffaloes. According to the Tehsildar of Pavagada, Varadaraju, the authorities will gather information regarding the sacrifices in the village and submit a report to the District Commissioner for further action.

Meanwhile, villagers expressed anger over the controversy sur-



rounding sacrifice of oxen to deities. They claimed that throughout the Pavagada taluk, animals are ritually sacrificed for the worship of Shakti deities.

They added that since sacrificing ox has been prevalent throughout the taluk for a month, there is no need to highlight the issue, underlining that this has been a tradition since ages.

In Bellibatlu village, oxen were sacrificed for the Chowdeshwari deity as the ancient temple was being renovated. As per tradition, goats, rams, and buffaloes are sacrificed ritually.

In 2007, the practice of sacrificing buffaloes was objected and a complaint was lodged with the district administration.

The villagers said that the District Commissioner had then banned buffalo sacrifice and suggested they sacrifice any other animal. The elders started sacrificing ox since then.

However, some villagers raised a complaint in this regard again on May 9 with the District Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, appealing for prevention of ox sacrifice.

# international



It would have been better to drop an atom bomb on Pakistan than to have these criminals in power  
IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

## DOORWAY ON MARS

One of the most recent images captured by NASA's Curiosity rover on Mars shows an unusual structure in the rocks that looks like a neatly carved out doorway nestled on the Red Planet. Many internet users are puzzled by the photograph, claiming it to be a hidden alien entrance



## of the day quote

Deeply troubled to see the images of Israeli police intruding into her funeral procession today. Every family deserves to be able to lay their loved ones to rest in a dignified and unimpeded manner  
ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

The negotiations had stalled and now they have been reopened. There is a perspective of reaching a final agreement  
JOSEF BORRELL | EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

Pausing restrictions on deals like buy one get one free will allow us to understand its impact on consumers in light of an unprecedented global economic situation. We're committed to doing everything we can to help people live healthier lives  
MAGGIE THROUP | PUBLIC HEALTH MIN, UK

## SHORT TAKES

### Kiwi PM tests Covid positive

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who has overseen her country's world-leading response to the coronavirus pandemic, has tested positive for Covid-19, her office announced Saturday. Ardern's symptoms are moderate and she will isolate at home for seven days, the government said in a statement. She has already been in isolation since last Sunday, when her partner Clarke Gayford tested positive, and was due to resume her parliamentary duties Monday.

### UN condemns Shireen's killing

United Nations: The UN Security Council Friday night strongly condemned the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and called for "an immediate, thorough, transparent, and fair and impartial investigation". A press statement was approved by the 15 council members after language was removed emphasising the importance of media freedom and the need for journalists working in dangerous areas to be protected at the insistence of China and Russia, diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because discussions were private.

### IS claims attack on Egypt troops

Cairo: An Islamic State affiliate in Egypt Saturday claimed responsibility for an attack that killed at least five troops in the restive part of Sinai Peninsula. The extremist group announced its claim of Wednesday's attack in a statement carried by its Amaq news agency. The authenticity of the statement could not be verified but it was released on Telegram, as similar claims have been in the past. The attack involved a militant ambush against a border guard checkpoint west of the Mediterranean city of Rafah, which borders the Gaza Strip.

### UK records 2 more monkeypox cases

London: Two individuals have been diagnosed with monkeypox virus in London, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed Saturday. The cases are from the same household and are not linked to a previous infection confirmed by the agency last week, which had been linked with recent travel history to Nigeria where they are believed to have caught it. Where and how the two new cases acquired their infection remains under investigation.

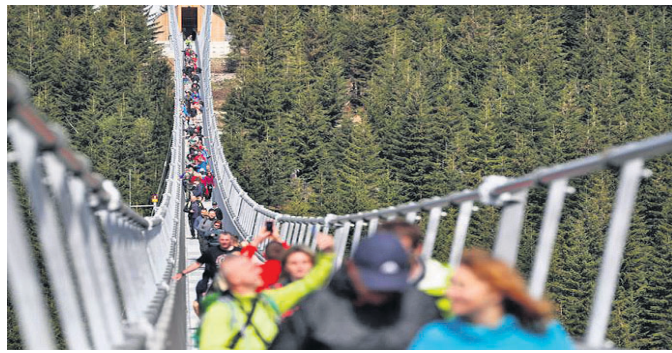
# Czechs open world's longest hanging footbridge

REUTERS

Dolni Morava (Czech Republic), May 14: Fear and adrenaline were some of the feelings as the first tourists stepped out on the world's longest suspension footbridge, spanning a mountain valley in the Czech Republic.

"We came here because we love adrenaline," day-hiker Michaela Klestilova said while approaching the 721-metre footbridge that hangs 95 metres above the ground at its highest point and opened to the public Friday. "We came by foot up here and now we are looking for our reward," she added.

## SKY BRIDGE 721



Named Sky Bridge 721, it took two years to build at a cost of 200 million crowns (\$8.4 million) and is suspended by six main sup-

porting ropes and 60 wind ropes.

It sits at more than 1,100 metres above sea level and connects two mountain ridges in the country's northeast region, 200 km from Prague and near the border with Poland. The bridge tops the 516-metre Arouca Bridge in Portugal, which had previously been the longest suspension footbridge.

It will be one-way walk for visitors who visit the bridge. Upon exiting the other side, they will step on a paved pathway in a forest where the visitors will get to know about Czech history. The vacation resort, where this bridge is located, said that the 1.2-metre-

wide bridge is open to children of all ages and heights, but is not suitable for people with pushchairs or wheelchairs.

The new Czech bridge, though, is not without its critics. The Czech Nature Conservation Agency's regional director Michal Servus told Czech TV this week the bridge caused problems with protecting the surrounding areas and changed the character of the area.

Officials hope it will boost tourism in the area by giving a different look at the forested landscape. "For me this is a great view," Michal Hofirek, the bridge's first visitor, said.

# FRESH COVID SURGE IN SA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg: South Africa is experiencing a surge of new Covid-19 cases driven by two omicron sub-variants, according to health experts. For about three weeks the country has seen increasing numbers of new cases and somewhat higher hospitalisations, but not increases in severe cases and deaths, said Professor Marta Nunes, a researcher at Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Analytics at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto. South Africa's new cases have gone from an average of 300 per day in early April to about 8,000 per day this week.

# Ranil begins forming Cabinet

## NEW LANKAN PM INDUCTS FOUR MINISTERS INTO CABINET

AGENCIES

Colombo, May 14: Ranil Wickremesinghe inducted four ministers into his Cabinet Saturday, including GL Peiris as the Foreign Minister, as the country's new Prime Minister sought to complete the government formation to focus on efforts to rebuild the economy. Dinesh Gunawardena has been sworn in as the Minister of Public Administration, Peiris as the Foreign Minister, Prasanna Ranatunga as the Minister of Urban Development and housing and Kanchana Wijesekara as the Minister of Power and Energy, the Daily Mirror, an online news portal reported.

Peiris was also the Foreign Minister in the former Mahinda Rajapaksa-led Cabinet. The government sources said



Wickremesinghe's Cabinet is expected to be limited to under 20, the report said. Sri Lanka's ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party has decided to offer crucial support to Wickremesinghe, who has just one seat in Parliament, to help him prove a majority in the House. Most of the opposition parties in

Sri Lanka announced that they would not be joining the interim government led by Wickremesinghe.

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 anti-government protesters by his supporters.

He wrote a letter to main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) leader Sajith Premadasa, inviting his party to support the joint effort made by them to immediately resolve the burning issues faced by the people and also to stabilise the country economically, politically and socially by obtaining foreign assistance.

## India to send 65,000MT urea to SL

India has assured Sri Lanka to immediately supply 65,000 metric tonnes of urea to avoid any disruption in paddy cultivation in this country, as it faces the worst economic crisis in its post-independence history. High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi Miliinda Moragoda met with the Secretary of the Department of Fertilisers Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi in New Delhi Thursday to discuss the supply of urea required for the current Yala cultivation season in Sri Lanka, according to media reports here Saturday. Moragoda thanked Chaturvedi for India's decision to supply 65,000 MT of urea required for the current Yala cultivation season in Sri Lanka, the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi said in a message. The Government of India has decided to supply this quantity of urea immediately to Sri Lanka at the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, despite a ban on export of urea from India, the Sri Lankan High Commission said in a statement.

## 'GREAT TURMOIL'

# Cov: N Korea sees 21 new deaths

REUTERS

Seoul, May 14: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Saturday the spread of Covid-19 had thrust his country into "great turmoil" and called for an all-out battle to overcome the outbreak, as 21 daily deaths were reported among people with fever.

North Korea this week acknowledged for the first time a Covid outbreak, imposing a nationwide lockdown. But there was no sign of a rigorous testing or treatment campaign in the isolated country's rudimentary healthcare system.

"The spread of the malignant epidemic is a great turmoil to fall on our country since the founding," Kim told an emergency meeting of the ruling Workers' Party, according to state news agency KCNA.



"But if we don't lose focus in implementing epidemic policy and maintain strong organisation power and control based on single-minded unity of the party and the people and strengthen our epidemic battle, we can more than overcome the crisis."

The numbers probably represent a fraction of total cases, given North Korea's limited testing capabilities, and could lead to thousands of deaths in one of only two countries without a vaccination campaign, experts have said.

The outbreak could also deepen a dire food crisis, with the lockdown hampering anti-drought efforts and mobilisation of labour.

The Workers' Party meeting heard reports of about 280,810 people being treated and 27 deaths since a fever of unidentified origins was reported starting in late April, KCNA said.

State media did not say whether the new deaths were due to Covid. One death had been confirmed from the Omicron variant, KCNA said Friday.

# Ukraine favourite to win Eurovision Song Contest amid war

## THE SIX-MEMBER, ALL-MALE BAND KALUSH ORCHESTRA RECEIVED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY TO REPRESENT UKRAINE AND UKRAINIAN CULTURE AT THE MUSIC CONTEST

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turin, May 14: Against the backdrop of a war in Europe, the hugely popular Eurovision Song Contest reaches its flamboyant climax Saturday night as 25 bands perform in front of a live audience in the northern Italian city of Turin, while millions more watch on television around the world.

The Ukrainian band Kalush Orchestra is heavily tipped to win by bookmakers, which are giving the group that mixes traditional Ukrainian rhythms, costumes and dance moves with contemporary hip hop a 60 per cent chance of winning. Their song, 'Stefania', was written

as a tribute to the frontman's mother, but has transformed since Russia's invasion February 24 into an anthem to the war-ravaged nation, as lyrics take on new meaning.

"I'll always find my way home, even if all roads are destroyed," Kalush Orchestra frontman Oleh Psiuk wrote.

The six-member, all-male band received special permission to leave the country to represent Ukraine and Ukrainian culture at the music contest.

One of the original members stayed to fight, and the others plan to return as soon as the contest is over. The winner is chosen in equal



parts by panels of music experts in each competing nation and votes by the viewing public, leaving room

for an upset. Britain's Sam Ryder and Sweden's Cornelia Jakobs are each given a 10 per cent shot while

the Italian duo of Mahmood & Blanco has a 6 per cent chance of winning. The winner takes home a glass microphone trophy and a potential career boost.

The event is hosted by Italy after the Italian rock band Maneskin won last year in Rotterdam.

The victory shot the Rome-based band to international fame, opening for the Rolling Stones and appearing Saturday Night Live and numerous magazine covers in their typically genderless costume code.

Twenty bands have been chosen in two semifinals this week, and will compete along with the Big Five of Italy, Britain, France, Germany and Spain, which have permanent berths due to their financial support of the contest. Russia was excluded this year after its invasion of Ukraine, a move organizers said was meant to keep politics out of the contest that promotes diversity and friendship among nations.

## NATO DRILL



British soldiers participate in an exercise as NATO allied troops carry out Swift Response 22 exercises at Krivolak army base, North Macedonia  
reuters

# business

## of the day quote

It is a fantastic opportunity to lead a historic airline, now owned by the Tata Group, to new heights, and I am grateful to embark on that exciting challenge with the full blessings of the SIA management team

**CAMPBELL WILSON** | CEO-DESIGNATE, AIR INDIA

India is going to be the most attractive destination of cruise tourism, and there is no doubt about it because whatever potential we have in the coastal areas and inland waterways are now set to be explored

**SARBANANDA SONOWAL** | UNION MINISTER

You're seeing a lot of VC investment into a lot of protocols because they all believe, as we do, that some of these protocols are the infrastructure of the future

**STEVE EHRLICH** | CEO, VOYAGER DIGITAL

## SHORT TAKES

### Future Retail's CFO steps down

**New Delhi:** Debt-ridden Future Retail's Chief Financial Officer CP Toshniwal has resigned from the company, effective May 12. Toshniwal's resignation is the recent addition to the string of resignations that started after the ₹24,713-crore deal was called off last month by the billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries after creditors voted against it. Last week, Future Retail's Managing Director Rakesh Biyani stepped down, while officials including the company secretary of the debt-ridden firm tendered resignation. "C P Toshniwal - Chief Financial Officer of the Company has resigned with effect from the closure of business hours of May 12, 2022. Consequent to the same, he shall also cease to be a 'Key Managerial Personnel (KMP)' of the Company," FRL said in a regulatory filing.

### SCI Q4 net profit plunges 77.42%

**New Delhi:** Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) Saturday reported a 77.42 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹152.16 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022. The state-owned company had clocked a consolidated profit of ₹85.76 crore in the same quarter of 2020-21, it said in a regulatory filing. Its total consolidated income rose to ₹1,364.62 crore during the quarter under review against ₹900.73 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses also increased to ₹1,223.76 crore during the quarter compared to ₹838.57 crore a year ago. For the FY22, the company reported a consolidated profit of ₹865.22 crore. It had recorded a profit of ₹696.9 crore in 2020-21.

### D-Mart Q4 net profit up 3.11%

**New Delhi:** Avenue Supermarkets Ltd, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, Saturday reported a 3.11 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹426.75 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022. The company had posted a net profit of ₹413.87 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, Avenue Supermarkets said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations rose 18.55 per cent to ₹8,786.45 crore during the quarter under review from ₹7,411.68 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal. Avenue Supermarkets' total expenses surged 18.71 per cent to ₹8,210.13 crore in Q4 FY2021-22 against ₹6,916.24 crore a year ago.



The government is actually fueling the rise of inflation by its wrong policies, especially through high taxes on petrol and diesel, high administered prices and high GST tax rates

**P CHIDAMBARAM** | CONGRESS LEADER

### E& BUYS \$4.4BN VODAFONE STAKE

Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC, now known as e&, has acquired a 9.8% stake in Vodafone for \$4.4 billion, it said Saturday. The move comes days after e& said it was looking to expand into new markets in Africa, Europe and Asia and in areas outside telecoms such as financial technology as it seeks to drive growth



# Ban on wheat exports as prices soar

The govt banned wheat exports after recent scorching temperatures hit production. The world's second-largest wheat producer, said that factors including lower wheat production and sharply higher global prices because of the war meant that it was now worried about its own food security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 14:** With retail prices of wheat and wheat flour rising by 14-20 per cent in the last one year, the government has banned wheat exports to control rising domestic prices and meet the food-grain requirement of neighbouring and vulnerable countries. Wheat prices in India have risen to record highs, in some spot markets hitting ₹25,000 (\$320) per tonne, well above the government's minimum support price of ₹20,150. "The export policy of wheat ... is prohibited with immediate effect..." the Directorate General of Foreign



Ban could push global wheat prices to new peaks  
India was aiming to export 10MT wheat before ban  
Heat wave dents size of wheat crop, lifts prices  
Govt buying falls more than 50% from year ago

Trade (DGFT) said in a notification issued late Friday. The export shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) have been issued on or before the date of this notification will be allowed.

According to the DGFT notification, wheat exports will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments.

India's wheat exports stood at an all-time high of 7 million tonne, valuing \$2.05 billion, in 2021-22 fiscal year on better demand for Indian wheat from overseas. Of the total wheat exports, around 50 per cent of shipments were exported to Bangladesh in the last fiscal.

To justify the ban, Commerce Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey and Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja held a press conference here and asserted that there was no crisis of wheat supply in the country and the move is to control prices of wheat and wheat flour.

Talking about the current fiscal 2022-23, he said as per estimates, 4.3 million tonne of wheat have been contracted for exports so far.

Official data released this week showed that retail inflation surged to an eight-year high in April due to high prices of fuel and food items. The ban on exports also comes amid disruption in global wheat supplies due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine which are major exporters of the foodgrain.

On wheat crop, Ahuja said it is likely to be around 105-106 million tonne in 2021-22 crop year (July-June) as against the earlier projection of 111.32 million tonne. In the previous crop year, it was little over 109 million tonne.

Amid lower production and higher purchase of wheat crop by private parties, the government's wheat procurement is likely to drop drastically to around 18 million tonne in the ongoing 2022-23 marketing year (April-March) as against last year's an all-time high of 43.34 million tonne in the previous marketing year.

## G7 CRITICISES INDIA'S MOVE

**Stuttgart, Germany:** Agriculture ministers from the Group of Seven industrialised nations Saturday condemned India's decision to ban unapproved wheat exports after the country was hit by a punishing heatwave. "If everyone starts to impose export restrictions or to close markets, that would worsen the crisis," German agriculture minister Cem Ozdemir said at a press conference in Stuttgart. India, the world's second-largest wheat producer, said that factors including lower wheat production and sharply higher global prices because of the war meant that it was now worried about its own food security. At this critical juncture, ministers of the G7 industrialised nations urged countries around the world not to take restrictive action that could pile further stress on the produce markets. "They spoke out against export stops and call as well for markets to be kept open," said Ozdemir, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the group. "We call on India to assume its responsibility as a G20 member," Ozdemir added.

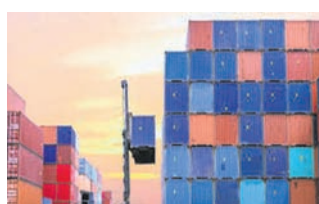
## Exports up 30.7% in April; trade deficit at \$20.11bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 14:** India's merchandise exports surged 30.7 per cent to \$40.19 billion in April on account of healthy performance by sectors like petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals, even as trade deficit widened to \$20.11 billion during the month, the commerce ministry said. Imports during the month under review grew by 30.97 per cent to \$60.3 billion. The trade deficit in April 2021 was at \$15.29 billion.

"After a record performance in the last financial year, the exports continued robust growth in April, 2022 with merchandise exports scaling a new high by crossing \$40 billion," it said.

Petroleum and crude oil imports during the month rose by 87.54 per cent to \$20.2 billion. Coal, Coke and Briquettes imports jumped to \$4.93 billion, as against \$2 billion



Imports during the month under review grew by 30.97 per cent to \$60.3 billion

in April 2021.

Gold imports, however, dipped by about 72 per cent to \$1.72 billion during the month under review, from \$6.23 billion in April 2021.

Engineering goods exports increased by 15.38 per cent to \$9.2 billion, while petroleum products exports soared 113.21 per cent to \$7.73 billion.

## Forex reserves dip by \$28.05bn in Sept-March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 14:** The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$28.05 billion to \$607.31 billion at the end of March this year from \$635.36 billion at the end of September 2021, according to an RBI report.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) publishes half-yearly reports on management of foreign exchange reserves as part of its efforts towards enhanced transparency and levels of disclosure.

These reports are prepared every six months with reference to the position as March and September-end each year. The present report, which is 38th in the series, is with reference to the position as end-March 2022.

"During the half-year period under review, reserves decreased from \$635.36 billion as at end-September 2021 to \$607.31 billion as at end-March 2022," the report released Thursday said.

Although both US dollar and



Euro are intervention currencies and the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) are maintained in major currencies, the foreign exchange reserves are denominated and expressed in US dollar terms.

Movements in the FCA occur mainly on account of purchase and sale of foreign exchange by RBI, income arising out of the deployment of the foreign exchange reserves, external aid receipts of the central government and

changes on account of revaluation of the assets.

At the end of December 2021, foreign exchange reserves cover of imports (on balance of payments basis) declined to 13.1 months from 14.6 months at end-September 2021.

As of end-March 2022, the RBI held 760.42 metric tonne of gold (including gold deposits of 11.08 metric tonne), the report said. While 453.52 metric tonne of

The net forward asset (receivable) of RBI in the domestic foreign exchange market stood at \$65.79 billion at the end of March 2022

gold is held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), 295.82 metric tonne of gold is held domestically.

In value terms (USD), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from about 5.88 per cent as at end-September 2021 to about 7.01 per cent as at end-March 2022, it said.

As of end-March 2022, out of the total FCA of \$540.72 billion, \$363.03 billion was invested in securities, \$140.54 billion was deposited with other central banks and BIS, and the balance \$37.16 billion comprised deposits with commercial banks overseas.

# Bitcoin tumbles, a stablecoin plunges in wild week in crypto

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, May 14:** It's been a wild week in crypto, even by crypto standards. Bitcoin tumbled, stablecoins were anything but stable and one of the crypto industry's highest-profile companies lost a third of its market value.

Here's a look at some major developments in cryptocurrencies this week:

**BITCOIN**  
The price of bitcoin dropped to around \$25,420 this week, its lowest level since December 2020, according to CoinDesk. It steadied around \$30,000 Friday, but that's still less than half the price bitcoin fetched last November.

Some bitcoin proponents have said the digital currency could protect its holders against inflation and act as a hedge against a decline in the stock market. Lately, it's done neither. Inflation at the consumer level rose 8.3% in April compared to a year ago, a level last seen in the early '80s. With the Federal Reserve aggressively rais-

ing interest rates to try to tamp down inflation, investors are dumping risky assets, including stocks and crypto. The S&P 500 is down more than 15% this year. Bitcoin has dropped about 37% year to date.

Other cryptos have fared just as poorly. Ethereum has dropped 44% and dogecoin, a cryptocurrency favored by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, has fallen 53%.

**STABLECOIN COLLAPSE**  
Stablecoins have been viewed as a safe harbor haven among cryptocurrencies. That's because the value of many stablecoins is pegged to a government-backed currency, such as the US Dollar, or precious metals such as gold.

But this week one of the more widely-used stablecoins, Terra, experienced the cryptocurrency equivalent of a run on the bank.

Terra is a stablecoin in a cryptocurrency ecosystem known as Terra Luna. Terra is an algorithmic stable coin, which means it adjusted its supply through complicated buying and selling to keep



its peg to \$1. Terra was also fueled by an incentive program that gave its holders high yields on their Terra. Luna was the coin meant to be used in the ecosystem to buy and sell assets, and at its peak it was worth more than \$100.

Even though the developers of Terra said its algorithms would backstop the stablecoin, they decided to further backstop it with holdings of bitcoin.

Terra's problems started from a combination of withdrawals of hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, of dollars from Anchor, a platform that supported the sta-

blecoin. Combined with worries overall about cryptocurrencies, and the drop in bitcoin's price, Terra started to lose its peg to the dollar. The bitcoin that Terra held was also worth less than they paid for it, and selling those bitcoin into the market caused bitcoin prices to fall even further.

Efforts by Terra's developers to shore up liquidity failed. Friday, Terra had fallen to 14 cents and Luna was trading at a value of less than one ten thousandth of a cent.

**COINBASE**  
Coinbase lost about a third of

its value this week, during which the cryptocurrency trading platform reported that active monthly users fell by 19% in the first quarter amid the decline in crypto values. Investors had been running for the exits even before Coinbase reported a \$430 million quarterly loss. Shares closed Thursday at \$58.50. On the day of its initial public offering just 13 months ago, shares reached \$429 each.

In a letter to shareholders, Coinbase said it believed that current market conditions were not permanent and it remained focused on the long-term while prioritizing product development. While most Wall Street analysts expect Coinbase to weather the storm, they're also warning that increased regulation of cryptocurrencies could hamper the company's growth.

**REGULATORS**  
There has been a lot of talk about regulating cryptocurrencies, but little in the way of action. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, responding to the volatility in the crypto markets this week, said Thursday that the US needs a regulatory framework to guard against the risks surrounding cryptocurrencies and stablecoins. In March, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said new forms of digital money such as cryptocurrencies and stablecoins present risks to the US Financial system and will require new rules to protect consumers. This Monday, right before the implosion of Terra, the Fed said in its semiannual report on financial stability that stablecoins are vulnerable to "runs" that could harm owners of the coins. Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Gary Gensler has said that the crypto industry is "rife with fraud, scams and abuse" and that his agency needs more authority from Congress — and more funding — to regulate the market. Britain has unveiled plans to regulate stablecoins as part of a broader plan to become a global hub for digital payments. European Union lawmakers have agreed on draft rules for cryptoassets, but still have to negotiate a final bill.

# Russell to KKR's rescue India finish 2nd in shooting at Deaflympics

INDIA CURRENTLY RANKS EIGHTH ON THE MEDALS TABLE WITH SEVEN GOLD, ONE SILVER AND FOUR BRONZE MEDALS

Andre Russell scored unbeaten 49 runs with the bat and took three wickets with the ball to guide Kolkata Knight Riders to a 54-run win against Sunrisers Hyderabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, May 14:** Andre Russell's all-round brilliance theoretically kept Kolkata Knight Riders in contention for a play-off berth as they recorded a comprehensive 54-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a must-win IPL game Saturday.

It was Russell's unbeaten 49 off 28 balls that took KKR to 177 for six in 20 overs after being down and out at 94 for 5.

In reply, SRH were never in the hunt as they huffed and puffed their way to 123 for 8 against a collective bowling effort from Shreyas Iyer's men with the flamboyant Jamaican finishing with best figures of 3 for 22.

Umesh Yadav (1/19 in 4 overs), Tim Southee (2/23 in 4 overs), Varun Chakravarthy (1/25 in 4 overs) and Sunil Narine (1/34 in 4 overs) - all stuck to their respective game plans with near-perfect executions over after over.

KKR now have 12 points from 13 games with a net run-rate of +0.160 and moved to sixth place.

With Rajasthan Royals (14 from 12) and RCB (14 from 13 games) having chance to move up, even a victory is unlikely to be enough for Shah Rukh Khan owned franchise which played its 13th 'first XI' combination in as many games.

For Sunrisers, 10 points from 12 games with a dismal NRR of -0.270 means that even two big wins and 14 points might not be enough after five straight defeats.

While he is a sentimental favourite among Indian cricket lovers, a lot of SRH's poor batting show could be attributed to skipper Kane Williamson's nightmarish season that has yielded only 208 runs in 12 games at an average of less than 19 and a strike-rate of 92.85.

Williamson (9 off 17 balls) has been SRH's weakest link this season and his failure at the top of the order has been one of the biggest reasons for their slump.



## BRIEF SCORES

### KKR 177 for 6

(Andre Russell 49 not out, Sam Billings 34; Umran Malik 3/33) beat Sunrisers

### HYDERABAD 123/8

(Abhishek Sharma 43, Aiden Markram 32; Andre Russell 3/22) by 54 runs.

It was an ordeal for Williamson till Russell bowled one on the stumps to end his misery. Rahul Tripathi (9 off 1 ball) also looked scratchy even as Abhishek Sharma (43 off 28 balls) attacked Sunil Narine, hitting him for two sixes.

It was Tim Southee's brilliant reflex return catch that ended Tripathi's innings. At the halfway stage, SRH weren't in a very comfortable position at 66 for two and even the statistic of teams chasing (highest successful chase of 170) at the Gahunje Stadium didn't paint an altogether

rosy picture.

Once Abhishek was dismissed by Varun Chakravarthy (1/25) and Narine took a fine return catch to dismiss SRH's big hope Nicholas Pooran (2), there wasn't much resistance from the rest of the batters.

Earlier, Umran Malik was back in his groove after a few forgettable outings as he ran through KKR's top-order but Russell along with Sam Billings (34 off 29 balls) added 63 runs for the sixth wicket to give the total a semblance of respectability after KKR were in trouble at 94 for 5.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

CSK	V	GT
Time: 03:30 pm		
LSG	V	RR
Time: 07:30 pm		
TELECAST Star Sports channels & Hotstar		

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 14:** India wrapped up their shooting assignment at the 24th Deaflympics in Caxais do Sul, Brazil, by finishing in second place with three gold and two bronze medals.

Only Ukraine finished ahead of the 10-strong Indian contingent, with six gold and an overall tally of 12 medals. It was a commendable performance by the Indian shooters in ensuring the country's best-ever performance at Deaflympics.

Dhanush Srikanth was the star of the shooting squad, bagging two gold medals in the men's 10m air rifle and 10m air rifle mixed team competitions respectively. Priyesh Deshmukh was his partner in the mixed event.

Abhinav Deshwal won India's third gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event while Shourya



Saini in the men's air rifle and Vedika Sharma in the women's air pistol won individual bronze medals.

This is the first time an Indian shooting team has participated at

the Deaflympics on the initiative of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

An elated NRAI secretary general K Sultan Singh said, "It makes me even prouder to have such a

dedicated and high-quality team of professionals at NRAI. Without their hard work and dedication this phenomenal performance would not have been possible in such a short time. Our coaches Anuja Jung and Priti Sharma even went to the extent of learning sign language to better impart coaching. My President Mr. Raninder Singh, forever the shooting promotion man, also made it very clear from day one that there should be left no stone unturned in the preparations of the squad."

He also thanked the Sports Authority of India and the Sports Ministry for supporting the shooters.

"The Hon Minister, Anurag Thakur, MYAS, was himself at hand to flag-off the team, inspiring confidence and providing much deserving recognition to the deaf shooters."

## Dhawan, Pandya may lead

■ The T20 series against the Proteas will start in the national capital June 9 with the remaining matches being held at Cuttack, Visakhapatnam, Rajkot and Bangalore respectively

## SOUTH AFRICA T20 SERIES



impressed one and all with his captaincy for Gujarat Titans in IPL-15, are in reckoning for the leadership role for both South Africa and the short two-match T20I series against Ireland.

The squad for the SA series is likely to be selected May 22 - the last day of the league phase of this edition of IPL - in Mumbai.

The PTI has already reported that an out-of-form Virat Kohli will also be given a much-needed break but it is understood that for the selectors as well as the BCCI, the tour of England starting early July is paramount.

"All the senior India players will get at least three and half weeks of

complete rest. Rohit, Virat, KL, Rishabh and Jasprit will all directly go to England for the fifth Test following the white-ball series. We need all our key players to remain fresh for the England series," a senior BCCI source privy to the development told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

As a part of workload management, all the senior all-format players will not be part of the next seven T20 Internationals.

Asked about captaincy, the source said: "The selectors have a couple of choices. Shikhar Dhawan, as he has already captained India in absence of Virat, Rohit and Rahul during last year's Sri Lanka series. But Hardik Pandya's impressive captaincy for Gujarat Titans hasn't gone unnoticed. So it will be a close call," he added.

Obviously Suryakumar Yadav or Ravindra Jadeja's injury needs to be factored in and Deepak Chahar will also not be available.

## Xaxa helps Sports Odisha salvage point against SSB Women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 14:** SSB Women were held to a 1-1 draw by Sports Odisha in their Indian Women's League match at the 7th Battalion Ground here Saturday.

The team from West Bengal was on the attack from kickoff and found several breakthroughs in the first half. Naorem Sumila Chanu, Sandhya Kachhap and Ngangom Anibala Devi all came close to scoring but failed to convert in the attacking third.



On one occasion in the 29th minute, Sports Odisha almost took a surprise lead in the game. However, Pyari Xaxa's strike from inside the box was ruled out by the referee for a foul that took place in the build up.

Eventually, the Sports Odisha defence paved the way and SSB Women took a much-needed lead in the 41st minute. Sandhya Kachhap came in from the right flank and bundled the Sports Odisha goalkeeper to find the back of the net.

Sports Odisha enjoyed more possession of the ball in the second half. In the 87th minute, Pyari Xaxa missed a golden opportunity to pull one back for the local side.

The forward failed to place the ball inside an open goal following a mismatch from the SSB Women goalkeeper.

However, she went on to make amends and scored in the 90th minute. Xaxa beat the SSB Women goalkeeper in a one-on-one situation and slotted the ball home to make it 1-1.

## Boxers Nitu, Manisha advance to quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 14:** Indian women boxers Nitu (48kg) and Manisha (57kg) advanced to the quarterfinals of the IBA World Championships in Istanbul, after registering contrasting victories here Saturday.

Nitu, competing for the first time in the event, prevailed 5-0 over Spain's Marta Lopez Del Arbol in the lowest weight category to move to the last-eight stage.

Manisha, on the other hand, eked out a 4-1 win over Svetlana Staneva of Bulgaria to advance to the featherweight quarterfinals.

The two-time former Youth World Champion, Nitu displayed her technical prowess as she maintained the upper hand throughout the bout.

The 21-year-old from Haryana used her long reach to good effect as she landed some powerful punches.



The reigning national champion will take on Kazakhstan's Alua Balkibekova in the quarterfinal Monday.

Manisha, the 2019 Asian Championships bronze medalist, was engaged in a draining and messy bout which had its fair share of clinching, holding and even some tumbling over in the ring.

The 24-year-old will next face tough challenge from Youth World bronze medalist Namuum Monkhor of Mongolia in the quarterfinal Monday.

## ITALIAN OPEN Djokovic in semis, retains top spot

THE TOP-RANKED DJOKOVIC BROUGHT THE FORO ITALICO CROWD TO ITS FEET WITH SEVERAL MEMORABLE POINTS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Rome, May 14:** It was just the type of scrambling, wear-down-the-opponent mentality and shot-making that took Novak Djokovic to within one match of a calendar-year Grand Slam in 2021.

A spectacle that was missing for so much of this year when Djokovic didn't play because he wasn't vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The top-ranked Djokovic brought the Foro Italico crowd to its feet with several memorable points in a 7-5 7-6 (1) win over Felix Auger-Aliassime to reach the Italian Open semifinals Friday.

To conclude a long rally, Djokovic produced a delicate backhand topspin lob winner over the leaping Auger-Aliassime



to break serve and lead 4-2 in the second set. Djokovic celebrated the lob

winner by raising both of his arms above his head then urged the packed crowd on Campo Centrale to cheer louder by gesturing with his hands.

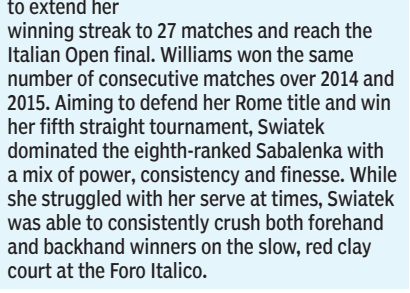
"It was high-level tennis," Djokovic said. "He did ask me to raise the level and I had to play consistently well."

While he is still seeking his first title of the year, Djokovic was ensured by the victory of holding on to the No 1 ranking for another week and have the top seed at the French Open.

Second-ranked Daniil Medvedev can no longer pass Djokovic when the rankings are updated Monday. Roland Garros starts in nine days and Djokovic is gearing up for his first Grand Slam tournament of the year after he was deported from Australia before the Australian Open.

## 27-MATCH WINNING STREAK Swiatek equals Serena

Not since Serena Williams seven years ago has another woman had such a hot streak. Top-ranked Iga Swiatek routed Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-1 Saturday to extend her winning streak to 27 matches and reach the Italian Open final. Williams won the same number of consecutive matches over 2014 and 2015. Aiming to defend her Rome title and win her fifth straight tournament, Swiatek dominated the eighth-ranked Sabalenka with a mix of power, consistency and finesse. While she struggled with her serve at times, Swiatek was able to consistently crush both forehand and backhand winners on the slow, red clay court at the Foro Italico.



## History beckons as India take on formidable Indonesia

It was a historic moment for the unheralded Indian team as despite the odds, it never lacked in self belief and displayed exemplarily mental fortitude to recover twice from initial reversals to come on top of their opponents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangkok, May 14:** Brimming with confidence, India will again look to punch above their weight when they run into 14-time winners Indonesia in the final of Thomas Cup here Sunday, seeking to create history one more time.

Given their formidable record, defending champions Indonesia have been the team to beat in the competition, but the Indian men's team has shown its mettle by bringing down mighty Malaysia and Denmark to make its first-ever final at the prestigious tournament.

Going into the final, India will look to prove that it possess the wherewithal to pull the rugs from under the feet of their fancied rivals. While Indonesia have been relentless with an unbeaten record, India have lost just one match - against Chinese Taipei in the group stage - so far in the competition.

The poster boys of Indian men's



badminton - Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy - have shouldered the responsibility with an invincible record of five wins, while the country's best doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty put their hands up whenever the

chips were down. Sunday, Sen is likely to go up against world number 4 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting and the Indian will take inspiration from his last performance against the Indonesian, whom he easily dismantled in straight games at German Open in

March.

Srikanth is expected to face world number 8 Jonatan Christie, who has been in red-hot form with title win at Swiss Open and runners-up finishes at Korea Open and Badminton Asia Championships.

If the match goes down to the wires then Prannoy, who had battled pain after twisting his ankle to take the team home, will again be summoned and he is likely to cross swords with world number 24 Shesar Hiren Rhustavito.

Prannoy, currently ranked 23rd in the world, has a 2-0 record against the Indonesian but he hasn't played the youngster in the last five years.

Indonesia possess some of the best doubles shuttlers with three players of the world's top two pairs - Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo, Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan - in their ranks in this competition.

They also have the world number 7 combination of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto and it will be an uphill task for India to take the doubles matches.



## COVID SURGE 2023 AFC Asian Cup to be shifted from China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kuala Lumpur, May 14:** China will not host the AFC Asian Cup final round next year in view of the surging Covid-19 cases in the country, the continent's football governing body said Saturday.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it has been officially informed by the Chinese association that it would not be able to host the continental showpiece next year. "Following extensive discussions with the Chinese Football Association, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has been officially informed by the CFA that it would not be able to host the AFC Asian Cup 2023," the AFC said in a statement.

China were named as hosts of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup in June 2019, at the AFC Extraordinary Congress in Paris. The 24-team competition was to be hosted across 10 Chinese cities from June 16 to July 16 next year.

"The AFC acknowledges the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the relinquishment by China PR of its hosting rights," the AFC said. The Indian team is vying for a place in the 2023 AFC Asian



Cup and will feature in the final qualifying round to be held in Kolkata next month.

The AFC said it worked closely with the CFA and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) during the preparations and several milestones were achieved, including the launch of the tournament logo and the unveiling of the newly completed Shanghai Pudong Football Stadium last year.

"The AFC appreciates that China PR, the CFA and the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 LOC have made this very difficult but necessary decision in the collective interests...Which has also provided the AFC the required time to assess the situation regarding the hosting of the AFC Asian Cup 2023." The AFC said it will continue to work closely with its commercial partners and stakeholders to chart out the future course of action.

**We have a quite balanced team, the doubles are contributing immensely. All the players have played exceptionally well and pulled out matches from close situations. So I feel we have a 50-50 chance against Indonesia**

VIMAL KUMAR | FORMER INDIA COACH