



CELEBRATING STATEHOOD: Folk artistes perform at the 76th Himachal Day function organised at Kaza in Lahaul Spiti, Saturday

Atiq, bro shot dead on cam

THE THREE SHOOTERS, IDENTIFIED AS LAVLESH TIWARI, ARUN MAURYA AND SUNNY, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY THE UTTAR PRADESH POLICE

AGENCIES

Prayagraj (UP), April 15: In a dramatic turn of events, jailed gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf were shot dead by three assailants while they were being escorted by police to a medical college here Saturday night.

Atiq and his brother were shot when they were being taken for a medical test to the Colvin Hospital here. Both died on the spot.

According to reports, Atiq was shot in the head from point-blank range when the mediapersons were talking to him. Both the brothers were handcuffed when the incident took place.

All the three shooters have been arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police. They have been identified as Lavlesh Tiwari, Arun Maurya and Sunny.

The incident took place on the day Atiq's son Asad was laid to rest in Prayagraj after being shot dead in an encounter in



The bullet-riddled bodies of Ahmed and Ashraf were taken away from the spot as tension gripped the area after the sensational killings

PTI PHOTO

Jhansi Thursday. According to reports, the three youths had joined a group of journalists who were talking to Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf after the two stepped out of the hospital.

Even before Atiq could complete his answer, one of the assailants pointed a pistol at Atiq's head and shot him while the other two opened fire at the brother.

After the brothers slumped to the ground, the assailants raised their hands and surrendered.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has summoned Director General

of Police (DGP) RK Vishwakarma and other top police officials for an emergency meeting.

Meanwhile, tension prevailed in Prayagraj as the news of the twin murders spread. Additional forces are being rushed to the district where security has been beefed up.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that the incident is the height of lawlessness in Uttar Pradesh. "If someone can be killed in police custody, then what about the common man," he asked in a tweet.

SAMBALPUR VIOLENCE

Net suspension for 48 hrs more

AGENCIES

Sambalpur, April 15: The state government has imposed curfew on Sambalpur town and extended suspension of internet services by another 48 hours after sporadic overnight violence and the death of a man.

The violence came after Hanuman Jayanti processions were held Friday evening under tight security. Several shops were set on fire Friday night after news regarding the stabbing to death of a man spread. The police, however, said the attack may not be linked to the festival. The city witnessed violence Wednesday evening also when stones were allegedly thrown on a motorbike rally organised ahead of the Hanuman Jayanti festival which is held here on Maha Visuva Sankranti. **More P5**

AP holds Aadhaar camp in Kotia

State admin in slumber as Andhra Pradesh holds a 10-day long Aadhaar enrolment camp at Talasembi in Pottangi block

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, April 15: Odisha was caught napping as officials of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh held an Aadhaar camp after infiltrating into Talasembi village under Kotia panchayat of this block in Koraput district, Saturday.

The neighbouring state is found to be obstinate when it comes to infiltration in Kotia region of Koraput district. It has refused to budge despite being admonished by the officials of the district administration and Pottangi block.

However, what has come as a surprise to one and all is that the district and block officials were clueless about the sensitive development.

According to reports, on behalf of Andhra Pradesh government, officials of Parvatipuram Manyam dis-



USURPING TERRITORY

- On behalf of Andhra Pradesh government, officials of Parvatipuram Manyam district (a new district) organised a 10-day Aadhaar enrolment camp at a house of a villager in Talasembi village

- In this camp, residents of Uparsembi, Dhulipadar, Panukulubalsa, Jhankarbalsa, Arjubalsa, Neredibalsa and Tadibalsa villages were seen visiting the camp and registering their names and clicking their photographs for Aadhaar

trict (a new district) organised a 10-day Aadhaar enrolment camp at a house of a villager in Talasembi village.

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cards. People who already have Aadhaar cards were also seen making a beeline outside the house to make necessary corrections in their cards.

The holding of this Aadhaar enrolment and correction camp by Andhra has raised questions on its real intention when the Pottangi block officials recently organised a

camp and gave away Aadhaar cards to the residents.

The last time when the apple of discord between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh was in news was April 1, the Foundation Day of Odisha.

On the occasion, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with six BJP MLAs visited Phatusineri area of Kotia panchayat. During his stay, the minister came across some administrative officials and police personnel from the neighbouring state in the area.

He confronted them and asked them about the reason for their visit. The officials said that 21 villages in Kotia belong to Andhra. But the minister told them frankly that Kotia belongs to Odisha only. He then asked the officials to go back by giving the slogan 'Andhra go back' along with his supporters, said sources.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Somebody should tell Satya Pal Malik ji that a Governor's job is to target state govts and not the Centre

CAPF test in Odia, 12 other local languages

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 15: In a significant decision to give impetus to participation of local youths in central armed forces, the Union government has approved conducting Constable (General Duty) examination for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in Odia and 12 other regional languages, in addition to Hindi and English.

Along with Odia, the question paper will be set in Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani, in addition to Hindi and English, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also lauded the decision saying, "A pathbreaking decision, which will give wings to the aspirations of

our youth! This is part of our efforts to ensure language is not seen as a barrier in fulfilling one's dreams."

A historic decision, the Centre said, has been taken at the initiative of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah to encourage regional languages and participation of local youth.

The decision will result in lakhs of aspirants taking part in the examination in their mother tongue/regional language and improve their selection prospects, the ministry said.

The MHA and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) would sign an addendum to the existing MoU to facilitate the conduct of the examination in multiple Indian languages.

Constable GD is one of flagship examinations conducted by the SSC attracting lakhs of candidates from across the country.

13 killed, 29 hurt in Maha bus mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 15: Thirteen persons, including three minors, were killed and 29 injured after a bus carrying young male and female members of a traditional 'Dhol-Tasha-Zaanj' music troupe fell into a gorge on the old Mumbai-Pune highway in Raigad district of Maharashtra in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

The private bus with 42 persons on board was going from Pune to Mumbai when it plunged into the 300-ft deep gorge in Bor Ghat mountain pass section, better known as Khandala Ghat, between 4:15am and 4:30 am, said a senior police official. The accident took place near Khopoli, 70 km from Mumbai.

The deceased included a 12-year-old boy. Among injured, at least six are minors. Most of the music troupe members were in their twenties or teens.

The group, which played traditional instruments of Dhol, Tasha and Zaanj, was returning to Mumbai after taking part in an event in Pimpri Chinchwad township near Pune city. **Contd...P4**

Man wins 365 days paid leave in lucky draw

The primary objective of the lucky draw, which was organised during the company's annual dinner in Shenzhen, was to boost the employees' morale

AGENCIES

Beijing, April 15: Believe it or not, a man in China has won 365 days of paid leave at his company's annual dinner. The news of him winning the lucky draw has taken the netizens by storm.

The event was organised during the company's annual dinner April 9 in Shenzhen, Guangdong, as per Today Online.

It isn't money that he has earned in his firm's lucky draw but a year's worth of paid leaves. Reportedly, a video of the unidentified employee has taken Chinese social media by storm, wherein he is seen holding a massive cheque that details his jackpot prize.

The lucky draw consisted of both prizes and penalties for the employees of the unnamed firm. While the penalties entailed punishments such as consuming a homemade drink or serving as a waiter, the prizes included extra paid time off. However, the administrative department of the firm reportedly believed the probability of a worker picking a year full of paid leaves was quite low. It is revealed that the annual dinner was organised for the first time in three years after the Covid-19 pandemic.



The primary objective of the lucky draw was to boost the employees' morale. An administrative worker sur-named Chen reportedly suggests every-one including their boss was shocked to watch the lot getting drawn by someone. "We never thought that this (lot) would be drawn by someone. Hahaha, the boss was stunned," she said.

Social media has gone gaga over

the years leaving many envious of the lucky winner. Meanwhile, the incident has also gotten alluded to hilarious corporate jokes. One user imagined the response of HR to the situation. "HR gonna step in and be like: You cannot use those leaves consecutively and will be expired end of this year."

Another added, "This is definitely better than a blender or Parkson voucher." One more said, "I would probably exchange 10 months for cash and 2 months of paid leave."

Meanwhile, a user called it, "His year of rest and relaxation."

Reportedly, Chen reveals though their boss remains shocked, they have decided to honour the lucky draw. However, the firm might later give the winner the option to either take the paid time off or encash his leaves.

CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

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NEW LOOK

Amul ICE CREAM

*MRP (incl. of all taxes). Conditions apply.

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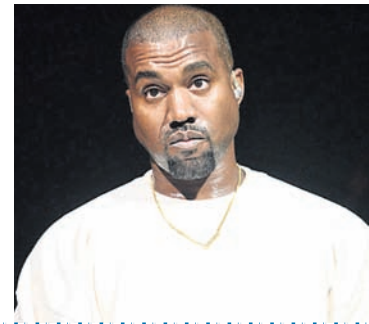


LILY ALLEN SAYS SHE OFTEN FORGETS TO EAT

Actress Lily Allen has shared she often forgets to eat as she doesn't really get hungry. The singer-turned-actress, 37, admits she loves food but her stomach (often) goes quite long distances without eating at times and she isn't very good at remembering to do things like eating at regular intervals.

KANYE WEST DROPS PLAN TO RUN FOR US PRESIDENCY

Rapper Kanye West is reportedly no longer running for President of the US in the 2024 election. If a new report is to be believed, the *Donda* artiste is planning to focus on his family and his private Christian school Donda Academy instead, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You already feel deeply connected to the universe. But today, you may want to particularly thank God for all His small mercies. You cherish your loved ones even more today, says Ganesh, and you may spend lavishly on people dear to you.

TAURUS

Anxiety will keep your nerves swollen for most part of the day, feels Ganesh. On the work front, you will face success later in the day. You will be a role model for business efficiency and people will try to follow in your footsteps. Your efforts will be validated with generous profits.

GEMINI

You are likely to make a list of your daily chores that take most of your time. Then you will find a way to outsource these activities or eliminate them from your routine altogether. You will also devote a lot of your time to meditation.

CANCER

You think you are smart. You will be most certainly savouring the positive aspects of your life. Sometimes, it is quite possible that you find yourself at the end of your wits. You had better sit together with your spouse and thrash out personality clashes and private quarrels, suggests Ganesh.

LEO

A moment once lost is not going to come back. So, it's about time you realised the value of time, says Ganesh, because time is money. On this day, set everything to a schedule and figure out your tasks right down to the brass tacks.

VIRGO

Communication is your best handgun and creativity your best bullet. Ganesh feels you are full of energy, enthusiasm and exuberance. Creativity, though, will be at its best in an atmosphere free of pressure and strain, cautions Ganesh.

LIBRA

When you aim big, it is the small things that somehow manage to irritate you the most. Ganesh foresees you being troubled immensely by minute things today. But do not let this dampen your spirit, because today is also a day when you shall be receptive to new ideas. Allow for things to be absorbed by you today and maintain an even balance. Do that and you may produce wonderful results at work and rake in the money from various sources, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

You may face the music from bosses today, forecasts Ganesh. Your colleagues too may not warm up to you and offer half-hearted support. Novices knocking on the doors of career may look forward to belated success in interviews and final selection.

SAGITTARIUS

You nearly become a superhero in the eyes of your near and dear ones, says Ganesh. And what more? You loving your new avatar. Good news is on its way as promotion or increment is on the cards.

CAPRICORN

After running about helter-skelter for getting your work done, you will sit back and spend the day planning the course of future action. Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards, but you will need to be mindful of how best you utilise it. You can expect a few good opportunities to knock at the door, but open the door before they turn to look for shelter elsewhere.

AQUARIUS

Some days, you crave to know everything. Today is one such day. You will also prove a worthy opponent. You may upset your adversaries' plans, much to your own advantage. You have it in you to be a scholar. You will also prove the strength of your character, especially when the going gets tough.

PISCES

Today is likely to be a day of mixed fortunes, says Ganesh. While a hectic morning and a positively frantic afternoon will see you at your wits' end, a sumptuous dinner with your sweetheart, followed by a sensuous evening, will delight you out of your mind.



Members of Loyola Girls' team

Loyola Scouts and Guides shine at Odia New Year event

BHUBANESWAR: The Scouts and Guides of different schools of Odisha ushered in the Odia New Year in a grand and colourful manner. Fourteen guides from Loyola School got the golden opportunity to participate in the cultural programme of Rajya Scouts and Guides 2023, hosted at the Abhishek Hall of Governor House, Saturday. Among the dignitaries, ministers Atanu Sabyasachi, Tukuni Sahoo and principals of different schools graced the occasion. Governor Ganeshi Lal was the Chief Guest and patron of the event. Motivated by the presence of principal Fr. Victor Misquith, the Loyola Girls' team presented a spectacular performance which fetched them a cash prize of Rs 5000/- each from the Governor. It was an experience the Scouts and Guides will remember in the days to come and be inspired to reach greater heights, said the participants. PNN

CHINTA O CHETANA'S 4-DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Baishakhi Utsav kicks off



Recipients of Chinta O Chetana National Award and Baishakhi Award

Bhubaneswar: The 45th edition of 'Baishakhi Utsav', a four-day extravaganza organised by City's premier socio-cultural organisation Chinta O Chetana, began here at Rabindra Mandap, Saturday. MLA Prafulla Samal MLA, Guru Ram Narayan Das, Chinta O Chetana's state president Sahadev Sahoo, secretary Surendra Das and eminent musician Laxmikant Palit graced the occasion as guests. The event started with famous 'Shree Jagannath Pahandi' in the company of 'Ghantuas', Odissi and Gotipua dancers. A spectacular Odissi recital by Guru Gajendra Panda of Tridhara was also one of the main attractions of the evening. Later, several eminent personalities from various fields were conferred with Chinta O Chetana National Award and Baishakhi Award for years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. Among the recipients of Chinta O Chetana award were Commissioner of Police Soumyendra Priyadarshi, Gyan Ranjan Mohapatra (Police service), Dilip Kumar Mishra (Socio-Economy), Tapan Kumar Panda (Education), Sushil Minhas (Defence and Bravery), Ambika Prasad Mohanty, Baikuntha Nath Panda and Sunil Kumar Dash (Medical Science), Haren Sahoo (Drama), Gopal Chandra Panda and Debasish Mohapatra (Music), Rajendra Narayan Mishra (National Security) and Satyabrata Sahu (Indian Administrative Services). Similarly the Baishakhi awards went to Sushree Sanghamitra Parida (Odissi), Malkeen Behera and Renuka Sathy (Social service), Smita Dash (Education and Environment), Sarat Kumar Pani (Music), Harekeushna Dhal (Dance), Maruti Reprint (Documentation), Radheshyam Tarei (Kuchipudi dance), Siddheswar Nayak (Pala), Madhu Mandal (Bravery), Pradip Dehuri (Social service) and Akshaya Patnaik (Radio collection). Earlier, the members of the organisation felicitated President Droupadi Murmu with Chinta O Chetana National Award and Rashtrapati Bhawan April 10. Founded by former Odisha Chief Minister Harekrushna Mahtab in 1980, Chinta O Chetana is committed for the growth of socially, economically and educationally oppressed communities and has been working for the cultural growth of Odisha. PNN

Priyanka called out by Pak actor

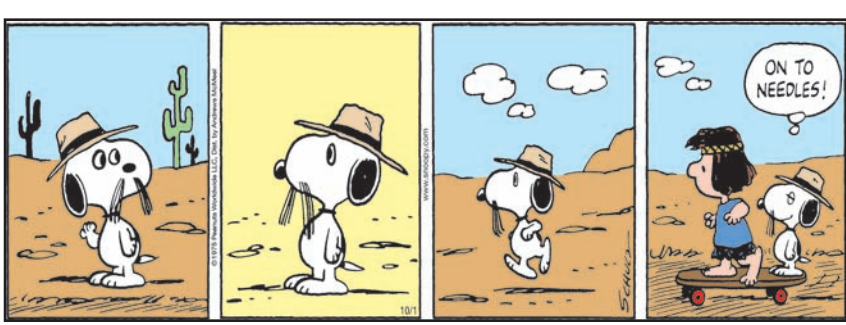
Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra Jonas recently got slammed by Pakistani actor Adnan Siddiqui after the actress dubbed Pakistani director Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy as South Asian while congratulating her on Instagram for directing a *Star Wars* film. Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, for the unversed, is an Academy Award-winning and International Emmy Award-winning director and journalist and is all set to be the first person of colour and the first woman to direct a *Star Wars* film. *The Matrix Resurrections* actress recently congratulated Sharmeen, writing, "First person of colour and the first woman to direct a 'Star Wars' film...and she's South Asian!! What a historic moment @sharmeenobaid-chinoy. So so proud of you, my friend! May the force be with you!" This did not go down well with Adnan as he quickly took to Twitter to express his displeasure. With an intention to school Priyanka Chopra, the *Mom* actor wrote, "With due respect, @priyankachopra Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy is a Pakistani first just to brush up your knowledge. Much like the way you flaunt your Indian nationality whenever you get the opportunity before claiming to be a South Asian." This is not the first time Adnan called out an Indian celebrity. He had earlier taken a dig at how the Pakistanis were portrayed in Sidharth Malhotra and Rashmika Mandanna starrer *Mission Majnu*. AGENCIES



'Both glamour, talent matter in showbiz'

Mumbai: Actress Saiee Manjrekar who debuted in Hindi film industry, alongside superstar Salman Khan in 'Dabangg 3', went on to act in two south Indian movie Ghani and pan-India movie Major. Now, Saiee is back for her third south project, 'Agent' starring Akkineni scion Akhil. The young actress feels that too much is being read into the apparent fascination for Bollywood imports in Tollywood and other South film industries. Both, glamour and talent matter in the film industry, Saiee Manjrekar opined. "I think it's a mix of both. There's so many pretty faces I've seen myself while shooting in the south, so I'd like to believe it's something to do with probably what the role and the character demands and who can fit it seamlessly," she elaborated. Coming from a film family, Saiee says she'll never take her background for granted as she knows that someone has worked years to probably get that break. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



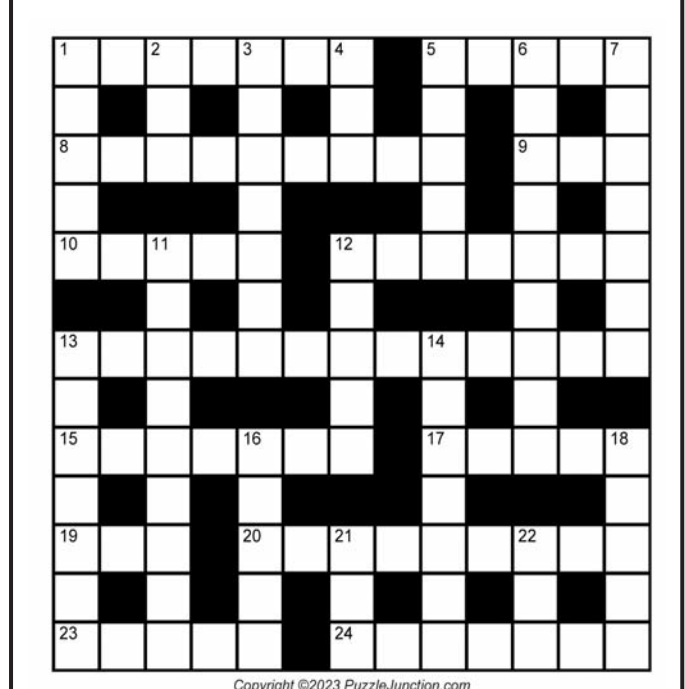
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



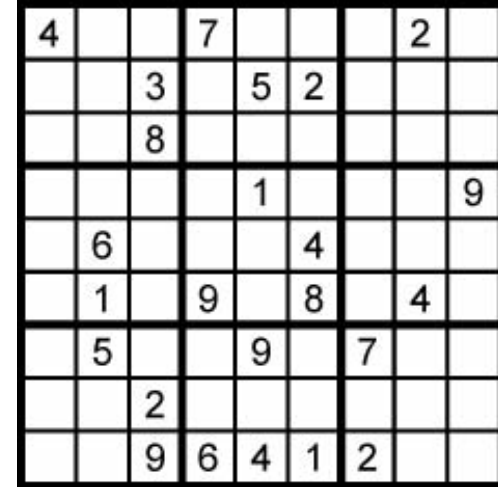
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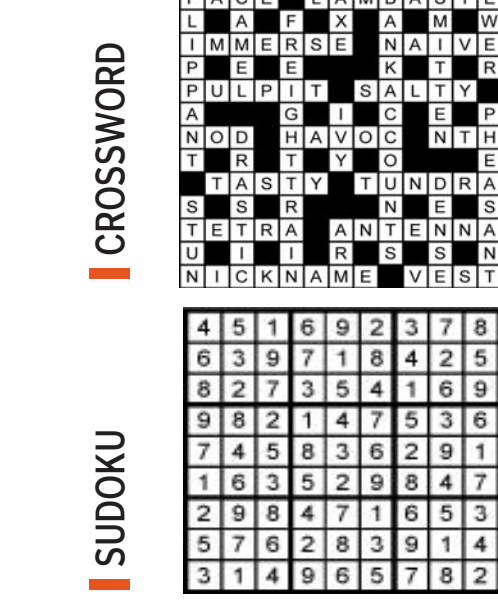
- Across**
- 1 Tyrants
 - 5 Irritate
 - 8 Waffle
 - 9 Tourist's aid
 - 10 Mother-of-pearl
 - 12 Kitchen appliance
 - 13 Shrewd operator (7,6)
 - 15 Sandstorm
 - 17 Portly
 - 19 Hold title to
 - 20 Downright ugly
 - 23 Ash and divi divi, e.g.
 - 24 Trigonometric function
 - Down**
 - 1 Parlour piece
 - 2 Small pouch
 - 3 Money maker, usually (3,4)
 - 5 Aegean vacation locale
 - 6 Armoured mammal
 - 7 Kind of penguin
 - 11 Department store event
 - 12 Pack animal
 - 13 Dud (4,3)
 - 14 5th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 16 Winery items
 - 18 Pick up the tab
 - 21 Favourite
 - 22 Hotel amenity

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

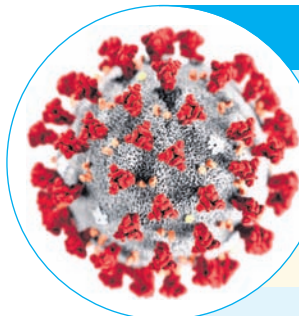


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



INFRA BOOST

Utkal University vice-chancellor Sabita Acharya inaugurates the fully-automated Parija Library on the varsity premises in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,55,88,336	65,83,02,944	68,42,341
India	4,48,08,022	4,42,23,211	5,31,091
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204



KIIT-KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, Odisha Information Commissioner Sushant Mohanty, The Samaja Editor Niranjana Rath, The New Indian Express Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla, Sambad Editor Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Dharitri & Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute Director Himansu Sekhar Khatua during the media session at the Y20 Consultation 2023 at a hotel in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

No respite from heat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 15: Odisha Saturday reeled under intense heat with temperatures soaring past 40 degrees Celsius in at least 22 places, according to the Meteorological Centre here.

Boudh became the hottest place in the state as it recorded 42.5 degrees Celsius, it said, adding that three places recorded temperatures of 42 degrees Celsius or above. Apart from Boudh, the places which recorded 42 degrees Celsius or more are Jharsuguda 42.2 and Talcher 42.0.

- Boudh was the hottest place in Odisha as it recorded 42.5 degrees Celsius
- Temperatures soared past 40 degrees Celsius in at least 22 places of the state



- Odisha likely to get respite from the heat Sunday

'Absence of sea breeze causing rise in temp'

BHUBANESWAR: The existing meteorological factors in Odisha have contributed to a sharp rise in day temperature with several places in the state recording above 40 degree Celsius, the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) said Saturday.

The higher temperature leading to heatwave conditions has been caused mainly because of the absence of sea breeze during the day and night, CEC Director SC Sahu said. Besides, radiational cooling of the earth's surface during night was not prominent because the atmospheric temperature at 250-350 metres height was found to be 5 to 6 degrees Celsius or in some cases even more than the surface temperature, Sahu said. Mixing of air above the surface was not possible, which caused a recording of more than 31 degrees Celsius temperature at 8.30am, he said.

The heatwave conditions prevailed over coastal and interior Odisha and day to day variation in temperature would be felt depending on the wind speed coming in from the plains of north western India, Sahu said. There was no possibility of norwester as the humidity percentage was very low, he said, adding clear sky conditions and position of the sun during summer also favoured rise in day temperature.

Youth-centric steps can make India powerful: Chawla

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 15: Noted journalist Prabhu Chawla Saturday said that youth-centric initiatives would help make India a powerful nation.

Speaking during a media session at the Y20 Consultation 2023 organised by KIIT Deemed-to-be-university here on theme "The power of youth: Driving change and building a better world", Chawla, the Editorial Director of The New

Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy said this generation has to learn to listen to others' ideas, concepts and opinions in order to learn and educate themselves

Indian Express, called upon the youth to learn the past of India, its people and civilisation.

Termining different empowerment agenda for youth and women as mere political slogans, he said youth-centric action would help

make India a powerful nation.

The Samaja Editor Niranjana Rath said that the spirit of nationalism is to be inculcated in the minds of youth so as to make them more responsible and dynamic in nation building.

According to Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, youth does not relate to age. "This generation has to learn to listen to others' ideas, concepts and opinions in order to learn and educate themselves. It will also help build a sustainable socio-economic fabric in India," he said.

Sambad Editor Soumya Ranjan Patnaik emphasised on the power of 'new-age' youth as they have the dynamic tool of technology. KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta

Samanta said that the power of youth in every sector is to be acknowledged. He also emphasised on the need for education as the basic requirement.

Among others, Odisha Information Commissioner and former Editor of The Samaja, Sushant Mohanty, and Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute Director Himansu Sekhar Khatua were present.

5T Secy reviews Puri projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, April 15: 5T Secretary VK Pandian reviewed the progress of various ongoing projects like Heritage Corridor in the Pilgrim City here, Saturday.

According to sources, Pandian visited the Srimandir Parikrama project (Heritage Corridor) site and asked TATA officials to expedite the work and complete it before the annual car festival.

Pandian visited the site for a 'dharamshala' at Markandeshwar Sahi here. The 'dharamshala', which would house 3,700 pilgrims, is being built over 10 acre land. The proposed site is beyond the ASI prohibited area. The project is being executed at an estimated cost of Rs 135 crore. Pilgrims will be charged a minimum rate for accommodation, it was learnt.

Later, the 5T Secretary took stock of the progress of a mega parking lot at



Samang village. The facility, which is being built on 43 acre land at a cost of Rs 67 crore, will have the provision for parking 420 buses, 258 auto-rickshaws, 549 four-wheelers and 1,054 two-wheelers.

He also reviewed the work for the Trumpet Bridge (Shree Setu) which will connect with the Jagannath Ballav parking place. Pandian asked the officials to complete it before the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath

Sahu.

scheduled for June 20 next. The project is being executed at a cost of Rs 161 crore.

He discussed with Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC) executive engineer SM Padhi for timely completion of all the under-construction projects. OBCC is the nodal executing agency for all the projects.

The 5T Secretary was accompanied by district Collector Samarth Verma and sub-Collector Bhabataran

MONEY LAUNDERING

ED chargesheets ex-BJD lawmaker

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 15: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday said it has chargesheeted former BJD MLA Anam Naik in a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case.

The central probe agency said the chargesheet was filed before a special PMLA court in Bhubaneswar against Naik and a few others suggesting their conviction as well as confiscation of properties worth Rs 1.52 crore.

The court took cognisance of the matter Thursday. The ED initiated its investigation on the basis of an FIR registered at Vigilance police station in Koraput against Naik for possession of disproportionate assets worth Rs 1.54 crore. Probe revealed that the former MLA has invested his ill-gotten income in acquiring properties.

No cap on contractual faculty in autonomous colleges

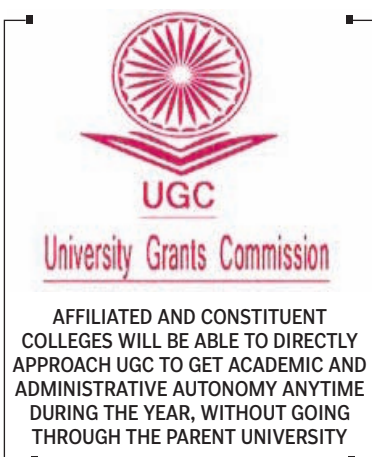
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 15: Autonomous colleges will no longer be required to ensure that the number of contractual faculty is not more than 10 per cent of the total sanctioned faculty positions, according to revised University Grants Commission (UGC) norms.

The affiliated and constituent colleges will also be able to directly approach the UGC to get academic and administrative autonomy anytime during the year, without going through the parent university.

The commission has notified the new rules under UGC (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2023. The guidelines replace the older set of rules issued in 2018 to align it with the National Education Policy 2020. A draft of the amended guidelines was first made public in October last year.

While the 2018 guidelines said "the number of contractual faculty in an autonomous college should not be more than 10 pc of the total number of sanctioned faculty positions in the college", the revised guidelines stated that "all recruitments of teaching faculty/principal shall be made by the Governing Body/state



AFFILIATED AND CONSTITUENT COLLEGES WILL BE ABLE TO DIRECTLY APPROACH UGC TO GET ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY ANYTIME DURING THE YEAR, WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE PARENT UNIVERSITY

government as applicable in accordance with the policies laid down by the UGC and State Government from time to time".

The colleges will no longer be required to route their application through their parent university. However, the universities will get 30 days to examine the application received on the UGC portal.

"To examine the application of the college for autonomous status on the UGC portal and give its recommendations, along with reasons or justification, within 30 working days on the UGC portal. If the parent university does not respond on the

UGC portal within 30 working days, it shall be presumed that the parent university has no objection to the processing of the application by the UGC for conferment of autonomous status," as per the revised norms.

The autonomous status will allow colleges to design their own syllabi, restructure courses and chart their own admission rules. The colleges will also get the liberty to start certificate or diploma courses without prior approval of the parent university. The colleges can also offer degree programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels along with PhD programmes with the approval of the academic council.

The grant of autonomy will be based on the accreditation and assessment scores of the institutions.

As per the new rules, the autonomous status will be granted initially for a period of 10 years provided the college is accredited either by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a minimum 'A' Grade and a score of 3.01 and above, or by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for at least three programmes with a minimum score of 675 individually.

"Accreditation status must be valid for at least one year at the time of application submission," as per the guidelines.

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State signs MoUs to propel fintech

THE STATE GOVERNMENT SIGNED PACTS WITH NPCI AND PAYTM TO GENERATE STRATEGIES TO DEVELOP THE FINTECH INDUSTRY IN THE STATE



The MoU with NPCI will help in increasing digital transactions in government operations by effective use of digital payment solutions. The MoU with Paytm is aimed to enhance financial inclusion of citizens and merchants of the state as well as to facilitate investments

Corporation of India (NPCI) Praveena Rai and many senior officials attended the event and shared their insights with the participants.

The festival has been organised in a grand scale with support from NPCI and iServeU, a homegrown fintech startup, that is serving leading banks and fintech companies across India.

The festival showcased the latest trends in the fintech space and the increasing acceptance and popularity of fintech applications among the masses.

Senior company executives attended the festival as panelists and shared their insights on technology trends. The deliberations during the event underlined how fintech advancements have considerably increased financial access and inclusion.

Currently, over 3000 Startups are working to create new fintech products and services in the country, and some of them have become unicorns.

This event will provide impetus to the government's efforts to create more jobs, increase innovation in the financial sector, and transform Odisha into a national fintech hub, officials said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 15: To facilitate digital payment in government services, the state government Saturday signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Paytm.

The MoU with NPCI will help increase digital transactions in government operations through effective use of NPCI's digital payment solutions and develop innovative and replicable models for increasing digital transactions.

Similarly, the MoU with Paytm is aimed at the financial inclusion of citizens and merchants of the

state as well as investment facilitation.

The MoUs were signed during the maiden Odisha Fintech Festival organised here Saturday with enthusiastic participation from startups, fintech companies, students, researchers, policymakers, and visitors from multiple sectors.

The festival aims to develop a roadmap for the fintech industry in Odisha, identify opportunities and challenges, and attract more fintech companies to the state.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the event while Electronics & IT Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, COO of National Payments

13 killed, 29 hurt in Maha bus mishap

Continued from P1

Expressing grief over the incident, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to the kin of each deceased. Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed grief over the accident. He also spoke to Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu also expressed grief over the tragedy. "Pained by the mishap in Raigad, Maharashtra. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones," the PMO quoted Modi as saying in a tweet. An ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund will be given to the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 will be given to the injured, the PMO India quoted Modi as stating in another tweet.

"The bus was carrying 42 members of 'Baji Prabhu Zanj Pathak' based in Mumbai's Goregaon. They were returning to Goregaon after taking part in an event in Pimpri Chinchwad area in Pune district. The bus, which had left the venue around 1am Saturday, fell into the gorge on the highway near Shingroba temple after its driver lost control," the police official said, adding that 13 of them died in the incident, which left 29 others injured. The deceased included the bus driver, Harihar Yadav (40). On learning about the incident, a team of the local police, volunteers of Yashwanti Hikers from Khopoli and some personnel of IRB company rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation, the police said.

The injured were admitted to three hospitals - the Mahatma Gandhi Mission (MGM) Hospital at Kamothe in Navi Mumbai, a government hospital in Khopoli and a private facility there, officials said. The deceased and the injured were from Goregaon and Sion in Mumbai and Virar in neighbouring Palghar district, Raigad Superintendent of Police (SP) Somnath Gharge said. In a tweet in Hindi, Union minister Shah said, "The road accident in Raigad, Maharashtra is very sad. Talked to Chief Minister @mieknathshinde and Deputy Chief Minister @Dev Fadnis in this regard. The local administration is engaged in relief work. I express my condolences to the families of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery."

Mo College to bring students internships

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 15: Mo College Abhijan has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to offer college students on-job training and internship to help them secure better employment opportunities.

The agreement was signed in presence of Mo College Abhijan chairperson Akash Dasnayak and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI FLO) Bhubaneswar Chapter chairperson Poonam Mohapatra.

"The key motto of the MoU is to offer more than 200 students opportunity under the On-job Programme/ Internship Programme in 2 phases (summer and winter internships) in fields like retail, fashion, steel & mines, IT & IT services, account & finance, beauty & wellness, digital marketing, sales, food processing, and health care," informed a Mo College official.

The internship can be provided for a period of 45 days or 60 days or 90 or 180 days. The duration is at the discretion of the recruiters and can vary according to the trade of the students or the nature of training. On completion of the training, students will receive a



certificate which will help them for future employability.

"The 1st phase of internship programme is open for all government college students from Khurda and Cuttack districts under MO College Abhijan. Students can apply through the link <https://forms.gle/cDplgD5fgNG8VrRm7>," informed the official.

During the MoU signing event, Dasnayak said, "Mo College Abhijan tries to play the role of a mentor in the lives of students. Under this our team will provide guidance, and support to FICCI FLO Team while FICCI FLO will provide training and internship to the selected students."

FLO chairperson Mohapatra said, "This is a unique opportunity for the students as well as the recruiters as this programme is beneficial to both. We at FLO aim to provide better employability to students and through this program we also aim to impart cyber security awareness and health & wellness programmes for the students for their Holistic development".



TOUGH COMPETITION: Lawyers distribute pamphlets as part of their campaigns for candidacy in the State Bar Council at the District and Sessions Court in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Kochilei Hata to lead drive against single-use plastic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 15: As the City tries to push hard its cleanliness drive, the authorities have sought community support to prevent uses of single-use plastic within the BMC jurisdiction. For this campaign, Kochilei Hata near the Rasulgarh square has been selected to lead with example by spreading awareness among the vendors, who are the principal stakeholders, and the people frequenting the market.

A meeting in this regard was organised Saturday under the chairmanship of Mayor Sulochana Das on the hata premises.

"We urge citizens to stop using single use plastic items to increase liveability status of the City. It is high time to change our mindset to get relief from banned items like plastic carry bags, ear buds, plastic flags, thermocol for decorations, plastic spoons, forks, straws, knives, invitation cards, cigarette packets and banners, candy/ ice cream sticks, plastic plates, cups, glasses, packaging and films around sweet box," said the Mayor.

Behaviour change is a two way process, only the authorities can't bring changes through awareness and enforcement. It is up to the



Behaviour change is a two way process, only the authorities can't bring changes through awareness and enforcement. It is up to the community to visualise and work for change

SULOCHANA DAS | BMC MAYOR

community to visualise and work for change, she exhorted.

A period of 15 days has been marked to create public awareness and sensitise the vendors.

"Initially it may affect vendor customer relation but later it will set example in achieving the objective. The members of market will be invited to create awareness in other parts of the City. In turn the market will act as a change agent for the cause," told additional commissioner Suvendu Kumar Sahoo.

Taking part in the meeting the market association president Rajkumar Routray and secretary Pradip Jena assured team BMC to make the area free of single use plastic and motivate others in this regard. Fifty members of the association present in the meeting welcomed the campaign. To mark the occasion, cotton bags carrying the message of preventing single use plastic items were distributed to vendors and customers by team BMC.

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Curfew continues in Sambalpur

60-day fishing ban to facilitate fish breeding

NO INTERNET FOR 48 MORE HOURS

Sambalpur, April 15: The state government Saturday imposed curfew on Sambalpur town and extended suspension of internet services by another 48 hours after sporadic overnight violence and the murder of a man by stabbing. The total number of arrests has reached 39 and eight people have been detained in connection with the youth's murder.

The violence came after Hanuman Jayanti processions were held Friday evening under tight security. Several shops were set on fire Friday night in several areas of the city after news regarding the stabbing to death of a man spread. The police, however, said the attack may not be linked to the festival.

The city first witnessed violence Wednesday evening when stones were allegedly thrown on a motorbike rally organised ahead of the Hanuman Jayanti festival which is held here on Maha Bishuba Sankranti.

Security has been tightened and no untoward incident took place since 1am Saturday when the curfew was imposed, officials said.

People went to markets to buy essential commodities during the window periods from 8am to 10am and 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Most of the shops other than dealing in essential items were closed.

Internet services in the city were suspended since Wednesday evening following the violence. Prohibitory orders under Section-144 were also clamped then. Following fresh violence, the state Home department in an order said that access to the internet and social media networks will continue to be suspended till 10am April 17.

Director General of Police Sunik K Bansal rushed to Sambalpur and reviewed the situation in the western Odisha city.

"Additional forces have been deployed in Sambalpur and senior



Armed police personnel stop two bikers, who had come out during curfew hours, for checking at VSS Marg in Sambalpur

Additional forces have been deployed in Sambalpur and senior officers are monitoring the situation. The candidates of competitive examinations can enter the centre and come out during the window period. Some special provisions are being worked out to help these candidates

SUNIK K BANSAL | DGP, ODISHA

officers are monitoring the situation. The candidates of competitive

I urge people not to believe in rumours. About 95 per cent of news being circulated was false. The normal situation will return soon with the help of people. The administration will decide on the measures in holding competitive examinations

ANANYA DAS | SAMBALPUR COLLECTOR

examinations can enter the centre and come out during the win-

dow period. Some special provisions are being worked out to help these candidates," Bansal said.

The situation is now under control and is expected to improve soon, he said adding that strict action will be taken against mischief makers.

DIG (North Central Range) Brijesh Kumar Rai said the administration decided to clamp the curfew to restore peace and normalcy in the area after Friday night's violence.

Sambalpur District Collector

Ananya Das said that all educational institutions, business establishments and government and private offices will remain closed.

She appealed to the people to cooperate with the administration and ensure early restoration of peace in the city.

"I urge people not to believe in rumours. About 95 per cent of news being circulated was false. The normal situation will return soon with the help of people. The administration will decide on the measures in holding competitive examinations," Das said.

A delegation of BJP MLAs visited Sambalpur Friday and joined the Hanuman Jayanti procession in the city. They blamed the local police and administration for the law and order situation.

BJP MLA Lalitaneu Bidyadhar Mohapatra demanded proper compensation for the family members of the youth who was stabbed to death by some unidentified miscreants. His companion suffered injuries in the same attack and was hospitalised in a serious condition.

Congress leader Bijay Patnaik also alleged that the administration has failed to maintain law and order.

Ruling BJD leader Debiprasad Mishra said, "The opposition should not politicise such sensitive issues. The police have been taking strong action against mischief mongers."

The restriction will be in force from April 15 to June 14



PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, April 15: The Odisha marine fishery department has imposed a ban on fishing activities along the eastern coast of Bay of Bengal in the state to facilitate fish breeding.

Official sources Saturday said the 60-day ban will be in force from April 15 to June 14. The Marine Fishery department has appealed to the fishermen not to venture into sea with mechanised vessels and trawlers as it would not only affect the breeder fish but also affect the breeding process.

The ban that extends to 12 nautical miles off Odisha coast aims at conserving fish species during the monsoon, which is the spawning season for many varieties including shrimps.

The ban coincides with the spawning season for fish, during which they release their eggs. As trawlers use fishing nets with small

gaps, eggs and hatchlings get caught in the nets leading to depletion in fish production.

The boats, whether it is motorised or non-motorised, measuring upto 8.5 meter length are exempted from the ban.

These boats can go to the sea to catch fish up to 12 nautical miles as the nets used by the fishermen are different from those used by the trawlers.

The marine fishery department has also asked the authorities of the industries set up near the Port town Paradip not to discharge effluents into the water bodies connected with the sea, as it would have adverse impact on fish breeding and spawning, additional fishery officer (Marine), Kujanga Tusharkanta Mohapatra said.

According to official sources, about 21,832 fishing vessels including 1,741 trawlers are registered with the Fishery department.



Fire personnel dousing fire from shops at Gole Bazaar



A man selling puffed rice walks on a deserted road at Laxmi Talkies Square



Women walk for their destinations at Ainthapali Square after failing to get any vehicle

CBI nabs Postal dept official over bribery

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 15: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday arrested an assistant engineer of the Postal department for allegedly demanding and accepting bribe for himself and an executive engineer of the department.

A senior CBI official said that accused Subashish Pal, assistant engineer (civil), Postal Civil Sub Division, Sambalpur, demanded a bribe of ₹1.22 lakh for himself along with ₹18,500 for an executive engineer (civil) for releasing a due payment of ₹3.77 lakh of a contractor.

Another contractor, who received bribe amount of ₹18,500 from the assistant engineer on behalf of the executive engineer, was also arrested.

The CBI registered the case against the accused assistant engineer on the allegations that the victim contractor was issued a work order in December 2021 for repair and maintenance of postal staff quarters at New P&T Colony, Rourkela and in pursuance of which, he completed the works amounting to ₹19.47 lakh.

"It was further alleged that



against the said contract, ₹1.77 lakh was withheld for delay in execution and ₹2 lakh was withheld for test check. For releasing the withheld amount of ₹3.77 lakh, Pal allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹1.5 lakh for himself and another ₹18,500 for Debandra Kumar Puhana, the executive engineer," said the CBI.

Later upon negotiation, the accused agreed to receive a bribe of ₹1,22,000 for himself and ₹18,500 for the executive engineer. The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused on the premises of accused's houses including at Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Patna and others, which led to the recovery of certain incriminating documents. The arrested accused will be produced before the Competent Court at Bhubaneswar, Saturday.

Viral Disease Research Lab launched at MKCG

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, April 15: Healthcare facilities in MKCG Medical College and hospital in Ganjam district got a boost as a Viral Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) was opened Friday on the hospital premises, a report said Saturday.

The Viral Disease Research Laboratory has been established on the hospital premises by the Department of Health Research (DHR) under the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). The laboratory will help in genetic studies and identifying molecular characterisation of Covid-19 pandemic and other viral diseases.

The new laboratory comprises two scientists, a research assistant, two laboratory technicians, an operator and a multi-purpose health worker. After its launch, the laboratory is receiving around 200 samples for test per day.

After the advent of Covid-19 pandemic, samples collected from suspected patients in Ganjam and other adjoining districts were being tested at MKCG Medical College and Hospital. Testing of the collected samples was the only way to es-



tablish whether a person is Covid positive or free from it.

However, the test failed to identify the type of Covid-19 virus present in an affected patient. As a result, the samples had to be sent to the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) for further test to identify the type of viruses present in a patient.

Earlier, the MKCG Medical College and Hospital had an existing multi-purpose laboratory at the Microbiology department of the hospital. However, it had no specific laboratory for conducting specialised research on various types of viral diseases.

The establishment of the new laboratory will not only help identify the new variants and perform the genetic studies of Covid-19 virus but also help research on other diseases like dengue, Japanese encephalitis, hepatitis-B and C, HIV, measles and rubella. The new laboratory is also equipped to conduct tests on any new virus which might strike the human society in the coming days, hospital sources said.

As the Covid-19 pandemic has raised its ugly head again, establishment of the new laboratory will be highly helpful for the people residing in south Odisha.

Tension in village over woman's electrocution

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhanjanagar, April 15: Tension ran high at Muzagarh village under this police limits in Ganjam district, Saturday after an elderly woman got electrocuted as she accidentally stepped on a live electric wire lying on the ground.

The deceased was identified as Paluni Naik, 65, of the village. The incident occurred when the woman had gone to fetch water from a tube well near her home.

As per sources, an electric wire of low-transmission line of Muzagarh-Gandhinagar had snapped and fallen on the road during the thunderstorm that occurred Friday evening. The villagers had immediately informed the power officials. However, the officials neglected their duty and delayed in attending to the problem.



The incident sparked tension in the area as irate locals held the negligence of Tata Power officials responsible for the woman's death. They staged a road blockade on Bhanjanagar-Phulbani road demanding action against the officials of TPSODL and compensation to the bereaved family.

They relented after police and Tata Power officials rushed to the spot and assured the agitators of strict action as per rules. Bhanjanagar police registered a case and sent the body for post mortem to Bhanjanagar hospital.

Youth hacked to death over political rivalry; kin critical

PNN & AGENCIES

Aul, April 15: A man was allegedly hacked to death while his brother-in-law sustained critical injuries over alleged past enmity at Dahianta village under Aul police limits in Kendrapara district, late Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Amit Kumar Patra of Sahira village under this police limits.

According to sources, Amit along with his brother-in-law Sanjay Jena had gone to Dahianta village to attend a religious programme.

The two were returning home, when he had a heated brawl with a youth Rashmiranjan Roul at

Dahianta Square. Soon Rashmiranjan lost his cool and assaulted Amit with a sharp-edged weapon. Sanjay was also attacked when he tried to save his brother-in-law. Amit and Sanjay, bleeding profusely were immediately rushed to Pattamundai hospital where doctors declared Amit 'brought dead', informed sources.

Sanjay who also sustained grievous injuries in the attack, is undergoing treatment at the hospital and his condition is stated to be critical.

The exact reason behind the attack is yet to be ascertained while Amit's kin suspect it to be a fall-out of political rivalry.

4 villages devoid of basic amenities



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

PNN & AGENCIES

Mathili, April 15: In a remote area of Malkangiri district, four villages have been left ignored and devoid of basic amenities. Residents in Tulasi, Kerameti, Charaktala, and Mureibeda villages situated in the

valleys of Mathili region have been struggling to avail of basic necessities. The villagers are forced to climb up to 13 kilometre in the hilly region to get free rations and pensions. Lack of healthcare facilities and drinking water has only added to their woes.

According to sources, these villages were once ruled by Maoists, but now that the BSF camp at Temurupali has been established, the villagers had hoped for better facilities. However, their dreams remain unfulfilled.

Each of the four villages has a school, but education system is struggling due to language barrier. The teachers only speak Odia, which the local students do not understand. The school-children only understand their native Durua and Koya languages. This has led to a breakdown in the education system.

The villagers have demanded that the district administration take notice of their situation and make efforts to solve their problems. It is high time that people in these villages get basic amenities and infrastructure that they deserve to live a dignified life.



BAMBOO CROSS: People struggling to make it to their agricultural land as they use a temporary bamboo bridge to cross Chadheikhia stream, a distributary of Baitarani river near Baliabanda village under Pegarapada panchayat of Rajkanika block in Kendrapara district, Saturday

FOCUS POLYCRISIS

RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT



With global shocks showing no signs of abating, and with developing economies bearing the brunt of their impact, this type of shared commitment and united action must become the new normal

mentally transnational or global in nature – particularly climate change – are driving the biggest shifts in development policy. Besides greater resources, progress will require fostering a knowledge-sharing culture, so that countries can quickly learn from one another and make better decisions under conditions of great uncertainty. Careful planning is also needed to ensure that projects will strengthen long-term resilience and are scalable through private-sector investment.

Tackling global warming may seem daunting, but the recent IPCC report offers some hope. It notes that several mitigation technologies – especially those focused on improved land use and renewable energy – have become cost-effective in recent years. Moreover, policies to accelerate the uptake of these technologies, reduce deforestation, and improve energy efficiency have led to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in some sectors. With international support, such advances could be a boon for developing countries.

Above all, the new challenges require greater cooperation between countries and increased commitment on the part of the international community. Here, too, there is hope. The world has just experienced a deadly pandemic that could have been even deadlier without cross-border collaboration. Working together, we were able to produce and distribute effective vaccines at record speed. With global shocks showing no signs of abating, and with developing economies bearing the brunt of their impact, this type of shared commitment and united action must become the new normal.

The writer is Managing Director of Operations at the World Bank.

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Nowhere is the impact of recent crises – the lingering economic consequences of COVID-19 and the global spillover effects of Russia's war in Ukraine – being felt more acutely than in the developing world. People in poor countries are struggling to cope with higher food and fuel prices and unsustainable debt, while school-children are still suffering from learning loss caused by the pandemic. In many places, economic growth has stalled.

Compounding these challenges, the effects of climate change are becoming even more pronounced, with floods, droughts, and crop failures threatening lives and livelihoods. And as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned in its most recent report, the world must act immediately to ward off some of the more catastrophic consequences of global warming, which would hit the poorest and most vulnerable the hardest.

The global "polycrisis" poses an unprecedented threat to economic development. Creating a more resilient, sustainable, and prosperous future for all now requires redefining the fundamentals of growth to address new transnational threats. Responsiveness, innovation, international cooperation, and private-sector partnerships matter more than ever. The World Bank, already the largest provider of finance for climate action in developing countries, is strengthening its operating model to respond rapidly to these changed circumstances.

When assessing low-income countries' prospects, the numbers speak for themselves. In developing economies, growth over the remainder of this decade is projected to be one-third lower than it was in the 2000s. Recent crises have thrown tens of millions of people back into poverty. Instead

of meeting the Sustainable Development Goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030, the current rate of progress implies that nearly 600 million people will still be living on less than \$2.15 a day. The longer-term picture is equally bleak: COVID-related education shocks could cost today's students in low- and middle-income countries up to 10% of their future earnings.

To reverse the losses of recent years and get developing countries back on track, we need to help governments achieve macro-economic stability and develop business environments that are conducive to private-sector investment. Rolling out investment-ready capital projects that will underpin a more sustainable future, including in renewable energy and climate-resilient infrastructure, is also essential. And support for building strong and adaptive public-health, education, and social-welfare systems is needed to mitigate the impact of future crises. The past three years have demon-

strated the importance of scaling up crisis preparedness and improving response times. The World Bank Group has provided a financing package of \$170 billion for the 15 months ending in June 2023 to help countries address the effects of multiple overlapping crises. Critically, this has included support for strengthening social-protection systems and food and nutrition security in some of the world's most vulnerable countries. Since February 2022, the World Bank has mobilised more than \$23 billion in financial support for Ukraine.

Targeted funds also play a crucial role in mitigating future disasters. The World Bank's new Pandemic Fund, for example, will help low- and middle-income countries boost capacity in essential areas like disease surveillance, laboratories, the public-health workforce, and community engagement, as well as emergency communication, coordination, and management. Challenges that are funda-



Anna Bjerde

CHALLENGES THAT ARE FUNDAMENTALLY TRANSNATIONAL OR GLOBAL IN NATURE ARE DRIVING THE BIGGEST SHIFTS IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY



Aakar Patel

The Ayodhya judgement went beyond the law to adjudicate the case, and the Supreme Court's hijab judgement also finds authority in religious text

Road to Hindu Rashtra

There are two directions in which our present enthusiasm for majoritarian politics can go. I have long thought that there is only one place we can land up in, and we will come to that briefly at the end, but there is another view that we should consider. It was put forward a few weeks ago through a speech on the judiciary by Prof Mohan Gopal, former head of the National Law School.

His speech was reported by Live Law under the headline "Theocratic Judges Who Find Source Of Law In Religion Than Constitution Increased." His basis for saying this was an examination of the record of all judges appointed to the Supreme Court from 2004 to the present time (the speech was made on 21 February 2023). Of the 111 judges appointed, 56 came in the UPA's decade and 55 under the present BJP government, so the number is even. Next he looked at the impact the judges made, and whether the judges were biased. Not biased in their outlook, which Prof Gopal accepts can only be determined through subjective interpretation, and therefore difficult if not impossible to arrive at. But looking at bias only through their judgements. His finding was that during the UPA period there were six judges who were constitutionalist, meaning that they believed in the primacy of the Constitution alone and no other source of law. This number had gone up to nine under NDA.

Next, again going only by their judgements, he identified those individuals who looked beyond the Constitution to find sources of law in Hindu religious texts. He could find none from the UPA set and nine from those appointed by the NDA, of whom five were still on the bench. These individuals have sent down judgements that have found sources of law outside the Constitution and in religion. The Ayodhya judgement went beyond the law to adjudicate the case, and the Supreme Court's hijab judgement also finds authority in religious text.

Prof Gopal's thesis is that he sees a Hindu Rashtra coming to fruition by 2047 in two steps. The first phase is appointing judges who are open to looking at religious sources beyond the Constitution. The second phase is appointing judges who will identify the sources of religious law. Thus Hindu Rashtra will come not by overthrowing the Constitution but reinterpretation of the Constitution as a Hindu document. The hijab judgement, Prof Gopal says, was one such instance. That judgement says that dharma applies to the Constitution because the Hindi phrase used for secularism in the preamble is not 'dharmanirpeksh' but 'panthnirpeksh', referring to sect. The Constitution was thus not 'dharma-nirpeksh' but dharma itself, meaning 'sanatana dharma'.

The judgement says: "The use of word 'panthnirpeksh' in the Constitution brings out the difference in the terms 'Dharmanirpeksh' and 'Panthnirpeksh'. 'Panth', or sect, symbolizes devotion towards any specific belief, way of worship or form of God, but Dharma symbolizes absolute and eternal values which can never change, like the laws of nature. Dharma is what upholds, sustains and results in the well-being and upliftment of the Praja (citizens) and the society as a whole." Constitutional law is thus dharma. In Karnataka schools homa is allowed but hijab is not and the reason is hijab is religion but homa is dharma, for the benefit of all mankind.

Prof Gopal explains the rise in the number of judges who are constitutionalists under the NDA by saying that the collegium is not blind to the direction the BJP is taking the country. That resistance is playing out in the present tussle between the collegium and the government in the appointment of judges. Two other important points he makes can be taken up briefly. First that the oligarchy that rules India finds opposition in the Constitution which stresses values like equality, secularism, dignity and so on. Unlike Pakistan, where the oligarchy and Constitution are aligned, the primary resistance to capture of the State by India's oligarchy comes from the Constitution. And so the energy of the BJP is focussed there. Lastly, that the judiciary has become amenable to capture because it is itself lacking in diversity whether of religion, caste, gender or region. Being composed essentially of upper caste Hindu males, it has in some ways helped to further the project. That said, Prof Gopal believes that the immediate goal should be to protect the collegium from government interference in judicial appointments.

My view of what the end-state of the present majoritarianism focus of India is I have written about here and in my books. It is that Hindutva is minority-focussed and plays itself out in persecution alone rather than internal reform. Both judgements Prof Gopal has used to illustrate his case, Ayodhya and hijab, also go after minority rights. It will be interesting to see if, assuming he is correct, the Hindu Rashtra produced through judicial reinterpretation also addresses things like caste and 'chaturvarna', which will result in a seismic shift.

To be clear, Prof Gopal does not exclude minority persecution from his thesis. He adds a second element which I had not considered. His speech is clear, precise and direct and available on YouTube. It requires being listened to, understood and debated.

WISDOM CORNER

- I have always believed, and I still believe, that whatever good or bad fortune may come our way we can always give it meaning and transform it into something of value. **HERMANN HESSE**
- Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**
- Power is given only to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare! **FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY**

WORDSWORTH

Harum-scarum

It's a fine example of a rhyming doublet. It started life in the seventeenth century as a way to describe reckless or careless persons, often young men. These days it's much more often applied to unruly football games ('There was a harum-scarum finish to what had looked like a harum-scarum game'), reckless undertakings ('Every few years they come up with some harum-scarum scheme to get around our Constitution or do away with it'), unrestrained performances ('Staccato raw guitar harum-scarum stuff about a deluded bloke whose girlfriend left him'), and disorganised offices ('Day-to-day operations remain harum-scarum in the department'). It's becoming less common to find an example that's directly attached to a person: *What you can expect is a braggadocio celebration of the vices attributed to harum-scarum artists throughout time (Windy City Times (Chicago), 23 Sep. 2009).* The word is usually said to be a combination of two verbs, hare and scare. The latter is obvious enough. The former may have reminded its coiners of the zigzag track a hare takes when it's being chased, often doubling back to deceive its pursuers, or it may perhaps just be a reference to the speed with which it can move – literally haring along. Dictionary makers think this because early examples are written here 'um scare'um ('hare them and scare them'). Curiously, the very earliest form is harum starum, which might have come from a rather different idea. This stayed around for a while and was used as part of a famous character reference during American Revolution: *He is Clever, and if any thing too modest. He seems discreet and Virtuous, no harum Starum ranting Swearing fellow but Sober, steady, and Calm (A letter by Eliphalet Dyer to Joseph Trumbull, dated 17 Jun. 1775).*

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

India's G20 climate change gamble



Avilash Roul

INDIA HAS TO COMMIT TO ACHIEVING ITS NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2050 RATHER THAN 2070

The science of climate change reiterates that countries have miserably failed in their voluntarily agreed emission cuts in arresting rising temperature. Hence, we are crossing a catastrophic climate threshold sooner than earlier projected. While releasing its Summary for Policymakers of the Sixth Synthesis Report in extended duration on 20 March, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommended that if world leaders put their resources, capacities and knowledge into swift actions in right places now, without nit-picking and false pledges, "we can still secure a liveable sustainable future for all."

No, it's not a doomsday prophecy. It is the political inaction of historically largest emitting countries to ensure deep, rapid, and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that cause climate change. The synthesis report confirms that humanity has fundamentally and irreversibly transformed the Earth system - proof of Anthropocene. Subsequently, anthropogenic emissions have already increased global average temperatures by at least 1.1 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era. However, the IPCC report with stark language and dire warnings reveals that the world is likely to surpass its most ambitious climate target - limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures - by early 2030s.

No need for scientific proof is required on the plight of climate-vulnerable communities across the globe. If the global temperature surpasses the threshold, as IPCC sternly warns, most likely as the countries follow present business as usual pathways, all living beings including humankind will be struggling to adapt or cope with the changes in the ecosystem. The window of choices to combat climate change will be shrinking substantially for the generation who are children now and the generation yet to be born.

Even though the IPCC meetings have increasingly become politicised as the stakes are high in minimising the impacts of climate change, after closely following climate negotiations for the last two decades, it's certain that the synthesis report would likely push countries to huddle during the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) in the UAE later this year. Most likely the issue of which country would be eligible for financial aid under 'loss and damage', how much GHG needs to be cut in coming decades, and the head-on collision between the phrases 'phasing out' and 'phasing down' of fossil fuels especially coal will be highlights of Dubai (November 30- December 12).

Before COP28 in Dubai, the summit meetings of G20 - environment ministry in July in Chennai and leaders' summit in September in Delhi – draw instant global attention. This would be a litmus test for

the G20 as a group on its rationale and relevance in taking action on the IPCC recommendations or substantial contribution to the COP28 outcome in its energy and economic transition pathways. With China being the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, accounting for nearly 31% of global emissions in 2021, G20 members are contributing nearly 80% of CO₂ emissions. The world's top five largest polluters (China, the US, India, the Russian Federation and Japan) were responsible for roughly 60% of global CO₂ emissions.

As India holds the presidency of G20 this year, can we expect its leadership in a collective journey by formulating deep, rapid, and sustained global reductions of GHG emissions by 2030 through equity and climate justice? India under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister takes the chairmanship of G20 seriously as we can see from all the websites of the Union ministries, agencies, institutions and universities in addition to websites of the Gujarat state government and its machinery carry G20 logo and updates. Meanwhile, two environment and climate sustainability working group meetings have already been concluded and two more are on schedule in May and July followed by the Ministerial meeting in Chennai where a Ministerial Declaration will be adopted. Though the Second environment and climate meeting that concluded in Gandhinagar between

27 and 29 March has not touched upon the IPCC findings, it highlighted best practices of integrated water resource management, especially in Gujarat.

Acknowledging India's climate performance in recent years as the top among the G20 members, some of its highlighted climate targets have to be revisited. When developed countries must revise their so-called net-zero carbon emissions targets to a decade earlier, India has to commit to achieving its net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 rather than 2070. Can India, which had rallied behind the wording of 'phasing down' of all fossil fuels in COP26 and COP27, lead a consensus on 'phasing out' of all fossil fuels in the Ministerial Communiqué considering the warning of the IPCC? Getting a consensus on phasing out all fossil fuels will not be easy as the UAE, the leading petro-economy, is a G20 member. Even there was no consensus in releasing joint declarations of Finance Ministers and Foreign Ministers respectively under G20 earlier this year.

India's mantra LiFE - Lifestyle for Environment - as the core vision of India's strategy to address climate change, must not overlook the urgency of the IPCC findings. Perhaps, India may take advantage of the G20 presidency to rally member countries behind a climate resilient pact for 'One Earth, One Family and One Future'.

The writer is a scientist at IIT-Madras.

BJP's task cut out

Sir, This refers to, "Denied ticket by BJP, Savadi joins Congress," Orissa POST, Apr 15. The BJP leadership has a task in hand as leaders who have been refused tickets threaten to rock the party's boat in the run-up to polls in Karnataka. The dissension will test the party leadership's managerial skills as the campaign picks up soon. But, Karnataka BJP has been in a state for churn ever since the central leadership decided to look beyond BS Yediyurappa. BSY was the unquestioned leader of the party for decades. He was also the party's bridge to the powerful Lingayat community that has backed both BSY and the BJP. Add to this, the open rebellion over seat distribution points to the absence of an assertive state leadership. BJP's compulsion to hand out tickets to leaders who crossed over from the Congress and the JD(S) to prop up a BSY-led government in 2019 at the expense of party loyalists has also contributed to the mess. While the post-BSY phase has allowed the BJP's central leadership to force its say on the local unit, the choice of Bommai seen as a lightweight in the party, as CM, suggests an intent to control the state unit from the Centre. It's likely that the BJP may not want another regional strongman to emerge in its only stronghold in the country's south.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Nefarious designs

Sir, Unfazed by the repeated snubs from the Indian side, Beijing's antics at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at eastern Ladakh have continued unabated. Though the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China has desisted from showing its strength in eastern Ladakh on the lines of Naku La in North Sikkim along the LAC, where it was forced to eat the humble pie by brave Indian soldiers, nonetheless its troop presence there is a cause of worry. As the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has repeatedly reiterated, the situation in eastern Ladakh is serious and fragile. Any chance of a troop pull-out there may be nothing more than an illusion. Reports that China is purchasing hand-combat weapons isn't good news for India. Chinese "re-naming spree" of some areas in Arunachal Pradesh has been downplayed by India. But New Delhi has to be on its guard.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulguru Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

India was formed for the welfare of the world and the country must share its knowledge as a duty amid its rise in strength and prestige



MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

When the Election Commission announced polls in Karnataka recently, and released the number of eligible women voters in the state, it was not a surprise that they were nearly fifty per cent of the total electorate. The statistics are not different in other states of India. This made me revisit the idea of reservations for women in legislative assemblies and parliament



H D DEVE GOWDA | FORMER PM

It is very difficult to suppress the voice of Arvind Kejriwal. Those who speak the truth get a place in the people's hearts. No one can remove anyone from the hearts of the people. We stand by him like a rock



BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

Delhi adds 1,396 Covid-19 cases

New Delhi: Delhi Saturday logged 1,396 COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 31.9 per cent, the highest in 15 months, according to data shared by the city government's health department. The city had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14 last year. With the new cases, Delhi's COVID-19 tally climbed to 20,21,593. Five fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 26,560, the health department bulletin stated. Of the latest fatalities, COVID-19 was the primary cause of death in one of the cases, while it was incidental in the other four, it stated.

Two killed in TN

Chennai: Two persons were killed while two others were injured when a blast occurred on Saturday at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu's Sivakasi. The deceased have been identified as V. Thangavelu (55) and P. Karuppuswamy (28), both residents of Idaiyankulam village in Virudhunagar district. The injured have been admitted to the Sivakasi government hospital.

Woman critical

New Delhi: A woman was critically injured after her husband slit her throat in Delhi's Roop Nagar Saturday, an official said. According to police, around 10 a.m., a call was received regarding slitting of throat at Roop Nagar police station following which a police team rushed to the spot. "The victim identified as Chanchal was rushed to Hindu Rao Hospital for the treatment," said the official, adding that at present, her health is critical and she is in ICU.

2019 Pulwama attack: Congress hits out at Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 15: The Congress Saturday demanded that the Centre reveal the outcome of the probe into the 2019 Pulwama incident in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed and asked why the paramilitary personnel were "denied" aircraft and made to commute by road despite terror attack threat.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh accused the BJP-led Union government of "minimum governance and maximum silence" and asked for its response to the allegations made by Satya Pal Malik who was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir at the time of the Pulwama terror attack.

"It is the government's respon-

CBI to grill Kejriwal today; faceoff escalates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 15: The CBI will question Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday in its probe into the excise policy scam, a move that has escalated the AAP-Centre faceoff and became a fresh rallying point for opposition unity push ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

As opposition leaders like the Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and JD(U) supreme and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed solidarity with Kejriwal Saturday and renewed calls to speed up opposition unity efforts to take on the BJP, officials said the CBI may ask the AAP chief about the policy formulation process, especially of the "untraceable" file which was earlier slated to be put before the Delhi Council of Ministers.

Kejriwal is being summoned as a witness and is not an accused in the excise policy case in which his former deputy Manish Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 26. Sisodia was last month arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and is in judicial custody.



An adequate number of barricades will also be placed on the streets at both these places to ensure AAP workers and supporters do not create any trouble

Kejriwal is being summoned as a witness and is not an accused in the excise policy case in which his former deputy Manish Sisodia was arrested by the CBI February 2

The chief minister on his part said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has emerged as a ray of hope for the country and claimed that is the reason why efforts are being made to trample it. In his first reaction after being served a notice by the CBI to appear before it at 11 am on Sunday, Kejriwal said he will be present before the probe agency.

Addressing a press conference

here, he said no other party has been targeted in the last 75 years as the AAP. He also alleged that the agencies were torturing people to extract false confessions. Asserting that if he was "corrupt" then no one in the world was "honest", Kejriwal also claimed that BJP leaders were demanding his arrest and that if the saffron party had "ordered" the probe agency to arrest him, it cannot refuse doing so.

Siddaramaiah denied ticket from Kolar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore/New Delhi, April 15: The Congress Saturday announced its third list of 43 candidates for the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka, and turned down the request of senior leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to contest from the second seat - Kolar.

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, who joined the Congress on Friday, has got the ticket from Athani in Belagavi district. Also, senior JD(S) leader K M Shivalinge Gowda, who had joined the Congress recently, has been fielded from Arsikere.

The Congress has given tickets to at least 16 fresh faces in the third list. They include former Union Minister and Opposition's nominee for the Vice-President polls Margaret Alva's son Nivedit Alva, and former state Minister Motamma's daughter Nayana Jyothi Jhawar.



Tourists visit Taj Mahal on a hot day in Agra

PTI PHOTO

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 15: A five-judge Supreme Court constitution bench is scheduled to hear from Tuesday a batch of petitions seeking legal validation of same-sex marriages in the country.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices S K Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, P S Narasimha and Hima Kohli will commence the hearing on April 18 on the petitions which were referred to a larger bench for an authoritative pronouncement on March 13 by the CJ-led bench, saying it is "very seminal issue".

The hearing and the consequential outcome will have significant ramifications for the country where common people and political parties hold divergent views on the subject. The Centre has opposed the petitions seeking legal validation for same-sex marriages, claiming they will cause "complete havoc" with the delicate balance of personal laws and accepted societal values.

The government submitted that despite the decriminalisation of Section

CJI-led 5-judge bench to hear pleas



A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices S K Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, P S Narasimha and Hima Kohli will commence the hearing on April 18

The hearing and the consequential outcome will have significant ramifications for the country where common people and political parties hold divergent views on the subject

377 of the IPC, which had criminalised consensual gay sex in private, the petitioners cannot claim a fundamental right to same-sex marriage to be recognised under the laws of the country.

"Marriage, as an institution in law, has many statutory and other consequences under various legislative enactments. Therefore, any formal recognition of such a human relationship cannot be regarded as

just a privacy issue between two adults," it said.

The Centre said the institution of marriage between two individuals of the same gender is neither recognised nor accepted in uncodified personal laws or codified statutory laws. Jamiat Ulama-i Hind has also opposed the petitions saying they are an attack on the family system and in complete contravention of all personal laws.



hate corruption very much." Ramesh also said on Twitter, "The Home Minister should stop trying to play Narada Muni and address the very serious charges levelled against his Saheb by his own party colleague, Satya Pal Malik." In another tweet, he said the probe into the Pulwama incident assumes fresh significance in the light of

former Malik's "revelations". Former governor Satya Pal Malik has made sensational revelations in an interview. And now every effort is being made to suppress the issues raised in the interview but the truth will not be suppressed. These are very serious and important questions that are related to national security," Ramesh said.

PLANE RETURNS TO DELHI

An IndiGo plane enroute to Bagdogra returned to Delhi Saturday afternoon due to a technical problem. While a source said the aircraft made an emergency landing due to a technical problem, IndiGo said the flight 6E 6282 from Delhi to Bagdogra returned to Delhi as a precaution



Amritpal's aide arrested in Punjab



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/Amritsar, April 15: The Punjab Police has arrested a key aide of radical preacher Amritpal Singh for allegedly providing shelter and other assistance to the absconding Khalistan sympathiser in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit.

Joga Singh, a resident of Ludhiana and the in-charge of a "dera" in Pilibhit, was arrested from Sirhind in Fatehgarh Sahib after he crossed over to Punjab from Haryana, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Border Range) Narinder Bhargav said.

"We have arrested Joga Singh, an aide of Amritpal Singh," Bhargav said, adding that a joint operation of the Amritsar Police (Rural) and the Hoshiarpur Police led to the arrest. He said Joga Singh provided shelter to Amritpal Singh and his aide Papalpreet Singh in Pilibhit and also arranged vehicles for them.

"Joga Singh was in direct contact with Amritpal Singh. He arranged their shelter in Pilibhit and vehicles for them. He brought them back to Punjab," the officer said. He added that the accused will be quizzed and police will act according to the leads provided by him.

Asked whether Amritpal and Papalpreet came to Phagwara from

Pilibhit in a vehicle, the officer answered in the affirmative. "On March 28, there were four people -- Amritpal, Papalpreet, Joga and Gursant -- in Hoshiarpur," he said.

Barring Amritpal, the three others have been arrested, he added. Amritpal and Papalpreet fled Punjab on March 18 following a police crackdown. They returned to the state on March 28.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar Rural, Satinder Singh said it was Joga Singh who brought Amritpal to Punjab again. Asked whether charges under the National Security Act (NSA) have been invoked against Joga Singh, Bhargav answered in the negative.

A case under the relevant sections, including 212 (harbouring offender), of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Arms Act was lodged against Joga Singh on March 28. Police launched a major crackdown last month against Amritpal and the members of his "Waris Punjab De" outfit. The Khalistan sympathiser escaped the police net in Jalandhar district on March 18 by switching vehicles and changing appearances.

Amritpal and his associates have been booked in several criminal cases related to spreading disharmony among classes, attempt to murder, attack on police personnel and creating obstructions in the lawful discharge of duty by public servants.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.B-79
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. S.E. JSPR (R&B) 01/2023-24

1 Name of work	: Building (Civil, E.I. & P.H.) work for the year 2023-24
2 No. of works	: Total: 04 (Four) No. Work
3 Estimated cost	: Above Rs.5.00 Lakhs upto Rs.25.00 Lakhs (Approx.)
4 Period of completion	: As per Column No.-8 of this NIT
5 Class of contractors	: As per Column No.-7 of this NIT

Other details as follows:
6 Date & time of availability of bid document in portal : 19.04.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
7 Last date / time for receipt of bis in portal : 03.05.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
8 Opening of bid documents : 04.05.2023, at 11.30 A.M.
9 Procurement Officer : Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division, Jagatsinghpur with E-Mail address: eerbjspr@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division
OIPR-34093/11/0001/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Barpali Irrigation Division, Barpali
E-mail Id- ee.barpali.canal@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No.01/2023-24
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.-BIDT 01 to 44/2023-24
(ON-LINE) DATED 12.04.2023

1 Type of the work	: Improvement to Water Course & Canal Structures
2 No. of works	: 44 (Forty Four) Nos.
3 Class of contractor	: 'D' & 'C'
4 Bid identification No.	: BIDT-01 to 43/2023-24
5 Estimated cost	: 7.69 lakhs to 16.97 lakhs
6 Period of completion	: As per DTCN
7 Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: Dt.17.04.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt.27.04.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
8 Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Dt.27.04.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
9 Date of opening of bid	: Dt.28.04.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
10 Date of Lottery	: To be intimated later on through e-mail

1. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website: <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>

Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Barpali Irrigation Division, Barpali
OIPR-32413/11/0001/2324

Pilot's number will not come: Shah Peace lets harvesting begin along IB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bharatpur, April 15: In a swipe at the Congress in Rajasthan over infighting, Union home minister Amit Shah Saturday said the party prefers Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over his former deputy Sachin Pilot as his contribution in filling its coffers with the 'corruption' money from the state is higher.

He said that Gehlot and Pilot are fighting unnecessarily as the BJP will form the next government in Rajasthan.

"Pilot sits on dharna on any pretext... His contribution may be higher on the ground but his number will not come because his contribution in filling the coffers of Congress party is less and Gehlot's contribution is higher," Shah said while addressing booth-level party workers meeting in Bharatpur. The two Congress leaders are at loggerheads since 2020 after Pilot revolted against Gehlot's leadership. Pilot recently observed a one-day fast against his own government alleging inaction on corruption charges against the previous Vasundhara Raje-led BJP government.

"Gehlot ji is saying that I do not want to step down and Pilot ji is saying that I want to be on the chair. They are fighting unnecessarily because the government is to be formed by the BJP," Shah said.

Shah alleged Gehlot has made the Rajasthan government "an 'adda' (hub) of corruption and has looted the state. This money of corruption has gone to the coffers of the



“Pilot sits on dharna on any pretext... His contribution may be higher on the ground but his number will not come because his contribution in filling the coffers of Congress party is less and Gehlot's contribution is higher”
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Congress party.”

After Raje criticised the Gehlot government in her address over the law and order situation in the state, Shah said that she was being considerate as not only had crime against women increased under the Congress dispensation but it had fuelled casteism and crossed all limits of appeasement.

“The Gehlot government has worked to nurture dynasty, has incited casteism and... Violence by

crossing the limits of appeasement. This government can take top marks in appeasement,” Shah said.

The Union home minister alleged that the Gehlot government does not take any tough steps to check riots due to the 'greed of vote bank'.

“More than two dozen papers have been leaked in Rajasthan and Mr. Gehlot still wants power... Do you want to score a century? The people of Rajasthan no longer want you,” Shah said.

“Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government is one of the most corrupt governments in the history of Rajasthan. People are fed up,” he claimed.

Shah exuded confidence that the BJP will form a government in Rajasthan with a two-thirds majority in the year-end assembly polls and win all 25 Lok Sabha seats in 2024.

BSF troops, who are guarding the IB, allow farmers and employees of the agriculture department to cultivate and harvest their land across the border fencing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Golpattan (Jammu), April 15: Amid peace prevailing along the Indo-Pakistan border due to year-long ceasefire, wheat harvesting on the zero line along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Gajansoo belt began Saturday.

Located bang on zero line, the agriculture department's Seed Multiplication Farm spread on nearly 2,300 acres of land on two sides of border fencing in the Golpattan-Chinore belt, nearly 55 kilometres from Jammu, saw men and machines getting into action since morning to harvest wheat crop.

The ceasefire along the border between India and Pakistan is prevailing since last year. This has rekindled hopes for a peaceful future among border residents, who have been living under constant fear of cross-border shelling, in Jammu & Kashmir.

The ceasefire was announced by the two armies through a joint statement issued February 25 last.

“We have started harvesting the wheat crop on this farm. Our crops



Farmers harvest wheat crop in Chinore along Zeroline on Indo-Pak border in Gajansoo belt, 55 km from Jammu. PTI PHOTO

are ripe. We will take few days to complete harvesting in this farm,” the Manager of Seed Multiplication Farm, Chinore, Kuldeep Raj told PTI.

He said that harvesting is taking place on 2,290 acres of land spread on two sides of border fencing.

“After completion of the harvesting on this side, we will undertake harvesting across the fencing on an area of 280 acres of land with the support of BSF,” he said.

BSF troops, who are guarding the IB, allow farmers and employees of the agriculture department to cultivate and harvest their lands across the border fencing.

“BSF troops go with us during harvesting work. They protect and support us,” he said.

Jammu and Kashmir govern-

ment's Seed Multiplication Farm, is one of the biggest farms in the Jammu region to produce high-yield seeds for distribution to farmers under the 'Holistic Agriculture Development Plan'.

The farm also grows oats on 200 acres of land, potatoes, mustard and many other crops. The men and machines, including harvesters were pressed into services by the department to undertake fast harvesting of the wheat crops.

Harvesting usually starts with the festival of Vaisakhi in Jammu.

The scores of employees agriculture department demand risk allowance on the pattern of BSF.

“We are doing cropping activity under the eyes of Pakistan Rangers. There is also a constant fear among

us. We don't have bullet jackets and helmets like BSF troops. So government should grant us risk allowances,” an official said. The department is working on a war footing on 29 projects under the “holistic agriculture Development Plan,” Additional chief secretary Atal Dulloo said. He said that HADP is set to be a turning point in the agri-economy of the UT whereby Rs 5,013 crore shall be infused over the next five years through 29 interventions and projects.

“Besides, the 29 interventions are set to create around 19,000 new enterprises in the agriculture sector and an additional 2.8 lakh jobs. This will ultimately increase the GDP of the UT significantly by the next 5 years,” he said.

RAJ REELS FROM SEVERE HEAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, April 15: Heatwave-like conditions continue to prevail in Rajasthan with Sri Ganganagar district recording the highest maximum temperature of 42.1 degrees in the last 24 hours.

In the rest of the state, the maximum temperature was recorded in the 39-41 degrees Celsius range. The temperature is likely to rise another 1-2 degrees in the next 48 hours.

A heatwave is declared if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees in coastal areas and at least 30 degrees in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees.

According to the India Meteorological Department, a



new western disturbance is likely to be active over the state Tuesday-Wednesday. The western disturbance could

bring thunderstorms, sudden strong winds reaching speeds of 30-40 kilometers per hour and light rain in parts of Jodhpur, Bikaner and Ajmer divisions and the Shekhawati region Tuesday afternoon.

Parts of Jodhpur and Bikaner divisions could also witness moderate to severe thunderstorms.

There is a strong possibility of sudden strong winds and light to moderate rain with thunderstorms in districts of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Udaipur, Ajmer, Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions Wednesday due to the maximum impact of the western disturbance, the Met office said.

There is a possibility that the western disturbance will bring relief from the heat by causing a 2-4 degrees Celsius drop in the maximum temperature Wednesday, it added.

Jammu's public bicycle-sharing system records 2.89 lakh rides

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, April 15: The public bicycle-sharing system, introduced for the first time by the Jammu Smart City Limited last May to boost eco-friendly mobility, has recorded over 2.89 lakh rides, an official said Saturday.

More than 23,000 people have used the service since its launch, he added.

The system allows users to rent out a bicycle from designated automatic docking stations and deposit it at another located close to their destination.

“The first-of-its kind public bicycle-sharing system recorded 2,89,032 (2.89 lakh) rides by 23,710 users between May 1 and April 13. The rid-



ers covered a total distance of 65,341 kilometres, saving an estimated 16,335 kilograms of carbon (emission),” the official told PTI here.

The Jammu Smart City Limited, a special-purpose vehicle constituted in August 2017 by the Jammu and Kashmir government for the implementation of smart city development projects, has set up a network of dock-

ing stations across the city. It has installed 120 docking stations for 720 mechanical bicycles and 80 pedal-assisted electric bicycles in prominent locations, including Jammu University, Jammu bus stand, Indira Chowk, the exit gate of the Government Medical College, Super Speciality Hospital, Parade Chowk, the entrance gate of the Jammu airport and the Ragnath Temple, the official said.

The users can rent a bicycle through the “Yaana Bikes” mobile app, which is available on both Android and iOS, the official added.

The minimum membership fee is Rs 50 for five 30-minute rides a day. The highest fee is Rs 1,500 for 1,500 rides of 30 minutes each over a one-year period.

'Balidan Stambh' to honour people who fought for 1948 liberation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri, April 15: A 'Balidan Stambh' has come up in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri to honour its people who fought for the liberation of the district from Pakistan in 1948, officials said. The monument of sacrifice was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, he praised the sacrifices of the brave hearts who gave their lives for the liberation of Rajouri and emphasised that the 'Balidan Stambh' would not only serve as a symbol of their bravery but also as a reminder of the importance of valuing and protecting the freedom of the people. The DC also urged everyone to work towards building a stronger, more united Rajouri that upholds the values of peace, harmony and inclusiveness.

In the early 1947, the Pakistani intruders captured the vital town of Rajouri which was liberated by the troops of 1 Kumaon backed by tanks of Central India Horse (CIH) and 5 and 30 Mountain Batteries on April 13, 1948, a day after advancing from Chingus (Rajouri).

Rajouri municipal corporation chairman Mohammad Arif, who was also present at the event, emphasised the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by those who fought for the liberation of the district. He said the monument would inspire future generations to uphold the values of freedom, democracy and human dignity.

The ceremony was attended by eminent dignitaries and representatives of the local community, members of martyrs' families and social workers further added to solemnity of the occasion.

Honey business not so sweet for Hanumangarh apiarists

OVER THE YEARS, PRODUCTION COST HAS SOARED, BUT HONEY PRICES HAVE NOT INCREASED PROPORTIONATELY, PUTTING AROUND 1,500 BEEKEEPERS IN HANUMANGARH DISTRICT IN A TIGHT SPOT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hanumangarh, April 15: The apiarists of Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan are as busy as a bee itself. Sadly, they are not getting a fair price for the hard work they put in. Over the years, production cost has soared, but honey prices have not increased proportionately, putting around 1,500 beekeepers in the district in a tight spot.

Considering the charges incurred on bee boxes, labour, food and accommodation of labourers and transport, the production cost of one kg of honey comes to Rs 125. In contrast, companies buy the produce for Rs 60-70 per kg, which is at least Rs 10 less than the procurement price provided almost two decades ago!

The struggle does not end with this wide disparity in input and procurement costs. The drop in honey production also stings beekeepers. “Twenty-five years ago, one colony produced 50 to 60 kg of honey in the mustard growing season (October to March). With the increased use of pesticides and fertilisers, this has come down to 15 kg,” said Punjab-based Jaspreet



Singh, who supplies bee colonies to apiarists in Hanumangarh.

“Bees do not visit flowers of crops sprayed with pesticides, else they will die. This has affected pollination. There is also a new concern that genetically modified plants might have an adverse effect on pollinators,” he added.

Among the many issues, the addition of artificial colours and sugars to honey is a major cause of concern for beekeepers. “The authorities are hand in glove with procuring companies. It keeps changing norms,

which encourages companies to sell adulterated honey instead of buying pure produce from us. Some parameters were unnecessarily diluted, without any explanation,” said Prakash Singh Badal, a resident of Nohar in Hanumangarh and president of the northern Rajasthan unit of the Rashtriya Beekeepers Sangharsh Samiti.

For the greed of money, several companies play with the health of unsuspecting consumers by selling honey mixed with maize and rice syrup. An investigation carried

out by Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in 2020 found that 10 out of the 13 major brands sold honey containing sugar syrup.

“In 1994, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India had set the standard for pollen count and plant element in honey at 50,000 per gram, but it was changed to 25,000 per gram in 2018. A year later, it was diluted to 5,000 per gram. The government also did away with the quality control test for honey,” Badal explained.

At the same time, pollen count is not considered a measure of the quality of honey globally. Consequently, determining adulteration by checking the pollen count has been a matter of controversy. This is exacerbated by the fact that pollen count varies in different types of honey. For example, it can be different in mustard, litchi, or honey obtained from a single flower or different flowers.

Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board does not run any special scheme for beekeepers, but gets grants from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission through the state government. While banks give loans to apiarists, the

board pitches in by offering subsidies to the loanee using the Central Commission's grant. The subsidy component differs for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Other Backward Classes and the general category. However, the subsidy upper limit is 35 per cent of the loan amount.

Rajasthan Horticulture Department also has a provision to arrange a 40 per cent subsidy from the National Horticulture Mission for the supply of bee colonies and bee boxes. In the

2022-23 financial year, the department planned to distribute 2,850 colonies and boxes in Hanumangarh district. Similarly, neighbouring Sri Ganganagar district was to get 7,550 colonies and boxes each.

Horticulture Officer Rajendra Nain said that a tender invite was issued last year, but the contract was not inked with any of the bidders. Two months ago, a new tender invitation was made.

Bogged down by several issues, the apiarists of Hanumangarh district held a protest outside the Collectorate in February and submitted a memorandum of demands, which included announcing a Minimum Support Price of Rs 150 per kg for honey.

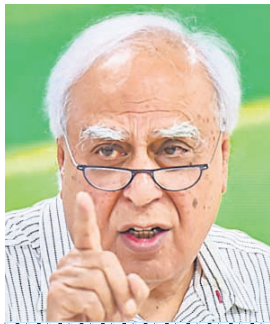
They sought recognition of honey bees as inputs to agriculture and landless beekeepers as farmers, as recommended by Bibek Debroy-led Beekeeping Development Committee under the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. “The Debroy committee had recommended plantation of bee-friendly flora at appropriate places and employment of women self-help groups for its upkeep,” said Badal.

The committee report released June 26, 2019, had discussed the state government's role in training beekeepers, besides promoting infrastructure at the national and regional levels for the collection, processing, marketing and promotion of honey and related products. There were suggestions to simplify the procedures and specify clear standards to ease exports.

“We would have benefitted if the committee's recommendations were implemented, but it has been shelved for almost four years,” he added.

Twenty-five years ago, one colony produced 50 to 60 kg of honey in the mustard growing season (October to March). With the increased use of pesticides and fertilisers, this has come down to 15 kg... Bees do not visit flowers of crops sprayed with pesticides, else they will die. This has affected pollination. There is also a new concern that genetically modified plants might have an adverse effect on pollinators

JASPREET SINGH | FARMER



They (the BJP) want an Opposition-free India and are targeting all Opposition leaders. We've seen how they have targeted Opposition chief ministers of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and other leaders
KAPIL SIBAL | RAJYA SABHA MP

FESTIVE FEVER

Braving the rising temperatures across the northeastern states, people in the region Saturday celebrated Rongali Bihu and Poila Boishakh with rituals, traditional fervour and enthusiasm



of the day quote

People know what is happening against him (Kejriwal). He is a well-regarded person and he has done a lot of developmental work in his state. He will reply to all the actions that have been initiated against him at the appropriate time
NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

The arrest of BJP leaders in connection with the recent violence in Jamshepur is politically motivated
ARJUN MUNDA | UNION MINISTER

The BJP-led Central government must respond to claims made by former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik on the 2019 Pulwama incident in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed
BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

Number of heatwave events on rise: Study

11 KILLED IN UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, April 15: In the recent decades, heatwaves have become more common in summer while cold waves are less so common in winter in the country, a study conducted by researchers at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has established.

The study was led by Aninda Bhattacharya, Dr. Abin Thomas, and Dr. Vijay Kanawade from the Centre of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, School of Physics at the UoH, in collaboration with Prof. Chandan Sarangi from IIT Madras, Dr. P.S. Roy from World Resources Institute (WRI) and Dr. Vijay K. Soni from India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi.

The researchers used daily maximum temperature and minimum temperature data from 1970 to 2019 to investigate the trend in the frequency of occurrence of days with anomalously high temperatures



(referred to as heat waves) and days with anomalously low temperature (referred to as cold waves) over different climatic regions of the country.

The team found that days with anomalously higher temperatures are increasing during summer every year while the days with anomalously lower temperatures are decreasing during winter every year. The occurrence of anom-

ously higher temperatures for consecutive three days or more is referred to as a heat wave event.

The authors found that heat wave events are increasing at the rate of 0.6 events per decade. The occurrence of anomalously lower temperatures for consecutive three days or more is referred to as a cold wave event. The study, published in The Journal of Earth System Science, found that cold

wave events are decreasing at the rate of 0.4 events per decade.

With country's climatic zones broadly categorised under four major heads - Montane (climate is harsher, with lower temperatures in mountainous regions); Subtropical humid climate; Arid and semi-arid climate; and Dry and wet tropical climate, the authors point out the opposite trends in heat waves and cold waves. For instance,

heat waves are more common over the arid and semi-arid climatic region while cold waves are less so common over the same region.

The authors also compared the current-generation computer models used to predict future climate with India Meteorological Department observations. Authors found that models fail to capture observed spatial features in the trend in the frequency of occurrence of heat waves and cold waves in toto over India. This underlines the need for a better process-level understanding of the factors governing these extreme events and their representations in the models over the Indian region.

Human-caused (anthropogenic) climate change has caused roughly 1 degree Celsius increase in global average surface temperature since the pre-industrial era. Climate change has worsened the frequency, intensity, and impacts of some of the weather events such as heat waves and cold waves.

Shahjahanpur (UP), April 15: Eight children and two women were among 11 people killed when the tractor trolley they were travelling in fell from the bridge here on Saturday, police said.

The people were on their way to fetch water from Garra river for 'Bhagwat katha', they said. Of the 11 people, eight were children and two were women, Superintendent of Police S Anand said.

As many as 24 people have been injured in the incident. Twenty-one of the 24 people, including seven with serious injuries, are undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College hospital, said Shailendra Kumar, Chief Medical Superintendent.

Three others are admitted to Tilhar Primary Health Centre, officials said. An official spokesperson in Lucknow said instructions have been issued to immediately extend financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to those seriously injured.

DEFAMATION CASE

Rahul Gandhi granted permanent exemption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, April 15: A court in Maharashtra's Thane district Saturday granted a permanent exemption to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from appearing before it in a defamation case filed against him by a Rashtriya Sawyamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary.

Bhiwandi First Class Judicial Magistrate C Wadikar who heard Rahul Gandhi's application filed through his counsel Narayan Iyer observed that the Congress leader deserves a permanent exemption. The magistrate also set June 3 for recording evidence in the defamation suit filed by local RSS worker Rajesh Kunte.

Kunte had in 2014 filed a private complaint before the Bhiwandi magistrate's court after watching Gandhi's speech where he allegedly accused the RSS of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. Kunte claimed this statement slandered the reputation of the RSS. Rahul Gandhi had appeared before the court in June 2018 and pleaded not guilty. "Accused Rahul Rajiv Gandhi is hereby exempted from appearance in the court till the further order passed by the court subject to following conditions," reads the order, a copy of which was accessed by PTI.

"Accused to undertake that his duly designated advocate punctually and regularly appears before court on each and every scheduled date and conduct the trial in absence of accused," says one of the conditions. "Accused to re-

Bhiwandi First Class Judicial Magistrate C Wadikar who heard Rahul Gandhi's application filed through his counsel Narayan Iyer observed that the Congress leader deserves a permanent exemption

main present in court as and when directed," reads another.

Rahul Gandhi, who was recently disqualified as an MP after his conviction by a Surat court in a defamation case, had last year sought exemption from appearance in the Bhiwandi court on the grounds that he was a Delhi resident and a Lok Sabha member who had to visit his constituency (Wayanad), attend party work and travel a lot. Gandhi had requested that whenever required, he be allowed to be represented by his lawyer in the hearing.

Kunte recently argued that since Gandhi is no longer a parliamentarian, he should not be given an exemption in the matter. The Surat court had March 23 sentenced Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail in a 2019 criminal defamation case filed against him over his "why all thieves have Modi surname" remarks.

The court also granted him bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court.



New implantable device shrinks pancreatic tumours

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, April 15: Researchers have found a way to tame pancreatic cancer - one of the most aggressive and difficult to treat cancers - by delivering immunotherapy directly into the tumour with a device that is smaller than a grain of rice.

The team from Houston Methodist Research Institute in the U.S. used an implantable nanofluidic device they invented to deliver CD40 monoclonal antibodies (mAb), a promising immunotherapeutic agent, at a sustained low-dose via the nanofluidic drug-eluting seed (NDES).

The NDES device consists of a

stainless-steel drug reservoir containing nanochannels, thus creating a membrane that allows for sustained diffusion when the drug is released. The result, published in Advanced Science, found in murine models, was tumour reduction at a four-fold lower dosage than traditional systemic immunotherapy treatment.

"One of the most exciting findings was that even though the NDES device was only inserted in one of two tumours in the same animal model, we noted shrinkage in the tumour without the device," said Corrine Ying Xuan Chua, Assistant Professor of nanomedicine at Houston Methodist Academic Institute.



"This means that local treatment with immunotherapy was able to activate the immune response to target other tumours. In fact, one animal model remained tumour-free for the 100-days of continued observation."

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma is frequently diagnosed at ad-

vanced stages. In fact, about 85 per cent of patients already have metastatic disease at diagnosis. Immunotherapy holds promise in treating cancers that previously did not have good treatment options. However, because immunotherapy is delivered throughout the entire body, it causes many



People perform rituals on the occasion of Bengali New Year in Agartala

PTI PHOTO

World's largest Ambedkar statue unveiled

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, April 15: In tune with the vision of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, Telangana wrote another new chapter in the history of the country. On the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao unveiled the 125-feet giant statue of Dr BR Ambedkar which is considered as the biggest in the world. The Chief Minister accompanied by Ambedkar's grandson Prakash Ambedkar who was the chief guest, unveiled the statue.

The Chief Minister paid tributes to Babasaheb Ambedkar amid applause from the people.

After reaching the statue stage, monks offered prayers in Buddhist tradition to the Ambedkar statue. The Chief Minister also participated in the special prayers.

Later the Chief Minister and other top officials visited the photo exhibition on Ambedkar. KCR recalled historical occasions while discussing them with Prakash Ambedkar at the exhibition. From



there, the CM and Prakash Ambedkar reached the auditorium and watched a documentary - Atmabandhu Ambedkar.

After that, the Chief Minister, accompanied by Prakash Ambedkar, reached the stage of the public meeting. Later, Prakash Ambedkar spoke and said that Chief Minister KCR will emerge as the future national leader. The

development of Telangana has become an example and role model for the country. He praised the Chief Minister for running the state administration in line with Ambedkar's aspirations. Prakash Ambedkar said that it is a great moment that the Telangana government is celebrating Ambedkar's birthday in a true sense.

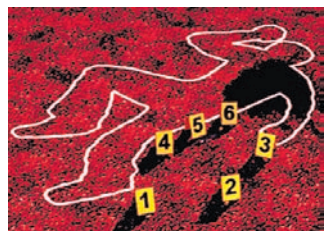
Man kills mother, son in Tamil Nadu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, April 15: In an apparent case of honour killing, a man on Saturday killed his mother and son allegedly over a dispute over his son marrying a Scheduled Caste woman against his wishes in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.

Subash (23), belonging to the Backward Class (BC), Nadar community, who was working in a knitting firm in Tiruppur, had an affair with Anasuya (25), daughter from Scheduled Caste.

Subash's father Dhandapani threatened his son not to go ahead with the relationship with Anasuya. However, not paying heed to that, Subash and Anasuya tied the nuptial knot 15 days ago and did not visit the family residence.



Subash's grandmother Kannammal invited the newlywed couple to her house in Arunapathi village to attend the Tamil New Year day and they reached there on Thursday night. When Dhandapani came to know about this, he went there and hacked Subash to death. Kannammal who tried to prevent her son Dhandapani from attacking Subash was also hacked to death.

An enraged Dhandapani attacked Anasuya also but she escaped with deep injuries and is admitted in Government hospital, Uthangarai. On hearing cries from Kannammal's house, neighbours rushed the injured to the government hospital at Uthangarai where Kannammal and Subash were declared brought dead while Anasuya was in critical condition.

Ex-minister injured

Kalaburagi (Karnataka): Former Karnataka minister Baburao Chinchansur, who recently joined Congress from BJP, was injured in a car accident in the city Saturday. While Chinchansur suffered serious injuries on face and legs, his gunman and the car driver escaped with minor injuries. He is undergoing treatment at the United hospital. He is contesting from Gurmitkal constituency in Kalaburagi district on Congress ticket. According to police, Chinchansur was travelling from Yadgir district to Kalaburagi at 1 a.m. after campaigning.

MCD employee killed

New Delhi: A Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) employee was killed in a hit-and-run incident on Saturday in the city's Kirti Nagar area, a police official said. The victim was identified as Rajkumar (40), a resident of Raghuvver Nagar. The Kirti Nagar police station received a call at 6.26 a.m. regarding an accident, following which a team immediately rushed to the spot. "Based on initial inquiry, it appeared that an unidentified vehicle hit Rajkumar, an MCD employee who was on duty early in the morning and cleaning the street," the official said.

SHORT TAKES

Man kills lover

Bangalore: Karnataka Police has arrested a person on charges of killing his lover after celebrating her birthday in Bangalore, officials said Saturday. The deceased woman has been identified as 24-year-old Navya. She worked as a clerk in the internal security division of the state Police Department. The accused has been identified as Prashanth from Kanakapura. According to police, Navya was in relationship with Prashanth for six years. Both were distant relatives. Navya celebrated her birthday last Tuesday but Prashanth did not attend it, claiming that he was busy.

Pilgrims injured

Chennai: At least 15 pilgrims from Tamil Nadu who were traveling to Sabarimala Ayyappa Swamy hill shrine in Kerala were injured after the bus in which they were traveling toppled near Kuttikanam in Idukki district of Kerala. The pilgrims were from Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu and the bus toppled around 10 am near Kuttikanam on Saturday morning which is Vishu day in state (Kerala New Year day). Four of the 15 injured pilgrims are being provided treatment at the Peerumedu taluk hospital while others are at a private hospital in Kuttikanam.

international

of the day quote

The Secretary-General joins the (UN) Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, today welcoming the start of the release operation of conflict-related detainees. Nearly 900 are being released by the parties over three days, starting today

Priorities must be given to ensuring food safety, protecting the ecological environment and encouraging the development of green, organic and circular agriculture

The Army chief is the most powerful person in Pakistan's politics. All follow his decisions. The military establishment is siding with the corrupt mafia - Sharifs and Zardaris - only to ensure that I must not return to power

SHORT TAKES

Petrol price in Pak likely to go up

Islamabad: Prices of petroleum products are likely to be increased in Pakistan by 10-14 PKR per litre for the next fortnight, the media reported Saturday. According to industry sources, the government may increase the price of petroleum products attributing to rising oil prices in global markets, The News reported. The increase can jump to 14 PKR per litre if the government also adjusts the exchange rate losses, unlike the previous review when the authorities didn't pass on the impact of rupee devaluation to the masses. According to the working of the country's oil sector, the ex-depot price of petrol has clocked in at 14.77 PKR per litre for the next review of the prices with the exchange rate loss adjustment.

42 killed by rebels in Congo's east

Kinshasa: A rebel group in eastern Congo's Ituri province killed at least 42 people Friday, according to a civil society organisation. Three towns in Djugu territory were attacked by the CODECO militia group, said Dieudonne Lossa, the president of the organisation in Banyari Kilo, the area where the attacks took place.

SK, Japan agree to boost tourism

Seoul: South Korea and Japan have agreed to boost tourism between the two nations amid their efforts to normalise frayed ties, Seoul's Culture Ministry said Saturday. Park Bo-gyeon, South Korean minister of culture, sports and tourism, met with his counterpart, Saito Tetsuo, in Tokyo Thursday and discussed measures to boost tourism between the neighbouring countries, the Ministry said.

Peru extends state of emergency

Lima: The Peruvian government has announced a 60-day extension of the state of emergency in two provinces in the department of Loreto, as the country continues its fight against drug trafficking in its northeast border region, according to a decree. The extension will go into effect April 19 and will allow continued actions by the National Police and the Armed Forces in the provinces of Putumayo and Mariscal Ramon Castilla, said the decree, which was published in the official newspaper El Peruano, reports said.



Let's make a new, civil, libertarian constitution that embraces the dreams of all the people of this country
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKEY'S PRESIDENT

BLINKEN VISITS HANOI

Fifty years after the last US combat troops left South Vietnam, Secretary of State Antony Blinken looked Saturday to strengthen America's ties with its old foes in Hanoi as it seeks to counter China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific



Army-paramilitary clash in Sudan

Sudan's main paramilitary group said it had seized the presidential palace, the army chief's residence and Khartoum international airport Saturday in an apparent coup attempt, but the military said it was fighting back



Smoke rises in Omdurman, near Halfaya Bridge, during the clash

Khartoum, April 15: Fierce fighting erupted Saturday in Sudan's capital between the military and the country's powerful paramilitary force, raising fears of a wider conflict in the chaos-stricken country. A doctors' group said at least three people were killed and dozens injured. The clashes between the military and the Rapid Support Forces group capped months of heightened tensions between both sides that forced the delay of a deal with political parties to restore the country's short-lived transition to democracy. The sound of heavy firing could be heard across the capital, Khartoum, and its sister city of Omdurman, where both the military and the RSF have amassed tens of thousands of troops since an October 2021 military coup that

derailed Sudan's fragile path to democracy. Residents described chaotic scenes in Khartoum and Omdurman as firing and explosions rang out in densely populated neighbourhoods. One of the flashpoints was Khartoum International Airport, where clashes grounded commercial Sudan-bound flights from Saudi Arabia turned back after nearly landing at the airport, flight tracking data showed Saturday. Saudi Arabia's national airline said one of its Airbus A330 aircraft was involved in "an accident." Video showed the plane on fire on the tarmac. Another plane also appeared to have caught fire in the attack. Flight-tracking website FlightRadar24 identified it as a SkyUp Airlines Boeing 737. SkyUp is a Kyiv, Ukraine-based airline. It did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Sudan Doctors' Syndicate said two civil-

Indians urged to stay indoors

Indians living in Sudan have been advised to stay indoors. "In view of reported firings and clashes, all Indians are advised to take utmost precautions, stay indoors and stop venturing outside with immediate effect. Please also stay calm and wait for updates," a tweet from the Indian Embassy in Khartoum read.

ians were killed at the airport, without specifying the circumstances. The committee said in a statement that another man was shot to death in the state of North Kordofan. Meanwhile, the BBC reported that a correspondent for BBC News Arabic in Khartoum, Mohamed Osman, was beaten by a Sudanese soldier. The broad-

Japan PM resumes poll campaigning after blast incident

REUTERS

Tokyo, April 15: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was evacuated unhurt after a suspect threw what appeared to be a smoke bomb at an outdoor speech in western Japan Saturday. Kishida took cover after a loud explosion was heard while police subdued a man at the scene, Japanese media footage showed. A police officer suffered minor injuries in the incident, the Nikkei newspaper reported, citing Wakayama prefectural police. "Police are investigating the details of the loud explosive sound at the previous speech venue," Kishida said when he resumed his campaign speeches.



The incident echoed the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was shot with a homemade gun last July while campaigning for a parliamentary election

By-elections in various regions for the lower house of Japan's parliament are to be held April 23. Japan's foreign ministry said there would be no change to the security plan for a G7 foreign ministers' meeting starting Sunday in the resort city of Karuzawa. The incident late on Saturday morning occurred at the Saikazaki fishing harbour in Wakayama prefecture, some 65 km (40 miles) southwest of Osaka city. Kishida

was visiting Saikazaki port in Wakayama prefecture to support his ruling party's candidate in a local election, and the explosion occurred just before he was to begin his speech. Kishida's government was hoping to focus world attention this weekend on the hot spring resort town of Karuzawa, where senior diplomats will gather Sunday for the so-called Group of Seven foreign ministers' meeting.

Ukraine awaits US missile system

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, April 15: The death toll from Russian missile strikes on eastern Ukraine's city of Sloviansk rose to 11 Saturday as rescue crews tried to reach people trapped in the rubble of an apartment building, Ukrainian authorities said. Ukraine's air force said the country would soon have weapons with which to try to prevent attacks like the Friday. The delivery of the Patriot air defence system promised by the US was expected in Ukraine sometime after Easter, Ukrainian air force spokesperson Yuriy Ihnat said. The primarily Orthodox Christian country is preparing to observe Easter Sunday. Speaking Saturday on Ukrainian state TV, Ihnat declined to give a precise timeline for the arrival of the defensive missile system but said the public would know "as soon as the first Russian aircraft is shot down." A group of 65 Ukrainian sol-

diers completed their training last month at Fort Sill, a US Army post in Oklahoma, and returned to Europe to learn more about using the defensive missile system to track and shoot down enemy aircraft. Officials said at the time that the Ukrainians would then go back to their country with a Patriot missile battery, which typically includes six mobile launchers, a mobile radar, a power generator and an engagement control center. Germany and the Netherlands also have pledged to provide a Patriot system each to Ukraine. In addition, a SAMP/T anti-missile system pledged by France and Italy "should enter Ukraine in the near future," Ihnat said this week. The Ukrainian military is looking to beef up its ability to intercept missiles as it prepares for an expected spring counter-offensive to retake Russian-occupied areas of the country.



Crowds gathered in the small Irish town of Ballina in County Mayo, hoping to catch a glimpse of US President Joe Biden

Iran vows crackdown on people who promote veil removal

REUTERS

Iran, April 15: People who encourage women to remove the hijab will be prosecuted in criminal courts and will have no right of appeal against any conviction, Iran's deputy attorney general was quoted as saying Saturday. His comments come as an increasing number of women have been defying Iran's compulsory dress code, appearing unveiled in



malls, restaurants, shops, streets, and other public areas. Several female celebrities and activists have also in recent months

posted photos of themselves on social media without the veil. Iranian police Saturday installed cameras in public places to identify and penalise unveiled women, Iranian media reported. Police announced the plan last week. "The crime of promoting unveiling will be dealt with in the criminal court whose decisions are final and unappealable," the semi-official Mehr News quoted deputy attorney general Ali Jamadi as saying.

Macron signs France pension reform into law despite protests



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, April 15: French President Emmanuel Macron's unpopular plan to raise France's retirement age from 62 to 64 was enacted into law Saturday, the day after the country's constitutional body approved the change. Macron's signature and publication in the Official Journal of the French Republic allowed the law to enter into force. The authorised changes will start being implemented in September, French government spokesperson Olivier Veran said. On Friday, the Constitutional Council rejected some parts of the government's pension legislation but approved the higher minimum retirement age, which was central to Macron's plan and the focus of opponents' protests. The nine-member council's decision capped months of tumultuous debates in parliament and fervor in the streets. Spontaneous demonstrations took place in Paris and across the country after the ruling. France's main labour unions, which organised 12 nationwide protests since January in hopes of defeating the plan, have vowed to continue fighting until it is withdrawn.

Germany's last nuclear plants in final hours

THE SHUTDOWN OF THE REACTORS EMSLAND, NECKARWESTHEIM II AND ISAR II, AGREED TO MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, WAS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED ABROAD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, April 15: Germany began winding down its three remaining nuclear power plants Saturday as part of a long-planned transition toward renewable energy, drawing cheers from environmentalists who campaigned for the move. Other industrialised countries, such as the United States, Japan, China, France and Britain, are counting on nuclear energy to replace planet-warming fossil fuels. Germany's decision to stop using both has met some scepticism, as well as unsuccessful last-minute calls to halt the shutdown.

Defenders of atomic energy say fossil fuels should be phased out first as part of global efforts to curb climate change, arguing that nuclear power produces far fewer greenhouse gas emissions and is safe, if properly managed. As energy prices spiked last year due to the war in Ukraine, some members of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government got cold feet about closing the nuclear plants as planned December 31, 2022. In a compromise, Scholz agreed to a one-time extension of the deadline, but insisted that the final countdown would happen April 15. Advocates of nuclear power



worldwide have slammed the German shutdown, aware that the action by Europe's biggest economy could deal a blow to a technology they tout as a clean and reliable alternative to fossil fuels. The German government has acknowledged that, in the short term, the country will have to rely more heavily on polluting coal and natural gas to meet its energy needs, even as it takes steps to massively ramp up electricity production from solar and wind. Germany aims to be carbon neutral by 2045. But officials such as Environment Minister Steffi Lemke say the idea of a nuclear renaissance is a myth, citing data showing that atomic energy's share of global electricity production is shrinking. At a recent news conference in Berlin, Lemke noted that building new nuclear plants in Europe, such as Hinkley Point C in Britain, has faced significant delays and cost overruns. Funds spent on maintaining ageing reactors or building new ones would be better spent on installing cheap renewables, she argued. Experts such as Claudia Kemfert of the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin say the 5 per cent share of Germany's electricity currently coming from its remaining three reactors can be easily replaced without risking blackouts.

of the day quote

We're going to be hit more by supply shocks and therefore monetary policy faces much more serious trade-offs. We have to refine our monetary policy framework

GITA GOPINATH | FIRST DEPUTY MD, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY

Due to continued uncertainty fuelled by Russia's unjustified war against Ukraine, recovery prospects for global economy remain fragile and the possibility that pressures in global energy and food markets may reappear

CHRISTINE LAGARDE | CHIEF, ECB

Our ambition to one day use 100 per cent recycled and renewable materials in our products works hand in hand with Apple 2030: our goal to achieve carbon neutral products by 2030

LISA JACKSON | VP (ENVIRONMENT, POLICY, AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES), APPLE

SHORT TAKES

HDFC Bank profit jumps 20% in Q4

Mumbai: Largest private sector lender HDFC Bank Saturday reported a 20.6 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹12,594.5 crore for the March 2023 quarter, driven by a healthy core performance. For the entire fiscal, it reported a 20.9 per cent increase in the net profit at ₹45,997.1 crore. The city-headquartered lender, which is in the middle of merging its mortgage lending parent HDFC, reported a 19.8 per cent growth in the post-tax profit on a standalone basis at ₹12,047.5 crore. Its core net interest income rose 23.7 per cent to ₹23,351.8 crore on the back of a 16.9 per cent jump in advances and the net interest margin being maintained at 4.1 per cent. The other income increased to ₹8,731.2 crore for the reporting quarter from ₹7,637.1 crore in the year-ago period.

Apple ships iPads, iPhones worth \$7.5bn

New Delhi: Amid the local manufacturing push and an upcoming widespread retail store strategy, Apple shipped \$7.5 billion worth iPhones and iPads in India in FY22-23. In FY23, Apple shipped more than 7 million iPhones and half a million iPads in the country, registering a 28 per cent growth for iPhone shipments, according to initial estimates provided by market intelligence firm CMR. As Apple doubles down on domestic manufacturing in India, the tech giant is likely to garner 6 per cent market share in FY23-24, with selling more than 8 million iPhones in the country in the period.

Wage protests hit Zomato's Blinkit

New Delhi: Around 50 stores of Indian food delivery company Zomato's grocery unit Blinkit are shut as bike riders have stopped work in the latest protest to hit India's gig economy as employees push demands for better wages. Zomato in an email said it had introduced a new structure for riders that compensates them based on their effort and was engaging with them to reopen the shut stores. To take advantage of the trend for "quick commerce" that delivers goods within minutes to those in urgent need of supplies or just impulse shopping, Zomato last year bought Blinkit for \$550 million. Blinkit has around 400 stores in India, of which 50 were shut, mostly in and around New Delhi, a source said. Videos on social media showed hundreds of Blinkit bike riders protesting and raising slogans against the introduction of a payment structure they say will reduce their per-order earnings.



India's financial system remains completely insulated from the recent developments in the US and Switzerland

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

MUSK PLANS TO ENTER AI RACE

Billionaire Elon Musk is working on launching an artificial intelligence start-up that will rival ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, a report said. Twitter-owner Musk is assembling a team of AI researchers and engineers and is also in discussions with some investors in SpaceX and Tesla Inc about putting money into his new venture



COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Argentines buckle as inflation tops 104%

THE SOARING PRICES HAVE HAMMERED SALARIES AND SPENDING POWER, PUSHED UP POVERTY TO NEAR 40%

REUTERS

Buenos Aires, April 15: Argentina's annual inflation rate soared to 104.3% in March, the official statistics agency said Friday, one of the highest rates in the world, straining people's wallets and stoking a cost-of-living crisis that has pushed up poverty.

The inflation reading for the month came in at 7.7%, well above analyst forecasts of 7.1%, marking the fastest monthly rise since 2002 and piling pressure on the government which is contending with angry voters ahead of elections in October.

The country, a major global grains exporter, is also grappling with one of its worst droughts in



history, that has hammered soy, corn and wheat crops, knocking billions off the economy from lost exports and fanning domestic prices.

EACH SHOP MORE EXPENSIVE
For now, every trip to the su-

permarket is a reminder of the country's inflationary crisis, the worst since 1991, which was the end of a period of hyperinflation. Retiree Juan Tartara said prices spiked with each weekly visit to the store. "Sometimes food increases

The number we see today represents the worst moment of the impact of the war on international prices and the worst drought in history in our country. We know, it hurts us, it occupies us, how this affects daily life and every family

GABRIELA CERRUTI | PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESWOMAN, ARGENTINA

10% or 15%," he said. "In one year, beef went from around 1,000 pesos (\$4.66) or 1,200 pesos to 2,800 pesos."

Paola Lavezzari, also in publishing, said inflation was forcing her to tighten the purse strings and buy cheaper products. "The first thing you lose is the quality of

the product. Because what you used to consume of a better quality, today is unaffordable," she said. "Things were always maybe 10 pesos more, but now it's 100 pesos more. ... When you make the monthly shopping trip, it's so much. The difference is huge."

Inflation will likely be one of the deciding issue for voters in the October elections, where libertarian economist Javier Milei has been gaining traction in the polls with his promises to break the status quo.

President Alberto Fernandez's approval rating has decreased as inflation soars, and currently hovers just above 20%. He has not yet confirmed if he will seek re-election for a second term.

Edible oil import rises 8% in March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 15: Edible oil imports rose 8 per cent year-on-year in March to 11.35 lakh tonne, industry body SEA Friday said and demanded that the duty difference between crude palm oil and refined palm oil should be increased to protect domestic refineries.

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) in a statement said edible oil imports rose to 11,35,600 tonne in March from 10,51,688 tonne in the year-ago period. Imports of non-edible oil fell to 36,693 tonne in March from 52,872 tonne in the same month last year. The total imports of vegetable oils (edible oils and non-edible oils) went up 6 per cent to 11,72,293 tonne in March from 11,04,570 tonne a year ago.

From November 2022 to March 2023, imports of edible oils rose to 69,80,365 tonne from 56,42,918 tonne in the corresponding period of the previous oil marketing year.

The oil marketing year runs from November to October.

Imports of non-edible oils fell to 79,828 tonne in the first five months of the 2022-23 oil year from 1,52,810 tonne in the year-ago period. The overall import of vegetable oils during the first five months of the oil year 2022-23 rose 22 per cent to 70,60,193 tonne compared to 57,95,728 tonne in the corresponding period of the previous year.

India's palm refining industry is heavily suffering from very low capacity utilisation due to excessive import of RBD Palmolein and getting transformed into mere packers, it added.

From November 2022 to March 2023, the import of palm products sharply increased due to price parity at 43,99,128 tonne compared to 26,53,253 tonne in the year-ago period. The share of palm oil increased to 63 per cent from 47 per cent.

Global oil demand to touch new high in '23

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, April 15: Global demand for oil this year is on track to rise to a record 101.9 million barrels per day (MBPD) as China leads an economic surge among developing nations, the world's leading energy body has forecast, a media report said.

The International Energy Agency's predicted daily average for 2023 is 2 MBPD higher than last year's figure. The price of a barrel of oil rose from \$85.62 to \$86.10 Friday morning. The agency warned that a recent decision by the world's biggest oil exporters to cut their production could drive oil prices higher, in a blow to efforts to reduce inflation and reset economic growth in developed countries.

Oil market prices soared by \$7 a barrel earlier this month after OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, and other allied oil-producing nations, led by Russia, agreed to deepen their production cuts to 2 MBPD this year despite concerns that China's economic rebound could drive higher demand for oil.

BIZ BUZZ

Lalchnd brings 'Great Akshaya Tritiya' offers

Bhubaneswar: On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Odisha's leading and most trusted jewellery brand - Lalchnd Jewellers - has come up with some 'Great Akshaya Tritiya' offers. The brand is offering some unbeatable deals on making charges of jewellery at all of its showrooms in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur from April 9-30. Customers can avail a flat rate of ₹699 per gram on making charges of BIS-hallmark gold jewellery. In addition, they can get free 200 mg gold coin of 24-carat purity on purchase of diamond jewellery worth ₹25,000. Likewise, on purchase of diamond jewellery worth ₹50,000 and above, customers can take home a 24-carat gold coin weighing 500 mg. On purchases of diamond jewellery worth ₹1 lakh and above, customers can get a 2-gram 24-carat gold coin free of cost. There is also a flat 50 percent discount on making charges of silver jewellery. It is also offering up to 20% off on select international branded watches and up to 15% off on all branded gift items. To celebrate its first anniversary on Akshaya Tritiya, Lalchnd Jewellers' Berhampur showroom is presenting an exciting "Double Dhamaka Offer". With this offer, customers can get a golden opportunity to win an electric scooter conditional upon a minimum purchase of jewellery worth ₹20,000. In a bid to support girl child education, Lalchnd Berhampur has also brought the "Good Luck Offer". With this offer, parents can get a free "Good Luck Coin" on jewellery purchases by showing their daughter's matric admit card. Over and above there is a special anniversary offer with which customers can get a guaranteed gift on every purchase.



ViewSonic holds LED partners' meet in City

Bhubaneswar: ViewSonic Technologies India, AV division concluded an insightful and informative event LED partners' meet in Bhubaneswar. More than 60+ partners attended the event from the city including regional distributors from Corporate Business Machines & Bose Electro Acoustics, Om Prakash Dubey, Associate Business Director; Sneha Saloni, Marketing Specialist along with Indronil Niyogi, Regional Sales Manager and Satyabrata, Area Sales Manager from the ViewSonic team were present to welcome all the partners to this event. Dubey gave a brief presentation on the upcoming and recently launched range of ViewSonic projectors and highlighted what makes their LED projectors the best among the competition. ViewSonic has been the No 1 brand in India in the Interactive display market for the last 3 consecutive years. It is also the leading company in LED projector segment in India.



SBI celebrates 132nd birth anniv of Ambedkar

Bhubaneswar: State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle has celebrated 132nd birth anniversary of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, architect of Indian Constitution. To celebrate the occasion, a meeting was organised by SBI SC/ST Employees' Welfare Council at SBI Bhubaneswar main branch under leadership of President Sourav Ranjan Das. SBI Bhubaneswar Circle CGM Chandreshwar Sharma attended the meeting as chief guest and inaugurated the event by lighting of lamps. In the meeting, meritorious students were awarded and honourable persons from different fields were felicitated.

Ferrari fever? Classic cars roar into investment funds

THE GLOBAL RACE TO RENOUNCE COMBUSTION ENGINE CARS WILL ONLY SERVE TO HEIGHTEN INTEREST IN VINTAGE BEASTS WHICH ARE RELICS OF A VANISHING ERA

REUTERS

Milan, April 15: In 1977, a Ferrari owner offloaded his 1962 250 GTO because his wife complained it was too noisy, recounts Andrea Modena, head of Ferrari's classic car division. It was either her or the car. "Nowadays, I'm not sure the wife would have won out."

Times have indeed changed. In 2018, the same Ferrari model became the most expensive car ever sold when it fetched \$48 million at auction. Last year, that record was flat-topped by a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR Uhlenhaut Coupé that raced to 135 million euros (\$149 million).

These kind of megadeals are at the vanguard of billions of dollars of annual spending on classic cars globally in a wave of investment in this alternative asset.

The market has expanded beyond a comparatively small community of collectors to include investors drawn by the prospect of high returns plus a lack of correlation with mainstream portfolio assets such as stocks and bonds.

This year, the asset manager is launching what it describes as the world's first "evergreen" fund to invest in vintage vehicles, and says it'll only bet on cars worth more than 1 million euros each.

Advised by Alberto Schon, head of Ferrari and Maserati dealer Rosocorsa, the fund says it will pick vehicles with a unique history. While Azimut's fund will have no end date and can receive new money indefinitely, small Swiss asset manager Hetica Capital launched a 50 million euro "closed-end" fund in 2021, which it also said was the first of its kind.

The Hetica fund, which is targeting returns of 9%-15% after seven years, has bought a dozen cars so far and aims to get to 30-35 cars by the fifth year, leaving the last two years to sell the vehicles and pay investors.

Ferraris commanded an average value at auction of \$589,000 in 2021-22, followed by Mercedes-Benz cars on \$378,000 and Porsches with \$348,000

The track record of the past 30 years tells us classic cars have become a financial asset class we want our clients to have in their portfolios

GIORGIO MEDDA | CEO AND GLOBAL HEAD, AZIMUT

The plans are bold. "We've seen more than 100 attempts at setting up funds in the past. Nobody managed to build both a diversified investor base and a diversified car portfolio," said Dietrich Hatlapa, founder of classic car research house HAGI, which supplies the sector data used by Knight Frank.

It's also not a sector for the financially faint-hearted.

Registered in Luxembourg, both the Azimut and Hetica funds have a minimum entry investment bar of 125,000 euros. "We get loads of calls from people who're looking to invest 1,000-2,000 euros and we have to turn them down," said Walter Panzeri who runs Hetica's Klassik Fund.

KEEPING THE CARS ALIVE

Running costs for car collections, including hefty storage and insurance fees, could easily amount annually to 5-6% of the portfolio's value, according to Florian Zimmermann, who started buying vintage cars when he worked at Mercedes-Benz and has since built a collection of 300 vehicles with a partner.

"It's getting harder and harder to find the proper mechanics to keep these cars alive.

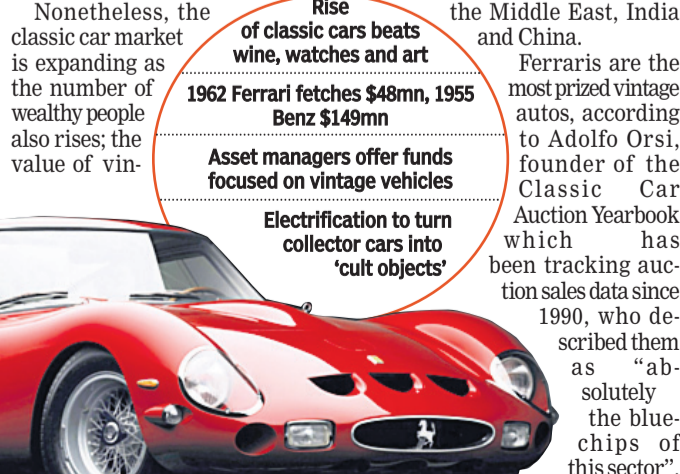
And you have to spend quite an amount of money to keep all these cars in running condition," he said.

Indeed investment funds managing car portfolios can be a money-spinner for the classic car divisions of automakers, which not only provide repairs and parts, but also certify the authenticity of vehicles to take part in shows and competitions.

Nonetheless, the classic car market is expanding as the number of wealthy people also rises; the value of vin-

tage cars grew 25% in 2022, their strongest performance in nine years and second only to art's 29% increase, according to Knight Frank. While North America remains the largest market for auctions, with Hagerty recording \$3.4 billion in auction sales in 2022 versus \$774 million in 2007, Zimmermann said a growing number of buyers had emerged in recent years in the Middle East, India and China.

Ferraris are the most prized vintage autos, according to Adolfo Orsi, founder of the Classic Car Auction Yearbook which has been tracking auction sales data since 1990, who described them as "absolutely the blue-chips of this sector".



Rise of classic cars beats wine, watches and art
1962 Ferrari fetches \$48mn, 1955 Benz \$149mn
Asset managers offer funds focused on vintage vehicles
Electrification to turn collector cars into 'cult objects'

