



## DRIVING SEAT

Priyanka Chopra Jonas feels responsible for bringing South Asian cultural representation to forefront

LEISURE P2



## RESCUE OPERATIONS

The United States and the United Kingdom say their armed forces helped staff from both embassies get out of Sudan

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SACHIN TURNS 50

Accolades pour in from all quarters ahead of Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday today

SPORTS P12

# Skills, not degrees: Pradhan



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in presence of other dignitaries, lights the ceremonial lamp to mark the inauguration of exhibition on 'Future of Work' at CSIR-IMMT in Bhubaneswar, Sunday (See Page-5)

PNN/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, April 23:** Skills and competencies will drive the future rather than degrees as old jobs have begun to vanish due to disruptive innovation and technology, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Sunday.

Pradhan was addressing a conference here ahead of the third G20 Education Working Group meeting later this week.

"Skills and competencies will drive the future rather than degrees. There will be a constant

competition between God gifted human intelligence and Artificial Intelligence (AI)," Pradhan said in the keynote address at the conference themed 'Deep Tech with a Focus on Advanced Technology in Future of Work.'

"Old jobs are vanishing due to disruptive innovation and technology. New jobs are emerging but our workforce needs continuous skilling, reskilling and upskilling. Hence, we must think of new approaches to prepare youth for future jobs," he added.

The minister said that the 21st

century will be knowledge-based and technology-driven.

"Guided by its civilisational ethos and as a natural hub of talent, captive market and resources, India is going to play a leading role in fulfilling the global aspirations of the 21st century," he asserted.

"Internet, mobility and global connectivity provide us with an opportunity to think about global requirements. We have to come together to convert this opportunity for India's youth as well as for those belonging to the Global South," he said.

**Contd...4**

# Amritpal arrested, sent to Assam jail

IG SUKHCHAIN SINGH GILL COUNTERED THE PREACHER'S CLAIM THAT IT WAS A 'SURRENDER', AND SAID THE FUGITIVE WAS CORNERED

AGENCIES

**Chandigarh, April 23:** The Punjab police arrested Sunday Amritpal Singh in Moga district and sent him to a jail in Assam, ending an over a month-long manhunt against the radical preacher who styled himself after slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

The preacher was taken into custody at 6.45 am as he came out -- in the traditional attire that included a sheathed sword -- of the gurdwara in Rode, Bhindranwale's native village and also the place where he himself took over last year as the chief of Waris Punjab De.

The 29-year-old was detained under the stringent National Security Act and flown to Assam on a special flight and lodged



at the Dibrugarh Central Jail, where nine other associates picked up over the past several weeks are kept.

Shortly after his arrest, a video surfaced online in which the extremist preacher is seen delivering a brief address, indicating that he is surrendering.

Another clip showed him sitting before a portrait of Bhindranwale, who died in a controversial Army operation in 1984 to flush out militants holed up in

side Amritsar's Golden Temple.

Inspector General of Police Sukhchain Singh Gill countered the preacher's claim that it was a 'surrender', and said the fugitive was cornered.

"A joint operation was conducted by Amritsar police and the intelligence wing of Punjab Police. He was located in village Rode based on operational inputs with Punjab Police. He was surrounded from all sides. The village was surrounded by the Punjab Police," he said.

He said police did not enter the gurdwara. "It was very important to maintain the sanctity of the gurdwara and police in uniform could not enter inside."

A message was conveyed to the preacher that he had no chance of making his escape, Gill said.

"National Security Act warrants were issued against Amritpal Singh and these have been executed today morning. Further, law will take its own course," he said.

In a video message hours after the arrest, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said those who disturb peace and harmony in the state will face the law, and innocent people will not be disturbed.

Mann said he continuously monitored developments during the night, leading to the arrest.

# Net restored in violence-hit Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, April 23:** The Odisha government Sunday lifted a curfew during daytime and withdrew a ban on internet services in Sambalpur city which had recently witnessed violence during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations, an official said.

Internet services were fully restored after 10 days, while the administration relaxed the curfew from 5 am to 8 pm, he said. These decisions were taken after "significant improvement of the law and order situation" in the Western Odisha city, the Sambalpur district official said. Internet services were suspended April 13, while the curfew was imposed the next day in the wake of a clash between two groups during the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations.

Later, broadband and leased internet services were resumed between 10 am and 5 pm, but the suspension of mobile internet was extended till April 22. The administration had also come out with a toll-free number for the public to report "circulation of inappropriate messages or posts carrying hatred speech or false news". The western Odisha city had witnessed a clash between two communities during a motorcycling rally in the run-up to the Hanuman Jayanti April 14. As the clash spilled over to the streets, many vehicles were damaged and some shops were set on fire.

# 'To get even with neighbour': Man held for death threat to PM



AGENCIES

**Chennai, April 23:** A man in Kerala's Kochi was arrested Sunday for issuing a death threat to Prime Minister Narendra Modi - only to get even with his neighbour with whom he had a quarrel, police said.

The arrested man was identified as Xavier, a catering contractor from Kathrikadavu.

The state BJP office had received a threat letter last week before stating that the Prime Minister would be assassinated during his visit to the state April 24 and 25.

The letter addressed to BJP Kerala state president, K Surendran was signed by a person called NJ Johnny and his phone number was also mentioned in the letter.

When police questioned Johnny based on a complaint filed by

The accused revealed before the police that he had himself sent the letter in the name of his neighbour to create problems for the latter

Surendran, he was not aware of the threat letter but said that he had a dispute with his neighbour Xavier.

Police took Xavier in custody and he revealed that he had himself sent the letter in the name of Johnny, to create problems for his neighbour. A scientific verification of his handwriting also proved that it was indeed Xavier who had sent the letter.

Xavier was arrested and questioned for long hours but only stated that he had no intention to threaten the Prime Minister but instead had used this route to get even with his neighbour.

Ernakulam Police Commissioner, K. Sethuraman led the investigation team.

# Naveen unveils new BJD office

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 23:** On the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik Sunday inaugurated a grand Biju Janata Dal office named 'Sankha Bhawan' here.

Addressing a gathering on this occasion, Patnaik said that Sankha Bhawan will be a meeting place for all those who love Odisha, who are interested in working for the development of the state and for building a new and strong Odisha.

The Bhawan will work for Odisha's development and pride, and it will also work for promotion of the state's rich cultural heritage, he said, adding all the works of the new BJD office will be dedicated to the people of Odisha.

"A new era had begun in Odisha in the year 1997 with the birth of the Biju Janata Dal, which was formed as per the principles and guidance of legendary leader late Biju Patnaik. The BJD, which was formed as the regional party to serve people of Odisha, has now been transformed into a social movement," Patnaik said.



Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik takes stock of the newly-inaugurated party office 'Sankha Bhawan' in Unit-VI area of Bhubaneswar, Sunday (See Page-3)

The Bhawan will connect the future with the past of Odisha and it will bring together the four and a half crore people of Odisha, he added.

The Chief Minister further said that the Sankha Bhawan will be devoted to the development of art, literature, and culture of Odisha. The office will also continue to

work for spreading the great culture of Lord Jagannath and will continue to spread the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

Attending the Sankha Bhawan inauguration, former MP Tathagata Satpathy made it clear that he is not going to rejoin electoral politics.

Responding to media queries, Satpathy said: "I have been invited

to the inauguration ceremony by the BJD president. I respect him a lot. I accepted his invitation and came to attend the ceremony out of respect."

The four-time MP further said that he is neither in any party nor is interested to enter electoral politics again. "I am so happy now," he added.

# Second cheetah dies in a month at Kuno

AGENCIES

**Bhopal/Sheepur, April 23:** One of the cheetahs translocated to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) from South Africa died Sunday, a senior forest official said.

The deceased cheetah 'Uday' was six years old.

This is the second such incident at KNP in almost a month. Earlier, Namibian cheetah 'Sasha' died due to a kidney ailment March 27.

"During the inspection in the morning, a cheetah brought from South Africa was found dull with head down following which veterinarians attending him alerted senior officials and the feline was taken out from the large enclosure for treatment. Unfortunately around 4 pm, the cheetah passed away," Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife, JS Chauhan told PTL.



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| WEATHER  |                        |
|----------|------------------------|
|          | BHUB CTK               |
| TEMP     |                        |
| MAX      | 31.2°C 42.0°C          |
| MIN      | 19.6°C 26.5°C          |
| Humidity | 62% 71%                |
| Rainfall | 21.3mm 7.4mm           |
| Forecast | Light rain very likely |

# State diverts 62K ha forest land, fells 19.5L trees

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, April 23:** Odisha, one of India's most natural calamity-prone states, has diverted 62,016 hectare of forest land and 19.50 lakh trees have been cut down for non-forestry purposes till 2022.

This information was given by Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat during the recently concluded Budget Session of the Assembly.

As per the provisions made under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, a total of 62,016 hectare of forest land was diverted for different industrial and socio-economic developmental projects in Odisha till 2022. The forest areas were diverted after receiving the final nod from the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Amat said.

Apart from this, the state government is waiting to divert another 888 hectare of forest land for

execution of 107 different projects.

The highest 14,466 hectare of forest land was diverted in mineral-rich Keonjhar district while 10,025 hectare of forest land was diverted in tribal-dominated Sundargarh district, which also has a good number of mining projects.

Similarly, 6800 hectare of forest land in Angul district, 5045 hectare in Jajpur, 4529 hectare in Bolangir, 2735 hectare in Jharsuguda, 2676 hectare in Mayurbhanj, 2338 hectare in Koraput and 2167 hectare of forest land in Rayagada district were diverted for non-forestry purposes. These districts also have several big industries and mining projects.

The lowest three hectare of forest land was diverted in coastal Puri district while 18 hectare was diverted in Subarnapur district.

The state government has also cut down 19,50,686 trees for execution of industrial, mining and developmental projects. The largest number, 4,44,592 trees were felled in



Sundargarh district, followed by Jagatsinghpur, where 2,98,906 trees were cut down for different projects.

Similarly, over 2 lakh trees were felled in Keonjhar and Sambalpur districts while over 1 lakh trees were cut down in Nayagarh, Bolangir and Angul.

The Forest Minister also mentioned that the state government has carried out a compensatory afforestation programme in 75,278 hectares of land and planted

2,93,79,423 seedlings.

As per the report, 178 hectares of forest land has been diverted and 424 trees felled in Bhadrak district for non-forestry projects. However, the government is yet to plant a seedling in the district under compensatory afforestation.

In Kendrapara district too, the state is yet to carry out a plantation drive against diversion of 140 hectare of forest land and the felling of 322 trees.

## Eco-damaging

- Odisha has a forest area of 52,156 square kilometre, which is about 33.50 per cent of its total geographical area, according to India State of Forest Report 2021
- About 33,154 hectare of forest land is under encroachment
- Keonjhar and Sundargarh top in forest area conversion, while Sundargarh and Jagatsinghpur top in tree felling
- 19,267.47 hectare of forest land was diverted for mining activities in the country in the past five years, of which the highest 7,928.62 hectare was diverted in Odisha

As per a statement made by Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi in the Rajya Sabha February 13 this year, 19,267.47 hectare of forest land was diverted for mining ac-

tivities in the country in the past five years, of which the highest 7,928.62 hectare was diverted in Odisha.

During the period 2017-18 to 2021-22, 41 mining projects including 35 by private firms have been approved in Odisha.

"Majority of the forest areas are destroyed for mining and industrial projects. We can implement developmental projects, no one is opposing it. But we have to think about the future generations and its impact on our environment. Is there a real need to exploit such a huge amount of our natural resources," said environmentalist Jayakrushna Panigrahi.

Though the state government is planting seedlings as compensatory afforestation, it cannot be treated as forest. This is because the ecosystem, food chain, wildlife and other habitats affected due to degradation of forest cannot be compensated with new plantation, he said.

# leisure



## SCARLETT BIDS ADIEU TO MARVEL FRANCHISE

Actress Scarlett Johansson, who was introduced as Black Widow in *Iron Man 2* before going on to star in *The Avengers* movies along with 2021's *Black Widow*, said in a recent interview that she has no plans to return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe in the future, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

## AFFLECK REVEALS WIFE LOPEZ'S BEAUTY SECRET

Actor Ben Affleck talked about his wife Jennifer Lopez's incredible work ethic, which keeps her fit, in *the Drew Barrymore Show*. Revealing her beauty secret, he said that her work ethic and discipline are too real. He highlighted how Lopez doesn't even worry about the food that she eats.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

You are not so much in a mood to socialise today. Something unsavoury may also be hard to overcome. Although you are industrious, Ganesha advises you not to bite off more than you can chew. A bit of faith in providence can go a long way in your life.

#### TAURUS

Ganesha sees you preferring your outer appearance, having a good time over getting internally organized. You will seek your comfort level from creature comforts, not from within. You are due to spend most of the day, dressed in your best and going out to your favourite haunts for good food and company.

#### GEMINI

It is possible that the start of the day may not see you in the best of moods and some mental distress is the likely reason behind it. You need to consult an expert to find out the best way out of your current predicament.

#### CANCER

A perfect day in store for you, says Ganesha! You may begin the day on a positive note, and may decide to express your gratitude towards the God by visiting a temple. Religious feelings may also keep you preoccupied.

#### LEO

Whether you are an entrepreneur or an employee, you will spend more time at the office as compared to home. This is primarily because you will be full of energy and enthusiasm towards your work. Events will conspire to draw your attention towards work as well.

#### VIRGO

All big businessmen may expect a very beneficial and progressive day. The loans for which you have applied may be sanctioned by the financial institutions today. However, Ganesha advises you not to neglect your beloved and near and dear ones, for without them there is little cause for interest in life.

#### LIBRA

Ganesha says today is a good day to start out with new ventures. You shall be interested in fine arts like drawing, classical music, dance etc as the artistic streak in your nature comes to the fore, and their pursuit shall make you happy. Ganesha wishes you luck and success in all your ventures.

#### SCORPIO

A series of events will keep you occupied, physically and mentally. You will enjoy meeting like-minded people and intellectual discussions with them. You are charged up and look forward to soiree and merry making with loved ones. However, make sure that too much enthusiasm and overexertion does not deteriorate your health.

#### SAGITTARIUS

All things bright and beautiful in store for you today, predicts Ganesha. Your focus improves as your vision becomes clear and ideas innovative. You may even sort out the troubles that you are going through, since past few days.

#### CAPRICORN

You have high expectations from all, says Ganesha. Not only that, you also expect miracles from yourself. Naturally, with such high expectations you raise the chances of getting disappointed, also. A stitch in time saves nine. You need to plan out how you want to go about ideas and projects well in advance.

#### AQUARIUS

It is not only important to ideate, but also to get those ideas executed is equally important. Don't worry though, you are good at both, assures Ganesha. Icing on the cake will be your communication skill which gets you through the door every time. For students, it will be an amazing day.

#### PISCES

Your energy levels will be at their peak today, and that, coupled with your extraordinary enthusiasm, will give you the momentum you need to implement your plans, says Ganesha.

## PC takes up the baton for India

**Mumbai:** Actress-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is all set to be seen in the upcoming streaming series *Citadel*, feels the responsibility for cultural representation of India in global platform.

Though the actress might have been in the West for quite some time, she holds her Indian values close to her heart. Talking to a news portal, PC said, "India is my identity. Wherever I go in the world, I am an Indian first and then everything else. I take a lot of pride in being born in a country that boasts an ancient culture and such a mind-blowing mix of people."

Being an Indian in a sea of American talents who call the shots in Hollywood also gives her a sense of purpose. She added,

"It has been my aim to represent India on the international canvas. People from the South Asian community have been working in the west for very many years, but, for some reason, they were never given a chance to headline a project or to feature on the posters of an international film, in most cases."

*Citadel* premieres on Amazon Prime Video April 28.



## Urvashi serves legal notice on journalist

**Mumbai:** Actress and model Urvashi Rautela announced that she was serving a legal notice for defamation against a journalist who had posted false information about her on Twitter. Sharing journalist Umair Sandhu's fake tweet on Instagram, she stated that he was not her 'official spokesperson' and had made her and her family uncomfortable with his allegations.

On Instagram, the actor shared, "Defamation legal notice has been served by my legal team. I am definitely disgruntled with indecent journalists like you for your spurious and ridiculous tweets. You're not my official spokesperson. And yes, you're a very immature journalist who made me and my family extremely uncomfortable. #love #UrvashiRautela #URL." She also shared an image of Umair's tweet, which she said was fake. The tweet alleged that actor Akhil Akkineni, the son of Nagarjuna, had harassed Urvashi while she filmed a song from his upcoming film *Agent in Europe*. Last month,

Urvashi was spotted with Jalebi Baby singer Jason Derulo, who had arrived in India for work. She and Jason are said to be working on a music video titled *Soniye* that is going to be released soon.

## 'I'm scared to talk on social media'

**Mumbai:** Social media is a place where celebrities get instant attention for whatever they post. But it also has a flipside, as there can be occasions where a celebrity is trolled, sometimes through no fault of his or her own. Veteran actor Suniel Shetty recently spoke about how nasty social media can be at times. Speaking on the podcast recently, Shetty said, "Today's time of social media, there is no privacy; it destroys your life. One sentence edited in 15 dif-

ferent ways and put out in 15 different ways has destroyed our lives. You know, it's made it impossible. I'm scared to talk." Shetty added that it is because of the atmosphere on social media that celebrities are forced to be diplomatic in their opinions. "We've been forced to be diplomatic because you're hammering me otherwise for something that I have not done, and who's hammering me? Somebody I don't even know on Twitter or Facebook. That hurts

because I come from the old school." On the work front, Shetty was last seen in the

## Samantha's cryptic reply to producer

**Mumbai:** *Shaakuntalam* actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has cryptically clapped back at Telugu producer Chitti Babu, who severely criticised the actress for her box office failure. The producer claimed that the former's career 'as the heroine is finished and she cannot get back to stardom' and should accept whatever roles are given to her and not be 'selective'.

In retaliation, the actress shared a post on her Instagram Stories, which got her fans scratching their heads, believing that it was a jibe at Chitti Babu. In a now-

deleted Instagram Story, Samantha shared a post revealing that she was searching 'How do people have hair growing from their ears?' on Google. The answer was because of 'increased testosterone'. She shared the screenshot of her search along with the hashtag, "#IYKYK (If you know, you know)".

Social media users believe that it was a sneer at Chitti Babu. The producer heavily trolled Samantha and accused her of trying

to "gain sympathy." On the work front, Samantha is working alongside Varun Dhawan on the Indian original series within the *Citadel* franchise, whose flagship show features Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden.

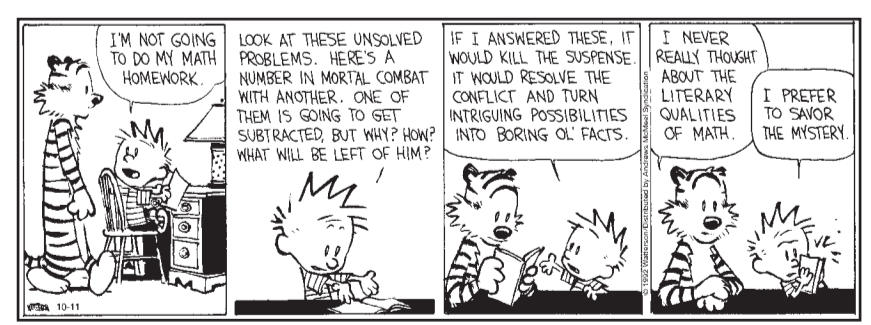


also starred Esha Deol, Rahul Dev, Barkha Bisht, Karanvir Sharma and Teena Singh.

### PEANUTS



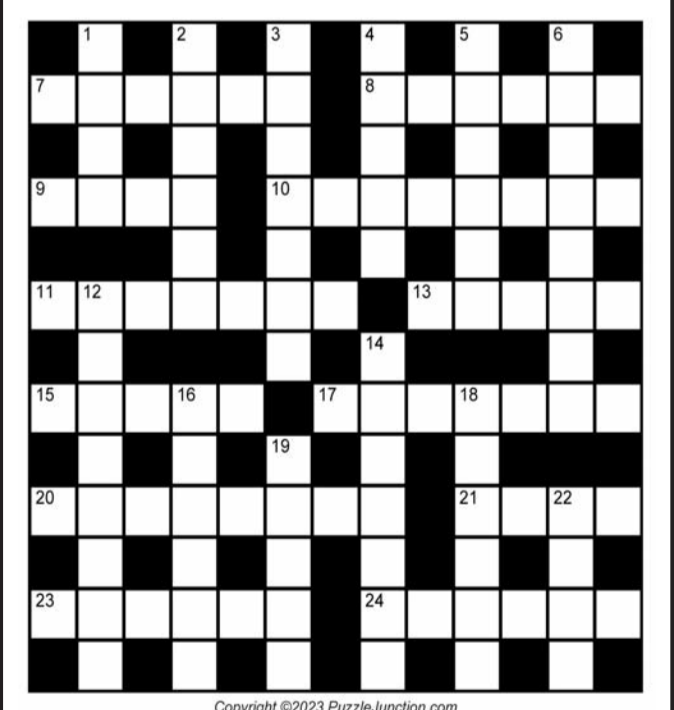
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



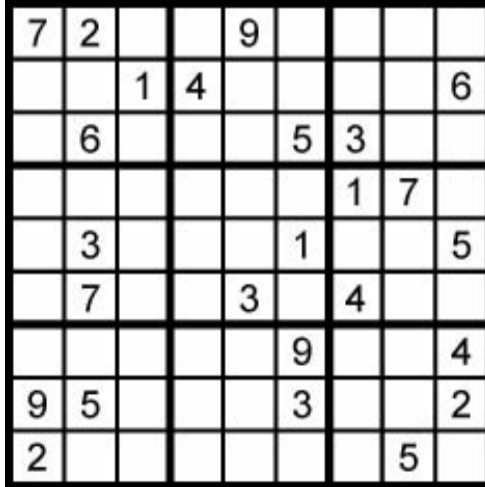
### FUN post CROSSWORD



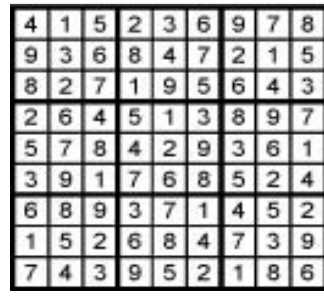
- Across
- 7 Slalom course (3,3)
  - 8 Free of charge
  - 9 Fishing tackle
  - 10 Pioneer; start something new
  - 11 Five o'clock shadow
  - 13 Panache
  - 15 Spy
  - 17 Wet weather gear
  - 20 Mediterranean island native
  - 21 Rash reaction?
  - 23 Tartans
  - 24 Bury
  - 4 Maturing
  - 5 Express astonishment
  - 6 Off-road vehicle (4,4)
  - 12 Concrete; touchable
  - 14 Birch
  - 16 Ancestry
  - 18 Brightly printed fabric
  - 19 Blotto
  - 22 Deep sleep, medically
- Down
- 1 Used in soups or stews
  - 2 Ready-made, like a house
  - 3 Baseball diamond part

### 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.



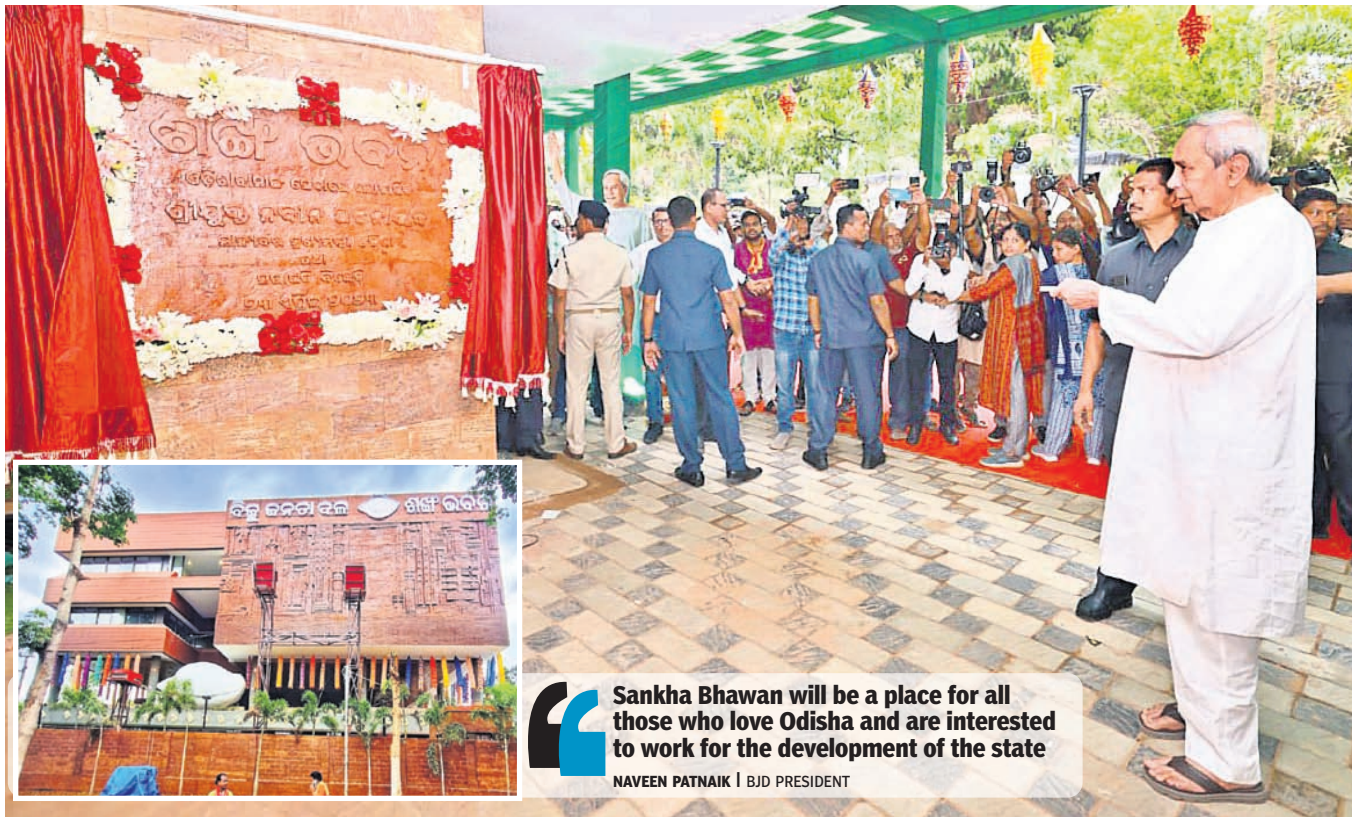
### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# Naveen dedicates Sankha Bhawan to people of Odisha

As Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik inaugurates party's newly-built office, Sankha Bhawan, in Unit-VI area of Bhubaneswar on the auspicious occasion of Akshay Tiritiya Sunday, OrissaPOST brings you a few snapshots from the mega event



Sankha Bhawan will be a place for all those who love Odisha and are interested to work for the development of the state  
NAVEEN PATNAIK | BJD PRESIDENT

Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik inaugurates party's newly-built office, Sankha Bhawan, in Unit-VI area of Bhubaneswar, Sunday. (Inset: The swanky building)



Artistes perform outside Sankha Bhawan



Interior view of the building



BJD workers at the inaugural event



OP PHOTOS



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- |  |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>JYOTE MOTORS</b><br/>BHUBANESWAR: LEWIS ROAD: 9798190190.<br/>NAYAPALLI: 9798190190. KEONJHAR: 9798190190.<br/>NAYAGARH: 9798190190.<br/>BALUGAON: 9798190190. ANANDPUR: 9798190190.<br/>KENDRAPARA: 9798190190.<br/>BALASORE: 9798190190. BHADRAK: 9798190190.<br/>BARIPADA: 9798190190.<br/>UDALA: 7064499950. RAIRANGPUR: 9853446906.<br/>JALESWAR: 7064499950. BASUDEVPUR: 9798190190.</p> | <p><b>SKY AUTOMOBILES</b><br/>BHUBANESWAR: PATIA: 7381045356.<br/>CUTTACK: 9776677771, 7381873818.<br/>DHENKANAL: 7381045357. NARSINGHPUR: 7381045357.<br/>KAMAKHYANAGAR: 7381045357. JAJPUR: 9776900777.<br/>SALEPUR: 9583544555. CHANDIKHOL: 9583544555.<br/>TANGI: 7381045356. BIRHAMPUR: 9778202019.<br/>BHANJANAGAR: 9778202019.<br/>PARALAKHEMUNDI: 9778202019.<br/>PHULBANI: 9778202019.</p> | <p><b>TUSHI MOTORS</b><br/>CUTTACK: 9078076450.<br/>PANIKOIL: 9078076450.<br/>ATHAGARH: 9078076450.</p> | <p><b>NARAYANI MOTORS</b><br/>BHUBANESHWAR: RASULGARH: 9583022019, 7440019592, 9583022013.<br/>JAGATSINGHPUR: 9583022090.<br/>PURI: 9583022035.<br/>NIMPARA: 7381094851.<br/>PARADEEP: 9583022034/ 48.<br/>PURI HIGHWAY PIPLI: 9583022013.</p> | <p><b>ODYSSEY MOTORS</b><br/>ANGUL: 7752076136, 9776901481.<br/>PALLAHARA: 7873565435, 9437831123.<br/>SAMBALPUR (AINTHAPALI): 7381433909.<br/>BOLANGIR: 9438068327.<br/>BARGARH: 9556352943.<br/>NUAPADA: 7381017851.<br/>SONEPUR: 9438068327.<br/>JHARSUGUDA: 9439892153.<br/>BOUDH: 8594908009.<br/>PADAMPUR: 7381661837.</p> | <p><b>LEGEND CARS</b><br/>JEYPORE: 7894406481.<br/>RAYAGADA: 9692883042.<br/>BHAWANIPATNA: 7894442907.</p> | <p><b>APARNA MOTORS</b><br/>SAMBALPUR (PARDHIAPALI): 9237395001.</p> | <p><b>ORBIT MOTORS</b><br/>ROURKELA: 9040404444, 9437041155.<br/>SUNDARGARH: 9437049161, 9437131074.<br/>DEOGARH: 9437061223, 7064400290.</p> |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|

\*Offer includes consumer offer, exchange bonus, institutional offer or rural offer, Gold voucher and spot booking offer (wherever applicable) on selected models/ variants. Above mentioned savings amount is the value of maximum savings on selected models. \*Terms and conditions apply. Terms and conditions are subject to change without any prior notice. \*As certified by Test agency under Rule 115(G) of CMVR 1989. This fuel efficiency is for AMT variant. For more details, please contact your nearest ARENA dealership. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black Glass Shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Car color may vary due to printing on paper. Offers vary across variants. Maruti Suzuki India Limited reserves the right to discontinue offers without notice. Above offers are valid till 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.



# EXHIBITION ON 'FUTURE OF WORK'



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with dignitaries poses for a photograph during the inaugural session of the 3rd G20 Education Working Group Meeting at CSIR, Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

On the sidelines of the 3rd Education Working Group Meeting under the G20 presidency, an exhibition on the 'Future of Work' was kicked off Sunday and will continue till April 28 at CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar. More than 100 exhibitors from India and G20 member countries will showcase their products that would drive the future of work. **OrissaPOST** presents some glimpses from the event...

PICS- BIKASH NAYAK



Kids enjoying Metaverse experience at a stall in the exhibition



Artists perform traditional 'Medha' dance



Audience during the inaugural session



A girl rides an innovative bike



Students taking a selfie during the event



Exhibitors making a demonstration on specific learning disabilities

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/  
E-Tender/06, Dt. 18.04.2023

(1) Tender No. etender-South-KUR-14-2023, Dtd.: 12.04.2023  
**DESCRIPTION :** NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION KHURDA ROAD (EX) TO BALUGAON (IN) FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2024.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 60.28 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,20,600/-

(2) Tender No. etender-South-KUR-15-2023, Dtd.: 12.04.2023  
**DESCRIPTION :** NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION BALUGAON (EX) TO GANJAM (IN) FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2024.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 59.83 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,20,600/-

(3) Tender No. etender-South-KUR-16-2023, Dtd.: 12.04.2023  
**DESCRIPTION :** NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION AT PALASA UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS)/PALASA FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2024.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 60.64 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,21,300/-

(4) Tender No. etender-Central-KUR-20-2023, Dtd.: 12.04.2023  
**DESCRIPTION :** PROVISION OF 12M WIDE FOOT OVER BRIDGE WITH PASSENGER LIFTS AT ANGUL, TALCHER ROAD, DHENKANAL, MERAMANDALI, LINGARAJ TEMPLE ROAD, MANCHESWAR, AND KENDUJHARGARH STATION OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 4938.06 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 26,19,000/-

Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months (for SI. No. 1 to 3) & 06 (Six) Months (for SI.No.4).  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 04.05.2023 (for all the Tenders).  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-78/O/23-24 Khurda Road

## Sagarmala facilitating 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' with cutting-edge technology

### INAUGURATION OF NTCPWC - DISCOVERY CAMPUS

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE FOR PORTS, WATERWAYS & COASTS

on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

by **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**  
Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH

at  
Discovery Campus, Indian Institute of Technology, Thaiyur, Chennai-603110

**“ Innovation is critical and it has to be indigenous; Imported goods can't be a source of innovation ”**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Benefits of NTCPWC DISCOVERY CAMPUS**

- ▶ Test facilities for carrying out more than 25 navigational studies
- ▶ Training programs on Indian as well as Foreign Ports for users such as engineers, students and cadets
- ▶ High quality research capabilities related to coastal community and port development of International standards
- ▶ Highly reliable and cost effective consultancy and advisory services of International quality
- ▶ Aatmanirbhar solutions for coastal community development and port engineering

**MAJOR STRENGTHS**

- ▶ Field and laboratory investigations and studies
- ▶ Computer modeling for coastal and port development
- ▶ Wave and current action modelling
- ▶ Sediment transport modelling
- ▶ Ship Maneuvering studies
- ▶ Dredging and disposal studies
- ▶ Computer and Laboratory simulations
- ▶ Ship to ship interaction
- ▶ Clean and green energy in shipping

CBC 3720/13/0001/2324









# national

## of the day quote

The erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi government had red flagged development works but the current dispensation is committed to fast-track various projects

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

The Aam Aadmi Party came to power in Punjab by selling lies to the people. Today, the people of Punjab are feeling cheated

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU | CONGRESS LEADER

Who would not like to be chief minister? And Ajit Pawar is capable of becoming chief minister. He has been in politics for so many years now and has been minister several times

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) RAJYA SABHA MP

## SHORT TAKES

### Man killed

**New Delhi:** A 39-year-old man was beaten to death by two persons in Delhi's Shadipur area, police said Sunday. The official said that they got a PCR call of the incident at around 11.30 pm on Saturday night. The caller said that a man was lying on the street in injured condition. A police team reached at the spot and learnt that the injured was taken to a nearby government hospital by locals. The victim, who was later identified as Pankaj Thakur, was declared dead on arrival by the doctors.

### Nine Customs officials dismissed

**Chennai:** Nine Customs officials, including a senior superintendent, were dismissed from service for alleged links with gold smuggling gangs operating out of the Karipur airport in Kerala's Kozhikode. The action was taken by the Customs Department after the airport turned out into a smuggling hub and the failure of these officials to curb the criminal activities. An internal investigation by the Department found that the officers were hand in glove with the smuggling gangs. Several smuggling gangs have been operating out of the airport turning the Malabar area into a major smuggling hub of Kerala.

### Four injured in roof collapse

**Hathras:** Four people, including a woman, suffered serious injuries after they got buried under the debris of a newly-constructed roof of a house in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district. The incident took place in Samadpur village, under Sadabad police station of Hathras district late Saturday night. All four have been admitted to Hathras district hospital in a critical condition. Sadabad SDM Sanjay Kumar said that the beam broke suddenly and the roof collapsed.

### Man stabbed to death in Delhi

**New Delhi:** A 32-year-old man was brutally stabbed to death in Delhi's Raj Park area, a police said Sunday. The official said that they received a PCR call at 12.23 a.m. The caller said that a man had been stabbed near Raj Park Rathi Hospital street. The stabbing was so brutal that his intestine had fallen out. The victim was identified as Virender Singh, a resident of Hathras, with the help of his Aadhaar card. Police informed his wife Asha about the incident. Jitender was taken to a hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.



Some people are trying to divide the country and practise politics of hate ... I am ready to give my life but will not allow any division of the country

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

# 2 IAF planes on standby to shift Indians from Sudan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 23:** India has positioned two heavy-lift military transport aircraft in Jeddah and a naval ship at a key port in violence-hit Sudan as part of its contingency plans to evacuate stranded Indians from the African country. In a related development, Saudi Arabia said it has evacuated from Sudan 66 citizens from "brotherly and friendly" foreign countries that included a few Indian nationals. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said contingency plans for evacuation of Indians have been put in place but noted that

any movement on the ground would depend on the security situation. It said the security situation in Sudan continues to be "volatile" with reports of fierce fighting coming from various locations in the country's capital Khartoum. The government on Friday said it was focusing on the safety of over 3,000 Indian citizens currently located throughout Sudan. "As part of our preparations, and in order to move swiftly, the Government of India is pursuing multiple options," the MEA said in a statement on Sunday. "Two Indian Air Force C-130J are currently positioned on standby in

Jeddah. And, INS Sumedha has reached Port Sudan," it said. "Contingency plans are in place but any movement on the ground would depend on the security situation, which continues to be volatile with reports of fierce fighting at various locations in Khartoum," the MEA said. Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's army and a paramilitary group for the last 10 days that has reportedly left around 400 people dead. The MEA said India is making all-out efforts to ensure safety and security of Indians stranded in Sudan. "We are closely monitoring the complex and evolving security situation in Sudan," it said. The MEA said India is also coordinating closely with various partners for the safe movement of those Indians who are stranded in Sudan and would like to be evacuated. Apart from the Sudanese authorities, the MEA and the Indian embassy in Sudan are also in regular touch with the UN, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, and US among others.



Painted storks catch fish at a lake in Sriharikota

PTI PHOTO

## Man urinates in temple, held

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, April 23:** A man, who urinated inside Maa Durga temple located at Kalyani Chowk in Bihar's Muzaffarpur city, has been arrested, police said Sunday. The accused is identified as Moinuddin, a resident of Diwan road of the city. He went inside the temple premises without removing his sleepers and headed towards the idol of Maa Durga. The temple priest spotted him and raised an alarm. However, by that time, he went to another side of the temple and urinated there on Saturday evening. Agitated over the incident, the devotees present inside the temple assaulted the accused. The news of the incident spread

like a wildfire across the city and soon SHO of the Town police station and a large number of policemen reached the spot and arrested the accused. "We have arrested the accused under relevant sections of IPC. He is facing the charge of hurting the sentiments of a large community. The accused is injured and we have admitted him to Sadar hospital for treatment," said an official spokesperson of Muzaffarpur police. "We have deployed additional police forces around temple premises and also asked the reserve battalions to be on standby. Intelligence officers are asked to stay alert at their respective zones and inform us at the earliest to take preventive measures," he said.



## Congress may play Dalit card

The Congress super high command is toying with the idea of playing the Dalit card during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The super high command comprising three Gandhis (Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi) sees

Mallikarjun Kharge as a potential Prime Ministerial face. It was perhaps part of this strategy that Kharge was first brought by the Gandhis as Congress president last year and also allowed him to stay put as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. The Congress strategists say that the Dalits were the party's backbone until the 90s. Gradually, the BSP led by late Kanshi Ram and regional parties swallowed its Dalit vote bank in polls after polls. Since 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be a Waterloo for the Congress as it is facing existential crisis, Kharge may turn out to be its savior. The Gandhis are facing many cases in courts and with the BJP targeting the family, it is felt

## Kerala to get India's first Digital Science Park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, April 23:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to visit Kerala on a two-day trip on April 24, will lay the foundation stone for the country's first Digital Science Park, a Rs-1,500-crore project, here Tuesday, April 25. The third-generation Science Park (they are located in bustling city centres) will come up close to the Digital University of Kerala at Technopark Phase IV - Technocity, a government release said. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnav,



various ministers of the Left government and Congress's Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor would be attending the event, the release said. The Digital Science Park project had been conceived as a multidisciplinary cluster-based interactive

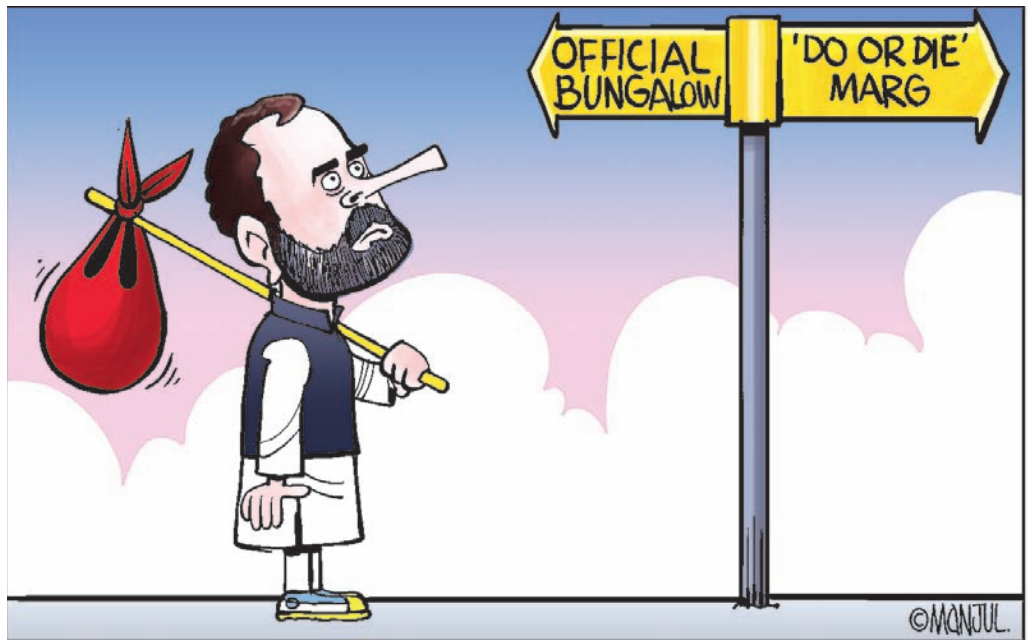
■ The third-generation Science Park (they are located in bustling city centres) will come up close to the Digital University of Kerala at Technopark Phase IV - Technocity, a government release said  
■ In the 2022-23 budget, the state government had announced the establishment of a Digital Science Park in an area of 10 lakh square feet in two blocks, the release added

innovation zone focused on digital technologies and is expected to be completed in two years, it said. In the 2022-23 budget, the state government had announced the establishment of a Digital Science Park in an area of 10 lakh square feet in two blocks, the release added. "The

park will initially have two buildings with a total area of 2,00,000 square feet. The first one in 1,50,000 square feet will have five floors, housing the Centre of Excellence (CoE) including research labs and digital incubator; while the second building will house the administrative as well as Digital Experience centre." The Digital Science Park will start its operations from a 10,000 square feet space in Kabani located at Technopark Phase IV within the next couple of months, it added. Out of the total project outlay of over Rs 1,500 crore, Rs 200 crore has already been allotted by the state government and the remaining amount will be generated from other sources including industry partners, the release said.

## PRESIDENT TO VISIT HARYANA TODAY

President Droupadi Murmu will visit Karnal and Hisar in Haryana Monday, an official statement said Sunday. At Karnal, the President will grace the 19th convocation of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Dairy Research Institute



## Assam cops issue notice to IYC chief

A police team from Assam issued a notice to Srinivas at his Bangalore residence, with the order stating that failing to comply with it could lead to his arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, April 23:** The Assam police Sunday asked Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas B V to appear before it by May 2 for questioning in connection with allegations of harassment and gender discrimination against him by now-expelled party leader Angkita Dutta.

A police team from Assam issued a notice to Srinivas at his Bengaluru residence, with the order stating that failing to comply with it could lead to his arrest. "A five-member team of Guwahati Police is in Bengaluru. The notice was pasted on the door of his residence as he was not present," Joint Commissioner Prateek Thube said over phone. "He has been given time till May 2 to appear at Dispur police station," Thube, who is a part of the Guwahati police team in Bengaluru, said. The notice said that during investigation, "reasonable grounds" have been revealed to question Srinivas in the case and, hence, he has been asked to appear before the investigating officer, at 11 am on May 2. A set of 10 directions was given to Srinivas for compliance during the period, including not tampering with evidence, not allowing destruction of any evidence rele-



vant to investigation and cooperating with the probe. "Failure to attend/comply with the terms of this notice can render you liable for arrest under Section 41 A(3) and (4) of CrPC," it added. Dutta, who was the Assam Youth Congress chief, had filed a case at the Dispur police station last week, claiming that Srinivas has been "harassing and torturing her for the last six months by making sexist comments, using slang words and also threatening her with dire consequences if she keeps complaining against him to the senior party office bearers". She had earlier made similar allegations against him in a series of tweets. Dutta, who was issued a show-cause notice by the party, was expelled from the primary membership for six years on Saturday for "anti-party activities". Srinivas had issued a legal notice to Dutta within hours of her tweets, demanding an apology for her remarks. The National Commission for Women (NCW) had also taken suo motu cognisance of Dutta's allegations and written to the state police for taking necessary action.

## Student injured as lover pours boiling oil on her

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati, April 23:** A student of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, was critically injured after her boyfriend allegedly poured boiling oil on the girl's hands and legs after confining her to a room in his house in Eluru district.

The shocking incident came to light after the victim escaped early Sunday and lodged a complaint with the police. She has been admitted to the government hospital at Eluru.

According to police, the victim is a third year engineering student. A resident of Eluru, the girl was entrapped in love by one Anudeep, a resident of Duggirala. He had promised to marry her. Five days ago, Anudeep had taken the girl to his house in Duggirala.



He confined her to a room, where he was torturing her. He had threatened to kill her. The victim told police he had planned to kill her after midnight by hanging. She, however, managed to escape and reached her house. With the help of her parents, she lodged the complaint.

Police registered a case and launched a hunt for Anudeep, who was absconding. The accused is said to be addicted to marijuana and other psychotropic substances and had allegedly cheated several girls in the name of love.

# international



**We need accelerated climate action with deeper, faster emissions cuts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius**  
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

**EAM MEETS GUYANESE PM**  
Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar has called on Guyanese Prime Minister Mark Phillips and vowed that India will partner with the South American country in its developmental journey



## of the day quote

When the political and constitutional system fails, extra-constitutional (measures) take place  
**SHAHID KHAQAN ABBASI** | FORMER PAK PM

By 2050, India will be the most populous country in the world. From 1.4 billion, it will be up to 1.7 billion people. The industrialisation of India is happening fast, especially in some areas. You find Gujarat, Maharashtra and other one in southern India, especially in Tamil Nadu  
**RANIL WICKREMESINGHE** | SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

I don't want to please anyone. I want to build a way to bring the two (Russia and Ukraine) to the table  
**LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA** | BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT

## 'Limit access to most secret US documents'



US Senator Mark Warner

REUTERS

**Washington, April 23:** Too many people have access to the US government's closest secrets and a central entity should oversee the classification process, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said Sunday, addressing leaks of documents in an online chat group.

A US Air National Guardsman was charged April 14 with leaking classified documents online in what is believed to be the most serious US security breach since more than 700,000 documents, videos and diplomatic cables appeared on the WikiLeaks website in 2010. Senator Mark Warner, a

Democrat, told ABC News that "once we get to that highest level of classification, we maybe have too many folks taking a look at them, over 4 million people with clearances." The Virginia senator's powerful position gives weight to his recommendations as President Joe Biden's administration examines the handling of intelligence and looks for ways to clamp down on future leaks.

The United States has numerous intelligence gathering entities and Warner said the situation needed to be dealt with.

"We need somebody fully in charge of the whole classification process and I think for those classified documents there ought to be a smaller universe," he said.

As an example, Warner said the National Security Agency has suffered leaks in the past and internal controls limit the copying of documents.

The Pentagon has called the latest leak a "deliberate, criminal act." Warner also said that not everyone handling a document needs to see the whole document and that just seeing the header could be enough.



**SHOW OF STRENGTH:** Serbian army helicopters MI-8 and MI-171 perform during the military exercises at Batajnica military airport near Belgrade, Serbia

## SHORT TAKES

### Israel arrests Jordanian lawmaker

**Amman:** Jordan's Foreign Ministry Sunday said a Jordanian lawmaker has been arrested by Israel on suspicion of smuggling weapons and gold into the occupied West Bank. The ministry's spokesman, Sinan Majali, said Jordanian officials are following the case "to find out the merits of the situation and address it as soon as possible." The lawmaker was identified as Imad Al-Adwan and said to have been arrested crossing the border into the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Israel's Foreign Ministry declined comment.

### Poll official assassinated

**Bangkok:** A top election official in Myanmar was fatally shot in his car in Yangon, the country's commercial capital, in the latest attack attributed to militants opposed to military rule. Sai Kyaw Thu, deputy director-general of the military-appointed Union Election Commission, was shot multiple times Saturday, according to the military's information office, media reports and a statement of responsibility from an urban guerrilla group.

### 60% voter turnout in Nepal byelection

**Kathmandu:** Nepal witnessed around 60 per cent voter turnout in its three constituencies of Tanhun-1, Chitawan-2 and Bara-2 where by-polls were held Sunday. Journalist-turned-politician Ravi Lamichhane is contesting the election from Chitawan-2, while prominent economist Swornim Wagley and former Deputy Police Chief Ramesh Kharel are contesting from Tanhun-1 and Bara-2 constituencies respectively.

### China renews weather alert

**Beijing:** China's meteorological authority Sunday renewed an alert for severe convection weather in parts of the country. From Sunday morning to Monday morning, thunderstorms and hail will strike parts of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Xinhua news agency quoted the National Meteorological Centre as saying.

### Suspect arrested in German gym attack

**Berlin:** A suspect has been held over last week's stabbing attack at a gym in the western German city of Duisburg in which four people were seriously wounded. The man, was arrested shortly after midnight, police and prosecutors said in a statement.

## SUDAN CRISIS

# Govts race to rescue diplomats, citizens



AGENCIES

**Khartoum (Sudan), April 23:** The US military airlifted embassy officials out of Sudan Sunday and international governments raced to evacuate their diplomatic staff and citizens trapped in the capital as rival generals battled for control of Africa's third-largest country for a ninth day.

Fighting raged in Omdurman, the city across the Nile from Sudan's capital, Khartoum, residents reported. The violence came despite a declared truce that was to coincide with the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

Thick black smoke filled the sky over Khartoum's airport. The paramilitary group battling the Sudanese armed forces claimed the military unleashed airstrikes on the upscale neighbourhood of Kafouri, north of Khartoum. There was no immediate comment from the army. After a week of bloody battles that hindered rescue efforts, US special forces swiftly evacuated some 70 US embassy staffers from Khartoum to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia early Sunday.

Although American officials said it was still too dangerous to carry

cathedral in the capital, Nikos Dendias said.

The Netherlands sent two air force Hercules C-130 planes and an Airbus A330 to Jordan ahead of a possible rescue mission. "We deeply sympathise with the Dutch in Sudan and will make every effort to evacuate people where and when possible," said Defence Minister Kaja Ollongren.

Italy has dispatched military jets to the Gulf of Aden nation of Djibouti to prepare for the evacuation of 140 Italian nationals in Sudan, many of whom have already taken refuge in the embassy. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said the ministry's crisis unit was in touch with stranded citizens.

Overland travel across areas contested by the warring parties has proven dangerous. Khartoum is some 840 kilometres (520 miles) from Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

But some countries have pressed ahead with the journey. Saudi Arabia Saturday said the kingdom successfully evacuated 157 people, including 91 Saudi nationals and citizens of other countries.

Saudi state TV released footage of a large convoy of Saudis and other foreign nationals travelling by car and bus from Khartoum to Port Sudan, where a navy ship then ferried the evacuees across the Red Sea to the Saudi port of Jeddah.

The power struggle between the Sudanese military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, has dealt a harsh blow to Sudan's heady hopes for a democratic transition. More than 400 people, including 264 civilians, have been killed and more than 3,500 have been wounded in the fighting.

- US EVACUATES STAFF IN OPERATION FROM DJIBOUTI
- UK SAYS ARMED FORCES GOT ITS EMBASSY STAFF OUT
- FIERCE BATTLES HAVE CONTINUED DURING EID HOLIDAY
- MANY TRAPPED RESIDENTS TRYING TO FLEE KHARTOUM

out a government-coordinated mass evacuation of private citizens, other countries scrambled to evacuate their citizens and diplomats. France, Greece and other European countries said Sunday they were organizing evacuations for embassy employees and nationals, along with some citizens of allied countries. French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anne-Claire Legendre said France was undertaking the operation with the help of European partners.

The Greek foreign minister said the country had dispatched aircraft and special forces to its ally, Egypt, in preparation for an evacuation of 120 Greek and Cypriot nationals from Khartoum. Most of them have sought shelter in recent days at a Greek Orthodox

# Ukrainian forces retaliate against Russia's aggression



AGENCIES

**Kyiv, April 23:** Ukrainian military forces have successfully established positions on the eastern side of the Dnieper River, according to a new analysis, giving rise to speculation Sunday that the advances could be an early sign of Kyiv's long-awaited spring counteroffensive.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, reported late Saturday that geolocated footage from pro-Kremlin military bloggers indicated that Ukrainian troops had established a foothold near the town of Oleshky, along with "stable supply lines" to their positions.

Analysts widely believe that if Ukraine goes ahead with a spring counteroffensive, a major goal would be to break through the land corridor between Russia and the annexed Crimean Peninsula, which would necessitate crossing the Dnieper River in the country's south.

Responding to Ukrainian media reports proclaiming that the establishment of such positions indicated the counteroffensive had begun, Natalia Humeniuk, the spokeswoman for Ukraine's Operational Command South, called for patience. While neither confirming nor denying the ISW report, she said only that details of military operations in the Dnieper delta couldn't be disclosed for operational and security reasons. Speaking on Ukrainian television,

Humeniuk added that it was "very difficult work" when "it's necessary to overcome an obstacle such as the Dnieper, when the front line passes through a wide and powerful river."

After more than a year since the Russian invasion, recent fighting has become a war of attrition, with neither side able to gain momentum. But Ukraine has recently received sophisticated weapons from its Western allies, and new troops freshly trained in the West, giving rise to growing anticipation of a counteroffensive.

The fiercest battles have been in the eastern Donetsk region, where Russia is struggling to encircle the city of Bakhmut in the face of dogged Ukrainian defense.

On Sunday, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov claimed Moscow's forces had captured two more neighbourhoods in the western part of Bakhmut, without providing further details or clarifying what areas were still in Ukrainian hands.

In the south, the Dnieper has for months marked the contact line in the Kherson region, where its namesake capital is regularly pummeled by shelling from Russian forces stationed across the river. In addition to having established a foothold near the town of Oleshky, across the Dnieper delta from Kherson, ISW said that Ukrainian troops were also approaching the nearby village of Dachi, citing data from Russian military bloggers.

# Imran's party to launch election campaign today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, April 23:** Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on Sunday announced that it will formally launch its election campaign in Punjab Monday though there is no clarity on the date of the polls in the politically crucial province.

"Tehreek-e-Insaf will officially launch its election campaign tomorrow. They (Pakistan Democratic Movement) may not be ready but we are ready," PTI Secretary General Asad Umar tweeted. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is a coalition of political parties headed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) currently ruling the country.

Interestingly, PTI's announcement of launching the election campaign comes despite uncertainty surrounding the elections in Punjab, the most populous province which also sends nearly 150 lawmakers to the National Assembly. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is waiting for funds from the federal government to conduct the elections. The Defence Ministry has informed the ECP that the Pakistan Army will not be available for providing security.

Parliament and the judiciary have also locked horns over the holding of elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces as the cash-strapped government has refused to authorise the funds to meet the expenditures amidst the economic crisis facing the country.

The Supreme Court has directed the federal government to release Rs 21 billion in funds for the ECP by April 10 and provide security for the elections.



# How King Charles's coronation dodged a Kohinoor debate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, April 23:** Buckingham Palace would have been conscious about the potential for controversy around the colonial era Kohinoor diamond claimed by India and averted it becoming a side story of King Charles III and Queen Camilla's Coronation ceremony next month, a royal expert has said.

Camilla Tominey is the Associate Editor of 'The Daily Telegraph' and has an inside track to the British royal family as the newspaper's royal expert.

In an interview with PTI, she reflected upon the significance of Camilla choosing to forgo the traditional crown used for the monarch's partner as the "consort crown" due to it being embedded

with the Kohinoor - also known as Koh-i-Noor. Among the crown jewels unveiled by the palace for the Coronation ceremony on May 6, it was confirmed that Queen Mary's Crown has been chosen by Camilla.

"I think the palace were conscious about the Koh-i-Noor perhaps being controversial and therefore have decided that they don't want there to be a side story about the provenance of these diamonds," said Tominey. "Basically, [the palace have] decided to do the safe and sensible



**Kohinoor came into Queen Victoria's possession from the treasury of Maharaja Ranjit Singh a few years before she was to be crowned empress of India in the wake of the 1857 Revolt**

thing, to not have a separate debate about the jewels in the crown," noted Tominey. Earlier this month, the palace said that minor changes and additions to Queen

Mary's Crown are being undertaken, such as the inclusion of the Cullinan III, IV and V diamonds which were part of Queen Elizabeth II's personal jewellery collection for many years. The design has been inspired by Queen Alexandra's Crown of 1902 - which was originally encrusted with the Kohinoor;

which now sits in the crown of the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother; the mother of Queen Elizabeth II, since 1937.

Last month, Historic Royal Palaces, the charity that manages Britain's palaces, said that the infamous diamond will instead be part of a new Jewel House exhibition at the Tower of London classed as a "symbol of conquest" for the first time. According to its assessment, the diamond probably originated from the Golconda mines in southern India and weighs 105.6 carats. It was once much larger but was re-cut in 1852 to improve its brilliance and conform to contemporary European tastes.

Kohinoor, which means mountain of light in Persian, came into Queen Victoria's possession from

the treasury of Maharaja Ranjit Singh a few years before she was to be crowned empress of India in the wake of the 1857 Revolt and has played a starring role in British coronations of the past until its conspicuous absence in next month's ceremony.

Camilla's choice of Queen Mary's Crown also marks the first instance in modern times of an existing crown being used for the Coronation of the monarch's consort, with all past crowns being specially made for a new consort. It is among a series of departures from tradition made by Charles, 74, and Camilla, 75, in an attempt to strike a more sustainable tone that resonates with the times and also incorporate modern elements into the ceremony.



