KANGANA'S TWO CENTS

Actor Kangana Ranaut says it is unfair to evaluate people based on their gender or sexual orientation LEISURE

13, ISSUE 29 | www.orissapost.com

Siddhartha Mohanty

first chief exec of LIC

of India (LIC), the country's biggest

insurer. Mohanty, a veteran of the

company which listed in May last

year in India's biggest initial public

offering, will lead LIC as chairman

until June 2024 and then become

chief executive until at least June

2025, according to a government

Mohanty was previously one of four

managing directors at LIC, initially

taking on the additional role of chairman in March for three months. However, the chairman

country's other listed companies.

BBC chairman resigns

after Boris Ioan row

London: BBC Chairman Richard Sharp

whether he failed to properly disclose

his involvement in the facilitation of a

loan to former British Prime Minister

Commissioner of Public Appointments to investigate the claims which had first appeared in the Sunday Times, says the

BBC. Sharp said the report finds he did not play "any part whatsoever in the facilitation, arrangement, or financing of a loan for the former Prime

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Shhh! Do not shout or

SENSEX **61112.44** 463.06

₹59,980

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VARIATION

149.95

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moderate

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MARKET WATCH

DOLLAR **81.83**

EURO

GOLD

WEATHER

SILVER

INDEX

Boris Johnson. Barrister Adam

Heppinstall was appointed by the

resigned Friday over a report into

document seen by Reuters.

position will be phased out, bringing LIC into line with the

NEW DELHI: The

Centre Friday named Siddhartha Mohanty as the first chief executive of the Life

Insurance Corporation



GRIM SITUATION

Russia fires more than 20 cruise missiles and two drones at Ukraine early Friday, killing at least 22 people

INTERNATIONAL P10



teams cross swords today

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, APRIL 29 | 2023

(PRINTED AT SAMBALPUR)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

2 FIRs registered against WFI chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: Delhi Police Friday registered two FIRs in connection with sexual harassment allegations levelled by women wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

On the complaints received from female wrestlers, two FIRs have been registered in Connaught Place police station, a senior police offi-

The first FIR pertains to allegations levelled by a minor. The case has been registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act along with relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code concerning outraging

modesty, he said. The second FIR has been registered for carrying out comprehensive investigations into the complaints by adult complainants under relevant IPC sections pertaining to outraging of modesty, the officer said, adding that investigation into both the FIRs was being taken up in right earnest.



RICH TRIBUTE: Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and other dignitaries pay tribute to Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das, the architect of modern Odisha, on his birth anniversary in Cuttack, Friday

Andhra's sticker jitters

■ Andhra Pradesh officials are working in an organised manner to make their developmental programmes reach every household in Kotia panchayat while Pottangi block officials are sitting silent

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, April 28: There is no end to incursions by neighbouring chayat under this block of Koraput district with the latest move being the stickers carrying Andhra Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's photo pasted on the houses built under the state-sponsored Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY). According to reports, Andhra

officials Friday visited the area and pasted stickers carrying an image of their Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on the houses built under the state-sponsored Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY). This has sparked a row among the residents and intelligentsia in Koraput district.

The officials also distributed stickers to the residents and asked them to paste it on front of their houses. The move came ahead of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister P Rajanna Dora's visit to the panchayat, coming Monday. Dora is scheduled to visit the area and attend various programmes to be held in the panchayat.

To make his visit successful, the officials of Salur block in Andhra Pradesh have started touring



Salur officials distribute the stickers at Talaganjeipadar village in Kotia panchayat, Friday

Pottangi block administration has handed over 677 houses built under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana in 21 disputed villages of Kotia panchayat in financial year 2019-20 and

However, the officials from Andhra Pradesh are touring nearly two to three villages in the panchayat every day and pasting stickers on the

2022-23

 Zilla Parishad zone no-1 member Tikai Gemel said it is quite unfortunate that the block officials are totally oblivious of these developments

Ganjeipadar, Uparsembi, Talasembi, Dhulipadar villages in the panchayat pasting the stickers with an image of Andhra Chief Minister on houses built under state-spon-

Reports said that Pottangi block administration has handed over 677 houses built under state-sponsored housing scheme in 21 disputed villages of Kotia panchayat in financial year (FY) 2019-20 and 2022-23. However, the officials from Andhra Pradesh are touring nearly two to three villages in the panchayat every day and pasting stickers on the houses.

Zilla Parishad zone no-1 member Tikai Gemel said it is quite unfortunate that the block officials are totally oblivious of these developments.

Local intelligentsia pointed out that the Andhra Pradesh government is working in an organised manner to make its developmental works reach every household. However, it is quite unfortunate that the block officials are not taking any action, they observed.

ANDHRA HEALTH

CAMP IN KOTIA

eanwhile, Andhra Pradesh health officials Friday conducted two health camps in Ganjeipadar and Dhulipadar villages under Kotia panchayat. The matter came to the fore after a medical team led by a doctor identified as Ajay of Tonam Primary health centre in Parbatipuram Manyam district reached the two villages and conducted health checkups of over 70 people and distributed free medicines to them, Friday. The medical team, after closing the health camp, did some social work to gain appreciation of the locals. The team mem

bers cleared the rainwater that had

accumulated in the middle of the vil-

lage and asked the villagers to keep

their surroundings clean to remain

Owner rejects tenant for 75% marks in Class XII

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi

Book hatemongers

even if no plaint: SC

The apex court asks all states and UTs to register

cases against those making hate speeches and warns

of contempt if the admin concerned delays action

New Delhi, April 28: Extending the scope of its 2022 order beyond three states, the Supreme Court Friday directed all states and Union Territories (UTs) to register cases against those making hate speeches even if no complaint has been made.

A Bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna termed hate speeches a "serious offence capable of affecting

secular fabric of the The bench said its October 21, 2022 order shall be made applicable irrespective of religion and warned any delay in registering cases will

be treated as contempt of the court. "Where have we reached in the name of religion? What have we reduced religion to is really tragic," the apex

court had then observed and directed Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Uttarakhand to crack down hard on those making hate speeches, calling them shocking for a country that is religion-neu-

Holding that the Constitution of India envisages a secular nation, the court had directed Uttar

to promptly register criminal cases against the offenders without waiting for a complaint to be

On Friday, the Bench said, "The judges are apolitical and not concerned with Party A or Party B and the only thing they have in mind is the Constitution of India."

It said the court has been tertaining petitions against hate speeches in different parts of the

country for "larger public good" and to ensure establishment of "rule of law".

The apex court warned any delay on the part of the administration in taking action on this 'very serious issue' will invite the

court's contempt. The top court's order came on a plea filed by journalist Shaheen Abdullah, who had

initially sought di-

TRAGIC SC BENCH

REACHED IN THE NAME

OF RELIGION? WHAT

HAVE WE REDUCED

RELIGION TO IS REALLY

rection against Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to register cases against those delivering hate speeches.

Abdullah had again moved an application seeking implementation of the apex court's October 21, 2022 order across states and union

C-SECTION AUDIT IN PVT HOSPITALS FROM MAY 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

0.6mm

1.0mm

Bhubaneswar, April 28: In view of sharp rise in Caesarean Section deliveries between National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 of 2015-16 and 2019-21, the state government has expanded the audit of such delivery cases to all private hospitals too that would come into effect from May 1. Earlier, the audit was being done in government hospitals.

The state government has directed all the chief district medical officers (CDMOs) and public health officers (PHOs) to ensure audit of Caesarean Section (C-Section) deliveries in all private health facilities from May 1, an official said Friday.

The move from the Family Welfare director came Thursday after a sharp increase in C-Section deliveries between National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 of 2015-16 and NFHS-5 of 2019-21.

During the period, C-Section deliveries increased from 53.7 per cent to 70.7 per cent which was higher than the ideal C-Section rate recommended by WHO panel of reproductive child health.

The panel after re-examining the C-Section rate in 2015 also mentioned, "At population level, Caesarean section rates higher than 10 per cent are not associated with reductions in maternal and newborn mortality rates." Contd...P4

AGENCIES

Bangalore, April 28: Looking for an apartment in Bangalore? Be sure to remember every single detail of your life, and don't forget to brush up vour exam-taking skills! Because now landlords in the city are demanding that tenants supply anything from autobiographies to Class X and XII marksheets, before letting them to move in.

This bizarre situation has been brought to light by a Twitter user whose cousin was denied a house in the Karnataka capital because the landlord only allowed tenants to move in if they scored above 90 per cent in their Standard XII examinations.

In fact, a Twitter user recently shared a story of a tenant who was rejected simply because he did not score at least 90 per cent in their Class XII exams, a new benchmark set by the flat owner in Silicon Valley of India

In a viral Twitter post, user Shubh spilled the beans on how his cousin was denied a flat by an owner in Bangalore simply because he didn't score 90 per cent marks in Class XII exams. Screenshots shared online showed the tenant chatting with a broker who demanded not only his LinkedIn or Twitter profile but also his company joining certificate, Class X and XII marksheets. and some other documents like Aadhaar or PAN card. And if that



wasn't enough, the cherry on the cake was the owner's request for a 150-300 word write-up about the

securing admission into a top-tier college

tenant himself. However, he soon

faced 'rejection' at the hands of the

landlord as the broker replied,

Bangalore is tougher than getting married or

It is said

that the

process of

renting in

12th and the owner is expecting at Truly, the post's caption couldn't be more accurate: "Marks don't decide your future, but they do de-

"Sorry, but he rejected your pro-

file because you've got 75% in Class

cide whether you get a flat in Bengaluru or not"

Others said the process of renting in Bangalore is tougher than getting married or securing admission into a top-tier college.

The issue of getting a house on rent is currently in the spotlight after a series of posts showing how tough it has become to find a good rental in the city – thanks in part – to the influx of young professionals as offices.









eisure



Kangana opines on gender neutrality

Mumbai: While the whole country is wait-

ing on the long-awaited decision from the

Supreme Court on same-sex marriage,

Dhaakad actress Kangana Ranaut has

shared her two cents on the topic. In her recent tweets speaking positively of the

case, she said it is unfair to evaluate

someone based on their gender or sex-

ual orientation, and those who do so will

Taking to Twitter Friday, Kangana aid, "Whether you are a

man/woman/anything else, your gen-

der is of no consequence to anyone but

you. Please understand that in the modern world, we don't even use

words like actresses or female direc-

tors, we call them actors and directors.

What you do in the world is your identity, not what you do in bed. Whatever

your sexual preferences are, they must

remain in your bed. Don't make them

your identity card or medals and flaunt

She further added, "Never ever see peo-

ple through the lens of gender or any

other physical attributes. You know

what happened to those who thought

Kangana was just a woman. They were in for a big surprise because I am not. I

never perceive myself or anyone else that

way. Lam always in a room full of people, in

men/women/homo/hetro/physically strong

only.

AGENCIES

not

energies

not succeed in life.

them everywhere.

OLSEN FEELS DISCOMFORT BEING NICKNAMED 'INTERNET'S MOM'

The WandaVision actress Elizabeth Olsen feels old for being labelled the 'internet's mom', although her friends convince her that it's 'a good thing'. The 34-year-old actress made headlines when she co-presented an award at the Oscars ceremony alongside Pedro Pascal, who garnered the nickname of the 'internet's daddy'.

KOURTNEY ACCUSES KIM OF PROFITING FROM HER WEDDING

A trailer for an upcoming episode of *The* Kardashians unveils a discussion where Kourtney Kardashian accuses Kim Kardashian of trying to turn her wedding into a 'business opportunity'. The accusation came around one year after the 44-yearold tied the knot with musician Travis Barker.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.co™ accuracy • reliability • trust

You will look for new oppor tunities to increase your competence, and for new ways to enjoy. If your relationship is under stress, it is about time you sorted out things. There is likelihood of making a short trip. If you are feeling under the weather, Ganesha says a long drive with your beloved may do you good.

TAURUS

The day is likely to turn out to be a difficult one. But your maturity and experi ence in handling adverse situations will come to vour aid. You will, as the day advances, be able to sort out the problems that have cropped up and end up or an ontimistic note

GEMINI

You are likely to work extra hard to assert your authority at the workplace. On the work front, your seniors and colleagues will appreciate your devotion and dedication to work. Monetary gains may be expected in the evening, says Ganesha

CANCER

You will make a strong impact with whatever you do today. Ganesha says that you will feel joy in a romantic interlude. Ties with life partner will be stronger and vou will eniov domestic bliss. A situation might arise where you have to draw lines and take side with a circle of friends. That will be a time for caution.

LEO

You need to balance your income and expenditure. It is a good time to invest and speculate in shares. Your debts will be settled, and pending dues will be realised A work or project that has been delayed for some time, will now be completed. Your relations with your business part

VIRGO

Today you will be in a very innovative and ingenious mood. Ganesha says a sight-seeing trip either to a museum or some historical monument is on the cards. Being lively and active will help you tone up your body. Entertaining yourself will be a good way to heal the vounds left in the wake of a broker

LIBRA

of restyling or renovating your home today. You shall be able to style your house with artifacts or beautiful paintings. You will invite your friends to your home in the evening and enjoy spending time with them. You may try your luck today in the share market and you can hope to make substantial gains.

SCORPIO

You are on a mission to solve all the pending probtions today itself. And very aptly, your optimistic attitude and creative outlook would come to rescue you in difficult moments. At this point of time, even your colleagues and superiors support you,

SAGITTARIUS

happening style.

The day begins with lots of challenges, says Ganesha. Isolated or a one man army you may have to resolve problems and cross hurdles on your own. Your skills and resourcefulness will go through a rigor ous polishing today, may be in a not-so-

CAPRICORN

You'll be over-emotional during the first half of the day. You've been quiet for a long period now, and it will be emotional ly and physically exhausting for you to express your tensions, fears, dreams regrets and sorrows, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

If you are tangled in some legal matters, Ganesha advises you go for an out of court settlement. You are strong, and with patience and perseverance you will sail smoothly through difficult times. People, however, may perceive you as a headstrong or inflexible person.

PISCES

A mixed bag of goodies awaits you today. Your boss is likely to grant you a few unexpected concessions at work. For those pursuing studies, good results are in the offing. The evening is likely to be fun-filled and pleasant, says Ganesha



Mumbai: The third and final instalment from the Marvel Cinematic Universe Guardians of the Galaxy is almost here. But before the film finally lands in theatres May 5, fans can't keep calm as early reactions to the film, call it the most emotional and exciting movie of the franchise marking it the end journey of the band of misfits together.

And guess what, there is a hidden fan in actress Sara Ali Khan. The *Atrangi Re* actress takes on the Marvel fan challenge and has passed the test with flying colours. The knock-knock queen has beaten the Marvel fanatic Ashish Chanchlani at the best guess game in the history of Marvel in India! A James Gunn directorial, The Guardians of Galaxy Volume 3 has got the nation waiting with batting eyes. To add to the excitement, Indian audiences can book their tickets from Friday as advance booking of the film has opened across the country. The film stars Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Karen

Gillan, and Pom Klementieff, featuring Vin Diesel as Groot and Bradlev Cooper as Rocket, Sean Gunn, Chukwudi Iwuji, Will Poulter Maria Bakalova. The movie will release English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.



AGENCIES Salman: I've been unlucky in love

Mumbai: The industry veteran, Salman Khan, who has been ruling millions of hearts for over three decades, is now ready to take the hot seat at the special episode of Aap Ki Adalat. The actor, who last appeared on the show in 2014, will be engaging again in a conversation with host Rajat Sharma this weekend. In this candid session, packed with excitement and light-hearted moments, the actor will also speak about

In a promo, Rajat asked about Salman's 'move on' statement, implying that he had been moving from one person to another for several years. Salman laughed in response to the question and simply replied, "I've been unlucky in love, sir."

In the following part of the promo, the host asked, "Who is your Jaan these days? Who are you in a relationship with?" The actor replied, 'Sir, I'm just a 'Bhai' (brother) these days.' As the audience erupted in laughter, Salman continued, "The person I desired to call me 'Jaan' is now calling me 'Bhai'. What can I do?"

On the professional front, the 57 old was last seen in Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan, which was released recently on the occasion of Eid

Telugu web series to unveil Koraput's untapped beauty

Koraput: Gone are the days when undivided KBK (Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi) region was known for its hunger and starvation deaths. It is now one of the most sought after locations in Odisha thanks to the districts' unbeatable natural splendor. No wonder, after Allu Arjun's *Pushpa 2* shoot in Malkangiri, producers of yet another Telugu project are here for shooting.

The dawn-to-dusk schedule of the web series titled I love You Love is in full swing at Talameting, a tribal hamlet 12 km from Kakirigumma town of this district.

The series starring two Russian artistes and a few top Telugu actors also features some popular local artistes including Ashok Kar, Sudam Bisoyi, Banita Mallick, Naina Nayak, Miss Sri, Dance Master Bitu, Pradipta Mohanty and Sumant Bairagi.

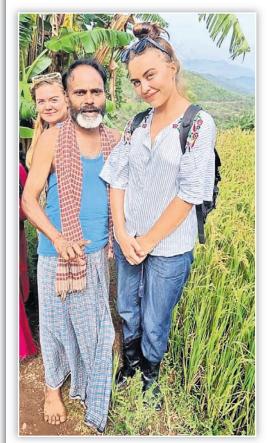
While Suri Babu is the producer, Agastya Manju, a former assistant of Ram Gopal Varma, is the director of the series. Khilo is the production designer of the project.

The plot revolves around two young foreign nationals who come to the suburbs during the summer break. After realising the plight of the residents, they try to

Sharing his experience Ashok Kar, a well known theatre personality of Odisha who plays a key role in the series said, "It was a wonderful experience to shoot with director Agastya Manju. I'm quite excited that the untapped beauty of Koraput is finally being showcased internationally. I would like thank our line producer Suman Khilo for drawing the attention of the producers of our neighbouring state to this region. We'll also not forget the amazing hospitality of the villagers.

The shooting was started about 20 days back and will be wrapped in a day or two, added Kar.

To be released in seven languages including Russian, Telugu and Tamil, the series will be available on an Indo-Russian platform, it was learnt.



Eminent Odia theatre personality Ashok Kar(M) with two Russian actors

PEANUTS

dividual

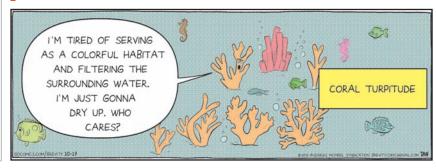
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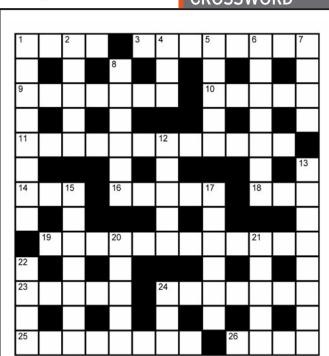
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN POST **CROSSWORD**



Copyright @2023 PuzzleJunction.com 24 Coarse lace

Across

- 1 Lackluster
- 3 Movable
- 9 Marsh 10 Gin's partner
- 11 River horse
- 14 Guided
- 16 Slipknot
- 18 Connect
- 19 Professor's
- words (3,9)
- 23 Brazilian dance
- 1 Winter

6 Feast

Down

Olympic event 2 Ease off

Words of

apology (6-2)

26 After dinner or

church

- 4 Antediluvian
- 5 Aquarium fish
- - 24 Ornamental flower, briefly

Youth

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Carve in stone

Dog-faced

monkey

13 Beach find

12 Kind of layer

15 High-powered

Inveigle

20

21

22

Wharfage

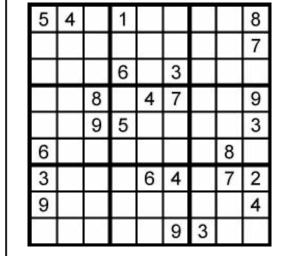
Pontificate

Cuba's ___ of

and forceful

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



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

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



downtown



GOING GREEN

Women prepare hand-made decorative items at a stall at Baliyatra Ground in Cuttack, Friday

228.0	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	68,69,09,057	65,94,00,404	68,62,705
	India	4,49,32,344	4,43,47,024	5,31,468
	Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204
	пппп	: 	: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	:

Full-time Srimandir chief appointment soon, SC told

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 28: The Odisha government has informed the Supreme Court that it will appoint a full-time chief administrator for Srimandir at the earliest, an official said Friday.

The Supreme Court had March 28 asked the state government to submit an action-taken report (ATR) mentioning what measures have been taken following the apex court's order with respect to better management of the affairs of the 12th century shrine in Puri.

Taking note, the state government filed the ATR and informed the SC that steps are being taken for the appointment of a full-time chief administrator for the shrine at the earliest. Earlier, the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee had filed a status report in the SC regarding the steps it has taken in compliance with the 2019 order of the SC.



CAR FEST IN MIND: Construction of chariot hubs in full swing at Rath Yard in Puri, Friday

Run Vande Bharat on 3 routes: State to Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: The state government has demanded introduction of Vande Bharat Express trains on three routes -Bhubaneswar-Hyderabad, Puri-Raipur and Puri-Howrah.

In a letter to Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu said Odisha has been a significant contributor to the growth engine of India. With rapid growth, aspirations of people are rising con-

"Odisha has been witnessing rapid economic growth in the last two decades. The state has attracted

the highest investment during the last couple of years. We have been demanding rapid expansion of the rail network in the state, time and again, as it can contribute immensely to the country's economy," Sahu said.

In a bid to ensure faster connectivity, Vande Bharat Express trains have been introduced across the country

Sahu requested Vaishnaw to introduce the Vande Bharat Express train between Puri and Howrah to offer faster travel options to passengers. Stating that there are very few faster trains that connect western Odisha and state capital Bhubaneswar, Sahu de-



A trial run of Vande Bharat Express was conducted on Howrah-Puri route

manded introduction of the express train between Puri and Rourkela connecting Sambalpur. Pointing out that a large number of people from Odisha are staying in Hyderabad, Sahu requested Vaishnaw to introduce another Vande Bharat Express train connecting Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad which will facilitate faster movement of passengers between the two state capitals.

She further urged the Railways minister to consider genuine demands of the state which will offer better passenger convenience and faster travel options to businessmen, tourists and aspiring people of Odisha.

Meanwhile, a trial run of the Vande Bharat Express train was conducted on the Howrah-Puri

Mudslinging over Mahanadi dispute

Bhubaneswar, April 28: Odisha's three major political rivals, the ruling BJD and opposition BJP and Congress Friday engaged in a slugfest over the Mahanadi water

The trading of charges was witnessed as Chhattisgarh released water ahead of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal's proposed visit to the central Indian state soon to gauge the situation.

The Odisha government alleges that the coastal state does not receive sufficient water during nonmonsoon months as Chhattisgarh obstructs the flow of the water by constructing barrages up-

The ruling BJD alleged that the barrages were built by the previous Raman Singh government of the BJP and now the Congress government of Bhupesh Baghel was 'choking the water flow'

BJD spokesperson Shreemayee Mishra, addressing a press conference, alleged that both 'the Congress and the BJP were two sides of the same coin' and did not resolve the Mahanadi water issue despite their governments being in power in Chhattisgarh and the Centre respectively.

She accused both parties of being 'anti-Odisha' and of 'shedding crocodile tears'

"It is the BJP's duty to persuade the Centre to intervene in the matter, while the Congress must exert pressure on the Chhattisgarh government to abide by the law,'



remained silent on the issue SHREEMAYEE MISHRA

BJD SPOKESPERSON

party leaders did not help DILIP MALLICK I

BJP LEADER

Mishra said 'illegal' barrages constructed by the Chhattisgarh government in the upstream of the river have blocked the free flow of Mahanadi water, on which 14 of the 30 districts of Odisha depend.

"While the BJD is fighting for Mahanadi water, the Congress and the BJP remained silent on the issue," she claimed.

The BJP countered the allegations by stating that Mahanadi cannot be saved by mere sloganeering.

"What was the state government doing for the last 23 years? Writing letters and issuing statements through party leaders did not help. What was Odisha government doing when Chhattisgarh was building those barrages? The CM was at the helm of the water resources department," BJP leader Dilip Mallick said.

He questioned whether Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has ever met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed concern over the issue.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahanipati said senior party leader Narasingha Mishra had requested Patnaik to convene an all-party meeting when the issue was first raised in the Assembly.

SAMBALPUR VIOLENCE

BJP FORMS 4-MEMBER COMMITTEE

Bhubaneswar; April 28: Expressing anguish over violence during Hanuman Jayanti procession in Sambalpur, BJP president JP Nadda has formed a four-member panel to investigate the violence.

The team comprises four BJP MPs – Brij Lal, Samir Oraon, Aditya Sahu and Jyotirmay Singh Mahato. The panel will visit the violence-hit Sambalpur and submit its report to the party president. Blaming the Sambalpur district

administration for the violence, BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urged the state government to perform 'Raja Dharma' in letter and spirit. "Neutrality and peace does not

mean surprising the majority of society and threatening them to put them behind the bars. Peace means neutrality, which should be reflected in action." Pradhan said.

Pradhan said that the Hanuman Jayanthi procession is being held in Sambalpur for long. Such a situation aroused due to the inefficiency of the local administration, he blamed.

The police are trying to prosecute the prominent people of the society by accusing them in false cases. Police DG, local DIG and local SP are working there unilaterally, alleged Pradhan.

KHARIF-2023

Odisha targets to disburse ₹9,500 crore crop loan

Bhubaneswar, April 28: The state government has targeted to disburse Rs 9,500 crore crop loans in Kharif-2023, Co-operation, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak said

Nayak has instructed that financing of pulses, oilseeds, potato and other remunerative cash crops should be prioritised with focus on small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers and women self-help groups. Nayak said as over 60 per cent of the

population of the state depends on agriculture for livelihood, they need to be provided with institutional financial support for agricultural operations. The Short-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (OSCB, DCCBs and PACS) hav-

ing a major share in crop loan dispensation in the state is mandated to ensure provision of timely credit through PACS as per requirement of the farm families of the state. During last Kharif season, the Cooperatives have disbursed crop loans of

the target of Rs 9,000 crore which is an all time high, Nayak said. During Rabi 2022-23 season, as of March 29, 2023, the Cooperatives have disbursed Rs 7812.22 crore loans to 16,23,790 for cul-

Rs 8,710.78 crore to 18,00,999 farmers against

tivation of Rabi crops Odisha government has decided to disburse crop loans to the farmers at zero rate of interest up to Rs 1 lakh from

Focus on ₹1,000 crore farm machinery sales

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha has witnessed a significant boost in the field of farm mechanisation with the sale of machinery reaching over Rs 805 crore during 2022-23. The state has set a target for Rs 1000 crore sales in 2023-24, said Agriculture & Farmers' **Empowerment Principal Secretary** Arabinda Padhee, Friday.

Addressing the 'Meeting of Manufacturers of Farm Machineries/implements/equipments' at Krushi Bhawan here, Padhee cautioned the gathering against engaging in corrupt practices, emphasising that strict action would be taken against those who are not adhering to the guidelines. He stated that if manufacturers encounter any issues, they may contact department officials, including him.

Cooperative Banks, PACS, Commercial

and Regional Rural Banks in the state. For crop loans between Rs 1 lakh and Rs3 lakh, the effective rate of interest will be 2 per cent for prompt paying farmers.

Co-operation Principal Secretary Sanjeev Kumar Chadha has written to all Collectors to take expeditious steps to ensure implementation of the programme for Kharif-2023 and financing crop loans in the right perspective in the interest of the farming com-

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Spl incentive for docs with DNB titles

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 28: Medical officers serving in state with Diplomate of National Board (DNB) specialist and super specialist titles will now receive special incentives, an official said,

Medical officers serving in Odisha with qualification of DNB board specialty as per para 37 (2) of the National Medical Commission Act-2019 would be given Rs 20,000 incentive per month apart from the salary, according to a notification issued by Health Secretary Shalini

Similarly, medical officers having DNB super specialty qualification would be given a monthly

incentive of Rs 30,000 in addition to the salary, the notification pointed out.

The state government has taken the decision of providing financial assistance to attract the doctors having the DNB specialist and super specialist to ensure qualitative health care.

Previously the medical officers in Odisha Health Medical Services (OHMS) cadre having post-graduate specializations /super specialisation degrees like MD/MS and DM/MCH were allowed these financial incentives.

Official sources said the new provision would add to qualitative human resource in OHMS cadre by attracting the DNB title holders from different parts of the

'Sorcerer' dupes Cuttack woman of ₹62 lakh, held

PNN & AGENCIES

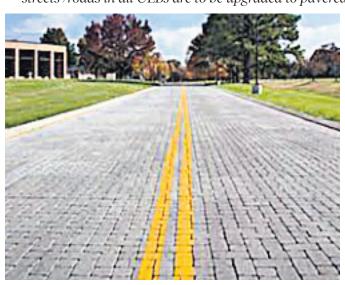
Cuttack, April 28: The Commissionerate Police has arrested a man for allegedly duping a woman of Ranihat area here of around Rs 62 lakh by claiming himself a sorcerer, Fridav.

Mangalabag police have arrested Sheikh Ashfaq and seized as many as 70 mobile phones, Rs 2.76 lakh in cash, two cars, and a motorcycle from his possession, said deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Pinak Mishra.

Mishra said Ashfaq had told the woman that he was a sorcerer and taken Rs 62 lakh from her in the last one year on the pretext of removing evil spirits from her house. Ashfaq had also promised her of unearthing hidden treasure from the house, the DCP said. The woman smelled a rat and approached the Mangalabag police which registered a case against Ashfaq and arrested him after investigation, the Cuttack DCP added.

Roads to be upgraded in all ULBs: H&UD secy

As mandated by the state government, all the kutcha and WBM lanes / bylanes streets /roads in all ULBs are to be upgraded to pavered roads on saturation basis



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: As part of transformative urban governance under 5T, the state government has decided to upgrade all the kutcha and water bound macadam (WBM) roads in all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to

pavered roads to enhance the livability of cities. This has to be completed by October, 2023.

Housing & Urban Development Principal Secretary G Mathi Vathanan has issued instructions in this regard to all the ULBs. As mandated by the government, all the kutcha and WBM lanes / bylanes / streets /roads in all ULBs are to be upgraded to pavered roads on saturation basis. It is decided to take up the kutcha roads in the beginning and once substantial progress is achieved in respect of kutcha roads, the WBM roads can be upgraded subsequently.

Vathanan has directed that the surveyed and validated list of kutcha & WBM roads along with geo-coordinates be submitted by the ULBs are to be taken up for upgradation. The scope of work for upgradation of the roads must cover one year defect liability period and further two years of repair & maintenance of the constructed roads to ensure the qualitative work. For handholding support to the ULBs, one standardized draft tender document is also being sent shortly. The funds for upgradation of roads will be sourced from UN-NATI and other funds through con-

All have been instructed to take immediate steps for preparation of estimate and submit the requirement of funds to the department by May 5 positively.



UP IN ARMS: Lady matrons staged a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, seeking fulfillment of their various demands, Friday

Human chain formed by City AIIMS girl students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: To celebrate India's G20 Presidency, AIIMS Bhubaneswar students Friday formed a large Human Chain depicting G20. To mark the theme of One Earth, One Family, One Family, only girl students of AIIMS Bhubaneswar formed G20 inside the premises of the national institute. Jan Bhagidari campaign of G20 Presidency at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

witnessed different programmes. Including millets in the diet of the students and patients, conducting free health camp in the periphery

villages, organizing different competitions for the students, leadership development programme by NSS bureau of AIIMS for students of different universities were part of the Jan Bhagidari campaign by AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Conveying his message on the occasion, AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas expressed happiness over active participation of the national institute in the campaign. AIIMS Bhubaneswar is always committed to serve people with innovations. The human chain by the students implicates the global leadership of our country, added Biswas.

The students of AIIMS also performed skit at OPD foyer to create awareness on Covid and other social issues. The concluding ceremony of the campaign was held at mini auditorium and the guests distributed prizes to mer-

'UTSAV ODISHA' BEGINS AT UTKAL UNIVERSIT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: The twoday Utsav Odisha, a festival on culture and national integration, organised by Utkal University and the Institute of Media Studies, kicked off with a patriotic spirit and pride here Friday. Inaugurating the festival at

MKCG Auditorium, State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Additional Chief Secretary to Odisha government Nikunja Bihari Dhal urged students and teachers to take pride in the cultural heritage of the state and move forward for nation building. Speaking on the occasion, Dhal

said, "Odisha has a strong role to

play in promoting rich cultural heritage of the nation. The state has a rich contribution in the field of art, culture, industry and education as well. Odia is an ancient language and Jagannath culture is a demonstration of world brotherhood in tolerance which is ab-

solutely essential for national unity." Utkal University vice-chancellor Sabita Acharya said, "Art, literature and culture have been considered unique in Odisha since time immemorial. Odisha is continuously striving for development in eduother sectors, which are playing a major role in nation building. 'Utsav Odisha' will help spread the message of Odisha's art and culture to all Indians."

Highlighting that Odisha is the land of service and sacrifice, chairman of PG Council Durga Shankar Pattanaik said the service and sacrifice of Odia leaders have always inspired others.

Three sessions were held on the first day on 'Unity in Diversity: Role of Odisha in National Integration', 'Revisiting History: Our Roots & Unsung Heroes of Odisha' and 'India's G20 Presidency & the World: Vasudhaiya Kutumbakam (One Earth-One Family-One Future)' where eminent experts shared their thoughts.

Working to ensure healthy meal to every child: Faure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: In a bid to promote workplace hygiene, dietary diversification and cooking healthy recipes in schools across the state, a two-day state level training of master trainers-cook-cumhelpers on food safety and hygiene in PM Poshan was inaugurated Friday at Mission Shakti Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

The workshop-cum-training ses sion was jointly organised by PM Poshan, government of India, department of School & Mass Education, government of Odisha and UN World Food Programme (WFP) as part of enriching the nutritional contents of mid-day meal in all government and aided schools.

Addressing the gathering WFP Country Director Elisabeth Faure highlighted the need for promoting healthy eating, dietary diversification and micronutrient supplementation among the school-going children. "The Government of India and WFP in collaboration with the state government are working in convergence to ensure distribution healthy and nutritious meal to each and every child in their growing and developing years. India is way ahead in achieving food safety and food security for

its citizens," said Faure. PM Poshan State Nodal Officer Raghuram R Iver delivered the welcome address and informed

that PM Poshan scheme could be further enhanced by providing capacity building training to cookcum-helpers from across the state. He also stressed on maintaining hygiene and cleanliness while preparing food in the school kitchen. "Diet diversification is being introduced in Odisha schools to reduce anaemia and ensure nutritious meal for all students of government schools. The state government has also been promoting millets and nutrigarden in schools on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security for the future generations,'

The first day of the workshop covered the areas of role and responsibilities of cook-cum-helpers, per-

he added.

sonal hygiene, cleanliness of kitchen and utensils, sources and mode of contamination, procurement, quality assurance and storage of raw materials, method of cooking, waste disposal and management in emergencies, rice fortification cooking and safe storage, introduction of millets in mid-day meal and maintenance of nutri-garden in schools.

In partnership with UN World Food Programme, the Government of Odisha has developed a training app FoSafMDM to make mid-day meals safe and hygienic. The app has been educating the grassroots workers (cook-cum-helpers, school teachers) on food safety and hygiene practices.

Engineer grilled in bribery case Bhubaneswar: The Central Bureau

of investigation (CBI) Friday grilled Dipak Kumar Gupta, Executive Engineer (Civil), Postal Division, Bhubaneswar in connection with a

C–Section audit.

Continued from P1

For the purpose of auditing, three different prototype formats were worked out and circulated to all

Each CDMO and PHO was asked to designate a programme officer for coordinating with private health facilities regarding proper imple-

the audit would be helpful in making reproductive child healthcare more effective in years to come.

mentation of the C-Section audit. Experts said that outcomes of

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Sl.No.86. I, K. Shyambabu

declare that my name has

been wrongly mentioned

instead of K. Shyambabu

Senapati in Aadhaar Card.

That here all to known as

and Shyambabu Senapati

K. Shyambabu Senapati

is one and same person

and will be known as K.

Shyambabu Senapati for

all purposes. Deponent

as Shyambabu Senapati

AFFIDAVIT

before the Executive

on dt.21.4.2023 vide

Senapati do hereby

SOA students display startup ideas focused on enhancing the skill of

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: Four startups developed by students of the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) were showcased at the 6-day Future of Work Exhibition held on the sidelines of the G20 3rd Education Working Group meeting which concluded at the CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) here Friday. Union Minister for Education

Dharmendra Pradhan who inaugurated the exhibition, visited the SOA stall and appreciated the work done by the students.

Of the four startups, Wedmist Technology Private Ltd had de-



veloped its product keeping in view the requirement of hyper local service providers through Artificial Intelligence (AI) while Twinverse Technology Private Ltd focused on areas of archaeology and tourism as product designing.

Let's Drive, another startup, was working on creating employment opportunities in the use of electric vehicles. Extrava Study Tours people seeking employment.

The stall was visited by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Electronics and Information Technology on the second day while TG Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, K Sanjaya Murthy, Secretary, Higher Education in the Ministry of Education, had a look at the startups on the third day.

Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar, Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, EC, NAAC and Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, Chairman, National Council for Vocational Education and Training went round the stall on the fourth day. SOA vice-chancellor Pradipta

Kumar Nanda also visited the stall.

Study uncovers details of evolution of molecular interactions

athematicians have uncovered details about the universal explanatory framework for molecular interactions that help them adapt to new and variable conditions while maintaining tight control over key sur-

vival properties. Throwing open a "window to evolution", the researchers said, their findings represented a blueprint for adaptation-capable signalling networks across all domains of life and for the design of

synthetic biosystems. 'Our study considers a process called robust perfect adaptation (RPA) whereby biological systems, from individual cells to entire organisms, maintain important molecules within narrow concentration ranges despite continually being bombarded with disturbances to the system," said Robyn Araujo, from

Queensland University of Technology School of Mathematical Sciences, Australia, and corresponding author on the study.

The researchers said that they had discovered fundamental molecular-level design principles that organised all forms of biological complexity into robustness-promoting, and ultimately, survival-promoting, chemical reaction structures.

The study is published in the journal Nature Communications. Araujo said they had found that molecules of living systems cannot

simply 'transmit' biochemical signals but must make 'computations' on these signals. These complex intermolecular interactions must implement a special type of regulation known as integral control-a design strat-

egy known to engineers for al-

"However, signalling networks in nature are vastly different, having evolved to rely on the physical interactions between discrete

"So, nature's 'solutions' operate through remarkable and highly



intricate collections of interactions, without engineering's specially designed, integral-computing components, and often without feedback loops

"We show that molecular network structures use a form of inTHROWING OPEN A "WINDOW TO **EVOLUTION", THE RESEARCHERS** "Using an algebraic algorithm

SAID, THEIR FINDINGS REPRESENTED A BLUEPRINT FOR ADAPTATION-CAPABLE SIGNALLING **NETWORKS ACROSS ALL DOMAINS** OF LIFE AND FOR THE DESIGN OF SYNTHETIC BIOSYSTEMS

THE RESEARCHERS SAID THAT

THEY HAD DISCOVERED FUNDAMENTAL MOLECULAR-LEVEL **DESIGN PRINCIPLES THAT** ORGANISED ALL FORMS OF **BIOLOGICAL COMPLEXITY INTO** ROBUSTNESS-PROMOTING, AND ULTIMATELY, SURVIVAL-PROMOTING CHEMICAL REACTION STRUCTURES

tegral control in which multiple independent integrals, each with a very special and simple structure, can collaborate to confer the capacity for adaptation on specific molecules."

based on this finding, we have been able to demonstrate the existence of embedded integrals in biologically important chemical reaction networks whose ability to exhibit adaptation could never before be explained by any systematic method,' said Araujo.

"On the basis of this groundbreaking new research, RPA currently stands alone as a keystone biological response for which there now exists a universal explanatory framework.

"At a practical level, this discovery could provide a completely fresh approach to tackle grand challenges in personalized medicine such as cancer drug resistance, addiction, and autoimmune diseases," said Lance Liotta,

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Admin learns no lesson as boat mishaps claim lives Youth fails to clear

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, April 28: Despite frequent boat mishaps, the Kendrapara district administra tion is yet to learn a lesson or two to make boat travel safer even as a boat capsize here Thursday in Brahmani river claimed life of a minor boy with one of the boatmen still missing.

It was a sad day for the local residents as the boat en route to Keradagad of Rajnagar from Ekamania with 30 passengers and eight to 10 two-wheelers on board capsized in Brahmani.

Most of the boats and boatmen operating them are yet to be insured as per the Boat **Rules. Hundreds of boats** without having proper fitness proof move in these water bodies as nobody cares to check them

RASHMI RANJAN SWAIN | SOCIAL ACTIVIST

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced ₹4 lakh compensation for the next of the kin of the deceased and expressed his deepest condolences over the tragedy. Travelling by boats in the rivers



of Kendrapara district is always fraught with risk owing to the unsafe practices as fishing boats are being used to ferry passengers without any life jacket. However, the district administration is yet to wake up to this reality and adopt measures to make boat journeys

safer for people. There are hundreds of river ghats in this district from where boats ply perilously for their destinations carrying hundreds of passengers on board. These boats do not adhere to safety norms or boat rules. Furthermore, no life

jacket is given to the passengers, taking away from them the last chance of survival in case of a mishap

The government has framed boat rules for safe travel in water bodies but people involved in this trade mostly use fishing boats to ferry passengers which often prove to be life threatening for

Social activist Pratap Kumar Padhi said over 17 panchayats like Padanipala, Ekamania, Singhagaon and Batighar are riparian areas surrounded by rivers

where boats are the only mode of transportation. Outsiders and locals visiting tourist sites like Hukitola, Havelikhati, Batighara, Barunei mostly use country boats, dinghies and fishing boats.

n which five labourers escaped death by

The state government's Odisha Boat Rules, 2004 are yet to be implemented here despite boats being the main mode of transportation in these areas. As a result, travelling by boat has become risky proposition in this district.

People travel for their destinations without having any knowledge about the boat rules. There is a thin chance of getting compensation to the next of the kin of deceased if such a boat overturns claiming lives. He alleged that over 60 boats are being used sans any proper fitness certificate.

Narendra Kumar Das of Gupti in Rajnagar block said that the Bhitarkanika National Park is infested by over 1,700 crocodiles and boats regularly ply in these water bodies to Gupti, Chandbali, Khola, Jaynagar, Kharinasi, Bahakud, Jambu villages adjoining the wetland. Many of these boats do not have an experienced and senior boatman and minors have been engaged to row the boats.

Moreover, boats are always overloaded with passengers in lure of money as there is not restriction from the government. Construction of a bridge between Bahakuda and Kharinasi is yet to be completed leaving boat as the only option of transport especially during the rainy season.

When contacted, ADM Pitambar Samal said awareness programmes on safe travel are being regularly conducted among the boatmen. The district administration never hesitates to take action if any boat is found flouting rules.

rlys exam, kills self

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, April 28: There is no let up in suicide by minors and youths in state as yet another youth took the extreme step by hanging after he allegedly failed to clear a competitive examination for joining Railways at Shastrinagar under Gosaninuagaon police limits in Ganjam district, in the wee hours of Friday.

The deceased was identified as Radhamohan Patra, 25, son of Gokul Patra at Krupanidhi Pentha near Sonepur under Golanthara police limits. He had taken a house on rent at Shastrinagar in the town to prepare for competitive examinations and was staying there with two of his friends. Police registered a case and handed over the body to his family members after a post mortem was conducted.

Preliminary inquiries indicated that he and one of his friends had appeared for an examination for a job in Railways. While his friend cracked the examination, Patra failed to do so. He was under severe mental trauma owing to the failure and this might have prompted him



to take the extreme ster Patra and three of his friends went to sleep on terrace due to the heat. Later during the night, before committing suicide Radhamohan sent a message that read 'I am sorry' to his brother through Whatsapp, police said. His brother noticed the message early morning and called him over phone but the call went unanswered. Later, he called one of his friends and in-

formed him about the message. His friends ran downstairs and found the room bolted from inside and informed his brother Kailash Patra. Kailash soon reached the spot with some village youths and broke open the door and found him hanging with a napkin. They informed the police who reached the spot and launched an investigation.

Tusker brings house down; infant dies, 3 hurt critically



Dhenkikote/Ghatagaon, April 28: A one-year-old girl child died in wall collapse while three of her family members sustained critical injuries after a tusker pulled down their house after straying into Mendhamundi Sahi village under Santrapur panchayat and Ghatagaon forest range in Keonjhar district, late Thursday night.

The tusker pulled down houses and fed on the paddy crops in the village. The deceased child was identified as Monalisha Munda, second daughter of Rashmi, 28, and Daktar Munda, 28, of the

In the wall collapse, the deceased's father, mother and tained critical injuries and were admitted to the district headquarters hospital for treatment

Sources said the family members went to sleep after having their dinner at home, Thursday night. A tusker straved into the village late at night and demolished their house after it smelled the presence of country brew 'Handia' inside the house.

As a result, a wall of the house collapsed and fell on the family members. Hearing their screams, neighbours rushed to the spot, drove the animal away and rescued the family members from under the debris. On being informed, forest

officials led by Dhenkikote forester Chittaranjan Parida reached the spot and admitted the injured family members to the district headquarters hospital. There doctors conducted a check up of the infant and pronounced her dead while the condition of the couple and their elder daughter undergoing treatment was critical.

Ghatagaon forest ranger Prabhas Kuanr reached the hospital and gave away ₹40,000 financial assistance to the family members. Dhenkikote beat house police officer Taranisen Bag handed over the body to the family members after an autopsy. A case was registered in this connection at Ghatagaon police station.

The tusker was later learnt to have strayed into Raghubeda village and pulled down a mutt and the house of a tribal at Masinabila village.

Forest ranger Kuanr said that ₹40,000 ex-gratia was given away to the victim's kin and the rest compensation of ₹3.60 lakh will be transferred to the bank account of the head of the familv after completion of necessary formalities.

Meanwhile, 17 elephants were learnt to be present in areas under Ghatagaon forest range with forest officials keeping a close watch on their movements.

The two critically injured

Later, Saroj and Goutam

were shifted to the burn unit of Ispat General Hospital (IGH)

in Rourkela after administration of primary treatment. The other injured employee

was discharged after primary

the three employees were en-

gaged in mixing chemicals for preparation of explosives at Unit-3 of the ordnance factory at 9.45am, Friday, a press

release issued by the factory

The incident occurred when

treatment.

Badmal Ordnance Factory explosion renders 2 critical









"People of India have made 'Mann Ki Baat'an invaluable platform for expression of public participation. Every month, through lakhs of messages, the 'Mann Ki Baat' of so many people reach me. You do know the power of your mind, similarly, we have seen and understood in different episodes of Mann Ki Baat, how the power of the country grows with the power of the society.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

A Celebration of a great milestone in Public-Discussion

To commemorate the momentous journey of 100th episodes of 'Mann Ki Baat', the Ministry of Culture is organising various programs at 13 historical monuments of the country.

> from 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM **April 29, 2023**



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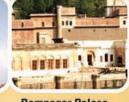
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Special Exhibition by 13 Eminent Artists at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi

Let's be a part of this program and witness this historical moment

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Factory under Saintala block in Bolangir district, Friday. workers were identified as Junior Works Manager Saroj Panda and DBW employee Goutam Mahananda. Another DBW employee sustained minor injuries. The three were rescued and rushed to the hospital in the factory premises.

Saintala, April 28: At least

POST NEWS NETWORK

three persons were injured. two of them critically in a blast at the Badmal Ordnance

authorities said. The factory authorities have formed a board and directed for an investigation into the exCBC 09101/13/0002/2324



It is not God who made man wicked. It is man who makes himself wicked by senarating himself from God.



Race To Top

The race is on to succeed the Director General of Police (DGP) of Tamil Nadu C. Sylendra Babu who is due for superannuation at the end of June. The buzz in Delhi seems to suggest that Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora is a sure-shot winner, being the most favoured to succeed Babu as Tamil Nadu's top cop.

Sources have informed DKB that Arora leads a list of 12 IPS officers who have qualified for empanelment and the state government will choose one of the three officers to be shortlisted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). In terms of seniority, Arora bests DGP BK Ravi and Chennai Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal.

Of the top three officers, Arora has led two Central armed police forces CRPF and ITBP - and won the Chief Minister's Gallantry Medal for Bravery and Heroic Action for his role as the Superintendent of Police, Special Task Force that gunned down forest brigand Veerappan. Other officers in the fray include AK Viswanathan, Abhash Kumar, TV Ravichandran, Seema Agrawal and Amaraesh Pujari. Given the number of years in service required to qualify for empanelment, Rajeev Kumar, Sandeep Rai Rathore, Abhay Kumar Singh and K Vannia Perumal are also on the list sent to the UPSC by the Tamil Nadu Home Department.

Arora has apparently consented to be moved out of the national capital, which leaves another prestigious post up for grabs. We may expect another interesting race among UT cadre IPS officers to become Delhi's top cop.

The sorrows of Ashok Khemka

The Harvana government's clean chit to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra, five years after filing an FIR for irregular land deals, has left at least one official disappointed. Senior



IAS officer Ashok Khemka had cancelled the mutation of a 33-acre land deal involving Vadra and had gained celebrity status as a whistle-blower. In the 2014 elections, the BJP had alleged irregularities in land deals during the Congress regime in Haryana and made it a major electoral issue. Now, the 1991-batch IAS officer is tweeting about whether corruption allegations are only for political gain.

Khemka, who enjoys an image of a squeaky-clean officer, has certainly paid the price for his clean image. He has, in his chequered career, managed to rub every political dispensation that ruled Haryana the wrong way. No party when it comes to power wants to have him around. He has become the most transferred IAS officer, not just in the state but perhaps the entire country. He is currently in his 56th posting in a career spanning nearly 30 years. At present, he is the Additional Chief Secretary of the state Archives Department, and there's no saying whether he won't be moved out again. Sources say that he was moved because he wrote to Chief Secretary Sarvesh Kaushal that he didn't have enough work at the Science and Technology Department. Khemka's current despondency is only the latest blow to his fight for clean administration.

Retired babu's new innings in Chhattisgarh

In recent times, there has been a trend of state governments following in the footsteps of the Centre by re-engaging retired babus for key positions in the administration. These officers are often handpicked favourites of the ruling government and their appointment serves the dual purpose of maintaining continuity and control over the administrative machinery while also furthering political interests

The Chhattisgarh government recently set off murmurs in the state's babu and political circles by engaging DM Awasthi, a retired IPS officer of the 1986 batch, as an officer on special duty (OSD) at the police headquarters in Raipur. Awasthi was assigned the responsibility of looking after the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), both of which are crucial departments for any government. Although Awasthi retired in March earlier this year, he was immediately given a contractual appointment as OSD, indicating his importance to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's government. It's hardly a secret that he was always considered a favourite officer of Baghel, and this move is seen as an attempt to retain his expertise and considerable experience in Baghel's administration

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

WISDOM CORNER

The optimist thinks this is the best of all possible worlds. The

pessimist fears it is true.

All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with reason. There is nothing higher than

Youth is happy because it has the ability to see beauty. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old.

WORDS**WORTH**

Hingle

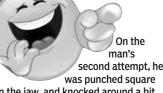
Ingle, an English dialect word that is now hardly known, appeared recently in a book by a father-and-son pair of poachers. In the language of their occupation, a hingle is a snare with which to catch a hare or rabbit. It's essentially a bent twig or loop of wire. At root, hingle means a hinge and the word has also been used in dialect in that sense; it can be traced to the Old English hengle that's also the origin of hinge. Hingle has been recorded across a band of English counties from Lancashire and Cheshire in the west to Norfolk in the east. A couple of references suggest that the snares were also used to catch wild birds. In 1880 The Zoologist wrote about Norfolk that "Sky Larks were, at that time, so plentiful in the 'Fen,' that from twenty to thirty dozen were taken daily in 'hingles." An old ordinance about swans, said to be from the reign of Henry VIII and presented to a conference in Lincoln in 1848, read in part "It'm [Item] that no person shall set any hingles, snares or engines for foule, from Shrovetide to St Luke's Day." The word appears from time to time in nineteenth-century court reports of poachers on trial, as here in the Bury and Norwich Post of December 1858: "I was watching a hingle with a dead partridge in it ... and saw the defendant come along the hedge cutting up some sticks. When he got up to the stack he took up the hingle and the partridge, and went home with it." It's perhaps not so surprising that the word has survived but the two poachers who wrote the book are from Gloucestershire, well outside the historical area in which the term has been recorded.

LOL

THE CROWDED STORE

t was the day of the big sale. Rumours of the sale (and some advertising in the local paper) were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30, the store's opening time, in front of the store. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed

back, amid loud and colourful curses.



in the jaw, and knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the

"That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!"

FOCUS ECONOMY

INDIA'S WELFARE BALM



Subramanian & Josh Felman

DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S ROBUST RECOVERY IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE PANDEMIC'S PEAK, THE **PREDICTED BOOM HAS NOT** MATERIALISED. **NOR DOES IT SEEM IMMINENT**

uring the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Indian economists and commentators believed the economy would skyrocket as soon as life returned to normal. But, despite the country's robust recovery in the two years since the pandemic's peak, the predicted boom has not materialised, nor does it seem imminent.

The latest data shed light on the country's economic predicament. While many analysts have estimated India's potential annual GDP growth at 7-8%, the most recent figures indicate a subdued rate of 4.4%. Private investment remains weak; credit uptake has slowed in recent months after a brief spurt; and while high-value service exports have soared, manufacturing exports' global market share has plateaued.

The employment and inflation figures are also sobering. India's worker-to-population ratio - perhaps the best measure of job opportunities - has declined steadily from about 44% in 2016 to 37% today, according to the Center for Monitoring the Indian Economy. Moreover, many industrial workers have been forced to shift back to agriculture, as the manufacturing sector's share of total employment is still below pre-pandemic levels. And the increasing number of students with college degrees that are unemployed or underemployed attests to the predicament of millions of tuition-paying middle-class families. For them, the demographic dividend risks turning into demographic disappointment.

Meanwhile, inflation has persisted at 6% for most of the past three years, driven by soaring food prices, which disproportionately affect the poor. Typically, such figures spell anxiety for political leaders. Food-price inflation has contributed to the ouster of previous Indian governments, most famously when soaring onion prices helped dislodge the BJPruled Union government in 1998.

This time, however, there has been remarkably little demand for political change. There seem to be three explanations for this.

First, most Indians seem to be-



An exaggerated Marxist formulation of New Welfarism might position it as the new opium of the masses. A more restrained explanation would say that, though it began as an economic boost, New Welfarism now is becoming a soothing balm

lieve that the government's economic reforms will eventually yield large dividends. International firms, edged out by an increasingly inward-looking China, are considering relocating to India, thanks to improving infrastructure and connectivity as well as the lure of generous government subsidies. Apple, which is in the process of moving its iPhone production to India, is a prominent example If the current trickle turns into a wave and enough domestic and foreign enterprises succeed in becoming globally competitive, manufacturing could be rehabilitated, allowing India to finally follow the export-led development path that guided East Asia to riches.

Second, the economy is just one of many issues that affect voter behaviour, along with leaders' personal characteristics, the political alternatives on offer, and the avenues available to citizens to express their disapproval

The third possibility remains underappreciated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unique approach to redistribution, which one of us dubbed "New Welfarism," emphasizes funding for items such as toilets that are essential but normally provisioned privately, as opposed to public goods such as primary education and basic health care. To be fair, very few Indian governments have paid much attention to providing public goods. After all, educational and health reforms take years to deliver measurable results and often produce meagre political returns, giving policymakers little incentive to pursue them.

Instead, governments have focused on building social safety nets. Modi's immediate predecessor, Manmohan Singh, flush with tax revenues from rapid economic growth and determined to spread the boom's benefits more widely, introduced a nationwide rural employment guarantee scheme and converted existing food-subsidy programmes into expanded legal entitlements. Both served India well during the pandemic as millions of newly unemployed migrants were forced to return to their rural homes.

The Modi government inherited this safety net and maintained it, but without enthusiasm. Rather than strengthen the existing schemes, the government focused on providing cash payments and subsidies for cooking gas, toilets, electricity, housing, and water. This effort has been extraordinarily successful, with access to these goods and services increasing significantly even if some of the government claims are exaggerated.

What the different elements of New Welfarism have in common is that they are "attributable tan-

gibles." Stuff, not fluff, is being given; cash is delivered efficiently using India's seamless digital infrastructure. Unlike education reform, the goods benefit people today, rather than at some point in the future. Given that many of them fulfill basic needs, Modi's strategy has arguably improved Indians' quality of life significantly. The surge in cash transfers has been critical. According to government data, roughly \$45 billion in direct cash payments were delivered in the fiscal year that just ended, benefiting about 700 million (not necessarily distinct) people via 265 public schemes. If transfers from state governments were included, these figures would be even larger. Taken together, the cash transfers are tantamount to a universal basic income, an idea that one of us advocated while serving as the Indian government's chief economic adviser several years ago.

Against this background, New Welfarism's role starts becoming evident. Initially, delivery of attributable tangibles and improvement in people's standard of living contributed to the increase in Modi's popularity, especially as the government's unrelenting marketing made the benefactor unmistakably clear to the beneficiaries

Now, New Welfarism is playing an equally important role in dampening disaffection. Anxieties about the limited employment opportunities and high food prices are lessened by the cash flowing into bank accounts, providing an assured minimal level of purchasing power.

An exaggerated Marxist formulation of New Welfarism might position it as the new opium of the masses. A more restrained explanation would say that, though it began as an economic boost, New Welfarism now is becoming a soothing balm.

Arvind Subramanian, a senior fellow at Brown University, is a distinguished non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development. Josh Felman is Principal at JH Consulting.

SPECTRUM NATION

So much for cleaning up the system



Shivaji Sarkar

FROM PETTY ENGAGEMENT WITH ELECTIONS, **GOONS HAVE COME A LONG WAY TO CONTEST ELECTIONS THEMSELVES**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

in India. If mafia turned politician Atiq Ahmed was worth ₹11.684 crore, Dawood Ibrahim is estimated worth \$6.7 billion and there are others who have wealth more than the budgets of many state governments. The syndicates are widespread.

If Atiq and Asad represent the Muslim gangster, Vikas Dube, eliminated "as he tried to escape" while being transported, was a Brahmin and enjoyed support of fellow Brahmins. Atiq was an emerging goon in 1980s. By 1989, a powerful gangster, he won the Allahabad West constituency as an Independent, retained the seat for two consecutive terms. He was elected to the Assembly on Samaiwadi Party ticket. Each year his wealth multiplied and so did his gang's criminal aggression. From 1999 to 2003 he was president of Apna Dal, a faction of which is part of the NDA now. He was elected on Apna Dal ticket in 2002. In 2004, he was in Samaiwadi Party. Criminality was the reason for his political success that helped him multiply his wealth.

In 1980s, Gorakhpur was known for conflict between a Brahmin gang of Hari Shankar Tiwari and Thakur gang of Virendra Pratap

rime is the biggest business Shahi. Tiwari was minister in many state has its gangs. governments. The state today has at least eight major groups as per police lists. Each of these have properties, cash and other assets worth thousands of crores. Atiq's ₹1400 crore assets are spotted by Enforcement Directorate. Many were bulldozed. Still, nobody knows how his properties in Okhla, Jamia Milia and Shaheen Bagh in Delhi would be dealt with. Other Uttar Pradesh gangs also own properties in and around the national capital. The post Babri demolition also led to the rise of many land mafia and all have good moorings. Much of Atiq's rise was also linked to Mulayam Singh Yadav's bid to lean on him to counter the saffron rise.

In 2022, UP arrested 16,000 criminals and recovered a fraction of their possessions at ₹2100 crore. The BJP claims that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has struck terror with bulldozers and encounters. That is correct, but Yogi has not been able to galvanise the force to do proper investigations, draft out appropriate FIRs leading to large acquittals at district courts. These are not even discussed, and political messaging of administrative success is carefully managed for image burnishing. Every other

In 2018, the Supreme Court asked the government about the status of criminal cases pending against elected members, underlining the importance of breaking from the history of law-breakers becoming law-makers. Criminalisation of politics is traced to 1957 for booth capturing. From such petty engagement with elections, goons and gangs have come a long way to contest elections themselves. Hence goons were relatively assured of political favours after they helped a politician win election. This led to the entry of criminals in politics in order to maximise control over their own survival and protection. Many goons who had not been involved in politics joined it as a competitive response as they feared missing out on opportunities, or a crackdown by a competing gang.

From banning of corporate funding by Indira Gandhi in 1969 to outsmart the core Congress called Syndicate to electoral bonds, the influence of money and crime is a phenomenon. The not so transparent electoral bonds find their ways to parties. It is said money and its takers have taint of many sorts associated to it. Crime is becoming sophisticated.

the electoral bonds are legalised form of corruption. The electoral bonds have so far not had the desired results, on the other had these have further obscured the process of political funding and its source. The LegalserviceIndia.com says this interferes with the most fundamental piece of information that voters need to know, affecting their free will and flaunting the norms of a free and fair election.

The ambit has widened. The corporate growth, change in stock businesses, and digital money have widened the gambit. Now even some of the topmost social media companies are alleged to be patronising cyber "slave" goons to earn billions in a day through popular sites, advertising for pseudo jobs or disguised gambling with anonymous protection to save the "slaves" from any exposure or trace. The ill-equipped police forces are incapable to match their swift and advanced techniques that swindle millions in seconds. So much for cleaning up the system.

> The writer is Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Tiger conservation

Sir, The recent announcement of a considerable increase in the number of tigers was welcomed because elaborate efforts have been in place for several decades to safeguard this species. However, the recent spate of tiger deaths has generated new concerns about whether aspects of ongoing conservation and maintenance programmes require improvement. According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority's most recent numbers, 56 tigers have died this year for a variety of reasons. In the month of April alone, eight tigers died. The majority of these are female. Those who follow the ups and downs of tigers' lives, on the other hand, believe that a high number of tigers are killed between the months of January and March. With the project being run to save tigers and the kind of activism that has frequently been observed under it, it is normal to believe that this animal will be saved from extinction. Therefore, a few years ago, a figure of 200 increases in the number of tigers was hailed as a triumph of conservation operations. But how will it be perceived if news of tiger deaths arrives concurrently with this figure? If tiger deaths cannot be managed in contrast to population growth, how can a safe ratio of population balance be maintained? Certainly, organised campaigns were launched to save tigers as a protected species, and extensive programmes were also put in place to make the sanctuaries safe and to provide the necessary climate for their survival. But it's difficult to see how there is a threat to tigers' lives despite the frequent implementation of all the ambitious measures to save them! Indeed, the challenges posed by the growing human population, as well as the expansion of residential areas, have a significant impact on the normal lives of wildlife. We need to raise awareness at all levels. Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

LAC deadlock

Sir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presented a solid front to his Chinese counterpart, General Li Shangfu, during their meeting in New Delhi. Li is in the national capital to attend a defence ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The Defence Minister declared that India and China's relationship is predicated on the presence of peace and tranquillity at the borders. The confrontation between India and China in Eastern Ladakh began in May 2020, and despite 17 meetings between the Corps Commanders of both nations, the deadlock persists in Depsang and Demchok.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

national



We must all stand with the wrestlers who are protesting. They are speaking in one voice. Our sportspersons are the pride of our nation. They are champions. The guilty must be brought to book, irrespective of their political affiliation. Justice must prevail. Truth must win

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SISODIA DENIED BAIL

A Delhi court Friday dismissed the bail application of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam. Special Judge M K Nagpal denied the relief to Sisodia, saying the stage was not fit to grant him bail



working on opportunities in higher education so that students do not need to go outside the state to pursue higher studies

It appears that the BJP has the right to speak anyone speaks about

MANIK SAHA TRIPURA CM









Oppn leaders hit out at Usha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Several opposition leaders hit out at Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha Friday for criticising a protest by wrestlers in Delhi, alleging she has become a "political mouthpiece"

Usha, a Rajya Sabha member, has condemned the protest, saying the grapplers lacked discipline in hitting the street in support of their de mand. She also said their action has tarnished the image of India.

Responding to Usha, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said ignoring their pleas tarnishes the country's image, not their protest. "Dear @PTUshaOfficial, it is does not become you to disparage the justified protests of your fellow sportspersons in the face of repeated & wanton sexual harassment. Their standing up for their rights does not 'tarnish the image of the nation'. Ignoring their concerns - instead of hearing them out, investigating them & taking just

action - does," he said. CPI MP Binoy Viswam blamed the sprinter's "newly found" political friends for her stand on the issue, TMC MP Mahua Moitra also attributed the former sportswoman's stand to her Rajva Sabha seat. "Wrestlers protesting on streets tarnishing India's image says @PTUshaOfficial. So ruling party MP chairing WFI for years accused of molestation & abuse of power against who @DelhiPolice refuses to lodge FIR in spite of SC order makes India smell of roses, does it?" tweeted Moitra. Congress MP Jebi Mather said a person like PT Usha who is held in high esteem by every Indian, especially sports enthusiasts, stooping to the level of demeaning the wrestlers, is quite unwarranted and unexpected of her.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: More

than 120 eminent citizens,

including retired high court

judges and former bureau-

crats, have written to

President Droupadi Murmu

opposing what they called

"highly objectionable at-

tempts" to legalise same-sex

They said the Indian so-

ciety and culture do not ac-

cept same-sex behavioural

institution as it is irrational

and unnatural. The signa-

tories said they were

"shocked" over the "contin-

uous onslaught" against the

country's basic cultural tra-

ditions and religious tenets,

in particular, the "highly ob-

jectionable attempts" towards

legalisation of same-sex

The deliberation regard-

marriages.

union

Amid bitter war of words, BJP and Congress seek EC ban

New Delhi, April 28: With the election campaign in Karnataka witnessing a bitter war of words between the BJP and the Congress, both the parties rushed to the Election Commission Friday seeking ban on electioneering by top leaders of the other side.

While the BJP sought an FIR and a bar on campaigning by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress demanded restrictions on Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Kharge is under attack from the BJP after he likened Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a "poisonous snake" during a poll rally. Shah and Yogi have been accused of flaring communal passions and creating disharmony in the poll-bound state with their

statements against minorities. Union minister Bhupender Yaday led a BJP delegation and urged the poll body to file a criminal case against Kharge and bar him from campaigning in the Karnataka assembly polls. He later told reporters that Kharge's comment was not merely a slip of the tongue but part of the Congress' "hate politics".

BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh said Kharge is a "habitual offender" and noted that Congress leaders have made a number of "hateful" personal attacks on Modi. The BJP has demanded registration of an FIR under IPC sections 499

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh Friday called upon the SCO member nations to fix account-

ability on supporters of terrorism and

pitched for a framework of regional co-

operation that respects the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of the coun-

tries in the grouping, in comments

seen as a veiled reference to Pakistan and a message to China respectively.

With Chinese defence minister L

Shangfu listening, Singh, who chaired

a conclave of defence ministers of

the SCO countries, said India envisions

a robust framework of regional co-

operation which mutually respects

the sovereignty and territorial in-

tegrity of all member states by taking

New Delhi strives to further bolster

"trust and cooperation" among the

members of the grouping as it be-

lieves in maintaining peace and se-

curity based on the provisions of the

Singh's comments referring to the

UN charter, he said.

care of their legitimate interests.



and 500, which deal with defamation, and Section 504, which deals with the offence of deliberate insults and provocation.

The delegation also included BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni and party leader Om Pathak. After the row erupted over his "poiso nous snake" barb, Kharge later clarified that his remarks were not aimed at the prime minister but at the ruling BJP and its ideology.

In retaliation to Kharge's remarks, BJP MLA from Vijayapur Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Friday likened former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to a 'vishkanya' (venomous maiden). "Kharge should be barred from campaigning in Karnataka elections so as to contain the spread of such acrimonious campaign and set an example that the Commission will not brook any violation of MCC or other laws of the land," the BJP

Rajnath's tough message

to Pak, China at SCO meet

Defence Ministers' meeting in New Delhi

need for respecting the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of all member

states under a regional framework for

cooperation came amid the three-year

border row between India and China.

not participate in the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) con-

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The Pakistani defence minister did



Comparing anyone to a poisonous snake in Indian society projects such an individual as an "enemy, untrustworthy, unfaithful, treacherous, and deceitful", it said, adding that Kharge and his party are repeat offenders.

The Congress reached the Election Commission in the evening and urged it to ban Shah and Adityanath from campaigning for the May 10 Karnataka assembly polls for their alleged derogatory statements against the minority community that create an atmosphere of communal disharmony.

The delegation including Abhishek Singhyi, Pawan Kumar Bansal and Mukul Wasnik, met the chief election commissioner and the election commissioners, and requested the poll panel to ensure a level-playing field in the southern state. The Congress will also seek all legal options with re-

754 stranded **Indians** arrive from Sudan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: India Friday brought home 754 people under its mission to evacuate stranded Indians from strife-torn Sudan.

While 392 people arrived in New Delhi in a C-17 heavy-lift aircraft of the Indian Air Force, another batch of 362 Indians were brought to Bengaluru.

The total number of Indians brought home now stands at 1,360, according to official data.

"Another C-17 flight carrying 392 passengers reaches New Delhi," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted."India welcomes back 362 Indians as another #OperationKaveri flight touches down in Bengaluru," he said in another tweet.

The people were brought home from the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah where India has set up a transit camp for the evacuees. The first batch of 360 evacuees were brought to New Delhi in a commercial plane on Wednesday.

The second batch of 246 evacuees arrived in Mumbai in a C-17 Globemaster on Thursday. Under Operation Kaveri, India has been rescuing its citizens in buses from conflict zones in Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to Jeddah in Indian Air Force's transport airand Indian Navy's ships. From Jeddah. the Indians are being brought home in either commercial flights or

> For Sale/Eauction: Wet Damaged Dalmia Cement - 2924 bags lying at Rice Mill Compound, DCBL, Bhadrak Odhisha Contact Person at site :Mr. Subhasis Maitra - 7328812650 Last Date For Inspection & EMD Deposit - 02.05.2023 & Date Of E-auction- 03.05..2023 (3 PM), Auctioneer: Meenakshi-9625137014 / M F Islam - 9911003339 (Insurance Claim Material Will Be Sold On

'As Is Where Is', 'Whatever There Is' And

E-Tender/16 Dt.: 19.04.2023

PROPOSED UP-GRADATION OF LINGARAJ TEMPLE ROAD STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 531.70 Lakhs EMD: ₹4,15,900/-. (2) Tender No. etender-East-KUR-50-2023

Dt.: 18.04.2023 Description : PROPOSED
MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS TO BRIDGES,
BRIDGE APPROACHES AND CENTRAL

OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION Approx cost of the work : ₹ 313.17 Lakhs, EMD: ₹3,06,600/-.

(3) Tender No. etender-SPL-KUR-51-2023

Dt.: 19.04.2023

Description: PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS SAFETY RELATED WORKS LIKE TOE WALL, RETAINING WALL, SIDE DRAIN, STONE PITCHING, CESS REPAIRS ETC. TO BE EXECUTED IN DEEP CUTTING AND HIGH EMBANKMENT LOCATIONS OF MCL SIDING AT TALCHER

UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME Approx cost of the work : ₹ 458.06 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 3,79,000/-.

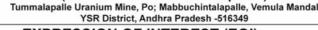
Completion period: 06 months (for Sl. No. 1) & 12 months (for Sl. No. 2&3).

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 10.05.2023 (for all tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) EOI No. UCIL/TMPL/SCHOOL/02, Dated 01/05/2023

which may further increase or decrease. Schools shall have liberty to fill up the vacant seats if any from outside students only after admitting all UCIL students.

facilities like Library facility, Computer lab Facility, Science lab Facility, Facility of sports and other cultural activity as per applicable regulatory requirements.

ii) School bus facility for UCIL students.

iv) Any other infrastructure/facility necessary to run the school

The full notification of the 'Expression of Interest' containing the prescribed format in which it is to be submitted along with other particulars can be downloaded from UCIL website http://uraniumcorp.in/. Corrigendum to this tender notification, if any, shall be displayed in the UCIL Website - http://uraniumcorp.in/only.

Sooraj Pancholi acquitted in Jiah Khan suicide case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 28: Almost 10 years after Bollywood actor Jiah Khan was found hanging at her Mumbai residence, a special CBI court here Friday acquitted her then boyfriend Sooraj Pancholi in the case of abetment of her suicide citing "paucity of evidence"

Sooraj Pancholi (32), who was arrested in the case in June 2013 and released on bail a few weeks later, was charged under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 306 (abetment of suicide). Jiah's mother Rabia Khan has been contesting the prosecution's stand that this was a case of suicide and claimed that her daughter was killed

After the court's verdict, she said the judgement was not surprising and her battle to seek justice for her daughter will continue. Pronouncing the verdict, special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court judge A S Sayyad on Friday said due



to paucity of evidence, the court holds Sooraj Pancholi not guilty.

Sooraj, the son of actor couple Aditya Pancholi and Zarina Wahab, was present in court with his mother when it passed the judgement. Judge Sayyad called Sooraj to the witness-box and asked his name. When the actor said Sooraj, the judge asked him to state his full name. The actor then replied, "Sooraj Aditya Pancholi." The judge then said, "Due to paucity of evidence, this court holds you (Sooraj) not guilty...acquitted.

Sooraj nodded with his head down and stepped out of the

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice issuance to all concerned that, Mr. Busi

gram Sabar, S/o. Late.Bucha Sabar, Kasturi Nagar, Rayagada, Mob :- 9437234533 has applied housing loan from LIC housing fin. Ltd., Berhampur with title deeds documents no - 665/1996 of SRO. Rayagada & original ROR, Vide Khata No -02/1002, Plot.No-17/1178 has been lost somewhere. All concerned there after having claim over the property mentioned above can claim with the under mentioned within 15 days from today and after that the claim will be lapsed and shall be treated as free from any disputes. Damayanti Mahandia

Advocate,Kasturi Nagar, Rayagada, Mobile - 8763402740



EAST COAST RAILWAY **E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR**

JUNE-2023 FOR DEPOT & DIVISIONS

SCHEDULE OF E-AUCTION

HQ/DIVISION Depot Mancheswar 01.06.23, 08.06.23, 15.06.23 & 22.06.23 06.06.23, 13.06.23, 21.06.23 & 29.06.23 Sambalpur Division

Condemned rolling stocks (Loco, Coach, Wagon), Scrap rail, Miscellaneous Condemned rolling stocks (Loco, Coach, Wagon), Scrap rall, Miscellaneous P.Way fittings (switches, crossings, fish plates, sleepers, fish bolt etc.); miscellaneous workshop scrap (drums, bogie frame, buffer casing, buffer plunger, turning and boring etc.), Miscellaneous ferrous, Non-ferrous, Non-metallic scrap, condemned machinery and plants, condemned vehicles, and the part of fisher plants of the plants condemned office equipments of Sambalpur, Khurda Road & Waltair divisions and scrap materials of Railway Electrifications are expected to be offered on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. Railway administration shall be at liberty to include other items too in the e-auction and the complete details of materials and terms the respective auction conducting authority of East Coast Railway or from our website, www.ireps.gov.in within 07 (seven) days prior to the date of auction.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Bhubaneswa



Ministry of Science and Technology Department of Science and Technology **WISE-KIRAN Division**

WISE Internship in IPR (WISE-IPR) [erstwhile Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C)] Call for Applications (2023) Applications invited from women scientists for selection

under 'WISE Internship in IPR (WISE-IPR)'. The WISE-IPR programme (a programme of the Department of Science and Technology) offers training in different fields of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). This one-year training programme provides theoretical knowledge of IPRs as well as on-the-job training at various centres in Women in age group of 25-45 years and having PG/

Ph.D. or equivalent Degree in Basic and Applied Sciences are eligible to apply. Women in permanent/ regular employment are not eligible for this programme. The stipend based on qualification for one-year training in WISE-IPR is as follows:

M.Sc. in Basic or Applied Sciences/ Rs.25,000/- P.M. B.Tech./MBBS or equivalent M. Phil./M.Tech./M. Pharma/M.V. Sc. Rs.30,000/- P.M or equivalent Ph.D. in Basic or Applied Sciences or

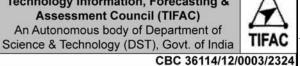
Rs.35,000/- P.M. Application Submission: Applications can submitted only through online mode. For detailed

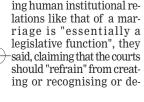
information and online submission of application visit website www.tifac.org.in. Detailed advertisement of WISE-IPR is available at www.dst.gov.in and www. tifac.org.in.

Contact Person: Ms. Sangeeta Nagar, Scientist-F, TIFAC, New Delhi - 110016 through email: kiranipr. pfc@tifac.org.in

Last date for submission of online Applications: 31 May, 2023

Implemented by Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC) An Autonomous body of Department of







marriage either by way of a judicial interpretation or striking down or reading down the existing legislative framework for mar-

The issue is being considered by the constitution bench of the Supreme Court and has become a "rallying point" for some "typical pseudo liberals" who are already "divorced" from Indian values under the bogey of "progressive and liberated thinking", they said.

The signatories to the April 27 letter include former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Rajiv

Mehrishi, former home secretary L C Goyal, former foreign secretary Shashank, former RAW chief Sanjeev Tripathi, Justice (retired) S N Dhingra and Justice (retired) Lok Pal Singh.

Eminent citizens write to President

They said it was imperative to let the Supreme Court know the accurate estimation and outcome of such a "culturally disastrous" step in the name of a "path-breaking approach"."If we revise the law to make same-sex sexual union rational, acceptable or moral, it will open the doors to same-sex sexual culture. Our society and culture do not accept same-sex behavioural institution because it is offensive to our values, besides being irrational and unnatural,

They claimed that it was "widely appreciated" that same-sex relationship "can't create long-term or stable institutions"."If they are allowed to adopt children, they can't maintain stable and long-lasting relationships with their families, parents,

the letter read.

relatives and partners. The health and future of such children will be severely

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

compromised," they claimed. The letter also claimed India "cannot afford" that its future generations live in such an atmosphere, "which

surely will produce more gays and lesbians, and tear apart and destroy the institutions of family and society irreparably. They won't know about their parents, ancestors, culture, religious tenets and age-old values".

clave and Special Assistant to Pakistan

prime minister on defence affairs

Malik Ahmed Khan joined the delib-

erations virtually. Highlighting the

threat of terrorism, Singh called upon

SCO nations to collectively work to-

wards eliminating it in all its forms and

fix accountability on its supporters.



(A Government of India Enterprises)

'Expression of Interest' in one part is invited in prescribed format from Schools/ Education Trust/Society registered under the Andhra Pradesh State Education Board / CBSE Board (Registration and Regulation of Andhra Pradesh / Central Government) to run a School at UCIL, Tummalapalle, YSR Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh - 516 349 through MoU, as follows:

1. The approx. tentative number of present students of UCIL is approx. 410 (from class LKG to 8th standard)

2. The successful agency shall have to ensure required qualified teaching and non-teaching staff as per CBSE/State Govt/Central Govt guidelines and has to manage other school affairs.

3. Basic Infrastructure facilities shall be provided by UCIL, as per follows:

i) School building facility (Prefab structures with required furniture) including class rooms and other allied

Last Date for Submission of 'Expression of Interest- 22/05/2023.

Soon, heritage walks at Delhi's 'haunted' monuments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: The Delhi Tourism Department is identifying "haunted" sites in the national capital to conduct heritage walks there, an official said.

Malcha Mahal, Bhooli Bhatiyari ka Mahal, Ferozeshah Kotla, and Tughalgabad Fort are some of the historical sites where the walks will be conducted from 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm. they said.

"We started heritage walks recently and are happy with their success. We plan to expand the walks by adding haunted sites as we received numerous queries

The first such walk will start with the Malcha Mahal, situated in the heart of the national capital inside the Ridge forest near Chanakyapuri

about these places," said an official from the Tourism Department.

The first such walk will start with the Malcha Mahal, situated in the heart of the national capital inside the Ridge forest near

'Delhi reported 40

Covid-linked deaths

between April 19-27'

■ Medical experts have said Omicron sub-variant XBB.1.16 could be driving

■ However, they have maintained that there is no need to panic and people

the city health department did not issue a bulletin April 21. In this

period, the city registered six Covid-

related fatalities each April 19, 22 and 25. On April 19, Delhi recorded

1,757 cases with a positivity rate of 28.63 per cent, according to offi-

On April 20, the city saw 1,603

cases with a positivity rate of 26.75

per cent and three Covid-related

deaths. The daily case tally stood

at 1,515 on April 22, dropping to

948 on April 23 when the city saw

a positivity rate of 25.69 per cent and

On Monday, the national capital logged 689 cases with a positiv-

ity rate of 29.42 per cent and three

Covid-related deaths, according to

official data. The total number of fa-

talities reported in the April 19-27

The 865 cases logged on Thursday emerged from the 5,117 tests, in-

cluding 3,599 RT-PCR or CBNAAT

or True Nat tests, conducted to de-

tect the infection the previous day,

period, barring April 21, was 40.

two fatalities.

the bulletin said.

data showed.

should follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and get their booster shots

■ Mock drills were conducted in the Delhi hospitals April 11to ascertain

the surge in cases in the city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: At least 40 Covid 19-related deaths have been

recorded in Delhi from April 19 to 27, with experts saying the infection

is turning serious mostly in elderly

patients and those with comor

The medical experts also said

though the number of daily cases

in absolute numbers is still not

low, the count needs to monitored

over the next few days, before one

can say if a downward trend has

Delhi reported seven Covid-re-

lated fatalities for the second con-

secutive day Thursday and 865

fresh cases of the viral disease

with a positivity rate of 16.9 per cent. With the new cases and fatalities,

the national capital's Covid case-

load has climbed to 20,37,061, while

the death toll stands at 26,620, ac-

cording to data shared by the city

government's health department.

Thursday, Covid-19 was the pri-

mary cause of death in three cases.

the department said in a bulletin.

1,040 cases with a positivity rate of

21.16 per cent and seven fatalities,

with Covid being the primary cause

During the April 19-27 period,

of death in three cases

On Wednesday, Delhi registered

Of the seven fatalities reported

set in or not.

their preparedness to deal with any eventuality



Chanakyapuri. Malcha Mahal was built by Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq and was used as a hunting lodge. According to the official, Bhooli Bhatiyari ka Mahal, Ferozeshah

Kotla, and Tughalgabad Fort too have a mysterious history that intrigues people. A detailed plan on the "hidden and unexplored" historical places in the city is being

"We are studying new places. Permissions are also being sought from the concerned departments, he added. According to another official, the department wants to promote the wonders of the city - its heritage, art and craft, diverse cuisine, and culture through

"Heritage walks create a positive impact on tourism, enhance the brand value of the city and project its culture. A unique way of experiencing the heritage of any area is to walk through the route with the help of a good interpreter," the official said.

Survey on social, emotional skills of students in Delhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: The Delhi government is conducting a survey on social and emotional skills among teenage students in 75 staterun schools in the city, according to an official circular.

The circular, dated Wednesday, said the survey started on Thursday and will be concluded May 6. The survey is being conducted among students aged

between 15 years and-three months and 16 years-and two months (as of April 12). It is being carried out by NGO

Dream Dream through data collection by the Organisation for **Economic Cooperation**

and Development (OECD), it said. The schools concerned have been

directed to nominate a teacher to act as coordinator and cooperate with the NGO, the circular stated. "No foreign funding should be in-

volved in the project without the prior approval of the DoE and following the guidelines issued by the government of India. Privacy of students or parents should not be affected in the process of the project," it stated.

This survey is one of the first international efforts to develop a comprehensive set of metrics around social and emotional skills designed to enhance policies to improve

the development and wellbeing of young people,

This survey is one officials said. of the first international The goal of this assessment is to efforts to develop a gather empirical comprehensive set of metrics evidence on students' social and around social and emotional emotional skills skills designed to enhance and their relepolicies to improve the vance to various life outcomes development and well-being of young along with providing robust and

> people they said. "The survey would target students (15 years old), teachers, principals, and parents. As per the international timelines of the study, we are to conduct the main study in April-May 2023. The field trial was conducted last year

in May 2022," an official added.

reliable insights,

Students quench the thirst of strays **AHEAD OF SUMMER**

SEASON EVERY YEAR, JNU'S STUDENT **FOR DEVELOPMENT** (SFD) OR VIKASHARTH VIDYARTHI, **LAUNCHES A CAMPAIGN TO KEEP** WATER-FILLED BOWLS **FOR BIRDS ON THE CAMPUS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: As sweltering heat grips northern India, including the national capital, a group of students at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) here have placed earthen pots filled with water across the campus to help birds and animals quench their thirst.

The campaign was started April 22 on Earth Day and students were divided into groups to cover the entire campus which is spread across an area of about 1000 acres.

They have also assigned among themselves the duty to ensure clean



and fresh water in the feeders

JNU is part of the Southern Ridge of Aravali Hills and houses various species of wild fauna. These range from Common Palm Civets, Small Indian Civet, Indian Golden Jackal, Indian Crested Porcupine, Blue Bulls, Rufus Tailed Hare, various lizards and varieties of snakes, birds and butterflies.

"This year too the students have placed the vessels around the campus and also distributed among themselves the responsibility to ensure that the vessels have clean water," said Convenor of SFD-Delhi Manjul Pawar. SFD-JNU has taken

this initiative to inspire the student community on campus and "We hope to continue to make this work effective by reaching out to the community through various mediums", Pawar added.

Kiran Parihar, convenor of SFD-JNU, said the sense of belongingness towards all living beings has been an integral part of the culture in India.

"A living example of this is clearly visible in our literary writings. Especially in birds, the charming description of a creature called Chatak (Papiha) reflects our tradition of love and care towards

J&K expects to clock 2 crore tourists this year, says L-G



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, April 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha Thursday said he expected more than two crore tourists to visit Jammu and Kashmir this year, breaking the all-time record for arrival of tourists

in the Union Territory set last year. The number of active cases of the "More than 300 film shoots were done here last year and this year, infection stands at 4,279 in Delhi as we will break that record as well. on Thursday. Of these, 3,143 patients are in home isolation, the bul-Our problem is that we compete letin said. Only 296 of the 7,974 against our own records. Last year COVID-19 beds in the national cap-1.88 crore tourists visited Jammu ital are occupied at present, the and Kashmir and I expected more than two crore tourists to visit this vear. We will establish new records and break them," Sinha told reporters on the sidelines of a function here. Sinha was interacting with reporters after laying the foundation stone of first of its kind private hospital and medical college in Kashmir.

"There are many hospitals and

edical colleges in public sector

but I think in the private sector,

there was no hospital or medical

college of this size. Today that vacuum has been filled and I congratulate them for setting up 1000 bed hospital and 150 seat Medical college," Sinh said. The LG said with this venture coming up in Kashmir, the local

students will not have to go to other states and countries to study medicine. "Our students go to other states and countries to study medicine. Now they can study here. It is an effort towards a new beginning

When investments will increase continuously, it will create more employment opportunities and we can take Jammu and Kashmir on the path of progress and development," he added



Boatmen row their Shikaras carrying tourists during rain at Dal Lake in Srinagar

G20 KASHMIR MEETINGS

Pak's social media campaign fizzles out

Pakistan-based terrorists have been involved in targeted killings of Hindus and Sikhs in Kashmir. In some of the attacks earlier this year, even Hindu children were killed by explosives placed by the terrorists

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 28: Data analytics show that Pakistan has been running a consistent social media campaign against G20 and Y20 meetings in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The Pakistani anti-G20 campaign has been supported by Canadabased political parties, Khalistani organisations and the Srinagarbased All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC)

Information compiled by Indian intelligence organisations shows that a number of Pakistani handles under fake names have been busy promoting anti-G20 propaganda against India. This is besides the diplomatic offensive that Pakistan had been running since at least June 2022 against India's presidentship of the G20.

Much before India took over the G20 in December 2022, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) had launched a diplomatic diatribe against the G20 grouping and also India. Pakistani diplomats reached out to G20 countries to boycott India. Pakistan has been urging allies, including China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia to boycott the G20 meetings being hosted by India in J&K. It has also played up the Muslim sentiment saying that Muslim countries should support Pakistan over the Kashmir G20 meetings. Pakistan-based social media handles on Twitter -



Intelligence agencies show that China too has supported Pakistan in creating a negative sentiment against the G20 meetings

▶ Beijing decided to boycott the Y20 meeting held in the union territory of Ladakh April 26

However, with 170 dignitaries, including 100 foreign delegates and photographs swamping social media, the Ladakh Y20 meeting has been a roaring success for India

@NimraChoudhar20, @new789807, @muhamednaseer2,

@Natasha85852 - have been actively campaigning against the G20. Most of the anti-G20 comments were

traced to Lahore and Islamabad. These handles have been using hashtags, 'G20boycottmeetingini-'bovcottG20' Kashmir_Internationally_Recogniz

ed_Dispute', 'G20_Event_In_IIOJK_Just_A_Ploy', 'changeg20venue' and 'freelashmirfromg20' in an effort to derail the G20 meetings in India, targeting J&K. Besides Pakistan, much noise was created by Canada-based organisations like the New Democratic Party (NDP) which called for a boycott of G20 events in Kashmir, Chandigarh and Punjab.

The World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO) too gave a call to Canada to boycott the G20 summit. Pakistan also used a number of organisations and universities to join its propaganda.

The Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) wrote to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida against India. Similarly, the Kashmir Diaspora Coalition (KDC) wrote to all the heads of States of G20 to not attend the meetings in India.

Hospitality sector job postings up 60% in India, Delhi-NCR leads

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 28: The hospitality sector in India saw a 60 per cent rise in job postings from March 2022 to March 2023, with Delhi-NCR emerging as the top city for such jobs, a report showed Friday.

Hotel manager, travel consultant, resort manager, hospitality manager and travel agent were the most

in-demand jobs. While Delhi-NCR led with a

20.37 per cent increase in hospitality job postings over the past year, Mumbai and Bengaluru were second and third, respectively, according to the re-

port by job portal Indeed. During the second wave of the pandemic, change in jobs during the period of March 2020 to 2021 limboed at -13.80 per cent. "However, from March 2022 to 2023, change in iobs has sprouted to a staggering 59.50 per cent. We remain optimistic about this growth, especially as local and domestic tourism continue to be attractive destinations," said Saumitra Chand, ca-

reer expert. Indeed India and Singapore. With things

returning back to normal, travel for leisure is seeing an uptick, especially with families breaking for summer vacations and

long weekend trips. With increasing interstate travels, there continues to be a rising demand for job opportunities in the hospitality sector, said the report.

Hotel manager and travel consultant emerged as the top roles with yearly median salaries of ₹4,35,000 and ₹3,30,000, respectively.

national



Nowadays, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and other BJP leaders have started abusing me. **Am I Ravan? You (Shekhawat)** looted 2.5 lakh people in the Sanjeevani Society and they got ruined. Your friends are in jail. You can also go to jail anytime ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

JHARKHAND GETS FIRST **AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Friday launched the state's first air ambulance service from Ranchi to other parts of the country. Soren flagged-off the service for which an aircraft of the Redbird Airways has been taken on lease, an official of the state civil aviation department said





The proposed refinery project at Barsu village in Ratnagiri district will not be implemented without the local people's



EKNATH SHINDE MAHARASHTRA CM

Naimisaranya will undergo a facelift on the lines of Kashi, Ayodhya, and Naimisaranya's rejuvenation, religious tourism will create employment opportunities in

YOGI ADITYANATH UP CM

Ten per cent of the total compensation for crop damage will now go to the labourers employed by farmers



BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Amartya Sen approaches court

Kolkata: Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen has approached a district court in Birbhum district of West Bengal against the eviction notice issued by the Visva-Bharati University authorities in the ongoing dispute over 13 decimals of land. The university authorities accuse Sen of illegally occupying the land within the varsity campus at Bolpur Santiniketan in the district. The eviction notice was issued on April 20 asking the globally acclaimed economist to vacate the "disputed" 13 decimals of land by May 6. Sen is currently in the US.

Inmate dies

Mainpuri: A 40-year-old inmate has allegedly died under mysterious circumstances in Mainpuri district jail. The deceased, Bhura Girhar -- a resident of Agra Road in Gihar colony in the district, was arrested and sent to jail two days ago after a non-bailable warrant was issued against him, said the police. The family of the deceased has alleged that 'he was tortured in custody'. Bhure was arrested from his home and sent to jail by the police in a petty crime case. When the family learned about his death, they created a ruckus in front of the district hospital, accusing the police of murder and demanding action.

Body found

New Delhi: The body of a Nigerian woman was found wrapped in bedsheets and tucked away in a box bed in a flat at south Delhi on Friday. police said Friday. The flat had been rented by a Nigerian national identified as Obizone Alexander, who is now missing and considered absconding. Initial investigations suggest that the woman may have been killed several days before her body was found. According to police, a police control room phone was received at 11:21 am at Maidangarhi police station.

Two injured

New Delhi: Two persons, including a property dealer, were injured after being shot at by three unidentified bikeborne assailants in north Delhi's Narela, an official said Friday. The official said that the police are investigating the incident from all angles, including the possibility of personal enmity. The injured were identified as Vikas Dahiya, a resident of Haryana, and Veer Singh, a resident of Alipur. According to police, on Thursday evening around 5:44 p.m. a police control room call regarding a shootout at Lampur border at the office of a property dealer by three bike-borne riders was received following which a police team rushed to the spot.

Why was Atiq paraded before media, SC asks UP

New Delhi, April 28: The Supreme Court Friday questioned the Uttar Pradesh government why gangster-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf were paraded before media while being taken to hospital for a medical checkup in police custody in Prayagraj.

The top court, which was hearing a plea by advocate Vishal Tiwari seeking an independent probe into the killing of Ahmed and his brother Ashraf, also asked the UP government how the killers got the knowledge that they were being taken to hospital.

"How did they know? We have seen it on TV. Why were they not taken to the ambulance right from the entry gate of the hospital? Why were they paraded?" a bench of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for the UP government.

Rohatgi informed the bench the state government is probing the incident and has constituted a three-member commission for this. A UP Police special investigation team is also investigating the matter, he said.

"This man and his entire family are embroiled in heinous cases for last 30 years. This incident particularly is a gruesome incident. We have apprehended the killers and they said they did this to gain importance," Rohatgi said.

"Everyone saw the killings on the television. The killers came in the guise of news photographers. They



THE COURT DIRECTED THE UP GOVERNMENT TO SUBMIT A STATUS REPORT ON STEPS TAKEN AFTER THE INCIDENT

ATIO AHMED AND ASHRAF WERE SHOT DEAD AT POINT-BLANK RANGE BY **THREE MEN POSING AS** JOURNALISTS IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEDIA INTERACTION WHILE POLICE PERSONNEL WERE ESCORTING THEM TO A MEDICAL COLLEGE

had passes, were carrying cameras, and were even carrying identity cards that were later found to be fake. There were 50 people there and more people outside. This is how they managed to kill," Rohatgi told the bench.

The court directed the UP government to submit a status report on steps taken after the incident."A comprehensive affidavit would be filed indicating the steps taken to inquire into the deaths which occurred on April 15 near Moti Lal

Nehru Divisional Hospital, Prayagraj. The affidavit shall also disclose the steps taken with respect to the incident that occurred immediately prior to the one in question and also disclose the follow-up steps taken following Justice BS Chauhan commission report. List after three weeks," the bench said in its order.

Former apex court judge Justice Chauhan headed a commission to probe the encounter of gangster Vikas Dubey in 2020. Atiq Ahmed (60) and Ashraf were shot dead at point-blank range by three men posing as journalists in the middle of a media interaction while police personnel were escorting them to a medical college.

The plea also sought an inquiry into the 183 alleged criminals killed in police encounters in UP since 2017. UP Police recently said they have gunned down 183 alleged criminals in encounters in six years of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government and this included Ahmad's son Asad and his accomplice.

PM launches 91 **FM** transmitters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Prime Minister Narenāra Modi Friday inaugurated 91 FM transmitters and said this would revolutionise the radio industry, while asserting his government was working constantly for the democratisation of technology.

Underscoring the emotional connect of his generation with the radio, Modi said he has a relationship with the medium as a host too as he referred to the upcoming 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat this Sunday.

"This kind of emotional connect with the people of the country was possible only through the radio. Through this, I remained linked to the strength of the country and the collective power of the duty among the people of the country" he said.



Modi said government initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and Har Ghar Tiranga became people's movements through the Mann Ki Baat. "Therefore, in a way, I am part of your All India Radio Team, the prime minister said after virtually inaugurating 91 FM transmitters covering two crore people across 85 districts.

Modi underlined that the inauguration of 91 FM transmitters was in line with the government policy to give preference to the underprivileged who have been deprived of this facility so far.

DANTEWADA BLAST

IED planted two months ago: Police



CRPF personnel during a search for Naxalites in sensitive areas of Dantewada district, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, April 28: The Chhattisgarh police Friday said the powerful improvised explosive device (IED) that exploded killing 10 policemen and a civilian driver in Dantewada had been planted by Naxalites at least two months ago.

The explosive, however, remained "undetected" during the demining exercise conducted a day before the attack on Wednesday, they said. Ten personnel, belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police, and a civilian driver were killed after Naxalites blew up a multi-utility vehicle (MUV), which was part of a convoy carrying security personnel in Aranpur police station area of Dantewada on Wednesday afternoon.

The incident occurred around 1 km from Aranapur police station on the road that goes to Dantewada district headquarters.

"The preliminary investigation suggests that the IED was planted at least two months ago or before it. The grass had grown on the layer of soil under which the wire,

which was connected to the explosive, was concealed," Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

The explosive weighing around 40-50 kg was used and it seems that it was placed 3 to 4 feet beneath the road by digging a tunnel from roadside, he said.

A demining exercise to detect explosives was conducted on the same road a day before the attack, but neither an IED, nor any suspicious object was traced, the IG said, adding that an investigation is underway to ascertain how the explosive remained undetected.

Nearly 200 security personnel from the CRPF and state police's DRG launched an operation from Dantewada district headquarters on Tuesday night after getting information about the presence of Maoists belonging to the Darbha division in the area, police had said.

When asked if there was any violation of the standard operating procedure (SOP), the IG said, the personnel followed the operational tactics

Student beaten to death

The body has been shifted to AIIMS mortuary for post-mortem and efforts are on to identify the assailants, the DCP said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: A Class 8 student of an MCD school was allegedly bludgeoned to death by two men who dumped the body in a drain in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area, police said Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Saurabh (12), a resident of the Bilaspur camp in Molarband village here.

He was a student of a school run by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) at Tajpur Pahari, police said

Around 8.20 pm on Thursday, a PCR call was received at the Badarpur police station, informing that a schoolboy was killed by two men, police said.

When a police team reached the spot between the Khatushyam park and Tajpur Road village, the body of the boy in a school uniform was found lying in a drain. A schoolbag containing textbooks and other study material was also found at the spot. At a distance of about six yards from the schoolbag, four-five blood-stained stones and a bloodstained cotton towel were also found, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Rajesh Deo said.

The scene of crime was photographed and the exhibits were taken into possession, he added. On an inspection of the body multiple head injuries, apparently caused by a blunt object, were no-

The presence of the blood-stained stones nearby indicated that the stones were possibly used in the commission of the crime, the officer

The body has been shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) mortuary for post-mortem and efforts are on to identify the assailants, the DCP said.

A case under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been lodged and CCTV cameras installed near the scene of the crime are being scanned to identify the culprits and ascertain the sequence of events leading up to the incident, police said.





Volunteers hold replicas of mosquito during a rally to raise awareness regarding dengue in Kolkata

Reassign 'jobs scam' case: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: The Supreme Court Friday asked the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to reassign the West Bengal school jobs scam case to another judge, days after voicing displeasure over Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay's interview to a TV news channel where he spoke about the raging controversy.

The top court also took note of the concerns raised by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI and ED, that there has been a trend of individuals trying to browbeat judges the moment a judgement or an order goes against them.

An apex court bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, which also comprised justice PS Narasimha, was hearing the plea of TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee alleging that the judge, who gave the interview to a TV news channel about the case, was incapacitated from hearing it.

"Pursuant to the order of this court, the registry has placed the affidavit. We have considered the note by Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay and have also perused the transcript of the interview. Having considered the transcript, we direct that the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Calcutta shall re-assign the pending proceedings in the case to some other judge of the Calcutta High Court. The judge to whom the case will be reassigned by the Acting Chief Justice would be at liberty to take up all the applications which may be moved in the case," the bench ordered. Moments after the bench had dictated the order, the solicitor general referred to certain incidents and claimed a trend has emerged of late to pressure judges.

PTI PHOTO

Climate change increasing risk of new emerging viruses: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Changing climatic conditions, particularly temperature and moisture variations following events such as extreme rainfall in some places and drought in others, will lead to a surge in the spread of vectorborne and infectious diseases across India, say scientists.

As concerns mount over the recent increase in respiratory viral infections, including H2N3, adenoviruses and swine flu, in many parts of India, the scientists said it might be too early to attribute it to climate change. But is definitely plausible.

The prospect of climate change leading to an increased burden with the spread of diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and malaria looms large. According to public health expert Poornima Prabhakaran, steadily rising temperatures affect the pattern of transmission of disease agents like viruses as well their vectors through a number of pathways.

"These include changes in the incubation period, the transmission potential and the duration of transmission - all of which can impact the trends of diseases, Prabhakaran, director, Centre for Environmental Health at Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), told PTI.

Incubation period is the time between exposure to a pathogenic organism and when symptoms

and signs are first apparent.

Changing climatic conditions,

Prabhakaran noted, also become

more favourable for the spread

change leading to an increased burden with the spread of diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and malaria looms large

The

and disease transmission potential of viruses and their vectors.

"Hot and humid conditions can

both impact the disease transmission pathways, frequency of disease occurrence and severity of disease," she explained. Ecologist Abi T Vanak added that changes in

climate will also result in the shift of habitat for species. thereby introducing prospect of climate new vectors to some areas, or making

some species more susceptible to new viruses that may have the potential to transmit to humans. "For example, ex-

treme rainfall and flooding in the drier parts of the country can result in outbreaks of diseases that are typically associated

with the wetter parts," Vanak, in-

terim director, Centre for Policy Design, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment

(ATREE), Bangalore, told PTI. "This is applicable to both waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery, as well as vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and chikungunya," he explained. Extreme weather events such as heatwaves can also cause high stress of animals, making them more vulnerable to disease prevalence and outbreaks of potentially zoonotic diseases, he said.

Prabhakaran's team is involved in a collaborative research effort that aims to demonstrate the links between changing climate conditionsand patterns of vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria.

international



We seem to be witnessing the sorry Sunset of that choral dream of peace, as the solists of war now take over POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LANKA PARL APPROVES IMF BAILOUT PACKAGE

Sri Lanka's Parliament on Friday approved the much-needed USD 3 billion IMF bailout package to revive the island's economy which was hit hard by a catastrophic economic and humanitarian crisis sparked by years of mismanagement and the raging pandemic





Cabinet today is the ideal opportunity to look at funding models and also to look at keeping patients out

of hospitals by improving access to general practice and primary care ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

I urge North Korea to realise that it can do nothing with nuclear weapons and decide to denuclearise for true peace and mutual

delivery of

prosperity on the Korean Peninsula YOON SUK YEOL | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT With the

nuclear fuel by sea and air to our plant. acquired the nuclear power plant status. Therefore, our country has risen to the league of countries with nuclear power, albeit after 60 years of delay

SHORT TAKES

Chinese national released on bail

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN PRESIDENT OF TÜRKIYE

Islamabad: A Chinese national arrested in Pakistan on charges of committing blasphemy has been freed from a high-security prison after an anti-terrorism court granted him bail, officials said Friday. The court order came on a day when China's new Premier Li Qiang held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif Thursday.

Indonesia:11 dead as speedboat capsizes

Pekanbaru: A speedboat carrying 74 people capsized in rough seas in western Indonesia, killing at least 11 and leaving one person missing, officials said Friday. Many of the dead were women and children, said Nyoman Sidakarya, chief of the Pekanbaru Search and Rescue Agency. He said 62 people had been rescued, including some who were unconscious after drifting in the choppy waters for hours. They were hospitalised and were in stable condition, he said.

Extremists kill 33 soldiers

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso): A large number of Islamic extremists launched an attack on Burkina Faso's military in the country's east, killing 33 soldiers and wounding a dozen others, the army said Friday. The assault took place Thursday in the Gourma province town of Ouagarou, according to an army statement.

Imran Khan gets bail in mutiny case

Islamabad: A top court here Friday granted protective bail till May 3 to Imran Khan in a mutiny case registered against the former Pakistan prime minister. Manzoor Ahmed Khan, a magistrate, earlier this month filed a first information report (FIR) at Islamabad's Ramna police station against the ousted prime minister for "spreading hatred between the institutions and the public" and for "trying to cause unforgivable damage to the institutions and their top officers".

2 journalists killed in Haiti

San Juan (Puerto Rico): Two local journalists have been killed in Haiti over the past couple of weeks as rampant gang violence has gripped the capital of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. The Committee to Protect Journalists said Thursday that radio reporter Dumesky Kersaint was fatally shot in mid-April, while journalist Ricot Jean was found dead Tuesday.

BBC chairman quits over Boris loan row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 28: BBC chairman Richard Sharp resigned Friday after a report found he broke the rules by failing to disclose the role he played in helping

minister Boris Johnson secure an 800,000-pounds loan. The 67-year-old former Goldman Sachs

former British prime

banker; who has been the chairman of the UK taxpayer-funded licence fee-backed

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said the investigation found he had breached the governance code for public appointments. The independent review, led by barrister Adam Heppinstall, looked at Sharp's appointment and his involvement in facilitating an 800,000pound loan guarantee for Johnson - just weeks before the former prime minister appointed him. "Mr Heppinstall's view is that while I did breach the governance code for public appointments, he states that a breach does not necessarily invalidate an appointment," Sharp said in a statement.

"Indeed. I have always maintained the breach was inadvertent

and not material, which the facts he lays out substantiate... Nevertheless, I have decided that it is right to prioritise the interests of the BBC. I feel that this matter may well be a distraction from the Corporation's

good work were I to remain in post until the end of my term. I have therefore this morning resigned as BBC Chair to the Secretary of State, and to the Board," he

Heppinstall was appointed by the UK's

Commissioner of Public Appointments to investigate claims which appeared in 'The Sunday Times' newspaper.

Sharp said the report finds he did not play "any part whatsoever in the facilitation, arrangement, or financing of a loan for the former Prime Minister". But he said with hindsight he should have disclosed his role in setting up a meeting between UK Cabinet Secretary Simon Case and Sam Blyth - a businessman who was offering the then Prime Minister financial help-to the appointments panel during the scrutiny process ahead of him taking up the senior role at the 100-yearold public broadcaster.



Lucy Williams, from Aberfan, holds her son Daniel as he takes the handbag from Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales during her visit with Prince William to the Aberfan memorial garden Friday. The garden sits on the site of the Pantglas school which was tragically destroyed in a coal-tip landslide in 1966 and led to the loss of 144 lives, including 116 children

Explosions in Kyiv, sirens across Ukraine

The bombardment was nowhere near the war's sprawling front lines or active combat zones in eastern Ukraine, where a grinding war of attrition has taken hold

UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT CONDEMNS 'RUSSIAN TERROR

KYIV SAYS DECISION ON COUNTERATTACK LIES WITH COMMANDERS

THE MISSILE ATTACKS INCLUDED THE FIRST ONE AGAINST KYIV,

UKRAINE'S CAPITAL, IN NEARLY TWO MONTHS, ALTHOUGH THERE

WERE NO REPORTS OF ANY TARGETS HIT

THE CITY GOVERNMENT SAID UKRAINE'S AIR FORCE INTERCEPTED 11

CRUISE MISSILES AND TWO UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES OVER KYIV

AGENCIES

Uman (Ukraine), April 28: Russia fired more than 20 cruise missiles and two drones at Ukraine early Friday, killing at least 22 people, almost all of them when two missiles slammed into an apartment building in a terrifying nighttime attack, officials said. Three children were among the dead.

The missile attacks included the first one against Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in nearly two months, although there were no reports of any targets hit.

The city government said Ukraine's air force intercepted 11 cruise missiles and two unmanned aerial vehicles over Kyiv. The strikes on the nine-story residential building in central Ukraine occurred in Uman, a city located around 215 kilometers (134 miles) south of Kviv.

Twenty people died in that attack, according to the Interior Ministry. They included two 10-year-old children and a toddler.

The Ukrainian national police said 17 people were wounded and three children were rescued from the rubble. Nine were hospitalised.

Ukrainian officials and analysts have alleged such strikes are part of a deliberate intimidation strat-

egy by the Kremlin. The Russian Defense Ministry said the long-range cruise missiles launched overnight were aimed at places where Ukrainian military reserve units were staying be-

fore their deployment to the battlefield. Survivors of the Uman strikes recounted terrifying moments as the missiles hit when it still was dark outside. Soldiers, civilians and emergency crews searched through the rubble outside for more victims, while resi-

Minister Rishi Sunak and his

wife Akshata Murty will be at

the head of a procession of flag-

bearers as the UK's flag is carried

by a high-ranking Royal Air Force

(RAF) cadet at the Coronation

ceremony of King Charles III at

Westminster Abbey in London

May 6, Buckingham Palace said

In a series of details released

around the ceremonial roles to be

carried out at the historic event

when the 74-year-old monarch is for-

mally crowned along with wife

Camilla, the palace also confirmed

that Indian-origin peers will be

Sikh and Muslim faiths as they

hand over key elements of the

royal regalia to King Charles. In

keeping with this theme of diver-

sity and inclusion for the Christian

ceremony, one of the first proces-

sions into the Abbey will be made

up of faith representatives of dif-

They will represent the Hindu,

participating in the ceremony.

Friday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

dents dragged belongings out of

the damaged building. The attacks came days after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he and Chinese leader Xi Jinping held a "long and meaningful" phone call where Xi said his government will send a peace envoy to Ukraine and other nations. Shortly after Moscow unleashed the barrage, the Russian Defense Ministry posted a photo on Telegram showing a missile launch and saying, "Right on target." The message triggered outrage among Ukrainians on social media and some officials, who viewed it as gloating over the casualties.

Ukraine officials said last week that they had taken delivery of Americanmade Patriot missiles, providing Kyiv with a long-sought new shield against Russian airstrikes, but there was no word on whether the system was used Friday

The missile attack was the first on the capital since March 9. Air defenses have thwarted Russian drone attacks more recently. The missiles were fired from aircraft operating in the Caspian Sea region, according to Ukrainian Armed Forces Commander in Chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi. The war largely ground to a halt over the winter, becoming a war of attrition as each side has shelled the other's positions from a distance.

Ukraine has been building up its mechanized brigades with armour supplied by its Western allies, who have also been training Ukrainian troops and sending ammunition, as Kviv eves a possible counteroffensive. Meanwhile, the Moscowappointed mayor of the Russiaheld city of Donetsk, Alexei Kulemzin, said a Ukrainian rocket killed seven civilians in the center of the city Friday.

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Heavy clashes rock Khartoum



A burned vehicle is seen in Khartoum ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, April 28: Heavy explosions and gunfire rocked Sudan's capital, Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman early Friday residents said, despite the extension of a fragile truce between the county's two top generals whose power struggle has killed hundreds.

After two weeks of fighting that has turned the capital into a war zone and thrown Sudan into turmoil, a wide-ranging group of international mediators - including African and Arab nations, the UN and the United States - were intensifying their pressure on the rival generals to enter talks on resolving the crisis.

So far, however, they have managed to achieve only a series of fragile temporary cease-fires that failed to stop clashes but created enough of a lull for tens of thousands of Sudanese to flee to safer areas and for foreign nations to evacuate thousands of their citizens by land, air and sea. Fierce clashes with frequent explosions

and gunfire continued Friday in Khartoum's upscale neighbour-

hood of Kafouri, where the military earlier used warplanes to_ bomb its rivals, the Rapid Support Forces, residents said. Clashes were also reported around the military's headquar-

ters, the Republican Palace and the area close to the Khartoum international airport.

All these areas have been flashpoints since the war between the military and the RSF erupted April 15. There were also signs that the paramilitary was struggling to treat injuries sustained by its forces. Doctors in the capital said the RSF is abducting medical personnel in desperation. Over the past 14 days of pummelling each other, the military led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and the RSF led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, have each failed to deal a decisive blow to the other in their struggle for control of Africa's third largest nation. Still, world powers have struggled to get them to silence the

Berlin sees 10th day of road blockades by climate activists

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, April 28: Climate activists staged a 10th straight day of protests in Berlin, blocking key roads during rush hour and bringing parts of the German capital to a standstill Friday before being removed by police.

Members of the Last Generation group glued themselves to the road. causing a traffic jam for commuters driving into the city. The group wants to draw atten-

tion to the threat of global warming and the need for governments to step up measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

At a crossing in the north of the capital, many drivers waited patiently for police to clear the road, though some hurled abuse at the activists, calling them "terrorists" and "scum"

Several pedestrians applauded the protesters, giving them a thumbs-up, while one passerby offered them food and water. Last Generation has acknowledged that its protests are provocative.





ferent religions.

"The first processions into Westminster Abbey will be made up of faith leaders and faith representatives followed shortly afterwards by representatives from His Majesty's Realms," the palace said.

"Flags of each Realm will be carried by national representatives accompanied by the Governors General and Prime Ministers. Bearing the flag of the United Kingdom ahead of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Mrs Akshata Murty will be Cadet Warrant Officer Elliott Tyson-Lee," it said.

The ceremonial roles on the day include bearing the regalia in the procession and presenting the items to the King and Queen on the day. As previously revealed, Lord Narendra Babubhai Patel, 84, will represent the Hindu faith and hand over the Sovereign's Ring to Charles.

While Lord Indrajit Singh, 90, will represent the Sikh faith and present the Coronation Glove, Lord Syed Kamall, 56, of Indo-Guyanese heritage, will represent the Muslim faith and present the Armills or a pair of bracelets. Baroness Gillian Merron, 64, who is Jewish, will carry the Robe Royal to the King.

The palace said that those undertaking these historic roles in the Coronation Service have been chosen to "recognise, thank and represent the nation due to their significant service, and include representatives from Orders of Chivalry, the military and wider public life"

Those presenting the regalia have been chosen on the advice of the British government and will be directed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Reverend Justin Welby,

as he presides over the ceremony. The ceremony will not only include dukes, bishops, peers and retired generals but also a farmer named Francis Dymoke, who will act as the King's Champion on the day in a ceremony steeped in royal tradition dating back to the 11th century.

China flies combat drone around Taiwan

weapons even for nominal truces.

REUTERS

Taipei, April 28: A Chinese uncrewed combat aircraft has flown around Taiwan, the island's defence ministry said, showcasing Beijing's ability to attack its fall-back east coast bases, as a US maritime patrol

aircraft transited the Taiwan Strait. China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has increased military pressure on the island over the past three years as it tries to force Taipei

to accept its sovereignty claim. This month, China staged war games around Taiwan after Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen met US House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy in Los Angeles.

Taiwan's defence ministry, said 19 military aircraft had entered the island's air defence identification zone. One of those was a TB-001 drone, which flew around Taiwan, first crossing the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan from the Philippines, then up the east of Taiwan before crossing back toward the Chinese coast, according to a map provided by the ministry.





business



India's major ports handled the highest ever cargo at 795 million tonne in 2022-23, registering an increase of 10.4 per cent over the previous year SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

AMID LAYOFFS, ZUCKERBERG'S WEALTH SURGES

Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg's net worth surged by \$10.2 billion after the company posted strong quarterly results, leading to its shares rising by nearly 14 per cent, as the company announced two rounds of layoffs impacting 21,000 employees in recent months. Zuckerberg now has a net worth of \$87.3 billion and is the 12th richest person in the world





legislative changes to



ADVISORY COUNCIL





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BAJAJ AUTO

I'm pleased to report that 90 per cent of cabin crew and a majority of pilots have received and accepted the new



CAMPBELL WILSON | CHIEF, AIR INDIA

SHORT TAKES

UltraTech Q4 dips

New Delhi: Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement Friday reported a 36.1 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹1.670.10 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2023, mainly due to an increase in input cost. The company had posted a net profit of ₹2.613.75 crore in the January-March period a year ago, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing. However, its revenue from operations rose 17.72 per cent to ₹18.562.38 crore during the quarter under review against ₹15.767.28 crore in the year-ago period.

Jet's CEO-Designate **Sanjiv Kapoor quits**

Mumbai: A little over a year after coming on board to revive Jet Airways, the airline's CEO-Designate Sanjiv Kapoor has put in his papers. A source said that Kapoor's last working day at the grounded airline was Friday. The once-storied carrier stopped flying in April 2019 and later the Jalan-Kalrock consortium emerged as the winning bidder through an insolvency resolution process, but the ownership transfer is yet to happen. Kapoor joined the airline as the Chief Executive Officer in April last year.

Adani pre-pays Holcim's debt

Mumbai: Adani Cement Industries Ltd has paid back \$200 million in the past week, helping pare a \$1 billion loan taken from global banks to fund the purchase of Holcim AG's Indian units, Bloomberg News reported Friday. The pre-payment will help billionaire Gautam Adani's firm seek an extension of the debt taken to fund the acquisition by three years, said one of the people, who declined to be identified. Global banks had lent Adani \$4.5 billion to finance the purchase of Holcim Ltd cement assets, with the mezzanine loan due for maturity in September 2024.

Swiggy to charge 'platform fee'

New Delhi: Online food delivery platform Swiggy has started charging all users a "platform fee" of ₹2 per food order, irrespective of the cart value. The company told IANS that the additional charges are being levied only on food orders on the main platform and does not apply on Instamart users. The platform fee is over and above the convenience and handling fees for food delivery. As last reported, Swiggy claimed to have processed over 1.5-2 million orders through the day.

Sensex revisits 6lk, Core sector output drops Nifty surpasses 18k

March's decline was caused by a drop in output from three important sectors: cement, electricity, and crude oil

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 28: Growth in India's eight core sectors' output fell to a five-month low of 3.6% in March with electricity and cement production slipping from a year ago, and crude oil output falling for the tenth successive month.

The output of core sectors had increased by 7.2 per cent in February 2023 and 4.8 per cent in the year-ago month. The previous low was 0.7 per cent in October 2022.

The output of coal jumped 12.2% in March, while fertilisers and steel output grew 9.7% and 8.8% respectively and relatively slower than recent months, as per data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry Friday.

For the full financial year 2022-23, core sectors recorded a 7.6% growth compared to 10.4% in 2021-22, with all sectors reporting higher production except crude oil, which shrank 1.7% during the year.

In March, growth in crude oil production was down to 2.8%, the lowest in three months, while refinery products grew at a fourmonth low pace of 1.5%.

Cement output contracted 0.8% in March, breaking growth streak in the last four months. Electricity generation dropped for the first

PERFORMANCE OF (Weight in IIP: Base: 2011-12=100 MAR 2023* Sector-wise Growth Rate (%) MARCH 2023 MAR 2022 Crude Oil Natural Refinery Fertilizers Steel

EIGHT CORE SECTOR INDUSTRIES POST 3.6% GROWTH IN MARCH OUTPUT ROSE BY 7.2% IN FEBRUARY 2023 AND BY 4.8% YOY

Nestle plans 10th India plant

time in at least a year, shrinking 1.8% in March. However, absolute output levels in both these sectors were significantly higher than February

* Provisiona

The cement production index at its highest point since April 2022 and electricity output at its high-

est since September 2022.

"Output of some of the sectors like electricity and cement is likely to have been dampened by the unseasonal rainfall in March," said Aditi Navar, chief economist at rating firm ICRA.

With most available high fre-

Output of some of the sectors like electricity and cement is likely to have been dampened by the unseasonal rainfall in March

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

quency indicators weakening in March 2023 on a year-on-year basis, relative to February 2023, Nayar expects growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to slow to around 3% to 4% in the month from 5.6% in February. The eight core sectors constitute a little over 40% of the IIP.

"The final growth rate of the Index of Eight Core Industries for December 2022 is revised to 8.3% from its provisional level of 7.4%," the ministry said. It also revised February's growth rate to 7.2% from 6% estimated

The eight infrastructure sectors are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP)'s eight Core Industries account for 40.27 percent of its weight

Indian equities have been rallying for the fifth straight session PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GRAPHICS

BSE Sensex

Previous day close: 60,649.38

Change ___ +463.06

61,112.44

Mumbai, April 28: Equity benchmark Sensex climbed over 460 points to reclaim the 61,000 mark while the Nifty closed above the 18k level Friday, propelled by robust buying in index majors Reliance Industries and ITC amid fresh foreign fund inflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped

463.06 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 61,112.44. During the day, it surged 560.08 points or 0.92 per cent to 61,209.46. The broader NSE Nifty advanced

149.95 points or 0.84 per cent to finish at 18,065, with 40 of its scrips ending in the green The rupee pared all its initial

gains to settle lower by 3 paise at 81.82 against the US currency on Friday amid a strong greenback overseas The BSE benchmark surged

348.80 points or 0.58 per cent to settle at 60,649.38 Thursday. The Nifty gained 101.45 points or 0.57 per cent to end at 17.915.05. Meanwhile, global oil bench-

mark Brent crude climbed 0.45 per cent to \$78.72 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) were buyers Thursday as they bought equities worth ₹1,652.95 crore, according to exchange data.

"Despite concerns about potentially weaker US GDP numbers and high inflation, the strongerthan-expected earnings reported by

-0.63 Bajaj Finserv Meta propelled IT stocks to the forefront of the Wall Street rally. The trend was reflected in the domestic market, as beaten-down IT stocks helped to lift broader market sentiment. However, with US inflation remaining high, the prospect

of another rate hike by the Fed is

looming, keeping global markets

volatile in the coming days," said

Vinod Nair. Head of Research at

TOP GAINERS

277 Nestle India 2.32 SBI 2.24 L&T

2.24 > ITC

TOP LOSERS

-0.70 Titan

-2.39 Axis Bank

0.75 HCL Tech

Geojit Financial Services. Wipro was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.89 per cent, followed by Nestle, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bajaj Finance.

In contrast, Axis Bank, HCL Technologies, Titan, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv and ICICI Bank were the major laggards. skidding up to 2.39 per cent.

IT major Wipro Thursday reported a marginal year-on-year decline of 0.4 per cent in net profit to ₹3.074.5 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2023 and announced a share buyback of up to ₹12,000 crore.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.32 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.91 per cent.

Among indices, telecommunication jumped 2.44 per cent, capital goods (1.74 per cent), industrials (1.54 per cent), commodities (1.29 per cent), utilities (1.32 per cent), power (1.27 per cent), teck (1.10 per cent) and IT (1.04 per cent). The consumer Durables index emerged as the___ only laggard.

NSE tweaks index inclusion rules for spun-off entities

REUTERS

Bangalore, April 28: The NSE, one of India's two main stock exchanges, tweaked how it accounts for spunoff companies in its various equity indexes in order to reduce churn in their constituents.

The move comes as big companies such as HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank are merging, with potential for entities to be spun off, and Reliance Industries Ltd plans to list Jio Financials The change will apply to any

such spin-offs approved by shareholders of the parent companies on or after April 30, the NSE said in a circular late Currently, all newly listed enti-

ties are excluded from indexes, and in cases of indexes with fixed constituents, are replaced with another eligible stock

But now, any newly listed spunoff businesses will be initially included in a relevant index at a constant price, which is the difference between the demerged firm's closing price the day before the ex-demerger date and the price during a special pre-open session on the exdemerger date.

Then, three sessions later, this entity will be removed from the index. If it hits the price band in the first two days, its removal will be deferred by another three days, the NSE said

Forex kitty eases from over 9-month highs

THE RESERVES STOOD AT \$584.25BN; \$2.16BN DOWN FROM LAST WEEK

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 28: India's foreign exchange reserves eased from over-nine-month highs and stood at \$584.25 billion for the week ended April 21, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) statistical supplement showed Friday.

That is a decrease of \$2.16 billion from the previous week. Reserves had gone up by a total of nearly \$8 billion in the prior two

New Delhi, April 28: FMCG major

Nestle India is planning to open a

new factory to meet the growing de-

mand here and is scouting for the

ideal location, its Chairman &

Managing Director Suresh

This would be the tenth factory

for Nestle India, which last year an-

nounced to invest ₹5,000 crore in the

country by 2025 to accelerate its

core business and leverage new

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Naravanan said.



weeks. The central bank intervenes in the spot and forwards markets to prevent runaway moves

When asked bout the possibility

of a new factory in India,

Narayanan told PTI: "Certainly.

There is scouting for a site for the

sooner than later. There is some pre-

liminary work that has been done.

And then we will come with an

places, however, Narayanan said it

will be eastern India where it is not

not have a representation of a fac-

tory is in the east. So, clearly, if you

are able to get a good geography

and locational fit, we would like to

look at the east but at the moment,

there are others in the valuation,

Besides, Nestle India, as part of

its ₹5,000 crore investment, is ex-

panding its capacity.

having any production units.

Nestle is looking at numerous

"One of the areas that we do

announcement," he added.

"We will make up our minds

growth opportunities.

tenth factory."

in the rupee. Changes in forex reserves also stem from valuation gains or losses. For the reported week, the

rupee had ended 0.3% lower against the US dollar and snapped a four-week rising streak. The Indian currency traded in

a narrow range of 81.8775 to 82.2425. The rupee closed at 81.8250 Friday in the week ending April 28, clocking 0.33% gains against the dollar over the period.

BIZ BUZZ

M Aruna new FGMO of Indian Bank, Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: M Aruna, General Manager has taken over the charge of FGMO, Indian Bank, Bhubaneswar April 27, Prior to this, she was working as Zonal Head of Tirunati Zone of the bank, Aruna had joined the bank in the year 1988 and gained vast experience in various capacities during her posting in various branches/offices of the bank in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It is to mention that. Bhubaneswar FGM Office is working for 3 states which are Odisha. Chhattishgarh & Madhya

Pradesh, having 8 zones namely Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Raipur, Bhopal, Jabalpur & Satna with 492 branches and total business of ₹61.491 crore. She is a professionally qualified experienced banker. Bank will make all efforts to provide banking facility with customer delight by digital penetration and will give thrust to improve banks exposure in MSME, retail and agriculture sector. Indian Bank is also making efforts for active participation in all government sponsored schemes across states under the command of FGMO Bhubaneswar.



IOB MD to visit Odisha May 1

Bhubaneswar: Indian Overseas Bank, MD & CEO, Ajay Kumar Srivastava is arriving Odisha May 1. On this occasion, he will inaugurate the new premises of Puri branch. He is likely to address the branch managers at Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. He will also visit the Head Office of Odisha Gramya Bank sponsored by IOB.



Europe's economy barely grows as inflation pinches consumers

THE EUROZONE AVOIDED A WINTER RECESSION THANKS TO MILD WEATHER THAT ALLEVIATED PRESSURE ON NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frankfurt, April 28: The European economy scraped out meager growth in the first three months of the year, barely gaining momentum as stubborn inflation raises the price of groceries and erodes people's willingness to spend paychecks that are failing to keep pace.

Friday's less-than-stellar increase of 0.1 per cent from the previous quarter follows disappointing growth estimates from the US, which kept alive fears of a looming recession in the world's largest

The 20 countries that use the euro currency picked up a little speed from January through March after zero growth in the last three months of 2022.

European governments and utilities also scrambled to line up additional sources to heat homes, generate electricity and power factories after Russia cut off most of its supply to the continent over its war against Ukraine.

Germany, Europe's largest economy, turned in disappointing zero growth from the previous quarter. After a contraction of 0.5 per cent at the end of 2022, the country is in the "recession danger zone", said Carsten Brzeski, chief of global macro at ING bank. Ireland shrunk 2.7 per cent.

Spain and Italy performed better, both growing 0.5 per cent, while



France managed a 0.2 per cent expansion thanks to exports.

The standout was Portugal, which needed a bailout during the eurozone debt crisis a decade ago. shining with 1.6 per cent.

European industrial activity has picked up, and China's reopening from Covid-19 restrictions has boosted the outlook for global economy. But the US disappointed, growing at an annualised rate of 1.1 per cent, or 0.3 per cent compared with the quarter before. In Europe, the mild weather also allowed an early start to construction activity

Inflation, however, is holding back consumer spending, with wage increases only partly offsetting how much more people have to pay for groceries, clothing and more. Higher food prices have taken

Easing supply bottlenecks, lower energy prices and signs of global economic resilience offset

weakness in private consumption, with real household incomes still struggling under the weight of high inflation. We don't expect growth to pick up meaningfully over the course of 2023

RORY FENNESSY | EUROPEAN ECONOMIST,

over from energy as a key driver of inflation, running at a painful 15.5 per cent in March as energy costs

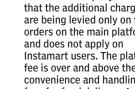
dropped 0.9 per cent from a year ago. Interest rate increases by the European Central Bank aimed at getting inflation under control also will weigh on growth by making credit more costly for purchases or business investment.

Annual inflation in the eurozone eased to 6.9 per cent in March from 8.5 per cent the month before but is well above the ECB's goal of 2 per cent considered best for the economy. So-called core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, also hit a record 5.7 per

With fears that inflation is becoming entrenched in the economy longer term, the bank is likely to deliver another rate increase at

its policy meeting Thursday. Credit may get even tighter after the failure of Silicon Valley Bank in the US and the forced takeover of Credit Suisse by rival Swiss bank UBS. The turmoil could increase market and regulatory scrutiny of bank finances and make them less likely to risk lending. That could help ease inflation but also weigh on eco-

nomic growth.



FIRs filed against Brij Bhushan DC eye a double against SRH

New Delhi, April 28: The Delhi Police Friday filed two FIRs against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on allegations of sexual harassment levelled by seven women

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi Police, had earlier told a Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha that a case will be registered Friday.

While the first FIR pertains to allegations of a minor wrestler and was registered under POCSO Act, the second was related to outrag-

After Mehta's submission, the country's top wrestlers, who have been on a sit-in at Jantar Mantar in Delhi since Sunday demanding action against Singh, rejoiced "the first step towards victory." However, they said that they will continue their agitation demanding the BJP MP's removal from all the positions he holds.

 $The film \, and \, sporting \, fraternity \,$ and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee put their weight

behind the protesting wrestlers. Banerjee said the guilty must be brought to book, irrespective of their political affiliation.

The apex court bench is hearing a plea filed by seven women wrestlers on non-registration of an FIR on their sexual harassment allegations against Singh.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the wrestlers, placed on record an affidavit in a sealed cover which voiced apprehension about the safety of a minor girl, an alleged victim of sexual assault.

"Bearing in mind the content which has been placed on record, we direct the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, to make an assessment of the threat perception and provide adequate security to the minor girl involved," the bench said in its order.

It said an affidavit be filed before it on or before May 5, the next date of hearing, about the steps taken for the security of the minor girl. Sibal said there are seven complainants, including the minor girl, and they all should be given protection.

The bench said its direction for providing security to the alleged minor victim shall not stand in the way of the Commissioner of Police making an independent assessment of the threat perception of the other complainants.

Sibal, while referring to the affidavit, expressed his worries about the safety and security of the protesting grapplers. Without naming anyone, he said 14 cases are pending against "this gentleman", including one under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Mehta said the issue should be left to the city police chief and other responsible officers.

"Mr solicitor, we will record your statement that you are registering an FIR. Second, we will say let Commissioner of Police make an assessment of threat perception on what we have on record," the CJI said, while making it clear that the apex court is not monitoring the investigation.

Sibal also dwelt on the delay in taking action on the complaint of the protesting sportspersons. "In January 2023 it is formally told that you do something. They did nothing. Nobody does anything. They set up a committee... These are all part of the records," he said, requesting for the probe to be monitored by a retired judge.

Sibal said the moment the federation came to know that something like this has happened, under the law, they were supposed to file an FIR. "What is the responsibility of an organisation of which I am a member?" Sibal said, adding, "They don't do anything."

Reacting to Mehta's submission before the top court, wrestler Vinesh Phogat said police might file a "loose FIR". "It (Police) might file a loose FIR. We will see, observe then take a decision (on calling off protest). He should be behind the bars and removed from all the posts he holds, otherwise he will try to influence the investigation," the World Championship medallist said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: With backto-back wins giving them some momentum, Delhi Capitals will hope their batters complement the bowling unit as they eye a season double against Sunrisers Hyderabad in a battle of IPL laggards here

The two teams are coming into the match following DC's nail-biting seven-run win on Monday and SRH will be eager to return the favour and snap their three-match losing streak.

Skipper David Warner marshalled his troops well against his former team the other day, using the spin of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav to strangle the chase with seamer Mukesh Kumar holding his own in the final over while defending 12 runs.

While Ishant Sharma and Anrich Nortje too bowled well, the spin duo of Axar and Kuldeep gave away just 43 and snapped three wickets in the eight overs between them in the middle overs.

However, the batting let them down. While Warner has done the heavy lifting on most occasions, his innings lacked the usual finesse.



The fact that Delhi have struggled to get a steady opener at the other end has only extended his worry. The other day, Phil Salt was tried but he was out for a duck, while Mitchell Marsh looked good during his short stay against SRH, but 31 runs in five innings tells his story.

Had it not been for Axar, things could have been embarrassing for Delhi in the IPL. The spin allrounder has proved to be more than a handful with the bat and DC need to promote him up the order to fully utilise his skills. SRH, on the other hand, looked like winning for a major part of their last match but things went down the hill quickly, as a slow start to the chase



proved costly in the end.

After his maiden IPL hundred, Harry Brook has struggled to get going in the powerplay. Mayank Agarwal has two 40 plus scores so far, while Rahul Tripathi has faded since hitting a 74 not out against Punjab Kings. Abhishek Sharma, too, has struggled to score runs.

Skipper Aiden Markram and Heinrich Klaasen, too, have not been able to do much and SRH will have to strengthen their batting to have any hopes of a turnaround.

It is the bowlers, who have looked more in sync as the spinners have complemented the seamers. However, from now on, SRH have to cope without Washington Sundar.

Sports fraternity lends support to wrestlers

lacksquare he Indian sporting fraternity Friday put its weight behind the protesting wrestlers. The sports per sonalities expressed their views a day after Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha came down heavily on the wrestlers for hitting the streets to resume their protests instead of approaching its athletes' commission. The wrestlers have accused Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment and intimidation. Let's take a look at some reactions...

NEERAJ CHOPRA: It hurts me to see our athletes on the streets demanding justice. They have worked hard to represent our great nation and make us proud. As a nation, we are responsible for safeguarding the integrity and dignity of every individual

athlete or not. What's happening should never happen. This is a sensitive issue, and must be dealt with in an impartial and transparent manner. Pertaining authorities must take quick action in order to ensure that justice is served

NIKHAT ZAREEN: It breaks my heart to see our Olympic & World medallists in this state. Sports people also serve the nation by bringing glory & laurels. I sincerely hope & pray that the law takes its own course and justice is served at the earliest. Jai Hind



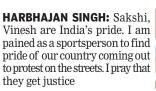
a highly sensitive matter and serious allegations. I hope whatever the truth is justice is served.. Sooner rather than later

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Shocking that 9 women of recognition complained & no FIR is registered. It'll be a tear on the cheek of time in Indian history. Any country that insults their women icons is hurting its own pride, these

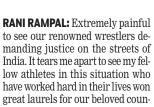


women have brought laurels to the nation. They have given wings to the aspirations of millions. Hurting their self esteem is hurting India's pride... Are the bigwigs of our country above the law? The law must set a deterrent that generations must tremble before insulting women, a good example is the best sermon you can preach

VIRENDER SEHWAG: It is extremely sad that our champions, who have brought laurels to the country. hoisted the flag and brought so much happiness to all of us, have to come out on the road today. It is a very sensitive matter and it should be investigated impartially. Hope the players get justice



MADAN LAL: Problem with our sports men's and women's are they never stand by their own players. PT usha comments are not best for players unity







STOINIS, MAYERS, POORAN AND BADONI FIRE IN UNISON TO POWER THEIR TEAM TO 257/5, THE SECOND HIGHEST TOTAL IN IPL HISTORY, BEFORE BOWLERS BOWL PBKS OUT FOR 201

SUPER GIANTS SLAY KINGS







(From L): Marcus Stoinis raises bat after reaching fifty; Kyle Mayers goes areal; Yash Thakur reacts after dismissing a PBKS batter, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, April 28: Marcus Stoinis (72, 40b, 6x4, 5x6) and Kyle Mayers (54, 24b, 7x4, 4x6) put on a powerhitting masterclass as Lucknow Super Giants slayed Punjab Kings by 56 runs in a high-scoring contest here Friday after amassing the second highest total in IPL history.

A display of brutal hitting from Mayers and Stoinis fired LSG to 257/5 against a profligate Punjab Kings. Needing almost 13 runs per over to pull off an improbable chase, Punjab remained behind in the game despite scoring at a decent rate to end with 201 in 19.5 overs.

Atharava Taide batted well for 66 (36b, 8x4, 2x6), his maiden fiftyplus score in IPL, but the likes of Liam Livingstone (23) and Sikandar Raza (36) could not stay long enough to put pressure on the opposition.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

here Saturday.

Jason Roy

Kolkata, April 28: A resurgent

Gujarat Titans, boasting a power-

packed bowling unit, will come

in the way of Kolkata Knight

Riders' revival hopes when the

two teams cross swords in the IPL

The home side's misfiring cam-

paign finally came on track after

they fired in unison to snap their

four-match losing streak with a

In a season their Caribbean

star duo of Andre Russell and

Sunil Narine are yet to fire, the low-

profile KKR side without their

regular skipper Shreyas Iyer may

just have found a trump card in

with a fiery half century for the

likes of Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh

and David Wiese to capitalise and

set a winning total of 201 against

RCB. Included only in their sixth

match of the season, Roy has

scores of 43, 61 and 56 in three

matches and KKR's batting will

The win lifted KKR to seventh

once again centre around him.

in the 10-team standings but they

The Englishman set the tempo

convincing win at Bangalore.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan lasted only two balls on his return. Young pacer Yash Thakur (4/37) was the most successful bowler.

It was LSG's fifth win in eight matches while Puniab Kings suffered their fourht loss in eight games. At 152/4 in 15 overs, Punjab were striking at more than 10 runs per over but task of getting another 106 runs from the last 30 balls was beyond the reach of even Livingstone and Sam Curran (21).

Earlier, Mayers went on the rampage in the Powerplay before Stoinis effortlessly collected boundaries at will to help his team set a massive target. The other important contributions came from Ayush Badoni (43, 24b, 3x4, 3x6) and Nicholas

Pooran (45, 19b, 7x4, 1x6). Back to lead Punjab after three games, Dhawan opted to field but his bowlers were all over the place

on a belter of a track. Barring Rahul Chahar, all the other six bowlers leaked more than 10 runs per over. The usually frugal Arshdeep Singh leaked 54 runs in four overs and Kagiso Rabada gave away 52 runs in four overs.

The total was also the highest of the season and six runs shy of 263, the highest ever total in IPL history achieved by RCB back in 2013.

LSG skipper KL Rahul was the only batter, who could not make use of ideal batting conditions. Mayers looked in menacing tough from the get go as he smashed Arshdeep for four boundaries in his opening over. He started with a gorgeous drive through point before using his long levers to target the long on and deep mid-wicket region, collecting seven fours and

four sixes in total. Such was his confidence and he

GT STAND IN WAY OF KKR'S REVIVAL

took a couple of strides forward to dispatch Rabada just over his head. After Mayers fell inside the Powerplay, Stoinis and Badoni shared an 89-run stand off only 47 balls to maintain the momentum created by Mayers.

Stoinis could have been dismissed in the 13th over but Livingstone touched the boundary while trying to take a regulation catch at long on. Pooran began his innings with three back to back off drives off Livingstone, LSG hammered 73 runs off the last 30 balls.

BRIEF SCORES

LSG 257/5 (Marcus Stoinis 72, Kyle Mayers 54, Nicholas Pooran 45, Ayush Badoni 43; Kagiso Rabada 2/52) beat PBKS 201 (Atharva Taide 66, Sikandar Raza 36; Yash Thakur 4/37, Naveen-ul-Haq 3/30, Ravi Bishnoi 2/41) by 56 runs.

Satwik-Chirag ensures men's doubles medal after 52 years



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, April 28: India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty assured a men's doubles medal at the Badminton Asia Championships after 52 years after outplaying Indonesia's Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan in the quarterfinals here

The Indian pair won by 21-11, 21-12. Rankireddy and Shetty now face Chinese Taipei's Lee Yang and Wang Chi-lin in the last four encounter. Earlier, two-time Olympic medal-

list PV Sindhu squandered a game lead to go down against second seed An Se Young of Korea in the

women's singles quarterfinals.

Sindhu, seeded eighth, pocketed the first game 21-18 but looked completely off colour in the next two games which she lost 5-21, 9-21 to hand Young a place in the semifinals.

The other Indian hope, eight seed HS Prannoy, too bowed out in the men's singles quarterfinals after conceding his match midway against Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan. Prannoy was trailing 11-21, 9-13 when he retired due to an injury.

Earlier in the day, qualifiers Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy battled hard before losing 18-21, 21-19, 15-21 in their mixed doubles contest against Dejan Ferdinansyah and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja of Indonesia

Narrow victories for Jharsuguda Mayurbhani

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: Jharsuguda and Mayubhanj had tough outings Friday as they came out on top of their respective opponents by narrow margins in their matches of the Senior Men Inter-District Championship for Sahani Cup.

Mayurbhanj prevailed over Paradeep Port Trust 2-0 at the 7th Battalion Ground here. Fagu Hembram gave Mayurbhanj the lead in the 21st minute before Sukul Murmu

sealed the deal in the 55th minute. Jharsuguda came from a goal down to beat Bolangir 2-1 at the Bidanasi Ground in Cuttack. Bolangir took the lead in the 30th minute through Saurav Ranjan Hanuman. Nirmal Mahanandia restored parity six minutes later. Abhinash Munda found the winner

in the 70th minute for Jharsuguda. In the third match of the day, Bargarh and Koraput played out a 1-1 stalemate at the OTM Ground in Cuttack with both the goals coming in the first half. Bargarh's Francis Lakra cancelled out Prasant Srihari's 16th minute opener in the 23rd minute



still have a long way to go to make the playoffs. From here on, KKR (six points) will have to win at least five out of their remaining six matches to assure themselves a playoff berth.

Of the six matches, KKR play two away matches, including one in Chennai, and skipper Rana and coach Chandrakant Pandit will have their task cutout against the Pandya-led defending cham-

Pandya has put out a perfect T20 template and his ability to seal close matches has caught everyone's eyes, especially after



they choked LSG while defending a paltry 135/6.

Pandya has been a revelation as a captain since January 2022, winning 23 out of 31 matches with a victory percentage of 76.67. GT (10 points from seven matches) have been a well-oiled unit and looks set for a successive playoff berth, sitting behind leaders Rajasthan Royals on net run-rate with a match in hand.

The Titans boast of a tempting bowling line-up in India pacer Mohammad Shami who along with Pandya have caused enough flutter in the powerplay.

But the likes of Rana and inform Rinku will face the biggest challenge when they are up against the GT spinners, led by the wily Rashid Khan, who has found a new ally in his countrymate Noor Ahmed. With in-form Shubman Gill

(three fifties) at the top and the powerhitting trio of David Miller, Abhinav Manohar and Rahul Tewatia in the bottom-half, GT also has a fearless batting unit.

It remains to be seen how the KKR spin force cope with the challenge of bowling to the Titans. Varun Chakravarthy and rookie leg-spinner Suyash Sharma have been sharing the spin workload with veteran Narine going wicketless in five matches.



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