



LOOKING BACK

Kangana Ranaut recalls fond memories from the set of her Anurag Basu directorial

LEISURE P2



BAKHMUT FIGHTING

Ukraine remains in control of a key supply route into Bakhmut, a military spokesperson says

INTERNATIONAL P10



SATWIK, CHIRAG WIN

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty crowned champions at Asia Championships

SPORTS P12

HOLIDAY NOTICE
The offices of Orissa POST will remain closed May 1 (Monday) on account of 'May Day'. Thus, there will be no edition of the paper May 2 (Tuesday).
-EDITOR

Conman posing as Guj CMO official held for raping model

Vadodara, April 30: Police have arrested a man for allegedly posing as an official of Gujarat Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and president of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), and on the charge of raping a model on the promise of giving her a job. The accused Viraj Patel, was arrested Saturday, a police officer said, adding that his real identity came to light after he was brought to a police station in Vadodara following his quarrel with someone.



"The man was brought to the police station Friday night along with the model accompanying him after he entered into a quarrel with someone at a multiplex. The accused initially told the police that he was a CMO official who had come to watch a movie with the woman. He also claimed that he was the president of the GIFT City," Assistant Commissioner of Police AV Katkad said.

'Sangh propaganda': Vijayan slams makers of 'The Kerala Story'

Thiruvananthapuram, April 30: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Sunday slammed the makers of 'The Kerala Story' film, saying they were taking up the Sangh Parivar propaganda of projecting the state as a centre of religious extremism by raising the issue of 'love jihad' - a concept rejected by the courts, probe agencies and even the Union Home Ministry. Vijayan said that the trailer of the Hindi film, at first glance, appears to be 'deliberately produced' with the alleged aim of creating communal polarisation and spreading hate propaganda against the state. The CM, in a statement, said that such propaganda films and the alienation of Muslims depicted in them should be viewed in the context of Sangh Parivar's efforts to gain political advantage in Kerala. He also accused the Sangh Parivar of trying to destroy the religious harmony in the state by "sowing the poisonous seeds of communalism."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He doesn't have time for any of this... He is busy counting abuses

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	39.6°C	38.5°C
TEMP. MIN	24.5°C	26.6°C
Humidity	60%	55%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



DIGNITY OF LABOUR: On the eve of Labour Day, construction workers levelling a playground in Bhubaneswar, Sunday.

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

State to build India's first colony for climate victims



The old Panchubarahi Peetha at Satabhaya

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The Satabhaya Bagapatia colony in coastal Kendrapara district is the first rehabilitation colony in the country that will be developed to rehabilitate people affected by climate change. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has allocated over ₹22 crore in the first phase to develop the Satabhaya Bagapatia Rehabilitation Colony as an ideal colony. On the instructions of the Chief Minister, 5T Secretary VK Pandian had visited Kendrapara for two days April 27 and 28. During the

visit, Pandian had met the displaced people settled there and discussed their problems, and asked about their opinions on the government's plans for developing the area. Acting on the 5T Secretary's feedback, the state government has decided to develop dams and fences, housing for the beneficiaries, livelihood programmes, roads, drinking water facilities, electricity, and panchayat houses. In addition, it has been decided to provide the people at Satabhaya with farmland based on their needs. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has directed the state tourism de-

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik allocates over ₹22 crore in the first phase to develop the Satabhaya Bagapatia Rehabilitation Colony as an ideal colony
- CM directs state tourism department to improve the infrastructure and beautify the famous Panchubarahi Peetha at Satabhaya and develop it as a major tourist destination by executing a light and sound show project

partment to improve the infrastructure and beautify the famous Panchubarahi Peetha at Satabhaya and develop it as a major tourist destination by executing a light and sound show project. The Chief Minister has ordered the officials concerned to take up all these works under the 5T initiative and finish them within the specified time frame. Under the impact of climate change, affected people are being resettled in Bagapatia as the Satabhaya region has been submerged due to sea erosion. This is the first colony in the country to resettle the people affected by climate change.

Bapi clinches silver at Asian Youth Meet

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 30: India's latest sensation in athletics Bapi Hansda clinched an impressive silver medal in the 400m hurdles at the ongoing 5th Youth Asian Athletics Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He clocked 51.38 seconds, his personal best to finish ahead of Sri Lanka's Kuda Liyanage Ayomal who timed 51.40 to bag bronze while Qatar's Mahamat Abakar Abrahman won the gold with a time of 50.91 seconds.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted, "Congratulate #Odia track and field athlete Bapi Hansda on clinching silver in 400m Hurdles Boys at 5th Asian Youth Athletics Championship in #Tashkent, Uzbekistan. May he continue to shine in the world athletics and make #Odisha and the nation proud. Wish him all the best." Bapi, a native of Basta in Balasore, is currently part of the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Center and has been making remarkable strides in the 400m hurdles.

PUNJAB GAS LEAK LEAVES 11 DEAD

All the victims belonged to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and had been working as migrant labourers in Ludhiana

AGENCIES

Ludhiana, April 30: Eleven people, including three children, died allegedly after inhaling toxic gas in the city's thickly populated Giaspura locality Sunday, with high levels of hydrogen sulphide detected in the air and authorities suspecting it was emanating from a sewer. Four more persons, who were taken ill, are undergoing treatment at a hospital, officials said, adding the area was sealed, the residents were evacuated and a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team was at the spot following the incident. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the incident while the

Ludhiana Police has registered an FIR against unknown persons. In the air quality sensors used by the NDRF team, high levels of hydrogen sulphide have been detected and this gas might have led to the tragic incident, according to an official release issued by the district administration. The officials said they suspect that the poisonous gas was released after some chemical was disposed of in the sewerage in the area. Giaspura is a thickly populated area with a migrant population. Several industrial and residential buildings are located there. All the victims belonged to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and had been staying in Ludhiana. The incident came to light Sunday morning when some people who came to a local grocery store to buy milk started fainting. Four persons died on the spot while others were rushed to the hospital.



Odisha doc gifts his village no-fee world-class school

ABOUT 15 YEARS AFTER COMPLETING HIS STUDIES AT THE AIIMS, DELHI AND STARTING PRACTICE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL, DR PRADEEP SETHI WENT BACK TO HIS VILLAGE, ENCOURAGED VILLAGERS ABOUT EDUCATION AND BOUGHT LAND TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, April 30: A doctor, who worked as a labourer during his childhood in Berunapadi village in Keonjhar district, has gifted his village a no-fee world-class school. About 15 years after completing his studies at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi and starting practice in the national capital, Dr Pradeep Sethi went back to his village, encouraged villagers about ed-

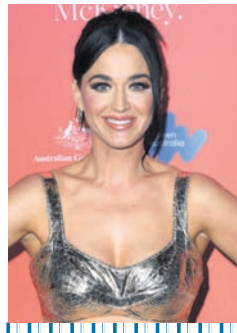
ucation and bought land to build an international school. Many villagers joined him and donated their land to start the school, after which a big educational institution was built. According to Dr Sethi, he did not want his effort to be limited to only one school. The institution equipped with world-class facilities will have an expert faculty from abroad and celebrities like Jubin Nautiyal, Sonu Nigam for teaching music, former Indian cricket



team captain Ravi Shastri for sports, and Rajiv Bajaj for business. The school has been built for children who are extremely poor and unable to afford education. Presently, this school is built on 10 acres which will later be extended to 20 acres. The school can enroll around 2,500 students. According to Dr Sethi, no fee is charged from any student for any work in the school. Many skill development and placement

courses will be developed in the institution which has Classes from I-XII. Around 50 more classrooms are being added to the school. The school's director said that the educational institute seeks to replicate the academic standards of Ivy League universities like Stanford and Harvard. Besides, many professional courses have also been introduced here like fisheries, information technology and science, among others.

leisure



KATY TO BE TEMPORARILY REPLACED ON AMERICAN IDOL

American singer-songwriter Katy Perry is expected to be temporarily replaced on *American Idol* by a 'big-time' star. Before that, the 38-year-old and her 'American Idol' co-star Lionel Richie are both scheduled to perform at King Charles' coronation concert in May, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

ZOE CONFIRMS SHE WON'T PLAY GAMORA ANYMORE

Actress Zoe Saldana is done playing Gamora in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. While speaking for a cover story on filmmaker James Gunn and the development of the *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie series, Saldana reaffirmed that she will no longer play the character after the latest release.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you will focus your lens on the one you've taken a fancy to! You are high on energy, but low on commitment to work. It won't be surprising if your bosses are miffed. But still, says Ganesh, it's a day of flowers and love notes.

TAURUS

There ain't no mountain high enough and there ain't no valley deep! Today, you will find yourself on an invincible run. You might be your own worst enemy today, if you waste your effort and energy for unproductive purposes. Overall, it is smooth sailing today and Ganesh advises you to stay focussed.

GEMINI

Today, your emotions will cloud your ability to reason. You may try to find a refuge in devotional and spiritual activities. A visit to a couple of religious places may help you restore your peace of mind. A laid-back mindset will work wonders for you today.

CANCER

Today is a fabulous day for your love life. Your happiness may make a few people go green with envy, but they can do you or your relationship no harm, so ignore them. However, it may be important for you to make sure that you safeguard your reputation.

LEO

Even an emperor, when struck with an ailment, is not a pretty sight. Bearing this in mind, today you shall make health your number one priority, says Ganesh. You will do wise to chart out some sort of a workout regime for yourself, and inculcate a sense of discipline in maintaining it, even if it is anything as simple as a thrice-a-week routine.

VIRGO

The day will bring unexpected changes and pleasant surprises. You may hit the road with your loved ones, and the journey will not only be exciting but also calm your nerves. Overall, a bright, happy day to make most of, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

It's time to take what is already good, and turn it into something better. Take this day as a day to bring about improvements in your life and yourself. You may also consider taking up some extra courses in the evening. Maybe it's time for a salsa lesson, or learn how to toss a few Italian delicacies. Small crash courses go a long way in enhancing your efficiency, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesh. Anger will melt all sense and sensibilities. But if logic does prevail eventually, things may just improve as the day passes. Ganesh says it is high time you awakened your softer side.

SAGITTARIUS

A demanding day today, as you find yourself in charge of arranging and attending high-voltage meetings. Those dealing in stock and share will have profitable returns in the afternoon. But don't count your chickens before they hatch, says Ganesh. Wait till the evening to count those wads of notes.

CAPRICORN

As the day begins, you may get a strong urge to leave everything and set off on a backpacking trip. So strong the wanderer in you may be now that it may even momentarily take over the famed Goat caution. Yet alas, this being only a fleeting moment, you may soon don your dapper avatar, and head to work. If nothing else, at least, loosen your tie at the end of the day and head to a dance floor.

AQUARIUS

It's family time, and your near and dear will be mighty pleased. You will pamper and fuss over them, and will even pull funny faces to make them smile. Your love and affection will undoubtedly pay off, and come back to you in more ways than one. Ganesh says you deserve a pat on the back for being so devoted to family.

PISCES

You have been neglecting your health of late, a fact which is hammered home by your ill-fitting trousers today! So, while you ignored the adage of prevention being better than cure, you could still make a stitch in time to save nine! Head for the gym, and watch those calories, says Ganesh.

Kangana reminisces Basu's valuable lessons

Mumbai: *Thalaivi* actress Kangana Ranaut, who has just completed seventeen years of her journey in the film industry, has taken a trip down memory lane and shared her old picture with filmmaker Anurag Basu. She also shared the valuable lessons the director imparted to her during the struggling phase of her career.

In the picture, Kangana wore a black and white dress and tied her hair in a ponytail, while Anurag was seen in a white shirt and blue denims.

Both of them were busy having a conversation.

Sharing the old photo, the actress captioned the post, "All thanks to this mad genius @anuragbasuofficial who launched me 17 years ago, 28 April 2006. Here is a picture of him and me from life in a metro set. This is how he trained me. 'Tu chup kar (You keep quiet)' is his favourite training phrase. Ha ha, I love you Anu. Thanks for everything."

She also added, "I was told actresses have a shelf life of 4-5 years. Well, I completed 17 years yesterday."

The actress will be next seen in *Chandramukhi 2*, helmed by P Vasu. It is the sequel to the blockbuster Tamil horror comedy film *Chandramukhi*.



Salman's incomplete wish to be a father

Mumbai: Indian media and TV shows are never short of content when it comes to Salman Khan. He and his marriage topic have become a part of Indian pop culture and sparked countless memes and WhatsApp jokes. While the actor has no plans to get married and wants to stay a bachelor, he recently revealed that he planned on being a parent to an adopted child.

Speaking to the host Rajat Sharma on his latest visit to *Aap Ki Adalat*, the actor said, "Abhi kya bolu woh toh plan tha. Bahu ka nahi tha, baccha ke tha (What to say, that was the plan. It wasn't for a daughter-in-law, it was for a child)."

He further added, "Lekin ab woh law ke hisaab se woh toh Hindustan mein ho nahi sakta. Toh ab dekhenge kya kare (But according to Indian laws, it's not possible. Now we'll see what to do)."

Salman's love for kids is quite well known, as several pictures have shown him enjoying the company of kids, including his sister Arpita Khan's two children, Ayat Sharma and Ahil Sharma.



'Working with dad is never challenging'

Mumbai: Aryan Khan recently made his directorial debut with the first ad for his clothing brand, *D'YAVOL X*, which is being endorsed as a luxury streetwear line. The ad featured none other than his superstar dad, Shah Rukh Khan. In a recent interview, likely his first, the budding director spoke about the brand, what inspired it and what it was like working with his dad on sets.

Speaking with an entertainment portal, the 25-year-old said, "Working with my father is never challenging because, with his experience and dedication, he makes everyone's job easier on set. He also makes the entire crew feel at ease and has tremendous respect for everyone. When he's on set, I always make sure to pay extra attention, so I don't miss out on anything I can learn."

Previously, in 2019, Shah Rukh appeared on David Letterman's talk show, where he told the eponymous host that his son is a 'good writer' and that he doesn't have what it takes to be an actor.

COFFEE, KATHA O KABITA 4.0

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

Bhubaneswar: It was an evening that will certainly be etched in the memories of those who were in attendance.

Present among the attendees, eminent poet and lyricist Mohit Chakraborty said, "Earlier, I knew about music therapy but only came to know about 'literature therapy' this evening after poet Sandipta's recitation made his sick mother feel better at the event. In fact, the venue created the ambience of West Bengal's Shanti Niketan here in Bhubaneswar."

The occasion was the fourth session of *Coffee, Katha O Kabita*, a unique cocktail of poetry, storytelling, music and standup comedy, organised by Kalinga Bhasha Muktamanch (KBM) here on Kalabhoomi premises, Saturday evening. Apart from Chakraborty others who attended the five-hour event as guests included poet and author Saroj Bal, storyteller Sagti Mohanty and poet-columnist Pabitra Mohan Kar. "It was a rare experience to be part

5-hr cocktail of poetry, music and storytelling holds viewers in thrall



Members of Coffee, Kaatha O Kabita



Gaurav Anand

of such a youth-led movement to revive Odia pride through poetry and music. I was amazed at the incredible organising capability of these youths who are on a mission," shared Kar.

Young novelist and filmmaker Tapas Rout said that he has seen quite a few good orators at literary events but not too many good anchors. "The works of

Ansuman Sahoo, Srisikta Suvadarsini and Biswakeshan Dash who conducted the event, convinced me that literature not only creates good poets and authors, it also makes engaging anchors," added Rout.

To make the occasion special, the viewers were served authentic food of Odisha like Chhenapoda, Rasabali, Dahi Lassi and Tea. For that, Muktamanch



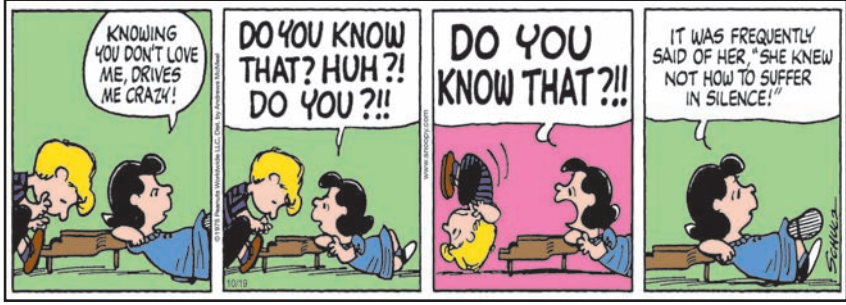
Sumit Panda

charged a token amount of Rs. 74.

KBM, a group of youths from various professions, aims to popularise Odia literature among the upcoming generation through such events.

The key members of the group include Bodhisatwa Maharana, Satya Shiba Sundar Das, Sumit Panda, Shrisikta Shuvadarsini Nayak, Abinash Jena, Rupesh Sahu, Biswakeshan Dash and Subrat Senapati.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

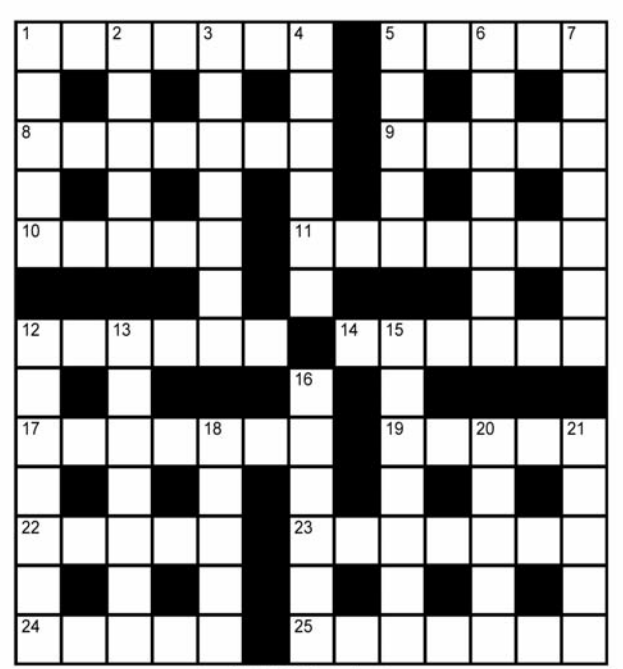


BREVITY



FUN post

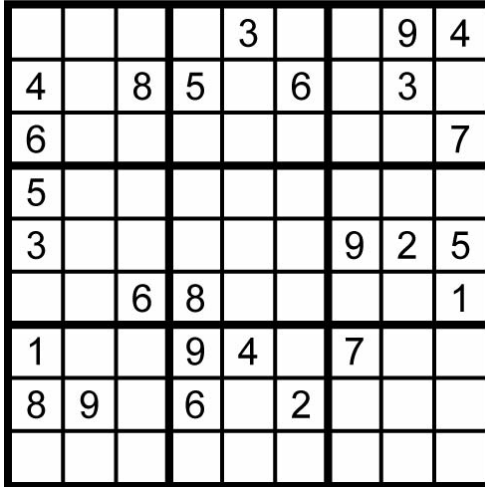
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Welsh capital
 - 5 Tumbler
 - 8 Gin cocktail
 - 9 Bloodless
 - 10 Mexican sauce
 - 11 Artistic movement (3,4)
 - 12 Insignia
 - 14 Fishing spot
 - 17 Shoreline problem
 - 19 Coastal feature
 - 22 Dashboard feature
 - 23 Bothered
 - 24 Weather word
 - 25 Excess
 - 5 Behemoth contestant
 - 6 Olympics
 - 7 Solarium
 - 12 It may be raised at times
 - 13 Diversify
 - 15 Leaner
 - 16 Intruders
 - 18 Key material
 - 20 True-blue
 - 21 Ocean motions
- Down**
- 1 Military quarters
 - 2 Country-style
 - 3 Copy
 - 4 Defoe character

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.

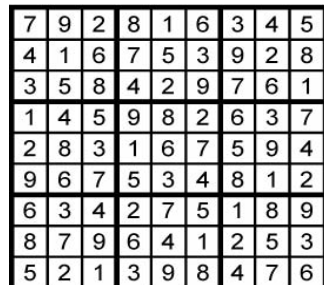


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



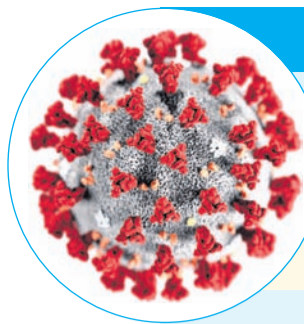
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



TAKING STOCK

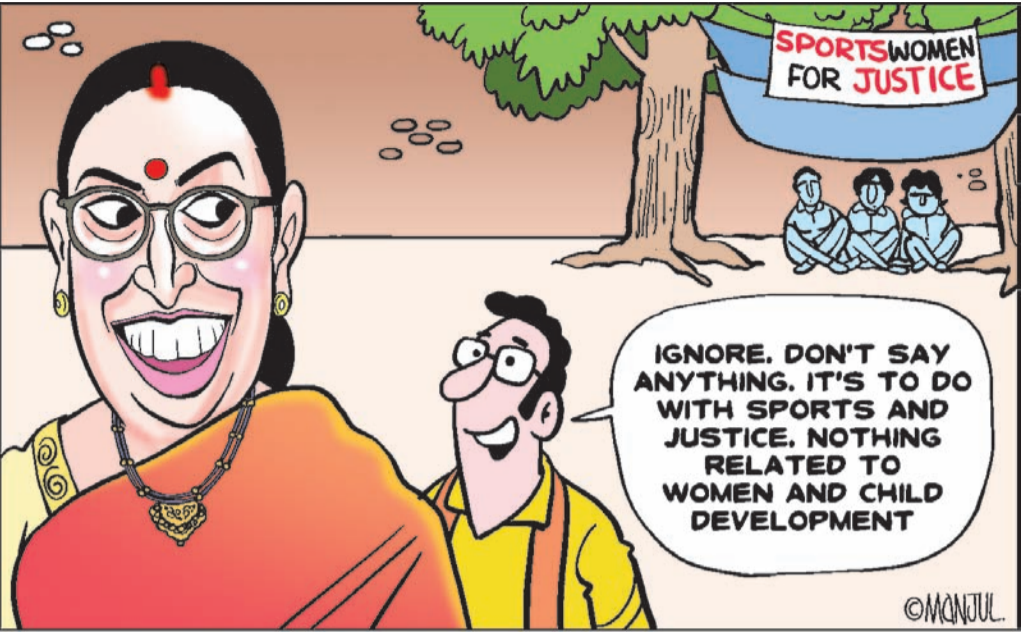
Chief Secretary PK Jena, Cuttack Collector BS Chayani, CDA chairman Anil Samal and CMC commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan inspect ongoing projects in the Silver City, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,70,82,876	65,96,26,119	68,63,757
India	4,49,45,389	4,43,64,841	5,31,533
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



MAHANADI ROW Team's 2nd phase field visit begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 30: A team of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal Sunday began its second phase of visit to Chhattisgarh. The team members visited the upper catchment areas of Mahanadi at Kumbhari in Durg. The team would visit Mahanadi river system in Bilaspur, Raigarh and Janjgir-Champa areas of Chhattisgarh soon. The team will visit Kumbhari anicut, Haradi anicut, Bango project and a few other projects in Chhattisgarh before reaching Jharsuguda in Odisha. In the first phase, the team visited Chhattisgarh from April 17 to 21.

Ponzi: EOW nabs 3 in UP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch (CB) has arrested three persons in Uttar Pradesh on charges of duping people through an online platform promising high returns on investments, an official said Sunday. According to EOW sources, Sachin Pal, Ankush Singh and Kuldeep have been arrested in Vijaynagar under Ghaziabad police limits of Uttar Pradesh April 28 under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code and 66(C) and (D) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. Soon after the arrest, they were produced before the court of CJM, Ghaziabad and were brought to Bhubaneswar on a three-day transit remand for their production before the court of SDJM, Bhubaneswar, an official said. About the case, the official said Parthasarathi Pattnaik of Bhubaneswar had approached them alleging that a digital marketing platform—www.r46.in—has been cheating the general public



in the name of giving extra income through digital marketing. Pattnaik said he had invested ₹6.5 lakh through the website, and his total commission along with invested amount was being reflected as ₹7.31 lakh in the wallet of the website, said the official, adding that when Pattnaik wanted to withdraw the amount, he was not allowed by the website. The website had a Telegram channel 'eBay Official work channel No.7' with a rolling subscriber base of more than 65,000 members. "During the investigation, it was found that www.r46.in is a fake website developed by fraudsters. It was being managed from people outside India," said the official. They used hundreds of shell companies/mule accounts to make a complex layer of money transactions and misappropriated the amount. Sachin and Ankush have handed over their SIM cards and bank accounts to Kuldeep, a fraudster operating from Rajasthan, for illegal channelization of money for a monthly remuneration of ₹30,000. During the investigation, it was found that ₹3.32 lakh and ₹1.5 lakh have been illegally transacted from the amount deposited by Pattnayak, the official pointed out.

19,630 water bodies in state not in use

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 30: As many as 19,630 water bodies in Odisha are not in use on account of being dried up, siltation, salinity and destruction beyond repair, according to India's first-ever census of water bodies conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

As per the census, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam are the top five states in terms of number of water bodies. They constitute around 63 per cent of the total water bodies in the country.

According to the data, Odisha has 1,81,837 water bodies. While 1,78,054 (97.9 per cent) are in rural areas, 3,783 (2.1 per cent) are in urban areas.

"1,62,207 (89.2 per cent) water bodies are in use, whereas 19,630 (10.8 per cent) are not in use on account of drying up, siltation, salinity, destruction beyond repair and other reasons," according to the census. As many as 92,575 (50.9 per cent) of water bodies are privately owned, while the remaining 89,262 (49.1 per cent) are under public ownership.

By location, 56,900 (31.3 per cent) water bodies are located in tribal areas. The remaining 1,24,937 (68.7



per cent) are mainly in drought-prone, flood-prone and Naxal-affected areas.

There are a total of 7,109 natural and 1,74,728 man-made water bodies in the state. Out of 7,109 natural water bodies, 6,915 (97.3 per cent) are located in rural areas whereas the remaining 194 (2.7 per cent) are in urban areas.

Similarly, out of 1,74,728 man-made water bodies, 1,71,139 (97.9 per cent) are located in rural areas

and 3,589 (2.1 per cent) are in urban areas.

Only 5,445 (3 per cent) water bodies in Odisha are covered in the district irrigation plan/state irrigation plan. Among these, 44.9 per cent (2,444) are tanks, 39.1 per cent (2,129) are ponds and the remaining 16.0 per cent (872) are lakes, reservoirs, water conservation schemes/percolation tanks and check dams.

Commenting on the census,

As per India's first-ever census of water bodies conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam are the top five states in terms of number of water bodies

water activist Ranjan Panda said Odisha has a large number of water bodies as zamindars and community leaders have dug many ponds across the state. Besides, several water bodies have been created under government schemes and programmes.

However, the government needs to come up with a specific policy or programme for conservation and redevelopment of the water bodies, the 'Waterman of Odisha' said.

This apart, there is a need to conduct another survey of the water bodies which have been destroyed or dried up. Accordingly, an action plan should be prepared for revival of such water bodies, suggested Panda.

Ajit Mohanty is Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Distinguished Odia scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, officials said Sunday. The renowned physicist, who is currently the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), was entrusted with the key responsibility after approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik congratulated Mohanty on his appointment. Born in Odisha in 1959, Mohanty completed his graduation in 1979 with Honours in Physics from MPC College, Baripada and post-grad-



uation in 1981 from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division, BARC after graduating from the 26th Batch of BARC Training School. He obtained his doctorate from Mumbai University. With several honorary positions at various organizations to his credit, Mohanty has served the Indian Physics Association (IPA) as General Secretary and later as its President.

Notorious gang of bike lifters busted

Bhubaneswar: The twin city Commissionerate Police claimed to have busted a notorious gang involved in theft of motorcycles with the arrest of four persons, including its mastermind, Sunday. N Sukanta Kumar Reddy, the mastermind, Soumitra Das, Somanath Das and Gunadhar Mirza, all hail from West Bengal and have been residing in the City, have been taken into custody for bike lifting, a Capital police official said. "While Reddy used to steal two-wheelers, the other three find prospective buyers for the bikes," said the official about their modus operandi. Reddy owns a garage at Sriman Nagar in Old Town area here. He used to target motorcycles parked outside Biju Pattnaik Park (Forest Park), Capital Hospital and designated parking areas in Unit-I, Unit-II, Bapuji Nagar and Ashok Nagar areas.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY

Need to ensure welfare of workers in informal sector, say experts



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Labour, one of the factors of production other than capital, has always been identified by economists as a crucial ingredient for economic development of any country. India, being world's most populous country, is home to a large workforce working in sectors ranging from construction to consultancy services.

May Day or International Labour Day is celebrated every year May 1 to honour and appreciate the contribution of workers everywhere. On the eve of the occasion, Orissa POST talks to experts to understand what policy measures are needed to enhance safety and overall wellbeing of the working class.

Govt should hold a census of informal workers

Umi Daniel, director of the migration and education unit at Aide et Action, a non-profit organisation working in Odisha, says, "Workers in informal sector and those who are employed precariously are being neglected hugely nowadays. These workers and their

families have suffered immensely during the pandemic and yet to recover fully from the economic shocks. Majority of them are migrants who are struggling to access social security and other entitlements both at the source and destination states. Government should carry out a census of all who are engaged in informal, precarious and gig economy, and formulate a comprehensive social security policy to safeguard the rights and entitlements of these invisible workers who are contributing hugely to the economy."

State policy for migrant workers need of the hour

Saroj Barik, a labour rights activist and expert, says, "Major junk of labourers from Odisha are engaged in the unorganised sectors both within and out of the state. They are still struggling to access basic social protection and welfare schemes. Labourers in rural areas are not getting the standard minimum wages due to absence of policy for the workers of unorganised sector." He further adds, "No mecha-

nism for monitoring of labour markets (haat) at urban locations and lack of basic services at addas are making people vulnerable to exploitation. Uncertainty of job assurance during need at villages is triggering rural to urban labour migration. Migrant workers are still out of the Odisha Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (BOCWB) fold and there are also issues in registration and claiming of benefits due to the activity of middlemen."

Barik also suggests, "We need state action plan for protection and welfare of unorganised sector labourers as per the Unorganised Workers Act 2008, as directed by the honorable High Court of Odisha. State policy for protection and welfare of migrant workers is highly required as Odisha is a major source of interstate migrant workers in India."

Need to ensure minimum wage

Suresh Panigrahi, secretary of All India Kisan Sabha Odisha state council, says, "Minimum wage for all categories of workers should be ₹26,000 per month. But an unskilled worker in our state is getting just ₹345 daily which is very less. So increase of minimum wage as per consumer price index is single biggest issue of workers in our state."

Informal sector workers must be identified

Highlighting the problems of workers of the informal sector, Naba Kishore Pujari, a social activist, says, "The misery of labourers working in the informal sector, such as ragpickers, is manifold. They don't get a labour card due to the lack of identity. It's high time they must be identified and provided with all government benefit like others so that they too can lead a life of dignity."



DANCE FEST: Budding artistes perform during Anand Utsav-2023 organised by Kalingayana Touryatrikam at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

'Didi libraries' promote reading among children

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, April 30: In a bid to promote in children of villages the habit of reading, the Bihar government has started 'Didi ki library', established under Jeevika.

The first Didi ki library or community library in Singheshwar was inaugurated by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar February 10.

At least 100 such libraries have been opened in 32 districts. Community Library and Career Development Centres (CLCDCs) have also been set up in many blocks of the state.

Jeevika's CEO Rahul Kumar said that the 100 Community Library-cum-Career Development Centres (CLCDCs) established by



Jeevika as study centres of various courses recognised by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) will help promote education in rural children. Kumar said that there are a total of 12,318 members registered in all the 100 community libraries, of which about 80 per cent are girls. Till now, 63 government buildings

have been taken over for this purpose, while the remaining 37 are being developed in private houses hired by Jeevika. The building marked for the operation of CLCDC has a hall, which can accommodate about 30-40 people and two rooms, in which one room is used as a physical and digital library-cum-office and the other room is used as a study room.

The hall is used for other teaching-training activities including conducting digital and physical classes as per the requirement.

Books for preparation of various higher education entrance exams including class 9th to 12th textbook, e-books and notes are available in the library.

Rohan Rai, a resident of Singheshwar, who works as a labourer said that girls were not able to study properly at home. The library is helping in promoting education among rural children who, for various reasons, did not get time and facilities for studying at their homes.

He said that such a facility in the village would be effective in the field of education of girls.

Continued from P1
Conman posing...

When police checked his identity, it was found that he used a different surname on his PAN card, while there was no surname mentioned on his Aadhaar card. During interrogation, Patel revealed that he was neither working in the CMO nor was he the president of GIFT City. After his real identity came to light, the model from Mumbai accompanying him claimed that he raped her on the pretext of giving her a job as the brand ambassador of GIFT City and promised to marry her, Katkad said.

Punjab gas...

Among the dead were three members of the family that owned the store and five from another. Police said five females and six males were among the dead. The district administration announced Rs 2 lakh compensation each for the family of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each for those who were taken ill in the incident.

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AFFIDAVIT

I Smt. Shakuntala Das, aged 39 yrs, wife of Late Rohit Das of village-Khunta, P.O.-Manipur, PS.-Soro, Dist.-Balasore (as per Aadhaar, Voter ID, PAN Card), but my Husband have a S.B. Account (SBI Soro Branch A/c No.), in which I am the Nominee by my nick name Sukanti Das, that I do hereby declare that name Smt. Shakuntala Das and Sukanti Das is one and same lady, who is myself and there is no other such lady in same name except my name.

I Sri Satya Ranjan Sahu, S/o- Nandakishore Sahoo, At- Nayabazar, PO/PS-Bhadrak (Town), Mouza-Kuansha, Dist- Bhadrak, declare by this affidavit No.-3203, dated 21.04.2023, that now onwards I shall be known as Satya Ranjan Sahoo for all future purposes.

LOST

Before Notary, Chatrapur, Ganjam, I, Dhiraj Kumar Padhi, S/o Hrusikesh Padhi, Suryanagar, 2nd Lane, Ankuli, P.S.-B.N.Pur, Berhampur, Ganjam. I lost my LIC bond bearing Policy No. 573661549 while travelling from LIC Office to Suryanagar on dated 18.04.2023. I swear this affidavit before appropriate authority for issuance of LIC bond in favour me.

I, Umeshwar Pradhan, S/o Gangadhar Pradhan of village Tihikipali, P.O.-Gondturum, P.S.- Bheden, Dist.-Bargarh do hereby declare that I am the owner in possession of lands belongs to Khata No.88/175, Plot No. 226, A. 0.39 dec. and Plot No. 223, A. 0.90 dec. of Mouza-Kesharipali under Bheden Tahasil. Which I have purchased by virtue of registered sale deed No.10211500621, dt.11.08.2015 from its rightful owner. I have lost my said original sale deed some where and the lands were not mortgaged or created any lien over the same with any Bank, financial institution or with any person. If any body found please contact: Mob.9937120158.

Banks urged to share data on failed pension transfers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: To reduce inconveniences faced by the beneficiaries, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department secretary Bhaskar Sarma recently urged banks to share transaction data on social security pensions provided by the government.

At a bankers' meet held to discuss issues regarding easy monitoring of transaction, presiding over the meeting, Sarma raised concern over inconveniences faced by beneficiaries of direct benefit transfers (DBT) during cash withdrawal at business correspondent (BC) points due to failure in Aadhaar authentication.

"It was highlighted that banks can fetch the data of DBT failure instances through the Aadhaar network both in cases of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) as all DBT transactions are registered in bank server with Aadhaar," said an official.

Data on such failures can then be shared with the department on real time basis for monitoring, she added.



Banks can compile information on withdrawal failure due to problem in Aadhaar authentication for a day by the end of that day and then share it with the SSEPD department

The banks will ensure through withdrawal slip that these beneficiaries are paid the pension at their door step within the next 24 hours

AADHAAR PARTICULARS OF SUCH BENEFICIARIES WILL BE RECTIFIED WITHIN THE NEXT 15 DAYS TO ENSURE THAT THEY FACE NO PROBLEMS IN RECEIVING THE PAYMENT THE NEXT MONTH

Banks will compile information on withdrawal failure due to Aadhaar authentication for a day by the end of that day and then share it with the SSEPD department. They are to ensure through withdrawal slip that these beneficiaries are paid the pension at their door step within the next 24 hours.

Further, Aadhaar particulars of such beneficiaries will be rectified within the next 15 days to ensure that they face no problems in receiving the payment the next month.

"All banks that agree to share transaction data with the department which shall be carried to the dashboard later for easy monitoring," added the official.

SSEPD director Bratati Harichandan was present in the meeting. Convener, State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), deputy general manager (government business), State Bank of India and representatives ICICI Bank, YES Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, UCO Bank, PNB, Utkal Gramin Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of India, and AXIS Bank participated in the meeting.



HONOURING TALENT: Akash BIJU's Regional Director, East Ajay Bahadur Singh felicitating Odisha topper in JEE Main exams, Priyanka Sar, at institute's headquarters in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

ILS holds workshop on advanced flow cytometry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Under the ambit of G20 Jan Bhagidari program, Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar conducted a three-day hands-on workshop on "Immunophenotyping of human PBMCs using full spectra multi-colour flow cytometry".

This workshop was organized by Sunil Raghav and his team at the state-of-art Immunogenicity assay platform recently established at ILS, Bhubaneswar by the support of DBT-BIRAC under Covid Suraksha Mission.

Out of more than 50 applications, 20 participants were selected from all over India including faculties from prestigious institutes like AIIMS and PGI, PhD and master students from different Universities. The workshop was inaugurated and graced by Sanghamitra Pati, Director, ICMR-RMRC, Bhubaneswar and Biswajit Mohanty, MD, GenX Diagnostics.

Both lauded the workshop with praises and appreciation for its uniqueness and one-of-a-kind approach towards skill development in high-end instrumentation techniques. During the three-day workshop, the focus was to train and expose the participants on the basics of advanced full spectrum flow-cytometry using Cytex-Aurora5-laser flow cytometer and how to identify the T-cell responses against Covid-19 in human PBMCs of vaccinated individuals.

The training started off with handling the human blood samples, isolation of Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells (PBMCs), preparation of fluorochrome antibody pools, cell staining followed by training session on data analysis to identify Covid-19 antigen activated CD4 helper and Cytotoxic CD8 T-cells.

Warning for heavy rain in 10 districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department here Sunday issued an orange warning for heavy rain along with thunderstorms and lightning in 10 districts of Odisha. These districts that will experience rain and thunderstorm today are Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, and Nabarangpur.

One or two places in Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, and Sundergarh districts are likely to receive heavy rain today. The weather office also predicted that some of these places are likely to receive hailstorms.

Meanwhile, some places in Odisha have received widespread rain and experienced thunder and lightning under the effects of Kalbaisakhi which will prevail for the next four days.



CLEARING THE PATH: Branches of trees obstructing movement of vehicles being pruned in Badagada Brit Colony area in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Experts discuss raging climate change issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The US Consulate General Hyderabad and VIEWS, an NGO based in Odisha, organised a two-day workshop for journalists working in regional media to provide knowledge resources and best practices for covering climate change issues. The workshop which was part of a 10-workshop series concluded here Sunday.

The workshop covered a wide

range of topics, including "Migration and Climate Change Reporting", "The Impact of Climate Change on Education" and "Natural Farming and Climate Change Reporting". Umi Daniel, Director of Migration and Education at Aide at Action International, in a presentation, provided insights on the effects of climate change on migration patterns and its impact on vulnerable communities.

Daniel said, "Migration in Odisha is not just a matter of movement,

but a complex interplay of climate, disaster and human vulnerabilities. Addressing the key challenges of database on hazards, community resilience and effective policies can help mitigate the triggers of migration and secure the future of vulnerable communities in hotspots of environmental fragility and conflict."

Ekadashi Nandi, an agriculture expert, emphasised the role of natural farming in mitigating the impact of climate change on agri-

culture and make it sustainable.

Sisir Kanta Pradhan, a development sector expert, covered diverse topics including the impact of climate change on marine tenure, the effects of extreme weather events and uncertainties on coastal habitats.

The initiative was part of the US Consulate General Hyderabad's ongoing efforts to support the Odia and Telugu media and promote awareness of climate change in the region.

Auto dealers pivotal to economic ecosystem: Guv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) hosted the 14th edition of Vyapar, the annual meet of automobile dealers, in Odisha. Organised under the theme of "Wheels of Odisha," this was the first ever edition of Vyapar to be hosted in Odisha.

The meet was inaugurated by governor Ganeshi Lal, along with Manish Raj Singhania, FADA president, and Pradeep Agarwal, state chairperson, FADA, Odisha, in the presence of the senior members of the FADA council and automobile dealers from Odisha.

Acknowledging the contributions made by the dealer community to state's development, Lal said, "The automobile dealer industry is a dynamic industry and has been one of the core contributors of the economic ecosystem of the nation. The dealers are an important pillar of this mechanism; the dealer community in Odisha has been making an incredible contribution in terms of revenue and employment generation for the state."

Speaking on the utility of these conferences, the Governor said that they would help build confidence among the business community and pave the way for innovation in the region.

"The Odisha government is committed to offering the best of its support to the business community at large, giving them ease of doing business in the region," he added.

Singhania, President, in his speech, said, "We are delighted to host the 14th Edition of Vyapar in Odisha. The state has been an important market for the automotive industry. The type of response we have received is incredible. This gives us immense motivation to revisit the region with many such events to reenergize the retail automobile industry and keep our fraternity inspired and informed."

"Going forward, I would like to urge all our members to stay committed to providing the best of their services to customers in the region and to keeping their businesses vibrant. FADA, as an association, stands committed to all its members and offers them the best support to keep the dynamic business thriving and efficient," he added.



NEARLY 80% OF IPHONE USERS NOW OWN AN APPLE WATCH

Nearly 80 per cent of smart-watch users who own an iPhone own an Apple Watch, the highest share of any brand, a report has revealed.

Google Pixel users come in second with 71 per cent of Pixel smartphone users who own a smart-watch saying that they own the Google Pixel Watch, according to Counterpoint Research. Apple managed to achieve 56 per cent share of the US smartwatch market in 2022.

Meanwhile, among Samsung smartphone users who own a smart-watch, only 40 per cent use Samsung Galaxy Watches, the report mentioned.

While Apple sold about one Apple

Watch for every three iPhones in Q4 2022, Samsung sold only one Galaxy Watch for every 10 Galaxy smartphones in the US. "Apple and iOS dominate the US smartphone market and iPhone users are more likely to adopt other Apple products due to their superior interoperability," said research analyst Matthew Orf.

With Apple's smartphone installed base share surpassing 50 per cent, it has a huge potential market to target with Apple Watches, while other smartwatch brands are stuck fighting for the rest of the pie.

"According to Apple Watch users, the most significant reason for selecting their current smartwatch



was that they like the brand," Orf added.

The top three smartwatch features according to respondents are

health and activity tracking, notification access, and messaging and calling, with health and activity tracking being most popular among older users and notification checking being more popular among younger users.

Popular health and activity tracking features include step counter, sleep tracker, heart rate monitor and blood oxygen monitor.

Meanwhile, users are also using their smartwatches for connectivity - interacting with notifications from social media as well as messaging and calling friends, family and coworkers.

"Smartwatch users are overwhelmingly satisfied with their devices, citing health and fitness

tracking, as well as notification access, as central uses. This suggests that there is room to educate consumers on the benefits of smartwatches in everyday life and further drive the adoption of the form factor," said senior analyst Arushi Chawla.

Additionally, 77 per cent of the respondents stated that Apple was the most preferred brand for their next smartwatch.

"The share of respondents willing to pay \$500 or more for their next smartwatch was double the share of those who stated they spent \$500 or more on their current smart-watch, suggesting rising ASPs for the segment," the report mentioned.

IANS

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10 eminent personalities awarded Biju Patnaik Int'l Peace Awards '23

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 30: On the 26th death anniversary of great Indian leader Biju Patnaik, Aks Society, Delhi organised 'Bhumi Putra Honourable Biju Patnaik International Peace Awards 2023' at Kaveri Kala Sangam, New Delhi. Aks Society is a Delhi based non-profit organisation headed by the renowned classical Odissi exponent, actress, choreographer and social worker Dr Chandana Raul.

The prestigious award was conferred on 10 highly successful personalities from different fields with national and international repute who have made extraordinary achievements in their respective arenas. The awardees are Major-General PK Saigal, veteran army officer from New Delhi; Dr Chitra Mudgal, eminent scholar and Indian writer from New Delhi; Ranjan Kumar Das, IAS, eminent administrator, writer and director, OLL and Culture department, Bhubaneswar; HE Mossi Nyamale Rosette, highly recognised diplomat and ambassador of DR Congo to India; Dr Darmayasa, renowned litterateur and philanthropist,

president of International Divine Love Society, Malta and founder and advisor of Dharma Sthapanam Foundation in Bali; Inderjeet Sharma, eminent social reformer, director, International Hindi Association, USA and director; Pandit Tilak Raj Sharma Memorial Trust USA; Namrata Chadha, eminent women rights activist, writer, translator and blogger; TV personality, from Bhubaneswar, Odisha; BL Gaur, eminent author, editor and philanthropist from New Delhi; Anand Prakash Singh, renowned anchor, announcer and writer from Mumbai, Maharashtra, and Dr Gaurav Gupta, noted social entrepreneur, founder and president of Global Trade and Technology Council of India (GTTCI), New Delhi.

The learned dignitaries and delegates expressed their heart-felt respect and gratitude to the great leader Biju Patnaik, by expressing their thoughts on the visionary ideas that he had with regards to the modern state and how his contributions managed to reach out to people internationally, thereby connecting the world globally.



Bhitarkanika to remain closed for 3 months for crocs' nesting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, April 30: The Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) and Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary under this block in Kendrapara district will remain closed for tourists and locals for a period of three months from May 1 to July 31 in view of the mating and nesting season of saltwater crocodiles.

Domestic and foreign tourists will not be allowed to visit the crocodile-infested areas during the breeding season of the crocodiles. This was stated by DFO Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav of Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar to mediapersons here, Saturday. Entry of visitors will be restricted at Bhitarkanika, Dangamala and Ragadapati forest blocks under Bhitarkanika.

The restrictions are imposed every year during the mating season as noise created by boats and intrusion of visitors can disturb the reptiles' breeding and nesting activities.

The reptiles build their nests at safe spots about 3 feet from the shore or river banks inside

mangrove forests or Kharkhari leaves. Female crocodiles build nests to lay their eggs and if they sense any harm during this period they do not mind attacking to save their eggs.

Forest officials said once the reptiles are disturbed during the nesting and breeding period they become more violent and the majority of crocodiles-attack occur during the nesting season.

Local forest dwellers have also been prohibited from entering the area for collection of forest produce such as honey and firewood.

Notably, Bhitarkanika is located in the estuarial region of Brahmani-Baitarani rivers in Kendrapara district. It is the only rainforest in the state famous for estuarine crocodiles. The BNP authority spotted 122 nests of estuarine crocodiles in the Kanika, Gahirmatha, Mahakalpara and Rajnagar wildlife forest ranges during last year's census.

As many as 1,793 estuarine crocodiles inhabited in and outside the water bodies of Rajnagar Mangrove Division (Wildlife) as per the status survey report of estuarine crocodile-2023.



Youth beats dad to death for denying money for liquor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Athagarh, April 30: A youth allegedly beat his father to death after he refused to give money to him for buying liquor in Athagarh area of Cuttack district, Sunday.

According to sources, the incident took place late Saturday night. While the deceased has been identified as Balunkeshwar Mohanty (75), police have detained the accused son, Aparthi Mohanty.

As per one of the villagers, Aparthi is a habitual drinker. He often takes money from his father to consume liquor, he added.

As per the reports, late Saturday night after his father's denial to give money, Aparthi hit his father with a rod leaving him dead on the spot. Police are probing the incident. Further details awaited.

In a separate incident on New Year's Eve, a youth had stabbed his father to death due to similar reasons in Deogarh district.

Duo strikes gold with organic marigold cultivation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Amarpali, April 30: At a time when people blame the government for everything that's wrong in their life, two young farmers at Bikalpur village under Birmaharajpur block in Subarnapur district have become self-reliant by undertaking marigold cultivation on their farmland without any government assistance and incentive.

Gadadhar Padhan and Parikhita Karna have not only been able to earn a decent income from marigold floriculture but also become an example for others to emulate by giving employment to some youths in their farms.

The two after completing graduation tried to get into government service but in vain. Later, they got the inspiration for marigold cultivation from social media platform YouTube.

They bought marigold saplings, spending from their own pockets and planted them on five acre of



EVICION FOR EXPANSION: An eviction drive underway in Dunguripali town of Subarnapur district for expansion of National Highway-26, Sunday

OP PHOTO

ABANDONED IRON ORE ON RAILWAY SIDINGS

Mines dept in a fix as Rlys demands rent on day basis

THE MINERALS ARE LYING ABANDONED ON VARIOUS RAILWAY SIDINGS IN JODA FOR OVER A DECADE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, April 30: The state Steel and Mines department is caught in a conundrum as the Ministry of Railways is demanding rent for over one lakh MT of iron ores lying abandoned in various railway sidings for over last 10 years under Joda mining division in Keonjhar district, a report said Sunday.

The iron ores are getting damaged in the open while the Ministry of Railways is asking for rent on day basis which is unreasonably high for the Mines department. The Mines department is caught in a dilemma as it will have to incur heavy expenses in rent to transport the ores elsewhere.

According to reports, miners had stored large volume of iron ores for transportation on various railway sidings under Joda mining division in FY 2009-10. However, things took a turn after the Supreme Court appointed Justice MB Shah

Girl's body found hanging from tree

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patnagarh, April 30: The body of a college girl was found hanging from a tree near Gangasagar village along Patnagarh-Kantabanji main road in Bolangir district, Sunday.

The deceased student has been identified as Ranju Dandasena, a Political Science student of Jawaharlal Degree College in Patnagarh.

Locals found the girl hanging from a Palash tree with her long scarf. Police reached the spot after locals informed them about the incident. They seized a vanity bag and a mobile phone from the spot that reportedly belong to the deceased girl. A scooter was also found abandoned near the scene. The investigation has been initiated to ascertain whether it was a suicide or murder case.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the girl belonged to Dumerpadar village. However, family of the deceased girl alleged it as murder as her feet were found tucked under the ground.

"Somebody has hung my daughter after killing her," claimed Pankajini Dandasena, mother of the deceased.



Commission for a probe into the mining scam in state.

Justice MB Shah Commission and later the central committee visited the area and conducted verification of documents regarding the iron ores. The iron ores have been lying abandoned in the area after the miners and traders failed to produce necessary papers in time to prove their ownership of the iron ores.

Currently, people are visiting

the Steel and Mines department with necessary documents to prove their ownership of the iron ores in order to transport them elsewhere but without any success.

Dinesh Agarwal, deputy director of Joda mining division said that over one lakh MT of iron ores are lying abandoned in various railway sidings of Joda mining division. Ministry of Railways is demanding rent for the space acquired by the iron ores as it is

unreasonably high. Meanwhile, lots of iron ores have already washed away in the rain which is in contravention to mineral conservation and development rules of Indian Bureau of Mines.

As a result, the state government is losing precious revenue while the valuable minerals are gathering dust. Moreover, reports claim that some of the iron ores have even been stolen after lying

abandoned for a decade. A mineral expert Jyoti Rout said that the Mines department should make efforts to transport the iron ores in coordination with the Ministry of Railways and Indian Bureau of Mines.

Commenting on the issue, Banshapani railway station manager Dibakar Chandra Mishra said as the dump and loading rules (the moment minerals brought from mines in a truck are unloaded on a railway siding and reloaded in railway wagons within a scheduled time) apply to railway sidings and the Railways charges ₹175 per wagon per day if the minerals are piled up on the siding for a scheduled period. Each wagon is loaded with over 60 MT of minerals.

As the minerals are lying abandoned on the railway sidings for over a decade, it will be highly expensive to pay the penalty and transport the minerals elsewhere, Mishra added.

Curfew lifted from all areas of violence-hit Sambalpur

RESTRICTIONS ON MEETINGS AND RALLIES TO REMAIN IN FORCE

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, April 30: Curfew has been withdrawn from all areas of violence-hit Sambalpur as the law and order situation has "improved" and there is "no apprehension of breach of peace", according to a notification.

However, restrictions on meetings and rallies will remain in force, and written permission from the district administration will be required to organise such events, it said.

The curfew was imposed in six police station areas following a clash between two groups during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations in Sambalpur city mid of this month.

Several people and 10 police personnel were injured and many shops were set on fire in the violence.



FILE PHOTO

The city witnessed two clashes - one during a motorcycle procession April 12 and another during the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations two days later.

The administration was withdrawing the curfew in a phased manner, and the prohibitory orders were lifted from a few more areas Saturday night, an official said.

Internet services were suspended in the city to curb the spreading of rumours on social media.

16 people, who were detained for spreading inflammatory messages on social media following

the violence in the western Odisha city during the Hanuman Jayanti processions, were released, police said. They were released after being issued warnings and had given undertakings that they would not indulge in such activities in future.

The district police have arrested over 100 people for allegedly being involved in the violence.

A four-member BJP MP team is scheduled to visit the violence-hit areas May 2.

The state unit of BJP has urged the Centre to initiate steps for an NIA probe into the clashes.

Man dies out of shock after learning about son's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur/Tarba, April 30: In a heart-wrenching incident, a man died of shock an hour after learning about the death of his son at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir, late Saturday night.

The deceased man was identified as Adikanda Sa, 75, and his dead elder son Artatrana Sa, 50 of Malipada in Tarba area of neighbouring Subarnapur district.

The shocking incident spread a pall of gloom in the village as the family is now survived by the son's wife and a disabled son with no breadwinner for the family.

Sources said that Artatrana rushed Adikanda to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir after he suddenly fell sick and his condition deteriorated.

However, soon after reaching the hospital, Artatrana experienced uneasiness after seeing his father's serious condition. He later breathed his last and collapsed in the hospital at 12.45am. Shell shocked by his son's untimely death, Adikanda also breathed his last at around 2am.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIBBS 2023016 Dtd.: 18.04.2023	
Name of work: TALCHER-BIMALGARH NEW B.G. RAIL LINK PROJECT: EXECUTION OF MISCELLANEOUS WORKS BETWEEN KM. 21.00 TO KM.43.50 IN BETWEEN SUNAKHANI-SAMALPARABIL-KHAMAR BLOCK SECTIONS.	
Approx cost of the work: ₹ 2204.47 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 12,52,200/-, Completion period of the work: 12 Months.	
Tender closing date & time: 10.05.2023, at 1200 hrs.	
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in . The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.	
The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-1 of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B/G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.	
Chief Administrative Officer (Conj)/ PR-15/CG/23-24 Bhubaneswar	

FOCUS HEALTH-CARE

INNOVATE AGAINST INJUSTICE



The biotech industry is not doing enough to mitigate the social determinants of disparities in health outcomes and access to innovative medical treatments. Companies could address these harmful imbalances with equitable R&D funding, an inclusive approach to clinical trials, and investment in compassionate-use programmes

exposure to violence, and more – and to provide equitable access to diagnostics and therapies. The global nonprofit Acumen, for example, uses its patient capital model to invest in enterprises focusing on meeting the needs of low-income consumers, from housing to alternative energy and water.

Merck has been advancing this work for over a decade through their Merck for Mothers programme, which aims to promote safe and high-quality maternity care around the world. Sanofi Global Health, a nonprofit unit that Sanofi established in 2021, also supports underserved communities by selling medicines at affordable prices in 40 lower-income countries.

The biotech industry must continue to expand compassionate-use programmes and collaborate with nonprofit organisations that provide access to essential treatments. There are enough successful industry programmes from which to gain insights and identify best practices, such as Gilead's partnerships with generic manufacturers to produce high-quality, low-cost medicines, or Merck's agreement with the Medicines Patent Pool to diversify the supply of prescription drugs for low- and middle-income countries.

We must approach health inequality with the same passion, determination, and innovation that we apply to the development of medicines. Today's yawning gaps in access and outcomes are all the more unfair for being avoidable. And, as we saw during the pandemic, they are a problem for everyone. Collective action to improve health-care equity, including by addressing its social determinants, can extend and improve the lives of millions of people. That is the goal that all health-care companies should strive to achieve.

The writer is CEO of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Medical innovation has progressed exponentially over the past half-century. And yet, the persistence of health inequality limits the potential benefits of scientific and technological advances that could save or improve lives.

The debate over the allocation of vaccines and therapeutics during the COVID-19 pandemic is a vivid example of this inequality. In September 2022, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed yet again that ending the pandemic requires equitable access to vaccines; at the time, only 19 per cent of the population in low-income countries were inoculated, compared to 75 per cent in high-income countries.

Despite this imbalance, richer countries suffered greater losses of life years per capita than poorer countries – a paradox highlighting how health inequality exists at many levels. In the United States, for example, cumulative data show that people of colour experienced higher rates of COVID-19 infection and death than white people. The disparity can be traced to social determinants of health, the non-medical factors that play a critical role in clinical outcomes. Suffering from institutional and structural discrimination, reduced health literacy, or cultural and language barriers makes it difficult to live the longest, healthiest life possible.

Reducing health inequality and helping underserved populations requires innovators to focus on these issues. There are still many diseases for which suitable therapeutic interventions are limited or do not exist. This is particularly true for rare genetic disorders, but also for more common ailments: impediments to patients' adherence to the existing treatment regimens for hypertension, for example, can adversely affect outcomes.

The biotech industry needs to allocate sufficient funding for research and development related to

diseases that disproportionately affect specific ethnic communities. While we frequently say that communicable diseases know no borders, genetic and non-communicable diseases unfortunately do discriminate. In today's age of medical innovation, groundbreaking advances that could help these patients are within our grasp.

In a similar vein, we must rethink how we conduct clinical trials. We need to include diverse communities that are representative of the disease condition. Studies should take into consideration participants' socioeconomic and insurance status, and they should be designed to recruit people from underrepresented groups. Developing culturally appropriate and relevant recruitment materials, minimising travel time to trial sites, reducing the frequency and number of assessments, allowing for telehealth visits where appropriate, and introducing creative ways to target, gather, and disseminate information are all steps in the right direction.

Moreover, regulators and health-

care authorities can do more to encourage innovation that helps to address societal challenges. As advances in precision and genetic medicines and technologies continue, public and private organisations must work collaboratively to ensure that these breakthrough treatments are available to all who need them. Creative pricing and reimbursement strategies could enable equitable and sustainable access for patients and health systems. For example, the Value-Based Negotiation Framework, which my company supports, aims to address some of the challenges related to reimbursement in Europe. The framework lays the foundation for quicker negotiations between payers and manufacturers with a view toward increasing patient access to innovative products.

Finally, biotech companies can and should be responsible corporate citizens. That means investing in organisations working to address the social determinants of health – the stark disparities in income, education, transportation,



Yvonne Greenstreet

BIOTECH COMPANIES CAN AND SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE CITIZENS

Hate Speech

Do not pretend – be. Do not promise – act. Do not dream – realize.

THE MOTHER



The Supreme Court's direction to all states and Union Territories to register cases on their own against those making hate speeches is a very welcome step. This development, to rein in hate mongers, has been damaging the social fabric of this nation for the past few years because all this hate being generated is for political gains only. In the absence of stern measures from the police and judiciary the perpetrators of such crimes have been emboldened. They are using this laxity to whip up religious sentiments each time a major election is held in the country so as to polarise voters on communal lines and reap electoral dividends. This trend has assumed serious proportions since 2014 and even top leaders keep delivering incendiary speeches with communal overtones with impunity.

The Bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna extended its October 21, 2022 order, earlier limited to directing police only in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to take suo motu action in cases of hate speech to all states and Union Territories. What is of significance is the addition to this order that says any hesitation to act in accordance with this direction will be viewed as contempt of court and appropriate action shall be taken against the erring officers. Such action will be taken irrespective of the religion that the maker of the speech or the person who commits such act belongs to. The sweeping order should be viewed as being intended to preserve the country's secular character as envisaged by the Preamble of the Constitution.

The problem of applying the existing legal provisions to prevent hate speech is that the affected people more often than not hesitate to lodge complaints for legal remedies fearing for their safety. The Bench has correctly understood the situation which is why Justice Joseph said that many a time people may not come forward to complain. To protect the people from harassment by the offenders the apex court has said in its order that police themselves should take action. It goes without saying that public good has prompted the Bench to issue such a direction. However, can any police officer of any state demonstrate an overreach of this nature if the party in power in that state is ambivalent, if not outright supportive, to such crimes.

Another important aspect of the order is the warning issued by the Bench that delay in registering hate speech cases would be treated as contempt of court. This has been necessitated by the reluctance of the police and the administration to take cognisance of glaring instances of incendiary speeches by high profile politicians.

Now that the apex court has put the onus of taking action against perpetrators of hate speech on the police and the state administration, it is expected and hoped that the political standing of the violators would not weigh on the law enforcing agencies. Such directions from the judiciary prove that not all institutions in this country will fall by the way.

WISDOM CORNER

Love is the only reality and it is not a mere sentiment. It is the ultimate truth that lies at the heart of creation.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold.

BOB MARLEY

A dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world.

OSCAR WILDE

WORDSWORTH

Hocus-pocus

Hocus-pocus is nowadays applied to meaningless talk or activity or to anything, speech or action, that's designed to stop you seeing what the politician or salesman is really up to or what's actually happening. *This budget, like so many before it, is an act of deception, a piece of political hocus-pocus designed to make us believe councillors are spending our money wisely (Ottawa Citizen, 31 Jan. 2010).* It comes, of course, from an incantation used by conjurers to suggest that they are evoking some magical spell or mystical force that causes the seemingly impossible to happen. It appeared in the early seventeenth century and was referred to in a number of plays of the period. The first was this, in which a Dutchman, an absurd character called Vangoose, is speaking: *If it goe from de Nature of de ting, it is de more Art; for deare is Art, and deare is Nature; yow sall see. Hochos-pochos, PaucosPalabros (The Masque of Augeres by Ben Jonson, 1622).* A famous appearance is in the title of the first book ever published in English about conjuring, Hocus Pocus Junior, *The Anatomy of Legerdemain*, of 1634, which was popular and went through many editions. In his book *Magic in the Early English Stage of 2005*, Philip Butterworth identifies the previously unknown author of this little book as William Vincent, a famous conjuror of his time, who was appointed as juggler to King James in 1619 and who used the stage name Hocus-Pocus. At this time there was no formal separation between jugglers, rope-dancers, conjurers and other performers, whose acts were summarised as "feats of activity". Vincent did them all and was particularly known for his ability to swallow and regurgitate daggers. A later writer described his act: *I will speak of one man ... that went about in King James his time ... who called himself, The Kings Majesties most excellent Hocus Pocus, and so was called, because that at the playing of every Trick, he used to say, Hocus pocus, tontustalontus, vade celeriterjubeo, a dark composure of words, to blinde the eyes of the beholders, to make his Trick pass the more currantly without discovery (A Candle in the Dark; or, a Treatise Concerning the Nature of Witches and Witchcraft, by Thomas Ady, 1655).* Vincent certainly popularised the term and became identified with it. He may well also have invented it; we have no way of knowing. What is also unknown is where it came from. Many people today believe it originated in a corrupted form of the words of the consecration of the host in the old Latin mass: *hoc est (enim) corpus (meum), "this is my body"*, an idea first aired by John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury between 1691 and 1694. But as this was part of an anti-Catholic sermon, it may be taken with a fair-sized pinch of salt. Another possibility, suggested in current Oxford dictionaries, is the nonsense Latin phrase *hax pax max Deus adimax*. Whatever the source, hocus-pocus was at first a term for jugglers and conjurers as well as a conjuror's incantation. Later in the century it evolved to mean a trick or deception. It may also be the source of another common English word, since some authorities suggest that at the end of the following century its first element was contracted to make *hoax*.

LOL

Breaking into a house

A man went to the police station wishing to speak with the burglar who had broken into his house the night before. "You'll get your chance in the court," said the Desk Officer.

"No, no no!" said the man. "I want to know how he got into the



house without waking my wife. I've been trying to do that for years!"

SPECTRUM MAY DAY

Whither dignity of labour

The dignity of labour is a concept that indicates that all types of jobs are equally important. In other words, dignity of labour means respect and value given to all forms of work. According to Dr Martin Luther King Jr., "No work is insignificant. All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

A decent or living wage is the most important ingredient of the dignity of labour. That dignity is annihilated when one does not get her rightful share. Ensuring decent work and inclusive growth through sustainable wage policies is a widely shared objective across many countries. The Preamble to the International Organisation (ILO) Constitution calls for "the provision of an adequate living wage" and the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 97th Session in June 2008 calls for wage policies that "ensure a just share of the fruits of progress to all, and a minimum living wage to all in need of such protection." But this is an illusion as many labourers are struggling to get minimum wage.

A minimum wage is the lowest amount a worker can be paid hourly determined by law. A living wage is the amount an individual or family would need to make to avoid

living in poverty and afford adequate shelter, food, and other necessities. This amount is usually higher than the minimum wage and is not mandated by law. A fair wage is something that is more than the minimum wage. It is derived as a mean between the minimum wage and the living wage.

What is perturbing is that according to Global Wage Report 2020-21: Wages and Minimum Wages in the Time of COVID-19 published in 2021 by the ILO, Indians are among the most overworked workers globally while earning the lowest minimum statutory wage in the Asia-Pacific region, barring Bangladesh. India ranks fifth among countries with long working hours, often stretching up to 48 hours a week, if not more.

The estimates reveal that an average worker in China works 46 hours a week, 36 hours in the United Kingdom, 37 hours in the United States and 36 hours in Israel. Only Gambia, Mongolia, Maldives and Qatar have average working hours longer than India.

What is distressing is that according to the ILO's Global Wage Report 2022-2023, it was for the first time in this century that real global wage growth has been negative despite the positive increase in nominal wages. The global monthly wages fell in real terms to minus 0.9% in the first half of 2022. Among advanced G20 countries, real wages in the first half of 2022 are esti-

mated to have declined to minus 2.2%, whereas real wages in emerging G20 countries grew by 0.8%, 2.6% less than in 2019.

According to the data of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, in India, the nominal wages rose to ₹17,017 per month in 2021 from ₹4,398 in 2006. But when inflation is factored in the real wage growth in India plunged to minus 0.2% in 2021 from 9.3% in 2006. In China, the growth decreased from 5.6% in 2019 to 2% in 2022.

The ILO says that inflation and a global slowdown in economic growth due to the war in Ukraine and the global energy crisis are causing a "striking fall" in real monthly wages in many countries. Other reasons for falling/stagnant wages since 2008 include the recession – triggering unemployment and downward pressure on wages. The erosion of real wages comes in addition to significant wage losses incurred by workers and their families during the COVID-19 crisis.

However, a waning in trade union membership, enlarged labour markets flexibility with the ability of owners to hire and fire easily, a new gig economy and inadequate bargaining power of workers, and increased inequality with a relatively higher share of GDP growth going to company profit rather than wages are responsible for the decline of real wages

Inflation is also biting into the purchasing power of minimum wages. What is disconcerting is that the rise in nominal wages is not adequate to offset the rise in the cost of living. The cost-of-living crisis has been ranked as the most severe global risk over the short term by the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report 2023. When Indian workers are already among the lowest paid and with highest working hours with no leisure, the government has come up with new labour code that enhance the working hours per day to 12 hours for each of the four days of the week. This may be within the prescribed limit of 48 hours per week but is inhumane and beyond the capacity of workers. This will lead not only to profit maximisation but also to exploitation.

Things look gloomier as more than 91% of Indian workforce belongs to the informal economy with no guaranteed minimum wage or social security. The recent change in labour laws along with the new labour code will not only rob workers' dignity but also create a big pool of servile, obsequious workers who can't raise their voices against injustice and exploitation and misrule of the government. There is an urgent need for well-designed policy measures to maintain the living standards of wage workers and their families.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

ENSURING DECENT WORK AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH SUSTAINABLE WAGE POLICIES IS A WIDELY SHARED OBJECTIVE ACROSS MANY COUNTRIES

Nanomedicine in India

Sir, Nanomedicine refers to the use of nanoscale materials for medical applications such as diagnosis, therapeutics, and drug delivery. Over the last five years, nanomedicine has seen significant growth, particularly in targeted delivery and diagnostics for diseases such as cancer, neurological diseases, and infectious diseases. Nanoparticles can be manipulated to alter physicochemical and functional attributes, making them useful for developing infectious disease therapeutics and vaccines. In addition, nanocarriers can be functionalised via ligands, antibodies, or DNA to increase the efficacy and immunogenicity of drugs and vaccines. Nanomedicine also holds promise in diagnostics, with metal nanoparticles such as gold and silver being widely used for viral diagnostics, while carbon nanomaterials have shown promise in viral and bacterial detection. Nanotechnology-based drug delivery methods are gaining widespread adoption due to their potential to significantly improve the efficacy and safety of therapeutics. This has the potential to transform the way diseases are treated, leading to better patient outcomes and improved quality of life. The nanomedicine market in India is expanding rapidly, with numerous applications in healthcare, consumer items, energy, and the military sector. Several Indian companies and research institutions are actively engaged in the development and commercialisation of nanomedicine products, with significant support from the Indian government.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Second run

Sir, Joe Biden, who took over from Donald Trump in 2020, has had a mixed bag as President. Biden's preparedness during the Afghanistan imbroglio in general and the total US troop withdrawal in particular had little takers in his country. Now, even as Biden has declared he would run for a second stint in the White House, elections for which will be held in November next year, there are mixed opinions. The President's handling of COVID-19 was, by all accounts, satisfactory. He was able to release sufficient funds for the overall infection management. Biden was also successful in boosting his image as a global leader after he galvanised an overall support in favour of Ukraine against Russia. Domestically, the President is wooing the middle class assuring them plenty of jobs. But a section of Americans are not amused by the "eighty year old Biden" who has been found fumbling at times due to attributes relatable to his age.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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Since the process of holding the G20 event has started, the arrest, torture and questioning of youngsters has also begun. People are being called to police stations. Hundreds of youth from south Kashmir have been put in jails

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

UPPING THE ANTE

The Uttar Pradesh IAS Association has also taken strong exception to the Nitish government's move of releasing former MP Anand Mohan Singh, who was convicted in the killing of the then Gopalganj district magistrate G. Krishnaiah in 1994. The association has made a strong appeal to the Bihar government to reconsider the decision in the national interest at the earliest



of the day quote

The state government is realising its resolution of 'Nirogi Rajasthan'

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

Karnataka, after four years of the BJP rule, needs 'Vitamin-P' in which the P stands for performance of the Congress and not polarisation of the BJP

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

The Haryana government is heading in the right direction of public service through maximising the use of digital platforms

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

4 children killed

Sahibganj: Four children were killed in a lightning strike in Jharkhand's Sahibganj district Sunday, police said. The incident happened at Babutola in Radhanagar police station area in the afternoon when the children, in the age group of 9-11, were playing in a mango orchard, they said. "Four children were killed, while one was injured. The injured child is undergoing treatment at a hospital," Superintendent of Police Anuranjan Kispotta said.

Man booked

Guna: A man was booked in Guna in Madhya Pradesh for allegedly giving triple talaq to his estranged wife, a police official said. Triple talaq, also called 'talaq-e-biddat', is a practice by which a man could divorce his wife by pronouncing the word 'talaq' three times without citing any reason for this act. The Supreme Court in 2017 termed triple talaq as violative of Article 14 of the Constitution and the Union government in 2018 brought in the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, which banned the method and stipulates a jail term of three years and fine for anyone practising instant talaq.

Two men die

Nagpur: Two men died during sleep after inhaling smoke caused by a fire in their room located on the premises of a school in Nagpur city of Maharashtra on Sunday, police said. The deceased duo was identified as Aman Tiwari (18) and Akash Rajak (23), both hailing from Seoni in Madhya Pradesh. The incident occurred on Saturday night when the refrigerator in the room caught fire due to a short circuit. The blaze also gutted a sofa set.

Woman arrested

New Delhi: A 38-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly cheating an advocate on the pretext of offering her a travel package for a trip to Gujarat, police said Sunday. The accused, Paulina, is a resident of northwest Delhi's Indira Vikas Colony, they said. Paulina and her husband Ricardo Gomes operated from Delhi and Kolkata, respectively. Gomes has been arrested by Maharashtra Police. The couple has duped many people on the pretext of offering attractive travel packages, they said.

Man dies

Kota (Rajasthan): A 28-year-old man Sunday died while trying to save his wife who had fallen into a pond while bathing in a village in Rajasthan's Bundi district. The deceased has been identified as Kailash Gurjar, a resident of Guda village, SHO (Dabi) Dharmaram said.

SC to hear pleas against sedition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a batch of pleas, including one filed by the Editors Guild, challenging the validity of the colonial era sedition law.

The Centre is expected to apprise the court of the steps taken so far with regard to reviewing the contentious penal provision. On October 31 last year, the top court had extended its May 11 direction putting on hold the sedition law and the consequential registration of FIRs while granting additional time to the government to take "appropriate steps" for reviewing of the provision.

According to the apex court's website, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala has listed as many as 16 petitions challenging the validity of the law for hearing.

The central government, which has to review the provision, on October 31 last year, had told the bench that it is granted some more time as "something may happen in the winter session of Parliament".

Attorney General R Venkataramani had said the issue has been under consideration of authorities concerned and moreover, there is "no reason to worry" in view of the May 11 interim order, which put the use of the provision on hold.

"Mr R Venkataramani, the attorney general, submits that in terms of the directions issued by this court in order dated May 11, 2022, the matter is still engaging the attention of the relevant authorities. He submits that some addi-



tional time be granted so that appropriate steps can be taken by the government," the bench had said.

"In view of the interim directions issued by this court...Dated May 11, 2022, every interest and concern stand protected and as such there would be no prejudice to anyone. At his request, we adjourn the matter to the second week of January 2023," it had said.

In response to a query on whether the government had issued any communication to states on the penal provision, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had said the directions in consonance with the apex court's order have been sent to the chief secretaries of states

In the landmark order passed on May 11, the court had put the contentious law on hold till the Centre completed its promised review of the colonial relic and also asked the Union and state governments not to register any fresh case invoking the offence. It had also directed that the ongoing probes, pending trials and all proceedings under the sedition law will be kept in abeyance across the country and those in jail on sedition charges could approach the court for bail.

KCR inaugurates new Secretariat building

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, April 30: The new Secretariat of Telangana has been named after B R Ambedkar with the intention that people's representatives and the entire government machinery should work to realise the ideals of the Architect of the Indian Constitution, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said Sunday.

Rao inaugurated the new Secretariat complex, which stands 265 feet tall and is spread over an area of 10, 51,676 square feet in a sprawling of 28 acres of land here. Speaking after the inauguration, the Chief Minister said he considered it the opportunity of a lifetime to have inaugurated this "magnificent secretariat complex".

"In order to take forward his (BR Ambedkar) ideals, to make all the employees and ministers who regularly come to the Secretariat to remember his name and keep his message in mind while working, we named our Secretariat, the epicenter of the State administration after BR Ambedkar," Rao said. He further said that the Telangana agitation for a separate state had been peaceful following Gandhian ideology, and statehood was achieved due to Ambedkar's vision of enshrining Article 3 in the Constitution.

Slamming his detractors, KCR said rebuilding of Telangana does not mean that old structures will be demolished and new edifices will be erected.



The new Telangana Secretariat building, on the day of its scheduled inauguration in Hyderabad, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Assam to offer voluntary retirement to 300 cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, April 30: About 300 officers of Assam Police, who are "habitual drinkers", will be offered voluntary retirement, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Sunday.

The process has already begun and new recruitment will take place to fill the vacancies, he said. "About 300 officers and jawans are

habitual drinkers, and consumption of too much alcohol has damaged their bodies. The government has a provision of voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for them.

"It is an old rule, but we had not implemented it earlier," Sarma, who also holds the home portfolio, told reporters on the sidelines of a programme.

The chief minister said he is also working on decentralisation



of governance, and has set in motion the process for opening of offices with powers that were pre-

viously vested with the deputy commissioners' office in all 126 legislative assembly constituency areas. "We are trying to ensure people don't have to travel to the district headquarters for work at the DC's office, and that the DC's office is available in every LAC area. "The DCs will look after law and order, and they will be given different responsibilities," Sarma added.

K'taka's Korati-Kolhar curd hub facing fodder shortage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vijayapura (Karnataka), April 30: Dairy farmers in Kolhar taluk here were thrilled when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during an election campaign, tasted the famous 'Korati-Kolhar curd' they produced, but are unsure of how long they can continue their livelihood of buffalo rearing as they are facing acute fodder shortage.

The Prime Minister was in Vijayapura district of Karnataka on Saturday for campaigning ahead of polls on May 10. 'Korati-Kolhar curd', which is made from buffalo milk and solidified in a specially-made earthen pot, is popular in Karnataka for its unique taste and thickness. This curd has been sold in Kolhar for over a decade now and

it is tastier and cheaper than the modern, processed ones.

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, national leaders like B C Khanduri, Buta Singh and most recently J P Nadda and Rajnath Singh have tasted this curd. No wonder, tourists on the Hubli-Humnabad National Highway-218 stop here to get a taste of the homemade curd sold in earthen pots.

"A local leader asked me to supply Korati-Kolhar curd that will be served as one of the items as part of northern Karnataka cuisine to the Prime Minister. I supplied 60 small earthen pots of curd, which was tested in the lab before serving it to the PM," curd outlet owner Rajashekar Mallikarjun Guddadur said.



A fourth generation member running a curd shop on NH-218, Guddadur says he was "very happy" when the curd from his outlet was

tasted by the Prime Minister. Given its rising popularity, Guddadur said there is a huge demand for this special curd on NH-218 itself

but laments that the supply has not been enough. The reason for the shortage being dairy growers in the village finding it difficult to scale up curd making due to lower milk production in Kolhar town.

"For a buffalo to give good quality and quantity of milk, the fodder is the key. Dairy growers are finding it hard to get quality fodder for their buffaloes and therefore not rearing more animals," said Guddadur, who sells about 500 pots a day at his shop.

What goes into this curd that makes it delicious is nothing but nutritious fodder that buffaloes eat and that helps give good quality milk with which curd is made.

"Earlier, we used to feed residues of some locally grown pulses and maize crops. There used to be

enough open fields for grazing. Now, all this has been reduced. Farmers are only growing commercial crops like sugarcane leaving no space for livestock grazing. This has created a fodder shortage here," said dairy farmer Hanumantha Nyamagonda.

Nyamagonda used to rear 10 buffaloes a few years back and now has only four such animals due to difficulty in arranging good quality fodder from faraway places. Parushuram Gani, a dairy farmer-cum-local journalist, said the place used to be an arid area till the availability of backwater from the Allamatti dam and implementation of irrigation projects. This encouraged farmers to go for sugarcane and other commercial crops here, creating fodder problems.

Raj Bhawans to celebrate statehood days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Around 30 Raj Bhawans (governors' residences) will hold programmes to mark the statehood day of Maharashtra and Gujarat on Monday in what is a new initiative as part of the government's thrust on celebrating the country's cultural diversity and different traditions.

Official sources said different Raj Bhawans will host people of Maharashtra and Gujarat origins living in the respective state and also organise different programmes to highlight the cultural riches and cuisines of the two western states. Traditional attires associated with the two states will be a feature of these programmes.

Raj Bhawans which will be holding events on Monday include the ones in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Assam and Uttarakhand. Similar celebrations will be held on the formation days of other states as well, the sources said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they noted, has regularly stressed on the celebration of every state's heritage and traditions as part of his 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' initiative. Be it attending traditional festivals associated with different states or the force behind events like Kashi-Tamil Samagam, he has stressed on making people in different parts of the country aware of the traditions and culture of other regions and celebrating them.

Youth ends life over excess salt in food

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, April 30: A youth ended his life after he was reportedly served food with excess salt in his house. The youth had an argument with his family members and shot himself on Saturday night.

The youth, identified as Puran Shanker Dubey, 22, of Neelmatha area was suffering from piles and avoided food with too much salt and spice. On Saturday night, he came home drunk and kicked up a row after tasting food that had excess salt.



His family members shouted back at him for making a fuss, said the police. His father Uma Shanker, a priest at a temple in the locality, said "Puran went inside his room and shot himself. After hearing the gunshot, we found Puran lying in his blood and rushed him to the trauma centre of KGMU where he died during treatment."

He said Puran had a gunshot wound on his chest. He failed to explain how and from where Puran got the country-made pistol.

Puran's elder brother is under treatment at a drug rehabilitation centre. "The family did not accuse anyone for the incident. We are investigating where Puran got the country-made pistol from," said SHO, Cantonment, Raj Kumar.

Space in Kuno National Park 'inadequate' for cheetahs: Ex-WII dean

According to some experts, a cheetah needs about 100 square kilometre area for its movement. The KNP is spread over an area of 748 sq km and has a buffer zone of 487 sq km



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, April 30: Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP), which has seen the death of two cheetahs in less than a month, has "inadequate space" for these felines brought from Africa, a former official of the Wildlife Institute of India has claimed.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which is overseeing the ambitious cheetah reintroduction project in the country, has called a meeting in New Delhi on Monday in the wake of the death of two cheetahs out of the 20 felines translocated to KNP from Namibia and South Africa over the last eight months, an official said.

The Wildlife Institute of India's (WII) former dean Yadvendradev Vikramsinh Jhala, who was part of the cheetah project in the past, told PTI that KNP has "inadequate space" for these animals.

"A 750 sq km area alone is not sufficient... We have to make (more than one) cheetah populations and manage it like a metapopulation where you move animals from one place to another. It is very essential to establish a second, third population," he said.

"Kuno is a protected area, but the landscape in which cheetahs can live in Kuno is spread over 5,000 sq km, which includes agricultural parts, forested habitats, communities living within the area," he said. If the cheetahs adapt to this environment, he will be able to thrive in the KNP, he said.

"So, it all depends on how we manage the communities, ecotourism, giving them incentives, making sure that (human-animal) conflict levels are appropriately compensated if there are any," Jhala said. Asked about the population (theory), he said KNP is one site, Mukundara Hills Tiger

■ The cheetahs from the two African nations have been brought to India under the ambitious inter-continental translocation programme to revive their population in country seven decades after they became extinct

■ The country's last cheetah died in Koriya district of present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947 and the species was declared extinct in 1952

Reserve (in Rajasthan) is one site, Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary in MP are two other sites. "Each of these sites in itself is not viable. To shift one or three cheetahs after one, two generations from here to there is called metapopulation management so that there is genetic exchange. This is an important exercise. Without this, we can't manage cheetahs in our country," he said.

"Without this, we can't have viability in the long run," Jhala added. One of the eight Namibian cheetahs brought to KNP, Sasha, aged more than four-and-a-half-years, died of a kidney ailment at the park on March 27.

The KNP witnessed a second cheetah fatality in less than a month as a six-year-old male feline named Uday, translocated from South Africa in February, died April 23. Another cheetah, named Siyaya, recently gave birth to four cubs in KNP.

Besides, cheetah Pavan, has strayed out of the KNP multiple times, while cheetah Asha has wandered out of the park twice. Earlier this month, the MP forest department wrote a letter to the NTCA seeking an "alternate site" for the translocated cheetahs.

Woman alive, but declared 'dead' for pension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, April 30: Eighty-five-year-old Gattu Devi who lives in a village in Rajasthan's Ajmer district with her family was in for a shock when she learnt that her widow pension was stopped by the government declaring that she was dead.

A resident of Banjari village under Todgarh tehsil, the grandmother of three received her last pension of ₹1,500 in February 2022, which too she discovered recently.

"We did not check the account as we thought the pension was being deposited regularly for the past many years. I went to the panchayat samiti and realised that my mother was declared dead and pension was stopped in February last year," Chunnilal Regar, Gattu Devi's son said.

The authorities of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have initiated an inquiry to ascertain the loophole that led to the mistake. In the meantime, the department has verified Gattu Devi's identity and said her pension along with the arrears will be released next month. According to officials, the octogenarian was declared dead by the panchayat samiti without verification.

To declare someone dead, the



■ After learning about the case, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Department Tika Ram Jolly instructed to take necessary steps and start the pension immediately

■ The inquiry revealed that the verification was pending due to an amendment in Jan Aadhar Card (ID for the citizens of Rajasthan) by the pensioners in April 2023

■ The Jan Aadhar team has been asked to complete the verification work at the earliest

After which, the department has activated the pension account and from next month, the pension will be resumed

panchayat requires a death certificate without which it is impossible to update the system. However, my mother's name was not even present in the list of dead persons, said Regar.

Gattu Devi, accompanied by her son, also visited the e-Mitra centre for biometric identification with a fractured leg, but to no avail.

BJP connects with women, docs, engineers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, April 30: The BJP, which was voted out of power in Rajasthan in the last election by a mere 0.5 percent vote margin by the Congress, has prepared a 'foolproof' plan to win the elections this time.

The party, sources said, is working on the policy of voter connect. Party leaders said that the BJP will run different campaigns till the elections.

Social campaign

Under this campaign, BJP teams will contact such organizations which exist at the social level. In this, all small to big organizations will be focused on. BJP leaders say that there are many social organizations which do not have much connectivity politically.

Mahila Pravasi Abhiyan

The purpose of this campaign is to completely focus on women voters. Information will be given about the schemes of the central government related to women. Women beneficiaries will be continuously contacted. Women will be linked to the party by door-to-door contact.

After 2019, the BJP is completely focused on voters who have com-



RAJ POLLS

pleted 18 years of age. For this, a new voter contact campaign is being run.

The BJP is trying to bring newly added voters in its side. They will be kept connected continuously and contacted repeatedly before the assembly elections. The BJP also plans to strengthen its grip on youth voters by holding new voter conferences at the booth and mandal levels.

Vistarak Abhiyan

In all the assembly constituencies, such leaders are being deployed as Vistaraks who can work full time for the party. As Vistaraks, these leaders will remain in the

respective assembly constituencies first till the assembly elections and then till the Lok Sabha elections. Vistaraks have been given the responsibility of implementing the programs received from the party headquarters in the assembly area along with the verification of the teams from the booth committee to the mandal level. Along with this, the organization has been given the task of preparing reports giving constant updates about the political and social equations of the region.

Beneficiary Contact Campaign In this campaign, a list of beneficiaries availing benefits from

Till the elections, different campaigns will be run by the BJP in Rajasthan for voter

In the election-related programs that are being made at the organization level, the main focus is on reaching out to the voters and connecting them with the BJP

connect Professionals like doctors, engineers and CAs will be connected with the party, then for the first time 1000 women will be sent to other areas to connect with women voters

the schemes of the Modi government is being made. By contacting the beneficiaries door-to-door, they will be told that the Modi government at the Centre is giving you this benefit. The BJP has formed separate teams to contact male and female beneficiaries. Contact with such influential people who can influence 50 to 100 voters. This includes influential people associated with big institutions, people associated with the social, business sectors and operators of organizations like NGOs. The BJP is trying to contact influential people and convert such voters, who have not

yet joined the party, towards them.

Enlightened mass conference. A strategy has been chalked out for different conferences of people associated with professions like lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers, chartered accountants to connect them with the party. The BJP is already active to connect the enlightened class. In order to focus on this class, an enlightened public cell has also been constituted in the party at the state level, through which continuous efforts are being made to make inroads in these classes.

Special Contact Campaign

The BJP is working on a strategy to get support by contacting those who are not voters of the party. Through a special contact campaign among such people, the BJP will make inroads. With a special focus on women, this time the BJP has started work on a Mahila Pravasi Yojana for the first time. 1000 women in the age group of 18 to 50 years will be fielded for this. Such women are being selected who can leave their area and give time to the party in another area. These women will go to different assembly constituencies and work to connect women voters with the BJP.

MP police get tough on modified vehicle silencers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 30: The Madhya Pradesh government has implemented the rules of Section 182 A (3) of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, according to which, manufacturing and sale of modified silencers for vehicles will be a punishable offence now.

As per the police, the first of its kind rules have been introduced in Madhya Pradesh aiming to prohibit the sale of components or parts of vehicles that can harm the human health and violate the traffic laws. The violation of the rules will amount to the imprisonment of one year along with a heavy fine up to ₹one lakh.

With the implementation of the rules, police have also begun search operations of the vehicles' components manufacturing units, garages and car decorators, and the shops selling modified vehicle silencers across the state. The first such search operation was carried out in Bhopal a couple days ago, during which car decorators for modified silencers were confiscated. Following which, a Bhopal district court dealing with cases related to Motor Vehicles Act, imposed a fine of ₹one lakh against a shop owner for selling the silencers.

Anurag Sharma, Additional Commissioner of Police (traffic/crime) of Bhopal said the implementation of Section 182 A (3) of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 has become the need of hour in order to put a ban on manufacturing and selling of the vehicle components that are



categorised as contravention of the provisions of the traffic norms.

"Generally, the police will impose a fine on the vehicle owners for using modified silencers or other components, whereas, the manufacturers and sellers of such components are equally responsible. Now, they would also be held responsible and the violators would have to face punitive actions, including imposition of heavy fine," Sharma told IANS.

Sharma also made it clear that the amount of fine against violation of norms would be decided by the court, and not by the police. "It will have an impact as the people will avoid using modified silencers or the other contravention components in their vehicles," Sharma added. Besides this, the

The violation of the rules will amount to the imprisonment of one year along with a heavy fine up to Rs one lakh

Madhya Pradesh Police have also taken several initiatives to spread awareness, and programmes are being organised involving the local people across the state. The Commissioner of Police (CP) Bhopal,

Harinarayanachari Mishra recently flagged off a 'Yatayat Mitra Yojna', an initiative of the state Home Department which involves local citizens. The Madhya Pradesh High Court has repeatedly slammed the state government and police over growing cases of traffic violations, especially in big cities of the state.

Last month, a petition pointed out that the amended Motor Vehicle Act has not been implemented in the state, the government had then submitted that the amended rules would be implemented in the state within 45 days.

MP SHOCKER Infant dies while waiting for ambulance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 30: A six-month-old infant has died due to the unavailability of an ambulance in the Datia district of Madhya Pradesh.

The death of a severely ill infant in the lap of his helpless mother at a community health centre (CHC) allegedly due to unavailability of ambulance has exposed the condition of public health services once again in Madhya Pradesh.

According to reports, a Scheduled Caste woman Renu Jatav, a resident of Baderi village, rushed her child to the Indergarh CHC at 11 a.m. Thursday.

As the infant was suffering from acute pneumonic symptoms, the doctors present at the CHC referred the child to the Datia district hospital after preliminary treatment.

The helpless mother kept waiting for '108 Ambulance' for more than three hours despite the doctors repeatedly making phone calls.

It was more shocking that there were two ambulances (funded out of the MLA Local Area Development Fund) parked at the CHC, but their services weren't reportedly provided to the hapless mother, as she couldn't afford to pay the bill.

After repeated phone calls, 108 ambulance arrived after three hours, but till then the child had died in her mother's lap. Renu, the mother of the deceased child, blamed the inadequate treatment at the CHC and delay in ambulance behind her child's death.



The death of a severely ill infant in the lap of his helpless mother at a community health centre (CHC) allegedly due to unavailability of ambulance has exposed the condition of public health services once again in Madhya Pradesh

Taking cognisance of the matter, a team headed by the SDM, district's Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), local police station in-charge and tehsildar was sent by Datia District Collector to the Indergarh CHC Friday to investigate the entire incident.

MP POLLS Corona is the latest political abuse

THE EFFECT OF COVID HAS ALSO STARTED SHOWING IN POLITICS. MANY LEADERS ARE CONNECTING EACH OTHER TO COVID

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 30: With elections in Madhya Pradesh just a few months away, the political temperature has started rising slowly in the state. The statements of the leaders are also increasing. Now a new remark 'coronavirus' has entered the political field for targeting each other.

Elections in the BJP-ruled state are scheduled to be held by the end of this year. The effect of Covid has also started showing in politics. Many leaders are connecting each other to Covid. Madhya Pradesh politics heated up again as the BJP and the Congress engaged in a war of words over Digvijaya Singh's recent 'Covid' remark. State Water Resources Minister Talsi Ram Silawat took a jibe at the former CM



and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh over his remark "Hey Mahakal, a second Jyotiraditya Scindia should not be born in the Congress." Silawat said Digvijaya Singh is the coronavirus of the Congress, adding that Singh should be born in China in his next life.

Responding to Silawat's statement, Singh said, "Yes, I am a coronavirus for the BJP and the Sangh." Slamming the Congress leader for claiming that he is a coronavirus for the BJP and the RSS, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath have done more harm to Madhya Pradesh than what coronavirus did to the state."

As the elections approach, there is a flood of political statements and the attacks are also intensifying.

Political analysts say that both the political parties are talking more on such topics instead of serious issues.

Free smartphones to 40L women on Raksha Bandhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Apr 30: The Rajasthan government will give free smartphones with three years of internet pack to 40 lakh women on the festival of Raksha Bandhan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced Friday.

The festival will be celebrated in August-end. "In the Chiranjeevi scheme, we have made all women the head (of the family). 1.35 crore women have become the head of the household. These women will get a smartphone along with three years of free internet," Gehlot said while addressing the people after visiting the price relief camp in Rawatsar town of Hanumangarh.

"We have decided that on Raksha Bandhan, 40 lakh smartphones will be given to women in Rajasthan," he added. The Chief Minister in his 2022 budget speech had announced that women heads of Chiranjeevi families will be given smartphones with internet access for three years. Under the Mukhyamantri Digital Seva Yojana, smartphones were to be given to about 1.35 crore women. However, the scheme could be implemented as phones in such large numbers could not be procured on time.

of the day quote

Politics has heated up here due to the BSP giving a proper representation to the Muslim community in the elections for the mayors' posts in 17 municipal corporations. Casteist and communal parties are having sleepless nights due to this

Tripura government has set up a Special Task Force to deal with organised criminal groups, crime syndicates, and extortion gangs in the state

This government is constantly striving to raise the standard of education by providing the maximum support to educational institutions

SHORT TAKES

Bhuj official suspended

Bhuj: The chief officer of Bhuj municipality in Kutch district in Gujarat was placed under suspension with immediate effect for dozing off during a function attended by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Jigar Patel was suspended by the state's Urban Development and Urban Housing Department on Saturday evening, hours after cameras caught him sleeping at the Bhuj function, an official said Sunday.

CBI arrests cop

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested an assistant sub-inspector of the Delhi police for allegedly taking bribe from a person in the Indrapur area on behalf of an inspector posted at Rajouri Garden police station, officials said Sunday. Trilochan Dutt, the ASI, was arrested while he was accepting the bribe, they said. The CBI had registered an FIR against Inspector Narendra Kumar Pahalwan of the Special Staff, Rajouri Garden police station, and unidentified others for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a JJ Colony resident Parmeet Singh, the officials said.

Four drown

Kanpur (UP): Four students drowned while taking a bath in a pond in the Narwal tehsil of this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Sunday. Saksham (15), Abhay Savita (14), Krishna (13) and Divyansh Awasthi (12) fell into the deep waters of the pond and drowned on Saturday, they said. Saksham and Abhay were both high school students, Krishna was in Class 7 and Divyansh was studying in Class 6, the police added.

Cop found dead

Motihari: A 49-year-old police constable was found dead with a bullet wound on his head in Bihar's East Champaran district, officials said Sunday. Shambhu Kumar, a resident of Nalanda district, was found dead in his barrack at the district police lines in Motihari on Saturday night, they said. "Police recovered his service revolver from the spot," said Vishwamohan Choudhary, the sub-inspector of the City police station.

Four arrested

Surat: Four persons were arrested allegedly with 7.15 kilograms of gold worth Rs 4.3 crore near the airport in Surat in Gujarat, an official said Sunday. The gold was brought illegally onboard a flight from Dubai and the four were held on a tip-off on Saturday night after a car was intercepted, a release from the Surat police's special operations group said.



Over 20 lakh people are sitting at home due to non-implementation of MGNREGA as the Centre is not providing funds. I went to the Union minister concerned in Delhi along with party MPs over the issue but he did not meet

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC LEADER

MAN STABBED

A 22-year-old youth was stabbed by two persons after he denied them cigarettes in North East Delhi's Nand Nagri area. The police said the incident took place April 28, at around 11:15 p.m. near E-3 Block Nand Nagri Park



229 Indians return from Sudan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: India brought home another batch of 229 people Sunday under its mission to evacuate stranded Indians from violence-hit Sudan.

The fresh batch of evacuees arrived in Bengaluru, a day after 365 people returned from the African country to Delhi. "#OperationKaveri One more flight brings back 229 passengers to Bengaluru," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar wrote on Twitter.

Under the evacuation mission, 754 people arrived in India in two batches on Friday. The total number of Indians who have been brought back home from Sudan now stands at 1,954, according to official data.

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

The second batch of 246 Indian

evacuees arrived in Mumbai in a C17 Globemaster aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday Under "Operation Kaveri", India has been taking its citizens in buses from the conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to Jeddah in the IAF's heavy-lift transport aircraft and the Indian Navy's ships.

From Jeddah, the Indians are being brought back home in either commercial flight or IAF's aircraft. India has set up separate control rooms in Jeddah and Port Sudan, and the Indian embassy in Khartoum has been coordinating with them, besides being in touch with the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in Delhi.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's army and a paramilitary group that has reportedly left around 400 people dead. Jaishankar announced the launch of "Operation Kaveri" on Monday to bring back stranded Indians from the African country.



Lt. Governor VK Saxena inspects and reviews Phase 1 of the HLC monitored Yamuna Rejuvenation Project in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

DGCA issues show cause notice to AI CEO



A CABIN CREW MEMBER OF THE FLIGHT HAD FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION ABOUT THE PILOT ALLOWING A FEMALE FRIEND INTO THE COCKPIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, April 30: Aviation regulator DGCA has issued a show cause notice to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson for the airline's lapses in reporting about the incident of a pilot allowing a female friend inside the cockpit during a Dubai-Delhi flight on February 27, according to a senior official.

A show cause notice has also been issued to the Tata Group-owned airline's Head of Safety, Security and Quality Functions Henry Donohoe.

A cabin crew member of the flight had filed a complaint with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) about the pilot allowing a female friend into the cockpit. The incident happened on February 27. The show-cause no-

nces were issued to the Air India CEO and the head of flight safety on April 21 for not doing timely reporting of the incident to DGCA, which is in violation of the regulator's safety instructions, the senior official at the DGCA told PTI on Sunday.

Besides, there was a delay in investigating the incident. Both the executives have been given 15 days to respond to the show-cause notices, the official said. There was no immediate comment from Air India. According to sources, "the actual incident occurred on February 27 and it was reported by confidential mail to Campbell and Donohoe on March 3. The first enquiry was conducted by the DGCA on April 21 while Air India had not done any enquiry before that."

Earlier this month, DGCA directed Air India to derooster the entire crew of the Dubai-Delhi flight till investigations were complete.

On April 21, the airline said it had taken serious note of the reported incident and that investigations were underway. Unauthorised people are not allowed to enter the cockpit and any such entry could be a violation of norms.

It may be recalled that earlier this year Air India was slapped with a fine of Rs 30 lakh and Rs 10 lakh for not reporting two back-to-back incidents of alleged peeing on its international flights.

WFI chief thanks Akhilesh for not backing protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gonda (UP), April 30: Wrestling Federation of India Chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing sexual harassment allegations and protest by a section of top wrestlers, Sunday alleged that Congress leader Deepender Hooda hatched the conspiracy against him and praised SP chief Akhilesh Yadav for not supporting the agitators.

Singh, who is also a BJP MP, alleged that Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist grappler Bajrang Punia was also involved in the conspiracy against him. The WFI chief is in the eye of a storm after the grapplers levelled sexual harassment charges against him and demanded his arrest as well as ouster from the Wrestling Federation of India. Various political parties, including the Congress and AAP, have lent their support to the wrestlers.

Singh, who has till now remained defiant about not quitting his post, said that he was ready to resign if it would make the protesters go back home. "If they go back and sleep peacefully after my resignation, I am ready to do so."

Interacting with reporters at his residence in Bishnoharpur, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh alleged that "this whole conspiracy



was hatched by Congress leader Deepender Hooda and wrestler Bajrang Punia. We have an audio (clip) to prove this. When the time comes, it will be handed over to the Delhi Police."

About political leaders visiting the protest site of wrestlers in Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the WFI president said, "The fight has now gone out of the hands of the players. Political parties have entered into this. I could see the signs from day one."

The WFI president said, "I want to thank the leader of the Samajwadi Party Akhilesh Yadav (for not siding with the protesting wrestlers). I know him since his

childhood. I am elder to him. Though there are political differences between us, Akhilesh knows the truth." "If there are 10,000 wrestlers in Uttar Pradesh, 8,000 of them are from the Yadav community and belong to the Samajwadi family. Hence they know the truth," he said.

The Delhi Police on Friday registered two FIRs against Singh on allegations of sexual harassment levelled by seven women wrestlers.

While the first FIR pertained to allegations of a minor wrestler and was registered under the POCSO Act, the second was related to outraging modesty.

Building collapse: Toll rises to six

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, April 30: The toll in the collapse of a two-storey building in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district reached six on Sunday after the body of a 40-year-old man was recovered from the debris, officials said.

The owner of the ill-fated building in Wardhaman Compound in Valpada in Mankoli has been detained, officials added.

The building, which housed godowns on the ground and first floors and four families on the top floor, collapsed into a heap of concrete at 1:45pm on Saturday.

Several people are still feared trapped and work of clearing the debris as part of the search and rescue operation helmed by the National Disaster Response Force, the State Disaster Response Force, fire brigade and civic teams continued, Thane Municipal Corporation regional disaster management cell chief Avinash Sawant said.

"Three bodies have been recovered since Sunday morning. They have been identified as Sudhakar Gavai, 22-year-old Pravin Chaudhary and Triveni Yadav (40), whose body was found in the evening," Sawant said.

Earlier, one person named Sunil Pise (38) was rescued at around 8 am on Sunday from the debris and rushed to IGM Hospital in Bhiwandi, Narpoli police station's senior inspector Madan Ballal said.



Labourers work at an agricultural produce market committee yard in Raichur

PTI PHOTO



Cabinet reshuffle soon

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi setting an ambitious plan before the BJP leadership to win at least 360 Lok Sabha seats in May 2024 parliamentary polls, the first signal of an impending Cabinet reshuffle will be witnessed after the outcome of Karnataka Assembly polls. The victory of Karnataka is crucial for the BJP as Modi plans to celebrate nine years of his government in May-end. If the party fails to retain the state, the contours of the Cabinet reshuffle will be entirely different.

The BJP leadership will have to take care of its regional satraps in states who are replaced at will. The Modi government is also waiting for the outcome of the Supreme Court judgment relating to the Eknath Shinde faction of MLAs on defections on a piecemeal basis. If the NCP joins the Modi government, their MPs may be accommodated in the Cabinet. There is a likelihood that Cabinet reshuffle may take place only after the celebrations of Modi's nine years in office.

Modi on Indira Gandhi's footsteps

Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to be following the path of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi when it comes to dealing with the Opposition parties who are ganging up against him. Though most of these national or regional parties are bitterly opposed to the Congress, they are trying hard to forge a workable unity before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Indira Gandhi also got rid of the majority of senior leaders who were part of the

syndicate. Modi has also drawn a leaf out of late Indira Gandhi's book. He has declared a war against all Opposition parties saying, I want to remove corruption from the country and these Opposition parties are ganging up to remove me. Insiders in the BJP say that Modi is pushing the Opposition parties to join hands as he wants to fight 2024 Lok Sabha polls on the corruption plank. He has also prodded the CBI, ED and other agencies that there should be no let up in the war against corruption. It may be interesting to mention here that Modi never named Indira Gandhi in his election rallies or otherwise. But he bitterly attacks Nehru, Rajiv and others.

Kharge's winning formula for Karnataka

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has devised a completely new strategy to win Karnataka Assembly polls due in May. His experiment has shown how experience matters and state Congress leadership is pleased with his strategy.

When Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala was given the charge of Karnataka polls, Kharge told him that he will have to be stationed in Bangalore and will return to Delhi only after the process is complete. He packed his bags and was stationed there for nearly two months. Kharge identified that there are as many as 60 seats out of 224 that the Congress lost by a margin of about 2,000 votes. Kharge decided to deploy 60 observers, one each in these 60 seats who came from all over India and familiar with the state and experienced ones. Mallikarjun Kharge met all these 60 leaders personally and gave his mantra to win these seats.

A classic handling by Delhi Police

Satyapal Malik learnt the power of IPC Section 144 rather the hard way. After falling out, he has been launching blistering attacks on PM Modi personally and his government's handling of sensitive issues. He is staying in a South Delhi house and trying to find his feet in

the Opposition space to play some role in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. On April 22, he invited Khap Panchayat leaders to his residence. He held the meeting with them in a nearby park. Those watching Malik's activities after he fell out with Modi, alerted the RK Puram police station and all hell broke. The local police were scared to act without permission from the top and within minutes ordered to take action. But the gathering was peaceful and there was no slogan shouting against the government in the park. A wiser person monitoring the situation told the Police to impose IPC's Section 144 in the minuscule area inside and outside the park only in order to maintain peace in the residential area. An SDM declared the gathering unlawful and told them to leave the venue immediately. They were told that since no prior permission was taken, the meeting is illegal. When Malik went to protest along with his supporters against the police action at the RK Puram station, he was told about the Section 144 under which action was taken. Malik is learning the hard way to live with the new reality glaring at him.



The US and Republic of Korea alliance wasn't born out of shared borders, but shared beliefs: Democracy, liberty, security, and above all - freedom
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

UZBEKISTAN VOTES

Voters in Uzbekistan, the most populous former Soviet Central Asian republic, cast ballots Sunday in a referendum on a revised constitution that promises human rights reforms but that also would allow the country's President to stay in office until 2040



of the day quote

In many ways, the story of Mann Ki Baat is the story of the last nine years, is the story of changing India. It is the emergence of a 'New India', it is the connection between India and the world - that this is today a different India, a more aware India, in many ways, I would say a more aspirational India which is connecting to the world



S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

Africa deserves compensation for the losses that climate change has wrought on our economies. We should be assisted to re-engineer green growth



WILLIAM RUTO | KENYAN PRESIDENT

The expansion of cooperation between Iran and Iraq and the implementation of previously signed bilateral agreements serve the common interests of both sides



ALI KHAMENEI | IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Shooting kills 2 in Seattle park

Seattle: Two men were killed and a third person was wounded during a shooting in a Seattle park Saturday night, police said. Police responded to a report of a shooting at Cal Anderson Park around 10:30 p.m., the Seattle Police Department said.

Military raid kills 7 rebels

Manila: Seven suspected left-wing rebels were Sunday killed in a raid by the military in the Philippines. Army Captain Jefferson Mariano said the troops assaulted a New People's Army (NPA) hideout in Northern Samar province after villagers reported the rebels' presence there.

President Paudel returns to Nepal

Kathmandu: President Ramchandra Paudel returned to Nepal Sunday night as his health improved following his successful treatment for a chest-related ailment at a hospital in New Delhi. Paudel, 78, was airlifted to India April 19 for treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS), New Delhi, after he complained of shortness of breath. He returned to Kathmandu on board the Nepal Airlines' regular flight after being discharged from the hospital following his "successful" treatment.

Small plane crashes, 1 killed

Los Angeles: One person was killed after a small plane crashed in a mountainous area here in Los Angeles, authorities said. The incident was reported about 8:09 p.m. local time (0309 GMT on Sunday), according to the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). Air Traffic Control asked the LAFD to check a large swath of mountainous territory in the area after they reportedly lost radar contact with the small single-engine airplane believed to be travelling between two Los Angeles-area airports - Santa Monica Airport and Van Nuys Airport.

British-Indian jailed

London: An Indian-origin crime boss, who conspired to buy and supply Class A drugs and guns on an encrypted communications platform, has been jailed for more than eight years, UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) said. Officers found that Raj Singh, 45, of Surrey in south east England worked with Waqas Iqbal, 41, to buy and sell Class A drugs and firearms.

Emergency aid supplies reach Sudan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, April 30: An aircraft carrying eight tons of emergency medical aid landed Sunday in Sudan to resupply hospitals devastated by more than two weeks of fighting between forces loyal to rival generals.

More than two-thirds of hospitals in areas with active fighting are out of service, a national doctors' association has said, citing a shortage of medical supplies, health workers, water and electricity.

On Sunday, the aircraft carrying medical aid took off from Jordan and landed in the city of Port Sudan, said the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The supplies, including anaesthetics, dressings, sutures and other surgical material, are enough to treat more than 1,000 people wounded in the conflict, the ICRC said.

"The hope is to get this material to some of the most critically busy hospitals in the capital" of Khartoum and other hot spots, said Patrick Youssef, ICRC's regional director for Africa.

The Sudan Doctors' Syndicate, which monitors casualties, said Sunday that over the past two weeks, 425 civilians were killed and 2,091 wounded.

The Sudanese Health Ministry Saturday put the overall death toll, including fighters, at 528, with 4,500 wounded.



The supplies are enough to treat hundreds of wounded, as the civilian death toll from the countrywide violence topped 400

The conflict erupted April 15 between the nation's army and its paramilitary force, and threatens to thrust Sudan into a raging civil war

Some of the deadliest battles have raged around Khartoum. The fighting pits the army chief, Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, against Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the head of a paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces.

The generals, both with powerful foreign backers, were allies in an October 2021 military coup that halted Sudan's fitful transition to democracy, but they have since turned on each other.

Ordinary Sudanese have been caught in the crossfire. Tens of thousands have fled to neighbouring countries, including Chad and

Egypt, while others remain pinned down with dwindling supplies. Thousands of foreigners have been evacuated in airlifts and land convoys.

On Sunday, fighting continued in different parts of the capital where residents hiding in their homes reported hearing artillery fire.

There have been lulls in fighting, but never a fully observed cease-fire, despite repeated attempts by international mediators.

Over the weekend, residents reported that shops were reopening and normalcy gradually returning in some areas of Khartoum as

the scale of fighting dwindled after yet another shaky truce. But in other areas, terrified residents reported explosions thundering around them and fighters ransacking houses.

Youssef, the ICRC official, said the agency has been in contact with the top command of both sides to ensure that medical assistance could reach hospitals safely.

"With this news today, we are really hoping that this becomes part of a steady coordination mechanism to allow other flights to come in," he said.

Youssef said more medical aid was ready to be flown into Khartoum pending necessary clearances and security guarantees.

Sudan's healthcare system is near collapse with dozens of hospitals out of service. Multiple aid agencies have had to suspend operations and evacuate employees.

On Sunday, a US warship also arrived to Port Sudan to evacuate more American citizens, according to footage from the Saudi-owned al-Arabiya TV channel.

Most of the estimated 16,000 Americans believed to be in Sudan right now are dual US-Sudanese nationals.

The Defence Department said in a statement on Saturday it was moving naval assets toward Sudan's coast to support further evacuations.

Ukraine claims it controls key supply route into Bakhmut



REUTERS

Kyiv, April 30: Ukraine remains in control of a key supply route into Bakhmut, a military spokesperson said Saturday, as the head of Russia's mercenary Wagner group threatened to withdraw some of his troops from the eastern city if Moscow did not send more ammunition.

Russian forces have been trying for 10 months to punch their way into the shattered remains of what was once a city of 70,000. Kyiv has pledged to defend Bakhmut, which Russia sees as a stepping stone to attacking other cities.

"For several weeks, the Russians have been talking about seizing the 'road of life,' as well as about constant fire control over it," Serhiy Cherevatyi, a spokesperson for Ukrainian troops in the east, said in an interview with local news website Dzerkalo Tyzhnia.

"Yes, it is really difficult there ... (but) the defence forces have not allowed the Russians to 'cut off' our logistics."

The "road of life" is a vital road between the ruined Bakhmut and the nearby town Chasiv Yar to the west - a distance of just over 17 km (10.56 miles).

Ukraine's top military command said in its daily update on Sunday that its forces had repelled 58 Russian attacks over the past day along the part of frontline stretching from Bakhmut through Avdiivka and on to Maryinka further south in the Donetsk region.

If Bakhmut fell, Chasiv Yar would probably be next to come under Russian attack according to military analysts, though it is on higher ground and Ukrainian forces are believed to have built defensive fortifications nearby.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of Russia's Wagner Group, who has often claimed unverifiable successes, said that his forces have advanced some 100 to 150 metres (109 to 164 yards) in Bakhmut, leaving just under 3 square km of the city in Ukrainian hands. But he said he lost 94 troops.

"It would have had been five times fewer if we had more ammunition," Prigozhin said in an audio statement published on the Telegram messaging app of his press service on Saturday evening.

Separately, in a nearly 90-minute video interview with Russian military blogger Semyon Pegov published on Saturday, Prigozhin threatened to withdraw troops from Bakhmut, saying they had enough ammunition left only for days.

"If the shortage of ammunition is not replenished, then ... most likely, we will be forced to withdraw part of the units," Prigozhin said, quoting a letter he said was sent to Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, giving an April 28 deadline.

It was not immediately known when the interview was recorded. Prigozhin has often said the regular armed forces are not giving his men the ammunition they need and has sometimes accused top brass of betrayal.

Top nuclear envoys of SK, US discuss N Korea threat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Seoul, April 30: The top nuclear envoys of South Korea and the US have met in Seoul to discuss ways to cooperate on countering North Korea's "evolving nuclear and military threats", the foreign ministry said on Sunday.

US Special Representative for North Korea Sung Kim held a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Kim Gunn, on Tuesday on the sidelines of the Asan Plenum 2023 conference, a security forum hosted by a local think tank, Yonhap



news agency reported. "The two sides shared their as-

essments of the current security situation on the Korean Peninsula and discussed joint responses to North Korea's nuclear threats," the ministry said in a statement.

The envoys agreed to strengthen close coordination on Pyongyang to make it cease provocations and return to denuclearisation talks, based on the agreements from the South Korea-US summit held in Washington last week.

It is their third consultation this month, following a bilateral session in Seoul on April 6 and phone talks on April 13.



INS Teg, carrying Indians evacuated from violence-hit Sudan under 'Operation Kaveri', upon its arrival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

PTI PHOTO

Sunak to read from biblical book at King Charles' Coronation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 30: Rishi Sunak will read from the biblical book of Colossians at the Coronation of King Charles III in keeping with the recent tradition of British Prime Ministers giving readings at State occasions, the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury revealed as part of the official Liturgy for the religious ceremony at Westminster Abbey here on May 6.

Sunak, Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian heritage and a practicing Hindu, reading from a biblical book will resonate with the multi-faith theme being struck for the Christian ceremony.

Lambeth Palace, the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury au-

thorises a new Liturgy - or the form according to which a public religious worship takes place - for every Coronation. The three oaths the King at the heart of the service remain unchanged, including the promise to maintain "the Protestant Reformed Religion".

The overall theme of the Liturgy is "Called to Serve", which is intended to reflect the commitment that the King will make to serve God and the people of the United Kingdom.

His office said

the service has been designed to reflect the changes in the UK since Charles' mother Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953, the character of Britain as it is today, and the Church of England's role in contemporary society. As one of the newer elements, the 74-year-old monarch will pray aloud in the Abbey using words specially written for the occasion that reflect the "duty and privilege of the Sovereign to serve all communities".

Lambeth Palace confirmed that the Presentation of the Regalia will be made by Members of the House of Lords and for the first time, some of the

items which have no Christian meaning or symbolism will be presented by peers who belong to different faith traditions: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Buckingham Palace had previously confirmed that 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.

Sunak's reading from a biblical book will resonate with the multi-faith theme being struck for the Christian ceremony

of the day quote

For the first time our digital repayments have crossed Rs 1,000 crore in FY22 -- Rs 1,088 crore to be precise, which is 34 per cent of our total collections -- which is a growth of 547 per cent on-year

SADAF SAYEED | CEO, MUTHOOT MICROFIN

Aside from that, the Indian equity markets are constantly receiving funding from FII, and Friday's record buying of Rs 3,304 crore in the cash market showed their confidence in the Indian market

PRAVESH GOUR | SENIOR TECHNICAL ANALYST, SWASTIKA INVESTMART LTD

We are actively looking for assets in the data space, cloud space, Salesforce space or the healthcare space

SUDHIR SINGH | CEO, COFORGE

SHORT TAKES

9 of top-10 firms valuation jumps

New Delhi: Nine of the top-10 most valued firms together added Rs 1,84,225.43 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries Limited and State Bank of India emerging as the biggest gainers, in an overall bullish equity market trend. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,457.38 points or 2.44 per cent. Hindustan Unilever Limited was the only laggard from the top-10 pack. The top-10 firms include Reliance Industries, TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever Limited, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

Leather industry seeks more time

New Delhi: Industry players and exporters of footwear have urged the government to immediately extend the implementation of the quality control order (QCO) by 12 months as the businesses are not yet prepared to follow the norms. According to the "Footwear Made from Leather and Other Materials (Quality Control) Order, 2022", which will come into force from July 1, manufacturers have to modify their processes to comply with the new standards. This includes establishing testing laboratories, obtaining BIS licences, and adhering to the rules for issuing the ISI mark. Economic think tank GTRI said that these changes require time and investment, and most manufacturers may be unable to meet the timelines.

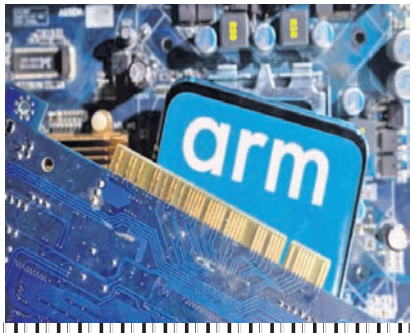


So in the current fiscal year because of all the changes which have happened in the last year, I have reduced my India's economic growth forecast by 0.5 per cent. So it is 6.5 per cent, again plus minus 0.5 per cent

ARVIND VIRMANI | MEMBER, NITI AAYOG

SOFTBANK'S ARM FILES MEGA US IPO

SoftBank Group Corp's chip maker Arm Ltd has filed with regulators confidentially for a US stock market listing, Arm said Saturday, setting the stage for this year's largest initial public offering. Arm plans to sell its shares on Nasdaq later this year, seeking to raise between \$8 billion and \$10 billion



BYJU'S AFTER ED SEARCHES

'Brought more FDI to India than any other startup'

INDIA'S MOST VALUABLE STARTUP, BYJU'S WAS ONCE VALUED AT \$22 BILLION AND HAS ATTRACTED GLOBAL INVESTORS SUCH AS GENERAL ATLANTIC, BLACKROCK AND SEQUOIA CAPITAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: After financial crime-fighting agency ED searched Byju's premises, the education platform's CEO Byju Raveendran wrote to employees saying the company brought more FDI to India than any other startup and that the firm fully complies with all applicable foreign exchange laws.

"As we are funded by 70+ impact investors who have satisfactorily done due diligence on our operations, including all FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) compliance, we are confident that the authorities will also come to the same conclusion," Raveendran said in the memo sent late Saturday, which was seen by PTI. ED had Saturday searched three

premises in Bengaluru linked to the company over alleged foreign exchange law violations. Searches at 'Think & Learn Private Limited' (Byju's online learning platform) yielded "various incriminating documents and digital data was seized", ED had said.

The firm had received foreign direct investment of nearly Rs 28,000 crore between 2011 and 2023, the agency had said, adding the firm remitted Rs 9,754 crore to various foreign jurisdictions during the same period in the name of overseas direct investments.

In the internal memo, Raveendran said that the company had sent some money overseas to fund its international acquisitions.

Byju's, he said, made a number of overseas acquisitions, invest-



ing Rs 9,000 crore over the years as part of its growth strategy. "These acquisitions have been instrumental in expanding our reach and impact. In order to fund these acquisitions, we have remitted some of our funding overseas." "I also want to highlight that

Byju's has brought more FDI to India than any other Indian startup (Rs 28,000 crore), and as a result, we have been able to create job opportunities for more than 55,000 talented professionals," he said. "This makes us India's largest employer among

The recent visit by the ED is an enquiry under FEMA. The information requested by and furnished to the officers in connection with the FDI raised, overseas investments made, and cross-border transactions relating to marketing and branding activities by Byju's has previously been submitted by our authorized representatives

BYJU RAVEENDRAN | CEO, BYJU'S

startups." He went on to state that Byju's has taken all efforts to fully comply with all applicable foreign exchange laws. "All our cross-border transactions have been duly

vetted by both its professional advisors/counsel and advisors/counsel of the investment funds and other sophisticated counterparties," he said. "Additionally, all such transactions are routed only through regular banking channels/the RBI's authorized dealer banks and the requisite documentation and statutory filings have been duly submitted."

He said Byju's was fully cooperating with the authorities. "As we are funded by 70+ impact investors who have satisfactorily done due diligence on our operations, including all FEMA compliance, we are confident that the authorities will also come to the same conclusion," he said. "Let us continue to focus on our goals and work together towards achieving our mission."

India, Russia explore new payments mode

The countries are looking at possibility of accepting RuPay and Mir cards for hassle-free bilateral payments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: India and Russia will explore the possibility of accepting RuPay and Mir cards in each other's country for hassle-free payments amid sanctions imposed by the West on Moscow.

In the recent high level Internal Governmental Commission meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), it was discussed and agreed to explore the opportunity of allowing acceptance of these cards, sources said.

The mutual acceptance of RuPay (India) and Mir cards (Russia) will help Indian and Russian citizens to make hassle-free payments in Indian rupees and Russian ruble in their respective countries, sources said.

The meeting, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Russia Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, also agreed to explore the possibility of interaction of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of National Payment Corporation of India and the Faster Payments System (FPS) of the Bank of Russia.

Besides, it was also agreed to look at adopting the Russian financial messaging system, Services Bureau of Financial Messaging System of the Bank of Russia, for cross border payments.

Currently, overseas payments from India and vice versa are through the SWIFT network. At the given point when sanctions are imposed, sources said, it would



not be feasible for India to opt for other than SWIFT network.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong launched the cross-border connectivity between UPI and PayNow.

Linkage of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Singapore's PayNow now allows people in the two countries to undertake faster and cost-efficient digital transfers. It will also help the Indian diaspora in Singapore, especially migrant workers and students, through instantaneous and low-cost transfer of money from Singapore to India and vice versa.

The PayNow-UPI linkage is the world's first real-time payment systems linkage to use a scalable cloud-based infrastructure that can accommodate future increases in the volume of remittance traffic.

To begin with, the State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Indian Bank and ICICI Bank will facilitate both inward and outward remittances while Axis Bank and DBS India will facilitate inward remittances.

The UPI was launched in 2016, and since then it has emerged as the most popular and preferred payment mode pioneering person-to-person and person-to-merchant transactions, accounting for 75 per cent of the total digital payments.

FIRST TIME IN OVER A YEAR

RBML, Nayara price fuel at market rates

A fall in international oil prices over the last six weeks to \$78 per barrel has helped bring the PSU pump-matching retail rates at par with cost

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: India's private fuel retailers -- Reliance-bp and Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy -- have begun pricing petrol and diesel at market rates for the first time in over a year after a fall in global oil prices cut losses, sources said.

Reliance BP Mobility Ltd (RBML), a joint venture between Reliance Industries Limited and UK's bp, Nayara Energy and Shell sold petrol and diesel at huge losses as they tried to match the below-cost frozen rates of dominant public sector retailers. The losses were despite pricing fuel at slightly higher rates than state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

Nayara, the largest private fuel retailer that owns over 7 per cent of India's 86,855 petrol pumps, started pricing petrol and diesel at market rates sometime in March and RBML's 1,555 petrol pumps are selling diesel at par from this month.

With oil prices dropping to \$78 per barrel this week from being high, RBML is offering Re 1 per litre discount over public sector undertaking (PSU) rates, at select petrol pumps, they said, adding the joint venture however continues to price petrol at rates higher than PSU competition.

While the softening international oil prices had rekindled hopes for a revision in retail prices



by PSU, an oil ministry official stated that a cut in rates is now likely immediately as IOC, BPCL and HPCL are yet to fully recoup the losses they incurred on selling petrol and diesel at rates below cost last year.

The three public sector retailers have broken even on petrol but there are some losses on diesel, the official said.

Sources said diesel at all Jio-bp outlets is now at par with PSU competition or at market price.

However, Jio-bp -- the brand under which RBML retails fuel -- isn't selling regular diesel but high performance diesel designed for Indian vehicles and roads to give better fuel economy. The diesel is laced with specially developed additives for Indian roads and driving conditions to produce high performance, they said, adding Jio-bp was selling premium diesel at rates that are equivalent to ordinary diesel at PSU pumps.

State-owned IOC, BPCL and HPCL first froze petrol and diesel rates for 137 days beginning early November 2021 when five states

including Uttar Pradesh went to the polls. A second round of hiatus began April 6, 2022 and is still continuing even after a year.

Unable to match the below cost rates of PSUs, private retailers scaled down retail operations to cut losses. RBML alone was incurring Rs 700 crore loss a month at the peak while Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy raised prices of petrol and diesel by up to Rs 3 a litre over and above the PSU rates, to cover for some losses.

Sources said private retailers contend that PSU oil marketing companies control over 90 per cent of the market and are the price-setters, leaving no room for them in fixation of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel.

PSUs have not increased fuel prices in line with escalating international crude prices eventually leading to huge under-recoveries (losses) for all fuel retailers since February 2022.

Under-recoveries or difference between cost and retail price was Rs 13.08 per litre for petrol and Rs 24.09 per litre for diesel at one point of time.

Private retailers time and again highlighted the losses they incurred on fuel sales but the oil ministry dismissed them, saying Reliance exported diesel to Europe and other countries at highly lucrative prices but was rationing supplies at its petrol pumps.

Nayara Energy owns 6,386 petrol pumps in the country. IOC, BPCL and HPCL own 78,501 out of 86,855 petrol pumps in the country.

Twitter to allow media publishers to charge users per article basis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Elon Musk Sunday said that Twitter will allow news publishers to charge users per article basis with one click from next month.

After announcing new monetising features for content creators, the Twitter CEO is now aiming to help media houses amid a global meltdown that has seen several publications paying off employees and shutting down programmes.

"Rolling out next month, this platform will allow media publishers to charge users on a per article basis with one click," said Musk.

This will enable users who would not sign up for a monthly subscription to pay a higher per article price for when they want to read an occasional article.

"Should be a major win-win for both media organisations and the public," Musk added.

Earlier Saturday, Twitter said that creators across the globe can now sign up and earn a living on Twitter via the 'Monetization' tool. Musk said that all proceeds will go to content creators and Twitter will keep nothing for now.

"We will keep 10 per cent after 12 months, but iOS/Android subscription fees drop from 30 per cent to 15 per cent in year 2, so still a net gain to creators," the Twitter CEO announced.

For many, "this represents a vital source of income and enables them to put more time into creating great content for you," he added. Meanwhile, Twitter has also applied 'Community Notes' to ads.

"The goal is to make this platform maximum truth-seeking or, said another way, the least untrue compared to everything else," Musk said.



Rising tide of interest in doing biz with India

The case for investing in India - a nation of 1.4 billion - is clear, and only bolstered by recent geopolitical shifts. As Western leaders look to boost economic cooperation with countries that share similar values, India, the world's largest democracy, stands to gain

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hong Kong, April 30: When Tim Cook arrived in India earlier this month to open Apple's first physical store in the country, he was welcomed like a hero, media reports said.

Cook's visit, the latest by a top global executive, exemplifies the rising tide of interest that corporations and governments are showing in doing business with India, CNN reported.

Just days after his landmark trip, Pret A Manger, a trendy British sandwich chain, set up its first outlet in the commercial capital of Mumbai, as it bet on the country's growing middle class, CNN reported.

India's so-called "demographic dividend," the potential economic growth arising from a large working-age population, represents a major opportunity. Its vast consumer market and pool of afford-



able labor is also drawing more attention from global brands and

trading partners. In a bid to boost the industrial

Until recently, many countries and companies had put all their eggs in the China basket. As tensions continue to flare between the West and Beijing, there is a move to diversify away, and India fits right into it

PARTHA SEN | PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

sector and lift exports, the Indian government has sought to sign free trade deals, a move that's been warmly received around the world.

Since 2021, India has struck agreements with Australia, the United Arab Emirates and Mauritius. It is also negotiating deals with the European Union, the United Kingdom and Canada, CNN reported.

Beyond geopolitics, India's economic and demographic fundamentals are driving business in-

terest, CNN reported.

The International Monetary Fund expects the South Asian nation to outperform all major emerging and advanced economies this year, logging GDP growth of 5.9 per cent. By comparison, the German and UK economies will stagnate, while the United States will grow only 1.6 per cent.

If it can maintain its momentum, India will overtake Germany as the world's fourth largest economy in 2026 and knock Japan from the number three spot in 2032, according to analysis by the Centre for Economics and Business Research, CNN reported.

India's working-age population stands at more than 900 million, according to 2021 data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. In the next few years, its workforce could be bigger than China's, according to Capital Economics, CNN reported.

₹ APPRECIATION

Foreign investors pump in ₹11,630cr in equities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused Rs 11,630 crore in the Indian equity markets in April on the reasonable valuation of stocks and appreciation in the rupee.

This came after FPIs infused a net sum of Rs 7,936 crore in equities in March, mainly driven by bulk investment in the Adani Group companies by the US-based GQG Partners. However, if one adjusts for the investments of GQG in Adani Group, the net flow was negative.

According to data from the depositories, FPIs started the current financial year on a positive note, and invested Rs 11,630 crore in Indian equities in April.

In the first half of April, FPIs showed strong buying activity, indicating a renewed sense of optimism in the Indian equity market. However, this optimism was dampened in the third week of the



month due to concerns about elevated interest rates and weak economic indicators in the US.

Apart from equities, FPIs have put in Rs 805 crore in the debt market during the period under review.

With this, FPIs have taken out Rs 14,580 crore from equities in 2023 so far and invested Rs 4,268 crore in the debt markets during the period.

Overall, FPIs pulled out a net sum of Rs 37,631 crore from Indian equities in 2022-23 on aggressive rate hikes by central banks globally and a record Rs 1.4 lakh crore in 2021-22. Before these outflows, FPIs invested a record Rs 2.7 lakh crore in equities in 2020-21 and Rs 6,152 crore in 2019-20.

LAST-BALL
THRILLER

Punjab stun Chennai

Punjab batters pull off a win after victory looked difficult in the middle overs before Livingstone and Curran turned things around



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, April 30: Punjab Kings sealed a stunning four-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings with Sikandar Raza holding his nerve to knock off the required three runs off the final ball in a tense Indian Premier League match here Sunday.

Chasing 201 for a win, Punjab needed nine runs from the final over bowled by Matheesha Pathirana who conceded just two from the first three deliveries. But Raza remained calm under immense pressure, scoring two runs each from the next two deliveries.

Raza (13 not out) sent the final ball towards the boundary but

Maheesh Theekshana stopped it just before the ropes in a brilliant fielding effort but by that time the PBKS batters had completed three runs to the stunned silence of the home crowd at Chepauk.

Punjab finished at 201 for 6 as Prabhsimran Singh (42), Liam Livingstone (40), Sam Curran (29) and Jitesh Sharma (21) playing crucial roles as CSK opener Devon Conway's brilliant knock of 92 not out went in vain.

Punjab batters did well to pull off a win after victory looked difficult in the middle overs before Livingstone and Curran turned things around. The 24 runs conceded by Tushar Deshpande in the 16th over proved crucial in the

final analysis.

Things seemed to slip away from PBKS as the batters could not find the big over and required run-rate kept climbing. But Raza and M Shahrukh Khan (2 not out) scored 15 runs from eight balls to see PBKS cross the target.

Earlier, CSK rode on Conway's superb unbeaten 92 to post 200 for 4. Dhoni sent the home crowd into raptures with two sixes from the last two deliveries.

The talismanic Dhoni walked in at the fall of Ravindra Jadeja (12) to a massive roar from the crowd. He could not connect the first ball he faced from Sam Curran (4-0-46-1) and picked up a single from the next delivery, thumping one down

1000TH MATCH OF IPL

David's Goliath act lifts MI

Jaiswal's 124 in vain as Suryakumar, David carry Mumbai to six-wicket win

Mumbai: Yashasvi Jaiswal's magnificent 124 went in vain as Suryakumar Yadav (55) and Tim David (45 not out) carried five-time champions Mumbai Indians to six-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the 1000th match of the tournament in a run-fest at the Wankhede Stadium Sunday.

Mumbai looked in trouble when they were 104/3 in 12 overs. But Suryakumar smashed 20 runs off the 13th over from Kuldeep Sen and from there on, he never looked back, hitting eight fours and two sixes while David was brilliant in hitting two fours and five humongous sixes for Mumbai to go to seventh place at the points table.

Mumbai didn't have a great start to chasing 218 as captain Rohit Sharma was castled by a knuckleball from Sandeep Sharma in the second over. Cameron Green walked in and smashed Trent Boult for three fours through mid-off, mid-on and point, before slog-sweeping Ravichandran Ashwin over deep

the ground.

One delivery later, Dhoni hit a six from a wide delivery and then smacked a full toss for a maximum to finish on 13 not out as CSK finished the innings in style.

Opting to bat first, Conway, who struck 16 fours and a six during his

backward square leg for six and slamming Yuzvendra Chahal down the ground for another maximum.

After Ishan Kishan sliced to deep point off Ravichandran Ashwin, Suryakumar Yadav launched his first ball for six over backward square leg. He then slammed Jason Holder for a hat-trick of fours through the wristy flick, whip and a jaw-dropping ramp. Though Green holed out to the deep off Ashwin, Suryakumar ensured the tempo didn't drop.



52-ball unbeaten knock, and his opening partner Rituraj Gaikwad (37) added 86 for the first wicket to put the home team on the road to a good total. For Punjab, Curran, Rahul Chahar, Arshdeep Singh and Sikandar Raza took one wicket apiece.

58-YEAR WAIT ENDS

Satwik, Chirag claim Asian C'ships crown



Dinesh Khanna is the only Indian to claim the gold medal, having achieved the feat when he beat Thailand's Sangob Rattanusorn in the men's singles final in 1965 in Lucknow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, April 30: Star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Sunday broke a 58-year-old drought, becoming the first Indians after Dinesh Khanna to be crowned champions at the Asia Badminton Championships here.

The 2022 World Championships bronze medallists scripted a sensational comeback after an opening game reversal to edge past the Malaysian combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi 16-21, 21-17, 21-19 in a nail-biting final to accomplish a magnificent victory in the continental championship.

India's previous best performance in men's doubles at the Asia Championships was a bronze-medal finish by Dipu Ghosh and Raman Ghosh in 1971.

Satwik and Chirag, who claimed the Swiss Open Super 300 title in Basel, showed tremendous grit as they never gave up after losing the

I am over the moon. I and Satwik worked really hard for this medal and I am happy that we have finally won the title. Also, I would like to thank everyone back home for supporting me

CHIRAG SHETTY

It's a great feeling to win this tournament for the first time and I am sure we will win more such titles in the future. We will continue to work hard to bring laurels to the country

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY

first game and being 7-13 and 11-15 down in the second and third game to secure the first gold for India in doubles. It was the second title of the season for Satwik and Chirag, who continued to remain the best shuttlers for the country on display this season.

Besides the Asia Championships title, Satwik and Chirag also won the 2022 Commonwealth Games and five career titles on the BWF World Tour.

The two pairs came into the summit clash after sharing the honours in six meetings, with Satwik and Chirag coming up trumps in the semi-final of the Swiss Open in March this year.

Nagal clinches India's first Rome ATP Challenger title



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rome, April 30: India's tennis ace Sumit Nagal became the country's first player to win an ATP Challenger event on European clay court, pulling off an upset win over higher-ranked Dutchman Jesper de Jong here Sunday.

The 25-year-old Nagal defeated de Jong, more than 100 places above the Indian in the ATP singles rankings, 6-3 6-2 to clinch his third ATP Challenger title and the first since the triumph in Buenos Aires in 2019.

Nagal, ranked 347th in the world, had little difficulty overcoming his Dutch opponent three years younger and currently ranked 234th in the world.

A regular member of the Indian Davis Cup squad, Nagal had to play six tough matches, including two rounds of qualifiers, en route to the final.

He defeated Italy's Jacopo Berrettini in the first round of qualifiers before overcoming a tough

challenge from Norway's higher-ranked opponent Victor Durasovic (ATP rank 302) in a gruelling three-setter to secure a place in the main round. The 2015 Wimbledon boys' doubles title winner then thrashed home favourite Francesco Maestrelli (ATP rank 172) in the first round before blanking wildcard Fausto Tabacco of Italy 6-3, 6-0 to secure a berth in the quarter-finals.

Nagal, who had defeated Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin in the first round of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics before going down to Russian ace Daniil Medvedev in the second round, defeated another higher-ranked opponent in Netherlands' Max Houkes to secure a place in the semi-final in the Rome event.

Pitted against a tough Belgian opponent in Joris De Loore, seeded eighth, the Indian lost the opening set against the 198th ranked player 2-6, before winning the next two 7-5, 6-4 to make it to the title round.

LA LIGA Barca thrash Betis; Benzema hits hat-trick

FC BARCELONA, REAL MADRID LIMPING TOWARDS INEVITABLE FINISH IN SPAIN



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Madrid, April 30: FC Barcelona and Real Madrid both won their respective matches in La Liga as Barca retained their 11-point lead at the top of the table.

Andreas Christensen returned to the Barca side after injury and he scored the opening goal in the 13th minute of a game that was over before halftime after Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha had put them 3-0 up, while Betis were reduced to 10 men after Edgar was shown two yellow cards, reports Xinhua.

The central defender had come on earlier in the game after Luiz Felipe was forced out through injury.

Veteran Betis winger Joaquin Sanchez was also injured late in the second half and went off, leaving his side with just nine men with 10 minutes left to play.

A minute later, Guido Rodriguez deflected a cross from Ansu Fati into his own net to make it 4-0, before Xavi Hernandez brought 15-year-old Lamine Yamal on as a substitute, making him the youngest Barca player in this century.



Earlier in the day Karim Benzema scored a hat-trick as Real Madrid bounced back from their

midweek 4-2 defeat in Girona, by defeating Almeria by the same score. Benzema scored after 5, 17 and 42 minutes, with the impressive Rodrigo adding a fourth early in the second half.

Elche claimed just their third win of the season to stave off the confirmation of their relegation to the second division for a few more days with a 4-0 win at home to Rayo Vallecano.

Rayo had beaten league leaders Barcelona in midweek, but were down to 10 men halfway through the first half, when Florian Lejeune was shown a direct red card for a wild challenge.

Tete Morente put Elche ahead on the stroke of halftime and the bottom of the table side ran riot in the second half with goals from Lucas Boye, Fidel and Gerard Gumbau to

F1: Perez beats Leclerc, Verstappen to victory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Baku, April 30: Red Bull Racing driver Sergio Perez claimed the first Sprint race victory of the season at the Baku City Circuit Saturday, beating Charles Leclerc and Max Verstappen to the chequered flag for the maximum eight points on offer in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023.

With F1's Sprint format being revised for 2023, a new 'Shootout' qualifying session set the grid for the 17-lap dash, which took place in pleasant weather conditions and featured action from start to finish. One driver who did not take part was F1 rookie Logan Sargeant, who crashed out of the Shootout and was withdrawn from the 100-kilometre Sprint due to the significant damage his Williams car sustained in the incident.

Meanwhile, the grid missed another driver after Alpine made suspension changes on Esteban Ocon's car under parc ferme conditions, with the team enduring a particularly challenging weekend on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

When the start lights turned on one by one and eventually went out, pole-sitter Leclerc jumped out of his grid slot to maintain the lead into Turn 1, with Perez holding P2.

An incredible scrap ensued between Verstappen and the fast-starting George Russell, with the pair going side-by-side through the opening sequence of corners before the Mercedes nosed ahead of the Red Bull at Turn 3.

HUNT FOR TALENT

Ronaldinho launching worldwide street football league



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, April 30: Brazil great Ronaldinho is launching a worldwide street soccer league to give talented young players an opportunity to showcase their skills and follow the same path to stardom as the former Barcelona player.

The Ronaldinho Global Street League will begin in "late 2023," organizers said Saturday, and will initially feature a social media tryout process where street soccer players of all ages can upload their best skills and tricks in a bid to join one of the competition's teams.

Head-to-head matches and skills competitions will be staged in

We believe there is massive value in the space — and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support the players of the future

RONALDINHO | FORMER BRAZIL PLAYER

major cities across the world and teams will compete in a league for the title of "RGSL Champions" and to become part of what will be called the Ronaldinho Globe Street Team.

"We believe there is massive value in the space — and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support the players of the future,"

Ronaldinho said in announcing the venture.

There were no specifics about the likely location of the events or the precise start time.

Ronaldinho, a two-time world player of the year, has linked up with sports agent and former player Roberto de Assis Moreira and Sophie Watts, the co-founder of Mike Tyson's Legends League, to launch the league.

"Ronaldinho and I grew up in an underprivileged community in Brazil," Moreira said. "We know first-hand the power of street football in empowering youth and are fully dedicated to discovering and supporting street soccer players around the world through RGSL."

Liren becomes China's 1st World Chess Champion

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, April 30: Ding Liren became China's first world chess champion Sunday after a rapid-play tie-break victory over Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in Kazakhstan.

Ding, 30, takes over as winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen, who chose not to defend his title after a 10-year reign.

He and Nepomniachtchi had finished on seven points each after the 14 first-stage games played in the Kazakh capital Astana. Each won three, while the other eight ended in a draw. For the tie-break stage

of the match, also in Astana. The contenders then played a tie-break round, in which they had only 25 minutes to make their moves, plus an additional 10 seconds for each move played.

Carlsen, considered one of the greatest players of all time, had held the World Chess Championship title since 2013 and will remain the world's top-rated player.

The two-million-euro (\$2.2-million) prize would have been split 60-40 between the winner and the runner-up if the match had been decided in the initial 14-game series. Because it reached the tiebreak stage, the prize money will be split 55-45.