



LOOKING BACK

Priyanka Chopra Jonas recalls her dark days when she fell into depression after her botched nose plastic surgery

LEISURE P2



AID DELIVERY HIT

Heavy shelling in Sudan's Khartoum disrupts efforts to deliver urgently required aid to trapped civilians

INTERNATIONAL P10



HAALAND'S FEAT

Erling Haaland scores his 35th PL goal against West Ham creating a new record in the process

SPORTS P12

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SHORT TAKES

Pak minister visits India after 12 years

Benaulim (Goa): Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived here Thursday to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), in the first such high-level visit to India from the neighbouring country since 2011. Zardari's visit comes amid continued strain in ties between India and Pakistan on a number of issues including Islamabad's continued support to cross-border terrorism. "On my way to Goa, India. Will be leading the Pakistan delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation CFM. My decision to attend this meeting illustrates Pakistan's strong commitment to the charter of the SCO," Zardari tweeted ahead of his arrival here. I look forward to constructive discussions with my counterparts from friendly nations," he added. P7

2 more tourists meet watery grave in Puri

Puri: Two tourists met their watery grave Wednesday while taking a bath in the sea in Sector 13 near Swargadwar locality of this town. One of the deceased has been identified as Arindam Das while the identity of the other is yet to be ascertained. Both were from Howrah district of West Bengal. The two along with other friends had gone into the sea when they were swept away by a huge wave. The bodies were fished out later by lifeguards. It should be stated here that Wednesday, a man and his minor son drowned in the sea in the same sector. They were also from West Bengal.

DRDO scientist held

Pune: A scientist working for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was arrested Wednesday here by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) for providing confidential information to a Pakistani agent, officials said Thursday. However, they refused to disclose the identity of the person as it may hamper investigation. The accused was allegedly in touch with an agent of a 'Pakistan intelligence operative' through WhatsApp and video calls, an ATS official said. It was a case of honeytrap, he added. "The scientist, by misusing his position, was passing information to the enemy that can pose a threat to India," the ATS official said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



As per your instructions, we lodged an FIR against WFI chief and started taking action against the complaints

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	61749.25	↑ 555.95
NIFTY	18255.80	↑ 165.95
DOLLAR	81.79	↑ ₹0.03
EURO	89.91	↓ ₹0.49
GOLD	₹61,631	↑ ₹666
SILVER	₹76,799	↑ ₹1399

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.3°C	32.2°C
TEMP MIN	23.0°C	23.5°C
Humidity	65%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light to moderate rain



DESTRUCTION TRAIL: People watch from a distance as a house burns in the Manipur capital of Imphal during the protests, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

'Shoot at sight' in Manipur

After a Manipur High Court order directed the BJP government to include 'Meiteis' in the list of Scheduled Tribes, the Nagas, Zomis and Kukis opposed this decision and launched protests which escalated into large-scale riots

AGENCIES

Imphal, May 4: The Manipur government Thursday issued 'shoot at sight' order in 'extreme cases' to contain the spiralling violence in the state between tribals and the majority 'Meitei' community which has displaced over 9,000 people from their villages. Fifty-five columns of the Army and Assam Rifles have been deployed to contain widespread rioting that broke out across Manipur. The Army also kept some 14 columns on standby for deployment in case the situation flares up once again, a Defence spokesperson said.

The Centre, which is monitoring the situation in Manipur, also dispatched teams of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), a specialised force to handle riots, for deployment in violence-hit areas of the Northeastern state. The teams have already landed in here.

Clashes broke out Wednesday and escalated Thursday with counter-attacks being mounted by

MARY KOM SEEKS CENTRE'S HELP



Imphal: Boxing great MC Mary Kom urged Thursday the Centre to help control the violence that broke out in Manipur. "My state Manipur is burning, kindly help," the veteran boxer tweeted in the early hours, sharing photos of the violence, and tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, "Republic TV", "NDTV" and "IndiaToday".

rival communities in retaliation to earlier attacks, after Naga and Kuki tribals organised a 'Tribal Solidarity March' to protest moves to give Scheduled Tribe status to the majority Meitei community.

The 'shoot at sight' order issued Thursday by the Governor of the northeastern state said all magistrates could issue the order when persuasion, warning and reasonable force 'have been exhausted and the situation could not be controlled'.

The Army and Assam Rifles staged flag marches in Khuga, Tampa, Khomaujanbba areas of Churachandpur. Flag marches were also carried out in

Mantripukhri, Lamphel, Koirangi area of Imphal Valley; and Sognu in Kakching district, the Defence spokesperson informed.

Underlining the gravity of the violence, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke Thursday to Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and took stock of the situation in the state.

Singh urged people to maintain peace. "Precious lives have been lost, besides damage of properties, which is very unfortunate. The violence was the result of misunderstanding in the society. The state government is taking all steps to maintain the law and order sit-

uation and to protect the lives and properties of the people," the Manipuri CM said.

Singh also informed that lives have been lost in the violence, but at the moment details of the deaths are 'not available'.

The 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised by the All Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) in the 10 hill districts of the state Wednesday to protest the demand of non-tribal 'Meiteis', who account for 53 per cent of Manipur's population, for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The tribals account for 40 per cent of the state's population.

The 'Meitei' community accounts for 53 per cent of Manipur's population, but is confined to about 10 per cent of the state's territory. The tribals, on the other hand, make up for less than 50 per cent of the population, but dominate 90 per cent of Manipur's territory. However, 'Meiteis' dominate about two-thirds of the 60-member Assembly and thereby are quite powerful.

Sedative kick for Rayagada addicts

Youths are turning to 'Fortwin' and 'Phenergan' injections as they are cheap and easily available across the counter

ASHISH RANJAN PANDA, OP

Rayagada, May 4: Youths in Rayagada district are increasingly falling prey to sedatives like 'Fortwin' and 'Phenergan' injections which are used to cure sleeplessness, vomiting, headaches and acute pain, sources said Thursday. They added that these two medicines have emerged as the main alternative for addicts.

Both 'Fortwin' and 'Phenergan' are not available across the counter without a doctor's prescription. This is because of the side-effects that happen due to the medicines. However, the addicts have found a way to get the two drugs through various means. Also unscrupulous shopkeepers are ready to supply the medicines once they are promised a few extra bucks.

The rampant sale of these two injections in complete violation of norms, has led to a spurt in their use in this district. The use of these



two drugs is spreading now into the rural areas with people of the 20-40 years age group falling prey to addiction. They are using insulin syringes to inject the drug into their body without realising that they are inviting a slow death.

According to an investigation conducted by Orissa POST the drug addicted youths in the industrial areas of this district and Muniguda towns are using 'Fortwin' and 'Phenergan' injections to satiate their urge as the two drugs are available at cheap rates. A 2ml vial of 'Phenergan' costs ₹13.40, while the market price of 'Fortwin' is ₹5.90. As a result, addicts of this district are turning to these districts to get a kick.

Contd...P4

Wrestlers threaten to return awards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: Hurt by the boorish behaviour of the Delhi police, protesting wrestlers Thursday threatened to return their medals and awards including the Padma Shri to the government. They said these honours serve no purpose if they have to endure such humiliation.

Around 11.30pm on Wednesday, a scuffle broke out when the wrestlers were bringing in folding beds for sleeping and the on-duty police personnel began enquiring about that as rules do not permit bringing in such things at the protest site.

Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik claimed that they were abused and pushed by male police officers, leaving them in tears. Two wrestlers, including Sangeeta Phogat's brother Dushyant, suffered injuries. "If this is how the wrestlers

SC REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court closed proceedings on a plea by three women wrestlers, who have levelled sexual harassment allegations against the WFI chief. A bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud refused to entertain an oral plea by the counsel representing the wrestlers that the ongoing probe be monitored by a retired or a serving high court judge. "You came here with specific prayers for registration of FIR and security for the complainants. Now both of your prayers have been addressed," the bench said.

will be treated, what will we do with the medals? Rather we will live an ordinary life and return all the medals and awards to the Indian government," Bajrang, an Olympic bronze medalist, told reporters Thursday morning. Contd...P4

DSPL-30

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leisure



DIRECTOR ROHAN TO MAKE A FILM ABOUT GUN CRISES IN THE STATES

Emmy-nominated Indian American writer, producer and director Rohit Karn Batra will be making a new drama film, *The Gun on Second Street*, starring Poppy Delevingne, reports Variety. The film is described as 'an allegory of the gun crisis in the United States'.

PALTROW REVEALS THE REASON SHE 'NEVER MADE OUT' WITH DICAPRIO

Avengers star Gwyneth Paltrow has gone candid about her past high-profile entanglements while appearing in a recent podcast. Sharing her reason behind never making out with Leonardo DiCaprio, she said, "He was already like, you know, very loose with the goods from when he was 19."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may set out to please your beloved, and maybe even woo him/her all over again. There may be a bit of dissatisfaction regarding friends and relatives, but you can look forward to partying and new friendships this evening, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Today, you are likely to pay attention to your health issues and eating habits. Fortune may not favour your efforts. However hard you may try, you may still find yourself back to square one at the end of the day. Try until you taste the sweet fruit of success, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will lend your innovative and imaginative spark to your initiatives, which will be quite a few, says Ganesh. Love will bring you immense satisfaction. And you will develop a special bond with your spouse or beloved. You, however, are likely to be dragged into a conflict and will be forced to pick a side.

CANCER
Today, every word coming out of your sweetheart's lips will be music to your ears. Your relationship with your relatives will be harmonious. You may steer clear of your troubles, if you learn to restrain. The best way to deal with criticism is to take them constructively.

LEO
One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesh. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill.

VIRGO
A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag of jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesh advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.

LIBRA
There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesh expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today. You may also launch a new business scheme, especially if you are self-employed.

SCORPIO
The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too, says Ganesh. Long overdue payments might get encashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You may have women swooning over you today; such is your charm and way with them, says Ganesh. But friends are highly valuable to you, and you shall spend much time with them cherishing their company and reliving amazing times spent together.

CAPRICORN
It may seem to be an unusual combination, but you will experience pain and pleasure in equal measure today, says Ganesh. The errands you may have to run for at home will leave you exhausted, so conserve some energy for the rest of the day. Your wit can get you whatever you want, but it's important that you use it in the right way and not just to meet your selfish interests.

AQUARIUS
Good news may hit home today. Promotion, profit, scholarship, anything you've been working for will probably materialise. You are ingenious, and will crack the toughest of problems with consummate ease. Ganesh sees money lenders and brokers doing well.

PISCES
Being a friend in need is what today will be about, says Ganesh. Making new acquaintances and associations is also on the cards. Try not to let jealousy mar your better judgement while you are at it.

PC recalls her dark days post nose job

Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is considered to be one of the top most global stars today, opened up about her early turmoil days in the industry. In a world where face surgeries are spoken about in hush tones, the *Citadel* star not only boldly accepted about getting a nose job done but also opened up about how badly it affected her when she felt that the surgery had gone wrong.

The global star opened up about her nose surgery and revealed that the job impacted her and she went into depression after the surgery. She said, "This thing happens, and my face looks completely different, and I went into a deep, deep depression." She opened up about her father's support during this bad phase of her life adding, "I was terrified of that, but he was like, 'I will be in the room with you.'"

Further, Priyanka admitted that she felt like her acting career was over. The surgery obviously impacted her career with the actress losing out about three to four projects which made her believe so. However, she expressed gratitude towards *Gadar* filmmaker Anil Sharma for giving her an opportunity to be on the big screen.



Mumbai: Actor turned activist Bhumi Pednekar recently shared her own experiences in the film industry, where she faced constant criticism and scepticism about her ability to succeed as a leading actress. She also revealed the negative statements that were often told to her, such as her debut film being her last and not fitting the mould of a conventional leading lady.

Bhumi took to her Instagram account, Wednesday and wrote, "If I had a penny for all the times I was told the odds were stacked up against me to succeed as a leading star..."

She added, "From how my debut would be my last film since I was playing an overweight heroine, to how I should play safe and not champion causes through cinema as I would be seen as niche, to how I didn't look like the conventionally beautiful leading ladies that have graced our cinema, which meant my chances were next to zero. I did not let naysayers question my worth. I made decisions to break the norms and stereotypes that women are chained to and chose to Rise Up!"

Meanwhile, on the work front, her upcoming work includes *Bhakshak* with Surya Sharma and *Afwaah* with Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

'I do not let naysayers question my worth'

Susmita's Deha-Videha releases today



Bhubaneswar: *Deha-Videha*, a unique and first-of-its-kind music album of eminent singer Susmita Das, is set to release on Buddha Purnima, Friday. The album is based on the history of Buddhism in Odisha.

Speaking of the music album, the Sangeet Natak Akademi winner said, "The music has tried to encapsulate the rich institution of Tantrik Buddhism ensconced in Odisha many centuries ago. It is a celebration of the realisation of shunyata or emptiness, as the key element of Vajrayana and is based on the metaphorical allusions of the Siddhacharyas of Odisha. It seeks to recreate the resonance of the metaphors expressed and immanent in Tantrik Buddhism, which was once extensively preached and practiced in Odisha (7th to 12th Century AD)."

The lyrics have been penned down by Buddhist researcher, poet and former Accountant General of Odisha Haraprasad Das while the music is scored by well-known composer Om Prakash Mohanty. The cinematography created by artist Kalee Patnaik has been adapted into sand art by Padma Shri Sudarshan Patnaik.

Nushratt glad to find her dating rumours

Mumbai: Actress Nushratt Bharuccha is finally in the news for her dating rumours, and she is actually glad to see this. Lately, there have been rumours about the actress dating singer and pop star Yo Yo Honey Singh. She has now broken her silence on the issue and, at the same time, expressed happiness over it.

Speaking to a news portal, Nushratt said, "You know what? This is my life's first dating rumour. Everywhere that I have been, there has been no rumour. Also, because I have never been with anyone. When this came, I was like, 'Wow, I finally have one'. Now when people ask me these questions in rapid fire, I can at least tell them that I too had a dating rumour."

Explaining further why she has no issues with the rumours, the *Dream Girl* actress, who also starred in Honey Singh's music video *Saiyaan Ji* in 2021, said, "I think people have no work in life and they also have a great imagination. So, keep them coming; I have no problem."

The buzz about her dating Honey Singh went into overdrive last month when the two were spotted at the airport holding hands.



PEANUTS



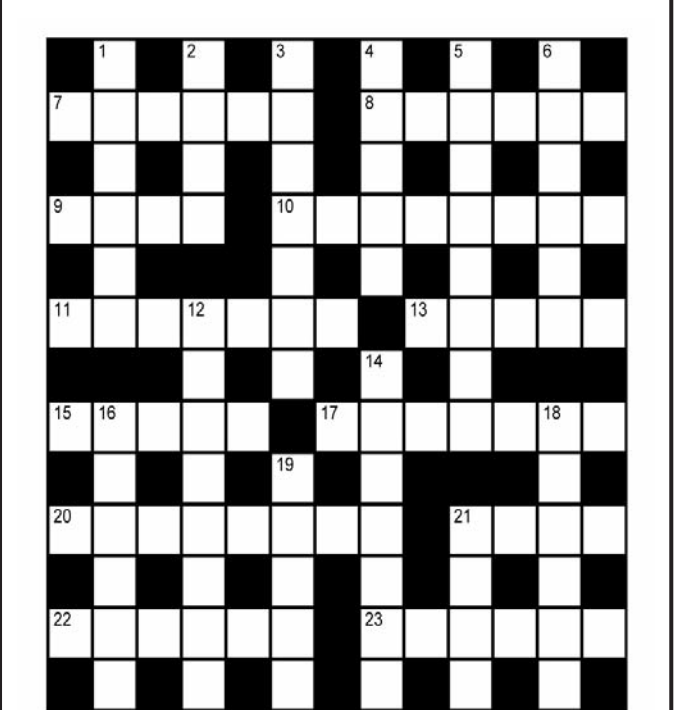
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Weapons platform
 - 8 Horse restraint
 - 9 Feeling of relief utterance
 - 10 Clever reply
 - 11 Dakar locale
 - 13 Building addition
 - 15 Deride
 - 17 Horse opera
 - 21 Painful stinger
 - 22 Serving dish
 - 23 Accusation
 - 5 Orchestra member
 - 6 Expunge
 - 12 Imposed, as a law
 - 14 Poisonous plant
 - 16 Failure to face difficulty
 - 18 Leave office
 - 19 Media attraction
 - 21 Have on
- Down**
- 1 Passive
 - 2 Structural curve
 - 3 Everlasting
 - 4 Good old boys

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	I	O	A	J	O
W	I	N	N	E	P
D	G	T	A	R	N
D	E	R	E	L	I
S	A	N	T	O	E
S	E	X	T	A	O
X	S	V	A	R	S
B	E	A	M	P	A
R	I	D	S	G	A
S	C	A	R	W	A
I	R	A	A	T	R
O	S	L	E	R	P
E	R	P	T	A	Y
T					

SUDOKU

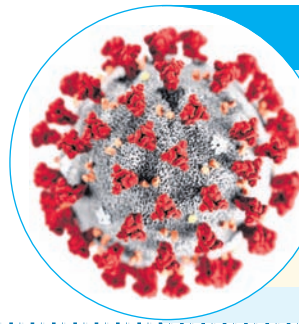
4	6	2	7	5	8	3	1	9
7	9	8	3	2	1	6	5	4
5	1	3	9	6	4	8	7	2
8	5	7	1	4	3	2	9	6
9	2	4	5	8	6	1	3	7
1	3	6	2	9	7	4	8	5
6	8	5	4	3	9	7	2	1
3	7	9	6	1	2	5	4	8
2	4	1	8	7	5	9	6	3

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SOLIDARITY RALLY

AIDS members demonstrate at College Square in Cuttack, Thursday, in solidarity with the protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,74,97,165	65,99,56,510	68,69,015
India	4,49,60,678	4,43,92,828	5,31,606
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204



BUDDHA PURNIMA TODAY: An artisan polishes the idols ahead of Buddha Purnima in Bhubaneswar, Thursday OP PHOTO

Prez lays stone for Skill Training Hub

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: President Droupadi Murmu, who is on a three-day visit to Mayurbhanj, laid the foundation stones for Skill Training Hub and community centre at her hometown Pahadpur in the tribal-dominated district, Thursday.

Among others, Governor Ganeshi Lal, president of L&T-funded Prayas Trust – Meena Subrahmanyam, officials of L&T and Odisha-based non-profit SLS Trust attended the event.

L&T has partnered with SLS Trust to establish the Skill Training Hub on a five-acre land for providing underprivileged youth from the region training in construction skills, and in turn, make them self-reliant.

The Skill Training Hub will encompass an administrative-cum-institute building, multipurpose hall, e-learning hall, digital training room, separate hostels for boys and girls, dining halls, four practice yards for masonry and a dedicated workshop for practicing pipe welding.

As per the provisions of an MoU signed with SLS Trust, L&T will establish and run the Skill Training Hub for five years. After that, it will be taken over by SLS Trust. The handing over process will start in the fourth year, it was learnt.

Training programmes at the Skill Training Hub will focus on masonry, bar bending, scaffolding, plumbing, pipe welding, and digital skills. Funded by L&T under its CSR initiatives, the project will cost around ₹15 crore, which includes the operational expenses for four years.



President Droupadi Murmu was accorded a grand welcome Thursday by people after her arrival at Dighibeda helipad near Badampahad in Mayurbhanj district OP PHOTOS



The President lays the stone of Skill Training Hub

order. It is a social, economic, physical and mental curse. Drug addiction causes tension in family and society. Therefore, there is a need to make people aware about the ill effects of drug abuse."

She expressed confidence that when people understand the bad effects of drug abuse, they would definitely try to quit it.

Since addiction is the biggest enemy of society, it is a noble deed to make people aware about it, she

said. Murmu also appreciated Brahma Kumaris Centre for being engaged in building a healthy society through spirituality. She wished for the success of the 'Addiction Free Odisha' campaign.

Earlier on her arrival, Murmu was given a ceremonial welcome at Badampahad helipad by Governor Ganeshi Lal, Union Minister Bisheshwar Tudu, Steel and Mines minister Prafulla Mallick and local MLAs.

After reaching her native place, Murmu walked down the road for about half a kilometre and met people, including tribal men, women and children, waiting eagerly on both sides of the road to greet the daughter of the soil.

They waved at her as she travelled to her in-law's house at Pahadpur village in Rairangpur sub-division, about 5 km from the helipad.

Scores of hoardings and banners were put up in Rairangpur and Pahadpur to welcome her.

This is Murmu's maiden visit to Rairangpur after assuming the highest constitutional post of the country.

The President is slated to attend the convocation of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University in Baripada and also visit the Similipal Tiger Reserve during her three-day stay.

"This will be the first visit by any President to Similipal National Park," an official said.

She will also inaugurate a 100-ft tall flag mast for hoisting the tricolour near Badabandha, near Rairangpur.

₹10cr for Pt Raghunath Murmu memorial facelift

CM ASKS THE AUTHORITIES TO COMPLETE THE WORK AT THE EARLIEST

POS NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: The memorial of Ol Chiki script inventor and noted tribal leader Guru Gomke Pandit Raghunath Murmu in Mayurbhanj district will get a new lease of life, with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sanctioning ₹10 crore in this regard, Wednesday.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) announcement of the sanction of ₹10 crore for Pandit Murmu's memorial came on the day on which President Droupadi Murmu offered a floral tribute at his statue on the first day of her visit to the Mayurbhanj district. Pandit Murmu is considered an inspiration for tribals of the district, particularly of the Santal tribes.

In a statement, the CMO said the Chief Minister approved the funds based on the plan submitted by the Mayurbhanj district administration for the development of the Pandit Raghunath Murmu memorial.

Earlier in March, ST Secretary VK Pandian had visited the memorial.

As per the plan, ₹75 lakh will be spent for the development of Pandit Murmu's Samadhi Peeth located at Dandbose – Kapi-Buru in Mayurbhanj district, while another ₹75 lakh to be spent on a meditation centre.

This apart, the CMO also said that the administration will spend ₹3 crore for the development of a boundary wall and connecting

RENOVATION PLAN

- ▶ ₹75 lakh will be spent for the development of Pandit Murmu's Samadhi Peeth located at Dandbose – Kapi-Buru in Mayurbhanj, while another ₹75 lakh to be spent on a meditation centre
- ▶ ₹3 crore will be spent for the development of a boundary wall and connecting roads at Kapi-Buru, while ₹2 crore will be spent for an auditorium and research centre
- ▶ ₹1 crore will be spent on dormitory and other facilities for the convenience of tourists coming from there
- ▶ It has also been decided that
- ▶ ₹80 lakh will be spent on drinking water and electrification of the area



Pandit Murmu has strengthened the Santali culture by inventing Ol Chiki which got recognition as a science-based script

₹1 CRORE WILL BE SPENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF DANDBOSE, BIDU CHANDAN OUTDOOR AREA AND MARANG-AHARA POND, WHILE ₹70 LAKH WILL BE SPENT ON THE BEAUTIFICATION AND RECEPTION OF KAPI-BURU

roads at Kapi-Buru, while ₹2 crore will be spent for an auditorium and research centre. The district administration will also spend ₹1 crore on dormitory and other facilities for the convenience of tourists coming from there.

Besides, ₹70 lakh will be spent on the beautification and reception of Kapi-Buru. ₹1 crore will be spent on the development of Dandbose, Bidu Chandan outdoor area and Marang-Ahara pond.

It has also been decided that ₹80

lakh will be spent on drinking water and electrification of the area.

Patnaik has directed the administration to complete the work as soon as possible.

Earlier, the state government named Baripada Medical College after him. In honour of Pandit Murmu's contribution to the Santali community, the state government has also declared Buddha Purnima, his birth anniversary, as a public holiday.

4 held for abduction

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested four persons including a 49-year-old woman for assaulting a lady and kidnapping her brother over family dispute from Bhimpur Jharana Sahi area under Airport police limits Wednesday. The accused were identified as Prasad Mahapatra and his wife Alibha Patra of Brit Colony area, Archana Patra of Chintamaniswar area and Rakesh Mallick of Kujanga in Jagatsinghpur area.



SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE: Artists perform during the 6th annual function of Nrutyachara at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday OP PHOTO

Rare cancer surgery at AIIMS saves woman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: To save the life of a young woman, a group of doctors at the City AIIMS performed surgery for a rare variety of larynx (voice box) cancer (adenoid cystic carcinoma).

The 25-year-old woman from Jagatsinghpur was afflicted with an advanced stage of the cancer at the junction of food and wind pipes, causing her difficulty in both breathing and swallowing.

Unlike the usual types of cancer, hers was resistant to radiotherapy and chemotherapy. With progression of the diseases, the voice, respiration and food intake for the patient became more and more challenging.

Prior to coming to AIIMS Bhubaneswar, the lady had consulted at multiple hospitals for over a year seeking treatment. With no other option in hand, the surgeons at AIIMS operated on her with a newer approach.

A group of 10 doctors comprising the ENT, surgical gastroenterology took 14 hours to perform the challenging procedure.

The ENT surgeon removed the voice box (larynx), upper part of the wind pipe (trachea), pharynx, upper part of food pipe (esophagus) and part of the thyroid gland.



THE PATIENT'S CANCER WAS RESISTANT TO RADIOTHERAPY AND CHEMOTHERAPY

PRIOR TO APPROACHING AIIMS BHUBANESWAR, THE LADY HAD CONSULTED TO NO AVAIL AT MULTIPLE HOSPITALS FOR OVER A YEAR SEEKING TREATMENT

WITH NO OTHER OPTIONS IN HAND, THE SURGEONS AT AIIMS OPERATED ON THE PATIENT WITH A NEWER APPROACH

The gastro surgeon dissected the colon and mobilised it into the neck through a tunnel made between the sternum (breast bone) and the heart connecting the base of tongue with the stomach, making a new food channel.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas congratulated the team of doctors for this life saving surgery.

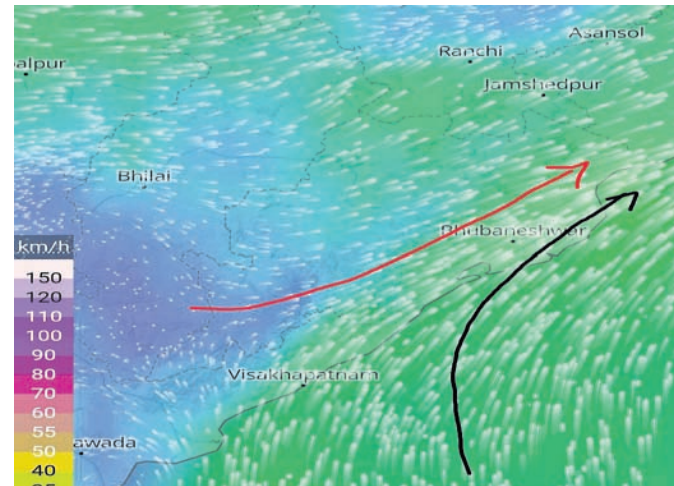
IMD warns fishermen not to venture into sea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 4: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned fishermen not to venture into southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas from Sunday onwards in view of the likely formation of a cyclonic storm.

Fishermen, small ships, boats and trawlers are advised not to venture into southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas from May 7 onwards and into adjoining central BoB from May 9 onwards, said HR Biswas, Head & Scientist, MeT centre, Bhubaneswar.

In association with likely formation of a cyclonic storm, squally weather with wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely to prevail over the southeast BoB and adjoining areas of Andaman sea from May 7 and wind speed will gradually increase further over the areas, he said.



In regard to information for tourists and travellers for Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the IMD said that bad weather condition like squally weather and heavy rainfall activity is likely over Andaman

and Nicobar Islands during May 8-11 and advised to regulate tourism and offshore activities and shipping over Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the period. Meanwhile, the IMD in its

Tropical Weather Outlook issued Thursday said that IMD-GFS weather model indicates that the system may move towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar coast and intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm category.

The Met office has already informed that a cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over Southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region around May 7. It is likely to concentrate into a depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal on May 8.

"Thereafter, it is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm while moving nearly northwards towards central Bay of Bengal. The cyclonic storm may take shape around May 9," the official said.

The IMD further said that the model is indicating north-northwestwards movement till May 10 and northeastwards re-curve

thereafter towards southeast Bangladesh and adjoining Myanmar coasts.

While the IMD is yet to issue any specific warning for Odisha, the government has already put collectors of 18 coastal and adjoining districts and officials of 11 departments on the alert.

All cyclone-prone districts are kept in a state of readiness. District administrations along with the NDRF, ODRAF, and others are in readiness for any possible eventuality.

May 8 last year, cyclonic storm 'Asani' had developed in the Bay of Bengal but later fizzled out and later crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast as a depression. The severe cyclonic storm 'Yaas' made landfall in Odisha's Balasore district on the morning of May 26, 2021, while Cyclone Amphan made landfall between the Sagar islands of West Bengal and the Hatiya islands of Bangladesh on the evening of May 20, 2020.

BSNL's high-speed net in 12 dists soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: To provide high speed internet connectivity in 12 districts of Odisha, an MoU was signed Thursday in a tripartite agreement involving Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC), Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) and BSNL in presence of Minister Of State (Independent Charge) Electronics & Information Technology, Sports & Youth Services Tusharkanti Behera at Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) here.



With signing of MoU, BSNL will utilise the Optical Fibre cable infrastructure of Bharatnet Phase-II in rolling out high speed internet services in 12 districts of state apart from other districts

With signing of MoU, BSNL will utilise the Optical Fibre cable (OFC) infrastructure of Bharatnet Phase-II in rolling out high speed Internet services in 12 districts of Odisha apart from other districts. It is expected that about 20,000 numbers of Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections will be provided in these 12 districts during the financial year 2023-24.

It will enable using BharatNet infrastructure available in Phase-II areas to provide broadband service in rural areas in state. Further, BSNL will also be in a position now to provide about 80,000 number of FTTH connections in Odisha in the current financial year.

ing by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was launched to provide high speed internet connectivity to every nook and corner of the state. In the first phase, 18 districts of Odisha were covered with BharatNet being maintained by BSNL. In the second phase, 12 districts of Odisha i.e. Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Balangir, Sonepur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nowrangpur

& Angul were covered which was executed by OPTCL, under state led model.

BSNL will provide Bharat Fibre connection in rural areas under BharatNet Udyami connections at a nominal rate of Rs. 399/pm with 30mbps speed with unlimited download facility. BSNL has attractive schemes under Bharat Udyami with minimum cost to the customers for which they have to pay the user charges only. No payments are to be made by the customer for getting a connection. Further, BSNL is also engaging rural entrepreneur as partner by providing an attractive commission upto Rs. 4,820 for each connection.

BSNL is providing broadband service to the people of Odisha in urban as well as rural areas. At present, more than 1.1 lakh broadband connections are working in every part of Odisha through optical fibre & copper network.

BSNL is also using BharatNet Phase-I infrastructure in providing Bharat Fibre connections in rural areas of 18 districts.

With signing of the MoU with OCAC & OPTCL, the BharatNet infrastructure will be used by BSNL in providing "Bharat Fibre" connection in the remaining 12 districts.



RAZING DOWN: An excavator engaged by BDA pulling down an illegally constructed house at Shyampur under Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Fake job consultancy firm busted; owner held

The 21-year-old accused was identified as Debabrata Palei from Mayurbhanj who was running a job placement agency, D2s Placement Service, at Saptasati Vihar in Palasuni area in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: The Commissionerate Police has arrested the owner of a fake job consultancy firm for duping two job aspirants of Rs 25 lakh on the pretext of facilitating them to get jobs in the police department.

The 21-year-old accused was identified as Debabrata Palei of Krushnapur village under Rairangpur rural police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

Debabrata had opened a job placement agency at Saptasati Vihar in Palasuni area under Mancheswar police limits here. As per sources, the firm was involved in supplying manpower to various industries



like BPO, call centres, telecom, plant sector, engineering, automobiles, industries, clerical, data entry, aviation, and retail.

Based on the complaint lodged by one of the victims, Balamram Pradhan of Angul in March this year, Mancheswar police registered a case (188/23) and arrested the accused following initial probe Thursday.

The complainant had recently come across some job advertisements placed by the fake firm on various social media platforms.

He also found that one of his friends Mrityunjaya was assured by the accused of help to get selected as constable in Odisha Police force. Later, Balamram too contacted Debabrata who asked him to meet the accused at his office in Palasuni.

Accordingly, Balamram along with his father and elder brother met Debabrata March 17, 2023. "Debabrata had taken Rs 2 lakh from Balamram in March. Later he also managed to convince two others of the same village to pay money to his firm D2s Placement Service for job of constables. The two

friends of Balamram gave money to Debabrata who collected a total Rs 13 lakh from the trio," said a senior police officer.

Adding further he said, "When the examination results for constable posts came out, the victims found that they were not selected for the job. Upon asking, the accused asked them to pay Rs 50,000 more as their names were withheld. The trio started enquiring soon to find that they were cheated by the accused."

Debabrata had purchased one Mahindra Stallion (OD-02-CH-6036) and one Yamaha R15 (OD-02-BR-6036) that have been seized by the police. The accused was Thursday produced before the court that sent him to judicial custody.



BASIC DEMANDS: Police officers pacify students demonstrating outside Harekrushna Mahtab State Library complaining about lack of basic amenities in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

CONTINUED FROM P1

Sedative boost for Rayagada...

Wrestlers threaten...

Vinesh, Sakshi and Bajrang are all winners of Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting honour. Skashi (2017) and Bajrang (2019) are also recipients of the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour.

"When police are pushing us, abusing us, misbehaving then they don't see that we are Padma Shri awardees, and not only me, there is Sakshi (Malik) also," Bajrang said referring to the Rio Olympics bronze medallist. "They are misbehaving with us. Women and daughters are sitting on the streets, begging for kindness but no one is bothered about getting justice," he added.

The wrestlers resumed their protest April 23, demanding the arrest of WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for alleged sexual harassment of seven women grapplers including a minor. Two FIRs have also been lodged by the Delhi police against the WFI chief, who has denied all charges and claimed that the protest was politically motivated.

"Take it (medals) all away. We have been humiliated so much. We are fighting for our respect but we are being crushing under their feet. Does all men have the right to abuse women?" said Vinesh, who received Khel Ratna in 2020. "We will return all our medals, even give our life but at least get us justice," she added.

This has happened as the district Drug department has failed to curb its illegal sale by chemists. Drug Inspector Priyaranjan Nayak said that there is restriction on the sale of these two injections. However, lack of action on part of the Drug department has only helped in rampant sale of these two injections.

A well-oiled racket is working behind the trade which is smuggling the injections to the district. The injections are easily available at the local chemist shops and the drug addicts are buying it from shops that are known to them.

When contacted, medicine specialist Dr Suresh Kumar Dey working at the district headquarters hospital warned of the side effects the two drugs can have on the addicts. "Regular and rampant use of Fortwin' and 'Phenergan' will definitely lead to serious health problems," he informed.

Eli Lilly's Alzheimer's drug slows cognitive decline by 35%

US pharma giant Eli Lilly's experimental Alzheimer's drug slowed clinical decline by 35 per cent compared to placebo, and resulted in 40 per cent less decline on the ability to perform activities of daily living, said the company announcing phase-3 trial results.

The drug, donanemab administered intravenously once a month, works by removing plaque build ups in the brain known as amyloid -- a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

The phase-3 trial involved more than 1,700 patients with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease.

Nearly 47 per cent of participants on donanemab showed no decline on a key measure of disease severity at one year (compared to 29 per cent of participants on placebo).

Further, as Donanemab cleared amyloid levels, 52 per cent of participants stopped their course of treatment by one year and 72 per cent by 18 months.

The study also enrolled a smaller number of people with high levels of tau, representing a later stage of disease progression.

A 35 per cent slowing in cognitive and functional decline was seen in the group with intermediate levels of tau, whose disease hadn't progressed as far. When this intermediate group was combined with the group with higher levels of tau, the figure was 22 per cent. The results have not been peer-reviewed or published in a journal.

"This is the first Phase-3 trial of any investigational medicine for Alzheimer's disease to deliver 35 per



cent slowing of clinical and functional decline," said Daniel Skovronsky, Lilly's chief scientific and medical officer, in a statement. Some side effects, and three deaths were also reported in the

trial among people taking the drug -- of which two were attributed to adverse events such as brain swelling or microhemorrhages, known as amyloid-related imaging abnormalities or ARIA.

"We are encouraged by the potential clinical benefits that donanemab may provide, although like many effective treatments for debilitating and fatal diseases, there are associated risks that may be serious and life-threatening," said Mark Mintun, group vice-president Neuroscience

Research & Development at Lilly. "We note that these results suggest that people in the early pathological stage of disease could be the most responsive to therapeutics targeting amyloid," he added.

Based on the new results, the company said it aims to seek the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval this year.

The company had filed for accelerated approval with the FDA based on its phase-2 trial. However, the FDA had rejected it in January this year.

Nearly 47 per cent of participants on donanemab showed no decline on a key measure of disease severity at one year (compared to 29 per cent of participants on placebo)

Realizing that the tribes of the state have unique food habits, culture and ecosystems, the scientists planned to identify potential probiotics for them

Scientist groups have isolated multiple probiotics and have characterised them, recently, publishing whole genome sequence of one of the helpful bacteria

like diarrhoea, obesity and many immunological disorders.

Realizing that the tribes of the state have unique food habits, culture and ecosystems, the scientists planned to identify potential probiotics for them. Shantibhusan Senapati's group isolated multiple probiotics and characterised them. Recently, the group published the whole genome sequence and other properties of one of the helpful bacteria with

As the origins of these probiotics are from Odisha tribes, Senapati expects that the health effects of these organisms will be more beneficial to the tribal people of the state, helping them improve their overall health status in future.

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Raw material shortage riles Gopalpur weavers

With closure of 3,000 looms, the weavers are now in search of alternatives to eke out a living despite good demand for tussar clothes in the market



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rasulpur, May 4: As many as 1,500 weavers at Gopalpur village under Prathamakhanda panchayat of this block in Jajpur district have been left without any work following the closure of over 3,000 looms due to acute shortage of tussar cocoons, a report said Thursday. This has robbed them of their livelihood as many of them are now withdrawing from what has been their profession for generations. They are now in search of alternatives to eke out a living despite good demand for tussar clothes in the market. Left with no option, weaver leaders Gobind Chandra Das, Pratima Guin, Nirupama Das, Pranakrushna Dutta, Surendra Das, Antaryami Dutta, Ashok Kumar Guin and Ramesh Das have warned to take to the streets for fulfillment of their demands. Gopalpur tussar cloth is made from the cocoons of the tropical tussar silk worm and distinguished by its rich texture, subtle sheen, and delicate drape. The cloth is known for its breathability and comfort, making it an ideal wear in warm and humid climates. The weavers alleged that the closure of the looms due to raw material shortage has put them on the crossroads of life with many of them abandoning their ancestral occupation and shifting to other jobs. This has happened as the raw material supplier Odisha Cooperative Tussar and Silk Federation Ltd

prices of cocoons and make a proper price fixation so that they are not put into difficulty. The weaver families have demanded supply of solar lights under state sponsored 'Rajya Bana Jyoti Yojana' as the solar lights supplied to them under Central grant in FY 2018-19 developed snags. This has put them in a fix as the weaver clusters are not included under state sponsored 'Rajya Bana Jyoti Yojana'. They have called for a change in the rules to include the clusters to avail the benefits of state sponsored schemes. They alleged that the state government has made it a point to give loan to the weavers under its Balia Yojana. However, the stiff condition has made it difficult for them to avail a loan under the scheme and demanded to simplify the rules to help them avail the benefits. They also demanded to equate the pension of weavers with the pension for artistes by reducing the age bar of weavers under Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana. Apart from this, they also urged to allow weavers for construction of workshop in their own residence who do not have separate land for the purpose. Among others, they demanded payment of their bills within a fortnight of purchase of their tussar and other clothes as well as establishment of a cotton thread and cloth bank by state-owned Boyanika. The establishment of an ESI hospital in Gopalpur area also finds place in their list. Reports said that the managing director of Serified and Utkalika Saroj Kumar Patel and deputy director of Cuttack textile division Ashutosh Mohanty visited Gopalpur village in April and took stock of the problems faced by the weavers. The two senior officials also assured for supply of tussar cocoons which is yet to be realised. A Serified official said that they are collecting tussar cocoons from Sukinda area which will soon be supplied to the weavers in Gopalpur. Now all eyes are on Serified as to when the office will supply the tussar cocoons to the weavers.



TALENT HUNT: Young cricketers go through wicket-keeping drills at a selection camp organised by Odisha Cricket Association at VSS Stadium in Sambalpur, Thursday

Triple murder case: 2 including nephew held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, May 4: The district police cracked the triple murder case of a man and his two wives at Akhiphuta village under Bheden police limits in this district with the arrest of two persons including a nephew of the victims, Thursday. The victims identified as Tankadhar Sahu and his two wives Droupadi and Madhavi were murdered in cold blood late April 17 night. Their mutilated bodies were recovered in a pool of blood the next day. Anam was arrested from Gandapada village under Bolda police limits in Chhattisgarh where he was staying by changing his name as Rahul. The accused were identified as Anam Sahu, 27, alias Basudev, a nephew of the victim Tankadhar and Sraban Rana, 37, a resident of Bolda in Mahasamund district in Chhattisgarh. Anam after murdering Tankadhar and his two wives had stolen gold ornaments from their house and sold it to Rana. He committed the murder over greed for Tankadhar's properties and to avenge the insult he had received from Tankadhar. A gold chain weighing 7.5 gram, two murder weapons and blood



stained clothes were seized from his possession. Bheden police produced the two accused in the court in this connection. The two were remanded to Bargarh sub-jail custody after their bail pleas were rejected. This was stated here by Bargarh SP PS Meena at a press meet held at the district police headquarters in Bargarh, Thursday. The SP said that Tankadhar was living with his two wives at Akhiphuta village. He, however, agreed to adopt Anam as his son as he did not have any child. Later,

Anam came to Tankadhar's house and started staying there since August last year. During the period he picked up fights with them. Tankadhar suspected him to be giving sedatives to him and two wives for which they failed to wake up every morning and slept for long hours. Later, Anam stole a scooter and

Tankadhar had agreed to adopt Anam as his son as he did not have any child. Later, Anam came to Tankadhar's house and started staying there since August last year. During the period he picked up fights with the family members. ₹30,000 from Tankadhar's house and fled but was caught red-handed by Sareipali police in Chhattisgarh for helmetless driving. On being informed, Tankadhar paid the fine and brought back the scooter. He even informed Anam's family members about his wrongdoings. Later, seething in revenge Anam killed Tankadhar and his two wives and fled the scene, the police said.

Ganja worth ₹1cr seized; man held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 4: The Excise department Thursday seized ganja worth ₹1 crore from a truck during smuggling at Dhanagar near Chikiti in Ganjam district. The Excise sleuths have also seized a car and two bikes, and arrested the kingpin Bikram Kumar Subudhi (26) of Adasingi village under Digapahandi police limits. Three other associates of Subudhi, who were involved in the smuggling, were able to give the sleuths a slip. During interrogation with the arrested smuggler, police came to know that the seized truck load of ganja would have been smuggled to Mumbai. The contraband was kept at Kanisi area after being illegally procured from Gajapati district. It was brought from Kanisi to Chikiti Wednesday and then loaded in the truck for smuggling. Bikram was forwarded to court Thursday. Excise inspector Hrudaya Chandra Samanta informed that the estimated cost of seized ganja along with truck and bikes is ₹1 crore.

Andhra again strays into Kotia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, May 4: There is no let-up in illegal incursion by neighbouring Andhra Pradesh in Kotia panchayat under this block in Koraput district as the latter continued to make inroads into the area. Triggering a fresh controversy, the ITDA project officer (PO) of Parvatipuram Manyam district in the neighbouring state Wednesday visited Phatusineri village under the panchayat and discussed various welfare schemes floated by their government with the villagers. Visit of the ITDA PO comes a day after the Andhra Pradesh deputy Chief Minister P Rajanna Dora visited Kotia panchayat and tried to lure the villagers with benefits of various welfare schemes floated by their government. ITDA PO C Bishnu Charan and assistant project director Y Satyam Naidu and other officials later took stock of the turmeric grown by the villagers. They discussed the modalities as to how the turmeric could be sold in Andhra Pradesh market. Then they held discussions



with the officials and asked them to ensure that the farmers get the right price for their produce. Besides, they assured the women of the village that monetary assistance will be provided for turmeric farming, sources informed. Despite stiff opposition from the Odisha government, Andhra continues to intrude into the Kotia region and entice the locals. Recently, stickers of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy were seen being put up on the pucca houses constructed

under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana in Talaganjeipadar village in Kotia which only escalated the controversy further. Similarly, the recent visit of Andhra deputy chief minister Peedika Rajanna Dora to Kotia had sparked controversy. Dora was found sensitising the villagers about various welfare schemes of the YSR Congress party government during his visit to the disputed region. However, despite regular straying by Andhra Pradesh into Kotia panchayat neither the district ad-

ministration nor the block administration is taking any serious step to thwart the evil plan of the neighbouring state.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
INDICATIVE NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF HONORARY VISITING SPECIALISTS (HVS)
Notification No. SBP/Pers/Gaz/HVS/Engagement/Med/2023 Dated : 25.04.2023
Application are invited for engagement of Honorary Visiting Specialists in General Surgery, Orthopedic and Eye on contract basis at Divisional Railway Hospital / Sambalpur. Willing Doctors who fulfil the Qualification / eligibility criteria specified below may apply directly to Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Sambalpur or mail ID : cms_sbp@sbp.railnet.gov.in on or before 25.05.2023. The engagement will be offered purely on Contract basis for a period upto 30.06.2023 which can be renewed as a fresh contract on year to year basis or till the scheme is available, whichever is earlier.

Place	No. of HVS to be engaged	Speciality of HVS to be engaged	Proposed duty hours of HVS	Honorarium per Month
Divisional Railway Hospital, Sambalpur	01	Orthopedic	02 Hours a day for 04 days / week	₹ 32,000/-
	01	EYE	02 Hours a day for 06 days/week	₹ 52,000/-
	01	General Surgery	02 Hours a day for 06 days/week	₹ 52,000/-

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→About us → Divisions → Sambalpur → Recruitment.
PR-126/O/23-24 Divisional Railway Manager(P) / Sambalpur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e-Procurement Notice
ANGUL (R&B) DIVISION
Bid Identification No.02 of 2023-24
No.B-159: e-mail ID- angulrbddivision@yahoo.co.in

- Number of Works : 07 (Seven) number of Building works
- Approximate estimated cost : Varies from Rs.07.00 lakh to Rs.23.00 lakh.
- Period of completion : 02 (Two) to 04 (Four) Calendar months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt. 15.05.2023 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date / Time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt. 24.05.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date of opening Bid : Dt. 25.05.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Angul (R&B) Division, Angul
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Executive Engineer
Angul (R&B) Division
OIPR-34074/11/0003/2324

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ST-OT-LOOP-LINE-MLT-316, Dt. 28.04.2023
NAME OF WORK: PROVISION OF ONE ADDITIONAL LOOP LINE AT MALATIPATPUR STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Tender Value in (₹) : 1,13,62,713/-
EMD (₹) : 2,06,800/-
Bidding Start Date : 08.05.2023.
Date and Time of Closing of Tender : At 11:00 Hrs. of 22.05.2023.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <https://www.reps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) / Khurda Road
PR-128/O/23-24



BEATING THE HEAT: A youth performs a somersault while bathing with his friend in a pond at Angul Town, Thursday

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015
POSSESSION NOTICE
(Rule-8(1)) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Bahugram Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Bahugram Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

BAHUGRAM BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower : Mr. Hrushikesh Padhiary, S/o: Birabara Padhiary, At/PO.: Mahajanpur, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754200	₹ 3,49,269.64 + interest & expenses thereon	17.02.2023 / 29.04.2023	All that part and parcel of Land & Building situated over Mutated Khata No.: 511/62 & 511/178, Plot No.: 699/1775 & 699/1835, Total Area: Ac.0.036 Dec. at Mouza: Mahajanpur, KISSAM: Gharabari, PS.: Salipur, PS No.: 37, North: Babaji Malla & Others, South: Road, East: Babaji Malla, West: Sachidananda Padhiary

SRO: Salipur, Tahasil: Salipur, Tahasil No.: 484, Dist.: Cuttack, Standing in the name of Mr. Hrushikesh Padhiary, Bounded by North: Babaji Malla & Others, South: Road, East: Babaji Malla, West: Sachidananda Padhiary
Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 05.05.2023
Authorised Officer
Bank of India

FOCUS CHILDCARE

PARENTS VS STATE



In cases of families on work stints abroad, it may help if the Central government intervened by providing counselling and support through Indian embassies well before parenting runs into trouble, especially in Nordic and European countries

rights of Dhara and Bhavesh Shah, her mother and father. Ariha was taken away on suspicion of sexual abuse, following what the family says is an accidental injury while in her paternal grandmother's care. That was referred to doctors who in turn called in the child services. The worried parents have said in the online petition, that the lawsuit could go on for two or three years giving child services the advantage of the "continuity principle" of the law in Germany under which if a child has spent a significant time with the state-appointed carer, it is said to be settled there and should not be shifted back to the parents, even if they are found to be fit.

Portugal offer the best family-friendly policies among 31 rich countries according to a new UNICEF report based on their national family-friendly policies. Among the most family-friendly countries, Norway, in 1981, was the first to appoint a child ombudsman, to protect the rights of the child. Yet Norway also faces a disproportionately high number of child welfare cases and a number of them, fiercely contested by parents, have found their way before the European Court of Human Rights. The Court has deemed as central Article 8 of the human rights convention, which covers the right to respect for private and family life. In recent years, the ECtHR has accepted 39 cases involving the Norwegian Child Welfare Services for hearing. Of the nine cases the Court has ruled on, a violation of the right to family life has been found in seven cases. A total of 52 judgements have been passed against Norway throughout the Court's history. These high numbers show the country's failure to safeguard the right to family life in child welfare cases.

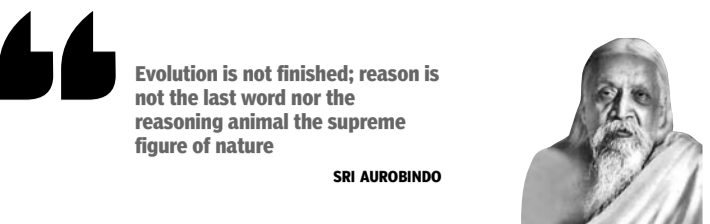
According to BBC, as the Norwegian media began investi-

gating a story it has ignored, it has been found that children with a foreign mother are four times more likely than other children in Norway to be forcibly taken from their families. A Norwegian-Chinese couple has had their baby taken away with questions over parenting which include the time the child spent with her Chinese maternal grandmother after birth, a common practice in Asian countries. Critics say Barnevernet, the Norwegian Child Welfare Services agency, is too quick to remove the children of immigrants. In the 2011 removal of two children from their Czech parents due to allegations of sexual abuse, the parents were eventually exonerated but the State refused to return the children and has now terminated their parental rights. The workings of child welfare in Norway prompted strong criticism from former Czech President Milos Zeman. Heads of State of Poland and Romania have also voiced disapproval in cases involving their nationals.

The problems that arise often require government intervention. Like the issues flagged by Indian migrant workers in the Gulf. For instance, when Prime Minister Modi toured the Gulf countries in 2018 there were demands, especially by workers, for support from home. The Indian diaspora, the largest in the world and topmost contributor to home remittances, wanted steps to improve job security in host countries through intervention from the Indian government.

In cases of families on work stints abroad, it may help if the Central government intervened by providing counselling and support through Indian embassies well before parenting runs into trouble, especially in Nordic and European countries. A kind of family ombudsman in embassies could be a guide and referral point for Indian parents in order to prevent visits from child welfare services that may not end well.

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press



Bumpy Road Ahead

The Spring Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund usually provide a platform for various organizations, policymakers, and commentators to reflect on the state of the global economy, offer assessments of the previous year's developments, and forecast what lies ahead. This year's meetings, which took place in Washington in April, were accompanied by grim predictions that underscored the growing likelihood of a prolonged global recession.

While many analysts previously assumed that the confluence of crises that the world has faced over the past three years – the COVID-19 pandemic, supply-chain disruptions, the war in Ukraine, and the resulting inflation crisis and financial turmoil – would have a significant but ultimately transitory effect on the global economy, new data suggest that the current economic upheaval will last longer than initially expected.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook and Global Financial Stability Report suggest a difficult road ahead, warning that "the fog around the world economic outlook has thickened." The rapid succession of large interest-rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve and other major central banks has caused public and private sector debts to increase to their highest levels in decades, enhancing the risk of financial instability. The world's advanced economies, which grew by 2.7% in 2022, are projected to grow by just 1.3% this year. While the IMF expects Asia's emerging and developing economies to expand by 5.3% in 2023 (compared to 4.4% last year), India's growth forecast has been revised down to 5.9% (compared to a 6.8% growth rate in 2022).

A new book by the World Bank is even more pessimistic, warning that the global economy could be on the brink of a "lost decade." Based on a comprehensive database of estimates of potential growth covering 173 countries, the authors project that annual global growth will fall to a three-decade low of 2.2% and remain weak for the rest of the decade. While the wealthy may have the means to weather the storm, the same cannot be said for the world's poor and lower-middle classes, who will be hit hardest by the coming downturn.

To comprehend the full ramifications of the current moment, we must look beyond the immediate consequences of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine and confront underlying issues that have been festering for decades, including climate change and the social and political disruptions caused by rapid technological innovation. Navigating our way out of today's "polycrisis" and restoring global growth, though possible, will be extremely challenging for two key reasons.

First, as the World Bank report highlights, many countries are experiencing an alarming trend of declining investment. While fiscal and monetary policies certainly play a role, I believe that the root cause of weak investment is the increasing politicization of economic policy, which has fueled a widespread loss of trust in governments and undermined confidence in their ability to solve the problems that matter.

India is a case in point. Since 2012, private-sector investment as a share of the Indian GDP has steadily declined. The World Bank and other experts attribute this trend to political polarization and a growing lack of trust. While public investment has increased dramatically over the past decade, this can be a dangerous trend: When the government has disproportionate control over investment, it often leads to a surge in cronyism. Russia, where an oligarchy rapidly emerged by currying favours with political leaders in exchange for lucrative contracts and sweetheart privatization deals, offers a stark example.

The second challenge is that introducing any corrective policy would require a concerted, multi-country effort. The interconnectedness of global supply chains means that any disruption has widespread and powerful knock-on effects, and the growing use of economic sabotage as a war tactic underscores the urgency of multilateral cooperation on a treaty promoting the protection of economic assets.

Achieving a prosperous, peaceful world also requires stepping up efforts to meet climate goals and stem the increase in economic inequality within and between countries. Owing to advances in digital technology and the globalization of supply chains, such challenges are beyond the reach of individual countries acting alone. To address these global issues, governments must coordinate their monetary, fiscal, and security policies. To be sure, this will not be easy. But the alternative – a future of sluggish growth, political instability, and environmental catastrophe – is simply too dire to contemplate.

The writer, a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.



Kaushik Basu

Achieving a prosperous, peaceful world also requires stepping up efforts to meet climate goals and stem the increase in economic inequality within and between countries



Lekha Rattanan

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN RAISING CHILDREN SEEM TO BE AMONG THE REASONS FOR THE STATE STEPPING INTO HOMES AND TAKING AWAY CHILDREN

Last month a film released in theatres recounting an immigrant Indian mother's struggle to win back the custody of her children from the Norwegian foster care system. The box office returns in India have not been so enthralling, but it is the most-watched South Asian film in Norway and has articulated the tussle of mostly immigrant parents against childcare services in Nordic and European countries. The Norwegian Embassy in India has dismissed the film based on the 2022 book *The Journey of a Mother* by Sagarika Chakraborty as a "fictional representation" of the case that was resolved a decade ago in cooperation with Indian authorities and noted that the reason for placing children in alternative care is only if they are subjected to "neglect, violence or other forms of abuse."

Regardless of the dismissal, the film *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway* has drawn attention to the many custody battles that are going on between parents and childcare services. One of them is the current confrontation between Berlin Child Services and the Shah family.

The case was taken up with Germany in December 2022 when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised the issue with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock.

Cultural differences in raising children seem to be among the reasons for the State stepping into homes and taking away children. It is a matter that has been raised in the Shah vs Germany case. "The German child services are completely insensitive to the baby's cultural and religious identity, insisting on a meat diet for her though she comes from an observant Jain family," says an online petition "Save Ariha" by the child's parents who are engaged in a struggle to get their daughter back from Germany. Ariha Shah is a little over the age of two. The toddler has spent most of this time in the care of Berlin Child Services which last month filed a civil custody case to terminate the parental

SPECTRUM MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Embattled jumbos & perplexed people



Jitasatru Mohanty

EARLIER, THE HUMAN UTILITY AREA AND ELEPHANT CORE AREA WERE WIDE APART, WITH A VAST INTERMEDIATE ZONE SERVING THE PURPOSE OF BUFFERING THE INVASION IMPACT

Cases of frequent foraging of elephants into human habitats in Odisha, causing casualties to life and property often manage to find space in prime-time media almost on a regular basis with Odisha being under the scanner. Long ago, this large land mammal was remaining inside the forest with rare outside movement to fringe areas to enjoy the feast of palatable crops in harvest season. The dwellers took these stray incidents casually, treating the occasional minimal loss as an offering to Gajalakhmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity. Further, the visiting animals were returning back to their home habitat quickly on their own or easily with simple non-injurious efforts like showing light and making sound by the interfacing inhabitants. Such was the peaceful co-existence between people and gentle giants in the past. But now there is a sea change in the situation. Elephants are roaming more in the human landscape than theirs. Intrusions have increased manifold with an ascending trend in fatalities and destructions. A State Wildlife Organization report reveals that during the last decade, the numbers of people killed and injured on account of elephant encounters have been 854 and 489, respectively.

Similarly, the quantum of depredation damage in the said period was 1.27 lakh acres of cultivated land belonging to 2.95 lakh farmers. A total of 12,638 houses, consisting of 4,793 fully and 7845 partially, have been destroyed. A whopping ₹157 crore was paid as compassionate allowance. The report clearly reflects that erstwhile harmonious living has been disturbed drastically. The reasons behind the collapse of an age-old empathetic relationship are many and varied. The most prominent one among them is the diminished, degraded, and disintegrated habitat that was once nurturing wild animals smoothly. This has happened due to the injudicious, indiscriminate and irretrievable use of forests for infrastructure development, which shrinks the moving space for these big animals.

The elephant is a long distance migratory megaherbivore. It requires a large, compact home range for daily needs of 1.5 to 2.0 quintals of green branches, twigs, climbers, grasses and 150 to 200 litres of water, which is collected through wandering for 16 to 18 hours a day over a forested stretch of about 10 sq km. The scarcity of food has compelled the pachyderms to enter farmlands and houses time and again. Such ingress into human

habitats and resistance by the dwellers have turned into a tough tussle.

Earlier, the human utility area and elephant core area were wide apart, with a vast intermediate zone serving the purpose of buffering the invasion impact and keeping habitation unaffected. This intervening space has been obliterated due to human activities, which have brought the interfaces very close to each other. Being cornered, the hostile pachyderms started invading agricultural fields and grain storage places. Depredation and devastation have made people develop an antagonistic mindset towards elephants, considering them animals of nuisance, and adopt forceful drive operations by hook or crook using detrimental methods like electric current shock, throwing burning objects, and attacks with deadly weapons and poisons. Such retaliatory coercive action has enraged the elephants, and they have become violent and aggressive.

Relentless retaliation could not provide any respite from suffering but rather aggravated it, for which the people are in a state of disgust and despair. An environment of unrest has emerged, leading to agitation among locals, who are blaming the forest department

for such an unruly situation. People have become restless and impatient to wait for a gradual remission of the danger rather than insisting on a quick fix. They are not only panicked but also perplexed.

Everyone wants a rapid solution. But everyone should know that it's a time-consuming process. A three-tier remedial measure is suggested to address the present crisis. Retrieval of strayed herds should be given top priority and taken up as emergency operations, emphasising zero casualties and minimising damage. Allowing an invasive animal to pass unobstructed through its self-chosen path by simply watching with patience at a safe distance is the best option. Barriers like a solar fence, trench, and repellent crop in the border area could be short-term steps to restrict entry into human settlements. Rejuvenation of parent habitats through enrichment of palatable vegetation and perennial water sources is essential. All these measures should be taken simultaneously.

Besides, a concerted, coordinated, and combined effort of front-line forest staff and inhabitants is a must for effective and long-lasting mitigation.

The writer is a former Conservator of Forest

WISDOM CORNER

- Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**
- It is in your hands, to make a better world for all who live in it. **NELSON MANDELA**
- The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear. **AUNG SAN SUU KYI**

WORDSWORTH

At sixes and sevens

This expression is commoner in the UK and Commonwealth countries than in the US. It can mean something that's in a state of total confusion or disarray, or people who are collectively in a muddle or at loggerheads about how to deal with some situation. For example, a British newspaper article in 2002 reported that the Conservative opposition had accused the Government of being "at sixes and sevens" over what to do with the rail network. But what could possibly be the sixes and the sevens that are involved? There are two old stories that try to explain this. One tries to find it in the King James Version of the Bible; Job 5:19 has "He shall deliver thee in six troubles; yea, in seven shall no evil touch thee", a couplet that makes no sense to us today and which doesn't seem to link to any known use of the expression. The other story, more common and very widely believed, traces it back to a dispute between two of the ancient livery companies in the City of London. These companies, trade guilds, grew up from the latter part of the twelfth century as associations to protect their members' interests. (They were called livery companies because members had the right to wear a distinctive costume or livery.) There was a lot of squabbling with other guilds about precedence in the early days. One especially troublesome dispute concerned the Merchant Taylors Company, whose members were tailors, and the Skinners Company, whose members controlled the trade in furs. In 1484 the then Lord Mayor, Sir Robert Billesden, settled the dispute in a judgement of Solomon by ruling that the two companies should alternate between the sixth and seventh positions in successive years, a ruling still in force. This might seem to settle the matter. What could be clearer? The two companies were permanently at sixes and sevens with each other.

Journalists at receiving end

Sir, Press is called the fourth pillar of democracy, but its state has been a worrying factor in India in the last some years, as the 2023 World Press Freedom Index shows that the country has slipped to 161st position, a clear 11 ranking below from its last year's position. Journalists from smaller media outlets in the country have constantly been facing harassment and threats, and in some cases, they were even murdered. An earlier report from the Paris-based organisation 'Reporters Without Borders' or Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) alleges that under the guise of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ruling BJP unleashed several lawsuits against media outlets which contradicted the official numbers of COVID cases and deaths. Physical attacks on journalists and their arrests under often-archaic laws interpreted beyond their legitimate scope to clamp down on them have become tactics to silence the scribes by the current ruling dispensation. But every attack on the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression only adds to the strength of the Fourth Estate in our country.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Underrepresentation of women

Sir, Women's equal participation and leadership in political and public life are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. However, data show that women are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making worldwide including government leadership as well as political participation, and that achieving gender parity in political life is far off. Data from 136 countries shows that women constitute nearly 3 million (34 per cent) of elected members in local deliberative bodies. Only two countries have reached 50 per cent, and an additional 20 countries have more than 40 per cent women in local government. Regional variations are also noted for women's representation in local deliberative bodies, as of January 2022: Central and Southern Asia, 41 per cent; Europe and Northern America, 36 per cent; Oceania, 32 per cent; Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 28 per cent; Latin America and the Caribbean, 25 per cent; Sub-Saharan Africa, 25 per cent; Western Asia and Northern Africa, 18 per cent. This lack of representation can be attributed to gender bias within political parties and the perception that women are not as electable as men. Thus, the inequality needs to be balanced before the next century.

Jayanthi Subramaniam, EAST MUMBAI

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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national

of the day quote

The Jalandhar by-election will set tone for the 2024 general elections in Punjab which are very crucial for the country's future

AMARINDER SINGH | FORMER PUNJAB CM

With the ongoing laying of 4G towers across the state in all rural and interior districts, almost every citizen will have access to internet by end of 2023. Our objective should be to bring all our citizens on these online platforms so that they can avail government services from anywhere without the need to make a round of government offices physically

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL PRADESH CM

Despite our efforts, the market fee has been reduced from 3 per cent to 2 per cent and RDF from 3 per cent to 0 per cent in this Rabi season...Punjab will lose Rs 250 crore in market fee and Rs 750 crore in RDF, (which is a) total Rs 1,000 crore

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

8 killed as truck overturns on car

Jaipur: Eight members of an extended family, including three children, were killed here Thursday after a tanker truck overturned on the car they were travelling in, police said. The accident took place on the Jaipur-Ajmer highway near Ramnagar area at around 12.30 pm, they said. The car occupants were on their way to Ajmer from Phagi town to offer prayers at the Ajmer Dargah, police said.

Bajrang Dal stages protest in Gujarat

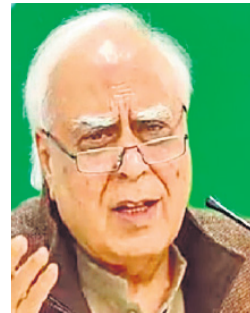
Ahmedabad: The Bajrang Dal held a protest Thursday in front of the Gujarat Congress headquarters against the party's Karnataka manifesto promising a ban on the outfit if it came to power in the southern state. Polls are scheduled in Karnataka May 10 and the results will be declared May 13. Some 30 Bajrang Dal workers assembled in front of Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan in Paldi area of the city and burnt an effigy having images of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi.

Fog in Delhi

New Delhi: From a foggy morning to a sultry afternoon, Delhi's weather Thursday summarised the atypical patterns of the last 15 days and perplexed the residents. After a long spell of rain Wednesday, the minimum temperature plummeted to 15.8 degrees Celsius Thursday, making it the third coldest May morning since 1901 when the IMD started keeping weather records. Dense fog smudged landmarks in the morning as visibility levels dropped to 100 metres around 5:30 am in Safdarjung, according to the weather office. Harsh sunshine and high humidity troubled the residents during the day. Humidity levels oscillated between 80 per cent and 100 per cent at most places in the city.

Minor raped, killed

Tinsukia: A 12-year-old girl was raped and killed in Assam's Tinsukia district, police said Thursday. The gruesome incident, which took place in Margherita, has led to a public outcry with thousands hitting the streets in the town with a demand to arrest the culprit immediately. Tinsukia Superintendent of Police Gaurav Abhijit Dilip said the incident took place Tuesday and the body of the victim was recovered from a septic tank Wednesday.



In Uttar Pradesh alone 10,900 police encounters, love jihad, unchecked 'Dharam sansads', BJP messiah of peace? KAPIL SIBAL | RAJYA SABHA MP

IT'S AKASHVANI NOW

Public broadcaster Prasar Bharti has decided to drop references to its radio service as 'All India Radio' and substitute it with 'Akashvani', as mentioned in the law



Patna HC stays Bihar govt's caste survey

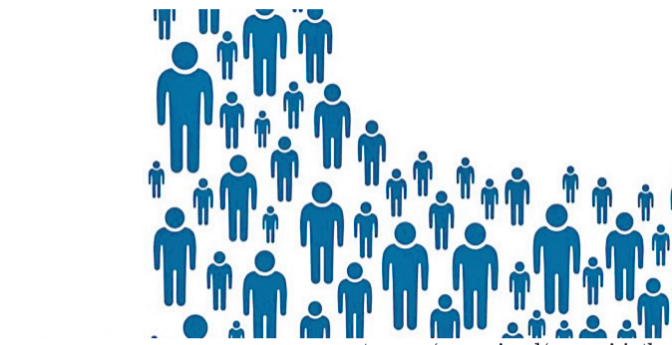
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 4: The Patna High Court Thursday ordered a stay on the caste survey being conducted by the Bihar government.

Hearing a bunch of petitions, a division bench of Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Madhuresh Prasad directed the state government to immediately stop the caste-based survey, and ensure that the data already collected are secured and not shared with anybody till final orders are passed. The court has fixed July 3 as the next date for the hearing. "We are of the considered opinion that the petitioners have made out a prima facie case against the continuation of the process of caste-based survey, as attempted by the state of Bihar. There is also the question raised of data integrity and security which has to be more elaborately addressed by the state," the court said.

While, Prashant Kumar Shahi, Advocate General (AG) along with his team of lawyers argued on behalf of the state government, senior advocates Abhinav Srivastava, Dhananjay Kumar Tiwari and others represented the petitioners during the argument.

During arguments, counsels for the petitioners relied on the decision in National Legal Services Authority (supra) to point out that the transgenders' individual identity and entity were compromised by putting them together as a caste. Though they have been qualified as a backward community for the purpose of getting state relief, there is no reason to put them in a single caste category, which caste



Expressing concern, the court noted the government's intention to share data from the survey with leaders of different parties in the state Assembly

The state cannot attempt to carry out a caste census in the garb of a survey, especially when the state has absolutely no legislative competence and, in that circumstance, neither can an executive order be sustained under Article 162 of the Constitution of India, the court clarified

category does not really exist. It was pointed out that though the government has clarified that transgenders would not be classified as a caste, the classification remains in the guidelines issued by the state government, which prejudices them, one of the lawyers of the petitioners told the court. "Prima facie, we are of the opinion that the state has no power to carry out a caste-based survey, in the manner in which it is fashioned now, which would amount to a census, thus impinging upon the legislative power of the Union Parliament," the HC said. "The essential difference be-

tween a 'census' and 'survey', is that the former contemplates collection of accurate facts and verifiable details, while, a survey is intended at collection and analysis of opinions and perceptions of the general public which may be aimed at a specific community or group of people or the extended community of a polity.

"Both result in an analysis of the data collected; which in the case of a 'census' are empirical, while in a 'survey' are mostly logical conclusions. The present exercise by the state of Bihar can only be seen as an attempt to carry out a 'census' under the name of a 'survey', it said.

The HC also observed that the notification issued by the state government does not disclose any perceivable object for carrying out such a survey.

Earlier, in the day, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had expressed annoyance over opposition, from some quarters, to the headcount of castes that was being conducted by his government in the state. Kumar was replying to questions from journalists on a petition in the Patna High Court challenging the caste survey.

Technician killed, two pilots injured as Army copter crashes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 4: An Army helicopter crashed after a "hard landing" in a forested area in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district Thursday following a technical fault, killing a technician and injuring the two pilots on board, officials said.

The advanced light helicopter (ALH) Dhruv on an operational mission came down on the banks of a river in Marwah area, cut off from the district headquarters due to heavy snow. A court of inquiry has been ordered and further details are being ascertained, the Army said in a statement.

Thursday's crash was the fifth involving Army helicopters in Jammu and Kashmir since 2021. In a statement, the Udhampur-based Northern Command said, "At about 1115 hours on 04 May 2023, an Army Aviation ALH Dhruv helicopter on an operational mission made a precautionary landing on the banks of Marua river in the Kishtwar region of Jammu and Kashmir."

The pilots had reported a technical fault to the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) and proceeded for a precautionary landing, it said. "Due to the undulating ground, undergrowth and unprepared landing area, the helicopter apparently made a hard landing. Immediate rescue operations were launched and Army rescue teams reached the site," the statement said.

The injured were evacuated to the command hospital in Udhampur, where the technician - Craftsman Pabballa Anil - succumbed to his injuries, the Army said.

General Officer Commanding-in-chief of the Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi paid rich tributes to the technician.

Pawar to clear air soon



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 4: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar Thursday said his decision to step down from the post was taken for the future of the party and to create a new leadership.

These leaders asserted Sule, a three-term LS MP, had established herself as an effective parliamentarian and has contacts with leaders of parties across the political spectrum, whereas Ajit Pawar has good hold over the state unit and is widely acknowledged as an able administrator. Moreover, these leaders added that Ajit Pawar had recently spoken about his chief ministerial dreams, while Sule has always said national politics interests her.

Incidentally, senior NCP leader and former state minister Chhagan Bhubhal had said Sule should take up the party's national mantle and Ajit Pawar must head the state

unit, though the MLA from Yeola in Nashik was quick to add that this was his personal opinion.

Speaking outside the YB Chavan Centre in the city, where his supporters have been camping to demand his continuation as the party chief, Pawar said he would

take a final decision in the next couple of days and the sentiments of party workers will not be ignored.

"I respect your sentiments. I should have discussed my plans with all of you and taken you into confidence. But I know you wouldn't have allowed me to take

the decision (of stepping down as party chief)," the former Union minister told his supporters.

He said some party colleagues from outside Maharashtra will meet him Friday to discuss the issue. "I will take a final decision in one or two days," Pawar said. As emotions ran high among his supporters, Pawar tried to pacify them outside the YB Chavan Centre.

A committee set up by 82-year-old Pawar will meet at 11am Friday to decide on who will head the NCP next. As per party leaders, the mantle of NCP chief is likely to remain within the Pawar family as giving the reins to someone from outside may lead to rifts and power tussles in the outfit formed in 1999. Pawar Tuesday sprang a surprise by announcing his decision to quit as president of the party.

SC relief for Kanimozhi

The Supreme Court dismissed an election petition challenging the election of DMK MP Kanimozhi from Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi constituency in 2019



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 4: The Supreme Court Thursday junked an election petition challenging the election of DMK MP Kanimozhi from Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi constituency in 2019.

Kanimozhi's election was challenged by a voter, A Sanathana Kumar, on grounds that she failed to mention her husband's Permanent Account Number (PAN) in her election affidavit disclosing family assets.

A bench comprising justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M. Trivedi allowed the appeal filed by DMK leader against the Madras High Court order, which refused to dismiss the petition against her election. "In that view of the matter, election petition...filed by the respondent-elect

tion petitioner deserves to be dismissed, and is accordingly dismissed. The impugned judgment of the High Court is set aside. The appeals stand allowed accordingly," said the top court.

The top court noted that at the time of scrutiny of the nomination paper and the affidavit in the Form 26 furnished by the appellant returned candidate, neither any objection was raised, nor the returning officer had found any lapse or non-compliance of Section 33 or Rule 4A of the Rules (Rule 4A of the Conduct of Election Rules 1961).

The bench said if according to the respondent-election petitioner, the appellant returned candidate had suppressed the PAN of her spouse and also about the non-payment of income tax of her spouse in the foreign country, it was obligatory on the part of the election petitioner to state in the election petition the PAN of the spouse of the returned candidate in India which was suppressed by her.

Also, how the other details furnished about her husband in the said Form No. 26 were incomplete or false, it added.



Villagers carrying LPG cylinders walk towards their home as a road connecting 12 panchayats was closed following rockslide due to rains in Lagghathi in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh

EXCISE POLICY CASE Now, ED chargesheet names Manish Sisodia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday filed a fresh charge sheet in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case naming AAP leader and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia as an accused in the case for the first time, official sources said.

Sisodia was arrested by the ED in this case March 9 from Tihar Jail and he is currently in judicial custody. The 51-year-old Aam Aadmi Party leader was first arrested by the CBI, which is also probing this case. This is the fourth supplementary and overall fifth charge sheet or prosecution complaint filed in the case by the ED before a designated special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Delhi. The agency has called Sisodia a "key conspirator" in this case. It had alleged, in the previous charge sheets, that the liquor policy 'scam' was a "conspiracy" undertaken by some of the big political leaders of the AAP and the so called 'South Group' comprising BRS leader K Kavitha, YSR Congress MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and others who "used" proxies and dummies to conceal their involvement.

SCO MEET Jaishankar holds talks with Chinese counterpart

AGENCIES

Benaulim (Goa), May 4: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday conveyed to his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang the importance of resolving the eastern Ladakh border row and ensuring peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) for normalisation of bilateral ties.

Jaishankar held nearly one-hour talks with Qin at Taj Exotica Resort in this sea-side village on the sidelines of a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

In a tweet, the external affairs minister said the focus remained on resolving outstanding issues and ensuring peace and tranquillity in the border areas. "A detailed discussion with State Councillor and FM Qin Gang of China on our bilateral relationship. Focus remains on resolving outstanding issues and ensuring peace and tranquillity

in the border areas," he said. Jaishankar said the discussions were also held on issues relating to the SCO, G20 and BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa).

People familiar with the talks said the discussions centred around the border row and Jaishankar insisted on its early resolution.

There was no official readout on the meeting from the Indian and Chinese sides. The meeting between the two foreign ministers was their second in the last two months. The Chinese foreign minister visited India in March to attend a meeting of the G20 foreign ministers. On the sidelines of the meeting, Jaishankar held talks with Qin during which he conveyed to his Chinese counterpart that the state of India-China relations is "abnormal" because of the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh.

Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu at a meeting that



Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang addresses the family members of Dr Dwarakanath Kotins and youth representatives of India and China on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting

China's violation of existing border agreements "eroded" the entire basis of ties between the two countries and that all issues relating to the frontier must be resolved in accordance with the existing pacts. The meeting April 27 took

place in New Delhi on the sidelines of a conclave of the SCO defence ministers. Days ahead of the meeting between the two defence ministers, the Indian and Chinese armies held 18th round of talks on ending the border row. In the

Jaishankar said the discussions were also held on issues relating to the SCO, G20 and BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa)

Corps Commander talks April 23, the two sides agreed to stay in close touch and work out a mutually acceptable solution to the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh at the earliest. However, there was no indication of any clear forward movement in ending the three-year row. The ties between India and China nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

The Indian and the Chinese troops are locked in a standoff in a few friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh for the last three years

People familiar with the talks said the discussions centred around the border row and Jaishankar insisted on its early resolution

The meeting between the two foreign ministers was their second in the last two months. The Chinese foreign minister visited India in March to attend a meeting of the G20 foreign ministers

though they disengaged in several places following a series of military and diplomatic talks. India has been maintaining that the relationship between the two countries should be based on "three mutuals" -- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area. As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in 2021 on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Majority of Indians alarmed or concerned about global warming

The study has found that the majority of the people belonging to three segments backed the formulation of policies to fight climate change and opined that the Indian government should be doing more to address global warming

Thiruvananthapuram, May 4: About 82 per cent of Indians are either alarmed or concerned about global warming and are in support of bringing in energy policies to reduce its effects, reveals a new study.

The study report, Global Warming's Four Indias, 2022: An Audience Segmentation Analysis, prepared by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and CVoter International, identified four types of audiences within the Indian public who were classified as 'The Alarmed', consisting of 54 per cent, 'The Concerned', 20 per cent, 'The Cautious', 11 per cent, and 'The Disengaged', consisting of just 7 per cent.

The study has found that the majority of the people belonging to three segments backed the formulation of policies to fight climate change and opined that the Indian government should be doing more to address global warming.

They also backed the development of a national programme to teach Indians about global warming, train people on renewable energy jobs, encourage local communities to build check dams to ensure local water supplies, and also expressed the opinion that India should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions immediately before other countries.

"The message from the report to



the Indian public is clear: Indians of all kinds are concerned about climate change, support climate policies, and want leadership from their governments," said Dr Anjal Prakash, Associate Professor (Research) and Research Director at the Bharati Institute of Public Policy at ISB (Indian School of Business).

In 'The Alarmed' category, 52 per cent of respondents are from rural areas, 32 per cent from urban areas and 16 per cent semi-urban. Among 'The Concerned', 58 per cent are rural dwellers, 27 per cent urban, and 15 per cent semi-urban. The breakdown among 'The Cautious' is 61 per cent rural, 26 per cent urban and 13 per cent semi-urban. As for 'The Disengaged', 45 per cent of them are from the rural population, while 29 are urban and 26 per cent semi-urban.

The study has also found that most of the people surveyed said they had noticed changes in weather, with rains increasing or decreasing, and temperatures going up, and many have accepted the vulnerability to extreme climate events and a longer duration for recovery from such events.

The Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the Center for Voting Opinion and Trends in Election Research (CVoter) conducted a survey among a participatory Indian population of 4,619 Indians, all aged above 18 from October 21, 2021 to January 9, 2022.

Anthony Leiserowitz of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and Jagadish Thaker of the University of Queensland were the principal investigators.

TENT CITY IN AYODHYA SOON

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ayodhya, May 4: A tent city will come up in Ayodhya to provide quality accommodation to pilgrims visiting the holy city after completion of the Ram temple.

To be set up on over 3.70 acre of land close to the temple complex along the Parikrama Marg near Brahma Kund gurudwara, the tent city will have at least 200 tents, each having an area of 250 sqft.

The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) has started the process of selecting experienced agencies for it. The tent city is expected to be completed by November. As the Ram temple is expected to open for pilgrims in January next year, the development authority needs to quickly increase the number of quality rooms that can be provided to the tourists.

Vishal Singh, vice-chairman of the authority said, "Services equip-



To be set up on over 3.70 acre of land close to the temple complex along the Parikrama Marg near Brahma Kund gurudwara, the tent city will have at least 200 tents, each having an area of 250 sqft

The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) has started the process of selecting experienced agencies for it. The tent city is expected to be completed by November

ment to 2 or 3 starred hotels are going to be offered at the tent city," Singh said no permanent structure will be set up while erecting the

tents and the authority will seek the sewerage treatment and wastewater treatment plans of the operator in advance to rule out any

shortcomings and possibility of environmental hazard.

Singh added that a vacant area measuring 15,000 square metres has been identified for the purpose. Officials said it will take 15 to 20 minutes to walk from the tent city to the temple complex.

According to estimates prepared by local administration, Ayodhya presently has 17 hotels which can offer close to 600 rooms. However, once the temple gets operational, on busy festival days and long weekends the city would need more than 5,000 rooms.

Earlier, tent cities have been set up in Prayagraj and Varanasi along the banks of the rivers to cater to the guests looking for quality stay options. In Lucknow too, a tent city was set up ahead of the global investors summit in February and turned out to be extremely popular among the visitors.

Yoga, sports must for students in AKTU

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 4: The Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), has decided to introduce yoga and sports activities as part of its B.Tech syllabus from the academic session 2023-24.

It will be mandatory for all engineering students studying in over 700 colleges affiliated with AKTU, to pass the yoga or sports paper.

AKTU officiating vice chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai said, "Engineering students will have to study yoga and sports in the second and fourth semesters of the course. It is a non-credited course



but students will have to pass it like 'Rashtra Gaurav' and environmental science papers which are mandatory in non-technical

undergraduate courses." "Engineering students will not get their degree if they fail to pass the paper. Yoga and sports

activities are like a co-curricular introduction which is essential for the overall growth of students. There is a great focus on co-curricular activities, especially yoga, in the New Education Policy-2020. We are reviewing B.Tech, MBA and other courses to introduce a new and interdisciplinary subject as per NEP," he added.

"We are preparing the curriculum and will shortly issue detailed guidelines for its teaching and evaluation. The colleges have been asked to complete necessary process. The paper will include both theory and practical," said an AKTU official.

Vijayan seeks Vande Bharat's halt in Tirur



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, May 4: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday wrote to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav seeking a halt for the Thiruvananthapuram-Kasargod Vande Bharat Express at Tirur and Thiruvalla stations, a day after the High Court dismissed a petition seeking the semi high-speed trains halt there.

On Tuesday, the Kerala High Court turned down the plea, saying that halting points of a train are determined by the Railways and no one has a vested right to demand at which station a particular train should stop.

The train completes its around 500 km distance in 7 hours 50 minutes with halts at Kollam, Kottayam, Ernakulam Thrissur, Shornur, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargod.

Of the 14 districts of the state the train halts at nine districts and it has no stop in districts like Alappuzha, Thiruvalla and Malappuram, though it passes through these districts, while it doesn't pass through Idukki and Wayanad districts.

In Vijayan's letter to Vaishnav, he has requested for stops at Thiruvalla (Alappuzha district) and at Tirur in the Muslim dominated Malappuram district.

"It would be beneficial for the Indian Railways to get more revenues if halts are allowed at Tirur and Thiruvalla from where a good number of people travel all across the state and request to consider this," said Vijayan in his letter.

Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express was flagged off on April 25 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Thiruvananthapuram Railway Station.

Students to be encouraged to take up vocational courses

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj (UP), May 4: With less than 1 per cent of total students registering for vocational courses in class 10 and class 12 exams of UP Board, officials of the state's Secondary Education Department have now issued orders for efforts to be made to encourage more and more students to take them up.

The board spends lakhs of rupees in getting question papers of these subjects made annually. The officials concede that the situation needs to be redressed as the entire focus of the central and state governments is on skill development and providing employment-oriented education to students.

Mahendra Dev, the director of secondary education, has sent a letter to all district inspectors of schools (DIOSs) instructing them to register the maximum number of students possible for these vocational courses.

Vocational education scheme is operational in 892 government and government-aided secondary schools of the state, the official added. The letter points out that guest subject experts have brought to the notice of senior officials that principals of many schools do not take admission of students in these vocational subjects due to their own wilful or negligent attitude. This is leading to a low count of registration in these trade subjects on offer.

Some principals have even initiated process for closing down



these trade subjects in their campuses after first, not giving admission to interested students in these approved trades, and adjusting the admitted students in other subjects deliberately. The letter further points out that there is a provision to admit a minimum of 25 students or even 10 students under special circumstances in these trades.

DIOS of Prayagraj, P.N. Singh, said that instructions have been received to ensure admission of maximum number of students in vocational courses. "The responsibility of the principals of the schools concerned where the number of students will be less will also be fixed as part of this exercise to encourage students to opt for vocational trade subjects on offer at class 10 and class 12 levels," he said.

KWML to increase trips on Vyttila-Kakkanad route

Kochi Water Metro Ltd (KWML) has been operating services only on two routes -- first between Kerala High Court and Vypin and then Vyttila to Kakkanad -- presently

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, May 4: To accommodate the huge rush of commuters and joy riders on the Kochi Water Metro, which has witnessed a rise in daily ridership over the past few days, KWML Thursday said it would be increasing the number of trips on its Vyttila-Kakkanad route.

Kochi Water Metro Ltd (KWML) has been operating services only on two routes -- first between Kerala High Court and Vypin and then Vyttila to Kakkanad -- presently.

On the second route, it was operating boats only during peak hours, from 8 AM to 11 AM and 4 PM to 7 PM. From today, the number of services on this route has been increased. Feeder buses and auto rickshaws will be available from Kakkanad terminal to Civil

Station and Infopark," KWML said in a statement.

According to the schedule of the increased services released by KWML, boats would be operated every 45 minutes from 7.45 AM to 1 PM from Vyttila terminal and from 8.25 AM to 1.40 PM from Kakkanad.

In the afternoon too, after 3 PM, boats would be operated every 45 minutes from both terminals, it said. The Kochi Water Metro was inaugurated on April 25 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it commenced operations on its first route, between Kerala High Court and Vypin, on April 26.

The second route between Vyttila and Kakkanad became operational on April 27. On April 30 and May 1, the total ridership on the water metro's two routes had crossed 10,000.



UP, Cankids sign MoU for child cancer care

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 4: The Uttar Pradesh government has signed an MoU with Cankids for early diagnosis and timely treatment of children across the state.

Uttar Pradesh reports 4 per cent of the annual cancer cases in the world among children below 19 years of age, according to experts. "About 14,800 children, under 19 years of age fall sick with cancer in Uttar Pradesh every year. This is 20 per cent of the adult count in India and 4 per cent global cases of cancer among children," said Chief Secretary D.S. Mishra.

The MoU has been signed with Mission director of the NHM Aparna

U and Poonam Bagai of Cankids signed the MoU. Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma, principal secretary medical health, said that hospitals where cancer treatment can be provided in both government sector and private sector will be mapped.

"This will help in sending the child to a correct place for treatment," said Sharma.

"Delayed diagnosis and lack of awareness regarding correct treatment is one of the leading causes for poor results in treatment. Increased awareness both among common people and medical staff would benefit will the cancer patients," said Abhishek Shukla, secretary general association of international doctors.

Rogue elephant trouble far from over as radio collar fails



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, May 4: The residents in and around Chinnakanal in Idukki district, who had been tormented by Kerala's one of wildest elephants 'Arikomban', are again worried, as on Wednesday, the officials said that radio signals have not been received for hours now.

'Arikomban' was captured, radio collared and sent to deep forest on Saturday. According to the officials, the last signal was received on Tuesday afternoon.

The eight kg radio collar that was put on the neck of the elephant soon after being captured, is tuned to send signals every hour, but the forest officials said that the last signal was received

'ARIKOMBAN' WAS CAPTURED, RADIO COLLARED AND SENT TO DEEP FOREST SATURDAY. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIALS, THE LAST SIGNAL WAS RECEIVED TUESDAY AFTERNOON
ON SATURDAY, AFTER BEING CAPTURED IT WAS TAKEN AND LET OFF AROUND 21 KMS FROM THE SPOT FROM WHERE IT WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AFTER SEVEN DOSES OF TRANQUILISERS

around 21 kms from the spot from where it was taken into custody after seven doses of tranquilisers.

The forest department is now contacting the company, which has supplied the radio collar, and according to experts at times the connection can get aborted due to the location and probably bad weather too, but they are now trying to track Arikomban using a VHF antenna.

And, what has turned out to be a dampener is the news that wild elephants have a characteristic of returning to its favoured place and with 'Arikomban' last spotted around 10 kms from where it was captured, the talk of the town is -- will it return.

of the day quote

This success will continue for a full five-year term. The winning streak will continue in the subsequent elections

M K STALIN | TN CHIEF MINISTER

When Rahul Gandhi spoke about the harassment of women during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Delhi Police reached (his residence) to seek information about the women. Now that the champion daughters, are demanding justice after complaining about their harassment, the Delhi Police is torturing them instead of taking action on their complaint

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

I am deeply concerned about the situation in Manipur. Politics and elections can wait but our beautiful state of Manipur has to be protected first

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT TAKES

NIA raids several locations in J&K

Jammu: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Thursday carried out raids at several locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district in connection with an ongoing probe in a terror funding case, official sources said. Teams of NIA conducted raids and subsequent searches at five places in the district, the sources said. The houses of persons affiliated with proscribed outfits and those involved in militancy are being searched, they added.

Four killed as bus collides with car

Sangli: Four persons were killed and one sustained injuries after a private bus entered the wrong lane and collided with a car in the Sangli district of western Maharashtra Thursday morning, an official said. The incident took place on the Vita-Nevari-Mahabaleswar road when the bus was going towards Nevari from Vita, while the car was moving in the opposite direction.

15-yr-old gangraped by three minors in UP

Bulandshahr: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by three minors in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district. The three accused are absconding and the police are conducting raids to arrest them. According to complaint filed by the girl's uncle, the incident took place Wednesday when the victim had gone out of her house to dispose of cow dung.

MP: Govt docs call off strike

Bhopal: Nearly 15,000 doctors of government hospitals, who went on an indefinite strike over various demands, have returned to work after the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed them to resume work with immediate effect. Doctors across government hospitals in Madhya Pradesh went on an indefinite strike on Wednesday morning to press for various demands, including facilities for their colleagues posted in rural areas and put an end to alleged bureaucratic interference.

Man shot dead

Patiala: A 45-year-old man was shot dead by an unidentified motorcycle-borne man in Yadavindra Enclave market on Nabha Road here Thursday, police said. The victim was identified as Darshan Kumar, a resident of Sunam town of Sangrur district, they said. Police said the incident took place at around 10.15 am and added that the assailant fled after firing.



If Modi is saying Jai Bajrang bali, then I am also appealing to Marathi-speaking people in Karnataka to chant Jai Bhavani Jai Shivaji and vote

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

TRAGIC INCIDENT

A truck carrying sheep and goats fell into a gorge Thursday on Jammu-Srinagar highway killing all the livestock. Officials said that a truck carrying sheep and goats went out of the driver's control at Domail in Udhampur district killing all the 70 livestock it was carrying



JANTAR MANTAR SCUFFLE

'Manhandling' of wrestlers shameful: Oppn



Wrestlers Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia speak with the media during their protest at Jantar Mantar

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 4: The Opposition Thursday attacked the Centre over a scuffle between the Delhi Police and the wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar here and termed the incident as "shameful", with the Congress demanding a court-monitored investigation into the entire episode. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu CMM K Stalin and his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal attacked the BJP over the issue and highlighted the plight of the women wrestlers. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tagged a video of the BJP over the issue and said it was sad to see the tears of female sportspersons who brought laurels for the country with hard work and dedication.

Congress' media department head Pawan Khera in a tweet said, "Mr Prime Minister, it will take you just 15 min to visit these wrestlers at Jantar Mantar. Show some sensitivity." Addressing a press conference along with Olympic bronze medal-winning boxer Vijender Singh, AICC secretary Amrita Dhawan said what the Delhi Police did with the noted wrestlers is "unprecedented and shameful". Hitting out at the Centre over the scuffle, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "disrobing" the honour of India's daughters in such a manner was utterly "shameful". Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin hit out at Prime Minister Modi over the alleged manhandling of protesting wrestlers in Delhi, saying contrary to the PM's "false promises" on empowering

Police beefed up security at Jantar Mantar and at Delhi borders, deploying additional manpower, bolstering CCTV coverage and raising barricades to prevent the entry of farmers who were coming to support the grapplers

women, the BJP was "shielding" accused persons. Expressing shock over the "gross injustice" being meted out to champion wrestlers, who have brought glory to the nation, Stalin said this is just not done. Slamming the BJP, Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal called the ruling party's treatment of national sportspersons "shameful and arrogant". Kejriwal in a tweet in

- The Congress called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sack Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, against whom the wrestlers are protesting
- The party urged the PM to show "sensitivity" to the protesting grapplers by visiting them at Jantar Mantar. Rahul Gandhi in a tweet condemned the "manhandling" of female wrestlers
- The Delhi Police denied allegations that its personnel were drunk and used force against protesting wrestlers during a late-night ruckus between police and some grapplers at Jantar Mantar

Hindi said that arrogance has gone to the head of the BJP and it wanted to run the system through "hooliganism", as he called on people to throw it out of power. Aam Aadmi Party MLA Somnath Bharti and Congress leader Deepender Hooda were among the people who were detained after the incident Wednesday night, according to police. Meanwhile, Union Minister and BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi said the credibility of the wrestlers' protest at Jantar Mantar eroded after "discredited" politicians joined it. The Delhi Police has filed two FIRs against WFI chief Singh on allegations of sexual harassment levelled against him by seven women wrestlers. The wrestlers have asserted that they would not leave the protest site until Singh is arrested. They resumed their sit-in last week and demanded that the findings of the panel that probed the allegations be made public.

Apex court again refuses plea against 'The Kerala Story'



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 4: The Supreme Court Thursday rebuffed a fresh attempt by a petitioner seeking a stay on the release of the film 'The Kerala Story', saying that a filmmaker invests a lot of money and time in making a movie and actors also put in a lot of work, and the market will decide if it is not up to the mark. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices PS. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala said: "One, the CBFC has released the film; two, the Kerala High Court declined to stay the film; and three, yesterday we said we are not going to entertain a petition under Article 32. Now, after these steps have been completed and now for us to hear an application like this is not proper." During the hearing on the plea, filed by journalist Qurban Ali, the bench emphasised that before rushing to the court against the movie, a thought should be given about the filmmaker and actors and how many times will this be challenged? The bench told petitioner's counsels, senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi

and Shoeb Alam, to look at the filmmaker; he cannot be made to face courts for the release of his film and the Kerala High Court had applied its mind while refusing interim relief of staying the film release. Ahmadi submitted that a letter was sent to the acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, who said that a bench has been constituted. The registry later informed the petitioner that the bench will not hold sitting on Thursday and also the Kerala High Court is on summer vacation, Ahmadi contended. However, the apex court refused to entertain the plea against the movie. The bench pointed out that the petitioner initially tried to challenge the release of the film through an interlocutory application in a pending hate speech case, which was turned down by another bench. On Wednesday, the Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind seeking a direction to the Centre and others not to allow the screening or release of the movie in theatres, OTT platforms and other avenues, and also that the trailer should be removed from the Internet.

KCR inaugurates BRS central office in Delhi

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 4: Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrasekhar Rao Thursday inaugurated the party central office at Vasant Vihar in New Delhi. The party's central office was inaugurated at 1 pm by KCR in the presence of senior BRS leaders and ministers here. Amid special prayers and rituals, KCR entered the vastu-compliant office and occupied his seat. The four-storeyed building in Vasant Vihar in southwest Delhi will be the centre of the party's expansion activities across the country. Rao changed his party's name from Telangana Rashtira Samithi to Bharat Rashtira Samithi last year as he announced his intention to go national. Roads and Buildings Minister Prashanth Reddy and Rajya Sabha MP Joginapally

Santosh Kumar have managed the works related to the construction of BRS Bhavan in Delhi and its inauguration ceremony. The four-storey BRS office has been constructed on an area of 11,000 square feet. The building has a canteen, a reception lobby and four chambers for general secretaries at the ground floor. The first floor has KCR's chamber and conference halls. A total of 20 rooms are available on the second and third floors, including suite rooms for the party's president and working president. Other facilities in the building include a media hall and servant quarters. Earlier, the party was operating out of a temporary office at Sardar Patel Marg in Delhi since December 14 last year. Telangana MLC and KCR's daughter K Kavitha said that the opening of party's Delhi office is proud moment for the party supporters.



BRS Chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao at the inauguration of the party office BRS Bhawan in Vasant Vihar in New Delhi



A newly-wed couple poses for photos showing their fingers marked with indelible ink after casting their votes for the UP Municipal elections in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Ch'garh: 11 killed in SUV-truck collision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balod, May 4: Eleven persons, including five women and two children, were killed when a sports utility vehicle (SUV) they were travelling in collided with a truck in Chhattisgarh's Balod district, police said Thursday. Ten of the deceased belonged to one family, they said, adding that the accident took place near Jagtara village under Purur police station area on National Highway-30 on Wednesday night. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed grief over the tragedy and

"An accidental death report has been registered and further probe is underway", police said

announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each deceased. The victims, natives of Soram Bhatgaon village in Dhamtari district, were on their way to a wedding ceremony, police said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, he said, adding that efforts were on to trace the truck

driver who fled from the spot leaving his vehicle behind. The exact reason behind the accident is yet to be known. An accidental death report has been registered and further investigation is underway, the police officer added. In a tweet, CM Baghel said, "Ten members of Sahu family and another-Damesh Dhruv ji, died in the road accident near Balodgahan between Purur and Charma in Balod. I announce an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to kin of each of the deceased as an assistance. This is a very sad incident. We are all united in this grief."

Dreaded gangster Anil Dujana killed in encounter with police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Meerut, May 4: Uttar Pradesh Police Thursday gunned down alleged gangster Anil Dujana, an accused in 18 cases of murder, in an encounter at a village in this western UP district, officials said. According to police, a Special Task Force (STF) team retaliated when the gangster, recently released from prison on bail, opened fire at them after being cornered. His car had crashed into a pole. The encounter took place on the day of polling for the first phase of the urban local body elections in the state. The Yogi Adityanath government's major poll plank has been its "strict" handling of law and order.

Days earlier, gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad's son Asad Ahmad and his accomplice were shot dead in an exchange of fire with the Uttar Pradesh Police. A couple of days later, Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf Ahmad were gunned down in Prayagraj by three men while they were being escorted to a hospital by the police. Additional Director General of Uttar Pradesh STF Amitabh Yash said, "Anil Dujana, a wanted criminal, was surrounded by our team led by Additional SP of UP STF Brijesh Singh, in a village in Meerut Thursday afternoon. He fired at our team to escape and was killed in retaliatory firing." The police recovered two pistols and several cartridges from Dujana's vehicle, the officer said, but did not clarify if Dujana was alone or was accompanied by some of his gang members. Dujana had over 60 cases, including 18 of murder, lodged against him in western Uttar Pradesh districts and Delhi, police said.

Cigarette butts leak deadly toxins into environment: Study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 4: Cigarette filters leak thousands of toxins and plastic fibers into the environment that are toxic to aquatic larvae, according to a study that calls for these filters to be completely banned. A research team at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden found that microfibers and the chemicals that leak out of the filters in cigarette butts are toxic to aquatic larvae. "The filter is full of thousands of toxic chemicals and microplastic fibers, so it's not just any piece of plastic that's being discarded into the environment. It's hazardous waste," said Bethanie Carney



Almroth, Professor of Ecotoxicology at the University of Gothenburg. The study, published in the journal Microplastics and Nanoplastics, tested the effects of the toxins that

are found in the filter after smoking, as well as the substances that are in the filter from the start, on aquatic mosquito larvae. It found that the toxins lead to a

- The study found that the toxins lead to a 20 per cent higher mortality rate among mosquito larvae
- Previous research has shown that the toxins in the filters also have adverse effects on many other aquatic organisms
- For example, fish can die if they are exposed to concentrations corresponding to the toxins exuded by barely two cigarette butts in one liter of water for four days

20 per cent higher mortality rate among mosquito larvae. Previous research has shown that the toxins in the filters also have adverse effects on many other aquatic organisms. For example, fish can die if they are exposed to concentrations corresponding to the toxins exuded by barely two cigarette butts in one liter of water for four days. "Cigarette filters are also a major source of the microplastics that find their way into our environment—something we know has a major negative impact on biological life. The EU has already classified cigarette filters as hazardous waste," said Almroth. The researchers also observed in the study how smokers in Gothenburg behave when it's time to put out their cigarettes. It turns out that many people throw their cigarette butts on the ground even if there are ashtrays nearby.



international



Singapore is seen as a prize target by terrorist groups and it continues to be mentioned in their propaganda
LEE HSIEN LOONG | SINGAPORE PM

SL TO INTRODUCE 'BABY BOXES'

Amidst an increasing number of couples abandoning children in Sri Lanka, the island nation government has decided to introduce 'baby boxes', where parents who are unable or unwilling to raise their newborns can anonymously leave the infants for the state to take care of them



of the day quote

Pakistan's decision to attend the SCO foreign ministers' meeting in India reflects its commitment to the SCO Charter and multilateralism
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAK PM

If you're planning to vote in person at your local elections, you must remember to bring accepted photo identification with you to the polling station
MICHAEL GOVE | UK LEVELLING UP SECRETARY

The New Zealand government has continued with the program of free sanitary hygiene products in schools this year, delivering more than 1 million period item packs to schools across the country
JAN TINETTI | MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF NEW ZEALAND

Shelling in Khartoum disrupts aid delivery

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, May 4: Heavy shelling in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum Thursday disrupted efforts to deliver badly needed aid to trapped civilians as yet another fragile and frequently violated truce ran out, residents said.



Sudan has plunged into chaos since fighting erupted in mid-April between the country's two top generals.

There is increasing concern for those trapped and displaced by the fighting, and aid workers and civilians have said there is a dire lack of basic services, medical care, food and water.

In central areas of the capital, Khartoum, sporadic explosions could be heard Thursday, a day after the United Nations warned that the country's people are "facing a humanitarian catastrophe,"

and the latest in a series of cease-fires expired earlier in the day.

"The situation is very dire," Atiya Abdalla Atiya, secretary of the country's doctors' syndicate said. "All forms of shelling can still be heard in Khartoum, whether air or artillery shelling."

Black plumes of smoke rising from downtown neighbourhoods dotted Khartoum's skyline at midday.

The fighting also raised questions about the viability of internationally backed initiatives seeking to bring an end to the fighting that has upended this African country's transition to democracy.

The conflict started on April 15, preceded by months of escalating tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.



Flowers and toys are placed for the victims near the Vladislav Ribnikar school in Belgrade, Serbia

AP/PTI

SHORT TAKES

8 teachers killed

Peshawar: Eight school teachers were killed on Thursday in two separate incidents of targeted shooting in Pakistan's restive northwest tribal district, bordering Afghanistan, police said. In the first incident, some unknown gunmen stormed the staff room of Teri Mengal High School in the Upper Kurram tribal district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and shot dead seven teachers on exam duty, according to police. The attackers fled after the attack. In a separate incident, a school teacher was killed when his car was ambushed by unknown gunmen on Shalozan Road in Parachinar headquarters of the same district. No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Collision kills 17

Cairo: A passenger bus was slammed into a slowly moving truck on a highway in southwestern Egypt, killing at least 17 people, officials and local media said Thursday. The crash took place late Wednesday in the New Valley province, according to its governor, Mohamed el-Zamlout. Twenty-nine others were injured, said the Health Ministry, adding that 26 ambulances were dispatched to the accident scene to transfer victims to nearby hospitals and morgues.

Six soldiers dead

Islamabad: Six soldiers were killed in an "intense exchange of fire" with militants Thursday in Pakistan's restive northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan, the army said. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the military - said the shootout took place in the Dir Duni area of North Waziristan district.

Qin to visit Pak

Beijing: China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang will travel to Pakistan Friday on a two-day visit after attending the meeting of the SCO Foreign Ministers hosted by India in Goa, it was announced here Thursday. Besides being the Foreign Minister, Qin is also the State Councillor, a higher rank associated with the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC). Significantly the Chinese Foreign Ministry while announcing the visit of Qin to Myanmar and India on May 2 did not include his visit to Islamabad though Pakistan media reported about it. Instead, the ministry announced his visit to Pakistan separately on Thursday during which he is due to take part in China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Putin should be sentenced for 'criminal actions': Zelenskyy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Hague, May 4: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday he was convinced that Russian President Putin would face an international war crimes court when Ukraine wins the war that has been raging for over a year.

In a speech titled "No Peace without Justice for Ukraine" given in The Hague, the city that hosts the International Criminal Court, Zelenskyy said that Putin "deserves to be sentenced for these criminal actions right here in the capital of the international law."

"And I'm sure we will see that happen when we win. And we will win," he said. The ICC has issued an arrest warrant for Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine, relating to the abduction of children. The ICC cannot prosecute the crime of war aggression itself. Zelenskyy's speech was an appeal for a full-fledged tribunal to prosecute that overarching crime, a heart-felt plea for a special tribunal for aggression.

"If we want true justice, we should not look for excuses and should not refer to the shortcomings of the current international law but make bold decisions that will correct that shortcomings that unfortunately exist in international law."

Zelenskyy's speech came a day after he denied that Ukrainian forces were responsible for what the Kremlin called an attempt to assassinate Putin in a drone attack on Moscow. The Kremlin promised retaliation for what it termed a "terrorist" act.

Putin's spokesman Thursday ac-



ZELENSKYY'S SPEECH CAME A DAY AFTER HE DENIED THAT UKRAINIAN FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT THE KREMLIN CALLED AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PUTIN IN A DRONE ATTACK ON MOSCOW

PUTIN'S SPOKESMAN THURSDAY ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF BEING BEHIND THE ALLEGED ATTACK

cused the United States of being behind the alleged attack. Dmitry Peskov said during a daily conference call that the Kremlin was "well aware that the decision on such actions and terrorist attacks is not made in Kyiv, but in Washington."

"And then Kyiv does what it's told to do," Peskov said, without offering evidence for his claim. Meanwhile, Ukraine's military claimed three Russian drones that hit the southern city of Odesa early on Thursday had "for Moscow" and "for the Kremlin" written on them, seemingly referring to the strikes in Moscow. Also, Kyiv was the tar-

get of an air attack for the third time in four days.

In total, Ukraine's Air Forces intercepted 18 out of 24 Iranian-made drones launched by Russian forces in various regions. No casualties were reported. Zelenskyy was welcomed outside the ICC building by the court's president, Poland's Piotr Hofmanski. Staff crowded at windows to get a glimpse of Zelenskyy's arrival and raised a Ukrainian flag next to the court's own flag outside the building.

Judges at the ICC last month announced they had found "reasonable grounds to believe" that Putin and his commissioner for children's rights were responsible for the unlawful deportation and transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia.

But the chances of Putin standing trial in The Hague are remote. The court does not have a police force to execute its warrants, and the Russian leader is unlikely to travel to any of the ICC's 123 member states that are under an obligation to arrest him if they can.

Israeli forces kill 3 Palestinians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nablus, May 4: Israeli troops Thursday killed three Palestinian militants wanted in connection with a shooting attack that killed a British-Israeli woman and two of her daughters, the Israeli military said, the latest bloodshed in a relentless wave of violence.

In a rare daytime incursion launched as residents were starting their day, the military said forces entered the heart of the flashpoint city of Nablus and raided an apartment where the men were located. Troops and the suspects exchanged fire and the three men were killed.

The military said the men were behind an attack last month on a car near a Jewish West Bank settlement that killed the British-Israeli mother and two of her daughters. It said two of the men were members of the Hamas militant group. It described the third man killed as a senior operative who had assisted the other suspects.

In a statement after the raid, Hamas claimed all three men, identified as Hassan Qatnani, Moaz al-Masri and Ibrahim Jabr, as members and claimed responsibility for the April attack. Israeli shells ripped through the roof of the gunmen's safe house in the heart of Nablus' Old City, leaving nothing but twisted metal, cement blocks and torn mattresses still stained with blood scattered over the rubble. A couple hours after the army withdrew, young men collected scores of ejected bullet shell casings from the narrow alleys.

The violence in Nablus comes at a particularly sensitive time in the region, days after a prominent Palestinian prisoner who was staging a lengthy hunger strike over his detention died in Israeli custody.

Major relief to Imran



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 4: In a major relief to Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Islamabad High Court here Thursday extended his bail pleas in nine cases after he appeared in-person following a warning by the court.

On April 18, the IHC extended Khan's bail in eight cases - including those of violence outside the Federal Judicial Complex - till May 3.

On Wednesday, the court asked him to attend the hearing while granting one-day extension in bail pleas in nine cases.

Khan Thursday appeared before a two-member Islamabad High Court bench headed by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, which had warned him that it may cancel his interim bail over his persistent absence from hearings.

After hearing the multiple pleas, the court extended protective bail for 10-day in seven cases about violence outside the Federal Judicial Complex in Islamabad.

The court also directed Khan to

appear before the relevant district court during this period for permanent bail.

The court also extended bails until May 9 in the mutiny case and the other case about charges of attempted murder case filed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz lawmaker Mohsin Ranjha. Security had been tightened around the court ahead of Khan's appearance who travelled to the federal capital from Lahore this morning to secure interim bail.

Elaborate security arrangements were made on the occasion. Barbed wires and containers were also placed to ensure law and order in the area. Khan was on a wheelchair when he appeared before the court, as gunshot wounds on his leg have not healed. The former premier survived an attack last year.

Earlier, Khan's party shared a video on Twitter showing the 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician's car surrounded by his supporters making its way through tight security to reach the entrance of the Islamabad High Court.

His party also released a brief video statement of the party chairman while he was leaving for Islamabad.

"(We) respect the courts, so will appear [before the court] despite pain and swelling in the leg," said Khan, who was sitting in a wheelchair to be moved to the car. He said that he was not like "those who create propaganda against the judges" if they don't get a favourable decision, Geo TV reported.

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20,000 YEARS OLD PENDANT FOUND

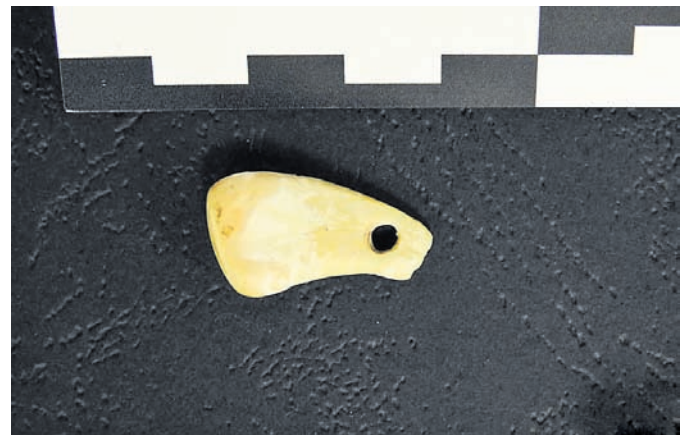
THE RESEARCHERS WHO FOUND THE PENDANT, WHICH WAS DETERMINED TO BE 19,000-25,000 YEARS OLD, USED GLOVES AND FACE MASKS WHEN EXCAVATING AND HANDLING IT, AVOIDING CONTAMINATION WITH MODERN DNA

REUTERS

Washington, May 4: Inside a Siberian cave that has been an archeological treasure trove, an elk's canine tooth - pierced to become a pendant - was unearthed by scientists with care to avoid contaminating this intriguing artifact made roughly 20,000 years ago.

The pristine collection of the pendant from Denisova Cave paid dividends. Scientists on Wednesday said a new method for extracting ancient DNA identified the object's long-ago owner - a Stone Age woman closely related to a population of hunter-gatherers known to have lived in a part of Siberia east of the cave site in the foothills of the Altai Mountains in Russia.

The method can isolate DNA that was present in skin cells, sweat or other bodily fluids and was absorbed by certain types of porous material including bones, teeth and tusks when handled by someone thousands of years ago.



Objects used as tools or for personal adornment - pendants, necklaces, bracelets, rings and the like - can offer insight into past behavior and culture, though our understanding has been limited by an inability to tie a particular object to a particular person.

"If these objects made in the deep past extremely fascinating

since they allow us to open a small window to travel back and have a glance into these people's lives," said molecular biologist Elena Essel of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany, lead author of the study published in the journal Nature. The researchers who found the pendant, which was determined

to be 19,000-25,000 years old, used gloves and face masks when excavating and handling it, avoiding contamination with modern DNA. It became the first prehistoric artifact linked by genetic sleuthing to a specific person. It is unknown whether the woman made or merely wore it.

Essel said in holding such an artifact in her own gloved hands, she felt "transported back in time, imagining the human hands that had created and used it thousands of years ago."

"As I looked at the object, a flood of questions came to mind. Who was the person who made it? Was this tool passed down from one generation to the next, from a mother to a daughter or from a father to a son? That we can start addressing these questions using genetic tools is still absolutely incredible to me," Essel added. The pendant's maker drilled a hole in the tooth to allow for some sort of now-lost cordage. The tooth alter-

natively could have been part of a head band or bracelet.

Our species Homo sapiens first arose more than 300,000 years ago in Africa, later spreading worldwide. The oldest-known objects used as personal adornments date to about 100,000 years ago from Africa, according to the University of Leiden's Marie Soressi, the study's senior archaeologist.

Denisova Cave long ago was inhabited at different times by the extinct human species called Denisovans, Neanderthals and our species. The cave over the years has yielded remarkable finds, including the first-known remains of Denisovans and various tools and other artifacts.

The new nondestructive research technique, used at a "clean room" laboratory in Leipzig, works much like a washing machine. In this case, an artifact is immersed in a liquid that works to release DNA from it much as a washing machine lifts dirt from a blouse.

WHO fires scientist who led COVID search

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, May 4: The World Health Organisation says it has fired the scientist who led a high-profile delegation from the UN health agency to China two years ago to jointly look into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic, citing sexual misconduct. Peter Ben Embarek, who led the WHO side of a joint team with scientists in China, was dismissed last year, the health agency said.

WHO says it has stepped up efforts to root out sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment in recent months after a string of cases and incidents were reported in the press. "Peter Ben Embarek was dismissed following findings of sexual misconduct against him and corresponding disciplinary process," said spokeswoman Marcia Poole said in an email. "The findings concern allegations relating to 2015 and 2017 that were first received by the WHO investigations team in 2018." She said other allegations could not be fully investigated as the "victim(s) did not wish to engage with the investigation process."



Government support and encouragement for aggressive marketing will push exports and will yield the desired results. We need to set up state-of-the-art exposition centres in important business centres abroad. Many countries have done it successfully

A SAKTHIVEL | PRESIDENT, FIEO

BMW INDIA LAUNCHES X1 sDrive18i M SPORT

Luxury carmaker BMW Thursday said it has launched a new variant of the X1 sports activity vehicle priced at ₹48.9 lakh (ex-showroom). Locally produced at the company's Chennai-based plant, the X1 sDrive18i M Sport comes with a 1,499-cc three-cylinder petrol engine. Deliveries of the model will commence from June



of the day quote

With the economy of scale, we can bring down the costs of batteries, EV charging components, etc, and make the EV transition a success story just as India did with the smartphone revolution

ABHAY BAKRE | DG, BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Boeing has received a very large order from the Tata's and I am given to understand that similar sized orders are in the pipeline... I want to see greater presence of Boeing in India

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

You will see that the number as on April 30, we had 4,50,000 people who travelled by air, that was a record number. At no time in the past has India seen such a record number of people travelling by air and you will see the numbers bounce back really really quickly

AJAY SINGH | CEO, SPICEJET

India, Russia shelve talks to settle trade in rupees

This would be a major setback for Indian importers of cheap oil and coal from Russia who were awaiting a permanent rupee payment mechanism to help lower currency conversion costs

REUTERS

New Delhi/Mumbai, May 4: India and Russia have suspended efforts to settle bilateral trade in rupees, after months of negotiations failed to convince Moscow to keep rupees in its coffers, two Indian government officials and a source with direct knowledge of the matter said.

With a high trade gap in favour of Russia, Moscow believes it will end up with an annual rupee surplus of over \$40 billion if such a mechanism is worked out and feels rupee accumulation is 'not desirable', an Indian government official, who did not want to be named, told Reuters.

India's finance ministry, the Reserve Bank of India and Russian authorities did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The rupee is not fully convertible. India's share of global exports of goods also is just about 2% and these factors reduce the necessity for other countries to hold rupees.

India started exploring a rupee settlement mechanism with Russia soon after the invasion of Ukraine in February last year, but there has been no reported deal done in rupees. Most trade is in dollars but an increasing amount is being carried out in other currencies like the UAE dirham.

The two sides have spoken about facilitating trade in local currencies but the guidelines were not formalised.

Russia is not comfortable holding rupees and wants to be paid in Chinese yuan or other currencies, a second Indian government official involved in the discussions said.



RUSSIA IS NOT COMFORTABLE HOLDING RUPEES AND WANTS TO BE PAID IN CHINESE YUAN OR OTHER CURRENCIES

INDIA'S SHARE OF GLOBAL EXPORTS OF GOODS ALSO IS JUST ABOUT 2% AND THESE FACTORS REDUCE THE NECESSITY FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO HOLD RUPEES

billion in the previous year, the official said.

Another official said both countries have started looking for alternatives after the rupee settlement mechanism did not work out but did not give details.

TRADE ON TRACK
The sources said trade with Russia has been continuing despite sanctions and payment issues.

"Right now we are making some payments in dirham and a few other currencies but the majority is still in dollars. Settlement is happening in different ways, third party countries are also being used," one of the government officials said.

Indian traders are currently also settling some of the trade payments outside Russia, the officials said.

Third-parties are being used to settle trade with Russia. There is no ban on transacting with other countries over SWIFT. So payments are being made to a third country which route it or offset it for their trade with Russia, the other official said.

On whether money was also being routed via China, the official said, "Yes, including China."

"We don't want to push rupee settlement any more, that mechanism is just not working. India has tried everything we could to try and make this work but it hasn't helped," a third source who is directly aware of the developments said.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine February 24 last year, India's imports from Russia have risen to \$51.3 billion until April 5, from \$10.6 billion in the same period in the previous year, according to another Indian government official.

Discounted oil has constituted a large part of India's imports, surging twelve-fold in the period. Exports from India in the same period fell slightly to \$3.43 billion from \$3.61

SHORT TAKES

Cognizant to lay off 3.5K workers

New Delhi: IT major Cognizant Thursday said it will lay off 3,500 employees, or approximately 1 per cent of its workforce (mainly non-billable), as it sees revenues slowing down in 2023. The company will also reduce its real estate costs by "eliminating 80,000 seats and 11 million square feet in large cities in India". Cognizant has initiated a "NextGen" programme aimed at simplifying its operating model, optimising corporate functions and consolidating and realigning office space to reflect the post-pandemic hybrid work environment.

US nod to Zydus Life's ulcer drug

New Delhi: Zydus Lifesciences Ltd Thursday said it has received final approval from the US health regulator to manufacture and market sucralfate tablets used in the treatment and prevention of ulcers in the intestines. The approval granted by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) is to manufacture and market Sucralfate Tablets of strength 1 gram, Zydus Lifesciences said in a regulatory filing.

ArcelorMittal Q1 net income falls over 73%

New Delhi: Global steel giant ArcelorMittal Thursday posted a 74.3 per cent fall in its net income at USD 1,096 million for the first quarter ended March 31, 2022. It had posted a net income of USD 4,125 million for the year-ago quarter, the company said in a statement. ArcelorMittal is the world's largest integrated steel and mining company. It follows the January-December fiscal year.

Go First suspends sale of tickets till May 15



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 4: Crisis-hit airline Go First has suspended sale of tickets till May 15 and is working to refund or reschedule existing bookings for future dates, aviation regulator DGCA said Thursday.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had issued a show cause notice to the airline after it suddenly decided to cancel flights for three days starting May 3.

Go First has intimated that they have suspended sale of their flights till 15 May 2023 and are working to refund or reschedule for future dates, the passengers already booked to fly with them, the regulator said in a statement.

After examining the reply filed by Go First, the watchdog has issued an order under the prevailing regulations directing them to process

NCLT reserves order on insolvency plea

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Thursday reserved its order on the cash-strapped airline Go First's plea seeking voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings. A two-member bench headed by President, Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar after a day-long hearing, reserved its order as the airline's lessors opposed its request for initiation of insolvency resolution proceedings, reports said. The lessors opposed the airline's plea, saying that insolvency proceedings cannot be initiated without hearing them, as per the reports.

the refunds to passengers as per the timelines specifically stipulated in the relevant regulation.

The regulator also said it is committed to minimising passenger inconvenience in view of the abrupt decision by Go First to suspend their scheduled operations without any prior intimation.

Separately, Go First said it has cancelled flights till May 9 due to operational reasons.

DCBL launches new brand 'Dalmia Supreme Cement'

Bhubaneswar: Leading Indian cement major Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (DCBL) has announced the launch of its new brand, Dalmia Supreme Cement for the eastern states and it has been made available for retail consumers in the markets of West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand from May 1, 2023. The premium brand is a high-quality Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC) product type offering triple benefits of superior strength, faster setting and better workability, making it the perfect choice for constructing strong and durable houses. The brand will be sold through all existing retail channels in the eastern region. Commenting on the launch of the brand Rajiv Prasad, Sr. Executive Director and Head Sales, Logistics, Technical Services & Marketing, DCBL said, "We are excited to introduce Dalmia Supreme Cement in the eastern market. In line with the company's customer centric approach, this new offering is to cater to the growing needs of a specialized product for 'Stronger, Faster and Better' construction. With its superior strength and durability, Dalmia Supreme cement is ideal for home construction projects. The new brand is an addition to our existing portfolio of established brands like Dalmia Cement, Dalmia DSP Cement, Konark Cement and Dalmia Infra Pro."



BIZ BUZZ

UBI inaugurates Dhabaleswar Branch

Cuttack: Union Bank of India opened its 55th branch of Cuttack Region at Dhabaleswar, Wednesday. The branch was inaugurated by Ranendra Pratap Swain, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment of Odisha and Bhabani Shankar Chayani (Collector & DM, Cuttack) in the gracious presence of Sarvesh Ranjan, FGM, FGMO Bhubaneswar, R Devaraj, DZH and Saroj Kumar Rout, Regional Head, Cuttack Region. The opening ceremony had a gathering of esteemed customers including senior citizens, local administrative officials and opinion makers of the catchment. The new branch reaffirms the commitment of the bank towards offering best customer service across the length and breadth of Dhabaleswar and surrounding areas. Union Bank of India is the second largest bank in Odisha.



Boyanika's 67th Foundation Day today

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha State Handloom WCS Ltd. (Boyanika) is all set to celebrate its 67th Foundation Day, Friday 7:00pm at Boyan Bhawan, PUN Marg, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar. On this occasion, a special Exhibition-cum-Sale will be organised in all sale branches of Boyanika for 3 days starting May 5. The concerned Collectors/ADMs/Sub-Collectors/Tehsilidars have been requested to inaugurate the Exhibition-cum-Sale at sale branches level. The MLA Bhubaneswar Central, North & Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation will grace the occasion.



Gold rallies ₹940 to record high of ₹62,020; silver zooms ₹660

New Delhi: Gold prices rallied ₹940 to a lifetime high of ₹62,020 per 10 grams in the national capital Thursday amid strong global trends, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had settled at ₹61,080 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also zoomed ₹660 to ₹76,700 per kg. Gold prices in the domestic market climbed to record high following overnight gains in the international market, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the overseas market, both gold and silver were trading higher at USD 2,039.50 per ounce and USD 25.50 per ounce, respectively. Gold prices traded up in Asian trading hours Thursday as dollar and bond yields dropped after the US Fed signalled a pause in policy tightening from the next meeting after hiking the benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points, Gandhi said.

India's exports likely to touch \$900bln in 23-24: exporters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: India's exports of goods and services could touch \$900 billion in the current financial year, up from \$770 billion in the previous year, keeping resilient despite global headwinds, a top official of a grouping of exporters said.

Merchandise exports could expand to between \$495 billion and \$500 billion, while services exports could touch \$400 billion in the year ending March 2024, said Ajay Sahai, director general of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Overseas demand remains strong

in many markets, he added. Trade Minister Piyush Goyal urged exporters to explore new markets, however, in view of the possible impact of war in Ukraine and a global slowdown.

"The times ahead are going to be very, very tough," Goyal said speaking at an industry event late Wednesday, while warning of the fallout from the conflict.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has set an export target of \$2 trillion by 2030, offering benefits to boost exports of electronics, engineering, pharmaceutical, and other goods.

India's exports have increased by more than \$200 billion in the last



two years, led by a surge in exports of software, mobile exports, and agricultural and petroleum

products. Exports of engineering, gems, and jewellery goods have slowed in

the last few months, however. Exports of agricultural, petroleum, and electronic goods remained strong in the Western markets due to pricing factors while exports to Asian and Middle East countries have grown substantially, exporters said.

Sahai, who was part of a 50-member

business delegation to Russia last week, said there was a huge demand for Indian goods, particularly food, after the Western sanctions imposed over the Ukraine war.

India exporters are hopeful that both countries would soon work out a mechanism allowing payments in local currencies that would facilitate the shipments of Indian goods to Russia, Sahai said.

But Indian officials have said Russia was reluctant to accept payments in the rupee currency for its oil exports.

India has not explicitly condemned Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine and has called for dialogue to resolve hostilities.

Passenger vehicle, 2-wheeler retail sales dip in April: FADA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: Passenger vehicle and two-wheeler retail sales witnessed a drop in April while three-wheelers, tractors and commercial vehicles witnessed an increase in registrations last month, automobile dealers' body FADA said Thursday.

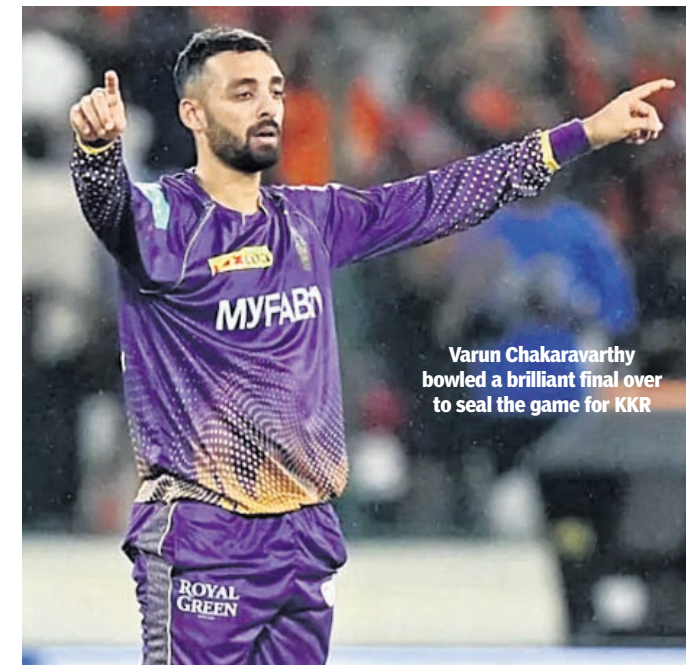
Passenger vehicle retail sales in India slipped 1 per cent year-on-year to 2,82,674 units last month, as buyers advanced purchases to March in order to avoid enhanced prices on account of stricter emission norms kicking in from April 1.

FADA noted that it is the first time in eight months that the passenger vehicle segment witnessed a year-on-year degrowth, potentially signalling a tapering demand.

FADA urged the PV OEMs to recalibrate their inventory and prioritise the production and supply of products that are in high demand, ensuring a more efficient alignment between market demand and available inventory.

KKR PREVAIL OVER SRH

Inconsistent Royals face Titans challenge



Varun Chakaravathy bowled a brilliant final over to seal the game for KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 4: The self-destructing batters let Sunrisers Hyderabad down again to hand a Kolkata Knight Riders a much needed five-run win in the IPL here Thursday, keeping the Nitish Rana-led side alive in the tournament.

Rana (42, 31b, 3x4, 3x6) and Rinku Singh (46, 35b, 4x4, 1x6) came up with a fruitful 61-run partnership to help KKR post 171/9 and then their bowlers, especially Shardul Thakur (2/23) and Vaibhav Arora (2/32), helped the two-time IPL champions limit SRH to 166/8 in 20 overs. Varun Chakaravathy bowled a brilliant 20th over to eke out a welcome win for his team.

KKR earned their fourth victory of the season and are now on eight points, while SRH, who remained stranded on six points, suffered a huge body blow to their chances of making the playoffs.

The victory was hard-fought for KKR, given that SRH's South African pair of skipper Aiden Markram (41, 40b, 4x4) and Heinrich Klaasen (36, 20b, 1x4, 3x6) had at one point in time looked to take the match away with their 70-run part-

nership.

Markram and Klaasen produced innings of character but their dismissal in quick succession spelt doom for the home side as the later-order batters couldn't get going.

The KKR pair of Rana and Rinku came together at the crease at a time when the team was struggling at 49/3 at the end of power-play. But by the time Rana departed in the 12th over, he had put the team on course to a fighting total.

While wickets continued to fall at the other end, with West Indians Andre Russell and Sunil Narine hardly making an impact, Rinku curbed his natural instinct and played patiently to give the side a decent total to defend.

It was another forgettable start for KKR with opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz unable to recreate the magic of the previous game against Gujarat Titans.

The 21-year-old Afghanistan opener fell to a length ball from South African quick Marco Jansen off the first delivery of the second over as he tried flick it over mid-wicket but was a tad late and the top edge flew to Harry Brook at mid-on.



CRUCIAL PARTNERSHIP: Rinku Singh (L) and Nitish Rana during their partnership against SRH, Thursday

Venkatesh Iyer departed five balls later, becoming Jansen's second victim. India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar kept it tight at the other end, conceding just 12 runs in his first two overs as the home team endured yet another poor start.

After bowling two wides and a no-ball, the Uttar Pradesh cricketer got the big wicket of England opener Jason Roy. Roy's premeditated cross-bat heave took a big edge and flew to short third man as Mayank Agarwal took a simple

catch. SRH too were off to a poor start in their chase, with KKR pace bowler Harshit Rana once again exposed SRH opener Mayank Agarwal's frailty while facing the short-pitched deliveries. While the opener was comfortable playing his strokes on both sides of the wicket, Rana tested him with a delivery touching 140kmph and angled into the body on middle and leg stump.

Mayank's soft dismissals put the pressure back on the fragile

SRH top-order and eight runs later, SRH were reduced to 37/2 in the fourth over after Abhishek Sharma too headed back to the dugout with Russell lunging forward to take a catch at deep backward square off a Shardul delivery.

BRIEF SCORES: KKR 171/9 (Rinku Singh 46, Nitish Rana 42, Andre Russell 26; Marco Jansen 2/24, T Natarajan 2/30) beat SRH 166/8 (Aiden Markram 41, Heinrich Klaasen 36; Shardul Thakur 2/23, Vaibhav Arora 2/32) by 5 runs.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 4: Gujarat Titans will be eager to move on from their underwhelming batting display when they take on an inconsistent Rajasthan Royals, which will challenge the Hardik Pandya-led side for the top spot, in the Indian Premier League here Friday. Both teams are coming off losses and will look to get back to winning ways.

Gujarat Titans are perched atop the points table with 12 points despite their five-run loss to wooden spoons Delhi Capitals, while the Royals are on the fourth spot and have 10 points.

The Sanju Samson-led side has ample talent but has been unable to hold on to a winning run recently. Rajasthan have lost three games and won as many in their last six fixtures. In their last match against Mumbai Indians, the much-feared bowling department failed to defend 212.

Pace spearhead Trent Boult, all-rounder Jason Holder, spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Sen all leaked runs. They would hope for a better show at home Friday. The Royals can take a bit of solace from the fact that they emerged victorious earlier in the season against GT.

Rajasthan have the firepower in their batting line-up to pile up runs. Young Yashasvi Jaiswal is enjoying a fine run but the team needs the trio of Jos Buttler, Sanju Samson



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

and Shimron Hetmyer to fire. They will have their task cut out when they are up against the potent GT bowling attack, led by Mohammed Shami and the wily Rashid Khan. A win for Rajasthan, who have a Net Run Rate of +0.800, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium will catapult them to the top of the table.

The Titans, on the other hand, have to get over their lacklustre batting display against the Capitals where they failed to chase down 130. It was a day when the likes of in-form Shubman Gill and David Miller failed and skipper Pandya, who anchored the innings, took the onus of the loss on himself as he failed to accelerate towards the end.

The bowling, however, was on point against the Capitals. Veteran Shami continues to make it look so easy with subtle movement of his fingers around the seam at the delivery. He sizzled with the new ball and will look for an encore. The spin department is led by the ever-reliable Rashid, who has another Afghanani Noor Ahmad to complement him.



Haaland breaks EPL record in City victory



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, May 4: A new Premier League goals record for Erling Haaland and three more points for title-chasing Manchester City. The Norway striker has scored 35 times in his first season playing in English football's top division—surpassing the previous single-season record that was jointly held by Alan Shearer and Andy Cole.

Haaland still has five more games to add to his remarkable total and left the field to a guard of honour from his teammates after the final whistle.

While the Golden Boot for the country's leading scorer is certain to come Haaland's way, bigger prizes are also in sight, with City edging closer to a third straight title after a 3-0 win against West Ham.

Haaland's goal in the 70th-minute put City 2-0 up after Nathan Ake had opened the scoring in the 50th. Substitute Phil Foden added a third with a deflected effort in the 85th.

The win moved City back to the top of the standings, a point above Arsenal, which had gone to the summit after a 3-1 win against Chelsea Tuesday. Pep Guardiola's defending champions also have a game in hand on their title rival.

While the result suggested a routine win for City, West Ham proved to be frustrating opponents for the

opening 45 minutes, limiting the home team to just a few chances.

On the rare occasions City did create clear openings, Jack Grealish and Rodri hit the post. After struggling in the first half, City took just five minutes after the restart to find the breakthrough.

Riyad Mahrez' free-kick was played to the far post, where Ake met it and headed down past Lukasz Fabianski.

Haaland, who had been relatively quiet, put the game beyond doubt when he ran on to Grealish's through ball and lifted his shot over the goalkeeper and into the back of the net to make history.

City still had time to add another when Foden came off the bench to shoot from distance, with the ball taking a deflection and wrong-footing Fabianski. It was the 1,000th goal of Guardiola's City reign.

City is in ominous form, recording nine straight wins in the league and extending its unbeaten run in all competitions to 19 games.

"We dropped a little tonight but not much and we managed to create some chances," Guardiola said. "It's another three points and we keep going."

West Ham remains in a struggle for Premier League survival, just four points above the relegation zone.

Spotlight on Neeraj in Diamond League opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, May 4: Competing for the first time as Diamond League champion, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will be up against his familiar nemeses in the first of the prestigious meetings series Friday, as he aims to begin a 'long' season, studded with top international events, with a strong performance.

The 25-year-old Chopra, also a 2022 World Championships silver winner, faces the likes of reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic in a star-studded field at the Qatar Sports Club.

Chopra, who has a personal best and national record of 89.94m, had finished fourth with 87.43m in 2018 in the only other participation in the Doha Diamond League. He could not take part here last year due to lack of "overall fitness and strength".

Despite missing the Doha leg, Chopra went on to script history one

after the other last year. He became the first Indian Diamond League champion after winning the 2022 grand finale in Zurich in September. A month before that, he became the first Indian to win a Diamond League Meeting in Lausanne.

Chopra last month said that he was feeling better "physically and technically" at the corresponding point in time, but it will not be easy for him to win the top prize in the season-opening Diamond League here, going by the incredible competition seen here last year.

Peters had produced the fifth-longest throw in history by hurling the spear to 93.07m, a mark just outside German Thomas Rohler's 93.90m, a meeting record set in 2017.

Vadlejch, who finished second behind Chopra in Tokyo Olympics and won a bronze in the 2022 World Championships, also recorded a personal of 90.88m here last year in his first ever throw over 90m.



Alongside the decorated trio, the Doha Meeting will also have European champion Julian Weber of Germany, who has a personal best of 89.54m, 2012 Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott (PB 90.16m) of Trinidad & Tobago and former

world champion and 2016 Olympic silver medalist Julius Yego (PB 92.72m) of Kenya.

"This is my first competition of the season. It's always good when you have great competitors," Chopra said at the pre-event press conference.

Sahani Cup gets last 8 stage teams



Players of Kandhamal (in white) and Bhadrak in action during their match

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: The ongoing 62nd Senior Men Inter-District Championship for Sahani Cup has found its participants for the last eight stage as the matches will be played May 5 onwards.

The last eight stage participants—eight teams—have been divided in two groups consisting four teams each. The matches will be played in round robin format at two ven-

ues—Capital Ground in Bhubaneswar and OTM Ground in Cuttack. Sundargarh, Bargarh, Boudh and Jharsuguda have been named in Group X, while Cuttack, Kandhamal, Rourkela Steel Plant and Khurda are in Group Y.

The last day of the league stage saw Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Dhenkanal and Khurda register contrasting victories over their respective opponents.

Kandhamal rode on a brace by

Pintu Santa (45+2 & 88th minutes) to prevail over Bhadrak 2-1 at the Bidanasi Ground in Cuttack. It was after Ajay Marandi (37th) put Bhadrak ahead, only to see his side concede two goals to concede the match.

At the OTM Ground, Bhawani Sankar Bimal's wonderful hat-trick (44th, 49th & 80th) helped Kalahandi rout Nuapada 6-1. Samir Majhi scored twice (12th & 34th), while Bhenkateswar Oram (47th) struck once for the winners. Arjun Nial (84th) found the consolation goal for Nuapada late in the game.

Dhenkanal thrashed Kendrapara 4-0 at the 7th Battalion Ground in Bhubaneswar. Anil Swain (21st), Ashish Majhi (28th), Rajat Kumar Rout (67th) and Fagua Kisiku (89th) were on target for Kandhamal.

At the Capital Ground, Khurda came from behind to secure a 2-1 victory over Sambalpur. Ranjan Munda (32nd) broke the deadlock and put Sambalpur up front. However their joy didn't last long as Sakir Ahamed restored parity three minutes later. The game was heading towards a stalemate, until Manoj Swain struck the winning goal in the fifth minute of the second half added-on time to seal a win for Khurda.

Narender reaches quarters at IBA Men's Boxing Worlds



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tashkent, May 4: Narender Berwal advanced to the quarter-finals after winning a closely-contested bout while Govind Sahani and Deepak Kumar entered the pre-quarter-finals at the IBA Men's World Boxing Championships here Thursday.

With a quarterfinal finish at the previous World Championships under his belt, Narender (+92kg) began his quest for a medal by defeating Muhammad Abroridinov of Tajikistan 4-1.

Both pugilists went all out from the beginning in the neck-and-neck bout. Narender landed powerful punches and dodged his opponent's attacks from close range to have the upper hand in the first round.

The Hisar-born pugilist contin-

ued to attack on the front foot in the next two rounds and won the bout. He will face the 2021 World Youth Championships bronze medalist Fernando Arzola of Cuba in the quarterfinals.

Earlier in the day, Govind (48kg) and Deepak (51kg) kicked off their respective campaigns with identical victories.

Govind, who has had an outstanding year so far with a gold at the National Championships and a silver at the 74th Strandja Memorial, continued his rich vein of form as he made light work of Mehron Shafiev of Tajikistan to secure a 5-0 win.

Deepak, on the other hand, was also at his attacking best as he ousted Luis Delgado of Ecuador with his supreme technical ability to seal an emphatic victory by unanimous decision.

Govind will next face the top-seeded Sakhil Alakhverdovi of Georgia who won bronze at the last World Championships while Deepak will take on the Tokyo Olympics bronze winner and reigning world champion Saken Bibossinov of Kazakhstan.