



SINCERE CONFESSION

Bhumi Pednekar shares thoughts on actors being at the epicentre of rumours as it serves the media's agenda

LEISURE P2



COMPLAINT AGAINST PM

Congress lodges complaint against PM Narendra Modi in Bangalore for his statement linking the party with terrorists

NATIONAL P9



CSK BREAK JINX

Chennai Super Kings break 13-year-old home jinx against Mumbai Indians with a six-wicket victory

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Army grounds 'Dhruv' choppers after crash



New Delhi: The Army has grounded the entire fleet of Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) 'Dhruv' which has been developed by HAL following the crash of one of the choppers Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir, military sources said, Saturday. A 'Dhruv' chopper with three people on board crashed following a 'hard landing' in Kishtwar leaving two injured and one technician dead. As a precautionary measure, the ALH 'Dhruv' fleet has been temporarily grounded, the sources said. The Navy and the Coast Guard had grounded their respective 'Dhruv' fleets in March following two similar incidents involving the helicopters. On the other hand, the IAF which operates 70 'Dhruv' choppers is also contemplating to ground the machines, sources said.



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Maharana and Bhoi servants busy preparing a chariot wheel ahead of Rath Yatra in Puri, Saturday

OP PHOTO

BJP planning to kill Kharge: Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 6: An assassination plot has been hatched to 'wipe out' Congress president M Mallikarjun Kharge, his wife and his entire family by a BJP candidate, party general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged Saturday. Surjewala also shared an alleged audio recording of the BJP candidate from Chittapur constituency in Kalaburagi district, Manikanta Rathod, in which he is heard purportedly saying in Kannada that he will wipe out 'Kharge, his wife and children'.

However, Rathod rejected the charges outright. "It is all a lie. They are playing some fake audio. The Congress is levelling baseless allegations fearing defeat," stated Rathod. Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai said an investigation would be conducted to find out the authenticity of the audio.

At a press conference here Surjewala said, "There is a recording of an assassination plot being hatched by a BJP leader to wipe out AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, his wife, and his entire family. There can be nothing more serious than that."

Over 56K candidates to appear for NEET

Bhubaneswar: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test NEET (UG) - 2023 will be conducted Sunday. A total of 56,989 candidates from Odisha will appear for the examination including 14,481 from the state capital. The tests will be held in 27 cities in the state including Angul, Bolangir, Cuttack, Rairangpur, Malkangiri, Jeypore, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Bhawanipatna, Balasore, Berhampur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal, Puri, Bargarh, Rayagada, Paralakhemundi, Phulbani, Keonjhar, Baripada and the state capital. The exams will be conducted in 125 centres.

Power snag hits Prez programme

This is the first instance since 2019 when an event attended by the President or the PM has been disrupted. In February 2019, PM Modi had to cut short his speech and leave the venue after a stampede broke out in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: In a major embarrassment to the organisers of President Droupadi Murmu's programme at the Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University in Baripada, the auditorium plunged into darkness after a power failure Saturday. However, the president continued with her speech with the help of a dim light shining in the auditorium. The microphone and the air-conditioners continued to function despite the blackout.

The incident sparked off severe repercussions with one employee of the varsity being suspended. Murmu also expressed her displeasure over the power outage and said that the 'university is as much in the dark as its beauty'. She was heard saying 'power is playing hide and seek'.

The last time when a president or prime minister's programme was disrupted in the country was way back in 2019. Then Narendra Modi had to cut short his address



in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal after a stampede had broken out compromising his security. Modi had to leave the venue in haste. Murmu was delivering the 12th Convocation Address at the auditorium of the university when the power supply suddenly snapped for nine minutes from 11.56am to 12.05pm. Such was the darkness in the fully occupied auditorium that even the security staff of the president was not visible. In other words, the security of Murmu was seriously compromised.

Regretting the incident, University Vice-Chancellor Santosh Tripathy said, "We had repaired our generator, but somehow it did not work. We will inquire into the matter." The Vice-Chancellor later suspended an electrical staff of the institute and formed a three-member committee to investigate the matter.

Harish Kumar Panda from Tata Power said that they had checked power connections before the programme and everything was functioning properly. **Contd...P4**

54 dead, 150 hurt in Manipur violence

AGENCIES

Imphal, May 6: The toll in the ethnic violence which has engulfed Manipur increased to 54, officials said Saturday here. However, unofficial sources placed the figure at several scores dead and more than 150 injured. Life returned to a wary normalcy in the Imphal Valley as shops and markets reopened and a few cars started plying on the roads.

Security presence which has been bolstered by flying in more Army troops and Central Police forces, was clearly visible at all major roads and areas. Roadblocks and cordons have been set up in areas where militant forces had engaged security forces Friday.

Large number of people including students was seen assembling at the Imphal airport here to try and get a flight out of the troubled state. Survivors at various refugee camps said several villages have been torched.

Nearly 10,000 Army, para-military and Central Police forces have been deployed in the state where rioting broke out after demonstrations were organised by tribals - including Kukis and Nagas - Wednesday against a move to give the majority Meitei community, Scheduled Tribe status.

Meiteis account for about 53% of the population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals, who include Nagas and Kukis, account for another 40 per cent and live mostly in the hill districts which surround the Valley. **Contd...P4**

Judges need training for live streaming: CJI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 6: Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud said Saturday that live streaming of court proceedings has a flip side. So, the judges need to be trained because every word that 'we say is up in the public realm'.

The CJI made the observations while addressing at the 'Neutral Citation for the Indian Judiciary and National Conference' on digitalisation. "Today, most of the High Courts are doing live streaming on YouTube... you have these little clips about a judge in the Patna High Court asking an IAS officer as to why he is not appropriately dressed... or somebody in the Gujarat High Court saying something about why a lawyer is not ready with her cases," Chandrachud said.

"So, a lot of funny stuff is going on YouTube, which we need to control because this is serious stuff... what happens in a court is extremely serious matter. The live streaming we are doing has a flip side. We as judges need to train ourselves as we are now working in the age of social media," the CJI pointed out.

Chandrachud said he realised this during live streaming of Constitution Bench arguments.

"Very often citizens don't realise that what we say in the course of hearing is to open up a dialogue. What you said does not necessarily reflect what you have decided in a case. But, people don't understand this at large," Chandrachud pointed out.

"Therefore live streaming or interface with social media places new demands on us as judges. We need to create a robust cloud infrastructure for live streaming," Chandrachud added.

In the age of social media, judges need to train themselves as to what they say because everything is open to the public

BY CHANDRACHUD

Stating that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has a flip side as well, Chandrachud said, "For instance, it would be very difficult in allowing artificial intelligence to tell us what sentence to hand down following a conviction in a criminal case."

The CJI also spoke about his vision to create paperless and virtual courts. "The Supreme Court is not the Supreme Court of Tilak Marg, it is for India, of India, by India. Likewise, each High Court is not the High Court of the capital of the state, but the citizens across the state," Chandrachud asserted.

"Odisha has opened virtual courts in 22 districts. We cannot have benches of the High Court in as many districts as we have set up virtual courts. It will ensure access to justice for all," he added.

Nitish-Naveen meet shifted to Tuesday

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will meet May 9 his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar, amid talks of regional parties coming together ahead of the 2024 general elections, officials said. Kumar will meet Patnaik at 'Naveen Niwas' here around 12 noon, they informed. The Bihar CM and JD(U) leader had recently announced that he would travel across the country to unite opposition parties ahead of the Lok Sabha polls next year. He has already met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Ministers of Delhi and West Bengal, Arvind Kejriwal and Mamata Banerjee respectively.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



'Vikas' never works in an election campaign. Fortunately, we have 'hate'

Indian diaspora shines at Charles' coronation

PERSONS OF INDIAN-ORIGIN INCLUDING BRITISH PM RISHI SUNAK HOGGED ALL THE LIMELIGHT AS KING CHARLES III WAS CROWNED THE 40TH MONARCH OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AT A GLITTERING CEREMONY IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

AGENCIES

London, May 6: From Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister Rishi Sunak performing during the Coronation ceremony of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey here to Lord Indarjit Singh presenting the coronation glove to the monarch, the Indian diaspora made their presence felt Saturday. There were other Indians present too during the grand ceremony, with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar being the official representative from the country and two from the 'Dabbawala' community of Mumbai who Charles is very fond of.

Even though she was not present in the ceremony, 29-year-old Indian designer Priyanka Mallick made her presence felt having designed a dress for Queen Camilla and a brooch for



the newly-crowned king. Among the Indian celebrities, actor Sonam Kapoor attended the event in a resplendent

dress, while there were a number of Indian student achievers, prominent among them being Sourabh Phadke,

an architect who graduated from Charles' Foundation's Building Craft Programme.

Singh, the British Sikh peer, who handed over a key item of the regalia to King Charles III pointed out the symbolic significance of the multi-faith note being struck at the traditionally Christian ceremony.

"It's a great honour for myself, but much more for the wider Sikh community, in this country, in India and further afield wherever Sikhs are across the globe. It's a recognition of the King's view of inclusivity," the 90-year-old Singh said.

Sunak, the 42-year-old British Hindu leader, read from the 'Epistle' to the 'Colossians' from the New Testament reflecting the theme of service to others, in keeping with the recent tradition of UK Prime Ministers giving readings at state occasions. **Contd...P4**

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 35.7°C	37.2°C
MIN 24.0°C	25.6°C
Humidity 87%	77%
Rainfall Trace	Nil
Forecast Light rain very likely	

SHAHI KULFI
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SHAHI KULFI

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WRITERS' STRIKE DELAYED MAHERSHALA ALI'S BLADE

Due to the ongoing writers' strike, Marvel has shut down pre-production on the superhero reboot, *Blade*, which is set to star Moonlight actor Mahershala Ali as the titular vampire hunter alongside Aaron Pierre, Delroy Lindo and Mia Goth, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

RATAJKOWSKI WAITING FOR 'RIGHT' WOMAN AFTER COMING OUT AS BI

After coming out as bisexual October last year, actress-model Emily Ratajkowski said she would 'love' to date a woman, but is waiting for the 'right one' to come along. The 31-year-old added that rapper Meg Thee Stallion, 28, would probably be her type, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are a touchy one. People will rub you the wrong way today. But remember that getting needlessly annoyed will bring nothing but more complications. Contemplate in seclusion about the root cause of the problem. Ganesh's hint? It is closer than you imagine.

TAURUS
This day, you will be able to express and communicate your ideas and feelings very convincingly, assures Ganesh. All those to whom you come in contact with you today will be clear, and appreciative about whatever you tell them. At work your superiors are likely to be responsive and helpful.

GEMINI
Your sensitive and emotional nature will prove to be a problem for you. Hence you need to control your emotions. Tread carefully when it comes to personal relationships. You need to wait for a better time before you think of proposing to that special someone, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will be in a joyous mood. You will be de-lighted in whatever task you do. Financial matters will confound you, with even a petty issue causing tension. Ganesh says it will be a colourful day, with happy tidings.

LEO
Talk of being busy! It seems like today, you shall take the cake, and perhaps, be the icing on it as well, says Ganesh. It is likely that the day is going to be very hectic for you in terms of work and business. You may be engaged in official conversations and dealings. Also, don't be surprised to find yourself in meetings as you attempt to take stock of your business situation.

VIRGO
You will spend most of today in the company of family and friends, says Ganesh. Students may focus on upcoming examinations and will learn to balance study and leisure time, in equal measure. It is a good day to buy real estate. Overall, a day to lie low and let your mind run free in its pursuit of pleasure.

LIBRA
Today is the day when you seem to agree with everything that people say, without striking even a note of criticism. It's just one of those days when you are amazed by all things around you. Such an elastic approach will enable you to be reasonable in your views and sensible in your ways. Ganesh wishes you the very best.

SCORPIO
It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner. If you do not let the generosity burn a hole through your pocket, you may have an overall satisfying day, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Round and round they tumble, the wheels of life, smoothly gliding into a routine. You may spend your day in discontent due to the rut of regular activities. Sadly, there is little hope or adventure Ganesh foresees that might make this day worthwhile for you.

CAPRICORN
The day calls for making amends and undoing the damage done to relationships, so you will most likely focus on improving rapport with relatives and peers, says Ganesh. But despite your affable approach, family feud may occur. Keeping obnoxious neighbours at bay will save you some trouble.

AQUARIUS
You may fall in love today! If single, romance colours your day with a rainbow. If married, you may enjoy a quiet but romantic evening with your spouse. Ganesh says that if nothing else, it's a good time to pour over your photo albums and float in nostalgia.

PISCES
You will be treading new ground at work. Exciting as that sounds, it merely means you will have to do a lot of travelling today. You will also find yourself swamped with drafting new business proposals, holding meetings, or otherwise networking over the phone.

Bhumi speaks on being the subject of rumours

Mumbai: The *Bheed* actress has been striding uphill in her career since her first film in 2015, *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, to her latest release with Nawazuddin Siddiqui, *Afwaah*. The 33-year-old actor has always given justification to all her well-rounded characters. The actress turned activist, who has been vocal about social issues, shared her thoughts on being the subject of rumours as an actor in length in a recent interview.

On intermittent rumours about the lives of actors, she said, "Rumours exist in every individual's life. I have seen it happen on a micro-level in families. Because our lives are public, there is a lot of

agenda when it comes to spreading rumours about an actor. Whether an actor is spreading it themselves or somebody else, it is part and parcel of what we do. It is unfair, but you just learn to deal with it." Her latest film, Sudhir Mishra-directed *Afwaah*, co-starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Sumit Vyas, revolves around the theme of standing up against dangerous rumours and the impact they can have on people's lives. The movie is currently premiering in theatres.



'I am a very scared dancer'

Mumbai: Actress Sonali Bendre, who was last seen in ZEE 5's *The Broken News*, has made the shocking revelation that she is a very scared dancer. In the show *India's Best Dancer 3*, she expressed her desire 'to be choreographed' while stating that she is a scared dancer who has always wanted to learn dance. On the

show *India's Best Dancer 3*, during the segment *Best Ka Pehla Test*, contestant Hansvi Tonk and her choreographer Anuradha performed a spine-chilling dance act to the song *Aami Je Tomar* in the Manjulika and Anjulika avatars, leaving everyone started. Talking about the fabulous choreography by

Anuradha, the *Sarfarosh* actress shared, "I am a very scared dancer, but I have always wanted to learn dance. I wish I was choreographed by you because the scene is so wonderfully choreographed. This scene is something I wish I would have been able to do. A choreographer should understand the scene and the story and choreograph the dance accordingly. I wish you choreograph me one day!" The show is currently airing on Sony Entertainment Television.



'Love alone can't sustain marriage'



Mumbai: Veteran actor Manoj Bajpayee met his wife and actress Shabana Raza in the 90s, and they tied the knot in 2006. They have a daughter, Ava Nayla. Recently, when Manoj was asked about the secret to a happy married life, *The Family Man* actor said that one needs to put their partner's needs before their own in order to sustain a relationship.

In a chat show, Manoj insisted that there is no secret since every day is a new day and every day one has to try to correct and improve themselves when it comes to understanding the other person. He added that love alone cannot sustain a marriage.

Talking about how he manages to have fewer quarrels and fires, the actor said, "One needs to shed everything about themselves, including one's ego and insecurity. When one person keeps putting themselves first, this is where things start to go wrong. If one thinks that the other person should not ignore certain things, then they have to talk it out in a calmer way, which helps in solving the problem."

Manoj then added that practicing meditation has helped him in his marriage and made him a better husband, father, son, and friend.

Ranbir believes Hindi cinema lacks audience understanding

Mumbai: *Tamasha* actor Ranbir Kapoor recently shared his views on the current state of the Hindi film industry as he expressed his concern about the 'lack of audience's understanding'. The industry has been seeing a steady increase in lacklustre compared to OTT, foreign and South Indian movies.

While speaking of Hindi cinema in an e-meet, the actor asserted, "I think what's lacking in the Hindi film industry is really knowing your audience. I think somewhere in the last 10-20 years, the Hindi film industry has been quite confused and influenced by Western culture, by Western films, and by remakes. There are very few actors and actresses in the industry, who are not giving new peo-

ple an opportunity, like new directors and new minds. And I think it's very important to actually give them the opportunity because that's when the change happens. That's when new minds come in and new stories are told. So I hope that happens."

Additionally, Ranbir praised the Malayalam film industry for producing engaging stories beyond the typical masala cinema and shared his thoughts on the current trend of solid commercial blockbusters in the South Indian film industry.



PEANUTS



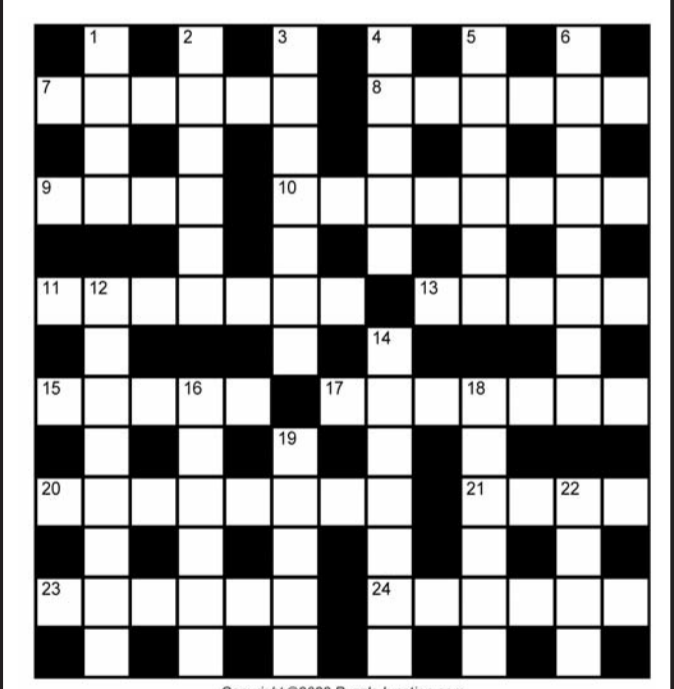
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



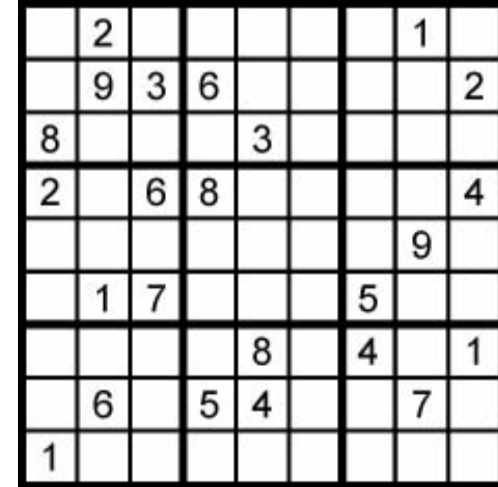
FUN post CROSSWORD



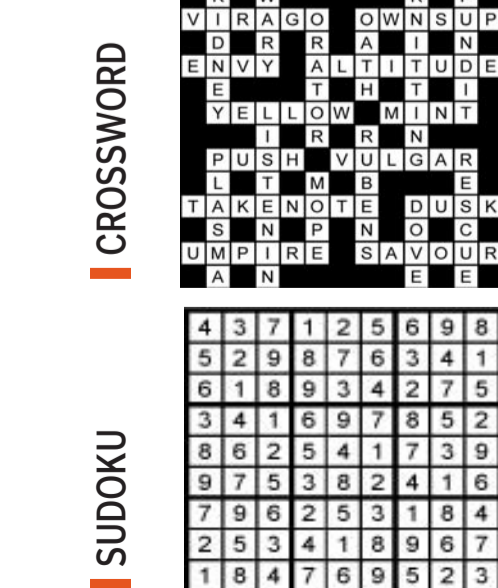
- Across**
- 7 Business deal participant
 - 8 James Cameron's epic movie
 - 9 Go ballistic
 - 10 Attachment
 - 11 Prison warden's nightmares
 - 13 Squirrel away
 - 15 Baseball equipment
 - 17 How some toast is toasted
 - 20 It's good medicine
 - 21 Natural ability
 - 23 Just say "No!"
 - 24 Aims
- Down**
- 1 Extended family
 - 2 It can be corrected with glasses
 - 3 Trucker's word
 - 4 Masculine to a fault
 - 5 Hound dog
 - 6 Merry-go-round
 - 12 Collected, as parts of a derelict
 - 14 Barge in
 - 16 Energy
 - 18 Traditional Scottish dish
 - 19 War horse
 - 22 Destiny

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS

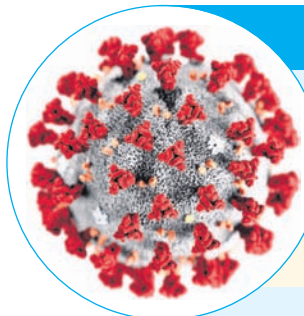


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,77,14,329	66,01,69,200	68,70,832
India	4,49,67,250	4,44,05,550	5,31,659
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

RATH MEETING

The Second Coordination Meeting for Rath Yatra 2023 was held at Town Hall in Puri, Saturday



Delhi HC fiat to Centre over treatment of rare diseases

The Delhi High Court asks the Union Health Secretary to be physically present before it May 10 when it would consider whether notice of contempt ought to be issued



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: Stating that it cannot turn a blind eye to the medical condition of 40 children suffering from rare diseases like Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and Mucopolysaccharidosis II, the Delhi High Court has sought the presence of the secretary of the Union Health Ministry before it following the non-compliance of its order directing release of ₹5 crore for their treatment.

Justice Prathiba M Singh, who was hearing a batch of petitions relating to their treatment, said the effectiveness of the medicines already administered to such children would be completely obliterated if further doses are not continued and asked the official to be physically present in court May 10 when she would consider whether notice of contempt ought to be issued. "The Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare shall physically remain present in court on the next date of hearing. On the next date, the court shall consider whether notice of contempt ought to be issued in these matters. List on May 10, 2023," ordered the court.

The petitioners before court are children suffering from several rare diseases, including Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and Mucopolysaccharidosis II or MPS II (Hunter Syndrome). They have sought a direction to the Centre to provide them uninterrupted and treatment free of cost as the therapy for these diseases is very expensive.

DMD, one of the various forms of muscular dystrophy, is a rare genetic disease that affects boys almost exclusively and causes progressive weakness. MPS II is a rare disease that is passed on in families and it mainly affects boys and their bodies cannot break down a kind of sugar that builds bones, skin, tendons and other tissues.

In the order passed May 3, the court observed that a "large amount of funds" were allocated for rare diseases but the budgets lapsed and the amounts were not released in spite

The court observes that the medicines which have already been administered, their effectiveness would also be completely obliterated if further doses are not continued for the said children

of repeated judicial orders.

"The lapse of budget has also been confirmed in the affidavit by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Union of India to the tune of almost ₹193 crore. The said affidavit also demonstrated that as against the elapsed budget, only a sum of ₹7 crore was spent between 2018 and 2021," noted the court.

The court further noted that while the treatment commenced for several children upon the release of the sum of ₹50 lakh each in terms of the National Policy for Rare Disease, the amount is yet to be released for some and thus directed that the same be released in a week. It also noted that for some children, the initial funds have already been exhausted and their medical condition was deteriorating and the orders for releasing further ₹5 crore have not been complied with.

"Vide orders dated 15th February, 2023, further amount of ₹5 crore was directed to be released by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Union of India. The said direction was reiterated in order dated 6th March, 2023. However, the said amount has not been released till date," the court said.

The Centre has filed an appeal against these orders but there is no stay by the division bench, it added.

The court directed that all the children who have been administered the medicines for treatment shall be physically evaluated and a status report of their medical condition shall be placed on record

State nod to ₹10L aid for DMD children

Bhubaneswar: Extending a supporting hand to the patients suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), the state government has sanctioned one-time financial assistance of ₹10 lakh to each living patient for meeting the requirements towards electric wheelchair, appropriate physiotherapy, genetic test and treatment in higher healthcare institutions.

A notification to this effect was issued by the Health and Family Welfare department vide notification No. 12975, Saturday. The notice also outlined the procedure to be followed for disbursement of the financial aid. It mentioned that the family of the patients would represent before the district Collector concerned for financial assistance. The representation would be verified by the chief district medical officer and public health officer concerned.

After due procedure, the district Collector concerned would sanction the assistance of ₹10 lakh from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), which would be credited to the bank accounts of the living patients.

The DMD patients and their families have expressed gratitude to the government for the support but said that more fund is needed as the treatment for DMD runs in crores.

by the next date of hearing and said the Rare Diseases Committee in AIIMS here is "expected to act with alacrity in all these matters and not to take matters in a cavalier manner".

"The court faces an extreme situation where almost 40 children who are before the court, are likely to suffer physical and mental injury and deterioration of health if further funds are not released for their treatment," the court said.

"Under such circumstances, the court cannot turn a blind eye to the medical condition of 40 children who are petitioners before it. The medicines which have already been administered, their effectiveness would also be completely obliterated if further doses are not continued for the said children," observed the court.



SCINTILLATING SHOW: Artistes perform during the 20th annual day celebration of 'Nrutiyashala' at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

RPF rescues newborn baby abandoned in train dustbin

After being vaccinated at Jatni community health centre, the baby boy was shifted to Capital Hospital for better treatment and care

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jatni, May 6: Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel Saturday rescued a newborn baby boy from the dustbin of a train at Khurda Road railway station under the East Coast Railway (ECOR).

As per sources, at around 6:40am Saturday morning, Khurda Road RPF personnel found the newborn in the dustbin of a general coach of Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam Express.

"After receiving details from the control room, the RPF personnel rescued the baby after the train reached the platform No-1 of Khurda Road railway station," RPF station officer Munu Kumar Sharma said.

Later, with the help of volunteers from the non-profit organisation 'Soch', the newborn boy was taken to the Khurda Road Railway Division hospital for preliminary treatment. Then he was administered vaccines meant for newborn



Khurda Road RPF personnel found the baby in the dustbin of a general coach of Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam Express Saturday morning

babies at Jatni community health centre.

After vaccination, the volunteers of Soch handed over the baby to Khurda child welfare committee (CWC), which took him to "Ama Ghara" organisation located at Patrapada under the Jatni constituency for proper care and treat-

ment of the newborn.

However, the baby has been shifted to Capital Hospital for better treatment and care.

"The baby has been admitted to Capital Hospital for better care and treatment," said Lili Parida and Suresh Kumar Muduli of 'Soch'.

State's share in India's bauxite production 73%

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 6: Bauxite production in the country during financial year (FY) 2021-22 has reached 22.49 million tones, an increase of 10.37 per cent as compared to the previous year, while Odisha has accounted for 73.13 per cent of the total production, as per the Union Mines ministry.

According to the ministry, four major companies, namely NALCO (33.12%), Utkal Alumina International Limited (26.67%), Odisha Mining Corporation (13.34%), HINDALCO (9.64%) dominated the total mining activities of bauxite of the country in 2021-22. Odisha also accounted for 53 per cent of total iron production in the country.

The ministry also stated that Odisha's share in total mineral production during 2021-22 was 44.11 per cent followed by Chhattisgarh (17.34 pc), Rajasthan (14.10 pc), Karnataka (13.24 pc), Jharkhand (4.36 pc), Madhya Pradesh (2.44 pc), and Maharashtra (1.45 pc).

The remaining 12 states have cumulative share of less than 3 per cent of the total value during FY 2021-22.



3 detained for attacking ladies' hostel inmates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The city police Saturday reportedly detained three youths on the suspicion of their involvement in the attack on inmates of a women's hostel at Behera Sahi under Nayapalli police limits late Friday night. Nayapalli police have been investigating into the incident after registering a case (170/23) in this regard.

Sources stated that some anti-social elements used to hang out in a secluded place in front of Ugratara Ladies' Hostel at Behera Sahi. They would pass lewd remarks on the inmates but the girls never dared to complaint or raise objection against the unruly behaviour of the youths due to fear of retaliation.

Friday evening, one of the inmates, Nilabati Swain, was speaking with a friend parking her scooter near the hostel when the accused hurled stones at her using objectionable language.

When she objected to this, the accused got enraged and assaulted her and again threw stones at her. They also barged into the hostel and abused other girls present there.

More than 10 girls sustained injuries in the attack while many vehicles, glass windows and other properties were damaged due to the stones pelted by the accused. The hooligans continued to



10 girls were injured while many vehicles, glass windows and other properties of Ugratara Ladies' Hostel were damaged as stones were pelted by the antisocials

spread terror in the locality for the more than 15 minutes. On being informed, police reached the spot but the accused had fled the spot.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, the IIC of Nayapalli police station, Biswaranjan Sahoo, said that all the accused have been identified and stringent action will be taken against them.

LADY ACCUSES COP OF MISBEHAVIOUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: A woman Saturday brought serious allegations of misbehaviour against the inspector in-charge of Balipatna police station, Om Prakash Mohanty. The lady identified as Anjali Nath (name changed) of Banamalipur area has lodged a complaint at the Mahila police station in this regard.

Nath accused Mohanty of verbally abusing her on account of her caste. Further the lady accused him of insulting her questioning her modesty and character.

Notably, Nath had lodged a case seeking action against her in-laws in connection with a civil dispute matter two years ago. She has alleged that though her in-laws have been trying to kill her, the police are not taking any strong action against them.

The interaction between the lady and the police officer occurred in the context of her visiting the Balipatna police station to enquire about the current status of her case April 30, 2023. Mohanty, on the other hand, has termed the allegations made by Nath as rubbish. "The lady is trying to defame police. She and her husband left their house after family dispute and are staying in Jatni area since the last couple of years. They are not being allowed to reside in the house of her in-laws. It is purely a civil dispute which will be decided by the court only," told Mohanty.

The Mahila police have launched an investigation into the allegations.

Concern as China dominates global AI

Research shows China exporting huge amounts of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, dwarfing its contributions in other frontier technology sectors, said Harvard Economics Professor David Yang.

Yang also demonstrated that autocratic regimes around the world have a particular interest in AI. "AI quite startlingly is the only sector out of the 16 frontier technologies where there's disproportionately more buyers that are weak democracies and autocracies."

"Autocratic governments would like to be able to predict the whereabouts, thoughts, and behaviours of citizens," Yang said, adding, "And AI is fundamentally a technology for prediction."

This creates an alignment of purpose between AI technology and autocratic rulers, he argued, Harvard Gazette reported.

Because AI heavily depends on data, and autocratic regimes are known to collect vast troves of it, this advantages companies with Chinese government contracts, which can turn around and use state data to bolster commercial projects, he added.

China looms large in the global landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) research, development, and policymaking. Its talent, growing technological skill and innovation, and national investment in science and technology have made it



a leader in AI, a research paper by Brookings said.

Over more than two decades, China has become deeply enmeshed in the international network of AI research and development (R&D): Co-authoring papers with peers abroad, hosting American corporate AI labs, and helping expand the frontiers of global AI research. During most of that period, these links and their implications went largely unexamined in the policy world. Instead, the nature of these connections was dictated by the researchers, universities, and corporations who were forging them.

But in the past five years, these

ties between China and global networks for R&D have come under increasing scrutiny by governments as well as universities, companies, and civil society, the paper said.

Four factors worked together to drive this reassessment including the growing capabilities of AI itself and its impacts on both economic competitiveness and national security; China's unethical use of AI, including its deployment of AI tools for mass surveillance of its citizens, most notably the Uyghur ethnic group in Xinjiang but increasingly more widespread; the rise in Chinese ca-

AS AI HEAVILY DEPENDS ON DATA, AND AUTOCRATIC REGIMES COLLECT VAST TROVES OF IT, THIS GIVES ADVANTAGE TO COMPANIES WITH CHINESE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AS THEY CAN USE STATE DATA

OVER MORE THAN TWO DECADES, CHINA HAS BECOME DEEPLY ENMESHED IN THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF AI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. BUT IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THESE TIES HAVE COME UNDER SCRUTINY

FACTORS, INCLUDING THE GROWING CAPABILITIES OF AI AND ITS IMPACTS ON BOTH ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND NATIONAL SECURITY, HAVE PROVOKED THE DRIVE FOR AN REASSESSMENT

capabilities and ambitions in AI, making it a genuine competitor with the US in the field; and the policies by which the Chinese state bolstered those capabilities, including state directed investments and illicit knowledge transfers from abroad, said the paper authored by Cameron F Kerry, Joshua P Meltzer and Matt Sheehan.



ACTION AGAINST ENCROACHMENT: An excavator deployed by BDA razing down an unauthorised structure at Jayadev Vihar in Bhubaneswar, Saturday OP PHOTO

Cyclonic circulation forms

Low pressure area to take shape by May 8 morning which is likely to concentrate into a depression over southwest Bay of Bengal around May 9

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: A cyclonic circulation has formed and lay over southeast Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood Saturday morning. It is very likely to convert into a low pressure area by May 8 morning, the IMD said.

According to a bulletin of India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cyclonic circulation has formed and lay over southeast Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood extending upto middle tropospheric level this morning.

Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region by May 8 morning which is likely to concentrate into a depression over southwest Bay of Bengal around May 9, it said.

"Thereafter, it is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm while moving nearly northwards towards central Bay of Bengal," the Met Department predicted.

However, the details of its path and intensification will be provided after the formation of a low pressure area. The Met department is closely monitoring the system.

It has issued a warning to fishermen not to venture into the deep-sea area of southeast Bay of Bengal adjoining Andaman sea and central Bay of Bengal.

With the formation of the depression and cyclonic storm squally



weather with wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely to prevail over southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of Andaman Sea from May 7.

The wind speed would gradually increase becoming 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Andaman Sea during May 8 and 9 and over Andaman & Nicobar Islands and north Andaman Sea from May 10 onwards.

Moreover, the wind speed would gradually increase, becoming 60-70 kmph gusting to 80 kmph over the Southeast and adjoining Central Bay of Bengal from May 10 onwards.

With the expected rough sea con-

ditions, fishermen, small ships, boats, and trawlers are advised not to venture into the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas from May 7 onwards and into the adjoining Central Bay of Bengal from May 9 onwards.

Bad weather condition viz., squally weather and heavy rainfall activity is likely over Andaman and Nicobar Islands during May 8 to May 12, the IMD said and issued advisory to regulate of tourism and offshore activities and shipping over Andaman and Nicobar Islands during May 8 to May 12.

Though the impact of the cyclone in Odisha is yet to be predicted by the IMD, the state government has fully geared up to tackle any possible eventuality in the state.

FICCI Ladies Organisation holds discussion on health hazards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The women wing of FICCI, FLO, Bhubaneswar organised a panel discussion on "Prevention of occupational health hazards and diseases at workplace" at a City hotel Saturday. The panel experts discussed and deliberated about the health hazards that occur in the mining, manufacturing, IT, hospitals and construction sectors.

Prashanta Nanda, a renowned actor-director and an eminent member of Rajya Sabha presided over the event as the chief guest. PK Gupta, Joint Director, HOO MSME was present at the event as the guest of honour. FLO Chairperson Poomam Mohapatra graced the occasion as well.

The panel of speakers included eminent personalities like Asutosh Rath, GM PR and Corporate communication, Nalco, Suvendu Ku Sahoo, Chief Clinical medical physicist, Carcinova Hospital, BN Mohapatra, Chief of occupational health and proprietor, Utkal Polyclinic and Subrat Biswas, Co-founder and COO at Colearners Swasth Bhoomi.



Addressing the gathering, Nanda said, "Occupational hazards are very common but it is not much talked about. I am proud of FICCI FLO for shedding some much-needed light on this topic. Every employer should understand that the productivity of employees can be increased by sensitizing them about the various health hazards at the workplace. Just 4 months of maternity leave is not enough for women. They should be given more incentives so that their mental and physical well-being is not affected."

"It is critical to push for better enforcement of safety and health regulations in India. This includes holding companies accountable when they violate safety standards. There is still a lot of work to be done

so let us all pledge to continue creating a safer and healthier India", said Mohapatra.

Gupta emphasised on how both the employers and the employees were equally responsible for safety at the workplace. "Negligence is the root of all hazards hence we have to be more aware," he said.

The panel discussion was moderated by Namrata Chahal, the immediate past chair of FLO. The discussion that followed focused on how the employers need to install safety measures in the workplace and also sensitize the employees in order to ensure a safe working environment. The concluding message from the organiser, FLO was "Preparation and prevention is better than repair and repentance."

Odia duo achieve feat in scuba diving

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Dubai-based Odia father-daughter scuba diving duo Priyadarshree Panigrahi (47) and Tisya Panigrahi (12) have achieved yet another feat.

Priyadarshree, who is a certified open water scuba diver since 2012, dived 100 feet into the sea at Redang Island, Malaysia recently. He successfully qualified for Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI's) Advanced Open Water Scuba Diver license after completing 6 certified dives and finishing his knowledge reviews.

California, USA headquartered PADI is the world's largest ocean exploration and diver organization, operating in 186 countries and territories, with a global network of more than 6,600 dive centers and resorts.

With this PADI Advanced Open Water Scuba diver certification, this father daughter duo is now qualified as advanced scuba divers. It is believed that they are among the very few advanced father-daughter scuba diving duos in India.

Tisya became Odisha's youngest scuba diver in 2020 (at the age of 10) and also Odisha's youngest advanced diver in 2022, when she turned 12.

Priyadarshree said, "This Advanced Open Water Scuba diver license gives me joy. With this license, I keep pace with my daughter's diving qualifications and look forward to her turning 15, when we both can dive up to 100 feet together. The ease with which Tisya did her advanced course and the desire to keep up with her diving certification, in order to be able to dive together to the same depths, inspired me to go for this course and dive up to 100 feet in my certification dive."



Bhubaneswar born Priyadarshree and Sambalpur born Tisya are Dubai-based Odias. They have been in the news because of their scuba diving exploits like diving with sharks, sending underwater wishes on Nuakhai festival among other things.

Solid waste management through wall paintings



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Solid waste management (SWM) is one of the most important activities of an Urban Local Body (ULB), where public participation is a key to success of such activity. Participatory community monitoring and evaluation are extremely important for better solid waste management.

Housing & Urban Development Principal Secretary G Mathi Vathanan has envisaged some activities under community based monitoring for better service delivery. In this connection, a set of activities have been proposed which aims at empowering the community and community level institutions as well.

In this regard, display of information as a grievance redressal mechanism in the form of wall paintings would be done in each ward. The information will certainly empower citizens to take part in the process for better solid waste management.

It has been decided that wall paintings be done at ward level and swachh sathis and swachh supervisors will be empowered to facilitate community based monitoring. There will be 20 wall paintings in municipal corporation, 15 by municipalities and 10 by NACs in each ward.

According to Municipal

Administration Director Sangramit Nayak, SOP & suitable instructions has been issued by H&UD department. The entire wall painting activity would be executed by Mission Shakti Groups as per the MIKTA guidelines. Work order may be placed to Mission Shakti Groups through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The fund may be placed to Mission Shakti Group with the detail mention of specifications and timeline. In no case tender will be floated for engagement of any contractor at any cost, Nayak informed.

Ward level meeting with the participation of various stakeholders such as Slum Dwellers Associations, Mission Shakti Group members, Resident Welfare Associations and Market Associations need to be organised to sensitise them.

ULB has to submit the report of wall paintings every week to SBM, PMU Cell.

Geo-tagged photos along with the information to be shared in the google sheet too. State PMU would monitor the progress of each ULB weekly. ULB has to submit ward-wise wall paintings photographs separately to the department for reference and record as per the instructions issued from H&UD department. The progress in this regard will be monitored by the department, said Binay Das H&UD Additional Secretary.

Workplaces need to be more inclusive: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: In the ever changing business world, companies need to keep themselves updated with the latest manpower trends to stay relevant. To achieve that objective, organisations across the spectrum should focus on inclusivity and diversity at workplace, suggested experts at the HR Conclave IKAAI organised jointly by Diverseus and PNV Foundation here Saturday.

Advocating for more diversity at workplace, they emphasised on effective practices to help organisations build stronger and more effective workplaces.

The session with experts began with a welcome address by Archana Mishra, founder of Diverseus, a startup which works passionately to help organisations have skilled, diversified, equitable and inclusive (DEI) workspaces.



Saying that though many organisations are ready to recruit, finding a diverse pool of skilled candidates is always difficult, Mishra added, "Diverseus Society started connecting with various pools of candidates to understand the gap. In this journey Diverseus understood that it needed to create awareness and skill, to bridge this gap and that has been the major inspiration to create this platform IKAAI.

Deepa Rath, MD and CEO, Axis Trustee Services, as chief guest opined, "Adherence to DEI is important for growth on an organization. Leaders in an organization must facilitate it and should help colleagues to foster inclusivity. So the role of HR in an organization is important to recruit right talent, skill & Up-skill and retain."

CONTINUED FROM P1

Power snag hits Prez...

"There was a generator set there from our side as a backup. The incident happened due to problems in internal wire connections. The microphone and AC were functioning even when the auditorium plunged into darkness," Panda pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government has ordered a probe into the power failure during the president's address. "We will take action against those found guilty after a proper investigation," said Suresh Dalasi, revenue divisional commissioner (RDC), Central division.

Meanwhile while speaking at the function Murmu said a healthy society can be built through generosity and cooperation and asked students to hold handhold the deprived to help them progress in life. "Students should not to think only of their own happiness and interests but also about the welfare of the society and country," Murmu told the audience. "Cooperation is a beautiful side of life that students should practice," she added.

Indian diaspora shines at Charles' ...

He and his wife Akshata Murty, led the procession of flag-bearers as the UK's Union Jack flag was carried into the Abbey by a high-ranking Royal Air Force (RAF) cadet.

"In the Westminster Abbey where monarchs have been crowned for almost a thousand years, representatives of every faith will play a central role for the first time," said Sunak in a statement.

"The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla will be a moment of extraordinary national pride. Together with friends from across the Commonwealth and beyond, we will celebrate the enduring nature of our great monarchy: its constancy, devotion to duty,

and service to others. No other country could put on such a dazzling display - the processions, the pageantry, the ceremonies, and street parties," the British PM added.

For Priyanka who hails from a non-descript village in West Bengal's Hooghly district, it has indeed been a dream come true.

"It was an incredible feeling when I came to know that the Queen and King appreciated my designs of the dress and brooch. When I received the letter of appreciation, I was thrilled. One email or letter from Buckingham Palace means a lot to me," Mallick said Saturday from her Badinan village, some 12km away from the Singur railway station.

54 dead, 150 hurt in Manipur...

Meanwhile in a separate development, five hill-based militants were killed and two India Reserve Battalion jawans were injured in two separate encounters in Churachandpur district Friday night, police said. An encounter took place at Saiton in Churachandpur district between the security forces and the militants in which four ultras were gunned down, police informed.

Militants opened fire at security forces at Torbung forcing them to

retaliate. In the exchange of fire one militant was killed and two IRB jawans were injured, the police said. A Defence spokesperson said that the situation was slowly returning to 'normalcy'. "In the past 12 hours, Imphal East and West districts witnessed sporadic incidents of arson and attempts by inimical elements to establish blockades. However, the situation was controlled by a firm and synergised response," the Defence official said.

Earth's continental crust being low in iron explained

A new research has shown that the iron-depleted, oxidised chemistry typical of Earth's continental crust likely did not come from crystallisation of the mineral garnet, a popular explanation proposed in 2018.

Earth's continental crust's low iron content relative to oceanic crust made the continents less dense and more buoyant, causing the continental plates to sit higher

atop the planet's mantle than oceanic plates, making terrestrial life possible today.

The discrepancy in density and buoyancy was found to be a major reason that the continents feature dry land while oceanic crusts are underwater, as well as why continental plates always come out on top upon meeting oceanic plates at subduction zones, where one edge of a crustal plate is forced sideways and downward into the

mantle below another plate.

This study from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, US, and published in the journal Science, said that the findings deepened the understanding of Earth's crust by testing and ultimately eliminating one popular hypothesis about why the continental crust is lower in iron and more oxidised compared to the oceanic crust.

Elizabeth Cottrell, research ge-



ologist and curator of rocks at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, said that a cer-

tain aspect of the garnet explanation did not sit right with her.

"You need high pressures to make garnet stable, and you find this low-iron magma at places where crust isn't that thick and so the pressure isn't super high," she said.

In 2018, Cottrell and her colleagues set out to test the garnet explanation. A combination of piston-cylinder presses and heating assembly, surrounding the rock sample, allowed for their experi-

ments to attain the very high pressures and temperatures found under volcanoes. In 13 different experiments, Cottrell and team grew samples of garnet from molten rock inside the piston-cylinder press. The pressures used in the experiments ranged from 1.5 to 3 gigapascals - roughly 8,000 times more pressure than inside a can of soda. Temperatures ranged from 950 to 1,230 degrees Celsius, hot enough to melt rock.

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Handhold deprived, help them progress in life: Prez Murmu



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, May 6: President Droupadi Murmu Saturday said a healthy society can be built through generosity and cooperation and asked students to handhold the deprived to help them progress in life while addressing the 12th convocation of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University here.

Students should not think only of their own happiness and interests but also about the welfare of the society and country, she said.

"Cooperation is a beautiful side of life that students should practice," Murmu said.

"A feeling of competition is natural among people ... It is an inevitable part of life ... When you (students) move forward in life and look back, you may feel that some people of the society could not keep up with you," the president said and advised the students to hold the hands of the deprived people to help them progress.

She said that students should always keep trying to succeed in each competition and for that, they should keep acquiring better skills and move towards greater efficiency. "They can turn the impossible into possible with their will power," she said.

Murmu was addressing the convocation on the third and last day of her visit to Mayurbhanj, her home district. Before addressing the students, Murmu met delegations from three particularly vulnerable tribal groups at the varsity campus.

She said that education is a continuous process in life and

merely earning degrees does not mean that it has been completed. After graduating some would be employed and some would be in business, while others might be involved in research. "But thinking of providing a job is better than thinking of doing a job," the President said.

She expressed satisfaction over the university setting up an incubation center and providing assistance to its students, alumni and common people for setting up start-ups.

The president also appreciated the institution for setting up the 'Sacred Grove' in its campus with the aim to preserve tribal practices and cultural traditions. "The Sacred Grove is important for the conservation of environment and local biodiversity. It is also one of the best examples of community-based management of natural resources," she said.

The world is facing huge challenges of global warming and climate change and India has set an example in adopting the nature-friendly 'Lifestyle for the Environment', she said.

"In our tradition it is believed that trees, plants, mountains, rivers have life. Not only humans but all living beings are children of nature. Therefore, it is the duty of all human beings to live in harmony with nature," she said.

Murmu said the Similipal National Park holds a globally important place for biodiversity and hoped that the students and teachers of the university will find a way to protect it through their research and innovation.

The President had visited the national park Friday. This was the first visit by any President to the national park in its over four decades of being.

The President wound up her three-day visit to her home district Mayurbhanj after the convocation and left for Kalaikunda air base in West Bengal, from where she flew back to Delhi.



IN PRESIDENT'S COMPANY: President Droupadi Murmu interacts with students at Baripada on her way to address the convocation of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, in Mayurbhanj district, Saturday

SHAME IN GAJAPATI

Class VIII girl found pregnant, dies in hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, May 6: A shockingly shameful incident has been reported from a residential school of Rayagad block in Gajapati district as a Class VIII girl student died after she was diagnosed with pregnancy.

As per reports, the girl studying in Kshetada Kanyashram, a residential school for girls near Laxmipur, was brought in a critical condition to the district headquarters hospital in Paralakhemundi by her family members.

After examination at the district headquarters hospital, it was found that she was 3 months pregnant.

As per reports, the Class VIII girl had been at her native village under Ramagiri police limits for the last 20 days owing to school holidays.



On Saturday, she suddenly fainted and was admitted immediately at Rayagada community health centre (CHC) by her family members. After diagnosis, it was found that she had lack of blood and doctors subsequently forwarded her to the district headquarters hospital (DHH).

There it came to light that the pregnant girl was suffering from pneumonia. The girl died while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Puspa-II shooting to start within 2 months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, May 6: In what may come as a good news for the movie buffs, shooting of Puspa-II is all set to start within two months at Palluru near Andhra-Odisha border under Kalimela block in Malkangiri district.

Director Sukumar along with Camera Head Kuba from Germany has reached Malkangiri district. A 20-member team have visited Palluru and Manyamkonda area. Director Sukumar said that Allu Arjun along with other artistes of

the film will start shooting after reaching Malkangiri within two months. The shooting of the film will be done with the help of local people and the police administration, Sukumar said.

On the other hand, the much talked about movie Puspa was not only adored in southern India but also loved all over India. The proposed sequel's approximate budget will be around Rs 500 crore. South superstar Allu Arjun will lead as the protagonist and Rasmika will be the female lead. Sai Pallabi, Sunil, Anasuya, Sahad Asim,



Jagdish Prasad, Ajay Ghosh among others will be seen in the film in different characters.

Producers are hopeful that Puspa-II will be as successful as Puspa-I and will perform well in the box office. Last month a team had come to Malkangiri and sought permission from the Collector and Superintendent of Police for shooting.

A schedule will also be there for shooting near Swabhiman Anchal, said Sukumar. Some police action related scene will be there in this shoot. After visiting different places around Palluru from May 9-20, shooting will start in June or July, said Sukumar.

BEER CARCASS RECOVERED NEAR POND IN ANANDAPUR

Anandapur: Carcass of a beer was recovered near a pond in Kadaramala village, coming under Baranga forest division of Anandapur forest range in Keonjhar district. After getting inputs from the locals, the forest officials recovered the carcass and transferred it to Anandapur range office for postmortem. DFO Abhaya Kumar Dalei informed that the reason of death was unclear. Post mortem has been carried out and the report is awaited to ascertain the exact reason of the animal's death.

Teacher found dead with his throat slit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 6: A teacher was found dead Saturday with throat cut mark near the Kharla bypass bridge in Kuchinda area of Sambalpur district.

The deceased teacher has been identified as Prithviraj Mahananda (38), who was working at Mantrimunda Primary School.

He was living in ward no. 6 of Kuchinda NAC, sources said.

In the morning, some passers-by spotted the body lying in a pool of blood and immediately informed the Kuchinda police.

Police have recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. A probe has been started into this matter.

As per preliminary reports, he went out of his home in the afternoon with a scooter and informed one of his family members that he will come back late.

The report further stated that he was last seen sitting near a lassi shop by one of the locals.

DETENTION OF BJP DELEGATION

Sambalpur DC, SP served breach of privilege notices



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 6: The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions issued breach of privilege notices to Sambalpur Collector Ananya Das and the District Superintendent of Police, B Gangadhar.

The notices were issued in connection with the detention of BJP leaders including Union Minister

Bishweswar Tudu, Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari and state BJP president Manmohan Samal by the Sambalpur Police at Thelkoli Police Station when they were on their way to meet the victims of Sambalpur violence, April 18.

The notice was issued after BJP's Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari, Kalahandi MP Basant Panda and Sundargarh MP Jual Oram alleged a breach of privilege by the Sambalpur SP and

Collector before the Lok Sabha Speaker demanding action against them, April 25.

The Lok Sabha accepted the proposal following which the privilege and ethics committee on behalf of the Lok Sabha secretariat wrote a letter to the Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and its secretary.

Taking the matter seriously, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions served breach of privilege notices to the concerned officials and sought a report within 15 days.

The BJP delegation was on its way to Sambalpur from Jharsuguda to take stock of the situation after violence erupted during Hanuman Jayanti celebration. Later that evening, all the detained BJP leaders were released from Thelkoli Police Station by the district police.

Vedanta Aluminium's 'Jal Sewa Shibir' helps locals beat the heat



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, May 6: With the mercury rising, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has resumed its annual 'Jal Sewa Shibir' initiative to help local public beat the summer heat. Water kiosks have been set up at Bhurkamunda village, Sarbahal Chowk, Prasanna Panda Chowk, Badheimunda Chowk, Jharsuguda Railway Station and Bus Stand, to provide free drinking water, ORS, lemon water and buttermilk to travellers. The kiosks attend to about 8,000 people on a

daily basis.

Vedanta Aluminium has also deployed water tankers to provide drinking water to communities in 17 locations across 11 wards of Jharsuguda who are facing acute water shortage currently. This is helping nearly 25,000 people access clean drinking water daily. Earlier in the year, the company undertook its annual endeavour of cleaning and deepening ponds and other local water bodies, preparing them to harvest water during rains to ensure post-monsoon water availability in villages. In addition, the company has created several water infrastructures in its

peripheral villages, like ponds, tube wells, dug wells, percolation tanks, etc. to ensure water availability round the year. Additionally, the company is also working to retain the green cover in the region, by ensuring regular watering of the saplings planted along the State Highway, which will eventually provide shade to travellers during summer.

Dedicating water kiosks to the public, Sunil Gupta, CEO, Vedanta Ltd, Jharsuguda, said, "The wellbeing of our communities is of utmost importance to us, and our developmental initiatives in the region are aimed at improving their quality of life. It is heartening to see our Jal Sewa Shibir helping thousands of citizens in Jharsuguda during these extreme weather conditions. Water is a critical shared resource between us, our communities and the ecology. We are committed to creating a sustainable water footprint in Jharsuguda, through efficient water management and by working with local communities to make them climate resilient."

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/
E-Tender/23, Dt. 01.05.2023

(1) Tender No. GSU-KUR-PSSA-01-2023, Dtd.: 27.04.2023

DESCRIPTION : REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT SUPERVISION SERVICES AGENCY (PSSA) FOR PROVIDING PROJECT SUPERVISION SERVICES (PSS) FOR "EXECUTION OF VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION / DEVELOPMENT WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH UP-GRADATION / DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY STATIONS UNDER AMRIT BHARAT SCHEME OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (02) YEARS."

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 343.06 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 3,21,500/-

(2) Tender No. eTender-NorthKUR-65-2023, Dtd.: 28.04.2023

DESCRIPTION : THROUGH BRIDGE CHANNEL SLEEPER RENEWAL OF EXISTING 264 NOS. OF STEEL CHANNEL SLEEPERS WITH 'H' BEAM SLEEPERS INCLUSIVE OF ALL FIXTURES & FASTENINGS OVER DIFFERENT BRIDGES BETWEEN JENAPUR-JAKHAPURA-TOMKA SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 69.77 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 1,39,600/-

Completion Period : 24 (Twenty Four) Months (for Sl. No. 1) & 08 (Eight) Months (for Sl. No. 2).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 19.05.2023 (for both the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

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

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-129/O/23-24
Khurda Road

St. Xavier's High School
Ranposi, Gengutia, Dhenkanal

NOTICE TO PARENTS/ TEACHERS/ STUDENTS

Dear Parents / Teachers / Students,

As per the Central Govt. & RBI Directives, now un-wards school is going to implement total cash less for fees & all type of dues, receivables and payments. Hence, you are here by informed that, from 10th May 2023, school is going to accept all fees, dues & receivables through digital mode only. No cash payment will be entertained at the fees collection counter hence forth after 9th May 2023. You should pay the fees, dues & receivables through the below digital mode only.

1. Debit Card 2. Credit Card 3. UPI 4. QR Code Scan 5. NEFT/RTGS

For NEFT/RTGS here are the Bank Account Details are:
Name-St. Xavier's High School, A/c No: 50200051792580
IFSC Code: HDFC0001978, Bank Name: HDFC Bank Ltd.
Account Type : Current Account, Bank Branch: Dhenkanal

For any difficulty, Please Contact the following in Phone No.: 9040090317

Managing Trustee
St. Xavier's High School, Ranposi, Dhenkanal

NB: Please ensure the name of the school (St. Xavier's High School and Account No (50200051792580) before payment.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, BARGARH

E-mail- eepwdbgh@gmail.com, Phone/ Fax- 06646-234819
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)

e-procurement Notice

IDENTIFICATION NO. IFB-EE PWD BGH No.02 OF 2023-24
No.B-164:- No.1993, Dated: 02.05.2023

1) The Superintending Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division, Bargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single/Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the Civil Work as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N.) from the eligible class of contractors.

2) No. of civil work : 04 Nos.

3) Cost of tender paper : Rs.6,000/- & Rs.10,000/-

4) Class of contractor : 'B' & 'C' Class Contractor

5) Date & time of available in : 11.00 hrs. of 08.05.2023 to website & receipt of bids : 17.00 hrs. of 17.05.2023

6) Date of opening of Technical Bid : 18.05.2023 at 10.00 hrs.

7) The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

8) Any corrigendum / addendum will be displayed in the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division
OIPR-34039/11/0003/2324

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 Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors in the loan Accounts given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of the said Notice.

The Borrowers / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers / Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Tamando Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & other expenses thereon, less the amount repaid after the date of the said Notice.

The borrower's / guarantor'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 .

TAMANDO BRANCH	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties
Borrower: M/s Nirman Udyog, Prop.: Mr Akshaya Kumar Udayasingh, At: Baligadia, PO/PS: Jankia, Dist: Khurda, Pin- 752020, Guarantor: Mr Basanta Kumar Udayasingh, At/PO: Jankia, Dist: Khurda .	Rs.20,49,861/- + interest, & expenses thereon	02.11.2022 / 03.05.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No. 315/39, Plot No.846/1395, Area: 8712 Sqft., KISSAM: Gharabari, at Mouza: Jankia, PS: Jankia, SRO/Tahasil/Dist: Khurda standing in the name of Sri Basanta Kumar Udayasingh, Bounded by: North- Road, South- Plot No.846/1374, East- Road, West- Plot No.847/1505 .
Borrower: Late Shri Biranchi Narayan Patra, Co-Borrower: Sri P Ranjeet Kumar Patra, S/o: Shri Biranchi Narayan Patra, residing At: Plot No. L 1369, Dumduma, Phase-II, PO- Dumduma, PS.: Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda .	Rs. 8,71,456/- + interest, & expenses thereon	21.10.2022 / 03.05.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of situated over House No. L 1369, OSHB, Khata No.1292, Plot No.1105/3376, Area: 1125 Sqft., KISSAM- Gharabari, at Mouza: Dumduma, PS.: Bhubaneswar, 4, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda standing in the name of Sri Biranchi Narayan Patra, Bounded by: North- L-1368, South- L-1370, East- L-1379, West- Road .
Borrower: Miss Parbati Nayak, D/o: Shri Prabhath Chandra Nayak, Guarantor: Mr Prabhath Chandra Nayak, both are residing at Plot No.L-439, Phase-1, Dumduma H B Colony, Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khordha .	Rs. 4,81,833/- + interest, & expenses thereon	21.10.2022 / 03.05.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of House No.DDL 439, Phase-1, Dumduma Housing Board Colony, Khata No.583, Plot No.1122/2361, Area: 600 Sqft, KISSAM- Gharabari, at Mouza: Dumduma, PS: Khandagiri, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Bounded by: North- Road, South- Open Space, East- House No.DDL-440, West- House No.DDL 438 .

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 06.05.2023

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS GLOBAL ECONOMY

INVESTMENT TREATIES



Established at the end of the Cold War, the Energy Charter Treaty was designed to encourage Western investment in the energy sector of former Soviet bloc countries, particularly the fossil-fuel industry

(Ecuador didn't go as far as the European Parliament incalling for these clauses to be ditched).

But subsequent Ecuadorean governments, under pressure from transnational corporations, have demonstrated a renewed interest in reinstating ISDS mechanisms, and Europe has reciprocated. Last August, on an official visit to Ecuador, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, reflecting Spanish companies' growing interest in the country, insisted that "it is important that we can conclude a [bilateral investment] treaty before the end of the year." Most notably, Repsol, Spain's biggest oil company, has several projects in Ecuador and previously filed an arbitration against the country over its windfall tax. The Netherlands has likewise pressed Ecuador to sign an investment treaty, ostensibly to protect its energy sector.

A recent award made under the France-Ecuador bilateral investment treaty strikingly illustrates these agreements' pernicious tendency to prioritize corporate profits over sovereign states' efforts to ensure sustainable development and shared prosperity. Despite registering its main assets in the Bahamas, a tax haven, the British-French oil corporation Perenco used the arbitration clause in the Ecuador-France treaty to seek compensation for a tax on windfall revenues. The arbitral tribunal awarded \$412 million to Perenco for "indirect expropriation," and Ecuador has agreed to pay. Such "treaty shopping" allows multinationals to minimize tax liability while maximizing protection for their investments.

Investment treaties remain a major obstacle to fighting climate change and protecting the dignity of all human lives. The spate of European withdrawals from the ECT is a golden opportunity to roll back many other investment treaties' ISDS provisions. But first Europe must own up to its hypocrisy

Andrés Arauz is a senior research fellow and Dr. Guillaume Long is a senior policy analyst at the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

A stream of European countries have exited the controversial Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) over the past year: France, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Luxembourg, Slovenia, and Denmark have all withdrawn from the ECT, or announced their intention to do so, joining Italy, which left in 2016. By allowing foreign energy investors to sue national governments for losses caused by policy changes, the ECT prevents countries from delivering on their commitment to meet the Paris climate agreement's targets and effectively neutralizes their plans to tax oil companies' windfall profits.

If advanced economies are being cowed by large corporations and struggling to implement urgently needed reforms, developing countries are in a much worse position. Lured by the often deceptive promise of higher capital inflows, many have signed a raft of bilateral and multilateral investment treaties. Like the ECT, these agreements contain investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms that allow foreign investors to bring a claim against a state before a private international tribunal. Dissatisfaction with the ECT in Europe could have sparked an important debate on how ISDS affects the future of the planet; instead, many European Union member states continue to press developing countries to conclude investment treaties.

Established at the end of the Cold War, the ECT was designed to encourage Western investment in the energy sector of former Soviet bloc countries, particularly the fossil-fuel industry. To assuage concerns about expropriation, breach of contract, and other discriminatory treatment, the treaty permits investors to submit disputes to international arbitration, a supposedly neutral forum, rather than national courts. Through this system, corporations can sue governments for investment losses, including future profits, which can amount to billions of dollars. As of June 2022, at least 150 investment-arbitration cases have been brought under the ECT.

But the ECT is just the tip of the iceberg. Roughly 2,500 investment

treaties—most of them bilateral—permit international investors to use ISDS arbitrators to settle disputes with states. Corporations can sue states for any judicial, legislative, or regulatory decision, including at the municipal level that could affect their bottom line. Investment treaties thus make it harder for governments to implement stronger and more effective environmental safeguards, labor rights, and safety standards. Even the threat of an investorsuit can stymie policymakers.

Not even the promise of reform has tempered key European member states' resolve to leave the ECT. The European Commission has said that a coordinated EU exit treaty—an outcome called for by the European Parliament—appears inevitable. There is also talk of EU countries agreeing among themselves not to apply the ECT's sunset clause, which protects any existing investment for an additional 20 years after a state's exit (the European Parliament also voted in favor of annulling the clause). Many believe that phasing out fossil fuels cannot wait another two decades.

Developing countries could make the most of this unprecedented pushback against the ECT by demanding an overhaul of the many crippling investment treaties to which they are a party. Yet while EU member states are leaving the

ECT, a growing number of African countries, including The Gambia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and Eswatini, are joining it.

Unfortunately, Europe's refusal to subordinate political decision-making to corporate interests has not extended beyond the bloc's borders. Despite announcing its withdrawal from the ECT, France still has 19 bilateral investment treaties with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as another 20 with African countries. Spain has 18 and 11, respectively, and the Netherlands has 15 and 22. And all three states continue to pressure developing countries to sign new investment treaties (most research estimates that a majority of investor claimants come from advanced economies, though it is not always easy to determine their nationality).

Ecuador, which has vast oil reserves, is a striking example of this dynamic. The country withdrew from all its investment treaties in May 2017, after the Commission for the Audit of Investment Protection Treaties spent several years analyzing their legality and impact. The commission's report found shortcomings in many treaties' ratification and record on attracting foreign investment. Some are still in force because of sunset clauses but no longer grant protection to new investments



Andrés Arauz and Guillaume Long

IF ADVANCED ECONOMIES ARE BEING COWED BY LARGE CORPORATIONS AND STRUGGLING TO IMPLEMENT URGENTLY NEEDED REFORMS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE IN A MUCH WORSE POSITION



Aakar Patel

Having thrown away our agency, our focus is not on substance but communicating how we did not shake hands and how we made angry faces. This is what India's foreign policy has become

Arise—transcends thyself. Though art man and the whole nature of man is to become more than himself

SRI AUROBINDO



The Goa Story

We hosted the foreign minister of Pakistan, a young dynast of the sort India is familiar with. His mother, who was prime minister, was assassinated by extremists, his grandfather, who was prime minister, was assassinated by the judiciary and the army. His uncles were assassinated, one by the police. This is a person who has firsthand experience of the dangers and problems of the sort of State Pakistan has formed itself into.

The story in Goa, of course, was the rude body language we apparently displayed to him, the apparent refusal to shake hands (and do namaste instead), and so on. It was as if we were hosting someone unwelcome, which we were, and someone who had been forced on us and with whom we had personal enmity. He, on the other hand, though young, appears to have acquitted himself well, going by some of the messages on social media, though I did not see the interviews he did. He exposed himself to questioning by our journalists, which our leaders do not do.

Let us turn to the issue, which is how we can improve relations with our neighbour. The first question to ask is: Do we have any agency, or do only they have it? This is worth considering because our position is that we can have no normalcy till they stop doing what they do. Meaning that according to us, they are the ones who are in control of normalcy. I have written before about the data on deaths in Kashmir from terrorism, which peaked two decades ago at over 4000 and then fell each year under Vajpayee and Manmohan to go under 200 in a decade and remain there more or less in the years since. Our government's view appears to be that all violence in Kashmir is externally induced and there is no local catalyst. I say it appears to be because it is not clear if we are saying this. But if we are, then what we mean is that since there is no local component, we will only act on normalisation if violence becomes zero.

This is worth considering while we go through the options we have. Former diplomat Satinder Lambah published recently a book called 'In Pursuit of Peace: India-Pakistan relations under six prime ministers'. In it he lists the four-point normalisation formula of then president Musharraf. These were demilitarisation through phased withdrawal of troops, no change in the borders of Kashmir, free movement of Kashmiris across the Line of Control without independence and joint supervision in Jammu and Kashmir involving India, Pakistan, and Kashmir.

This did not go through. After this, under Manmohan, another set of guidelines was produced by India. These repeated all four of Musharraf's points and added more. Three of these additional points were on trade: encouraging meaningful trade across the LoC, removal of non-tariff barriers (meaning delays, inspections, red tape) for all locally produced goods, taking measures to increase it and open more routes.

This did not go through either, of course, but it sounds like normalisation of the sort that would not only address our concern of violence against civilians and the armed forces but also be beneficial to our economy. India produces goods that Pakistan (or for that matter Bangladesh) does not, but we cannot sell them these products because of trade barriers and our reluctance to normalise. Half of all manufacturing in India is in the automobile sector and the cars and motorcycles and tractors and rickshaws we have are cheaper than the ones sold there. It would be in our interest to push for normalisation or at least to segregate normalisation on Kashmir from other issues like trade so that our economy benefits. There appears to be no such desire, at least on the part of this government, as there was in the previous one.

And so in Goa, again we repeated our position, as we were expected to and this will continue into the future. What Lambah said the government was considering in that period is no longer our thinking.

The other thing to consider is whether there is a second way of looking at the problem, and if the issue to be resolved is primarily in Kashmir rather than in Pakistan. To go there we have to accept or at least consider the idea that if we resolve the problem inside, then external mischief has limited efficacy. This does not appear to be our understanding. We assume that if Pakistan were to stop acting against us or somehow vanish from the face of the earth today then from tomorrow there would be no need to maintain a heavy military and paramilitary presence in Kashmir. This is either touchingly innocent or bafflingly stupid. However, it is the position of the government, and not only this one.

So long as this line of thinking continues, and it is not difficult to see that it will, there will be no movement in our relations with our neighbour. We have told ourselves that the key to the solution is with them and they are refusing to use it and because they are refusing to use it we will not talk to them. Having thrown away our agency, our focus is not on substance but communicating how we did not shake hands and how we made angry faces. This is what India's foreign policy has become.

WISDOM CORNER

- The constant assertion of belief is an indication of fear. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**
- To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already 3-parts dead. **BERTRAND RUSSELL**
- To go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's. **FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY**

WORDSWORTH

Valetudinarian

A valetudinarian is unduly anxious about his health. The everyday word for this condition might be thought to be hypochondriac, but there's a subtle difference: the hypochondriac thinks he's always ill, but the valetudinarian takes great care to ensure he never is. This polysyllabic and literary term is a good choice at times when it is desirable not to seem too unkind. In November 2004, the word appeared in an obituary of the football writer Arthur Hopcraft in the Independent: "Fastidious, set in his ways and prematurely balding, Hopcraft had an air of the valetudinarian bachelor about him from a relatively early age." The word appears in the language in 1703, in the third volume of William Dampier's A New Voyage Round the World. Dampier was an extraordinary explorer, map-maker and buccaneer; a couple of years after he published this volume he commanded a privateering voyage during which Alexander Selkirk, the model for Robinson Crusoe, was marooned. He wrote: "Many of our English Valetudinarians have gone from Jamaica ... to the I. Caimanes ... to live wholly upon Turtle that abound there". (He's referring to the Cayman Islands, these days famous more as a refuge for the money of the reclusive rich than for sick people.) A writer in the Gentleman's Magazine in 1787 remarked that: "Everyone knows how hard a task it is to cure a valetudinarian." The word is from Latin valetudinarius, in ill health.

SPECTRUM PRESS FREEDOM

There is no reason to celebrate

May 3 this year marked three decades since the UN General Assembly's decision to proclaim it an international day for press freedom. The big question that needs to be addressed is whether there is reason to celebrate or just mark the day, or resolve to make it meaningful.

International Federation of Journalists, representing 600,000 media professionals from 187 trade unions and associations in over 140 countries, President Dominique Pradalle noted "From Peru to Iran, from Sudan to Afghanistan, governments are taking drastic measures to impede freedom of expression and prevent the public's right to know, including internet restrictions, beating, jailing and intimidating journalists, controlling media content, and introducing drastic media laws and legislations to curb the free flow of information. Since the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration in 1991, very little has been undertaken to create concrete conditions at the international level to guarantee freedom and security for journalists."

Few words, but raise plenty of concern.

The media is facing a clampdown on this fundamental right because of its essential role in ensuring transparency and accountability of governments. Worse, it's not just under dictatorial regimes or in conflict regions but sadly even in so-called democracies.

Remember, press freedom facilitates holding the powerful to account. And, in this exercise, media houses and journalists play an essential role. But when the fourth estate is controlled, the powerful rule the roost and as a corollary freedom of expression is impinged upon.

Unfortunately, governments are increasingly using every tool possible to silence independent media rather than seeing it as a partner in democracy. They fail to realise that democracy is intertwined with freedom of expression and a free press. Deny these and democracy itself is compromised.

The IFJ has listed 68 media staff killed in 2022 in the course of duty. Nine in 10 cases remain unpunished and impunity reigns. At least 375 journalists and media workers are behind bars. Other cases involve journalists being attacked, beaten,

detained, harassed and threatened. There are growing threats to digital safety with cyber-attacks, hacking, and online harassment, especially of women journalists.

These are not just figures for behind every statistic is also human tragedy—a death, a kidnapping, a family left without a mother, father, brother, or sister. Behind every statistic is a country or community left without information and denied the human right to be properly informed. The denial of the right to exercise freedom of expression has thus serious repercussions not just for journalists but for society per se.

The developments in Afghanistan continue to be the worst with the media grappling with the new normal post-Taliban takeover with scores of Afghan media outlets becoming dysfunctional.

The Sri Lankan media is adjusting to severe cuts following the economic crisis; press freedom continued to be a major concern under Pakistan's new regime; religious extremism and polarisation dogged the media in Bangladesh and the Maldives; the erosion of autonomy due to cor-

porate take-overs of independent media was most visible in India, which also topped the global list for the highest number of internet shutdowns for the 5th consecutive year; and amid an economic crisis, number of journalists leaving Bhutan for better opportunities is higher than ever before.

In these challenging times, it's vital that institutions and governments are made accountable. An important prerequisite is the safety of journalists, says the IFJ.

It has also been demanding adoption of a binding international instrument - The International Convention on the Safety of Journalists and Media Professionals. This is not in competition with other initiatives like the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists, rather it's complementary and seeks to remove important weaknesses, specific to the situation of journalists to ensure more effective implementation of international law. The convention will strengthen press freedom by forcing governments to investigate and respond to attacks against the media. It's time governments act and support the Convention.

INFIA



Sabina Inderjit

THE MEDIA IS FACING A CLAMPDOWN NOT JUST UNDER DICTATORIAL REGIMES OR IN CONFLICT REGIONS BUT SADLY EVEN IN SO-CALLED DEMOCRACIES

Enchanting experience

Sir, Lord Buddha's teaching begins with the analysis of the concept of pain that we all experience and the source of it, i.e., the desire we have within us. Due to our desire to feel safe and secure, we constantly strive to gain experiences and objects that create pleasant emotions. We avoid anything that causes us pain and try to manipulate situations and people around us to achieve what we want. In reality, the rest of the unstable world seldom matches what we want, and thus, we are often hurt and frustrated. The enlightenment of Buddha is considered to be the most significant event in his life. According to Buddhist scriptures, he attained enlightenment while meditating under a Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya, Bihar. Buddhists around the world remember, reciting prayers at this event by mediating and performing acts of kindness and compassion.

CK Dorai Ramani, GHAZIABAD

Dark clouds hovering over blue skies

Sir, Ever since India opened the skies for private airlines in 1994, on average, one scheduled airline has gone out of business every year. With Wadia group owned Go First, the latest carrier in the throes of an existential crisis, it highlights the perils of relying on a few international suppliers. With another airline belly down, dark clouds of uncertainty are hovering over the blue skies of the aviation industry. Moreover, the ambiguity over the Air India and Vistara merger, the resignation of Sanju Kapoor, the Jet Airways CEO and Spice Jet Airlines' inability to raise funds make it clear that the budget airline space is also moving towards a monopolistic trend controlled by Indigo. The latter saw its market share increase to 55.7%. The average business class fares have also risen from Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000 and the average economy class fair from Rs 5,000-7000 band to Rs 8000-12000 band. That is where effective regulation must step in. It is hoped that rational airfares and a long standing demand of the airline industry to bring aviation fuel under the new tax regime of GST will bring some respite to the increasing costs of airlines. Policy has been getting in the way of the market mechanism for most of India's aviation history. If India's dreams are to take flight, they must not be dependent on the exploitative monopolies of IndiGo and Tata.

Vijay Singh Adhikari, NAINITAL

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

of the day quote

The AAP government led by Mann has done a lot of work in Punjab in the past one year

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

The Dravidian model of governance cannot be understood by those who differentiate between people on the basis of caste and religion

MK STALIN | TN CM

Efforts are underway to evacuate people of the state stranded in violence-hit Manipur

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Teenager killed

New Delhi: A 17-year-old teenager was shot dead while another was injured during a birthday celebration in a secret hookah bar in Southeast Delhi's Kalkaji area Saturday afternoon, an official said. According to police, a police control room was received regarding gun shots and it was also informed that seven to eight young boys were involved. "The Station House Officer (SHO) and the police team swiftly reached the specified location, an address in Govindpuri Extension," said Rajesh Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast).

12 injured

Srinagar: At least 12 people including 11 tourists were injured Saturday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district. Officials said that a vehicle went out of the driver's control and overturned in the Khudwani area of Kulgam district. "Twelve people, including 11 tourists and the driver of the vehicle, were injured in this accident," an official said.

Lightning kills 2

Srinagar: Two persons were killed after a lightning struck the Mujpathri meadow in J&K's Budgam district Saturday. "Two persons, who gave been identified as Taja Begum and Muhammad Sultan Chopan, were killed in the accident. A team of officials has left for Mujpathri after the report of the incident was received," officials said.

Flamingo rescued

Mumbai: A flamingo was rescued in an injured state from a beach in suburban Mumbai, an official from the forest department said Saturday. The migratory bird was found in an injured and dehydrated state at Versova beach on Thursday and was treated and released during the day, the official said.

Trader cheated

Mumbai: An offence has been registered against a city-based developer and his son for allegedly duping a diamond trader of Rs 2.7 crore in a property deal, police said Saturday. The complainant in the case has claimed that he had paid the father-son duo 2.7 crore for a flat in a redevelopment project in 2016, and he still hasn't received possession of the property, an official said.

Five killed

Sangli: Four members of a family and a driver were killed when a speeding truck collided with their car in Maharashtra's Sangli district, police said Saturday. The accident took place near Jath town on Vijapur-Guhagar road around 11 pm on Friday, an official said.



We have to raise our voice against loot and corruption in the country and state. I raised my voice against corruption... Maybe some people did not like it but I do not care. I will keep fighting against corruption

SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

FRESH ALLEGATION

Jailed conman Sukesh Chandrashekar has sent a fresh letter to the Delhi Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena, Saturday claiming to have funded lavish furnishings present in Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence



A baya weaver sitting on a nest in Nagaon

PTI PHOTO

Army working on creating battlefield surveillance system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: The Army has set itself on a course of transformation and is working on creating a battlefield surveillance system to provide a composite operational picture to commanders and staffers at all levels for swifter decision-making, defence sources said.

The Army's Battlefield Surveillance System is being built under 'Project Sanjay'. It seeks to create multiple surveillance centres for the field formations and enable the integration of a large number of sensors. Sources in the defence establishment said the Army is observing 2023 as the 'Year of Transformation' to set itself on a course to become a "future-ready, technology-driven, lethal and agile force" and establishes itself as an "iron cast pillar of national power".

'Project Sanjay' and a host of other tech-driven projects, including one that will bring in multi-domain spatial awareness on a single GIS platform, are aimed at making the force more potent, they said. The Battle Surveillance System will provide an integrated surveillance picture to commanders and staffers at all levels besides completing the sensor-shooter grid by integrating it with the Artillery Combat Command and Control and Communication System (ACCCS), sources said.

The ambitious project has "come of age" following extensive validation carried out in multiple terrains over a protracted period, they said. The trials were conducted in the plains, desert areas and in mountainous terrain from August to October last year, a source said.

Bharat Electronics Limited, Ghaziabad, is the project's system integrator. They have succeeded in meeting the Army's aspiration in full. The contract with the supplier is now being progressed further for delivery of these surveillance centres for field formations by December 2025, he said.

These projects aim to reshape and re-engineer the functional processes and bring in a quantum jump in Army's capabilities, the source said. The Battle Surveillance System will give a fillip to the Army formations along the northern and western borders. It will allow commanders and others to make decisions more swiftly, boosting the Army's overall operational preparedness, the source said.



The battle surveillance system will give a fillip to the Army formations along the northern and western borders

Army Chief Manoj Pande had recently spoken about the Army's transformational steps and added that it has laid down five domains in which transformation will take place. "We have taken multiple transformation initiatives so that we become a more modern, more technology-driven, self-reliant and battle-worthy force to be able to not only carry out our mandate more effectively but also to be able to meet future security challenges," he said. Another project the Army is working on is SAMA (Situational Awareness Module for the Army). The Combat Information Decision Support System has been re-designed as Army Information and Decision Support System which will integrate inputs from all operational and managerial information systems.

After 8 decades, 93-yr-old woman wins court battle for flats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 6: The Bombay High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to hand over two south Mumbai flats to their owner, a 93-year-old woman, putting an end to a property dispute that dragged on for eight decades. The flats are situated on the first floor of Ruby Mansion in south Mumbai and measure 500 sq ft and 600 sq ft. On March 28, 1942, the building was requisitioned under the then Defence of India Act, which allowed the British rulers of the time to take possession of private properties.

A division bench of Justices R D Dhanuka and M M Sathaye in its order of May 4 noted that despite de-



requisition orders passed in July 1946, the flats were never handed back to the owner - Alice D'souza. The properties are presently occupied by the legal heirs of a former government official. D'souza in her petition had sought a direction to the Maharashtra government and the Collector of Mumbai to implement the July 1946 de-requisition orders and to hand over possession of the flats to her.

EC notice to Congress on 'rate card' ads against BJP

Ahead of the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka, the Congress released a set of posters and advertisements listing 'corruption rates' in the state, between 2019 and 2023, while terming the BJP government a 'trouble engine'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: The Election Commission has issued a notice to the Karnataka Congress over its "corruption rate card" advertisements published in newspapers targeting the BJP, and sought "empirical evidence" to prove its allegations by Sunday evening.

The notice was issued Saturday following a complaint lodged by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Citing provisions of the model code of conduct (MCC), Representation of the People Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the panel said it appears "prima facie" that the Congress has "violated" the provision of the model code by publishing the advertisement.

Ahead of the May 10 assembly polls in Karnataka, the Congress released a set of posters and advertisements listing "corruption rates" in the state, between 2019 and 2023, while terming the BJP gov-



ernment a "trouble engine".

"It is a fair assumption that INC possesses the material/empirical/verifiable evidence based on which these specific/explicit facts have been published, an action which can fairly be assessed to embed knowledge, motive and intent to do so by the author," the Election Commission (EC) notice read.

It asked the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president to "convey the empirical evidence of the same, for example, the evidences for rates for kinds of appointments and transfers, kinds of jobs and kinds of commission mentioned in the advertisement given by you along with if any explanation, by 19.00 hrs on 7th May 2023, and also put that in public domain".

It said if the party fails to share the evidence, it has to show reasons as to "why action should not be initiated against you for violating the model code of conduct and relevant legal provisions under the Representation of the People Act and IPC, by 7 pm on May 7".

The poll panel further said that the criticism of the policy and governance of opponent parties is a right guaranteed under the Constitution as well as an essential function of various political actors under the Indian electoral process.

"However, while exercising this right and performing this essential function, various political parties are expected to uphold high standards of public discourse and adhere to various provisions of MCC and relevant laws," it said.

TN Guv's allegation false: Health minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, May 6: Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi's allegation of a two-finger test on minor girls in Chidambaram is false and the health department, upon verification, found no such test was done, State Health Minister Ma Subramanian said Saturday.

Accusing the Governor of being vindictive towards the State government, Subramanian claimed Ravi attempted to portray something that had never happened. "He had accused the police of booking cases against the Dikshitar (priests of renowned Nataraja temple in Chidambaram) for performing child marriages and claimed two underage girls were subjected to a two-finger test, which is not true," the Minister said.

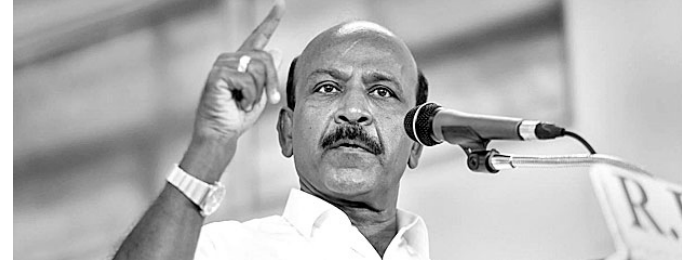
Speaking to reporters here Subramanian said, despite the state police issuing a rebuttal on the issue on May 5, it has become necessary for him to clarify the subject.

Dismissing an allegation that the police booked cases against the Dikshitar after the Social

Welfare department complained out of vengeance, as untrue, a release from the DGP office had said the Chidambaram town All Women Police station registered four cases under various sections of the IPC including child marriage and arrested 8 men and 3 women in this regard.

The police had also denied that two girls studying in class VI and VII were forcibly subjected to a two-finger test and the charge that they later attempted to commit suicide as contrary to truth. "The Governor is trying to find fault through a magnifying glass hoping to target the State government and has levelled allegations against the government on May 4," Subramanian said.

Ravi spoke something which has not happened and this was unbecoming the position he holds, the Minister claimed. "His allegation is utterly false. The health department, which looked into the case history and treatment given, also scrutinised the records. The records clearly state that the two-finger test has not been performed on the girls," Subramanian claimed.



Journalist Sakshi Joshi assaulted, detained



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 6: Athletes who are currently protesting at Jantar Mantar were roughed up at the protest site by Delhi Police personnel late at night on Wednesday, May 3. Sakshi Joshi, a journalist, was also reportedly manhandled by the police and detained for a long time. She tweeted videos depicting the events that took place.

In the video, Sakshi said that the police tried to stop her from filming the protest on her phone. When she questioned it, several women police officers pushed her and tore her clothes. Sakshi further says that she was taken to the Mandhir Marg police station where she was detained until 1:30 am.

In the footage from outside the Mandhir Marg police station, she says, "I am standing here on the road. It is 1:30 am in the night. I have to go home from here. They have locked the police station gate as well. And they call themselves the police."

The Press Club of India has condemned this incident and has demanded action against the police personnel involved.

VHP issues legal notice to Kharge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: The Vishva Hindu Parishad has issued a legal notice to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, accusing him of making defamatory remarks against the Bajrang Dal in his party's Karnataka poll manifesto and demanding a compensation of more than Rs 100 crore.

The notice was issued by the Chandigarh unit of the VHP and its youth wing Bajrang Dal on May 4, demanding the compensation within 14 days.

There was no immediate response from Congress on the queries sent to the party in this regard.



'Op Trinetra' launched as Rajnath visits Rajouri

THE PEOPLE'S ANTI-FASCIST FRONT (PAFF), A SHADOW ORGANISATION OF THE JAISH-E-MOHAMMED, HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR FRIDAY'S ATTACK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, May 6: One terrorist was killed and another believed to be injured during a search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri Saturday as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited an army base and took stock of the overall security situation, officials said.

'Operation Trinetra' was launched a day after five army personnel were killed and a major-rank officer injured when terrorists triggered a blast targeting a search party in the dense Kandi forest.

In the ongoing joint operation in Kandi forest, Rajouri sector, by Indian Army in coordination with Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF, at around 7am, the cordon, while closing in, spotted and pinned down the terrorists.

In the ensuing gunbattle one terrorist has been neutralised and one terrorist is likely to be injured, Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said.



He said an AK-56 rifle, four magazines, 56 bullets, one 9mm pistol, its three magazines and three grenades were seized from the slain terrorist whose identity and group affiliation were not known immediately.

The operation is underway and further details will be shared later, Lt Col Anand said. The People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), a shadow organisation of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack.

Officials said the search operation was extended to nearby areas with fresh reinforcements from the army and police moving in to block the escape routes.

The body of the slain terrorist was removed from the scene and his postmortem was also conducted, the officials said.

Over the past 18 months, terrorists have killed 35 people, including 26 soldiers, in eight attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Defence Minister Singh, accompanied by Army chief General Manoj Pande and Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, reached the Ace of Spades Division headquarters in Rajouri in the afternoon after a brief stopover in Jammu.

They also interacted with the troops engaged in the ongoing operation against terrorists, the officials said.

Northern Army commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, the Corps Commander of White Knight Corps, and the Jammu Divisional Commissioner are also accompanying Rajnath to

■ **Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu, which were declared terrorism-free more than a decade ago, have been rocked by a series of deadly attacks since October 2021**

■ **Over the past 18 months, terrorists have killed 35 people, including 26 soldiers, in eight attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch**

Rajouri, the officials said.

After getting a brief on the operation in Kandi forest, the defence minister chaired a high-level security meeting to review the overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in Rajouri and Poonch before returning to Jammu, they said.

Earlier in the day, Lt Gen Dwivedi visited the encounter site and was briefed about the developments in the 'Operation Trinetra'.

Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu, which were declared terrorism-free more than a decade ago, have been rocked by a series of deadly attacks since October 2021.

The loss of five jawans in Kandi forest is the third major incident this year. It took place at a time when the forces are engaged in a massive combing operation for the past 15 days following an ambush on an army truck in Bhata Dhurian (Poonch).

Five soldiers were killed and another was injured April 20 when the army truck carrying fruits and vegetables for Iftar was bombed and strafed with bullets by terrorists.

More than 250 people were detained for questioning during combing operations in the wake of the incident. Six overground workers who extended full support to terrorists were arrested, they said.

According to military officials, terrorists now have adopted a strategy of engaging troops or attacking people and then laying improvised explosive devices to harm security forces engaged in combing operations.

This also happened in Dhangri village in Rajouri where terrorists killed seven civilians in two attacks January 1 this year.

In two major incidents in Rajouri in 2022, five army personnel and two terrorists were killed in a suicide attack at a security camp at Pargal-Darhal August 11, while two civilians were killed in a firing incident outside an army camp near Rajouri town.

Besides the eight major attacks, four minor blasts rocked Kotranka in Rajouri district between March and April last year. All these cases were worked out by police with the arrest of the accused.

Nine army personnel were killed in two separate encounters with terrorists in Bhatta Durrian in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch districts in October 2021.

Two army personnel, one of them a lieutenant, were killed in a mine blast in Nowshera sector of Rajouri October 30, 2021. Rajouri and Poonch districts have witnessed more killings of Army personnel than the militancy-hit Kashmir Valley.

Does Brij Bhushan have plan B ready for himself

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 6: Even as the wrestlers' controversy intensifies in Delhi and the BJP maintains an unexplained silence, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh - the man in the eye of the storm - apparently has an option charted out for himself.

Singh, according to sources, is willing to cross over to the Samajwadi Party (SP) if the BJP initiates action against him.

He gave an indication to this effect last week when he praised SP president Akhilesh Yadav for not supporting the wrestlers who have been demanding action against him. "Akhilesh knows the truth. I am being targeted for political reasons. All wrestlers come from a socialist background," he had said.

The developments on this score have become clearer with the Samajwadi Party asking its media panellists not to support or oppose Singh in television debates.

As per the sources, the BJP is unwilling to take a decision on the controversy because it does not wish to upset the apple cart in eastern Uttar Pradesh where Singh wields considerable influence. "Lok Sabha elections are just a few months away and Singh wields influence in at least six to seven Lok Sabha seats. The party has adopted a wait-and-watch attitude and we hope that the controversy will die down soon," said a senior party functionary.

The Samajwadi Party, on the other hand, will be ready to welcome



■ Singh, according to sources, is willing to cross over to the Samajwadi Party (SP) if the BJP initiates action against him

■ **BJP is unwilling to take a decision on the controversy because it does not wish to upset the apple cart in eastern Uttar Pradesh where Singh wields considerable influence**

Singh in its fold if he does decide to join SP. The SP does not have a Thakur leader of stature and after its relationship with independent legislator Raja Bhaiyya deteriorated, the party is facing a vacuum where Thakur leadership is concerned.

Incidentally, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who shared a warm rapport with Mulayam Singh Yadav, had joined SP in 2008 after being expelled from BJP for cross voting in favour of the UPA during a confidence motion. He returned to BJP in 2013.

The road to return to SP will now be smoother for him since his arch rival and SP leader Vinod Singh aka Pandit Singh is no more. Besides, he has also been acquitted in the Babri demolition case for want of evidence.

J&K L-G, Army pay homage to martyrs

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and officials from the Indian Army Saturday paid homage to five soldiers killed in an IED explosion in Rajouri district, officials said Saturday. A wreath-laying ceremony was held at IAF station in Jammu, where Sinha along with General Officer commanding (GoC) in Chief (GoC-In-C) Northern Command General Upendra Dwivedi, police, and other military officers paid their tributes to the soldiers. The soldiers killed in the Friday explosion were lance naik Ruchin Singh Rawat from Gairsain in Uttarakhand, paratrooper Siddhant Chettri from Darjeeling in West Bengal, naik Arvind Kumar from Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh, havildar Neelam Singh from Jammu, and paratrooper Pramod Negi from Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh.



SP, BSP leaders give UP local body polls a miss to campaign in K'taka

While civic elections are going on in Uttar Pradesh, questions are being raised on the seriousness of both the parties as both have no mass base in Karnataka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

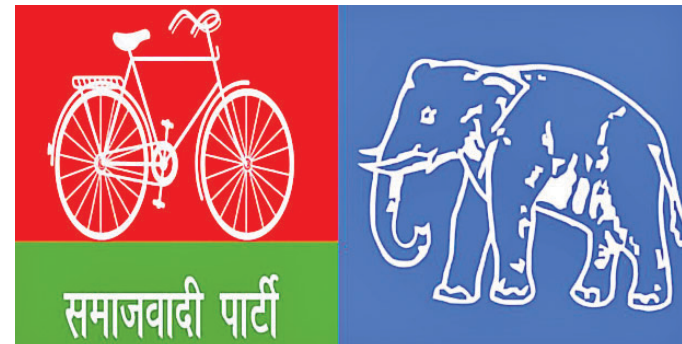
Lucknow, May 6: After the completion of the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh local body polls, the election campaign for the second phase has gathered pace. The ruling party BJP has put its full force in the campaign, whereas, the leaders of the opposition parties -- Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) -- are giving it a miss to focus on the Karnataka Assembly elections.

According to political experts, BSP chief Mayawati and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, two big faces of the state's politics, are on Karnataka tour amid civic elections.

Akhilesh Yadav will address five rallies during his three-day tour. Mayawati has taken the feedback of the election by meeting with the party senior leaders along with addressing a rally.

The BSP is also contesting alone in Karnataka as part of its policy of not forging alliances with any opposition party anywhere in the country except in Punjab.

In the 2018 Assembly elections in Karnataka, a BSP candidate had won, while the Samajwadi Party's account was not opened. SP had



fielded its candidates on 20 seats, but the party had to face defeat on all the seats. At the same time, BSP fielded its candidates on 18 seats with the JDS alliance.

While civic elections are going on in Uttar Pradesh, questions are being raised on the seriousness of both the parties as both have no mass base in Karnataka.

BSP chief Mayawati has not organised a single meeting for her party in the civic elections. BSP has fielded its candidates in all the districts. Even then Mayawati has not campaigned for Uttar Pradesh local polls. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has not been seen to be very active in Uttar Pradesh. He did go to Gorakhpur, Deoria, Santakbir Nagar, Saharanpur for campaigning.

Whereas, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has put all his might in the civic elections in the state. According to politicians, there is a huge demand for Yogi from the BJP candidates in the Karnataka Assembly elections, but still he is giving more preference to UP.

The SP has fielded more than a dozen candidates in the Karnataka

Assembly elections.

The SP president is reaching here to hold a public meeting. Akhilesh Yadav has also studied engineering from Karnataka. In such a situation, he has often been showing his attachment to Karnataka.

SP's national spokesperson Ashutosh Verma said: "SP is fighting the civic elections very seriously. Our national president has toured some districts in the first phase of civic elections. Apart from this, national general secretaries, Shivpal Yadav, Ramgopal and state president Naresh Uttam Patel, have taken command of the campaign."

"Whereas in Karnataka elections, our party candidates are fighting the elections with a good competitive zeal. That's why on their demand the national president has made his visit."

Political analyst Ratan Mani Lal said: "Victory or defeat of regional parties in civic elections does not make any difference in their political strategy. SP and BSP do not give the same importance to body elections as the BJP does. That's why BJP also gets the benefit of this."

Trailer of movie 'Welcome to Kashmir' released

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 6: The trailer of 'Welcome to Kashmir', touted to be Kashmir's first movie for Bollywood, was unveiled Saturday by Tourism Secretary Syed Abid Rasheed Shah.

Directed by Tariq Bhat, the film aims to showcase the Valley and its people in a positive light. It focuses on women empowerment and the fight against drug abuse.

Secretary Tourism said it was heartening to see a film highlight pivotal social issues.

"This (drug menace) is a social

issue across the world. It is the responsibility of all of us, rather than just one department or the government, to ensure that our society works very hard towards eradication of this menace," Shah said at the trailer launch at Inox Cinema here.

Welcome to Kashmir revolves around a girl who dreams to work for women empowerment and women safety in Kashmir. It features newcomers Mateena Rajput and Ahmad Shahab.

"As a Kashmiri artist, it is a huge thing for me that the trailer of the movie was launched today. The re-



opening of cinemas - Inox multiplex in Sonwar area of the city here - has helped the local artists as well. The movie is about fighting drug addiction, and women empowerment. It has touched Kashmiri culture. I hope the people will like the movie," Rajput told PTI.

She said the Jammu and Kashmir's administration's new film policy has helped attract filmmakers to the Valley and promote local artists.

As an artist, we feel that we can do something now, she added.

Welcome to Kashmir is scheduled to be released May 26.

Mathura set for makeover like Varanasi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mathura (UP), May 6: Projects worth ₹32,000 crore are underway in the Braj region to revive and restore the grandeur and divinity of Mathura as seen during the 'Dwapar era'.

The famous Bankey Bihari temple is to be revamped on the lines of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi.

"The Braj region will regain its splendour of the Dwapar era (a mythological period when Lord Krishna lived in Braj) with projects costing about ₹32,000 crore. Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, a body constituted to streamline development, is transforming the face of Mathura-Vrindavan. The Bankey Behari Dham (corridor) will be developed in Vrindavan on the pattern of Kashi Vishwanath Dham," said a government spokesman.

Investment proposals worth ₹35 lakh crore were received in Uttar Pradesh through the Global



Investors Summit held in February and with this investment, 50,000 people would get employment in Braj region alone.

"It is the responsibility of the government to bring back the splendour of Barsana, Gokul, and Govardhan. Since independence, during the tenure of various governments, the corrupt and impoverished system had halted Mathura's development. The formation of Mathura Vrindavan Municipal Corporation in 2017 and then the Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad have taken forward the action plan of overall development in Mathura," the spokesman said.

G20 meet chance to promote J&K tourism potential

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 6: The upcoming G20 meeting which will be held here is a great opportunity to promote Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential globally as it will show the world that the union territory is a wonderful destination for all, an official said Saturday.

The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting will be held in Srinagar from May 21 to 23.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the trailer launch of the movie 'Welcome to Kashmir' at Inox Cinema here, Tourism Secretary Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said the department has identified 300 new destinations for film shootings and will facilitate production houses.

"Whether it is adventure tourism or leisure tourism, or our focus areas of film tourism and MICE tourism, we are working to attract the attention of the world and this



event is a major opportunity to promote it at the global scale. The event will show the world that Jammu and Kashmir is a wonderful destination for all to come and enjoy," he added.

The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting is taking place in Kashmir which in itself is a major international event. I do not think such a big international event has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir ever before

SYED ABID RASHEED SHAH | TOURISM SECRETARY, J&K

tory the prime destination for film tourism once again so that people come here instead of going to Switzerland, France and the Alps, Shah said. In the last year, over 200 films, web series and TV serials have been shot in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

In the coming year, our effort is that as a subset of tourism, film tourism is promoted in a major way inside and outside the country so that the hitherto untouched

beautiful destinations and locations that are much better than some of the most beautiful European destinations, are brought on the map, he said.

The tourism secretary said there is a one-stop centre for all the necessary permissions. There is an online portal, there is an enabling atmosphere so that the film production units do not face any difficulty, he said. On the shooting of Shah Rukh Khan-starrer movie Dunki in Kashmir last month, Shah said major production houses and film stars are coming to the Valley for shooting films.

"I want to give an open-hearted invitation to all those, whether inside the country or outside, interested in shooting in Jammu and Kashmir. This year, we are projecting 300 new destinations and they can choose any. The government of Jammu and Kashmir will be forthcoming and facilitate you in every way," he said.

of the day quote

Communal violence between two communities is a very unfortunate incident. Many lives have been lost and there is damage to property. Whether Meiteis or Kukis both belong to the same state and need to live together

KIREN RIJU | UNION MINISTER

The Congress will get a comfortable majority in Karnataka and the win would open the doors for the Lok Sabha elections as the party's victory in the state in 1978 had done

D K SHIVAKUMAR | KARNATAKA CONGRESS CHIEF

The BJP has become the party of corrupt people

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

SHORT TAKES

Nine killed

Ahmedabad: Nine persons, including five women and two children, were killed in two separate road accidents in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka and Surat districts Saturday, police said. In Surat district, six members of a family, including three women and two children, were killed near Bardoli town when the car they were travelling in was hit by a dumper truck on a national highway, a police official said.

Girl gangraped

Guwahati: A 20-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by five men and the entire act was recorded on a mobile phone in the Gohpur area in Assam's Sonitpur district, police said Saturday. The accused were arrested by police in connection with the incident. "The victim last night filed a complaint against the five accused, stating that she was gangraped and the criminal act was recorded on mobile," an officer at the Hawajan police station in Gohpur said.

Nigerian arrested

Kottayam: A Nigerian national was arrested from Delhi for allegedly duping a woman here of Rs 81 lakh, Kerala police said Saturday. The Cyber Cell wing of the Kerala police have apprehended the 26-year-old man who had cheated the woman hailing from Changanassery after befriending her through Facebook. Police said the accused, using a fake name, befriended the woman in early 2021 and on August 15 of the same year, told her that a gift worth Rs 30 crore has been sent to her as their Independence Day gift.

Four held in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad police have busted a drug-peddling gang with the arrest of four persons including a Nigerian. The fifth accused, also a Nigerian, is absconding. The arrests were made by the Special Operations Team (SOT) of Cyberabad as part of its drive to curb the menace of drugs and other psychotropic substances.

Three drown

Banaskantha: Three teenagers, including two sisters and their cousin brother, were drowned in a pond in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, police said Saturday. The girls died trying to save their cousin, he said. The incident occurred at Uchosan village in Suigam taluka on Friday evening when two brothers went into a pond to take a bath, and one of them started drowning after going deep into the water body.



Look at the consequences of 'double engine sarkar' in Manipur. Both engines have failed. The state government is broken with internal dissensions. The central government has a trigger-happy solution to all issues

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

'THE KERALA STORY' TAX-FREE IN MP

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Saturday announced to give tax-free status to 'The Kerala Story' in the state, a day after the Prime Minister credited the movie for bringing out terror conspiracies



Wanted Khalistani terrorist shot dead

He was gunned down Saturday morning by two motorcycle-borne men when he was taking a walk in his housing society in Lahore, the sources said

Hailing from Punjab's Tarn Taran district, Panjwar, 63, was heading the banned Khalistan Commando Force-Panjwar group



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in July 2020.

Chandigarh/Lahore, May 6: Wanted Khalistani terrorist Paramjit Singh Panjwar was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Pakistan's Lahore Saturday, sources said.

Hailing from Punjab's Tarn Taran district, Panjwar, 63, was heading the banned Khalistan Commando Force-Panjwar group and was involved in drug and weapons smuggling and other terror activities when he was designated as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

He was gunned down Saturday morning by two motorcycle-borne men when he was taking a walk in his housing society in Lahore, the sources said. He joined the KCF in 1986. He later headed this outfit and crossed over to Pakistan.

Though he was inactive for the last couple of years, Singh had been operating from Lahore and was involved in arranging arms training for youths in Pakistan. He was engaged in supplying arms and ammunition and subsequent infiltration into India for targeting VIPs and economic installations.

He was also involved in broadcasting highly seditious and separatist programmes on Radio Pakistan, intended to incite minorities against the Indian government. He was active in the smuggling of drugs and was a major conduit between smugglers and terrorists, the Ministry of Home Affairs had said in a notification that designated him a terrorist under UAPA.

"Panjwar's complicity in promoting drug trade and Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) operation in Punjab are well documented. Efforts are being made by his organisation KCF to reactive former militants, sleeper cells and also those on bail and it has been in favour of forming nexus with other forces hostile to India," the ministry had said.

KCF came into existence in February 1986 and the modus-operandi of this organisation was to commit bank robberies and kidnappings for ransom for use to purchase sophisticated weapons for terrorist activities.

The banned outfit under the patronage of Paramjit Singh Panjwar was involved in various terrorist attacks in India, which include the following a bomb attack in October 1988, killing 10 Raj Sikhs at Firozpur and the killing of Major Gen. B. N. Kumar, according to the ministry.

CBI arrests Health Ministry official

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday said that they have arrested an Under Secretary in Union Ministry of Health for allegedly demanding a bribe from a US-based Indian for issuing a statement of need from the ministry.

The official has been identified as Sonu Kumar. Searches are also being conducted at his premises. Later in the day, he will be produced in the Rouse Avenue District Court.

On Friday, the CBI lodged an FIR in this connection. The victim wanted the statement of need for official purpose.

A senior CBI official said that they got a complaint in this respect on April 4 from one, Ram Gulam, a resident of Ballabgarh, Faridabad in which he alleged that his friend Yashpal Chokker's son, Aditya Chokker, who lives in the US, had applied for Statement of Need from the Ministry of Health.

Accused Sonu Kumar, an Under Secretary, Ministry of Health, demanded a bribe from him in exchange for issuing the Statement of Need. "The complainant enclosed the printout of the said certificate which was sent by Sonu Kumar to Yashpal Chokker through email, which Yashpal then forwarded to the complainant on WhatsApp. Chokker didn't want to pay the demanded bribe," said the CBI.

The official said that the FIR was lodged under section 7 of PC Act. The CBI then laid a trap and arrested the accused while demanding and accepting the bribe. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing.

Cong fumes, lodges complaint against PM



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 6: The Congress Saturday lodged a complaint

against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bangalore for his statement linking the party (Congress) with terrorism.

The delegation headed by former Lok Sabha Speaker Meera Kumar and senior Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao lodged the complaint at High Grounds police station in Bengaluru and demanded lodging of FIR and investigation.

The Congress leaders claimed that PM Modi stated at a public rally while campaigning in Karnataka that the Congress party is supporting terrorism and demanded legal action against him. Dinesh Gundu Rao, speaking to

reporters after lodging complaint, charged "No Prime Minister of the country has given such a speech. The intention of PM Modi's speech is to provoke communal feelings. He has used lowly language."

He further stated that PM Modi claimed falsely that the Congress party is linked to terrorism. "This is a violation of the People's Representation Act."

"The Election Commission should also initiate action against him for his speech. If PM Modi has documents and gumption, let him prove the links of Congress party with terrorism. Otherwise PM Modi will have to tender an apology," Dinesh Gundu Rao said.

The Congress leaders claimed that PM Modi stated at a public rally while campaigning in Karnataka that the Congress party is supporting terrorism and demanded legal action against him

Two arrested for stalking, harassing cricketer's wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: Two men were arrested Saturday for allegedly stalking and harassing the wife of IPL team Kolkata Knight Rider's captain Nitish Rana in west Delhi, police said.

On Friday, a complaint was received at Kirti Nagar police station through email in which the complainant alleged that on Thursday around 8.30 pm, she was going back to her home from Chhatarpur in her car with her driver, Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Ghanshyam Bansal said.

While waiting at the red light in Kirti Nagar area, two bike-borne persons crossed her car at a high speed and stopped their motorcycle in front of her car. They started staring at her and banged their hands on her car, the DCP said.

A case was registered Saturday under sections 354 (assault or crim-

inal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354D (stalking), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code at Kirti Nagar police station, Bansal said.

During the investigation, CCTV footage of the area was analysed and the accused were identified as Chaitanya Shivam (18), a resident of Pandav Nagar, and Vivek (18), a resident of Patel Nagar, he said.

The accused were arrested from their residences and further investigation is in progress, the DCP said. A purported video of the incident is surfacing on social media where two persons are seen on a motorcycle following the victim's car. However, PTI could not independently verify the veracity of the video.



A butterfly sucks nectar from a flower in Nagaon

PTI PHOTO

SCORPION BITES WOMAN ON FLIGHT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: In a rare incident, a woman passenger was bitten by a scorpion onboard an Air India flight from Nagpur to Mumbai last month.

On landing at the airport, the passenger was attended by a doctor, subsequently treated at a hospital and discharged, the airline said in a statement on Saturday. Air India

said there was an "extremely rare and unfortunate incident involving a scorpion biting a passenger onboard our flight AI 630 on April 23, 2023".

According to the airline, it followed the protocol and conducted complete inspection of the aircraft and found the scorpion after which a due fumigation process was carried out.

Following the incident, Air India



asked the catering department to advise dry cleaners to check their facilities for any bed bugs infestation and if necessary, carry out fumigation of the facilities as there is a possibility of bugs finding their way into the aircraft through the supplies, an Air India official said.

Earlier also, there have been instances of reptiles being found onboard aircraft. In December last year, a snake was found in the cargo hold of an Air India Express plane from Calicut after it landed at the Dubai airport.

28 nations to jointly combat illegal trade of big cats

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

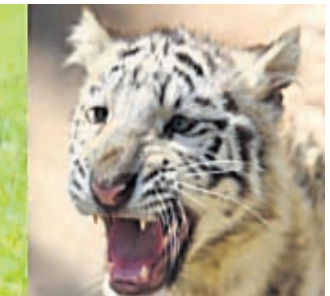
New Delhi, May 6: Twenty-eight countries have come together as part of CITES Big Cats Task Force to combat the illegal trade of big cats, comprising the lion, leopard, tiger and the snow leopard.

Big cats are affected by illegal international trade and have been targeted over the last several decades for their furs, teeth, bones and other body parts, as well as for live animal trade. The CITES secretariat (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) convened a meeting of the CITES



Big Cats Task Force in Entebbe, Uganda, last week to strengthen responses to the global illegal trade in big cats.

Over 70 representatives from 28 countries across Africa, Asia,



Europe, North America and South America and representatives from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), other international inter-governmental, Regional Wildlife

Enforcement Networks and non-governmental organisations, attended the Task Force meeting.

The aim of the Task Force meeting was to develop strategies to strengthen law enforcement responses to combat illegal trade in big cats and their parts and derivatives, focusing on big cat species that are of highest concern from a conservation and illegal trade perspective: Cheetah, mainland clouded leopard, Sunda clouded leopard, lion, jaguar, leopard, tiger and snow leopard.

Data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) indicates that the global population of tigers in the wild is

around 3,000 individuals with a similar figure for snow leopards. The population of wild cheetahs is estimated at approximately 6,500. The population trend for all big cat species focused on at the Task Force meeting is considered to be decreasing.

Effective implementation and enforcement of the regulatory framework established by CITES, playing an important role in preventing and addressing the illegal wildlife trade. All big cat species are protected under CITES due to the fact that unregulated and illegal trade poses serious threats to their survival.

At the Task Force meeting, there

was a strong focus on enforcement and implementation challenges, information and intelligence sharing about the nature of the illegal trade and associated illegal trade routes, sharing knowledge on forensics and other processes in identifying big cat specimens in trade, discussions on the demand for live big cats and strengthening frontline cooperation and coordination.

Over the course of the five-day meeting, participants identified best practices and innovative approaches to address this illegal trade and built strong professional relationships with their law enforcement counterparts from other countries.

UK enters era of King Charles III

King Charles III was officially crowned as the 40th king of the United Kingdom at a ceremony steeped in history with modern multi-faith touches amid pomp, pageantry and choir music inside the iconic Westminster Abbey, reminiscent of the Coronation of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, 70 years ago

- CORONATION CEREMONY DATES BACK TO 1,000 YEARS
- KING SUCCEEDED HIS MOTHER QUEEN ELIZABETH IN SEPTEMBER
- WORLD LEADERS GATHERED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY
- TENS OF THOUSANDS LINED STREETS TO WITNESS MOMENT OF HISTORY

King Charles III was crowned Saturday in Britain's biggest ceremonial event for seven decades, a sumptuous display of pageantry dating back 1,000 years.

In front of a congregation of about 100 world leaders and a television audience of millions, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual leader of the Anglican Church, slowly placed the 360-year-old St Edward's Crown on Charles' head as he sat upon a 14th-century throne in Westminster Abbey.

The historic and solemn event dates back to the time of the 74-year-old's predecessor William the Conqueror in 1066.

For a nation struggling to find its way in the political maelstrom after its exit from the European Union and maintain its standing in a new world order, its supporters say the royal family provides an international draw, a vital diplomatic tool and a means of staying on the world stage.

Saturday's event was on a smaller scale

than that staged for Queen Elizabeth in 1953, but still sought to be spectacular, featuring an array of historical regalia from golden orbs and jewelled swords to a sceptre holding the world's largest colourless cut diamond.

Charles automatically succeeded his mother as king on her death last September, and the coronation is not essential but regarded as a means to legitimise the monarch in a public way.

The king and queen left Buckingham Palace for the abbey in the modern, black Diamond State Jubilee Coach accompanied by cavalymen wearing shining breastplates and plumed helmets.

Hundreds of soldiers in scarlet uniforms and black bearskin hats lined the route

along The Mall, the grand boulevard to Buckingham Palace. Tens of thousands ignored the light rain to mass in a crowd more than 20 deep in some places to watch what some saw as a moment of history.

GREAT AND GOOD

Inside the abbey, bedecked with flowers and flags, politicians and representatives from Commonwealth nations took their seats alongside charity workers and celebrities, including actors Emma Thompson, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and US singer Katy Perry.

Much of the ceremony featured elements that Charles' forebears right back to King Edgar in 973 would recognise, officials said. Handel's coronation anthem

"Zadok The Priest" was sung as it has been at every coronation since 1727.

Charles looked serious as he swore oaths to govern justly and uphold the Church of England - of which he is the titular head - before the most sacred part of the ceremony when he was anointed on his hands, head and breast by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby with holy oil consecrated in Jerusalem. After being presented with symbolic regalia, Welby placed the



St Edward's Crown on his head and the congregation cried out "God save the King".

After the service, Charles and Camilla will depart in the four-tonne Gold State Coach built for George III, the last king

of Britain's American colonies, riding to Buckingham Palace in a one-mile procession of 4,000 military personnel from 39 nations. It will be the largest show of its kind in Britain since the coronation of Charles' mother.



Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla wave to the crowds from the balcony of Buckingham Palace after their coronation ceremony



William, the Prince of Wales, kisses his father King Charles III during the coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey



Prince Harry joins royals at King Charles' coronation, without his wife Meghan amid the infamous royal rift



Protesters hold placards as people wait for King Charles' procession to his coronation ceremony from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey



King Charles and Queen Camilla travel in the Gold State Coach to Buckingham Palace following their coronation

CHARLES' SOULMATE CAMILLA NEW QUEEN

After years of being depicted as the most hated woman in Britain, Camilla, the second wife of King Charles, was crowned queen Saturday, capping a remarkable turnaround in public acceptance few would have thought possible. When Charles' divorced first wife, the popular, glamorous Princess Diana, died in a car crash in Paris in 1997, Camilla bore the brunt of media hostility

floral splendour and scene set in the coronation theatre, the post read: "Westminster Abbey is ready for the #Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla".

The 75-year-old former Parker Bowles will be anointed and crowned in Westminster Abbey during a historic ceremony. The official invitation to the day, the order of service, the Church of England's prayers and Royal Collection souvenirs all hailed Camilla as the Queen or Queen Camilla.

Camilla was blamed for the breakdown of the prince's marriage to Diana, Princess of Wales. Charles and Camilla got married in 2005.

The late Queen backed Camilla to be Queen Consort in a Jubilee masterstroke, and the former Duchess of Cornwall has been referred to by the Palace as such since the King's accession.

The wife of a king automatically becomes a queen and only a change in legislation would have prevented Camilla from being so.

"Queen Camilla" appeared officially for the first time on the coronation invitations, with Buckingham Palace saying the May 6 ceremony was the appropriate time to start using the title in an official capacity.

Camilla was gradually taken on a more prominent position within the royal family, including riding next to the Queen in her Diamond Jubilee carriage procession.

London: Camilla, King Charles III's wife, will officially become 'Queen' Saturday during a historic Coronation ceremony.

Westminster Abbey has been the site of every British Coronation since that of William The Conqueror in 1066 and King Charles III and his wife, Queen Camilla, will follow in the footsteps of this grand tradition in a service themed "Called to Serve".

Buckingham Palace tweeted late on the eve of the coronation, using "Queen Camilla" for the first time on the monarchy's official account.

Sharing footage of the



Paper crowns dot London crowd for King's crowning

FROM THE EARLY HOURS, PEOPLE DRESSED IN RED, WHITE AND BLUE AND CLUTCHING UNION FLAGS LINED THE STREETS TO WATCH THE CROWNING OF KING CHARLES, THE FIRST CORONATION IN BRITAIN IN 70 YEARS THAT WAS MARKED BY A VAST DISPLAY OF POMP AND PAGEANTRY



REUTERS

London, May 6: Young and old, from Britain and across the globe, tens of thousands of people amassed in central London Saturday, drawn by the allure of what they said was the chance to witness a moment in history.

Those gathered had different reasons to be there: many older visitors wanted to show their support for Charles and the monarchy, others noted

the beginning of a new era, several younger observers spoke of a desire to witness history and others wanted to party.

Antonina Strain, 53, travelled from Toronto with her sister Yvonne Havery, saying she had been born in London and coming back for the coronation was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"I couldn't imagine the United Kingdom without a monarch," she said. "It's ingrained into the soul of the country."

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No other country could put on such a dazzling display - the processions, the pageantry, the ceremonies, and street parties
RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

Congratulations to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronation. The enduring friendship between the US and the UK is a source of strength for both our peoples. I am proud the first lady is representing the United States for this historic occasion
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

Warmest congratulations to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronation. We are sure that the India-UK relationship will be strengthened further in the coming years
NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

of the day quote

ChatGPT is a good example of an application that's being built. We'll build some of those applications ourselves

ANDY JASSY | CEO, AMAZON

The TCNS deal is indeed a significant milestone as it complements our existing portfolio of exceptional brands across the entire spectrum of Indian fashion

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA | CHAIRMAN, ADITYA BIRLA GROUP

Not many browsers on the market today are built to protect user privacy. They were created to protect respective company's ad-based business models and surveillance companies that complement them, which runs counter to protecting users

SRIDHAR VEMBU | CEO, ZOHO CORPORATION

Q4 RESULTS

Paytm narrows loss

New Delhi: Digital financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, Friday posted a narrowing of consolidated loss to ₹167.5 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2023. The company had posted a loss of ₹762.5 crore in the same period of the last year. The consolidated revenue from operations of the company grew 51.5 per cent to ₹2,334.5 crore in the quarter under review from ₹1,540.9 crore in the March quarter of FY22. For the year ended March 31, 2023, One97 Communications reported narrowing of loss to ₹1,776.5 crore from ₹2,396.4 crore in the previous fiscal. The revenue from operations of the company grew by about 60 per cent to ₹7,990.3 crore in FY23 from ₹4,974.2 crore in FY22.

Adani Power up 13%

New Delhi: Adani Power Ltd (APL) has posted around 13 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹5,242 crore for March quarter 2022-23. The company had clocked ₹4,645 crore net profit in January-March 2021-22, it said in a statement Friday. "Consolidated PAT (profit after tax) for Q4 FY23 grows...On account of lower finance cost as well as certain reversals consequent to the scheme of amalgamation (of six subsidiaries)," APL said. Total income however fell to ₹10,795 crore from ₹13,307 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total expenses were higher at ₹9,897 crore as against ₹7,174 crore a year ago. The company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) for FY23 was higher at ₹14,312 crore against ₹13,789 crore in FY22.

UBI net zooms 81%

Mumbai: Union Bank of India Saturday reported 80.57 per cent jump in March quarter net profit at ₹2,811 crore helped by a huge jump in recoveries from written-off accounts. The state-owned lender's net profit in entire 2022-23 was ₹8,512 crore as against ₹5,265 crore a year ago. In March quarter, its core net interest income increased 21.88 per cent to ₹8,251 crore on the back of 13 per cent growth in advances and widening of net interest margin to 2.98 per cent from 2.75 per cent in the year-ago period. Non-interest income grew 62.48 per cent to ₹5,269 crore in January-March 2023, helped by handsome performance on the recoveries front.



Because we took a very calibrated approach, today we have an inflation which is slightly above the tolerance limit, but which is constantly being worked at so it can be brought down

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

AUDIO PRO ENTERS INDIA

Sweden-based wireless audio solution provider Audio Pro has announced its entry into the Indian market and said that it aims to provide outstanding quality products within the audio segment to music enthusiasts in the country



Debt default sword hangs over US Twitter in a tight spot

BIDEN SAYS NOT YET READY TO INVOKE 14TH AMENDMENT TO AVOID DEBT DEFAULT

REUTERS

Washington, May 6: President Joe Biden said Friday he was not yet ready to invoke the 14th Amendment to avoid the United States defaulting on its debts as early as June 1, comments which for the first time suggested he has not ruled out the option.

"I've not gotten there yet," Biden said in an interview with MSNBC when asked about the possibility of invoking the amendment.

The divided US Congress is running out of time to raise the federal government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling, with the Treasury Department warning it could be unable to pay its bills as soon as June 1.

If Congress fails to act, some legal experts say Biden has another option to avert a crisis: Invoke the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution to ensure the United States can continue to pay its bills.



The divided US Congress is running out of time to raise the federal government's \$31.4trn debt ceiling, with the Treasury Department warning it could be unable to pay its bills as soon as June 1

Section Four of the amendment, adopted after the 1861-1865 Civil War, states that the "validity of the public debt of the United States ... shall not be questioned." But the clause has been largely unaddressed by the courts.

Some experts have suggested that Biden could invoke this amendment to raise the debt ceiling on his own if Congress does not act. That would almost certainly lead to prolonged legal wrangling, which

could unsettle financial markets. White House and other administration officials have examined the possibility but many have dismissed it as a last ditch solution unlikely to survive a court challenge, according to a person briefed on those discussions.

Biden and top Republicans and Democrats from the US Congress will sit down Tuesday next week to try to end the three-month standoff over the federal debt ceiling

and avoid a crippling default before the end of the month.

The two sides go in with clear positions: Biden is calling on lawmakers to raise the federal government's self-imposed borrowing limit without conditions, and Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy says his chamber will not approve any deal that doesn't cut spending to address the nation's growing budget deficit.

Over half of Twitter Blue's earliest subscribers not paying anymore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: In some shocking news for Elon Musk, more than half of the earliest subscribers of Twitter Blue who paid \$8 a month are no longer subscribed and have reportedly ditched the Blue check marks.

According to a Mashable report, Out of about 150,000 early Twitter Blue subscribers, "just around 68,157 have stuck around and maintained a paid subscription as of April 30".

Citing data scraped by independent researcher Travis Brown, the report said that not many Twitter Blue subscribers are sticking around.

Reports last year showed that a total of 150,000 users originally signed up for Twitter Blue within just a few days of its

launch in November.

According to the report it means that about 81,843 users, or 54.5 per cent, of Twitter users who subscribed to Blue initially have cancelled the subscriptions.

"That's an abnormally high churn rate for an online subscription service," it mentioned. As Musk forced his way into making every user pay on Twitter from April 20, an earlier report revealed that half of Blue service subscribers have less than 1,000 followers on the platform.

What's more, there were 2,270 paying Twitter Blue subscribers who have zero followers.

According to Brown, Twitter Blue currently has a total of 444,435 paying subscribers. About half of all paid Twitter subscribers (about 220,132 users) have less than 1,000 followers.

In India, the Twitter users have to shell out ₹900 a month (or ₹9,400 a year) to get Blue Verified status.



'UNETHICAL AND IMMORAL'

Bank union to oppose Go Airlines' write-offs



With the company filing an insolvency petition, the banks will be forced to declare the account as NPA and provide for the same in their books of accounts

CH VENKATACHALAM | GENERAL SECRETARY, AIBEA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 6: The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) will oppose banks writing off a part of their loans to Wadia group's Go Airlines (India) Ltd if the latter has filed a voluntary insolvency petition for that purpose, said a top official.

"If the airline has filed a voluntary insolvency petition to get loan write-offs, then it is unethical and immoral. The AIBEA will oppose the move," CH Venkatchalam, General Secretary, told IANS.

"Other companies will also go for voluntary insolvency petition for loan write-offs. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian government should not allow this," Venkatchalam added.

He said the Go Airlines loan account is not a non-performing asset (NPA) for the banks as April 30, 2023. "With the company filing an insolvency petition, the banks will be forced to declare the account as NPA and provide for the same in their books of accounts. This will be reflected in the first quarter results," Venkatchalam said.

On May 2, Go Air, while voluntarily landing in the National

Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) with an insolvency petition blaming the engine supplier Pratt & Whitney for its woes. The question that immediately popped up was, whether it is a strategy to get loan write-offs.

The airline's decision to apply for insolvency, blaming the engine supplier, has taken its lenders, creditors, staff, credit rating agency and others entirely by surprise.

Two days later, credit rating agency, Brickwork Ratings said it has downgraded the ratings for Go Airlines' bank loan facilities aggregating ₹2,918.33 crore at BWR D' based on best available information, as the issuer did not cooperate.

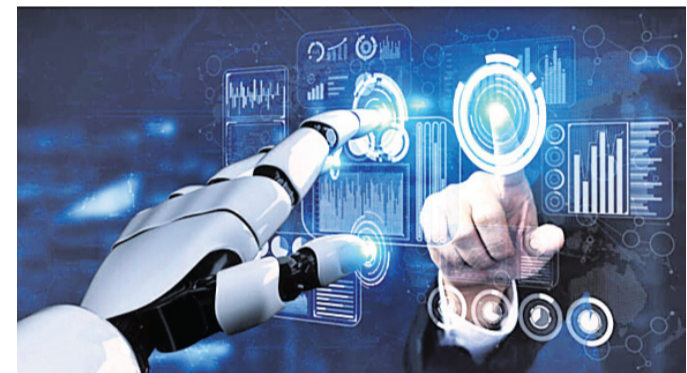
"As per initial reports, the lenders have opposed any moratorium on the debt repayment obligations," Brickwork Ratings said in its report.

Be that as it may, according to a report in a leading financial daily, the Go Airlines' promoters may withdraw their insolvency petition if the lenders accept a cut in their loans.

However, bankers seem to be willing to lend more and extend the repayment duration instead of taking a cut in their receivables.

'AI more urgent threat than climate change'

Geoffrey Hinton, widely known as one of the "godfathers of AI", recently announced he had quit Alphabet after a decade at the firm, saying he wanted to speak out on the risks of the technology without it affecting his former employer



REUTERS

London, May 6: Artificial intelligence could pose a "more urgent" threat to humanity than climate change, AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton told Reuters in an interview Friday.

Hinton's work is considered essential to the development of contemporary AI systems. In 1996, he co-authored the seminal paper "Learning representations by back-propagating errors", a milestone in the development of the neural networks undergirding AI technology. In 2018, he was awarded the Turing Award in recognition of his research breakthroughs.

But he is now among a growing number of tech leaders publicly espousing concern about the possible threat posed by AI if machines were to achieve greater intelligence than humans and take control of the planet.

"I wouldn't like to devalue climate change. I wouldn't like to say, You shouldn't worry about climate change. That's a huge risk too," Hinton said. "But I think this might end up being more urgent."

In April, Twitter CEO Elon Musk joined thousands in signing an open letter calling for a six-month

Microsoft-backed OpenAI fired the starting pistol on a technological arms race in November, when it made AI-powered chatbot ChatGPT available to the public. It soon became the fastest-growing app in history, reaching 100 million monthly users in two months

pause in the development of systems more powerful than OpenAI's recently-launched GPT-4.

Signatories included Stability AI CEO Emad Mostaque, researchers at Alphabet-owned DeepMind, and fellow AI pioneers Yoshua Bengio and Stuart Russell.

While Hinton shares signatories concern that AI may prove to be an existential threat to mankind, he disagreed with pausing research.

"It's utterly unrealistic," he said. "I'm in the camp that thinks this is an existential risk, and it's close enough that we ought to be working very hard right now, and putting a lot of resources into figuring out what we can do about it."

In the European Union, a committee of lawmakers responded to the Musk-backed letter, calling on US President Joe Biden to convene a global summit on the future direction of the technology with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Last week, the committee agreed a landmark set of proposals targeting generative AI, which would force companies like OpenAI to disclose any copyright material used to train their models.

Meanwhile, Biden held talks with a number of AI company leaders, including Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman at the White House, promising a "frank and constructive discussion" on the need for companies to be more transparent about their systems.

"The tech leaders have the best understanding of it, and the politicians have to be involved," said Hinton. "It affects us all, so we all have to think about it."

With climate change, it's very easy to recommend what you should do: you just stop burning carbon. If you do that, eventually things will be okay. For this (AI) it's not at all clear what you should do

GEOFFREY HINTON | AI PIONEER

Buoyant ruble-yuan trade drives dedollarisation

Talk of dedollarisation is in the air. Last month, in New Delhi, Alexander Babakov, deputy chairman of Russia's State Duma, said that Russia is now spearheading the development of a new currency. It is to be used for cross-border trade by the BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 6: Against the backdrop of Russia cutting its usage of the US dollar, the Chinese yuan and Russian ruble are now the most used currencies in bilateral trade, which was unimaginable even two years ago.

The US dollar has stepped down from the altar, and now people can see it more clearly, Global Times, a Chinese mouthpiece, said in a recent article.

"If we look at the structure of trade between China and Russia, more than 70 per cent of bilateral trade is settled in yuan or ruble," Anton Siluanov, Russian Minister of Finance, was quoted as saying by Tass Russia News Agency recently. When asked if the ruble or yuan could replace the US dollar, he replied: "We are already

looking at this."

Chinese Customs data showed bilateral trade turnover between China and Russia is \$53.8 billion in the first quarter; and the figure between China and the US is \$161.6 billion. This means China's trade with Russia is equivalent to about 30 per cent of its trade with the US. This key data may help people to have a more intuitive understanding of the current trend of dedollarisation and currency diversification, Global Times said.

Robert Semonsen writing for the The European Conservative said that since the beginning of 2022, the ruble-yuan trade has increased eightfold. Additionally, it has been reported that Russia and Iran are working on creating a cryptocurrency backed by gold, with the idea that the gold-backed stablecoin could replace the US



dollar in international trade payments.

China, the primary rival to the United States' global economic hegemony, and Brazil, which has Latin America's largest economy, reached a deal to dump the US dol-

lar as an intermediary currency when carrying out trade and financial transactions. The two economic juggernauts will now conduct bilateral trade in their own currencies, exchanging yuan for reals, further internationalising

recently become popular and experienced a significant increase in social media conversations on platforms such as Twitter and Reddit during the first quarter (Q1) of 2023, with a 600 per cent surge compared to the previous three months. This trend can be attributed to the growing number of countries that are exploring options beyond the US dollar, revealed the Social Media Analytics Platform of GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

A BRICS currency could shake the dollar's dominance, a former White House advisor has said. Dedollarisation's moment might finally be here, Joseph Sullivan, former special advisor and staff economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers during the Trump administration, wrote in Foreign Policy.

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CSK break 'Chepauk jinx' Salt assault keeps DC alive



STARS OF THE DAY: Matheesa Pathirana reacts after dismissing a Mumbai batter; (inset up) Deepak Chahar celebrates after getting a wicket; (inset down) Devon Conway guides one towards the thirdman region, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, May 6: Rohit Sharma's barren run with willow continued as Chennai Super Kings broke a 13-year-old home jinx against Mumbai Indians with an easy six-wicket victory in an IPL match, here Saturday. The Indian skipper's horrid run in IPL since last edition continued as he failed to trouble the scorer for the second match in succession with MI scoring a below par 139/8 against an inspired performance from the CSK pace and seam troika of Deepak Chahar

(2/18), Man of the match Matheesa Pathirana (3/15) and Tushar Deshpande (2/25). The chase was a cakewalk as Devon Conway (44) played the role of anchor to perfection after Ruturaj Gaikwad's whirlwind 16-ball-30. The win was completed in 17.5 overs and CSK leapfrogged to second place behind Gujarat Titans in the points table. Skipper MS Dhoni scored the winning runs much to the delight of the adoring crowd at Chepauk. The last time CSK won against MI at Chepauk was in 2010, even before

India had won the ODI World Cup under Dhoni. For MI, it was a bad loss as they stay in sixth place with 10 points from as many games and very little margin for error after this match. But what will certainly both MI is their skipper's prolonged lean patch as 184 runs from 10 games with five scores of less than 10 and only two scores above 40 will set some panic in the ranks. Not to forget, coming down the batting order at No.3 didn't work as an indiscreet lap-scoop off Chahar didn't work at all for the skipper.

But no amount of praise will be enough for Pathirana, who literally bottled the MI batters during the death overs as he didn't concede a single boundary in his four-over spell. In the MI innings, a maiden half century in IPL by left-handed batter Nehal Wadhwa (64, 5b, 8x4, 1x6) and his half century partnerships with Suryakumar Yadav (26) and Tristan Stubbs (20) helped salvage things for MI, which lost three wickets by the third over and reach 139/8. After opting to bowl, CSK bowlers left MI in disarray, reducing the opposition to 16/3 by the end of the third over: Chahar picked up the wickets of Ishan Kishan (7) and MI skipper Rohit (0) while Deshpande provided the first breakthrough by removing the dangerous Cameron Green (6). MI lost three wickets in space of 7 deliveries whilst scoring only 1 run and looked in deep trouble before Surya and Wadhwa began the rescue act. Surya and Wadhwa added 55 runs in 7 overs and began to look more assured in the middle before Ravindra Jadeja fired a quicker one to dismiss the former. Surya held the key for MI after the early setbacks, and he looked to be guiding the team towards safety when Jadeja's faster one got the better of him. Tim David, of whom much was expected, lasted just 4 balls, scoring two runs before being dismissed by Deshpande. Pathirana gave away two runs in the 18th over and 5 runs in the final over as CSK struggled Mumbai Indians with pace, for a change. The MI batters could not get away the slinger from Sri Lanka in a modest performance.

BRIEF SCORES: MI 139/8 (Nehal Wadhwa 64, Suryakumar Yadav 26, Tristan Stubbs 20; Matheesa Pathirana 3/15, Deepak Chahar 2/18, Tushar Deshpande 2/25) lost to CSK 140/4 (Devon Conway 44, Ruturaj Gaikwad 30; Shivam Dube 26 n o; Piyush Chawla 2/25) by 6 wickets.



Phil Salt (R) and Rilee Rossouw had something to laugh about during their chase against RCB, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: Phil Salt (87, 45b, 8x4, 6x6) came up with an outrageous display of ball striking as Delhi Capitals kept themselves alive in the IPL with a thumping seven-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore here Saturday. Virat Kohli (55, 46b, 5x4) completed his 'homecoming' with a landmark fifty before Mahipal Lomror (54 n o, 29b, 6x4, 3x6) came up with a career-best knock to take Royal Challengers Bangalore to 181/4. Needing to win every game from here on to have a shot at a play-off

berth, Delhi's overseas batters played fearlessly to gun down the total in 16.4 overs. Besides Salt's sensational knock, David Warner (22), Mitchell Marsh (26) and Rilee Rossouw (35 n o, 22b, 1x4, 3x6) produced timely cameos. It was Delhi's second consecutive win and they need to win their remaining four games while RCB suffered their fifth loss in 10 matches. Salt and Warner came out all guns blazing as Delhi raced to 60 for no loss in five overs and RCB could not fight back from there. Delhi's performance also highlighted their dependence on the foreign players with the Indian

batters under-performing. Earlier, Kohli mania swept the Feroz Shah Kotla as Delhi fans, on another day, were seen wearing the RCB jersey of their favourite player. The star batter ensured they did not return home disappointed, before Lomror played some breath-taking shots on to his highest score in the IPL. Kohli also became the first player to amass 7000 runs in the tournament history. Both Kohli and Faf du Plessis (45, 32b, 5x4, 1x6) took their time to get going in the powerplay. Among the highlights of Kohli's innings was a pull and inside out shot he played off his Delhi mate Ishant Sharma. Delhi Capitals were able to keep the high profile openers quiet till the fourth over. Du Plessis, who hardly got balls in the first three overs, stepped out to Mukesh Kumar for a straight hit before unleashing a forehand. What followed was a mishit off a short ball, resulting in the third boundary of the over. The sixth over from Khaleel was even more productive for RCB as du Plessis played an expansive straight drive off a full toss for the first six of the game. The two overs gave RCB a much needed move as they reached for 51 for no loss in the powerplay. With Du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell dismissed off successive deliveries in the 11th over bowled by Marsh (2/21), a top heavy RCB found themselves in a spot of bother. However, the pressure was released by Lomror instantly as he played some bold strokes in his whirlwind effort. Lomror provided the momentum in the middle overs. The 23-year-old reached his maiden fifty of the IPL with a crisp drive between extra cover and mid-off fielder.

BRIEF SCORES RCB 181/4 (Virat Kohli 55, Mahipal Lomror 54 n o, Faf du Plessis 45; Mitchell Marsh 2/21) lost to DC 187/3 (Phil Salt 87, Rilee Rossouw 35 n o; Josh Hazlewood 1/29) by 7 wickets.

Bindyarani Devi bags silver at Asian C'ships Hardik's GT take on Krunal's LSG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jinju (Korea), May 6: Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi was quick to make amends after an underwhelming performance in snatch section as she clinched an overall silver in the women's 55kg competition at the Asian Championships here Saturday. The Commonwealth Games silver medalist had a total effort of 194kg (83kg+111kg), as she opened India's medal tally in this edition of the championship. She also won the silver in the clean and jerk section. However, the medals are in a non-Olympic weight category. The Manipuri had two failed lifts - one each in snatch and clean jerk. But a gold medal would have been out of her grasp even if she had completed those two lifts. Chen Guan Ling of Chinese Taipei won the gold with a 204kg



(90kg+114kg) effort while Vietnam's Vo Thi Quynh Nhu 192kg (88kg+104kg) bagged the bronze in a depleted field.

The top lifters in 55kg have either bulked up or moved down weight classes in order to qualify for the Paris Games next year. Bindyarani started off nicely, executing her first two snatch attempts of 80kg and 83kg with relative ease but her 85kg try was deemed a no lift. Her personal best in snatch is 86kg. Placed fourth at the snatch event, the Manipuri covered ground by lifting the second highest weight in clean and jerk. She, then, unsuccessfully, tried to improve her total with a 115kg lift. She had lifted 116kg at the Birmingham CWG last year. The Manipuri was forced to switch back to her original 55kg weight division for this event due to an injury she sustained ahead of the selection trials. She had moved to the 59kg weight class, that features in the Paris Olympics, dur-

ing last year's World Championships, where she finished 25th. Ahead of the tournament, head coach Vijay Sharma has insisted that the aim is to make Bindyarani just participate in the event, which is one of the qualifiers of the Paris Olympics, and peak during the Asian Games later this year. Under the 2024 Olympic qualification rule, a lifter has to compulsorily compete in the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 World Cup. Apart from the two above, a lifter also has to participate in three among the following additional events - the 2022 World Championships, the 2023 Continental Championships, the 2023 Grand Prix I, the 2023 Grand Prix II and the 2024 Continental Championships.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 6: It will be a test of wits between the Pandya brothers - Hardik and Krunal - when defending champions Gujarat Titans clash with Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL here Sunday. While Hardik has captained the Indian team on multiple occasions and is leading GT for the second year, Krunal has led the Baroda team in domestic cricket and was elevated to the role of LSG captain in the absence of regular skipper KL Rahul. The two have become the first brothers to captain teams in the IPL. Under Hardik, GT are perched on top of the leader board with 14 points. Krunal, on the other hand, led LSG in the washed out match against Chennai Super Kings. He will be tasked with raising the morale of the side, which has lost its regular skipper and pacer Jaydev Unadkat. LSG, who are second on the points table with 11 points, enter the fixture on the back of a loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore and a washed out game against CSK. In their previous two games the batting unit has disappointed as the Lucknow side was unable to chase

or put totals in excess of 130 on the board. They have blown hot and cold this season. While on the one hand, they have given commanding performances, they also have a self-destruct button, which goes off. LSG have no dearth of talent in their line-up but the inconsistent form of their batters is hurting the team. They have named the experienced Karun Nair as a replacement for Rahul. Come Sunday, LSG will have to be at their best against a formidable GT bowling attack. In the absence of pacer Mark Wood, Afghan quick Naveen-ul-Haq has picked wickets while Ravi Bishnoi and Amit Mishra have led the LSG spin department well. The Titans, on the other hand, are coming off a morale boosting nine-wicket win against Rajasthan Royals, where all their departments fired in unison. The Gujarat bowlers have lived up to their top billing. Led by veteran pacer Mohammed Shami and the wily Rashid Khan, they have rarely faltered this season. Irish medium pacer Josh Little and Afghan spinner Noor Ahmed have also been impactful in their debut season.

Neeraj Chopra vows to push himself more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Doha, May 6: Neeraj Chopra began his Diamond League title defence with a win in the first leg but the Olympic champion javelin thrower said he will push himself more in the upcoming competitions this season. Chopra's best throw came in his first try which is his fourth best effort. The Olympic champion had ample support as his compatriots came out to cheer him. Despite a quality field that included the likes of reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, the throws were quite underwhelming compared to last year when both Peters and Vadlejch sent the spear beyond 90m. "It was challenging for all athletes, but I'm still satisfied with my result. It's a great atmosphere. Today was challenging, next time I'll do more throws," Chopra said.

on June 27, according to the world body. Chopra's current training base is at Antalya, Turkey. "I hope to come in the first place in the next competitions and to keep consistency during this season," the Indian superstar said. Chopra's best throw came in his first try which is his fourth best effort. The Olympic champion had ample support as his compatriots came out to cheer him. Despite a quality field that included the likes of reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, the throws were quite underwhelming compared to last year when both Peters and Vadlejch sent the spear beyond 90m. "It was challenging for all athletes, but I'm still satisfied with my result. It's a great atmosphere. Today was challenging, next time I'll do more throws," Chopra said.

MAN CITY EXTEND LEAD IN EPL STANDING

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, May 6: While Sam Allardyce managed to stop Erling Haaland Saturday, he could not halt Manchester City's relentless march toward the English Premier League title. Two first-half goals from Ilkay Gundogan saw the defending champions beat Leeds 2-1 at Etihad Stadium and extend their lead at the top of the table to four points. But the relegation-threatened visitors, in new manager Allardyce's first game in charge, provided a late scare when substitute Rodrigo struck moments after Gundogan missed from the penalty spot. Ultimately, City extended their unbeaten run to 20 games in all



Ilkay Gundogan

competitions and moved Pep Guardiola closer to a third straight league title. With second-placed Arsenal facing a difficult trip to Newcastle Sunday, City's lead could look even

more commanding by the end of the weekend. Leeds' sorry run stands at six games without a win, with the fight for survival becoming more desperate by the week. In the other matches, Chelsea snapped a six-game losing streak by beating Bournemouth 3-1 to earn their first points since Frank Lampard returned as interim manager, while Harry Kane's goal in the first half injury time helped Spurs beat Crystal Palace 1-0. Conor Gallagher opened the scoring in the ninth minute for Chelsea, before Matias Vina restored parity 12 minutes later. However, Benoit Badiashile and Joao Felix struck in the second half to give their fans something to cheer for.

RR LOOK TO AVOID HATRICK OF LOSSES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 6: Bruised and battered in their last game, Rajasthan Royals would look for a much-improved effort from the batting unit against Sunrisers Hyderabad in order to avoid a hat-trick of defeats in the IPL here Sunday. RR dished out a shoddy batting display as they were bowled out for 118 by Gujarat Titans Friday. Despite back-to-back defeats against Mumbai Indians and GT, RR have managed to hold on to their spot in the top four of the standings with five wins and as many losses.

In their last outing RR, which boasts of one of the potent opening duo of the in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler, put up a disastrous batting display. But the duo failed to live up to the expectations. RR have always looked like a dominating side when Jaiswal and Buttler click but the team management would be concerned with the inconsistent run of its middle-order as the likes of Devdutt Padikkal, Riyan Parag and Shimron Hetmyer are yet to fire in unison. On the bowling front too, RR will have to pull up the socks with



Trent Boult and Adam Zampa going for runs. The onus would be on Boult and Sandeep Sharma to provide a good start and the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal taking charge. SRH, on the other hand, have

registered just three wins from nine games to occupy the penultimate spot in the 10-team competition. Having suffered a close five-run defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders in their last game, SRH would look to return to winning ways to keep their playoff hopes alive. SRH have been hit hard by the poor show of the batters. The opening pair of Abhishek Sharma and Mayank Agarwal has failed to provide quick starts, putting immense pressure on the likes of Rahul Tripathi, skipper Aiden Markram and Heinrich Klaassen to do the job. Harry Brook also seemed to have

lost his touch after his unbeaten 100 as he scored just 63 runs in the next eight games. SRH's bowling unit led by Bhuvneshwar Kumar too needs to deliver for the side.