



AT RECEIVING END

Rashmika Mandanna, who claims to be a vegetarian, gets trolled after she is seen in a commercial eating non-veg

LEISURE P2



IRAN HANGS TWO

Iran hangs two men convicted of blasphemy carrying out death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic

INTERNATIONAL P10



MI HOST RCB TODAY

Rohit Sharma's form and Mumbai Indians' bowling in the death overs a huge concern when they meet RCB

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Campaign ends for Jharsuguda bypoll

Jharsuguda: The high-decibel campaign for the May 10 bypoll in Jharsuguda assembly seat ended at 6pm Monday, officials said. Campaigning was intense as this is the last poll before the general elections next year. Poll officials have reached Jharsuguda Engineering School from where they will collect their equipment and leave for polling booths. As many as 2,21,070 people are eligible to exercise their franchise in 253 booths. Voters comprise 1,10,320 men, 1,10,687 women and 63 of the third gender. P3

Bengal govt bans 'The Kerala Story'

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday ordered an immediate ban on the screening of the controversial film 'The Kerala Story' to avoid "any incident of hatred and violence", a senior official said here. Action will be taken against any theatre found showing the film, the official said. Earlier in the day, Banerjee described 'The Kerala Story' as a distorted movie, aimed at defaming the southern state. 'The Kerala Story', directed by Sudipto Sen, depicts how women from Kerala were converted to Islam and recruited by IS terrorist group. The film was released May 5. P7

Guv seeks report on power outage

Bhubaneswar: Governor Ganeshi Lal Monday sought a report from the state government on the nine-minute power blackout during President Droupadi Murmu's speech at a university's convocation in Baripada. The governor, who is also the chancellor of the universities, asked Chief Secretary PK Jena and Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjdeo University, Santosh Tripathy, to file a detailed report on the power disruption in the auditorium while the President was delivering her speech May 6. The governor has sought the report from the authorities within seven days. Tripathy confirmed receiving a letter from the Raj Bhavan and said he will submit the reply Tuesday. Lal was present at the auditorium when lights went off during the President's address.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You can't lie and say absurd things as election campaign is over. Probably that is causing your illness



SELLING SMILES: A street vendor carries balloons on a two-wheeler, in Dehradun, Monday

SC settles Srimandir matter after 5 years

The issue reached the apex court in June 2018 with the petition filed by Mrinalini Padhi highlighting difficulties faced by the visitors at Srimandir, and their harassment by the Sevaks of the temple. The SC while passing an interim judgment on Srimandir reforms had directed the SJTA to appoint a permanent administrator of the managing committee and issued a set of 25 directives

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, May 8: After almost five years and 26 sittings, the Supreme Court Monday closed proceedings in a public interest litigation (PIL) which highlighted the difficulties faced by devotees at Srimandir in Puri and sought directions for better management of affairs at the 12th century shrine. A two-judge bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar took on record the affidavit filed by Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee in compliance with the Supreme Court judgement of November 2019 and disposed of the PIL filed by Mrinalini Padhi and other applications filed in the court. The top court, however, made it clear that if anyone finds out that the directions of the apex court are not complied with, it will be open to file an application in the Orissa High Court on the same. The apex court also asked the high court to monitor the implementation of



TIMELINE

- JUNE 7, 2018: Mrinalini Padhi filed petition
- JUNE 8, 2018: SC passed first interim order in the case directing Puri District Judge to submit report on it
- JUNE 26, 2018: District Judge, Puri, submits report suggesting abolition of hereditary appointment of sevaks
- JULY 5, 2018: SC directs action by temple administration
- NOVEMBER 30, 2018: Advocate Gopal Subramaniam relieved of his responsibility as an Amicus Curiae
- JANUARY 9, 2019: SC appointed advocate Ranjeet Kumar Amicus Curiae and advocate Priya Hingorani to assist him
- FEBRUARY, 2019: Kumar and Hingorani visited Srimandir
- MARCH, 2019: Kumar submitted inspection report
- NOVEMBER 4, 2019: SC passed judgement in the case
- APRIL, 2023: Temple committee and state government filed ATR
- MAY 8, 2023: SC disposed of the PIL

the directions issued by the top court. "Taking into consideration the compliance affidavit filed by the temple managing committee, we close the present proceedings. If any-

body is of the opinion or view that any of the direction issued by this court are not complied with in letter and spirit, application should be moved to Orissa High Court and the high court should monitor the implementation of directions," the Supreme Court said.

During the hearing, amicus curiae and senior advocate Ranjeet Kumar submitted that he has certain apprehensions with respect to the affidavit filed by the temple managing committee saying the committee has made tall claims. Kumar suggested that he along with advocate Priya Hingorani be allowed to visit Puri to check ground realities. He also highlighted the issues related to Records of Rights of Shree Jagannath temple property and related to inventory of Ratna Bhandar.

However, the bench was reluctant to go into the aspects of inventory of Ratna Bhandar.

"That is the problem. Ratna Bhandar is very difficult to open. We don't accept that but we cannot play with fire. It says that if it is opened then something can happen. We don't want to enter into that arena. We don't want to be part of that. Whatever good is going on, let the good things go on," the bench observed.

Significantly, the issue reached the apex court in June 2018 with the petition filed by Padhi highlighting difficulties faced by the visitors at Srimandir, and their harassment by the Sevaks of the temple. The petitioner also pointed out that the environment of the surroundings is not hygienic as it ought to be. Contd...P4

MOCHA LIKELY TO SPARE STATE

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Cyclone Mocha brewing over Bay of Bengal is likely to spare Odisha according to prediction made by the India Meteorology Department (IMD). Odisha is experiencing hot and sultry weather, which is likely to continue for four more days, the Met office said Monday.

IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said the possible cyclone forming in the Bay of Bengal will not have any direct impact on Odisha or any other state on the east coast as the system is likely to move towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar coast. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu said in a Twitter post, "#Heatwave conditions, high day temperatures likely to prevail over various parts of the state to-

morrow (9th May) as per alerts communicated by @mcbbsr."

Regional Meteorology Centre, Bhubaneswar Director HR Biswas said that most parts of the state are likely to experience temperatures two to three degrees Celsius above normal during the next two days with no large change thereafter. Consequently, the mercury may soar to 40 degrees Celsius or more at a few places during the next four to five days.

Odisha is likely to experience hot and discomfort weather during this period. People are advised to take precautionary measures while going outside, Biswas said. As many as 14 places across the state Monday recorded temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius with Boudh becoming the hottest place in Odisha at 42 degrees Celsius.

Odisha is experiencing hot and sultry weather, which is likely to continue for four more days

IAF's MiG-21 crashes in Raj killing 3 civilians; pilot safe

AGENCIES

Jaipur/New Delhi, May 8: A MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed on a house in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan Monday, leaving three women dead and as many others injured on the ground, officials said.

The pilot sustained minor injuries in the crash that took place at around 9:45am, the IAF said. The plane was on a routine training sortie from the Air Force Station at Suratgarh in Ganganagar district, which is close to Hanumangarh.

"Soon thereafter, the pilot experienced an onboard emergency, following which he attempted to recover the aircraft as per existing procedures," the IAF said in a statement. "Having failed to do so, he initiated an ejection, sustaining minor



injuries in the process. The pilot was recovered from about 25 kilometres North East of Suratgarh base," it said. The IAF said the "wreckage of the aircraft fell on a house in Bahlol Nagar in Hanumangarh district, unfortunately leading to the loss of three lives."

"The IAF regrets the loss of lives

and offers its deepest condolences to the bereaved families. A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident," it said. IG, Bikaner, Ram O. Prakash said the pilot made all efforts to avert human casualties and crash-landed the plane on the outskirts of a village. Contd...P4

EX-SAMITI MEMBER HACKED TO DEATH OVER PAST ENMITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanagar/Bhuban, May 8: A former samiti member of Dighi panchayat under Bhuban block and Kamakhyanagar police limits in Dhenkanal district was brutally hacked to death late Sunday night in an organised attack by miscreants over past enmity and political rivalry.

The deceased was identified as Sarbeswar Rout, 55, of the village. Kamakhyanagar police registered a case and launched an investigation over a complaint lodged by his son Sujit Rout. Meanwhile, police have detained five persons and interrogated them in this connection.

The brutal killing of the former public representative has sparked shockwaves in the district. Police handed over the body to his family members after conducting a post-mortem, Kamakhyanagar IIC Sarat Chandra Mahallik said.

According to the complainant, his father was elected as a Samiti member in 2017 elections and had served as the village committee president earlier. During the tenure of Rout as the village committee president, a local youth Ajay Swain, son of Mayadhar Swain was always opposing the former in various developmental works and used to give him murder threats. The incident occurred when Rout was returning home on his motorcycle from his cashew orchard Sunday night.

Miscreants waylaid him near Jamunalia and attacked him with sharp-edged weapons and lathis. Family members received a phone call about the attack at around 10.55pm and rushed to the spot. They rescued him in a critical condition and admitted him to the Dhenkanal DHH where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Family members have demanded stringent action against the culprits.



Cricketer Shubman to voice for desi Spider-Man

GILL'S VOICE-OVER, A FIRST FOR A CRICKETER IN INDIA, WOULD ALSO MAKE HIM THE FIRST SPORTS PERSONALITY TO LEND HIS VOICE TO ANY FILM

AGENCIES

Mumbai, May 8: Keep an eye on the sky and your ear to the ground! Young batter Shubman Gill is all set to be the voice of Indian Spider-Man in the upcoming animated movie 'Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse', the makers announced Monday.

The film, slated to be released by Sony Pictures Entertainment India across the country, marks the big-screen debut of Pavitr Prabhakar, the Indian Spider-Man.

Gill, who is currently playing for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL), said Spider-Man is one of the most relatable superheroes. The 23-year-old will voice the Hindi and Punjabi ver-



sions of the film. "Since the movie will debut the Indian Spider-Man for the first time on screen, getting to be the



voice of our Indian Spider-Man, Pavitr Prabhakar, in the Hindi and Punjabi languages was such a remarkable experience for me.

Already, I feel superhuman. I am eagerly anticipating the release of this movie," the cricketer said in a statement.

"June 2 will indeed be a momentous occasion for all Spider-Man fans across the country, and we are sure that everyone will shower the same love on this film as they did on 'Spider-Man No Way Home'," said Shony Panjikaran, General Manager and Head of Sony Pictures Releasing International (SPRI) India.

"We are so excited to collaborate with Shubman Gill, as he's not only a youth icon but also a true hero, having represented our country so well in international cricket while enthralling millions of fans with his on-ground heroics," Panjikaran added.

'Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse' will hit the Indian screens in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Bengali, June 2.

The film is the sequel to 2018's 'Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse' and is set in a shared multiverse of alternate universes called the Spider-Verse.

Though several prominent Indian actors have previously dubbed for the Hindi versions of popular Hollywood films, Shubman's voice-over would be a first for a cricketer in India. Gill is also the first sports personality to lend his voice to any film. The young sports star enjoys a huge fan following in India and with his new stint, he is bound to attract more fans.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	61764.25 ↑ 709.96
NIFTY	18264.40 ↑ 195.40
DOLLAR	81.74 ↓ ₹0.04
EURO	90.14 ↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹61,004 ↑ ₹376
SILVER	₹77,148 ↑ ₹101

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 38.2°C	39.5°C
	MIN 27.3°C	27.5°C
Humidity	85%	74%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES

Your work and family will vie with each other for your attention. Merry-making will seem a good idea in the evening. Your desire for fame and fame will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesh showers his blessings on you.

TAURUS

As a manager, you may be able to outclass your colleagues by a great margin, predicts Ganesh. You will soften your approach with time and move towards a more democratic style of decision-making rather than the arbitrary protocol that you are used to. With this, you will taste success and prove your mettle in adverse situations, feels Ganesh.

GEMINI

Your business rivals may compete with you in sales and deals today, warns Ganesh. Care and concern must be the two watchwords in all your dealings. Hostility may come in the way of love. Those spurned in previous romantic liaisons may get a chance to pen a new love story, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Today, you may have to do a lot of multi-tasking at work, predicts Ganesh. And you are likely to do it with the dexterity of a juggler. You will finish your pending tasks with ease. You will make seemingly impossible tasks look as simple as blinking. You will do it all without even batting an eyelid.

LEO

Get ready to bask in applause. Well, not literally, but Ganesh does foresee you getting that long due recognition today for all the hard work you've put at your workplace. This goes hand-in-hand with the support of your colleagues and the good wishes of your seniors, especially if it is some new project that you are undertaking.

VIRGO

A single-headed mission to be the master of your destiny will drive you ahead. Your management skills will be immaculate, and the fire to succeed will get you up and running. Your skill in the managerial post will be accentuated by your quick decision-making and superior analytical ability, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

Wedding bells are ringing, and you are about to get very lucky! Ganesh foresees a plethora of marriage proposals coming your way on this day full of special occasions, as you turn up your charisma and sweep the enthralled opposite sex off their feet with your charm.

SCORPIO

Friends in influential positions will be of much help today. You may plunge into a new business venture without much ado. Appreciation for your abilities and efforts will fly in thick and fast. Your reputation is sky-rocketing among the opposite sex.

SAGITTARIUS

Running helter-skelter and muddling of affairs is on the menu. Expect not to find even a moment's peace. But take a break, says Ganesh. And dive right back in the chaos and make the most of it.

CAPRICORN

Impulsiveness, which is not really your trait, will be very evident in whatever work you do today, says Ganesh. Money matters will keep you preoccupied for major part of the day, but ironically, your otherwise methodical approach to everything will go for a toss. You will splurge in the second half of the day, and it will be more than what your means can afford. Keep a check on the sudden flow of spontaneity in your actions, or you may later regret taking certain decisions.

AQUARIUS

Lady Luck gazes lovingly upon you today! Bosses are pleased, colleagues are happy, and this makes work seem like leisure. You may want to get in touch with old friends who have moved far away. What are you waiting for, asks Ganesh, in this age of communication?

PISCES

A good day for those looking for romantic liaisons, says Ganesh. You will seek the company of your sweetheart to fight feelings of solitude and boredom today. Those who are single ought to strike gold, considering how Lady Luck will be grinning at the efforts you make to win over your love.

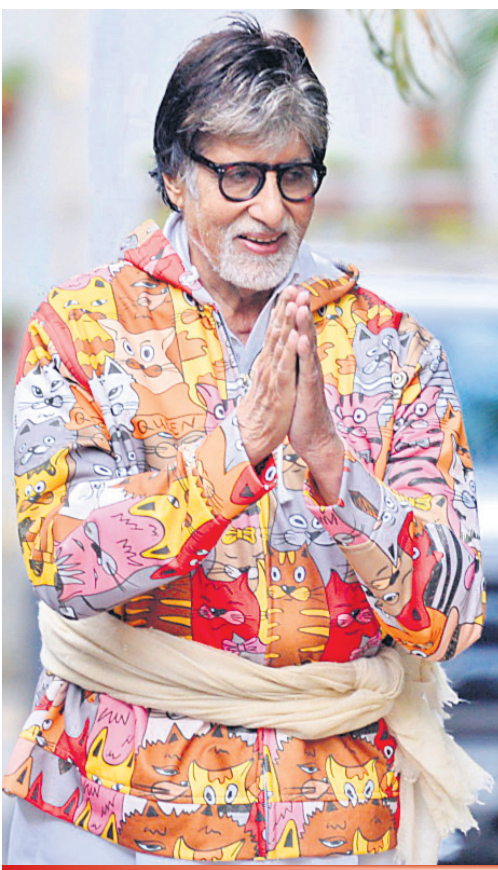


TAYLOR SWIFT'S NASHVILLE GIG DELAYED DUE TO STORM

Taylor Swift's concert in Nashville, Tennessee on Sunday night was delayed for two hours because of a storm. The pop star was due to perform at the Nissan Stadium as part of her *The Eras Tour* but the start of the show was halted due to lightning.

JAMEELA JAMIL REGRETS TURNING DOWN YOU OVER SEX SCENE FEARS

Actress Jameela Jamil turned down an audition for the fourth season of Netflix drama *You* because she was worried about being asked to appear in a sex scene. The 37-year-old actress, however, regrets for her decision as show's star Penn Badgley had asked bosses to cut down the number of saucy scenes.



Big B surprises fans after his 'warning'

Mumbai: Despite advising fans that he might not be able to keep his routine 'meet and greet' with them, megastar Amitabh Bachchan eventually turned up for his Sunday ritual. Taking to blog, Big B dropped several images from the occasion. "The Sunday by the Gate had seemed uncertain but...my Director was generous to the cause and worked in a manner that made it possible for me to rush back in time to greet and savour the love of the dedicated Ef and the well wishers..." he wrote on his blog. Big B looked super cool in a white kurta pyjama that he paired with a cool printed colourful jacket. May 6, he informed his fans that he may skip the Sunday ritual. "Going certainly not for the GATE at Jalsa tomorrow for, there is work on location which can only be given permission for on a Sunday. So a warning in advance to keep away," he had posted. Meanwhile, on the film front, Amitabh will be seen in *Project K* which also stars Deepika Padukone and Prabhass. Helmed by Nag Ashwin, *Project K* is a bilingual film shot simultaneously in two languages - Hindi and Telugu across various locations.



Rashmika gets trolled for her 'double standards'

Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna is one of the popular South Indian actresses who have carved her path in the film industry with her hard work and dedication. Her massive fanbase calls her 'National crush'. However, being a celebrity means being under constant scrutiny. Whatever they do, wherever they go - it becomes news. Recently, Rashmika, after claiming to be a vegetarian, was seen in a McDonald's advertisement eating a non-veg burger. This irked netizens quite a lot, and here's how they have been reacting to it. Bollywood Garima Kumar, sharing the video clip, said, 'Rashmika stop fooling us'. Eating a chicken burger in the ad confused netizens as they ask, 'Isn't she plant-based?'. After realising it, McDonald's has even turned off their comment section from the video to avoid any controversy. Slamming the *Pushpa* star another penned, "Rashmika always lies through her teeth. Thanks for bringing this out Garima." Another one lashed out at Rashmika and wrote, "Now at least understand why we kandigas dont like her.... Because she changes her words here and there many times...." AGENCIES

KING CHARLES III'S CORONATION

Sonam's 'Namaastey' draws flak

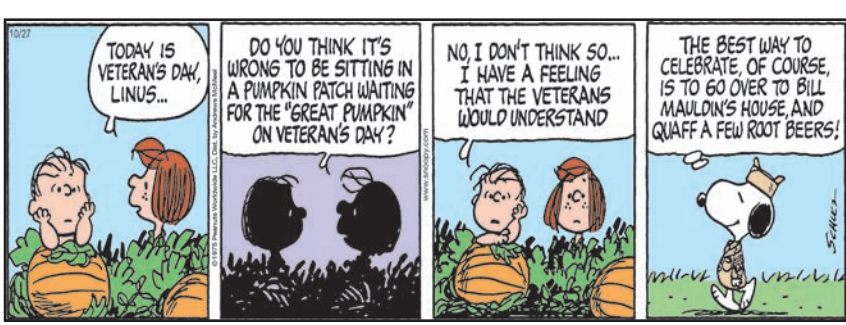
Mumbai: Sonam Kapoor is among the A-list celebrities who attended the United Kingdom's King Charles III's coronation concert in London. However, netizens are now reacting to her spoken performance at the coronation concert. When her appearance at the concert was confirmed, netizens slammed her for supporting the British monarch. Many also joked about her importance at such a significant event. At King Charles III's coronation concert, Sonam Kapoor arrived in a floral white and maroon off-shoulder dress. A video of the Neerja star's spoken performance is currently going viral online owing to her accent. In the clip, Sonam could be heard talking about the commonwealth union and further introducing a high school choir. While many found Sonam Kapoor's performance excellent, others mocked her for her British accent. A netizen wrote, "Sonam's performance is exactly what we hoped it to be, and whyyy is she talking like that as if its a 5th grade elocution contest," while another penned, "This South Mumbai girl is deplorable." A third user wrote, "I truly believe that she and Rhea think of this as upstaging Deepika's Oscar speech." "Why her namaste is namaastey what's with that accent," penned a fourth one, while a fifth wrote, "We lost our people our wealth and most importantly our freedom to them. And this what we are being part of today???" AGENCIES



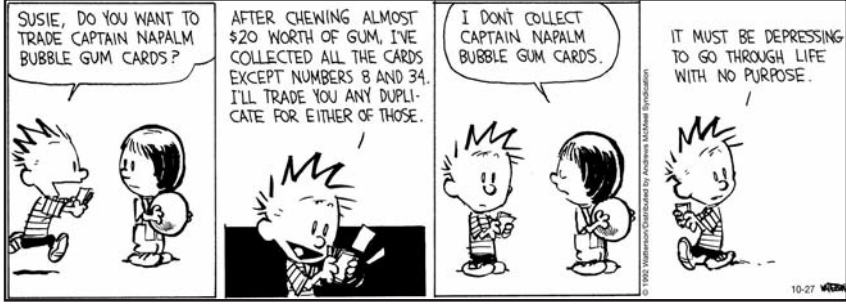
Mumbai: Celina Jaitley spoke about the benefits of working out. She revealed that she always thought of just wanting 'to look good'. Penning down a long note on how working out has helped her combat depression, Celina revealed on her twitter handle that she always thought she wanted to look good until she realised 'what it felt like to be strong'. The *Juani Divani* actress, sharing a picture of herself wearing a black sports bra and white trousers wrote, "I found I was more confident when I stopped being someone else's definition of beautiful and started being my own." She added, "The difference between who you are and who you want to be is what you do. My fitness journey after two consecutive twin pregnancies has been quite a graph. Working out helped combat my phases of depression following my parents & baby's loss during my second twin pregnancy, specifically certain workouts which I tailored myself during Covid lockdowns." She concluded, "We all are works in progress and are roads which will always be under construction so instead of being hard on yourself just be consistent." AGENCIES



PEANUTS



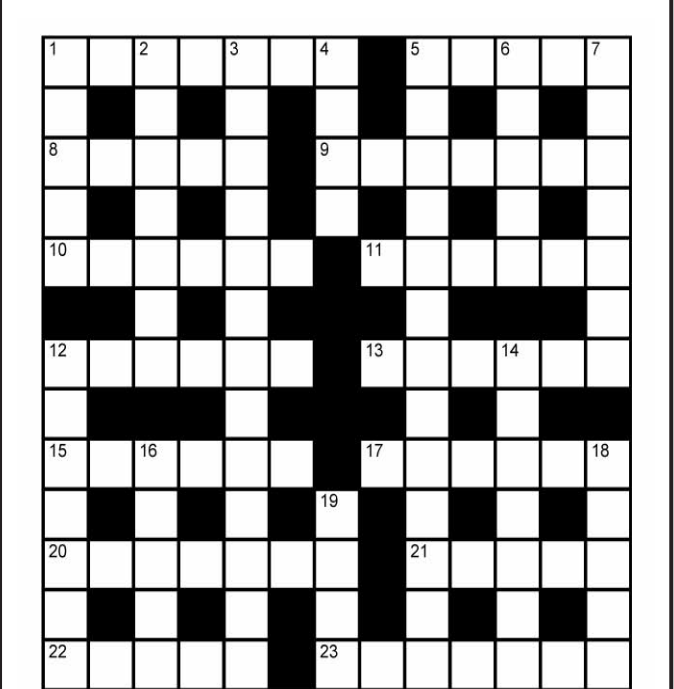
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Rhone town
 - 5 Feather boa
 - 8 Rhino relative
 - 9 Fierce
 - 10 Easement
 - 11 On fire
 - 12 Literary genre
 - 13 Non-stop splurges
 - 15 Song part
 - 17 Worthy principles
 - 20 Restaurant boast
 - 21 Musical composition
 - 22 Jargon
 - 23 Firmness of purpose
- Down
- 3 Extremely stressful (5-8)
 - 4 Shade of blue
 - 5 Skier's problem
 - 6 Boxing venue
 - 7 Athlete's aim
 - 12 Places fit for a king
 - 14 Step-by-step
 - 16 Side dish
 - 18 Jacket
 - 19 Kind of jet

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

S	L	O	E	S	C	I	S	S	O	R	S
U	N	E	T	T	I	N	G	O	U	N	T
N	E	T	T	I	N	G	P	A	S	S	E
B	A	S	N	E	T	M					
A	S	P	I	C	A	B	R	O	A	D	
T	H	O	C	C	G	M					
H	A	V	E	N	S	C	I	N	E	M	A
E	A	S	P	L	I	N					
S	C	R	O	L	L	I	R	K	E	D	
S	A	L	A	O	A						
T	O	N	G	A	N	E	U	R	A	L	
O	C	C	E	S	M						
P	A	Y	M	E	N	T	S	B	A	R	N

SUDOKU

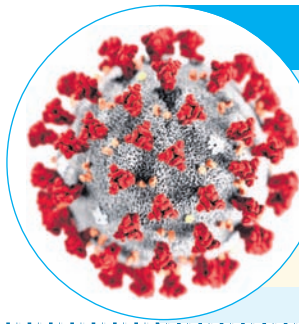
2	6	4	3	8	7	1	5	9
7	9	1	2	4	5	6	3	8
3	8	5	1	9	6	4	7	2
6	2	9	7	5	1	3	8	4
1	4	7	9	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	4	6	2	9	1	7
9	1	8	5	2	4	7	6	3
5	3	2	6	7	9	8	4	1
4	7	6	8	1	3	2	9	5

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SPREADING AWARENESS

Members of Odisha State Branch of Indian Red Cross Society take out an awareness rally in Bhubaneswar to mark World Red Cross Day, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,78,42,087	66,02,85,093	68,71,241
India	4,49,69,630	4,44,10,738	5,31,680
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

CAMPAIGN FOR HIGH-OCTANE JHARSUGUDA BATTLE ENDS

BJD has nominated ex-minister Naba Das's daughter Dipali Das while BJP fielded Tankadhar Tripathy and Cong picked Tarun Pandey for the high-stakes fight



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: High-decibel campaign for the May 10 Jharsuguda byelection came to an end Monday evening the result of which will be declared May 13.

A total of nine candidates are in fray for the bypoll. All the three principal political parties – BJD, BJP and Congress – have nominated fresh candidates.

BJD nominated ex-minister Naba Das's daughter Dipali Das while BJP fielded Tankadhar Tripathy and Congress nominated Tarun Pandey, the son of ex-MLA of Jharsuguda Biren Pandey.

BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik along with several ministers, MLAs and senior party leaders were campaigning for Dipali while Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Bishweswar Tudu, BJP vice-president Baijayant Panda, state president Manmohan Samal, many BJP MPs, MLAs and leaders have joined the campaigning trail for party candidate Tripathy.

State Congress president Sarat Pattanayak and some party leaders campaigned for Tarun.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has made all arrangements for smooth conduct of the bypoll. Speaking to mediapersons here about the preparedness, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Nikunja Bihari Dhal said polling parties, EVMs, election materials and security arrangements – all are in place for the bypoll.

Dhal said voting is going to be held at 253 booths in 197 locations. As many as 2,21,719 voters (1,10,619 males, 1,11,037 females and 63 transgender) will exercise their franchise for the byelection.

Based upon the field inputs, 116

are deployed (4 per booth). About 96 polling officers (24 teams) have been kept reserve for deployment, if required. The polling officers have been duly trained and have been deployed after randomisation, Dhal said.

Restriction has been imposed on election campaigns as the silent period comes into force from 6pm Monday. Collector, SP and Returning Officer have been instructed to ensure that all political party workers, star campaigners and candidates who are not voters of Jharsuguda, do leave the constituency area during this period, he said, adding all community halls, guest houses, hotels are being checked thoroughly.

Similarly, restriction has also been imposed on sale of liquor in the district for 48 hours from 6pm of Monday. Sale or distribution of liquor or substances of similar nature in hotels, restaurants, shops or any other place are banned during this period.

All the EVMs to be used in the poll have been commissioned in presence of contesting candidates. In case there is any defective EVM or malfunctioning EVM comes to notice on the poll day, if needed, the EVM unit(s) will be replaced from the stock of reserve EVMs available.

Braille dummy ballot papers have been made available with each presiding officer for helping visually challenged voters. Poll day being declared as a paid holiday for all the government employees as well as private employees who are voters in the constituency.

For transportation of persons with disabilities (PwD) voters from their houses to booths and back, 2,539 vahan passes have been issued, 118 auto-rickshaws have been arranged.

As many as 40 model booths with facilities like ramps, temporary shed, separate queues, drinking water, volunteers for PwD and senior citizens etc. will be operating on the poll day. Similarly, 26 pink booths especially in urban areas totally manned by trained lady polling officers will be opened.

Till now, 12 complaints on violation of model code of conduct have been received from political parties which were sent to district election officer (DEO) for enquiry and in most of the cases after due enquiry action has been taken, Dhal said.

“The law and order is fully under control. We are committed to a free, fair and peaceful election on May 10,” the CEO added.

HIGHLIGHTS

Voting is going to be held at 253 booths in 197 locations of Jharsuguda Assembly segment

2,21,719 voters (1,10,619 males, 1,11,037 females and 63 transgender) will exercise their franchise

116 booths have been identified as critical booths in 69 locations

booths have been identified as critical booths in 69 locations. Special arrangement has been done for such booths, he said.

In all 253 booths web casting has been planned. Apart from that, 69 micro observers will be deployed and extra central armed police force (CAPF) deployment will be done in appropriate locations, he said.

The CEO informed that a total of 1,814 police personnel (including 155 police officers, 17 platoon of armed police, 323 havildars/constables and 205 home guards) and seven companies of CAPF are being deployed for the poll. The CAPF are being deployed in 144 booths.

In a precautionary measure, 171 licensed arms have been deposited in concerned police stations. About 1,903 persons have been booked under preventive sections of 107 & 116 of CrPC while 112 non-bailable warrants have been executed, he added. Polling parties pertaining to 227 out of 253 booths (mostly the rural and distant places) have been dispersed Monday from Engineering School, Jharsuguda. The remaining 26 polling parties for the pink booths will be dispersed Tuesday, he said.

Likewise, 1,012 polling officers



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Aswini Kumar Patra presents 'Atibadi Jagannath Das Puraskar' to eminent litterateurs Sitakant Mahapatra, Pratibha Ray and Srinibas Udgata at Rabintra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday. Culture department additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahu, director Dilip Routray, and Odisha Sahitya Akademi president Hrusikesh Mallick, vice president Sangram Jena and secretary Prabodh Kumar Rout are seen

OPP PHOTO

Nitish Kumar likely to meet Naveen today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is likely to meet BJD president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Tuesday, amid talks of regional parties coming together ahead of the 2024 general elections.

According to sources, Nitish will meet Naveen at 'Naveen Niwas' in Bhubaneswar around 12pm.

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 leader Rahul Gandhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, West Bengal CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D Raja.

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had met Naveen in March. However, both the leaders had stated that there was no political discussion during their meeting. As the BJD has been maintaining 'equi-distance' from BJP and Congress, and not much interested in national politics, all eyes are now on the outcomes of the crucial meeting of the two senior political leaders.

In December last year, Naveen had invited both Mamata and Nitish to witness the Hockey World Cup in Odisha.

11 projects worth ₹2,840cr get nod

The projects approved are from diverse sectors like aluminium and aluminium downstream, steel and steel downstream, chemicals, food processing and packaging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The 117th State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), chaired by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, Monday approved ₹2,840.73 crore worth 11 industrial projects that would generate at least 3,721 jobs in Odisha.

Nine of these proposals were from the companies participated in the Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave 2022 and showed investment intent in the state, it was learnt.

The projects approved in the meeting are from diverse sectors like aluminium and aluminium downstream, steel and steel downstream, chemicals and plastics, food processing and packaging, textiles and apparel, tourism and renewable energy.

These projects will be set up across various parts of the state including Bolangir, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts.

The SLSWCA approved the proposal of RCR Steel Works Private Limited to set up a steel plant at Jamda in Mayurbhanj. At an investment of ₹896.98 crore, the plant is expected to provide employment opportunities to about 750 people in Odisha.



RCR Steel Works Private Limited to set up a steel plant at Jamda in Mayurbhanj at an investment of ₹896.98 crore

Expansion proposals of Utkal Alumina International Limited in Rayagada district and Hindalco Industries Limited at Lapanga of Sambalpur, which promise cumulative investment of nearly ₹1,000 crore got the go-ahead

The committee approved the expansion proposals of Utkal Alumina International Limited in Rayagada district and Hindalco Industries Limited at Lapanga of Sambalpur, which promises cumulative investment of nearly ₹1,000 crore. It is expected to provide jobs to over 500 people in and around of these districts.

The panel approved the proposal of Mahindra Holidays and Resorts India Limited to set up a resort at Somolo Island of Chilika Lake in the Ganjam with an investment of ₹228.45 crore. The project, which would provide jobs to at least 250 people, is expected to further strengthen Odisha's position in the tourism map of the country.

In the chemicals sector, the committee gave a go-ahead to Ion Exchange (India) Limited's pro-

posal to set up a manufacturing unit of 25,000 MT water treatment chemicals and 30,000 MT monomer and polymers in Paradip. The company would invest ₹303 crore in the project that would generate employment opportunities for over 150 people.

In the textiles and apparel sector, Indian Stitches Private Limited got state's nod to set up a fabric processing plant with an investment of ₹100 crore. The fabric processing plant is expected to provide employment opportunities to over 1,000 people.

In the food processing sector, the project of Taj SATS Limited to set up food processing and packaging units in Khurda was approved. The project comes with an investment of ₹51 crore and potential employment for 200 people.

MWDT's 2nd phase visit from May 19

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 8: The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) will begin the second phase of Mahanadi basin visit in Odisha from May 19 to May 28.

During Odisha visit, the tribunal will cover Chilika lake in the Mahanadi delta and Hirakud reservoir among other places.

According to sources, the tribunal's Odisha visit has been postponed due to Covid 19. Sources said the tribunal chairperson Justice AM Khanwilkar has been tested positive for Covid. Earlier, the tribunal was scheduled to begin Odisha visit from May 10.

Naveen inaugurates 335 transformed high schools in 4 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated 335 transformed high schools in four districts, concluding the third phase of state's ambitious High School Transformation programme.

While 98 transformed high schools were in Cuttack, 115 were in Kalahandi. 49 and 73 high schools were in Malkangiri and Jajpur districts respectively. With this, as many as 2,151 transformed high schools were inaugurated in the third phase.

On the occasion, Patnaik announced 'Chief Minister Education Award' for best performing districts.

Patnaik announces 'Chief Minister Education Award' for best performing districts	While 98 transformed high schools were in Cuttack, 115 were in Kalahandi
	49 and 73 high schools were in Malkangiri and Jajpur districts respectively
	With this, as many as 2,151 transformed high schools were inaugurated in the third phase

₹3 crore will be given as first prize, ₹2 crore as second and ₹1 crore as the third prize. Panchayat, blocks, teachers and former students will be awarded under the initiative, it was learnt.

Sources said 3,981 high schools were transformed in the state in the last two phases. After completion of the third phase, the total number of transformed schools reaches 6,132.

Addressing the students virtually Patnaik said that the success of students is the success of Odisha. Efforts have been made to provide all modern facilities to the children in 5T schools.

The CM said the children could take this opportunity to showcase their talent and to bring glory to themselves and their families as well for the entire state.

Congratulating the students attending these schools, Patnaik said if children use 5T in their lives, they can be successful in all areas of life.

Stating that it is the age of technology, the CM advised children to try learning new technologies. "The second thing is teamwork. If children work together, the chances of success increase. Teamwork is very important in the field of sports. Similarly, transparency is an essential requirement in life. Honesty increases a person's credibility. Everyone knows the importance of time. So, if time is used properly, children will remain ahead in all spheres and it will bring transformation in their lives," said the CM.

IISER Bhopal creates molecules emitting near-infrared light

The discovery could potentially extend the use of organic light-emitting devices beyond visible light, with implications in a range of applications from medical equipment to advanced security gadgets

emit light in the near-infrared (NIR) range, opening possibilities for organic light emitting devices (OLEDs) for various applications.

Light-emitting diodes or LEDs are tiny devices that are commonly used in applications such as television screens, gadget displays and others. They are different from traditional filament bulbs in that while bulbs emit light when heated, LEDs emit light when electricity (in the form of electrons) passes through them.

OLEDs are a form of LEDs where the light emitting materials are organic molecules – chemicals made largely of carbon and hydrogen.

Although visible light-emitting OLEDs have already found mass ap-



OLEDs are a form of LEDs where the light emitting materials are organic molecules – chemicals made largely of carbon and hydrogen

plication in displays for gadgets, televisions, and lighting, producing NIR-emitting OLEDs is challenging due to their unique molecular energy structure.

Light-emitting molecules generate light when electrons fall from a high energy state (HOMO) to a low energy state (LUMO) inside the

molecule, and the colour of the emitted light depends on the energy difference between the two states. The energy difference in organic molecules corresponds to visible light, making visible light-emitting OLEDs easier to design.

The team at IISER created new organic molecules that have a very

low-energy LUMO. This means that the energy difference between LUMO and HOMO is smaller, resulting in near-infrared light.

"We have achieved a nitro group containing polycyclic aromatic molecules that exhibit fluorescence (light emission) in the near-IR wavelengths," said Prof Jeyaraman Sankar, IISER Bhopal, in a statement. The team's new approach to obtaining stable electron-deficient molecules with NIR emission using nitration as a strategy is unique and has been published in the journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry - Chemical Science.

The innovation lay in fine-tuning the structure of the nitro-group-containing molecules that typically do not fluoresce and are

therefore usually non-light-emitting.

Another challenge is to position the emission in the near-IR region. The team engineered the structure of the molecules such that they emit near-IR light. In addition, the synthesised molecules show strong electron affinity values, excellent stability, and structural rigidity.

The fluorescence quantum yields (the amount of near-IR light emitted) are among the best for any known near-IR light-emitting electron-deficient materials, the team said.

Apart from their use in OLED applications, the strong electron affinity, NIR emissive nature, high stability, and redox robustness of these molecules make them excellent candidates for catalysts.

Prison escapee held for theft in Capital

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Monday arrested a mobile phone looter who had escaped the Soro sub-jail a few months back. The accused was identified as Satyajit Mallick, 21, is resident of Bideipur in Bhadrak. Satyajit, a habitual offender, has been arrested in a mobile theft case (189/23) registered at the Chandrasekharpur police station April 14, 2023. The complainant, Hemant Kumar Dash, owns a mobile shop Sai Teletpoint in Chandrasekharpur area here. The accused broke into the mobile store April 13 and decamped with 25 cell phones and ear buds worth over ₹2 lakh. The Chandrasekharpur police carried out a raid at his house and arrested him.

MNI in state to help farmers reach buyers

In the first phase, it has been proposed that MNI will be implemented in Odisha along with Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Bihar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: With a vision to promote seamless inter- and inter-state trade of agricultural produce, Market Yard of National Importance (MNI) will be implemented in Odisha in the first phase, official sources informed here Monday. In the first phase, it has been proposed that MNI will be implemented in Odisha along with Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Bihar. "This has been decided at the first meeting of the expert committee held at Bengaluru Monday to promote seamless inter- and inter-state trade of agricultural produce through conceptualisation and implementation of Market Yard of National Importance (MNI)," informed an official. "The committee had been assigned the task of recommending

the framework for implementation," said Cooperation department principal secretary, OSAM Board member secretary Sanjeeb Kumar Chadha. It should be mentioned that the Union government has taken various measures for benefits of the farming communities on a sustainable basis. Various programmes and schemes for the development of the agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with the flexibility for state governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare department (agricultural marketing division), government of India, has constituted an expert committee to promote seamless inter- and inter-state trade of agricultural produce through the conceptualization and

- The Central Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare department has constituted an expert committee to create a framework for and implement seamless trade of agricultural produce through MNI
- The focus will be on developing the inter-district and inter-state buyer base, strengthening a transparent price discovery mechanism and enabling farmers' produce reach inter-district and interstate buyers

implementation of Market Yard of National Importance (MNI). Chadha said, "The MNI platform will work towards establishing an order-driven trade based on quality, quantity and transparent price discovery mechanism encompassing basic risk management and integrated logistics principles." The focus is on developing the inter-district and interstate buyer base, strengthening a transparent price discovery mechanism and enabling an assisted-integrated delivery/logistic model will help farmers' produce reach inter-district and interstate buyers. He further said it has been decided to implement MNI in Odisha for cotton, maize, ginger & chilly market yards in the first phase.



STUDENTS' PROTEST: Members of All Odisha Agro Polytechnic Students' Association stage a dharna at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar seeking fulfillment of their various demands, Monday

Five IES officers start training at GAA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA) director general Raj Kumar Sharma Monday welcomed to the institute five Indian Economic Services officer trainees (OTs) while inaugurating here a training programme for the officers. The Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, has deputed five IES officers of 2023 batch to Odisha to undergo six weeks of training on development administration. The GAA, the apex administrative training institute of the state, is one of the few institutions to which the IES probationers have been allotted for training after completion of their foundational course. This group consists of five Officer Trainees, including four females and one male. They be-



The Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, has deputed five IES officers of 2023 batch to Odisha to undergo six weeks' training on development administration

long to four different States i.e. Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and one Union Territory i.e. Delhi. These OTs will undergo their field attachment in different districts of the state as part of their probationary training programme. Sharma, in his address, informed the trainees about the development initiatives in progress in Odisha and said that the state government has been able to ensure

people-centric governance through a dynamic feedback mechanism of 'Mo Sarkar', which enables the government to listen to its citizens directly and to ensure required service delivery on time and on the spot. The six-week training module has been designed with an appropriate blend of indoor academic and outdoor extra-academic sessions. Apart from sharpening intellectual pursuits, the course would also focus

on macro data collection and analysis methods, data integrity and data visualization. The OTs will witness various development models implemented by multiple field departments in various districts, preferably having higher concentration of tribal. The academy will link up with Kalinga stadium and Bhubaneswar Club for outdoor activities. He assured all possible support to the OTs during the training.

REVIEW MEETING ON KALIA SCHEME

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: A review meeting on the implementation of Krushak Assistance for Livelihood & Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme in Odisha was chaired by Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain at Krushi Bhawan Monday. The scheme has so far covered over 61 lakh beneficiaries. The meeting aimed to address the issue of those who were left out of the scheme due to various reasons, including Aadhaar seeding failure with bank accounts. The department proposed conducting a drive in all blocks of the state to resolve these issues. The meeting also discussed setting up a KALIA commission to monitor the scheme's implementation and provide recommendations on proposed assistance or incentives for farmers' welfare. Additionally, the department proposed bringing more technical or professional courses and private institutions under the KALIA scholarship's purview to offer wider education and skill development opportunities for the children of KALIA beneficiaries.

Girls should be provided vocational edu: Kumar

POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 8: The 12th edition of IDEATE 2023, a Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) initiative in partnership with FICCI and UNICEF as knowledge partner, was organised under the auspices of G20 Empower Jan Bhagidari, themed "Foundational & Lifecycle Interventions to EMPOWER" 8 May 2023, New Delhi. The purpose of the event was to discuss transformative strategies for empowering India's adolescent girls - a demographic representing a quarter of the nation's population. Speaking at the event, Vipin Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, underlined the need for providing quality education to girls in India, focusing on vocational education as a means to ensure employability and relevance to the demands of the industry. Emphasizing that vocational education is a crucial aspect of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Kumar added that NEP prioritises the importance of providing 21st-century skills to girls to participate in the economy. "To

achieve this, the Ministry of Education is in discussions with state governments to identify requirements for specific geographical areas and industries," he said. Subhrakant Panda, President of FICCI and Trustee at BIPE, highlighted the importance of investing early in adolescent development. He said, "India has the largest adolescent population in the world, with every fifth person in the 10-19 age group. Given that approximately 47 per cent of this cohort is girls, the need of the hour is their technical and educational upliftment to have skillsets which enable them to tackle any challenges and be equal partners in India's progress." Delivering the keynote address, UNICEF India Representative Cynthia McCaffrey emphasized on a multi-sectoral approach to empowering young women and girls. "Getting to the root causes and barriers holding girls back in the digital age needs to be addressed from all aspects," she said. Trustee and CEO of the Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation, Shaifalika Panda advocated for an inclusive environment that promotes equity for girls.

CM lauds 'Adwitiya' makers for winning international award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday congratulated Odia film makers for winning awards for their short film at international film festival in Mauritius. Krishna DK and Simanchal Maharaha from Hinjilicut bagged two awards - best documentary short film and best film story writer for their documentary 'Adwitiya' at the Indian Ocean International Film Festival. The Chief Minister also wished them greater success in their future endeavours. Notably, the film is based on some factual events demonstrating how the IIC of Aska Police Station gained the trust of the people and brought back criminals into the mainstream of society and turned a 'crime city' into a 'crime controlling city'. Aska IIC PS Prashant Kumar Sahoo, senior IPS officers, IG of Police, Southern Range Satyabrata Bhoi and Ganjam SP Jagmohan Meena have acted in the film, which was directed by Krishna DK. The story was written by Simanchal Maharana.

WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY

Prioritising pre-natal diagnosis need of the hour, say experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The need of the hour is to prioritize pre-natal diagnosis and counseling to prevent diseases such as thalassemia in our society, said KIIT-DU School of Medicine Pro-VC CBK Mohanty. Speaking on World Thalassemia Day at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), he advised doctors and health workers to engage in year-round awareness generation activities as well as educate caregivers and share responsibility to ensure children suffering from the disease receive the best possible care. The speakers on this occasion were KIMS Principal AP Mohanty, Medical Superintendent RC Das, HoD Paediatrics Manas Behera, Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) Odisha president NM Jena and IAP Khurda president Jagannath Rao. This year's theme is "Be aware, share, care: Strengthening education to bridge



the Thalassemia care gap." Experts from various fields opined to stand united to fight the sufferings of the thalassaemic kids as Odisha remains a major region with the disease burden in the entire world. During the occasion, a continuing medical education (CME) was organised where experts spoke on various topics including "Diagnose thalassemia pathology", "Transfusion guidelines in thalassemia" and "Chelation and follow-up plan due to iron overload in thalassaemic children." An interactive session was also

held in which topics related to obstetrics and gynaecology and nursing management in thalassemia were discussed. Parents and their kids undergoing treatment at KIMS were also present on this occasion. Nursing students presented a skit with the theme on World Thalassemia Day. Prizes were also given to KIMS students who took part in a poster making competition on the occasion. The programme was organised by Secretary IAP Khurda Nirmal Mohakud and Hematologist Palas Dash.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Salipur, Cuttack on 06.05.2023 myself "Manorama Sahoo" after marriage, I changed my name and surname to Sanumona Dalai. "Sanumona Dalai" and "Manorama Sahoo" is one and same person i.e. me. Henceforth I shall be known as Sanumona Dalai for all purposes.

I, Sreyansh Das Adhikary, S/o. Sanjib Das Adhikary, resident of Tarangini Kutira, Kedar Lane, PO: Old Town, P. S. Shree Lingaraj, Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khurda Pin - 751002, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 149 Dtd. 08/05/2023, that now onwards I shall be known as SREYANSH RISHABH for all future purposes. Sreyansh Rishabh

CONTINUED FROM P1 SC settles...

There are encroachments. It is also mentioned that there are deficiencies in the management of the shrine and rituals are commercialised. The petitioner had further prayed for providing express darshan to all the devotees visiting the temple. In November 2019, the Supreme Court passed judgement in the case issuing 23 directions to the state government and the temple managing committee for providing various facilities to devotees and management of property and valuables of Srimandir. "We direct the temple adminis-

tration and the chief administrator including the state government to prepare a roadmap with the help of experts for proper darshan by the devotees/pilgrims and to implement it effectively and to ensure that there is no commotion so that everybody is able to have darshan peacefully without any obstruction by anybody," the top court had said. In April this year, the temple managing committee had filed the action taken report (ATR) giving details of the steps taken by it in compliance with the 2019 order. The committee had informed the apex court that Srimandir has over 60,000 acre land and it has received records of rights for 38,061 acre. It also submitted that appropriate steps have been taken for the maintenance of hygiene at

Rosaghar and also for performance of the rituals in traditional form. It further submitted that Jagadguru Shankaracharya has been consulted along with other pundits for the performance of rituals in right manner. Separate toilets have been constructed for the male and female devotees at temple complex and steps have been taken for providing cloak rooms, accommodation and other facilities for the convenience of the devotees, the committee had submitted. **IAF's MiG-21...** "Three women have died in the incident and three others are injured," he said. SP, Hanumangarh, Sudheer Chaudhary said the plane crashed on the house of one Ratti

Ram, killing his wife Basho Kaur and two other women identified as Leela Devi and Banto Kaur. Burn injuries led to the death of the women, he said. According to initial reports, the house of Ratti Ram was completely damaged besides some nearby houses. A local resident said he heard a loud sound and saw a parachute coming down. Within seconds, the plane crashes on the house of Ratti Ram and wood stored in the house caught fire. "Local people immediately started efforts to douse flames with the help of water and sand. Fire brigade and police reached the spot and the women were taken to a hospital," the local resident told reporters in Hanumangarh.

3 held for attacking girls' hostel inmates

Bhubaneswar: The twin city Commissionerate Police Monday arrested three persons on charges of attacking inmates of a girls' hostel in Nayapalli area here Friday. The accused were identified as Shasikant Bhoi, 20, Sania Das, 22, and Sanjay Behera, 37, of Bhoi Sahi under Nayapalli police limits. According to Nayapalli police sources, the incident took place when Nilabati Swain, the girls' hostel owner, was chitchatting with her friend May 5 evening. "Swain saw one of the accused pelting stones towards the hostel and passing lewd comments at the inmates. As she objected to it, the accused hurled stones en masse. Later, they barged into the hostel and assaulted the inmates," an official said, quoting Swain's complaint. On the basis of the complaint, Nayapalli police registered a case (176/23) and arrested the accused Monday. Sources in police said that manhunt is on to arrest seven accused on the run. "We will soon launch a special drive and check whether the owners of ladies hostels are following all the security measures as prescribed in the guidelines. We will take strong action against owners of hostels violating the guidelines like installing CCTV and sharing details about inmates with local police," said ACP (Zone-V) Sanjeev Satpathy.

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Joda mining: Government incurs losses worth crores

Non-implementation of statutory rules leads to closure of 59 mines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, May 8: A total of 59 mines out of the 90 under Joda mining circle in Keonjhar district are lying closed due to a host of statutory regulations, sources have informed. As a result, both the Centre and the Odisha government are losing revenues worth several crores of rupees. Moreover, the provision of separate rules for the payment of mining premiums has led to a decline in competition in the mining and industrial sectors. This has resulted in losses for the new leaseholders, experts pointed out.



coordination between the Odisha government and the Centre and the absence of proper follow up by the leaseholders, 59 mines have failed to get approval for operation. Among the 31 mines that are in operation in the Joda mining circle, 10 have been acquired through auction by the leaseholders after 2020. Over 874.84,000 lakh MT minerals have been mined in 2022-23 FY and 718.34,000 lakh MT minerals transported to various destinations. This has resulted in collection of ₹16,894 crore as revenue. However, had the other 59 mines been in operation, revenues could have gone up manifold.

The Odisha government and its allied bodies are not the only ones suffering from revenue losses, the collection of the National Minerals Exploration Trust (NMET) has also declined. On the other hand, leaseholders who got the mines through auction are paying higher premiums to run those. The leaseholders of the remaining 21 mines whose tenures are in force have been exempted from paying premiums. They are only paying revenues and their share to DMF. When contacted, mine owner and scribe Sirish Chandra Mohanty said that the Centre should implement its 'One Nation, One Tax' rule which will usher in healthy competition and transparency in the mining and industrial sectors.

According to information available from the Mining department, the 59 mines are lying closed due to delays in approval of a series of statutory regulations like the Forest Conservation Act, the Environment Clearance Act and the Plan of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). The concerned ministries of the Union government give approval to these regulations on the recommendations of the state government. However, due to lack of proper

Elephant deaths in Kuldiha spark concern

NINE PACHYDERMS HAVE BREATHED THEIR LAST IN THE LAST 14 MONTHS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilgiri, May 8: The Odisha government is spending huge amount of money for the protection of elephants in the state. However, deaths of nine elephants in the last 14 months in Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary under this block in Balasore district has become a matter of concern and frustration for Forest department officials. The death of a female elephant Sunday in Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary is a case in point. The animal died in a jungle under Hatikholia forest segment of the



sanctuary. The animal was suffering from a deep wound on one

of its legs. It was undergoing treatment for the last one month under the supervision of the Forest department. However, despite all efforts it succumbed to its injury. Forest department officials and members of the joint task force led by DFO Khuswant Singh, Balasore ACF Sovan Diganta Chand and Kuldiha ranger Ananta Kumar Jena cremated the animal after conducting a post-mortem. They said that the actual cause of the elephant's death can only be ascertained once the post-mortem report comes.

Nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts have alleged that while the Forest department is terming the animal's death 'natural', it is not doing enough to find out the real reason behind the demise of the pachyderm. Locals claimed that the animal might have died due to anthrax infection. All have demanded a high-level inquiry behind the frequent deaths of elephants.

2 get 20-yr RI for gangraping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 8: A special POCOS court and the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge sentenced two persons to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment Monday after holding them guilty of gangraping a 14-year-old girl in 2017.



judge also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to give ₹4 lakh financial assistance to the survivor as compensation.

The accused were identified as Keshav Tiria, 46, of Takudipala village and Ashis Dighi, 29, under Jashipur police limits in Mayurbhanj district. Judge Sumita Jena also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 each on the two convicts for the offence. In default, the two will have to undergo an additional three months in prison, the judge said while delivering the order. The

home and had gone to visit relatives, February 10, 2017. The victim was alone at home February 11 as the two other sisters had gone to fetch water. Taking advantage of the situation, the two accused barged into the house and took turns in raping the minor. While leaving, they threatened to harm her and family if she disclosed the matter before others. The survivor narrated her ordeal before her parents when they returned home. The girl's mother lodged a complaint in the local police station. Police registered a case and conducted a medical examination of the girl and arrested both the accused. The accused were later, produced in court.

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INTACH seeks heritage tag for Paralakhemundi railway station



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The Odisha chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has sought heritage status for the state's first railway station at Paralakhemundi. In a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, INTACH, Odisha chapter convener, AB Tripathy has urged the former to consider the heritage and historical relevance of the railway station and take the initiative for setting up a museum and a photo gallery. An expert team from INTACH, Bhubaneswar, comprising Anil Dhur, Deepak Kumar Nayak, Conservation Architects Satyam Jyoti and Bishnu Mohan Adhikari recently visited Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district and submitted a report on the existing and the newly-coming up railway station. The recommendations of INTACH suggest that the old heritage railway station should not be demolished. "The new building coming up is on a raised platform and

overshadows the existing heritage structure. The old station is still in a very good shape and does not need much restoration. This old station should be given a 'Heritage Tag' and preserved as it is. It is not only of importance to Odisha, being the first railway station of the state, but is an important landmark of the nation," Tripathy said in the letter. INTACH also said that the Railways should consider running a new train from Baripada to Paralakhemundi connecting north and south Odisha. This will be a fitting tribute to two pioneers of the Railways in Odisha, Maharaja Goura Chandra Gajapati and Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanj Deo. This can be a heritage train which will traverse the length of Odisha touching the historic cities of Balasore, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and others, the organisation added. INTACH also suggested that the Paralakhemundi railway station should be included in the 'Ramayana Circuit'. "The Mahendragiri Hills, which are a bio-diver-

sity, heritage and pilgrimage site, have the nearest railhead at Paralakhemundi. The hills have some of the oldest temples of India which find reference both in the Ramayana and Mahabharata," INTACH said. "A train which may be called 'Mahendragiri Express' should run from Paralakhemundi and Ayodhya which will boost tourism and pilgrimage to the district," INTACH stated. The 1899-built 'Royal Carriage' used by the Royalties of Paralakhemundi which is kept at the Narrow Gauge Railway Museum at Nagpur too should be brought back to display at the Station, the letter read. "There are many other artefacts relating to the PLR, kept at the Nagpur Museum. These include signalling and electrical equipment, scales, uniforms, insignias, German silver cutlery, and royal embellishments. They should all be brought back," INTACH said. "The goods shed at Paralakhemundi station is a unique heritage structure which needs preservation," the letter further stated. INTACH is also bringing out a pictorial book on the history and heritage of the 'Paralakhemundi Light Railway' which will be released when the new Railway Station is inaugurated, Tripathy told mediapersons.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2023-T-161
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF SIGNAGES / DISPLAY BOARDS & LED BASED STATION NAME BOARDS AT 15 STATIONS (TITLAGARH, BALANGIR, KESINGA, BARGARH ROAD, KANTABANJI, SAMBALPUR CITY, BHAWANIPATNA, JHARSUGUDA ROAD, RAIRAKHOL, MAHASAMUNDI, MUNIGUDA, KHARIAR ROAD, HIRAKUD, BARPALI & HARISANKAR ROAD) OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.
Approx. Cost ₹ 3,82,44,469.62, EMD: ₹ 3,41,200/-, Completion Period: 12 Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. on 23.05.2023.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-138/O/23-24 Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2023-T-161
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF SIGNAGES / DISPLAY BOARDS & LED BASED STATION NAME BOARDS AT 15 STATIONS (TITLAGARH, BALANGIR, KESINGA, BARGARH ROAD, KANTABANJI, SAMBALPUR CITY, BHAWANIPATNA, JHARSUGUDA ROAD, RAIRAKHOL, MAHASAMUNDI, MUNIGUDA, KHARIAR ROAD, HIRAKUD, BARPALI & HARISANKAR ROAD) OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.
Approx. cost of work ₹ 2,91,78,264.50, EMD : ₹ 2,95,900/-, Completion Period of the Work : 6 (Six) Months from the date of issue of LOA.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1630 hrs. of 23.05.2023.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen (15) 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.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-137/O/23-24 Sambalpur

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ Punjab National Bank
CIRCLE OFFICE: SAMBALPUR,
1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur- 768004, Odisha
OFFICE PREMISES REQUIRED
Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, Sambalpur requires suitable ready built and well-constructed hall type building having Carpet Area of 900 sqft to 1200sqft., including space for ATM, on lease /rental basis premises should be preferably in Ground Floor and if in first floor, with lift facility, At: Birmitrapur, Dist: Sundergarh. Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of attorney Holders of such premises in the desired locality who are ready to lease out their readily available premises on long term lease basis preferably for 15 (fifteen) years or more may send their offers in the prescribed format available on Bank's Website www.pnbindia.in or the same may be obtained from the above address during office hours. The complete offer duly sealed & signed and should reach the undersigned on or before 03.00 PM on 24th May, 2023 at the above address.
No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
CIRCLE HEAD

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT
e-mail-eerwss_kpt@rediffmail.com
Ph.No.06852-250281 (Off), Ph.No.06852-250680 (Res)
Fax No.06852-251098
National Competitive Bidding Through E-Procurement
Tender Identification No.03/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/02.05.2023
No.O-118: The Executive Engineer, RWSS&S Division, Koraput on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single Cover (P1 contract) from the eligible class of experienced registered contractors through e-Tendering system for the piped water supply works as detailed in DTCN. The bid should be submitted online in the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in separately for the works.

1	Nature of Work	Rural piped water supply Projects under Koraput District
2	Estimated Cost	Varies from 7.63 Lakhs to 11.05 Lakhs
3	Total Nos. of works	4 Nos.
4	Tender Cost	Rs.4000.00 & Rs.6000.00
5	Class of Contractor	"D" & "C"
6	Availability of Bid document in the website	From 17.05.2023 at 17.00 hours to 26.05.2023 upto 17.00 hours
7	Date of seeking clarification	During the Office hours of 17.05.2023 to 25.05.2023
8	Date of Opening of Bid	On 29.05.2023 at 11.00 hours

Further details can be seen in the bidding documents which is available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the website. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd./ Executive Engineer
RWSS&S Division, Koraput
OIPR-25034/11/0004/2324

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
PURI MAIN BRANCH
Loknath Lodge, Infront of Town Police Station, Grand Road, Puri - 752001,
E-mail: ubin0539449@unionbankofindia.bank
DEMAND NOTICE
Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed By the following borrower with our Puri Main Branch: Classified as NPA
We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Legal heirs that their A/c mentioned below have been classified as NPA account pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Legal heirs of **Union Bank of India, Puri Main Branch** but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The outstanding amount in their accounts are shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below:

Name & Address of Borrower/Legal heirs	Nature / Limit	Date of NPA/Date of Demand Notice/ Outstanding	Details of Property Mortgaged
Borrower / Legal heirs: Mr. Raghunatha Prusty, S/o.: Bhima Prusty, Address- 1: At: Nayak Plaza, Shop No.: B 101, Puri - 752001, Address- 2: At: Plot No.: 630, Unit No.: 7, Dolamandap Sahi, Samil Patra Sahi, Puri - 752001 / All the Legal Heirs of Mr. Raghunatha Prusty are at Plot No.: 630, Unit No.: 7, Dolamandap Sahi, Samil Patra Sahi, Puri - 752001	Cash Credit ₹ 10,00,000/-	13.02.2023 / 26.04.2023 / ₹ 6,98,829.83 as on 31.03.2023 together with further interest & charges from 01.04.2023	Land and Residential Building at Khata No.: 539, Plot No.: 630, Area: Ac.0.026 Dec, Mouza: Puri Town Unit No.: 17 Dolamandap Sahi No.: 1, Standing in the name of Mr. Raghunatha Prusty , Bounded by North: Nilakantha Mohapatra, South: Ramamani Sahoo, West: Road, East: Sweeper Path

In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account, you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned above against your notice together with interest from the date mentioned above at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the above security created by you in favour of the Bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. 1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues together with contractual rate of interest from the date mentioned above within 60 days as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debts Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. 2) As per sec.13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences. **Your kind attention is also invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**
Place: Puri, Date: 08.05.2023 Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

KVB Karur Vysya Bank
Rourkela Branch
Ground Floor, Anandi Nivas, Near Mangal Bhavan, Rourkela, Orissa-769001
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)
Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**, under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16.02.2023 calling upon (1). **M/s. Sri Ram Traders (Borrower)**, Proprietor **Sri Gopi Ram Agarwal**, Jagda, Main Road, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundergarh, Orissa-769042 (2). **Sri Prakash Agarwal (Guarantor)**, Plot No.138, Main Road Jagda, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundergarh, Orissa-769042 (3). **Sri Deoki Nandan Agarwal (Guarantor)**, Plot No.138, Main Road Jagda, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundergarh, Orissa-769042 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.68,94,628.83 (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Eight and Paise Eighty Three Only)** together with further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 5th day of May of the year 2023.
The Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of **Rs.68,94,628.83 (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Eight and Paise Eighty Three Only)** and interest thereon, cost and expenses.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property			
1. All the piece and parcel of Residential land measuring Ac 0.07 res situated at Mouza-Gudgudjore, PS-Bisra, Tahasil-Rourkela, Sub-Registry Jurisdiction-Birmitrapur SRO, District-Sundergarh, Orissa, recorded under Khata No.77/337,			
Plot Nos.	Kissam	Area	Boundary
8/1234	Goda-II	Ac.0.04 res (six dec.)	North-20' Road South-Plot No.9 East- Plot No.8 West-16' Road
9/1235	Goda-II	Ac.0.02 res (four dec.)	North-Plot No.8 South-Plot No.6 East- Plot No.9 West-16' Road
The property is standing in the name of Sri Gopiram Agarwal			
2. All the piece and parcel of Residential land measuring Ac 0.07 res situated at Mouza-Gudgudjore, PS-Bisra, Tahasil-Rourkela, Sub-Registry Jurisdiction-Birmitrapur SRO, District-Sundergarh, Orissa, recorded under Khata No.77/336,			
Plot Nos.	Kissam	Area	Boundary
6/1231	Goda-II	Ac.0.04 res (four dec.)	North-Plot No.9 South-Plot No.6 East- 16' Road West-Plot No.6
8/1232	Goda-II	Ac.0.02 res (two dec.)	North-20' Road South-Plot No.9 East- 16' Road West-Plot No.8
9/1233	Goda-II	Ac.0.01 res (One dec.)	North-Plot No.8 South-Plot No.6 East- 16' Road West-Plot No.9
The property is standing in the name of Sri Prakash Agarwal .			
3. All the piece and parcel of Residential land measuring Ac.0.20res situated at Mouza-Jabadhat, PS-Bondamunda, District-Sundergarh, Orissa, recorded under Khata No.69/115, Plot No-277/1072, Kisam-Mal Sadharan, standing in the name of Sri Devki Nandan Agarwal and the land property is butted and bounded as below: North: Road East: Plot No.277/P South: Plot No.277/P West: Plot No..279			

Place: Rourkela Date: 05.05.2023
Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

FOCUS ELECTIONS

THE KARNATAKA PARADOX



True, the politics of the state has changed, the BJP has taken power and grown roots but equally a section of the people has taken to the new and acerbic messaging that pits one against the other

has become a tinderbox of communal strife. True, the politics of the state has changed, the BJP has taken power and grown roots but equally a section of the people has taken to the new and acerbic messaging that pits one against the other. The hijab row had political motivations but it also had to have people on the ground warming up to the message. While it is fair to argue that a lot of the strife is politically created, the headline messaging is equally that the politics of Hindutva has entered the South, and Karnataka is its gateway.

In the process, the message of growth with values may be lost. In the absence of a robust political adoption and translation, that story has not seeped in. Today, headline growth is up but the story beneath the surface is different. The Economic Survey document of the state government noted that per capita Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of ₹3.05 lakh (estimated for FY22) is the highest among the top five Indian states. Yet, other critical indicators have not kept up. For example, NFHS data show that Karnataka has fallen over the years in national ranking in terms of stunting in children (low height-for-age). Height-for-age is a measure of linear growth retardation and cumulative growth deficits. In Karnataka, 35.4% of children were stunted in 2019-21. According to a report, this ranked 24 out of the 30 States, falling three spots in 2019-21 from 2015-16. The point is that social indicators and how they are moving have hardly been discussed during the campaign that is rolling on supercharged by a divisive agenda.

The results will help navigate this complex territory. They will speak for now. In doing so, they will cast their long shadow on the 2024 national elections as well.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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Without delving into what the Karnataka elections hold and which way the wind will blow, it can be safely said that this is an election that has significance well beyond the immediate. In fact, rarely has a state election been as important for the nation as the one in Karnataka now. Most observers (irrespective of political leanings) would agree that the results of this election will carry significant implications for Indian politics into 2024 and beyond.

This is a place of privilege for the state and its electorate of over 52 million. It also places an enormous responsibility on the people of Karnataka, a state that has been a pioneer in science, technology and innovation. In popular Indian imagination, the state continues to be at the top in building new and modern tech-based solutions. The state has 42% of India's total of 95 unicorns. It has over 13,000 start-ups now. More than 40 years ago in this state was etched the story of Infosys that went on to showcase India as a global software services powerhouse, kick-starting (alongside TCS and others) a revolution that has over five million people in direct employment and many times that number indirectly. Infosys and its best-known founder N R Narayana Murthy popularised messages of integrity and how a straight path can help build a long-term business. These stories have been told again and again in educational and business institutions across India. They marked a modern story of growth with values.

Every student in India knows these stories. They showcase Karnataka as a state that looks to the future and pushes ahead to meet the needs of a bold, modern, globalised India where Indians are not only the consumers but important suppliers of talent and ideas. It epitomised professional excellence, a spirit of service as well as resilience and humility. Yet, this is also the state that

has hit the national headlines for other reasons, like the ugly controversy force-created by interested groups on whether girls can wear the hijab in colleges - the so-called hijab row. The pictures and utterances that emerged at the height of the controversy in February 2022 presented Karnataka in a less than favourable light, a state that was seen a recent increase in cases of communal violence. Last year, the state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra told the Assembly that the state had recorded 63 instances of communal violence since January 2019 (January 1, 2019 to February 15, 2022), with no convictions as of February 2022. This translated to one communal disturbance every 18 days in a little over three years.

The last days of a bitterly contested and important election are once against seeing the push towards a communal agenda, with the BJP putting its energies in defence of the Bajrang Dal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself led with 'Bajrang Bali Ki Jai' and asked voters to chant the same as they cast their vote. It is clear that the veneer, if any, is gone and the

appeal on religious grounds is as direct as it gets. One reason could be the BJP's worry that it is losing ground. It thinks that a dose of religion will help it sail through in the face of challenges like internal local area squabbles within the BJP and the Congress hammering away on the monumental corruption that has allegedly become the signature of the BJP rule in Karnataka. The BJP push back is on a point in the Congress manifesto that promises "decisive action as per the law including imposing a ban" on organisations like the Bajrang Dal and the PFI, which have been known to be spreading hatred.

Herein lies the paradox of Karnataka. The rest of educated India knows the state mostly through the stories of its tech leaders and the vibrancy of Bangalore, which has sometimes been voted as the top city to work for many and certainly for IT professionals. A visitor to Bangalore will note the energy and the frenetic pace that makes the city tick. People from across the country flock here, and grow their careers here. On the other hand, the state



Jagdish Rattanani

SOCIAL INDICATORS AND HOW THEY ARE MOVING HAVE HARDLY BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE CAMPAIGN THAT IS ROLLING ON SUPERCHARGED BY A DIVISIVE AGENDA

SPECTRUM CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

Long live the kings & the queens

As Britain's King Charles III is officially coronated, the "empire on which the sun never set" is looking a little shabby. In addition to the United Kingdom, 14 former British colonies still maintain Charles as their monarch and head of state, but many of his subjects around the world are re-considering the arrangement.

Barbados became a republic in 2021, and Jamaica has initiated a similar process of constitutional reform. Others might soon follow. Why should countries from Belize to Tuvalu maintain as their nominal head of state an old white man living in a middling power far away from them?

Americans, of course, find it difficult to understand why anyone would accept hereditary rulers, or why a purely ceremonial office has any value. But constitutional monarchy is alive and well in some of the world's most developed countries. It should be jettisoned only after careful consideration of its significant benefits.

Start with what a constitutional monarchy is not: absolute monarchy, in which kings and queens actually exercise real power. Eight countries, mostly oil-rich states in the Middle East, remain absolute monarchies.

Constitutional monarchies must also be distinguished from republics, in which the head of state is either elected by the people or by their representatives in parlia-

ment. Heads of state in republics serve only for a limited term, whereas a monarch typically holds the job for life.

So defined, constitutional monarchy is not a rare phenomenon: there are currently 34, representing 18% of the roughly 193 independent countries. These are an extraordinarily successful set of countries by any standard, including most of Scandinavia, Japan, and the Benelux countries, as well as Charles' domains of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index 2022, ten of the world's top 20 democracies are constitutional monarchies, as are nine of the 20 richest countries. And eight of the ten most enduring national constitutions provide for a monarch.

The surviving monarchies have done so mostly because, over a long period of time, they yielded power to legislative assemblies elected by the people. This process of political reform started with Magna Carta in England, and played out in the nineteenth century in most other countries.

When monarchs resisted encroachments on their power, they usually lost their thrones - and sometimes their heads. When they yielded, they became figureheads, but also signaled to conservatives that their interests were secure.

Monarchs also provide a form of political insurance, being able to step

in during periods of national crisis. A famous example is King Juan Carlos of Spain, who helped thwart a coup d'état launched in his name in 1981. He went on television and ordered the armed forces to return to their barracks, even as he was communicating individually with key generals, which helped prevent them from coordinating among themselves.

Some supposedly constitutional monarchs, however, have been known to abet coups against their own governments. Instead of acting like King Juan Carlos to undermine military coup-makers, Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej assented to ten coups during his 70-year reign. And Queen Elizabeth's representative in Australia, Sir John Kerr, provoked a constitutional crisis when he ordered the removal of the elected prime minister, Gough Whitlam, in 1975.

In their role in investing governments in parliamentary systems, monarchs can sometimes make subtle decisions that help political parties overcome deadlocks. In other crises, the monarch can act as a focal point for national resistance to invaders. During World War II, Norway's King Haakon VII refused to recognise the government of the Nazi collaborator Vidkun Quisling, instead choosing to leave his country for the duration of the war.

Monarchs can also protect mi-

norities during a crisis. Constitutional monarchs in Morocco, Denmark, and Bulgaria made a special coup of protecting their Jewish subjects during WWII. Morocco's King Mohammed V refused to comply with Vichy French orders to round up Jews during the war and the Danish King apocryphally donned a yellow Star of David.

In our era, the symbolic unity provided by monarchy can limit the most problematic forms of populism. Populist demagogues like Viktor Orbán in Hungary, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey, and Jarosław Kaczyński in Poland typically claim an exclusive, almost mystical connection with the "people," whom they alone can protect from the elites, and demonise their opponents as "enemies of the people." Such claims, however, are ineffective under a constitutional monarchy.

As Jamaicans and others consider whether to join Prince Harry in leaving the Crown behind, they would do well to consider why constitutional monarchy has remained so successful in the twenty-first century. King Charles might appear to be the vestige of an archaic system, and no doubt his realm will shrink in the coming years. But it will not disappear, and for his remaining subjects that may be a very good thing.

The writer is Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago.

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When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to be heard in the purity of the silence.

SRI AUROBINDO



Art & Propaganda

There was a time when a debate raged over whether art should be created for art's sake or whether art should be used as a propaganda tool. The proponents of the former believed art should be free from attempts to send out any overt messages and it should be enjoyed for its intrinsic beauty and worth. Trying to apply it to real life situations and draw practical lessons from it would be limiting the scope of art. But, those who differed from this view of artistic creations were of the opinion that art would be meaningless if it is divorced from reality and is not used to illuminate socio-economic-political conditions of life. The two differing schools of thought on art were accepted as two approaches to man's artistic activities and everyone was free to subscribe to either of the two perceptions according to one's tastes and inclinations. The debate ended there without causing any storm or heartburn. In reality, however, that debate will never end for humanity.

Times keep changing. Art - making films in India in particular - is now being used not simply to reflect real life, but to be a slave to political masters to suit their interests of capturing power by influencing the electorate's mind with overt political messages. The BJP leadership realised about the grip the Bombay movie industry had on the average north Indian film goer that it just could not pass it up without tinkering with that icon of pop culture.

It happened late last year, when the film - The Kashmir Files - was used as a political propaganda to propagate the ruling dispensation's narrative on Jammu & Kashmir. This resulted in drawing sharp criticism from the head of the jury of the prestigious International Film Festival of Goa, the Israeli director Nadav Lapid. He lashed out at the authorities for including the film in the festival as he found it "vulgar" and without artistic merit. All the jury members, except one from India, countenanced the opinion of Lapid, saying he had only articulated the consensus reached by the jury. The only Indian member in the jury, Sudipto Sen, struck a jarring note by claiming that Lapid was speaking in his personal capacity and his criticism did not reflect the views of the jury. The other members, who had by then left the country, soon rallied behind Lapid and called Sen's bluff.

The same film director is once again at the centre of yet another controversy over a similar propaganda film of his making - The Kerala Story. The film too has received the seal of approval of the ruling dispensation. Ahead of the Karnataka Assembly Election, it has become a poll issue after Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the movie in his election speeches. BJP national president JP Nadda watched the movie in Karnataka and said the movie exposes a new kind of terrorism which involves no ammunition. "There is a new type of terrorism which is without ammunition. The Kerala Story exposes that poisonous terrorism," Nadda said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said those who are opposing The Kerala Story are supporters of PFI and ISIS. The Madhya Pradesh government of the BJP has exempted the film from entertainment tax.

The PM, other ministers of his Cabinet and many BJP MPs had urged the whole nation to watch The Kashmir Files and the party-controlled state governments exempted that film from tax.

As it happened in the case of The Kashmir Files, The Kerala Story is similarly being accused of distorting facts to give a wrong picture of reality in Kerala so as to demonise the minority community and the BJP's opponents. The film puts incendiary dialogue in the mouth of a character - a woman ISIS activist radicalizing women - to abuse Hindoo gods and Jesus Christ and glorify Islam. The Kerala Story had initially also claimed that 33,000 women have been trained by the ISIS and thousands of Moslem women from Kerala were inducted into the ISIS. Later on that figure was reduced to a mere 3 in the YouTube promo of the movie. Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan called it a propaganda of the Sangh Parivar. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said the claim that 33,000 women have been trained by the IS is false and exaggerated.

The teaser of the film used in its trailer with the claim of the fictitious number was dropped soon, lending credence to the political intent of the film. The question that arises at this stage is why the film director has had often to resort to lies and prevarication. He lied when he claimed Lapid's opinion on The Kashmir Files was his personal one which gave the government some breathing space to train its guns on the jury head. Interestingly, the Union Govt itself had chosen Lapid as the head of the Goa jury. Now, Sudipto Sen's movie gives unsubstantiated number of women in Kerala having been lured by the ISIS. The film itself deals with the cases of only three women from Kerala, while projecting Kerala to be a "powder keg" so far as ISIS activities are concerned.

The Supreme Court, in the meanwhile, has ordered the police forces of all states to start suo motu case against attempts to dish out hate speech to cause religious disaffection and vitiate communal harmony. It is to be pondered how films or any other so-called artistic work having potential to whip up communal sentiments should be dealt with in the coming days.

WISDOM CORNER

The mind is responsible for the feelings of pleasure and pain. Control of the mind is the highest Yoga. **SIVANANDA**

The ability to observe without evaluating is the highest form of intelligence. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**

Learn to laugh. Seriousness is a sin, and it is a disease. Laughter has tremendous beauty, a lightness. It will bring lightness to you, and it will give you wings to fly. **OSHO**

WORDSWORTH

Hoodwink

The original sense of hoodwink was to prevent somebody seeing by covering their head with a hood or blindfolding them. Our main sense now is a figurative one derived from it, to deceive or trick (as we might also say, to pull the wool over someone's eyes), which appeared in the early seventeenth century. There's no problem with the first part, but wink here isn't in the sense we use now of closing and opening one eye quickly as a signal of some sort. When it first appeared, in Old English in the form wincian, it meant to close both eyes for some reason, or to blink, or close the eyes in sleep (hence forty winks). A hoodwink forcibly lost somebody the power of sight as though they had closed their eyes. And hoodwink was long ago an alternative name for blind man's buff. When we say that somebody winks at some offence, meaning that they connive at it, we're also using a relic of the same sense. And long before wink became a flicker of one eyelid it meant a significant glance instead. If you find something written before the nineteenth century that says one person winked at another, a glance is what's meant - both indicate that the person is sending a message, but the method is slightly different. Today's meaning first appears in The Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens, 1837: "Mr. Weller communicated this secret with great glee, and winked so indefatigably after doing so, that Sam began to think he must have got the 'tic doloureux' in his right eyelid."

LOL

Good news, bad news

Doctor: You've had an accident involving a bus. Patient: What happened? Doctor: Well, I've got some good news and some bad news. Which would you like to hear first? Patient: Give me the bad news first. Doctor: Your legs were injured so badly that we had to amputate both of them. Patient: That's terrible! What's the good news? Doctor: There's a guy in the next ward who made a very good offer on your slippers.



Tom Ginsburg

IN OUR ERA, THE SYMBOLIC UNITY PROVIDED BY MONARCHY CAN LIMIT THE MOST PROBLEMATIC FORMS OF POPULISM

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Highway hypnosis

Sir, Highway hypnosis or road hypnosis is said to be one of the main causative factors for the spate of road accidents on the recently opened Samruddhi expressway between Mumbai and Nagpur. In this dangerous condition, drivers fail to recollect that they have driven some distance after a long drive: they are in a state of "road hypnotism." They drive with perfect steering control but fail to notice happenings around them. Often, change of lanes, in a state of hypnosis, can lead to devastating repercussions. Similarly, they may be oblivious to sudden crossing of animals leading to accidents. Brain inattention develops when they often use long or known roads. The brain tends to rely more on visual stimulus than being alert leading to accidents. Taking frequent breaks, rolling the windows down to obtain fresh air, listening to soothing music and conversing with fellow travellers can help in beating the hypnosis. Very importantly, highways should be equipped with eateries and resting places because drivers constantly need to sip tea or coffee to keep them alert. Only one stretch of the Samruddhi expressway was opened to vehicles with no highway facilities like resting place or restaurants. Apparently, the expressway was thrown open to the public with an eye on vote bank.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Press freedom

Sir, The recently published World Press Freedom Index, released annually by the non-profit organisation Reporters Without Borders, shows the deteriorating situation of India's media freedom. The country's ranking has slipped by 11 places from 150th to 161st position out of 180 countries. India now ranks below countries such as Somalia, Pakistan and Afghanistan in press freedom. This is not at all surprising when the government is making blatant efforts to stifle the media's free voices at any cost. A free press ensures that the public is informed and able to make informed decisions about the issues that affect their lives. The Indian government must recognise that a free and independent media is a vital component for functioning of a healthy democracy and should work towards creating an environment that fosters a free and independent media. Moreover, the Supreme court has stated several times that a free and independent media is essential for the functioning of a democratic society and that any attempt to curb press freedom is a threat to the bedrock of democracy.

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

national



I am disappointed to see that militancy is expanding to Jammu. It is detrimental to peace
GHULAM NABI AZAD | DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE AZAD PARTY CHAIRMAN

RAJNATH UNVEILS IAF HERITAGE CENTRE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh Monday and said it is a testament to the courage and dedication of all those who served in the force and a reminder of their invaluable contributions in protecting the nation



of the day quote

I will not remain silent in case there is a constitutional crisis in the state
CV ANANDA BOSE | WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR

This time there won't be a fractured verdict in the state. BJP is going to win 135 to 140 seats. In 2008, BJP had won 110 seats, in 2018 it got 104. This time, we will get simple majority. There is no chance of a hung Assembly, as the BJP will get a clear mandate
BS YEDIYURAPPA | FORMER KARNATAKA CM

The Congress will develop secondary cities at par with Bangalore and create jobs. There is going to be a rise in the production of electric vehicles in future. The manufacturing units will be established in Karnataka and we will prove to you how an honest government will deliver its promises
PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

KARNATAKA 'SOVEREIGNTY' REMARK

Poll body notice to Congress chief

Bangalore/New Delhi, May 8: As the row over Karnataka's 'sovereignty' remark escalated with the BJP on Monday moving the Election Commission seeking an FIR against Sonia Gandhi and her party's derecognition, the poll panel asked the Congress to clarify and rectify the party's social media post attributed to Sonia Gandhi. The EC sent a letter to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge after the BJP complaint regarding a tweet that appeared on the official Twitter handle of the Indian National Congress on May 6. In its complaint, the BJP has alleged, "Karnataka is a very important member state in the Union of India and any call to protect the sovereignty of a member state of the Union of India amounts to a call for secession and is fraught with perilous & pernicious consequences." The BJP also alleged in its complaint to the EC that the tweet is violative of the mandatory oath undertaken by the political parties under section 29A (5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 at the time of registration. "In view of the above, you are requested to clarify and take rectification measures in respect of the social media post which has been put up on the INC Twitter handle and attributed to Chairperson, CPP," the EC letter read. A former Congress chief, Sonia Gandhi is currently



THE BJP MONDAY MOVED THE ELECTION COMMISSION SEEKING ACTION AGAINST CONGRESS LEADER SONIA GANDHI AND DERECOGNITION OF HER PARTY FOR HER USE OF THE TERM 'SOVEREIGNTY' FOR KARNATAKA DURING THE STATE POLL CAMPAIGN. THE PARTY ALSO DEMANDED AN FIR AGAINST HER
THE ELECTION COMMISSION MONDAY ASKED CONGRESS PRESIDENT MALLIKARJUN KHARGE TO CLARIFY AND RECTIFY THE PARTY'S SOCIAL MEDIA POST ON KARNATAKA'S SOVEREIGNTY REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO SONIA GANDHI

the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson. After Sonia Gandhi addressed a campaign rally in Hubballi in Karnataka on Saturday, the Congress tweeted from its official handle: "CPP Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji sends a strong message to 6.5 crore Kannadigas: 'The Congress will not allow anyone to pose a threat to Karnataka's reputation, sovereignty or integrity'." Prime Minister Narendra Modi had raised the issue in his public

meetings on Sunday to launch a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing the party of openly advocating for "separating" Karnataka from India. Modi alleged that the disease of the "tukde-tukde gang" (anti-national elements) has reached the Congress' top level. Several BJP leaders attacked the Congress over the "sovereignty" remark. Union minister Anurag Thakur said, "By referring to 'Karnataka's sovereignty', Sonia

Gandhi Ji, you have revealed the Congress' deep conspiracy to disintegrate India." However, Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala hit back and claimed that the "desperation of the prime minister and BJP is glaring as they seek to clutch at straws for want of a narrative in Karnataka". On the last day of the campaign for the May 10 assembly elections in Karnataka, Surjewala said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak out on corruption charges against his party's government and added that excuses cannot be the refuge of the BJP in this election. "We reject the fakery and falsehood being perpetuated by PM as he refuses to answer a single question on why BJP is denigrating the 'swabhimaan' of Karnataka," the Congress leader said when asked about the BJP's charge on "sovereignty" remark. "...If raising the issues of Kannada pride being compromised is a crime, we consider it our 'dharma' to do so again and again," the Congress leader said. Amid the row, the Election Commission on Monday also asked the Karnataka BJP to provide "verifiable and traceable" facts by Tuesday evening regarding its newspaper advertisement aimed at the opposition party. The Congress had approached the poll panel against the advertisement issued by the BJP's Karnataka unit.

West Bengal bans 'The Kerala Story'



The West Bengal BJP unit said the ban was a blatant attempt to scuttle "free speech" and appease a section of the minority community to serve its political interests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/Mumbai, May 8: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday ordered an immediate ban on the screening of the controversial film 'The Kerala Story' in the state to avoid "any incident of hatred and violence", a senior state government official said.

film depicts how women from Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and recruited by the terror group Islamic State (IS). The film, which was released May 5, has kicked up a political storm. "If that's what she has done, then we will again take legal action. Whatever is possible under the provisions of the law, we will fight that," Vipul Shah told a press conference in Mumbai when asked to comment on the ban in the TMC-ruled state. "Mamata Banerjee has done injustice to the sisters and daughters of West Bengal by banning the film. She should tell whether she is standing with those who promote terrorist ideology or is standing against it," Thakur, who is the Information and Broadcasting Minister, said. BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya slammed Chief Minister Banerjee for the ban, saying the decision is unfortunate as the movie gives a "real account of victims who have endured the horrors of demographic invasion and have been used as cannon fodder" for the terrorist organisation IS.

THE INDIAN FILM & TELEVISION DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION CONDEMNED THE BAN IN WEST BENGAL, SAYING IT'S AGAINST THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF A FILMMAKER
THE FILM'S PRODUCER VIPUL SHAH SAID THEY WILL TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE BAN IMPOSED BY THE TMC GOVERNMENT

SHORT TAKES

Israeli minister to visit India

New Delhi: Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen will begin a three-day visit to India Tuesday to explore ways to expand bilateral ties and prepare ground for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to New Delhi this year. Cohen will hold wide-ranging talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar covering the entire expanse of engagement between the two countries including in areas of strategic affairs and trade, diplomatic sources said. The visiting Israeli foreign minister will attend an India-Israel Business Forum being organised by industry chamber CII on Tuesday.

Five cheetahs to be released in KNP

New Delhi: Five cheetahs -- three females and two males -- will be released from the acclimatisation camps into free-ranging conditions in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) before the onset of the monsoon in June, the Union Environment Ministry said Monday. Animals are generally not released into the wild during the monsoon season as harsh weather conditions make it difficult for them to find food and shelter and adapt to their new environment. The ministry also said the cheetahs will be allowed to move out of KNP and will not necessarily be "recaptured unless they venture into areas where they are in significant danger".

Woman arrested

Aizawl: A 37-year-old woman was arrested with heroin worth ₹1.5 crore in Aizawl, the Assam Rifles said Monday. The arrest was made in a joint operation by the Assam Rifles, Mizoram Police and Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) in Bawngkawn area on Saturday, it said.

Sisodia's judicial custody extended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: A Delhi court Monday extended till May 23 the judicial custody of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam. Special Judge M K Nagpal extended the custody of the AAP leader after he was produced before the court on expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier.



The court noted the submission of the Enforcement Directorate's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta, who submitted that the agency has filed a supplementary charge sheet against the accused, which is scheduled for consideration on May 10. The court had earlier dismissed Sisodia's bail plea, saying "the case of economic offences has serious repercussions upon the general public and society at large as the evidence collected during investigation speaks volumes of his involvement in the commission of the said offence". The ED on March 9 arrested Sisodia in the liquor policy case. Sisodia was arrested by the CBI earlier in its ongoing investigation of a case related to alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. He is currently in judicial custody in both cases.

Another blast near Golden Temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, May 8: A low-intensity explosion occurred Monday on a heritage street near the Golden Temple here, the second in the area in less than 30 hours, prompting authorities to further step up security. One person was injured in the blast that took place 6.15 am on the road that is dotted with shops and food joints and witnesses heavy footfall every day. Forensic teams reached the spot soon after the explosion and police held a flag march as additional security personnel were deployed in the area. No detonator has been found and it appears that the explosive was kept in a container, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, adding it is too early to say whether the blast was someone's "mischief" or there's a terror angle to it. Yadav, who visited and inspected the spot, said one person was injured in the explosion. The explosive was very crudely made and assembled. Though no shrapnel was used, there was a



loud sound, he said. The police chief said two explosions in the area are being "scientifically investigated". "Our forensic team is present on the spot," he said. "We have not found any triggering device or any detonator," Yadav said, referring to the two incidents. The DGP said the absence of a triggering mechanism means it was a crude device. It appears that the explosive was kept in a container and a passerby may have accidentally pulled the thread and the device fell, causing the blast, Yadav said. "At this moment, we are not ruling out anything...It could be someone's mischief, but it is too early to say whether it is a mischief, or there is a terror angle to it," he said, referring to the two incidents. Yadav said the purpose by any mischief monger could also be to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the state. But all these things are being investigated, he added. The DGP said CCTV footage is being scanned and details are being sought from eyewitnesses.

BJP candidate booked for 'death threat' to Kharge

The BJP candidate is named in 40 police cases and has studied till Class 8, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms, a poll-reform body

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur/Dehradun, May 8: Rajasthan Police has booked Manikanta Rathod, a BJP candidate in upcoming Karnataka Assembly poll, and local BJP MLA Madan Dilawar with charges of murder and criminal intimidation for their remarks against Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, a senior officer said Monday. The FIR has been filed at Sanjay Circle Police Station here at the complaint of Congress state secretary Ram Singh Kaswan. According to Kotwali ACP Narendra Kumar, an FIR has been registered against BJP Ranganj Mandi MLA Madan Dilawar and Manikanta Rathod, a BJP contender in the upcoming Karnataka assembly election. "As one of the accused, Madan Dilawar, is a sitting MLA, the matter will be investigated by the CB-CID," said Kumar, who is also the investigating officer in the case. According to the FIR, the two men have been booked under IPC sec-



tion 302 (murder), 506 (criminal intimidation), and under sections of SC/ST Act. Kaswan in his complaint said committing a crime is not necessary, even hatching a conspiracy is enough. Congress had on May 6 shared an audio purportedly of Manikanta Rathod, the BJP candi-

didate from Chittapur constituency in Kalaburagi district, in which he was heard saying in Kannada that he will wipe out "Kharge, his wife, and children." The BJP candidate is named in 40 police cases and has studied till Class 8, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms, a poll-reform body. According to Congress, in the wake of Kharge's "poisonous snake" remark for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP state general secretary Madan Dilawar had said Kharge being 80 years old can die anytime, still he would "pray to God not to take him away for at least 200 years." Uttarakhand Congress too in the same matter has approached police against Rathod.

Over 2.7 cr passengers denied train travel in 2022-23: RTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: More than 2.7 crore passengers could not travel by train in 2022-23 despite buying tickets because of being waitlisted, according to the response to an RTI query, indicating shortage of trains on busy routes in the country. During the last fiscal year, this number stood at 1.65 crore. According to a reply to an RTI plea filed by Madhya Pradesh-based activist Chandra Shekhar Gaur, the Railway Board said that in 2022-2023, a total of 1.76 crore

Passenger Name Record (PNR) numbers, against which 2.72 crore passengers were scheduled to travel, were automatically cancelled due to being waitlisted. In 2021-2022, a total of 1.06 crore PNR numbers, against which 1.65 crore passengers were scheduled to travel, were automatically cancelled. After cancellation of PNRs, the ticket fare is refunded to the passengers. The inability to provide confirmed tickets to passengers has been a recurrent problem with the national transporter. In 2014-15, the number of cancelled PNRs stood at 1.13 crore,



and in 2015-2016, it was 81.05 lakh. In 2016-2017, it was 72.13 lakh, in 2017-18, 73 lakh, and in 2018-2019,

the number stood at 68.97 lakh, according to official figures. In the year 2020-21, the total

number of PNRs auto cancelled due to remaining in waiting list was 38.89 lakh and 61 lakh pas-

sengers were booked on these PNRs. The Railways has said it is making efforts to increase the capacity to make trains available on demand. "This would reduce the possibility of passengers getting waitlisted," an official said. Officials also pointed out that before the COVID pandemic, the Railways ran 10,186 trains, which has gone up to 10,678 trains at present. "All over the network signalling and track work is ongoing. This is also being done so that more trains can be put into service," the official said.

Hyd woman among 9 killed in US shooting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 8: A 27-year-old woman, Aishwarya Thatikonda, from Hyderabad was among the nine people killed when a gunman opened fire at a crowded mall in Dallas in the US state of Texas, according to information received by her family here. Aishwarya, daughter of a district judge in Ranga Reddy district court, was working in Texas as a project engineer, a friend of the judge told mediapersons here on Monday. Aishwarya's family stays at Saroornagar here. She did her civil engineering from a college in the city and completed her masters in the US after which she had been working there for more than two years. Aishwarya had spoken to her family members before the incident on Saturday, and when they called her back after learning about the shooting they did not get any response, according to the judge's friend. "The family got the information about (her death) on Sunday. They are in a shock. They have been told that efforts were being made to send her body by Wednesday," the judge's friend said. Aishwarya was shopping with a friend when they were shot by the gunman at the Allen Premium Outlets in Dallas, the New York Post newspaper reported. The shooting erupted around 3:30 pm Saturday as throngs of shoppers filled the outdoor mall.

G20 MEET

Govt wants to project 'all is well in Kashmir'



THE THIRD G20 TOURISM WORKING GROUP MEETING WILL BE HELD IN KASHMIR BETWEEN MAY 22 AND 24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 8: Opposition Congress and PDP Monday said the government wanted to falsely project normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir by holding a G20 event while there was an "emergency-like situation" in the Union Territory.

"The G20 countries should also internally keep an eye on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The democracy has been wiped out here, there is an emergency-like situation created by the BJP," Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani told reporters at a party function here.

He said the government has destroyed the roads in the city and now is putting up hoardings to impress the G20 delegates.

"They are showing the roads to the G20, roads have been destroyed, now only pictures are being put up... the G20 should also know about the internal situation in

The G20 countries should also internally keep an eye on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The democracy has been wiped out, there is an emergency-like situation created by the BJP

VIKAR RASOOL WANI | PCC PRESIDENT

think by holding a G20 event here in Kashmir; they want to convey a message globally that all is well in Kashmir," Hanjura told reporters here.

The PDP general secretary said the situation on the ground was "not good" as two incidents of militancy-related violence happened in Rajouri and Poonch.

"Firstly, I strongly condemn the incidents. It should not happen because the BJP believes guns are not the solution. Issues can be resolved through talks but unfortunately the BJP government cannot digest this. They are not ready for talks. Even, for instance, if war prevails for 100 years, ultimately the solution is through dialogue," he added.

Hajura said the people in Kashmir were facing problems as authorities have tightened the security measures ahead of the G20 meeting.

On demands for another surgical strike on Pakistan, he said, "After first surgical strike, the situation is as it was. Gun is not the solution the PDP advocates dialogue only. India and Pakistan should come on table for talks along with stakeholders to find a solution." In response to a question on the involvement of locals in the pooch incident, Hanjura said, "That's the duty of security agencies. If anyone is involved, he should be punished." He, however, questioned as to how the incident took place in such a huge presence of security forces.



Tourists play with snow during snowfall at Gulmarg in Baramulla district. Unseasonal snowfall in parts of Kashmir brought back the winter-like conditions in the Valley while several incidents of tourists and nomadic people getting stuck due to inclement weather were also reported

PTI PHOTO

Schools for students up to class 8 closed in J&K's 3 districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 8: All schools for students up to class 8 in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts were closed Monday due to heavy rains, officials said.

Fresh snowfall was experienced in the upper reaches of Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi and Ramban districts of the Jammu region while heavy rains hit several other districts.

In view of the flooding situation triggered by heavy rains, schools were closed by authorities in Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts.

"All schools, both government and private, up to the middle level (Class 8) in Ramban district shall remain closed today in view of heavy rains," said Ramban Deputy Commissioner Musarat Islam.

Traffic continued to ply as usual on Jammu-Srinagar national highway despite inclement weather in several sectors, officials said.

Fresh snowfall was witnessed in Marwah, Wardwan, Dacchan, Simpathan of Kishtwar and Mahu Mangat area of Ramban, upper reaches of Doda and Reasi districts, they said. Due to fresh snowfall, a cold wave condition was triggered in the region. Dozens of nomads along with over 70 cattle were rescued from Margan's top area by the army and police as they were trapped in the fresh snowfall, they said.

Haryana to launch skill development programmes

The primary objective of this initiative is to equip individuals with the specific skills required in various industries and design training programmes that cater to the needs of the local industry

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, May 8: Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kasuhal Monday said the district-level agencies, led by an Additional Deputy Commissioner, will be reconstituted and strengthened to create a comprehensive skill development plan in each district.

At a meeting of the Haryana Skill Development Mission (HSDM) and its implementation strategy, virtually attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Secretary emphasised the importance of engaging Class XII dropout students, particularly in Nuh district, in skill development programmes.

He directed officials to launch a special campaign to disseminate information about various training programmes and encourage students to enroll in them. This will also enhance the employability of these students.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials to organise functions to distribute skill development certificates to the candidates. This



initiative aims to recognise and celebrate the successful completion of skill development programs by individuals and acknowledge their efforts towards enhancing their employability.

Besides, he also suggested to the officers to invite successful industrialists and motivational speakers to address the candidates, which would instil a sense of confidence and determination in them. This would also provide an opportunity for individuals to learn from industry leaders and

gain valuable insights into various industries, he added.

Kaushal said the Chief Minister in his Budget speech for 2023-24 announced that in order to promote employment opportunities for Haryanvi youth abroad, the government has operationalised the establishment of the Haryana Overseas Placement Cell in the Foreign Cooperation Department of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University and Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Department.

Backward Classes to get quota now in municipalities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, May 8: The Haryana cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Monday accepted the Haryana Backward Classes Commission's report on the proportion of reservation for Backward Classes in municipalities.



The commission headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge, Justice Darshan Singh, reviewed the assessment of the political backwardness of the Backward Classes.

In the assessment, the commission found that the Backward Classes (Block A) category are not adequately represented in the political setup.

Now, the office of councillor in every Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council and Municipal Committee will be reserved for Backward Classes (A).

Delegates from 10 countries to participate in Y20 event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 8: Delegates from 10 countries, including host India, will participate in a Youth20 event on climate change to be held at University of Kashmir, Vice Chancellor Prof Neelofar Khan said.

"We are expecting 17 delegates from nine foreign countries to participate in the event. Four delegates each are from Russia and Indonesia, while two each are coming from the US and Brazil. One participant each is coming from Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria and Mexico," Khan told reporters here ahead of the event scheduled May 10 and 11. She said the aim of the event was to generate good ideas that help preserve the climate and mitigate the damage done to it.

"We look forward to good interactions, we need very good recommendations so that we can preserve our climate and we can reduce all the man-made disasters that we are doing to our climate," she said. The vice chancellor said the theme of the Y20 event is "Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life". "For Y20 event, our



university has chosen this theme to address the local issues of climate change and man-made disaster management. The university has many research articles published in national and international journals that show our expertise on the subject of climate change and glacier studies," she said, adding all researchers, faculty scholars and students are involved in the organisation of the event.

Based on the inputs from these discussions, Khan said a communique will be prepared as an outcome document for the Youth20 Summit.

The vice chancellor said to make the event more inclusive and result-oriented, participants have been invited from universities across the Union territories of J&K and Ladakh.

"The event will have four panel discussions on important aspects related to the theme of climate change," Khan said.

Illegal mining to be monitored by drone

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, May 8: The illegal mining activities in Gurugram will now be monitored via drone.

The decision was taken at a review meeting of the anti-mining task force headed by Gurugram Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nishant Yadav. Recently, the district administration received complaints with regards to illegal mining from Gurugram's Ritohj village following which the administration has decided to use drone to keep a vigil on illegal mining.

"With this initiative where the district administration will get instant information about the mining area through drones, the mining areas will be surveyed every



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

month with drone cameras so that illegal mining cannot be done in mining potential areas under any circumstances," Yadav said.

The DC said that wherever the mining department receives information about illegal mining and overloaded vehicles in the district, it takes immediate action

and registers an FIR against those involved in illegal mining.

The Mining Department official informed in the meeting that it has imposed a fine of ₹10.6 crore while taking action against 43 vehicles involved in illegal mining activities in Gurugram since April last year.

Helpline facility for tourists to be put in place in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 8: The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism department on Saturday said a dedicated helpline-cum-grievance redressal facility for tourists will be put in place and regular consultations with stakeholders will be held for improvement in the sector.

These announcements were made at a meeting chaired by Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah.

During the meeting, the secretary directed setting up of a helpline-cum-grievance redressal facility at TRC Srinagar and Jammu for tourists.

Shah also announced a regular monthly stakeholder consultation to identify areas for improvement and devise strategies to overcome any challenges.



The meeting was called to discuss and evaluate the existing facilities, identify areas for improvement as well as address any issues affecting the sector.

He said there is a need for continuously upgrading facilities and services at tourist locations to meet evolving traveller expectations and attract more tourists towards J&K.

14 Haryana villages new hotspots of cyber fraudsters

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, May 8: Fourteen villages in Haryana's Nuh district are emerging as new hotspots of cybercrime, and mostly the youths there are indulging in the crime by using stolen high-end mobile phones.

This was disclosed by the police after questioning 125 cybercriminals, who were apprehended by as many as 102 teams comprising over 5,000 police personnel. The raids were conducted in 300 locations in the 14 villages April 27.

The police raided the 14 identified villages in the Pinangwa, Punhana, Ferozepur Jhirka, Nai, Aminabad, Tirwara, Jaimat and Bichhore areas. The police had earlier identified Khedla, Luhinga

Khurd, Luhinga Kalan, Gokalpur, Godhola, Aminabad, Mahu, Gulalta, Jaimat, Jakhopur, Nai, Tirwara, Mamlika and Papda as cybercrime hotspots.

The police said the accused cheated people on the name of selling vehicles on OLX, seeking KYC data, offering loans and even sextortion.

A senior police officer said earlier illiterate youths, who were involved in vehicle theft, phone snatching, cattle smuggling and other crimes, have shifted to cybercrime in the past two years after being "trained".

During the raid, police nabbed the highest number of 31 cyber criminals from Nai village, followed by 25 from Luhinga Kalan village, 20 each from Jaimat and



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Jakhopur, 17 each from Khedla and Tirwara, and 11 from Aminabad.

A total of 66 smartphones, 65 fake SIMs, 166 Aadhaar cards, three

laptops, 128 ATM cards of different banks, two ATM swipe machines, one AEPS machine, six scanners, five PAN cards, etc., were recovered from the suspects.

Police investigation revealed that most of the youths arrested by the police during the raid were trained in the villages of Jurehara and Ghamdi in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district. The two villages, located on the Haryana-Rajasthan border, have emerged as the 'cybercrime training hubs', said the police.

These two villages offer fake SIM cards and documents which help in opening bank accounts. Most accounts were opened in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The police disclosed that the

accused mostly targeted job-seekers, senior citizens and students.

They even offer lucrative offers on OLX. They said the accused usually committed crimes at the border areas of Rajasthan and Haryana as it is difficult to track the mobile locations of the criminals.

"We are probing the matter from different angles and will also seek help from adjoining state police to crack down on cybercriminals. We are taking help from cyber experts to help solve cases," said Varun Singla, Superintendent (SP), Nuh.

Interestingly, the hackers have studied only up to Class 12, while some are even illiterate and some of them have rewards on their heads

national

of the day quote

I have received a message that Nitish Kumar will visit Mumbai on May 11. We will meet, though I do not have all the details with me. Our outlook is that an alternative (to the BJP government) is needed in the country

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT

The people of the Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress used to divide the society on the basis of caste by following the policy of appeasement. Not only this, a particular family used to be given permission to loot (people). Today, with the spirit of 'sabkaa saath, sabkaa vikaas', the benefits of the schemes are reaching people without discrimination

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

It seems that it might have come into the minds of BJP leaders to finish me off. If not, who will have the courage to say that he wants to finish off Kharge and family? If he has to say it, some BJP leader should be behind him, or else it will not

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

BJP functionary shot dead

Valsad: A local BJP functionary was shot dead allegedly by unidentified persons on Monday morning when he was waiting in his Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) for his wife to return from a temple near Vapi town in Gujarat's Valsad district, police said. The motorbike-borne assailants came near the SUV of Shailesh Patel in Kochharva village and fired three-four rounds at him, an official from Dungara police station said.

Skeleton found

New Delhi: A skeleton of a woman was found in Baba Haridas Nagar in Delhi's Dwarka, police said Monday. Police sources said that some pieces of winter clothes were found on her body, indicating that she may have died a long time ago. The police said that it was a "decomposed body". According to the police, on Sunday morning, at around 11:00 a.m., a PCR call was received regarding the skeleton.

Man kills sister

Thane: A man allegedly tortured and killed his 12-year-old sister suspecting her of having an affair in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said Monday. The 30-year-old accused was arrested after the child was brought to a hospital on Sunday, where doctors declared her brought dead, an official said. As per preliminary investigations, the victim lived with her brother and sister-in-law, as she had lost her mother and her father lived in their hometown, he said. The accused allegedly started harassing the child suspecting her of having an affair, the official said.

Labourer killed

New Delhi: A 45-year-old labourer died while another was injured after a wall of a building being demolished collapsed in Delhi's Sita Ram Bazar area, an official said Monday. The incident occurred in the wee hours of Monday. The deceased was identified as Dilip Yadav, a resident of Wazirabad and a native of Bihar. According to the police, information was received at around 2.50 a.m. at the Chandni Mahal police station from LNJP hospital that two injured persons have been admitted in the hospital after a wall collapse in the Sita Ram Bazar area following which a police team was dispatched.

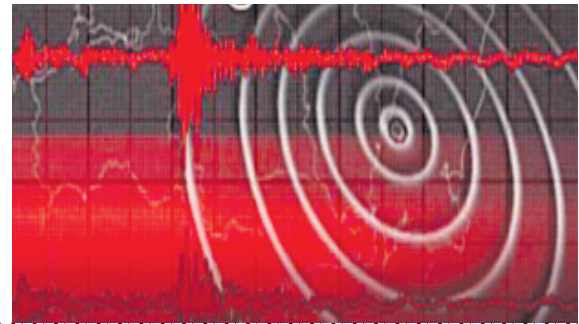


As the Assembly polls are nearing, the 'disappointed' BJP is trying to defame the Congress government using the ED

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

LOW-INTENSITY TREMOR HITS KASHMIR

A slight intensity tremor, measuring 3.1 on the Richter scale, jolted Kashmir Monday but authorities said no report of any casualty or damage to property was reported from anywhere



A villager clears snow from a road following fresh snowfall in Koksar village of Lahaul and Spiti district

PTI PHOTO

Govt defends ED chief's tenure extension in SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: The Centre Monday defended in the Supreme Court the third extension of service granted to Enforcement Directorate chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra, asserting it was due to a peer review being conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) this year and said he will retire this November.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the third extension given to Mishra and the amendment carried out in law extending the maximum tenure of ED director to five years.

"Arguments heard. Order reserved," the bench said, as it directed the parties to file their written submissions by Friday. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre said, "This officer is not some DGP of any state but an officer representing the country in a United Nation like body and is in the midst of something. This court must not interfere with his tenure and from November onwards, he will not be there."

He said Mishra was given extension as FATF peer review is taking place in the country and there are some guidelines which need to be followed. FATF is a global anti-money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. It sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society. "He has been overseeing some important investigations related to money laundering and his continuity was required in the interest of the nation. He is not indispensable. This man will not continue after November 2023. Peer review was earlier scheduled to be held in 2019 but was postponed due to COVID pandemic and is happening in 2023. "Complete evaluations of ac-



tivities of the country in taking steps to curb money laundering, terror financing etc takes place for a period of 18 months. Every member country has to go through this process and India is being assessed in the fourth round of mutual evaluation," Mehta said.

He said the current mutual evaluation process has already begun, the technical compliance submission has been done on May 5, 2023, the effective annex submissions is scheduled on the July 14, 2023, tentative onsite period will be November, 2023 and the plenary discussion will be scheduled in June 2024.

The bench, in the nearly three-hour hearing, asked if it is a case that minus one person, the Enforcement Directorate will be ineffective. Mehta replied in the negative but said leadership does matter.

"It is not a case that he is not dispensable or if extension is given then some other person's chances of getting to the top position is compromised. There is no second or third person here. Appointment of ED director is a very rigorous process and a person is selected from a common pool of officers from IAS, IPS, IRS or others and he is to be in the rank of additional chief secretary", he said.

The bench asked Mehta, when did the government come to know about this FATF thing and why was this fact not brought before the top court when it pronounced its verdict in 2021 on the ED director's tenure.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the third extension given to Mishra and the amendment carried out in law extending the maximum tenure of ED director to five years

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Take security, relief measures, says SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: Concerned over the huge loss of life and property, the Supreme Court Monday asked the Centre and the Manipur government to step up relief and rehabilitation efforts for those hit by ethnic violence in the north-eastern state, besides protecting places of worship, many of which were targeted during the mayhem.

While listing out steps taken to deal with the situation, the Centre told a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that no untoward incidents have been reported in Manipur in the last two days and the situation there is gradually returning to normalcy.

More than 50 people have been killed in violent clashes between the tribals living in the Manipur hills and the majority Meitei community residing in the Imphal Valley over the latter's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Over 23,000 people have been rescued and sheltered in military garrisons and relief camps.

Terminating the aftermath of the violence "humanitarian issues", the apex court emphasised that due arrangements must be made



The clashes between Meiteis and tribals started in Churachandpur district last Wednesday

More than 50 people have been killed in violent clashes between the tribals living in the Manipur hills and the majority Meitei community residing in the Imphal Valley over the latter's demand for Scheduled Tribe status

More than 23,000 people have been rescued and sheltered in military garrisons and relief camps

in the relief camps and the people sheltered there be provided with basic amenities like food, ration and medical facilities. "We are concerned very deeply about the loss of lives, about the loss of properties and the government is taking steps..." the bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, said.

The bench said, having expressed its concerns, it must leave it to the government to take action

because ultimately the court can't say that go to this area with so much of equipment.

The top court said it has no reason to doubt what the government is doing to tackle the situation.

The bench said the authorities should ensure that due arrangements are made in relief camps for providing all basic amenities, and make endeavour for rehabilitation of those displaced and protect places of religious worship.

TOURIST BOAT TRAGEDY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malappuram, May 8: A day after the tragic tourist boat accident that claimed the lives of 22 people including women and children, the Kerala government on Monday announced a judicial probe into the matter and decided to give a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of the deceased.

The boat capsized near an estuary close to the Thoovaltheeram beach in the Tanur area around 7.30 pm Sunday. Addressing the media here after visiting Tirurangandi Taluk hospital and meeting the Kunnummel family

Kerala orders judicial probe

The boat capsized near an estuary close to the Thoovaltheeram beach in the Tanur area around 7.30 pm Sunday

which lost 12 members, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan termed the accident a "tragedy" and said the government would bear the expenses of those under treatment.

which senior opposition leaders also participated. "The all-party meeting has decided for a judicial inquiry in this matter. The probe will cover the technical issues related to the boat's safety among other matters. A judicial commission comprising technical experts will

5 Maoists surrender in Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, May 8: Five Maoists including two carrying a total reward of Rs 15 lakh on their head, surrendered before security forces in Ranchi Monday, police said.

The surrendered Maoists were identified as 'zonal commander' Amarjit Yadav alias Lakhon Yadav, carrying bounty of Rs 10 lakh on his head, 'sub-zonal commander' Shaheev Yadav alias Latan Yadav, carrying a Rs 5 lakh bounty, 'sub-zonal commander' Neeru Yadav alias Salim, 'sub-zonal commander' Santosh Bhuniyan alias Sukan and member Ashok Baiga alias Ashok Parhiya.

Inspector-General of Police (Operations) Amol V Homkar said, "These five Maoists were wanted in various cases in different police stations of Jharkhand's Chatra, Palamu and Hazaribag districts and Bihar's Gaya and Aurangabad districts."

TN MIGRANT CRISIS

SC refuses plea by jailed YouTuber

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: In a setback to jailed Bihar YouTuber Manish Kashyap, the Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain his plea challenging invocation of the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against him for allegedly circulating fake videos of migrant labourers being attacked in Tamil Nadu.

"You have a stable state, the state of Tamil Nadu. Can you circulate anything and create disquiet in the state. We cannot be lending our ears to all this," a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said.

The bench, also comprising justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, however, granted Kashyap the liberty to challenge the invocation of the NSA at an appropriate judicial forum preferably in the high court. It also rejected the plea for clubbing all 19 FIRs against him and their transfer to Bihar.

"We are not inclined to entertain the plea," the bench said while rejecting the vehement submissions of senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Kashyap who is presently lodged in Madurai jail of Tamil Nadu. Refusing to quash Kashyap's detention under the NSA, the bench said it cannot be hearing this kind of petition.

The counsel for Kashyap said the accused had made the alleged videos for his YouTube channel based on media reports published in certain newspapers.

One cannot unite a nation by dividing its people

Rishi Sunak, Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian heritage and a practicing Hindu struck a multi-faith theme when he read from the biblical book of Colossians at the coronation of King Charles III on May 6. Taking part in a predominantly Christian ceremony, he described the coronation as a proud expression of our history, culture and tradition. "In the 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 before the event.

Contrast this with BJP leader

late Sushma Swaraj's statement in 2004 when the Congress-led UPA was set to assume the reigns of power in India. "I will shave off my head and renounce politics if Mrs Sonia Gandhi, an Indian citizen of Italian origin becomes the Prime Minister." "First Kamala Harris, now Rishi Sunak. The people of the US and UK have embraced the non-majority citizens of their countries and elected them to high office in government. I think there is a lesson to be learnt in India and the parties that practice majoritarianism", Congress leader P. Chidambaram was quoted as saying on Sunak's assumption of office.

Switch to Karnataka which is in

the final throes of a red hot election. The state has witnessed three government changes, three-floor tests and the, by now familiar, 'op-



eration Lotus' to destabilise the JD(S)-Congress government and replace it with a BJP one. The ball is back in the people's court for a verdict on the past and directions

for the future.

As the electoral match goes into the decisive slog overs of campaigning, the scene seems a replay of the December 2022 Gujarat Assembly elections. With the opposition parties focusing on rising corruption in governance, the ruling BJP has shifted focus to crass majoritarianism. The BJP and Sangh Parivar set-ups are working overtime to bring Lord Hanuman to centre-stage led by the Prime Minister himself, same as demolition politics with bulldozers on display was done in the Gujarat elections. The Congress manifesto had stated that decisive action would be taken under law for hate

mongering against the Popular Front of India (PFI) and Bajrang Dal. In the magical hands of the BJP campaign commanders, the Bajrang Dal 'transformed' into "Bajrangbali" and the voter polarization campaign swung into gear shifting focus to fanning fear. It was the Union Home Minister, who went on record to state that Karnataka will witness riots if the Congress comes to power.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat who was in Ahmedabad last month to address a 'samajshakti sangam' had stressed on the need to unite all sections to ensure that the country regains its past glory. "Hindu society, Indian society are

synonyms", he said. However, on the ground every election witnesses the familiar ploy of polarization on religious lines to ensure electoral dividends.

One cannot unite a nation by dividing its people. In October 2021, 14 people were booked in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir for the ludicrous act of clapping at Pakistan's victory in a T-20 match with India. While the losing side was seen congratulating the winners, these 14 in three Indian states were charged with sedition and cyber terrorism, sections normally associated with instigating riots and those meant for terrorists.

international



We expect 2023 to be another challenging year, with global growth slowing to below 3 per cent, as scarring from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and monetary tightening weigh on economic activity

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR

CHINESE SPACECRAFT RETURNS

A reusable uncrewed space vehicle returned to Earth Monday morning after spending 276 days in orbit. There is not much information about the space vehicle as China's space authorities have not released any pictures or technical data, and experts suspect it could be used to gather intelligence, South China Morning Post reported



of the day quote

Over 60 per cent of the current federal cabinet members are out on bail in corruption cases when they were given charge of the government

IMRAN KHAN | PAK TEHRUK-E-INSAF (PTI) CHAIRMAN

The current of a good change is difficult to make at first, but once it is made, it often becomes the trend. I believe that the current of South Korea-Japan relations today is such

YOON SUK YEOL | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

My people will not allow drunks and boozers to take the stage. Mr Kemal, you can drink barrels of it, nothing can cure you

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKEY'S PRESIDENT

Chinese FM's meeting with US envoy sets off bilateral talks rumour



QIN'S MEETING WITH BURNS, HAS SET OFF SPECULATION THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE ON THE VERGE OF RESTARTING THEIR ACTIVE DIALOGUE THAT STALLED SINCE FEBRUARY THIS YEAR AFTER THE US SHOT A CHINESE SPY BALLOON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, May 8: Chinese Foreign Minister Qing Gang Monday met with US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns during which he sharply criticised Washington's policy towards Beijing, specifically on Taiwan, but at the same time called for stabilising the ties between the two countries, saying that it is a "top priority".

Following the balloon incident, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken put off his visit to Beijing. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing Monday that the meeting is a normal diplomatic arrangement. In his meeting with Burns, Qin said a series of erroneous words and deeds by the US has undermined the hard-won positive momentum of the bilateral ties, disrupted the planned dialogue and cooperation agenda, and chilled

bilateral relations again. He urged the US to deeply reflect and work with China to get the ties back on track.

On the spy balloon incident, Qin said, "accidental incidents" in bilateral relations should be dealt with in a calm, professional and pragmatic manner to avoid further shocks to China-US relations.

In a brief post on Twitter Burns said he and Qin discussed "challenges in the US-China relationship and the necessity of stabilising ties and expanding high-level communication."

Qin's meeting with Burns followed the US envoy's comments last week that Washington is "ready to talk" to China. "Our view is we need better channels between the two governments and deeper channels, and we are ready to talk," Burns said at an event at the Stimson Centre, which he attended virtually.

"We've never been shy of talking, and we hope the Chinese will meet us halfway on this," he was quoted as saying by CNN.

After Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, China cut off talks with Washington on major issues, from climate change to military relations and the spy balloon incident further exasperated their ties. Burns told the Stimson Centre event that the US has been calling on China to open all of the channels suspended following Pelosi's Taiwan trip. He reiterated Blinken's visit to China would be rescheduled "when conditions are appropriate."

The US must stop undermining China's sovereignty, security and development interests, correctly handle the Taiwan question in particular, refrain from hollowing out the one-China principle, and stop supporting or conniving with the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, the Chinese foreign minister said.

China claims Taiwan as part of its mainland and has stepped up military actions around the self-governing island as the US has increased its contacts with Taipei, since the visit of then-US Speaker Nancy Pelosi in August last year

SHORT TAKES

Fire in gold mine kills at least 27

Lima: A fire broke out deep in a gold mine in southern Peru and killed at least 27 workers during an overnight shift, Peruvian authorities reported. The Yanacuihua mining company said in a statement that a total of 175 workers had been safely evacuated after the accident, which happened late Friday or early Saturday. It said the 27 dead worked for a contractor that specializes in mining. Government officials said the cause of the incident was under investigation. Some news reports said preliminary investigations indicated an explosion might have been set off by a short circuit in a part of the mine about 100 metres below the surface.

Former UNDP chief dies at 74

Istanbul: Turkish economist, politician and former head of the United Nations Development Programme Kemal Dervis died on Monday at the age of 74, Turkish news outlets reported. He was being treated for an unspecified illness in Washington DC, state-run Anadolu Agency reported, as did BBC Turkish and t24, which first reported the news. In early 2001, amid the worst economic crisis in Turkey's modern history, Dervis left his job at the World Bank, where he had worked for more than two decades, and joined the government at the invitation of then-Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. Inflation was soaring and the stock market had crashed.

8 dead, many hurt in Texas accident

Houston: A driver ploughed into a group of people waiting at a bus stop outside a migrant shelter in the US state of Texas, killing at least eight people, including several immigrants and injuring many, authorities said. The incident occurred Sunday at the bus stop near the Ozanam Center, a shelter for migrants, Brownsville Police investigator Lt. Martin Sandoval said. Brownsville police confirmed 8 people dead. Seven were killed on the spot and one succumbed to the injuries later.

China makes 1st arrest for misuse of ChatGPT

Beijing: Chinese police have detained a man for allegedly generating fake news of a train crash and disseminating it online using artificial intelligence technology, in what was reported to be China's first arrest for misuse of ChatGPT. Police in northwestern Gansu province said in a statement Sunday that a suspect named Hong had been detained for "using artificial intelligence technology to concoct false and untrue information".

Russia attacks Ukraine with huge drone swarm

REUTERS

Kyiv, May 8: Russia launched its biggest swarm of drones for months against Ukraine Monday, the eve of Russia's May 9 holiday celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany, which Kyiv marked a day earlier in a symbolic new break with Moscow.

Kyiv's mayor said Russia had fired 60 Iranian-made kamikaze drones at Ukrainian targets, including 36 at the capital, all of which had been shot down. Debris hit apartments and other buildings, injuring at least five people in the capital.

A food warehouse was set ablaze by a missile in the Black Sea city of Odesa, where officials reported three people were injured.

It was the biggest drone swarm yet in a renewed Russian air campaign unleashed 10 days ago after a lull since early March.

Kyiv said Moscow was also making a final push to try to capture the ruined eastern city of Bakhmut, to deliver President Vladimir Putin what would be his only prize for a costly Russian winter offensive, in time for



- UKRAINE SAYS IT SHOT DOWN ALL DRONES IN LATEST WAVE
SAYS RUSSIA TRYING TO CAPTURE BAKHMUT BY MAY 9
MOSCOW PREPARES FOR ITS CHERISHED VICTORY DAY

Victory Day.

Moscow is preparing for Tuesday's Victory Day parade, the most important day in the calendar for Russia under Putin, who uses the 1945 Soviet triumph over Nazi Germany to justify his invasion of Ukraine.

In a new break with Russia,

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy marked Victory Day Monday rather than Tuesday, announcing that he had signed a decree to change the date of the holiday in line with the practice of Western allies.

"Recalling the heroism of millions of Ukrainians in that war

At least 100 killed in Darfur clashes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, May 8: Clashes that erupted last month between armed fighters in a city in Sudan's restive Darfur region killed at least 100 people, according to Sudan's Doctors Syndicate.

Hospitals were still out of service in the Darfur city of Genena and an accurate count of the wounded was still hard to make, the doctors' union added in a statement posted on its official Facebook page late Sunday.

The fighting in Genena, which broke out a few days after Sudan's two rival generals took up arms against each other in the capital of Khartoum, points to the possibility that the conflict could engulf other parts of the East African country.

The syndicate's death toll comes as talks continue between the warring parties in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah.

A statement issued by the Saudi foreign ministry Monday said the negotiations between delegations from the country's military, on one side, and on the other the powerful paramilitary, the Rapid Support Forces, are expected to go on for a few more days.

Late last month, residents described how armed fighters, many wearing the uniform of the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary, rampaged through the city, looting shops and homes and battling with rival forces.



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales tries her hand at archery while taking part in the Big Help Out, during a visit to the 3rd Upton Scouts Hut in Slough

Coronation celebrations conclude with 'Big Help Out' volunteering

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 8: The long celebratory Coronation weekend in the UK concluded Monday with a nationwide volunteering initiative entitled the "Big Help Out", made up of around eight million opportunities for charities and local communities to participate in volunteering initiatives.

Conceived by Buckingham Palace as a tribute to newly crowned King Charles III's focus on public service, the "Big Help Out" encouraged people from all walks of life to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

While British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty joined the initiative at a lunch club in southern England, Opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer answered calls for the National Health Service (NHS) volunteer responders programme.

"This is part of the Big Help Out, tens of thousands of events taking place across the country just like this, respecting and reflecting His Majesty's long tradition of service," Sunak told reporters as he chopped vegetables for food being



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pours a drink for a member of a community group's lunch club at Mill End Community Centre, as part of the Big Help Out, to mark the crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, in Rickmansworth, England

prepared at the MacMillan Lunch Club in Hertfordshire. "It is community spirit like this that binds our country together. It's fantastic to be a part of it," he said.

The King and Queen finally got a day of rest after the hectic activities of the weekend, with other royals deputed to support various volunteering initiatives.

William and Kate, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and their

children Prince George, 9, Princess Charlotte, 8, and Prince Louis, 5, joined volunteers in renovating the Upton Scout Hut in Slough, Berkshire, with works including resetting a path, digging a new soakaway, sanding and revarnishing the front door, adding planters to the front of the building and adding a mural to create a "Big Help Out" legacy.

"Pa, we are all so proud of you," said Prince William in a very per-

IRAN HANGS TWO MEN IN BLASPHEMY CASE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, May 8: Iran hanged two men Monday convicted of blasphemy, authorities said, carrying out rare death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic following months of unrest.

The two men executed, Yousef Mehrad and Sadrollah Fazeli Zare, died at Arak Prison in central Iran. They had been arrested in May 2020, accused of being involved in a channel on the Telegram message app called "Critique of Superstition and Religion," according to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Both men faced months of solitary confinement and could not contact their families, the commission said.

The Mizan news agency of Iran's judiciary confirmed the executions, describing the two men as having insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad and promoted atheism.

Mizan also accused them of burning a Quran, Islam's holy book, though it wasn't clear whether the men allegedly did that or such imagery was shared in the Telegram channel.

Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, who leads Iran Human Rights, decried the executions as exposing the "medieval nature" of Iran's theocracy.

It wasn't immediately clear when



Iran remains one of the world's top executioners, having put to death at least 203 prisoners since the start of this year alone

Carrying out executions for blasphemy remains rare, as previous cases saw the sentences reduced by authorities

Iran carried out its last execution for blasphemy. Other countries in the Middle East, like Saudi Arabia, also allow for death sentences to be imposed for blasphemy.

The streak of executions, including members of ethnic minority groups in Iran, comes as monthslong protests over the September death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the country's morality police have cooled.

Already, at least four people charged over alleged crimes from the demonstrations have been put to death. The protests, which reportedly saw over 500 people killed and 19,000 others arrested, marked one of the biggest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

of the day quote

If GST tax rate is lowered rationally (on beverages), it will increase the turnover of small shops which will yield more revenue to central and state governments

PRAVEEN KHANDELWAL
CAIT SECRETARY GENERAL

This Generative AI integration through our collaboration with Microsoft involves simple visual cues and voice commands in native Indian languages that will alter the landscape of travel bookings hereon forth

RAJESH MAGOW | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, MAKEMYTRIP

We witnessed robust growth during financial year 2023, led by launch of innovative tech-enabled solutions in the EV and solar space

RAMAN BHATIA | MD, SERVOTECH POWER SYSTEMS

SHORT TAKES

Canara Bank net surges over 90%

New Delhi: State-owned Canara Bank Monday reported a nearly doubling of net profit on standalone basis to ₹3,174.74 crore for the quarter ended March 2023 on the back of higher interest income. The bank's profit in the January-March quarter of 2021-22 was ₹1,666.22 crore. In a filing to stock exchanges, Canara Bank said there was a 90.63 per cent growth in the standalone profit after tax for the year ended March 31, 2023, at ₹3,174.74 crore compared to ₹1,666.22 crore in 2021-22. The net interest income (NII) for the quarter ended March 31, 2023 grew by 23.01 per cent. On a consolidated basis, the net profit rose to ₹3,232.84 crore for the quarter ended March, up from ₹1,969.04 crore in the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

Global tech services space hits \$57bn

New Delhi: The deal activity in the global technology services sector has softened, with over 150 transactions announced in the first quarter of 2023 compared to 270-plus deals in Q1 2022 and over 220 in the first quarter of 2021, according to an EY-Nasscom report. The report - Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) Trends and Outlook in the technology services sector - noted that in 2022, the technology service sector proved to be a year of paradoxes. Despite signs of a slowdown at the end of the year and in Q1 CY23, the technology service sector witnessed a surge in M&A and private equity deals, reaching a total of over \$57 billion in 2022, which was more than double the amount seen in 2020 (at over \$27 billion).

Pound hits over one-year high

Singapore: Sterling hit an over one-year high against the dollar Monday as the greenback began the week under pressure, with traders betting it might have peaked along with US interest rates while keeping a wary eye on looming inflation and loans data. The pound poked its head as high as \$1.2668, its highest since April 2022, and was last trading a touch below that, up 0.26% on the day. The pound is in focus this week ahead of an expected Bank of England rate increase Thursday, and has also been firming versus the euro. The European common currency was last at 87.23 pence, having dipped to 87.11 pence Friday, its softest against the British currency this year.



When something (AI) can do all kinds of things, I get a little bit worried. Because I know we won't be able to un-invent it and, you know, we did invent, for very, very good reason, the atom bomb in World War II

WARREN BUFFETT | CEO, BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

COAL IMPORTS UP 30% IN FY23

India's coal imports increased by 30 per cent to 162.46 million tonne in the 2022-23 financial year against 124.99 MT in the year-ago period, according to a report. The import of coking coal rose 5.44 per cent to 54.46 MT over 51.65 MT in FY22, mjunction said in the report



WHITE GOLD

Lithium found in Raj; larger than J&K reserves

The lithium reserves found in Rajasthan raised hopes to reduce India's dependence on China and its monopoly globally



- Lithium reserves found in Raj can meet 80% of imports
- Global value of one ton of lithium is around ₹57.36 lakh
- By 2050, demand for lithium will rise by 500%: World Bank

Jaipur, May 8: If officials in Rajasthan government are to be believed, Lithium reserves have been traced in Degana (Nagaur) of Rajasthan. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) and mining officials claim that the capacity of lithium reserves found here is higher than the lithium reserves found in Jammu and Kashmir re-

cently. It is claimed that there is so much lithium here that 80 per cent of India's total demand can be met from here. Till now India is dependent on China for lithium.

The world's largest lithium reserves of 21 million tonne are currently in the country of Bolivia. After this, there are also large reserves in Argentina, Chile and America. Despite this, China, which has reserves of 5.1 million tonne of

lithium, continues to have a monopoly in the global market.

India has to buy 53.76 per cent of its total lithium imports from China. In the year 2020-21, India had imported lithium worth more than ₹6,000 crore and out of this lithium worth more than ₹3,500 crore was bought from China.

In such a situation, officials believe that the lithium deposits found in Rajasthan are so much

that China's monopoly can be completely tackled and the country can become self-sufficient in the matter of green energy.

BIG BOOST FOR EV SPACE

Lithium is a non-ferrous metal, which is used to make mobile-laptop, electric vehicle and other chargeable batteries. It is the world's lightest metal, needed by every battery-powered device and also the softest and lightest metal in the world. It stores chemical energy and converts it into electrical energy.

Lithium is present in every chargeable electronic and battery-powered gadget in the house today. For this reason, there is a tremendous demand for lithium around the world. Due to the global demand, it is also called White Gold.

Energy transformation is taking

place all over the world. Every country is moving fast from fuel energy to green energy. From aircrafts, to wind turbines, solar panels, electric vehicles, mobiles and every small and big chargeable device in the house, the use of lithium is increasing.

By 2030, India is expected to have 13.92 lakh EVs on the roads. The discovery of these lithium reserves serves as good news because they are absolute alternatives to the ores that are being dug out of the earth currently.

There is a possibility of lithium deposits in some other places including Barmer, Jaisalmer. They informed that the survey team is expediting the exploration work of lithium. So that auction can be done for mining by exploration of G2 stage here as soon as possible.

RBI's gold reserves rise to 794.64 tonne at March-end 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 8: The Reserve Bank's gold reserves increased by 34.22 tonne year-on-year to reach 794.64 tonne at March-end 2023, showed central bank data Monday. The Reserve Bank held 760.42 metric tonne of gold (including gold deposits of 11.08 metric tonne) at the March-end of 2022.

"As at end-March 2023, the Reserve Bank held 794.64 metric tonne of gold (including gold deposits of 56.32 metric tonne)," the central bank said in its Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: October 2022 - March 2023.

While 437.22 tonne of gold is held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), 301.10 tonne of gold is held domestically.

In value terms (\$), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from about 7.06 per cent as of September-end 2022 to about 7.81 per cent as of March-end 2023, the report said.

During the half-year period, reserves increased from \$532.66 billion as of September-end 2022 to \$578.45 billion as of March-end 2023.

Forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights and reserve tranche position in the International Monetary Fund.

Although both the US dollar and Euro are intervention currencies and the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) are maintained in major currencies, the foreign exchange reserves are denominated and expressed in the US dollar terms.

Movements in the FCA occur mainly on account of the purchase and sale of foreign exchange by the RBI, income arising out of the deployment of the foreign exchange reserves, external aid receipts of the central government and changes on account of revaluation of the assets.

As of March-end 2023, out of the total FCA of \$509.69 billion, \$411.65 billion was invested in securities, \$75.51 billion was deposited with other central banks and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), and the balance of \$22.52 billion comprised deposits with commercial banks overseas.

Unclaimed bank deposits in focus

FSDC PITCHES FOR SPECIAL DRIVE FOR SETTLEMENT OF UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS IN BANKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: High-powered Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday asked the regulators to initiate a special drive to settle unclaimed deposits in banks and financial institutions.

Briefing reporters about the discussions in the meeting, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth it was deliberated that regulators should conduct a special drive to facilitate the settlement of unclaimed deposits and claims in the financial sector across all segments, such as banking deposits, shares and dividends, mutual funds, insurance, etc.

"It was also noted that, as the Union Budget has announced that unclaimed deposits and shares and dividends, which are lying in the pool, a drive should be taken by the concerned regulator, especially where the nominee details are available with them though the nominees may not be aware of that. In a time-bound manner, that activity should be taken but where the nominee details are not there, the process has to be put in place," he said.

Last month, the Reserve Bank Governor said that a centralised portal would be ready in three to four months wherein depositors and beneficiaries can access details



About ₹35,000 crore unclaimed deposits as of Feb 2023 were transferred to RBI by PSBs in respect of deposits, which have not been operated for 10 years or more

These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI as of the end of February 2023

of unclaimed deposits across various banks.

The 27th meeting of the FSDC was attended by all financial sector regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. This was the first meeting of the FSDC after the passage of the ₹45 lakh crore Budget for 2023-24 with greater emphasis on capital expenditure with an outlay of ₹10,00,961 crore.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

The council discussed a number of issues starting with the issue of financial stability, noting that there are daunting challenges coming from the global economy.

"It was noted that maintaining financial stability, being on our toes, and maintaining financial stability is a shared responsibility and all the members will be working towards that," Seth said.

Regulators should adopt a focused approach to reduce the compliance burden further and ensure a streamlined and efficient regulatory environment, he said, adding the progress achieved in this regard will be reviewed by

the Union Finance Minister with each regulator in June 2023.

The regulators need to be proactive and ensure cybersecurity preparedness of the information technology systems to reduce the risk of cyberattacks, protect sensitive, financial data and maintain overall system integrity, thus safeguarding the stability and resilience of the Indian financial ecosystem, he said.

The council took note of the activities undertaken by the FSDC Sub-Committee chaired by the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and the action taken by members on the past decisions of the FSDC.

Besides RBI governor, Securities and Exchange Board of India chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) chairman Debasish Panda, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) chairman Ravi Mital and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's newly appointed chairman Deepak Mohanty participated in the meeting.

IN A FIRST Three Russian investors enter FPI list

THIS COULD BE THE FIRST INSTANCE WHEN RUSSIAN INVESTORS HAVE OPTED FOR THE FPI ROUTE TO INVEST IN INDIA. BEFORE THIS, THEY MOSTLY TOOK THE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) ROUTE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: Russian investors are flocking to Indian capital markets with three entities in Russia having registered with Sebi as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) amid sanctions imposed on the nation in response to the war against Ukraine.

All the three investors which obtained FPI licence from Sebi are based in Moscow. Alfa Capital Management Company is registered in both category-1 and category 11. Besides, one individual Vsevolod Rozanov has been registered in category-1, latest data with the National Securities Depositories showed.

Further, the licence issued to them is valid for three years till early



2026, it added.

Experts believe that Russian investors are exploring Indian markets in the wake of sanctions imposed on the country by the US and European Union following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said the sanctions imposed on Russia, particularly the weaponization of the dollar, has led to new economic and financial developments.

Alternatives to the dollar as reserve currency are being seriously

debated. Russian investors - individuals and institutions - looking to invest in the Indian capital market have to be seen in this context, he explained. Further, he believes that geographical diversification is good for India too.

"With a sharp increase in India's crude oil imports from Russia, Russia's bilateral trade surplus with India has increased significantly. There is little opportunity for Russia to increase its imports of Indian goods and services to utilise this balance fully."

Moreover, the annual bilateral trade surplus between Russia and

The significance of Sebi's registration of three Russian entities as foreign portfolio investors in India is therefore of the utmost importance, as this can initiate very substantial capital inflows to India

SUAN HAJRA | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ANAND RATHI SHARES

India could range from \$20-30 billion indicating that Russian portfolio investments in India may be substantial in the near future.

Apart from Russia, there are at least 16 China-based institutions that have got permanent registration as FPIs in India. Besides, there are 217 Hong Kong-based entities registered as FPIs in India and 124 from Taiwan, the data showed.

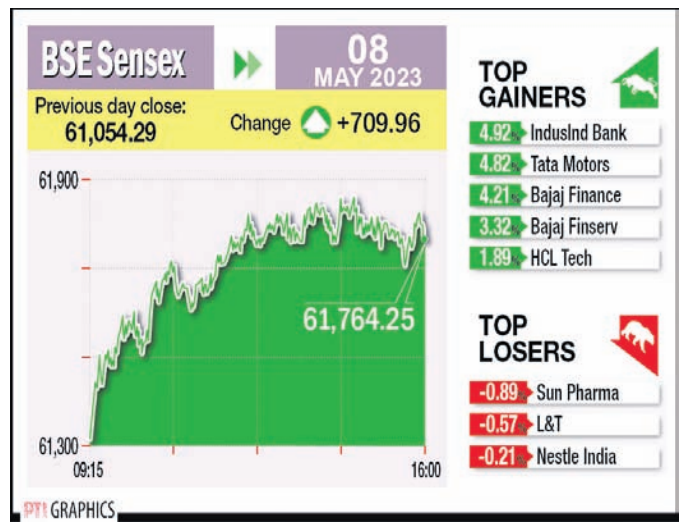
In terms of numbers, the US has the largest number of registered FPIs (3,485) followed by Luxembourg (1,353), Canada (825), Ireland (738), the UK (684), Mauritius (589) and Singapore (567).

Together, these ten countries account for 83 per cent of the overall asset under custody of FPIs of ₹50.85 lakh crore.

Govt bans apple imports if priced less than ₹50/Kg

New Delhi: The government Monday banned the import of apples if its imported price is less than ₹50 per Kg. "Import of apples...is prohibited wherever the CIF (cost, insurance, freight) import price is less than equal to ₹50 per Kg," the directorate general of foreign trade said. Minimum import price condition shall not be applicable for imports from Bhutan, it said. In 2023, India imported apples worth \$296 million against \$385.1 million in 2022. The main countries which export apples to India include the US, Iran, Brazil, UAE, Afghanistan, France, Belgium, Chile etc.

Mkts rebound over 1%



Positive rally in global markets and continuous foreign fund inflows further bolstered sentiment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 8: Equity benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded more than 1 per cent while Nifty reclaimed the 18,200 level Monday, boosted by heavy buying in banking, financial and auto stocks amid a rally in global stock markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 709.96 points or 1.16 per cent to settle at 61,764.25, as 27 of its components advanced and 3 declined. During the day, it jumped 799.9 points or 1.31 per cent to 61,854.19. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 195.40 points or 1.08 per cent to end at 18,264.40 with 42 of its constituents gaining and 8 closing with losses.

The rupee pared initial gains to settle flat at 81.78 against the US dollar.

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank jumped 5.08 per cent. The other winners were Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, Maruti and Kotak Mahindra Bank. Value buying in index heavyweights Reliance, HDFC Bank and ICICI

Investors became richer by over ₹2.27 lakh crore as equities rebounded. Following the rally, the m-cap of BSE-listed firms jumped by ₹2,27,794.46 crore to ₹2,76,06,443.06 crore

Bank also added to the momentum. Sun Pharma, Larsen & Toubro and Nestle were the laggards.

"Indian equities gained confidence from strong domestic earnings and fading concerns over the US economic slowdown following robust job data," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Tokyo settled lower. Markets in Europe were trading in the green. The US markets ended with significant gains Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers Friday as they bought equities worth ₹777.68 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.79 per cent to \$76.65 per barrel.

KKR beat Kings in thriller

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 8: Rinku Singh (21 n o, 10b) added another bright chapter to his legend as a 'finisher' with a last-ball boundary as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Punjab Kings by five wickets Monday to keep their IPL playoff hopes alive.

It was a complete 'RRR' show by KKR as skipper Nitish Rana's half century (51, 38b, 6x4, 1x6) and Andre Russell adding muscle (42, 23b, 3x4, 3x6) to the chase of 180 enabled Rinku to finish off the game.

Earlier, Varun Chakravarthy (3/26) once again brilliantly spearheaded their bowling department as KKR put up a tidy bowling show to restrict PBKS to a below-par 179/7 after the visitors opted to bat on a slow wicket.

In reply, KKR show batting show was led by Rana's stellar effort when he promoted himself to No.3 and laid the foundation. On a wicket where the odd ball was gripping and batters struggled to find their timings, Rana stitched a crucial fifty-plus stand with Venkatesh Iyer (11) before Russell and Rinku Singh sealed the issue.

Needing 56 off 28 balls after Rana became Rahul Chahar's (2/23) second victim, Russell went ballistic against Sam Curran smoking him for three sixes in four balls in a 20-run over to change the equation in favour of KKR who needed six off the last over.

But death over specialist Arshdeep Singh who had six to defend took it down the wire with four off first four balls. Arshdeep has often floundered of late failing to nail his yorkers.

There was more drama when Russell was ran out in the penultimate ball as a calm-headed Rinku once again came to KKR's rescue sealing the win with a boundary off the last ball. The duo off Russell and Rinku put together 54 runs off just 26 balls.

Their second win in a row pushed KKR (-0.079) past Royal Challengers Bangalore (-0.209) to top-five on net run-rate as five teams are locked a mid-table rush for playoff with 10 points.

Earlier, KKR Impact Player Jason Roy (38, 24b, 8x4) and Rahmanullah



ANDRE RUSSELL & VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY (INSET)

Gurbaz (15) gave them a flying start when they cruised to 36 for no loss in four overs after they took Arshdeep Singh to cleaners in a 16-run over. But the opening duo failed to convert their starts and got out in space of 16 deliveries when the match was evenly poised.

On a day Sunil Narine (0/29) was decent but went wicketless yet again, Chakravarthy relished the slow nature of the track where the odd ball was gripping to return with excellent figures.

It would have been worse for PBKS but the duo of Shahrulkh Khan (21 n o, 8b) and Harpreet Brar (17 n o, 9b) brilliantly stepped

it up in the last two overs that yielded 36 runs in a 40-run unbroken stand that came off just 16 balls.

Fresh from his last over heroics when he defended nine runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Chakravarthy removed the Punjab's in-form duo of Liam Livingstone and Jitesh Sharma that seemed to have broken their back in the middle overs.

With Harshit Rana (2/33) grabbing two inside the powerplay, KKR had a perfect start reducing PBKS to 58/3. Skipper Shikhar Dhawan (57, 47b, 9x4, 1x6) anchored the show in a Virat Kohli-like innings

the other day against Delhi Capitals but the lefthander could never take off and was dismissed by Rana. Dhawan put together 53 runs partnership with Jitesh (21).

Rana smartly bowled Chakravarthy once inside the powerplay and then in the 8th, 13th and 17th over as he finished his quota, cleaning up Rishi Dhawan with a wrong one. Rishi (19) had his intention clear smashing Chakravarthy for a six in the first ball, but the KKR spinner had the last laugh.

On an Eden wicket that looked on the drier side from the outside, seamer Rana gave KKR a perfect

start, striking twice in two overs after Prabhsimran teed off in style with three boundaries off Arora in the first over.

PBKS looked on course with 51/2 after five overs, when Chakravarthy trapped Livingstone plumb on his back-foot in a crucial turnaround for KKR.

BRIEF SCORES: PBKS 179/7 (Shikhar Dhawan 57, M Shahrulkh Khan 21 n o, Jitesh Sharma 21; Varun Chakravarthy 3/26, Harshit Rana 2/33) lost to KKR 182/5 (Nitish Rana 51, Andre Russell 42, Jason Roy 38; Rahul Chahar 2/23) by 5 wickets.

Struggling Mumbai lock horns with RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Mumbai, May 8: With the race for playoffs intensifying, captain Rohit Sharma's form with the bat and bowling in the death overs will be a huge concern for hosts Mumbai Indians when they meet Royal Challengers Bangalore in a mid-table IPL clash here Tuesday.

With 184 runs in 10 matches at a forgettable average of 18.39 and a solitary half-century, Sharma is enduring a second consecutive poor season with the bat. For the sixth-placed Mumbai Indians to move up in the points table, it is imperative that their best batter in the line-up fires.

Sharma's role in this IPL has been to provide brisk starts at the top, and at times he has had some success too, but consistency has deserted the right-arm batter whose early dismissal in huge chases has only added pressure on a relatively new batting line-up, which fortunately, from MI's point of view, has delivered too.

Mumbai Indians' head coach Mark Boucher admitted a few games ago that consistency could get compromised if any batter goes out of his way to look for runs, but for Sharma, one of the highest run-getters in the IPL, it is becoming a pattern.

However, with Sharma not firing at the top, MI have had the likes of Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Cameron Green consolidating in the middle while Tilak Varma and Tim David have also found their groove as finishers late in the order.

At the same time, Mumbai Indians will also be concerned

about their death overs bowling, having conceded four consecutive totals in excess of 200 while bowling first, two of which were recorded on flat decks here at the Wankhede Stadium.

On the other hand, RCB will hope that their trio of Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell fire at the top, since whenever they have done so collectively, the team has found itself mostly on the right side of the results.

Mahipal Lomror struck a quality 54 against Delhi Capitals but his knock was not enough as RCB suffered a shock defeat, which kept them at the fifth spot in the points table with five wins and as many defeats in 10 matches.

With 511 runs, Du Plessis is the only batter this season to have crossed the 500-run mark and RCB will hope that their skipper gets going with others in his tow to a big total if they bat first.

But it remains to be seen if RCB have more in their batting shelf apart from the big three, who have done the heavy lifting so far in the IPL. The inclusion of Josh Hazlewood has provided a shot in the arm to RCB's bowling with Mohammed Siraj at the helm, having snaffled 15 wickets in 10 matches so far.



MAX TRIUMPHS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Gardens (Florida), May 8: Max Verstappen used an easy drive to keep Red Bull undefeated on the season, as the reigning two-time Formula One champion drove from ninth to the victory at the Miami Grand Prix.

Red Bull has won all five races so far this season, and teammate Sergio Perez's second-place finish in Miami was the fourth 1-2 finish for Red Bull this year. Verstappen has three wins this season, while Perez, the pole sitter in Miami, has two.

The win was the 38th of his career for Verstappen, who tied Sebastian Vettel for most victories for Red Bull. At this pace, he'll smash Vettel's record by the end of what many critics are already complaining is a boring Red Bull-dominated season.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner praised Verstappen's poise over the 57-lap race that gave him his second consecutive victory in Miami. Red Bull has said it will allow Verstappen and Perez to cleanly race for the championship, and Perez seemed poised to take the points lead in Miami by starting from the pole.

Verstappen held a six-point lead in the standings over Perez at the start of the race, but was relegated to a ninth-place starting position because qualifying was cut short before his final qualifying attempt by a Charles Leclerc crash.

But the Dutchman had no problem driving through the field. He

went from ninth to sixth in the first four laps, using a pass of two cars in one corner to gain ground. He was fifth by the ninth lap, fourth on Lap 12 and finally behind Perez in second on Lap 15.

Verstappen took the lead when Perez pitted on Lap 20 and he held nearly a 18-second lead with 15 laps remaining. When he finally made his pit stop, Verstappen returned to the track in second but only 1.6 seconds behind Perez.

It took him just minutes to pass Perez for the win, taking the lead in a wheel-to-wheel battle with nine laps remaining. Although Verstappen has won from a lower starting position before, he becomes the first driver since Niki Lauda in 1984 at the French Grand Prix to win from ninth.

The victory also came on the anniversary of the 2016 announcement that Verstappen was being promoted from the junior team to Red Bull ahead of the fifth round of that season.

Verstappen now holds a 14-point lead over Perez in the standings. Perez finished second, a full 5.3 seconds behind Verstappen. Fernando Alonso was third for Aston Martin but finished 26 seconds behind. It was the fourth podium in five races for the resurgent Spaniard.

George Russell was fourth for Mercedes, followed by Carlos Sainz of Ferrari, and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes, who drove from 13th to sixth. Leclerc was seventh, and Alpine drivers Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon were eighth and ninth.

Arsenal win, Man Utd lose in EPL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 8: A display of character and resilience from Arsenal has ensured there's plenty of life left in the Premier League title race. The fight to finish in the Champions League qualification positions is far from over, too, after David De Gea's latest mistake in another away loss for Manchester United.

By inflicting a rare home defeat on Newcastle, Arsenal gained redemption for one of its most painful losses under Mikel Arteta and kept the pressure firmly on Manchester City just when it looked like the defending champions might be strolling to the title.

Arsenal's 2-0 win in a febrile atmosphere inside St. James' Park left City with a one-point lead with three weeks left in the season. City has a game in hand but the tougher run-in, with three away matches in its remaining four fixtures.

In a physical game, Arsenal's players were shoved and roughed up, while riling the home fans with streetwise tactics that might have pushed the boundaries of gamesmanship. Anything to keep alive hopes of a first league title since 2004.

It's just one in six road trips for Erik ten Hag's fragile team, which lost 0-1 at West Ham just three days after a defeat by the same score at Brighton on a 99th-minute penalty.

West Ham's winner came much earlier, with De Gea somehow al-



Martin Odegaard (airborne) was ecstatic after scoring against Newcastle United, Sunday

lowing a weak shot by Said Benrahma from outside the area to dribble past his outstretched arm and slowly into the net in the 27th.

No Premier League player has made more errors leading to goals this season than De Gea's four, according to the competition's stats supplier, Opta. De Gea also made a big mistake at Sevilla as United slumped to defeat in the Europa League quarterfinals last month.

United stayed in fourth, two points behind third-place Newcastle.

Liverpool, which is in fifth place and a point back from United, were the big winners Sunday, though has played one game more.

Before making the journey to St. James' Park from the team hotel, Arsenal's players were shown video clips from last season's 0-2 loss at Newcastle that cost them a chance to finish in the top four and qualify for the Champions League. They were bullied and outplayed that day, but appeared to have learned their lesson.

Odegaard's goal came against the run of play. Newcastle had already struck the post through Jacob Murphy and seen a penalty overturned following a VAR check by the time the Norway playmaker slammed a low shot through the legs of Newcastle defender Sven Botman and past goalkeeper Nick Pope.

Alexander Isak also hit the post with a header and Newcastle paid for its profligacy when Gabriel Martinelli's cross was diverted into his own net by Schar.



Bajrang, Vinesh hit mat for first time in 15 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: Star wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat hit the mat on Monday for the first time in 15 days to be ready for the Asian Games trials even as IOA's ad-hoc panel set the ball rolling for resumption of activities by finalising dates for the Asian Championships (U-17, 23) trials.

Sparring was out of question for these top wrestlers after they resumed their sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar, demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who they have accused of sexual exploitation of women wrestlers.

Bajrang and Vinesh had not competed in any international tournament since January and have



not gone for training abroad though the Sports Authority of India (SAI) had cleared their training-cum-exposure stints on their request.

Till recently, they were adamant that unless their demands are met they won't train or compete in international tournaments. In the last fortnight, they had two light train-

ing sessions at Jantar Mantar only. However, Vinesh Sunday had said they will resume training and won't shun tournaments anymore. In the one-hour session at a nearby stadium, Bajrang had Jitender Kinha as his sparring partner while Vinesh trained with her cousin Sanjeeta and Rio Olympics bronze medallist

Sakshi Malik. Satyawart Kadian trained with his brother Sombir.

However, the team for the UWW Ranking Series event, scheduled to be held in Bishkek from June 1-4 has already been decided. It's more or less the same team that had competed at the Asian Championships in Astana in April and won 14 medals. Bajrang, Vinesh, Sakshi, Satyawart and Sanjeeta were not a part of the Indian team in Astana as they were protesting.

The ad-hoc panel, formed by the IOA to run the WFT's day-to-day activities had discussions with coaches and SAI officials. Ad-hoc committee member, national shooting coach Suma Shirur did not attend the meeting and another panel member Bhuwendra Singh Bajwa discussed the roadmap with the coaches.

SHORT TAKES

Asia Cup set to be moved out of Pak

NEW DELHI: In a huge setback to Pakistan, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Monday decided to move the Asia Cup out of the country after PCB's proposal to host the tournament on a 'hybrid model' was rejected by the member nations. Sri Lanka has emerged as a front runner to host the six-nation tournament as extremely humid conditions in the UAE in the month of September could lead to injuries to players. It will be interesting to see if Pakistan, after this snub, competes in the tournament, scheduled to be held from September 2-17. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was forced to propose an alternative after BCCI refused to send the Indian team to the neighbouring nation due to diplomatic tension between the two countries. PCB had proposed that India play their games in the UAE while Pakistan host their matches on home soil. However the ACC chairman Jay Shah will need to convene an executive body meeting to make the decision official.

Ishan in for WTC final

MUMBAI: The BCCI has named wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan as replacement for KL Rahul for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia, who suffered a right upper thigh injury during an IPL match recently. The WTC final will take place June 7-11 at the Oval in London. The BCCI also said in a statement Monday that a decision on the WTC final participation of left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat, who suffered a shoulder injury to his bowling arm, will be taken at a later stage.

Ghosal goes down

CHICAGO: India's finest male squash player Saurav Ghosal lost a gruelling five-match battle against World No.1 Diego Elias in the pre-quarterfinals of the World Championship here. Ghosal, who last reached the quarterfinals of the premier event four years ago, even had a couple of match balls before going down 11-9, 11-4, 6-11, 3-11, 10-12 in a marathon contest Sunday night. Both Ghosal and Elias have had intense battles over the years. The 16th-ranked Indian had stretched Elias to five games even at the Tournament of Champions in New York last year. Ghosal's last win against the Peruvian star came way back in 2016.