



REMARKABLE PRESENCE

Actor Alia Bhatt ensures that she didn't trip and fall on the MET Gala red carpet this year

LEISURE P2



NO MARTIAL LAW IN PAK

Pakistan's Army rules out the possibility of imposing martial law in the country amidst the political turmoil

INTERNATIONAL P10



ROYAL SHOWDOWN

Rajasthan Royals take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL match today

SPORTS P12

BJD RETAINS JHARSUGUDA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) retained the Jharsuguda Assembly seat, as its candidate Dipali Das defeated her nearest Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rival Tankadhar Tripathy by a margin of 48,721 votes Saturday, an election official said.

Das secured a total of 1,07,198 votes, while Tripathy bagged 58,477 votes. Congress candidate Tarun Pandey, who came third with 4,496 votes, lost his deposits, the official said.

Dipali is the daughter of Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, whose assassination in January allegedly by a police officer necessitated the bypoll. Naba Das had won the seat by a margin of 45,740 votes in the 2019 general elections. BJD has won six of the seven bypolls held in Odisha after the 2019 elections. The only defeat it suffered was in Dhamnagar in November last year when the BJP retained the seat.

Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik congratulated Dipali on the victory. An overwhelmed Dipali thanked Patnaik for campaigning for her.

"Though I lost my father, I got the father-like blessings and support from Naveen Patnaik ji," she said after winning. "Naba Das was a



BJD	1,07,198
BJP	58,477
Congress	4,496
NOTA	2,074
Others	3,687

Royal Bengal Tiger. And I am a sherni (lioness). I would like to thank all the Jharsuguda people for showering their blessings on me. They have once again proved how much they love the CM and my father," she added.

BJP state president Mannohan Samal said that the party has raised its vote share despite being defeated. He said the BJP will introspect on the reasons behind its defeat in Jharsuguda.

Congress candidate Tarun Pandey said the mandate went against him despite all possible efforts from his side and the party.

Not double engine, good governance matters: CM

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik Saturday made a veiled attack on the BJP, which lost the Karnataka Assembly poll, and said it is good governance and not a 'double engine' government that can help a party win election.

Patnaik chose to make the comment at the celebration by BJD after its candidate's win at the Jharsuguda bypoll Saturday.

Patnaik said, "Single engine or double engine does not matter. From people's point of view, governance is important. Good governance and pro-people governance always win."

BJP had made 'double engine' (BJP government at the state and the Centre) its slogan in Karnataka. Patnaik's veiled criticism is considered important as the opposition BJP has for long lured the people of Odisha with accelerated development if they voted the party to power in the state. Statements in support of it had been made in the past by PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Carpenters construct chariot wheels at Rath Yard in Puri, Saturday

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

SHORT TAKES

CISCE CLASS X, XII RESULTS TODAY

New Delhi: The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) will announce Class X and XII results May 14, board secretary Gerry Arathoon said Saturday. "The results will be announced May 14 at 3 pm," said Arathoon. The CISCE conducted Class X (ICSE) and Class XII (ISC) exams in February/March, it was learnt. Students have to download the mark sheets from the Digilocker or collect them from their respective schools, it was learnt. Usually, the CISCE results for ISC and ICSE are declared in the same timeline as CBSE board results. CBSE declared the Class XII and Class X results May 12, 2023.

Addl portfolios for Revenue minister

Bhubaneswar: A day after the resignation of two ministers from state Cabinet, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik got additional charge of School and Mass Education (S&ME) and Labour and Employees' State Insurance departments from Saturday. In a notification, the Parliamentary Affairs department said, "Governor of Odisha has been pleased to allocate the business of School and Mass Education and Labour and Employees' State Insurance to minister Pramila Mallik in addition to the portfolios held by her on the advice of the Chief Minister, Odisha with immediate effect." Notably, S&ME Minister Samir Ranjan Dash and Labour and Employees' State Insurance Minister Srikantha Sahu resigned from their positions Friday.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Somebody senior must take responsibility for Karnataka debacle. Shall we ask EC to resign?

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	35.5°C	34.5°C
	MIN	26.4°C	26.5°C
Humidity	56%	67%	Forecast
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Clear sky

Karnataka: BJP trounced

CONGRESS OUSTS SAFFRON PARTY FROM ITS LONE SOUTHERN CITADEL; CLP MEETING TODAY

AGENCIES

Bangalore /New Delhi, May 13: The Congress Saturday made a stunning comeback in Karnataka ousting the BJP from its lone southern citadel with a comfortable majority in a morale booster win that will be a key for reviving its electoral fortunes ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress' decisive victory in the Assembly elections after an aggressive pro-poor campaign spearheaded by mass leader and former chief minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar also saw Karnataka continuing with a 38-year-old anti-incumbency trend. The state has never voted an incumbent party to power since 1985.

Siddaramaiah, 75, and Shivakumar, the party's trouble shooter who won from Kanakapura by over one lakh votes and who turns 61 Sunday, are both front runners for the chief minister's post.

The first meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) will be held at 5:30 pm Sunday, according to AICC in-charge (Karnataka) Randeep Surjewala. The meeting is likely to decide the name of the new chief minister.

Helped by a nearly five per cent vote swing in its favour, the Congress with a vote share of 42.88 per cent



Congress workers celebrate the victory at the party office in Ahmedabad, Saturday

224/224 ASSEMBLY SEATS

Congress	135 (L1)
BJP	65
JD(S)	19
Others	4

bagged 135 out of the 224 seats at stake and was leading in one, according to Election Commission data at 9pm. The magic mark is 113. It was also the Congress' best-ever performance in Karnataka since 1999 when the party won 132

seats. The party bagged 80 seats in the 2018 elections with a vote share of 38 per cent.

Of the six regions in the state, the Congress swept the Old Mysuru, Mumbai Karnataka, Hyderabad Karnataka and Central Karnataka regions. The BJP managed to retain its hold only in Coastal Karnataka while it was a mixed bag in Bangalore. Though its vote share decreased only marginally from 36.2 per cent to 36 per cent, the BJP's seat tally slumped to 65 from 104 in 2018. It was the second loss for the BJP after Himachal Pradesh in December last year. As BJP leaders were contemplative in defeat,

CM Basavaraj Bommai said the party could not make the mark 'in spite of a lot of effort put in by everyone, including the prime minister and workers of the party'. "We will do a detailed analysis as the results conclude. We will take these results in our stride and try to reorganise the party for next year's Lok Sabha elections," said Bommai who won from Shiggaon.

As many as 14 ministers tasted defeat at the hustings.

They are Govinda Karjol, JC Madhuswamy, BC Patil, Shankar Patil Munena Koppa, Halappa Achar, B Sriramul, K Sudhakar, BC Nagesh, Murugesha Nirani, BC Patil and MTB Nagaraj V Somanna lost from Varuna and Chamaraajanagar; the two segments where he contested. R Ashoka who too contested from two constituencies was re-elected from Padmanabhanagar but lost in Kanakapura. The JD(S), which had hoped to be kingmaker, won 19 seats, down from 37 last time with its vote share decreasing to 13.32 per cent from 18 per cent in the previous elections. The Congress made huge inroads into the JD(S)' Vokkaliga stronghold in Old Mysuru region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Congress for its win and wished the party best in its endeavour to fulfilling people's aspirations. **More P8**

Congratulations to the Congress Party for their victory in the Karnataka Assembly polls. My best wishes to them in fulfilling people's aspirations. I thank all those who have supported us in the Karnataka elections



NARENDRA MODI | PM

My salutations to the people of Karnataka for their decisive mandate in favour of change!! Brute authoritarian and majoritarian politics is vanquished!! When people want plurality and democratic forces to win, no central design to dominate can repress their spontaneity: That is the moral of the story, lesson for tomorrow



MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CM

In Karnataka, 'nafir ka bazaar' (market of hate) has closed down and 'mohabbat ki dukaanein' (shops of love) have opened. This is the victory of everyone, firstly of the people of Karnataka



RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

3 OF FAMILY FOUND DEAD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 13: A 35-year-old woman and her two children were found dead inside a closed room under mysterious circumstances at Sunapali Gountiapada area under Dhanupali police limits here, Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Sazia Parveen, her son Abdul Rehman (10) and daughter Humaiya Taiba (8).

The locals grew suspicious after the family members did not come out of the house for five days with the gate lying shut.

Moreover, family members of the woman residing at Chakradharpur suspected some foul play after their calls to contact her over phone went unanswered.

Panicked, they reached Sambalpur Saturday and found foul odor emanating from the house and the door locked from outside.

They informed the Dhanupali police. A police team led by SDPO Pradip Sahu and Dhanupali IIC Anita Pradhan reached the spot and launched a probe.

Police recovered the bodies wrapped in bed sheets inside the house after breaking open the lock in presence of a magistrate.

A forensic team has been pressed into service and the actual reason behind the death of the woman and her two kids is yet to be ascertained.

The room has been sealed, said an official of Dhanupali police.

Bangladesh watches 1st Indian movie in 50 yrs

UNABLE TO REMAIN VIABLE DUE TO BAN ON FOREIGN FILMS SINCE 1971, OVER 1,000 MOVIE HOUSES HAVE SHUT THEIR DOORS IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, MANY OF THEM TO BE CONVERTED TO SHOPPING CENTRES OR APARTMENTS

AGENCIES

Dhaka, May 13: Thousands flocked to cinemas in Dhaka to watch Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster 'Pathaan', the first Indian movie to get a full release in Bangladesh in more than half a century.

The action-packed spy thriller smashed box office records when it opened in India in January and the star has a huge fan following around the world.

Dhaka had imposed a ban on foreign films in 1971 following its independence in order to protect the local entertainment industry. However, this year, the Sheikh Hasina government decided to allow the commercial screening of up to 10 imported films.

"I am so excited because a Hindi film is being released in Bangladesh



People arrive at a cinema hall in Dhaka to watch 'Pathaan'

for the first time," said Sazzad Hossain, 18, at a cineplex in the capital.

"We are all Shah Rukh Khan fans. For the first time, I'll watch Shah Rukh Khan on a giant screen."

Bangladeshi cinemas have gone

into steep decline, with poor-quality local films unable to match Hindi movie industry's glitz and glamour or draw audiences, and the ageing Shakib Khan its only bankable star. Some movie houses even switched

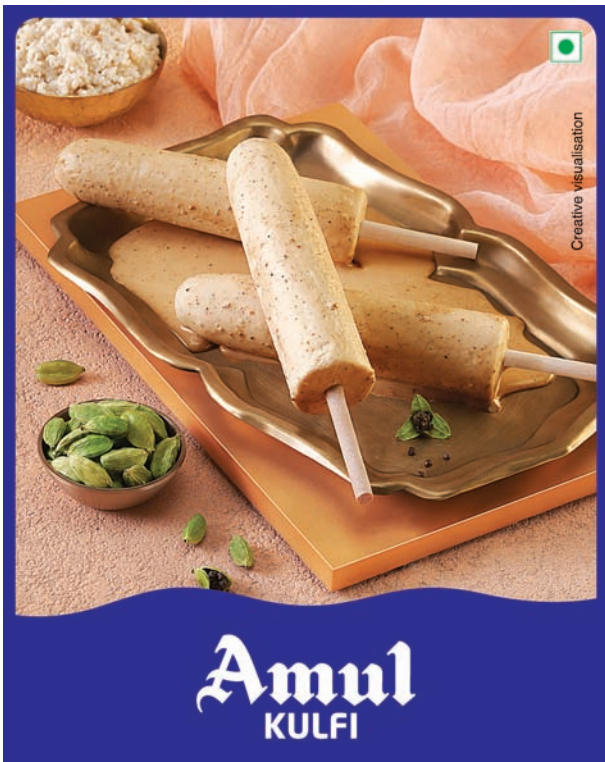
to illegally showing pornography to try to remain viable, but more than 1,000 have shut their doors in the last 20 years, many of them to be converted to shopping centres or apartments.

At the Modhumita Cinema Hall, once Dhaka's most luxurious movie theatre, heroin addicts sat outside this week in front of posters for Jim, a newly released Bangladeshi movie.

"I haven't seen such a poor crowd in many years," said one theatre employee. "Only a few rows have been filled up. Nobody watches these local art movies or films with poor storylines."

Cinemas used to be a mainstay of Bangladeshi social life.

"This hall was like a great meeting place of the Old Dhaka community," Pradip Narayan said at the Manoshi Complex, a 100-year-old movie theatre turned into a market in 2017.



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will experience a profound connection with the cosmos today. And you will be very grateful to the almighty for showering his grace on you. Your love for your kith and kin deepens today, says Ganesh, and you will spend extravagantly on them.

TAURUS

Much to the disappointment and annoyance of your friends and associates, you are likely to act unduly possessive and self-centred about persons and objects, warns Ganesh. Be sure, your overprotective attitude is not likely to amuse anyone. To make matters worse you will possibly ignore their well-founded resentment and instead of setting matters right, you will be running after material gains.

GEMINI

You will be more inclined towards religious teachings and rituals today. You will probably visit a place of worship and spend some time there and this will bring you mental peace and calm. However, you still need to do justice to your duties, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. But the results may not be too forthcoming. However, that should not be a reason for you to get dejected or anxious. You will get your due sooner or later. Also, spending some time with your loved ones will be quite gratifying emotionally.

LEO

You will need to keep from being agitated today. Let your spouse or business partner take critical decisions if you aren't in the right frame of mind. Decisions you take today may have to be rethought of later. Important meetings will proceed smoothly, but you will not be able to commit to any final conclusions or contracts.

VIRGO

Appreciate the things that people do and try your best to inspire them to achieve greater success, says Ganesh. Put on your thinking cap and contemplate seriously. Simply criticising others will only hurt you. Be as level-headed as you can and keep pegging on towards your targets.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will try to attain prestige in society today. This prestige will come to you via the field of communication or by your own thought processes. In your free time you will be able to learn about various topics of interest to you. Ganesh wishes you all the very best in life.

SCORPIO

Till now you have experienced all the highs. Today you may come across the lows of the professional world. The equation between your boss, colleagues and you may get slightly disturbed. However, you will make it up by evening. Freshers may look for some career opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS

Upholding all that is right and just will be the high-point today. You will be in the right spirits to fight injustice and discrimination. The day promises to be as splendid as your will. Ganesh advises you to stand up and conquer all today.

CAPRICORN

Lack of confidence may leave you glum in the first half of the day, and to add to it, you will be loaded with work that you may have taken up from company other than the one employing you full time, says Ganesh. The sullen mood will turn jovial by evening, and you can expect to have a good time socialising with friends and relatives.

AQUARIUS

Your plate will be full with plenty of work, and you will have no clue about how to handle all the chaos. Patience and organisational skills, your best qualities will help you sail through these difficult times, assures Ganesh. You will successfully wind up the day at work and geared up to party later in the evening.

PISCES

Financial bearings will be at the fore front of your attention today, feels Ganesh. Bank accounts, stocks, loans and other such things will dominate your thoughts and words. Earning money will be your primary goal and you will focus on those methods that will be most profitable to you, today.



JENNIFER LAWRENCE LAUGHED HERSELF TO DEATH

Hollywood star Jennifer Lawrence recently shared that the genuine Craigslist ad behind her upcoming explicit R-rated film, *No Hard Feelings*, had her laughing uncontrollably, reports *Variety*.

JOHNNY DEPP SIGNS MEN'S FRAGRANCE DEAL WITH DIOR

French luxury fashion house Dior strengthens ties with Johnny Depp, despite his controversial past. The luxury brand signs him to an enormous deal, creating the largest men's fragrance partnership ever, reports *Variety*.

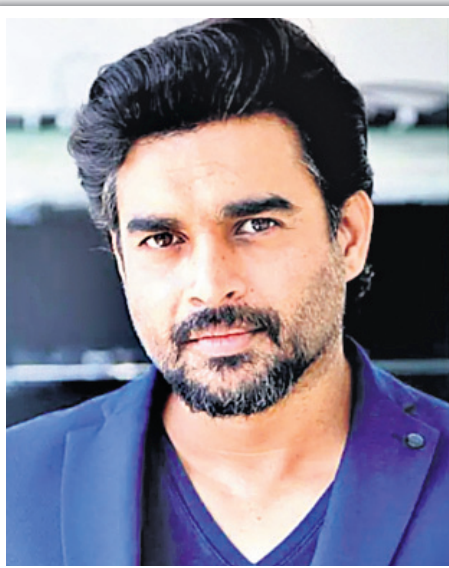


“I wouldn't do a film like that today”

Mumbai: Actor Sonakshi Sinha, who was at the receiving end of criticism for some of the controversial scenes in the film *Rowdy Rathore*, opened up about the double standards that exist in the film industry. According to her, women often bear the brunt of such situations and are made out to be the villains.

Interviewer asked her about a scene where Akshay Kumar's character held her by the waist and said 'Yeh mera maal hai'. To this, Sonakshi said, "Today where I stand, I would never do something like that. I was so young at that time that I was not thinking in this direction. For me, it was a fact that I am doing a film with Prabhudheva, I am doing a film with Akshay Kumar, who would say no to something like that? Sanjay Leela Bhansali was producing it. Why would I say no? At that time, my thinking was very very different. Today, if I would read a script like that, I would not do it. Things change with time, I too have changed."

AGENCIES



“LOOKING FORWARD TO WORK WITH AJAY”

Mumbai: Hindi-tamil superstar R Madhavan and Ajay Devgn are teaming up for a film to be produced by Devgn, Abhishek Pathak and Kumar Mangat's Panorama Studios. The film will be directed by Vikas Bahl who last directed Amitabh Bachchan in *Goodbye*.

Confirming the project R Madhavan says, "Yes I am doing a film with Ajay Devgn. It is directed by Vikas Bahl. Both are a first for me. I am really looking forward to working with Ajay. He has shaped into such a fine actor, one of the best we've got".

When probed about the role Madhavan laughs, "It is a work in progress. I know my character. But I don't know how it will finally shape up. I am not supposed to talk about my role".

Further probing reveals that the film has equally prominent roles for both heroes. Neither Madhavan nor Devgn is known to do two-hero projects. For them both to agree to do this project, it has to be something equally challenging to both.

AGENCIES

Goal was to appear joyful: Alia Bhatt

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt is one of the finest actresses we have in the industry. There is no ignoring the fact that she is developing professionally every day. The actress made it to the headlines after she made India proud at MET Gala 2023 and made a remarkable presence.

In an interview, the *Raazi* actor recalled walking the red carpet for the MET Gala 2023 and confessed that she was worried about falling over on the red carpet, so she made sure to give herself plenty of time to pose, take a

breather, and enjoy the occasion. "It's not about putting too much pressure on yourself or treating it seriously. Although it's a sizeable and significant event, the goal was to appear joyful and lighthearted on the outside by having fun internally. That's what I was concentrating on. Having saying that, I truly enjoyed myself," she says.

The actress will next be seen in *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani* and *Heart Of Stone*. AGENCIES



Could do a spin-off of 'Vedha': Hrithik

Mumbai: Superstar Hrithik Roshan recently revealed his wish to dig deeper into the layered story of Vedha from the film *Vikram Vedha* saying, "I love the character Vedha, I had a lot of fun playing him. Maybe we can do a spin-off of just Vedha. Take that guy (character) and make a film."

Ever since the digital release of Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan starrer *Vikram Vedha* on Jio Cinema, fans have been raving about the layered and impactful performance of Hrithik Roshan as Vedha. Intrigued to delve deeper into the menacing and savage yet morally sound gangster's character played impeccably by Hrithik Roshan, netizens took

to social media demanding a spin-off. To their pleasant surprise, the actor agrees and has expressed his desire to do a film tracing an insightful story of Vedha.

Fans have been pouring their love on Hrithik Roshan for his versatility and range as an actor for *Vikram Vedha*.

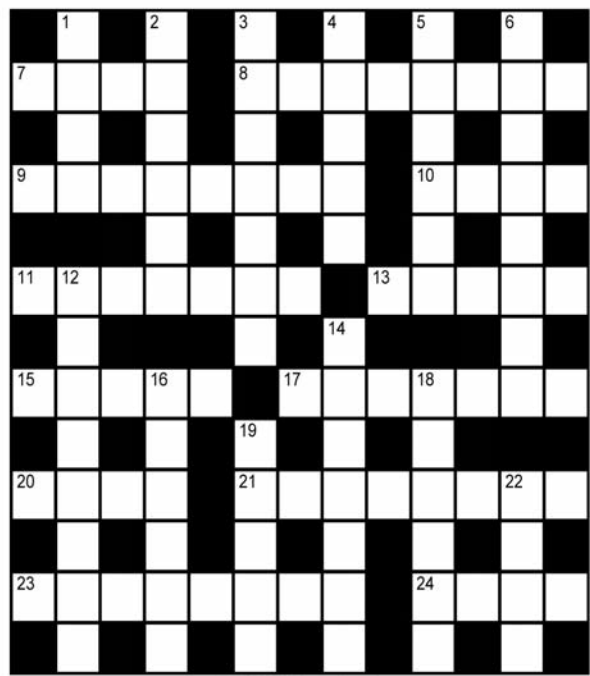
Currently shooting for his upcoming next, Hrithik Roshan is gearing for *Fighter*, releasing on 25th January, 2024. Directed by Siddharth Anand, the film co-stars Deepika Padukone and is touted as India's first aerial action film.

AGENCIES



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 7 Heavenly body
- 8 Whiplash preventer
- 9 Greybeard (3-5)
- 10 Beer gardens
- 11 Bantu language
- 13 Whale food
- 15 Slightly intoxicated
- 17 Scavenger (4,3)

Down

- 20 Scottish dog breed
- 21 Give-and-take, verbally
- 23 Child transport
- 24 Timbre
- 1 Inner circle
- 5 Strait-laced
- 6 Queen of Castile
- 12 Face fungus
- 14 Underwater bloodsucker
- 16 Oration
- 18 Martial art
- 19 True heath
- 22 Sicilian erupter

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

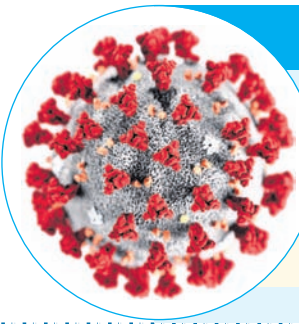
9	8	6	7	4	3	5	2	1
1	7	4	5	6	2	9	8	3
5	3	2	8	1	9	7	4	6
4	2	1	3	8	7	6	9	5
7	9	8	4	5	6	3	1	2
6	5	3	2	9	1	8	7	4
3	1	5	9	2	8	4	6	7
8	6	7	1	3	4	2	5	9
2	4	9	6	7	5	1	3	8

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



COMPELLING ACT

Artistes perform a play during the concluding day of 'Shabda Ranga Natak Utsav 2023' at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,81,88,997	66,05,85,929	68,73,799
India	4,49,78,478	4,44,28,427	5,31,753
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Five regional judicial academies launched

Five places Angul, Balasore, Ganjam, Koraput and Sambalpur were selected on the basis of their geographical locations and proposed to be clusters to facilitate training programmes



Supreme Court Judge Justice Kurya Kant and Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar with judges during the inauguration of the 'Five Newly Established Regional Judicial Academies' in Cuttack, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May, 13: The five newly established Regional Judicial Academies at Angul, Balasore, Sambalpur, Ganjam and Koraput were inaugurated by Supreme Court Judge Justice Surya Kant in presence of Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and other High Court Judges in virtual mode from Odisha Judicial Academy here Saturday.

In his address, Justice Surya Kant said that the Regional Judicial Academies of Odisha be an example for the rest of the country. Justice Surya Kant highlighted the role of district judiciary in delivery of justice to the common people and expressed hope that the Regional Judicial Academies will effectively help in functioning of the district judiciary.

He lauded the establishment of virtual courts in the districts by the

High Court of Orissa and called it a landmark step in ensuring access to justice. Highlighting the importance of mediation as an effective tool in alternative dispute redressal system, Justice Surya Kant advised for training the judicial officers in the Regional Judicial Academies on the mediation exercises and the legal aid activities.

Justice Muralidhar said that the coming into fruition of the five Regional Academies was the result of coordinated and concerted efforts of the Judges of the High Court and the District Judges and thanked the state government for notifying these Regional Academies and extending support. He said that the five locations were carefully chosen taking into consideration their geographical locations so as to form clusters for the benefit of the nearby districts.

He said many ICT initiatives

have been rolled out by the High Court in last two years and many such initiatives are on card which can be implemented effectively only if the judicial officers, court staff, lawyers and their clerks are provided hands-on training on use of these technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Orissa High Court Judge & Chairman of Juedicial Academy & Training Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi discussed the factors leading to establishment of the Regional Judicial Academies and thanked Muralidhar for conceiving the idea.

While some of the Judges physically attended the function in the Odisha Judicial Academy, the other Judges were present in the five Regional Judicial Academies and attended the function in virtual mode. Among others, the District Judges and Judicial Officers of the state also attended the function in virtual mode.

MOTHER'S DAY 2023

The juggling act by City's working moms

A WORKING MOTHER, ESPECIALLY THE ONE WHO HAS THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE ABLE TO BALANCE HER HOME AND WORK, ENJOYS THE STIMULATION THAT A JOB OR CAREER PROVIDES

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 13: Many women today are facing choices that their mothers never had to face. They work outside the home versus working in the home. Apart from raising a child, the mother is also handling hectic work schedule. The working mothers are considered of the 'toughest groups' who juggle career and family life with aplomb. A mother is an institution in her own right, one who combines a successful career with effective motherhood. However, often the society paints a negative picture of these mothers terming them not sensitive towards their household responsibilities.

A working mother, especially the one who has the good fortune to be able to balance her home and work, enjoys the stimulation that a job or career provides. She develops the ability of raising a useful member of society and at the same time gains financial independence. Along with motherhood, work adds to the completeness of being a woman.

On the occasion of Mother's Day, **OrissaPOST** talks to some of the City's working mothers and tried to understand how they maintain balance between career and family.

Priyanka Singhdeo, an IT consultant said being a working mother is an incredibly rewarding but often difficult role. It can be a challenge to juggle a career and family, but it is also an experience that can bring great joy and satisfaction.



BIKASH NAYAK, OP

She said that the life of a working mother is full of excitement, but it can also be filled with challenges. One of the greatest challenges is finding balance between work and family. Working mothers often struggle to find enough time to spend with their children and make sure their needs are met. Especially during the times when we have to work from home and the kid is also at home due to vacations or online studies. It gets difficult to focus in one area. Additionally, working mothers sometimes have to sacrifice their own personal needs in order to make sure their family is taken care of.

Actress and producer Jhilik Bhattacharjee apart from managing her production house Jhilik Motion Pictures as well as acting is also taking care of her two babies. She said being a working mom is not easy. You have to be organized, efficient and dedicated to making it work. As you can see, it is very much

possible to balance your career and your family. After all, you are raising kids and building a thriving future for them. Excitement comes when you have a supportive partner who also joins hands with you in every situation to nurture the kids.

Anchor Riya Nanda said to be very honest a working mother tries to combine an aspiring career with effective motherhood all her life and this requires extreme effort. So she tries her level best to do justice to one without neglecting the other. But remembering and reminding that it's up to you and only you to rise up to everyday challenges, so that it does not bring you down. While multi-tasking may be our watchword, we also crave for some 'me-time' while juggling between work and family.

Chairman and Principal of Mother's Public School, Poly Patnaik said when I became a mother there was no daycare As I was working

in a college it was very different to balance work and motherhood so I decided to start a daycare name Prakrit. It gradually grew from nursery to plus II classes and today it is known as mother's public school. During my time, things were very different and difficult for working mothers. I started the school to help working parents so that they do not have to bother about their children during the working hours.

Atashi Banerjee a school teacher said that working mother is like goddess Maa Durga. Ten hands represent number of activities (multitasking) of working ladies. It is not so easy to balance between work place and home. It takes lot of courage, sacrifice, mental and physical exhaustion to nurture a child. A working mother has to plan all in advance.

Handloom Retailer and Crusader of Autism spectrum disorder Gargi Bhattacharya said being a mother of an adolescent with autism mean over performing at every level, be it at home or at work. It also means dealing with an extended infancy throughout one's career; which in normal circumstances, would last four to five years of intense care giving. Nevertheless, this unusual mothering has helped me to develop a kind of skill set that no mentor can teach. I can proudly say that I spent a lifetime in the lap of compassion, having remained a mother to a baby, through an irregular career graph.





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G20 delegates’ meet on culture from today

During their visit, the delegates will visit to heritage sites like the the Konark Sun Temple and the Udayagiri Caves and experience special dance performances native to Odisha



भारत 2023 INDIA
वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्
ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik May 15 will inaugurate an exhibition titled ‘Sustain: The Craft Idiom’ at Kala Bhoomi, Odisha Crafts Museum, here in City
- The meetings will focus on four key priority areas: Protection and restitution of cultural property; harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future; promotion of cultural and creative industries and creative economy; and leveraging digital technologies for the protection and promotion of culture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The second meeting of the G20 Culture Working Group is starting here from Sunday May 14 to offer an opportunity for deliberation on serious recommendations on issues facing the culture sector. The meeting, set to end May 17, will be attended by delegates from G20 member countries, guest nations, and several international organisations.

“This 2nd CWG meeting will build on the momentum gained from the first meeting held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, which was followed by in depth expert-driven global thematic webinars held over the past two months,” said an official.

The meetings will focus on four

key priority areas articulated under Culture Track of India’s G20 Presidency. The areas are: Protection and restitution of cultural property; harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future; promotion of cultural and creative industries and creative economy; and leveraging digital technologies for the protection and promotion of culture.

A sand art exhibit will be organised Sunday at the Puri Beach. The theme for the exhibit is set as ‘Culture Unites All’, which will be inaugurated by the Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER G Kishan Reddy and Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal.

“India’s G20 Culture Working Group’s ‘Culture Unites All’ is a campaign to highlight the country’s

unwavering belief in multilateralism based on peaceful coexistence among diverse cultures and communities. The theme recognises that by embracing cultural exchange and understanding, we can transcend boundaries, foster connections, and inspire meaningful dialogue among individuals, communities, and nations,” said the official.

A set of cultural experiences have been curated for the delegates through the course of their visit. These include a visit to heritage sites like the the Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Udayagiri Caves. The delegates will also experience special dance performances native to the Odisha such as Singari, Sambalpuri, Odissi and Gotipua.

As a part of the 2nd G20 Culture Working Group Meeting, an exhibition titled ‘Sustain: The Craft Idiom’ will be organised at Kala Bhoomi - Odisha Crafts Museum here in City with a focus on the second priority ‘harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future’.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik May 15 will inaugurate the exhibition in the presence of G Kishan Reddy, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Minister for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai. The exhibition will be open to the public from May 16 to May 22.



PROMOTING CRAFT: Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu browsing through handcrafted items on the inaugural day of Handicrafts and Handlooms Exhibition organised by Odisha State Cooperative Handicrafts Corporation Limited (Utkalika) on its 65th Foundation Day in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Chariot work progressing smoothly

■ Some 205 servitors involved in the construction of chariots are being served daily breakfast, lunch and snacks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 13: Hundreds of carpenters are working under the guidance of three ‘Biswakarmas’ in construction of the three huge chariots for June 20 car festival.

Construction work of three huge chariots was steadily progressing in the Rath Khala (construction yard) located along the Badadanda in front of Srimandir office.

Lord Jagannath, his elder Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra would go to their house (Gundicha ghar) on a nine day so-journ riding these three chariots along the Grand Road June 20.

Construction of chariots proceeds to a fixed schedule beginning from Akshay Tithiya and gets completed in 55 days, a day prior to the commencement of the grand event. On the Bhaunri (May12), the concluding day of the



Carpenters busy giving finishing touch to a chariot wheel in Puri, Saturday

twenty one day Chandan yatra, three axles (one axle of each chariot) have been fitted with six wheels.

According to Bijay Mahapatra, the Biswakarma of Nandighosh Rath, almost all the hubs of 42 wheels of three chariots were given shape and now spokes and rims were being fixed while three axles were fixed with wheels as per the schedule. The temple administration has made elaborate arrangements for the workers engaged in the construction.

A work force of 205 are daily being served breakfast, launch and

snacks, and will continue to be served till the completion of the job. This apart, they are provided with clothings and personal effect kits. A medical team used to test their health status and attend to their health issues in the Rath construction yard every day.

The engineers of the Works department visit the construction yard to ensure everything proceeds well. The police, personnel of fire services and healthcare officials with their equipment and ambulance are deployed at the construction yard.

Nurses’ work celebrated at IGKC Hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: IGKC Multispecialty Hospital, Bhubaneswar, celebrated International Nurses Day with the officials of the hospital lighting a lamp to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the lady with the lamp, and garlanding her portrait to pay her tributes.

Speaking on this year’s theme “Our Nurses our Future,” managing director PC Dalei said that nurses are the backbone of the hospital, playing a vital role in maintaining the health and well-being of the patients.

Director Manoranjan Mohapatra, deputy medical superintendent Rupsa Nayana Rout, administration and finance head Subrat Das, AGM-operation KC Dalei, deputy nursing superintendent Suprava Nayak spoke about the significant role played by the nurses in routine patient care, infection control and providing emotional support to the patients and their families.

KIIT students feted for excelling in exam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta here Saturday visited the KiIT International School (KiTIS) to congratulate the students for good results in the recently published CBSE exam results. Samanta also distributed sweets among the students and teachers.

All the three schools under the KiIT Group of Institutions have posted excellent results in the Class X and Class XII CBSE board examinations, which were declared Friday. The schools include KiIT International School (KiT-IS), Bhubaneswar, Kalinga English Medium School in Kalarabanka, and Delhi branch of KISS, KISS-Delhi.



KiIT-IS student Sneha Nayak emerged as the state topper in humanities with 98.4 per cent marks. The school has been breaking its own record every year by achieving outstanding results.

Kalinga English Medium School in Kalarabanka, which caters to students from remote rural areas, has consistently posted cent per cent results, with a major chunk getting first division this year as well.

Continuing its streak of solid performances in its third year, KISS-Delhi, which helps underprivileged urban poor students from Delhi and NCR, has secured a cent per cent result. Samanta congratulated the students, staff, and the leadership of the schools for the success.

Expressing his satisfaction over the results, Achyuta Samanta said, “These three CBSE schools are catering to students from different categories of society and I am proud of the overall performance in the examinations.”

The schools have been providing quality education to students from diverse backgrounds, and their outstanding results reflect the hard work put in by the students, teachers, and staff.

Renovated pond dedicated to public

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalinganagar, May 13: Rural Development, Skill Development & Technical Education Minister Pritiranjan Gharai Saturday inaugurated two major projects of Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) including five new classrooms and a community pond in Baragadia Gram Panchayat of Kalinganagar in Jajpur.

The facilities were dedicated to the public in the presence of Divya Ranjan Barala, chairman, Sukinda

Block, Bhagyalaxmi Rout, vice chairperson, Sukinda Block, Pradeep Kumar Deo, Sarpanch, Baragadia Gram Panchayat, Mrutyunjay Deo, Samiti Sabhya, Baragadia Gram Panchayat, Allen Joseph, Unit Head, Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) and other members from the community.

The local community pond renovated by TSF, which improved the water resources and increased the water storage capacity to 0.41mcft, will benefit community members of Baragadia Gram Panchayat.



AWARENESS BEFORE ACTION: Utkal University Vice-Chancellor Sabita Acharya, among dignitaries, lighting the inaugural lamp for an ‘awareness programme on thalassemia and sickle cell on the eve of World Thalassemia Day’ at the PG Council Conference Hall on the university premises in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Is loneliness really as damaging as smoking 15 cigarettes a day?

Vivek Murthy, the US surgeon general, recently warned that “being socially disconnected” has a similar effect on mortality as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. This statement was widely reported in the media, including in the Washington Post, the Times and the Daily Mail. But where does this “15 cigarettes a day” figure come from?

Murthy is referring to a study published in 2010 that explored social relationships and mortality rates. The researchers combined the data from 148 studies on the topic, in what is known as a “meta-analysis”, to arrive at a more robust sta-

tistical answer to their questions. The meta-analysis contained data on 300,000 participants who were studied for an average of seven and a half years. The researchers explored the extent to which social relationships can influence the risk of premature death, the aspects of social relationships that are most likely to predict an early death, and any factors that mitigate the risk.

They concluded that lonely people are 50% more likely to die prematurely than people with strong social relationships. They then used a statistical tool called “random effects models” to compute



that the influence of social relationships on the risk of death is comparable to well-established risk factors for death, such as smoking cigarettes.

Although the methodology the researchers used was sound – and

loneliness is certainly damaging for health – it could be argued that the “equivalent to 15 cigarettes a day” analogy is sensationalist.

The researchers also pointed out that the health risks of loneliness are similar to alcohol consumption (more than six drinks a day) and exceed other risk factors, such as physical inactivity and obesity. Yet these comparisons are rarely mentioned in the media or keynote speeches as they don’t have the same impact as smoking.

The smoking comparison also has the potential to add to the burden of people who feel lonely and exacerbate the stigma associated

with loneliness. However, the effectiveness of the analogy cannot be underestimated. Thirteen years on, the paper continues to raise awareness about loneliness and the associated damaging health consequences.

Other studies that are just as robust, but perhaps fail to grab the headlines in the same way, have likewise shown a range of health conditions associated with loneliness and social isolation, including heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer. Even recovery following heart surgery can be compromised by isolation.

Mental health conditions can also be triggered by loneliness, including loss of hope, depression, problems with sleep, alcohol abuse and other psychiatric disorders. Lonely people also have heightened sensitivity to social threat. It is believed loneliness has an evolutionary function that is felt in a similar way to hunger or thirst and is a signal to people to change their lifestyle and social connections. However, when loneliness becomes chronic it can be different to break out of and for people to know how to overcome the negative feelings they are experiencing.

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2 road accidents claim 5 lives



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/Bhadrak, May 13: Three people were killed in a road accident in Jajpur district Saturday after a heavy vehicle hit a motorcycle carrying them, police said.

The accident happened in the early hours on National Highway-16 near Kadhei Chhak within the jurisdiction of the Badachana po-

in connection with the incident and initiated an investigation, the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Badachana police station said.

In a separate incident, two people were killed after an unknown vehicle hit them from the rear at Nalanga Chowk on National Highway-16 in Bhadrak district.

The deceased were identified as Biswajit Rout (20) and Sanu Swain (19) of Parbatia village in Dhenkanal. As per report, Biswajit and Sanu were returning to Dhenkanal from Jaleswar on a bike when the fatal mishap occurred.

Reports said the duo was flung onto the roadside after an unknown vehicle hit them from the rear near a petrol pump at Nalanga Chowk. Police rescued them with the help of villagers from a pool of blood and took them to the district headquarters hospital. However, doctors declared that both of them were brought dead. The duo was working as operators of paddy harvesting machines.



NOVEL INITIATIVE: A member of a voluntary outfit 'Jeevanjyoti' ties a water-filled pot to a roadside tree to help birds quench their thirst in this summer season at Tihidi in Bhadrak district, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Rampant sale of land flouting RERA norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 13: Rampant sale and purchase of land under Sadar tehsil in this district in alleged violation of master plan and prescribed norms of Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has sparked serious concern, a report said Saturday.

Land owners are allegedly plotting their land and selling the plots to interested buyers. The matter came to the fore after the special planning officer issued several letters allowing plotting of land for sale just a few days before his retirement (February 16, 2023). People have been lodging complaints in this regard before the concerned authorities but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

It is alleged that illegal sale of land is rampant at Alanapada, Ranki, Banpar, Gumura, Brahmanigaon, Nuagaon, Maligaon and Naranpur mouzas under Sadar tehsil. The



CONCERN IN KEONJHAR

rules mandate that the land should be utilised for the purpose only for which it has been purchased.

However, it is often seen that land purchased for construction of public utility such as parks, resorts are later divided into plots and sold off to the interested buyers for construction of private houses on the land in violation of established norms.

According to RERA norms, no land can be sold or purchased by di-

viding it into plots without the prior permission of district's Town Planning Authority (TPA). However, land is being sold and purchased after plotting sans the permission of the concerned authority in Keonjhar town and adjoining areas in complete violation of master plan and RERA norms.

It is seen that the Town Planning Authority often gives permission for land sale on various pretexts

such as daughter's marriage, hospitalisation and medical treatment or for higher education and informs the sub-registrar office accordingly. Observers claimed that the reasons for land sale are often false and fictitious.

However, no verification is undertaken to check these claims for sale and purchase of land. Moreover, Sadar tehsil is also kept in the dark on land sale as no information is given to it ahead of land sales.

The District Collector is the chairman of the TPA but he is kept in dark as the permission copy for land sale is not given to him. The TPA has to verify drainage, environmental and other facilities available on the plots on the basis of RERA norms before giving permission for land sale.

However, the land owners do not build any such facility. They continue plotting their land and constructing roads in their own interest and sale of the lands. The TPA has

been formed to oversee that the land owners ensure these facilities before the sale of land but they never work accordingly.

A retired official Prasant Kumar Parida ruled out any irregularities in land sale in violation of RERA rules during his term of service in the TPA and demanded a probe to ascertain the truth. Former MLA Subarna Nayak demanded an impartial probe to unravel the irregularities in land sales. Collector Ashish Thakare assured to conduct a probe into the allegations.

ANM found hanging; husband arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tihidi, May 13: Police recovered the body of an ANM Saturday which was found hanging in a rented house at Purunahat locality under Tihidi police limits in Bhadrak district.

The deceased identified as Sujata Sujasnata Das was working as an ANM at Alinagar primary health centre in the area. The deceased's mother Anupama Mohanty filed a complaint at Tihidi PS alleging preplanned murder for dowry. On the basis of the complaint, police have arrested the ANM's husband Gyanaranjan Das and forwarded him to court, Saturday.

As per reports, Sujata Sujasnata, daughter of Niranjan Mohanty of Bahadarada village under Rural PS, Bhadrak was married to Gyanaranjan Das, son of Narayan Das of Maharampur village in 2015. By profession, Gyanaranjan is a teacher.

Both were living in a rented house in the Purunahat area coming under Tihidi PS for the last few years. Friday, her parents reached the spot after getting the news that Sujata committed suicide by hanging. Later they complained at the police station.

MAHANADI MEGA DRINKING WATER PROJECT

3 NACs, 253 panchayats in Ganjam to get piped water

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, May 13: As part of the state government's vision to provide safe and piped drinking water to every household by 2024, a total of 40 mega drinking water projects are in progress across Odisha. Also, there is possibility of some new projects being undertaken. However, owing to delays in the tender processes and other reasons, the ambitious projects may miss the projected deadline.

Aiming to ensure drinking water supply to residents of 11 blocks and three NACs in Ganjam district, a mega drinking water project is in progress. Carried out through the Jal Jeevan Mission in collaboration with the Centre, Rs 1,973 crore will be invested for the project, which will draw water from the Mahanadi.

After being awarded the tender, L&T company has taken responsibility for the project and started the survey works. Work will start after the survey is completed. It will take a span of two years to complete the project.

After completion of the project, the residents of Belguntha block and NAC, Buguda block and NAC, Polsara



block and NAC, Bhanja Nagar, Jagannathprasad, Purusottampur, Sorada, Aska, Dharakot, Kabisuryanagar blocks including two villages of Beguniapada block will be benefitted. A total of 253 panchayats are present in the area. In each of these panchayats, there will be one pump set and one overhead water tank.

The village and panchayat committee will look after project after its completion. More than 10 lakh people reside in more than 1,98,000 houses in these areas. Till now about 60 per cent of the local population is getting the benefit of supplied drinking water.

The project aims to collect 1,340 lakh litre of water daily from the Mahanadi near Gania Chhamundia

of Daspalla block in Nayagarh district through pipeline to the big sump to be constructed at Gayaganda under Jagannathprasad block. Drinking water will be supplied to different localities from there after filtering. For this, a 16-acre plot has been acquired at Gayaganda. Also, land acquisition process has started in all the panchayats for the construction of sumps and overhead tanks. Senior-level officers had inspected these places many times before the declaration of the tender.

Asked, superintending engineer of Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWSS) department Saroj Kumar Kar said the company has already started survey work. Where there is no electric power supply, the project will work through solar energy.

Heat measures in place at Bhitarkanika

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, May 13: The forest department has taken all necessary arrangements to protect the wildlife from the scorching heat and humidity in the summer in Bhitarkanika National Park situated in this district.

Keeping in mind the hot summer and rise in day temperatures which normally irritate the wild animals, forest personnel have made arrangements to ensure that there is adequate drinking water so that the animals do not dehydrate, DFO of Rajnagar Mangrove (forest) and wildlife division Sudarshan Gopinath Jadhav said.

With the rise of mercury level along with high humidity during the day hours in coastal Kendrapara,



many wildlife fauna, especially wild boar and deer, generally sneak from the Bhitarkanika National Park to nearby ponds and other water bodies of nearby villages, located at the fringes of Bhitarkanika National Park.

Jadhav said as many as 12 existing

ponds along with some ditches have been renovated and a new pond has been excavated under Kanika forest Range with an aim to mitigate the water scarcity and to provide sufficient water to the hoofed animal and wild boars for drinking purpose.

He further said special care has also

been taken by the forest officials to protect the penned estuarine crocodiles, including the 48-year-old albino Gori, 20-year-old albino Malli and 5-year-old albino Sundari.

The forest department has already cleared weeds from the ponds and also renovated the pens, Ranger of Kanika Forest (wildlife) Range Manas Kumar Das said.

The forest personnel have also taken steps to provide a better cooling environment to nearly hundred estuarine crocodile hatchlings inside the hatchery in Dangamal Crocodile Research Centre.

Since the reptile hatchlings are more susceptible to the heat, the forest personnel have taken all efforts to ensure that the heatwave does not cause any casualty this summer, the DFO said.

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Description of work : COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE/REPAIR CONTRACT OF AIR-CONDITIONERS AND REFRIGERATORS OF EAST COAST RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS AT RAIL VIHAR, ECoR SADAN, RAILKUNJ AT BHUBANESWAR FOR THREE YEARS.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

The State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha has accorded the Environmental Clearance to MAADURGA THERMAL POWER COMPANY LIMITED (IPP), Tangi, Bainchua, Cuttack, Odisha over an area of 32.13 Acres, vide Environmental Clearance Identification No. EC23B004OR127687, File No.- 415567 / THE - 01/2023, Dated- May 8, 2023.

The Copy of above Environmental Clearance letter is available with State Pollution Control Board, Odisha and may also be seen on the website of the SEIAA, Odisha (<http://www.orissaseiaa.gov.in>).

Place: Tangi, Bainchua, Cuttack **Director**

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION (NON TEACHING)

Online applications are invited from the eligible Indian nationals for filling up the post of **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Civil)** on deputation basis. The notification containing full particulars such as Number of Posts, Notification No., Category, Essential Qualifications, Experience, Pay details of submission of Online Application etc. are available at the University website: www.cukerala.ac.in.

The last date for receipt of Online application is 25.05.2023, 5.00 P.M.

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A Few Questions

There are questions that must be asked of the Opposition, and I am sure others will ask them. It is the party that governs the state and the Centre that is accountable and so these questions must be asked of it and the man leading us. An election is over in which the Prime Minister said that a ban on the Bajrang Dal was the same as an attack on Hanuman. One headline read: “First they locked up Ram, now Hanuman...”, says Modi after Congress pitches Bajrang Dal ban in poll manifesto”. And then he said that the Congress was trying to get Karnataka to separate from India. The headline in the Indian Express was ‘Congress Shahi Parivar calling for Karnataka secession, inciting foreign powers: PM Modi’. Now that the elections are over and the Congress has won will the Centre act on the Prime Minister’s belief?

That is the first thing we have to think about. How many voters believed that the Congress was asking for secession and voted the way they did for that reason? Did the Prime Minister himself believe his words or was he saying them to instil fear in voters? If the latter, is that what Prime Ministers should be doing? Perhaps the answer to that is yes, that in a democracy all is fair when it comes to electioneering and a little untruthfulness and allegation are fine. And perhaps the answer is no. That the Prime Minister must act responsibly. And perhaps the answer is that he actually believes it and therefore will treat the Congress not as an opponent but as the enemy. It would not be correct to presume that the answer is one thing or another. But since the act has happened we must not let it go and ask ourselves whether it was an acceptable thing to say. It is too grave in my opinion a thing to let go and say it was just a jumla.

The people who built the party in Karnataka, like the former Chief Ministers Yeddyurappa and Shettar, were cast aside before the election. So also was their centrism. Yeddyurappa said in interviews that he was not supportive of the BJP taking up things like hijab, love jihad and so on. He did not say this because he was personally opposed to these things being governance issues, though he may have been. He was speaking as a man of the masses telling his party to focus on real things which mattered. In the stead of the older generation of leaders, the Prime Minister installed a younger, more aggressive set that amplified the majoritarian politics of the north Indian BJP. The results are before us. The question is, given that the BJP made all these moves and that these moves were presumably approved by Modi if not directed by him, who should accept the responsibility for the party’s rout? That is the second thing to consider as we absorb the results from Karnataka. On a related note, it is a historical phenomenon that urban votes less than rural but Bangalore where the Prime Minister campaigned most heavily with his roadshows voted 15 points less than the state and the BJP gave up space.

Next: The Kannadiga housewife and worker are not the only Indians suffering high household inflation, and the price of LPG cylinders is not different in Mysore and Mangalore from Ahmedabad, Patna and Srinagar. Unemployment, which has been over 6 per cent since the end of 2018, is not particularly different in Karnataka than it is in Uttar Pradesh. Anti-incumbency is not the burden of the BJP in Karnataka alone. It is difficult also to say that the allegations of corruption against the state BJP do not reflect on the rest of the party when the Adani issue remains alive in the courts, in Parliament when it is allowed to be and in the media, at least the foreign one, and above all in the markets. The third thing we have to ask ourselves then is to consider whether all the things that went against the BJP in the towns and villages of Karnataka will vanish on their own next year when they are asked again to choose a party. Perhaps they will, but it is a question that must be asked.

The last thing that we must ask ourselves is this. Can we assume that issues unrelated to polarisation and division were foremost in people determining how they would vote, or at least that if such issues existed they were marginal or that if they existed they were thought of in negative terms?

And if this is the case, what is it that we can do to ensure that such things are better reflected in our media, in our political spaces, in our WhatsApp groups and in our dining table conversations? A nation is not its political parties or its leaders. It is the people, and politics is not what a few do but how the many respond to it.

WISDOM CORNER

- Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

LAO TZU
- What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- Nothing is more noble, nothing more venerable than fidelity. Faithfulness and truth are the most sacred excellences and endowments of the human mind.

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

WORDSWORTH

Huckleberry

To be one’s huckleberry — usually as the phrase I’m your huckleberry — is to be just the right person for a given job, or a willing executor of some commission. Where it comes from needs a bit more explaining. First a bit of botanical history. When European settlers arrived in the New World, they found several plants that provided small, dark-coloured sweet berries. They reminded them of the English bilberry and similar fruits and they gave them one of the dialect terms they knew for them, hurtleberry, whose origin is unknown (though some say it has something to do with hurt, from the bruised colour of the berries; a related British dialect form is whortleberry). Very early on — at the latest 1670 — this was corrupted to huckleberry. As huckleberries are small, dark and rather insignificant, in the early part of the nineteenth century the word became a synonym for something humble or minor, or a tiny amount. An example from 1832: “He was within a huckleberry of being smothered to death”. Later on it came to mean somebody inconsequential. Mark Twain borrowed some aspects of these ideas to name his famous character, Huckleberry Finn. His idea, as he told an interviewer in 1895, was to establish that he was a boy “of lower extraction or degree” than Tom Sawyer. Also around the 1830s, we see the same idea of something small being elaborated and bombasted in the way so typical of the period to make the comparison a huckleberry to a persimmon, the persimmon being so much larger that it immediately establishes the image of something tiny against something substantial. There’s also a huckleberry over one’s persimmon, something just a little bit beyond one’s reach or abilities; an example is in David Crockett: His Life and Adventures by John S C Abbott, of 1874: “This was a hard business on me, for I could just barely write my own name. But to do this, and write the warrants too, was at least a huckleberry over my persimmon”. Quite how I’m your huckleberry came out of all that with the sense of the man for the job isn’t obvious. It seems that the word came to be given as a mark of affection or comradeship to one’s partner or sidekick. There is often an identification of oneself as a willing helper or assistant about it, as here in True to Himself, by Edward Stratemeyer, dated 1900: “I will pay you for whatever you do for me.” Then I’m your huckleberry. Who are you and what do you want to know?”. Despite the obvious associations, it doesn’t seem to derive directly from Mark Twain’s books.



Anil Singh

THE BJP’S DEFEAT IS LIKELY TO INSPIRE REGIONAL PARTIES, WHICH HAD BEEN IGNORED IN RECENT YEARS, TO GREATER HEIGHTS



Aakar Patel

A nation is not its political parties or its leaders. It is the people, and politics is not what a few do but how the many respond to it

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY



Soňa Muzikárová

RUSSIA’S INVASION OF UKRAINE HAS FORCED THE EU’S EASTERN FLANK TO CHANNEL RESOURCES TO MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

The victory of the Congress in the Karnataka Assembly elections is significant not only for the party but also for other non-BJP parties in other regions of the nation because it demonstrates that the BJP is no longer unbeatable and can be overthrown from power with a well-coordinated strategy. A political party, in this case, the Congress has successfully obtained a majority of its own to form the government for the first time in recent memory.

After being crowned king of Karnataka, Congress now faces a number of difficulties, particularly when it comes to carrying out the five promises it made to the electorate of the state during its campaign. In addition to keeping its election promises, it must make sure that its elected leaders do not become victims of “Operation Lotus,” as happened in the days following the 2018 Assembly elections. The party leadership must maintain internal cohesion within the rank and file while also keeping its flock together.

Undoubtedly, the victory in Karnataka is good for the party’s morale, but it also has the potential to have an impact on the Opposition’s coordinated efforts to defeat the BJP in a number of ways. The Congress, which has been battling to regain its lost ground following the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, is likely to gain confidence and credibility from the Karnataka victory. This would strengthen Rahul Gandhi’s leadership and make it possible to form alliances with other regional parties to challenge the BJP’s sway at the federal level and in other states. Additionally, it conveys to voters that the BJP is not unbeatable and that there is a viable alternative that can put pressure on the BJP to address a number of issues, including farmers’ de-

FOCUS POLITICS

KARNATAKA LESSONS



In order to position itself as a serious challenger to the BJP on the national stage, the Congress would like to use Karnataka as a launching pad for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

mands, the economic slowdown, and communal violence, which have weakened its support among the general public. In order to defeat the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Congress now seems to be in a better position to convince other Opposition parties to work together.

The BJP’s defeat in Karnataka may have a variety of effects on its chances in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP has been trying to gain traction in states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana in south India, so a defeat in Karnataka would be a setback for those efforts. Additionally, it has damaged the reputations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, who both actively promoted the party in Karnataka. It has also given the Opposition parties more clout, particularly the Congress, which is trying to turn around

its fortunes following a string of electoral defeats. In order to position itself as a serious challenger to the BJP on the national stage, Congress would like to use Karnataka as a launching pad for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. A defeat for the BJP is also likely to inspire regional parties, which had been ignored in recent years, to greater heights. A loss for the BJP has repercussions for its internal dynamics because it could lead to a change in leadership or a coup by leaders who feel they have been ignored or denied tickets by the party’s high command. It also calls into question how it has handled issues like the pandemic, farmer protests, the slowdown in economy, and communal violence.

The results of the Karnataka elections could have an impact on both parties’ chances of winning the upcoming elections in Madhya

Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. In Madhya Pradesh, where the BJP has a slim majority, the Congress may feel emboldened to win back some of its dissident MLAs and present a unified front under Kamal Nath’s leadership. The BJP’s loss in Karnataka may hurt the saffron party’s confidence and momentum in Telangana, where the incumbent TRS is up against a resurgent BJP. The main Opposition party in the state, the Congress, may benefit from the BJP’s defeat and try to turn around its fortunes by highlighting the shortcomings of both the TRS and the BJP governments.

A victory in Karnataka could boost the Congress’ morale and stability in Rajasthan, where it is currently in power by a slim margin. The victory might aid the party in resolving its differences and projecting a unified front to voters. After losing Karnataka, the BJP is likely to find it challenging to take on the Congress in the state. The saffron party may also have to deal with internal factionalism and leadership problems.

The Congress victory in Karnataka appears to have bolstered its standing and support in Chhattisgarh, where it currently holds a comfortable majority of seats in the legislature. Congress has gained support from the public by implementing a number of welfare programmes and pro-farmer policies. It will probably be challenging for the BJP, the state’s main Opposition party, to defeat the Congress, especially in light of its defeat in Karnataka. Considering that the BJP lost two straight elections in 2018 and 2019, the challenge of reorganising its structure and strategy may also be one that it must overcome.

The writer is Executive Editor, India Ahead News Channel. Views are personal.

Greening the growth engines

Over the past three years, a series of overlapping crises has exposed the structural weaknesses in Central and Eastern European (CEE) economies. Coming on the back of rising labour costs and declining productivity growth, one setback after another — an unprecedented pandemic, supply-chain shocks, a brutal war raging next door, extreme weather events, and an energy crunch — pummelled the region. With such unrelenting pressure making it almost impossible to regroup or plan for the long term, CEE economies have struggled to retool for a rapidly changing world.

The stakes of inaction could not be higher — as demonstrated by last summer’s record-high temperatures. The extreme heatwaves severely reduced supplies of potable water in some parts of Slovakia, a country known for abundant freshwater resources. The resulting drought was among the worst in several centuries, destroying more than 500,000 hectares of crops in Hungary, at an estimated cost of more than €1 billion (\$1.1 billion). Poland has suffered several years of drought, which, coupled with Russia’s war in Ukraine, has driven up food prices. Rising temperatures have also contributed to an increased risk of wildfires and other climate risks in Bulgaria and across the Balkan peninsula. Yet even though global warming has resulted in sizable economic losses, the region has been fertile

ground for climate skepticism, with political elites often downplaying risks or dragging their feet on meeting European Union policy targets. Polish President Andrzej Duda has been a vocal critic of the bloc’s climate legislation. Former Czech President Miloš Zeman expressed the belief that the fight against climate change was “exaggerated” and that climate action had morphed into a “religion.” He also advocated withdrawing from the European Green Deal.

The energy crisis triggered by the Ukraine war has, at long last, presented an opportunity for the region to wean itself off Russian natural gas and embrace renewables. To be sure, it prompted a quantum leap in supply diversification and energy-demand reduction. But implementing a long-term decarbonisation strategy took a backseat to keeping households heated and industry humming.

One could even argue that the war caused climate backsliding: high natural-gas prices led to a significant increase in dependence on coal — the “dirtiest” fossil fuel by far. Ultimately, however, the region — led by the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary — resorted to nuclear power, the preferred source of clean energy for many CEE countries, though detractors raise concerns about radioactive waste and the industry’s overall safety record.

The region has a large auto industry and heavy manufacturing

sector; both are carbon-intensive and difficult to electrify, making large-scale industrial decarbonisation in the next decade an uphill battle. Nuclear is a familiar fallback, and the deployment of renewables has been lackluster, hovering below the EU average, which also reflects widespread climate skepticism and distrust of green policies, which CEE residents tend to view as a threat to their livelihoods, rather than as job creators.

But mass electric-vehicle (EV) use now appears inevitable, and the region is unprepared, having squandered years of low interest rates and cheap money that it could have used to fund the transition. Germany’s last-minute change of heart on the EU’s previously agreed decision to ban sales of new cars with internal combustion engines by 2035 reflects the political difficulty of implementing structural economic change.

The auto industry in Slovakia, which produces the world’s most cars per capita, illustrates how the region remains on the back foot. In 2022, only about 15% of vehicles produced in the country were EVs, leaving a lot of ground to cover in the next decade. To complete the shift away from internal combustion models, legacy automakers will need to overhaul entire assembly processes and supply chains; securing adequate supplies of batteries will be especially challenging. Countries can delay the inevitable by attracting new greenfield

investments, as Slovakia did recently with German carmaker Porsche. Nonetheless, a massive shift in the next decade will be necessary to retain market share.

As CEE autoworkers correctly suspect, EVs will reduce the number of assembly jobs, all else being equal, because they require fewer parts. But the net effect will not be tragic, because job creation from new investments will offset some of the losses. Making up the rest will simply require upskilling, especially given the region’s long-standing labour-market tightness. In fact, the transition to EV production could lead to higher-quality jobs that are more intellectually engaging and better remunerated than assembly-line work.

In terms of scale and scope, the economic restructuring needed in Central and Eastern Europe is second only to the post-communist transition three decades ago. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has forced the EU’s eastern flank to channel resources to more immediate concerns like beefing up defence capabilities, helping millions of refugees, and blunting the impact of sky-high inflation. But the region must not lose sight of the future — and the work that must be done to ensure that it is a prosperous one.

The writer is a former economist at the European Central Bank and diplomat at the OECD. © PROJECT SYNDICATE

Saffron setback

Sir, Although these are early days to say that the BJP’s defeat in the Karnataka Assembly elections is a precursor to the 2024 LS polls, the setback is certainly a warning to the saffron party, and will have major implications for its southern push ahead of the same. The reversal is particularly significant for the BJP, since Karnataka is the only southern state where it has been in power or held a dominant position. The BJP now faces even more of an uphill task in the south, including in Telangana, which is due for polls at the end of the year. As for Tamil Nadu, the loss could weaken the political positioning of the BJP’s state president K Annamalai, as he was the co-incharge for the party’s campaign in the Karnataka elections. Also, the loss gives an opportunity for the ruling DMK and its allies to take on Annamalai.

Guiding verdict

Sir, Finally the country’s highest court enabled the Delhi government to carry out its responsibilities. It is ironic that situations that can be settled using democratic norms and universally accepted rules are made so complicated by political obstinacy and hubris that they must be decided by the courts. Clearly, instead of devoting time to other serious and pressing concerns in the country, the courts intervene in those issues that can be avoided. In a guiding verdict on the long-standing conflict between the Kejriwal government and the Lieutenant Governor (LG) over the rights of the Delhi government, the apex court ruled that the Delhi government has the right to post and transfer officers, which, till now, was only with the LG of Delhi. The court has made it clear that land, public order, and police will remain under the authority of the central government. A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud unanimously ruled that the LG cannot interfere in each function of the Delhi government elected by the people. It is only logical for the government elected by the people to have the authority to transfer and post officers. In fact, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been alleging that the officers posted by the central government are not allowing him to work because his government does not have the authority to appoint and transfer them. The decision of the Supreme Court is not only for the administrative system; it also has political significance.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

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

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Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

of the day quote

Political ingratiation of officials with the ruling dispensation in some parts of the country is severely straining the sublimity of federalism. This calls for systemic focus by all concerned

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

As India, we have to focus on the fundamentals and basics the way Telangana did. We need to focus on the farmer, the youth, while creating a future that is based in innovation and making India a leader in the fourth Industrial Revolution

KT RAMA RAO | TELANGANA'S MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES& IT

Terrorism network is on a rise and there has to be cautious efforts to curb it. We need to know how people are succumbing to it by brain wash and hypnotism. They are being trapped and cheated

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Punjab Governor does yoga in jail

Chandigarh: Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwari Lal Purohit Saturday visited the Model Jail here and attended the yoga sessions organised by Nivedita Joshi, a well renowned personality in the field of yoga. Purohit addressed the gathering and said that Yoga has been found as the best tool to reduce mental stress and preliminary depression amongst the inmates.

Tillu murder: 6 taken for forensic test

New Delhi: All six inmates of Tihar Jail arrested in connection with the killing of jailed gangster Tillu Tajpuriya were Friday taken to the Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini as part of the investigation, police said. The accused -- Deepak, Yogesh, Rajesh Bawania, Riyaz, Chavanni and Ataul Rehman -- were taken for photography as well as video recording for comparing the same with CCTV footage of the jail.

Infiltration bid foiled

Srinagar: A desperate attempt by terrorists to disrupt the G20 event in Kashmir has been thwarted, a defence spokesperson said here, referring to an operation in Uri that foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) Saturday morning. The terrorists attempted to infiltrate into the Uri sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district but alert soldiers engaged them, leading to an exchange of fire, Srinagar-based PRO Defence Col Emron Musavi said.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Mothers in several countries, including India, staged protests Saturday under the banner of "Mothers' Rebellion for Climate Justice" to draw stakeholders' attention to the climate crisis and air pollution.

Sitting in circles, they held placards bearing the names of their children and slogans calling for urgent action to combat climate change to create a liveable future for their kids.

According to a study published in "The Lancet Planetary Health" journal, abnormal temperatures caused by accelerating climate change lead to five million deaths worldwide per year.

Another study published in "The Lancet" in 2018 estimated that climate change could cause an additional 2,50,000 deaths per year between 2030 and 2050, mainly due to the increased burden of malnutrition, malaria and heat-related events.



A security personnel holding an umbrella stands guard at the Taj Mahal campus on a hot summer day in Agra

PTI PHOTO

NCB & Navy seize 2,500 kg drugs worth ₹12K-cr



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, May 13: In a massive drug bust, nearly 2,500 kilograms of methamphetamine worth around Rs 12,000 crore was seized from a vessel in Indian waters along the Kerala coast in a joint operation by the Navy and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), the anti-drug agency said Saturday. The NCB said it was the largest seizure of methamphetamine in the country and a Pakistani national has been detained in connection with it. Giving details of the seizure at a press conference held here, NCB Deputy Director General (Ops) Sanjay Kumar Singh said it was carried out as part of 'Operation Samudragupt' which targeted maritime trafficking of drugs originating from Afghanistan.

This is the third major seizure by NCB of maritime trafficking of drugs through the southern route in the last one and a half years, the agency said.

As part of the operation, so far around 3,200 kg of methamphetamine, 500 kg of heroin and 529 kg

of hashish has been seized, it said. The first seizure in the operation was made in February 2022 when a joint team of NCB and Indian Navy seized 529 kg of hashish, 221 kg of methamphetamine and 13 kg of heroin from the high seas off the coast of Gujarat, all sourced from Baluchistan (a region in Pakistan) and Afghanistan, the agency said.

Subsequently, an Iranian boat was intercepted off the coast of Kerala in a joint operation by NCB and Indian Navy in October 2022 and a total of 200 kg of high-grade heroin, also sourced from Afghanistan, was seized and six Iranian drug traffickers were arrested, it said.

Thereafter, sharing of real-time actionable information, generated during the operation, with Sri Lanka and Maldives led to seizure of hundreds of kilograms of heroin and methamphetamine and arrest of 19 drug traffickers in two operations conducted by Sri Lankan Navy in December 2022 and April 2023, the agency said.

The agency claimed that the latest consignment of around 2,500 kg of methamphetamine was meant for India, Sri Lanka and Maldives from Afghanistan.

The drug cache had started on a "mother ship" -- a large vessel that distributes narcotics to various boats during its journey -- from the Makran coast around Pakistan and Iran, it said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, May 13: West Bengal in 2021 had shown the way to the people of Karnataka in 2023 to prove that the BJP is not invincible, leaders of the state's ruling Trinamool Congress said Saturday.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that Karnataka results are the beginning of the end of the BJP in the entire nation.

"First West Bengal showed the way. From Bengal to Bengaluru, people have started speaking on the same lines. In the near future, there are Assembly elections in a couple of other states. The BJP will also be defeated there. Finally, in 2024 BJP will be thrown out of power by

the people of the country," she said.

Trinamool's national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee said: "You can vote for anyone, by exercising your democratic right. Just defeat the BJP. This is what our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had been saying again and again. That has exactly happened in Karnataka. We are happy. West Bengal showed the way in 2021, which has been replicated in Karnataka." He also said that voters' polarisation by using religious sentiments cannot be the strategy of any political party. "The BJP had tried to mislead people again and again using those religious sentiments. I am happy that Bengal has shown the way and Karnataka

Top court sets aside conviction of man in 27-year-old murder case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The Supreme Court has set aside the conviction of a man in a 27-year-old murder case saying no incriminating circumstances appeared against him in the evidence.

A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Rajesh Bindal noted that the only allegation against the appellant was that he was standing with a "katta" (country-made pistol) in

his hand outside the house where the murder took place, .

"Only based on the version of PW5 (prosecution witness) regarding the appellant's presence with a weapon outside the premises where the offence took place, the involvement of the appellant has been held as proved.

"There is absolutely no other evidence against him. This is not a case where there are several incriminating circumstances ap-

BOAT AMBULANCE SERVICE IN J'KHAND

Jharkhand's first boat ambulance service is all set to roll out from Sahibganj district next week, an official said Saturday. The facility will help extend health facilities to over two lakh people living in Diara area, a stretch of land located near the river Ganga



Sachin Pilot resumes 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 13: Former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot's foot march against corruption and government recruitment exam paper leaks resumed from Dudu town in Rajasthan's Jaipur district on Saturday.

Pilot started his 125-kilometre Ajmer-Jaipur 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' on Thursday and he is being accompanied by a large number of supporters.

The five-day yatra mounts pressure on the Congress leadership and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, months ahead of the assembly elections slated for later this year with the party also facing anti-incumbency, apart from infighting in the state unit.

The march comes days after Gehlot accused the MLAs involved



in the 2020 revolt of taking money from the BJP. Pilot and 18 other Congress MLAs had then sought a leadership change in Rajasthan.

He was then removed as the party's state unit president and the deputy chief minister. The two Congress strongmen in Rajasthan have been at loggerheads over the post of chief minister since the party formed the government in 2018.

2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Chief Minister refused to make any comments. "I have said whatever I had to say," she said.

Abhishek Banerjee gave the entire credit to the people of Karnataka as he said since the results are reflections of people getting united against the BJP.

Meanwhile, state Congress President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that Karnataka results have proved that only his party can lead an alliance that can defeat the BJP nationally. "There is no relevance of the theory of an alternative non-Congress and non-BJP front. Congress is in steering position of the anti-BJP front," Chowdhury said.

Raghav Chadha gets engaged to Parineeti Chopra



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha and actor Parineeti Chopra on Saturday got engaged in a private ceremony attended by family members and political leaders.

Raghav and Parineeti shared the news on their Instagram pages, posting several photos from the ceremony. "Everything I prayed for.. She said yes!" wrote the 34-year-old Rajya Sabha MP.

The ceremony, held at the Central Delhi's Kapurthala House, was attended by around 150 guests, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Parineeti's cousin, film star Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

The function began at 5 pm with Sukhmani Sahib path, followed by ardas. Engagement took place at 8 pm. For the special occasion, Raghav wore an ivory achkan from his uncle, designer Pawan Sachdeva's collection, while Parineeti, 34, opted for a pastel peach dress by Manish Malhotra.

The guests also included Congress leader P Chidambaram, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Derek O'Brien.

Priyanka arrived from the US earlier in the day to attend the ring ceremony.

She wore a yellow saree for the occasion and posed for the shuttbugs along with Parineeti's father Pawan Chopra.

Fashion designer Manish Malhotra, who also arrived in the national capital in the morning, was seen dressed in a black and white kurta pyjama with jacket for the function.

Mothers protest to create liveable future for their kids



Caroline Alupo from Uganda said countries that have contributed the least to climate change are facing the worst consequences, including droughts and floods. She cited the example of East Africa where a severe drought last year led to the deaths of many people and livestock.

Denise from Berlin said Germany, as a country in the Global North,

has a special responsibility for mitigating the effects of climate change.

Precious from Zambia emphasised the importance of financial support to address the climate emergency, especially for vulnerable and low-income populations. She called for international financial institutions to adopt reforms that empower the most vulnerable and alleviate poverty.

The movement was founded in the UK in 2019 and has since spread to other countries

It emphasises the importance of climate justice, which disproportionately affects low-income communities and those of colour throughout the world, the people and places least responsible for the climate emergency

She urged for an end to financial colonialism and appealed to the global northern countries to cancel Zambia's debt to support climate resilience.

At COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries committed to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries tackle the effects of climate change. Rich countries, however, have repeatedly failed in delivering this finance.

Developing countries, including India, have been pushing rich countries to agree to a new global climate finance target -- also known

as the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) -- which, they say, should be in the trillions as the costs of addressing and adapting to climate change have grown.

India has maintained that the developed countries, historically responsible for most of the carbon emissions, must take the lead in raising ambitions as the bulk of finance and technology is available with them.

In Delhi, India's capital, Harmit Masand joined the demonstration in Sarita Vihar close to the Okhla waste-to-energy plant. She said the plant poses a serious health risk to the local community, especially the children and the elderly.

Saheen Tarannum, who lives near the Nirgundi railway station in Odisha's Bilteruan Harianta village, demonstrated with her little children who are suffering due to the continuous loading and unloading of coal and its illegal dumping close to the village.

In Punjab's Ludhiana, Samita

Kaur demanded that lawmakers take action to ensure clean air and water for children.

Usha Oraon from Nigni in Jharkhand said deforestation, mining and other extractive industries are destroying the forests, polluting the water and threatening the livelihoods of local communities. The Earth's global surface temperature has risen by around 1.15 degrees Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average and the CO2 spewed into the atmosphere since the start of the industrial revolution is closely tied to it.

According to the "Global Carbon Budget Report - 2022", more than half of the world's CO2 emissions in 2021 were from three places -- China (31 per cent), the US (14 per cent) and the European Union (eight per cent). Per capita emission in the US (14 tCO2e) is far above the global average. It is followed by Russia (13 tCO2e), China (9.7 tCO2e), Brazil and Indonesia (about 7.5 tCO2e each) and the European Union (7.2 tCO2e).



I accept the mandate of the people with utmost respect. I take responsibility for BJP's defeat, no one else has the responsibility. As the chief minister of the state I take the responsibility. There is a need to do the complete analysis of this defeat, as there are various reasons for this

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER



People themselves have got up and supported us, they have voted for us furiously against the bad administration. This shows voters of Karnataka are awakened. Despite the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi), Home Minister (Amit Shah), dozens of Ministers, Chief Ministers of other states camping here, and despite manpower, money and muscle being used, people have unitedly voted for Congress

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | AICC PRESIDENT



The people of Karnataka have taught a lesson to the divisive politics of BJP and handed over power to the Congress

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT




The BJP should now realise that its tactics do not work anymore

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM



Heartfelt thanks to the people of Karnataka for giving a historic mandate to the Congress party. This is a victory of giving priority to the idea of Karnataka's progress. This is the victory of politics that unites the country. My best wishes to all the hardworking workers and leaders of the Karnataka Congress. All your hard work has paid off

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER



Cong snatches Karnataka

The BJP's comprehensive defeat to the Congress in Karnataka where the two parties ran a campaign of contrasts has left the ruling party with much to ponder as the two rivals prepare for a direct contest in three more state polls this year in the run-up to the all-important 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This is the first time since the 2019 Lok Sabha polls that the Congress, amid its shrinking footprint, has got the better of the ruling party in a big state, a feat which will energise its battered ranks and possibly give it a template for taking on the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the coming months

CELEBRATIONS GALORE



A Congress worker celebrates the party's win in Kolkata



Congress leaders and supporters celebrate the party's decisive lead in the Karnataka Assembly polls, at the party office in Chennai



Congress workers celebrate the party's win in Nagpur



A deserted BJP office on the day of the results of the Karnataka Assembly elections in Kolkata

Bharat Jodo Yatra effect

The Congress Saturday hailed the Bharat Jodo Yatra for the party's success in the Karnataka assembly polls, having won 15 of the 20 assembly constituencies in the state the Rahul Gandhi-led foot march passed through. Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh, considered the brain behind the Bharat Jodo Yatra's execution besides Digvijaya Singh, tweeted an interesting aspect of the party's stellar performance in the Karnataka polls. They pointed out that the Bharat Jodo Yatra passed through 20 assembly constituencies and the party won in 15 of them - Bellary (ST), Bellary City, Gundlupet, Challakere (ST), Hiriyur, Molakamuru (ST), Nagamangala, Srirangapatna, Nanjangud (SC), Narsimharaja, Varuna, Raipur Rural, Gubi and Sira, and Congress-backed candidate of the Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha won in Melukote. Of the remaining five seats, the JD(S) won Chamundeshwari, Chikkanayakanahalli and Turuvekere, and the BJP Krishnaraja and Raichur.

14 ministers defeated

As many as 14 ministers of the outgoing Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government lost the Karnataka Assembly elections. They are: Govinda Karjol (Mudhol), J C Madhuswamy (Chikkanayakanahalli), B C Patil (Hirekerur), Shankar Patil Munena Koppa (Navalgund), Halappa Achar (Yelburga) and B Sriramulu (Ballari), K Sudhakar (Chikkaballapur), B C Nagesh (Tiptur), Murugesha Nirani (Bilgi), B C Patil (Hirekerur) and M T B Nagaraj (Hoskote). Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, a BJP leader, also lost the Sirsi seat. Minister V Somanna lost from Varuna and Chamarajanagar, the two segments where he contested. Minister R Ashoka, who too contested from two constituencies, was reelected from Padmanabhanagar but lost in Kanakapura.

Kumaraswamy's son loses

In a shock to former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family, his grandson and JD-S candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy lost the Ramanagara seat to Congress candidate H.A. Iqbal Hussain. Hussain polled 72,898 votes and Nikhil Kumaraswamy secured 61,692 votes. BJP candidate Gautham Gowda managed to get only 10,870 votes. Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar had appealed to the voters to support his party candidate as Nikhil Kumaraswamy can get opportunities in future. Conceding the defeat, his father and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy stated that he will accept the victory and defeat in the same spirit. H.D. Kumaraswamy won against the BJP's C.P. Yogeshwar in Channapatna.



A campaign against corruption, guarantees of dole and consolidation of Muslim votes appear to have underpinned the Congress victory in Karnataka that was also aided by anti-incumbency against the BJP government.

The Congress successfully wresting power in Karnataka after Himachal Pradesh will be a morale booster for the party in reviving its electoral fortunes and strengthening its credentials as the main opposition player against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The party's all-out attack on the BJP government over corruption allegations with the "40 per cent commission sarkar" barb, coupled with the Adani issue struck a chord with the people, according to party leaders.

The Congress pledged to implement on the very first day after coming to power its poll guarantees like 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya).

Also, Rs 3,000 every month for graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) for two years (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti) were promised. Another key factor, according to Congress leaders, was the consolidation of the Muslim votes, which accounted for nearly 13 per cent of the electorate and were usually split between the Congress and JD(S), in its favour.

The party had promised to restore the four per cent quota for Muslims which has been scrapped by the BJP government. The Congress manifesto's promise of banning the Bajrang Dal was picked up by the BJP and PM Modi aggressively to portray the grand old party as being against Lord Hanuman and the sentiments of Hindus. However, it did not sway the people in Karnataka who voted against "misgovernance" and "rejected attempts at polarisation and division", Congress leaders said.

AAP wrests Jalandhar LS seat from Congress

Chandigarh/New Delhi: The AAP Saturday breached the Congress stronghold in Punjab as its candidate Sushil Rinku defeated his nearest-rival and the grand old party's nominee Karamjit Kaur Chaudhary in Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll by a margin of 58,691 votes. The win gives the ruling party in Punjab and Delhi its only member in Lok Sabha. The Aam Aadmi Party has not had a member in the lower house since its defeat in Sangrur bypoll last year. The Sangrur parliamentary seat fell vacant after Bhagwant Mann resigned as MP on being elected to Punjab Assembly. The AAP currently has 10 members in Rajya Sabha. Celebrations broke out following Rinku's victory with AAP leaders and supporters dancing to the tunes of 'dhols' and bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets. AAP

national convenor Arvind Kejriwal hailed the victory as "historic" and said it's people's recognition of the good work done by Chief Minister Mann and his government in Punjab. "It's an unprecedented victory because of the Mann government's good work. Our party candidate has won from the seat which was a Congress stronghold for the last 50 years," he told a press conference at the party headquarters in Delhi. The Jalandhar (reserved) seat fell vacant following the death of Karamjit Kaur's husband and Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary in January. "We do not do politics of religion or caste. We do politics of work and seek votes from the people for our work. People of Jalandhar have put a stamp on Bhagwant Mann government's work saying 'we are with you'. This is a big message. This also reflects the mood of Punjab," Kejriwal said.



Newly elected AAP MP Sushil Kumar Rinku greets supporters as he celebrates his win

THE BIG QUESTION

After the thumping victory in Karnataka, the focus in Congress party has now shifted on who will become the Chief Minister. Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar are in the forefront for the coveted post and both are looking at the high command for its decision. Siddaramaiah, while answering a question on who will become the CM, stated on Saturday that the high command will take the opinion of newly-elected MLAs and a decision would be taken accordingly. The observers will be sent here by the high command and a decision would be taken later after consultations and due process, he added. Shivakumar also maintained that the high command will take a call. Sources explained that the high command is coming up with a 50:50 formula for Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, as the stakes are huge for the party in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.



road shows by its top state and central leaders.

The Congress, which had set a target of winning 150 seats, had repeatedly urged voters to ensure that it gets an absolute majority so that BJP doesn't "steal" the mandate by managing defections of other party legislators and "manufacture" a majority in its favour.

While extensively highlighting its five key poll "guarantees", the party tried to inform the people about its charge against the BJP government of having "failed in fulfilling 90 per cent of its promises" made in its 2018 manifesto.



Yogi thanks people

Lucknow: The ruling BJP swept the mayoral elections in Uttar Pradesh winning the posts in all the 17 municipal corporations on Saturday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath thanked the people of Uttar Pradesh and congratulated BJP workers for forming a "triple-engine government" in the state after the party's "biggest victory" in the urban local body polls. The party's candidates won in Varanasi, Lucknow, Ayodhya, Jhansi, Bareilly, Mathura-Vrindavan, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Prayagraj, Aligarh, Shahjahanpur, Ghaziabad, Agra, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Firozabad and Meerut. The urban local body polls were held in two phases -- on May 4 and May 11 -- to elect 17 mayors and 1,401 corporators. Nineteen corporators were elected unopposed, according to the State Election Commission. Of the 17 municipal corporations, the BJP repeated its candidates only in Kanpur City, Bareilly and Moradabad and all three emerged victorious. Adityanath said the win was a result of better coordination between the government and the organisation.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

No home to return to: Survivors

THE CLASH BETWEEN THE MEITEIS AND KUKIS IN MANIPUR HAS CLAIMED 60 LIVES SO FAR. IT LEFT THOUSANDS DISPLACED, HOMES RAZED TO THE GROUND AND PLACES OF WORSHIP DESTROYED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, May 13: Ten days have passed by since one of the worst ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur, but the memories of it are still raw and painful.

Many of the survivors who fled to Guwahati from Imphal say their homes have been destroyed during the violence and they have no place to return to. Their stories are filled with an unmistakable sense of loss and deep sadness due to the violence, the loss of their homes and the difficult time they spent in the relief camps. Some of them even recounted locking themselves in their homes with mobile phone torches as the only source of light.



Gina, who is in her late 50s, said she is among the "lucky" few to have fled from violence-torn Imphal and is almost resigned to her fate. She was witness to violent ethnic clashes in her home state for the second time in her adult life.

A younger Kan Zou said he and his family members are practically facing a "homeless" existence. His family of four does not know where to return to as their house was torched during the violence.

Mimi, a young woman, said she cannot even think of returning

to her home in Imphal. Her husband is still away at trouble-torn Churachandpur, where the violence first erupted May 3, on work. She is left with the task of looking after her young daughters in a different city.

All of them, whom a PTI reporter met in Guwahati, hail from Churachandpur but stay in Imphal for work. Their names have been changed as wanted by them.

The violence had erupted in Churachandpur during a rally demanding ST status for the Meiteis,

Many of the survivors who fled to Guwahati from Imphal say their homes have been destroyed during the violence and they have no place to return to

'Border Haat' reopens



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tripura, May 13: After three years of closure, one of the two 'Border Haats' (markets) in Tripura along India-Bangladesh border resumed trading Tuesday with the participation of vendors and buyers of the two countries.

District officials of south Tripura and Bangladesh's Feni districts were present on the opening day of the business of the Purba Madhugram (Bangladesh)-Srinagar (South Tripura) 'Border Haats' from Tuesday. Efforts were on to restart another Border Haat -- Kasba (Bangladesh)-Kamlasagar (Tripura) in Sepahijala district, "the official told IANS.

Both the Tripura and Meghalaya governments have been pressing the Centre to take up the matter with the Bangladesh government to resume the Border Haats.

The two Border Haats in Meghalaya -- at Balat (East Khasi Hills district) and Kalaichar (South West Garo Hills district) -- were, however, reopened last year and both are functional once a week now.

The fifth Border Haat between India and Bangladesh was inaugurated on May 6 along Bholaganj under the Companiganj upazila of Sylhet district and East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. The opening of the new Border Haat in Meghalaya border was welcomed by people on both sides of borders with great enthusiasm.

The four Border Haats, two each in Tripura and Meghalaya, had remained closed since March 2020 after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdowns

and Bangladesh was inaugurated on May 6 along Bholaganj under the Companiganj upazila of Sylhet district and East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. The opening of the new Border Haat in Meghalaya border was welcomed by people on both sides of borders with great enthusiasm.

Use of firecrackers banned in Rajouri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, May 13: Taking a cue from the Poonch administration, the district magistrate of Rajouri Friday banned the storage, sale and use of firecrackers in view of the present security scenario in the region.

District Magistrate Vikas Kundal asked all field officers to ensure strict implementation of the order and to disseminate the information among the general public.

"In exercise of the powers vested under section 144 CrPC, I, Vikas Kundal, District Magistrate Rajouri, hereby impose complete ban on storage, sale and use of crackers within the territorial jurisdiction of district Rajouri," the order stated.

The order also mentioned about a communication made by Senior Superintendent of Police Rajouri who informed that the use of firecrackers, especially during marriage events, is creating a definite confusion among the security forces, army and police, which may lead to inaction many times to respond to a terror attack, particularly during the present security scenario.

Kundal also warned of action under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for any violation. Notably, security personnel in the entire Pir Panjal region are on high alert with twin terror incidents since April 20 in which 10 army personnel had lost their lives.

1.52L fake mobile connections in six NE states: DoT

AGENCIES

Shillong, May 13: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has detected around 1.52 lakh suspected fake mobile connections subscribed based on forged documents in six states of the northeast region, officials said on Thursday.

DoT officials said that more than 1.47 lakh mobile connections that failed in the re-verification process have been disconnected by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.



So far, the TSPs have blacklisted 493 Points of Sale (PoS) and registered 71 police complaints against the suspected PoS for further investigation and necessary action against the culprits.

Cyber crimes, financial frauds and anti-social activities are mainly committed through SIMs fraudulently subscribed on the basis of forged documents. In order to detect and weed out such suspected SIMs, the DoT has taken up the initiative of conceptualising and implementing an innovative and indigenous artificial intelligence and facial recognition powered solution for telecom SIM subscriber verification (ASTR).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, May 13: "Will they throw stones at us when we go to school?" eight-year-old Barbie's question baffles her mother.

Barbie is optimistic about returning to school and friends, as is four-year-old Nancy who is in a kindergarten class and longs to get back to her books. But Lara, in her early 20s, is aware of the uncertain future that stares the younger kids as well as those who have stepped into adulthood.

She is concerned about whether scores like her in Manipur will be able to appear for the competitive examinations which will determine their career and future life.

Barbie, Nancy and Lara (names changed to protect their identities) are among those who fled Manipur as ethnic clashes raged in their state and are now taking shelter at relative's places in Guwahati.

While Nancy's house was torched after they had fled, Barbie's was stoned when she was still inside with her family. Lara's place was saved

the dominant ethnic group in Manipur.

By the next morning, the situation had deteriorated and Gina and her family of three members immediately decided to seek refuge at the CRPF camp. Even the breakfast she had cooked for the family was left untouched.

Kan said he had left his house with his wife and their two children also on May 3 night and took shelter at his brother's residence. He later took refuge at the CRPF camp.

What shocked Kan was the news that a prominent personality in his neighbourhood reportedly led those who ransacked his house and torched it later.

"My Meitei friends who live in the neighbourhood informed me that my house was first looted and then set on fire on May 5. They were helpless as they would have been targeted had they tried to intervene in any way," he said.

Kan rued that government inaction led to the torching of his house two days after the violence erupted. Mimi had huddled inside a room of her house with her children and domestic helps as stones were thrown for nearly an hour at their residence in a high-security zone in Imphal May 3. Almost all those who fled Manipur blame the political leadership for the ethnic flare-up.

J&K: Gujjars, Bakerwals battling harsh climate, wild animal attacks

With mountainous areas of Bhaderwah, Bhalessa and Kishtwar under snow amid a spell of relentless cold, the nomadic families of Gujjars and Bakerwals are facing a tough time as they are unable to reach the alpine pastures in the Himalayas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhaderwah/Jammu, May 13: Hundreds of Gujar and Bakerwal families in Jammu and Kashmir who have migrated to higher altitudes are battling on twin fronts - harsh climate due to unseasonal snowfall and attacks by wild animals, particularly leopards.

For centuries, hundreds of nomadic families trek through treacherous terrains along with cattle to high-altitude grazing fields every summer. They return to the plains in winter.

Bakerwal families who got stuck due to an unseasonal snowstorm at high-altitude passes of Chattergala, Guldanda, Sarthal and Padri areas of Bhaderwah Valley, say that they do not have any food for themselves and no fodder for their cattle for seven straight days.

"We are facing the dual threat of harsh weather and leopard attack. Taking advantage of the snowstorm, wild beasts killed several dozens of sheep, goats, horses and mules," Khushal Chowdhary, who was part of this year's migration, said.

He said that they have met the Doda deputy commissioner and Bhaderwah additional deputy commissioner and sought the admin-



istration's help in the matter.

"We have lost our cattle, the sole source of our livelihood, in the snowstorm. A majority of the remaining cattle have fallen sick because of harsh weather and starvation. We hope that the administration extends a helping hand," Chowdhary added.

Sadeeq Theekriyo (50) claimed that he has 20 goats, 10 sheep, a mule and a horse in the snowstorm.

"Some could not stand the harsh weather and a few others were hunted by leopards. We have been waiting for help but to date, no one

came to us with anything," he said.

Doda Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan said he has asked the chief sheep husbandry officer, chief medical officer and others in the Bhaderwah administration to reach out to all the distressed tribal families.

The verification of deaths of cattle will be done as per the existing rules, he added.

Zaitoon Jungle (35), who is camping at Halooni Nullah along with 20 other families after crossing the Chattergala pass, said that those who were ailing have not received any help so far.

LG Sinha discusses strategies to attract investments into J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 13: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday chaired a high-level meeting here to discuss strategies to attract more investments into the Union Territory.

The meeting also deliberated strategies for proactively resolving all the issues with great synergies and to enhance ease of doing business to boost the economy, an official spokesman said.

During the meeting, he said the



Lt Governor directed for setting up a help desk of the Industries and Commerce department at the Divisional Commissioner's Office at Jammu and in four Deputy Commissioner's offices of Jammu, Kathua, Samba and Udhampur.

"The prime objective of Jammu Kashmir administration is to ensure proactive and structural response to resolve all issues including change of land use and to enhance ease of doing business.

The meeting was among others attended by Financial Commissioner Revenue Shaleen Kabra, Secretary Revenue department Piyush Singla and Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, the spokesman said.



Security personnel pay last respects to Navy commando Ankur Sharma after his mortal remains were brought to his home on the outskirts of Jammu. Sharma lost his life after his parachute got entangled in high-tension wires during training in Uttar Pradesh two days back

Sikkim wants more babies

AGENCIES

Gangtok, May 13: To boost the population of indigenous communities in Sikkim, the state government has decided to provide advance and additional increments to its employees having two or three children with retrospective effect from January 1 this year, according to a notification.

The state government employees possessing Sikkim Subject Certificate/Certificate of Identification shall get one advanced increment for having two surviving children, the Department of Personnel Secretary Rinzing Chewang Bhutia said in a noti-



SIKKIM IS THE LEAST POPULOUS STATE OF INDIA WITH A POPULATION OF AROUND SEVEN LAKH PEOPLE

THE STATE HAS THE TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (TFR) AT 1.1 WHICH IS THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

fication issued May 10. Those employees having three surviving children shall get one additional increment, he said, adding anyone of the spouses can claim for advance increment on mutual understanding. The scheme shall be effective from January 1, 2023 and only

those employees whose second and third child is born on or after January 1, 2023, shall be eligible for the scheme, Bhutia said. The benefits of the scheme shall not be applicable in case of adoption, the Department of Personnel Secretary said.

Violence scars Manipur's young generation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



due to protection provided by neighbours as she and her family members took shelter in a relief camp.

Violent clashes broke out in the north-eastern state after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the 10 hill districts May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's

demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Nancy's father is also having a hard time explaining to his child what went wrong in their home state. "She was just in a kindergarten class and loved her school. Now she constantly asks her mother and me when will she be

■ VIOLENT CLASHES BROKE OUT IN THE NORTH-EASTERN STATE AFTER A 'TRIBAL SOLIDARITY MARCH' WAS ORGANISED IN THE 10 HILL DISTRICTS MAY 3 TO PROTEST AGAINST THE MEITEI COMMUNITY'S DEMAND FOR ST STATUS

■ MEITEIS ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 53 PER CENT OF MANIPUR'S POPULATION AND LIVE MOSTLY IN THE IMPHAL VALLEY

■ CHIEF MINISTER N BIREN SINGH HAD MAY 8 SAID THAT 60 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, 231 INJURED AND 1,700 HOUSES INCLUDING RELIGIOUS PLACES BURNT IN THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE THAT ROCKED THE NORTH-EASTERN STATE FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS

going back again. We don't even have our house in Imphal anymore to return. I don't know what to tell her," he said, staring into the distance.

"My younger daughter is two years old. She doesn't understand much but now gets startled by any loud noise after being exposed to the sound of the mob back home,"

he added. While it was a 'Meitei vs Kuki' clash for the world, for Lara and her ilk, it was more of 'miscreants and political leadership' behind the violence, which has left over 60 dead by official estimates.

There is a lot of divisive politics going on in Manipur as the top leaders spew venom against other communities without thinking of the repercussions and others follow suit, Lara claimed.

"Meiteis or Kukis, in general, are not to be blamed. Our neighbours saved our lives and home. My friends called up and apologised on behalf of their community," Lara, who wants to be a civil servant, said. "Our only appeal to the authorities now: enable us all to pursue our studies and sit for the competitive examinations in a safe environment. After all, we are the future of the state and the nation," she added.

The ethnic clashes were preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations.

international

of the day quote

Kemal is attacking Russia, Putin. If you attack Putin, I will not be okay with that. Our relations with Russia are no less important than those with the United States

The G-7 will resolutely reject the threat or use of nuclear weapons and uphold the international order based on the rule of law

Spain and the US, we have common interests about democracy, prosperity and safe, regular and orderly migration patterns

SHORT TAKES

US to up military presence in Gulf

Washington: The US military will work to bolster the defensive posture in the Gulf region following Iran's seizure and harassment of commercial shipping vessels in recent months, US officials said Friday. In the past two years, Iran has harassed, attacked or interfered with the navigational rights of 15 internationally flagged commercial vessels, officials said. "The Department of Defense will be making a series of moves to bolster our defensive posture in the Arabian Gulf," White House spokesperson John Kirby told a news briefing.

Zelenskyy to meet Pope

Rome: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived in Rome Saturday for meetings with Pope Francis and Italian leaders, Italian state media reported. Zelenskyy arrived at Rome's Ciampino airport, with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani on hand to greet him, the ANSA news agency said. Zelenskyy will hold midday meetings with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, who staunchly backs military and other aid for Ukraine, and with President Sergio Mattarella.

Rocket rain by Israel, Palestine

Gaza City: Israel and Palestinian militants unleashed salvos of fire for a fifth day Saturday, with the Islamic Jihad militant group launching dozens more rockets and the Israeli military pounding targets inside the Gaza Strip. There were no immediate reports of casualties in Gaza or Israel Saturday. But in a reminder of the combustible situation in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli military raided the Balata refugee camp near the northern city of Nablus, sparking a firefight that killed two Palestinians. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the two as 32-year-old Said Mesha and 19-year-old Adnan Araj. The Palestinian Health Ministry has reported 33 Palestinians killed — six of them children — and over 147 wounded.

US govt employees' data breached

Washington: The personal information of 237,000 current and former federal government employees has been exposed in a data breach at the US Transportation Department (USDOT), sources briefed on the matter said Friday. The breach hit systems for processing TRANServe transit benefits that reimburse government employees for some commuting costs.

HIGH ALERT

OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE EVACUATED AS POWERFUL CYCLONE MOCHA APPROACHES BANGLADESH'S COAST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, May 13: Authorities in Bangladesh Saturday launched a massive evacuation campaign to re-locate close to half a million people along the southeastern coastlines as a "very dangerous" tropical cyclone is expected to make landfall in the

country, threatening the Rohingya refugee camp, the world's largest. Cyclone Mocha, one of the most powerful cyclones seen in Bangladesh in nearly two decades, is predicted to barrel towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar border Sunday. "Cyclone 'Mocha' is coming. We have kept the cyclone centres and taken all types of preparations to tackle it," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said. The evacuation drive was taken as the maritime port of Cox's Bazar has been advised to hoist danger signal no 10 as Cyclone Mocha is likely to intensify further and move in a north-north-westerly direction. Meteorologists said the storm's path is set to affect Bangladesh's

Russia acknowledges Bakhmut withdrawal

The 15-month-old war in Ukraine is at a turning point, after six months during which Kyiv kept its troops on the defensive while Russia mounted a winter campaign that brought the bloodiest ground combat in Europe since World War Two but yielded scant gains



REUTERS

Kyiv, May 13: Moscow acknowledged Friday that its forces had fallen back north of Ukraine's battlefield city of Bakhmut after a new Ukrainian offensive, in a retreat that the head of Russia's Wagner private army called a rout. The setback for Russia, which follows similar reports of Ukrainian advances south of the city, suggests a coordinated push by Kyiv to encircle Russian forces in Bakhmut, Moscow's main objective for months during the war's bloodiest fighting.

"In three days of counter-offensive activity, the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the Bakhmut sector have liberated 17.3 sq. km (6.6 sq. miles) of territory," Serhiy Cherevatyi, spokesman for the "east" group of Ukrainian forces, said on the Telegram messaging app.

Both sides are now reporting the biggest Ukrainian gains in six months, although Ukraine has given few details and played down suggestions a huge, long-planned counteroffensive has officially begun.

Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Ukraine had launched an assault north of Bakhmut with more than 1,000 troops and up to 40 tanks, a scale that if confirmed would amount to the biggest Ukrainian offensive since November.

Germany's unveils biggest military aid for Ukraine

Germany Saturday announced 2.7 billion euro (\$3.0 billion) of military aid to Ukraine, its biggest such package yet since Russia's invasion, and pledged further support for Kyiv for as long as necessary. The package will include 30 Leopard 1 tanks, 15 Gepard anti-aircraft tanks, over 200 reconnaissance drones and four Iris-T anti-aircraft systems, according to a defence ministry statement. "We all wish for a speedy end to this terrible and illegal war.... Unfortunately, this is not yet foreseeable. Therefore, Germany will provide any help it can - as long as it takes," German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said.

The Russians had repelled 26 attacks but troops in one area had fallen back to regroup in more favourable positions near the Berkivka reservoir northwest of Bakhmut, Konashenkov said. Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the Wagner forces that have led the campaign in the city, said in an audio message: "What Konashenkov described, unfortunately, is called 'a rout' and not a regrouping".

India plans repatriation of Kohinoor, others from UK

There have been other cultural trends in recent years toward repatriation, with Greece seeking the Elgin Marbles and Nigeria the Benin Bronzes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

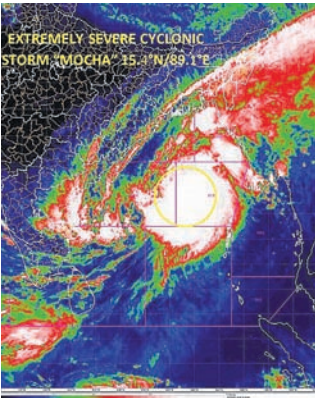
London, May 13: India is planning a repatriation campaign for artefacts dating back to the colonial era, including the controversial Kohinoor diamond and other idols and sculptures in museums across the UK, according to a British media report Saturday. "The Daily Telegraph" newspaper claims the issue is among the priorities of the Narendra Modi-led government, with it likely to spill over into diplomatic and trade talks between the two countries.

While the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is said to be leading efforts to reclaim objects "trafficked" out of the country since independence, officials in New Delhi are believed to be coordinating with diplomats in London to make formal requests to institutions holding artefacts seized as "spoils of war" or collected by enthusiasts during colonial rule. "The long work of repatriation will begin with what is considered the easiest targets, small museums and private collectors, who may be more willing to voluntarily hand over Indian artefacts, and then efforts will turn to larger institutions and Royal collections," the newspaper report said. Senior officials in New Delhi believe that such historical artefacts can reinforce a strong national cultural identity, with Lily Pandeya, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, quoted as saying



It would be absolutely devastating if America, which is one of the biggest motors of the global economy, was to have its GDP knocked off track by not reaching agreement

JEREMY HUNT | FM, UK



southeastern border district of Cox's Bazar where over a million Rohingya refugees live.

Bangladeshi authorities have set up 55 shelters at Bhasan Char offshore island, where nearly 30,000 of the Rohingya refugees have been relocated from the mainland. Bangladesh exclusively dedicated the Bhasan Char to the Rohingyas though most of them live in the mainland of Cox's Bazar adjacent to Myanmar borders. Most of them fled to neighbouring Bangladesh after a military-crackdown in Myanmar in 2017. "The district administration has turned social, educational, and religious institutions as makeshift shelters alongside 576 designated cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar to accommodate over half a million people," deputy commissioner or

administrative chief of the coastal district Muhammad Shahin Imran told reporters. Imran said around 8,600 Red Crescent volunteers have joined a campaign asking people to relocate even as the district administration has mobilised transports to carry them to shelters. Bangladesh's Met Office in its latest special weather bulletin said "Cyclone Mocha" continued to move to the north-northwest packing winds up to 175 kilometres per hour: "The cyclone could cause tidal surges from 8 to 12 feet beyond the normal tide," an official in the Met Office said. Prime Minister Hasina warned that the cyclone could disrupt elec-

tricity and gas supplies and particularly cause water stagnation in coastal areas. "This cyclone (Mocha) is the most powerful storm since Cyclone Sidr of 2007," chief meteorologist Azizur Rahman said. Cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh's southwestern coast killing more than 3,000 people and inflicting damages to the tune of billions of dollars. On Friday, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) feared a storm surge of 2-2.5 metres over the weekend that was likely to inundate low-lying areas of North Myanmar as well as parts of Bangladesh where flash floods and landslides were also possible.



POLITICAL CRISIS

No martial law in Pak

The Army remains Pakistan's most powerful institution, having ruled it directly for close to half its 75-year history through three coups

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 13: Pakistan's Army has ruled out the possibility of imposing martial law in the country amidst the political turmoil and deteriorating law and order situation following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan, saying Army chief General Asim Munir and the entire military leadership believe in democracy. The remarks of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry came after an almost four-day political turmoil erupted due to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Khan's arrest, in which Army's installations, including the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, were also targeted. "There is no question of imposing martial law in the country," he told Geo News, adding that Army chief General Asim Munir and the entire military leadership along



with him believe in democracy. Chaudhry stressed that the Army's unity is unwavering and will persist, serving as a pillar of stability and security for the nation. He also rejected social media rumours about resignations by top Army officers or anyone disobeying the military discipline. "No one in the Army has resigned and no one has disobeyed any order," the military spokesman said Friday. He also rejected the impression of division within the army in the wake of attacks on military facilities during protests following the arrest of Khan. "Despite the internal and external propaganda, the army is united and will remain," he said. Major General Chaudhry further said that the army is united despite internal miscreants and ex-

ternal enemies. "The dream of dividing the Pakistan Army will remain a dream, the Army is united under the leadership of Army Chief General Asim Munir and will remain united." He called upon the public and media to rely on verified information from official sources rather than giving credence to unfounded speculation. The Army has come under scanner after showing no response when the rioters ransacked the residence of Corps Commander Lahore after Khan was arrested May 9. At least 10 people have been killed in the violence that erupted after Khan's dramatic arrest by the paramilitary Rangers from the Islamabad High Court Tuesday. The unrest in the country has come to a halt for now as the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has provided

Khan blames Army chief for arrest

Imran Khan has torn into Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir and blamed him for his "abduction" after a court here set the former prime minister free and barred his re-arrest in any case until Monday. A triumphant Khan returned to his Lahore home Saturday after having locked himself in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises for hours for fear of re-arrest despite being granted bail Friday. Before leaving for Lahore, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief hit out at the "imported government for kidnapping" him despite the IHC granting him bail in all cases. "They have kidnapped me and forcibly kept me here. I want to tell the whole nation that it is their bad intention, they want to do something again and the whole nation should ready itself to protest," he said. When asked about the impression that security agencies were against him whereas the judiciary was favouring him, Khan told a BBC correspondent: "It's not the security agencies. It's one man, the Army chief."

blanket relief to Khan and barred authorities from arresting the PTI chief till Monday morning.

Portugal okays euthanasia for people over 18

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Lisbon, May 13: After a long battle, Portugal Friday passed a law legalising euthanasia for people in great suffering and with incurable diseases, joining just a handful of countries around the world. The issue has divided the deeply Catholic country and witnessed strong opposition from conservative President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, a devout churchgoer. Under its provisions, people aged over 18 will be allowed to request assistance in dying if they are terminally ill and in intolerable suffering.

It will only cover those suffering "lasting" and "unbearable" pain unless they are deemed not to be mentally fit to make such a decision. The law will only be applicable for nationals and legal residents and not extend to foreigners coming into the country to seek assisted suicide. The euthanasia bill was approved by parliament four times in the last three years but sent back every time for a constitutional review due to opposition from the president. The definitive version of the law was adopted Friday with support from the governing Socialists, who hold an absolute majority in the chamber. "We are confirming a law that has already been approved several times by a huge majority," said Socialist MP Isabel Moreira, a fervent advocate of legalising euthanasia. For their part, critics of medically assisted dying regret that the issue has not been put to a referendum and hope opposition deputies will once again ask the constitutional court to look into the bill. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are only allowed in a handful of countries, including the Benelux nations and Portugal's neighbour, Spain.



Participants perform dragon dance and fire breathing during a parade celebrating the Tin Hau Festival at Yuen Long district, in Hong Kong

REUTERS

COLONIAL LOOT



"Antiquities have both physical and intangible value, they are part

of the continuity of cultural heritage, of community and national identity. By robbing these artefacts, you are robbing this value, and breaking the continuity of knowledge and community." The Kohinoor, also known as Koh-i-Noor or mountain of light in Persian, was in the spotlight at last week's Coronation with Queen Camilla averting a diplomatic row by choosing alternative diamonds for her consort's crown. The 105-carat diamond was held by rulers in India before landing in the hands of the East India Company from Maharaja Ranjit Singh's treasury and then being presented to Queen Victoria following the annexation of Punjab. "The return of such a historically significant artefact would be 'deeply symbolic,' according to ministerial circles in New Delhi, and there is understood to be a political will to achieve such a symbolic post-colonial victory," the report said. The British Museum could face claims for its collection of Hindu statues and the Amaravati Marbles, which were taken from a Buddhist stupa by civil servant Sir Walter Elliot and the Victoria and Albert Museum's Indian collection could also be subject to claims. The newspaper describes this drive to reclaim Indian artefacts as a "reckoning" with the country's colonial past, with Secretary for the Indian Ministry of Culture Govind Mohan being quoted as saying that returning antiquities would form a key part of India's policy-making. Since Independence, 251 artefacts have been brought back to India, and 238 of these have been repatriated, ASI spokesperson Vasant Swarnkar said. Besides, about 100 artefacts are in the process of being repatriated, from countries including the UK, and the US, he told PTI.

business

of the day quote

The banks should have a stronger overview on lending practices of borrowers from the non-banking lenders

CS SETTY | MD, SBI

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the fault lines in existing global health architecture and emphasised the need for a more robust, inclusive, and responsive global health architecture while maintaining the centrality of WHO

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

A normalized sale for 2022-23 should really have been in the range of Rs 10,000-11,000 crore. We will still keep our head guided. And we will say that in FY24 we should still be looking at sales guidance of Rs 11,000-12,000 crore

ASHOK TYAGI | CEO, DLF

SHORT TAKES

■ SCO adopts India's proposal on DPI

New Delhi: Inter-governmental body Shanghai Cooperation Organization members, which includes China and Pakistan, have unanimously adopted India's proposal for developing Digital Public Infrastructure, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Saturday. India has developed Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) like unified payment interface, Aadhaar etc to make services available to people in a convenient manner. "The Digital Ministers of SCO member states met today and unanimously adopted India's proposal for developing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as the right way for deploying digital technology among member states," Vaishnaw said.

■ Toyota apologises over data breach

Tokyo: As connected cars become mainstream globally, Toyota has issued an apology after it discovered that millions of customers' partial data was made public "due to misconfiguration of the Cloud environment" for a decade. The automaker said it will notify nearly 2.15 million customers in Japan whose personal and vehicle information were left exposed on the web from November 6, 2013 to April 17, 2023. The exposed data includes registered email addresses, vehicle-unique chassis and navigation terminal numbers, the location of vehicles and what time they were there, and videos from the vehicle's "drive recorder". We apologise for causing great inconvenience and concern to our customers and related parties," the company said.

Banks to trace, settle unclaimed deposits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 13: The Reserve Bank of India Friday said a special 100 days campaign will be launched under which banks trace and settle their top 100 deposits in every district of the country. The banks will commence the campaign from June 1, 2023. Balances in savings/current accounts which are not operated for 10 years, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from date of maturity are classified as "unclaimed deposits". These amounts are transferred by banks to "Depositor Education and Awareness" (DEA) Fund maintained by the Reserve Bank of India. "The Reserve Bank of India today announced a '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign for banks to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days," the central bank said in a statement.



Bringing on Linda allows me to devote more time to Tesla, which is exactly what I will be doing

ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA

ARGENTINA INFLATION SKYROCKETS

Argentina's annual inflation rate soared to 109% in April, the country's statistics agency said, stoking anger among hard-hit consumers who are increasingly having to skimp and save to get by. The South American nation, an important grains exporter and the region's number 2 economy, posted 8.4% monthly inflation in April, the highest in decades



JET REPO FIGHT

The move could raise leasing costs for Indian airlines and hurt lessors' confidence just as the world's third-largest domestic market faces record growth

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 13: India has been placed on a watchlist with a negative outlook by a global aviation leasing watchdog, which said it had failed to comply with international aircraft repossession norms after airline Go First was granted bankruptcy protection. Such an outlook will "have a direct and material impact on future financing and leases to Indian airlines", Aviation Working Group (AWG), a UK-based entity that

monitors leasing and financing laws, told Go First in a letter copied to India's aviation minister. Go Airlines (India) Ltd filed for bankruptcy protection last week, blaming "faulty" Pratt & Whitney engines for the grounding of about half its 54 Airbus A320neos. Pratt, part of Raytheon Technologies, says the claims are without evidence and divert attention from the airline's financial woes. In granting protection, the Indian tribunal ordered a freeze on Go First's assets even though some lessors had already terminated leases and placed requests with the aviation regulator to repossess more than 40 planes. Failure to process the applications before the freeze was imposed, "results in a negative outlook", AWG said a notice. **TREATY TEST** The dispute comes as Indian air travel is booming and hun-



dreds of new jets have been ordered by local carriers, who depend heavily on foreign lessors to finance plane purchases. It is also the latest test of a 2001 treaty designed to smooth the growth of aviation by protecting repossession rights, which hit headlines when Russia blocked the repossession of jets in retaliation over Western Ukraine-related sanctions last year. India has ratified the so-called Cape Town Convention but has yet to pass a law resolving con-

flicts with the country's insolvency and bankruptcy code, which is backed by parliament. "Given (this), implementation of the Convention will run into challenges when read with the bankruptcy laws," said Syed Tamjeed Ahmad, co-founder of aviation law firm Spaviatech Law. Go First's lessors include SMBC Aviation, CDB Aviation's GY Aviation Leasing, Jackson Square Aviation and BOC Aviation. In its letter to the airline's court-appointed administrator at Go

First, AWG said the airline has an "obligation" to preserve the aircraft and maintain their value until the creditors and lessors can take possession. AWG is a not-for-profit entity co-chaired by Airbus and Boeing. Members include major lessors and financial institutions like Aircastle, BOC Aviation, SMBC Aviation Capital, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. The negative outlook by AWG is under what it calls the compliance index, which addresses whether requirements under the Cape Town Convention are met in practice. India's score has been reduced to 3 from 3.5 earlier. The warning is the second in as many months after AWG in April issued an alert about Vietnam's compliance with international norms in a dispute over repossession of four jets.

Adani plans to raise ₹21K-cr

THE FUNDS THAT ADANI IS LOOKING TO RAISE WILL BE THE CONGLOMERATE'S BIGGEST BORROWING SINCE HINDENBURG REPORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group will raise Rs 21,000 crore (over \$2.5 billion) through share sale in two group companies in the boldest comeback strategy after the ports-to-energy conglomerate was rocked by allegations of fraud levelled by a US short-seller. Adani Enterprises Ltd, the group's flagship firm, plans to raise Rs 12,500 crore while electricity transmission company Adani Transmission another Rs 8,500 crore, the companies said in stock exchange filings. The board of renewable energy arm, Adani Green Energy Ltd too was scheduled to meet Saturday for a fundraise but the meeting was postponed to May 24. The fundraise will be through issue of shares to qualified institutional buyers. Sources aware of the matter said investors in Europe and the Middle East have evinced strong interest. In a stock exchange filing, Adani Enterprises said its board on Saturday approved "raising of funds by way of issuance of...Equity shares having face value of Rs 1 each of the company and / or other eligible securities or any combination thereof, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 12,500 crore or an equivalent amount thereof by way of qualified institutional placement (QIP) or other permissible mode in accordance with the applicable laws." Adani Transmission in a separate filing said its board has approved "raising of funds by way of issuance of such number of equity shares having face value of Rs 10 each of the company and / or other eligible securities or any combination thereof, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs



ADANI ENTERPRISES LTD PLANS TO RAISE ₹12,500CR
ADANI TRANSMISSION PLANS ANOTHER ₹8,500CR
TO RAISE FUNDS VIA QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT

8,500 crore or an equivalent amount thereof by way of QIP or other permissible mode in accordance with the applicable laws." **HIT BY HINDENBURG** This comes three months after Adani Enterprises was forced to abort a Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offering (FPO) in the wake of the Hindenburg report. The offer was fully subscribed but the company returned the money to subscribers. The sources said the company stock which was offered in the price range of Rs 3,112 to Rs 3,276 in the FPO is now available at Rs 1,964 (at Friday's closing price). US short-seller Hindenburg Research in January released a damning report alleging accounting fraud and stock price manipulation at Adani Group, triggering a stock market rout that had erased about \$145 billion in the conglomerate's market value at its lowest point. Adani Group has denied all allegations by Hindenburg and is plotting a comeback strategy. The group has recast its ambitions as well as prepaid some loans to assuage investors.

CONTROLLED BY CHINA

Executive dismissed from TikTok's Chinese owner says Beijing had access to app data in termination suit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, May 13: A former executive fired from TikTok's parent company ByteDance made a raft of accusations against the tech giant Friday, including that it stole content from competitors like Instagram and Snapchat, and served as a "propaganda tool" for the Chinese government by suppressing or promoting content favourable to the country's interests. The allegations were made in a complaint Friday by Yintao Yu, the head of engineering for ByteDance's US operations from August 2017 to November 2018, as part of a wrongful termination lawsuit filed earlier this month in San Francisco Superior Court. Yu claims he was fired for disclosing "wrongful conduct" he saw at the

Fired for flagging wrongful conduct, says former ByteDance executive



The allegations come as TikTok - one of the most popular social media apps in the US - faces heightened scrutiny in Washington and some states about whether it can keep American data safe from the Chinese government. The Biden administration has threatened to ban the app if its Chinese owners don't sell their stakes

company.

In the complaint, Yu alleges the Chinese government monitored ByteDance's work from within its Beijing headquarters and provided guidance on advancing "core communist values."

TikTok maintains it never gave US user data to China's government and wouldn't do so if it was asked. In an effort to avoid a ban, it also wants to store US user data on servers operated by the software giant Oracle. In another attention-grabbing part of the lawsuit, Yu alleges he observed ByteDance promoting content that expressed hatred for Japan on Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok. At another time, he

said the company demoted content that showed support for the protests in Hong Kong while promoting content that expressed criticism of the protests. Yu said ByteDance developed software that would scrape user content from competitors' websites without permission. He alleges the company would then repost the content on its own websites - including TikTok - to attract more engagement from users. Yu said a fellow TikTok executive in charge of the video-sharing app's algorithm waved off his concerns. At some point, Yu said the company modified the programme, but continued to scrape data from US users when they were abroad. The former executive also alleges the company created fake users to boost its engagement metrics, including by programming them to "like" and "follow" real accounts. Yu is seeking punitive damage, lost earnings and 220,000 ByteDance shares that had not vested by the time he was fired.

Canara Bank gives presentation on financing scope for startup members

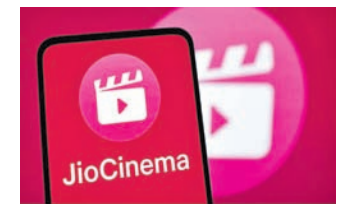
Bhubaneswar: Canara Bank in association with Startup Odisha, Govt of Odisha and Odisha Corporate Foundation has given a presentation on 'financing scope for startup members' and conducted a brief workshop at Odisha Start up Incubation Center, Bhubaneswar May 12. The presentation was given under the guidance of Jagdish Chander, Circle Head, Canara Bank Bhubaneswar. Canara Bank officials from MSME Sulabh Bhubaneswar and Canara Bank Circle office Bhubaneswar participated in the event. 30 startup units participated in the event and lauded the services and schemes of the bank. MSME units got benefitted by receiving guidance about the necessary documents required for processing loan proposals.



JioCinema unveils pricing in fight with Netflix, Disney

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 13: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's streaming platform JioCinema announced premium pricing of Rs 999 (\$12) a year, its first step to move away from a free content model to fight global rivals such as Netflix and Disney in the country. The move comes weeks after a Reliance's Viacom18 struck a content deal with Warner Bros, that will make available popular HBO and Warner titles such as "Succession". The JioCinema website Saturday showed the new premium pricing for Hollywood content, with the much-awaited Succession series available for streaming. JioCinema has become popular for showing the IPL cricket tournament on the platform for free in the ongoing season. The new pricing, according to the website, is only for premium content, while the matches continue to stream for free. Viacom18 won the IPL digital streaming rights from 2023 to 2027 for around \$2.9 billion, rights which Disney previously held. Karan Taurani, a senior vice president of India's Elara Capital specialising in the media and entertainment sectors, said Reliance's streaming offer price was at the lower end versus rivals that but more content would be needed to succeed. "Only with pure play HBO content you may not get a large scale (of customers) ... 999 definitely is at the lower end of the band, many of the other platforms, they are all in the range of 1,000 plus and it goes up to 2,000" rupees, he said.



Indian-owned firms register record growth in Britain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 13: Indian-owned companies operating in the UK have hit a record high of 954 this year, registering a significant increase over the previous year, according to the 'India Meets Britain Tracker 2023'. The 2023 analysis, found the combined turnover of Indian-owned companies in Britain has more than doubled - from 19 billion pounds in 2014 to 50.5 billion pounds in 2023. "We all agree that now we are on the cusp of something sensational and as a British government minister, I want to be a part of that," said Lord Dominic Johnson, UK Minister for Investment in the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). The Tracker, released annually by professional services firm Grant

Thornton and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to analyse the contribution of Indian businesses to the UK economy, marks its 10th edition this year. "Nobody seems to know that Indian companies are here in such numbers... I think we can do better with this. There is an opportunity for us to find verticals in which we can connect the two economies for joint opportunities in which Indian businesses come here to leverage opportunities and take finished products back into the Indian economy," said Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami. Doraiswami also called on UK companies to leverage opportunities on offer in smaller Indian cities and rural areas with a "considerable upsurge in demand". "The increase in the number of companies compared to last year



BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA, UK HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM 16.4 BILLION POUNDS IN 2013 TO 35.9 BILLION POUNDS IN 2022

alone is remarkable, amidst ongoing operational challenges and rising costs. This increasing presence in the UK is reflective of the growing relationship between the two countries, with the past decade witnessing ever-deepening ties between India and the UK," said Anuj

With the ninth round of negotiations on an India-UK free trade agreement now complete, the latest research found that the number of Indian-owned companies operating in the UK remained at its highest level over the past 12 months despite businesses and economies worldwide still feeling the impact of the pandemic

Turnover of Indian-owned companies in UK more than doubled - from 19 billion pounds in 2014 to 50.5 billion pounds in 2023

Chande, Head of South Asia Business Group, Grant Thornton UK LLP. Chande pointed out that bilateral trade between India and the UK has more than doubled from 16.4 billion pounds in 2013 to 35.9 billion pounds in 2022, which shows that

I want these two free democracies - India and the UK - who believe in the values of liberty and human endeavour to come together to truly, by our common partnership, create a stronger set of economies as one

DOMINIC JOHNSON | MINISTER FOR INVESTMENT (DBT), UK

the UK continues to have an attractive offering for Indian investors. Fastest-growing firms The research also identifies the fastest-growing Indian companies in the UK each year, measured by those with a turnover of more than 5 million pounds, year-on-year revenue growth of at least 10 per cent and a minimum two-year track record in the UK. Of the 954 companies, 79 met the qualifying criteria - more

than double that of the 37 in 2022. The average annual revenue growth rate among the Tracker companies also almost doubled compared to last year (38 per cent) to hit a record high of 71 per cent. The three fastest growing companies in this year's research by year-on-year revenue growth were LT Foods International Ltd, growing 807 per cent; St James Court Taj Hotel, growing 491 per cent; and Reliance Big Entertainment (UK) Private Ltd, growing 364 per cent. While London remains the preferred location in the UK - with 35 of the 79 companies in this year's Tracker headquartered in the UK capital - as in last year's research, many Indian-owned companies are starting to look beyond London for growth opportunities and those located outside of the capital now account for more than 50 per cent of the total.

LSG BACK IN PLAYOFF HUNT



NICHOLAS POORAN



PRERAK MANKAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 13: Nicholas Pooran (44 n o, 13b, 3x4, 4x6) justified his Rs 16 crore billing, pulling off what looked like a difficult chase on a tacky track as Lucknow Super Giants were back in playoff hunt with a seven-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here Saturday.

A target of 183 was certainly not an easy proposition on a track that got slower as the match progressed. However, Pooran, with assistance from domestic bulwark Prerak Mankad (64 n o, 45b, 7x4, 2x6) and Marcus Stoinis (40, 25b, 2x4, 3x6), helped LSG get past the target with four balls to spare.

LSG now have 13 points from 12 games and are now in fourth spot behind Gujarat Titans (16 points), CSK (15 points) and Mumbai Indians (14 points). However, they

will have to win their next two games to have an assured berth in the last four stage.

As far as SRH are concerned, another tournament of non-performance is coming to an end with a below-par show. Till the 15th over, SRH controlled the proceedings as LSG crawled to 114/2, needing 68 more from five overs.

However, Aiden Markram's decision to give an extra over to part-time left-arm spinner Abhishek Sharma, who was walloped for five sixes in the 16th over, proved costly. Stoinis thumped him for two maximums before being holed out at deep extra cover boundary. But Pooran came in and hit two 100m-plus sixes and one straight to completely change the equation.

Credit should be given to Saurashtra's Mankad, who struggled to get going during the middle overs. But a pep-talk from mentor

Gautam Gambhir during strategic timeout saw a sea-change in his approach as he showed more intent, hitting a straight six off T Natarajan.

Earlier, Krunal Pandya (2/24) produced a couple of back-to-back high quality deliveries before Heinrich Klaasen (47, 29b, 3x4, 3x6) and Abdul Samad (37 n o, 25b, 1x4, 4x6) took Sunrisers Hyderabad to a competitive 182/6 after opting to bat first.

Not known as a big turner of the ball, LSG skipper Krunal bowled two identical classical left-arm orthodox deliveries, which had drift as well as enough turn to hoodwink Markram (28) and Glenn Phillips (0). However, Klaasen, inarguably SRH's best batter, was in his natural attacking self as his knock took his team to a respectable total.

The difference between Krunal and leg-spinners Amit Mishra

Drama during game

HYDERABAD: The unruly behaviour of SRH supporters halted proceedings of their against LSG after on-field umpires Akshay Totre, J Madangopal and TV umpire Yeshwant Barde earned the fans' wrath for a poor 'no-ball' DRS call in the penultimate over here Saturday. Avesh Khan bowled what looked like a beamer to Abdul Samad and Totre didn't adjudge it a no-ball. SRH called for a DRS but to their horror, Barde also ruled it in favour of the bowling team. An angry Klaasen spoke to on-field umpires and suddenly one saw LSG head coach Andy Flower and mentor Gautam Gambhir along with others in dug-out, standing inside the boundary rope, pointing at the stands which is exactly behind their team area. It seemed as if someone from the crowd had thrown something and there were collective chants of 'Kohli Kohli' in their bid to rile Gambhir up in reference to his bust up with former India captain Virat Kohli earlier this month. Once the match started, Klaasen was immediately holed out at long-on, having lost his concentration due to the unwanted stoppage. He didn't hold back his anger while speaking to broadcasters during the mid-innings snap interview. "Disappointed with the crowd to be honest, that's not what you want. That also broke the momentum, not great umpiring either," Klaasen said.

(1/40) and Ravi Bishnoi (0/23) was the optimum pace in his deliveries. In case of Bishnoi, he ended up bowling half-trackers while trying to bowl fast. When Mishra bowled, it didn't help as he is much slower through the air compared to his younger days. Hence, the batters got enough time to plan their shots.

Once Krunal's wickets reduced SRH to 115/5, Klaasen took it upon himself and got support from Samad as the duo added 58 in 6.4 overs to take the score past 175-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES

SRH 182/6 (Heinrich Klaasen 47, Abdul Samad 37 n o, Anmolpreet Singh 36; Krunal Pandya 2/24) lost to LSG 185/3 (Prerak Mankad 64 n o, Nicholas Pooran 44 n o, Marcus Stoinis 40; Glenn Phillips 1/10) by 7 wickets.

Prabhsimran ton, Harpreet spell fashion PBKS victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Prabhsimran Singh's magnificent maiden IPL hundred (103, 65b, 10x4, 6x6) was well complemented by Harpreet Brar's four wicket haul (4/30) as Punjab Kings Saturday kept their slim play-off hopes alive with a comprehensive 31-run win over Delhi Capitals, who were knocked out of contention in the process.

If Prabhsimran showed tremendous resolve during his knock to single-handedly power PBKS to 167/7, Brar and Rahul Chahar (2/16) then spun a web to strangle Delhi's chase as the home side managed just 136/8, despite a sizzling 27-ball 54 (10x4, 1x6) by skipper David Warner.

The win took Punjab to 12 points from 12 games, just outside the top four but they will need to win the next two matches as well to keep hopes of a playoff, while it was the end of the road for Delhi.

Earlier, while none of his batting colleagues could cross 20 runs on a sluggish pitch, Prabhsimran's perseverance paid off as he lifted Punjab from 46/3 to a competitive total.

Warner and Phil Salt provided a flying start to Delhi's chase but the spin duo of Brar and Chahar triggered a collapse with the hosts inexplicably losing six wickets for just 19 runs to slip from 69 for no loss to 88/6 in 10.1 overs.

If Brar saw the back of Warner, Phil Salt (21), Rilee Rossouw (5), Manish Pandey (0), Chahar picked up wickets of Mitchell Marsh (3) and Axar Patel (1) in their quota of four overs. With 66 needed off 36 balls, Aman Khan (16) and Praveen Dube (16) tried their hands before becoming the victims of Nathan Ellis (2/21) as DC slumped to their eighth loss in 12 games to stay at the bottom with eight points.

Earlier, Prabhsimran looked well in control. The 22-year-old paced his innings well, scoring 27 from his first 30 balls before exploding to amass his next 76 runs from 35 balls.

An aggressive approach on a slow track backfired for Punjab with the team losing three early wickets in the first six overs after



Warner asked them to bat first. Prabhsimran and Sam Curran (20) then steadied the ship with a 72-run partnership off 54 balls.

Ishant Sharma (2/27) was at the forefront as he recovered from a first-ball six to remove Shikhar Dhawan (7) in the next ball. Ishant then returned to destroy the stumps

of Liam Livingstone (4).

Prabhsimran looked in good touch as he sent Axar Patel for a six with a reverse hit but two balls later the left-arm spinner cleaned up Jitesh Sharma (5). Kuldeep Yadav (1/32) and Praveen Dube (1/19) kept it tight.

However, there was no stopping Prabhsimran. He achieved the milestone with back-to-back fours off Khaleel, reaching the three-digit figure in 61 balls. Prabhsimran finally was dismissed when he was looking for a scoop shot. He ended up being bowled by Mukesh Kumar (1/3).

BRIEF SCORES: PBKS 167/7 (Prabhsimran Singh 103, Sam Curran 20, Sikandar Raza 11 n o; Ishant Sharma 2/27, Mukesh Kumar 1/3) beat DC 136/8 (David Warner 54, Phil Salt 21; Harpreet Brar 4/30, Rahul Chahar 2/16, Nathan Ellis 2/26) by 31 runs.

'Pink City' gears up for Royal showdown



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jaipur, May 13: It promises to be a showdown between this edition's two most impactful batters in young Yashasvi Jaiswal and veteran Faf du Plessis when Rajasthan Royals take on Royal Challengers Bangalore, who are looking to avoid a hat-trick of defeats, in an IPL match in the 'Pink City', Sunday.

Both Jaiswal and Du Plessis are in scintillating form and are the top two run-getters in the tournament so far. While Du Plessis is leading the scoring charts with 576 runs from 11 innings, Jaiswal is a close second with 575 runs from 12 knocks. It remains to be seen who gets the better of the other in Sunday's high-profile clash. If both fire Sunday, it will be a run feat for the spectators.

RCB will also look to avoid a hat-trick of defeats, having suffered losses against Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals in their last two games.

The Royals, on the other hand, returned to winning ways with a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over KKR Thursday after three consecutive defeats. While Jos Buttler failed against KKR, he remains a big threat alongside Jaiswal at the top of the order for the Royals. RR's middle order too looks pretty strong in the presence of Joe Root, Dhruv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer.

On the bowling front, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal shone bright against KKR, New Zealand quick Trent Boult has been steady up-front. Sandeep Sharma has also

CSK look to seal playoffs berth, must-win tie for KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, May 13: Four-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will clash with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in an IPL match here Sunday aiming for a win and strengthen their chances of sealing a playoffs berth.

The Super Kings with 15 points (12 matches) are better placed to go through to the next stage, while KKR (10 points) need to win their two remaining games and hope other results go their way.

MS Dhoni's team came into the match with two wins on the bounce and, like always, will be tough to beat at their 'den'. Even a couple of sixes from Dhoni's bat are enough to send the Chepauk crowd into a tizzy and he did that in the previ-



ous match against Delhi Capitals, which proved vital.

For the home team, the opening batters Devon Conway (420 runs) and Ruturaj Gaikwad have

been providing solid starts. Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube have been benefitting from the clarity of roles they have been assigned and been vital cogs in the CSK batting line-up.

On a slow pitch, which saw the batters struggle, Dube managed a few big hits and he would be eyeing an encore Sunday. Though Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja and Ambati Rayudu have not had the desired impact, the Super Kings have managed well.

The bowlers, Matheesha Pathirana in particular, have done the job for the skipper. Tushar Deshpande, albeit expensive, has managed to pick up wickets. The spinners - Jadeja, Moeen and Maheesh Theekshana - have been effective in putting the squeeze on



opposition batters as the Delhi team found out Wednesday.

KKR will also fancy their chances based on the presence of spinners, who have made an impact. How

Varun Chakravarthy and leg-spinner Suyash Sharma bowl Sunday could well decide the outcome of the match. The experienced Sunil Narine has been off-colour for a major part of the IPL season and will look to make amends.

Skipper Nitish Rana and Venkatesh Iyer have been the better performers in the batting line-up and KKR would be expecting the openers to provide a solid start so that the rest can build on that.

However, it is easier said than done. KKR have to put behind the hammering at the hands of Rajasthan Royals Thursday and approach Sunday's fixture with a positive frame of mind. A loss on the morrow could hurt their chances of advancing in the tournament.

Rhythm breaks WR, misses medal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku, May 13: Indian shooter Rhythm Sangwan smashed a 29-year-old world record in the qualification round and later missed out on a medal as she finished eighth in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol here.

Rhythm shot a stunning 595 to top the 25m pistol qualification, obliterating the world record first created by Diana Iorgova of Bulgaria back in 1994 in Milan. It had been equalled twice thereafter; most recently by German Doreen Vennekamp at the Bhopal World Cup in March this year.

Doreen won bronze here in Baku while China's Feng Sixuan picked up a second consecutive World Cup gold in the event with 38 hits in the final to Iranian silver medallist Haniyeh Rostamiyan's 33.

Rhythm, who won her maiden individual senior World Cup medal - a bronze - in the women's 10m air pistol here Wednesday, was the first shooter to be eliminated in the eight-woman final with 10 hits in the first four five-shot series.

Rhythm also broke the junior women's 25m pistol world record, which was set 34 years ago by Russian Nino Salukvadze who shot 593 at the European Championship in Zagreb. India's Manu Bhaker had equalled that effort in 2018 at



the Asian Games in Jakarta.

India registered a no-medal day for the first time in the tournament. Even though Rhythm topped qualification with her 595, teammates Esha Singh and Manu shot 582 and 578 respectively to finish at 13th and 27th positions. Abhidnya Ashok Patil, playing for ranking points, registered a score of 576.

All three Indian contenders in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) also fell short of the top eight mark.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar shot 586 for a 10th place finish while Akhil Sheoran was 13th with 585 and Swapnil Kusale further back in 22nd with a score of 583. Pankaj Mukheja, shooting for ranking points, only shot 581.

The day also saw the first precision qualification round for the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) where India's Vijayveer Sidhu shot a solid 293 to be among the top scores currently.

IOA asks WFI to hand over documents to ad-hoc panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has asked the secretary general of WFI to hand over the official documents including financial instruments to its ad-hoc panel, making it clear the outgoing office bearers shall have no role in the running of the federation.

The WFI said it has no issues in obeying the IOA order since they were already co-operating with the authorities. The IOA had formed an ad-hoc committee to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and also conduct due polls of the NSF.

The ad-hoc committee was formed by the IOA at the behest of the Sports Ministry after several top wrestlers returned to the protest site at Jantar Mantar here last month, demanding the arrest of WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly sexually harassing women grapplers.

The IOA Friday issued a letter saying that all administrative, financial and regulatory roles will now be performed by the ad-hoc committee.

"In pursuance of the above (order of the IOA dated May 12, 2023), it is hereby clarified that the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the IOA

for the discipline of Wrestling shall carry out all the duties and responsibilities of the National Sports Federation (WFI) as enunciated in the Sports Code.

"With the Ad hoc Committee being in existence, the outgoing office bearers of the WFI shall have no role with respect to the exercise of any function of the NSF for discipline of Wrestling and shall not perform any administrative, financial, regulatory or any other role," said the IOA letter, which has also been marked to the ministry and the WFI secretary general.

It said that outgoing office bearers should immediately hand over all necessary documents, including website login and participation details of Indian wrestlers, among others to the ad-hoc committee.

"The outgoing office bearers of the WFI are directed to hand over all official documents, including website management, financial instruments, login details for making entries for the participation of Indian sportspersons in international events, etc., to the Ad hoc Committee, forthwith," the IOA letter added.

WFI secretary general VN Prasood said they have no issues in sharing all the relevant documents with the IOA panel.