


TAAPSEE'S INSPIRATION

Actor Taapsee Pannu talks about the actress who inspired her to achieve an admirable athletic physique

LEISURE

P2



MORE HEAT PAIN AHEAD

WMO forecasts a 66 per cent increase in heat conditions across the globe with temperatures expected to rise 1.5°C

INTERNATIONAL

P10



OFC APPOINT NEW COACH

Odisha FC appoint Spain's Sergio Lobera as the new head coach ahead of the 2023-24 season on a 2-year deal

SPORTS

P12

SHORT TAKES

Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat starts today

**Bhubaneswar:** The Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express will be flagged off virtually Thursday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Pilgrim City. With this, Odisha will get its first Vande Bharat train. Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will be present at the Puri station during the ceremony. The train will run six days a week, excluding Thursday, Railway officials said. The train will stop at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road during both the upward and downward journeys and it will have 14 AC chair car coaches and two executive class coaches.

39 go missing as Chinese boat capsizes

**Beijing:** China sought Wednesday the help of several countries to rescue 39 people who were on board a Chinese fishing vessel which sank in the Indian Ocean, the official media here reported. Among the 39 who have gone missing, 17 are Chinese crew members, an equal number from Indonesia and five from the Philippines. Officials said that the fishing vessel capsized in the central part of Indian Ocean early Wednesday morning. Officials sources indicated that the chances of survival of the missing persons are slim. Chinese President Xi Jinping is personally supervising the rescue operations.

Sherpa Kamta regains Everest-scaling record

**Kathmandu:** One of the greatest mountain guides, Kamta Rita, 53, regained his title for the most climbs of Mount Everest after scaling the peak for the 27th time Wednesday. It came just three days after fellow Sherpa Pasang Dawa had equalled his previous record of scaling the peak for the 26th time. Rita reached the 8,849 metres (29,032 feet) summit guiding a group of climbers on the world's highest mountain, and was safe and in good health, said Mingma Sherpa of the Kathmandu-based 'Seven Summit Treks'. Rita first scaled Mt Everest in 1994, and has been making the trip nearly every year since then.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



What storyline? I came here only to meet the minister

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
BULLION / CURRENCY	SENSEX	61560.64	↓ 371.83
	NIFTY	18181.75	↓ 104.75
	DOLLAR	82.26	↑ ₹0.01
	EURO	89.25	↓ ₹0.14
	GOLD	₹60,100	↓ ₹144
	SILVER	₹72,481	↓ ₹104

WEATHER			
		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	38.2°C	38.2°C
	MIN	22.0°C	22.5°C
Humidity		73%	81%
Rainfall		8.8mm	27mm
		Forecast Light to moderate rain	



DANCING FEET: Artists rehearse dance moves Wednesday at a theatre hall in Jammu ahead of the G20 summit in the city beginning May 22

PTI PHOTO

Mahanadi Tribunal starts Odisha inspection Friday

Odisha has already alleged that Chhattisgarh government is violating the 1947 Hirakud dam arrangement by developing illegal infra along the river basin

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, May 17:** The three-member Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal will start Friday its survey of the Mahanadi river basin in Odisha. The survey will end May 28. During the survey the tribunal will conduct site inspection of the Mahanadi basin at Hirakud dam, May 20. The three-member team comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, Ravi Ranjan and Indermeet Kaur will also visit the Chilika lake, the Mahanadi barrage in Cuttack and various other places. The three-member tribunal will be accompanied by legal teams of both the Odisha and the Chhattisgarh governments.

Earlier, the tribunal had visited the Mahanadi basin in Chhattisgarh in two phases starting April 19 and ending May 3. It inspected several projects being carried by Chhattisgarh on the Mahanadi basin. During the first visit which concluded April 23, the tribunal inspected projects in the upper Mahanadi sub-basin and Shivrath sub-basin. In the second phase from April 29 to May 3, the tribunal visited Hasdeo Bango dam, the Sheonarain and Kalma barrages.

At the end of the survey in Chhattisgarh, the government of Odisha had alleged that the upper riparian state has developed infra-



Members of the tribunal during the survey in Chhattisgarh

structure for about 11 million acre feet (MAF) water which is in excess of its equitable share and in violation of the arrangement of 1947.

Sources said Odisha government has submitted before the tribunal that the state would suffer serious damages during the monsoons if Chhattisgarh is permitted to develop future projects for 16 MAF water as disclosed in its letter in 2017. Odisha had claimed that as per the DPR of Hirakud project of 1947, the equitable share of Chhattisgarh is 8.33 MAF water.

Sources said that earlier the Odisha government had submitted before the tribunal that Chhattisgarh has been using around 13 to 14 MAF of water from illegally

expanded infrastructure of 11 MAF and causing injury to Odisha in non-monsoon months by excessive storage and utilisation of Mahanadi river water.

Odisha also contended that Chhattisgarh has been holding about 50 to 60 per cent of the live capacity (2.2 MAF approximately) in various reservoirs namely Ravi Shankar Shukla, Murumsilli and Minimata dams without any valid reason. The excessive storage of water in these reservoirs is the reason behind shortage at Hirakud dam. Odisha has also informed the tribunal that only 0.9 MAF water has been delivered at the border against agreed upon 1.72 MAF during non-monsoon months.

SHRADDHA MURDER CASE REVISITED IN BOLANGIR

Youth found murdered with body chopped and packed in polythene bags

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, May 17:** In a shocking incident, Town police here recovered the chopped off body parts of a youth packed in black polythene from a locked house at Salepali in this town, Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Rinku Meher, 27, a native of Liad village under Khariar police limits in Nuapada district. Police said it was a case of murder. The gruesome incident reminded one of the Shraddha Walkar murder case in Delhi in May. Her boyfriend had murdered her and chopped her body into pieces. The matter came to the fore after locals found stench emanating



from inside the house near Mathakhai Temple Square and informed the police after they found it locked from outside.

In the presence of a magistrate and forensic team, police broke the lock of the house and recovered the chopped body parts of Rinku. Two axes, a crowbar and a ham-

mer were recovered from the spot. Preliminary inquiries suggested that the miscreants after brutally murdering Rinku had chopped off his body parts and packed it in polythene in a bid to destroy evidence.

Rinku who was working as a driver was staying in the house here for the last eight years with his father Markand, mother and younger brother after shifting from his native village.

Police did not rule out involvement of Rinku's family behind his death as he had a tiff with his father a few days back. Police said that they were probing all angles and said those involved will be arrested soon.

THREE KILLED IN SEPARATE ROAD ACCIDENTS IN STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, May 17:** Three persons lost their lives Wednesday due to road mishaps in various parts of Odisha while 17 others suffered injuries.

In the first incident two persons were killed and two others suffered serious injuries after the driver of the SUV they were travelling in, lost control and crashed into a tree near Ramchandrapur on Champua Road in Basudebpur locality of this district early Wednesday morning. The deceased were identified as Vinod Barik and Niladri Ghana and both were from Sundargarh district.

In the second incident, a man on a scooter was killed after a Bolero car hit the two-wheeler from the rear near Sriguni village under Gochapada police station in Phiringia block of Kandhamal district. The deceased was identified as Manoj Panda of the same village.

In another accident, 15 people suffered injuries, some of them seriously after a bus collided head-on with a pick-up van on National Highway-57 near the Charichaka tehsil office in Boudh district. The injured have been admitted to the Purunakatak community health centre.

Hinduja scion SP breathes his last



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** His business successes which started with the international distribution rights for the Hindi blockbuster movie 'Sangam' in 1964 made him one of the richest in Britain but it was the Bofors scam that made Srichand Parmanand (SP) Hinduja famous, or rather infamous, back in India. SP, as he was popularly known, died Wednesday in London after a prolonged illness. He was 87, a family spokesperson informed.

Born in a business family in Karachi, SP and his two younger brothers were accused of receiving payments worth ₹64 crore in illegal commissions to help Swedish gunmaker 'AB Bofors' secure an Indian government contract. All three - Srichand, Gopichand, and Prakash Hinduja, were however exonerated by the Delhi High Court in 2005.

Srichand, the eldest of four brothers and chairman of the 'Hinduja Group', lost his wife, Madhu, in January this year. She was 82. He is survived by his daughters, Shanu and Vinoo. "SP Hinduja was a spiritual person, courageous in action and generous at heart. His loss has left a huge void," a family statement said.

Man who could have been French monarch

A DESCENDANT OF THE FORMER FRENCH ROYAL FAMILY LIVES WITH ITS GLORIOUS PAST AND OBSCURE PRESENT IN BHOPAL

AGENCIES

**London, May 17:** In Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, the United Kingdom (UK) already has a person of Indian-origin leading the country. The same could have happened in France also. According to Prince Michael of Greece, cousin to Britain's Prince Phillip, a portly, soft spoken 48-year-old Indian gentleman living a quite life in the city of Bhopal is the real king of France.

However, Balthazar Napoleon de Bourbon doesn't have anything to show for his royal blood, save certain artefacts that have been passed on to him through generations. The only proof to his royal claim

is the brass plaque on the door of his house which proclaims 'House of Bourbon' together with the white feathered fleur-de-lis crest of the French Bourbon kings

The Bourbons were the grandest royal dynasty Europe has ever seen. They were builders of the fabulous Palace of Versailles. However, the Bourbon monarchy effectively ended on the guillotine in 1793 when the French revolutionaries put paid to Louis XVI.

The Bourbons of India are a family who claim to be legitimate heirs of the House of Bourbon, descended from Jean Philippe de Bourbon, an exiled French noble who served in Mughal Emperor



The Balthazar family at their residence in Bhopal

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Akbar's court. The family is also known as the 'House of Bourbon-Bhopal', a name derived from the city where their last few generations resided and worked in the pre-independent Indian Bhopal State

There are security issues, so it is better to remain obscure and not dream about a rosy future

BALTHAZAR BOURBON

Royal Court.

Balthazar, now close to 65 years and portly, once worked as a lawyer in Bhopal. He has never visited France and hence has not been able to lay claim as to what may have been his crown. And he doesn't repent the fact that he has lost out on the monarchy of France.

"I don't think of such things. Ours is a life full of insecurity.

Being from a royal heritage, there are always hidden enemies. So one has to be careful and not dream about a rosy future," Balthazar was quoted as saying by *gg.com* a few years back. Since then not much is known about his whereabouts as he is keen to maintain a low profile despite continuing to stay in Bhopal.

However, Balthazar lives lavishly though at times he finds it difficult to manage ends. The bungalow, dominated by Mughal arches, shares the 30,000 square feet compound with a school run by his wife Elisha. He is happy with what he has got now and is not interested in treading unknown territories.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will find some decisions difficult to make, but be intent and resolute. Emotions may put you off rail, but once you have resolved, don't stray from it. Besides, Ganesha advises you to learn to endure setbacks in a mature manner.

**TAURUS**  
Today Ganesha sees you overdoing your aggression, domination bit and urges you to keep your assertiveness in check. This day is not a favourable one for new ventures and undertakings. Don't therefore attempt anything new. Talk pleasantly. Harshness, roughness in your tone is only going to antagonize and alienate valuable friends.

**GEMINI**  
Ganesha advises that while today will be a day filled with a lot of festivity, you still need to guard against getting carried away. You will spend the day socialising with friends and family. You might end up neglecting your household duties in organizing some function or picnic, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
A hectic day, combined with domestic pressure will make you exhausted. You feel a heavy burden on mind and heart. Don't be too emotional, says Ganesha. Take care not to pass domestic burdens on to your career or business, and thereby mar your capacity and efficiency.

**LEO**  
You will pay more attention to the younger members in the family. You will guide the children in improving their daily schedule. An occasion to celebrate will present itself. You will be desirous of participating in some competition or program, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
A fear of the unknown will keep lurking in your mind today. The shadow will only grow larger as the day progresses. You may find yourself spending too much on your foreign friends. Ganesha advises you to be cautious in this regard today.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says your children will gain achievements that will have you feel proud of them. You will get monetary benefit either by increment in salary or by inheritance. You will be able to gain substantial gains by investing in real estate or buying insurance policies.

**SCORPIO**  
Ganesha asks you to practice caution today. There are strong possibilities that an evil eye may attack you in some or other way. So, keep a watchful eye. And remember, every day brings along an experience and a lesson with it. Learn and move on.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your stars are aligned in a way that you may have to travel long distance, either for business or for leisure. Socially, you are active as you are likely to attend a function and take the centre stage. You may also participate in religious activities and give importance of rites and rituals, if need be, informs Ganesha.

**CAPRICORN**  
After all the drudgery you endured in a bid to reach a certain point in your career, it's time to sit back and enjoy the rewards, says Ganesha. Today, you can expect to get a transfer, a promotion, a pay hike or all the three. But these will be accompanied by added responsibilities and work, leaving you wondering if it really was an achievement or a bait used to trap you.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will tackle complicated issues with infinite ease! But you will also find people passing the buck onto you. It irks you no end, having to take the blame for others' mistakes. But here's a chance, says Ganesha, to turn a weakness into a strength.

**PISCES**  
The focus today will be on self-improvement. You may find yourself attending seminars or workshops. Self-employed people are likely to find lucrative deals landing in their laps in the afternoon. Quality time with your family in the evening will give you a sense of balance and of belonging, says Ganesha.



**MEGHAN MARKLE RECEIVES WOMEN OF VISION AWARD**

The Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle received the Women of Vision Award from Gloria Steinam in New York City for her global advocacy to empower and advocate on behalf of women and girls on Tuesday evening, reports *Page Six*.

**MADONNA'S STEAMY SNAPS OF 1992 TO GO UP FOR AUCTION**

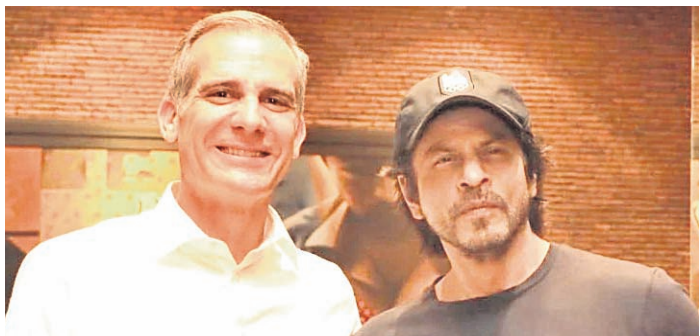
*Hung Up* hitmaker Madonna's nude photos from her controversial book titled *Sex*, which was released in 1992, are set to be auctioned at Christie's New York. The pictures were taken, when the star was 34, in New York and Miami and could fetch as much \$30000, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



**SHAH RUKH HOSTS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR**

**'Is it time for my Bollywood debut?'**

**Mumbai:** The newly-appointed US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti was hosted by top actor Shah Rukh Khan at his home Mannat in Mumbai. Garcetti took to Twitter, where he shared a string of pictures from his visit, which also features SRK, his wife Gauri and his manager Pooja Dadlani. He captioned the image: "Is it time for my Bollywood debut? Had a wonderful chat with superstar @iamsrk at his residence Mannat, learning more about the film industry in Mumbai and discussing the huge cultural impact of Hollywood and Bollywood across the globe. #AmbExploresIndia."



On the acting front, Shah Rukh Khan was recently seen in the blockbuster *Pathaan* alongside John Abraham and Deepika Padukone.

He is now gearing up for his next titled *Jawan*, by Atlee. The film also features Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi and Sanya Malhotra in the lead roles. He also has Rajkumar Hirani's upcoming film *Dunki* opposite Taapsee Pannu.

**Sara's smashing debut at Cannes**

**Mumbai:** Sara Ali Khan graces the international red carpet at Cannes International Film Festival for the first time, exuding elegance, grace to the most. Representing Indian culture at an international platform, the actress goes the desi way with her stunning off white lehenga at the opening ceremony of the event.

The *Atrangi Re* actress wore a beautiful white studded lehenga and was looking absolutely pretty and pristine. The beautiful attire of the actress was designed by Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla.

While speaking to the shutterbugs present at the red carpet, on being asked how she is feeling, Sara says, "Nervous... I've always aspired to be here someday, and I can't believe I'm here."

Speaking about her look, Sara Ali Khan says, "It's traditional and modern Indian handmade design by Abu and Sandeep (Khosla). I've always been proud of my Indianness. It embodies who I am, it's fresh, it's modern and also has traditional roots."

On the work front, she is occupied with the promotions of her upcoming romantic comedy *Zara Hatke Zara Bach Ke* in collaboration with Vicky Kaushal. Apart from that, she is involved in the films

*Ae Watan Mere Watan*, and Homi Adjanian's *Murder Mubarak*. AGENCIES



**INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL FILM**

**Ektaa, only Indian, makes it to top 40**

**Mumbai:** Celebrated Indian producer and director Ektaa Kapoor needs no introduction. She is one of the few professionals in the industry who is credited with revamping the landscape of Indian television content. While a Padma Shri is the biggest achievement of her life, Ekta was recently added to the list of 40 most influential women in International Film.

The popular entertainment portal, *The Hollywood Reporter* created a list of the 40 Most Influential Women in International Film to honour the women who are 'bringing stories to a global stage and nurturing new voices despite a disrupted film market.'

The list contains women from different countries including Sweden, Nigeria, Germany, and France, among others who 'run pan-national mini-studios, others who oversee boutique operations with a handful of employees - have made an art out of collaboration, understanding that only by pooling their resources, by co-producing, co-financing or distributing one another's movies, can the polyglot world of international indie cinema survive.'

The only Indian that made it to the list is Ektaa Kapoor. AGENCIES



**Taapsee shares her body transformation story**

**Mumbai:** Actress Taapsee Pannu has created a buzz on the internet with her incredibly fit appearance. The actress recently took to social media to share her remarkable journey, from admiring athletic bodies on billboards for sportswear brands to becoming the face of one herself. In a heartfelt post, the actress revealed her initial apprehensions about achieving a similar physique, as it was not the primary focus of her work.

The *Pink* actress took to Instagram and shared a video showing how she achieved her desired body. Sharing the video, she wrote in the caption, "I always saw super bodies on big athletic wear brand billboards and wondered if that's really possible for someone like me to achieve that kind of body when that's not the whole and soul of my work. For females, it was mostly athletes or international faces who featured in such ads up until I saw Bipasha Basu for Reebok in pictures. I got inspired. Not knowing if I will ever be in the same profession, far away from even dreaming that I will ever be the face of the same brand. Here I am, almost 15 years later turning that motivation into reality."

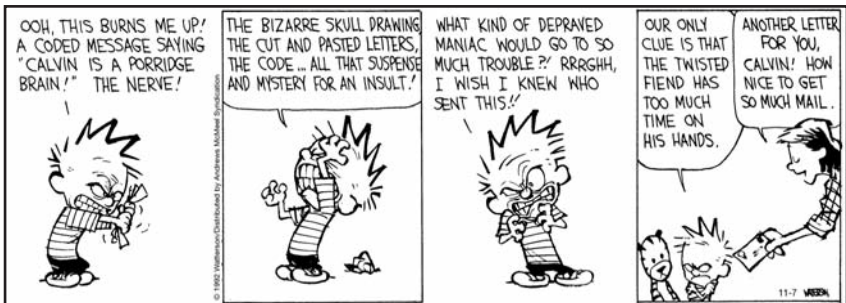
She concluded by saying, "Yes it takes a lot of belief, not just your own but also people who are pushing you in this journey." AGENCIES

**FUN post**

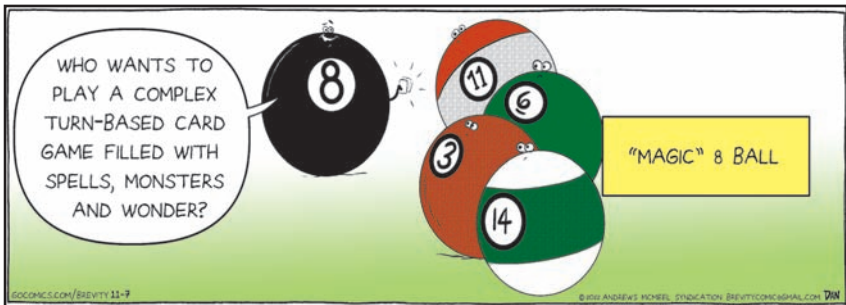
**PEANUTS**



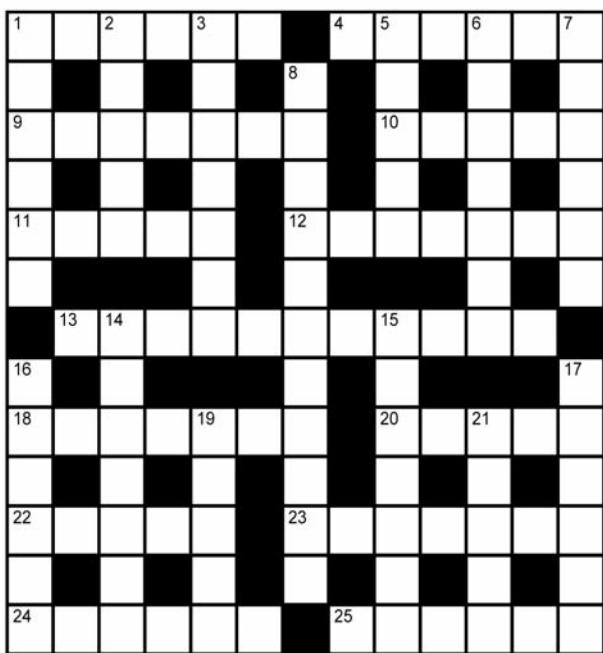
**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**BREVITY**



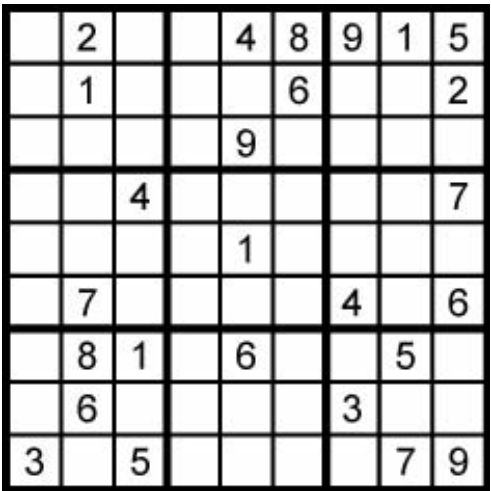
**CROSSWORD**



- Across**
- 1 Figure out
  - 4 In dreamland
  - 9 Guilt feelings
  - 10 Mature
  - 11 City near Düsseldorf
  - 12 On deck, nautically
  - 13 Securities exchange (5,6)
  - 18 Hunter's weapon
  - 20 Old-fashioned
  - 22 Character
  - 23 Good luck charms
  - 24 Negligence
  - 25 Subvert
  - 5 Massage target
  - 6 Scholarly
  - 7 Golf course item
  - 8 Special tribute
  - 14 Mechanic's cabinet
  - 15 Ecstasy
  - 16 Beneficial
  - 17 Sanity
  - 19 Welcome
  - 21 Tiny particle
- Down**
- 1 Gabled window
  - 2 Cupolas
  - 3 Habitual, like a cough

**SUDOKU**

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



**SOLUTIONS**

**CROSSWORD**



**SUDOKU**



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW







# India needs to work hard to regain its position: Union min

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** India has to work really hard to regain the position it once used to hold, Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said Wednesday. Speaking to reporters at the 2nd Culture Working Group meeting of G20 that concluded here Wednesday, she said that culture can be a way to connect people at a time when there is a lot of stress and strain. When G-20 talks about harmony and peace, culture is something that needs to be looked at, said Lekhi, who is also the Minister of State for Culture. Expressing happiness that the meeting was held in 'Utkal', she said it transliterates to 'Utkarsh Kala Ki Bhumi', meaning the land of glorious art and culture. Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's desire to take India to greater heights over the next 25 years, Lekhi said the country has to work really hard to regain the position it once used to be in. On the last day of the meet, the minister along with the delegates visited the ancient caves at Khandagiri and Udaygiri, and the Gandhi Peace Centre in



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  - The minister, along with the delegates, visited the ancient caves at Khandagiri and Udaygiri, and the Gandhi Peace Centre in City
  - Lekhi said that the delegates were amazed at the super craftsmanship and culture of Odisha
- Bhubaneswar:** She said the delegates were amazed at the super craftsmanship and culture of Odisha. Lekhi had Tuesday visited the

Sun Temple at Konark in Puri district along with other delegates. On Safety of Konark Sun Temple, the minister said, "We have taken technical supports from different IITs. Saline waves and atmosphere are leading to erosion of stones & we are using chemical treatment for preserving them." The meeting in Bhubaneswar began May 15. It was spread over six sessions, focussing on four key 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.

## CIFA launches Field School in Assam

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, has launched an Aquaculture Field School at Kalong Kapil, Bagibari, Kamrup Metro, Assam. The school would serve as a knowledge centre of aquaculture technologies for the benefit of the people of Assam and adjoining North Eastern states. The school was inaugurated by ICAR-CIFA director Pramoda Kumar Sahoo, in presence of SK Swain, P.P Chakrabarty principal scientist, D Sharma, MD, Fishfed, Assam, Sanjay Sharma, coordinator, APART, Naveen Dhingra CGM, NABARD, Assam, Anushree, DFDO, Kamrup; Zahirul Islam, advisor, GIZ and Jyotish Talukdar; director of Kalong Kapili, the NGO at Bagibari, Kamrup Metro district, Assam.

The school would serve as a knowledge centre of aquaculture technologies for the benefit of the people of Assam and adjoining North Eastern states

More than fifty participants including scientists, extension officials, bankers and farmers attended the inauguration event. Sahoo said that the Aquaculture Field School at would serve as a centre to provide technological information including improved varieties of Jayanti rohu, improved catla, soil and water parameters etc to the farmers of nearby areas of Assam and other neighbouring states. Further, Sahoo wished several such aquaculture field schools should come up to solve the technological needs of the farmers. During technical session, the scientists of ICAR-CIFA had an interactive discussion with the extension officials, community resource persons, bankers and progressive farmers. The participants visited the farm facilities of the school including farm ponds, soil and water testing laboratory, FRP hatcheries, training hall, conference hall etc.

## Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express inauguration today

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express Thursday virtually, a South Eastern Railway official said. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will join the programme at Puri station, from where the train will commence its inaugural run, the official said Wednesday. The Howrah-Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express will be flagged off from Puri at around 1 pm Thursday by the Prime Minister through the virtual mode, the SER official said. This is the second Vande Bharat Express that West Bengal is getting after the Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express. The train will cover the 500 km distance between Howrah and Puri in around six and a half hours. With Puri, the abode of Lord Jagannath, being a very popular destination for tourists from Bengal and particularly Kolkata and its surroundings as both a pilgrimage and a beach resort town, the semi-high speed train is likely to

The train will run six days a week, except Thursdays

It will depart Howrah at 6.10 am and reach Puri at 12.35 pm and in the return direction, it will depart Puri at 1.50 pm and arrive at Howrah at 8.30 pm

The train, with 16 coaches, will stop at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road

be an instant hit among travellers, according to travel agents. Regular run of the 22895/22896 Howrah-Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express will commence from May 20, the official said. The train will run six days a week, except Thursdays, he added. The train will depart Howrah at 6.10 am and reach Puri at 12.35 pm and in the return direction, it will depart Puri at 1.50 pm and arrive at Howrah at 8.30 pm. The train, with 16 coaches, will stop at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road, the official said.



**WITH A GOOD HEART:** KIIT, KISS founder and philanthropist Achyuta Samanta, chief minister's chief advisor R Balakrishnan, Bhubaneswar's Sriram temple president Swami Ram Narayan Das and Higher Education secretary Bishnupada Sethi launch a booklet at a City hotel, Wednesday, during the 10th International Art of Giving Day celebration to spread the message of cooperation, happiness and peace across the world

OP PHOTO

# Representatives from ULBs urged to take leadership

■ The budget of the H&UD department has been increased to Rs 8,000 crore to create scope for creation of need based assets for the urban poor across 115 ULBs

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Welcoming elected representatives of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) from across the state here at a one-day induction workshop on 'transformative Urban Odisha' Wednesday, SUDA project director Sarada Prasad Panda urged them to take leadership and actively participate in urban governance to improve the quality of lives of the urban people. The objective of the workshop was to sensitise the representatives about various ongoing programmes and the modalities of how to go about effectively implementing it systematically for benefit of the urban poor across the state. Chairman, vice chairman and councilors from 15 urban local bodies ie Angul municipality, Athamallik NAC, Talcher munic-



ipality, Balugaon NAC, Banapur NAC, Jatni municipality, Khordha municipality, Daspalla NAC, Khandapada NAC, Ranpur NAC, Nayagarh municipality, Konark NAC, Nimapada NAC, Pipili NAC, Hindol NAC attended the workshop held in the Convention Centre here at Lok Seva Bhawan , Bhubaneswar. At the outset, SUDA project director Sarada Prasad Panda welcomed all elected representatives and requested them to get involved as city leaders purposefully to transform the life of the people and the urban areas. He told that the budget of the H&UD department has been increased to Rs 8,000 crore to create scope for creation of need-based assets for the urban poor across 115 ULBs. Panda presented details on MUKTA and AAHAR programmes and elaborated on their future. Panda added that there is huge scope for taking different initiatives that aim at creating assets to enhance the life and livelihood of people in the urban areas. He requested all elected representatives to pay special attention to the timely release of payment to wage seekers and Mission Shakti Groups (WSHGs). Municipal Administration director Sangram Jit Nayak set the context for the day by emphasizing the fact that only the knowledge based active involvement of the elected representatives could bring a change in urban transformation. Considering the massive hike in the budget of H&UD department, all elected representatives should take lead in creating more people centric facilities to make their city beautiful.

## BMC stops disposal of waste at Bhuasuni

**Bhubaneswar:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has stopped disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) at Bhuasuni dumping yard in Daruthenga panchayat on outskirts of the City here beginning Wednesday, an official said. The civic body will soon start bio-mining of legacy waste at the dump site in order to reclaim the land to its original position for the benefit of the residents, the official pointed out.

## Vig unearths ASCO's property worth crores

**Bhubaneswar:** Vigilance sleuths Wednesday unearthed properties worth crores of rupees in the name of Bhanjanagar Additional Civil Supply Officer (ASCO) Sanjay Kumar Sahu and his family members. Vigilance sources here said on the allegation of possession of disproportionate assets by Sahu to his known sources of income, simultaneous searches were being conducted on the properties of Sahu by five DSPs, 12 inspectors and other staff at eight places in Khurda, Ganjam and Mayurbhanj districts. During the search, so far, two flats, three plots, investment in insurance policies worth over Rs 16.86 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 200 grams, one car, and two two-wheelers were detected in the name of Sahu and his family members.

# Global Business Carnival to kick start from May 19

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** An 11-day Global Business Carnival, 2023, is being organised at Janata Maidan, here from May 19 to 29 by the Gupta Event Management Private Limited, a part of which will be a multi-sector B2B and B2C exhibition. Speaking about the carnival at a press meet here Wednesday Gupta

Event Management MD Sujit Kumar Gupta said, "Keeping in view the heatwave in Odisha, the carnival is being organized in a fully air-conditioned hangar. 20 states and 13 countries are participating in this expo. This carnival brings together more than 35,000 national and international products and is a great opportunity to generate business opportunities for both consumers and merchants."



Simultaneously with the exhibition, seminars and workshops will be held on information technology, software, education and health with speakers from the state and outside the state. Discussing fur-

# Process of producing hydrogen from non-fossil fuels discovered

Chemists have laid bare the complete reaction mechanism for an important group of "water-splitting" catalysts, taking them closer to making pure hydrogen from renewable energy sources. The chemists at the United States' University of Kansas (KU) and US Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory achieved this through pulse radiolysis experiments, the results of which are published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Understanding how the chemical reactions that make clean fuels like hydrogen work is very challenging," said co-author James

Blakemore, associate professor of chemistry, whose research in Lawrence, Kansas, forms the basis of the discovery. "Our paper presents data hard-won from specialised techniques to understand how a certain catalyst for hydrogen generation does the job. Implementing these (techniques) allowed us to get a full picture of how to make hydrogen from its constituent parts, protons and electrons," said Blakemore. Blakemore took his research at KU to Brookhaven for research using pulse radiolysis, as well as other techniques. Pulse radiolysis is a method of initiating fast reactions to study reactions occurring on a timescale



faster than approximately one hundred microseconds, when simple mixing of reagents is too slow and other methods of initiating reactions have to be used. "It's very rare that you can get a complete understanding of a full catalytic cycle," said Brookhaven chemist Dmitry Polyansky, a co-

- Blakemore took his research at KU to Brookhaven for using pulse radiolysis, as well as other techniques
  - Pulse radiolysis is a method of initiating fast reactions to study reactions occurring on a timescale faster than approximately one hundred microseconds
- author of the paper. "These reactions go through many steps, some of which are very fast and cannot be easily observed." Blakemore and his collaborators made their discovery by studying a catalyst that is based on a pentamethylcyclopentadienyl

rhodium complex, which is [Cp\*]Rh for short. They focused on the Cp\* (pronounced C-P-"star") ligand paired with the rare metal rhodium because of hints from prior work showing suitability of this combination for the work. "Our rhodium system turned out to be a good target for the pulse radiolysis. The Cp\* ligands, as they're called, are familiar to most organometallic chemists, and really chemists of all stripes. "They're used to support many catalysts and can stabilise a variety of species involved in catalytic cycles. One key finding of this paper gives fresh insight into how the Cp\* ligand can be intimately involved in the chemistry of hydro-

gen evolution," said Blakemore. Besides producing clean hydrogen, Blakemore stressed the findings could lead to other improved chemical processes as well. "In our work, we hope that chemists will see a study about how a common ligand, Cp\*, can enable unusual reactivity. This unusual reactivity is relevant to the hydrogen story but it's actually bigger than this because Cp\* is found in so many different catalysts. "Chemists normally think of catalysts as being based on metals. In this way of thinking, if you're making a new molecule, the metal is the key actor that brings the constituent parts together. PT

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# Government of India’s Endeavour to put Odisha on the fast track of development with Railway projects worth over ₹8200 Crore



## Flagging-off of

### Puri-Kolkata (Howrah) Vande Bharat Express

- First Vande Bharat for the State of Odisha
- Indigenous production under Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- Tourists to be benefitted especially pilgrims visiting Shree Jagannatha Temple, Golden Beach, Konark Sun Temple & Chandrabhaga Beach
- Faster Acceleration; saving an average 1 hour 30 mins. journey time
- Kavach Compatible to Prevent Collision of Trains
- Ergonomic Reclining seats in Chair Cars with 360° revolving
- Better Fire Safety
- CCTV in the coaches
- Divyangjan friendly wahsrooms, seat handles and seat numbers in Braille script
- Infotainment system
- Help to increase footfall at Puri, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack & Balasore stations

## Foundation Stone Laying for

### Redevelopment of Puri and Cuttack Railway Stations

- Inspired by the Local Architecture of Temples, redeveloped Puri station shall be capable of handling 4 lakh Passengers per day
- Redeveloped stations to have World Class amenities like elaborate Roof Plaza, Segregated Entry & Exit, Solar Panels, Water conservation and rainwater harvesting facilities
- Modern Green Buildings equipped with efficient treatment plant and solid waste management
- Designed and being developed to cater to future needs of the people

## Inauguration of

### Bichhupali-Jhartarbha New Rail Line

- Part of the Khurda-Bolangir rail line project which will improve connectivity to Balangir
- Railway track reaches to Subarnapur district of Odisha for the first time

## Dedication to the Nation of

#### Doubling of Sambalpur-Titlagarh Rail Line (182 kms.)

- Boost to industrial development in the steel, power & mining sectors in the Western part of Odisha

#### New line between Angul-Sukinda Road (104 kms.)

- Connects iron-ore-rich areas (Joda-Barbil) to steel and sponge iron industries
- Shorter and congestion-free route between Talcher's coal mining belt and Kalinganagar's thermal power plant
- Shorter and cheaper dispatch of finished steel products from Kalinganagar to Mumbai and Delhi via Talcher-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda.

#### 3rd Line between Manoharpur-Rourkela-Jharsuguda-Jamga (184 km)

- Helps to transport coal from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and iron ore from the mining fields to the Power and Steel Plants at the Jharsuguda area
- Increased transportation capacity and increased average speed of the route
- Facilitates more train services

#### 100% Electrification of the Rail Network in the State of Odisha

- Another step towards Indian Railways becoming a net zero carbon emitter by 2030.

by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

(Through Video Conferencing)



18th May, 2023



09:30 am



Puri Railway Station

Train No. 22895 Kolkata (Howrah)-Puri Vande Bharat Express		STATION	Train No. 22896 Puri-Kolkata (Howrah) Vande Bharat Express	
Departure	Arrival		Departure	Arrival
06:10	--	Howrah Jn.	--	20:30
--	12:35	Puri	13:50	--
Stoppages : Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road Days of run : Six days a week (except Thursday)				

In the August presence of

Prof. Ganeshi Lal  
Governor of Odisha

Naveen Patnaik  
Chief Minister, Odisha

Dharmendra Pradhan  
Union Education and Skill Development  
& Entrepreneurship Minister

Ashwini Vaishnaw  
Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics  
& Information Technology, Government of India

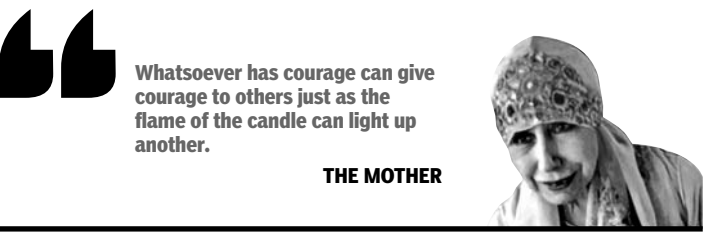
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Greener Globalisation

“Whatsoever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another.”

**THE MOTHER**

The debate about how to achieve climate goals – most notably, the transition to net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases – has fuelled speculation that the world will deglobalise. Some argue that, since trade flows generate GHGs from production and transport, a sustainable economy, by definition, must be less global.

But research by the McKinsey Global Institute suggests the opposite is true. The materials, innovation, and capital needed to reach net-zero emissions are not equally distributed and, as a result, must be shared around the world. Without cross-border flows of goods, services, financing, and intangibles, limiting global warming will be very challenging, if not impossible. The World Trade Organization reaches a similar conclusion in its most recent annual report, which outlines how trade can play an essential role in helping countries reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

For starters, no economy is self-sufficient. Our research finds that every major world region imports more than 25 per cent (in value-added terms) of at least one important type of resource or manufactured good. At the country level, and for inputs needed to achieve the net-zero transition, that number can be much higher. Moreover, products that originate in only a few places are in every region and sector. For example, today, more than 75 per cent of the global supply of lithium, a key component of electric-vehicle batteries, is sourced from Australia and Chile.

Decarbonising the sectors that produce the majority of GHG emissions, including power, transportation, and heavy industry, will require investing in low-emissions technologies and support infrastructure. Building and operating these assets will in turn depend on three vital inputs: new mineral resources, new fuels, and complex manufacturing at scale. The international network of interconnected supply chains is crucial to producing all of them.

Consider minerals, including copper, lithium, and rare earth metals. Given their importance for the production of electric vehicles, renewable power, and broader electrification, all are critical to achieving net-zero emissions. Yet to reach that goal, supplies will need to be scaled up rapidly – by as much as eight times in some cases (though the use of recycled materials, or innovation to reduce or entirely replace the need for certain minerals, could change exactly how much new supply is needed).

In the case of entirely new supply, sourcing many of these minerals will require global flows, because extraction and refining are geographically dispersed. About 70 per cent of the world’s cobalt is mined in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and nearly one-third of the world’s nickel is extracted in Indonesia, which is home to the world’s largest proven reserves. China processes many of the most critical minerals, including lithium, cobalt, and graphite, but also relies on other countries for key steps or technologies. Japan and South Korea, for example, specialise in coating spherical purified graphite.

As for the new fuels needed for the net-zero transition, hydrogen, and its derivatives, offers many potential use cases, particularly for long-haul freight transport and steel making. Here, too, a geographical mismatch between sources of supply and demand means that global trade is likely to be vital. The International Energy Agency estimates that about 12 million tonnes of low-emission hydrogen could be exported annually by 2030, if projects currently under development are completed as planned.

Finally, deploying manufactured goods such as solar panels and electric vehicles also relies on global supply chains. Broader participation of countries in trade flows can incentivise innovation, enhance efficiency, and help drive down the costs of these technologies.

The imperative for globalisation extends beyond just goods flows. Ensuring a sustainable future will require massive investment, and developing countries will likely need to spend more on the net-zero transition as a share of GDP than developed countries. With constrained fiscal space to invest in climate solutions, many of these economies will need increased access to cross-border financial flows.

Innovation is equally important in developing and deploying novel climate technologies, and that, too, depends on cross-border flows, albeit of intangibles, such as intellectual property and data, and of skilled workers; both can foster invention, drive down costs, and increase access. These flows linked to knowledge and know-how have replaced trade in manufactured goods as the driving force of global integration.

All these types of flows are interconnected. If economies implement strategies to localise or diversify supply chains – either to reduce trade-related emissions or build resilience – there will be a greater need for capital and intangibles. Building a domestic plant to manufacture electric-vehicle batteries, for example, can cost billions of dollars.

Even in a highly connected world, delivering a reliable, secure, and affordable net-zero transition will require scaling up cross-border flows significantly. New sources of production must be developed, new supplier relationships built, and new forms of global integration pursued. Rising geopolitical tensions will make this task even more complex and challenging. But the alternative – giving up on globalisation – will only make the effects of climate change more punishing.

*Olivia White is a director of the McKinsey Global Institute. Mekala Krishnan is a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute.*

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Without cross-border flows of goods, services, financing, and intangibles, limiting global warming will be very challenging, if not impossible

GOING BY CUMULATIVE ENROLMENT DATA SO FAR ONLY 25% FROM THE TARGET GROUP UNDER PMJJBY AND AROUND 41% UNDER PMSBY HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO AVAIL THE CONCESSIONAL INSURANCE COVER DURING THE LAST EIGHT YEARS

branches of schedule commercial banks with deposits of Rs 178.54 trillion and advances of Rs 135.46 trillion. This translates closely to 15 bank branches per one lakh population. We have also been able to provide banking access to almost every village within a five km radius in most of the states and UTs. However, having a bank account is the means and not the end in itself. The focus is thus not only on opening bank accounts but also making available a bouquet of financial services including credit and insurance and it is necessary that these services are not only available to vast majority of people but also they are easily accessible and affordable. Inclusive credit and insurance form the bedrock of inclusiveness in the society. Against this backdrop let us introspect how far we have travelled during the last eight years.

PMSBY is to ensure risk coverage in case of accidental death, full or partial disability. The insured amount for accidental death and full disability is Rs 2 lakh whereas for partial disability it is Rs 1 lakh. It has an annual premium of Rs 20 which is auto-debited by the bank from the subscriber’s account. People in the age group of 18-70 are eligible for the scheme. PMJJBY is designed to benefit

people in the age group of 18-50 in case of death for whatsoever reason. People who join the scheme before completing age of 50 can continue to have the risk of life cover up to the age of 55 years; subject to payment of premium which is Rs 436 per annum for a life cover of Rs 2 lakh. The premium is auto-debited in this case also.

The latest information available from all sources; schedule commercial banks, cooperative banks and data relating to convergence schemes reported by insurance companies all put together suggest that while there are little over 16 crore cumulative enrolments under PMJJBY, the figure stands at 34.17 crore for PMSBY. Since the former scheme covers age group of 18 to 50 and let us say we have about 100 crore people above 18 years, the target group could be 65 crore. Similarly, in case of PMSBY the target group could be a bit higher; say around 82 crore. So going by cumulative enrolment data so far only 25% from the target group under PMJJBY and around 41% under PMSBY have subscribed to avail the concessional insurance cover during the last eight years. Besides, the number of active enrolment cases will be less than the cumulative cases. Notwithstanding the above the fact remains that in-

surance awareness campaign was never done on a mission mode. We as a nation have a habit of delivering more when we are on a mission mode.

The subscription to various insurance products is gaining traction slowly but surely; especially post pandemic. The total number of claims settled and amount paid under PMJJBY so far has been to the extent of 6.64 lakh and Rs 13290.40 crore, respectively. The relatively forward states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra are doing better in comparison to others. Similarly, under PMSBY a total of 115951 claims with amount involving Rs 2302.26 crore have been settled. Apart from the relatively forward states, Rajasthan, MP and UP are doing better on this front.

The journey so far has been encouraging – from near zero insurance consciousness level we have travelled quite a distance. But like opening an account is not enough unless we make affordable needs-based credit to the beneficiary, one-year enrolment under any of the social scheme will not ensure any protection unless the policy is gets renewed and sustained. For this we need to educate our vast majority through financial literacy programmes on a mission mode.

The insurance penetration in our country is 3.2%, as per the Economic Survey 2022-23 released in January 2023. Countries like Taiwan, South Africa, the USA, the UK report much higher penetration, all above 11%. The government of India has launched a campaign to double the penetration under both PMJJY and PMSBY for a period of three months w.e.f. 1 April 2023. The initial results have been encouraging and it is expected that substantial number of prospective beneficiaries will be brought under the social security net.

*The writer is a former banker and a Senior Advisor to the Indian Banks’ Association. Views are personal.*

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SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

# AI in health sector: Issues & concerns

Dr. Guru Prasad Mohanta

THE AI BASED DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS CANNOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR DECISIONS AND JUDGEMENTS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not new but the recent resignation of the AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton from Google has raised serious concerns. Hinton wrote: “I could talk about the dangers of AI without considering how this impacts Google.” He left Google to speak freely about the dangers of technology after realising that computers could become smarter than people far sooner than expected. In another case, German artist, Boris Eldagsen, refused to accept a prestigious photography prize with an entry that was generated by AI. He was selected for the award for AI generated work and while rejecting the award concluded that such competitions were not equipped to handle AI entries.

AI may be defined as the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. These processes include learning (the acquisition of information and rules for using the information), reasoning (using rules to reach approximate or definite conclusions) and self-correction. The field of AI is very exciting and is rapidly expanding and has significantly impacted all aspects of human life including healthcare. Some of the health applications are proved very successful: Computed Tomography (CT) scans can be automatically read by AI as well as radiologists; tuberculosis screening can be done by AI using chest X-rays with comparable performance as molecular testing; mammography scans can be used to predict the onset of breast cancer before visual signs appear. In addition to diagnosis, there is huge potential for AI in therapeutics, preventive treatments, clinical decision making, public health surveillance, complex data analysis, and predicting prognosis.

There are issues like accountability and responsibilities. Who is accountable for errors; how can the patients be safeguarded and protected? The AI based diagnostic tools cannot be held accountable for their decisions and judgements. Regulatory mechanism must be in place to fix accountability at all stages of development of AI in the health sector. Besides, there are concerns for data safety, data sharing and data privacy. AI empowers the masses by making easy and

early diagnosis and access to health facilities. The unsupervised use of such tools and techniques is potentially risky.

There are other benefits of induction of AI in the healthcare sector. It might help reduce human error and have potential of enhancing screening and diagnosis. There are reports of shortage of skilled healthcare professionals. Advancement of AI provides opportunities to tackle this shortage. Telemedicine and interactive chatbots (chatbot is alternative to human assistant for specific customer interactions through its language understanding); digital monitoring devices – tools which can be used as alternatives to remote monitoring and identifying early signs of disease by healthcare staff. AI can assist self-monitoring of personal health related parameters like intake of nutrition, physical activity, blood pressure, glucose, lipids for identifying high risk individuals. It provides solutions for medication adherence, motivation, reminders and building a care network. It helps people to self-manage non-communicable diseases.

As we see rapid use of AI, it is important to study the impact of the technology on people. Legal and ethical issues are of paramount importance. The lack of regulations raises apprehension that AI technology will wreak havoc on society before the governments can react. With this apprehension in mind, the White House told the Chief Executive Officers of US AI giants that they have the moral responsibility to protect the society from the potential dangers of AI. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently released “Ethical Guidelines for Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research and Healthcare.” While this is a welcome measure, it is important to make regulations to protect the common man from the dangers of AI, especially in the healthcare sector. Someone has aptly said: “Ethics is not definable, it is not implementable, because it is not conscious, it involves not only our thinking but also our feeling.”

*The writer is Professor, CL Baid Metha College of Pharmacy, Chennai. Views are personal.*

WORDSWORTH

Humongous

This American word has established itself so well in the language that William Safire reported some years ago it had been put into the mouth of Thomas Jefferson in a television programme. If so, that was a sad anachronism, since humongous first darted on to the linguistic stage only in the middle 1960s, apparently as a bit of college slang, but hit the big time almost immediately and has been with us ever since. That’s despite grumpy comments like those of William Hartston in the British newspaper The Independent, who said it was “surely one of the ugliest words ever to slither its way into our dictionaries” and “a silly and affected synonym for huge or enormous”, adding that “it serves no purpose not covered by those words and is thus redundant”. Steady on, old chap! It’s surely in the same class as skittishly humorous words like ginormous (which arose in World War Two military slang) and the set of words for large amounts based on creative augmentations of million, such as zillion, bazillion, gazillion, and squillion. Our word was probably based on an amalgam of huge and monstrous, influenced by the stress pattern of stupendous or tremendous.

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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Battling leaders

Sir, For about three years now Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his bête noire, and former Deputy Chief Minister, Sachin Pilot are engaged in an open war of sorts but precious little has been done by the Congress high command to rein-in either of the two other than stripping the latter of some crucial posts that only worsened the situation. Pilot’s 125 km “Jan Sangharsh Yatra” to “protest” against Gehlot government’s failure to investigate “corruption” of the previous Vasundhara Raje regime should open a Pandora’s box in the party. Gehlot always wants to send a message to the party high command that he is untouchable in Rajasthan. But Pilot believes the Congress regained Rajasthan in 2018 riding on his perseverance and popularity, and he is yet to get his due: the chief ministership. But the party should be wary of the battling leaders who can damage the party prospects there. More than the questions, it is time for the Congress to set its house right in at least the states in which it is in power to allay public misconception.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Indigenisation push

Sir, India’s defence sector has been grappling with the challenge of achieving self-reliance while also meeting the requirements of the armed forces. The Defence Ministry’s initiative for the approval of a list of 928 components and subsystems to be purchased only from domestic industry as part of the government’s “Atmanirbharta” or self-reliance programme is certainly a commendable step towards indigenisation, but the involvement of the private sector could further accelerate production. The current approach to indigenisation in the defence sector has largely been dependent on the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings) to deliver on the promise. However, there have been delays in DRDO projects, and the armed forces have raised concerns over the quality of products which has resulted in the armed forces resorting to imports rather than waiting for indigenously developed products. The solution to this problem lies in encouraging private sector companies to participate in defence production, especially in the medium and high-tech regimes. Premier institutes like IITs and private universities could also be incentivised to run academic courses on the defence sector. The government needs to provide tax incentives to defence manufacturers and encourage startups, particularly in cutting-edge technology products like drones used in warfare. Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD





**FESTIVE SHOPPING:** A woman buys fruits from a street vendor in Angul as Sabitri Brata draws close, Wednesday. Married Hindu women observe this festival praying for the long life of their husbands

OP PHOTO

Soro CHC sees 16 snake bite cases in a single day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Soro, May 17: As many as 16 cases of snake bite were reported in Soro Community Healthcare Centre (CHC) Wednesday, sources said Thursday.

The patients – including men, women and one child – are from different villages under Soro block. As per the latest reports, two persons are seriously ill and four with snake bite injuries have already been discharged from the hospital. Other 10 patients are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

However, the exact reason for a large number of snake bites is still unknown; some experts predict that this may be a result as extreme temperature and egg lying season.

A forest official said that snakes do not attack from their end at any other time of the year, but during egg-laying, they have a tendency to attack people in order to protect their egg.

The official went on to say that a second factor might be high temperatures, which could cause snakes to migrate towards human habitations in search of a cooler and more hospitable environment. They may encounter humans on their travels, and that can lead to snake bite.

The official further added that it is impossible to generalise snake bite instances because there are many possible causes.

Special team to probe into chinks in land acquisition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 17: A special team will probe into the irregularities in land acquisition for construction of a ring road or necklace road around Sambalpur town, a report said Thursday.

The ring road having four lanes will be constructed at a plan outlay of ₹1,000 crore by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The purpose behind the construction of the ring road is to ease the traffic problems in the town and facilitate smooth plying of heavy vehicles. The road will start from Goshala, Katapali on NH-53 and will run through Maneswar, Jayantpur and Kabrapali before connecting the Biju Expressway at Sasan.

The ring road will have roads for two national highways while a bridge on Mahanadi and a railway bridge will also be constructed for the purpose. Most of the land required for the project is government land while some private land will also be acquired for the purpose.

The tender will be opened and works will start after 80 per cent of the land is acquired for the project, NHAI sources had said.

Meanwhile, the NHAI has floated a tender for the purpose while the land acquisition is nearing com-



SAMBALPUR RING ROAD

pletion. However, large scale irregularities have marred the land acquisition process as some influential people have allegedly connived with the land acquisition officials and local land brokers to extract more compensation.

It is alleged that houses have been built on the lands meant for acquisition after publication of 3D notice. Such irregularities are alleged to have been committed in Gunderpur, Sudunga, Brahmaipali, Nuapali, Jayantpur areas where land acquisition is underway for construction of the ring road.

The houses which have been constructed are allegedly not fit for human habitation. Normal process has not been followed during the construction of houses in which proper flooring works are yet to be done.

The interior of the houses are in

decrepit conditions while the exterior of the houses have been plastered and applied with colours. The local residents have lodged complaints with the concerned officials but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

The rule mandates that the land status cannot be altered and no construction will be allowed once the notice is issued for land acquisition. Moreover, restrictions are imposed on carrying out any further construction work on the concerned land and if necessary then construction works can be undertaken after obtaining necessary permission from the district Collector.

A report is prepared and compensation is sanctioned on the status of the land before the issue of the notice for land acquisition. However, here in an aberration, construction works were taken up on the land after issue of the notice.

NHAI project director Nageshwar Rao said that a GPS survey, field verification, videography and photography were undertaken before land acquisition. He said that construction of a house after issue of a notice can be clearly known and the district administration has been informed to check these wrongdoings. Any house found uninhabitable will not be given any compensation.

Joda mining scam: Penalty of ₹6K-cr still outstanding

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, May 17: The 2009-10 scam in Joda mining circle of Keonjhar district had triggered shockwaves in the state. The Justice MB Shah Commission and a Central Empowered Committee had conducted a probe and submitted their reports to the Supreme Court. Later, the leaseholders were directed to pay penalty for irregularities in mining, sources said.

However, the leaseholders of mines are yet to pay over ₹6,000 crore as penalty sources informed Monday. Delay in payment of the amount has seriously affected the development works in the mineral-bearing areas of the district being undertaken by the Odisha Mining Bearing Affected Development Corporation (OMBADC).

Sources from the Mining department said that 68 mining companies were asked to pay over ₹19,290 crore towards penalty for irregularities in environmental clearance. Out of it close to ₹14,793 crore



has been collected as penalty. However, some leaseholders are yet to pay ₹4,497 crore.

Similarly, nine defaulting leaseholders were asked to pay ₹1,726 crore for irregularities in Forest Conservation Act out of which ₹1,725 crore has been collected while ₹33.52 lakh still is outstanding.

A total of 57 leaseholders were directed to pay ₹2,139 crore for violating in mining rules and consent to operate. However, only ₹865 crore has been collected while ₹1,273 crore remains outstanding.

Sources said that the court fixed

the penalty on the defaulting miners on the basis of Section 21(5) of Mining Conservation rules, August 28, 2017. The court had slapped the fines for violation in environmental clearance, forest conservation rules, consent to operate and mining plans.

The penalty collected is deposited with OMBADC and used in various development works in the mineral belt. The state government has even filed cases against the defaulting leaseholders for delay in paying the penalty. The district administration and the Revenue department are also monitoring the issue.

550 students of ITI, Berhampur get placement

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 17: As many as 550 students of ITI, Berhampur have received appointments at Johnson Lift & Escalators Pvt. Ltd at a two-day campus recruitment drive organised by the ITI which concluded Wednesday.

Prof Ashok Kumar Ganguly of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Berhampur joined the camp on its concluding day and gave away the appointment letters to the selected students and encouraged them.



Johnson's manager A Chitra attended the programme and said that

success can be achieved only through hard work. 10 human resources heads of Johnson's Pune, Mumbai, Lucknow, Bangalore, Gurugram, Noida, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar units attended this camp and conducted recruitments.

Over 720 students of the ITI from fitter, electrician, electronics mechanic, technicians, mechatronics, instrument mechanic, diesel mechanic, motor mechanic, turner and painter departments participated in the camp while 550 of them were selected. Among them, 139 were girls, the ITI's Principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi said.

Sexual harassment slur against SI by lady staff

Sambalpur: A lady police from Barghar district has brought sexual harassment allegations against a police Sub Inspector (SI). The SI was in Padampur Police Station and had been transferred to Attabira recently. As per information, a police SI, when in Padampur, went to the residence of a junior lady staff and established a relationship with her family. The relationship got deeper day by day and he made easy access to her residence. One day taking advantage of her loneliness, the SI forcefully kept physical relations with her, as alleged by the lady staff. At the same time, he very tactfully and secretly made a video shoot of their intimate affairs. He then made it to be a regular practice and threatened her not to tell anyone failing which he would make the video viral. But when the girl pressed him for marriage, he not only denied it but also threatened to kill her parents and family members if she insisted on marriage. When the lady police went to her relative's house in Chhattisgarh May 7 last, the SI reached there and forced her to satisfy him to which the family members and other villagers protested. They even handed over him to the local police station in Chhattisgarh. However, the police SI made a compromise there and signed an agreement not to do such a thing in future. But again May 16, he arrived in Chhattisgarh and compelled the girl to spend time with him. He also beat the girl as she didn't agree. Then the girl with her family members came to Padampur with the help of Chhattisgarh police and lodged an FIR against the SI at the police station. Police registered a case. "The matter is under investigation and action as deemed fit necessary will be taken," the SDPO of Padampur Bibhuti Bhusan Behera said.

Odia migrant worker set ablaze in TN dies

Chennai/Bhubaneswar: A 19-year-old migrant worker from Odisha, who was set ablaze along with three others at Jedarapalayam in Namakkal district, died Wednesday. Manoj had suffered severe burn injuries along with three others May 14 at the shed in Jedarapalayam in Namakkal district where they were staying. Another person, Sukkaram from Chhattisgarh, also suffered severe burn injuries, and is battling for his life in a private hospital in Chennai. It may be noted that a group of unidentified persons had set afire a shed in which migrant workers of a jaggery unit were staying at Jedarapalayam in Namakkal district. The Namakkal district police are on a manhunt to capture those who set ablaze the shed.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No. 11/ET/SPB/ENG/2023-24, Dt.: 12.05.2023

e-Tender No. 11-eT-SDENE-SBP-23

**Name of the Work :** BOULDER REMOVAL AND SLOPE PROTECTION BY WIRE ROPE NET AT KM 116/6-9 (DN) AND REPAIRS TO SIDE DRAINS AT KM 116/6-8 (UP) IN HANDAPA-BOINDA SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/AIRAKHOL.

**Approx cost of the work :** ₹ 1,19,67,608.81, Bid Security : ₹ 2,09,900/-, Completion period for the work : 06 Months.

**Tender closing date & time:** At 1500 hrs. of 05.06.2023.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against e-tenders.

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

**Note :** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Sambalpur  
PR-179/O/23-24

**Piramal** Capital & Housing Finance

Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamari Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Website: [www.piramalfinance.com](http://www.piramalfinance.com)

Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Nuapada, Thane (West) – 400 602.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL)** [formerly known as **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL)**] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 0590001368 of Bhubaneswar Branch) Hrudananda Penthol (Borrower) Tukulata Biswal (Co Borrower :1)	29-04-2023 / ₹ 414505 / (₹ Four lakh Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Five Only) NPA (09-02-2023)	Plot No.1561 Khata No. 386, P-5/Tahasil/ Sro.Kanas Mouza:Sirel, Kanas Puri Orissa - 752017
(LC No. 0590001784 of Bhubaneswar Branch) Hrudananda Penthol (Borrower) Tukulata Biswal (Co Borrower :1)	29-04-2023 / ₹ 117515 / (₹ One lakh Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen Only) NPA (09-02-2023)	Plot No.1561 Khata No. 386, P-5/Tahasil/ Sro.Kanas Mouza:Sirel, Kanas Puri Orissa - 752017

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 18-05-2023  
Place: Orissa

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**

**ZONAL OFFICE : SAMBALPUR**  
At: Shyam Arced, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur-768003

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Indian Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described here-in- below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to be deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Bank** for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section 8 of the Section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available, to the redeem the secured assets.**

SI No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
1.	<b>CHATUANKA BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Chakradhara Behera, S/o.: Late Kalika Behera, At: Karlabahali, P.O.: Khagsha, Dist.: Bolangir, Pin: 767039</b>	<b>7,02,525/- as on 02.02.2023</b>	<b>03.02.2023 / 12.05.2023</b>	All that piece and parcel of property land and building recorded in the name of <b>Mr. Chakradhara Behera, S/o.: Late Kalika Behera, Mouza: Karlabahali, P.S.: Kantabanji, P.S.: No.: 3, Dist.: Bolangir having Khata No.: 98/99, Plot No.: 1396/1652, Area : Ac. 0.30 dec. Kisan Ghara bari, Bounded by: North: Sachidananda Bisi, South: Road, East: Lokanath Patel, West: Sachidananda Bisi.</b>
2.	<b>NUAPADA BRANCH / Borrower : M/s . Maa Samaleswari Poultry Farm, Prop.: Smt. Baidehi Bilasini Rout, (Borrower &amp; Mortgagor) W/o.: Bharat Lal Rout, At: Bhaismundi, P.O.: Sarabong, Dist.: Nuapada, Pin: 766105 / Guarantor: 1) Bharat Lal Rout, S/o.: Dukhalal Rout, 2) Mr. Bhanat Ram Rout, S/o.: Dukhalal Rout, Both are At: Bhaismundi, P.O.: Sarabong, Dist.: Nuapada, Pin: 766105, 3) Tukeswar Yadab, S/o.: Bhagatram Yadab, At/P.O.: Maulibhata, Dist.: Nuapada, Pin: 766105</b>	<b>15,87,001/- as on 21.02.2023</b>	<b>22.02.2023 / 12.05.2023</b>	All that piece and parcel of land and building recorded in the name of <b>Smt. Baidehi Bilasini Rout, W/o.: Bharat Lal Rout, bearing Khata No.: 126/82, Plot No.: 156 and 157, Area : Ac. 0.670 dec. and Ac.: 1.340 dec. respectively Total Area: 2.010 dec. Kisan : Gharabari, Mouza : Ratapali, SRO: Nuapada, Tahasil : Nuapada, P.S.: Nuapada, Dist.: Nuapada, Bounded by: North: Sulalal Rout, South : Nala, East: Road, West: Nala</b>

Place: Sambalpur  
Date: 17.05.2023

Sd/- Authorized Officer  
Indian Bank

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, Geetanjali Behera, W/o- Tankadhar Barik, At/PO. Bendra, PS- Loisingha, Dist- Bolangir has sworn an affidavit on dt. 15.05.2023 and has reported to IIC, Loisingha P.S. on dt.15.05.2023 regarding loss of original link Regd. Sale Deed No. 2501/09 dt.10.11.2009 of Registering Officer, Balangir.

Geetanjali Behera, W/o- Tankadhar Barik has applied to the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Sambalpur to avail loan on the above property by mortgaging the said property documents.

All concerned therefore, having any claim over the property purchased under the said document Regd. Sale Deed No. 2501/09 dt.10.11.2009 of Registering Officer, Balangir is required to file his claim with the undersigned within 15(Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice failing which it will be presumed that, the property having link with the said document/s is/are free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as a mortgager and the company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15(Fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

Sd/- A.K. Debta, Advocate,  
Sambalpur, LIC Housing Finance Ltd. At/PO - Modipara, Dist. 15.05.2023  
Sambalpur, Odisha, Mobile No. 9437158519.

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL PURUSHOTTAMPUR, (GANJAM) PIN- 761018**  
Email Id: eo-nacpurushottampur@gov.in / purushottampurnac@gmail.com  
Ph. No. 06811-295222

**Letter No: 1708 Date:16.05.2023**

**“e” Procurement Notice**

**Tender Ref.No. PUR-NAC-01/2023-24**

**No.C-345:**Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website, i.e. [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).

10. Name of the Work	: Works as mentioned in DTCN.
11. No. of works	: 30 (Thirty) Nos.
12. Estimated Cost	: Rs 4.43,930.00 to Rs. 19,99,905.00
13. Period of completion	: 90 Days
14. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of Dtd 16.05.2023 to Dtd. 30.05.2023 upto 4.00 P.M. Dtd 30.05.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.
15. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Dtd 30.05.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.
16. Bids received online shall be opened on	: 31.05. 2023 at 1.00 P.M.
17. Tender document in original should drop in tender box at NAC Purushottampur Office	: Till 12.00 P.M Noon on Dtd. 31.05.2023
18. Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tenderorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Officer,  
N.A.C. Purushottampur (Gm)  
OIPR-13187/11/0002/2324

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL PURUSHOTTAMPUR, (GANJAM) PIN- 761018**  
Email Id: eo-nacpurushottampur@gov.in / purushottampurnac@gmail.com  
Ph. No. 06811-295222

**Tender Call Notice No: 1720/NAC Date:16.05.2023**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**No.C-346:**Sealed tender is hereby invited from intending organizations/ registered contractors/ NGOs/ Private Companies/ Agencies having experience in sanitation activities from door-to-door collection of garbage/ street sweeping/ cleaning of drains/ bush cutting and transportation of garbage to the dumping ground/ wealth centre as selected by the undersigned for the Ward No. 01 to 14 of Purushottampur NAC. The quotation call paper/ tender paper (description of work with terms and conditions) shall be available in the office of the undersigned @5900/- including GST (non-refundable) in the shape of a money receipt from the office of the undersigned during the office hour from the date of notification or in the shape of DD from any nationalized bank drawn in favour of "Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur". The tender documents should be reached before the undersigned on or before 25.05.2023 by 1.00 P.M. and bid documents will be opened on 26.05.2023 at 1.30 P.M. in the presence of the bidder or their authorized representatives who wish to remain present for the occasion. The sale of the bid document shall start from dt. 18.05.2023 and close by 1.00 P.M. on 24.05.2023 including Govt. holidays.

The details of the work purchase of the bid document, scope of work, eligibility criteria and submission of the tender bid documents can also be downloaded from the ULB website of Purushottampur (<https://naccpurushottampur.in>). details can also be collected from the undersigned during working hours on working days.

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Executive Officer,  
NAC, Purushottampur  
OIPR-13187/11/0003/2324



of the day quote

The BJP attacks TMC leaders over the coal scam in West Bengal. The CBI is harassing TMC leaders, but BJP has inducted this area's coal mafias into the party. They are pointing fingers at us, but the fact is BJP itself is neck deep in corruption

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | SENIOR TMC LEADER

Destinations like Amritsar and Guwahati have been opened up with the starting of operations at Manohar International Airport at Mopa. Flights are also starting from Dehradun (Uttarakhand) which will open the opportunities for spiritual tourism in the coastal state

ROHAN KHAUNTE | GOA TOURISM MINISTER

Freedom of speech cannot be "armour for abuse" and it should be used as a "hero" of harmony to defeat hatred

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

PFI member held in Assam

**Guwahati:** A member of the banned organisation Popular Front of India (PFI) has been arrested in Assam's Kamrup district, an official said Wednesday. The arrested individual has been identified as Abdul Rezzak Ali. According to police, a raid was conducted to nab the PFI member Ali from Nagarbera area in the Kamrup district. The Officer-In-Charge of the Nagarbera police station, Mirel Ahmed, conducted an operation based on a secret tip-off and arrested the PFI member.

Man beaten to death

**Korba:** A 28-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death with a stick by his friend in front of the victim's mother over some issue in Korba district of Chhattisgarh, police said Wednesday. Basant Kanwar suffered serious injuries on his chest and head after he was brutally thrashed by his childhood friend Raj Singh Kanwar (27) in Bhulsidhi village under Balco police station area Sunday (May 14), they said. He later succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Bilaspur Tuesday, they said.

Woman found murdered in Delhi

**New Delhi:** A woman was found dead with multiple stab injuries in west Delhi's Subhash Nagar area, police said Wednesday. The officials said that they have arrested the husband of the woman, S.K. Gupta (71), his son Amit (45) and two contract killers, Vipin Sethi alias Kaka and Himanshu a.k.a Balli, both residents of New Mahavir Nagar. According to police, a call was received at 2.45 p.m. regarding a murder following which a police team rushed to the spot, Rajouri Apartment in the Subhash Nagar area.

TN CM announces 4 per cent DA hike

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has approved a 4 per cent dearness allowance (DA) hike for state government employees. The move, which would entail an additional expenditure of Rs 2,366.82 crore annually to the exchequer, will benefit 16 lakh government employees, teachers, pensioners and those receiving family pension, an official release said Wednesday said. The hike comes into effect retrospectively from the start of the financial year, April 1, 2023. The DA was increased from 38 per cent to 42 per cent, the release added.

TERRORIST-GANGSTER-NARCO NEXUS CASE

324 LOCATIONS IN 9 STATES, UTs RAIDED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** In a massive crackdown on the terrorist-gangster-narco nexus, the NIA along with Punjab and Haryana police on Wednesday raided 324 locations in nine states and Union territories under "Operation Dhvast", the agency said.

During the day-long raids in Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh, arms and ammunition, incriminating material and Rs 39 lakh were seized, a spokesperson of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said.

While the NIA raided 129 locations, the Punjab Police raided 143 places in 17 districts and the Haryana Police 52 locations in 10 districts, the official said and added that the raids simultaneously began at 5:30 am. The NIA said the raids were aimed at breaking the terror nexus of designated terrorist Arsh Dalla, and dreaded gangsters such as Lawrence Bishnoi, Chhenu



The Union government counts even crocodiles, but refuses to do so for the numerically powerful (bahusankhyak) poor, deprived and downtrodden Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes

LALU PRASAD | RJD PRESIDENT

Pehalwan, Deepak Teetar, Bhupi Rana, Vikash Lagarpuriya, ashish Choudhary, Gurpreet Sekhon, Dilpreet Baba, Harsimrat Simma and Anuradha.

"The focus of today's raids was on weapon suppliers, financiers, logistic providers and Hawala operators associated with the hardcore gangs working with drug smugglers and terrorists based out of other countries such as Pakistan and Canada," the spokesperson said. The official said the raiding parties have seized a pistol, assorted ammunition (both live and used cartridges), 60 mobile phones, five DVRs, 20 SIM cards, a hard disk, a pen drive, a dongle, a WiFi router, a digital watch, two memory cards, 75 documents and over Rs 39.60 lakh.

These was the sixth in a series of crackdowns launched by the NIA following the registration of three cases since august last year pertaining to conspiracies related to targeted killings, terror funding of pro-Khalistan outfits, and extortion.



RAISING VOICE: Members of the Kurmi community stage a protest over BJP MP Dilip Ghosh's alleged comments regarding the community in Paschim Midnapore district, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

New K'taka CM likely in a day or two: Cong

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 17:** Hectic parleys were held on Wednesday to break the deadlock in deciding on the Congress' chief ministerial pick in Karnataka with both the hopefuls Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar presenting their cases before the top brass even as the party asserted an outcome is likely within a day or two.

After the multiple rounds of discussions, AICC general secretary in-charge for Karnataka Randeep Surjewala said a decision on the new cabinet will be in place in the next 48-72 hours.

He also claimed that Karnataka will have a five-year-long stable government of the Congress and urged people not to believe in speculation and "fake news", which he alleged was being peddled by the BJP.

Later in a tweet, Surjewala said all Congress leaders have been advised not to issue statements on the leadership matter. "Any out of turn remarks made from here onwards will be treated as indiscipline and action taken accordingly."

A section of the top Congress leadership feels Siddaramaiah's popularity among several sections including the poor, OBCs and minorities can get votes for the party in the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing the media outside Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's 10 Rajaji Marg residence, Surjewala said the party chief has been authorised to appoint the leader of the legislature party and that is why deliberations are underway.

"It (the decision to name the CM) is a matter of today and tomorrow and we will have a leader of the legislature party. Within the next 48 to



Siddaramaiah and state Congress chief Shivakumar have held several parleys with senior Congress leadership and presented their respective cases before them

Siddaramaiah is considered the front-runner while Shivakumar has dug his heels for the top post claiming that the assembly elections were won under his presidency and that he has worked hard for ensuring this victory



mitted to fulfilling its five guarantees, the Congress is committed to implementing its agenda. The Congress is committed to giving a clean, transparent and responsible government," he said.

After several meetings Monday and Tuesday, the day started with both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar meeting Rahul Gandhi separately at his 10, Janpath residence in the morning.

The meetings came a day after the two held separate meetings with Kharge at his residence and discussed issues regarding the government formation. Shivakumar met Rahul Gandhi after Siddaramaiah and the two leaders spent over 30-minutes each with the former party chief.

He is also learnt to have talked on the phone to former party chief Sonia Gandhi, who is learnt to have told her to meet Kharge, the sources said.

The Karnataka PCC chief then met Kharge again and spent a good half an hour with him for the second day in a row. Surjewala was also present at Kharge's residence at the time.

CBI raids premises linked to ex-media advisor of Satya Pal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** The CBI Wednesday conducted searches at the premises of Sunak Bali, who was an aide of Satya Pal Malik when he was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir, and 11 other locations in Delhi and Rajasthan in the alleged insurance scam case, officials said.

Malik, who was the J-K governor from August 2018 to October 2019, defended Bali and alleged it was "revenge" by the agency.

Officials said CBI teams started a search operation early this morning at the residence of Bali, Chartered Accountant Sanjay Narang, Virender Singh Rana and Kanwar Singh Rana, Priyanka Chowdhary and Anita in Delhi and Rajasthan. The operation was spread across 10 places in Delhi and two districts in Rajasthan.



Malik, who has served as governor of various states, told PTI that Bali used to arrange media interviews for him when he was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Malik said he has known Bali for a long time and he did not get any salary from him.

The agency move comes within a month of questioning Malik on April 28 in the matter.

The CBI had registered two FIRs in connection with the corruption allegations levelled by Malik in the awarding of contracts for a group medical insurance scheme for government employees and civil works worth Rs 2,200 crore related to the Kiru hydroelectric power project in Jammu and Kashmir.

SC grants SEBI time till August 14 to complete probe



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** The Supreme Court Wednesday granted the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) time till August 14 to complete its probe into the allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani group and asked the market regulator to place on record an updated status report with regard to the core of investigation.

The remit of the Justice Sapre panel was to provide an overall assessment of the situation, including the relevant causal factors which have led to volatility in the securities market in the recent past. The panel was asked to suggest measures to "(i) strengthen the statutory and/or regulatory framework; and (ii) secure compliance with the existing framework for the protection of investors", the court had earlier said.

At the outset on Wednesday, the CJI observed, "The committee has submitted its report. It is a tentative report and now SEBI has asked for an extension of time to complete their investigation."

Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for one of the petitioners, referred to a reply given by the minister of state for finance in Parliament in July 2021 about SEBI investigating some Adani group companies with regard to compliance with SEBI regulations.



price manipulation by the Adani group. "SEBI is granted an extension of time till August 14, 2023 to submit its report," the bench said, adding, "SEBI shall place on record an updated status report with regard to the core of investigation."

SILENT DISASTERS OF U'KHAND

Unchecked pilgrimage, construction spell calamity: Experts

Environmentalists point to the road expansion project as another factor posing a serious risk to the stability of the region, already highly prone to climate-driven disasters, experts say

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Crumbling mountainsides, sinking towns and untrammelled construction. It is against this backdrop that thousands of pilgrims make their way to the upper reaches of Uttarakhand each day, posing serious risk to the fragile Himalayan region, say experts.

That reports of landslides are in-

creasing and people in subsidence-hit Joshimath, the gateway to Badrinath, one of the Char Dham destinations, are being compelled to move back to the homes they left because of large cracks add to the general sense of foreboding gripping the area.

The Uttarakhand government's decision to lift the daily cap on the number of pilgrims visiting the state for the Char Dham Yatra is a matter of grave concern, according to environmental activist Atul Sati.

Earlier, the daily limits were - Yamunotri (5,500 pilgrims), Gangotri (9,000), Badrinath (15,000) and Kedarnath (18,000).

Geologist C P Rajendran said the attendant problem of higher footfall is the generation of huge amounts of waste, including plastics and horse and donkey excreta. The heavy pilgrim traffic, he ex-



plained, could also result in the melting of glaciers and environmental degradation with a serious impact on biodiversity.

A 2019 report headed by veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra described the Char Dham project — an ongoing road project that will

connect the four important pilgrim towns of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri — as "an assault on the Himalayas".

The committee recommended limiting road widths to 5.5 meters on the Char Dham project. However,

in December 2021, the Supreme Court in its order allowed the road width to 10 meters.

Environment researcher Abhijit Mukherjee noted that a primary reason for landslides in the Himalayas is because road widening cuts away the toe of slopes that support the rocks. This in turn destabilises the mountain area.

In his view, authorities have not taken adequate measures to address the environmental and safety concerns of both the pilgrims and the local community.

Adding a note of warning, Rajendran said the mountains, already dealing with forest fires, deforestation, loss of water sources, and soil loss, cannot bear the brunt of "unregulated tourism and footfall".

On January 2 this year, hundreds of people were displaced by a land subsidence event in

Joshimath town and forced into relief camps.

Experts as well as locals attributed the event to unscientific road construction and infrastructure projects coming up in the ecologically fragile zone.

A study published earlier this year estimated that 309 "fully or partially road-blocking landslides" were identified along the 247-km road stretch between Rishikesh and Joshimath, which translates to an average of 1.25 landslides per km.

According to environmental expert Anjal Prakash, there is need for a regulated system based on the carrying capacity of the hills.

Uttarakhand has a long history of natural disasters, including earthquakes, landslides, cloud bursts, and flash floods that have claimed thousands of lives in the past.



of the day quote

People have reposed full faith in the BJP-IPFT government, giving us a second term. Our alliance will rule the state for the next 40-50 years as we are focusing on development and growth

MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

I am a soldier of the party and would do whatever the party directs me to

DIGVIJAYA SINGH | VETERAN CONGRESS LEADER

In the last 60 years, not a single riot took place on Ram Navami in Maharashtra but violence happened for the first time this year. Did you appoint SIT about the Ram Navami incident?

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Andhra: Six killed in hit-and-run accident

**Pondugallu (AP):** Six women labourers were killed and as many injured after the autorickshaw they were travelling in was hit by a speeding truck at a village in Palnadu district early Wednesday, police said. The accident occurred in the small hours of today when the women from neighbouring Telangana were proceeding to Pulipadu village in Palnadu district in the state to harvest chilies.

Death toll in WB nor'wester rises

**Kolkata:** The toll in nor'wester that hit parts of West Bengal Monday rose to nine, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said. She announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased. Many trees were uprooted and suburban train services were affected as nor'wester hit several southern districts of the state May 15.

Fire at Karkardooma court; no casualty

**New Delhi:** A minor fire broke out Wednesday afternoon on the fourth floor of Karkardooma court in east Delhi, officials said. No one was injured in the incident. According to the Delhi Fire Service, they were informed about the blaze at 2.53 pm, following which seven to eight fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire was brought under control at 3.15 pm. The fire originated from the AC control room, they said. The fire took place in court room number 67 of Metropolitan Magistrate Renu Chaudhary after the spark in the AC duct, a lawyer said.

CRPF trooper dies by suicide in J&K

**Srinagar:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper shot himself dead with his service rifle in J&K's Pulwama district Wednesday, officials said. Officials said that the trooper was posted in Awantipora area of Pulwama.

Teenager ends life

**New Delhi:** A 19-year-old teenager has allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her residence in east Delhi's New Ashok Nagar area, an official said Wednesday. Police said that they have registered a case under Section 306 (abatement to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code at New Ashok Nagar police station after the teenager's brother alleged that one Amit Tyagi had sent him a few incriminating messages, and a photo of his sister.



Election is a distant issue. The priority should be restoration of basic rights of people which are being denied. People should have the freedom of movement, freedom of expression

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

BOOSTING TIES

India and the European Union have agreed to coordinate their policies in the strategic semiconductor sector with an aim to conclude an agreement by September in the first ministerial meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in Brussels



SPYING CASE

CBI arrests journalist, ex-Navy commander

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** The CBI has arrested freelance journalist Vivek Raghuvanshi and former Navy commander Ashish Pathak for allegedly collecting sensitive information on defence matters and passing them on to foreign intelligence agencies, officials said Wednesday.

Raghuvanshi and Pathak were produced before a special CBI court which sent them to six days custody of the agency, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had taken over the probe from the Delhi Police Special Cell, which was on the trail of Raghuvanshi since September last year, after getting information that some Indian journalists were collecting and passing on such information to foreign intelligence agencies having potential to disturb relations with friendly countries.

The information received by the Special Cell suggested that a journalist was illegally collecting "sensitive details" about "future procurement of armed forces which reveal the strategic preparedness of our country's classified communications/information related to national security, and details of strategic and diplomatic talks of India with our friendly countries, which can spoil the bilateral relations of India with them..." the FIR said.

According to the Special Cell's FIR, Raghuvanshi allegedly procured and supplied such information to intelligence agencies of foreign countries. On directions of the Ministry of Home



Affairs, the CBI took over the case on December 9 last year registering the FIR against Raghuvanshi, they said.

After a detailed background work and maintaining surveillance, the CBI Tuesday carried out a raid at 15 places in Delhi-NCR and Jaipur where Raghuvanshi apparently resides, they said.

"The CBI has seized 48 electronic devices, including laptops, tablets, mobile phones, hard disks, and pen drives belonging to the FIR named accused and others associated with the said accused, during the searches," the spokesperson said.

He said a number of incriminating documents relating to Indian defence establishments have also been seized. "The data stored in cloud based accounts/e-mails/social media accounts belonging to the accused/others have also been recovered by digital forensic experts of the CBI," he said. "The scrutiny of devices recovered so far from the possession of accused also revealed that

It was also alleged that the accused and his associate (ex-Navy commander Pathak), presently working with a (private) firm, were in possession of classified secret document related to Indian defence establishments

CBI SPOKESPERSON

the accused was allegedly collecting confidential information related to India's defence procurement from different sources. He was in contact with several foreign entities/agents/persons, and that he had entered into contracts/agreements with several foreign entities for sharing of confidential information. It was also alleged that the accused and his family members had received substantial amount from foreign sources," he said.

Raghuvanshi, who is listed as India correspondent of a US-based portal on defence and strategic affairs on its website, was then taken into custody along with Pathak.

The agency has booked Raghuvanshi and Pathak under Section 3 (spying) of the Official Secrets Act and under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

The agency has booked Raghuvanshi and Pathak under Section 3 (spying) of the Official Secrets Act and under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code

ARYAN KHAN CASE

CBI summons Wankhede

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 17:** Former head of Mumbai Zone Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Sameer Wankhede, has been summoned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with an extortion case pertaining to Aryan Khan who was arrested along with others in a drugs case.



DDG, NCB, Gyaneshwar Singh had submitted a report to the CBI on the basis of which the probe agency has lodged a case.

Singh had handed over the report to the CBI to file a case against Sameer Wankhede, VV Singh, then Superintendent NCB and Ashish Ranjan, the then IO of the case.

Wankhede, an IRS officer who is currently in DGTS Chennai, will have to appear before the CBI's

WANKHEDE HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF TRYING TO EXTORT ₹25 CRORE FROM ARYAN KHAN'S FAMILY, THROUGH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NCB AND A FEW INDIVIDUALS

LATER ON, THE AMOUNT WAS REDUCED TO ₹18 CRORE, AND A TOKEN AMOUNT OF ₹50 LAKH WAS REPORTEDLY PAID

Mumbai zone office to get his statement recorded. His cell phone was earlier seized by the CBI to retrieve data from it.

Members of an organisation Wednesday took out a march in Maharashtra's Washim to show solidarity with former NCB officer Sameer Wankhede.

The march was taken out by Panther Sanghatana from Ambedkar Square to district collectorate to condemn the CBI action against Wankhede, with the members claiming that the action is being taken against him in order to "defame him as he is an upright officer belonging to a backward community".

EGRA FIRECRACKER EXPLOSION

CID & forensic team start probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 17:** Teams from the state CID and forensic department started their investigation into the explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Egra area of West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district Wednesday, a senior police officer said.

Forensic experts started collecting samples from the now collapsed house at Khadikul village which housed the illegal firecracker unit and its surroundings, he said.

The CID officers are speaking to the witnesses as well as with family members of those killed in the blast, the officer said. A huge posse of local police have been deployed in the village near the Odisha border. The district police have lodged an FIR in connection with the explosion that took place Tuesday in which nine people were killed and several others injured.

"Our officers are at the spot and they have started their investigation. Forensic experts are also there. The samples collected from the spot will be sent for examination to identify the materials used at the factory to prepare firecrackers," the police officer told PTI.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari reached Khadikul village on Wednesday morning. He spoke to villagers there and tried to take a look at the house where the firecracker factory was housed, from the terrace of a neighbouring building. Adhikari who hails from Purba Medinipur district repeated his demand for an NIA probe into the explosion and said that he and his party workers would hold a rally to demand a probe by the central agency



DOCTOR'S DEATH

Kerala govt approves ordinance to protect health workers



The decision, taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, came in the wake of the brutal killing of Dr Vandana Das by a patient at a taluk hospital in Kollam district of the state last week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, May 17:** The LDF government in Kerala Wednesday approved an ordinance that provides for stringent punishment, including imprisonment of up to seven years and a maximum fine of ₹5 lakh for those found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm to doctors, medical students, and others working in the health services sector in the state.

Under the Kerala Healthcare Service Workers and Healthcare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Amendment Ordinance, anyone found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm to any healthcare worker or professional would be punished with imprisonment ranging from one year to seven years and a fine of ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh, a government statement said.

The ordinance also provides that anyone who commits or at-

tempts to commit or incites or inspires an act of violence against healthcare workers or those working in healthcare institutions shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months and up to 5 years and with a fine between ₹50,000 to ₹2 lakh, it said.

Before the amendment, under the Kerala Healthcare Service Workers and Healthcare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act of 2012, any act of violence against a healthcare service person or damage to property of a medical institution carried a punishment of a maximum three years imprisonment and a fine upto ₹50,000. Besides the enhancement of punishment, the ordinance states that the trials in cases lodged under the Act have to be completed in a timely manner, and that special courts will be designated in each district to ensure speedy adjudication, the statement said.

The ordinance also states that cases registered under the Act have to be investigated by a police officer not below the rank of Inspector and the probe has to be completed within 60 days of registration of the FIR, it said.

Furthermore, the ordinance extends the protection under the Act to paramedical students, security guards, managerial staff, ambulance drivers, helpers who are posted and working in health care institutions.

AAP dissolves all Maha units, save Mumbai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, May 17:** In a surprise move, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has dissolved its state and regional committees in Maharashtra, barring Mumbai, a party official said here Wednesday.

A terse announcement to the effect was made by AAP National General Secretary Dr. Sandeep Pathak, and said that new panels would be set up soon in the party, led by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, and active in Maharashtra since nearly a decade.

Welcoming the developments, AAP National Executive Committee Member and Mumbai President Preeti Sharma-Menon said that the party will strengthen the organisation at all levels starting from the grassroots and contest all forthcoming elections in the state.

"Maharashtra, the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and the cradle of progressive politics - is ready for AAP and several people from across the spectrum are prepared and willing to join the party," she said in a statement.

The AAP will be rebuilt in a robust manner, on the lines of other states, where it is playing an active political role, she added.

"We are confident that with the guidance of the Delhi leadership, the AAP Maharashtra will be able to provide the state with alternative politics, for the actual welfare rather than 'Khokha' (slang for crores of rupees) politics that we have seen so far," Sharma-Menon declared.



Centre seeks hysterectomy data from all states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** The Centre has asked states to provide data on hysterectomies conducted in private as well as public hospitals with an aim to prevent certain medical institutions from carrying out the procedure even when it is unnecessary and unjustified.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has advised all states and Union Territories to undertake compulsory audit for all hysterectomies as is being done for maternal mortality in all healthcare institutions, both public and private.

"The matter is regarding the prevention of unnecessary and often unjustified hysterectomies performed by certain medical institutions. This issue is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Health



and Family Welfare," Bhushan said in a letter sent to all states and Union Territories April 28.

Guidelines on hysterectomy - a procedure in which the uterus is removed surgically - were prepared

by the health ministry and a copy of it with a data collection format was circulated to all states earlier.

"The states are requested to share the hysterectomy status/data pre and post-implementation of these guide-

Preventive healthcare in India gets shot in the arm with 'Health ATMs'

**New Delhi:** A preventive health screening drive using "Health ATMs", fitted with cutting-edge diagnostic equipment, has been launched in northern India as part of a joint initiative of the HEAL Foundation and India Health Link (IHL). Health ATMs are touch-screen automated teller machine-sized machines which can screen vital parameters, including pulse, blood pressure, temperature, body mass composition, blood glucose, oxygen saturation levels and ECG, without any paramedic assistance. A "Health ATM" kiosk was set up at the second G20 Health Working Group meeting held in Goa last month.

lines. They are also advised to undertake compulsory audits for all hysterectomies, as is already being done for maternal mortality in all healthcare Institutions (both public and private)," the letter stated.

The ministry last year stated that community-based studies have consistently found rising hysterectomy

rates among young women aged between 28 and 36 years.

According to it, the prevalence of hysterectomy was 3.6 per cent among women in the age group of 30 to 39 years and 9.2 per cent among those between 40 and 49 citing the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) estimates.



# international

## of the day quote

China is growing its navy at an alarming rate and is undertaking the biggest military build-up in peacetime history

LIZ TRUSS | FORMER PM, UK

Principal to our discussions are efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the devastating conflict in the Ukraine

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

We will also be continuing our work to support human rights organisations" focused on advancing North Korean human rights

JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

## SHORT TAKES

### Terrorists hiding in Khan's house

**Lahore:** The interim government in Pakistan's Punjab province Wednesday claimed that some '30 to 40' terrorists are hiding at the Lahore residence of former prime minister Imran Khan, giving him an ultimatum of 24 hours to hand them over or face stern action. The police in March had stormed the Zaman Park residence of Khan to arrest him but strong resistance of his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, workers thwarted that plan. Mir, who is the brother of known anchor Hamid Mir, asked Khan to take this ultimatum seriously as the law enforcement agencies have reserved the right to arrest the terrorists from his house. "The intelligence report that has come is very alarming," Mir said, adding that the agencies were able to confirm the presence of the "terrorists" in Zaman Park through geo-fencing.

### Rajapaksa free to fly overseas again

**Colombo:** A Sri Lankan court here Wednesday ordered the lifting of the overseas travel ban on former president and prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The Fort Magistrate's Court imposed a ban on overseas travel on Rajapaksa, 77, and over a dozen other politicians in May last year in view of investigations against them for their alleged involvement in the deadly attack on peaceful anti-government protesters in Colombo. At least nine people were killed and over 300 others injured in the violence in May. A number of MPs' homes and offices were torched by enraged mobs in Sri Lanka last year in a wave of spontaneous violence triggered after then Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's supporters attacked anti-government protesters amidst the unprecedented economic crisis in the island nation.

### AMID MASS SHOOTINGS Dozens of Serbia schools receive bomb threats

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Belgrade (Serbia), May 17:** Dozens of Serbian schools Wednesday received bomb threats, the education ministry said, amid security concerns following two mass shootings early this month, including one in an elementary school.

The education ministry said 78 elementary schools and 37 high schools in Belgrade received warnings by email early Wednesday that explosive devices had allegedly been planted.

Classes were postponed and students evacuated as police checked the buildings. There have been no reports that bombs were found in any of the schools, and police are yet to issue their report.

Similar multiple threats have

## ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

# Heat on way to melt records

**Washington, May 17:** There's a two-out-of-three chance that the world will temporarily hit a key warming limit within the next five years, the United Nations weather agency said Wednesday.

But it likely would only be a fleeting and less worrisome flirtation with the internationally agreed upon temperature threshold. Scientists expect a temporary burst of heat from El Nino — a naturally-occurring weather phenomenon — to supercharge human-caused warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas to new heights. Temperatures are expected to then slip back down a bit.

The World Meteorological Organisation forecasts a 66 per cent likelihood that between now and 2027, the globe will have a year that averages 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the mid 19th century.

That number is critical because the 2015 Paris climate agreement set 1.5 degrees Celsius as a global guardrail in atmospheric warming, with countries pledging to try to prevent that much long-term warming if possible.

"It won't be this year probably. Maybe it'll be next year or the year after" that a year averages 1.5 degrees Celsius, said report lead au-



**98% CHANCE THAT NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL BE THE HOTTEST FIVE YEARS ON RECORD**

**66% ODDS OF A SINGLE YEAR HITTING 1.5°C THRESHOLD IN FIVE YEARS HAVE INCREASED FROM 48% LAST YEAR, 40% THE YEAR BEFORE, 20% IN 2020 AND 10% ABOUT A DECADE AGO**

thor Leon Hermanson, a climate scientist at the United Kingdom's Met Office.

But climate scientists said what's likely to happen in the next five years isn't the same as failing the

global goal.

"This report does not mean that we will permanently exceed the 1.5 C level specified in the Paris Agreement which refers to long-term warming over many years. However, WMO is sounding the alarm that we will breach the 1.5 C level on a temporary basis with increasing frequency," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

**We haven't been able to limit the warming so far and we are still moving in the wrong, wrong direction**

PETTERI TAALAS | SECRETARY-GENERAL, WMO

Hermanson cautioned that "a single year doesn't really mean anything." Scientists usually use 30-year averages.

Those 66 percent odds of a single year hitting that threshold in five years have increased from 48 per cent last year, 40 per cent in 2020 and 10 per cent about a decade ago. The WMO report is based on calculations by 11 different climate science centres across the globe. The La Nina some-

what flattened the trend of human-caused warming so that the world hasn't broken the annual temperature mark since 2016, during the last El Nino, a super-sized one, Hermanson said.

## AFGHAN KIDS IN DANGER

Afghanistan remains one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters as Human Rights Watch in a recent report on Afghanistan said that two-thirds of the country's population is food insecure. After the ban on women working for NGOs, the crisis has become more severe and 875,000 children face acute malnutrition



## UK royals involved in 'near catastrophic' paparazzi car chase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, May 17:** Prince Harry and his wife Meghan were involved in a "near catastrophic car chase" for over two hours involving paparazzi in New York, a spokesperson for the prince said Wednesday.

The incident happened after the Duke and Duchess of Sussex attended an awards ceremony in New York Tuesday.



Accompanied by Meghan's mother, Doria Ragland, they attended the Ms Foundation Women of Vision Awards. Harry's mother, Princess Diana, was killed in a horrific car accident in 1997 while being pursued by paparazzi in Paris.

In a statement, the prince's spokesperson said the "relentless pursuit" lasted for over two hours, the BBC reported.

The statement said the incident resulted in near collisions with other drivers on the road, pedestrians and police officers.

"While being a public figure comes with a level of interest from the public, it should never come at the cost of anyone's safety," the spokesperson said.

"Dissemination of these images, given the ways in which they were obtained, encourages a highly intrusive practice that is dangerous to all involved," the spokesperson added.

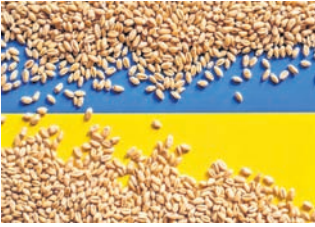
Pictures that have appeared on social media have shown Harry, Meghan and her mother Ragland in a taxi, Sky News reported.

Harry, 38, and Meghan, 41, quit their royal duties in 2020 and moved to the United States partly because of what they described as intense media harassment.

The prince has long spoken out about his anger about press intrusion which he blames for the death of his mother Princess Diana, who was killed when her limousine crashed as it sped away from chasing paparazzi in Paris in 1997.

## BOOST TO FOOD SECURITY

# Russia agrees to extend Ukraine grain initiative



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Ankara, May 17:** Russia agreed to extend a deal that has allowed Ukraine to ship grain through the Black Sea to parts of the world struggling with hunger, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced Wednesday, a boost to global food security after the war launched more than a year ago drove up prices.

"I want to give a good news," Erdogan said. "With the efforts of our country, the support of our Russian friends and the contribution of our Ukrainian friends, the Black Sea Grain Initiative has been extended by another two months."

Russia had set a Thursday deadline for its concerns to be ironed out or had threatened to bow out. Such brinkmanship isn't new with a similar extension in the balance in March, Russia unilaterally decided to renew the deal for just 60 days instead of the 120 days outlined in the agreement.

Extending the Black Sea Grain Initiative is a win for countries in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia that rely on Ukrainian wheat, barley, vegetable oil and other affordable food products, especially as drought takes a toll. The deal helped lower prices of food commodities like wheat over the last year, but that relief has not reached kitchen tables.

In talks last week in Istanbul, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said the grain deal "should be extended for a longer period of time and expanded" to "give predictability and confidence to markets."

Moscow has said it opposed such an expansion, then opted for another shorter extension.

Russia, meanwhile, is rapidly shipping a bumper harvest of its wheat through other ports.

Critics say that suggests Moscow is posturing or trying to wrest concessions in other areas—such as on Western sanctions—and claim it's dragged its heels on joint inspections of ships by Russian, Ukrainian, UN and Turkish officials.

The deal has allowed over 30 million metric tonne of Ukrainian grain to be shipped, with more than half that going to developing nations. China, Spain and Türkiye are the biggest recipients, and Russia says that shows food isn't going to the poorest countries.

### Russia, Iran sign rail deal to rival Suez Canal

**Russian President Vladimir Putin** and his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday oversaw, via video-link, the signing of a deal to finance and build an Iranian railway line as part of an embryonic international North-South Transport Corridor. The Rasht-Astara railway is seen as an important link in the corridor, intended to connect India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan and other countries via railways and sea - a route that Russia says can rival the Suez Canal as a major global trade route.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, at the National Cemetery in Seoul, South Korea

REUTERS

## Australia cancels Quad leaders' summit

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER BIDEN POSTPONES TRIP OVER US DEBT-CEILING TALKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, May 17:** Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Wednesday cancelled the Quad Leaders' Summit in Sydney May 24 after US President Joe Biden postponed his visit to Australia, and indicated the four leaders of the grouping, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will meet on the margins of the G7 meeting this weekend in Japan.

President Biden announced Tuesday that he will postpone the Australia leg of his Asia trip, along with that of Papua New Guinea, given the uncertainty and intense negotiations with the opposition Republican party to ensure that America does not default on its



debt for the first time in history.

"The Quad leaders' meeting will not be going ahead in Sydney next week," Prime Minister Albanese said in Tweed Heads, a town in New South Wales.

Albanese said the leaders of Australia, the US, India and Japan would now meet at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan this weekend. "We, though, will be having that

discussion between Quad leaders in Japan. I thank Prime Minister (Fumio) Kishida for his invitation for me to attend the G7 and it is appropriate that we talk. The Quad is an important body and we want to make sure that it occurs at the leadership level and we'll be having that discussion over the weekend," Albanese said.

President Biden has been forced

to turn his attention to domestic politics, as he works to hash out a deal with Republicans to prevent the US from defaulting on its debts at the end of this month.

"Because that has to be solved prior to June 1 - otherwise there are quite drastic consequences for the US economy, which will flow on to the global economy - he understandably has had to make that decision," Albanese said.

"All four leaders - President Biden, Prime Minister Kishida, Prime Minister Modi and myself - will be at the G7, held in Hiroshima on Saturday and Sunday. We are attempting to get together over that period of time [and] I'll have a bilateral discussion with President Biden," he said.

## WORLD RECORD

# Nepalese climber scales Mt Everest for 27th time

Dubbed "the Everest man", Sherpa was born in 1970 in Thame, a village in the Himalayas renowned as a breeding ground for successful mountaineers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kathmandu, May 17:** Nepali climber Kami Rita Sherpa reached the top of Mount Everest for the 27th time Wednesday, reclaiming the record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain.

"He successfully reached the

summit this morning guiding a Vietnamese climber," Mingma Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks, his expedition organiser, told AFP.

The 53-year-old had held the title since 2018, when he ascended Everest for the 22nd time, passing the previous mark he shared with two other Sherpa climbers, both of whom have since retired.

But Sunday another climber, Pasang Dawa Sherpa, 46, tied the record by reaching the top for the 26th time.

A guide for more than two decades, Kami Rita Sherpa first summited the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak in 1994 when working for a commercial expedition.



Since then, he has climbed Everest almost every year, several times leading the first rope-fixing team to open the route to the world's highest point.

"These records were made not with an intention to make them but during my work as a guide," Sherpa told AFP last month as he headed to the base camp.

Growing up, Sherpa watched his father and then his brother don climbing gear to join expeditions as mountain guides, and was soon following in their footsteps.

In 2019, he reached the summit twice in the span of six days.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks and wel-

comes hundreds of adventurers each spring, when temperatures are warm and winds are typically calm.

Authorities have issued 478 permits to foreign climbers this year, the \$11,000 fee part of total costs for a summit ranging from \$45,000 to \$200,000.

Since most will need a guide, more than 900 people - a record - will try to summit this season, which runs until early June.

Nepali guides, usually ethnic Sherpas from the valleys around Everest, are considered the backbone of the climbing industry and bear huge risks to carry equipment and food, fix ropes and repair ladders.



# business

## of the day quote

India's G20 Presidency is an opportunity for offshore wind countries, businesses, and financial institutions to work together for clean energy transition ambitions

**BHUPINDER SINGH BHALLA** | NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY SECRETARY

India must become one of the first countries in the world to industrialize without carbonizing the world and therefore you need a decarbonisation strategy

**AMITABH KANT** | SHERPA, G20

We have achieved the highest ever revenue in FY2023. This is on account of robust domestic demand witnessed for both commercial and passenger vehicle radial tyres

**ANSHUMAN SINGHANIA** | MD, JK TYRE & INDUSTRIES

## SHORT TAKES

### Executives' dearth in Meta India

**New Delhi:** Meta's director and head of partnerships in India Manish Chopra has quit the company. Chopra's departure comes at a time when Meta is seeking significant churn in India. In November last year, Meta's India head Ajit Mohan quit the company to join rival Snap. Chopra served as the company's interim head till Sandhya Devanathan took over as Meta's India head on January 1 this year. Within days of Mohan's exit, Abhijit Bose, who was Head of India, WhatsApp, also stepped down after a stint of nearly four years. And so did Rajiv Aggarwal, who was Meta India's Director of Public Policy. Earlier in September 2022, Manesh Mahatme quit as the chief of WhatsApp Pay in India.

### Not stepping down as Tesla CEO: Musk

**Austin (US), May 17 (AP)** Elon Musk on Tuesday dismissed speculation that he might step down as Tesla's CEO and told the company's annual shareholders meeting that the electric car and solar panel company would start doing some advertising. "Say it ain't so," one shareholder asked Musk about stepping down as Tesla's leader. "It ain't so," he replied without further discussion. When another shareholder suggested that Tesla try advertising, Musk said he is open to it.

### Complaints against celebrities surge

**Mumbai:** Advertising industry's self-regulatory body ASCI Wednesday said there has been a steep jump in complaints against celebrities as many of them failed to provide any evidence of due diligence. Complaints against celebrities witnessed an 803 per cent jump in FY23 to 503 ads, as against 55 in the year-ago period. Cricketer MS Dhoni tops the list of celebrities who have failed to do necessary due diligence as he featured in ten counts of non-compliance, the body said, adding that he was followed by actor-comedian Bhuvan Bam who had seven counts of non-compliance.

### Hyundai, Shell tie up

**New Delhi:** Hyundai Motor India on Wednesday said it has tied up with Shell India to install 60 kW fast chargers across 36 of its dealerships in the country. The company has signed a memorandum of agreement with Shell India Markets Pvt Ltd in this regard, the automaker said in a statement.



India's tariffs are very often misconstrued to be very high on most items, raw materials, intermediates but in reality the duties are very low

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

## PVR PICTURES IS NOW PVR INOX PICTURES

PVR Pictures has been renamed as PVR INOX Pictures following the merger of PVR and Inox Leisure. The merged entity is operating 361 cinemas with 1,689 screens across 115 cities till the end of FY23 in India and Sri Lanka



# Tesla restarts India mkt talks with new factory plans

*Making cars locally aligns with PM Narendra Modi's pitch to attract companies with his "Make in India" campaign, especially as companies look to diversify their supply chains beyond China*

REUTERS

**Bangalore, May 17:** Tesla Inc has proposed setting up a factory in India to build electric cars for domestic sale and export, the car-maker told government officials Wednesday, according to a source with direct knowledge of the matter.

The proposal comes after India refused to agree to Tesla's request last year to lower the import tax on

cars, which can reach as much as 100%. India wanted the carmaker to build vehicles locally but Tesla wanted to test the market first with imports and the talks ended in deadlock.

While Tesla did not discuss lower import taxes with Indian officials, it proposed setting up a new factory, albeit without specifying a location or investment, said the source, who declined to be named as the talks were private.



Senior Tesla executives are in India this week to meet the government to discuss local sourcing of parts and other issues, Reuters reported Tuesday.

Tesla met officials from Modi's office and other ministries Wednesday, said the person and another source familiar with the

## FIRST YEAR OF LISTING

# Drastic fall in LIC IPO

*LIC now stands at the 13th position in the overall ranking of top domestic companies by market valuation*

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 17:** Shares of the country's largest insurer LIC have tumbled nearly 40 per cent from its issue price in the first year of trade, with investors' wealth eroding by Rs 1.93 lakh crore.

LIC had listed at over 8 per cent discount May 17 last year after a successful Initial Public Offering (IPO) which fetched Rs 20,557 crore to the exchequer. Shares of LIC had listed at Rs 872 on the BSE and at Rs 867.20 on the NSE.

The stock of LIC is down 39.92 per cent as against the issue price of Rs 949 on the BSE.

On the NSE, it has tumbled 39.93 per cent from the issue price.

On Wednesday, LIC shares ended with a gain of 0.48 per cent at Rs 570.10 on the BSE. On the NSE, shares of the firm ended at Rs 570, an increase of 0.44 per cent.

In the first year of trading, shares of the company have hit a 52-week high of Rs 920 and a 52-week low of Rs 530.20. It has failed to surpass the issue price of Rs 949 during the past one year.

In comparison, the 30-share BSE Sensex has jumped 7,242.17 points or 13.33 per cent during the period under review while the broader NSE Nifty has rallied 1,922.45 points or 11.82 per cent.

On its listing day, LIC got into the list of top-five most valued com-



INDIA'S BIGGEST INSURER SHARES FALL 40%

INVESTORS' WEALTH ERODE BY RS 1.93L-CR

IT WAS LISTED AT OVER 8% DISCOUNT MAY 17

One of the reasons the IPO failed to get a good listing was the dampening market environment in 2022. Though LIC's business fundamentals remain strong, the stock has been in a free fall ever since its listing

**GIRISH SODANI** | HEAD OF EQUITY MARKET, SWASTIKA INVESTMART LTD

panies with a market capitalisation of nearly Rs 5.54 lakh crore.

At the close of trading Wednesday, the company commanded a market capitalisation of Rs 3,60,588.12 crore. This is down by Rs 1,93,411.88 crore from the valuation it commanded on the listing day.

Reliance Industries is the country's most valued firm with a market capitalisation of Rs 16,49,996.39 crore, followed by TCS (Rs 11,74,226.18 crore), HDFC Bank (Rs 9,15,678.59 crore), ICICI Bank (Rs 6,56,439.98 crore) and Hindustan Unilever (Rs 6,25,449.45 crore).

They are followed by ITC (Rs 5,31,484.18 crore), State Bank of India (Rs 5,23,428.49 crore), Infosys (Rs 5,17,612.27 crore), HDFC (Rs 4,98,825.68 crore), Bharti Airtel (Rs 4,41,745.99 crore), Bajaj Finance (Rs 4,06,125.96 crore), Kotak Mahindra Bank (Rs 3,79,253.52 crore) and Life Insurance Corporation (Rs 3,60,588.12 crore).

LIC had fixed the issue price of

its shares at Rs 949 apiece after a successful initial public offering, which was oversubscribed nearly 3 times when it closed on May 9, 2022.

"There are several reasons why LIC could not live up to expectations, even as analysts remained upbeat about its IPO, Girish Sodani, Head of Equity Market at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

Despite the year-long setback, several analysts remain confident that the stock will bounce back. And there is a reason to cheer as well. LIC has shown decent business performance and the stock's embedded value looks good. But, the shares need a major trigger in terms of strong earnings growth and significant improvement in profitability, Sodani noted.

"LIC's IPO listed at a discount and has never seen the IPO price since then. It has massively underperformed the Nifty as well as its peers over the past year," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, said.

## UHNWIs count in India dip in '22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals in India, having net worth of over \$30 million, fell 7.5 per cent last year to 12,069 but will rise to 19,119 in the next five years, according to Knight Frank.

India's billionaire population rose to 161 in 2022 from 145 in the previous year and is estimated to rise to 195 individuals by 2027.

Real estate consultant Knight Frank's Wednesday released 'The Wealth Report 2023'.

"India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) with net worth

over \$30 million is estimated to rise by 58.4 per cent in the next five years from 12,069 in 2022 to 19,119 individuals in 2027," it said.

The Indian high-net-worth individual (HNI) population, with asset value of \$1 million and more, increased to 7,97,714 last year from 7,63,674 in 2021.

The number of HNIs will rise to 16,57,272 by 2027. In 2022, the global population of UHNWIs declined by 3.8 per cent, after a record climb of 9.3 per cent in 2021, as the wealth and the investment portfolio of the ultra-wealthy were impacted by economic slowdowns, frequent rate hikes and rising geopolitical uncertainties.

# A warning on big tech, from ChatGPT's Altman, global face of AI

■ Governments worldwide are under pressure to move quickly after the release of ChatGPT, a bot that can churn out human-like content in an instant, went viral and both wowed and spooked users

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, May 17:** Sam Altman, the chief executive of ChatGPT's OpenAI, told US lawmakers Tuesday that regulating artificial intelligence was essential, after his poem-writing chatbot stunned the world.

The lawmakers stressed their deepest fears of AI's developments, with a leading senator opening the hearing on Capitol Hill with a computer-generated voice - which sounded remarkably similar to his own - reading a text written by

the bot. "If you were listening from home, you might have thought that voice was mine and the words from me, but in fact, that voice was not mine," said Senator Richard Blumenthal.

Artificial intelligence technologies "are more than just research experiments. They are no longer fantasies of science fiction, they are real and present," said Blumenthal, a Democrat.

The latest figure to erupt from Silicon Valley, Altman's testimony in front of a US Senate judiciary subcommittee was far from the testy grilling given to the bosses of Facebook or TikTok when they visited Washington.

Tipped as an opportunity to educate lawmakers, Altman used the session to urge Congress to impose new rules on big tech, despite deep



political divisions that for years have blocked legislation aimed at regulating the internet.

Altman has since become the global face of AI as he both pushes out his company's technology, including to Microsoft and scores of other companies, and warns that the work could have nefarious effects on society.

"OpenAI was founded on the belief that artificial intelligence has

Cabinet clears Rs 17,000 crore-PLI scheme to boost local production of tablets, computers

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 17:** The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a Rs 17,000 crore-incentive to boost local manufacturing of IT hardware like tablets and laptops, and the scheme is projected to generate an incremental production worth Rs 3.35 lakh crore over a period of six years.

IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini

Vaishnav said that companies having high volume sales are interested, and iPad maker Apple is also seriously evaluating the scheme.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware covers laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers and ultra-small form factor devices. The scheme was earlier introduced in 2021 but did not get expected traction.

"For IT PLI, the budgetary outlay is Rs 17,000 crore. The tenure of the programme is six years... We will accept first set of applications by October," Vaishnav told reporters

the potential to improve nearly every aspect of our lives, but also that it creates serious risks," Altman told the hearing. He insisted that in time, generative AI developed by OpenAI will "address some of humanity's biggest challenges, like climate change and curing cancer."

However, given concerns about disinformation, job security and other hazards, "we think that regulatory intervention by govern-

## BRIGHT SPOT

# India to grow 6.7% in 2024, says UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**United Nations, May 17:** India's economy is expected to grow by 6.7 per cent in the calendar year 2024, supported by resilient domestic demand, according to a UN report which said higher interest rates and weaker external demand will continue to weigh on investment and exports this year for the country.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023 released Tuesday said India's economy, the largest in the South Asian region, is expected to expand by 5.8 per cent in 2023 and 6.7 per cent in 2024 (calendar year basis), supported by resilient domestic demand.

However, higher interest rates and weaker external demand will continue to weigh on investment and exports in 2023, it said.

Inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5 per cent in 2023 as global commodity prices moderate and slower currency depreciation reduces imported inflation.

The estimates for India's economic growth in the mid-year assessment remained unchanged from the projections made in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 report launched in January this year.

The flagship report issued in January had said that India's GDP is projected to moderate to 5.8 per cent in 2023 as higher interest rates and global economic slowdown weigh on investment and exports.

India's economic growth is expected to remain "strong" even as prospects for other South Asian nations are more challenging."



India is expected to expand by 5.8% in 2023 and 6.7% in 2024

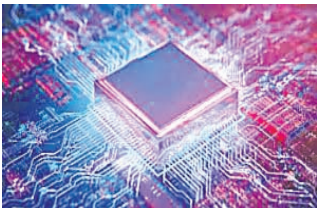
Inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5% in 2023

India is projected to grow at 6.7 per cent in 2024, the fastest-growing major economy in the world, the flagship report had said.

Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Hamid Rashid had said at a press conference that India is a "bright spot" in the world economy.

India's inflation is about 5.5 per cent while the regional average for South Asia is 11 per cent. Rashid said this means there will be significant room for both fiscal expansion and monetary accommodation and that would support domestic demand.

According to the report, the world economy is now projected to grow by 2.3 per cent in 2023 (+0.4 percentage points from the January forecast) and 2.5 per cent in 2024 (-0.2 percentage points), a slight uptick in the global growth forecast for 2023.



after the Cabinet meeting.

Under the new scheme, companies will get an incentive of up to 5 per cent and an optional incentive of 4 per cent if they use domestically-produced components compared to just 2 per cent incentive offered under the old scheme.

In February 2021, the govern-

## FPI IN EQUITIES DROP 11% IN JAN-MAR QTR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** The value of foreign portfolio investment (FPI) in Indian equities was at \$542 billion in the March quarter of 2023, a decline of 11 per cent from the preceding year, largely due to the exodus of foreign money from the domestic market, according to a Morningstar report. In comparison, the value of FPI in Indian equities was \$612 billion in the January-March quarter of 2022. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the value of FPI in Indian equities fell by 7 per cent from \$584 billion recorded in the three months ended December 2022.

This came following a surge in their investment value for three quarters in a row. The decline led to FPIs' contribution to Indian equity market capitalization falling to 17.3 per cent during the year under review from 17.8 per cent for March 2022.

After withdrawing record funds in 2021-22, foreign portfolio investors continued their sell-off in the last fiscal too and pulled out Rs 37,631 crore from Indian equities amid aggressive rate hikes by central banks globally.

Since the start of foreign investment in 1993, this is for the first time foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold consecutively for two financial years.

They sold equity worth Rs 1.4 lakh crore in FY22 and the pace of selling slowed down to Rs 37,632 crore in FY23, data with the depositories showed.

Before these outflows, FPIs invested a record Rs 2.7 lakh crore in equities in 2020-21 and Rs 6,152 crore in 2019-20.

Apart from equities, FPIs pulled out Rs 8,938 crore from the debt markets in the period under review after infusing Rs 1,628 crore in 2021-22.

On the domestic front too, the scenario was not encouraging. Rising inflation continued to be a cause for concern, and to tame that, RBI also hiked rates, which cast a shadow on the growth prospects of the domestic economy, said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India.

## Rs 38K-cr subsidy for fert

The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a subsidy of Rs 38,000 crore for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers, taking the total outlay for fertiliser subsidies to Rs 1.08 lakh crore for the ongoing Kharif season in order to provide affordable soil nutrients to farmers. The total amount includes Rs 70,000 crore earmarked for subsidy on urea in the 2023-24 Union Budget.

ment approved the PLI scheme for IT hardware, covering the production of laptops, tablets, All-in-One PCs and servers with an outlay of Rs 7,350 crore.

If this (AI) technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong

**SAM ALTMAN** | CEO, CHATGPT'S OPENAI

ments will be critical to mitigate the risks of increasingly powerful models," he said. **GO 'GLOBAL'**

Altman suggested the US government might consider a combination of licensing and testing requirements before the release of powerful AI models, with a power to revoke permits if rules were broken. He also recommended labeling and increased global coordination in setting up rules over the technology as well as the creation of a dedicated US agency to handle artificial intelligence.

"I think the US should lead here and do things first, but to be effective we do need something global," he added.

Blumenthal underlined that Europe had already advanced considerably with its AI Act that is set to go to a vote next month at the European Parliament.

Crucially for OpenAI, US lawmakers underlined that it also seeks to put generative AI systems such as ChatGPT and DALL-E in a category requiring special transparency measures, such as notifications to users that the output was made by a machine.

OpenAI's DALL-E last year sparked an online rush to create lookalike Van Goghs and has made it possible to generate illustrations and graphics with a simple request. Lawmakers also heard warnings that the technology was still in its early stages.



# DC TURN PARTY POOPERS FOR KINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dharamsala, May 17:** Beleaguered Delhi Capitals finally came out all guns blazing as they played party poopers to all but knock Punjab Kings out of playoff contention with a 15-run victory in the IPL here, Wednesday.

Already out of the playoff race, Delhi finally came to the party in their penultimate match of the season to post an imposing 213/2 after PBKS opted to bowl.

Rilee Rossouw (82 n o, 37b, 6x4, 6x6) exhibited some exceptional strokeplay, while Prithvi Shaw (54, 38b, 7x4, 1x6) also slammed a fifty on his comeback after about a month as DC scored their first 200-plus total of this season.

In response, PBKS managed just 198/8 in the stipulated 20 overs despite all the fielding harakiri committed by DC. Englishman Liam Livingstone slammed a 49-ball 94 (5x4, 9x6), but it was not enough as the total proved too much.

While Delhi now are ninth on the table after a consolation win, Kings due to this heavy defeat stay put on 12 after 13 games and even a win in the last match and a 14-point finish might not be enough as the net run-rate -0.308 only added insult to injury.

DC's fielding effort did give them enough chances. As many as three catches were dropped including Livingstone on three, and Taide on 35, both in the bowling of Kuldeep Yadav who returned with 0/21 from his three overs.

They also missed two run-out chances when both the batters, Livingstone and Taide, were out of the crease but DC could not manage to hit the stumps on a sloppy outing.

PBKS took a tactical decision to retire out rookie Taide after his 42-ball 55 (5x4, 2x6) as he simply found it difficult to get going after first part of the innings.

Livingstone kept the PBKS run chase going racing to a 30-ball fifty, his sixth of the tournament as he brought the equation down to 38 from last two overs from being an near impossible 79 from four overs.

The equation was on course for PBKS before Anrich Nortje redeemed himself with a perfect penultimate over. He conceded just five runs and cleaned up Sam



Rilee Rossouw whacks the ball during his innings as PBKS wicket-keeper Jitesh Sharma looks on, Wednesday

Curran (11), while PBKS lost another when Harpreet Brar was run out.

DC bowlers stifled PBKS' tall chase early on with left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed starting off with a maiden, while Ishant Sharma dis-

missing Dhawan off the first ball.

Earlier, already out of playoff race, DC got off to a flying start. Shaw, who made his last appearance in this season's IPL against KKR April 20, returned to form with a half

century, his first in 13 IPL innings.

Shaw copped body blows from Rabada as he along with his skipper David Warner (46, 31b, 5x4, 2x6) gave their best start of the season. The duo put together a 94-run open-

ing stand, their highest this season before Rossouw took charge of the proceedings with his maiden IPL fifty that came off 25 balls.

Rossouw took charge when he sent his South African teammate into the orbit with a six over long-off. He followed it up with a boundary and then a sublime pick-up six over deep square leg as there was no looking back for the South African from there on. Rabada went on to concede 36 from his three overs, while Sam Curran took 2/36.

From a sedate six for no loss in two overs, DC raced to 61 without losing a wicket in the powerplay with Warner and Shaw putting up their highest opening partnership this season after PBKS opted to bowl.

This was the second instance when DC did not lose a wicket inside the powerplay this season. Nothing went in PBKS' favour on Wednesday, with Rahul Chahar dropping a sitter to give Warner a reprieve on 39. The Aussie was done in by a spectacular catch by Shikhar Dhawan but by then DC were on course for their first 200-plus total this season.

## BRIEF SCORES

DC 213/2 (Rilee Rossouw 82 n o, Prithvi Shaw 54, David Warner 46, Phil Salt 26 n o; Sam Curran 2/36) beat PBKS 198/8 (Liam Livingstone 94, Atharva Taide 55; Anrich Nortje 2/36, Ishant Sharma 2/36) by 15 runs.

# Bond slams MI bowlers for making same mistakes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, May 17:** Mumbai Indians' bowling coach Shane Bond has expressed his frustration with the team's bowling unit for committing the "same mistake over and over again" in match situations, recently against Lucknow Super Giants.

Mohsin Khan made a fine comeback from a long injury lay-off as the left-arm pacer defended 11 runs in the final over against the destructive Tim David to hand LSG a five-run win over MI in the IPL here Tuesday.

This was after LSG recovered

from 123/3 in 17 overs to score 177 by the end of their innings, with Chris Jordan going for 24 runs in the 18th over. MI conceded more than 50 runs in the last three overs of LSG innings.

"For me, the most frustrating thing is about not sticking to the plans that we talk about. We were very clear with what we wanted to do on this wicket to players like Marcus (Stoinis) and where we wanted to bowl, we didn't bowl there consistently enough," Bond said at the post-match press conference.

"When you're looking at a team plan, you've got to get the batsmen



to hit in areas where you want them to hit. Make it as hard as possible for them. You don't want them to hit you in areas that they want to hit.

"We saw that with Stoinis – a

fine player. We knew he was trying to hit straight down the ground and we dished out balls for him to do it. In the end, his innings was the difference between the two teams."

Bond added, "We've always prided ourselves in our preparation, the work that we do behind the scenes and how we review the game – the mistakes on which we want to improve. The frustrating thing is that we're making the same mistake over and over again. From my point of view, it's disappointing.

"For 15 overs, we were excellent, we delivered what we wanted to.

# RCB play SRH in must-win game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, May 17:** Virat Kohli will be in focus as Royal Challengers Bangalore look to strengthen their claim for an IPL playoff berth in their must-win match against laggards Sunrisers Hyderabad here Thursday.

RCB are currently in the fifth spot with 12 points from as many games and face two must-win matches to guarantee their play-off spot. SRH, on the other hand, are out of the tournament and languishing at the ninth spot with eight points from 12 matches.

Alongside skipper Faf du Plessis, Kohli is one of the top-scorers for RCB but after back-to-back failures, the maestro would be looking to produce his best against SRH and help his side's cause.

Du Plessis has been leading the side from the front and is in scintillating form, occupying the top spot in run-getter's list with 631 runs from 12 games at an average of 57.36.

Kohli is the next best RCB batter with 438 runs, averaging 39.81 with six fifties. But unlike Du Plessis, Kohli has not been consistent enough and has struggled with his strike-rate at times. The other batter RCB would be bank-

ing on is Glenn Maxwell, who has made a great impact with his sparkling knocks, which includes five half centuries.

RCB are high on confidence after a commanding 112-run demolition of Rajasthan Royals in their last game. Riding on Du Plessis and Maxwell's back-to-back fifties, RCB posted 171/5 and then Wayne Parnell (3/10) led the way in the company of Michael Bracewell (2/16), Karn Sharma (2/19) and Mohammed Siraj (1/10) to bundle out RR for a paltry 59.

On the bowling front, the onus would again be on Parnell, Siraj and Bracewell to deliver the goods. The last match also saw RCB return to winning ways after back-to-back defeats against MI and Delhi Capitals.

SRH, on the other hand, will play for pride after becoming the second team to crash out of the tournament. SRH would look to give their fans something to cheer about by registering wins in their remaining two games.

It has been lacklustre outing for SRH this season, both in batting as well as bowling department. Barring Heinrich Klaasen and, to some extent, Rahul Tripathi, no other batter could deliver for the team. SRH were hit hard by the poor form of their skipper Aiden Markram as much was expected of the South African.

Among SRH bowlers, the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar is the most successful with 14 wickets from 12 games, but he too didn't look at his best. Mayank Markande (12 wickets from 10 games) impressed but SRH suffered heavily due to the poor form of Marco Jansen, T Natarajan and Umran Malik.



# Inter Milan book ticket to Istanbul



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Milan, May 17:** Inter Milan reached their first Champions League final in more than a decade with a 1-0 victory against city rival AC Milan. Inter had a 2-0 lead from the first leg of the semifinal and Lautaro Martinez's 74th-minute goal Tuesday ended any hopes for Milan to stage a comeback.

Several players from both teams fell to the ground in tears at the final whistle as the Nerazzurri won the so-called "Euroderby" 3-0 on aggregate to progress to its first final since it won the league, Italian Cup and Champions League under Jose Mourinho in 2010.

Inter players and staff celebrated for long afterwards with their fans, singing and dancing in front of the Curva Nord packed full of Nerazzurri supporters in an electric atmosphere at San Siro — the stadium that both teams share.

"It's obviously a great emotion, a dream that I had together with the guys, that we nurtured right from when the draw was made," Inter coach Stefano Inzaghi said.

"We had to believe in ourselves and we have got here by merit, no one has gifted us anything. We had a long road, with difficulties but I think we earned it. I think probably from tomorrow we'll realize more what we have done. But it's a wonderful night with the fans, with our family, you can't ask for anything more."

Inter will face either 14-time champions Real Madrid or another juggernaut in Manchester City June 10 in Istanbul. The second leg of the other semifinal is Wednesday, with the scoreline

# INDIA, PAK TO RENEW RIVALRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** India and Pakistan are set to renew their football rivalry after nearly five years as the two neighbouring countries have been clubbed in the same group in the SAFF Cup to be played in Bangalore from June 21 to July 4.

The draw of the 14th edition of the South Asian Football Federation Cup was held here Wednesday with defending champions India, Pakistan, Kuwait and Nepal being clubbed in Group A. Lebanon, Maldives, Bangladesh and Bhutan are in Group B.

The group matches will be played in a round-robin league format and the top two teams in each group will qualify for the semifinals of the eight-nation regional tournament at the Kanteerava Stadium.

Lebanon and Kuwait – the two countries outside of South Asia – were invited to make the tournament more competitive. Lebanon are the highest ranked side in the tournament at 99th while Pakistan are the lowest at 195th. India are the second highest ranked side at 101st.

The Indo-Pak Group A match will be played June 21 in the second match of the opening day after Kuwait face Nepal in the inaugural game.

India and Pakistan last played



against each other in September 2018 in the semifinal of the 12th edition of the SAFF Cup in Dhaka. India won that match 3-1 but lost to Maldives 1-2 in the final. Overall, India and Pakistan have officially played more than 20 international matches. Of the two, India have been the dominant side with more than a dozen wins under their belt.

India have won the SAFF Cup eight times while finishing runners-up four times. The only time

India did not reach the final was in the fifth edition in 2003 in Dhaka when the country finished third.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is hopeful that Pakistan players and support staff will get visas to take part in the tournament. AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran told PTI that the Pakistani contingent has already applied for visas to travel to India and the processing of applications has begun.

SAFF CUP FIXTURES	
<b>JUNE 21:</b> Kuwait vs Nepal (3:30 pm IST); India vs Pakistan, (7:30 pm IST);	
<b>JUNE 22:</b> Lebanon vs Bangladesh (3:30 pm IST); Maldives vs Bhutan (7:30 pm IST);	
<b>JUNE 24:</b> Pakistan vs Kuwait (3:30 pm IST); Nepal vs India (7:30 pm IST);	
<b>JUNE 25:</b> Bangladesh vs Maldives (3:30 pm IST); Bhutan vs Lebanon (7:30 pm IST);	
<b>JUNE 27:</b> Nepal vs Pakistan (3:30 pm IST); India vs Kuwait (7:30 pm IST);	
<b>JUNE 28:</b> Lebanon vs Maldives (3:30 pm IST); Bhutan vs Bangladesh (7:30 pm IST);	
<b>JULY 1:</b> Semifinals	
<b>JULY 4:</b> Final.	

# Odisha FC appoint Lobera as new head coach

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Odisha FC, Wednesday, announced the appointment of experienced Spanish tactician Sergio Lobera as the new head coach on a two-year deal.

Lobera's reputation precedes him, having already left an indelible mark on the Indian football landscape during his previous stints with FC Goa and Mumbai City FC in the Indian Super League (ISL). Lobera's arrival brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success, making him an ideal candidate to lead the Bhubaneswar-based side to greater heights.

The Spanish coach spent a total of four seasons in India, with three of them being at the helm of FC Goa. Lobera joined the Gaurs in 2017

and immediately made an impact, leading the team to the ISL playoffs for three consecutive seasons with his astute tactics, along with his ability to instill a winning mentality in his players.

In his final season with FC Goa, Lobera's efforts bore fruit as the team reached the playoffs and clinched the League Shield, finishing at the top of the table. This remarkable achievement showcased Lobera's ability to build a cohesive and competitive squad capable of challenging for top honors.

Furthermore, Lobera's success extended beyond the league campaign. In 2019, he guided FC Goa to victory in the Super Cup, solidifying their status as one of the premier teams in Indian football. This triumph highlighted Lobera's knack



for motivating his players and extracting the best out of them on the grandest stages.

After his successful stint with FC Goa, Lobera embarked on a new

challenge with Mumbai City FC, a club owned by the City Football Group (CFG). In his first season with the Islanders, Lobera accomplished a historic feat by winning both the

ISL League Winners' Shield and the playoffs. This double triumph cemented Mumbai City FC's status as the best team in the league and further underlined Lobera's ability to deliver success consistently.

Now, as Lobera takes the reins at Odisha FC, fans and stakeholders can't help but feel a sense of optimism and anticipation. With his vast knowledge of Indian football and his proven ability to shape winning teams, Lobera is poised to guide Odisha FC towards a brighter future.

His tactical acumen, coupled with an emphasis on attacking and possession-based football, will undoubtedly be welcomed by players and fans alike. Lobera's arrival signals a new era for Odisha FC. As the new season approaches, all eyes will be on Lobera and his new side.