


SELF-MADE ACTOR

Sara Ali Khan says she has created her own path in the film industry independently sans help from parents

LEISURE

P2



SPECIES AT RISK

Climate change is likely to abruptly push up to 30 per cent of species over tipping points as their geographic ranges reach unforeseen temperatures

INTERNATIONAL

P10



QUALIFIER-1 TODAY

Defending champions Gujarat Titans lock horns with Chennai Super Kings for a direct spot in IPL final

SPORTS

P12

## POACHER GUNS DOWN SIMILIPAL FOREST GUARD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, May 22:** A forest guard on duty at Bounsakhala beat under Bangiriposhi range in south division of Similipal Tiger Reserve died after being shot at by a poacher; Monday evening.

The deceased forest guard was identified as Bimal Kumar Jena of Bhanjapur area. The incident happened while he was on duty at Chakidi range. Police and forest officials from Bangiriposhi, Baripada and Bhanjapur rushed to the spot and started an investigation.

After hearing a loud gun shot, other forest personnel reached the spot and found Bimal lying in a pool of blood. The poachers fled the spot after seeing the officials.

Bimal had recently married a lady forest guard. After getting the news, his wife came to the forest range office directorate and lost her senses. Immediately she was rushed to PRM Medical College and Hospital. Bimal's body was sent to PRM Medical College and Hospital, and post mortem will be conducted, Tuesday. "This is for the first time that a forest personnel was shot at by a hunter in Similipal forest. Following the incident we have immediately launched a search operation, which is underway at night," a senior official of Baunsakhala beat said.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	61963.68	▲	234.00
	NIFTY	18314.40	▲ 111.00
	DOLLAR	82.60	▲ ₹0.22
	EURO	89.49	↓ ₹0.09
	GOLD	₹60,140	↓ ₹239
BULLION	SILVER	₹72,698	↓ ₹623

WEATHER			
		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	39.8°C	38.5°C
	MIN	25.5°C	25.5°C
Humidity		61%	70%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
		Forecast: Light to moderate rain	

## NEERAJ RANKS 1 IN WORLD ATHLETICS MEN'S JAVELIN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the world number one for the first time in his career in the latest men's javelin throw rankings issued by the World Athletics.

Chopra topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's reigning world champion Anderson Peters (1433).

IN A FIRST

Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic was third with 1416 points.

The 25-year-old Chopra rose to world number two August 30 last year but was stuck behind Peters since then.

In September last year, Neeraj Chopra won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious trophy.

He won the title at the season-opening Doha Diamond League May 5 with a throw of 88.67m.

He will next compete at the FBK Games June 4 in the Netherlands, followed by the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, June 13.

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** Effecting a minor reshuffle, likely the last one before 2024 elections, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inducted three new ministers in his Cabinet.

Senior BJD MLAs Bikram Keshari Arukha, Sudam Marndi and Sarada Prasad Nayak took oath Monday as Cabinet ministers here at a swearing-in ceremony held at State Convention Centre in Lok Seva Bhawan.

Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers in presence of the Chief Minister. Several Ministers, MPs, MLAs, senior government officials were present at the swearing-in ceremony. With this, the total number of members in the Council of Ministers rose to 22 including the Chief Minister.

While Bikram Keshari Arukha was given the portfolio of Finance, Sarada Nayak was allotted the department of Labour and State Employees' Insurance and Sudam Marndi became the Minister of School and Mass Education.

Notably, Niranjana Pujari, the Minister of Finance and



Parliamentary Affairs, was given the additional responsibility of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department after the murder of former Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, January 29 last.

The department of Finance was taken out from Pujari and given to Arukha. Pujari is now left with the department of Parliamentary Affairs and Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department after the distribution of portfolios, Monday.

All three leaders had earlier served as ministers under Naveen government and were possibly re-inducted to give a better representation from Odisha's different regions and as they wield local-level influence needed to take on the BJP in crucial national and state

elections next year.

While picking up the new ministers, Patnaik has maintained a balance among the regions. While Arukha, a six-time MLA from Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district, has influence in the southern districts, Marndi is a prominent tribal leader from Mayurbhanj district in the northern part of Odisha. Nayak represents the western region of the state.

Arukha has held several positions since 2008 including government chief whip, Speaker and Minister of Rural Development, Law, Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Parliamentary Affairs, Information & Public Relations, Cooperation and Public Enterprises.

**SHOW OF SUPPORT:** Wrestler Sakshi Malik takes a selfie with supporters during wrestlers' protest against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Singh, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Monday

# State gets 3 new ministers

Finance portfolio goes to Arukha, while Marndi has been made School and Mass Education Minister and Nayak the Minister for Labour and Employees' State Insurance

POST NEWS NETWORK

It is still not clear who will be the next Speaker of the State Assembly

Similarly, Marndi has earlier served as the Minister of State for Sports & Youth Services, ST & SC Development (tribal welfare) and Revenue & Disaster Management. This time, Marndi has been elevated to Cabinet rank. Sarada Nayak had served as Minister of State for Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, Housing & Urban Development and Excise in between 2009 and 2012.

Notably, then Speaker Arukha along with two controversial ministers Samir Ranjan Dash (School and Mass Education) and Srikantha Sahu (Labour and Employees' State Insurance) had resigned from their positions, May 12. Besides, the then Health Minister Naba Kishore Das was murdered January 29 this year, creating another vacancy in the Cabinet.

However, it has not yet been made clear who will be the next Speaker of the State Assembly. The probable names making the rounds for the Speaker's post are: Prafulla Samal, Debi Prasad Mishra, Amar Prasad Satpathy, Snehangini Chhuria and Badri Narayan Patra.

Patnaik had effected a complete reshuffle of his Cabinet last time in June 2022. So, this was the second reshuffle of his Cabinet in this term.

## ‘Office of Prez reduced to tokenism under BJP’

Kharge takes a dig at the Central govt as PM, not First Citizen of India, to unveil new Parliament building

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** Days ahead of the opening of the new Parliament building, a controversy has erupted as the Congress Monday accused the government of disrespecting Constitutional propriety and demanded that President Droupadi Murmu should do the inauguration instead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said that the then President Ram Nath Kovind was not invited for the new Parliament's foundation laying ceremony in December 2020 and claimed that President Murmu is not being invited for the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

"The Modi Government has repeatedly disrespected propriety. The Office of the President of India is reduced to tokenism under the BJP-RSS Government," the Congress president said in a series of tweets.

Noting that Parliament is the supreme legislative body while the President is the highest Constitutional authority, he said she alone represents the govern-



ment, the Opposition, and every citizen alike.

"She is the First Citizen of India. Inauguration of the new Parliament building by her will symbolise the government's commitment to democratic values and Constitutional propriety," Kharge said.

Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the new Parliament building May 28 following an invitation by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and several opposition leaders have said that the President should inaugurate the new Parliament House rather than the PM. Congress senior spokesperson Anand Sharma told a press conference that the government and the Prime Minister should urge the President in this regard and she as head of the institution of Parliament be accorded that honour.

# Dusky Dharavi teen ‘sells’ luxury beauty brand

■ The brand will donate 10% of the proceeds towards Project Paathshala to provide children from underprivileged backgrounds access to education

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, May 22:** A 14-year-old girl from Mumbai's underbelly Dharavi, has shot to the spotlight as the model and veritable 'brand ambassador' for the reputed luxury beauty and cosmetics brand, 'Forest Essentials' and has become the darling of netizens.

Breaking the oomphish stereotypes, Maleesha Kharwa, a dusky, next-door girl from a humble back-

ground is now in the limelight, 'selling' the Yuvati collection and gaining in popularity on the social media. Last month, the Forest Essentials, run by an entrepreneur, Mira Kulkarni, released a video on Instagram showing the wide-eyed, modestly attired but gazing girl, entering the company outlet that had splashed her large campaign posters and photos.

Maleesha, with an innocently surprised and disbelieving expression, is seen soaking in her new-found glory as the company described her maiden trip to the store premises: "Her face lit up with pure delight. To see her dreams in front of her in sight. Maleesha's story is a beautiful reminder that dreams really do come true. #BecauseYourDreamsMatter."



The short video grabbed the attention of millions of eyeballs and almost a half-million likes, with many users gushing over her stroke of good luck and the fame she has now earned. Kulkarni, 64, the company founder and head told an in-

INCIDENTALLY, WHEN SHE WAS BARELY 10 YEARS OLD, MALEESHA WAS 'DISCOVERED' IN 2020 BY HOLLYWOOD ACTOR ROBERT HOFFMAN DURING THE SHOOT OF A MUSIC VIDEO IN MUMBAI

ternational magazine that through the Yuvati collection, they would support Maleesha's dreams and also contribute to the Project Paathshala - launched in July 2016 - to empower young minds.

The brand will donate 10 per

cent of the proceeds from the Yuvati Selection towards Project Paathshala to provide children from underprivileged backgrounds access to education with the hope of a brighter India, said the (VOGUE) magazine, quoting Kulkarni.

Incidentally, when she was barely 10 years old, Maleesha was 'discovered' in 2020 by Hollywood actor Robert Hoffman during the shoot of a music video in Mumbai.

Later, he started an Instagram account and a 'GoFundMe' page for Maleesha, which soon built up over nearly 300,000 followers, with many becoming her fans. Maleesha's simple but charming personality coupled with her tanned good looks have bagged her several modelling assignments, including the latest with Forest Essentials.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

The day may start with a dilemma, but that's exactly how your skills will come into play. As evening approaches, you will be applauded for your outstanding performance. If Ganesh is particularly generous today, you may sign new agreements.

TAURUS

Priorities and money matters will line up impatiently to knock on your door (and desk). Your financial constraints will get an outburst today. People may be taken by surprise with the way you get poignant. You will also enjoy the higher accountability reposed on you, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today, you will get an opportunity to rejuvenate yourself with seamless energy. How? Ganesh's guess is that you will find — or at least you will believe that you have found — your purpose in life. It will keep you excited throughout the day, and maybe even for days to come. You may spend lavishly to improve your personal appearance. Such expenditures are only an investment, feels Ganesh.

CANCER

Ganesh believes that today you may have to take certain financial decisions at home as well as at work. If you are in-charge of a certain project, you will trust the judgement of those working on it, mostly because they have been hand-picked by you.

LEO

You are blessed with a visionary's creative streak. Perhaps, that's why, you see things differently from others. Today, thanks to the stars, your creative side will surge forth with renewed vigour. You will generate ideas effortlessly and continuously as you reach your creative peak.

VIRGO

There will be dirt on your shoulder today, so dust it off, says Ganesh. Because every time you fall you will get up stronger than before. Your logic and analytical skills will help you find the necessary precision to accomplish tasks at work. You may spend the evening with a close friend or your beloved, engrossed in a stimulating conversation.

LIBRA

There are many kinds of worries that you must equip yourself to deal with. To do this, you may have to learn and follow the basic steps of problem-analysing techniques. The steps involve obtaining facts, analysing them and then arriving at a decision based upon your observations. Most important, though, is that you must act upon the decision thus derived, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

Ganesh feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baffle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

You will discover a flair for flirting as you puppet words to your romantic will with ease and grace. Most of today will be spent in the company of a loved one, perhaps a picnic for two, or a day-long romantic date. Stay prepared for the worst as this may not necessarily blossom into a long-lasting relationship, warns Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

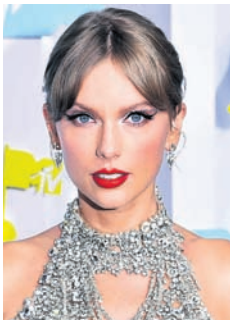
Like you weren't already overworked, new responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout the day, says Ganesh. The excitement with which you work every day will weaken, and eventually die down by the end of the day. This is mainly because you will burn your energy and resources in helping others.

AQUARIUS

You have your head on your shoulders and feet on the ground. Congratulations! You've covered the first step to success. Step two, says Ganesh, involves an inquisitive mind and a questioning attitude. Later, you may resort to shortcuts and compromise a tad in quality.

PISCES

Your fount of creativity spouts everyday like there is no tomorrow. However, you need to be organised and in position to implement all those revolutionary ideas that occur to you in a jiffy, that lesser mortals take aeons to dream up.



SWIFT DECLARES SHE'S NEVER BEEN HAPPIER

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift recently told her fans during a gig in Foxborough, Massachusetts, that she has finally reached a point where her life makes sense. She said: "I've just never been this happy in my life in all aspects of my life ever."

MARION COTILLARD SLAMS FILM INDUSTRY'S 'SICK' PREDATORS

French actress Marion Cotillard has slammed the 'sick' predators within the movie industry and admitted she was put into unwanted situations when she was starting her career. The *Little Girl Blue* actress thinks there is still a long way to go for the #MeToo movement.



She's blazed her own path, claims Sara

**Mumbai:** Actor Sara Ali Khan recently made her Cannes Film Festival debut. At the French Riviera, the actress talked about making connections in the industry independently instead of using her father Saif Ali Khan and mother Amrita Singh's help.

In an interview with a portal, the *Kedarnath* actress said that her mother rarely had friends in the industry. "Every relationship I have established in the film fraternity has been a very independent equation, which is very nice because I have never felt the pressure to follow through with my father's friends or my mother's friends," Sara said and added that she didn't

use the name of her famous parents to chalk out her journey.

"She (Amrita) says, 'Everyone has their own journey, and you should chalk out your own and this is not for me,'" recalled Sara. She further talked about her parents and said, "My father is a thinker; he is a bit of a planner; he is a traveller and I have inherited that from him. Mum is happy to be on her own and not explore much."

On the work front, Sara Ali Khan is currently promoting *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke* with Vicky Kaushal. Helmed by Laxman Utekar, the film is set to release June 2, 2023.

AGENCIES



Aditi reacts to relationship rumours

**Hyderabad:** Aditi Rao Hydari is a phenomenal actress who recently made headlines owing to her acting in the web series *Jubilee*. Besides her acting, she is making headlines for her rumoured relationship with Siddharth. The rumoured lovebirds are often spotted together at different events as well as going out for dates. Reportedly, the two are dating, although neither of them has confirmed the relationship so far. Now, at a press interaction, Aditi reacted to the rumours.

Aditi attended an event where she had a fun interaction. On being asked about her rumoured boyfriend, Aditi gave the cutest reaction. She blushed and made the gesture of crossing her hands. Then she did a zipped lips gesture to mean that she doesn't want her relationship to catch the evil eye. Well, this surely means that something is definitely going on between the lovebirds.

Ever since last year, rumours of Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth dating each other have been doing the rounds in the news. According to our sources, the duo fell in love on the sets of their film *Maha Samudram*. And ever since then, the duo have been inseparable and often spend quality time together.

AGENCIES

underlined in the play.

Apart from Dubey, others who performed on stage included Harshidsingh Thakur, Ankit Kumar, Bandit Sethi, Ayushi Rao and Naman Sen.

Theatre director Shatrughna Samal and journalist Sharmistha Panigrahi were conferred with Bidyakanak Samman.

Among the dignitaries present were Rotarian Jayshree Mohanty, playwright Maya Das, drama director Nibedita Jena and psychiatrist Dr Debadutta Mohapatra.

Suvakanta Padhi, the secretary of the hosting organisation, Bidyakana Srujanusthan, conducted the event.

PNN



A scene from the play staged at Rabindra Mandap, Monday

OP PHOTO



Nandita takes a dig at Cannes 2023 fashion

**Mumbai:** Taking place at the renowned Palais des Festivals et des Congrès in Cannes, France, the 76th annual Cannes Film Festival has attracted film enthusiasts from around the world. Though several celebs from India made their debut on the red carpet along with some legacy faces, some had criticised this year's festival for its focus on fashion.

Expressing her thoughts, *Zwigato* director Nandita Das said in her Instagram note, "Sadly, I'm missing Cannes this year. Sometimes people seem to forget that it is a festival of films and not of clothes! Considering I can't show you the amazing films I watched or the conversations I have had or take you back in time when Manto premiered there. And only the ones in Saris as there is a fair amount of chatter about the 'celebrities who wore saris in Cannes'. Well it is surely my go-to garment. Simple, elegant and Indian. Least fussy - easy to get in and get out of it!"

The Cannes Film Festival is a highly esteemed event that occurs annually in Cannes, France. Recognized as one of the most prestigious film festivals worldwide, it holds significant importance within the European film industry.

AGENCIES

FUN post

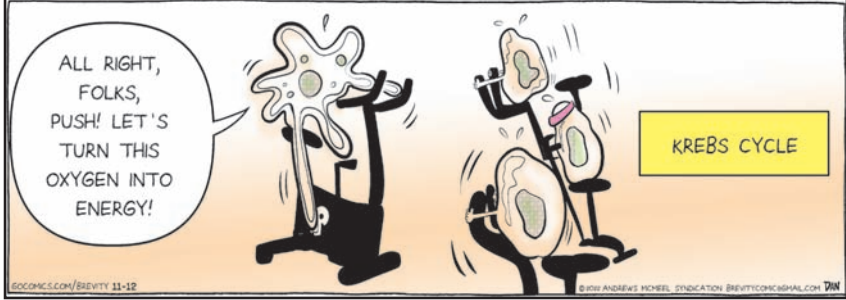
PEANUTS



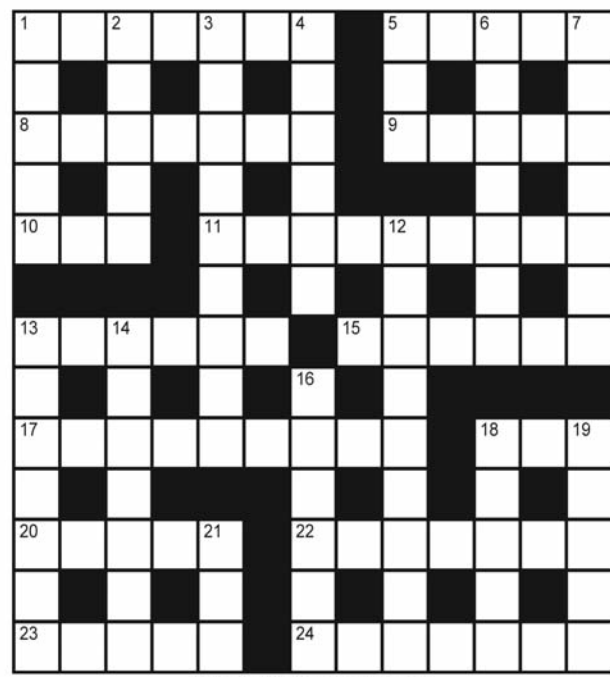
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD

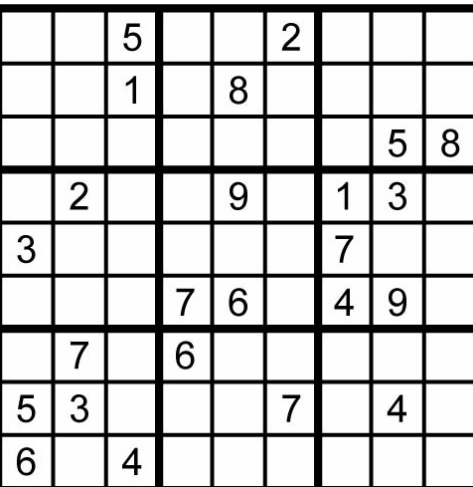


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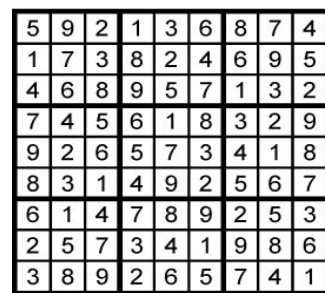
- Across**
- 1 Wasp's defense
  - 5 Fable writer
  - 8 Novice
  - 9 Arena sound
  - 10 Flock member
  - 11 Infamous
  - 13 Off the mark
  - 15 Moved on
  - 17 Type of steak
  - 18 Vatican vestment
  - 20 Marsh growth
  - 22 Effusively emotional
  - 23 Oranjestad's island
  - 24 Shake with fear
  - 5 Pendulum's path
  - 6 Try to find (4,3)
  - 7 Examined
  - 12 Saloon
  - 13 Salzburg site
  - 14 Walden author
  - 16 Fate
  - 18 Off-the-cuff remark (2-3)
  - 19 Pig out
  - 21 Jacuzzi
- Down**
- 1 Ophidian
  - 2 Nonsensical
  - 3 Thule locale
  - 4 Blue moon, e.g.

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## Free crop insurance for 3 yrs



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** Crop insurance will be completely free for farmers for the next three years, Cooperation Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak said here, Monday.

Presenting the performance of his department at a meeting reviewed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Nayak said the government will pay the farmers' share of premium (2 per cent of sum assured) for the next three years crop insurance cycle - Kharif 2023 to Rabi 2025-26.

He said crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was made optional for loanee farmers from Kharif 2020. As many as 84.45 lakh farmers' applications have been enrolled during 2022-23 under PMFBY.

During 2021-22, 31.93 lakh farmers' application count got the claim benefit and ₹1,166.02 crore of claim was paid to these farmers.

The minister said during 2023-24, the government has planned to bring more transparency in implementation of crop insurance scheme and enhance the insurance coverage to over 15 lakh farmers.

During Kharif 2022, crop loan of ₹8,710.78 crore has been disbursed to 18.02 lakh farmers. During Rabi 2022-23, crop loan to the tune of

## UTP KILLS SELF IN JHARPADA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** A female under trial prisoner (UTP) was found hanging in bathroom of the Special Jail at Jharpada here late Sunday night, an official said Monday.

The deceased, identified as Julu alias Sukanti Das, was a resident of Chandaka area here.

Sources said that some inmates of the jail spotted Sukanti hanging with her stole from ceiling of the bathroom around 12.30pm. They immediately brought her down. She was then rushed to the Capital Hospital by the prison medical officer. However, she was pronounced 'dead on arrival' at the Capital Hospital.

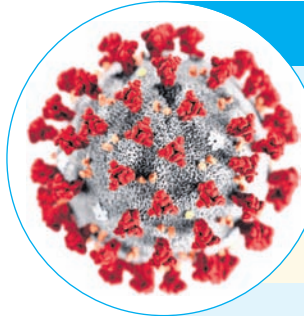
On Monday, the welfare officer of Jharpada jail informed Sukanti's family members about her death. Post-mortem was conducted in the presence of her family members who, however, refused to accept her body.

"We will again request the family members to take her body for final rituals. The cremation will be conducted by jail authorities if the family members stick to their decision," told a jail official.



### IN FULL SWING

A roopakar servitor busy at Rath Yard ahead of car festival in Puri, Monday



### COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,90,20,216	66,14,08,721	68,80,579
India	4,49,86,934	4,44,47,472	5,31,839
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

### '687 women SHGs in paddy procurement'

With participation of around 687 women self-help groups (WSHGs), Odisha is the first state to have taken the initiative of involving WSHGs in the paddy procurement process. It is also one of the first states to pioneer implementation of rice fortification programme in country, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak said here Monday while briefing the media about accomplishments of the department in the last four years. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday reviewed the targets and achievements of the FS&CW department for last four years, assessing the fulfilment of the assurances given in the manifesto.

The minister said no eligible person is left out of the food security scheme. "In order to cover more small and marginal farmers in paddy procurement operations, a robust, transparent and technology-based system has been put in place. So, in last four years, there has been 300 per cent rise in the number of marginal farmers and 60 per cent increase in number of small farmers who are selling paddy to the government and getting benefits of minimum support price (MSP) operations," he said.

ter said, has planned to link all market yards, municipal markets, krushak bazars with e-NAM. The state has also planned to set up grading and cooling infrastructure in all major production clusters of fruits, vegetables so as to reduce losses and empower Mission Shakti groups/FPOs and promote interstate trade in agriculture commodities during 2023-24.

## BSKY helps 13L families save ₹2,700 crore: Pujari

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), the state-sponsored health assurance scheme, has so far helped 13 lakh poor families save around ₹2,700 crore healthcare expenses, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Minister Niranjan Pujari said here, Monday.

Presenting the performance of his department at a meeting reviewed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Pujari said Odisha is the first and only state in the country, and perhaps the world, where all healthcare services, from OPD consultation to ICU and surgery, are provided free of charge to all in government hospitals.

Over 3.3 crore people of 96.5 lakh families have so far been covered with cashless healthcare facilities in nearly 700 premier private hospitals across 17 states. Each month, nearly 1 lakh patients receive cashless healthcare of ₹225 crore in empanelled hospitals across the country.

Each year, poor families save ₹600 crore expenditure on drugs, which is borne under Niramaya. Similarly, the people of Odisha save over ₹150 crore each year on

diagnostic expenses alone under the Nidaan scheme, he said. Pujari said that eight new medical colleges and two new post graduate institutes have been set up in Odisha the last six years.

While Odisha was producing only 321 MBBS doctors and 254 specialists per year in 2000, now 2200 MBBS doctors and 826 specialists are being produced in the state each year, he pointed out.

In 2021, the CM took a landmark decision to reserve 15 per cent of MBBS seats for students of government high schools. "It is a matter of pride for us that in the past 2 years, 415 students of government high schools have been admitted in MBBS courses," under this policy.

For transforming SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack into an AIIMS Plus facility, the state has allocated over ₹4,500 crore, the minister said.

To provide quality treatment to cancer patients, Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital with 750 beds and all modern amenities is being established in Bhubaneswar, which will become functional this year.

## Golden Baba's luxury car seized

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 22:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Monday it has seized an Audi car valued at ₹51 lakh as part of a money laundering investigation against Jyoti Ranjan Beura alias Golden Baba, an alleged fraudster based in Odisha.

The Q5 model of the German luxury car maker was recovered by the federal probe agency in the last week of April.

The money laundering case against the alleged fraudster stems from an economic offences wing (EOW) FIR and charge sheet of the Odisha Police filed on charges of fraud perpetrated by him in lieu of providing loans to the tune of ₹5.50 crore to certain businessmen in the state.

Beura, in the capacity of the sole proprietor of Jyoti Trading Co., had signed several agreements with various persons and entities to provide financial assistance in their business and received 'proceeds of crime' as advance and defrauded by 'siphoning off' the advance amount through creation of forged and fabricated documents, the ED said in a statement.

## 4 of notorious 'Bawariya' gang held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** The special squad of twin city Commissionerate Police arrested four members of notorious 'Bawariya' or 'Kachha-Banian' gang involved in a series of chain snatching cases in the City for a few months now, Monday.

The miscreants were nabbed from a hotel near the Puri railway station on their way to the City.

The arrested were identified as Pradeep Kumar, Vikash, Rabi Kumar and Babu Ram. All belong to Jhinhana region of Shaml district in Uttar Pradesh.

According to sources, the bike-borne robbers, who were active in Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, and Puri, mostly

targeted women outside of their home in the wee hours either for morning walk or to pluck flowers. And they usually tampered the number plates of their vehicles by scratching the digits to avoid identification.

"They used to keep their motorcycles in parking area and use them in morning hours to commit crime. They stayed in hotels and changed location from one city to

other after every crime to avoid police chase and arrest," an official said. The official informed that the members of the gang disposed of the stolen gold ornaments in UP and repeated the same process within a period of 15 to 20 days, using trains to travel to different parts of India.

The officials found that the dreaded criminals were involved in as many as 28 snatching cases in



the SC observed. "Such a practice leads to anomalous situation. Certain accused are granted bail whereas certain accused for the very same crime having similar role are refused bail," the SC bench said.

It quashed the January 31, 2023 order and remanded the matter back to the high court.

"The high court is requested to consider the effect of the orders passed by the other coordinate benches and pass orders afresh..." it said.

"The registrar (judicial) of the registry of this court is directed to forward a copy of this order to the registrar general of the Orissa High Court, who is requested to take note of the aforesaid and consider passing appropriate orders so that contrary orders in the same crime are avoided," the bench said.

In its January 31 order, the high court had noted that the offence relates to alleged possession and transportation of contraband 'ganja' weighing over 113 kg.

Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Bhadrak town between February 2022 and May 2023.

Notably, the gang members operate in all major cities of the country having their transit base in Delhi. And they became a headache for the twin city police after a series of snatchings in Badagada, Nayapalli, Saheed Nagar and Bharatpur areas of the City between February and May 2023.

"We appeal to the citizens not to come out in the wee hours of the day, especially alone. Please remain alert when going out for walk, plucking flower and fetching articles in the morning. Don't expose gold ornaments to avoid becoming a target of snatchers," said DCP Prateek Singh Monday.

## Improve efficiency of highway patrol teams, govt tells DGP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** In a bid to curb rising mishaps on highways, the state government has directed director general of police (DGP) Sunil Bansal to take necessary steps to enhance the performance of highway patrol teams.

Commerce and Transport Principal Secretary Usha Padhee has written a letter to the DGP in this regard, Monday.

As per the direction of the Supreme Court Committee on road safety, and for reduction of road accidents and fatalities, highway patrol has been rolled out in five vulnerable stretches of roads in the state covering 36 mini stretches. For this purpose, Rs 10 crore has been provided to the state police, Padhee said in her letter.

During a recent review meeting, the Police Commissioner has requested provision of highway patrol vehicles for the stretch from Manguli to Malipada. The Bhubaneswar DCP has also requested to provide three highway patrol vehicles for the stretches from Nakhara to Jayadev Vihar, Jayadev Vihar to Pitapalli and Hi-Tech Square to Uttara Square.

It is a fact that the stretch from Khurda to Chandikhole on NH-16 is a highly vulnerable stretch. As per road accident data, 12 per cent of road fatalities occur there out of the total fatalities in the entire stretch under the National Highways Authority of India, she said.

In this context, the Transport department has provided three more highway patrol vehicles to the Commissionerate of Police, she pointed out. As the stretches pro-

posed by the Bhubaneswar DCP are smaller in area, the deployment plan of highway patrol vehicles may be modified to cover more areas especially in Cuttack police district, Padhee said.

As per crime branch data, a total of 6,923 traffic violations have been detected by the patrol teams during March 2023.

On an average, only 6.4 cases of violations have been detected per day by each patrolling team, which is not at all satisfactory, she said.

During April 2022 to March 2023, a total of 55,007 traffic violation cases were detected by the highway patrol teams, which was not satisfactory. Therefore, the Principal Secretary requested the DGP to instruct all the SPs/DCPs to personally monitor the performance of highway patrol teams and improve their performance.



**CELESTIAL PHENOMENON:** Students and teachers of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack experience Zero Shadow Day on the varsity premises, Monday



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

CM: Foster harmonious relationship with nature



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** Protection of biological resources & biodiversity is crucial to support life on planet Earth. Let's all reaffirm pledge to foster harmonious relationship with nature and protect biodiversity for a better future for mankind, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity.

To commemorate the day, the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department Monday organised an event. Speaking on the occasion, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said, "The International Day for Biological Diversity is a UN sanctioned international day for promotion of biodiversity issues. This year's theme is "From Agreement to

Let's join hands to conserve and protect biodiversity. The department is on the path to build back the biodiversity

PRADIP KUMAR AMAT | FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTER

**Action: Build back biodiversity.** Let's join hands to conserve and protect Biodiversity. The department is on the path to build back the biodiversity."

Odisha has around 5,174 varieties of plants and 3727 variety of animals.

The state is endowed with natural resources like large rivers and dense forest which have helped in development of various livestock and poultry species with great diversity. But in recent times,

the rich biological resources of the state have come under pressure due to various anthropogenic and climatic factors. The traditional ecological knowledge associated with bio-resources of the state is declining.

The state government has recently declared the Gandhamardan Hill Range in Bargarh and Bolangir district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS), three decades after a successful people's resistance against bauxite mining in the area.

A notification issued by the State Forest, Environment and Climate Change department says, the government declared an area of 18,963.898 hectare of Gandhamardan Hill (Gandhamardan Reserve Forest) including 12,431.8 ha (Bargarh) and 6,532.098 ha (Bolangir) as BHS of Odisha.

Prior to the declaration, the Odisha Biodiversity Board had received several representations from individuals and organisations for declaring Gandhamardan as BHS. This is the third BHS of Odisha after Mandasuru Gorge in Kandhamal district and Mahendragiri Hill Range in Gajapati district.

Meanwhile, commemorating 'International Day for Biological Diversity', Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) reiterated its commitment towards creating a sustainable tomorrow with a mass plantation drive within its plant premises at Kalinganagar near Duburi in Jajpur district Monday.



**SEEKING JUSTICE:** Members of 'Zilla Stariya Milita Amala Manch' organised a press meet at Collectorate Conference Hall in Cuttack, seeking fulfillment of their demands, Monday

FICCI DELEGATION MEETS PRESIDENT



POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, May 22:** The president of The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Subhrakant Panda led a delegation to meet President of India Droupadi Murmu. They discussed FICCI's rich legacy and activities supporting Indian industry and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The President appreciated FICCI's work and shared her insights besides giving valuable guidance. Delegation members included past presidents YK Modi and Naina Lal Kidwai and Secretary General Shailesh Pathak.

Pahala confectioners to hike prices from today

**Bhubaneswar:** The Pahala Sweet Association president said that they will open the shops from Tuesday with rise in sweet prices. Pahala Sweet Traders Association were observing bandh over chenna price hike for the last three days. The association members said that earlier Chhena was being sold at ₹165 per kg but now the prices have been increased by ₹20. Hence, we are forced to hike the prices of our sweets," said Akshaya Lenka, President of Pahala Sweet Traders' Association. The association has decided to increase prices of Rasogolla to ₹6 each from ₹5 and Chhena Poda will be sold at ₹280 per kg by the traders.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit I, Bijay Kumar Behera, S/o- Amarswar Behera, of Nalco Township, Damanjodi to state that my actual name is Bijay Kumar Behera mentioned in my Aadhaar, PAN and other documents. My name is mentioned as Bijaya Kumar Behera in my Passport. That both the name Bijay Kumar Behera and Bijaya Kumar Behera belongs to one and same person i.e. myself and I intend to change my name to Bijay Kumar Behera in my Passport. Henceforth, I shall be known as Bijay Kumar Behera for all purpose. Sd./- Bijay Kumar Behera

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar on dated 20.05.2023. I have changed my name from "ALOKA KUMAR SAHOO" to "ALOK KUMAR SAHOO" for all purposes. As in my Educational Certificates my name was inadvertently recorded as ALOKA KUMAR SAHOO instead of "ALOK KUMAR SAHOO".

Naveen inaugurates ITC's consumer goods manufacturing unit in Khurda



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated ITC's integrated consumer goods manufacturing and logistics facility at Khurda.

Congratulating ITC CMD Sanjeev Puri, Patnaik urged him to expand the company's footprint in the state. He reiterated the state government's commitment to making Odisha the next industrial hub in the country.

The Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022 aims to transform Odisha into a modern and advanced industrial state by offering the investors outstanding opportunities for sustainable business growth

The unit is powered by sophisticated equipment having integrated data analytics and cutting-edge digital infrastructure

and fostering holistic socio-economic development of the people, he said. The food processing sector is one of the priority sectors in IPR 2022 and this facility by ITC marks a significant milestone for Odisha, he said.

It is the first integrated consumer goods manufacturing and logistics facility in Odisha and

it spans an area of 35 acres. The facility is strategically planned to accommodate a total of seven production lines, dedicated to producing ITC's world-class foods brands including Aashirvaad atta, Yippee! Noodles, Sunfeast biscuits and Bingo! Chips among others. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Jatni MLA Suresh Kumar Routray and Khurda MLA Jyotirindra Nath Mitra among others.

The future-ready unit is powered by sophisticated equipment having integrated data analytics and cutting-edge digital infrastructure. The Khurda facility will be employing over 55 per cent women at an overall factory level.

The company will also continue to support local entrepreneurship through multiple co-manufacturing units for its FMCG products.

The setting up of this integrated facility by ITC through the government's active support reinforces the state government's commitment to fostering industrial growth and creating employment opportunities by providing world-class investment facilitation to investors across sectors.

Heart attack patients with strong legs have better prognosis

People with strong legs are less likely to develop heart failure after a heart attack, according to research.

Myocardial infarction is the most common cause of heart failure, with around 6-9 per cent of heart attack patients going on to develop the condition. Previous research has shown that having strong quadriceps is associated with a lower risk of death in patients with coronary artery disease.

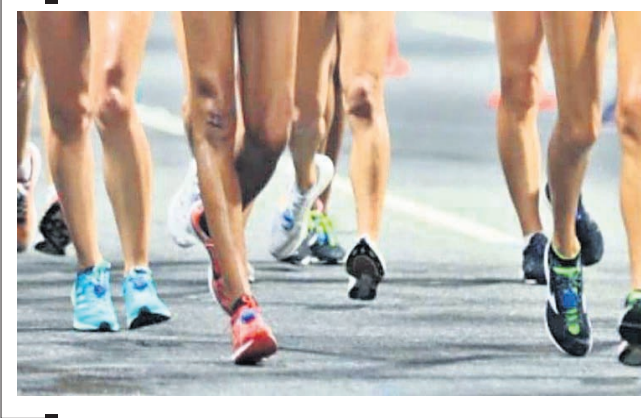
The new study, presented at the Heart Failure 2023, a scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) in Prague tested the hypothesis that leg strength is associated with a lower risk of developing heart failure after acute myocardial infarction.

"Quadriceps strength is easy

and simple to measure accurately in clinical practice. Our study indicates that quadriceps strength could help to identify patients at a higher risk of developing heart failure after myocardial infarction who could then receive more intense surveillance," said Kensuke Ueno, a physical therapist at Kitasato University's Graduate School of Medical Sciences in Japan.

The researchers included 932 patients hospitalised in 2007 to 2020 with acute myocardial infarction who did not have heart failure prior to the admission and did not develop heart failure complications during their hospital stay. The median age was 66 years and 753 participants (81 per cent) were men.

Maximal quadriceps strength was measured as an indicator of leg



strength. Patients sat on a chair and contracted the quadriceps muscles as hard as possible for five seconds. A handheld dynamometer attached to the ankle recorded the

maximum value in kg. The measurement was performed on each leg and the researchers used the average of both values.

During an average follow-up of

- ▶ Myocardial infarction is the most common cause of heart failure, with around 6-9% of heart attack patients poised to develop the condition
- ▶ Previous research showed that having strong quadriceps is associated with a lower risk of death in patients with coronary artery disease
- ▶ Compared with low quadriceps strength, a high strength level was associated with a 41% lower risk of developing heart failure

4.5 years, 67 patients (7.2 per cent) developed heart failure. The incidence of heart failure was 10.2 per 1,000 person-years in patients with high quadriceps strength and 22.9

per 1,000 person-years in those with low strength.

Compared with low quadriceps strength, a high strength level was associated with a 41 per cent lower risk of developing heart failure.

The investigators also analysed the association between quadriceps strength as a continuous variable and the risk of developing heart failure.

Each 5 per cent body weight increment in quadriceps strength was associated with an 11 per cent lower likelihood of heart failure.

While the findings need to be replicated in other studies, "they do suggest that strength training involving the quadriceps muscles should be recommended for patients who have experienced a heart attack to prevent heart failure," Ueno said.

Retina surgery performed on 3-month-old baby at KIMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** The doctors at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) have performed a complicated eye surgery on a three-month-old baby, saving the child from losing vision. The procedure was performed for the first time in any medical college-cum-hospital in Odisha.

The operation involved risk to the baby's life that is just three months and eleven days old but the team of doctors headed by KIM's Ophthalmology department's Consultant Retina Surgeon Manmath Kumar Das took this as a challenge and performed the operation on the baby.

"The baby was born premature and weighed around 1200 gm. In case of premature babies, usually the Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) screening is carried out to determine signs of ROP. This is an important test carried out to prevent blindness as they grow up. It was during this screening that that baby was diagnosed with ROP,"



said Das.

Das informed that such cases are usually found among premature babies. In this case, the baby's both eyes were diagnosed with ROP. The right eye was treated by administering injections and retinopathy surgery was performed on the left eye.

The other members of the team included Santosh Panda and Anesthesiology department's Associate Professor Saswati Das.

Das said this was the first time that such type of surgery was

carried out by a medical college-cum-hospital in Odisha because of the risk associated with it. KIMS is well-equipped with advanced equipment to perform the operation, he said.

"My baby has got a new life. I have no words to express our gratitude to the doctors and KIMS," said the mother of the baby. The KIIT, KISS and KIMS founder Achyuta Samanta hailed the team of doctors for the successful surgery as he wished for the baby's fast recovery.

Min flags off ISRO tour for YATS winners



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 22:** Science & Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Monday flagged off the voyage to the Space Applications Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Ahmedabad for the 20 prodigious winners of the Tata Steel Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) 2022-23.

The expedition, commencing from Bhubaneswar May 22 includes students from across Odisha and their guide teachers, led by the

Planetarium Director, Sanjulata Behera. It will culminate May 29.

The formal launch of the trip was organised at Pathani Samanta Planetarium in City attended by distinguished officials, including Tata Steel Corporate Communications Chief Sarvesh Kumar and Pathani Samanta Deputy Director Planetarium Subhendu Patnaik.

The top 20 winners, selected on the occasion of the grand finale of YATS December 13, 2022, will tour various SAC labs and gain insights from India's elite space scientists, nurturing their enthusiasm in the

realm of space exploration. In addition to the SAC, the students will also be visiting Science City and IIT Gandhinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Panda said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the 20 outstanding students who emerged victorious in YATS, along with their dedicated teachers and supportive parents. Tata Steel and Pathani Samanta Planetarium have played a pivotal role in offering this remarkable platform to nurture the budding talents in Odisha and ignite their passion for astronomy. With this unparalleled opportunity, we anticipate the young generation will forge a brilliant path in the realm of space science and technology."

Kumar described the initiative as a distinctive endeavour. He emphasised that it inspires young learners to stretch their intellectual horizons beyond traditional academic confines and fosters the budding scientists within them.

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expressed surprise at the turn of events. He asserted that he had taken permission from both.

Police had then registered a case and asked the villagers to withdraw the boycott order and stay peacefully with Yudhistir and his family members. Both the groups had then promised not to create any disturbance by signing an undertaking. However, now the ostracisation issue has cropped up again.

# SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Regd. Office: A-54/1 & A-55/1, Dinalipi Bhawan, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003  
Email: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com, website: www.suryofoods.com,CIN - L05004OR1989PLC002264  
**Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2023**  
(Rs. In '000', except EPS)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year Ended	
		31.03.2023 (Audited)	31.12.2022 (UnAudited)	31.03.2022 (Audited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)	31.03.2022 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from operation (net)					
	Other income (net)	2,134	704	98	4,247	453
	Other Gains/(Losses)					
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	1,229	-442	-749	-1,614	-3,645
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax,(after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	1,229	-442	-749	-1,614	-3,645
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax,(after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	1,239	-442	-590	-1,604	-3,832
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1,239	-442	-590	-1,604	-3,832
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-78,446	-79,665	-76,822	-78,446	-76,822
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -	0.31	-0.11	-0.15	-0.41	-0.97
	1. Basic:	0.31	-0.11	-0.15	-0.41	-0.97
	2. Diluted:					

Note:

The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2023 have been reviewed by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on 22nd May, 2023. b) The above financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) prescribed under section 133 of the companies act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.

The full format of the financial results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2023 are available at the Company's website <http://www.suryofoods.com>,and websites of all Stock Exchanges, where the Equity shares of the Company are listed.

Place: Bhubaneswar  
Date: 22nd May, 2023


For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited  
Sd./- Amarendra Dash  
Chairman Cum Managing Director



“

My love is not a hunger of the heart, My love is not a craving of the flesh; it came to me from God, to God returns.

SRI AUROBINDO



## G7 & Ukraine War

The most symbolic element of the just concluded G7 summit in Hiroshima is that it took place in the city which, along with Nagasaki, are the only places in the world that had actually experienced the horrors that nuclear weapons can cause. A key agenda of the summit was the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war in which Russia has been constantly threatening use of its nuclear power to crush Ukraine. Some of the survivors of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima in 1945, who were interviewed by the international media on the occasion, cautioned the world against a second nuclear holocaust citing the horrific sufferings they and their families had suffered in 1945.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was invited to the summit, has for some time been performing shuttle diplomacy visiting countries in Europe and the Middle East. His presence at the G7 meeting certainly put some pressure on the countries of the block – the US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan to rally behind Ukraine in a more effective manner to confront Russia. In fact, it has increasingly become clear to Zelenskyy that it is not enough to get the West's support to his country in the fight against Russia. He also needs to convince countries, including India, which have close ties with Russia for supply of food and arms, to force Russia to stop the war. It is this reason which prompted Zelenskyy to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the summit so as to impress on him the need to support his country. It is to be noted that India has, till date, avoided any condemnation of Russia's invasion.

That the G7 summit made the Ukraine-Russia war a top item on its agenda became clear when the US President Joe Biden announced that his administration had given the go ahead for training of Ukrainian pilots in the use of US made F16 fighter jets. In fact, Zelenskyy's in-person attendance at one of the world's premier diplomatic gatherings is meant to galvanize attention on his country's 15-month fight against Russia. Even before he landed in Japan, the G7 nations had unveiled a slew of new sanctions and other measures meant to punish Moscow and hamper its war-fighting abilities.

It is this support that caused worries to both Russia and China. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticized the G7 summit for aiming to isolate both China and Russia. The task, he charged, had been set "loudly and openly" to defeat Russia on the battlefield, and then eliminate it as a geopolitical competitor. He went further to complain that the decisions taken at the summit were aimed at "the double containment of Russia and China."

China followed up Russia's belligerent response with an open threat to the bloc not to try to intimidate it. China's Foreign Ministry said time has changed and a handful of Western countries can no longer meddle in other countries' internal affairs and manipulate global affairs. In an unambiguous statement China has warned the G7 members to stop ganging up to "bludgeon other countries" and asked it to focus on addressing the various issues confronting the world.

Though the G7 summit had no specific agenda on China, the very fact that it was held in Japan and leaders of the Quad grouping – US, Japan, India and Australia - also had a meeting sent a clear message to China that they would resist any Chinese attempt to forcibly take over Taiwan. While this was happening, the 18th India-China Corps Commander level meeting had a proposal pushed by China's PLA to create a 15-20 km wide Buffer zone between the two militaries. It may be noted that this whole area where China proposes the buffer zone is totally Indian territory, as claimed by sources.

There are deep lessons for India to learn from this Hiroshima meeting. Russia's invasion of Ukraine should impart the greatest learning. The inherent strength of a socially united country which had built its own military strength has helped sustain Ukraine to survive the terrible might of one of the world's most powerful armed forces for over a year. Only after it demonstrated to the world that it could withstand the invasion did friendly nations pitched in to help. US is now saying it will train Ukrainian pilots to fly F 16 jets. This help comes after more than one year of bitter war.

India has remained steadfast in its stand not to condemn the Russian invasion. Although no one has bothered to complain, the cold shouldering of India at this G-7 meet was palpable. This might have serious fall out for India in the future should China ever increase its belligerence towards India. Without strengthening the Indian military while joining Quad, the nation might be inviting trouble from the neighborhood. If China decides to undertake large scale military action against India, help from outside might be slow or extremely delayed in landing up. India's stand in relation to the Russian invasion of Ukraine may not be forgotten by the Western Bloc easily in the near future. India's diplomacy can no longer be person centric. There is no proof of it having paid any dividends yet. Rather it is on the contrary.

### WISDOM CORNER

- “

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.

MARK TWAIN
- “

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
- “

Change your opinions, keep to your principles; change your leaves, keep intact your roots.

VICTOR HUGO

### WORDSWORTH

#### Hypernova

Sometimes the super- prefix just isn't extravagant enough, or it's been used already, or linguistic inflation has set in. This term seems to be a product of all three, since it is an even more spectacular cosmic event than the well-known supernova. But perhaps the superlative is warranted in this case, as the last such event spotted from Earth was widely reported as being so intense that if it had happened near to us we would have fried (luckily, it happened long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away). Such cataclysmic explosions – the biggest bangs since the Big Bang, NASA called them, with perhaps permissible overstatement – are about a hundred times as powerful as the biggest supernovae and may be caused by the total collapse of a very large star. They have been suggested as a possible origin of intense bursts of gamma rays that have been observed by space-borne detectors since the 1970s. In January 1999 the source of one was seen for the first time as it was happening. *By this time, theorists had built up a picture in which GRBs [gamma-ray bursters] result from the collision of two high-density neutron stars or from a “hypernova” – the total collapse of a very massive star (Science, Mar. 1999). Really big stars such as Eta Carinae may go out in an even more spectacular explosion called a hypernova. Such a hypernova could produce another phenomenon known as a gamma-ray burster, which sends powerful gamma radiation out into space (Minneapolis Star Tribune, Jun. 1999).*

#### LOL

### Celebrating an event

An aged farmer and his wife were leaning against the edge of their pig-pen when the old woman wistfully recalled that the next week would mark their golden wedding anniversary.”Let's have a party, Homer,” she suggested. “Let's kill a

pig.” The farmer scratched his grizzled head. “Gee, Ethel,” he finally answered, “I don't see why the pig should take the blame for something that happened fifty years ago.”



Jagdish Rattanani

ACROSS THE DEVELOPED WORLD, NOTES ARE NOT ISSUED IN HIGHER DENOMINATIONS

# ‘GOTCHA’ POLICY

## FOCUS ECONOMY



The government is not here to catch the people unawares. A ‘gotcha’ policy will bring disaster. It presumes that people are adversaries, unworthy and unwilling or unable to cooperate for the collective good

currency note in the history of Independent India at least.

The withdrawal of the high denomination note is a step in the right direction. The high currency note was introduced as a desperate measure to fill the vacuum caused by the sucking out of almost all cash from the Indian system in a nation that till then (and even now in many parts) lives on cash transactions. Yet, it was clear early on that one purported aim of the demonetisation programme, which was to flush out black money from the system, was defeated with the introduction of the high currency note. It is easier to hoard cash when it is in a higher denomination. Consequently, any discouragement towards cash holding should mean that the bulk of the currency should be in smaller denominations. Across the developed world, notes are not issued in higher denominations. For example, in the United States, the Federal Reserve Board currently issues banknotes in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 dollars. Higher denominations were last printed in 1945 and discontinued way back in 1969.

In India, demonetisation was announced on 8 November, 2016. As of March 2017, the then newly introduced ₹2000 banknote accounted for over 50% of the value of total value of currency in cir-

ulation but just 3.3% of the total volume of currency in circulation. The note fulfilled an urgent need to feed a cash-starved nation. Over time, however, the note's commonplaceness has been brought down in a planned glide that saw the numbers - value of the notes and their volume – come down. Printing of the notes stopped in 2018-19.

This has been a case of wise and pro-people decision-making, quite the opposite of the suddenness with which some other policy measures of the government have been announced, notably demonetisation and the lockdown when COVID-19 had just begun to erupt. There are lessons to be learned from the introduction as well as the withdrawal of the ₹2000 note, the first of which is that the objective of the decision is lost when the disruption it causes is heavy. If the policy was meant to flush out black money (none of which was found), then the introduction of the high currency note was a textbook case of what is not to be done to encourage black money and hoarding, but had to be done simply to ease the immediate pain.

The second is that the government is not here to catch the people unawares. A ‘gotcha’ policy will bring disaster. It presumes that people are adversaries, unworthy and unwilling or unable to

cooperate for the collective good. Second, ‘gotcha’ policy does not consider the serious adverse impact, expected and unexpected, on the weakest sections of the population. The older citizenry who keep cash just for safety and emergency needs, the labourer who hardly has cash and must depend on his or her daily earnings to feed the family, the technology-unfriendly who do not rely on digital payments were all unintended victims of the harshness of demonetisation. Ditto was the case with the sudden lockdown, when the announcements asked people not to step out of their homes, unmindful that a large number of people do not have homes and the economy depends so much on migratory labourers who had to trek all the way back home with nothing to drink or eat, their pockets empty, their wages lost or unpaid.

Well planned and thought through policy that does not get into the trap of event creation or headline grabbing also carries the benefit of multiple pros and cons being discussed and well considered so that the final outcomes can be that much better. One of the key aspects of decision-making is to think about Gandhi's simple message in one of the last notes he left behind in 1948, expressing his deepest social thought:

“I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melt away.”

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

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## SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Walking our talk on climate action



William Ruto

AS TEMPERATURES KEEP RISING AND EMISSIONS SOAR, THE PLANET, TOO, CONTINUES TO BREAK (DANGEROUS) NEW RECORDS

Last year in Berlin, the great Kenyan long-distance runner Eliud Kipchoge broke the world marathon record, clocking 02:01:09 and beating his previous time by 30 seconds. His success has made him a legend not only in Kenya but globally. It offers a useful lesson for everyone involved in the fight against climate change. Kipchoge's winning strategy is rooted in the science of running (as well as 120 miles of hard work every week), and our own approach to the climate crisis must involve the same level of commitment and focus.

As temperatures keep rising and emissions soar, the planet, too, continues to break (dangerous) new records. But with determination and follow-through, we – together with institutional partners and other governments – can start to run faster to get ahead of the climate crisis. Success will depend on following the latest science and mobilising a joint, broad-based effort of governments and citizens.

In March, the world's top climate experts and governments signed off on the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change synthesis report. Once again, the IPCC's message was stark: Humans have permanently changed the planet, and global warming is already killing people, destroying nature, and making the world poorer. Though African countries have contributed

the least to the problem, they are bearing the brunt of the damage. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), Africa accounts for less than 3% of the world's energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, and 600 million Africans – an outrageous figure – still do not have access to electricity.

Climate change is a shared problem that the global community must solve by working together, especially given the disproportionate burden being placed on those who are least responsible. During his recent visit to Kenya, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and I held talks on ways to address the climate crisis. Through the Germany-Kenya Climate and Development Partnership, our two countries have committed to deepen our collaboration on climate-resilient development and renewable energy, including by supporting green-hydrogen production and sustainable agriculture.

We are currently a long way from limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius or even 2°C, as envisaged by the Paris climate agreement. The climate crisis will not solve itself. On the contrary, we must ensure that global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions peak before 2025 at the latest, and then fall by at least 43% by 2030.

This is the year to drive that transformation. The United Nations

Climate Change Conference this November-December (COP28) offers an opportunity to accelerate the energy transition, supercharge the growth of renewables, and commit to phase out all fossil fuels – starting with coal.

Kenya is on track to meet these goals. We already generate 92% of our power from clean sources and we have committed to achieving a 100% clean electricity network by 2030. Similarly, renewables generated 46% of Germany's electricity in 2022 and the government has committed to increase that to 80% by 2030. Critically, these commitments will not only ensure clean power and a safer environment; they will also create jobs, attract investment, and make our economies more secure and resilient in the face of volatile oil and gas prices.

But it is important that we run this race as a team. According to the IEA, the global ratio of clean-energy investments to dirty-energy investments must increase sixfold by 2030 (from 1.5:1 to 9:1).

With a strong partnership between Africa, Europe, and the rest of the international community, Kenya, with its abundant resources, can make significant contributions to decarbonization and the global transition to a net-zero economy. We must unlock climate finance and investment, so that we can harness our potential for green economic

growth. But to do that, we will need to fix the current international financial system, which has proven inadequate for dealing fairly with multifaceted global crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency to debt distress across the Global South.

The latest IPCC report is clear: climate change and insufficient adaptation and mitigation efforts are reversing development gains and undermining economic stability. But we also must remember that adaptation has limits, and that climate change is already threatening millions of peoples' lives today. As the IPCC shows, reducing GHG emissions by 43% this decade and stabilizing global warming at or below 1.5°C is still our best chance to keep the problem at a manageable scale. Kenya's climate summit in September will provide a key opportunity to showcase the continent's commitment, potential, and opportunities to deal with the climate crisis. We need all governments to step up and agree to phase out unabated fossil-fuel use. We need reforms to make our financial institutions and systems fit for purpose. And we need to take climate action seriously. In the words of Eliud Kipchoge, the key to success is to “walk your talk.”

*The writer is President of Kenya*

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## Flight of the pink note

Sir, While demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1000 notes announced by the BJP government on 8 November, 2016 was a blunder, introduction of the ₹2000 currencies following the demonetisation was an unpardonable blunder. We witnessed death of many poor and middle class people and shutting down of many small scale industries resulting in loss of employment. It was also alleged that introduction of the higher denomination of ₹2000 only helped the rich and black money holders to hoard their ill gotten money easily. We also witnessed big shots being caught with bundles and bundles of the newly released ₹2000 notes in raids conducted by investigating agencies making the common man wonder how they were able to get so much of new currency in exchange for the demonetised currencies! Seven years after the draconian demonetisation, the government has, now, announced through RBI that ₹2000 notes will not be legal tender after September, 2023. However, the ₹2000 notes have been missing in circulation for a long time giving enough clue and caution to the rich and black money holders who had stacked them and no doubt, by now they must have converted the notes into other valuable assets including gold. Once again, it is only the common man and the small traders and vendors who are going to suffer due to the latest announcement made by the consistently inconsistent and anti-people ruling dispensation.

Tharcus S. Fernando, CHENNAI

# 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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



of the day quote

DMK stalwart and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi is the architect of modern Tamil Nadu, as he introduced numerous welfare schemes with a visionary approach

**M K STALIN** | TN CM

I want to clearly say -- let them probe. They have alleged 40 per cent commission, they have to prove it with evidence now. I demand that the Congress, being in the government, to give us all the proof and show there was a 40 per cent commission

**BASAVARAJ BOMMAI** | FORMER KARNATAKA CM

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal should follow the "Sheila Dikshit model" of engaging with officers respectfully, holding dialogues with them rather than "mistreating" them, and persuading them to work for the city's advancement

**AJAY MAKEN** | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Fresh violence in Manipur

**Imphal:** In fresh violence in Manipur, two houses were torched by a mob in Imphal East district after four armed men, including a former MLA, forced people to shut their shops Monday, police officials said. However, no casualty was reported due to the arson. The empty houses were used for providing rented accommodation to people. The mob also beat up one of the miscreants while others managed to flee. Three of them were later taken into custody. Chief Minister N Biren Singh said one of the three arrested men was a former MLA of the northeastern state which was shaken by clashes between Meitei and Kuki community people since May 3.

Man arrested

**Indore:** An 80-year-old man was Monday arrested for allegedly killing his four-year-old great-grandson in Madhya Pradesh's Indore more than a month ago, police said. Shobharam Chowdhary was arrested for allegedly strangling to death his great-grandson Shreyansh at their house in Shipra police station area on April 7, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Hitika Vasal said.

Doc found dead

**Kota:** The body of an Ayurveda doctor posted at a government community health centre in the Bundi district of Rajasthan was allegedly found hanging in her house at Borkheda police station, police said Monday. The deceased was a resident of Ujjawal Vihar in Kota city and was posted as an Ayurveda doctor at a community health centre in Barundhan village in Bundi district.



There is loot going on in other states. BJP-ruled states are marked with highest levels of corruption. They are hungry wolves. And when they come they get to eat more

**ASHOK GEHLOT** | RAJASTHAN CM

CID TAKES OVER PROBE

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal Police Monday took over the probe into the explosion at an illegal fire-cracker warehouse at Maheshtala in South 24 Parganas district Sunday night, which has so far claimed three lives, including a 10-year-old child



People take rest inside a concrete pipe on a hot day in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

CHHATTISGARH LIQUOR 'SCAM'

ED attaches assets worth over ₹121 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** Assets worth more than Rs 121 crore of Anwar Dhebar, who is the elder brother of Raipur Mayor Ajaz Dhebar, IAS officer Anil Tuteja, former MD of Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Ltd. Arun Pati Tripathi and others have been attached in the alleged liquor scam-linked money laundering case, the ED said Monday.

The properties, provisionally attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), include 69 belonging to Anwar Dhebar worth Rs 98.78 crore, 14 properties of Tuteja worth Rs 8.83 crore and one asset of Tripathi, an Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer, worth Rs 1.35 crore, the federal agency said in a statement.

Tuteja is a 2003-batch IAS officer and is currently posted as the joint secretary in the state's industry and commerce department. Hotel Vennington Court in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur of Anwar Dhebar, being run under the aegis of his firm A Dhebar Buildcon, has also been attached, the Enforcement Directorate said.

Properties of Vikash Agarwal alias Subbu worth Rs 1.54 crore and 32 properties of Arvind Singh worth Rs 11.35 crore have also been attached as part of the same order. The total value of all attached properties is Rs 121.87 crore.

This money laundering case stems from a 2022 Income Tax department charge sheet filed against IAS officer Tuteja and others before a court in Delhi. Anwar Dhebar, Tripathi and two others have been arrested by the ED in this case till now.

The ED had alleged that money was "illegally" collected for "every" bottle of liquor sold in Chhattisgarh and evidence of "unprecedented" corruption and money laundering of Rs 2,000 crore generated by



an alcohol syndicate led by Anwar Dhebar had been unearthed.

It had conducted "more than 50 search operations" at various locations in Raipur and Bhillai in Chhattisgarh apart from Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and the ED had earlier said it seized movable assets worth Rs 58 crore including cash, fixed deposits, shares and jewellery.

Thus, the total seizure and attachment in the case now stand at about Rs 180 crore, it said. The ED has said that "corruption" was done in four ways as part of this alleged illegal liquor syndicate.

Part-A pertains to "commission" where the agency alleged that a bribe was collected from the distillers per case of liquor procured from them by the CSMCL. Part-B pertains to the sale of "unaccounted" 'kacha' or country liquor. Not even a single rupee reached the state exchequer and all the sale proceeds were pocketed by the syndicate and that "illegal" liquor was sold from state-run shops only, the ED has alleged.

Under Part-C of the alleged scam, the "bribes" were taken from distillers to allow them to make a cartel and have a fixed market share, the agency has alleged.

'Vast majority' of Oppn parties to meet soon: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** Bihar Chief Minister and JD (U) leader Nitish Kumar met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief Rahul Gandhi here Monday after which the leaders announced that a "vast majority" of non-BJP parties will meet to give a concrete shape to Opposition unity to take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections.

While Kumar had last month hinted that an Opposition meeting to strengthen unity could take place in Patna, there seems to be some re-think on the place with the leaders on Monday stating that a decision on it would be taken in a day or two.

Giving momentum to Opposition unity efforts, Kumar, who met Kharge and Gandhi at the AICC chief's 10 Rajaji Marg, held nearly an hour-long "extensive" deliberations over the upcoming brainstorming by top Opposition bigwigs to chalk out a joint strategy for 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"The country will be united now.



The strengthening of democracy is our message. Rahul Gandhi and I discussed the current political situation with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today and took forward the process of giving a new direction to the country," Kharge tweeted after the meeting.

Kumar was accompanied by his Janata Dal (United) president Lalan Singh and Bihar minister Sanjay Jha during the meeting. Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal was also present at the meeting.

Kumar's deputy Tejashwi Yadav

G20 meet kicks off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, May 22:** Delegates of all G20 countries, barring China, arrived in Srinagar Monday for the third working group meeting on tourism - a much-anticipated event for which authorities have made extensive security arrangements and spruced up the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegates were given a traditional Indian welcome at the Srinagar airport with performances by local artistes, and the three-day meet kicked off with a side event on 'Film Tourism for Economic Growth and Cultural Preservation'.

"All the G20 countries except China participated. This meeting had an overwhelming response. We had 61 delegates here. All countries except China are present here," India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said.

Kashmir, where tourism is a major industry, is embarking on an exciting journey with the G20 event in the Valley and it will send a strong message against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Union ministers who have been camping here

to oversee the event said.

Stringent security arrangements have been made to ensure that the event concludes incident-free. The elite National Security Guard and Marine commandoes were helping police and paramilitary forces to secure the venues including the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), while the Boulevard Road around it has been made a no-go zone for three days.

There was a massive deployment of security forces on the route taken by the delegates and the Airport Road to Dalgate stretch. Kant downplayed the absence of Chinese delegates, saying travel and tourism is a private sector activity and trade delegations from several countries had participated.

Officials said it is not that all invitees attend every meeting and some have skipped those held in other parts of the country also. Asked about the negative travel advisories of many foreign countries on Jammu and Kashmir, India's G20 Sherpa said the "officials from G7 countries were participating and they would not have come here if there were any such advisory".

parties will attend."

JD(U) chief Lalan Singh said an elaborate discussion was held on the consensus that had been forged earlier on Opposition unity."The date and place of the meeting for Opposition unity will be decided in a day or two and you will be informed," he said.

This is the second such meeting between Kumar with Kharge and Rahul Gandhi in the last one and a half months.

After the last month's meeting, the Bihar chief minister had said they will make all efforts to unite more and more parties in the country against the BJP.

Last month, Kumar had also met leaders of a host of regional parties in his bid to bring them together on one platform with the Congress to take on the BJP in the polls next year.

The JD(U) leaders had met AAP convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday at his residence here and extended "complete support" to him in the ongoing face-off with the Centre over the control of administrative services.

Honour SC verdict on Delhi services: Cong to Centre

While a united Opposition has 111 MPs in the Rajya Sabha, the ruling BJP and its allies have almost an equal number of MPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** The Congress asked the Centre Monday to honour the Supreme Court verdict on Delhi services and said a final call on supporting the legislation that seeks to replace the ordinance in Parliament would be taken after discussions with like-minded political parties.

Sources said the Congress may consider opposing a bill, when it is introduced in Parliament, seeking to replace a Union government ordinance on Delhi's services matters, but noted that a final call would be taken after consultations with other parties.

While a united Opposition has 111 MPs in the Rajya Sabha, the ruling BJP and its allies have almost an equal number of MPs. Senior Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said his party welcomed the Supreme Court decision when it came. "Today too, we have the same view that the Supreme Court decision was right. The Constitution bench has given a detailed judgment on the Delhi issue and the government should honour that," Sharma said when asked about the ordinance. The sources in the Congress, meanwhile, said the party may oppose the bill when the government brings it in Parliament to replace the ordinance.

Sharma said the government has brought an ordinance as well as sought a review of the Supreme Court's May 11 judgment.

"It is very clear that the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court had come out with a very detailed judgment and also, its interpretation of the constitutional positions and the rights of states and elected governments. It was



a larger question, it was not only limited to those parts of the judgment, not confined in my view only to Delhi, it was about India being a country," he said.

The Congress leader said under the Constitution, the government has the authority to bring an ordinance, but in this instance, it has also decided to file a petition for a review of the top court verdict.

"Since this is a Constitution bench judgment, it is only a Constitution bench which will revisit (the verdict). And we will await what the Constitution bench decides in this matter and we leave it at that," he said.

Prodded further on whether the Congress will oppose the bill to replace the ordinance, Sharma said, "Let us cross the river when it comes."

"I would expect that the Congress leadership, the Congress president, who is also the leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, and the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, along with the leaders of all other political parties, will discuss this matter as and when the session is convened, but we do hope that since it is the Constitution bench and the government has gone back there, the Supreme Court will come out with its view," he added.

FROM WALKING STICK TO BABY WALKER

EC releases fresh list of 193 free poll symbols

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** Walking stick, baby walker, air conditioner, balloon and bangles are among the 193 "free symbols" issued by the Election Commission recently for Independents and candidates of unrecognised parties to pick from.

While recognised national and state parties contest assembly and Lok Sabha elections on their symbols, Independents and candidates of unrecognised parties have to choose their symbols from the list issued by the poll panel from time to time. The fresh list issued by the EC on May 15 has 193 such "free symbols".

Among the free symbols are



walking stick, baby walker, air conditioner, balloon, bangles, wheel barrow, whistle, window, wool and needle, water melon, walnut, wallet, violin, vacuum

cleaner and trumpet.

The last part of 2023 would witness a series of assembly polls with the terms of the legislative assemblies of Mizoram, Chhattisgarh,

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana ending on different dates between December this year and January 2024.

While the term of the 40-member Mizoram assembly ends on December 17, the tenures of the Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh legislative assemblies conclude on January 3 and January 6, respectively. The tenures of the Rajasthan and Telangana assemblies end on January 14 and January 16.

Polls in these five states being held together cannot be ruled out at this stage. Besides the scheduled polls, assembly elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be ruled out this year.

Sources had earlier said that

elections in Jammu and Kashmir may be held in the summer of 2023 after winter conditions subside, and the timing would depend on the security scenario. After the conclusion of the 62-day long Amarnath Yatra from July 1 to August 31, a possible window sometime in October this year could be available for polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The terms of the legislative assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Odisha are ending on different dates in June next year. Since Lok Sabha polls are usually held in April-May, there is a likelihood that assembly elections in the three states could be held simultaneously with the parliamentary exercise.







**of the day quote**

**Amit Shah:** 'Insult to PM is insult to country'. Amitiji my understanding of the constitution is that: PM works for the country, PM is not the country. Just as: Government works for the country, government is not the country

**KAPIL SIBAL** | RAJYA SABHA MP

**Karnataka is an important southern state with people celebrating festivals of various faiths. The state has maximum number of temples and people do not hide their faith or religious inclination. Despite that, the people of Karnataka have rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP. Why is it so hard for the BJP to accept it?**

**SANJAY RAUT** | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

**I promise you that by the end of 2024, Rajasthan's roads will be made at par with those of America's. Due to these roads, Rajasthan will also become a happy and prosperous state**

**NITIN GADKARI** | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

**SHORT TAKES**

**Four dead in UP**

**Ballia (Uttar Pradesh):** At least four people drowned as a boat with 30 people, mostly women and children, capsized in river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district Monday morning, officials said. Several families had gathered at Maldepur ghat in Maldepur area to perform 'mundan' (ritual head tonsuring) of their children. The boat is said to have capsized due to overloading. District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar said that the accident occurred possibly due to malfunction in the engine of the boat.

**Four arrested**

**Chandigarh:** The Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of Punjab Police has arrested four shooters of Lawrence Bishnoi gang, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said here Monday. The accused have been identified as Mehfooz alias Vishal Khan and Manjeet Singh - both from Dera Bassi - Ankit and Goldy, both of Panchkula in Haryana. Six pistols and 26 cartridges were recovered from their possession. Yadav said following inputs, a team of AGTF under the supervision of ADGP Promod Ban and led by AIG AGTF Sandeep Goel arrested the four shooters, who were tasked by Lawrence Bishnoi to harm and attack their rival gang members.

**MP shocker**

**Bhopal:** In a shocking case in Madhya Pradesh, a police constable Monday opened fire on three persons of a family, and later his body was found on a railway track. The incident took place in Berchha village of Shajapur district. Addressing media persons, a senior police official said that upon receiving information of the shooting, a team rushed to the spot and found one person dead of bullet injuries, while the two others, including a woman, were rushed to a nearby hospital.

**13 turtles recovered**

**Lucknow:** Three persons have been arrested while trying to smuggle turtles from Etawah in Uttar Pradesh to Uttarakhand. They were arrested late on Sunday night near the Anantram toll plaza on the Etawah-Kanpur highway. A total of 13 live turtles of protected species were recovered from the accused by a joint team of the Forest Department and Special Task Force.



**The Rs 2,000 note only helped keepers of black money to hoard their money with ease**  
**P CHIDAMBARAM** | CONGRESS LEADER

**SPECIAL HAJ FLIGHTS SOON**

Air India and Air India Express will operate special Haj flights from Jaipur, Chennai, Kozhikode and Kannur, carrying around 19,000 pilgrims. The two carriers will fly close to 19,000 pilgrims to Jeddah and Medina in Saudi Arabia from the four cities



# PIL filed against exchanging ₹2,000 notes without ID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** The Delhi High Court will hear Tuesday a public interest litigation against permission to exchange Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes without obtaining any requisition slip and identity proof.

The plea was filed by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay Monday. Upadhyay mentioned the case before a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad for an urgent hearing today itself. The court, however, declined the request.

The petitioner contended in his plea that notifications by the RBI and SBI enabling exchange of Rs 2,000 currency notes without requisition slip and identity proof were arbitrary, irrational and offend Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution of India.

The petition said a large amount of currency notes has reached either individuals' locker or 'hoarded by the separatists, terrorists, Maoists, drug smugglers, mining mafias & corrupt people'.

The petition said cash transactions in high value currency are the main source of corruption and are used for illegal activities like terrorism, nexalism, separatism, radicalism, gambling, smuggling, money laundering, kidnapping, extortion, bribing and dowry, etc., and the RBI and SBI should ensure that Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes are deposited in bank accounts alone. "Recently, it was announced by



**The plea was filed by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay Monday**  
Depositing Rs 2,000 currency notes in bank accounts will ensure those having black money and disproportionate assets are identified easily, the plea said

the Centre that every family should have Aadhaar card and bank account. Therefore, why RBI is permitting to exchange Rs 2,000 banknotes without obtaining identity proof. It is also necessary to state that 80 crore BPL families receive free grains. It means 80 crore Indians rarely use Rs 2,000 banknotes. "Therefore, petitioner also seeks direction to RBI and SBI to take steps to ensure that Rs 2,000 banknotes are deposited in bank account only," the plea stated.

Depositing Rs 2,000 currency notes in bank accounts will ensure those having black money and disproportionate assets are identified easily, the plea said. On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes from

circulation, and said existing notes can either be deposited in bank accounts or exchanged by September 30. The banknotes in Rs 2,000 denomination will, however, continue to be a legal tender; the RBI said in a statement. In order to ensure operational convenience and to avoid disruption of regular activities of bank branches, the RBI said exchange of Rs 2,000 bank notes into bank notes of other denominations can be made up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time at any bank starting from May 23.

In a communication to chief general manager of all its local head offices, State Bank of India (SBI) informed that the facility of exchange of Rs 2,000 notes by public up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time will be allowed without obtaining any requisition slip.

# HC allows minor, impregnated by brother, to undergo abortion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, May 22:** The Kerala High Court has allowed medical termination of pregnancy of a minor girl who was impregnated by her own brother, saying that various social and medical complications are likely to arise if abortion was not permitted.

Justice Ziyad Rahman said that even according to the report of a medical board, constituted to examine the girl, continuation of the over 32 week pregnancy was likely to cause grave injury to the social and mental health of the 15-year old victim.

"Considering the fact, the child is born from his own sibling, various social and medical complications are likely to arise. In such circumstances, the permission as sought for by the petitioner to terminate the pregnancy is inevitable. Upon perusal of the medical report, it is evident that the child is physically and mentally fit for medical

termination of pregnancy. It is also stated that continuation of pregnancy is likely to cause grave injury to the social and mental health of the child," the court said.

It also said there was a possibility that the girl would give birth to a live baby according to the medical board. "In such circumstances, I am inclined to allow medical termination of pregnancy of the daughter of the petitioner. "Therefore, it is ordered that, respondents 4 (District Medical Officer, Malappuram) and 5 (Superintendent, Government Medical College Hospital, Manjeri) are directed to take urgent steps to medically terminate the pregnancy of the minor daughter of the petitioner without any delay," the judge said in his order dated May 19.

The court posted the matter to be taken up again a week from May 19. On the next date, a report regarding completion of the procedure has to be placed before the court, it said.



Fishermen rest on boats during the 61-day annual fishing ban in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

# Delivery man falls from 3rd floor while fleeing dog

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, May 22:** A delivery person of an e-commerce firm was injured after falling from the third floor of a building here when he tried to evade the customer's barking dog, police said.

The incident took place in an apartment at Manikonda Sunday when the delivery executive, aged 30, went there to deliver a mattress and the dog started barking at the customer's door, which was reportedly partly open, they said.

Afraid of being attacked, the man ran for safety and climbed a railing but slipped and fell on the ground from there, police said, adding that the customer and some others got him admitted to a hospital and his condition is said to be out of danger.

The delivery person suffered multiple injuries in the incident, a police official at the Raidurgam police station said. A case has been registered under the IPC section 289



(negligent conduct with respect to animal) against the dog owner, the

official said. A probe is on. Meanwhile, the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) in a release demanded that the dog owner bear the expenses of treatment of the delivery executive. In January this year, a 23-year-old food delivery executive died after he suffered critical injuries after jumping off the third floor of an apartment building here, out of fear of being attacked by a pet dog of a customer that chased him.

# IS THE RULING DIAMOND LOSING LUSTRE?

The ruling BJP which hoped for a soulful sonata this summer, post-election in Karnataka, is finding the rendition sombre if not saddening. Sombre, if it heeds the warning sign, saddening, if it does not.

The saffron set-up went hell for leather, pitching Gods into the campaign with religious fervour and came a cropper, its 'pappu'-led opponent concerned themselves with the cause of lesser mortals and savoured success. There are many lessons in this loss for the vanquished and as many for the victor but a single question occupies centre space: Is the ruling diamond losing its lustre?

For those of us in Gujarat who have watched Narendra Modi grow over the last half a century from a backroom boy to a strapping persona of the Indian political firmament, also know of his passion for singular command and control. Like a good general he leads from the front but then every frontline skirmish is not led by a corps commander nor every battle handled by an army chief. His strength lies in selection of able deputies and command of commanders.

If victories add to the aura of the party icon, defeats subtract from it as well. After losing power in

Himachal Pradesh, the severe setback in Karnataka is sticking out like a sore thumb. Like In West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and



Gujarat, the BJP hurled everything into the fight in Karnataka, a virtual 'Modi versus the rest' scenario. The Karnataka election was fought by the BJP seeking

votes for Modi's leadership of the union. The results have the potential of raising uncomfortable questions that cast a shadow on the very image that the saffron set-up hopes to encash for enhanced electoral dividends.

Elections are due this year in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. Madhya Pradesh like Karnataka had Congress in power but the BJP-ruled Centre toppled the government to install its own. With the southern state showing the way and internecine battles coming to the fore between the Congress inducted and the core-BJP cadres, the outcome is anybody's guess.

The trust factor between the Modi-ruled Centre and the Opposition ruled states is at an all time low. After the Karnataka results, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has softened her stand towards the Congress. AAP Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal has in no uncertain terms voiced before Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar the need for Opposition support for his government's ongoing tussle with the Centre and was promised the same. Kejriwal said that he will reach out to the chiefs of all Opposition parties so that any Bill brought by the Centre is defeated in the Rajya Sabha.

For the bulk of his tenure as

chief minister of Gujarat, Modi had carved out for himself an image-perception of a victim 'David' battling a corrupt and oppressive 'Goliath'-like UPA government and in the midst of this obstruction creating a Gujarat model of development. It was this image and persona which catapulted him and BJP to power at the Centre in 2014. The Bharat Jodo Yatra has not only benefited the Congress in Karnataka but it has also brought Rahul Gandhi into national reckoning as a serious political player and a determined counter-point to Modi and the politics being espoused by him and his party.



# international

## of the day quote

**Sri Lanka** would be able to complete the ongoing debt restructuring programme by September and bring the economy to a stable level

**RANIL WICKREMESINGHE** | SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

**Pakistan** is passing through unpredictable time. The situation had deteriorated to such an extent that even the decisions of judges and courts were being discarded

**IMRAN KHAN** | FORMER PAKISTAN PM

**Iran** expects the Pakistani government to beef up security along the common border as previously agreed

**NASSER KANAANI** | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

## SHORT TAKES

### 3 Palestinians killed in West Bank clashes

**Tel Aviv:** Three Palestinians were killed in an Israeli army raid in a West Bank refugee camp early Monday, Palestinian health officials said, while the Biden administration sharply condemned Israel's latest act of settlement expansion. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the three men were killed during a raid in Balata, a refugee camp near the city of Nablus. Six people were wounded, including one who was in critical condition, the ministry said. The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group with connections to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party, identified the men killed as its members.

### Imran receives luxury tax notice

**Lahore:** Pakistan Punjab excise and taxation department Monday sent a luxury tax notice to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for his Zaman Park residence in Lahore, media reports said. The department has issued a notice to Khan for payment of Pak Rs 1,440,000 for the house where he currently stays. The last date for filing the tax was May 12, but the notice was sent on Monday, The News reported.

### Imran Khan's aide arrested again

**Islamabad:** Shireen Mazari, a close aide of former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was arrested Monday, hours after she was released from a prison on the orders of a top court. The Rawalpindi bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) directed authorities to set Mazari free if she was not required under any other case. Mazari, 72, served as the minister for human rights from 2018 to 2022, under Khan's regime.

### PIO jailed

**London:** An Indian-origin woman from London has been sentenced to more than four years in prison for acting as a money and drug courier for a Buckinghamshire-based organised crime group. Mandeep Kaur of Pocklington Close was arrested in June 2020 with 50,000 pounds in cash.

### ISS welcomes 2 Saudi visitors

**Cape Canaveral:** The International Space Station (ISS) rolled out the welcome mat Monday for two Saudi visitors, including the kingdom's first female astronaut. SpaceX's chartered flight arrived at the orbiting lab less than 16 hours after blasting off from Florida. The four guests will spend just over a week there, before returning to Earth in their capsule.



**“If we do not make the changes that must be made, then who will? And if we do not make them now, then when**

**TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS** | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WHO

### S'PORE PM TESTS +VE FOR COVID

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Monday that he tested positive for Covid-19 after recent visits to South Africa and Kenya



# US debt crisis can impact world

AGENCIES

**Washington, May 22:** If the debt crisis roiling Washington were eventually to send the United States crashing into recession, America's economy would hardly sink alone.

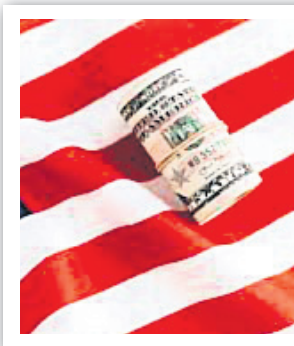
The repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would quickly reverberate around the world.

Orders for Chinese factories that sell electronics to the United States could dry up. Swiss investors who own US Treasuries would suffer losses. Sri Lankan companies could no longer deploy dollars as an alternative to their own dodgy currency.

The Republicans have threatened to let the government default on its debts by refusing to raise the statutory limit on what it can borrow unless President Joe Biden and the Democrats accept sharp spending cuts and other concessions.

Feeding the anxiety is the fact that so much financial activity hinges on confidence that America will always pay its financial obligations. Its debt, long viewed as an ultra-safe asset, is a foundation of global commerce, built on decades of trust in the United States.

A default could shatter the USD 24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and ignite an interna-



**President Joe Biden said he believes he has the legal right to invoke the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution to raise the federal government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling but does not have the time to do so**

tional crisis.

The threat has emerged just as the world economy is contending with a panoply of threats — from surging inflation and interest rates to the ongoing repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the tightening grip of authoritarian regimes. On top of all that, many countries have grown skeptical of America's outsized role in global finance.

In the past, American political leaders generally managed to step away from the brink and raise the debt limit before it was too late. Congress has raised, revised or extended the borrowing cap 78 times since 1960, most recently in 2021.

Yet the problem has worsened. Partisan divisions in Congress have widened while the debt has grown after years of rising spending and deep tax cuts. Treasury

Secretary Janet Yellen has warned that the government could default as soon as June 1 if lawmakers don't raise or suspend the ceiling.

Treasuries are widely used as collateral for loans, as a buffer against bank losses, as a haven in times of high uncertainty and as a place for central banks to park foreign exchange reserves.

Given their perceived safety, the US government's debts — Treasury bills, bonds and notes — carry a risk weighting of zero in international bank regulations. Foreign governments and private investors hold nearly USD 7.6 trillion of the debt — roughly 31 per cent of the Treasuries in financial markets.

Because the dollar's dominance has made it the de facto global currency since World War II, it's relatively easy for the United States to borrow and finance an ever-

### Biden, McCarthy to hold pivotal meeting

**Washington:** President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are set to meet at the White House at a pivotal moment as Washington works to strike a budget compromise and raise the nation's borrowing limit in time to avert a potentially chaotic federal default. Negotiators for the White House arrived Monday back at the Capitol for talks ahead of the afternoon meeting between the Democratic president and the new Republican speaker that will be critical as they race to prevent a looming debt crisis as soon as next week. After a weekend of start-stop talks, both men have appeared upbeat as they face a deadline, as soon as June 1, when the government could run out of cash to pay its bills.

growing pile of government debt. But high demand for dollars also tends to make them more valuable than other currencies, and that imposes a cost: A strong dollar makes American goods pricier relative to their foreign rivals, leaving US exporters at a competitive disadvantage. That's one reason why the United States has run trade deficits every year since 1975.

### DATA TRANSFERS

REUTERS

**Dublin, May 22:** Meta was hit with a record 1.2 billion euro (\$1.3 billion) fine by its lead European Union privacy regulator over its handling of user information and given five months to stop transferring users' data to the United States.

The fine, imposed by Ireland's Data Protection Commissioner (DPC), came after Meta continued to transfer data beyond a 2020 EU court rul-

## Meta fined record \$1.3 bn

ing that invalidated an EU-US data transfer pact. It tops the previous record EU privacy fine of 746 million euros handed by Luxembourg to Amazon.com Inc in 2021.

The battle over where Meta's Facebook stores its data began a decade ago after Austrian privacy campaigner Max Schrems brought a legal challenge over the risk of US snooping in light of disclosures by former US National Security Agency contractor Edward

Snowden. Meta said in a statement that it will appeal the ruling, including the unjustified and unnecessary fine that sets a dangerous precedent for countless other companies. It will also seek a stay of the suspension orders through the courts. The social media giant reiterated that it expected a new pact facilitating the safe transfer of EU citizens' personal data to the United States would be fully implemented before it has to suspend transfers.

## Guyana school dormitory fire kills at least 19 children



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Georgetown, May 22:** A night-time fire raced through a dormitory in Guyana early Monday, killing at least 19 students and injuring several others at a boarding school catering to remote, mostly Indigenous villages, authorities said.

"This is a horrific incident. It's tragic. It's painful," President Irfaan Ali said, adding that his government was mobilising all possible resources to care for the children. The fire broke out shortly before midnight in the dormitory building of a secondary school in the southwestern border town of Mahdia, a gold and diamond mining community about 200 miles (320 kilometers) south of the capital, Georgetown, the government said in a statement. Officials initially said 20 students were killed but later updated the toll to 19, with several others injured.

National Security Adviser Gerald Gouveia said the figure was revised after doctors revived a very critical patient that "everyone thought was dead."

"When firefighters arrived on the scene, the building was already completely engulfed in flames," Guyana's Fire Service said in a statement. "Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the relatives and friends of those young souls," it added.



**JOVIAL MOOD:** Participants dance during a ceremony to accept new members into the Young Pioneer Organisation at Red Square in central Moscow, Russia

# Climate change to push 30% species over tipping points: Study

**THE RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT FOR MANY SPECIES THERE COULD BE AN ABRUPT LOSS OF HABITAT DUE TO FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGES**

AGENCIES

**Geneva, May 22:** Climate change is likely to abruptly push up to 30 per cent of species over tipping points as their geographic ranges reach unforeseen temperatures, according to a study.

The researchers found that if the planet warms by 1.5 degrees Celsius, 15 per cent of the species they studied will be at risk of ex-

periencing unfamiliarly hot temperatures across at least 30 per cent of their existing geographic range in a single decade.

However, this doubles to 30 per cent of species at 2.5 degrees Celsius of warming, they said. The study, published in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution, analysed data from over 35,000 species of animals — including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, corals, fish, cephalopods and plankton — and seagrasses from every continent and ocean basin, alongside climate projections running up to 2100.

The researchers investigated when areas within each species' geographical range will cross a threshold of thermal exposure, defined as the first five consecutive years where temperatures consistently exceed the most extreme monthly temperature experienced



by a species across its geographic range over recent history (1850-2014). Once the thermal exposure threshold is crossed, the animal is not necessarily going to die out, but there is no evidence that it is able to survive the higher tem-

peratures, according to the researchers.

The research projects that for many species there could be an abrupt loss of habitat due to future climate change, they said.

The researchers found a con-

# India unveils 12-point plan to deepen ties with Pacific nations



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Port Moresby, May 22:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday unveiled a 12-point development plan for the Pacific Island nations in a range of areas including healthcare, renewable energy and cyber-security as he announced that India is ready to share its capabilities with the region "without any hesitation".

Modi made the announcements on the new initiatives at the FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation) summit held at Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. "India respects your priorities. It feels proud to be your development partner. Whether it's humanitarian assistance or your development, you can count India as a reliable partner. Our perspective is based on human values," he said.

Announcing the development plan, Modi said India has decided to establish a super-specialty cardiology hospital in Fiji and will assist in setting up dialysis units in all the 14 Pacific island countries.

He also announced that sea ambulances will be provided to all the 14 Pacific island countries.

"To boost healthcare in the Pacific region, we have decided to

establish a super-specialty cardiology hospital in Fiji. This hospital will be equipped with trained staff, modern facilities, and infrastructure, and it will serve as a lifeline for the entire region," Modi said. He said the Indian government will bear the full cost of this mega greenfield project.

The prime minister also proposed to bring similar Jan Aushadhi Centers to the region.

"Through the Jan Aushadhi Scheme in India, more than 1800 high-quality generic medicines are being provided to people at affordable prices. For example, the anti-diabetes medication is available at up to 90 per cent lower cost at Jan Aushadhi Centers as compared to the market prices," he said.

"Other medicines are also available at a discounted price, ranging from 60 per cent to 90 per cent of the market cost. I propose bringing similar Jan Aushadhi Centers to your countries," he said.

He further added: "We propose establishing yoga centers in your countries to promote its benefits."

The prime minister announced that the Centre of Excellence for IT in Papua New Guinea will be upgraded and transformed into a "Regional Information Technology and Cybersecurity Hub."

## Greece faces new election in weeks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Athens, May 22:** Greece faces new national elections as early as June 25, with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis confirming Monday he would not try to build a coalition government — despite having dominated the ballot hours earlier by the most decisive margin in half a century.

It was a tantalising result for the centre-right leader: although Mitsotakis slightly expanded his New Democracy party's standing, getting double the votes of left-wing Syriza and nearly four times those of third-place Socialist Pasok, the one-off electoral law in place Sunday denied him a governing majority.

He'll now pin his hopes on a second vote — expected no later than July 2 — where the electoral system will revert to boosting the first party with a bonus of up to 50 of Parliament's 300 seats.

With 99.70% of the votes counted, New Democracy has 40.79% and 146 seats, five short of a majority winning in 58 of the country's 59 constituencies. Syriza got 20.07% and 71 seats, while Pasok came in third at 11.46%.

### 2mn killed in damages from extreme weather

**N**early 12,000 extreme weather, climate and water-related events over much of the past half-century around the globe have killed more than 2 million people and caused economic damage of \$4.3 trillion, the U.N. Weather agency said Monday. The stark recap from the World Meteorological Organization came as it opened its four-yearly congress among member countries, pressing the message that more needs to be done to improve alert systems for extreme weather events by a target date of 2027. The Geneva-based agency has repeatedly warned about the impact of man-made climate change, saying rising temperatures have increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather — including floods, hurricanes, cyclones and drought. WMO says early warning systems have helped reduce deaths linked to climate and other weather-related catastrophes.



of the day quote

The JV company (JSW Steel and JFE Steel) would further strengthen JSW Steel's position as India's leading manufacturer of advanced steel products that lead to reduced CO2 emissions and create sustainable steel solutions

JAYANT ACHARYA | MD & CEO, JSW STEEL

This surge in smartphones with ample internal storage has disrupted the micro-SD market. Conversely, the flash drive market experienced a modest YoY growth of 4 per cent

SHIPRA SINHA | LEAD ANALYST, CMR

In India, there are several challenges in air travel for businessmen in India. The high cost of aircraft ownership and monthly operations and maintenance are strong entry barriers

JOHN KURUVILLA | CO-FOUNDER & CEO, INDIAJETS

SHORT TAKES

RBI buys \$750mn in spot forex mkt

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bought \$750 million on a net basis in the spot foreign exchange market in March, data released Monday as part of the central bank's monthly bulletin showed. The RBI said it purchased \$6.91 billion and sold \$6.16 billion. In February, the central bank had bought \$254 million on a net basis in the spot market. The rupee appreciated by 0.6% against the dollar in March. The unit traded in a range of 81.6150 to 82.80. The RBI's net outstanding forward purchase stood at \$23.6 billion as of end-March, compared with a net purchase of \$20.47 billion at the end of the previous month, data released Monday showed. The central bank intervenes in the spot and forwards market to curb exchange rate volatility. The currency was at 82.8275 to the dollar Monday.

TCS partners with Google for AI

**New Delhi:** Tata Consultancy Services has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud for generative AI offerings, the company said Monday. Under the partnership, TCS will leverage Google Cloud's generative AI services to design and deploy custom-tailored business solutions for the clients. "Our launch partnership with Google Cloud on generative AI enables us to rapidly create value for our customers. TCS is investing in assets, frameworks, and talent to harness the power of generative AI to enable growth and transformation for our customers," TCS, Enterprise Growth Group, President, Krishnan Ramanujam said.

PhonePe raises \$100 million

**New Delhi:** Decacorn fintech firm PhonePe Monday said it has secured an additional \$100 million investment from General Atlantic. With this fundraising, General Atlantic and its co-investors have contributed \$550 million in the ongoing \$1 billion funding round of PhonePe at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion. "PhonePe is pleased to announce that it has secured an additional \$100 million investment from General Atlantic, a leading global growth equity firm, as part of its ongoing fundraising," said the firm.



PLI money at the rate 4-6 per cent of incremental sales could increase profit margins by 30-40 per cent, giving a considerable price advantage over others

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

BCCI ROPES IN ADIDAS AS SPONSOR

The Indian cricket board (BCCI) said Monday that German sportswear giant Adidas would become the new kit sponsor of the national team. In 2020, the BCCI had signed a three-year deal with the Mobile Premier League's sports merchandise brand MPL Sports to replace American sportswear manufacturer Nike



TCS bags ₹15K-cr BSNL deal for 4G

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 22:** Tata Consultancy Services-led consortium has bagged a ₹15,000-crore contract from BSNL to deploy 4G network for the state-run telco.

In a statement, TCS said it has received an "advance purchase order" valued over ₹15,000 crore from BSNL.



The announcement ends months of speculation around the deal, where TCS was tipped to be the front runner for the contract. The deal has been in the works for many months.

TCS is the country's largest software exporter and typically books over 5 per cent of its revenue domestically.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) provides fixed line and wireless telephony, and data services across the country barring Mumbai and New Delhi.

Private rivals of BSNL already provide 4G services and have also launched 5G offerings in select pockets of the country.

The TCS scrip was trading 0.77 per cent up at ₹3,246.55 a piece at 1045 hrs on the BSE, as against gains of 0.32 per cent on the benchmark. The order comes as India's IT services companies grapple with demand uncertainty.

₹2,000 NOTES WITHDRAWN Retailers see red in pink

Rush to exchange ₹2,000 notes spills to many routes as people are flocking to petrol pumps, jewellery and electronic shops to avoid a visit to banks

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 22:** The acceptability of pink notes in the denomination of ₹2,000 has come down drastically after the government decided to withdraw them from circulation and gave a four-month window for the same.

Retail outlets in the country are witnessing a surge in the number of receipt of such high denomination notes led by panic as people are trying to avoid standing in long queues in the banks.

In many parts of the country, medium and small shopkeepers have stopped accepting ₹2,000 notes on the excuse that they do not have the change. It is only the multi-brand showrooms that are accepting these pink notes.

"There is a sudden rush of customers who want to pay with ₹2,000 notes. Since the panic, we are also being cautious and do not want to stock up on these notes," said the owner of a grocery store.

A manager of a private sector bank's Kasba branch in south Kolkata said that, the receipts of ₹2,000 denomination notes had been marginally higher at 10, compared to seven to eight on normal working days. "The panic and rush that were witnessed after the demonetisation in 2016 were nowhere witnessed on Saturday. Probably, from Monday, the number of de-



posits of pink notes might increase," he added.

GOLD, ELECTRONIC RUSH

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to withdraw ₹2,000 currency note has triggered panic buying of gold jewellery in many cities including Delhi, Mumbai, and Surat. Jewellery shops and shops selling electronics, however, are making most of the withdrawal of this currency.

Most jewellery shops remained open Sunday to make most of the business boom. "This is also the wedding season and people feel it is safer to invest the pink currency in gold. Some of my friends are wary of depositing the ₹2000 notes in the bank - they fear it could be a trap by law enforcement agencies," said Rahul Rastogi, a jewellery

The USD/INR forward premiums, which are already low, are expected to decline further with rupee money market rates likely to drop significantly on account of excess liquidity that RBI's move will lead to

ABHISHEK GOENKA | CEO, IFA GLOBAL

shop owner in Prayagraj.

Meanwhile, electronic showrooms are also benefitting from the panic over withdrawal of pink currency. "This could be a milder form of demonetisation so I am not taking any chances. I do have ₹2,000 notes with me in sufficient number and I am buying some mobile phones and other gadgets. It is better than queuing up outside

Adani stocks surge; mcap crosses ₹10L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** Shares of all the ten listed Adani Group firms continued their rally Monday with Adani Enterprises climbing nearly 19 per cent, after a Supreme Court-appointed panel found no evidence of stock price manipulation in Adani group companies, while a separate Sebi probe into alleged violation of money flows from off-shore entities has "drawn a blank".

The stock of Adani Enterprises zoomed 18.84 per cent, the most among the group firms on the BSE. Shares of Adani Wilmar jumped 10 per cent, Adani Ports rallied 6.03 per cent, Ambuja Cements gained 5.01 per cent, Adani Power climbed 5 per cent, Adani Transmission (5 per cent), Adani Green Energy (5 per cent) and Adani Total Gas (5 per cent). NDTV advanced 4.98 per cent and ACC climbed 4.93 per cent.

The combined market valuation of the ten listed Adani Group firms reached ₹10,16,212.15 crore Monday. In two days, the combined market valuation of all the group firms jumped by ₹1,14,641.79 crore.

The six-member panel, however, said there was evidence of a build-up in short positions on Adani Group stocks ahead of the report of US-based short seller Hindenburg Research that alleged fraud, stock manipulation, and money laundering at the apples-to-port group. Profits were earned from squaring off positions after prices crashed post-publication of the damning allegations. While the report is not the final word, it certainly comes as a relief for Adani's empire.

Economy sustaining recent growth momentum, inflation slowing: RBI

RBI EXPECTS THAT INDIA'S GROWTH WILL BE DRIVEN BY PRIVATE CONSUMPTION AND REVIVAL IN RURAL DEMAND IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2023/24

REUTERS

**Mumbai, May 22:** India's economy has sustained the growth momentum seen in the last fiscal quarter of 2022/23, while latest inflation outcome has been better than forecast, the Reserve Bank of India said Monday.

Growth in the first quarter of 2023/24 is expected to be driven by private consumption, a revival in rural demand and renewed buoyancy in manufacturing on easing of input cost pressures, the central bank said in its "State of the Economy" report, published as part of its monthly bulletin.

"Investment activity is also expected to improve, drawing strength from the thrust on capital expenditure in public spending and moderation in commodity prices," it added.

India's services exports rose 13.1% on year to \$30.48 billion in March, provisional RBI data showed in early May. April services exports as per provisional govern-



HEADLINE INFLATION EASED BELOW 5 PER CENT IN APRIL 2023, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE NOVEMBER 2021

INDIA WAS THE SECOND LARGEST RECIPIENT OF FDI (\$26.2 BILLION) IN THE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY FOR THE YEAR 2022, SECOND ONLY TO THE US (\$33.8 BILLION)

ment data rose to \$30.36 billion.

The RBI said if services exports maintain their recent high momentum, the drag from net external demand should moderate through April-June 2023.

"Domestic service sector activity will continue to be led by the rebound in contact-intensive services and the resilience in construction activity," it added.

Based on partial data available for April 2023 and assuming an implied GDP growth of 5.1% for Q4 of 2022/23, the economic activity

index now casts GDP growth for Q1 2023/24 at 7.6%, RBI said.

India's annual retail inflation eased to 4.7% in April from 5.66% the previous month, data earlier this month showed.

The RBI said the inflation momentum is turning out to be softer than anticipated on account of a fall in wheat prices, the fifth consecutive monthly decline in prices of oils and fats and the third consecutive monthly decline in the prices of eggs.

"The fall in headline inflation was on account of the combined impact of monetary policy tightening, supply augmenting measures and a favourable base effect," RBI said.

India's wholesale price based inflation fell by 0.92% from the same month a year earlier, having risen 1.34% in March.

The pass-through of wholesale price movements - in deflation in April - could also contribute to the softening of retail inflation going forward, the RBI said.

INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS

NCLAT rules in favour of Go First



NCLAT's Go First bankruptcy proceeding order deals a blow for lessors looking to take away planes

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 22:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Monday upheld an NCLT order allowing crisis-hit Go First's voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings.

A two-member NCLAT bench asked several aircraft lessors of Go First opposing insolvency, to approach National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for any remedy. "The order dated May 10, 2023 allowing insolvency is upheld," said the NCLAT bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan.

The direction came on a batch of four petitions filed by aircraft lessors opposing Go First's insolvency proceedings. The lessors are SMBC Aviation Capital Ltd, GY Aviation, SFFV Aircraft Holdings and Engine

Leasing Finance BV (ELFC).

These four lessors own around 22 aircraft operated by the Wadia Group firm, which is presently going through Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

The lessors had opposed the decision of Delhi-based principal bench of NCLT, which had earlier this month allowed a voluntary insolvency plea by Go First.

NCLT had appointed an interim resolution professional (IRP) to look after the affairs of Go First and also suspended its board as part of the insolvency resolution process.

As per the provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, NCLT had put Go First under moratorium, which means that lessors are barred from taking back aircraft and creditors are restrained from taking coercive action.

NCLT in the order passed May 10, 2023, had also directed the IRP to keep the airline as a going concern and not to retrench its employees.

This was immediately challenged by SMBC Aviation Capital before NCLAT within hours of the NCLT order. Later, other lessors also moved NCLT and the appellate tribunal May 15, reserved its order.

So far this month, several lessors have approached aviation regulator DGCA for deregistration and repossession of Go First's 45 planes. Go First stopped flying May 3.

Tatas get a bite of Apple; to make high-end iPhones

AS THE IPHONE CONSUMPTION INCREASES IN THE COUNTRY, APPLE NEEDS MORE SUPPLIERS TO RAMP UP PRODUCTION HERE, AS IT REPORTEDLY AIMS TO TAKE AWAY A SIGNIFICANT CHUNK OF MANUFACTURING FROM CHINA TO COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA AND VIETNAM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 22:** With Tata Electronics now hogging the lime-light for iPhone manufacturing in India, industry experts Monday said that with their ambition on semiconductors and EVs, it only makes sense for the Tata Group to gain expertise in manufacturing high-end iPhones in the country.

Currently, iPhone 12 and iPhone SE (second generation) are being manufactured/assembled at Taiwan-based iPhone manufacturer Wistron's Karnataka factory, which Tata Electronics is set to take over soon.

Once the final takeover is done, the facility is likely to manufacture new Apple products that may

include the upcoming iPhone series.

"With the new make-in-India potentially entry to mid-level iPhone 15 series, the Tata Group will make a modest beginning in this new partnership," according to Prabhu Ram, Head, Industry Intelligence Group, CMR. "We anticipate a remarkable growth trajectory for the Tata Group in the coming years as they gain expertise and experience in high-end iPhone manufacturing," he told IANS.

In the years ahead, the Tata Group has the potential to solidify their position as a pivotal player in the iPhone manufacturing ecosystem.

Wistron's factory in Karnataka, that employs about 12,000 people, constitutes a major chunk of its business in the country.



According to reports, Wistron will be winding down its operations soon and is "likely to approach the National Company Law Tribunal and the Registrar of Companies to dissolve its India operations".

Meanwhile, the manufactur-

ing/assembly of iPhone 13 and 14 in the country will continue at Foxconn's Sriperumbudur facility on the outskirts of Chennai, according to sources.

APPLE SCALING HEIGHTS

'Make in India' shipments from

Tatas' semiconductor ambitions are serious and came at a very important juncture amid India's digital goals. First, they can leverage the semiconductor strength in their EV business and second, their chips can be aligned with Apple in the future and the learning curve will be great for them

TARUN PATHAK | RESEARCH DIRECTOR, COUNTERPOINT

Apple grew 65 per cent (on-year) by volume and 162 per cent by value, taking the brand's value share to 25 per cent in 2022, up from 12 per cent in 2021, according to

Counterpoint Research.

According to senior research analyst Prachir Singh, Apple's EMS (electronics manufacturing services) partners Foxconn Hon Hai and Wistron were the fastest growing manufacturers among the top 10 in Q4 2022 and "the growth was also fuelled by increasing exports from Apple".

Overall, iPhone exports from the country surged to cross \$5 billion (over ₹40,000 crore) in FY23.

Apple set a quarterly record in the January-March period in India and grew very strong, in double digits year-over-year, according to the company's CEO Tim Cook who was in India last month to open the first branded retail stores in Mumbai and New Delhi.



MSD'S MEN LOOK FOR THEIR MAIDEN WIN OVER HARDIK-LED GUJARAT TITANS AS THE POWERHOUSES LOCK HORNS IN IPL 2023 QUALIFIER-1 TODAY

TITANIC TEST AWAITS CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, May 22:** The astute tactician in MS Dhoni will dig deep into his reserves to counter Indian cricket's new 'Crown Prince' Shubman Gill as four-time champions Chennai Super Kings will meet their match in current title holders Gujarat Titans in Qualifier-1 of the IPL here Tuesday.

Gill, who almost single-handedly knocked out a star-studded RCB for a century for the keeps, has overshadowed Virat Kohli and will certainly force one of India's greatest captains to go back to drawing board and make plans for him.

Gill is in the midst of a dream season and what will be Dhoni's tactical ploy to stop the dashing 'Mohali Marauder' is there to be seen.

This season, Gujarat Titans haven't played at the Chepauk, which hasn't behaved in a singular manner during CSK's seven home games and that prompted head coach Stephen Fleming to raise apprehensions about what to expect.

What makes this battle even more interesting is the fact that GT is a team that seems closest to being a prototype of what CSK had been all these years in IPL. A

solid management and an administration team that stays in the background and never interferes in cricketing matters, which is left to the troika of Ashish Nehra, Gary Kirsten and Vikram Solanki.

A captain, who swears that his understanding of leadership is cut from Dhoni's 'captaincy cloth', and head coach Nehra, who just like his former teammate doesn't believe in too many changes even if a couple of games go wrong.

They don't field players based on their auction worth – remember CSK bought Krishnappa Gowtham for nearly Rs 10 crore and he got a single game as he didn't fit the combination.

Similarly, GT has current India T20 pacer Shivam Mavi on its roster for a whopping Rs 6 crore but the team management has preferred veteran

Mohit Sharma, who is executing the slower deliveries beautifully. It's all about who fits what role. So, it becomes more interesting when two teams with similar philosophy are pitted against each other. The teams who don't make long-term promises that are difficult to fulfill but focus on immediate process and know the roles of players required for slots.



For Gujarat, tackling the slowness of the Chepauk track will be a challenge and how well they negotiate Deepak Chahar's powerplay overs and Matheesha Pathirana's slingers at the back-end, will determine the outcome of the match.

And herein, Pandya and Nehra will find Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka's inputs handy as he has handled both Pathirana and spinner Maheesh Theekshana for the national team.

While Shanaka might be used more as an all-rounder, Titans depending on the toss can also try out left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore, who knows these conditions well.

There is a chance that Irishman Joshua Little will be back in playing XI in place of Shanaka and Sai Kishore comes in place of Yash Dayal.

For CSK, a good start by the crack pair of Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad will be important.

But at the Chepauk, even Ajinkya Rahane could become a factor while Shivam Dube would love to add to his 33 sixes for the season.

Conway and Gaikwad have provided brisk and substantial starts for CSK, the middle-order hasn't exactly got going. With GT bowling led by Mohammed Shami and Rashid Khan (24 wickets each so far) things won't be easy for the home team's batters, Conway and Gaikwad included.

The pitches at Chepauk so far have been a bit up and down, with a few being slow in nature while some have been good to bat on. CSK head coach Fleming said as much after the win over Delhi Capitals, claiming that the team is unsure about the conditions (at home).

If a sluggish pitch is rolled out for the match, the spinners in the two teams would have a huge part to play. If CSK has Ravindra Jadeja, Moeen Ali and Theekshana, the Titans boast of a line-up that includes Rashid and Noor Ahmad.



We didn't stop Mohun Bagan fans: KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 22:** The Kolkata Knight Riders Monday refuted claims that they stopped fans wearing the Mohun Bagan (MB) jersey during their IPL game against LSG, dubbing them "misleading".

The RP Sanjiv Goenka Group owns both LSG and MB, the century-old football club. After a section of MB fans alleged that they were not allowed to enter the Eden Gardens because their t-shirts and scarves had MB's logo on them, the KKR management denied the claims and, in a thinly veiled swipe, said the Goenka group was indulging in "ambush marketing".

"There are some misleading reports that are floating around that KKR management had stopped some fans from entering Eden



Gardens during the KKR vs LSG IPL game May 20," KKR said in a statement.

"For the record, KKR management has nothing to do with crowd management at the stadium. We were told that some ambush marketing was attempted by some vested interests, which as per IPL league policy was promptly stopped

by the IPL league Anti-Ambush Marketing team.

"KKR is grateful for the great relationship with all its fans in Kolkata and for making every game at Eden Gardens a full house. It has among the largest fan bases of any franchise and would never disrespect anyone," the city-based franchise added.

Sunday, MB accused KKR of high-handedness after their jersey-wearing fans were denied entry into the Eden Gardens. "It was a special match for the supporters of MB because LSG was wearing a new Green and Maroon Jersey," MB general secretary Debashish Dutta had said in a media release.

"But, the KKR management curtailed the freedom of the MB supporters (who are also fans of KKR and LSG) by not allowing them to enter the stadium as they were wearing the jersey of MB."

Dutta said that the KKR have hurt the sentiment of the football club's supporters. "MB Athletic Club strongly condemns this decision of KKR management or disrespecting the National Club of India and hurting the sentiment of our supporters," he had said.

GILL BACKS GT BOWLING ATTACK TO COME GOOD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, May 22:** Gujarat Titans' batting mainstay Shubman Gill feels that his recent success in international and franchise cricket is primarily due to a thorough understanding of his own game and knowing the player that he is.

"I know my game... For any player it's important to know who you are," Gill, who has a good shot at the 'Orange Cap' with 680 runs under his belt (50 short of Faf du Plessis' 730) said after his team's victory.

He also sounded a warning to Chennai Super Kings with a scintillating century and an assertion that they have a great bowling attack to challenge MS Dhoni's team "on that wicket" at Chepauk in the playoffs.

"I think we have a great bowling attack for that (Chennai) wicket. It's going to be an exciting one, playing against Chennai in Chennai. Hopefully, we'll make it to the final for the second time," Gill said at the post-match presentation.

Speaking about his century, the player of the match said, "It's all about getting a start and converting it into a big one. Thankfully, it's working out for me in the business end. You have to keep applying yourself, that's important."

Besides Gill, GT skipper Hardik Pandya also lauded his teammates for the "calmness" in the dugout. "The calmness which the boys had was terrific. We wanted to keep the momentum going. We have ticked a lot of boxes."



On Gill, the captain said, "He knows when he plays those cricketing shots, it's a different Shubman Gill. He doesn't give any chance and that gives confidence to the other batter as well."

He added, "We would have taken 197 at the start, but we didn't bowl

well. Special innings from Virat Kohli, but we went too early for the death overs. "I can't ask anything better from the boys. Last year, everything went well for us. We were expecting people to challenge us. The boys showed tremendous character."

Virat, few others to leave for WTC final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 22:** Virat Kohli will be among the first batch of India players to leave for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in London, departing in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Kohli's RCB teammate Mohammad Siraj will also board the same flight, a day after their team was knocked out of the IPL. Spinners R Ashwin and Axar Patel, and all-rounder Shardul Thakur, will also be on the flight as well as the team's support staff led by Rahul Dravid.

The two other players who complete the first list of seven cricketers are Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Umesh Yadav and Lucknow Super Giants' Jaydev Unadkat, who is recovering from a shoulder injury.

The final will be played at the Oval from June 7-11. India, who finished runners-up in 2021, will be aiming to win their first ICC trophy in 10 years. "There will be two or three departures in total. The first batch leaves at 4.30 am tomorrow (Tuesday)," said a BCCI source.



The seven players, who will stay back in India for the IPL playoffs, include skipper Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Mohammad Shami, KS Bharat and Ajinkya Rahane.

Cheteshwar Pujara is already playing county cricket in England and will link up with the squad in London.

It must be mentioned that India won't play any warm-up game as the English County Championship is on and also this being an ICC event, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is under no obligation to arrange practice matches for the visiting team.

While the majority of the Indian team players are going into the title clash after two months of IPL, only three WTC-bound Australians played in the richest T20 league. Last week, the great Ricky Ponting said the Aussies will be mentally better prepared for the final but the Indians will have valuable game time behind them.

KOHLI BACKS HIS GAME

**BANGALORE:** Pumped up after an unprecedented seventh IPL hundred, Virat Kohli took a dig at his critics who felt that he was all but over as a T20 batter, saying he is playing some of his best cricket in the shortest format. Post the T20 World Cup semifinal exit last year, there have been indications that India's T20 team would undergo a revamp and although the official line has been "workload management" of senior players, the likes of captain Rohit Sharma and Kohli himself haven't played for India in the shortest format. "I felt great. Lot of people think that my T20 cricket is declining, I don't feel like that at all. I think I am playing my best T20 cricket again," Kohli said during an interview with the BCCI's 'world feed' Sunday. "I'm just enjoying myself. This is how I play T20 cricket, I look to hit gaps, hit a lot of boundaries and then the big ones towards the end if the situation allows me to," said Kohli, who is closing in on 12,000 career T20 runs.

EYES ON ASIAD DURING PRO LEAGUE MATCHES: HARMAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, May 22:** India men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh says his side's focus will be on Asian Games, an Olympic-qualifier, as they embark on the European tour for Pro League matches, starting May 26.

The team left for London Monday for the first leg of the European tour where it will face reigning Olympic champions Belgium (May 26 and June 2) and hosts Great Britain (May 27 and June 3). They will then travel to Eindhoven for their last set of matches against the Netherlands (June 7 and 10) and Argentina (June 8 and 11).

India are currently leading the Pro League table with 19 points from eight matches in the nine-team tournament. United Kingdom too have an identical number of points but are second on the table due to an inferior goal difference.

The skipper said the matches will play a crucial role in India's preparation for the Asian Games in September, where the gold medalist will automatically qualify for



the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"We have very crucial matches coming up as we get to the business end of the Pro League season. We are in a strong position in the table so far and we will look to get as many points as possible in the remaining matches."

"We are excited about this tour as it also gives us a great opportunity to play against quality teams. These matches will be really important for us as we prepare for the all-important Asian Games scheduled later this year," said Harmanpreet.

India remained unbeaten against reigning World Champions Germany and Australia, which helped them top the points table. This will be the team's first outing under new chief coach Craig Fulton.



Kids pose with their certificates of participation after the conclusion of the Kalinga multi-sport summer camp at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Monday. The camp, which had commenced May 1, witnessed participation from over 500 kids in eight disciplines including football, athletics, judo, weightlifting, volleyball, basketball, gymnastics and kabaddi. Sports Hostel coaches imparted a fun-filled learning experience to the budding talents. The camp promoted fitness and an active lifestyle and exposed young kids to the world of sports and iconic Kalinga Stadium Sports Complex was the apt venue. Similar summer camps were hosted across district sports hostels which also saw overwhelming response from parents and kids. These summer camps received a lot of appreciation and support at the district level as well.

Sathiyani reaches pre-quarters in 2 events at Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Durban, May 22:** India's G Sathiyani advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of men's doubles and mixed doubles alongside Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra respectively at the World Table Tennis Championships here Monday.

Sathiyani and Sharath beat the Hungarian-Danish combine of Bence Majoros and Anders Lind 11-5, 11-4, 15-13 in a round of 32 contest. Later Monday, Sathiyani teamed up with Manika to outplay Brazil's Eric Jouti and Lucakumahara 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-6 in a round of 32 mixed doubles clash.

However, veteran Sharath suffered a second round loss in the singles competition to Korea's Lee Sang Su. The 56th ranked lost to the 33rd-ranked player in straight games with the scoreline reading 11-4, 13-11, 11-8, 12-10 in favour of the Korean.

Reigning national champion Sreeja Akula too exited the singles competition with a 2-11, 4-11, 2-11, 4-11 loss to world number 10 Ying Han of Germany.