

## State bans ganja at Shiva shrines

**Bhubaneswar:** The state government has banned consumption of ganja at Shiva shrines across Odisha. Following a request by Ananta Balia Trust, Culture department director Dilip Routray has asked all Collectors and SPs to take necessary measures to stop the consumption of ganja on the premises of shrines of Lord Shiva. **P3**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Lecturing democratic values to world leaders is fun. Whatever I try it in my own country, people start laughing



**AIR POLICING:** A Romanian Air Force F-16s military fighter jet, in front, and Portuguese Air Force F-16s military fighter jets participating in NATO's Baltic Air Policing Mission operate over the Baltic Sea, Lithuanian airspace **PTI PHOTO**

## Family of 4 murdered

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, May 23:** A longstanding dispute over property between two families took a gory turn, with a man killing his nephew and the latter's family members at Jhikijhiki village under Bhatli police limits in Bargarh district, an official said, Tuesday.

The incident took place late Monday night when accused Shiba Bag, 58, barged into the house of his nephew Gurudev Bag, 45, and killed the family of four with a crowbar, the official pointed out.

Police recovered the bodies of Gurudev, his wife Sibagri, 40, and their son Chudamari, 15, and daughter Sravani, 10, Bargarh sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Amrit Kumar Panda said.

"The incident seems to be fallout of a longstanding property dispute between Shiba and his nephew. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here," the SDPO pointed out.

## BARGARH SHOCKER



**APRIL 16, 2023:** A man and his two wives were found dead in a pool of blood at Akhiphuta under Bheden block of Bargarh

**OCT 30, 2022:** Four members of a family were found murdered at Jandol under Bheden block of Bargarh

Shiba has been arrested after he confessed to have killed the family of four, Panda said. According to sources, the two families were at loggerheads over construction of a toilet.

"Gurudev demolished a toilet built by Shiba Monday morning. When Shiba opposed, Gurudev hurled abuses and even threatened Shiba. With no way out, Shiba approached a few of the village elders for help. However, to no avail," Shiba's wife Parbati said.

Later, in the evening Gurudev again picked up a quarrel with Shiba. "Irrked, Shiba bludgeoned

the four to death with a crowbar late Monday night," the SDPO said quoting the accused confession.

After killing, Shiba hid the bodies at the cowshed. The matter came to the light Tuesday morning when a panicked Shiba narrated the entire episode before a few of his neighbours, who alerted the police.

A police team comprising ASP Pradyumna Kumar Mishra, the SDPO and Bhatli IIC Ranjit Nayak reached the spot with forensic officials and launched a probe.

The incident has spread shockwaves in the area.

## Ishita Kishore tops Civil Services 2022

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 23:** Women bagged the top four ranks in the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2022 with Delhi University graduate Ishita Kishore securing the first spot, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced Tuesday. Garima Lohia, Uma Harathi N and Smriti Mishra secured the second, third and fourth ranks respectively in the examination, results of which were declared Tuesday. As many as 933 candidates - 613 men and 320 women - have qualified the CSE 2022. The top 25 candidates comprise 14 women and 11 men, the commission said. **MORE P9**



Ishita Kishore

## NAVEEN LAUDS ODISHA RANKERS

**Bhubaneswar:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday congratulated the candidates from Odisha who cleared the CSE 2022. Over 20 candidates from Odisha cracked the exam. Anup Das with All India Rank-38 emerged as the topper from Odisha. Other candidates include Pranita Dash (42), Kasturi Panda (67), Siddharth Mishra (106), Soumya Ranjan Dash (136), Sonali Mishra (140), Durga Prasad Adhikary (162), Laxmipriya Upadhyaya (176), Sushree Suvangi Khuntia (248), Satya Prakash Mishra (261), Ayushi Pradhan (334), Himanshu Samanta (348), Rashmi Pradhan (405), Tejaswini Behera (516) and Rakesh Kumar Sahoo (575). **MORE P3**



Anup Das, AIR-38

## Kami scales Everest for record 28th time

AGENCIES

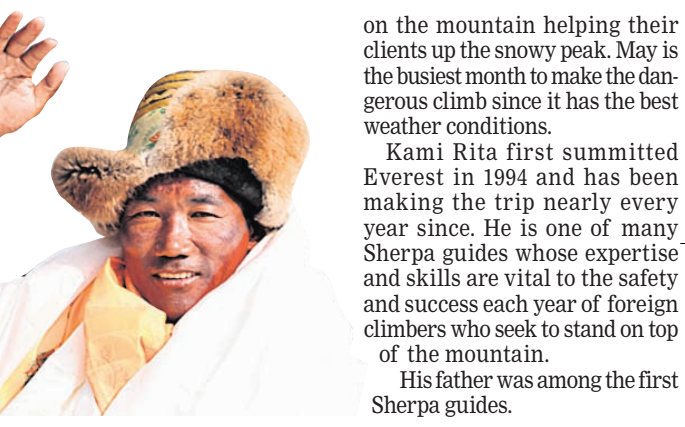
**Kathmandu, May 23:** Veteran Sherpa guide Kami Rita scaled Mount Everest for the 28th time Tuesday, beating his own record less than a week after setting it, as two guides compete with each other for the title of most climbs of the world's highest peak.

Kami Rita, considered one of the greatest mountain guides, reached the 29,032-foot summit at 9:20 am local time Tuesday, according to expedition organiser Seven Summits Treks.

His latest climb comes a day after fellow Sherpa guide Pasang Dawa matched his record of 27 trips to the summit.

The race for the title began with Pasang Dawa climbing the peak for the 26th time May 14, equalling Kami Rita's previous record. Kami Rita went on to the peak three days later for the 27th time.

With a few more days left in the spring climbing season, both Sherpa guides were



on the mountain helping their clients up the snowy peak. May is the busiest month to make the dangerous climb since it has the best weather conditions.

Kami Rita first summited Everest in 1994 and has been making the trip nearly every year since. He is one of many Sherpa guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success each year of foreign climbers who seek to stand on top of the mountain.

His father was among the first Sherpa guides.

## KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (KIIT)

Deemed to be University

(Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

20th Anniversary

Rank 1

ARISA

Tier 1

A++

ABET

IET

25 Silver Jubilee  
1997-2022  
SOIL TO SILVER

# KIITEE 2023

## APPLY ONLINE NOW

Through KIIT Websites  
[www.kiitee.ac.in](http://www.kiitee.ac.in) / [www.kiit.ac.in](http://www.kiit.ac.in)

Last Date to Apply: 4th June 2023

Date of Online Exam (Phase-3)  
**7th - 8th June 2023**

No Application / Examination Fee,  
Computer Based Online Test

Continuous learning

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

**B.Tech (4 Years) in following branches of Engineering :**

- Civil
- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Electronics & Telecommunication
- Electronics & Computer Science
- Electronics & Electrical
- Aerospace
- Mechatronics
- Mechanical (Automobile)
- Chemical Technology
- Computer Science
- Information Technology
- Computer Science & System
- Computer Science & Communication

**Bachelor Programmes :**

- B.Tech. ( Lateral Entry) (3 years)
- B.Tech & M.Tech - Biotechnology (5 Years)
- B. Arch. (5 years)
- Bachelor of Design (Fashion / Textile) (4 years)
- BA.LL.B / BBA LL.B / B.Sc. LL.B (5 years)
- Bachelor of Film & Television Production (3 years)
- Bachelor of Communication & Journalism (3 years)
- BBA (3 years)
- BCA (3 years)
- B.Sc. Computer Science (3 years)
- B.Sc. Nursing (4 years)
- BA (Hons) in English/ Economics/Sociology/Psychology/ Anthropology (3 years)
- B.Com (Hons) (3 years)

**Masters Programmes :**

- M.Sc Biotechnology (2 years)
- M.Sc. Applied Microbiology (2 years)
- M.Sc. Computer Science (2 years)
- M.Sc. Nursing (2 years)
- M.Sc. (Phy./ Chem./ Math & Data Science) (2 years)
- M.Sc (by Research - S & T Translation) (2 years)
- M.Com (2 years)
- M.Tech. (2 years)
- MCA (2 years)
- LLM (2 years)
- M. Arch (2 years)
- Int. M.Tech & Ph.D (5 years)
- Master of Communication & Journalism (2 years)
- MA in Economics (2 years)

CAMPUS PLACEMENT 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

750+ companies

6000+ job offers

95% students already placed

₹52 Lakhs highest CTC offered

2000+ paid internship opportunities

THE World University Rankings 2023

301-400  
Computer Science

401-500  
Engineering

601-800  
University Ranking

Director, Admissions : Admission Cell, Koel Campus, Po- KIIT, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha, India, Ph: 8080 735 735, Fax : 0674 - 2741465, Email : [admission@kiit.ac.in](mailto:admission@kiit.ac.in)

KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.



# leisure



## KIM SEEKS TIME TO DATE AGAIN

Model Kim Kardashian is going to take her time with dating, as there is so much for her to think about before starting a new relationship. The ex-wife of rapper Kanye West has been single since her nine-month romance with comedian Pete Davidson ended last October.

## I FEEL LIKE I AM STILL 25: HEIDI KLUM

Supermodel Heidi Klum feels like she is 25, just weeks ahead of her 50th birthday. Klum, who tied the knot with musician Tom Kaulitz, 33, in 2019, will celebrate her milestone 50th birthday June 1 and admitted that she actually feels half her age and has more energy than her husband.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You are brimming with ideas and will be ready to share them with anyone who wants to benefit from them. You are in a loving and generous mood. If you are planning to convince your grandmother to go in for a makeover at a beauty parlour, Ganesh gives you the thumbs-up.

**TAURUS**  
It is quite possible that today, you will remain decisive and determined on new joint ventures, predicts Ganesh. The results may fall below your expectations in the afternoon. Fight off stress with a candlelight dinner with your sweetheart, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
There are indications that your aggressive spirit and antagonistic trait will come to the fore today, says Ganesh. This may have a negative effect, but today you can even get away with murder! You will, in fact, get much-awaited good news at the workplace.

**CANCER**  
Far and near relatives may give you a reason to be happy today, foretells Ganesh. Although there are thick chances of you getting involved in some called for misunderstanding or conflict with your associates, you can expect to get a boost and advancement in the work arena.

**LEO**  
Do not underscore your influence and importance today, says Ganesh. You hold the key to many doors, and hence, your ability to influence people is at its strongest today. In business, this means that you have a major role to play in new deals.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh foretells that you will take a fascination for the handicrafts trade today. People will marvel at how you manage to work up that determination and devotion to work as well as at home. Ganesh suggests that you strengthen the bonds with your beloved and make hay while the sun shines.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you will like to do something special in a subject that interests you. Past incidents or memories will flash in your mind today. Today you will be able to tell what is in your heart and mind to a special person. Ganesh wishes you a happy and joyous day.

**SCORPIO**  
Today, you may be at your creative best and encourage various forms of arts. If the passion grows, you may even consider taking lessons in classical music or dance. Love is in the air during the evening. Ganesh foresees a romantic dinner and drive with your beloved.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Ganesh foresees an action-packed day for you, today. Your work may demand shooting innovative ideas to work on the new projects in the pipeline. And good news is that you will live up to your superiors' expectations. You spare some time for family, friends and relatives towards the end of the day.

**CAPRICORN**  
Today, you'll open a mix bag of surprises, opportunities, challenges, and not-so good fall of events. You'll have a tendency of letting the noticeable details fall between the cracks at work. This is certainly not a good trait to have, however, it will not harm you much. As the day progresses, you'll encounter a delightful surprise, feels Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will be on the cloud nine today! With efforts getting recognised and rewarded, you are motivated to beat your standards and raise the bar. Not that you have not worked hard, but at work, you may have to put in more efforts as your bosses expect you to be more efficient and productive.

**PISCES**  
It is a very favorable day for artists, interior designers and architects, says Ganesh. Not only will you find work but you will also be able to achieve the creative satisfaction you have been craving for in your projects.

## Bidyakanak's National Theatre Festival: Day 3



Guwahati's Seagull Theatre Tuesday presented the Hindi play *A Boring Story* at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. Dramatised and directed by Baharul Islam from an Anton Chekhov's story, the play focused on the relationship between an elderly professor and an aspiring actress as well as how they dealt with life's difficulties. Ananta Narayan Jena, MLA-Bhubaneswar (Central), Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head, Corporate Affairs, Paradeep Phosphates Limited, dramatist Samar Mudali, and Sudhakar Patri, the president of the host group Bidyakanak Srujanusthana were among the luminaries present at the event. Theatre director Sameer Mohapatra and journalist Rashmi Ranjan Swain were felicitated on the occasion.

## Kriti rues the lack of opportunities

**Mumbai:** Actor Kriti Sanon, who is known for her films like *Luka Chuppi* and *Mimi*, gets talking about being an outsider and more as she clocks nine years since she became an actor with *Heropanti* in 2014.

The *Divale* actress confesses, "Coming from a non-film background, it naturally takes time for people to recognise you. I aimed to make my name known, be associated with talent, and seek validation as an actor. This journey began with *Bareilly Ki Barfi* and *Luka Chuppi*, where I took small but promising strides. However, after *Mimi*, there was a significant transformation, earning me my first set of best actor

awards. It took a span of eight years for this accomplishment." The 32-year-old says, "I experienced numerous instances where I felt capable of achieving more, yet lacked the desired

opportunities. Being an outsider, unfamiliarity with people hindered making an immediate impact or establishing connections. Consequently, I made the most of the available options, acknowledging that not every film was exceptional but each taught me valuable lessons..." Kriti awaits for her next release *Adipurush* with Prabhas and *The Crew* with Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu. AGENCIES



## Urvashi's '₹276cr' necklace draws flak

**Mumbai:** The ongoing 76th edition of the Cannes Film Festival is witnessing the expected amount of glitz and glamour. Among the Indian attendees, Urvashi Rautela is grabbing the majority headlines. Sharing details about Urvashi's outfit, her PR firm wrote, "Dressed in a pink tulle gown designed by Paris ace designer Sima Couture and adorned with Cartier crocodile jewelry, the actress showcased her impeccable style and left everyone in awe."

Now her team has officially taken to social media and announced how the price of jewellery has increased since she donned it. Taking to their Instagram story, they wrote, "The original Crocodile necklace worn by @urvashirautela has increased its value from 200 Cr to 276Cr. It represents Rautela's tenacity & nonetheless serves as the symbol of both the challenges & success that the women face in patriarchal societies." Many netizens, however, have slammed the ac-

trix and claimed that she is wearing a cheap copy of Cartier. Reacting to Urvashi's look, one wrote, "She wore a cheap copy. Someone please tell her



she didn't wear the original Cartier necklace. Such an embarrassment," while another penned, "This is NOT the same necklace worn by Monica Bellucci." One also quipped, "The first human in history to wear such a historic piece!" AGENCIES

## I'd like to perform with Deepika: Gayle

**Mumbai:** Cricketer Chris Gayle has ventured into the music video space and has collaborated with music composer Arko Pravo Mukherjee for *Oh Fatima*. This foot tapping number is a fusion of Indian and Jamaican styles of music. Chris Gayle has crooned the number with Arko.

Speaking at the launch of the song, Chris Gayle expressed his desire to collaborate with a Hindi film actress. He shared, "If in the future, I get any music album in Bollywood, I'd like to perform with Deepika Padukone."

He also spoke about his singing aspirations and added, "My stint with India and IPL has been so memorable, and (my) natural love for music and singing is complete with *Oh Fatima*. Great song, great locations, brilliant partnership and a super collaboration with Arko and the team will be a treat for people globally."

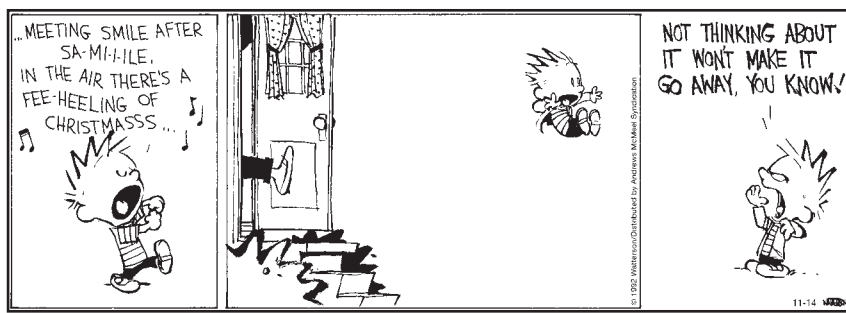
Deepika Padukone will soon be seen in Siddharth Anand helmed *Fighter*, co-starring Hrithik Roshan. The *Pathaan* actress also has *The Intern* remake in the pipeline.



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

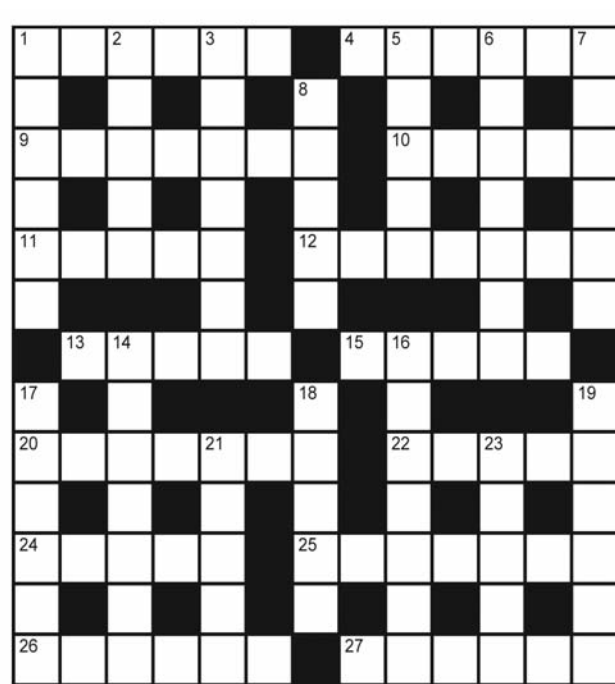


### BREVITY



### FUN post

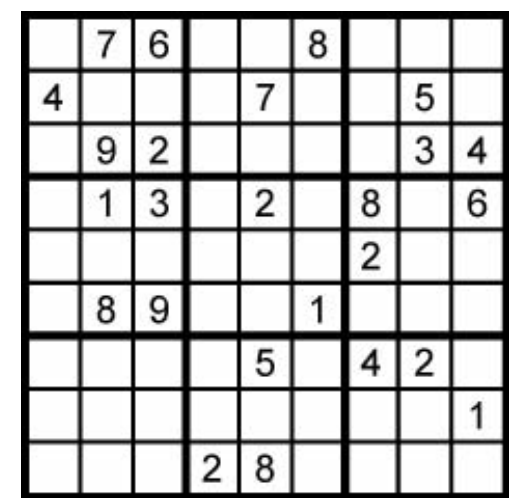
### CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Venue
  - 4 Contours
  - 9 Artic deer
  - 10 Terrace
  - 11 Navigate
  - 12 Hot spot
  - 13 Agrippina the Elder was one
  - 15 Small hill
  - 20 Collector's delight
  - 22 Surmise
  - 24 Bathroom item
  - 25 Suppress
  - 26 Dressmaker's item
  - 27 Trying experience
  - 3 West African republic
  - 5 Abnormally active
  - 6 Booby trap
  - 7 Garden tool
  - 8 Roused to anger
  - 14 Quick bread
  - 16 Nor's partner
  - 17 Minister
  - 18 Casual attire
  - 19 Savage
  - 21 Squelch
  - 23 Roughage
- Down**
- 1 Short-horned grasshopper
  - 2 Bend in the road

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD

STINGER AESOP  
NANREAREE  
AMATEUR GHEER  
KNEIKU  
EWE NOTORIOUS  
L Y O U E  
ASTRAY PARTED  
UHNKAD  
SWORDFISH ALB  
TRSDI  
REEDS MAUDLIN  
I A P E S I G  
ARUBA TREMBLE

#### SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

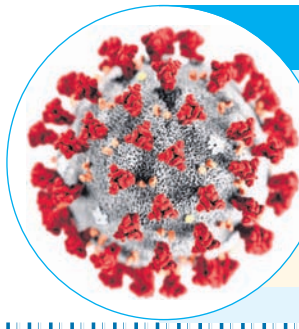


# downtown



## ON WAR PATH

The strike by 662 Plus II and Plus III Aided Non-government Lecturers and Employees Association reached 100th day Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,41,04,579	65,70,70,487	68,32,414
India	4,47,18,781	4,41,71,551	5,30,876
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

# Smart classrooms soon in 6,974 state schools

EACH OF THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE STATE WILL HAVE AT LEAST TWO TECH-ENHANCED SMART CLASSROOMS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** After its ambitious transformation of high schools, the Odisha government has now initiated steps to set up smart classrooms in 6,974 elementary and secondary schools of the state.

According to sources, the School and Mass Education department has decided to set up 13,948 smart classrooms in these 6,974 elementary and secondary schools.

For this, the Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) has invited tenders from central and state public sector undertakings (PSUs) for implementation of smart classrooms, including installation of interactive flat panels and content storage and distribution software in the schools. The selected PSU will supply, install, commission, operate & maintain the smart classrooms for a period of three years. Each school will have at least

two smart classrooms. As the main objective of the project is to enhance the teaching and learning processes, focus will be on enhanced interactivity in classroom through use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on multimedia-based content resource platforms.

Smart classrooms are technology-enhanced classrooms that encourage opportunities for teaching and learning by integrating tech-based solutions to help educators develop and share content in real-time or offline and empower students to play an active role in learning, the source explained.

To provide better infrastructure and facilities to students in government-run high schools, the state government has transformed 6,132 high schools under three phases. It is worth noting that 3,981 high schools have been transformed in the first two phases. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik very re-

**The Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC)** has invited tenders from central and state PSUs for implementation of the smart classrooms programme

**A**s objective of the project is to enhance the teaching and learning processes, focus will be on enhanced interactivity in classroom through use of information and communication technologies

cently inaugurated another 2,151 transformed high schools in the third phase.

The fourth phase of the 'High School Transformation Programme' will see the transformation of more than 1,500 high schools of the state.

Addressing the students during the inauguration of schools transformed in the third phase, Chief Minister Patnaik said the success of the students would mean the success of Odisha.

"Efforts have been made to provide all modern facilities to children at schools, giving them an opportunity to showcase their talent. As they make their families, the entire state will also take pride in their achievements in the coming days," the CM said.

The 5T action plan for the Higher Education department was introduced to ensure better service delivery to the public in the Higher Education sector:

## Man nabbed for duping his ex-employer



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a man for allegedly duping his former employer of more than ₹3 lakh.

The 30-year-old accused identified as Rama Krushna Panda is a resident of Khulada under Bhanjanagar police station in Ganjam district. Panda was arrested after a case (181/23) was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Sanjit Kumar Mohanty, who had alleged that the former was working in his construction firm a few months back. The accused had allegedly taken ₹3 lakh from him as loan on different pretexts. When Mohanty asked Panda to return the money, the latter started avoiding him and also left the job after a few months. The accused asked Mohanty January 7 to meet him at a place in Saheed Nagar area.

Accordingly, Mohanty reached the spot and told Panda to pay back the money. The accused told Mohanty that he would repay the amount which has been kept with someone. Panda later took the complainant's scooter to bring the money. However, he did not come back despite the lapse of more than four hours and went uncommunicado.

Mohanty finally sought the help of Saheed Nagar police after four months May 11, 2023. On a tip-off, the police conducted a raid and arrested the accused from his native place. The accused was Tuesday produced before the court that sent him to judicial custody.

# It needs a combination of smart and hard work: State rankers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** In the Civil Services Exam results announced by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Tuesday, over 20 aspirants from Odisha have secured top all India ranks. **Orissa POST** talks with some of these rank holders to learn about their motivations and preparation strategies.

Anup Das, who got AIR 38, says that there is no substitute to hard work. However, with hard work, the aspirants need to do smart work as well.

Anup is already serving in Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and is posted in the Income Tax department, Delhi. It is for the second time that he has cracked the civil services.

"I had first cracked the UPSC Civil Services in 2020 and again appeared after a gap of three years. There have been a lot of changes and the aspirants need to prepare keeping in mind the current scenario, competition as UPSC is also evolving and they make the exam competitive," said Das.

Similarly, Soumyanjan Dash, who got rank 136, cracked the exam in second attempt. Dash graduated from IIT Kanpur in electrical engineering and was working as software development engineer and achieved this rank in his second attempt.

Dash says he resigned last year from his job to focus fully in exam and got this result in return. He says, "I had no professional coaching support. But once I got the idea, it became easy. A lot of content is available online and the aspirants can get some idea on how to attempt the UPSC. I watched toppers' interviews and got some



**I had first cracked the UPSC Civil Services in 2020 and again appeared after a gap of three years. There have been a lot of changes and the aspirants need to prepare keeping in mind the current scenario, competition as UPSC is also evolving and they make the exam competitive**

ANUP DAS | ODISHA UPSC TOPPER

ideas and it also gave me confidence. I also identified the resources and gave multiple tests to analyse myself."

Another aspirant from Odisha, Pranita Dash, who got rank 42 and is happy that things turned out to be the way she wished, says, "One needs to understand that this is a long journey and two years of hard work is needed. I am also studying in Cambridge and appeared for the exams in between."

Taking coaching and preparing for mocks and interviews helped her to crack the UPSC exam, said Dash. Dash, who is pursuing her MPhil from Cambridge University, had completed her graduation from St Xavier's in Kolkata.

"In the last one year, I did smart work more than hard work. What to read and what not, everything is available on the internet. However, I focused on practice and revision and all credit goes to my uncle, who is a justice at Orissa High Court. He inspired me to join the government sector and serve the society. My family also supported me throughout," said Dash.

Unlike others, Tejaswini Behera, who got AIR 516, says there is scope for improvement and she will make another attempt.

"The scenario is such that a lot of students prepare for the civil services. After post-graduation, I augmented my preparations. I am hoping to get revenue service, but whatever service is given, I will give my 100 per cent," said Behera.

# Ganja ban at Shiva shrines evokes mixed reactions

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The state government's notification banning ganja or marijuana at Shiva temples across the state Tuesday evoked mixed reactions.

Opposing the decision, Congress MLA Suresh Routray said, "Bhang is offered to Lord Narayan, while ganja is offered to Lord Shiva. These are considered as prasad and should not be banned. I think it is a wrong step by the state government."

Former director general of police Gopal Chandra Nanda said that the decision will have very negligible impact on overall consumption of intoxicants as people will continue to use it in secret. "The

government should instead check the large-scale supply and consumption of alcohol and ganja and other intoxicants. Ganja and bhang are used in very small quantities at the temples as a ritual necessity and the government should not act against the custom. Besides, both bhang and ganja have medicinal value too," he added.

Editor of **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** **Tathagata Satpathy** said, "Every Odia knows it well that ganja is used as 'prasad' at Shiva temples in every village across the state. It is not an intoxicant and is integral part of Odia culture. While the government is opening liquor shops everywhere including along the highways and promoting consumption of alcohol which is the biggest cause of antisocial activities, it is banning ganja which I strongly oppose and demand immediate withdrawal of

the notification." "Not only ganja, the government should also ban liquor in the state, especially near the temples. Bol Bam devotees during Kawariya yatra are consuming ganja openly. The devotees plead that Lord Shiva consumes ganja and so do we. This is totally wrong," said Aparna Nayak, a member of Milita Odisha Nisha Nirabana Abhijan.

Welcoming the move, Padma Shri Baba Balia said, "We have written a letter to the Centre and Odisha government requesting a ban on ganja at Shiva shrines as its consumption is injurious to health. We thank the Odisha government for the move."

However, he said, there is a tradition to offer ganja or bhang to Lord Shiva in many shrines. So, bhang can be offered to the Lord at the shrines but should not be distributed among devotees for consumption, he suggested.

Meanwhile, a direction regarding strict enforcement of the ban order was issued to all district Collectors and SPs by Odia Language, Literature and

Culture department. "Ganja or marijuana can in no form be used in any Shiva temple in the state," the government informed the district enforcement authorities.

"Like the practice of animal sacrifice was banned at Bhagabati Temple in Banapur in Khurda, and subsequently it was banned in most of the temples, the restriction will be imposed on the use of ganja in all Shiva temples across Odisha," Culture Minister Ashwini Patra said.

The state government's decision came after Padma Shri Baba Balia, the head of Ananta Balia Trust, wrote to the Excise department last month to impose restrictions on the use of ganja.

He said that this kind of intoxication, which has a direct impact on the health of people, was being used in the name of 'bhog' or prasad.

While ganja is not offered to the deity at Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, it is a century-old practice observed during 'Gharsana' ritual at Akhandalamani shrine in Bhadrak. The 'bhog' is later offered to the devotees.

## Puri RTO fines bus sans permit

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 23:** Appalled by the irresponsible behaviour of a bus owner, a Twitter user from Puri had recently shared details of a bus via Twitter DM to State Transport Authority alleging that the bus (OR 09 R 1810) was plying without a permit.

Taking swift action, transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur had asked the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Puri, to probe the matter.

Puri RTO, on probing the issue, found that the bus was actually plying without permit. Moreover, the conductor did not have a valid licence. The RTO has issued a challan of ₹20,500 to the bus owner under the amended Motor Vehicles Act.

As per the challan, the bus owner was fined for plying vehicle without permit (Rs 10,000), conductor having no/expired license (Rs 10,000), and a general offence challan (Rs 500). "As under the 5T initiative, citizen centric grievance redressal is given utmost importance, STA diligently looks into all grievances received and ensures strict action is taken against vehicle owners for flouting MV rules," said an agency official.

# WORLD TURTLE DAY Odisha coast Olive Ridleys' fav: CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** On the occasion of World Turtle Day, Tuesday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said continuous conservation efforts, unflinching dedication of volunteers and awareness campaigns have made the Odisha coast a favourite rookery for Olive Ridley turtles.

Taking to social media, the Chief Minister said, "On World Turtle Day, let's all pledge to welcome them & create a safe nesting cove for the endangered species."

Odisha has a 480-km coastline and is a well known mass nesting site for Olive Ridley turtles in India. Gahirmatha, Devi rivermouth and Rushikulya are the three mass nesting sites recorded in the state.

About 6.37 lakh Olive Ridley sea turtles have arrived at Rushikulya coast this year for mass nesting, setting a new record for the beach in Odisha's Ganjam district. The aquatic species also arrive at Kendrapara's Gahirmatha beach - world's largest known rookery.

The state government has taken steps to reduce plastic pollution in

and around Gahirmatha beach as plastic bags and other items can be fatal for turtles.

Olive Ridleys dig holes on the beach with their front flippers for hours. Subsequently, they use their hind flippers to scoop out sand to create a cavity. They lay dozens of eggs at one go and cover them again with sand. Before sunrise, the turtles return to the sea, leaving behind the eggs, which would hatch after 40-60 days. The hatchlings are expected to emerge from the eggs in April and May.

Despite all the measures, human activities such as fishing, exploitation of nesting beaches for ports and tourism pose major threat to these aquatic reptiles.

Forest department staffers have recently rescued 119 turtles from a person who was found smuggling them from Kalahandi district to Raigarh in Nabarangpur district. The accused, Rajesh Das, was arrested by the Forest department sleuths.

Young climate activist Soumya Ranjan Biswal, who works for Olive Ridley safety, said, "Despite restrictions imposed on fishing and boating activities in nesting sites, many boats can be seen in these areas which needs to be stopped completely."

## The VIT-AP place for Higher Education

# ADMISSIONS OPEN - 2023

**APPLY NOW at [www.vitap.ac.in](http://www.vitap.ac.in)**

**PROGRAMMES OFFERED**

**with unique Curriculum for Outstanding Professional Success (COPS)\***

- Majors : CSE, ECE & Mech
- CSE with specialisation in Business Systems (in collaboration with TCS)

**Under Design Your Own Degree (DYOD)\* student chooses B.TECH. SPECIALISATIONS / MINORS / DOUBLE MAJOR within 4 Years**

Data Analytics, Networking and Security, Artificial Intelligence, Edge Computing, Software Engineering, Geo Informatics, Blockchain, VLSI, Embedded Systems, IoT, Computational Mathematics, Image and Video Processing, Digital Manufacturing, Robotics, Digital Marketing, Econometrics, FinTech, Corporate Law, Electrical Vehicle Technology, Performing Arts

**5-YEAR INTEGRATED PROGRAMMES (For students after their 12<sup>th</sup> Standard)**

- M.Tech Software Engineering
- M.Tech CSE (In collaboration with Virtusa)

**Ph.D PROGRAMMES**  
Engineering, Sciences | Management | Commerce  
Law | Humanities | Languages

**BUSINESS PROGRAMMES**

- B.B.A (General Management) / FinTech Digital Marketing / Business Analytics)
- B.B.A (with 2+2 option of continuing at University of Michigan at Dearborn)
- B.B.A in Business Analytics (with 2+2 option of continuing at Arizona State University)
- B.Com. (Finance)

**LAW PROGRAMMES**

- B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
- B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)

**DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES with UG Exit Option**

- B.Sc. - M.Sc. Data Science
- B.A. - M.A. Public Service with integrated training for UPSC

**PG PROGRAMMES**

- M.Tech. (VLSI Design)
- M.Sc. Data Science
- M.Sc. Physics
- M.Sc. Physics (Specialization in Energy Technologies)
- M.Sc. Chemistry Specializations : Pharmaceutical Chemistry / Analytical Chemistry)

**VITEEE ONLINE COUNSELLING DATES**

Phase-1 : 29-04-2023 to 30-04-2023 (Rank : 1 - 20000)  
Phase-2 : 10-05-2023 to 11-05-2023 (Rank : 20001 - 45000)  
Phase-3 : 21-05-2023 to 22-05-2023 (Rank : 45001 - 70000)  
Phase-4 : 01-06-2023 to 02-06-2023 (Rank : 70001 - 100000)  
Phase-5 : 13-06-2023 to 14-06-2023 (Rank : More than 1 Lakh)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**1**  
Ranked #1  
among Emerging State Private Universities in India (Outlook University Rankings 2022)

**45**  
Industry Partners

**2+2  
3+1**  
Study options in Universities abroad

**707**  
Super Dream & Dream Offers  
Data for 2023 Graduating Batch

**1519**  
Total Offers  
still counting

VIT-AP University, Beside AP Secretariat, Near Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-522237 | [admission@vitap.ac.in](mailto:admission@vitap.ac.in) | 08632370444 | 7901091283  
Hyderabad Admin Office: 4th Floor, Bansal Pride Building, Near VSR Statue, Madhapur, Hyderabad - 500081 | 04029559555 | 7901311658  
[www.vitap.ac.in](http://www.vitap.ac.in) | [vitap.university](https://www.facebook.com/vitap.university) | [vitap.university](https://www.instagram.com/vitap.university) | [vit-ap](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vit-ap) | [VITAP](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVITAP)



# State built 6,800km roads in 4 yrs: Min

Works Minister Prafulla Mallick says a promise was made in the election manifesto for 2019 to construct 1,000 km roads but roads of a total length of 6,800 km were constructed, which is exceptional and 680% above the target



Works Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick addressing media in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** With a view to strengthening road connectivity in rural areas, the state government has constructed 6,800-km roads with an investment of ₹18,500 crore since 2019.

Works Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick said this while speaking to media following a departmental review meeting by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Tuesday.

Patnaik reviewed the implementation of Election Manifesto-2019, discussed the achievements of the department in the last two decades and the last four years.

Mallick said a promise was made in the election manifesto for 2019 to construct 1,000 km roads. However, roads of a total

**CM Naveen Patnaik reviewed implementation of Election Manifesto-2019 and discussed the achievements of the Works dept in the last two decades and the last four years**

length of 6,800 km were constructed, which is exceptional and 680 per cent above the target.

The minister stated that in the last two decades, the total road length of the Works department has almost doubled from 16,041 km to 31,317 km. In the last four

# Forest cover up 893 sq km during 2019-21: Amat

**Bhubaneswar:** Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat, Tuesday presented details of transformative steps undertaken by the department during last four years for achieving the targets.

Amat said, "As per review, Odisha is amongst the top states in recording forest and tree cover increase. Between 2019 and 2021 there has been an increase of 893 square kilometers of forest and tree cover which is one of the highest in the country. The mangrove forest has expanded up to 8 square kilometers. The total forest cover of the state is 36.71 per cent."

In Eco-Tourism, 49 community managed eco-tourism sites have been developed and made operational. It has resulted in tremendous increase in the visitors' foot-fall both at national and international level. Annual revenue collection has increased and reached ₹13 crore, he informed.

Under 5-T transformative initiatives, 62 bridges have been completed for a length of 18,201 metre at a cost of ₹1,053 crore.

In the last two decades, 521 bridges have been completed including 12 bridges across river Mahanadi, five across Brahmani, six across Baitarani and three each across Budhabalanga and

Kharasrota. The minister said that 267 block headquarters have been provided with 2-lane road connectivity while 26 more block headquarters will be connected by March 2024. Remaining 21 block headquarters are targeted to be connected with 2-lane roads by June 2024.

In Geo Referencing survey of Forest land, a total of 61204 square km area of the state is being surveyed under Geo-referencing with the joint efforts of the Forest and Revenue Department. Till today, a re-notification of 260 forest blocks has been issued. Our State is the pioneer State in this regard.

Similarly, the government signed another MoU Tuesday with Nasscom to build a skilled workforce by offering the college and university students training in 'technologies of the future' through FutureSkills Prime, a joint initiative by Nasscom & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to democratise learning among students and professionals.

Both the agreements were signed in presence of Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari, principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi, and department vice-chairperson, while Infosys, Bhubaneswar, centre head Prabhakar Das, associate vice-president Hanumesh VJ, and other employees attended the former event.

In line with its ESG Vision 2030, Infosys aims to enable digital skills training at scale and empower over 10 million people in the country across the socioeconomic spectrum by 2025 through the Infosys Springboard programme.

"As part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), Infosys Springboard provides completely free curriculum-rich virtual platform that delivers corporate-grade learning experience, on any device, with closer educator-learner collaboration for students from Class-VI to lifelong learners. There are courses developed in collaboration with world-leading digital educators like Coursera, Skillsoft, Techademy, Knolskape and Harvard Business Publishing."

The students will have open access to various levels of aligned courses, they can apply for Central government incentives. They would also be able to learn and engage with Industry experts and be part of exclusive career development opportunities like job fairs, internships, hiring hackathons and skill challenges, added the official.



EVICTON DRIVE: An excavator deployed by BDA razing down unauthorised shops including boundary wall at Paika Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

# MoUs inked for a skilled workforce

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** To upskill and enhance employability of approximately 8 lakh students of 1,100 colleges and universities, the state government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) Tuesday with the information technology firm Infosys Limited.

Similarly, the government signed another MoU Tuesday with Nasscom to build a skilled workforce by offering the college and university students training in 'technologies of the future' through FutureSkills Prime, a joint initiative by Nasscom & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to democratise learning among students and professionals.

Both the agreements were signed in presence of Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari, principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi, and department vice-chairperson, while Infosys, Bhubaneswar, centre head Prabhakar Das, associate vice-president Hanumesh VJ, and other employees attended the former event.

In line with its ESG Vision 2030, Infosys aims to enable digital skills training at scale and empower over



An MoU was signed in presence of Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari and vice president and centre head of Bhubaneswar Infosys Prabhakar Das

10 million people in the country across the socioeconomic spectrum by 2025 through the Infosys Springboard programme. "As part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), Infosys Springboard provides completely free curriculum-rich virtual platform that delivers corporate-grade learning experience, on any device, with closer educator-learner collaboration for students from Class-VI to lifelong learners. There are courses developed in collaboration with world-leading digital educators like Coursera, Skillsoft, Techademy, Knolskape and Harvard Business Publishing."

The FutureSkills Prime collaboration aims to build technology

capacity in all streams with digital fluency and industry-curated content. This offers a wholesome career building programme to students to be industry-recognised Nasscom certified professionals. The focus of this partnership is to integrate emerging technology through NSQF and NOS aligned curriculum to build a future talent pool for the state," said a government official.

# Ancient idol of Buddhist pantheon found in Pipli

**Bhubaneswar:** An ancient idol of Avalokitasvara Padmapani, a god of the Buddhist pantheon, with inscriptions on its rear was found in Pipli block of Puri district recently, according to INTACH. The nearly 10-inch high idol was found in the 'garbagriha' or sanctum sanctorum of the Rasmeswar Shiva temple at Bageswarpur village, said Anil Dhir, a member of Odisha unit of INTACH. The temple priest had kept it for years on the 'singhashan' (throne) of the dieties and the idol was worshipped as 'Dhyani Mahadeva' (Mahadev or Shiva sitting in meditation), he said. Such inscribed stone images of Avalokitasvara have been found in the Ratnagiri and Udayagiri sites too. Many of them are terracotta tablets, but a stone carved image as the one found in Puri district is a rarity, especially because it is one whose inscription is clear and has not eroded, Dhir, who is leading the exploration by INTACH, said.

# Heat spell to continue for next 5 days: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** Intense heatwave condition continued to prevail in many parts of the state Tuesday with mercury breaching the 42 degrees Celsius mark at eight places. The Met department said that there will be no major change in maximum temperature at many places in Odisha during the next five days.

According to the evening bul-

letin of the regional centre of India Meteorological Department (IMD), 22 places recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degree Celsius or more Tuesday, of which eight places recorded 42 degrees or more.

Bolangir was the hottest place of the state for the day with a maximum temperature of 43.3 degree Celsius while it was 42.9 degrees at Sambalpur, 42.8 degrees at Jharsuguda, 42.6 degrees at Sonapur, 42.4 degrees at Bargarh, 42.1 degrees

at Hirakud and 42 degrees at Baripada.

The Capital city Bhubaneswar sizzled with a day temperature of 42.6 degree while Cuttack city recorded 41 degrees Celsius.

The other places those witnessed 40 degrees or more are-Sundergarh (41.8), Talcher (41.8), Angul (41.7), Rourkela (41.6), Khurda (41.5), Dhenkanal (41.4), Boudh (41), Chandbali (40.7), Kendrapara (40.6), Jajpur (40.5), Jagatsinghpur (40.4), Titlagarh (40) and Nuapada (40).



IN MEMORIAM: CPI(M) state president Janardan Pati addressing a meeting organised on the occasion of first death anniversary of Communist leader Shivaji Patnaik at 'The Institution of Engineers' auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. Veteran Politburo member of the party leader Biman Bose and Indian Marxist economist and political commentator Prabhakar Patnaik are also seen

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** On the occasion of first death anniversary of veteran Communist leader Shivaji Patnaik, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday laid the foundation for Sivaji Patnaik Smriti Plaza, to be set up by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA).

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone by pressing the button at 6pm in the presence of senior BDA officials. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of various dignitaries, CPI (M) members and admirers of Shivaji Patnaik.

Spread over 615 sqm near CPI (M) office at Pal Heights in Capital city, the plaza aims to honour and celebrate the remarkable contributions made by Patnaik towards the upliftment of working-class people. The initiative seeks to preserve his legacy and inspire future gen-



erations to uphold his values and principles. Situated in a busy commercial area, the design of the plaza is such that it shall not only pay homage to the humanitarian hero but also convert the neglected space into a vibrant public space. It will house a variety of features and facilities, movement corridor and interactive displays showcasing Patnaik's life, achievements and his profound impact on Kisan Movement, Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union and Trade Union movement in the state. 70 per cent area is de-

signed as true earth (unpaved) on all the peripheral edges around main congregation space with a larger goal towards green living. The BDA has been entrusted with the responsibility of designing and constructing the plaza while ensuring its architectural harmony with the surrounding environment. The development is aimed at creating a serene and reflective space that invites visitors to learn, reflect and draw inspiration from the struggles and triumphs of Patnaik's journey.

MARKET WATCH table with columns for INDEX and VARIATION, listing SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, and SILVER.

WEATHER table with columns for BHUB and CTK, listing temperature (MAX, MIN), Humidity, and Rainfall.

# CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public Rayagada. I have changed my name from Ippili Sushma to Ippili Prabhavathi for purposes.

# 800 mn people globally may suffer back pain by 2050

More than 840 million people worldwide will suffer back pain by 2050, largely due to population increase and the ageing people, according to a modelling study published in the Lancet Rheumatology journal. The researchers analysed over 30 years of data to show that the landscape of back pain cases is set to shift, with the biggest increases in cases to be in Asia and Africa. The continued lack of a consistent approach on back pain treatment and limited treatment options have researchers concerned that this will lead to a healthcare crisis, as low back pain is the leading cause of disability in the world, they said. "Our analysis paints a picture of growing low back pain cases glob-



ally, putting enormous pressure on our healthcare system," said study lead author, Professor Manuela Ferreira from the University of Sydney in Australia. "We need to establish a national, consistent approach to managing low back pain that is informed by research," Ferreira said in a statement. The study found that since 2017, the number of low back pain cases has ticked over to more than half a billion people. In 2020, there were approximately 619 million cases of back pain. At least one third of the disability burden associated with backpain was attributable to occupational factors, smoking and being overweight. A widespread misconception is that low back pain mostly affects

adults of working age. However, researchers said this study has confirmed that low back pain is more common among older people. Low back pain cases were also higher among females compared to males, they said. The study analysed Global Burden of Disease (GBD) data from 1990 to 2020 from over 204 countries and territories to map the landscape of back pain cases over time. The GBD is the most comprehensive picture of mortality and dis-

ability across countries, time, and age. "Health systems need to respond to this enormous and rising burden of low back pain that is affecting people globally," said Professor Anthony Woolf, co-chair of the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health which is calling for priority to be given to addressing the growing burden of musculoskeletal conditions. "Much more needs to be done to prevent low back pain and ensure timely access to care, as there are effective ways of helping people in pain," Woolf said. In 2018, experts voiced their concerns in The Lancet journal and gave recommendations, especially regarding exercise and education, about the need for a change in global policy on the best way to

prevent and manage low back pain to stop the rise of inappropriate treatments. However, since then, there has been little change. Common treatments recommended for low back pain have been found to have unknown effectiveness or to be ineffective - this includes some surgeries and opioids, the researchers said. Ferreira said there is a lack of consistency in how health professionals manage back pain cases and how the healthcare system needs to adapt. "It may come as a surprise to some that current clinical guidelines for back pain treatment and management do not provide specific recommendations for older people," the researcher added.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS. List of various agencies and their contact information.



# Tsunami management remains a non-starter in Kendrapara

Rapid decline in mangrove covers increasing chances of natural calamity



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, May 23:** A massive tsunami with waves up to 30 metres (100 feet) in height had devastated areas along the coast of Indonesia as well as localities in Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh in December, 2004. The calamity is still etched in memory. It was a rude wake-up call for many states in India. The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) then identified 64 villages in coastal Mahakalpara and Rajnagar blocks of this district as tsunami prone.

However, till date, other than mock drills related to evacuation in cyclone shelters, nothing concrete has been done for protection of people in these villages. The state government mooted a proposal for creation of mangrove forests along the coastline to protect the villages but it is yet to be implemented. As

a result the residents of these 64 villages are always panic-stricken and live under the perpetual fear of floods and cyclonic storms.

Local intelligentsia Ganesh Chandra Samal, Rabindra Kumar Dash and Ashis Kumar Senapati informed that during 'Cyclone Yaas' tidal waves flooded three kilometers into the mainland. They said that if a tsunami occurs then it will wreak havoc in the coastal villages. The tsunami can only be checked to some extent if mangrove forests are extensively grown on the coastline.

A three-member team of scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography at Goa visited Kendrapara district to survey the availability of infrastructure on the coastlines in 2006. They visited Bhitarkanika National Park and later took stock of the mangrove forests which stood as a wall protecting the mainland from cyclonic storms and ingress of tidal waves.

They termed the development 'satisfactory' but asserted that more mangrove forest cover is needed for protection against tsunamis. They recommended to the Odisha government and the Centre to increase the mangrove cover for protection of residents living on the Kendrapara coastline.

Notably, mangrove trees can act like a sentinel against hurricane-generated or tsunami waves. Their roots intertwine to form a dense thicket above water that breaks waves and helps blunt the force.

Since then 17 years have passed but the tsunami management in this district has not taken off at all in the 64 villages. Locals alleged that the mangrove cover has not been increased at all. On the other hand, they said that the mangrove cover on the coastline is rapidly declining due to erosion. They stated that five revenue villages in Satabhaya panchayat have vanished from the map due to rapid sea erosion. Approximately 571 villagers from these villages have been rehabilitated at Bagapatia in 2018. Moreover, the mushrooming of prawn gheries is also destroying the coastlines and its green cover.

When contacted, ADM Basant Kumar Rout said that the district administration is laying more stress on creation of mangrove cover while a geo-synthetic wall has been built on Pentha coast to protect the coastline from sea erosion. This apart, awareness programmes are being undertaken in tsunami-prone villages to sensitise the residents, he added.



**DEMAND FOR BRIDGE:** People staged a demonstration Tuesday outside the office of the chief engineer of the Upper Kolab project at Barinupit in Koraput district demanding construction of a new bridge to Mulasar village in Jeypore block

# Foot patrolling to increase in Similipal

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, May 23:** Forest department officials have been asked to step up foot patrolling in Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district after the killing of a guard by poachers Monday. They have been warned of salary cuts if they are found neglecting their duty, sources said Tuesday.

The matter came to the fore after Prakash Chand Gogineni, field director and regional chief conservator of forests of Similipal Tiger Reserve issued a direction in this regard.

The notification assumes significance as there has been a sharp rise in poaching incidents inside the sanctuary leading to deaths of a large number of elephants and



other animals. Poachers and the timber mafia are also felling precious trees and smuggling those to other parts of the country.

The clampdown on Forest official comes amid allegations of shirking work. It has been alleged that many personnel are simply

spending time in office and not going out for patrolling citing bad road conditions. Then there are some officials who just patrol 15-17kms a week on foot. All these issues have made life of the poachers that much more easier.

As per the new order, a forest

guard has to cover a distance of 100 to 120km per month on foot for patrolling. Similarly, foresters have to cover 70km, range officers 50km and ACFs 30km on foot per month. Anyone found violating the order would face disciplinary action, the notification said.

Sources said that those who violate the norms will be issued show-causes for the first offence. If they repeat the fault, salaries may be deducted or will completely be stopped.

Two separate apps have been developed to monitor foot patrolling by the Forest department staff. The apps will clearly display patrolling on foot and in vehicles. The assistant conservator of forests (ACFs) will be monitoring the movement of those entrusted with the responsibility of patrolling.

# 6 held for attack on police team

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, May 23:** Six persons including a minor were arrested Tuesday for attacking a police team Monday evening who had gone to investigate a dowry-related case in Biswanath Nagar under Goshani-Nuagaon police limits in this city. In the assault, which took place a woman ASI, identified as Jhununbala Sasmal suffered injuries.

The minor has been sent to a home in this city after he was produced in front of the district juvenile justice board, Tuesday. The five others who have been arrested were identified as Gobinda Patra (40), his brother Ghana Patra (39), Shiba Patra (22), Laxmi Patra (65) and Mami Patra (35). Police have also seized the sticks and other weapons used during the attack.



**REACHING OUT:** Police officials giving away essentials to Bonda women at a camp organised by Mudulipada police station at Kutunipadar village in Bondaghat of Malkangiri district, Tuesday

# Tribal woman killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rupsa, May 23:** A tribal woman died Tuesday in a road accident that took place near Patapur bazaar under Rupsa police station limits in Balasore district. The deceased was identified as Jhampudi Singh (59), a resident of Lachhamanaku village under Gadapada panchayat

As per information received from the police, Jhampudi had come to a bank here to collect her monthly pension along with her son Kalicharan on a cycle. While returning from the bank, a truck hit the cycle from the rear leaving both Jhampudi and her son severely injured. Locals rushed Jhampudi



to the Rupsa community health centre where doctors pronounced her dead on arrival.

An irate mob then detained the driver and seized the vehicle demanding compensation for Jhampudi's family. They blocked the road with the body of the deceased

leading to a traffic snarl.

A number of police and district administration officials reached the spot and tried to pacify the agitators. However, they relented only after financial assistance of ₹10,000 from Red Cross, ₹10,000 each from the truck owners association and the driver, and ₹5,000 from the warehouse owner were provided to the family of the deceased. The locals withdrew the agitation around 5.00pm.

Police have registered a case in this regard and started an investigation after sending the body for post-mortem. Locals alleged that due to the presence of illegal warehouses in the locality, trucks overspeed on the roads.

# 2 poachers involved in killing forest guard, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada May 23:** Two poachers involved in the killing of Forest department guard Bimal Kumar Jena, have been detained PCCF (Wildlife) Sushil Kumar Popli said Tuesday. Jena was shot dead by the poachers Monday evening when he was patrolling the jungle with four others.

"Two of the accused poachers have been arrested. A search operation is underway to nab 10 more accomplices of the group, who have already been identified. The depart-

ment will take stringent action against the wrongdoers," Popli informed.

"A country-made firearm was seized from the possession of the arrested poachers. Five teams comprising Forest department personnel and local police are jointly conducting the combing operation. I have discussed about the current situation with DG and Additional DG of Police," Popli told reporters here.

Sources informed that among the poachers there are three highly-skilled hunters from West Bengal. The group had

come down to Similipal forest with the aim of killing some elephants and getting their tusks.

Meanwhile the deceased's wife, Lipika Swain who also works in the Forest department, blamed the higher-ups for the death of her husband. She said had the department had been prompt in sending a vehicle in aid of Bimal, he could have been saved. "No vehicle was available for a substantial period of time to rescue my injured husband," alleged Lipika. Others alleged that Bimal died due to negligence of the higher-ups in the department.

# Vig sleuths nab IIC in DA case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, May 23:** Officials of the Vigilance department Tuesday arrested an IIC of police in Bargarh district for possession of disproportionate assets (DA).

Vigilance sources here said Birabar Bhagat, IIC, of Gaisilet police station has been arrested and is being forwarded to the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance in Sambalpur. Assets worth over ₹2.50 crore have been recovered from Bhagat and his family members.

A case has been registered against Bhagat and his spouse under sections 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 PC Amendment Act, 2018.

During the simultaneous raids that were launched

Monday, Vigilance sleuths found one double-storied house at Sambalpur worth over ₹77 lakh, one farm house worth about ₹21 lakh, land in Sundar-garh worth over ₹1.11 crore, bank, insurance deposits and investment in debentures worth approx ₹16.68 lakh, 166gm of gold jewellery, ₹79,460 in cash, two four-wheelers worth ₹13.65 lakh, two two-wheelers and household articles worth over ₹9.41 lakh.

After a thorough search, inventory and further enquiry the assets of Bhagat were calculated and he was found in possession of disproportionate assets that are 179 per cent higher than his known sources of income. Investigation of the case is on, sources said.

# Police arrest 2 for selling brown sugar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, May 23:** Two persons were arrested Monday for selling brown sugar to students of Khallikote College, police said Tuesday. The arrests were made after police raided a semi-constructed house on the Khallikote College playground where the miscreants were plying their trade. A couple of buyers managed to flee from the spot, but police managed to nab the two drug dealers.

The arrested persons were identified as Ranjan Das (35) of Dhanabera Sahi under the Bada Bazar police limits, and Raturanjan Nimai aka Chiku (29). Police seized from them 28.95 grams of brown sugar, ₹4,270 in cash and a mobile phone.

Police said that the two drug dealers were bringing the stuff from Khurda and selling it to the youngsters in this city and other adjacent places. The two were forwarded to court Tuesday after police registered a case against them (No: 197/23) and later they were sent to police custody.

# Sweet mangoes turn bitter for Keonjhar farmers

LACK OF PROPER STORAGE AND MARKETING FACILITIES LEAD TO DISTRESS SALE OF THE FRUITS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, May 23:** Places in this district have turned into a mango hub. However, farmers and residents of this district rarely manage to savour the luxury of this delicious fruit. Most of the varieties of mangoes cultivated are transported to different places outside this district for sale. And in most cases farmers fail to reap the benefits of mango cultivation as they have to sale the fruit at cheap rates. It is the visiting traders who make the maximum profit from mangoes.

The Agriculture department provides high-yielding varieties of mango saplings, but absence of proper marketing facilities and storage units time and again force farmers to resort to distress sale of the fruit. At times, farmers even lease out mango orchards to traders for two to four years because of the amount they get at one go. However, the end result is that the traders make double or at times triple the amount they spend for the lease.

Sources said that mango is culti-



vated on large tracts of land in Telkoi, Sadar, Harichandanpur, Ghatagaon,

Banshapal and Jhumpura blocks of the district as both the climate and soil are conducive. They added that mango cultivation is being done over 100 acres of land in this district. Among the varieties of mangoes produced are 'Baiganpalei', 'Khirsagar', 'Himsagar', 'Amrapalli', 'Langra' and 'Neelam'. However, most of the produces are sent to places like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Varanasi and a host of other Indian cities. They are also available in markets at Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, but the price range is quite high.

Sabitri Nayak, a woman farmer of Golabandha area under Telkoi block said there is no machinery to pluck the mangoes and store them. Then there is also the fear of elephant attacks as they love the fruit. Hence, they have no option but to sale the mangoes to traders from outside the district at throwaway prices.

Farmer Murali Nayak pointed out that lack of godowns and cold storage units leads to quick rotting of mangoes. So they auction the mango trees

they have trying to make a quick buck. Senior resident Fakir Charan Mishra informed that the government should implement a proper marketing procedure so that mango farmers benefit from it.

Others alleged that the district administration, except for holding mango fairs, has failed to do anything better for the farmers. Others pointed out that despite Keonjhar district turning into a mango hub, most residents cannot afford the fruit as the price range is very high.

When contacted, ORMAS executive Swapan Goswami said six groups have been formed in Telkoi block with each consisting of 40 farmers for the formation of a company. Arrangements for sale of mangoes at a particular place have also been made in the district.

Goswami added that efforts are on for organising mango fairs at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela under the supervision of ORMAS. He asserted that farmers will soon get the right price for the mangoes.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** ee\_rwbdk@yahoo.com  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, BHADRAK**  
**"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works**  
**Bid Identification No. Online Tender 01 of 2023-24 (Short Tender Call Notice)**  
**No. O-160:** 1. Name of the Work: Road, 2. Total No. of Works: 1 No., 3. Estimated Cost: Rs.21.01 lakh. 4. Class of Contractor: "C" & "B" Class. 5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure. 6. Type of Tender : Single Cover. 7. Other Details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender		Date of seeking of Tender	Date & Time of Technical Opening of Tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Bhadrak	Online-I of 2023-24	26.05.23 At 11.00 A.M.	02.06.2023 At 4.00 P.M.	02.06.2023 At 2.00 P.M.	03.06.2023 At 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://tendersorissa.gov.in".  
**Sd/- Er. Kartikeswar Sahu**  
**OIPR-25060/11/0001/2324** Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhadrak



FOCUS PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

# THE UNRESOLVED QUESTION



Until today, only a fraction of the next-generation Palestinians have applied for or received other citizenships. As a result, the vast majority of the currently around 6.2 million Palestinians in the Middle East have remained stateless into the third or fourth generation

for Palestinians by the UN partition plan of 1947.

Then Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat coined the term Naqba Day in 1998. He set the date as the official day for the commemoration of the loss of the Palestinian homeland.

Most of the Palestinians ended up as stateless refugees in neighbouring Arab countries, only a minority moved further abroad. Until today, only a fraction of the next-generation Palestinians have applied for or received other citizenships. As a result, the vast majority of the currently around 6.2 million Palestinians in the Middle East have remained stateless into the third or fourth generation.

According to the UN's Palestinian refugee agency, UNRWA, most Palestinians in the region still live in refugee camps, which over time have transformed into refugee towns. They are mainly based in the Gaza Strip, in the Occupied West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and East Jerusalem.

Unfortunately, UNRWA has not been able to get full support from the Western nations for fulfilling its mandate. To date, UNRWA has only received less than 25 per cent of its financial requirements, or \$364 million and still needs \$1.3 billion. At the beginning of the year, UNRWA appealed for \$1.6 billion in support of its programmes, operations and emergency response across Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza

Strip and Jordan. Over the years, the Agency has put in place several measures to utilise the very little financial contributions it received from donors.

According to the UN General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, as well as the UN Resolution 3236 of 1974, and the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, Palestinians who are considered Palestinian refugees have the "right of return."

Israel however is rejecting this "right of return" for Palestinians stating that this would mean an end to Israel's identity as a Jewish state. Israel denies responsibility for the displacement of Palestinians and points out that between 1948 and 1972 around 800,000 Jews were expelled or had to flee from Arab countries like Morocco, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen.

Though seemingly implausible, but at one point in this century - in Egypt in January 2001 - Israelis and Palestinians were negotiating how to carry out UN General Assembly Resolution 194. This important resolution was passed on December 11, 1948, with 35 countries, including the US and the UK, voting for it. But today we seem to be at the farthest possible distance from seeing justice carried out for Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Originally, the Zionist movement was propelled by the logic of settler colonialism. Historian Patrick Wolfe has defined it as a mode of domi-

nation characterised by "a logic of elimination." Settler colonial regimes seek to smother the native people, or at least to suppress their political autonomy. The elimination of the native people is a precondition for expropriating the land and its natural resources.

Jewish-American intellectual Noam Chomsky observed that "settler colonialism is the most extreme and sadistic form of imperialism." The hallmark of settler colonialism is ruthlessness and disregard for law, justice and morality. And currently we are witnessing all these aspects under the Zionist Israeli regime. The Zionist movement was nothing if not ruthless. It did not plan to cooperate with the native Arab population for the common good. On the contrary, it always planned to supplant them. The only way the Zionist project could be realised and maintained was by expelling a large number of Arabs from their homes and taking over their land.

Apparently Israel was able to achieve this, with the help of the British politicians and in later years, with the tacit American support. If we have to resolve the Palestinian issue, then the only credible option is for the UN to influence both the UK and USA to play a constructive role not a confrontational or bipartisan approach towards resolving the issue, as per the aspirations of the Palestinian people and demands of fair and equal justice.

On the other hand, the position of Arab states on the issue was evident from the statement made by the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who stressed his country's commitment to the Palestinian statehood at the Arab League summit on May 19, amid intensified US efforts to broker a normalisation deal between the Gulf kingdom and Israel.

The comments are largely standard for leadership in Riyadh, which has long insisted publicly that it remains committed to the Palestinian cause and will only normalise ties with Israel after a two-state solution has been reached. But it also shows the lack of resolve on their part to get the Palestinian issue resolved once for all.

*The writer is a senior political commentator based in New Delhi.*

©IANS



Asad Mirza

**THE HALLMARK OF SETTLER COLONIALISM IS RUTHLESSNESS AND DISREGARD FOR LAW, JUSTICE AND MORALITY**

Naqba Day marks the beginning of Palestinians exodus from their homeland, but for the last 75 years the international community has been unable to give the Palestinians their right to their own homeland.

On May 15, for the first time in history the UN marked the 75th anniversary of the mass displacement of Palestinians known as "the Naqba" or "the Catastrophe." The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Naqba at UN Headquarters in New York, pursuant to the mandate by the General Assembly.

Until the end of WWI, Palestine was under Turkish rule as part of the Ottoman Empire. Later it came under the British control, the so-called British Mandate. The period under the British was marked by growing anti-Semitism in Europe which led to an increasing number of Jews from around the world moving to Palestine, which to them was their ancestral homeland, Eretz Israel, the Promised Land by God, where Jews had always been living, though in much smaller numbers.

Post-Holocaust in Nazi Germany, a UN-led Partition Plan for Palestine was adopted by the General Assembly. The Arab League rejected the plan, but the Jewish Agency for Palestine accepted it. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was proclaimed. As a reaction, a coalition of five Arab states declared war against the new state, but was eventually defeated by Israel in 1949. Before the war, between 200,000 and 300,000 Palestinians had already left or were forced out from Palestine and during the fighting, a further 300,000 to 400,000 others were displaced. The overall figure is estimated to be around 700,000.

During the war, more than 400 Arab villages were destroyed. While human rights violations were committed on both sides, the massacre of Deir Yassin - a village on the road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem - is particularly engraved in Palestinian memory to this day. At least 100 people were killed, including women and children. It triggered widespread fear among Palestinians and prompted many to flee their homes. By the end of the war, Israel held around 40% of the area initially earmarked

## Fate of Imran Khan

Conflict between Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the army, which has come to a head after more than a year of troubled relations, has once again brought to the fore the inherent instability of the country's political system propped by the armed forces. Pakistan is often termed as a failed state because of the peculiar relationship between the army and its civilian leaders since its inception. Its generals have always interfered with running of the government. The political leaders therefore have shown a tendency to depend on the army's backing for their own survival. It is certainly not a sign of healthy democracy that none of Pakistan's 31 Prime Ministers so far have been able to complete a full five-year term. It is an unwritten law in the country that politicians will continue to rule as long as they enjoy the support of the army.

Imran Khan, who during his tenure as PM was criticized for turning authoritarian, tried to go against the all-powerful army and had to pay the consequences by losing power. However, the economic mess in the country has once again given him the opportunity to raise his head. He seems to be the only democratic political leader that Pakistan currently has. His ability to remain neutral and yet be diplomatically friendly with both Russia and China on one hand and the Western bloc on the other was proven when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. His sports background and a semi flamboyant lifestyle helped him gain acceptability internationally. Whatever bad will was created towards Imran was after he became a clear supporter of radical Islamists in his desire to retain power.

However, his popularity seems to have not only returned but also increased remarkably in recent times in Pakistan. This seems to have sent the alarm bells ringing both in the army establishment and the ruling coalition. To keep Khan out of reckoning, the government charged him with corruption and terrorism leading to his custody earlier this month. He is currently facing 120 charges across the country for which he fears he could be arrested any time, even though he has been granted interim bail from the Supreme Court.

Recent developments suggest Pakistan's military leadership is going full throttle to sideline Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party from politics. Khan blamed Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir for ordering his arrest by paramilitary forces. As the army was being discredited in public perception, in self defence, it issued a statement vowing to use the Pakistan Army Act to prosecute protesters who attacked military facilities after Khan's arrest. The 1952 law involves the use of military trials, mainly to prosecute military officers. An amendment in 2015 gave the military powers to prosecute civilians too. The civilian leaders endorsed the army statement apparently because the Supreme Court had recently ordered Khan's release and rejected an earlier government decision to delay two provincial elections. Army leaders seem determined to stop the due process of law fearing the judiciary may be too lenient towards Khan. Hence, they are now set to use their powers to corner Khan and his followers.

At this stage reports have emerged that Khan has been asked to either go to London in exile or face trial under the Army Act. The offer is said to have come from 'powerful elements'. Khan himself alleged in a series of tweets that the country's military establishment wants to imprison him for the next 10 years under sedition charges. It also plans to put his wife, Bushra Begum, behind bars in order to humiliate him, he has alleged. He said the army was using the pretext of violence committed by his supporters while he was in prison. He even suggested he might meet the fate of Mujibur Rahman of the erstwhile East Pakistan, who was not allowed to rule the country in 1971 by the army with the help of Z A Bhutto after his party Awami League secured a majority.

Sensing serious trouble ahead, Khan has started to adopt a conciliatory tone towards the army stating that he had no problems with the army general. He claims his political opponents are trying to drive a wedge between him and the army to ensure they win the coming elections.

Pakistan seems to be heading towards another period of chaos that is likely again to help the army consolidate its position as the de facto ruler of the country. This does not augur well for the country.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Work is love made visible. And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy. **KHALIL GIBRAN**
- When you know a thing, to hold that you know it, and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it - this is knowledge. **CONFUCIUS**
- The latter part of a wise person's life is occupied with curing the follies, prejudices and false opinions they contracted earlier. **JONATHAN SWIFT**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Ignoramus

It's a satisfying way to tell somebody that he's stupid or ignorant, its Latinate form projecting an aura of dusty academic superiority. It also has a long and interesting history. The ancient legal institution of the grand jury now continues only in the USA, but it was once the standard way of deciding whether a person should be charged with a crime. It was called a grand jury because it was made up of 24 men, twice the size of one in a trial, which was a petit jury or petty jury. Grand juries were originally called from among local men who were expected to act on personal knowledge. If they felt the evidence was too weak their foreman wrote the Latin word ignoramus on the back of the indictment. This literally meant "we do not know", from the Latin verb ignorare, to be ignorant. In practice it meant "we take no notice of this". It was the opposite of declaring the indictment a true bill, which meant the accused person went to trial. How this abstruse foreign form from the specialised language of the law became an English word is due to George Ruggle. He wrote a play called Ignoramus, mostly in Latin, which was performed on 8 March 1615 at Trinity College, Cambridge, before an audience of some 2,000 which included King James I of England and the future Charles I. It featured a rascally and ignorant lawyer, the Ignoramus of the title, who used barbarous law Latin of a kind deplored by the university's academics. The king loved the play but his judges and law officers hated it. It caused a huge controversy that led to the name of the play's chief character entering the language. Since there is no lack of ignorance and stupidity in our world, we have to decide how to create its plural. A slight knowledge of Latin noun plurals suggests it should be ignorami, to match nucleus, fungus, terminus, cactus, and stimulus. But ignoramus never was a Latin noun, so the sensible course is to stick to the rules of English, making ignoramuses. That's a mouthful, but it will stop you from sounding like an ignoramus.

### LOL

#### Winning Nobel Prize

A man is driving down a country road, when he spots a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the farmer is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing. The man



gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the farmer and asks him, "Ah excuse me mister, but what are you doing?" The farmer replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize." "How?" asks the man, puzzled. "Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize... to people who are out standing in their field."

### IN JEST THIS

## Nothing like birthday greetings from your dentist



Melvin Durai

**SOME OF MY CLOSE FRIENDS DO NOT REMEMBER MY BIRTHDAY, BUT MY DENTIST ALWAYS DOES**

I just had a birthday and received greetings by text and email from several friends and family members, as well as my dentist. Some of my close friends do not remember my birthday, but my dentist always does. He must really like me.

I wonder if he remembers the birthdays of any other patients. Perhaps he sends birthday greetings to all his favourite patients, the ones who do not squirm or scream when he extracts a good portion of their bank balance.

If your dentist does not greet you on your birthday, you might want to switch to mine. Just to entice you, here's the text message I received: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY Melvin!!! Dr. Reef and his staff are sending you extra special birthday wishes and 'cheers' to good health! We are hoping this birthday is the best one yet! Reply STOP to unsubscribe."

My birthday was on a Sunday, which means that my dentist took the trouble to greet me on his day

off. That made me feel extra special. I replied immediately: "STOP."

Actually, I would never just say "STOP" to my dentist, except when he's pushing a needle into my gums. It would be downright rude to just write, "STOP." So this is what I wrote: "Stop, you are embarrassing me. You always remember my birthday, but I never remember yours. That's partly because you never told me your birthday. It's not fair that patients have to provide their birthdates to you, but you never provide yours to us. You also know our medical history, but we don't know yours. Anyway, I just want you to know that I am really touched that you remembered my birthday. As I told my wife, 'My birthday now feels complete.' Hope to see you again soon, but not too soon. Your favourite patient, Melvin."

When I told my friend Brian that my dentist had remembered my birthday, he laughed and said that it was just an automated message. "The computer sends it, not the

dentist," he said. "I bet if you ran into your dentist at the grocery store, he would not wish you a happy birthday. He might not even recognise you with your mouth closed."

I think Brian is just envious because he didn't receive a birthday greeting from his dentist. Or perhaps he received a greeting, but not "extra special birthday wishes" like I did.

"You have to have a close relationship with your dentist," I told Brian. "And you have to pick the right dentist. Not every dentist-patient relationship is the same. Some dentists care enough to remember your birthday."

Brian laughed. "Do you know what the word 'automated' means?" he asked.

I nodded. "Even if it's automated, I think he planned to send it. He just wrote it ahead of time, so he wouldn't have to do it on Sunday."

Brian shook his head. "I feel really bad for you," he said.

"Why?" "Because the message your dentist sent you is so fake. Wait until things get real."

"Get real? What do you mean?" "I mean, wait until your dentist starts using AI."

"Artificial intelligence?"

"No, artificial intimacy. It will be powered by artificial intelligence, of course. But with AI, your dentist will be able to use information from your dental records, as well as the internet, to send you a message like this: 'Happy Birthday, Melvin. This is Dr. Reef. Just wanted to send you a quick greeting before I go to church. I am glad your birthday is on a Sunday, because you'll be able to spend more time with your wife and three kids. Perhaps you can take your dog, Lulu, for a long walk in the park near your home. I really enjoyed meeting you in early April and filling the cavity in Tooth No. 12. See you in three months for your next cleaning. Until then, keep brushing.'"

### Rules-based order

Sir, This refers to the report "India unveils 12-point plan to deepen ties with Pacific nations," **Orissa POST**, May 23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the G7 summit at Hiroshima provided India an opportunity to focus the attention of the world's richest nations on challenges faced by the Global South. The grouping tend to ignore the problems of the poor and developing countries. More often than not, G7 leaders have made grand pledges of aid to countries of the Global South, only to default on them once they return home. Modi did well to present a 10-point action plan, which could go a long way in changing and improving the way the world lives. The plan calls for curbing food wastage, de-politicisation of global fertiliser supply chains, promoting consumption of millets, encouraging holistic healthcare, strengthening digital healthcare, and building development models based on the needs of developing countries. Also, at a meeting of Quad leaders at Hiroshima, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called on the grouping to listen to the voices of countries in the Indo-Pacific, including those in the ASEAN, South Asia and the Pacific Island states. This is a point that India should work on as it prepares to host the next Quad summit in 2024. An inclusive Quad will be in a stronger position to establish a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON

### Exercise in futility

Sir, The ₹2,000 note made its entry soon after the ill-planned and ill-thought out demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes in November 2016, which served zero purpose, as it did not achieve the primary objective of flushing out money hoarders. In fact, when the BJP government and the RBI spent thousands of crores of money on printing and distributing the new ₹2,000 notes, it was felt that any move to suck them out of circulation later would not be smooth and would create a fuss. The deposit limit of ₹20,000 per visit of this withdrawn currency will create unproductive work for the staff in banks. Also the impact on those who travel to make deposits and the opportunity costs are still unknown. This exercise is a waste of resources and will result in loss of productivity. It would have been prudent had the RBI decided to gradually reduce the circulation of this currency without a big announcement.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, 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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# national

## of the day quote

I understand the disappointment of those who couldn't clear the Civil Services Exams. Not only will there be more attempts to avail but also India offers several diverse opportunities to showcase your skills and strengths. Wishing you the very best

We began in Goa yesterday with briefings from Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, government officials and representatives of the medical devices industry

Constituency-wise talks (of Congress) have not yet begun. We will call district-wise party meetings on 2 and 3 (June) in Mumbai. But the party (MVA partner) which is stronger in a particular area should contest that seat is a policy

## SHORT TAKES

### Lightning claims six lives in Bihar

**Patna:** Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Tuesday expressed grief over the deaths of six people in lightning strikes in different parts of Bihar. According to the Chief Minister's Office, three people were killed in Darbhanga district, two persons in Begusarai and one person in Vaishali. An ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh was announced for next of the kin of each deceased. Kumar urged the people to avoid going out during inclement weather.

### AAP to soon launch election campaigns

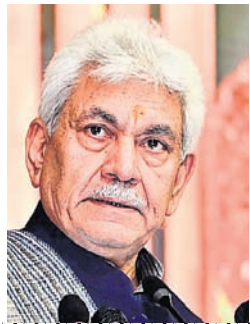
**New Delhi:** The Aam Aadmi Party will soon launch its poll campaign in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh where assembly elections are due later this year. Party sources said the poll campaigns will start with a "maha rally" in each of the three states. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener, will lead the "maha rally" in the three states. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will also participate in the rallies, the sources added.

### Two killed in blaze at godown

**Malda (WB):** Two persons were charred to death in a blaze that gutted several shops in West Bengal's Malda district Tuesday, a senior police officer said. District SP Pradiip Kumar Yadav said that the fire broke out in a shop-godown at Netaji Commercial Market in Malda town when labourers were unloading containers containing carbide.

### Six killed as bus collides with truck

**Mumbai:** At least six persons were killed and 22 others injured when a state transport bus collided with a container truck in Maharashtra's Buldhana district Tuesday morning, police said. The condition of two of the injured was serious, they said. The accident took place at 7.20 am near Sindkhed Raja town on old Mumbai-Nagpur highway in the district, located more than 450 km from the state capital Mumbai, an official said. The bus, belonging to the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) and carrying 33 passengers, was going towards Mehkar in (Buldhana) from Pune, he said. As the bus reached Palaskhed Chakka village, it collided with the truck, the official said.

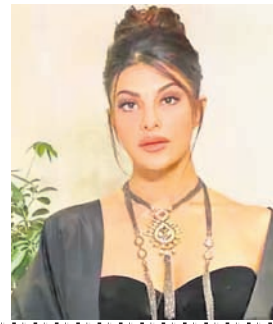


Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a new era that has opened limitless possibilities of growth and peace. Now even foreign investments are also coming into Jammu and Kashmir, green shoots of better times people are anxiously looking up to

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

## RELIEF FOR JACQUELINE

A Delhi court Tuesday allowed Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, accused in a money laundering case also involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekar, to travel abroad from May 25 to June 12. Special Judge Shailendra Malik allowed the application moved by Fernandez claiming she needed to travel to Abu Dhabi from May 25 to May 27 to attend IIFA Awards



## PARL BUILDING INAUGURATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** The TMC, the CPI and the AAP Tuesday said they will skip the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building even as the war of words over the prime minister and not the president scheduled to do the honours on May 28 continued between the government and the Congress.

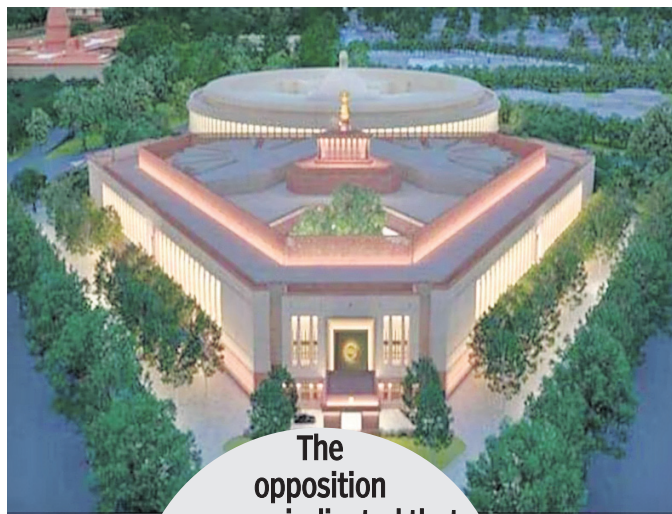
Amid demands from the opposition that the president should inaugurate the new building, leaders of like-minded opposition parties deliberated on the issue and a joint statement by the floor leaders announcing a united boycott of the event may be issued soon, sources said. They added a final decision will be taken Wednesday, once the formal invitation is received by the parties.

The Congress, which has been targeting the government over the issue, said any decision on whether the party will boycott or attend will be taken at the right time. Announcing the party's decision, TMC's leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien wrote on Twitter, "Parliament is not just a new building; it is an establishment with old traditions, values, precedents and rules - it is the foundation of Indian democracy. Prime Minister Modi doesn't get that. For him, Sunday's inauguration of the new building is all about I, ME, MYSELF. So count us out." CPI general secretary D Raja also said his party will not attend the ceremony.

Soon after the MPs started receiving soft copies of the invitation, they got into a huddle to discuss the issue. The Aam Aadmi Party Tuesday said it will boycott the inauguration ceremony of the new parliament building.

Meanwhile, political slugfest over the inauguration issue continued with Union minister

# TMC, CPI, AAP to boycott event



The opposition sources indicated that most of the parties are of the view that they should unitedly skip the ceremony, but a final decision on the issue will be taken Wednesday

Hardeep Singh Puri slamming the Congress for lacking "national spirit and sense of pride" in India's progress and the opposition party accusing him of trying to "obfuscate and dissimulate".

Addressing reporters, Puri said the then prime minister Indira Gandhi had inaugurated the Parliament Annexe building on October 24, 1975 and successor Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation of the parliament library on August 15, 1987.

"If your head of government can inaugurate Parliament annexe and library then why can't the head of the government of this time do? It's as simple as that," he said.

Puri's remarks came a day after the Congress accused the government of disrespecting constitutional propriety and demanded that President Droupadi Murmu inaugurate the new Parliament building, instead of Modi.

Hitting back at Puri, senior Congress leader Manish Tewari alleged that the minister is trying to "obfuscate and dissimulate". "Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, I am afraid, is trying to obfuscate and dissimulate. There is a difference between an annexe to the Parliament, library and a new Parliament building," he said in a tweet. "By the way, Chairperson of the Council of States Vice President of India is also conspicuous by his absence on the invitation card," he added.

Congress' head of media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said on Twitter, "Hon'ble Minister needs to be told there's a difference between Parliament Annexe and the Parliament. I hope he has been attending sessions in the right building and not the library or the Annexe."

"Is this the level of intellect in Modi Ji's cabinet or this is Bhakti Ki Shakti," he asked. Modi will inaugurate the new

Parliament building on May 28 following an invitation by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

On Monday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had raised objection to President Murmu not being invited for the inauguration of the new Parliament Building, saying the Parliament is the supreme legislative body of the Republic of India, and the President of India is its highest Constitutional authority.

On Kharge's remark, Congress leader Shahi Tharoor then tweeted, "Articles 60 and 111 of the Constitution make it clear that the President is the head of Parliament. It was bizarre enough that the PM performed the groundbreaking ceremony and puja when construction began, but totally incomprehensible and arguably unconstitutional for him and not the President to inaugurate the building."

NCP national spokesperson Clyde Crasto wondered if it was not the right of President Murmu to inaugurate the new Parliament building for her being the head of the country.

The opposition parties had boycotted the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the building by Modi in December 2020, citing concerns about its timing amid farmer protests, the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic distress due to a lockdown.

The grand opening of the new building, it is learnt, will be marked by the chanting of hymns, a "havan" and a "puja". The rituals will start in the morning and the main programme is scheduled to be held in the afternoon. Besides Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be present at the opening ceremony. The invitation card for the event states the ceremony will start at noon and requests the invitees to take their seats by 11.30 am.

## CENTRE'S ORDINANCE

# Mamata backs Kejri



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 23:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday assured her counterpart from Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, that her party would support him in his fight against the Central ordinance to control appointments and transfer of bureaucrats in the city state.

Kejriwal who had come along with his party comrade and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann as part of a nationwide tour to garner support for his fight against the Centre's ordinance on control of services in Delhi, held a nearly hour-long meeting here with Banerjee at the state secretariat.

Kejriwal told newsmen that a forthcoming vote in Rajya Sabha on a bill to convert the central ordinance into law, will be a "semi-final before the 2024 elections."

He alleged the saffron party "buys MLAs, uses CBI, ED to try to break" opposition governments, besides using Governors to disturb non-BJP governments such as "Bengal and Punjab".

Banerjee told newsmen, "We support AAP in the fight against the Central ordinance... Request all parties not to vote for BJP's law (on controlling appointments in Delhi)".

The feisty TMC leader also quipped "The double engine (BJP rule in both state and centre) has become a troubled engine" and added mysteriously, "Its only a matter of six months (that the central government will stay in power)... But if a miracle occurs, they might have to go before that too."

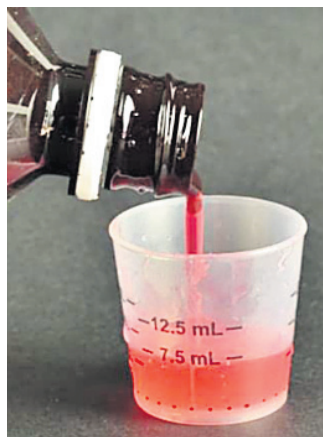
Kejriwal and Mann also turned the impromptu press conference held after the meeting of the two leaders, into an attack on the BJP and central government.

The AAP leader and Delhi chief minister said, "BJP has made a mockery of democracy... where it cannot form a government, it buys MLAs, uses CBI, ED to try to break the government... Governors to disturb non-BJP governments such as Bengal and Punjab".

He went on to predict, "This (contest in the Parliament) will be a semi-final before the 2024 elections."

The bone of contention between the AAP government and the BJP has been the Central government ordinance setting up a National Capital Civil Service Authority which overturned a Supreme Court order last week giving control of services, excluding those related to police, public order and land, to the elected government in Delhi.

# India to test cough syrups before export



REUTERS

**New Delhi, May 23:** India will make tests mandatory for cough syrups before they are exported, a government notice showed Tuesday, after Indian-made cough syrups were linked to the deaths of dozens of children in Gambia and Uzbekistan.

Any cough syrup must have a certificate of analysis issued by a government laboratory before it is exported, effective June 1, the government said in a notice dated May 22 and shared by the health ministry Tuesday.

India's \$41 billion pharmaceutical industry is one of the biggest in the world but its reputation was shaken after the World Health Organization

(WHO) found toxins in cough syrups made by three Indian companies. Syrups made by two of these companies were linked to the deaths of 70 children in Gambia and 19 in Uzbekistan last year.

"Cough syrup shall be permitted to be exported subject to the export sample being tested and production of certificate of analysis," said the notice issued by the trade ministry.

The health ministry did not immediately respond to a query on whether testing would be required for cough syrups sold in the domestic market.

The notice identified seven federal government laboratories where samples could be sent for testing, in addition to other state laboratories certified by a national accreditation body.

Indian tests of cough syrups made by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd, linked to the deaths of children in Gambia, found no toxins but contaminants were detected in many drugs made by Marion Biotech, whose syrups were linked to deaths in Uzbekistan.

The health minister and federal and state regulators also held a brainstorming session in the southern city of Hyderabad earlier this year "to find a solution to exported cough syrups that killed children," a document from the prime minister's office dated May 15 showed.



RAISING VOICE: Supporters of wrestlers protesting against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh during a protest march at India Gate

# TWO-MONTH-OLD CHEETAH CUB DIES IN KUNO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, May 23:** A cheetah cub, born at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh two months back, died Tuesday, the forest department said. The latest fatality took the death toll of cheetahs in KNP to four in the last two months, including three felines translocated from African countries.

Prima facie, the cub died of weakness, a Forest department release said. "The monitoring team found that one of the four cubs of feline 'Jwala' was lying at the spot where they were spotted earlier while three other cubs were roaming with their mother. The team alerted veterinarians who rushed to the spot and gave necessary treatment to the cub, but it died," the release

said. It seems the cub died because of weakness as it was weak since birth, said the release. Cheetah Jwala, earlier known as Siyaya, was brought from Namibia to KNP in Sheopur district in September 2022. She gave birth to four cubs in the last week of March this year. Cheetahs were reintroduced in India, 70 years after the species was declared extinct.

# Assam, Meghalaya CMs to discuss border row today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati/Shillong, May 23:** The chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya will meet in Guwahati Wednesday to take forward discussions on resolving border disputes in the remaining six areas.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Tuesday said he and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma will also visit the disputed areas later as a goodwill gesture.

"The Meghalaya CM will come here tomorrow and discussion will be held on finding solutions for the remaining six areas," he said. It will be the first meeting of the second round of talks between the two states, a Meghalaya CMO official told PTI in Shillong.

The two Northeastern states had signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2022 in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi towards ending the disputes in six areas.

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972 and had since then challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act of 1971, which is recognised by Assam as its border.

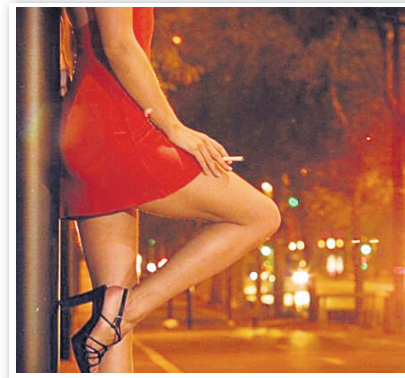
# Sex work an offence only in public: Mumbai court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, May 23:** A Mumbai Sessions Court has recently ruled that sex work can be termed an "offence" when its done in a public place causing nuisance to others, as it set free a 34-year-old commercial sex worker who was shunted to a shelter home against her wishes.

Following a raid on a brothel by the Mumbai Police in suburban Mulund in February, the CSW, along with two others, was arrested and produced before the Mazgaon Magistrate Court February 19.

The Magistrate had gone through her medical report which



The court reportedly said, as per rule, sex work can be called an offence only when one engages in it in a public place causing annoyance to others

proved she was a major, and sent her to the Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh in Deonar suburb for a

year's rehabilitation March 15, though the other two women nabbed were released.

Challenging the order in the Sessions Court, the woman with two minor children, also denied indulging in any immoral activities as alleged by the police.

Hearing her plea, Additional Sessions Judge CV Patil said that the lower court had detained the victim only on the ground of antecedent of indulging in a similar kind of offence, which she has challenged.

Judge Patil ruled that the victim is a major and had the right to work, and there were no allegations that she was indulging in sex work in public.

"As per the rule, to involve in sex work is not itself an offence, but

to do sex work in public place so as to cause annoyance to others can be called as offence," he held.

He noted that the woman had two kids who needed her and if she was being detained against her wishes, then it curtailed her fundamental rights, including the freedom to move freely all over India, and quashed the Magistrate's order to set her free from the shelter home.

In mid-February, the Mumbai police had carried out the raids on a nearby shady hotel with decoy customers where the owner and manager were reportedly keeping women for purposes of prostitution for the customers.



DEFAMATION CASE

# Gujarat court summons Kejriwal, Singh

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate SJ Panchal summoned Kejriwal and Singh after the court was informed that the summons issued earlier directing the duo to appear on May 23 does not appear to have been received by them as none of them was present in the court



23 does not appear to have been received by them as none of them was present in the court.

Earlier, the court of additional chief metropolitan magistrate Jayesh Chovatiya had issued summons to the AAP leaders in a criminal defamation complaint for their "sarcastic" and "derogatory" statements against the Gujarat University over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's academic degree.

AAP's legal cell head for Gujarat, Pranav Thakkar, on Monday, said Kejriwal and Singh have not yet received the summons issued to them by the court.

On Tuesday, Gujarat University's lawyer Amit Nair apprised the new judge- SJ Panchal- about the case and said that his predecessor

issued the processes on April 15 against the accused persons to remain present on May 23. Since nobody was present on the given date, it is not clear whether the summons was served on them or not.

The judge asked the staff to check and then directed them to issue summons to Kejriwal and Singh.

The previous additional chief metropolitan magistrate-Jayesh Chovatiya- issued a summons on April 15 after finding that prima facie there appeared to be a case against Kejriwal and Singh under section 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on a complaint filed by Gujarat University registrar Piyush Patel.

The defamation case was filed

against Kejriwal and Singh over their comments after the Gujarat High Court set aside the Chief Information Commissioner's order asking the varsity to provide information on PM Modi's degree.

They made "defamatory" statements in press conferences and on Twitter handles targeting the university over Modi's degree, the complainant alleged, and claimed their comments targeting the university were defamatory and hurt the prestige of the institution, which has established its name among the public.

The comments quoted by the complainant and attributed to Kejriwal are: "If there is a degree and it is genuine, then why is it not being given?", "They are not giving degree because it might be fake," and "If the prime minister studied at Delhi University and Gujarat University, then Gujarat University should celebrate that its student became the country's PM".

Singh had said that "they (GU) are trying to prove the PM's fake degree as genuine". Four witnesses were examined and other evidence submitted during the court inquiry, and the lawyer for the complainant argued that their statements would make a person believe that the Gujarat University issues fake and bogus degrees.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, May 23:** To facilitate students who face financial constraints in accessing coaching outside the district, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar have come out with a unique offline-cum-online coaching programme for NEET aspirants, an official said Tuesday.

Scheduled to commence on Thursday, the 10-month-long course will include interactive and doubt-clearance sessions facilitated by experienced faculty members from Akash and BYJUS, two renowned private players in the education sector, the official said.

The coaching programme was e-inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Monday at the newly constructed auditorium of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar and attended by around 200 enrolled NEET aspirants and guests, he said.

"This ground-breaking initiative sets a precedent for future educational programmes, fostering a prosperous career path for the deserving students of Kishtwar," Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav said.



"This ground-breaking initiative sets a precedent for future educational programmes, fostering a prosperous career path for the deserving students of Kishtwar," Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav said

He said the programme offers both online and offline classes, utilising the state-of-the-art auditorium with its recently installed projector facility at GDC Kishtwar. The coaching programme aims

at ensuring an efficient learning experience, supported by logistic arrangements, advanced audio-visual aids, comfortable seating arrangements. Besides other incentives for NEET aspirants will be provided including all-India test services, premium content subscription and live doubt-solving sessions, Yadav said.

He said the initiative was taken by the district administration to provide coaching to the students, particularly girls, who face financial constraints in accessing coaching outside the district. "The district administration Kishtwar in collaboration with Akash and BYJUS aims to empower NEET aspirants and provide equal educational opportunities for students in the region," Yadav said.

# History meets law enforcement in Gujarat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Dholka (Gujarat), May 23:** Police stations in Gujarat have more than just policing as the structures many of these are housed in are of historical relevance.

One of the police stations near Ahmedabad has a structure built in 1912. Dholka police station is one of the oldest stations in Gujarat. It has heritage documents of police transfers, crime rate, archival pictures, and even furniture dating back to that era. Dholka was under the East India Company administration as early as 1802 AD. It was an important trading post back then.

Dholka Police Inspector Bhavesh Rathod said, "If people request us, we allow them to have a look at this heritage police station. This was one of the oldest Nagarpalikas in India and in fact, Gujarat's first nagarpalika (Municipal council).

Apart from archival documents, pictures, and furniture; this police station also has a tope of the British era. Similar to Dholka, even the Pavagadh police station has immense historical relevance.

They even have a written diary of Britishers. Dates on roof tiles that are displayed in the museum indicate the police station's history dated to 1865.

The Dholka police station has documents written in English such as: written document of pre-independent organisation of Ahmedabad district police, bifurcation of Ahmedabad rural district, new district headquarters for Ahmedabad rural district after its separation from Ahmedabad city, crime note of

Bhojva police station dated 1917, crime note of Valana village document dated 1920, crime note of Viramgam town in 1951, documents of DySP Dholka from Saijpur Bhogha in 1968 and others.

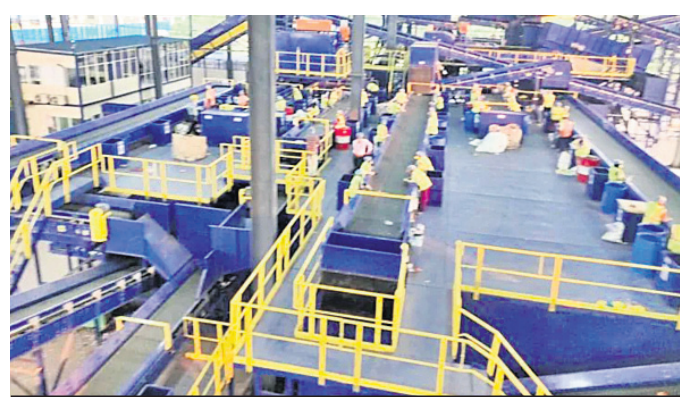
One of the documents of Dalod Police Station dates 1993 and it states (verbatim), "The village is clearly polarised into Congress. There are no caste affiliations about the parties. There is no friction as such. The personal affiliations are entirely personal as such. The present Sarpanch has been elected on October 29, 1983, it's almost 10 years hence. He has been elected uncontested. This shows the hold of the sarpanch on the village. He is the undisputed master here. He is from the Congress party." Ironically today, Congress could not secure even the position of principle opposition in Gujarat Assembly.

The document had a concluding line written by Police Officer Keshav Kumar of Ahmedabad Rural (1993), it read: "Crime wise there is not much of a problem. Harijans have no problem here. They have nothing to represent too."

Similar to Dholka, the office of the superintendent of police in Mehsana also dates back to the time of Maharajas. The architecture of the office sets it apart from other police stations. Moreover, it also has a playground and residential quarters, and it is spacious and green. The Mehsana police station has pictures of the ceremonial parade of January 26, 1954, archival pictures of the police headquarters of Mehsana in 1958 and other artifacts of the yester era.



# Jammu rapidly transforming into a 'clean and green city'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, May 23:** Jammu city is rapidly transforming into a "clean and green city", with noticeable improvements in cleanliness in streets, footpaths, flyovers and residential areas.

The city is making significant progress towards achieving zero waste and at the forefront of this positive change is the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as the 'Swachhta Kendra' (cleanliness centre), established in 2021.

The first-ever MRF in Jammu and Kashmir on the outskirts of the city operates under the collaboration of the Regional and Urban Development Agency (RUDA) and the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). It employs a sustainable approach to integrated plastic waste management and efficient recycling within the city.

"This MRF in Jammu is the first

of its kind. We have established it in partnership with the Jammu Municipal Corporation. It has been operational for almost three years now, with a daily capacity to handle five tonnes of waste. Currently, we collect, segregate, and recycle approximately 150 to 200 tonnes of trash every month," Sajeer Arora, Chief Executive Officer of RUDA, said. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the MRF collects, separates, and processes dry waste before sending it to recycling centres. As a result, it significantly contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the effort is to make the city clean and green, he said.

"To date, we have collected 7,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste, which we have successfully segregated and recycled. From an environmental perspective, every kilogram of plastic waste collected indirectly prevents three kilograms of carbon emissions. Through our

The city is making significant progress towards achieving zero waste and at the forefront of this positive change is the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as the 'Swachhta Kendra' (cleanliness centre), established in 2021

efforts, we have already reduced 20,000 to 22,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions in the atmosphere," Arora said.

The city corporation employs sanitation workers who collect segregated wet and dry waste from households and public areas. The waste is then either transported directly to the MRF or delivered to mini-sorting stations for further segregation and recycling, he said.

Arora said the waste collection system also has led to a positive economic impact. "We engage waste collectors, whose livelihoods depend on trash collection. They sell the waste to the MRF enabling us to purchase the trash from them. Currently, we have 450 rag pickers and waste pickers, known as 'safai mitras', who are connected to the project."

Arora said they will be setting up a material recycling centre soon in the city.

# Gujarat's wolf population faces alarming decline



Currently, there are 10 wolves in the Little Rann of Kutch, 30 in the Velavadar sanctuary, Bhavnagar and 30 in the Gir sanctuary

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ahmedabad, May 23:** After Gujarat's first census of wolves, that was conducted on May 8, the Forest department came up with the data that only 150 wolves exist in the state.

Currently, there are 10 wolves in the Little Rann of Kutch, 30 in the Velavadar sanctuary, Bhavnagar, and 30 in the Gir sanctuary.

IANS contacted Gujarat Forest Minister Mulubhai Bera but he was not available for a quote. There was only one wolf sighted in the wild ass habitats of the Little Rann of Kutch and Greater Rann of Kutch in 2020. This was the first time a wolf sighting was documented.

According to the first comprehensive pan-India survey of wolves, in 2018-19, the population of wolves in India was estimated to be 3,100- Gujarat's wolf population was es-

According to the first comprehensive pan-India survey of wolves, in 2018-19, the population of wolves in India was estimated to be 3,100- Gujarat's wolf population was estimated to be 494, the third highest after Madhya Pradesh (772) and Rajasthan (532)

ated to be 494, the third highest after Madhya Pradesh (772) and Rajasthan (532). The study underlined Saurashtra, Kutch and north Gujarat regions as prime wolf habitats. One of the main factors contributing to the decreasing wolf population is the loss of their natural habitat due to human activities, such as deforestation and urbanisation.

A paper on The Status and Conservation of the Wolf in Gujarat and Rajasthan, India by Yadvendradev Jhala and Robert Giles recommended things for a wolf conservation strategy, it includes: encouraging public support and education, enforcing legal protection, paying compensation for wolf-killed livestock, conducting surveys of wolf populations and research on the dynamics of select populations, protecting breeding habitats, and eradicating feral dogs from wolf conservation areas.

# Meet the artist who creates unique art using rock powder

MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT TRANSFORMS ROCK POWDER SOURCED FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF KASHMIR INTO BREATHTAKING PAINTINGS THAT LEAVE THE VIEWERS IN AWE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, May 23:** Ganderbal district in central Kashmir is home to a remarkable artist whose creative talent has earned him global recognition.

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat transforms rock powder sourced from the mountains of Kashmir into breathtaking paintings that leave the viewers in awe. His unique artistic process showcases the harmonious fusion of nature's raw beauty and his own artistic brilliance.

The journey of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat began amid the towering peaks and serene valleys of Kashmir. Drawn to the mystique of the region's mountains, he began collecting rocks from various locations, fascinated by the diverse hues and textures they presented. As he immersed himself in this pursuit, an idea took root in his mind - to create art using the very

essence of these mountains. "When I hold a rock in my hand, I feel a deep connection with nature. I wanted to capture the essence of these mountains and showcase their beauty in a way that hasn't been done before," Bhat said.

Bhat's artistic process is a testament to his unwavering dedication and meticulous craftsmanship. At his home studio, he grinds the collected rocks using a mortar, carefully extracting vibrant pigments that retain the essence of their natural origins. The resulting rock powder serves as his medium, which he skillfully mixes with binders to create his works.

"The process of grinding rocks is both physically demanding and mentally stimulating. Each rock is unique, and it takes patience and precision to extract the desired colours. It's like revealing the hidden secrets of the mountains through art," Bhat said. With a



palette of colours derived from the mountains, Bhat's brushstrokes breathe life onto his board. His paintings depict breathtaking landscapes, traditional Kashmiri motifs, and poignant portraits, each stroke capturing the spirit of the region. The intricate details and vibrant tones evoke a sense of awe and wonder, transporting viewers to the very heart of Kashmir's natural beauty.

Bhat's talent has garnered him international recognition, with his artworks displayed in prestigious galleries and art exhibitions worldwide. Collectors and art enthusiasts are captivated by the unique texture

and depth that the rock powder brings to his paintings, creating an unmatched visual experience.

"I believe that by using materials sourced directly from the mountains, my art becomes a bridge between people and nature. It's a way to remind ourselves of the importance of preserving our environment and appreciating the beauty that surrounds us," Bhat said.

As Bhat continues on his artistic journey, he hopes to inspire a new generation of artists to explore unconventional mediums and develop a deeper connection with their surroundings. He conducts workshops and mentorship pro-

grammes to share his techniques and ignite the spark of creativity in others.

"I want to encourage artists to think outside the box and challenge the boundaries of traditional art. There is so much beauty and inspiration in the world, waiting to be discovered and interpreted through our unique perspectives," Bhat said.

Bhat's artistic prowess transcends conventional boundaries, unveiling a world where nature's essence converges with human creativity. Through his remarkable paintings, he invites us to pause, immerse ourselves in the splendour of the mountains, and appreciate the intricate wonders that lie within the rocks beneath our feet.

In the words of Bhat, "Art has the power to reveal the hidden stories of our world. By capturing the essence of the mountains, I hope to awaken a sense of wonder and appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us all."

Through his exceptional talent, Bhat serves as a true inspiration, reminding us that the ordinary can become extraordinary with a touch of artistic brilliance and a deep connection with nature.



# national

## of the day quote

The people have elected the government for a change with hope and the officers must respond to the problems of the people

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

Wherever you see, everywhere it is all about money. Everything has to be cleaned under our government. The people are looking forward to a big change by this government. This should begin from the police department

D K SHIVAKUMAR | DEPUTY CM OF K'TAKA

We are already working on it. I think as times come, we have to move with the global world. SMR may become the order of the day. We are open to these new technologies and we are also adapting to them very fast

JITENDRA SINGH | SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER



**A world without nuclear weapons is necessary and possible. In our interconnected world, violence brings suffering even to those far from the conflict**

THE DALAI LAMA | TIBETAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

## ONLINE ITR FILING

The Income Tax department has enabled online filing of income tax returns (ITRs) 1 and 4, filed by individuals, professionals and small businesses, for 2022-23 fiscal. In a tweet, the income tax department said, the software/utilities for preparing other ITRs/ Forms will be enabled shortly



**BUSINESS TIME:** A vendor blows soap bubbles to attract customers in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

## Rahul takes truck ride

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh/New Delhi, May 23:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi travelled in a truck from Delhi to Chandigarh to listen to the problems faced by truck drivers, the party said Tuesday.

Gandhi undertook the journey Monday night and in visuals and videos, the former Congress chief, donning his trademark white T-shirt, is seen sitting inside a truck, travelling with a driver and speaking to drivers at a dhaba.

"Leader of the people @RahulGandhi ji reached among the truck drivers to know their problems. Rahul ji travelled with them from Delhi to Chandigarh," the Congress said in a tweet in Hindi.

Gandhi also stopped near a Gurdwara in Ambala City along the Ambala-Chandigarh national highway early Tuesday morning and paid obeisance there. "According to media reports, there are about 90 lakh truck drivers on the Indian roads. They have their own prob-

lems. Rahul ji did the work of listening to their 'Mann Ki Baat'," the Congress said.

Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan told PTI that Gandhi travelled with truck drivers and halted en route and listened to the problems faced by them. Congress' social media department head Supriya



Shrinata shared pictures of Gandhi traveling in a truck and meeting with truck drivers.

"Rahul Gandhi is a different person. Today he is committed to bridging the

widening gap between the general public and the government in this country. Then in this heat, be it sitting with the truck drivers all night and listening to their problems or travelling in a truck. In such a few people, the hope of a better future has arisen!" she said in a tweet in Hindi.

Congress sources said Gandhi was on his way to Shimla to spend some time with his mother Sonia Gandhi and on the way he decided to listen to the problems of truck drivers.

## SHORT TAKES

### K'taka: 52 die during pre-monsoon rains

**Bangalore:** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Tuesday said 52 deaths have been reported so far due to pre-monsoon rains in the state, along with damages to properties, and directed officials concerned to provide immediate relief. He said authorities have been warned of strict action in case of dereliction of duty. The CM today chaired a meeting with Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all districts and CEOs of Zilla Panchayats, over video conferencing, to discuss disaster management.

### Kerala: Fireman dies while dousing flames

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A 32-year-old fireman died while attempting to douse a massive fire that erupted at a state-run drug warehouse here early Tuesday. Ranjith, the deceased, was attached to the Chakka unit of the state Fire and Rescue Services, police said. The state government ordered a comprehensive probe into the shocking incident and said safety audits would be conducted in all drug warehouses, under the Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited (KMSCL), across the state.

### Inmate kills self

**New Delhi:** A 26-year-old inmate at Tihar Jail allegedly committed suicide hours after he was convicted in a seven-year-old robbery case, jail officials said Tuesday. Javed hanged himself in the common toilet area of the enclosure for inmates of central jail number 9 at around 5 pm Monday, a senior jail official said. Earlier in the day, Javed, who was out on bail, was produced before Saket Court in connection with a robbery case.

## Women secure top four ranks



Ishita Kishore

**A**s many as 933 candidates -- 613 men and 320 women -- have qualified the civil services examination 2022

The top 25 candidates comprise 14 women and 11 men, it said. The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages -- preliminary, main and interview -- by the UPSC to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) among others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** Women bagged the top four ranks in the civil services examination 2022 with Delhi University graduate Ishita Kishore securing the first spot, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced Tuesday.

Garima Lohia, Uma Harathi N and Smriti Mishra secured the second, third and fourth ranks respectively in the examination, results of which were declared Tuesday. Lohia and Mishra are graduates of the University of Delhi, while Harathi N is a B.Tech degree holder from IIT-Hyderabad.

This is the second year in a row when women candidates got the top three ranks in the prestigious exam. Shrutu Sharma, Ankita Agarwal and Gamin Singhla had secured the first, second and third positions respectively in the civil services examination 2021.

Kishore qualified the examination with political science and international relations as her optional subject. She has graduated in Economics (Hons.) from Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi. Lohia, a grad-

uate in Commerce from Kirorimal College, University of Delhi, secured the second rank with Commerce and Accountancy as her optional subject.

Harathi N, a B.Tech in Civil Engineering from IIT, Hyderabad stood third with Anthropology as her optional subject. Mishra, a graduate (B. Sc.) from Miranda House College, University of Delhi, stood fourth with Zoology as her optional subject.

**UPSC RESULTS** Educational qualifications of top 25 successful candidates range from graduation in Engineering; Humanities; Science; Commerce and Medical Science from premier institutions of the country such as IIT, NIT, University of Delhi, Gujarat National Law University, Jadavpur University and Jiwaji University among others, the UPSC said.

Top 25 successful candidates have opted for subjects like Anthropology, Commerce & Accountancy, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Law, History, Mathematics, Political Science & International Relations, Philosophy, Sociology and Zoology as their optional choice in the written (main) examination, it added.

## All 7 Gyanvapi cases to be heard together, says Varanasi court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi (UP), May 23:** The Varanasi district court Tuesday ordered that seven cases of the same nature related to the Gyanvapi dispute will be heard together.

District Judge AK Vishwesh, while exercising his special power, consolidated the cases, despite objections from the opposition, special advocate for Gyanvapi and Adi Vishweshwar cases Rajesh Mishra said.

The district judge, in his order, said if all these cases remain pending in different courts, there is a possibility that contradictory orders may be passed. Whereas if all these cases remain in one court, there will be no possibility of any contradictory judgment or order in all these cases, Mishra said.

Citing Order 4A of the CPC, the judge said it has been provided that when two or more cases are pending in the same court and the court is of the opinion that it is in the interest of justice, their joint hearing



may be ordered, Mishra said. The judge said in his order that it would be in the interest of justice that all these cases be heard together, he said. Advocate Mohammad Tohid Khan, who appeared for the Muslim side, opposed the hearing of all the seven cases together stressing that the issues related to Gyanvapi had not yet reached the stage that a decision should be taken to hear them together.

As of now, the court should have seen the evidence of all the cases. Had the evidence been the same, then it would have been just to give such a verdict, Khan said.

## Chaos, confusion on 1st day of ₹2K note exchange



People show their ₹2,000 notes at a bank

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** The 131-day window to exchange junked 2000 rupee currency notes opened Tuesday with a mixed bag of small queues and confusion at some banks over the requirement of officially valid identity cards like PAN or Aadhaar, and official forms.

At some places, however, customers said they were asked to present their PAN or Aadhaar cards. A small number of customers claimed the bank they visited did not exchange the notes and instead asked them to deposit those in their accounts.

While the queues and long waits witnessed in 2016 were not there, customer feedback indicated a lack of consistent policy across banks.

The RBI Friday announced the withdrawal of ₹2000 denomination banknotes as part of its currency management. It has maintained that this wasn't demonetization as the 2000 rupee notes continue to be legal tender, meaning they can be used for making payments.

The ₹2000 notes constitute around 10.8 per cent of total currency in circulation or ₹3.6 lakh crore. The

notes can be exchanged or deposited till September 30, 2023.

Compared to demonetization, this time the quantum of currency being withdrawn is significantly smaller and the period to complete the process is more spread out.

During the November 2016 demonetization, 86 per cent of the currency in circulation was withdrawn with old 500 and 1000 notes ceasing to be legal tender. The entire process was completed over a shorter 50-day time period.

State Bank of India, the country's biggest bank, in an official memo to its branches stated that no form or slip would be required while exchanging or depositing ₹2,000 notes. Private banks like Kotak and HSBC said they are asking for form/ID Proof for non-account

holders. But Axis Bank, Standard Chartered, Yes Bank, Canara Bank and Bank of India said they are not mandating any form or ID proof.

Bank of Baroda has said they don't require any form but need ID proof for non-account holders. ICICI and HDFC have said they require all customers to fill out forms, but ID proof is needed only for non-account holders.

As per the RBI guidelines issued Friday, the exchange of ₹2,000 facility is available from Tuesday.

A person can exchange up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time without filling out any form or requisition slip. Further, no identity proof is required to be submitted by the tenderer at the time of exchange.

No great rush was witnessed for exchange when branches opened. Outlets of private sector banks in metro cities in the early hours had business as usual.

## Congress demands white paper

The Congress Tuesday accused the government of facilitating those hoarding black money with the move to withdraw ₹2000 currency notes and demanded a white paper on what it alleged was the "greatest organised loot" in independent India. Congress spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh claimed the unorganised sector will be under stress once again after a gap of 6.5 years and six crore MSMEs and 11 crore farmers will have to "stand in line" for exchanging a few ₹2000 notes after the sudden announcement.

## VILLAGES IN FOCUS FOR YOGA DAY CELEBRATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** The Centre focusses on taking International Yoga Day celebrations to "each and every village" and has asked states and Union territories to hold related activities at the panchayat level, government sources said Tuesday.

The 9th edition of International Day of Yoga, to be celebrated June 21, endeavours to connect with the larger global community as India's G20 presidency theme "One World, One Health" resonates with the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

At the same time, the focus is on taking yoga to each and every village in India through active participation of panchayati raj institutions and gram sabhas, they said.

While the Ayush Ministry remains the nodal ministry for International Yoga Day events, the sources said, the Panchayati Raj Ministry will play a key role this time as the government focuses on taking yoga to "each and every village".

A circular, along with an advisory, was issued by the Ayush Ministry and the Panchayati Raj Ministry May 22 on the Yoga Day celebrations. The advisory issued to the panchayati raj departments in states and Union territories called for ensuring that Yoga Day reaches "every town and every village of the country" and promote its domestic theme.



chayati raj departments in states and Union territories called for ensuring that Yoga Day reaches "every town and every village of the

country" and promote its domestic theme.

The Centre asked states and Union territories to hold Yoga Day

activities at the panchayat level and identify a gram panchayat or a cluster of gram panchayats for setting up "Ayush Gram" or "Sampoorn Yoga Gram" and intimate it to the Panchayati Raj Ministry by May 25.

According to the advisory, mass yoga sessions with "maximum participation" have to be organised at strategic locations and near "amrit sarovars" -- water bodies that have been recently rejuvenated under a central scheme.

"Observe IDY from desert to forest, river to sea, village to industry... Anganwadi to old age home..." the advisory stated.

It stated that each district magistrate may be directed to organise a countdown event by holding a mass demonstration following the common yoga protocol at the dis-

trict headquarters.

States and UTs have also been asked to put up Yoga Day banners and posters, including those with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's quotes on yoga, at all public institutions such as hospitals, health and wellness centres, police stations, bus stations, and offices of panchayat, municipality, corporation and taluk.

Workshops and online training programmes will be held, and NGOs, resident welfare associations and such bodies will be roped in for promoting yoga as an intangible cultural heritage.

The UN General Assembly had declared June 21 as International Yoga Day following a resolution moved by India and co-sponsored by a large number of nations. The first International Yoga Day was observed June 21, 2015.

## 34,000 kg of explosives seized in WB, 100 held

**Kolkata:** Police seized a huge quantity of explosives and banned firecrackers during raids in different locations in rural West Bengal and arrested at least 100 people for their alleged involvement in running illegal manufacturing factories, a senior state police official said Tuesday. A total 132 cases have been lodged by the police for the seizures, the official said. The raids started Monday and continued in the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday in different places mainly in Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas districts, he said. "So far we have seized nearly 34,000 kg of explosives and banned firecrackers and arrested at least 100 people for allegedly storing them and running their businesses. These arrests were made during last night's raids conducted at different districts mainly Nadia, South and North 24 Parganas," the official said.



# international



**A possible withdrawal from the Collective Security Treaty Organization is still on the country's agenda**  
NIKOL PASHINYAN | ARMENIAN PM

## DRIVER DETAINED

The driver of a truck that rammed into the security barriers outside the White House has been detained, a Secret Service official said



## of the day quote

There is a need to further promote environment-friendly public transportation in the country to reduce environmental pollution  
ARIF ALVI | PAKISTAN PRESIDENT

We have a plan to launch a program to provide temporary work visas to Central Americans  
ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR | MEXICAN PRESIDENT

The country is looking at the Asian Development Bank for crucial development interventions as it is facing twin challenges of post-pandemic recovery and climate crisis  
FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS | PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT



Palestinians inspect the ruins of the home of a Hamas militant that was demolished by Israeli troops in the West Bank village of Naalin

# US debt ceiling crisis: No deal yet

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, May 23: President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy both said they had a productive debt ceiling discussion late Monday at the White House, but there was no agreement as negotiators strained to raise the nation's borrowing limit in time to avert a potentially chaotic federal default.

It's a crucial moment for the Democratic president and the Republican speaker, just 10 days before a looming deadline to raise the debt limit. As soon as June 1, Treasury Secretary Janel Yellen said in a letter to Congress, "it is highly likely" the government will be unable to pay all the nation's bills. Such an unprecedented default would be financially damaging for many Americans and others around the world relying on US stability, sending shockwaves through the global economy.

Each side praised the other's seriousness, but basic differences remained. They are at odds over how to trim annual budget deficits. Republicans are determined to cut spending while Biden's team offered to hold spending levels flat. Biden wants to increase some taxes on the wealthiest Americans and some big companies, but McCarthy said that is out of the question.

"The time of spending, just spending more money in America and government is wrong," McCarthy said after the Oval Office meeting. In a brief post-meeting statement, Biden called the session productive but merely added that he, McCarthy and their lead negotiators "will continue to discuss the path forward." Upbeat, McCarthy said their teams would

■ Republicans are determined to cut spending while Biden's team offered to hold spending levels flat  
■ It's a crucial moment for the Democratic president and the Republican speaker, just 10 days before a looming deadline to raise the debt limit

work "through the night." Biden said all agreed that "default is not really on the table." Though there is no agreement on basic issues, the contours of a deal seem within reach. A budget deal would unlock a separate vote to lift the debt ceiling, now \$31 trillion, to allow more borrowing.

Negotiations are focused on finding compromise over a 2024 budget year cap that would be key to resolving the standoff. Republicans insisted next year's spending be less than it is now, but the White House instead offered to hold spending flat at current 2023 numbers.

Republicans initially sought to roll back next year's spending to 2022 levels, and impose 1% caps on spending growth for 10 years, though a later proposal narrowed that to about six years. The White House wants a two-year budget deal, keeping 2024 spending flat. They proposed a 1% cap on spending growth for 2025, according to a person familiar with the talks and granted anonymity to discuss them.

A compromise on those topline spending levels would enable McCarthy to deliver for conservatives, while not being so severe that it would chase off the Democratic votes that would be needed in the divided Congress to pass any bill.



## SHORT TAKES

### Six dead in Pak

Peshawar: At least six people, including four soldiers, were killed during an intense exchange of fire after terrorists attacked a private gas plant in northwest Pakistan Tuesday, police said. The incident happened when the terrorists stormed the gas plant of a private company in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu district. "Six people were killed in the incident where terrorists attacked a private gas plant and there was an exchange of fire after that between the terrorists and the security force," a statement issued by the police said.

### Lankan MP held

Colombo: Sri Lankan opposition parliamentarian Ali Sabry Raheem was arrested Tuesday at the Colombo international airport for carrying 3.5 kilograms of unaccounted gold. The airport customs authority detained Raheem at the VIP lounge for possession of 3.5 kilograms of gold worth over SLR 65 lakh, officials said. He arrived in Sri Lanka from the Middle East, the state-run Daily News newspaper reported. Raheem, a member of the Muslim minority party, All Ceylon Makkal Congress, was elected to Parliament in August 2020.

### Seven killed

Bangkok: Seven people, including four children, died when strong winds from a rainstorm caused a metal roof on a school's activity center to collapse in northern Thailand, officials said Tuesday. The latest casualty was a 6-year-old boy who died late Monday night in a hospital after the collapse at the Wat Nern Por primary school, according to the public relations office in Phichit province, 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Bangkok. Several students had gone inside the activity center to shelter from the rain when the roof collapsed, according to a Facebook post from the official disaster prevention department, and 18 people were hospitalized.

### Imran's aide quits party

Islamabad: Shireen Mazari, Pakistan's former human rights minister and a close aide of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday quit the party and announced her retirement from active politics following her arrest over the recent violence. Mazari, 72, made the announcement after she was released following her arrest for the fourth time since May 12 when she was picked from her residence by police and sent to jail. She served as the minister for human rights from 2018 to 2022, under Khan's regime.

# Cross-border attack crushed: Russia

REUTERS

Kyiv, May 23: Moscow said Tuesday it had routed and killed scores of "Ukrainian nationalists" who crossed into Russia from Ukraine after two days of combat, in what appeared to be one of the biggest incursions of its kind of the 15-month-old war.

There was no immediate independent confirmation that the fighting had ended, but the governor of Russia's Belgorod region said the anti-terrorism measures he introduced after Monday's attack had been lifted. And one of two groups claiming to be behind the raid said in a post on social media: "One day we will return to stay."

The fighting forced Russia to evacuate towns along the border with northeast Ukraine. Russia has blamed Ukraine for the attack, which Kyiv has denied. The two groups that claimed responsibility describe themselves as Russian armed dissidents.

The Russian military said it had



Members of Russian Volunteer Corps stand next to an armoured vehicle

killed more than 70 Ukrainian nationalists and destroyed four armoured vehicles. There was no independent confirmation of those losses. Russian forces had surrounded the enemy fighters and defeated them with "air strikes, ar-

tillery fire and active action by border units", the defence ministry said. "The remnants of the nationalists were pushed back to Ukrainian territory, where they continued to be hit by gunfire until they were completely eliminated," it added.

Groups say they are Russians seeking to overthrow Putin

Kremlin blames 'Ukrainian nationalists'; Kyiv denies role

Raid appears to be biggest into Russia since war began

Regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said one elderly woman had died during the evacuation. On Monday, he said at least eight people had been wounded, several buildings damaged and many residents had left. The two groups who claimed responsibility, the Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC), both say they comprise armed Russian fighters seeking to overthrow President Vladimir Putin.

The Legion says it is recognised by Ukraine and its members have fought there against Russian forces. The RVC has claimed responsibility for previous attacks inside Russia, including a cross-border raid in the neighbouring Bryansk region in March.

## Setback for Indian students in UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 23: The UK government Tuesday announced a new immigration crackdown targeted at overseas students, including Indians, and their visa right to bring dependant family members to the country while enrolled at a British institution.

In a written statement to the House of Commons, UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman said that only international students on postgraduate courses currently designated as research programmes will be allowed to bring in their family members, including children and elderly parents, as their dependants.

The Indian-origin minister said the new package of meas-

ures was necessary after it emerged that around 136,000 visas were granted to dependants of sponsored students in the year ending December 2022 - a more than eight-fold increase from 16,000 in 2019.

"This package includes: removing the right for international students to bring dependants unless they are on postgraduate courses currently designated as research programmes," Braverman's statement notes.

Removing the ability for international students to switch out of the student route into work routes before their studies have been completed and reviewing the maintenance requirements for students and dependants are listed among the other new measures.

## Ties based on mutual trust: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, May 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said the strongest and biggest foundations of India-Australia relations are mutual trust and respect as he along with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese addressed the Indian diaspora at a mega event here and renamed a suburb as 'Little India', reflecting the strong bond between the two strategic partners.

Modi also announced that India will open a consulate in Brisbane to fulfill the long-pending demand by the diaspora. Modi, who arrived to a rousing welcome by thousands of Indians who thronged the 20,000-capacity Qudos Bank Arena that according to Albanese was not even



accorded to legendary singer Bruce Springsteen, also described India as a "force of global good" and a "bright spot" in the world economy. "Today India is being called the Force of global good. Wherever there is a disaster, India stands ready to help," Modi said, amid applause.

Asserting that the strategic partnership between India and Australia is constantly deepening, Modi said, "we hope the bilateral trade between the two sides will more than double in the next five years" after the signing of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement last year.

# Harry loses court bid over UK police protection

REUTERS

London, May 23: Prince Harry Tuesday lost a bid to legally challenge the British government's decision not to allow him to pay for police protection while he is in the United Kingdom.

Harry, King Charles' younger son, was stripped of the police security usually afforded to royal figures in the United Kingdom after he and his American wife Meghan stepped down from their official roles in 2020 to move to the United States.

The High Court in London, which last year already agreed he should be allowed to challenge the original decision to end his protection, ruled on Tuesday he could not also seek a further judicial review over the refusal of his offer to pay privately for the highly-trained officers. The decision to remove publicly-



funded security was taken by the Executive Committee for the Protection of Royalty and Public Figures, known by the acronym RAVEC, which approves security for the royals and VIPs, such as the prime minister.

Last week, lawyers for Harry had argued RAVEC did not have the power to reject his funding offer; and even if it did have such authority, it was wrong not to consider an exception or hear representations on his behalf.

However, lawyers for the police and the government said it would be wrong to allow the fifth-in-line to the throne to pay for the protection as it would

Harry, King Charles' younger son, was stripped of the police security usually afforded to royal figures in the United Kingdom after he and his American wife Meghan stepped down from their official roles in 2020 to move to the United States

mean wealthy individuals being able to "buy" specially trained officers as private bodyguards. They argued that it would be

wrong for an individual to pay for such officers, who are required to put themselves in harm's way if the committee had already considered it was not in the public's or the state's interest.

It was very different to paying for policing for a soccer match, a marathon, or even a celebrity's wedding, they said. In his written ruling, Judge Martin Chamberlain rejected Harry's case, concluding RAVEC had not been wrong to decide that allowing payment for protective security was against the public interest. His ruling comes less than a week after Harry's spokesperson said the prince, his wife Meghan and her mother were involved in a "near catastrophic" car chase with press photographers after an awards ceremony in New York.

## ISLAMABAD VIOLENCE

### IMRAN GETS BAIL IN 8 CASES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 23: Former Prime Minister Imran Khan got a major relief on Tuesday when an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan granted him bail till June 8 in eight cases related to violence that erupted at the Judicial Complex here in March.

The cases were registered in different police stations of Islamabad against 70-year-old Khan after clashes erupted between police and his supporters when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief appeared before a court in the Judicial Complex on March 18.

The clashes erupted when Khan attended a much-awaited hearing in the Toshakhana corruption case. During the confrontation, over 25 security personnel were injured. On Tuesday, Khan travelled from Lahore to the capital, Islamabad to appear before the anti-terrorism court located in the Judicial Complex.

After hearing arguments by lawyers, the court granted him bail in eight cases till June 8, his party said in a message.





# business

## of the day quote

Imports of non coking coal could be cut drastically by fiscal 2025-26 on the back of increased output of dry fuel in the country



PM PRASAD | CMD, CCL

India, with its vast population, its thriving digital economy, the use of technology that in some ways is leapfrogging other nations around the world, is poised to leverage the transformative power of 5G and 6G. To catapult itself to the forefront of the digital revolution



ERIC GARCETTI | US AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

We are excited to commence our journey in the competitive Indian auto landscape and we will continuously focus on evolving ourselves through insights and learning that we gather from the industry



SUHAJ RAJKUMAR | FOUNDER AND CEO, SIMPLE ENERGY

## SHORT TAKES

### Singh richest real estate entrepreneur

**New Delhi:** Realty major DLF's Chairman Rajiv Singh remains the wealthiest Indian real estate entrepreneur with a wealth of ₹59,030 crore, according to GROHE-HURUN India. With a wealth of ₹42,270 crore, Mangal Prabhat Lodha and his family of Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers (Lodha Group) is at the second position. Arjun Menda & family of Bangalore-based RMZ Corp debuted at the third position on the list, with a wealth of ₹37,000 crore. On Tuesday, GROHE-HURUN India Real Estate Rich List 2023 was released that ranks 100 individuals from 67 companies and 16 cities. The list is a snapshot of wealth of these individuals as of March 2023.

### GPay, NPCI come together for RuPay

**New Delhi:** Google Pay in conjunction with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Tuesday rolled out support for RuPay credit cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The users can now link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay to pay at all online and offline merchants where RuPay credit cards are accepted. The feature is now available to RuPay credit card holders of Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank and Union Bank of India, the company said.

### Ashok Leyland Q4 profit rises 5-folds

**New Delhi:** Commercial vehicles maker Ashok Leyland Tuesday reported an over five-fold jump in consolidated net profit at ₹802.71 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2023 riding on robust sales. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹157.85 crore for the same quarter previous fiscal, Ashok Leyland said. Revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at ₹13,202.55 crore as against ₹9,926.97 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

### Disney commences 3rd job cut round

**San Francisco:** Entertainment giant Disney has started its third round of layoffs that will affect over 2,500 employees across the board, the media reported. Although Parks and Resorts remain largely untouched, no particular division is being targeted by pink slips this week, according to Deadline, citing sources.



The sudden reduction of subsidy may lead to a major decline in EV adoption, impacting the entire industry for a considerable period of time

SOHINDER GILL | DIRECTOR GENERAL, SMEV

### SPICEJET MARKS 18TH ANNIV

Domestic carrier SpiceJet has completed 18 glorious years of flying high in Indian skies. It commenced its first flight operation May 23, 2005. The first SpiceJet flight flew from Delhi to Ahmedabad. Now as the airline is celebrating its 18th anniversary, it has announced cheaper airfares with starting ticket flight at ₹1,818



# India's growth crosses \$3.5trn in '22: Moody's

POLICY BARRIERS, BUREAUCRACY COULD SLOW PACE OF INVESTMENT IN INDIA, NOTES THE US-BASED RATING AGENCY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** India's GDP has crossed \$3.5 trillion in 2022 and will be the fastest-growing G-20 economy over the next few years, but reform and policy barriers could hamper investment, Moody's said Tuesday.

In a research report, the US-based rating agency said bureaucracy could slow approval processes in obtaining licences and setting up businesses, prolonging project gestation.

"India's higher bureaucracy in decision-making will reduce its attractiveness as a destination for foreign direct investment (FDI), especially when competing with other developing economies in the region, such as Indonesia and Vietnam," Moody's Investors Service said.

It said a large young and educated workforce, increasing nuclear families and urbanization will fuel demand for housing, cement and new cars.

Government infrastructure spending will bolster steel and cement, while India's net-zero commitment will drive investment in renewable energy, it said.

"While demand across the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors will grow 3-12 per cent annually for the rest of the decade, India's capacity will still rank well behind China's by 2030," Moody's said.

It said despite the economy's strong potential, there is a risk that the pace of investment in India's manufacturing and infrastructure sectors could slow because of limited economic liberalization or slower policy implementation.

"Lack of certainty around the amount of time needed for land



India will be the fastest-growing G-20 economy over the next few years

Bureaucracy in decision making may cut attractiveness as FDI destination

India is aiming to boost the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors and bring in domestic and foreign investments

If implemented effectively, measures undertaken over the last few years - including those introduced during the pandemic to increase the flexibility of labour laws, raise agricultural sector efficiency, expand investment in infrastructure, incentivize manufacturing sector investment, and strengthen the financial sector - would lead to higher economic growth, Moody's said

acquisition approvals, regulatory clearances, obtaining licenses and setting up businesses can materially prolong project gestation. Furthermore, India's limited multilateral liberalisation with respect to regional trade agreements will also weigh on foreign investments in the country," it said.

Ongoing efforts by India's government to reduce corruption, formalize economic activity, and bolster tax collection and administration are encouraging, although there are increasing risks to the efficacy of these efforts.

If implemented effectively, measures undertaken over the last few years - including those introduced during the pandemic to increase the flexibility of labour laws, raise agricultural sector efficiency, expand

investment in infrastructure, incentivize manufacturing sector investment, and strengthen the financial sector - would lead to higher economic growth, Moody's said.

Since India has limited multilateral liberalisation with respect to regional trade agreements, it would weigh on foreign investments coming into the country, according to Moody's.

New investments in commercially viable projects will be mostly funded by banks and through the domestic bond market, the rating agency said.

Banks have capacity to grow their loans by around 15% over each of the next two years, with private sector lenders being especially well placed to expand, Moody's added.

### Infosys unveils AI platform 'Topaz'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** India's second-largest IT services company Infosys Tuesday launched Topaz, an AI-first set of services, solutions and platforms using generative Artificial Intelligence technologies, and said the 'responsible by design' approach ensures uncompromising ethics, trust, privacy, security and compliance.

Topaz leverages Infosys applied AI framework to build an AI-first core that empowers people to deliver cognitive solutions, the company said in a statement.

Topaz is "an AI-first offering to accelerate business value for global enterprises using generative AI", the Bangalore-based IT major said, adding, "it helps amplify the potential of humans, enterprises and communities to tap into the next-generation of opportunities to create value from unprecedented innovations, connected ecosystems and pervasive efficiencies".

The 'responsible by design' approach "ensures uncompromising ethics, trust, privacy, security and compliance", it added.



According to the company, Topaz converges the power of Infosys Cobalt cloud, and data analytics to AI-power business, deliver solutions and intuitive experiences that drive growth.

"Infosys Topaz is helping us amplify the potential of people - both our own and our clients. We are seeing strong interest from our clients for efficiency and productivity-enhancing programs, even as businesses are keen to secure their future growth," Infosys CEO Saiil Parekh said.

### TECHIES IN TROUBLE

# Nearly 60K contract workers lost jobs in IT sector of India



A report by JP Morgan analysts warned last week that soaring inflation, supply chain issues and the hit from the Ukraine war will bring an end to the growth boom that India's IT services enjoyed during the pandemic

REUTERS

**New Delhi, May 23:** Nearly 60,000 outsourced contract workers lost jobs in India's information technology sector in the year ending in March as jobs for flexi workers hired through contractors by companies shrank 7.7% from a year earlier, a recruitment body said Tuesday.

"The drop in new employment generation within the IT flexi staffing sector mirrored the global slowdown in IT hiring," said Lohit Bhatia, president of the Indian Staffing Federation, representing over 120 recruitment agencies across the country.

However, the hiring in the manufacturing, logistics, and retail sectors remained strong, helped by domestic consumer

demand, he said.

The \$194-billion sector whose software services helped businesses adopt pandemic-era practices of online shopping and remote working is facing a slowdown this year as employees return to offices and the Russia-Ukraine war weighs on spending from clients in Europe.

The hiring of flexi workers in the IT sector shrank 6% quarter-on-quarter in the March quarter, Bhatia said, noting that hiring of contract workers through a third-party may remain weak for the next few quarters in the software industry.

India's unemployment rate in April rose for the fourth month in a row to 8.11%, from 7.8% in the previous month, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), a Mumbai-based think tank.

The Federation said overall demand for flexi workers slowed down in other sectors as well, adding 177,000 jobs through vendors in the financial year 2022/23 ending in March, compared with 230,000 workers in the previous year.

The number of flexi workers, hired through vendors by Indian companies has increased to 1.4 million including one-fourth of women workers.

# Adani stocks shine; mkt rises for 3rd day

ADANI'S BEATEN DOWN STOCKS ARE RECOVERING FAST FROM THE HINDENBURG HIT AFTER CLEAN CHIT FROM SC PANEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** All Adani Group stocks extended their rally, with Adani Enterprises climbing over 13 per cent on Tuesday after a Supreme Court-appointed panel found no evidence of stock price manipulation in the group companies.

The stock of Adani Enterprises zoomed 13.19 per cent on the BSE. Shares of Adani Wilmar jumped 9.99 per cent, Adani Power climbed 5 per cent, Adani Transmission (5 per cent), Adani Green (5 per cent), Adani Total Gas (5 per cent) and NDTV (4.99 per cent).

The stock of Ambuja Cements climbed 0.90 per cent, Adani Ports gained 0.53 per cent and ACC went up 0.25 per cent. Some group stocks also hit their upper circuit limits

during the trade.

The combined market valuation of all the ten group firms now stands at ₹10,79,497.65 crore. In three days, the combined market valuation of all the group firms has jumped ₹1,77,927.29 crore.

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty eked out gains in volatile trade to extend the winning streak to a third straight day.

Fag-end selling dragged the 30-share BSE Sensex down from its intra-day high level to settle at 61,981.79 with marginal gains of 18.11 points or 0.03 per cent. The NSE Nifty rose by 33.60 points or 0.18 per cent to end at 18,348, driven by gains in Adani group stocks.

Adani Group stocks have been rallying since Friday.

However, the six-member Supreme Court-appointed panel



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.

The committee, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice A M Sapre, in its 173-page report, said that based on the data from Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), it saw "no evident pattern of manipulation" in

the steep stock price rise in Adani group companies that can be attributed to "any single entity or group of connected entities".

QGC RAISES STAKE  
Meanwhile QGC Partners has raised its stake in Gautam Adani's conglomerate by about 10% and will take part in the group's future fund raising, Bloomberg News reported Tuesday. The value of QGC's Adani holdings is close to \$3.5 billion, the report said, citing an interview with Rajiv Jain, chief investment officer of the US investment firm.

QGC Partners in March invested \$1.87 billion across Adani Enterprise and other units via secondary market deals, after the report from US-based short seller Hindenburg Research eroded nearly \$147 billion from Adani companies' market value.

COMBINED MCAP OF ALL THE TEN ADANI GROUP FIRMS NOW STANDS AT ₹10,79,497.65CR

IN LAST THREE SESSIONS, THE GROUP'S COMBINED MCAP HAS JUMPED ₹ 1,77,927.29CR

## BIZ BUZZ

### Khushi Realcon announces new slogan



**Bhubaneswar:** Khushi Realcon has announced its new slogan 'Khushi ka Thikana' wherein the real meaning and purpose of a home is felt - Address of Your True Happiness. This theme has struck a chord with homebuyers of Odisha who see 'Capella' as a smart investment. The Khushi Capella Pahala, a residential project announced by Khushi Realcon in Bhubaneswar, offers 242 apartments with two residential towers including modern amenities such as an infinity pool, high-end lifestyle club, two pent houses and gardens. The real estate company has been delivering exceptional residential and commercial spaces in the City since its inception in 2012. The company has earned a good reputation for its well-known projects, which prioritise quality, customisation and client satisfaction.

# Cryptoverse: Busy bitcoin births new breed of crypto

Some investors and developers view bitcoin's blockchain as a safer long-term basis for creating tokens and applications in the wake of the crypto carnage that followed the collapse of high-profile firms like FTX and a general flight from riskier assets

REUTERS

**Washington, May 23:** Things are heating up on the bitcoin blockchain. Daily transactions have rocketed to an all-time high of 682,000 this month, according to data from Glassnode, almost 40% higher than the previous peak in 2017. Bitcoin's dominance, or its share of the overall \$1.16 trillion cryptocurrency market, has swelled to 44% from 38% at the start of the year.

What's going on? Enter BRC-20, the first class of crypto tokens to be built on the bitcoin blockchain, besides bitcoin

itself. Nearly 25,000 of the experimental coins have already been minted this year, sending transactions through the roof.

"BRC-20 tokens are a phenomenon we haven't seen before," said Gordon Grant, co-head of trading at Genesis trading.

Primarily due to the creation of these tokens, the average daily transactions over seven days stands at more than 531,000, nearly twice as high as a month ago, according to Blockchain.com data.

This new class of crypto has no specific use beyond speculation, akin to memecoins. Yet its nascent



popularity points to interest in bitcoin not just as a store of value or payments method, but as the foundation for developing new coins and applications - previously considered the domain of more modern blockchains such as Ethereum and Solana. Still, the BRC-20 frenzy has been volatile.

The total value of these tokens - which are typically traded in secondary markets, particularly de-

centralized exchanges - exceeded \$1 billion in early May, but has since fallen back to \$446 million, according to tracker BRC-20.io.

INSCRIBED ON SATOSHI  
As bitcoin's blockchain wasn't originally developed to support a crypto ecosystem, unlike Ethereum and Solana, BRC-20 tokens are created using ordinals theory, which allows data to be inscribed on each satoshi - the smallest denomination

of bitcoin, or one hundred millionth. "There isn't much utility when it comes to BRC-20 tokens and Ordinals," said CJ Reim, contributor at blockchain firm CoreDAO, though he sees the trend as "promising" in terms of interest in building products on the bitcoin blockchain.

The race to create these new coins hasn't had a significant impact on the price of bitcoin, which has been trading under \$30,000 since mid-April.

The rapid creation of BRC-20 tokens hasn't been without contention, with detractors saying the issuance of these tokens has made it more difficult for users who want to use bitcoin for its originally intended purposes.

"Gas" fees, or transactions costs on the bitcoin blockchain have soared over the past month, with the total dollar-denominated fees paid per day touching near a new all-time high of \$17.8 million per day, according to Glassnode data.

The median transaction fee spiked as high as \$30.91 versus a range of 90 cents and \$4.23 between January and May 1, Blockchain.com data showed. The network has also slowed considerably. The congestion was so acute, that the world's largest crypto exchange Binance had to briefly pause bitcoin withdrawals May 7.

"Although congestion has eased somewhat, it is still elevated and at its peak users were waiting over 30 hours for transactions to be confirmed," said Nauman Sheikh, head of treasury management at digital asset investment manager Wave Digital Assets.

People have seen what is possible with other blockchains and they want it on bitcoin, as the oldest network, bitcoin has a track record that people can trust

ALEX MILLER | CEO, HIRO



# CSK ENTER 10TH FINAL



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, May 23:** Chennai Super Kings tamed a tenacious Gujarat Titans by 15 runs on a sticky surface to enter their 10th IPL final here Tuesday and extend their remarkable consistency in the tournament. CSK did well to reach 172/7 on a slow pitch in Qualifier 1 after Hardik Pandya opted to bowl. Considering the conditions, it turned out to be much more than a competitive total as Gujarat Titans had a rare off day to end with 157 all out in 20 overs. Rashid Khan made the CSK fans nervous with a 16-ball 30 towards the end but

it was not enough for the Titans. However, the defending champions will get another shot to make a second successive final in Qualifier 2 Friday. CSK's master tactician M S Dhoni made the best use of home advantage to take the four time champions to a 10th final in 14 editions. CSK did not take part in 2016 and 2017 editions. Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/18) did the star turn for the Super Kings with a brilliant spell during which he strangled the opposition batters to avenge the defeat suffered in the tournament opener. Matheesha Pathirana

(2/37), Maheesh Theekshana (2/28) and Deepak Chahar (2/29) also finished with two wickets each.

Chasing 173, GT lost Wriddhiman Saha (12) in the third over. Skipper Hardik Pandya (8) could not make much impact at No.3. Dasun Shanaka (17) could not get going as well. Jadeja made things tougher for GT by casting the dangerous David Miller (4) to leave the opposition at 88/4 in the 13th over. The Titans slipped further when Rahul Tewatia was dismissed. Shubman Gill (42, 38b, 4x4, 1x6) was the top scorer.

Earlier, the Super Kings batters had a tough time on a slow pitch as they were not able to force the pace. Dhoni lasted only 2 balls for his 1 run, much to the disappointment of an adoring Chepauk crowd.

For the home team, Rituraj Gaikwad (60, 44b, 7x4, 1x6) was the best batter as he along with Devon Conway (40, 34b, 4x4), added 87 runs for the opening wicket. The others could not make a substantial contribution. Pacer Mohammed Shami (2/28) was the best bowler while Mohit Sharma (2/31) also picked up two wickets. Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmed scalped a wicket each and put pressure on the batters in the middle overs.

**BRIEF SCORES:** CSK 172/7 (Rituraj Gaikwad 60, Devon Conway 40; Mohammed Shami 2/28, Mohit Sharma 2/31) beat GT 157 (Shubman Gill 42, Rashid Khan 30; Ravindra Jadeja 2/18, Maheesh Theekshana 2/28, Deepak Chahar 2/29, Matheesha Pathirana 2/37) by 15 runs.

# Historic finish by Ganemat, Darshna in skeet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Almaty, May 23:** Ganemat Sekhon won silver while Darshna Rathore claimed bronze as India bagged two senior individual medals for the first time in women's skeet at an ISSF World Cup here Tuesday.

Local favourite Assem Orynbay of Kazakhstan won gold through a shoot-off after both Ganemat and herself ended the 60-shot final with 50 hits each.

Ganemat missed one out of the first two shoot-off targets after Orynbay had shot both down. It was Ganemat's second individual world cup medal and a first-ever for Darshna who appeared in her maiden senior final.

Earlier on competition day two, Darshna qualified for the six-woman final in second spot, equalling the national record with



a score of 120 while Ganemat was fourth, shooting 117.

Orynbay topped with 121 while among the other qualifiers was world number 10 from Cyprus, Konstantina Nikolaou. The Cypriot however was the only shooter to miss three of her first four targets in the final, while the other five missed one each. At the end of the first 10 targets Orynbay was the most accurate with eight hits with four others including Darshna and Ganemat following with seven.

In the men's skeet, none of the three Indians made the finals. Mairaj Khan was the best finisher with 119 for a 16th-place finish, while Gurjoat Khangura shot the same score to finish 18th. Anantjeet Singh Naruka was further back with 118.



## 8<sup>th</sup> BHUBANESWAR INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR-2023

21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> MAY Time - 2.30PM - 9.30PM  
Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar

Food partner: OOPRÉ | Automobile partner: Quantum  
B2B & B2C Exhibition  
**13 A/C PAVILION**  
35000 National & International Products  
20 STATES & 13 COUNTRIES

Furniture, Interior, Lifestyle, Home Decor, Real Estate, Building Material, Mattress, Afgani Dry fruits, Turkey Light, Pakistani Suit, Bangladesh Saree, Thailand Jewellery & Decor, Education, Malasiyan Fountain, Irani Carpet, Karachi Marble, Branded Clothes, Handloom & Handicraft, International Antique Products, IT, Health & Wellness, FMCG, Appliances, Food & Many More

**UPTO 60% OFF ON FURNITURE & HOME DECOR**

**GLOBAL BUSINESS CARNIVAL-2023**  
19 MAY - 29 MAY  
JANTA MAIDAN  
BHUBANESWAR

**Odisha PROPERTY BRANDS Expo**  
COMPARE | DISCUSS | DECIDE

**MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA**

**BREZZA**  
THE CITY-BRED SUV

HOT AND TECHY

Electric Sunroof | Head Up Display | 360 View Camera | 6 Airbags | Next Gen Suzuki Connect

**BREZZA**

E-BOOK\* TODAY AT WWW.MARUTISUZUKI.COM OR VISIT YOUR NEAREST MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA DEALERSHIP

MARUTI SUZUKI AUTHORISED DEALERS: JYOTE MOTORS: BHUBANESWAR: LEWIS ROAD: 9798190190. NAYAPALLI: 9798190190. KEONJHAR: 9798190190. NAYAGARH: 9798190190. ANANDPUR: 9798190190. KENDRAPARA: 9798190190. BALASORE: 9798190190. BARIPADA: 9798190190. BHADRAK: 9798190190. UDALA :7064499950. RAIRANGPUR: 9853446906. JALESWAR: 7064499950. BASUDEVPUR: 9798190190. SKY AUTOMOBILES: BHUBANESWAR: PATIA: 7381045356. CUTTACK: 9776677771, 7381873818. DHENKANAL: 7381045357. NARSINGHPUR: 7381045357. KAMAKHYANAGAR: 7381045357. JAJPUR: 9776900777. SALEPUR: 9583544555. CHANDIKHOL : 9583544555. TANGI: 7381045356. NARAYANI MOTORS: BHUBANESWAR: RASULGARH : 9583022019, 7440019592, 9583022013. JAGATSINGHPUR: 9583022090. PURI: 9583022035. NIMPARA: 7381094851. PARADEEP: 9583022034/ 48. PURI HIGHWAY PIPLI: 9583022013. ODYSSEY MOTORS: ANGUL: 7752076136, 9776901481. PALLAHARA: 7873565435, 9437831123. TUSHI MOTORS: CUTTACK: 9078076450. PANIKOILI: 9078076450. LEGEND CARS: JEYPORE: 7894406481. RAYAGADA : 9692883042. BHAWANIPATNA: 7894442907. SKY AUTOMOBILES: BERHAMPUR: 9778202019. BHANJANAGAR: 9778202019. PARALAKHEMUNDI: 9778202019. PHULBANI: 9778202019. ODYSSEY MOTORS: SAMBALPUR (AINTHAPALI): 7381433909. BOLANGIR: 9438068327. BARGARH: 9556352943. NUAPADA: 7381017851. SONEPUR: 9438068327. JHARSUGUDA: 9439892153. BOUDH: 8594908009. PADAMPUR: 7381661837. APARNAA MOTORS: SAMBALPUR (PARDHIPALI): 9237395001. ORBIT MOTORS: ROURKELA: 9040404444, 9437041155. SUNDARGARH: 9437049161, 9437131074. DEOGARH: 9437061223, 7064400290.

\*Terms and conditions apply. Creative Visualization. Black Glass on the vehicle is due to lighting effect. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Images used are for illustration purposes only \*\*Ex - Showroom Price Delhi.