ALAYA'S CAREER BALANCE Actor Alaya F expresses her eagerness to

explore diverse roles while maintaining balance in her career DEISURE

AWARDS

YAS ISLAND ABU DHABI

Sobha

UBER

Khaleej Times

U DHABI

was stand abu dhabi

meeting of the Governing Council

of NITI Aayog began under the

chairmanship of Prime Minister

ments are being toppled as the rea-

sons behind their absence, some

others cited personal reasons and

the issue of non-payment of cen-

tral funds. The BJP, however, lashed

out at the CMs, who skipped the

meeting terming their decision as

'anti-people' and 'irresponsible'.

Chief Ministers who skipped the

meeting include Delhi CM Arvind

Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant

Mann, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar,

Other than Naveen, the other

SISLAND



NO RESPITE FOR KHAN

More than 70 lawyers and leaders from Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party have parted ways over the May 9 mayhem

INTERNATIONAL P10

NEXA



SOBHA

IPL FINAL TODAY

Eyes will be on MS Dhoni and a young Shubman Gill as Chennai Super Kings take on Gujarat Titans with IPL title on the line SPORTS P12

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BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY MAY 28 | 2023

UP SHOCKER CLASS X STUDENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya (UP), May 27: A 15-yearold Class X student was pushed off the terrace of her school here after allegedly being gangraped by the manager of the private educational institution and sports teacher, police said Saturday, adding

had fallen from the terrace of the school building, officials said.

Ayodhya SP (City) Madhuban

GANGRAPED, KILLED

the girl died on the spot. The incident took place Friday, they said. The school management initially told the police that the girl died after falling from a swing. However, when police scanned the CCTV footage, they found that the girl

Police have registered a case against school manager Brijesh Yaday, principal Rashmi Bhatia and sports teacher Abhishek Kannaujia under Sections 376D (gangrape), 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC and under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Singh said, "On Saturday afternoon, on the complaint of the family of the girl student, a case was registered against the school principal, school manager and a sports teacher for gangraping the minor girl, murdering her, erasing the evidence and hatching criminal conspiracy and also under the POCSO Act.

The victim's father said even after the school was closed for summer vacation, her daughter was called to the school by the principal.

After she reached the school, manager of the school Brijesh Yadav and sports teacher Abhishek Kannaujia gangraped her and to hide the crime, they threw her from the terrace of the school," the father

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Leather coins?

WEAT	HER		
	BHUB	СТК	
≜ MAX	36.8°ℂ	37.0°(
≝ MIN	22.0°C	22.0°	∽ ———— ≃ Forecast
Humidity	72%	71%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky

CM Naveen Patnaik and 10 other CMs boycotted the 8th Governing Council meeting citing several reasons POST NEWS NETWORK Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Rajasthan New Delhi, May 27: The eighth

Narendra Modi Saturday but the CM N Biren Singh. As per sources, Naveen remained Chief Ministers from 11 non-BJPruled states including Odisha bovbusy throughout the day in sevcotted the meet. While some of the eral meetings including review of Chief Ministers questioned the the four-year performance of difway the democracy has been atferent departments including tacked and the non-BJP govern-Mission Shakti.

CM Ashok Gehlot, Karnataka CM

Siddaramaiah, Telangana CM K

Chandrasekhar Rao and Manipur

Delhi CM boycotted the meeting stating that the Union government has been openly making fun of cooperative federalism. "NITI Aayog's objective is to prepare a vision for India and promote cooperative federalism. But the way our democracy has been attacked in past few years is neither our country's vision nor cooperative federalism," Kejriwal said in a letter to PM Modi.

Mann, CM of AAP-ruled Punjab,

NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting was meant for only Chief Ministers

RED CARPET WELCOME: Actress Urvashi Rautela arrives at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Friday, to attend the 23rd International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards

Issues such as health, skill development, women empowerment and infrastructure development was deliberated in the NITI **Aayog meeting**

boycotted the meeting in protest against the Centre not paying ₹3,600 crore to Punjab towards rural development fund. He also stated that the Union government hasn't been paying attention towards the development of Punjab and farmers

demands. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot cited health reasons for not attending the meeting.

Kerala Chief Minister's office informed that due to prior programme, Vijayan could not take part in the meeting.

Tamil Nadu CM is abroad while Karnataka CM was busy in cabinet expansion. Bihar CM also cited prior programme at Patna while Telangana CM was attending Delhi and Punjab CM in Hyderabad.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Centre and the states/UTs have collective responsibility to fulfil the

aspirations of 140 crore people. 'We need to have common vision and strategy. NITI Aavog is taking multiple initiatives for strengthening cooperative and competitive federalism like the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme. Both these programmes showcase the power of working together as Centre, States and Districts, and the impact of data-driven governance in improving the lives of common citizens at the grassroots level," the PM said.

TWO KILLED IN **JUMBO ATTACK**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Soro/Ranpur, May 27: Two persons including a 9-year-old girl were trampled to death by elephants in Balasore and Navagarh distrcits, Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Pari Dehuri, daughter of Nishikanta Dehuri, at Saralia Chitrasula under Soro police limits in Balasore district and Satya Behera of Natima under Narsinghpur panchayat of Ranpur block in Nayagarh district.

In the first incident, a herd of eight elephants strayed into Saralia Chitrasula late Saturday night. On seeing the elephant on their backyard, the family members tried to drive it away. Annoyed by the move, the elephant entered the house and trampled the girl when she was trying to come out of the house. The family members rushed her to a hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

In the second incident, a tusker rushed out of a cashew orchard and attacked three labourers while they were on their way to work on bicycles on Kamaguru-Mayurjhalia road in Nayagarh district. Fifty-six-yearold Satya Behera died in the attack.

ALL SET FOR PARL HOUSE OPENING

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Sunday inaugurate the new Parliament building, equipped with state-of-the-art technology. With carpets from Mirzapur in UP, bamboo flooring from Tripura and stone carvings from Raiasthan, the new Parliament building reflects India's diverse culture.

11 CMS skip NITI meet CB: US agency's helpsought through Centre

РТІ РНОТО

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: The Crime Branch of Odisha police Saturday issued a clarification in connection with media reports raising questions over the investigation wing's claims that it has sought the help of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in USA for the probe into ex-min-

ister Naba Kishore Das's murder. As per the press note, the family members of now-sacked ASI Gopal Das claimed that the latter was suffering from mental illness. So, a team of medical experts was constituted by DMET to check the mental health of the assassin. Though the team found the accused mentally fit, it suggested further examination for confirmation. "In this process, help was taken from Central Forensic Science Laboratory, GoI, New Delhi, the State Forensic Laboratory of Gujarat and SCB Medical College, Cuttack. The

NIMHANS, GOI, Bangalore was also approached to send team of its experts to Odisha to which they expressed their inability," the release said.

The CB decided to take the help of Behavioural Analysis Unit of FBI which has been considered the best for such investigations. "Accordingly, on a request of CID-CB, the State Home dept did approach the MHA to request the FBI for help in the investigation of assassination of Naba Kishore Das. In this connection, the Home dept vide letter No.187/C/22.02.2023 requested the MHA to seek help of FBI in accordance with The Mutual Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with USA," it added.

MoS. Home, Tusharkanti Behera said, "The chargesheet prepared by the CB still requires some more formalities. Since the probe is being carried out under the supervision of a retired judge, all the details cannot be made available for public now.'

UK favours Indian Math, Science teachers

undergraduate level

Mathematics, Science and Language-

teaching qualifications from India,

Ghana, Singapore, Jamaica, Nigeria

South Africa and Zimbabwe are

■ In an effort to boost the number of teachers, the UK govt has begun an overseas recruitment drive under which teachers of Mathematics, Science and Language-teaching qualifications from India, Ghana, Singapore and other countries are being recognised

AGENCIES

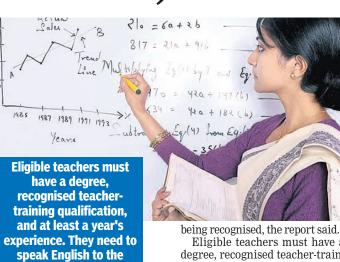
London, May 27: India is among the top source countries for qualified mathematics and science teachers being lured with "international relocation payments" of GBP 10,000 as part of an overseas drive to fill classroom vacancies in England, according to a UK media report Saturday.

Hundreds of Mathematics, Science and Language teachers will be brought to the UK from countries such as India and Nigeria this year, with plans to expand recruitment schemes to other countries and subjects, 'The Times' newspaper said.

The International Relocation Payments (IRP), being run as a pilot in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, is applicable to overseas teachers with a job offer in the UK and covers their cost of visas, immigration health surcharge and other relocation expenses.

UK officials reportedly expect between 300 and 400 teachers to get the IRPs in the coming academic year and if it proves a success in attracting overseas staff, the scheme could be extended to other subjects.

In an effort to boost the number of teachers, the government has begun an overseas recruitment initiative under which teachers of



being recognised, the report said. Eligible teachers must have a degree, recognised teacher-training qualifications, and at least a year's experience. Further, they need to speak English to the undergraduate level.

Such professionals are eligible for visas to work in Britain if they have a job offer and earn a minimum salary that depends on their role, usually around GBP 27,000 per annum.

Paul Whiteman, general secretary of the UK's National Association of Head Teachers, told 'The Times' that overseas recruitment "is, at best, a temporary solution".

"In March, we launched a onevear trial offering no more than 400 of the best teachers from around the world the opportunity to teach in our schools. This is one of many options we are exploring to ensure there is an excellent teacher for every child," the Department for Education (DfE) said in a statement.

The move comes at a time when there is a raging debate over the UK's record net migration figures released earlier this week, which British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak admitted were "too high".





leisure

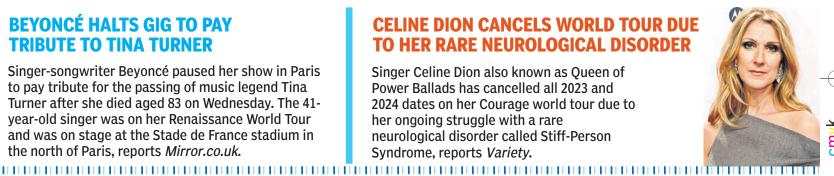


BEYONCÉ HALTS GIG TO PAY TRIBUTE TO TINA TURNER

Singer-songwriter Beyoncé paused her show in Paris to pay tribute for the passing of music legend Tina Turner after she died aged 83 on Wednesday. The 41year-old singer was on her Renaissance World Tour and was on stage at the Stade de France stadium in the north of Paris, reports Mirror.co.uk.

CELINE DION CANCELS WORLD TOUR DUE TO HER RARE NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER

Singer Celine Dion also known as Queen of Power Ballads has cancelled all 2023 and 2024 dates on her Courage world tour due to her ongoing struggle with a rare neurological disorder called Stiff-Person Syndrome, reports *Variety*.



You may want to meet up with friends you haven't met in a long time, and the stars indicate that you will have great fun. Your enthusiasm will add a glow to whatever you do. Your sincerity in approach is what makes it special,

TAURUS

You will focus on nurturing the positive aspects of your life today, says Ganesha You might exhaust yourself mentally trying to set things straight. It would be better to brainstorm with someone close to you or approach people whom you have differences with. The nitty-gritty is fine, but do not forget the larger picture.

You will let your personal likes and dislikes cloud your judgement today. Don't let that happen, or you may lose a worthy friend. You are likely to have a chance meeting with your soul mate or maybe even your ex-sweetheart.

CANCER Today may not be a productive day for you. Though there may not be any major loss, you may feel a little lost and would like to be left alone. If you have kids, you may suffer from the empty nest syndrome with your kids not at home.

You may wear the trendiest suit, drive the swankiest car and dine at the costliest restaurant, but if luck is not on your side, you can forget becoming a business tycoon. Fortunately, that is not the case with you today. With a favourable align ment of the cosmos, you are set for a day where your business proposals will be the

VIRGO Family matters. And mat-

ters of family matter more. Your negotiation skills are supreme and you shall bring harmonious ends to disputes today. Life has taught you to be balanced and level-headed, and you strongly believe that there is progression in opposition

It's a full platter today, and you have to manage it all

somehow. The day promises to be full of activities, especially those that involve writing letters and reviving old contacts. Expect a call to appear for an interview for a better job. Also, look forward to being put in charge of organising events at work, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

In all probability, you are set to shine out as a man of care and kindness. Ganesha advises you to shut the doors on worries and open the windows to let merrymaking and happiness sweep you off your feet today. The social bug will bite you hard, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Providence smiles upon you today, predicts Ganesha. Catching a film with your beloved today is a very good idea. Chances are you may have a nice outing along with your friends or family. In either case, the load in your wallet is likely to lessen, steadily if not dramatically.

CAPRICORN

Not many can match you when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle, and as Ganesha says, health won't be an issue today either. On the work front, you are likely to complete pending projects successfully and your boss, who may be furious because of the delay caused, will reluctantly admit that you did justice to the work and that it was worth the wait.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will wish there were two of you! You are deluged with pending work, and even doubling up efforts will not seem enough. You may even cancel your movie date, deciding to deal with your sweetheart's tantrums later.

PISCES

Bright prospects will greet whatever new ventures you decide to focus on today. says Ganesha. It is a good time to imple ment your plans. Apart from short-term monetary gains, you may also find yourself pursuing activities which bring you intangible rewards, like goodwill for example



Mumbai: Actor Alaya F who is known for films like Freddy, U-turn talks about her willingness to play all kinds of characters but she does not want to go overboard with it at this point in her career.

The Jawaani Jaaneman actor says, "Gaining acknowledgment from others boosts my self-assurance and drive, although it comes with a healthy expectation. Due to my high standards, even mundane tasks impress people, as they anticipate something exceptional from me each time. Moreover, I appreciate filmmakers approaching me with intriguing projects. Consequently, as long as these projects align with my instincts, whether traditional or unconventional, I will dedicate myself fully, hoping it resonates with the audience. Laspire to delve into diverse roles.

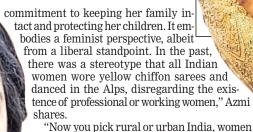
"The influence of celebrities has diminished due to social media and their active engagement on these platforms. However, my focus remains on achieving excellence, as failure occurs only when one ceases to strive. Regardless of attaining fame, I will persistently pursue my aspirations. It is crucial to aim for greatness in order to accomplish some thing meaningful, otherwise, efforts will be half-hearted. That's my approach," says Alaya.

'Portrayal of women in Indian cinema has changed'

Mumbai: Actress Shabana Azmi is enjoying the current phase of her career, says portrayal of women in cinema has changed significantly, and filmmakers are trying to depict female characters realisti-"If we talk about the film

industry, the portrayal of women in cinema has changed a great deal. Back in the 1960s, when you saw a film, it was all about 'main chup rahungi'. It was considered a virtue for a woman to remain silent. Today, that won't be ideal at the box office' says the 72 year old actress. "In the film What's Love Got to Do

with It?, my character's role differs from the typical feminist portrayal. She represents the matriarch of her family, demonstrating her unwavering



are [shown to be] working. Even if a film is a love story, the women have a profession, they do something else rather, except for just falling for someone. These things show how there is a change, and it's only for better," concludes the

On the work front Shabana Azmi will be seen next in Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani.



IIFA-2023

Weekend 2023 kickstarted here with a ceremony that saw Alia Bhatt-starrer Gangubai Kathiawadi bagging awards in three technical categories was held at Yas Island.

Actor Rajkummar Rao and filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan hosted the IIFA Rocks ceremony, winners for technical categories, including cinematogra-

phy, screenplay, dialogue and ed iting, were an nounced. Period Gangubai Kathiawadi won three trophies in the in best cinematog raphy,



Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Utkarshini Vashishtha won the award for best screenplay.

The Kartik Aaryan-starrer Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 won in two technical categories, Bosco Martis and Caesar Gonsalves won the best choreography award for their work on the title track and in the best sound design.

Ajay Devgn's crime thriller Drishyam 2 took home the trophy for best editing, whereas Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's action adventure Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva was ad-

judged the winner

of best special ef-

fects (visual). Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan-starrer Vikram Vedha and Vasan Bala's Monica O My Darling bagged



the honours for best background score and best sound mixing. respectively.

The event witnessed performances by Amit Trivedi, Badshah, Jacqueline Fernandez, Rakul Preet Singh, Sunidhi Chauhan, Sukhbir Singh, Palak Muchhal and Iulia Vantur and was attended by Abhishek Bachchan, Vicky Kaushal, Boman Irani, Sunny Kaushal and Radhika Madan

Superstar Salman Khan and actor-model Nora Fatehi turned showstoppers for designer Manish Malhotra, who showcased a special collection on the theme of 'old world charm meets the new world'.

Abhishek Bachchan and Vicky Kaushal hosted the IIFA Awards ceremony.

My first Cannes was intimidating: Aditi

Mumbai: Actress Aditi Rao Hydari who garnered acclaim for her web outings in *Jubilee* and *Taj* recently was ecstatic to walk for the second time at the prestigious Cannes film fes-

The 36 year old walked the red carpet at Cannes for the second time, says, "Last year it was all new to me, it seemed very daunting but something I kept telling myself is that every step of the way, I will just wear what I like and I will make sure to be myself. That made me a little bit more comfortable, even though it is surreal and a huge responsibility. This year, I was shooting till the last day before I left. I didn't even get time to prep or get a facial!"

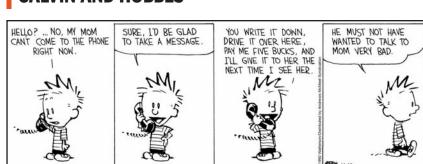
The *Bhoomi* actress says, "I am new to this and have a lot of responsibilities. It is a lot of fun to walk the red carpet, and feels really special. Maybe as time goes by and I do this more often, I will also be able to male time to be a festival buff, roam around with a backpack and watch the films I want to.'

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



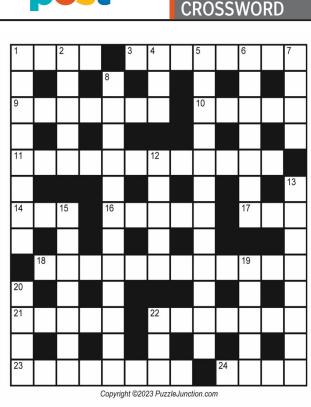
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN POST



1	Attack item
3	Loan recipien

Across

10 Gadget

9 Bottom-feeder

- 11 Requirement
- 14 Sprocket
- 16 Role player
- 17 Morsel
- 18 Deafening 21 A long oar
- 2 Flat
 - 4 Express surprise 20

1 Knapsack

22 In proportion

23 Variable resistor

(3,4)

24 Price

<u>Down</u>

- 5 Enrollment 6 Vat

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- monarch
- 22 Legume

7 Chessman

records

12 Up to a time

that

13 Standing

15 Grain

19 Insect

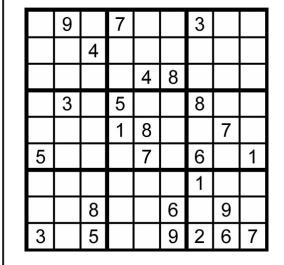
containers (4,8)

Former Russian

8 Historial

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

MAESTRO CROSSWOR 8

> 9 3 5

6

4 6 2 9 1 2 7 4 9 3 2 3 7 4 6 1 9

7 2

SUDOKU

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



downtown



TAKING STOCK

5T Secretary VK Pandian reviews the progress of Srimandir Parikrama project in Puri, Saturday

222	COVID-19 TRACKER			
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	68,92,80,993	66,16,58,792	68,82,766
	India	4,49,88,916	4,44,51,353	5,31,856
	Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204
	111111111	: 	: 	:

Dharitri-EFI water body restoration drive kicks off



Khurda, May 27: Dharitri and Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI) flagged off the restoration of Haridamda lake under Mendhashal gram panchayat here Saturday, marking the beginning of the ambitious initiative to rejuvenate water bodies across the state.

Rautray, Khurda Collector K Sudarshan Chakravarthy, Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, EFI founder Arun Krishnamurthy, PD, DRDA Diganta Routroy, Zilla Parishad member Pravat Parida, sarpanch Kaushalya Baliarsingh and JSW ence of villagers.

The Jatni MLA praised the lake restoration initiative. "The lake has been in a very bad shape for years now. The water body restoration drive by **Dharitri** is really praiseworthy as it would help the villagers immensely," Rautray, who was the event's chief body," Chakravarthy, the event's guest of honour, said. Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor

Tathagata Satpathy said the waterholding capacity of many lakes and ponds has been dwindling due to poor upkeep. "We (**Dharitri**) have collaborated with EFI to restore those water bodies," he said.

Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy said, "Little steps like this (restoration of water bodies) will go a long way in saving the environment."

The EFI founder said rejuvenation of Haridamda lake will not only help the villagers, but also the animals.

JSW Foundation state head Prasanta Biswal welcomed the drive, saying it will help one and all

HE DEPT STOPS **SALARY OF 233**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: The Higher Education (HE) department has withheld the salary of principals and head clerks of 233 colleges for gross negligence and failure to carry out the instruction of higher authorities.

An order issued by the Higher Education department Special Secretary said the salary was withheld as they failed to furnish the required information in response to the letters of assistant directors after repeated reminders.

The HE department, in its order, said, "You have failed to furnish the required information in response to the letters of the assistant director even after repeated reminders. It shows gross negligence in discharging government duty on your part along with failure to carry out instructions of authorities of the Higher Education department.

The HE department directed the principals not to draw and release the salary/remuneration for the month of May 2023 of themselves as well as of the head clerk/clerk of the concerned colleges till compliance with the orders is made and clearance given from the department.

Fund for social security assistance to SHGs soon

In a bid to transform

women SHGs into

government has

worth ₹4,949 crore to the SHGs

BASANTI HEMBRAM I MISSION SHAKTI MINISTER

She further said that the average

loan size of SHGs has also seen a big

jump from ₹1.06 lakh in 2016-17 to

₹3.01 lakh. This quantum jump was

boosted by the state government's

decision to provide zero interest loans

been reimbursed directly to bank ac-

counts of more than 4 lakh SHGs, with

SHGs into MSEs, the state govern-

ment has facilitated business worth

₹4,949 crore to the SHGs in conver-

gence with 20 government depart-

ments, said Mission Shakti Minister

Convergence guidelines have been

prepared to incentivise the role of

SHGs in different schemes. This has

created opportunities for more than

Basanti Hembram.

₹216 crore in the last year alone.

In the past four years, ₹587 crore has

With an aim to convert women

upto ₹5 lakh.

in convergence with 20

government departments

facilitated business



Mission Shakti Minister Basanti Hembram (R) and commissioner-cum-secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan address the media in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

government has decided to create a dedicated fund to provide financial assistance to members of women self-help groups (SHGs) in case of accidental deaths, major injuries and diseases, Mission Shakti commissioner cum secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan said here, Saturday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday reviewed the performance of Mission Shakti department and implementation of promises made in election manifesto of 2019.

Speaking to media, Sujata said Mission Shakti department has 7 million women organised into 6 lakh SHGs. A dedicated fund, in line with the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), will be created in the next two to three months to provide financial support to women SHG members in case of accidental death and major injury, she said.

For the first time in the history, credit flow to SHGs has crossed ₹11,000 crore in 2022-23. This is a quantum leap over a period of eight years. The credit flow has been increased 19 times over a period of eight years (2014-15 to 2022-23), Karthikeyan said.

1 lakh SHGs and enhanced their economic standing by generating a cumulative income of ₹1,226 crore in the last 4 years. As many as 11,008 clusters have been promoted under different livelihood sectors, she said.

Further, 102 Mission Shakti Cafes have been opened across the state to provide healthy and nutritious food to people in a homely setting while being a good source of revenue generation for SHG members.

With high quality training being provided by Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), these cafes have a daily footfall of 50-100 and average monthly earning of ₹50,000, she pointed out.

The SHGs have set up 1,147 millet enterprises, promoting healthy and sustainable food practices. Pisciculture is being done by 13,431 SHGs in 13,501 GP tanks, which led to a business turnover of ₹139 crore.

For the first time, Mission Shakti institutions have received huge infrastructure support for strengthening SHGs and creating markets for their products.

The department has constructed 6,662 Mission Shakti Gruhas at GPs and Urban areas with an allocation of ₹5 lakh (rural) and ₹7.09 lakh (urban), the secretary said.

Similarly, 127 Mission Shakti Bhawans were constructed at block level at a cost of ₹50 lakh for each unit. Mission Shakti Bhawans constructed at district level with an allocation of ₹1 crore for each unit.

Besides, 119 Mission Shakti outlets opened in 22 districts. District level Mission Shakti Bazaars are under construction. The state level Mission Shakti Bazaar will be opened soon, informed the secretary.

This budget has the Mission Shakti Scooter scheme, where two lakh members will be covered. Interest subvention for loans upto ₹1 lakh for purchase of scooter will be borne entirely by the state government,

Srimandir Lions' Gate to be silver coated

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, May 27: Lions' Gate, the main entrance to Srimandir in Puri, will be coated with silver during the annual Rath Yatra, when the deities will be away from the 12th century shrine, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said, Saturday.

Collector as-

sured all help for

the noble initiative.

"Haridamda lake restoration drive

by **Dharitri** and EFI is a welcome

move. We will ensure all possible

help for rejuvenation of the water

A devotee has agreed to donate adequate quantity of silver to be used in plating, he added. The

design has been finalised reflecting the temple architecture. The work will be completed before the deities' return to Srimandir from Gundicha Temple.

Rath Yatra will commence June 20 and Bahuda Yatra is scheduled for June 29, it was

The temple managing body members along with core committee Chief NC Pal and the silver artisans had visited the temple and the Lions' Gate. It was decided to work within nine days

during absence of the deities in main temple.

The work will be done amid round-the-clock tight security and under CCTV cover, the chief administrator informed.

Except for the servitors, no one will be allowed to pass through the doors during execution of the work. Devotees will be allowed to enter and exit through other three gates he added. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has accorded necessary permission for the work, Das said. Earlier, eight doors of the tem-

ple were silver-plated. Devotees had donated the silver for the work.

This apart, the damaged 'Ratna Pallank', huge bed on which deities sleep during Pahuda, will be remade keeping its weight and size at par with the old one.

"While ivory work was extensively done to decorate the old 'Pallank', we will approach the state government to provide ivory for a new one for the deity," the chief administrator said.







OrissaPOST

SAMBADdiaita

State attracts ₹5,000cr investments in tourism

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: Active investor facilitations and Odisha's progressive Tourism Policy have helped welcome global hospitality brands and amusement park with investments worth over ₹5,000 crore, said Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra, Saturday.

Addressing media here, Patra said despite the Covid pandemic, the state has witnessed a domestic footfall of 37.42.221 and international footfall of 2,269 tourists in 2021, which is expected to increase further.

Despite global pandemic like Covid and natural calamities like floods and cyclones, the tourism sector in the state has made a quick recovery. This is reflected with the entry of leading global hospitality and amusement park brands in the state with investments of more than ₹5,000 crore, he said.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Tourism, Surendra Kumar said that the budget of the Tourism department in 2022-23 is ₹660 crore in comparison to ₹2.67 crore in 2000-01, which is an increase of 246 per cent or which convevs the focus being given by the state towards the tourism sector.

He further stated that the state has witnessed a massive growth in tourist footfall over the last 23 years. The state welcomed 28,88,392 domestic tourists and 23,723 international tourists in 2000, which peaked in 2019 to 1,53,07,637 domestic tourists (increase of 433 per cent) and 1,15,128 (increase of 385 per cent) international tourists till the onset of Covid pandemic.

Expansion of a highly success-

ful glamping festival, Eco-Retreat Odisha, from one location in 2019 to seven unique ecotourism destinations in the state by 2022. The destinations are Satkosia, Bhitarkanika, Hirakud, Daringbadi, Putsil and Sonapur apart from Ramchandi Beach in Konark. Launch of water-based recreation at

the Tampara Lakefront Project in Ganjam and Silver City Boat Club at Mahanadi river in Cuttack, which provides tourists with recreational facilities such as water sports, Kumar said.

In 2016, Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana was launched by the Chief Minister.

Under this scheme, pilgrimage tours to various parts of the country have been provided to more than 19,000 senior citizens of BPL families till date.

Girls' enrolment in ITIs increased in state: Min

was inaugurated by Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik. A mega finish-

ing school for ITI and polytechnic

students, WSC offers ITEES skill

qualification, an internationally

recognised certification, enabling

students to secure placements in

countries such as the UAE and

participate in internship programs

also become a centre for capacity

building of trainers, provide life-

skill training to students, con-

duct domain specific leadership training, and enter into part-

nerships with globally renowned

skills, more than 16 centres of ex-

cellence have been established in

technical universities, and ITIs in

areas such as healthcare, data an-

alytics, computing, renewable en-

Similarly, to promote digital

ergy, and electric vehicles.

To promote industry-oriented

The Minister said WSC has

in Singapore.



Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjan Gharai addressing the media in City, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: The enrolment of girls in industrial training institutes (ITIs) has been increased from 6 percent in 2016-17 to an impressive 22.5 percent in 2022-23 due to Sudakshya scheme, said Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjan Gharai here Saturday.

Speaking to media persons here, Gharai said the department has decided to enroll girl students in Sudakshya who are interested in pursuing polytechnic education.

Recognising the critical need for offering residential facilities, hostels have already been provided in 49 government ITIs and 33 government polytechnics while construction is in progress in the remaining ones, he said.

Gharai further said, "In the year 2021, the World Skill Centre (WSC)

Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjan Gharai informed that to promote industry-oriented skills, more than 16 centres of excellence have been established in technical universities, and ITIs

skills among students and faculty members of ITIs, polytechnics, and engineering colleges, partnerships with reputed industries have facilitated the training of over 30,000 students and 300+ faculty members. Gharai said.

The budget allocation of the department has also increased from ₹719 crore in 2019-20 to ₹811 crore in 2022-23. In the FY 2023-24 the budget has seen a further fillip with an allocation of ₹986.25 crore, an increase of over 21 percent. This additional fiscal allocation will give a thrust to skilling in the state, he added.

To further give fillip to skilling in future skills and new-age courses, Nutana Unnata Abhilasha (NUA) Odisha scheme was announced in the Budget 2023-23 with an allocation of ₹100 crore. This scheme aims to provide skill training to one lakh youth in emerging technologies such as Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality-Virtual Reality, Data Science, and 3D printing.



IN SYNC: Artistes perform during Gandharva Kala Mahotsav at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

2 engineering students drown in Kuakhai river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: In a tragic incident, two engineering students drowned while taking bath in Kuakhai river on the outskirts of the City here Saturday evening. The students were identified as Smruti Sourav Pradhan of Gadakana area under Mancheswar police limits and Satyajit Das of Rengali in Angul district.

Locals informed that the victims along with some of their friends were sitting at the riverbed. Meanwhile, they went into the river to take bath at Indrapal in Balianta area. Satyajit first slipped into deep waters due to strong current. Smruti, while trying to save Satyajit, also drifted into the water and went missing, sources said.

Their friends immediately called the Fire Services personnel who reached the spot and launched a search operation. They recovered Smruti and Satyajit in critical condition after few minutes of search and sent them to Capital Hospital for treatment. The doctors at hospital declared them dead on arrival.

WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

'Young girls should assert their needs'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: More than 60 adolescent girls from the City slums participated in an event organised by VIEWS, a non-profit organization working towards empowering vulnerable communities, to observe the World Menstrual Hygiene Day at CYSD Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, State Representative of UNDP Odisha Abha Mishra said, "Girls must assert their needs and rights. Only then can they be fulfilled by the relevant individuals at home, schools, and other places. Additionally, girls should possess all the necessary information and knowledge about menstruation and their health.'

Executive Director of VIEWS Selvin Bheema Rao said, "We are delighted to have celebrated World Menstrual Hygiene Day with our partners and community members." This event was an important opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by adolescent girls in managing their menstrual health, and to provide them with the resources and support they need to live healthy and

The primary objective of the event was to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene management among adolescent girls and women residing in the urban slums of Bhubaneswar. The programme was supported by Global Glow and Asia Initiatives.

empowered lives, he added.

The event commenced with an exhibition showcasing artwork by club members, highlighting the significance of menstrual hygiene management.

Throughout the day, the adolescent girls had the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions on menstruation issues with experts and listen to the speakers.

The event helped the participants gain knowledge on menstrual hygiene practices and their importance in maintaining good health. A prize distribution ceremony for the art competition was held, recognising the talent and creativity of the participants.

centre launched POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, May 27: "In2IT

Global SAP delivery

EBS" a global IT & consulting organisation launched its global SAP delivery centre in Bhubaneswar recently, marking a significant milestone in the journey towards marketplace competitiveness. The organization managing di-

rector Rudra Shankar Satpathy said, "We hold an unwavering conviction that the remarkable talent pool in this region will empower our center to effectively cater to the ERP service requirements of multinational enterprises, transcending boundaries of size and scale.'

IT workshop held on emerging technology

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: A daylong IT workshop on 'Emerging Technology in Digital Transformation' was held Saturday at city hotel.

The workshop was conducted by Gupta Event Management (GEM) as part of its ongoing IT software Expo at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar. The workshop was inaugurated in the presence of eminent personalities, guests, speaker and participants.

Speaking on this occasion, National Informatics Centre's ex senior director and convener of the IT Workshop Umakanta Jena said that our prime objective of organising this workshop is to create a platform for knowledge sharing, networking and collaborative discussions on the latest trends, innovations, and challenges in the field of information technology. We believe that this event will provide valuable insights into the rap idly evolving IT landscape and serve as a catalyst for growth.



Panda meets Indian ambassador to Japan



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: Public Enterprises, SSEPD and Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda Saturday met Indian Ambassador to Japan Sibi George and discussed issues pertaining to biotechnology.

Panda emphasised on student exchange programme in biotechnology for which learning of Japanese language would give ample employment opportunities to Odia students. He also exchanged

his proposals on marine biotechnology and scope for collaboration in geriatric care in the state. Growth of Buddhist tourism in Odisha also had a place in the discussion. George appreciated the proposals and said that positive response in the above matters will be followed. Panda conveyed best wishes from the people of Odisha. During the discussion, first secretary Suresh Lakhavat was also present. Former Minister and Baramba MLA Debi Prasad Mishra also participated in the discussion.

H&UD JOINT SECY VISITS AAHAAR CENTRE IN CITY -POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: To entain high standards of food, Housing and Urban Development department decided to conduct surprise visits at various levels

Accordingly, a team led by Housing and Urban Development Joint Secretary Sarada Prasad Panda and state nodal officer Aahaar visited the Aahaar centre at Capital Hospital in City Saturday.

Panda interacted with the Mission Shakti Self-Help Group in charge, and emphasised on serving beneficiaries with dignity, minimizing food wastage and providing special attention to vulnerable groups and use of protective wear during serving among other things.

Aahaar, a pioneering initiative by the government of Odisha, has



ment to the well-being of the citizens. What began as a modest effort with 21 Aahaar centres in 5 muformed into a powerful movement. Spanning across all 115 Urban ocal Bodies (ULBs), the state now

nicipal corporations has now trans-

boasts a remarkable 167 Aahaar centres. Each day this monumental endeavour touches the lives of approximately 1 lakh individuals, ensuring that no one goes to bed hungry. As on date, over 150 million meals have been served to

More exercise may increase tolerance for pain: Study

The study, published in the journal PLOS One, found people who regularly exercised had a higher pain tolerance compared with those who hardly exercised

any benefits come from regularly exercising, including stronger muscles, lower risk of disease and improved mental health. But a recent study suggests that exercise may have another unexpected benefit: it might make us more tolerant to pain.

The study, published in the journal PLOS One, found people who regularly exercised had a higher pain tolerance compared with those who hardly exercised.

To conduct their study, the researchers used data from 10,732

participants who'd taken part in the Tromsø study – a large study on health and disease that was conducted in Tromsø, Norway. The participants were aged 30 to 87, and just over half were women.

Every participant was assessed twice, eight years apart. During each assessment, they answered questions about their physical activity levels and took part in a cold pressor test. This is a common method used by researchers to induce pain in a laboratory environment. Participants place their hand in 3 degree Celsius water for as long as they can. The longer they keep their hand in the water,

the greater their pain tolerance. The researchers found that the more active the participants were, the longer they could keep their hand in the water. In fact, those who were categorised as being very active were able to keep their hand in the water for 115.7 seconds on average compared with 99.4 seconds



for the least-active participants. The researchers also found that participants who stayed active or became even more active were able to perform better on average during the second test compared with those who remained inactive.

It's worth noting, however, that over the eight years between assessments, everyone became less tolerant of pain on average. This change was roughly the same for everyone -whether people were couch potatoes or avid marathoners. But active participants still had higher pain tolerance compared with inactive people, despite this decrease. It's uncertain why people became less tolerant to pain over time, but it could be because of ageing.

Assessing physical activity via selfreport is tricky business as participants may be tempted to report they're more physically active than

they are in reality. They may also have trouble remembering their physical activities, which can lead to both over- and under-reporting.

The participants were also only asked about their physical activity over the last 12 months, leaving the remaining seven years between assessments unaccounted for in the analyses. This means someone may be classed as sedentary despite having engaged in vigorous physical activity for seven out of the eight years.

Given these results, it's interesting to speculate how physical activity may affect pain tolerance. While we do have some ideas why this link exists, we're still a long way

from knowing the complete picture. One possible explanation for this link could be due to some of the physiological changes that happen after exercising – such as exerciseinduced "hypoalgesia". This essentially refers to a reduction in pain and sensitivity that people report during and following exercise. A good example of this is the runner's high, when the body releases its own opioids, called endorphins. These hormones bind to the same receptors as opioids, producing a similar pain-reducing effect.

Research suggests they can help us tolerate pain better. Studies show that exercise can increase levels of endocannabinoids, which may in turn improve our pain tolerance overall.

Physical activity also improves our mood, which in turn makes us more resistant to pain. Furthermore, exercise helps us learn how to distract ourselves from pain - such as when we listen to music while running. Regular physical activity can help us overcome fear of pain and movement and allows us to be prepared for the experience of pain. Unsurprisingly, many of these techniques are used as the basis for pain management

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OrissaPOST

Exchanging ₹2K notes becomes herculean task for Bonda tribals

Bonda women could be seen moving from shop to shop to exchange the notes or buy goods as many of them have not even seen a bank vet



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, May 27: With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) withdrawing the ₹2000 notes from circulation, exchanging those with currencies of equal value or against provisions has become a herculean task for the primitive Bonda tribals in Malkangiri district, a report

Even though the RBI has clarified that the exiting notes will continue to be a legal tender, there is visible sense of panic among the poor Bonda tribals who are finding it difficult to exchange the notes. The ₹2000 notes have turned into headache for them as traders are refusing to accept them.

As a result, Bonda women vis-

PNN & AGENCIES

their possession.

PNN & AGENCIES

Nayagarh, May 27: A team

of STF has arrested two drug

peddlers from Nayagarh dis-

trict and seized more than 106

kg of ganja, a car and other

incriminating materials from

STF source Saturday said

on the basis of intelligence

input, a raid was conducted

Jagatsinghpur, May 27: A

mother and her two sons sus-

tained critical burn injuries

after their house caught fire

after lightning struck it dur-

ing nor'wester at Barhadiha

village under Kujang block

of Jagatsinghpur district in

Sources said all the three

the wee hours of Saturday.

were first admitted to Kujang

hospital but later shifted to

SCB Medical College and

Hospital. Cuttack after their

House catches fire in lightning;

three of a family hospitalised

iting local haats to buy provisions or to sell their harvested crops and vegetables were seen resorting to barter system.

They were seen exchanging their harvested crops and vegetables to buy essentials for their family

Notably Bonda tribals live on modest means and manage their family expenses with whatever they earn from cultivation or by selling minor forest produce that they collect.

The Bonda tribals bring the crops and vegetables which they cultivate in their backyard for sale to the haat and return home by buying their daily essentials with the money they earn.

However, after the RBI announced to withdraw ₹2000 notes from circulation things have taken

STF arrests two drug peddlers from Nayagarh

Bhubaneswar Friday with

the help of Nayagarh dis-

trict Police at Itamati under

Itamati police limits and ar-

STF identified the accused

as Jugal Nayak (29) of

Bandhagada village under

Phiringia police station of

Kandhamal district and

Ranjit Bhoj (24) of Phulbani

rested two drug peddlers.

a team of STF,

a difficult turn as the development has put them in a catch 22 situation.

It is learnt that many Bonda

families are still left with some

₹2000 notes they have managed to save from their meagre earnings. They have been panicking after learning that the ₹2000 note is going to be withdrawn. Several Bonda women were found coming to the Mundiguda haat carrying ₹2000 notes to exchange them by buying provisions or with currencies of

equal value but traders are refusing

to accept those notes or claiming

that they do not have change. This has sparked concern among the primitive tribals. As the RBI has directed to deposit the ₹2000 notes in the bank, several small and marginal traders operating in the haat are declining to accept those notes from the customers.

As a result, Bonda women could be seen moving from shop to shop to exchange the notes or buy goods with it as many of them have not even seen a bank yet.

Left with no option, they have resorted to barter system to buy provisions by exchanging their harvested crops and vegetables.

The local intelligentsia have demanded that the bank authorities urgently intervene and collect those ₹2000 notes from the tribals by arranging camps in the Bonda villages.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 27:

Berhampur Sadar police

Saturday arrested a man iden-

tified as Dhiren Kumar Parida

of Deulipedi village under

Patapur PS limits and for-

warded him to court for his

As per information received.

Dhiren had married Dibyadipti

(21), daughter of Umashankar

Rout of Pandiajholi village in

the area February 18 in 2022. As

Dhiren was working in a pri-

vate company in Mumbai, he

took his wife with him to

Mumbai after marriage.

wife's murder over dowry.

Man awarded 7-year RI for wife's murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, May 27: Champua additional district and sessions judge Saroj Kumar Dash Saturday convicted a man for his wife's murder and sentenced him to seven years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) along with ₹10,000 fine. In case the penalty amount is not deposited by the accused, he will have to serve an additional 6-month of imprisonment, the judge ordered.

As per the case file, Santanu Kumar Giri of Brahmapur Karanjia village under Champua police limit in Keonjhar district was married to Tilotama, daughter of Kshetrabashi Pradhan of Chandrasekharpur village in the area five years back.

But after marriage, he was reg

ularly torturing his wife demanding more dowry. He then killed her by giving poison and tried to give his crime a differ ent form.

In this regard, his father-in-law Kshetrabashi Pradhan complained at Champua PS July 21, 2017. A case (10/2017) was registered by the police. The judge pronounced the judgement after hearing 14 eyewitnesses and based on medical report and the case diary.

Kamakhyanagar, May 27: Kamakhyanagar Police Saturday arrested eight persons on charge of critical assault and murder bid on Parjang tehsildar S Subhra Patel during a raid to check illegal soil lifting at Patharkhamba village the previous day.

The accused persons were identified as Gunanidhi Sahu, 27, Tripura Parida, 61, Tulu Parida, 27, Suresh Parida, 58, Shibaram Parida, 35, of Patharkhamba village Prafulla Sahu, 50, of Muktapasi village, Dushmant Sahu, 46, of Temple area Kamakhyanagar and Pandav Gagrai, 48, of Chulia village.

The accused after their arrest were produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody after the magistrate rejected their bail pleas. An earthmover and two tractors were seized in this connection and sent to the Transport department for verification. This was stated here by SP Gyanaranjan Mohapatra while speaking at a press meet at the sub-divisional police office in Kamakhyanagar, Saturday

The attack on the tehsildar occurred when he raided Patharkhamba village after being tipped off about illegal soil lifting on government land near the canal flowing in the village. The tehsil-

spector (RI) Alok Lenka, junior clerk Premananda Behera. Muktapasi RI Suphala Nayak launched a surprise raid in the The tehsildar opposed the illegal soil lifting from government land and was trying to videograph the

8 nabbed for assault, murder

attempt on Parjang tehsildar

illegal act on his mobile phone when the miscreants launched an organaised attack on him with lathis and thrashed him. They even tried to kill him and tried to run him over with an earthmover (JCB machine) engaged in soil extraction in the locality. The incident took place when

some people were extracting soil illegally from a piece of government land at Patharkhamba Friday morning. The miscreants did not spare RI Alok Jena and other tehsil officials when they tried to intervene to rescue the injured tehsildar.

Later, they fled the scene. Critically injured, the tehsildar was rescued and admitted to

hospital. A case was registered in this connection under various sections of IPC after the tehsildar was discharged post primary treat-On being directed by the SP, a spe-

cial police team led by SDPO Ranjan Kumar Dey and Kamakhyanagar IIC Sarat Kumar Mahallick and other police officials raided Muktapasi village at late Friday night and arrested the 8 accused per-

It is suspected that vehicle owners might be behind the attack on the tehsildar. They will be arrested if the claims are found to be true, the SP said. Among others, the SDPO, IIC and several police officials were present in the press

EAST COAST RAILWAY

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PANTRY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS IN COACHES AND PANTRY CARS OF (LHB & NON-LHB COACHES)
TRAINS AT PURI COACHING DEPOT

FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.

Approx Cost of Work: ₹ 48,57,881.16,

(2) e-Tender Notice No: e-Tender-Elect-G-20-23 Name of the Work: OPERATION AND ESCORTING OF LSLRD COACHES IN MAIL/EXPRESS/SUPERFAST TYPE TRAINS AT BHUBANESWAF & PURI COACHING DEPOTS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

Approx Cost of Work: ₹ 4,44,13,184.70 Cost of EMD: ₹5,29,200/-, Cost of tender

documentin: ₹ 11,800/-. Completion Period for the work; 24 Months (for sl no. 1) & 36 Months (for sl no. 2).

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. o 09.06.2023 (for both tenders)

No manual offers sent by Post/Cour in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender is available n website http://www.ireps.gov.in date of closing of tender to note any changes

WORKS FOR SUPERSTRUCTURE OF BRIDGES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2024 UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER BRIDGE/TITLAGARH IN

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 89,80,984.05

(2) e-Tender No. 06-eT-SDENS-SBP-23 Name of work! EXECUTION OF ZONAL WORKS (FOR BRIDGE REPAIR WORKS) BETWEEN NORLA ROAD (IN)-THERUVALI (IN) & LANJIGARH ROAD (EX)-JUNAGAR ROAD (IN) SECTION OF SAMBALPUF DIVISION UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/MUNIGUDA FOR THE PERIOD

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,05,17,846.75, (3) e-Tender No. 07-eT-SDFNS-SRP-23 Name of work: EXECUTION OF ZONAL WORKS (FOR BRIDGE REPAIR WORKS) BETWEEN DEOGAON ROAD (EX)-NORLA ROAD (EX) SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL

ENGINEER/TITLAGARH FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2024. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,11,41,050.75,

Bid Security: ₹ 2,05,800 Name of work: EXECUTION OF CIVIL ZONAL WORKS IN NORLA ROAD (IN)-THERUVALI (IN) & LANJIGARH ROAD (EX)-ILINAGARH ROAD (IN) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING ON 30.06.2024 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/MUNIGUDA.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,90,79,369.95

(5) e-Tender No. 09-eT-SDENS-SBP-23 Name of work: EXECUTION OF CIVIL ZONAL WORKS IN DEOGAON ROAD (EX)-NORLA ROAD (EX) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING ON 30.06.2024 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/TITLAGARH.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,89,67,756.70

Bid Security: ₹2,44,900/-. (6) e-Tender No. 18-eT-SDENE-SBP-23 Name of work: BALANCE WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH SOFT UPGRADATION OF JHARSUGUDA ROAD, SAMBALPUR CITY AND BARGARH ROAD RAILWAY STATIONS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹14,29,74,963.82,

Completion period for the work: 30.06.2024 (for Sl. No.1 to 5) & 06 months (for Sl. No.6). Tender closing date and time: at 1500 hrs of 15.06.2023 (for all tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm' letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and

shall be rejected summarily without any

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

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any

changes/corrigenda issued for this tender Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)



But due to some misunderstanding between the couple, Dibyadipti returned to her village and was staving with her mother. Her mother Pratima Rout, who was working in a poultry farm situated at Ramachandrapur near

Baunshiapalli, was residing in a quarter near the farm.

On May 25 night around 11:30pm, Pratima could not find her and started searching for her after alerting others. They discovered the body of Dibyajyoti lying under the terreached the spot after getting information and started an investigation. The post-mortem of the

body was conducted Friday. Pratima alleged before the police that Dibyajyoti had been tortured both physically and mentally by her husband and in-laws. In her complaint, Pratima alleged that Dhiren and his family members were responsible for her daughter's death.

Police arrested Dhiren and forwarded him to the court Saturday and investigation was on regarding this matter.

DEMAND

conditions deteriorated. It was learnt said that a gas BDO and Tehsildar reached cylinder exploded and the the spot and assessed thatched house was gutted the damage. World class infra leaves participants of sub-junior

hockey nationals in awe

after lightning struck it at

around 3am during

sons were critically injured

nor'wester rain.

The mother ar



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Rourkela, May 27: The 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men's National Championship has entered the semi-final stage at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela. The competition, which

kicked off May 18, following the sub-junior women's nationals, is proving to be a great opportunity for the young athletes to compete with their peers from across India and showcase their potential and the experience of playing at a world class facility that has left the players impressed

The decision to allow the spectators free entry has enabled the players to experience playing in front of a large crowd, while the stateof-the-art synthetic turf has replicated the experience of an international match.

Srijan Yadav from Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, who scored eight goals in the tournament, expressed his excitement to play at the World Cup venue, where some of the finest hockey players recently competed.

"I have not experienced

truck seized; 15 rescued

Cattle-laden

Sahi, under Phulbani police

limits of Kandhamal dis-

trict. During the search

Ganja more than 106 kg, one

car and other incriminat-

ing materials were recov-

ered and seized from their

at Itamati police station for

necessary legal action.

Investigation is on

A case has been registered

Patana: A cattle-laden truck was seized by Turumunga police Saturday morning near Jharabeda on Mumbai-Kolkata NH-49, in Keonjhar district. The police found out that cattle were being transported in a pathetic condition. Police recovered as many as 15 cattle from the truck and nearest Gaushala at Karanjia. During the police

in the fire and rushed to hospital. The fire brigade perraid, the cattle smugglers sonnel doused the fire. Local fled leaving the cattleladen truck behind. Police seized the truck and were investigating the matter.

an environment like this anywhere else. The atmosphere is so good; it feels like I am playing an international tournament. I am grateful to Hockey India and the state of Odisha for giving us an opportunity like this," he said

Mizoram coach Laruatfela Zote also spoke about the value of early exposure to a professional competition for his team, while commending the quality synthetic turf.

Laruatfela said, "This is top-quality turf, the way the ball plays is very different from what the boys are used to, and it is an important exposure for them. Especially since this is of international standard. The atmosphere has been great, the crowd, the music... everything is very encouraging for the players. The experience will undoubtedly shape the players for the future.

Bijay Shaw, a member of the Hockey Bengal unit, said, "It is so good to play in an international stadium, the atmosphere is very different. This is unlike any other venue we have played at so far.'

Central Bank of India Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII,

Surya Nagar, Near Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had issued Demand Notice on date against the under mentioned Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor of **Balasore Branch** calling upon them to discharge their liabilities in full **within 60 days** from the date of the said notice. The said Demand Notice has been

refused to receive by the Borrower/Guarantor. By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereon & other charges in the below mentioned account to us as secured creditor, within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which we shall be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above SARFAESI Act, 2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec. 13(13) of the said SARFAESI Act, you shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale lease or otherwise any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of the injunction/restraint as provided under the said SARFAESI Act-2002 is an offence.This notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our Bank under the above SARFAESI Act-2002 and / or any other law in force Description of Mortgaged BRANCH / Name & Address of the Account / Loan Amount / Outstanding

Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Date of Notice	Amount	Property
BALASORE BRANCH / Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Dipan Kumar Kar, S/o: Late Himanshu Sekhar Kar / Guarantor: Mrs. Jayashree Kar, W/o: Mr. Samresh Kar, Both are At/ PO.: Barbati, PS.: Town, Dist.: Balasore, PIN-756003 Dist.: Balasore, Bounded by East: Bijaya B Mishra,	13.03.2023	as on 28.02.2023 plus interest & other charges thereon	All that part & parcel of the property in the name of Mr. Dipan Kumar Kar , situated at Mouza: Barbati, Khata No.: 168/15 & 168/28, Plot No.: 272/398 & 273/422, Area: Ac.0.07 dec., Tahasil: Balasore, Thana No.: 24, it Dhar. South: Road
Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 26.05.2023		Sd/- Aut	thorised Officer, Central Bank of India

Central Bank of India Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Near Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

BRANCH / Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	Name and Address of Guarantors/Mortgagors	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice / Possession Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice/Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
Borrower: M/s. Sanjukta Enterprises, Prop.: Mr. Sanjay Prasad Samantaray, At: Plot No.: 306, Barabari, Jagamara, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar	Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mrs. Sanjukta Samantaray, W/o.: Mr. Prasanta Kishore Samantaray, Both are At: Plot No.: 306, Barabari, Jagamara, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751030	as on 25.05.2023	Mouza: Bhuba New Capital No Khata No.: 113 Dec., Bounded	All that part and parcel of property in the name of Mrs. Sanjukta Samantaray, W/o.: Mr. Prasanta Kishore Samantaray, neswar Sahar Unit No.: 20, Jagamara, PS.: o.: 38, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, 33/1893, Plot No.: 306/3006, Area: Ac.0.037 by East: Road, West: Private Road, South: B, North: Plot No.: 289
Borrower: Mr. Sanjib Kumar Mohanty, At: Plot No.: 1038/2679, Prakruti Vihar, Baramunda,	Mortgagor: Mr. Sanjib Kumar Mohanty, At: Plot No.: 1038/2679, Prakruti Vihar, Baramunda, Bhuhaneswar-751003	₹54,87,557/- as on 09.03.2023 / ₹ 56,21,578/- as on 22.05.2023 + interest thereon &	Baramunda, F Dist.: Khurda, Area: Ac.0.060	All that part and parcel of property in the name of Mr. Sanjib Kumar Mohanty, Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahar Unit No.: 19, 75.: New Capital, Tahasii: Bhubaneswar, Khata No.: 813/1528, Plot No.: 1038/2679, Dec., Bounded by East: Road, West: Sub

other expenses etc.

₹4,85,080/-

as on 06.05.2021/

₹ 6,46,708/-

as on 23.05.2023

+ interest thereon &

other expenses etc.

Bilasini Behera, At/PO: Krushna Chandra Behera. Both are At/PO: Angarapada, PO.: Angarapada. Chandaka, Dist.: Khurda- PO.: Chandaka, Dist.: Khurda-752054 752054

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 26.05.2023

Borrowers: 1) Mr. Chandra Behera / Mortgagor:

Sukanta Behera, 2) Mrs. Mrs. Bilasini Behera, W/o: Mr.

Bhubaneswar-751003

Guarantor: Mr. Krushna

Bhubaneswar-751003

BADATOTA BRANCH,

Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

Plot No.: 21, South: Sub Plot No.: 23, North: Road

07.05.2021 All that part and parcel of property in the

24.05.2023 Krushna Chandra Behera, Mouza

Angarapada, PS.: Chandaka-7, Tahasil: Jatni, Dist.

Khurda, Khata No.: 132/94, Plot No.: 83/572, Area

Ac.0.090 Dec., Bounded by East: Sankarsan Das, West:

Dhobali Behera, South: Govt. Land, North: Govt. Land

name of Mrs. Bilasini Behera, W/o: Mr



There is a great beauty in simplicity.

THE MOTHER



Aakar Patel

The goal here is to

undo the past and

totally. Complete

political and social

reform is the call of

defined as extreme

the radical, also

political change

social and

to break with it

Chasing Wrong Things

The problem of India's Parliament is the quality of debate, the lack of time spent discussing important legislation, the absence of quality for the most part in speeches, the chaos and anarchy, the horse-trading and the disregarding of Opposition and minority opinion.

A new building will solve none of these problems of course, but then it is not expected to. Like the Vande Bharat trains it is a solution to problems that do not exist. And behind the introduction of new rituals is an absence of clarity or direction and the presence of theatre passing itself off as traditionalism. Let us see why.

Conservatism is described as the "commitment to traditional values and ideas with opposition to change or innovation."

What are traditional values? Those which are orthodox, long-established and customary. The United Kingdom's parliament is in a building that goes back 900 years. Fire destroyed a lot of the structure in 1263 in the reign of Henry III, then again in 1298 and again in 1512 and again in 1834. Each time the parts that were burnt down were rebuilt. This is traditionalism and conservatism and that is one reason why the House of the Commons and that of the lords is so respected. If you have seen parliamentary debate in the UK, with its stiff formalism and insistence on protocols and the members' discipline in following these it is because both

parties accept traditionalism in these matters. India's Parliament House was opened in 1927 but is being discarded in favour of something newer, though it is not clear why the new building is needed. The inauguration is to be accompanied by religious ritual as a sign of belief in tradition but the larger principle of traditionalism was abandoned with the previous

Ideology must be rooted in principles. A focus on conservatism must then show itself across the spectrum of functioning. This is not easy to do because it puts tradition and values above immediate advantage. Traditionalism acts as a restraining hand on the wrist of the ruler. It says go slow, do not disturb that which is working, respect what you have inherited and try to understand why it has worked.

Traditionalism also understands that there are boundaries, and the traditionalism respects them by adhering to these boundaries itself. The often unwritten rules of engagement between institutions are followed by the traditionalist through convention and precedent rather than innovation and invention. Again, it needs to be repeated that this shows itself particularly where and when there is tension between institutions. This is when the conservative, the traditionalist, steps back.

The radical individual knows all this and doesn't care for traditionalism or conservatism. The goal here is to undo the past and to break with it totally. Complete political and social reform is the call of the radical, also defined as extreme social and political change.

The current uncertainty with India's currency is not an act of conservatism or traditionalism. It is a radical act, just like the one that inspired it in 2016. Experimentation of this sort is not to be found in traditional governments like the UK, or even the US. In those countries, people holding bills of high denomination have the confidence that their money will be accepted today, tomorrow and in the future. "This note is legal tender for all debts, public and private" is what the dollar says. Shopkeepers do not refuse the note in the US or the pound in the UK.

Traditionalism must extend to the Constitution and its values. If it espouses pluralism and freedom then the traditionalist has to stress them. If it contains fundamental rights, meaning those which enjoy a high degree of protection from encroachment by the State then it is this value that must be echoed. In constitutional democracies the Opposition is legitimate and part of the legislature. To see it as the enemy and to try and get rid of it through convictions and expulsions is not traditionalist because it is not democratic.

The traditionalist treads carefully on laws that bring change. Especially change that is unclear. If there are safeguards in law then these must give pause. Undoing parts of the Constitution for popular reasons or even those of nationalism is an act of radicalism. Consider where Kashmir is today more than three years after executive action. If it is in a place of uncertainty, it is because the action was not conservative or traditionalist.

When it is said that the party governing India is right wing it is implied that it is traditionalist and conservative. It is opposed to liberalism which wants to interpret laws based on the spirit of the time and not some eternal principles. But this traditionalism does not appear to show itself in either language or behaviour. It chases after the wrong things. And there will always be another new thing to chase.

WISDOM CORNER

Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.

Keep your feet on the ground, but let your heart soar as high as it will. Refuse to be average or to surrender to the chill of your spiritual environment.

ARTHUR HELPS

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of

WORDSWORTH

Incarnadine

his is a lovely word, with a fine flowing cadence, but it's all too rare, surviving only in poetic or elevated writing. As an adjective, it refers to a blood-red or crimson colour; as a verb it means to render something that colour. However, it's recorded in English in the sixteenth century in the sense of a pale pink colour, having been borrowed from Italian incarnatino, derived in turn from the Latin incarnato, something incarnate, made flesh. Our name for the flower called the carnation comes from a related idea, as its flowers were originally the pink of European flesh; its name comes from the related late Latin word carnatio. Both it and incarnato derive from the Latin caro for flesh or meat, as do other words in English, such as carnaland carnivorous. But if we know the word, it probably reminds us of Shakespeare's Macbeth: Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood Clean from my hand? No; this my hand will rather The multitudinous seas incarnadine, Making the green one red. As a result of that image, the word shifted sense to mean not the pink of flesh but the red of blood. We have other words in English for the colour, such as crimson and carmine, so it's not surprising that incarnadine — whether as adjective or as Shakespeare's verb — has survived only in a limited way, usually in contexts that suggest associations with blood. Thomas Hardy used it in Far from the Madding Crowd: "Repose had again incarnadined her cheeks". And this appeared in the Independent on Sunday in 1995: "Barbadian fishermen rushed into the bay and began clubbing the dolphins to death ... Within minutes, many of the trusting mammals were dead and the turquoise of Miami Bay was incarnadined".

FOCUS MATERNAL MORTALITY

BACKSLIDING ALL THE WAY



Natalia Kanem

THE STAGGERING **NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING EVERY YEAR IN** THE ACT OF **GIVING LIFE REMAINS LARGELY A SILENT CRISIS**

n 2020, an estimated 287,000 women died in pregnancy, childbirth, or soon after delivering, according to the latest data from the United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group, which includes the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), where I am executive director. This figure is roughly equivalent to the death toll of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami or the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, two of the deadliest natural disasters in modern history.

Human devastation on this scale is usually met with weeks of news coverage, an outpouring of public support, and calls for urgent action. Yet the staggering number of women dying every year in the act of giving life remains largely a silent crisis. Even more worry ing, the group found that progress on reducing maternal deaths has ground to a halt.

How many of us know someone who died, or came close to dying, during pregnancy or childbirth? Perhaps the pervasiveness of suffering is part of the problem maternal deaths may seem inevitable. Yet the vast majority are preventable with simple interventions that save money in the long run.

One of the most cost-effective ways to reduce maternal mortality globally is to invest in community-based care, including the education and deployment of midwives. Achieving this will require scaling up the workforce substantially - the world is currently facing a shortage of 900,000 midwives - and countering persistent gender norms that devalue the contributions of a predominantly female field.

Lowering the high number of unintended pregnancies is another crucial step toward reducing maternal mortality. UNFPA research shows that nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended, more than 60% of unintended pregnancies end in abortion, and an estimated 45% of all abortions are unsafe, making them a leading



While the latest maternal mortality rates reveal the damage caused by neglecting life-saving solutions, there is a way to end this needless suffering

cause of maternal death. Policymakers know how to address this issue: increase access to quality contraceptives, improve comprehensive sexuality education. and protect a woman's right to decide whether, when, and with whom to have children.

World leaders have made significant progress when called upon to save women's lives. In 2000, governments agreed to the Millennium Development Goals, which aimed for a 75% reduction in the global maternal mortality rate by 2015. The 44% decrease in deaths over that period was a meaningful accomplishment – even if it ultimately fell short of the goal.

In 2015, with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, countries once again committed to reducing the maternal death ratio, this time to below 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. Yet, eight years on, we are nowhere near achieving that target, and progress has stalled. In fact, the ma-

ternal mortality rate has increased in two regions – Europe and Northern America, and Latin America and the Caribbean-since 2016, and these estimates, which end in 2020, don't account for the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health systems.

Underinvestment in addressing persistent racial and ethnic disparities in the delivery of maternal health care is one factor contributing to this stagnation. In the United States, for example, the 2021 maternal mortality rate for Black women was 2.6 times the rate for non-Hispanic white women. Similar disparities can be observed in Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. A holistic, communitybased approach to care is crucial to eliminating these disparities. Early in my career, I worked as a paediatrician and HIV researcher in Harlem at a time when crack cocaine and AIDS were devastating the poorest and most marginalised

patients and communities. It be came clear that I could not treat a child without understanding the wider social context and the challenges facing the child's mother. And the medical needs of the mothers and pregnant women I met often paled in comparison to the urgency of their social needs, highlighting the importance of treating the whole person.

Even though progress on maternal mortality has stagnated at the global level, there are some glimmers of hope. Nepal, for example, decreased maternal deaths by nearly one-third between 2015 and 2020, after halving the country's rate between 2000 and 2015. In this period, the government doubled health spending, legalised abortion, and made maternity care free of charge.

Similarly, Sri Lanka has halved maternal deaths at least every 12 years since 1935, owing largely to a health system that provides free services to the entire population and to a dramatic increase in the number of skilled midwives, who now attend 97% of births, compared to 30% in 1940.

While the latest maternal mortality rates reveal the damage caused by neglecting life-saving solutions, there is a way to end this needless suffering. Building midwifery capacity and ensuring equal access to quality sexual and reproductive health care would go a long way toward improving health outcomes for mothers and pregnant women.

But getting back on track requires reviving the sense of urgency among governments, communities, and all stakeholders needed to provide adequate financing and create a conducive legal and social environment for these interventions. We know the reasons why women still die giving birth. Indifference should not be one of them.

> The writer is Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SPORTS

Yajurvindra Singh

AND RULES TO

SAFEGUARD A

PLAYER, WORDS

SUCH AS 'GUTS'

AND 'BLOODBATH'

HAVE GRADUALLY

BECOME

OBSOLETE

WITH PROTECTION

Cricket has truly mellowed for the better

Anshuman Gaekwad's book made one truly understand how cricket has mellowed over the

The biography is titled "Guts Amidst Bloodbath," referring to an occurrence that many cricketers had to face to play the game in the past. "Stand up and be a man" was a comforting retort when one got hit by the hard red cherry, the cricket ball.

India's first Test captain, CK Nayudu, had a few of his teeth broken by a fast delivery while batting in an important match and after gargling, he continued to play his innings. He was an Army man. who believed in never giving in even an inch to his opponents or showing discomfort. This was considered to be the epitome of behaviour that one displayed if one

wanted to play the game. Similarly, Anshuman Gaekwad, when hit by a short delivery off Michael Holding directly on his ear while batting on 81 runs at Kingston, Jamaica in 1976, was coaxed to retire hurt, even though like a brave Maratha soldier he refused to leave. The hit on his ear was the final blow, culminating in a barrage of short bowling by the West Indian pace attack, making its mark on several parts of his body. The brave Indian opener still suffers from the aftereffects of the

week ago at the launch of blow but looks at the bloodbath then as a part and parcel of the

> The history of cricket has many ers who have withstood pain, and broken bones and yet stood up to conquer it all through sheer willpower. Guts was what one required then to play cricket without the protection that the present-day cricketers are privileged to have. The game of cricket has gone through a major change since those days, it was not a game for the faint-hearted. Looking back, one may call the battle between the bat and the ball a tussle of foolishness. The reason was that the batter was risking his life playing a sport that did not necessarily need him to get maimed or marred or lose his life.

> Life is precious and fortunately, the new laws of cricket have taken a serious view on making the sport as safe as possible. The adrenalin that flows through one's veins in one's youth somehow overpowers any negative thoughts and calamities which may arise while playing a sport. A person is willing to do daredevil feats at that age. Recollecting my experience at fielding at forward short-leg without any protection in my cricket playing days, the hits that I encountered at the suicidal position, make me shudder to think as to how I came through it all alive.

This takes one back to the critics and connoisseurs of the game of cricket, debating, questioning and arguing or comparing cricketers and their performances over the years. Foolish thoughts, especially when the conditions, regulations and attitudes have altered over the

The barrage of bouncers and beamers that were faced by Sunil Gavaskar, Anshuman Gaekwad and the other batters of the 1976 Indian team at Kingston will never be understood by the youngsters of

When the Indian team returned after this savage display of aggressive bowling, the diaspora saw them as players who lacked the skill and the heart to tackle it. England, thereafter, faced the same medicine of short balls and all hell broke loose.

England under Douglas Jardine in 1932 employed the same strategy against Australia. The famous Bodyline series as it was called brought in restrictions of only two fielders who were allowed behind the popping crease on the leg-side. The bruised and battered English side of 1976, 44 years later, pleaded for restricting the number of shortpitch deliveries and succeeded in doing so. The beamer became unacceptable and the root of caring about the safety of the batter came to roost. The most interesting out-

come, when players encounter the fierce and fiery was that cricketers even after their furious tussles, respected each other and remained friends. The banter and laughter. thereafter, made one love the game even more.

Unlike the cricketers of the past. cricket and cricketers of the present have mellowed on the field. One can see such camaraderie amongst not only the Indian players but also amongst their international counterparts. The Indian Premier League (IPL) has been a great platform for bringing players together. The IPL'23 is already a resounding success. India have unearthed some exciting young talented cricketers. The international players have had the opportunity to play on the Indian tracks and experience the Indian conditions. This will benefit them when they come in October to play the World

Cup which is being held in India. Cricket is becoming a far more pleasant game. There seems to be an air of friendship and bonhomie that never existed before.

With protection and rules to safeguard a player, words such as "guts" and "bloodbath" have gradually become obsolete.

Cricket has mellowed for the better.

The writer is a former India cricketer.

etters

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, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Laudable move

their bosses

Sir, Top dignitaries of the states have some privileges thrust upon them. "Zero traffic", when they commute, is one such entitlement. It means traffic is totally cleared between two points during their travel. Generally, the Governor and Chief Minister of a state enjoy the "zero traffic" luxury. The new Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has decried the tendency: he has asked the officials to do away with the zero traffic rule when he criss-crosses the length and breadth of Bangalore and other cities. Siddaramaiah is understandably worried about the traffic standstill and the hardship faced by the commuters during zero traffic. His predecessor Basavaraj Bommai was content with "green corridor". Be that as it may, it is laudable that at least some people in power can be sensitive to people's sufferings. It is imperative for dignitaries to ensure that their orders are not flouted by officers wanting to please

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Growing concern

Sir, India is world's largest provider of generic pharmaceuticals, accounting for around 20% of total generic output. The fact that India has over 3,000 pharmaceutical enterprises demonstrates the importance of the country's pharmaceutical industry. Surprisingly, there is no quality control legislation for pharmaceutical businesses, and the corporations themselves verify the quality of their products. This is not good, especially when there is growing concern about the quality of medicines all around the world. As India is a large medication exporting country and is known as world's drug factory, the government must establish some solid quality control norms for pharmaceutical enterprises. Medicines that are exported and those sold in the country should be subject to this legislation, as complaints regarding the sale of counterfeit and low-quality medications continue to pour in. It is not satisfied that the DG of Foreign Trade recently issued a notification stating that cough syrup exporters will be obliged to have their products tested at prescribed government labs before transporting them abroad from June 1. Why, then, is this new rule just applicable to cough syrups? Is it because cough syrups shipped to Indian pharmaceutical enterprises in the Gambia and Uzbekistan last year were found to be faulty? The WHO also stated that cough medication exported by Indian firms to these nations killed some youngsters. Although India has denied this, it is understandable for some countries throughout the world to have concerns about the quality of cough syrup Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR exported from the country.

national



The BJP is behind ethnic violence in Manipur. The saffron party is trying to replicate similar riots between communities in West Bengal. They want to create a situation wherein Adivasis will fight Kurmis so that army can be called in and the military will have shoot-at-sight orders

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

MINING THEFT UNVEILED

Gujarat cops have seized over 26 mining machines used for extracting minerals illegally from government land in Jamwadi area of Surendranagar district



Huge cache of ammunition seized

New Delhi, May 27: The National

Investigation Agency (NIA) has

seized a huge cache of ammunition

from a Naxal hideout in a forest area

in Jharkhand, an official said

The seizure of 1,245 rounds of 7.62

MM and 271 rounds of 5.56 MM

ammunition from a dense forest in

the Kamdara area of Gumla district

on Friday was made on the dis-

closure of the self-styled supremo

of the proscribed People's

Liberation Front of India (PLFI)

Dinesh Gope, who was arrested

last week, a spokesperson of the

ceived at Siksohara, Nalanda

"The seized ammunition was re-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saturday.

agency said.

Nine years of Modi, media is 'Godi' and India is Modi. Fear and deception, no need for correction Politics divided 'acchhe din' subsided. Opposition is grounded, key leaders are hounded. Institutions captured, society ruptured. Let us now pray for change in 2024

KAPIL SIBAL RAJYA SABHA MP

The unprecedented change in the life of the common man over the past nine years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi was possible only because voters supported a decisive leader ANURAG THAKUR UNION MINISTER

The first auction of four iron ore mineral blocks has been successfully completed in December 2022 and the government has received an upfront payment of ₹43 crore from them. It is expected that these four mineral blocks may start mining activities in the financial year 2023-24

PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Lightning kills 12

Ranchi: At least 12 people were killed due to lightning strikes in different parts of Jharkhand over the past two days, an official said Saturday. Lightning strikes killed a woman and her daughter at Barwadda area of Dhanbad district, while two people died at Bahragora in Jamdhespur and Chirodih in Gumla district on Friday, the official said. Another death was reported from Lohardagga. Thursday seven people were killed. One death each was reported from Chatra, Hazaribag, Ranchi, Bokaro and Khunti districts and two at Hussainabad in Palamu.

Tourist held

Panaji: Goa police Friday arrested a tourist from Telangana for rash and negligent driving on the restricted turtle nesting Morjim beach in North Goa. Siolim Coastal Security Police Station said that the patrolling team Friday morning intercepted the person driving a Honda City Car registered in Andhra Pradesh in rash and negligent manner, endangering human life on the restricted turtle nesting Morjim beach. "We then handed over the person to Pernem Police, who have registered a case against him," Siolim Coastal Security Police said

Four arrested

Jhargram (WB): Four people were arrested Saturday in connection with the attack on senior TMC leader Abhishek Baneriee's convoy, in which state minister Birbaha Hansda's vehicle was vandalised, police said. The accused were identified as Aiit Mahato, Anit Mahato, Manmohit Mahato and Anup Mahato, they said. While Anup is a resident of Manikpara in Jhargram district, the other three are residents of Garh Salboni where the incident happened on Friday evening, they added.

Student leader held for rape

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Police arrested a student leader here for allegedly raping a 21-year-old domestic help, working at his home. Milli Tetik, the accused, was arrested after the victim filed an FIR on May 23 at Women Police Station here, Capital SP Rohit Rajbir Singh said. Tetik is the president of the Kamle District Students' Union (KDSU)

Modi to inaugurate new Parliament today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Sunday inaugurate the new Parliament building, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, amid a boycott by several Opposition parties which insist that President Droupadi Murmu as head of the state should do the honours.

Friday, Modi said the new Parliament building will make every Indian proud and shared a video of the new complex. With carpets from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, bamboo flooring from Tripura and stone carvings from Rajasthan, the new Parliament building reflects India's diverse culture.

'Sengol', a historical sceptre from Tamil Nadu which was received by first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to represent transfer of power from the British and was kept in a museum in Allahabad, will be installed in the new Parliament building.

It will be placed near the chair of Lok Sabha Speaker in the House chamber. But amid a boycott by 20 opposition parties of the inauguration ceremony, the Sengol too

Kohima's Naga Club

building vandalised

Kohima, May 27: The Naga Club

building in the heart of Kohima

was vandalised by unknown peo-

ple early Saturday, police said.

of the Naga Students' Federation

(NSF), the apex Naga students'

body in the Northeast, the office of

the All Nagaland College Students'

Union, the Kohima Press Club and other commercial establishments.

Superintendent of Police Relo T

Aye said that the incident took

place around 3 am, adding that

an FIR has been lodged by the

NSF, and an investigation is being

carried out by a four-member

Special Investigation Team (SIT)

chetes and other sharp objects

were seized from the spot. Police sus-

pected that the accused used earth-

movers to damage the semi-con-

crete structures. "Records related

to Naga history were stored inside

The NSF issued an ultimatum

to the government to nab the cul-

prits by 6 pm on Sunday, failing

which it will resort to action it

strongly condemned the incident,

tweeting, "Respect for private and

public properties is fundamental

in a civilized society." He appealed

to all citizens to maintain peace

Temjen Imna Along expressed

shock over the incident and said

identities of the culprits should

be revealed after their arrest.

Several tribal and youth bodies

and civil society organisations

condemned the act.

Nagaland Tourism Minister

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio

Kegwayhun Tep said here.

be brought to book

deems befitting.

and harmony

Various tools, including ma-

Additional

The building housed the office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima's

headed by him.

was dragged into the political row. The new Parliament building, constructed by Tata Projects Ltd, will have a grand constitution hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for MPs, a li-

brary, multiple committee rooms,

dining areas and ample parking

space. The triangular-shaped four-

storey building has a built-up area of 64,500 square metres. The building has three main gates -- Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar. It will have separate entrances for VIPs, MPs,

and visitors. The material used for the new building has been acquired from various parts of the country.

The teakwood used in the building was sourced from Nagpur in Maharashtra, while the red and white sandstone was procured from Sarmathura in Rajasthan. The sandstone for the Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb in the national capital was also known to have sourced from Sarmathura.

The Kesharia green stone has been procured from Udaipur, the red granite from Lakha near Ajmer and the white marble has been sourced from Ambaji in Rajasthan.

K'taka govt expands Cabinet

Bangalore, May 27: The Congress government in Karnataka Saturday expanded its Cabinet by inducting 24 ministers, including just one woman, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, and veteran legislator H K Patil, thus filling all 34 ministerial positions a week after the party assumed power in the state.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 24 ministers. including nine first-timers B Nagendra, Madhu Bangarappa, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Mankal Vaidya, Dr M C Sudhakar, K N Rajanna, N S Boseraju, Suresha BS, and K Venkatesh.

The 24 ministers who took oath include 23 MLAs and the Congress high command's surprise candidate N S Boseraju, who is neither an MLA nor an MLC."Boseraju, a former MLA and MLC, is the All India Congress Committee secretary. Hailing from Raichur, he is a committed Congress worker. His name was cleared by the Congress high command yesterday," a Congress leader said.

"Though there are three women MLAs, Roopakala Shashidhar, Kaneez Fatima and Laxmi Hebbalkar, the party chose to give the Cabinet berth only to Hebbalkar," a Congress activist, who was also a ticket aspirant, complained. There are very rare instances of all sanctioned ministerial positions being filled in Karnataka, a Congress office-bearer said.

The Karnataka government can have 34 ministers. Ten of them, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, were sworn in on



■ Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were in Delhi for the past three days and held several rounds of discussions with the party leadership

■ Differences between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar had emerged over names of probable ministers but these were sorted out during the discussions, sources said

May 20. Amid tight security, the swearing in took place at Raj

MLAs H K Patil, Krishna Byregowda, N Cheluvarayaswamy, K Venkatesh, H C Mahadevappa, Congress working president Eshwar Khandre and former state Congress president Dinesh Gundu Rao are among those who took oath.

Others in the list are: Kyathasandra N Rajanna, Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, Shivanand Patil, Ramappa Balappa Timmapur, S S Mallikarjun. Shivaraj Sangappa Tangadagi, Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil, Mankal Vaidya, Laxmi Hebbalkar, Rahim Khan, D Sudhakar, Santosh Lad, N S Boseraju, Suresha B S, Madhu Bangarappa, M C Sudhakar and B Nagendra.

During the oath-taking ceremony, supporters of those MLAs who were denied ministerial positions such as M Krishnappa, a four-time legislator who was also a minister in the previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah, raised slogans and held placards demanding cabinet berths for their leaders

Laxmi Hebbalkar, Madhu Bangarappa, D Sudhakar, Cheluvarayaswamy, Mankul Vaidya and M C Sudhakar are close to Shivakumar, according to Congress sources. K H Muniyappa, who was a central minister during the UPA government, contested in his maiden Assembly election this time and has also been inducted as a minister in the Karnataka government.

has struck a balance by giving caste- and region-wise representation, along with according due respect to senior as well as junior MLAs, an official statement said on Friday night.

It also said the Cabinet will have eight Lingayats. Within them, different sub-sects of the community are also represented by ministers. There will be five Vokkaligas in the Cabinet, including Shivakumar, the statement said. Nine Scheduled Caste ministers also form part of Siddaramaiah's team, it said.

(Bihar), about two years ago. It had been carefully stashed away for

eventual delivery to PLFI operatives and cadres for carrying acts of terror and violence," the official said. Gope, who had over 100 criminal cases against him and was carrying a reward of ₹30 lakh, was arrested on May 21 from Delhi, and is currently in NIA custody. Most of these cases relate to abduction, threats, extortion, murder and rais-

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Tourists rescued in HP

ing funds for the PLFI, a militant

Maoist outfit formed in 2007 in

Jharkhand and splinter group of the

Communist party of India-Maoist

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

(CPI-Maoist).

Manali, May 27: In a major operation amid the sub-zero temperatures in the Himalayas, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Saturday rescued around 300 motorists, largely tourists, stranded on a major pass in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district.

They were stranded with the closure of the road network in the Baralacha Pass area owing to onset of heavy snowfall on the night of Friday Following a distress call about 10-km traffic jam near the Baralacha Pass, a team of the BRO comprising Maj Ravishankar, Capt Adhil Rishad, junior engineer Parveen Kumar and others of the BRO Project Deepak, 38 BRTF, rushed to Zing Zing Bar on the Manali-Sarchu road to take a stock of situation and assist the stranded.

Approximately 80 to 90 light motor vehicles, 30 to 40 bikers and 300 to 400 heavy motor vehicles got stranded due to traffic blockage, said the BRO. After rushing to the location, 15 BRO personnel along with 17 from the police jointly carried out rescue operation and evacuated LMVs to lower altitude.

Around 130 people in stranded vehicles were provided essential medicines. However, no casualty has been reported. In spite of heavy snowfall, brave BRO personnel assisted the stranded people without any regards to own safety and comfort, an official said



A cyclist covers himself with a makeshift raincoat during rain in Noida

the building and are suspected to Yasin Malik's case must be reviewed: Mehbooba have been destroyed," NSF president He hoped that the culprits will

Mehbooba said Malik's case must be reviewed and reconsidered as in a democracy like India even the assassins of a Prime Minister were pardoned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 27: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti Saturday called for a review of JKLF chief Yasin Malik's case, while People's Conference chief Sajad Lone termed NIA's plea seeking death penalty for the separatist leader as "dangerous".

However, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said deterrent measures should be taken against those trying to threaten the country's security. The reactions came after

the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday approached the Delhi High Court seeking the death penalty for Malik, asserting that not giving capital punishment to such a "dreaded terrorist" will result in the miscarriage of justice. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief was awarded a life term by a trial court in a terror funding case last year.

Mehbooba said Malik's case must be reviewed and reconsidered as in a democracy like India even the assassins of a Prime Minister were par-



-- her former party and cabinet colleague -- saying those gleefully supporting Malik's hanging were a grave threat to "our collective rights".

"In a democracy like India where even the assassins of a PM were pardoned, the case of a political prisoner like Yasin Malik must be reviewed and reconsidered. The new political ikhwan gleefully supporting his hanging are a grave threat to our collective rights," the PDP chief said on Twitter.

Bukhari said the NIA's plea demanding the death penalty for Malik highlights the urgency to address militant funding in Jammu and Kashmir. "We must ensure justice prevails and deterrent measures should be taken against those who are trying to threaten our nation's security," he said.

People's Conference chairman Lone said the NIA's plea was dangerous. "NIA plea on Yasin Malik is dangerous. It is a humble plea. Let you not be misled by fair weather Kashmir experts. Please every situation has a short term and a long term. Let the short term enforced calm not blind you to the possible long term turbulence,' Lone said on Twitter.

More trees, taller buildings could reduce UHI effect



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: Enhancing tree canopy, reflective pavements and constructing taller buildings adjacent to thinner streets could help mitigate the "urban heat island" or the UHI effect, according to a new research.

The tendency of cities to trap heat, termed the UHI effect, can lead to dangerous temperatures during summers.

However, this research from Pennsylvania State University,

US, published in the journal Buildings, has suggested certain urban factors that can reduce this effect

The study found that trees had a cooling effect on outdoor air temperature, mean radiant temperature, or the heat given off by buildings and other infrastructure, and predicted mean vote index, a measurement designed to evaluate thermal comfort levels. Further, the researchers determined that both a higher building adjacent to thinner streets,

thus creating shade for the streets, as well as higher 'albedo' pavements or pavements better at reflecting sunlight led to lower mean radiant temperature and greater comfort levels. They are both urban

morphological factors. The researchers said that heat island hotspots and mortality rates tended to be greater in urban blocks with a socially disadvantaged population owing to a combination of physical factors, such as impervious surfaces and lack of vegetation, and social factors, such as vulnerability to heat-related health effects.

'Global warming makes some human habitats unbearably hot, but more so for socially and historically disadvantaged communities," said Guangqing Chi, professor of rural sociology, demography and public health

"This interdisciplinary project provides an effective, equitable urban design solution for enhancing resilience against extreme heating," said Chi.

Army defangs rivals in Manipur, recovering arms to bring peace



Armed vigilante groups have been taking the law into their own hands in parts of Manipur, in the wake of ethnic rioting earlier, thus complicating the peace process

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Keithelmanbi (Manipur), May 27: The army cordon moved in slowly as darkness set in over the village of New Keithelmanbi some 40 km from the capital Imphal, surrounded on all sides by a dense forest.

The army and Assam Rifles personnel who had swooped down on the village in Kangpokpi district on the edge of the Imphal valley Friday, were searching for arms. "In the last few days, we have observed that communities are attacking each other with firearms. In some cases, people are being killed ... This sudden emergence of arms is delaying the entire peace process," a senior Army official told PTI

In the surprise raid to New Keithelmanbi village, where this PTI correspondent accompanied troopers, a country-made pipe gun and huge cache of explosives were recovered along with one air gun and blank packet of cartridge. Armed vigilante groups have been taking the law into their own hands in parts of Manipur, in the wake of ethnic rioting earlier, thus complicating the peace process. At times, militant groups have joined in the fray, creating an even more volatile cocktail of ethnic tension.

On condition of anonymity, the army officer said that they are now concentrating on stopping such elements which are threatening the

return of normalcy to the state. 'Indian Army and Assam Rifles have decided to carry out surprise search operations on villages of different communities. We are not targeting any one particular community. Our aim is to stop that one individual in the entire village who is threatening the other community by carrying arms. We are seizing such weapons and also apprehending them," said the official, who was sent to Manipur after violence erupted earlier this month.

Talking about Friday's operations, the official said that New Keithelmanbi village is adjacent to National Highway-37, which is the only lifeline to Manipur at this moment.

"We had reports that people in the village have firearms and explosives. Our prime objective is to protect the highway so that no untoward incident can take place there. Around 250 trucks are using this road every day, carrying essential supplies. So, we carried out a surprise search and recovered explosives and one air gun. The air gun was, however, returned to village elders as it can be kept without a licence," he added. Visiting the village, nestled on a hillock, the PTI correspondent saw bunkers and trenches that were constructed in order to prevent any attack from the opposite community.

Empty packets of cartridges were strewn near one of the bunkers. The road from the hill above the village was completely blocked by placing logs and bushes, though the entry from the highway was still open. The force also videographed the entire exercise of search operations.

One woman, whose house was searched, alleged that security per-

Ahead of Shah's tour, Army Chief visits Manipur

wo days before the scheduled visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the ethnic violence-hit Manipur, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande reached Manipur Saturday to hold meetings with various civil society organisations in Churachandpur district. Defence sources said that the COAS arrived in Imphal Saturday on a two-day visit. He will visit various districts where he will interact with the local commanders and obtain a first-hand account of the ground situation. General Pande will also interact with the troops. On Sunday, he will meet Governor Anusuiya Uikey, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Chief Security Advisor to Manipur Kuldiep Singh and would discuss and deliberate over the current situation and future trajectory, in order to restore normalcy in the trouble-torn state at the earliest.

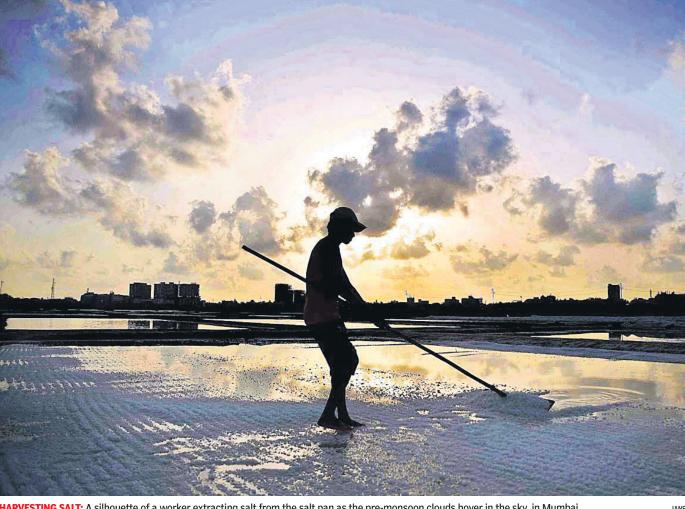
sonnel came every other day and harassed them in the name of search operations.

This however, was denied by army officials who said the raids were conducted on the basis of intelligence inputs and the platoons which were sent out had women soldiers from the Assam Rifles to ensure that women whose houses are searched remain safe.

Clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

The violence was preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals — Nagas and Kukis - constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

The ethnic clashes claimed over 70 lives and some 10,000 army and para-military personnel had to be deployed to bring back normalcy in the northeastern state.



HARVESTING SALT: A silhouette of a worker extracting salt from the salt pan as the pre-monsoon clouds hover in the sky, in Mumbai

Ban display of animal carcasses in meat shops: Meghalaya HC

THE ORDER WAS **PASSED WHILE DELIVERING A JUDGEMENT ON A PIL FILED BY A NON-PROFITABLE ORGANISATION WHICH WORKS TO SAVE, PROTECT AND PRESERVE COWS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, May 27: The Meghalaya High Court has directed the state government to prohibit the display of animal carcasses in meat

The HC passed the order while delivering a judgement on a PIL, Friday. "The State would do well to set an example and completely pro-



casses in meat shops, though they may be stored in refrigerators or containers or even in showcases within the premises and not open to public view from outside," the division bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee said in a judgment.

"Otherwise, the State should ensure ethical treatment of animals across the board, even those which are culled for human consumption and those which are used as farm animals, including the mode and manner of transportation thereof," it added.

The state said that detailed measures have been taken in such regard in June, 2022 and repeated instructions have been followed. The PIL was filed by Gau Gyan

Foundation, non-profitable organisation which works to save, protect and preserve cows. The matter concerns the treatment of animals that are culled for human consumption and the transportation of animals across the state.

The bench said that despite there being central enactments and local regulations, the petitioner had demonstrated that most of the guidelines and norms were not being followed and local level committees were not functional.

been taken care of and the state will ensure a more ethical treatment of animals even if they are culled for human consumption," it said. One aspect that remains is how

"Hopefully, such lapses have

animal carcasses are brazenly displayed in street side shops, sometimes with beheaded heads of pigs in open view, the bench said

Despite measures taken by the state after being repeatedly advised to ensure that such displays are restrained and altogether prohibited, street side shops continue with it. Apart from the hideous sight, there is also an element of hygiene since the meat displayed is likely to collect grime and dust from the street and may turn toxic even before it is

people on completion of four years in power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, May 27: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang Saturday greeted the people of his state on completion of four years of his government and said various infrastructure projects have been launched to improve connectivity and transportation net-

Expressing gratitude to the people of Sikkim for giving him an opportunity to serve them, Tamang said that he will continue to strive hard to take the state on the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

He also thanked his party workers for their contributions to the success of the SKM government and urged them to work hard and serve as a bridge between the people and the government.

Tamang recalled that his government had inherited a set of challenges which demanded bold and innovative solutions and said that efforts have been made to build a better future for the citizens by making significant progress in the goals which were set four years ago.

"Today, we celebrate not just the formation of a government, but also the power of democracy and collective spirit for progress," he said in a social media post

Observing that his government has been built on the foundation of a robust system that upholds principles of justice, equality, and inclusive governance, Tamang said, "We must reflect upon a remarkable journey undertaken by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) government cherishing successes and learning from challenges.'

Highlighting some of the achievements of his government, he said that various infrastructure projects have been launched to improve



Today, we celebrate not just the formation of a government, but also the power of democracy and collective spirit for progress

PREM SINGH TAMANG | CM, SIKKIM

connectivity and transportation networks in the Himalayan state.

The state government has also invested heavily in healthcare keeping in view the need for medical infrastructure to keep the population healthy, Tamang said.

In view of education being crucial for sustainable development, the state government has accorded priority to the education sector by implementing policies to enhance the quality of education, modernisation of the curriculum and promotion of skill development.

'Our efforts have resulted in higher enrollment rates, improved literacy levels, and the creation of a skilled workforce that is ready to face the challenges of the future,'

the Sikkim chief minister said. Economic growth and job creation have been central to the agenda of the state government which has launched investorfriendly policies to promote entrepreneurship, he said.

CM greets Sikkimese Now, Sanjay Raut plans film on 'Diary of Maharashtra Khokha'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, May 27: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said he is planning to make a feature film detailing the saga of how the erstwhile Maha Vika Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra was toppled in June 2022 with the alleged lure of 'khokhas' (slang for crore rupees) here Friday.

Talking to the media, Raut said that the film will be titled 'Diary of Maharashtra Khokha' and promised that it will be a 'historical movie' to hit the silver screens.

There are already films like 'The Kerala Story' or 'The Kashmir Files' so now I am planning to make a real story on the role played by 'khokhas' that led to the collapse of the state government here..." said Raut.

With a mischievous smile, Raut said that he may hire film-maker Vivek Agnihotri for the venture and the film would have less people and more 'khokhas'



After the MVA government of ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray was toppled, the Opposition Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and Sena (UBT) had alleged that at least "50 Khokhas" (implying Rs 50crore) were paid to break the 40

MLAs of the original Shiv Sena. Attacking Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena which pulled the rug from under the Thackeray, Raut said that the Shinde party is doomed for allying with the

Bharatiya Janata Party. 'The Shinde group is not a party but a chicken coop of the BJP and it will be 'cut' at one shot... Then, there will be no more 'cock cock, cock cock'... This will happen soon,' predicted Raut.

To a query, the Sena (UBT) Chief Spokesperson added that his party's decision to boycott the inaugural of the new Parliament House was based on principles and to save

'Dress code' for devotees visiting 4 Nagpur temples

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, May 27: A 'Vastra Samhita' or dress code has been introduced at four temples in Nagpur district of Maharashtra, an association of temples in the state has said.

The issue of dress code in places of worship was in news earlier this month when the famous Tulja Bhavani temple in the state tried to regulate how visiting devotees dress before withdrawing the fiat.

The Maharashtra Mandir Mahasangha (federation of temples in Maharashtra) has come out with a Vastra Samhita for temples across the state, its coordinator Sunil Ghanwat told reporters here Friday. It was implemented at Gopalkrishna temple in Dhantoli, Sankatmochan Panchmukhi Hanuman temple in Bellori (Saoner), Brihaspati temple in Kanolibara and Durgamata temple in Hilltop area in Nagpur city from Friday, he said.

Devotees should not wear objectionable clothes, he said, adding that the decision was taken after a



meeting of the Maharashtra Temple Trust Council at Jalgaon in north Maharashtra in February. The primary objective is to protect the sanctity of temples. Such codes are in place at many temples, Ghanwat claimed.

He said he would also request Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to implement the code at temples controlled by the government.

A few days ago, the Tulja Bhavani temple in Osmanabad district tried to ban indecent clothes, such as shorts and Bermudas, on its premises. But the order was withdrawn within hours after it triggered an outrage

Ahead of monsoon, BMC scoops a million tonne silt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, May 27: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has cleared nearly a million tonnes of garbage and silt from the network of Mumbai's gutters and drains, to make them squeaky clean ahead of the monsoon 2023 likely to hit mid-June.

This year, the BMC cleared over 9.85 lakh tonnes of the muck, achieving 101 per cent of the set target a week ahead of the deadline date, said Additional Municipal Commissioner P Velrasu.

He said that desilting and cleaning of drains help in faster dis-



charge of the rainwater and prevents flooding on the roads and other places.

The desilting targets are fixed every year depending on the rainfall and other parameters, and the past experiences of which areas generate more silt-garbage, said an official.

The desilting work started simultaneously from March 6 and completed May 25, beating the deadline (May 31) by a week.

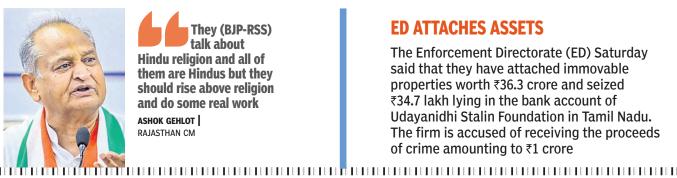
Deputy Municipal Commissioner Ulhas Mahale said that this year, the BMC had included stringent terms and condition in the contracts to ensure that the sludge removal was carried out and monitored properly, including submitting pictures and videos of the works carried with geo-tags, which were

put in the public domain. Till date, the city has become muck-free as per the following data released by the BMC - City 35,756 tonnes, Eastern Suburbs -119,359 tonnes, Western Suburbs -194,622 tonnes, Mithi River - 195,566 tonnes and work continues, small drains - 385.644 tonnes, and drains along highways - 53,977 tonnes, said the official.

This entailed nearly a staggering 51,500 vehicle trips to remove and dump the sludge at designated \rightarrow sites, and more 155,000 photos and 72,000 site videos available for public scrutiny.

Simultaneously, the BMC appealed to the people asking them to refrain from dumping garbagein the just-cleared drains and gutters to avoid clogging in monsoon.

national



They (BJP-RSS) talk about Hindu religion and all of them are Hindus but they should rise above religion and do some real work ASHOK GEHLOT

ED ATTACHES ASSETS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday said that they have attached immovable properties worth ₹36.3 crore and seized ₹34.7 lakh lying in the bank account of Udayanidhi Stalin Foundation in Tamil Nadu. The firm is accused of receiving the proceeds of crime amounting to ₹1 crore





unemployment, agrarian distress has dominated the nine years of Modi rule. has increased from ₹65 lakh crore in 2014 to ₹135 lakh crore now

PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN | CONGRESS LEADER In the last one permanent jobs were given to 17,000 people in Delhi. There

perceptible change in the heavily polluted Yamuna and hopefully, the river will be restored

V K SAXENA DELHI LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR





DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

SHORT **TAKES**

NEET aspirant commits suicide

Kota (Rajasthan): A 16-yearold NEET aspirant allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her uncle's house in Kota Thermal Power Plant colony here Saturday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Sakshi Choudhary, a Class 11 student, they said. In a suicide note recovered from her room, the teen held no one responsible for the suicide. however, her family members stated that average performance in her class 10 board exams could be the reason behind her extreme step. **Deputy Superintendent of Police** (Kunhari) Shankar Lal said.

Army destroys landmine in J&K

Jammu: The Army Saturday detected and destroyed a landmine in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The landmine, in a rusted condition, was detected by the Army troops during patrolling in Malikpur village of Mendhar sector, the officials said. They said the area was cordoned off and the landmine was later destroyed by the Bomb Disposal Squad in a controlled explosion.

Two Naxals held

Medininagar (Jharkhand): Two Naxals belonging to the banned Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC) outfit were arrested in Jharkhand's Palamu district Saturday, police said. The rebels, identified as 32-yearold Surendra Singh and 25year-old Nakul Singh, were nabbed in Madhuri forest in Padwa area, around 190 km from state capital Ranchi. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rishav Garq said that the duo was nabbed while travelling on a motorcycle from Basu village. Levy amounting to Rs 50,000 in cash, TSPC pamphlets, four mobile phones and a power bank were seized from their possession, he said.

Four killed

Pratapgarh (UP): Four members of a family were killed Saturday morning when their motorcycle was hit by a car here Saturday morning, police said. The family members, who were seriously injured in the collision between the speeding car and the motorcycle near Shivdayal Ganj of Prithviganj town, were taken to the medical college for treatment where doctors declared two of them, identified as Manoi Singh (39), resident of Sangipur Pratapgarh and his son Shivam (8), dead, Additional Superintendent of Police (East) Vidyasagai Mishra.

KCR urges Centre to withdraw ordinance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 27: Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao Saturday demanded that the Centre withdraw its ordinance on control of services in Delhi, after he held a meeting with the chief ministers of Delhi and Punjab. He made the demand during a joint press conference with Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann who called on him here to discuss the issue of the Centre's ordinance.

Rao alleged that the way the Centre issued the ordinance reminded one of the days of the Emergency. "(PM) Narendra Modi ji and BJP leaders speak so vociferously against the Emergency. Exactly the same thing happened before the Emergency. Post Allahabad

APOLOGISES

Egra (WB), May 27: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

Saturday apologised to the people

of Egra area in Purba Medinipur

district of the state for a blast at an

illegal firecracker factory here, in

which 12 people were killed and

The Trinamool Congress

supremo, who reached Khadikul vil-

lage in this area, 11 days after the

blast, also said the incident could

have been averted if the state had

received proper intelligence in-

puts."I will bow my head down to

you and apologise for the incident

(blast at the illegal fire factory on

May 16)... Had intelligence worked

properly then this blast could have

been averted," Banerjee said after

distributing compensation cheques

of Rs 2.5 lakh each to relatives of

those killed and Rs 1 lakh to every

She also handed over appoint-

ment letters for jobs as home guards

to one member each from the family of those killed in the May 16 blast.

Stating that two members from

the family which owned the illegal factory, have been arrested, Banerjee

urged the villagers to keep the

local police informed in case they

find any other illegal fireworks

She also said she had been trying

to visit Khadikul since the day of

the blast, but could not because of bad

weather. Baneriee said. "We remained

in touch with the people here. I could

not come because of the bad weather:

Today, I have come here to be with

principal accused from a hospital

in Cuttack where he had taken

admission using a fake name. But

unfortunately, he passed away be-

fore revealing anything," she

added. The Bengal CM was ac-

companied by state chief secretary

'Our police had arrested the

you, not to do politics."

units operational.

person injured, in the blast.

FOR BLAST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

many injured.

MAMATA



High Court judgment, a Constitutional amendment was made nullifying that judgment," Rao said.

Claiming that the NDA government is on a path similar to the imposition of the Emergency by Indira Gandhi in 1975, he asked what is the difference between the Indira Gandhi regime then and the Centre now. "We demand that

the Prime Minister withdraw the ordinance. Yourself. Or else, we will all support Arvind Kejriwal ji. We will stand by him. We will use all our strength in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to defeat that ordinance and see to it that the ordinance is not passed," he said.

Rao alleged that the NDA gov-

Delhi. The Centre is not allowing the elected government of Delhi to function and is not honouring the Supreme Court judgment, he alleged. "Not honouring the Supreme Court's larger bench judgment means going towards Emergency," he said. He felt that the "whole system" would support Kejriwal as it is a "question of the existence of democracy".

Kejriwal thanked Rao for his support. "People across the country ask where would people go for justice if the Prime Minister does not accept the Supreme Court's orders,' the Delhi Chief Minister said. "In a way, Prime Minister is challenging the people of Delhi that he would not let the government function, whatever the government (be)

accusing the Centre of meddling when a non-BJP government is elected by the people in any state.

He alleged that the BJP either "purchases MLAs, dislodges government or breaks MLAs by sending ED or brings an ordinance misusing the Governor, as seen in different states". Observing that the BJP does not have a majority in Rajya Sabha, he said if all non-BJP parties defeat the ordinance in the upper house, it will generate confidence among people of the country that the Modi government would not return to power in 2024. The fight is to safeguard democracy, he said. Mann alleged that Raj Bhavans have become "BJP offices" and the Governors are BJP's "star campaigners" of the incumbent NDA government at the Centre.

Cops book makers of 'Diary of West Bengal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 27: Kolkata police said it had registered an FIR against the producer and director of the film 'Diary of West Bengal' alleging that the movie's trailer had promoted enmity between different groups.

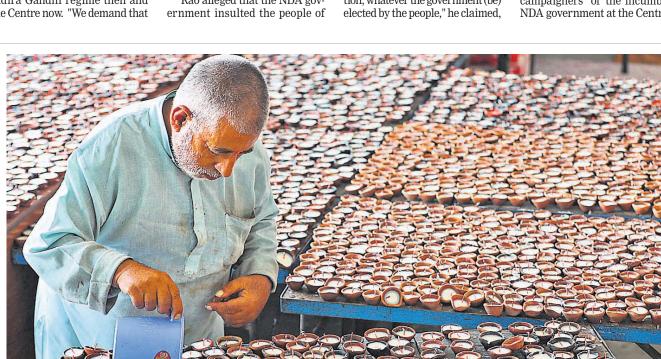
The FIR has been lodged with Amherst Police Station and a legal notice was sent to director Sanoj Mishra asking him to appear before the Investigating Officer (IO) of the case on May 30, a senior police officer said.

"An FIR has been lodged with us under IPS sections IPC 120B/153A/501/504/505/295A read with section 66D/84B Information Technology Act' 2000 and section 7, Cinematograph Act' 1952 and a legal notice has also been sent to the film director. "An investigation is on and we have summoned him (Mishra) to appear before us at the Amherst Police Station on May 30 as a part of our probe,' the officer said.

Section 120B of IPC deals with criminal conspiracy, 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups), 501 (defamatory matter), 504 (intentionally insult), 505 (public mischief) 295 A (outrage religious

The movie trailer speaks of immigration and settlements of Rohingyas and radical Bangladeshis in West Bengal and of communal disturbances. Mishra, who is also the writer of the film, when contacted claimed that his film is not on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee, though a woman, featured on the posters of the movie, has resemblance to the very popular posture of the fiery leader while delivering

On receiving a notice from the Kolkata Police, Mishra said that he is consulting legal experts and would be reaching the city soon. TMC state spokesperson Joy Prakash Majumder said that the film was made by people who want to peddle an agenda of "dividing people on the basis of religion.



A devotee pours oil in earthen lamps on the eve of 'Kheer Bhawani Mela' in Jammu

NIA busts terror module in MP

The arrests were made during overnight raids at 13 locations in Jabalpur in an intelligence-led joint operation with the Anti-Terror Squad of Madhya Pradesh police, a spokesperson of the federal agency said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has busted an ISIS-linked terror module with the arrest of three people in Madhya Pradesh, an official said Saturday.

The arrests were made during overnight raids at 13 locations in Jabalpur in an intelligence-led joint operation with the Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) of Madhya Pradesh Police, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The official identified the arrested trio as Syed Mamoor Ali, Mohammad Adil Khan and Mohammad Shahid and said they will be produced before the NIA special court in Bhopal. A host of



sharp-edged weapons, ammunition (including prohibited bore), incriminating documents and digital devices were also seized during

the searches, the spokesperson said. The NIA had, May 24, registered a case, during its investigations into the pro-ISIS activities of Khan, who came to the agency's notice in August last year. "The NIA learnt that he and his associates were involved in disseminating ISIS propaganda through social media platforms, as well as through on-ground 'Dawah' programmes, in order to unleash violent terror attacks in India at the instance of ISIS. The module had been conducting meetings in local masjids and houses and hatching plans and conspiracies to spread terror in the country," the spokesperson said

The official said the investigations revealed that the three accused were highly radicalised and were determined to carry out violent "jihad". "They were engaged in collecting funds, disseminating ISIS propaganda material, motivating and recruiting youth, and trying to procure arms and ammunition with the objective of carrying out terrorist acts," the spokesperson said.

The official said Ali had created a local group by the name of 'Fisabilillah' and was also operating a WhatsApp group by the same name. "Along with his associates, he was trying to procure pistols and was in contact with a Jabalpurbased illegal arms supplier for this

A staunch ISIS follower and supporter, the NIA said Khan had managed to assemble an active group of Jabalpur-based like-minded radicalised individuals."Some of the module members were already contemplating Hijrat (flight) to conflict theatres, while others had plans to form a local outfit for carrying out violent jihad in India," the spokesperson said.

Complaint against Kharge, Kejri for remarks on Prez

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 27: Supreme Court lawyer Vineet Jindal has lodged a formal complaint against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge accusing them of making inflammatory remarks regarding the President's caste.

In his complaint filed with the Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, Jindal has alleged that the intention behind the statements was to create discord among various communities and groups, while attempting to foster a sense of mistrust towards the Centre.

The complaint seeks appropriate action against the accused parties for their alleged actions which according to him is an offence under section 121, 153A, 505 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

"I am filing this complaint against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister Delhi, and others who have made provocative, inflammatory, derogatory, and inciting statements with the sole motive of promoting enmity between the communities by mentioning the



caste of the President of India Droupadi Murmu.

"Recently I have seen many prominent leaders in media reports making provocative statements by referring to the caste of our Hon'ble President of India regarding the event of the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

"The statements given by Kharge and Keiriwal have been made intentionally, to refer to the caste of the esteemed President of India with the objective of portraying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the present government have deliberately not invited the President for the inauguration of the new Parliament building

Court not an institution to sermonise society: SC

THE TOP COURT MADE THIS OBSERVATION WHILE ORDERING PREMATURE RELEASE OF A WOMAN CONVICTED FOR MURDER OF TWO **CHILDREN**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: Court is not an institution to sermonise society on morality and ethics and rather, it is bound by the rule of law while taking decisions, the Supreme Court has said.

The top court made this observation while ordering premature release of a woman convicted for murder of two children. The woman had an affair with a man who used to often threaten her. So she decided to commit suicide along with her children.

She bought pesticides meant for

plants and administered poison to her two children. Thereafter, when she poured the pesticide in a tumbler to consume it herself, her niece pushed it down. Unfortunately, the two children were declared dead on arrival in the hospital and an FIR under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code was lodged.

The trial court convicted the woman under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 309 (suicide) and sentenced her life imprisonment besides a fine. The high court partly allowed her plea by acquitting her under Section 309 while upholding the conviction



under Section 302 of IPC.

The woman pleaded for premature release, saying she was in prison for almost 20 years. However, the recommendation of the State Level Committee was rejected by the Tamil Nadu government considering the cruel and brutal nature of the offence committed by her.

A Supreme Court bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said the woman never tried to murder her sons with a view to continue her illicit relationship."On the contrary, she had tried to commit suicide herself along with her children not with a view to continue her illicit relationship with her paramour but rather, in disappointment and frustration over the quarrel picked up by her paramour. "This court is not an institution to sermonise society on morality and ethics and we say no further on this score, bound as we are, by the brooding presence of the rule of law," the bench said.

The apex court said the case cannot be simply bracketed as a 'cruel and brutal' offence as the woman herself was trying to end her life but was prevented by her niece in the nick of time.

"Moreover, the recommendation of the State Level Committee conveyed by the Additional Director General of Police/Inspector General of Prisons also notes her undisputed reflective conduct as also the long period of incarceration already undergone," it said.

The top court said there is no valid reason or justifiable ground for the State not accepting the recommendation of the State Level Committee for premature release of the woman. "We are not oblivious to the crime but we are equally not oblivious to the fact that the appellant (mother) has already suffered at the cruel hands of fate. The reason thereof is an arena this Court would avoid entering.

"The appellant is held entitled to the benefit of premature release as per G.O issued by the Home (Prison-IV) Department, under the signature of Additional Chief Secretary to Government. Accordingly, the appellant is directed to be released forthwith, if not required in any other case," the

international



We urge the institutions in **Kosovo to de-escalate** immediately and call on all parties to resolve the situation through dialogue

OANA LUNGESCU | SPOKESWOMAN, NATO

BILL TO MAKE DIWALI A FEDERAL HOLIDAY

Congresswoman Grace Meng has introduced a bill in the US Congress to declare Diwali, the festival of lights, a federal holiday





Your Shaheds, which terrorise Ukraine every night, mean only that the people of Iran are being driven deeper and deeper into the dark side of history



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT,

The UK and India are trusted partners united by



TARIO AHMAD | MINISTER OF STATE FOR

It will be an honour for Brazil to



all over the world in

LUIZ INÁCIO LULA DA SILVA PRESIDENT

SHORT **TAKES**

High alert in Serbia

Belgrade: Serbia Saturday condemned NATO-led peacekeepers stationed in neighbouring Kosovo for their alleged failure to stop "brutal actions" by Kosovo police against ethnic Serbs, and said that its armed forces stationed near the border will remain on the highest state of alert until further notice Serbia's top political and security leadership, led by President Aleksandar Vucic. met in Belgrade Saturday following violent clashes a day earlier between Kosovo police and ethnic Serbs that injured more than a dozen people. In response to the clashes, Vucic Friday ordered troops closer to the border with Kosovo.

Avalanche in Pak kills 10

Islamabad: At least 10 people were killed and 25 injured when an avalanche hit the Gilgit-Baltistan region in Pakistan Saturday, police said. According to the police, 10 people, including three women were killed in the calamity in the Shunter Top area of Astore district in the mountainous region. "Rescue work was launched with the help of locals and later the Pakistan Army soldiers also joined the operation," the police said. GB Chief Secretary Mohiuddin Wani confirmed the mishap and said rescue teams were working in the affected area. Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid Khan expressed deep sorrow over the incident.

Iran and Taliban exchange gunfire

Dubai: The Taliban and Iran exchanged heavy gunfire Saturday on the Islamic Republic's border with Afghanistan, sharply escalating rising tensions between the two nations amid a dispute over water rights. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted the country's deputy police chief, Gen. Qassem Rezaei, accusing the Taliban of opening fire first Saturday morning on the border of Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province and the Afghan Nimroz. IRNA said Iran inflicted "heavy casualties and serious damage."

Nepal PM to visit India May 31

'Prachanda' will travel to India

US panel on China suggests NATO+ status for India

NATO Plus, currently NATO Plus 5, is a security arrangement that brings together NATO and five aligned nations - Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea - to boost global defence cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, May 27: In a significant development ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States, a powerful Congressional Committee has recommended strengthening NATO Plus by including India.

Bringing India on board would facilitate seamless intelligence sharing between these countries

and India would access the latest military technology without much

of a time lag. The House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), led by Chairman Mike Gallagher and Member Ranking Raja Krishnamoorthi, overwhelmingly adopted a policy proposal to enhance Taiwan's deterrence, including through strengthening NATO Plus to include India.

"Winning the strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party and ensuring the security of Taiwan demands the United States strengthen ties to our allies and security partners, including India. Including India in NATO Plus security arrangements would build upon the US and India's close partnership to strengthen global security and deter the aggression of the CCP across the Indo-Pacific region," the Select Committee recommended.

An initiative of the Republican leadership, the Select Committee is popularly called the China



Committee

Indian-American Ramesh Kapoor, who has been working on this proposal for the past six years, said this is a significant develop-

ment. He hoped that the recommendation would find a place in the National Defense Authorization Act 2024 and finally end up becoming a law of the land

In its set of recommendations, the China Committee said that economic sanctions against China in case of an attack on Taiwan will be most effective if key allies such as G7. NATO, NATO+5, and Quad members join, and negotiating a joint response and broadcasting this message publicly have the added benefit of enhancing deter-

Prime Minister Modi will pay an official state visit to the US next

Russia tells US: Don't **lecture Moscow on** nuclear deployments

REUTERS

Moscow, May 27: Russia Saturday dismissed criticism from US President Joe Biden over Moscow's plan to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, saying Washington had for decades deployed just such nuclear weapons in Europe.

Russia said Thursday it was pushing ahead with the first deployment of such weapons outside its borders since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said the weapons were already on the move.



Biden said Friday he had an "extremely negative" reaction to reports that Russia has moved ahead with a plan to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. The US State Department denounced the Russian nuclear deployment plan.

"It is the sovereign right of Russia and Belarus to ensure their security by means we deem necessary amidst of a large-scale hybrid war unleashed by Washington against us," Russia's embassy in the United States said in a statement. "The measures we undertake

are fully consistent with our international legal obligations.

Putin, who has cast the Ukraine war as a battle for the survival of Russia against an aggressive West, has repeatedly warned that Russia, which has more nuclear weapons than any other country, will use all means to defend itself.

The Russian Embassy called the US criticism of Moscow's planned deployment hypocritical, saying that "before blaming others, Washington could use some introspection". "The United States has been for decades maintaining a large arsenal of its nuclear weapons in Europe. Together with its NATO allies it participates in nuclear sharing arrangements and trains for scenarios of nuclear weapons

PTI faces existential threat Treasury warns

revealing that

mastermind of May 9

(incidents). How will the

leader himself is a jackal?

MARYAM NAWAZ | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,

His party workers vandalised a

dozen military installations, in-

cluding the Lahore Corps

Commander's House, the Mianwali

airbase and the ISI building in

Faisalabad in response to Khan's

headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi

The mob also stormed the Army

Police put the death toll in vio-

lent clashes to 10 while Khan's

party claims 40 of its workers lost

their lives in the firing by secu-

Thousands of Khan's supporters

were arrested following the vio-

lence that the powerful Army de-

scribed as a "dark day" in the his-

part of the May 9 mayhem. He de-

cided to part ways he was set free

a nation are united with one voice

that there is an inquiry and they

meted out exemplary punishment

whether they're from the PTI or

"Whoever did the attack, we as

Ismail categorically denied being

people stand when the

premises

for the first time.

rity personnel.

tory of the country.

from prison.

Imran Khan is the

Trouble seems to be spiraling for former Pakistan PM and PTI party chief Imran Khan as over 70 lawyers and leaders have parted ways from the party over May 9 protests to stop Khan's arrest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 27: Imran Ismail, the former Sindh governor and ousted prime minister Imran Khan's close aide parted ways with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party Saturday, hours after an anti-terrorism court ordered his release from prison

Earlier, an anti-terrorism court in Karachi ordered Ismail's release from Karachi's Central Prison after furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000

Over 70 lawyers and leaders from the party have parted ways with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) over the May 9 mayhem.

Top PTI leaders --- including the party's Secretary General Asad Umar, former information minister Fawad Chaudhry and former minister for human rights Shireen Mazari -- have resigned.

Ismail, who knew Khan since his days as a cricketer, and someone who has always been at the forefront in defending him on television shows, made the announcement while addressing the press

"I am resigning from all positions of the PTI. Khan sahib I bid adieu to you and PTI," he said at a press conference.

On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested Khan, 70, from the Islamabad High Court (IHC)

Khan's urine samples Pakistan's Minister for

Cocaine found in

National Health Services, Abdul Oadir Patel, claimed Friday that alcohol and cocaine were detected in the urine samples of former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan, which were taken after his arrest on May 9 by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), media reports said. "On May 9, Imran Khan Niazi was presented before the medical board for examination. When he was taken into custody by the NAB, he was in an intoxicated state," Qadir claimed at a press conference here, The Express Tribune reported. The medical board, according to Patel, found Khan to be a "habitual user of illegal substances" as evidence of the presence of alcohol and cocaine in his urine samples was found, the report said.

"I was among the four people who laid the foundation of the PTI. among its founding members and then a long struggle was before you ... there were many ups and downs in the struggle and we dreamed of a developing and prosperous Pakistan," he said.

Ismail added he was not sure whether he would continue in pol-

said last week that those involved in attacks on military installations would be tried in the military courts while those charged with attacks on civilian targets would be prosecuted under civilian laws.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had said that the government was mulling a possible ban on Khan's PTI party following the attacks by his supporters on military installations after the former prime minister's arrest.

Khan, the cricketer-turned-politician, was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a USled conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan.

US DEBT CRISIS

of June 5 default

Washington, May 27: Democratic President Joe Biden and a Republican negotiator said Friday they were working on a deal to raise the US government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling after the Treasury Department warned that a June 5 default loomed without action.

The two sides have been negotiating for weeks on an agreement to raise the federal government's selfimposed borrowing limit, with Republicans also pushing for sharp spending cuts. Without a deal, the United States could face a calamitous default.

"Things are looking good," Biden told reporters. "I'm optimistic."

Republican Representative Patrick McHenry said he concurred with Biden's comments, while cautioning that negotiations had not yet concluded. "I'm hopeful," said McHenry, one of House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy's lead negotiators with the White House. "But we have to make sure we have a line on tax, we have a line on agreement - there's significant challenges ahead.'



after US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the government would run short of money to pay its bills June 5. Yellen had previously said that date could come as soon as June 1, meaning that the new forecast allowed for more time but a harder final deadline.

Negotiators are discussing a deal that would lift the limit for two years. but remain at odds over whether to stiffen work requirements for some anti-poverty programs.

McCarthy left the Capitol on Friday following a conference call in which one of his top lieutenants told fellow Republicans no deal had been reached, CNN reported.

Any agreement would have to win approval in the Republicancontrolled House and the Democratic-led Senate before Biden could sign it into law - a process that could take more than a week



Supporters of Turkish President and People's Alliance's presidential candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan shout slogans as they listen to him during a campaign rally in Istanbul, Turkey

Chinese carrier sailed through Taiwan Strait HK's 2nd largest pro-democracy party disbands

Beijing, May 27: Taiwan's Defence Ministry said Saturday that it detected three Chinese warships, including the Shandong aircraft carrier, passing through the Taiwan Strait, as Beijing keeps up pressure on the self-ruled island it claims as its own.

The ministry said it was of the ships and will respond accordingly

In a tweet, the ministry said that the three vessels were headed north along the Taiwan Strait at noon and were steering along US-CHINA TIES the west of the median line – an unofficial boundary

once tacitly accepted by both sides. China claims Taiwan as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary and regularly sends ships and warplanes into airspace and waters near the island.

Twelve of the aircraft had crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait or entered the island's air defense identification zone.

pleting three days of largescale combat exercises around Taiwan that simulated sealing off the island in response to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-

wen's trip to the US. Last August, China intensified war games around Taiwan, with missile firings and incursions into Taiwanese waters and airspace following then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei.

The city, which used to be

a bastion of free speech and expression, has not seen a large-scale pro-democracy protest since 2020 under the fear of China

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong, May 27: One of the few remaining pro-democracy parties in Hong Kong voted to dissolve itself Saturday, joining a growing list of organisations that have disbanded as authorities crackdown on dissent.

Civic Party chairman Alan Leong told reporters that the dissolution of the party was a "writing on the wall" as there was no one to take over None of its members at an extraordinary general meeting filed nominations for executive positions.



professionals, lawyers and aca-

demics. At its peak, it won six

seats in the Hong Kong legislature

during the 2012 elections, and

was the city's second-largest pro-

democracy party after the

with subversion under the sweep-

ing national security law that

was imposed by Beijing follow-

Several members were charged

Democratic Party.

Party is bidding **Hong Kong** farewell. We hope Hong Kong people will live in the moment with a hopeful and not too heavy heart. Live in truth and believe in tomorrow

ALAN LEONG | CHAIRMAN, CIVIC PARTY

ing massive 2019 protests calling Thirty of the 31 members voted to disband, with one person abstaining. for political freedoms that were The party, which was founded promised the semi-autonomous in 2006, was made up of mostly

POLITICAL CRACKDOWN

territory after its handover from Britain in 1997. They were accused of participating in an unofficial primary to pick up the best candidates for the legislative elections that would allow the pro-democracy camp to win a majority of seats. Authorities, however, said that the primary was aimed at sub-

verting the government In a written statement, Leong thanked "all like-minded people who joined our long walk to democracy

for different parts of the journey." Since the national security law was passed, the city has undergone major changes to its political landscape. An overhaul of Hong Kong's electoral system was made to ensure that only "patriots" loyal to China would be able to take office, and more than 200 people have been arrested for allegedly committing acts that endanger national security.

Many pro-democracy political organisations in Hong Kong have already disbanded. They include the protest organizer Civil Human Rights Front and the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, which was behind the annual Tiananmen Square vigil to mark the 1989 massacre in Beijing of pro-democracy activists by Chinese soldiers. The vigil has been banned

for the last three years.

Kathmandu: Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Wednesday on a four-day official visit during which he will hold talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and other leaders to further strengthen the age-old. multifaceted bilateral ties. the foreign ministry here said Saturday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS The ministry also said that in the

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AROUND TAIWAN IN RECENT **MONTHS AMID DETERIORATING**

24 hours from 6 am Friday to Saturday, it detected 33 of China's People's Liberation Army aircraft and 10 navy vessels around Taiwan.

In response, Taiwan's armed **CHINA HAS** forces deployed aircraft, navy monitoring the movements STEPPED UP ITS vessels and land-based missile systems. In April, the Chinese military said it was "ready to fight" after com-

business



Within six years, India will be the third largest economy in world ASHWINI VAISHNAW

GO FIRST CANCELS FLIGHTS TILL MAY 30

Go First Airlines Saturday announced that its flight operations will remain cancelled till May 30 adding that a full refund will be issued to the passengers. The official media account of Go First Airlines took to Twitter and said, "Due to operational reasons, Go First flights until May 30, 2023, are cancelled. We apologise for the inconvenience caused"





We need to mount a comprehensive. broad response (to issues like Covid-19) based on innovation and cooperation



BILL GATES FOUNDER, MICROSOFT

The industry is progressing at a rapid rate. and to maintain our stature as the 'Pharmacy of the World', we need to focus on quality and affordable manufacturing with an increased focus on research and innovation MANSUKH MANDAVIYA UNION MINISTER







RITESH AGARWAL | FOUNDER, OYO

SHORT TAKES

ONGC Q4 net dips

New Delhi: India's top oil and gas producer ONGC posted a surprise loss in the March quarter after it made over ₹12,100 crore provision for a contested tax liability. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported a net loss of ₹247.70 crore in the January-March quarter as compared to a net profit of ₹8,859.54 crore a year back, according to a company statement. Service tax department at various work centres had raised a demand for payment of service tax on the royalty the company paid to the state and central government on crude oil and natural gas it produces from below ground. The company challenged the demands in courts.

China industrial profits drop 18%

Beijing: Profits at China's industrial firms slumped in the first four months of 2023, official data showed Saturday, as companies continued to pressures and soft demand amid a faltering economic recovery. Profits fell 20.6% in January-April from a year earlier, compared with a 21.4% decline in the first three months, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). In April alone, industrial firms posted a 18.2% drop in profit year-on-year.

PHONES TO CHIPS India's electronics making picks up

In the wake of chip supply chain disruptions during pandemic and the ongoing US-China restrictions, India is looking to be a global player in semiconductors

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 27: In 2018, South Korean giant Samsung inaugurated the world's largest mobile factory in India. The 35-acre facility at Sector 81 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in officially inaugurating it together -- placing the country firmly on the global manufacturing map.

Even before that, the country saw a massive turnaround in mobile manufacturing. Before 2014, there were two mobile manufacturing factories and now, more than 200 manufacturing units have been set up in India, producing millions of devices and exporting them to other countries.

Fast forward to 2023. Led by locally-manufactured mobile phones, India's electronics industry saw a record exports of electronic goods at an estimated ₹1,85,000 crore in FY22-23 -- compared to ₹1,16,936 crore in FY21-22 -- marking a whopping 58 per cent increase.



Electronics industry saw a record exports of electronic goods

According to data by the India

Cellular and Electronics Association

(ICEA). mobile phone exports made

history by crossing the \$10 billion

threshold for the first time in any

fiscal year, reaching an estimated

\$11.12 billion (over ₹90,000 crore)

This growth has been prima-

rily driven by the Apple ecosys-

tem, which alone crossed a record

\$5 billion in exports from India in

FY23. The country has now taken

a leap on manufacturing IT hard-

ware (laptops, servers, tablets),

semiconductors and more.

Vedanta-Foxconn Semiconductors

Limited (VFSL), a joint venture

between Foxconn and Vedanta

Group, is one such example.

Mobile phone exports crossed \$10b threshold for the first time

semiconductor market was valued at \$22.7 billion in 2019

Vedanta and Foxconn signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoII) with the Guiarat government last year to invest `1,54,000 crore to set up the semiconductor and display manufacturing plant which is India's first. In April, Vedanta Group signed MoUs with 20 Korean companies from the display glass industry for the development of an electronics manu-

facturing hub in the country. **PLI 2.0 FOR IT HARDWARE**

The Centre last week approved an updated production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware, nearly doubling the overall outlay for the scheme to around ₹17,000 crore.

India is committed to becoming a reliable partner in global supply chains and we are working towards that by framing long-term policies, keeping the next 25 years in mind

AMITESH KUMAR SINHA | CEO, ISM AND JOINT SECRETARY, MEITY

The tenure of the programme will be applicable for six years and the government expects investments worth ₹2,430 crore in the scheme. "PLI 2.0 for IT hardware will be a catalyst for India's \$300 billion electronics manufacturing mission, an important part of India's trillion dollar digital economy goal," according to Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

The IT hardware PLI 2.0 is focused on expanding India's production and presence in the global chains

hardware/servers/laptops. The country recently launched a ₹76,000 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductors and display manufacturing units.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Modi allocated a budget of ₹1.200 crore to invest in the Indian semiconductor design startups.

The government is aiming to create 100 semiconductor design startups in the near future that will develop innovative designs and solutions not only for the domestic market but also for the world, according to Chandrasekhar.

The country will soon have a talent pool of 85,000 highly-skilled professionals in the semiconductor space, according to the minister.

The 2026 forecast of \$64 billion is set to be driven by both domestic and export markets with significant demand from the consumer electronics, telecom, IT hardware and industrial sectors.

BLUEPRINT FOR 6G

As 5G roll-out picks up pace in India, Prime Minister Modi is already laying out the blueprint for 6G and has asked global giants like Cisco to begin research and development (R&D) around the next-gen telecommunication technology to further empower millions.

The company's Chief Operating Officer (COO) Maria Martinez told IANS earlier this month that Prime Minister Modi has asked them to engage on 6G

"We talked about building some kind of joint R&D around 6G as well. We are very excited after seeing the 5G roll-out globally, including in India. We're very excited about 6G too," Martinez said.

The Prime Minister has already emphasised that the 6G initiative will create new opportunities for innovators, industries and startups. In March, he released a vision document that details India's plans to develop and launch 6G telecom services in a few years.

Nepal starts power exports to India



Kathmandu, May 27: Nepal has started exporting electricity to India from Saturday, as the generation of hydroelectricity from runof-the-river projects increased with the onset of the monsoon in the Himalayan country.

Last year also, Nepal exported hydroelectricity to India from June to November.

'We have started selling 600 MW hour electricity to India from Saturday as there is a surplus in the electricity in the country," said Suresh Bhattarai, spokesperson of Nepal Electricity Authority.

Some time ago Nepal was importing up to 400 MW electricity from India to meet the domestic demand. In Nepal the domestic demand for electricity increases in winter, while the supply decreases and in summer the demand decreases while the supply increases.

Most of the hydropower projects operating in Nepal are based on run-of-the-river. Last year, Nepal earned around ₹12 billion from exporting electricity to India.

With the onset of monsoons, hydropower plants in Nepal have been producing excess electricity from the elevated water levels in the Himalayan rivers.

STEEL DEMAND TO GROW 7.5%: ISA

■ Global demand dragged down India's steel exports to a five-year low during the financial year that ended in March 2023

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 27: India's steel consumption is expected to grow by 7.5% during the current fiscal year to March 2024, boosted by rising demand from the domestic construction, railways and capital goods sectors, a leading industry body said Friday.

Steel demand is expected to be 128.9 million tonne during 2023-24, up from 119.9 million tonne during the previous year, the Indian Steel Association (ISA) said in a statement.

The steel sector has benefited from India's strong economic growth, and industries such as automotive and consumer durables are expected to fuel steel consumption, ISA said.

Economic growth in Asia's thirdlargest economy is forecast to average 6.0% for the current fiscal year and then rise to 6.4% in 2024-25,



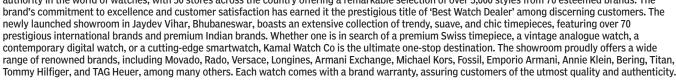
according to a Reuters poll of economists. "Driven by a strong momentum in infrastructure spending and sustained growth in urban consumption, steel demand in India will continue to expand by 8-9 million tonne each year in the next two financial years," ISA said.

A top executive at JSW Ltd, the country's largest steelmaker by capacity, last week said he estimated India's steel demand to rise by 7%-8% this year

India is world's second biggest crude steel producer. Output jumped 4.2% to a record 125.3 million tonnes in 2022-23. However global demand dragged down India's steel exports to a five-year low during the financial year that ended in March 2023.

Kamal Watch Co inaugurates third showroom in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Kamal Watch Co, a leading name in the world of luxury timepieces, proudly announces the launch of its third showroom in Bhubaneswar, also making it the 50th showroom in India. The grand inauguration ceremony took place at Jaydev Vihar May 27, in the august presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Jagannath Swain Mohapatra, Chief Priest of Puri Shree Jagannath Temple along with film star and Member of Parliament, Anubhav Mohanty. The event was marked by a symbolic ribbon-cutting and the traditional lighting of the lamp, signifying the commencement of an exciting new chapter for the brand. Nishanth Totla. Director at Kamal Watch Concepts, expressed his gratitude and vision for the brand, saying, "It is an honor to be associated with Kamal Watch Co, a brand that exemplifies timeless elegance and exceptional craftsmanship. With the launch of this showroom, we aim to provide an unmatched retail experience, showcasing a wide range of luxury timepieces from renowned international and Indian brands." Kamal Watch Co has established itself as a leading authority in the world of watches, with 50 stores across the country offering a remarkable selection of over 5,000 styles from 70 esteemed brands. The





Media delegation visits JSW plant

Jagatsinghpur: A delegation of 30 senior journalists - Jagatsinghpur district from established National and State level publications, embarked on a 3 day familiarisation trip to JSW Vidyanagar Steel Works, the single location largest steel plant of India. The trip is organised by Anil Singh, President of BPSL & JUSL and JUSL Sr Management. The familiarisation is facilitated by JSW Vidyanagar Works, President PK Murugan, COO LR Singh and Ralph Sunil, chief of Administration and CSR.

returns than stock mkt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 27: IPL teams have given phenomenal returns compared to the stock market, with the Rajasthan Royals leading the pack with 29 times returns.

According to a research by Treelife, if you had invested ₹1 lakh in IPL teams it would have far outperformed the Sensex and blue chip stocks.

The Rajasthan Royals tops the list with 29 times return, so the ₹1 lakh invested is now ₹29.07 lakhs. It is followed by Kolkata Knight Riders with 28 times, Chennai Super Kings with 24 times and Mumbai Indians with 22 times.

Comparing it to the stock market,

BSE Sensex has given 3 times as has Reliance Industries and Wipro. Infosys has given 6 times return while Hindustan Unilever has given 13 times return in the period. SBI has given 1.6 times return while

Mumbai Indians has the highest valuation at ₹10673 crore followed by CSK with ₹9,442 crore, KKR with ₹9,031 crore, RCB with ₹8,415 crore, Delhi Capitals with ₹8,497 crore, Rajasthan Royals with ₹8,210 crore, Sunrisers Hyderabad with ₹7,964 crore and Kings XI Punjab with ₹7,594 crore.

The two new teams, Lucknow Super Giants has a valuation of ₹8,825 crore and Gujarat Titans

RANKINGS Tata Steel has given 0.7 times return.

has a valuation of ₹6,979 crore.



IPL teams give better World's 1st EV to earn best-selling car tag

TESLA MODEL Y SURPASSED TOYOTA'S RAV4 AND COROLLA MODELS TO TOP GLOBAL SALES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 27: Tesla Model Y has become the first all-electric vehicle to be billed as the world's bestselling car, a report has shown.

Tesla Model Y surpassed Toyota's RAV4 and Corolla models to top global sales rankings in the first quarter of 2023, according to data from Jato Dynamics.

The 2023 Model Y starts at \$47,490, considerably more than the 2023 Corolla (\$21,550) and RAV4 (\$27,575), reports The Verge.

Tesla sold an impressive 267,200 units of the Model Y globally during this period, marking a significant 69 percent increase compared to the same duration last year. Notably, a majority of the Model Y sales originated from China, which has emerged as a crucial market for Tesla, even surpassing its home market, the USA, in terms of importance.





Tesla is dominating the US EV market while other automotive giants like Ford, General Motors, Stellantis, Volkswagen and Hyundai are struggling to provide strong competition. Moreover, with the recent price cuts by Tesla and all versions of Tesla's Model Y becoming eligible for the EV tax credit subsidy, it is expected that Tesla will take an even higher market share

ABHIK MUKHERJEE | ANALYST, COUNTERPOINT RESEARCH

the 500k to 1 million unit per year

Musk in 2021 predicted that the Model Y would claim the top spot in the world.

"We think Model Y will be the best selling car or vehicle of any kind in the world. Probably next year. I'm not 100 per cent certain in the electric vehicle (EV) market in the US with more than 50 per cent share, selling more cars than the other 17 automotive groups combined.

EV sales increased to represent 7 per cent of all US passenger vehicle sales in 2022, according to Counterpoint Research.

tion engine (ICE) vehicle to become the world's highest-selling car. Within Tesla's current lineup, the Model Y is a smaller and more affordable crossover compared to the top-spec Model X.

If Tesla decides to launch the Model Y in India, it could be a significant addition to its lineup, concountry.

Forex reserves decline by \$6bn to \$593.48bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 27: India's foreign exchange reserves dropped by \$6.052 billion to \$593.477 billion during the week ended May 19, RBI said Friday.

The drop in the kitty has snapped two consecutive weeks of increases. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had increased by \$3.5 billion to take the overall quantum just shy of \$600 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended May 19, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, declined by \$4.654 billion to \$524.945 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI Friday.

Gold reserves dropped by \$1.227 billion to \$45.127 billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$137 million to \$18.276 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$35 million to \$5.13 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.



A Super-Titanic clash India lose to Britain in Pro League hockey

GILL GETS READY TO SPOIL DHONI'S FAREWELL PARTY AS FOUR-TIME WINNERS CHENNAI SUPER KINGS LOCK HORNS WITH DEFENDING CHAMPIONS GUJARAT TITANS HAVING TITLE AT STAKE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 27: MS Dhoni wouldn't mind a 'Farewell to Remember' but a young Shubman Gill, oozing grace, would do everything under his control to prevent Chennai Super Kings from beating Gujarat Titans to its fifth IPL title, here Sunday.

Nearly 19 summers back when a voung Dhoni was making his first strides in India blue, a four-yearold Gill was taking stance on a vast farmland in Punjab's Fazilka village on Pakistan border, with a handmade customised bat, prepared by his doting grandfather.

Sunday, at the 132,000-seater Narendra Modi Stadium, the soonto-be 42 Dhoni will have one last assignment in his favourite Canary Yellow jersey – to stop Indian cricket's megastar-in-waiting and do a 'High Five'.

Three centuries and $851 \mathrm{\ runs}$ don't happen in every season but on a batting belter at the Motera, what will be Dhoni's strategy to rein in the 'Mohali Marauder'?

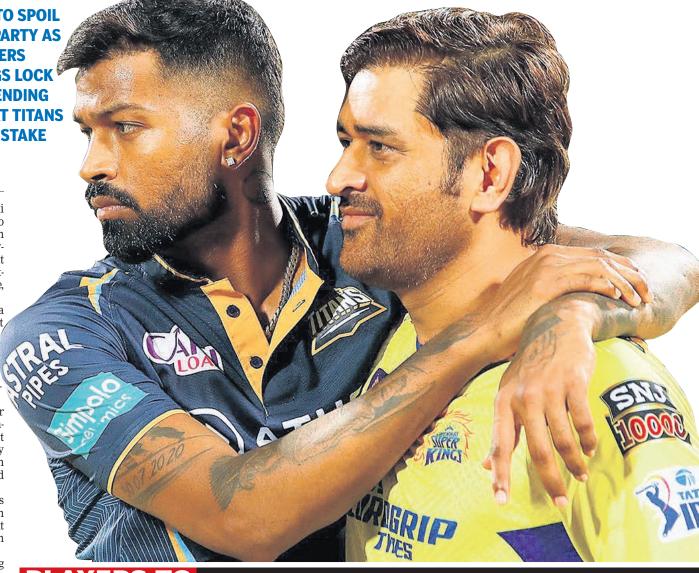
Will it be Deepak Chahar's swing or Ravindra Jadeja's wicket-towicket bowling? Or will it be Moeen Ali, who could be the 'Joker in the Pack' with his enticing flighted deliveries outside the off-stump which could sharply break back. Can Matheesha Pathirana bowl some incisive toe-crushers?

A technically near-perfect batter against a captain known for thinking out of the box-it can't get more exciting than this.

His die-hard fans might expect him to come back again next year but even Dhoni, who has played the entire season with a heavily strapped left knee might find it extremely difficult to keep up with the demands of the shortest format.

So for every 'Thala' (elder brother in Tamil) fan, it's all about savouring the Dhoni moments till it lasts. In this CSK set-up, he could afford to bat at No.8 in most games but entering the finals with a bowling line-up that missed Deepak Chahar for the better part of first half and had to turn a profligate Tushar Deshpande into a dependable wicket-

Turning an inconsistent Shivam Dube into a six-hitting bully or overseeing the return of Jadeja, cricketing decisions



GT: Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya, Rashid Khan, Mohammed Shami **WATCH OUT FOR** CSK: Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Deepak Chahar, Matheesa Pathirana

the T20 bowler, the legend of Dhoni will never cease to exist. It will only grow and his captaincy stories will also be burnished with coats of myth decades down the line. They say familiarity breeds contempt but contempt would be the last word in

when they face Hardik Pandya's Titans. The CSK logo features a 'Roaring Lion' but they would take the team from Land of Gir Forest lightly at their own peril. After 73 games, the two of the most consistent teams are pitted against each other in the summit clash.

Dhoni and CSK's mind

lated the structural and team building ethos of Chennai Super Kings as minutely as Gujarat Titans, another team, where

No team has emu-

are based on sound logic, consistency and no interference from overbearing owners

There is a skipper in Pandya, who believes that there is only one way to lead the team. It's called The Mahi Wav'

Batters win matches but bowlers win tournaments is an old saying and it couldn't be more apt when one tracks Titans' performance.

Mohammed Shami (28 wickets), Rashid Khan (27 wickets) and Mohit Sharma (24 wickets) have executed plans more often than not and thus it hasn't really effected the Titans that second highest run-scorer after Gill's 851 runs is skipper Hardik Pandya (325), who is more than 500 runs behind.

Wriddhiman Saha, a keeper-parexcellence, would consider himself lucky, that team management never thought of reolacing him despite a strikeate of 127 opening the batting and only one fifty plus score

And herein, Dhoni would try

to seize the opportunity. If they can get Gill our early, none of the other batters have shown wherewithal to fight hard and bowlers would need a decent total on board.

Under Dhoni, if players like Ajinkya Rahane (299 runs in 13 matches, two fifties) and Shivam Dube have found their groove this season, youngsters bowlers such as Sri Lanka's Pathirana (17 wickets in 15 matches) and India's uncapped Deshpande (21 wickets in 15 matches) have also been able to find their feet at the IPL stage.

In CSK's batting line-up, Devon Conway (625 runs in 15 matches, six fifties) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (564 runs in 15 matches, four fifties) have time and again provided CSK with resolute starts at the top.

The big-hitting Dube (386 runs in 15 matches, three fifties) is the second joint-highest six-hitter for CSK in this IPL with 33 sixes, joined by Gill in the list. There are no clear favourites and it could be one of the finest finals in history of IPL.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 27: A lacklustre India suffered their second successive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League, going down to dominant hosts Great Britain 2-4 here

Timothy Nurse struck a field goal for Great Britain in the sixth minute while Harmanpreet equalised for India from a penalty corner in the 13th minute.

Sorsby Thomas scored Britain's second in the 31st minute, helping them regain the lead before Lee Morton came up with an excellent goal on the 33rd minute after catching the Indians napping.

Harmanpreet reduced the deficit for India with his second goal of the day-this one too from a penalty corner – in the 42nd minute, the strike helping him become the all-time topscorer in the Pro League with 35

Bandurak Nicholas regained England's two-goal lead with his 53rd minute strike at the Lee Valley Hockey Centre, and India could not put up a fight from there. India had lost to Olympic champions Belgium 1-2 Friday.

Nurse opened the account for England with his maiden goal at the senior level. He dribbled his way past Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Mandeep Mor down the left to enter the Indian 'D' before shooting the ball past keeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, who started at goal ahead of the seasoned PR Sreeiesh.

Britain scoring a quick first goal was not surprising as the home team started on an aggressive note and seemed to be on the lookout for

creating opportunities, even as Hardik Singh earned India an early free-hit with his searing run.

The Indians looked like they were struggling to keep up with the intensity of the Englishmen. Before the hosts took the lead, Brendan Creed's pass found an unmarked Sam Ward, but the latter's attempt was thwarted by a brilliant Pathak at the Indian goal.

Few moments later, Ward was again in the thick of things but Pathak made a timely intervention by kicking the ball away to safety. Then, the duo of Jarmanpreet Singh and Karthi initiated the first real attacking move by the Indian team, surprising the English goalkeeper and nearly scoring the equaliser.

The Indians found the equaliser when Harmanpreet Singh hit the back of the net off a penalty corner on the 13th minute. Their morale boosted by the equaliser, the visitors looked to dominate the Britons and called the shots in the second quarter when an Indian goal was also disallowed following a review after the English opted for a video referral.

Meanwhile, Wallace Zachary's penalty stroke was saved by a diving Sreejesh to keep the match in balance. However, the hosts regained the lead when Sorsby converted a penalty corner in the third quarter. Morton Lee made it 3-1 for England with the home team's second strike - a field goal – in the third quarter. Heading into this game, both

India and Great Britain were tied with 19 points at the top of the table, but the latter have consolidated their position following Saturday's win.



Harmanpreet Singh (No.13) scored both the goals for India

Prannoy in final, Sindhu loses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, May 27: Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy entered the men's singles final of the Malaysia Masters after his opponent Christian Adinata of Indonesia conceded the semifinal match following a nasty knee injury here

World No.9 Prannoy was leading 19-17 when Adinata lost his footing while landing after a jump return and his left knee buckled, leaving the Indonesian shuttler grimacing in pain.

The 21-year-old Adinata, a 2019 World Junior Championships winner, was quickly attended by Prannoy and the Indonesian coach before being eventually wheeled out of the court. Prannoy will now take on the

winner of the other semifinal match between China's Weng Hong Yang and Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi in the final Sunday. It will be Prannoy's first final of the season and second since the runner-up finish at the Swiss Open last year.

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, however, couldn't make it to the women's singles finals after suffering a 14-21, 17-21 loss to Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung. It was a second successive loss for Sindhu following seven wins against the tricky World No.9 Indonesian.

It was a one-way traffic for Prannoy, who was off to a flying start, leading 11-1 in a jiffy. However after the break, it was Aditana. who accumulated points in buckets, taking seven of the next nine

A jump cross court smash helped Prannoy find his confidence back but unforced errors and Adinata also playing some smart shots saw



Adinata was quick in his returns and played a few cross court winners and a body-smash. An onthe-line return on the backline saw him make it 14-15 before he drew parity at 16-16 when Prannov went wide again. Prannoy dominated the short exchanges next to lead 19-17 before the match ended abruptly following the injury to Adinata.

A two-time former winner here, Sindhu couldn't play her aggressive game with Tunjung managing to keep control of the rallies with her solid defence and produce her

tricky strokes to finish points. The Indian took a 3-0 lead early on but it soon evaporated with Tunjung producing some exquisite shots to turn the tables. Tunjung tried to mix her strokes to keep Sindhu guessing but the Indian defended well to hold her fort, moving to 9-7. She entered the break at 11-8 with a straight smash and a

However, things changed after the change of sides as the Indonesian held the momentum with some attacking winners. Tunjung grabbed six game points with Sindhu finding the net and she converted it with another winner.

The second game started on an even keel before Tunjung suffered an injury on his forehand at 5-5. But it had no affect on the Indonesian, who kept things under control to enter the break with an 11-9 cush-

Tunjung continued to make life difficult for her. The Indonesian looked a bit tired and made some errors but she didn't allow the match slip away. She soon grabbed six match points after Sindhu erred again. The Indian saved three with two cross court returns. However, Sindhu missed the net shot after another engrossing rally to sign off at the semifinal stage.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 27: The schedule and venues for the upcoming 50-over World Cup in India is expected to be announced during the final of the World Test Championship in London, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said Saturday after the board's Special General Meeting (SGM) here.

A decision on the Asia Cup 2023, to be held before the World Cup, will also be taken in the coming days as representatives of some of the Asian Cricket Council members are here for the IPL final, to be played on Sunday between Chennai Super Kings and Guiarat Titans.

"The venues for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 will be decided at



ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP **INDIA 2023**

a press conference during the ICC World Test Championship Final. The complete schedule for the tournament will also be revealed,' Shah said.

"The future of the Asia Cup 2023

time, which will handle the 2023 World Cup in India and the Women's Premier League, along with a com-

WC details to be announced during WTC final

mittee to draft the POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) policy.

for this purpose.

Shah informed, "As far as the venues for the ICC Cricket World Cup

India eves register

will be decided once we have a

meeting with the ACC members

(Test playing nations) and the

Associate nations," Shah added.

that 15 stadiums have been short-

listed for improvement in basic fa-

cilities for the fans, keeping them

in mind and more stadiums will be

added at a later stage. Grant

Thornton has been given the task

The BCCI will also be announc-

ing specific committees in a week's

The BCCI secretary informed

are concerned, each office-bearer will be responsible for each venue. We are looking at all the metros as ven-

ues for the tournament.' "We will create a committee to structure the POSH policy. The draft is ready, it will be presented before the AGM for ratification

and necessary approvals," he added. Additionally, the proposed limited-overs series between India and Afghanistan will be held before the World Cup, but the dates and

venues are yet to be worked out. Shah added that the impact

player rule in this IPL has been appreciated by all teams and players, which has resulted in a record number of totals in excess of 200, with the boundaries and sixes also crossing the 1,000 and 2,000-mark.

TRAP SHOOTER BHOWNEESH FINISHES 5TH IN SHOTGUN WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Almaty (Kazakhstan), May 27: Paris Olympics quota winner Bhowneesh Mendiratta found the going tough in the trap finals, finishing fifth in the ISSF World Cup for Shotgun here Saturday.

The 23-year-old from Faridabad, who was in joint lead with four others after the first three rounds of qualification with a score of 73 out of 75 Friday, came up with identical scores of 24 each in the remaining two rounds of qualifi-

cation Saturday. Bhowneesh aggregated 121 out of 125 over the two days of qualification, which saw him make the six-shooter finals at joint fourth

position. However in the finals, the Indian shooter erred and became the second marksman to get eliminated, shooting down 24 clay pigeons out

Bhowneesh, however, did well to outlast two-time world and Tokyo 2020 mixed team trap champion Alberto Fernandez of Spain in the

final. Fernandez finished sixth with a score of 21/25. Italian stalwart Massimo Fabbrizi, the two-time World Champion and London Olympics silver medallist, won gold, finishing with 46 hits in the 50-shot final. Australia's 27-year-old James Willet, the trap mixed team world champion, won silver with a score

mer world champion, Khalid

Almudhaf of Kuwait, bagged

women's hockey team put up a spirited showing in the fifth and final game of its tour Down Under, registering a 2-1 win over Australia A in a closely-fought contest here Saturday.

Navneet Kaur (10th minute) and Deep Grace Ekka (25th) scored the goals for India. Abigail Wilson of 43/50, while yet another for-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

(22th) scored the lone goal for hosts. Earning three quick penalty cor-

Adelaide, May 27: The Indian

ners, India put pressure on Australia A defence and Navneet Kaur scored the first goal with a reverse hit to give India the lead.

Australia A earned their first

win over Australia A penalty corner of the night midway into the second quarter, and Abigail found the back of net with a dragflick to level the scoreline. But minutes later, Ekka put India back in the lead with a dragflick of her

own on a penalty corner. Controlling the midfield, Neha Goyal set up penetrating runs for Indian attackers as Australia A defence felt the pressure. India managed to maintain their lead as the third quarter came to a

With 15 minutes left on the clock, both the teams showed urgency. India kept possession in the final few minutes to prevent the hosts from creating an opportunity

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