



SARA'S IDENTITY

Actor Sara Ali Khan talks about the three important words that define her as an individual

LEISURE P2



DRONE ATTACK ON KYIV

Russia unleashes largest drone strikes on Ukraine's capital Kyiv since the start of the war

INTERNATIONAL P10



TITLE FOR PRANNOY

HS Prannoy ends his title drought of six years by winning the Malaysian Masters

SPORTS P12

Wrestlers manhandled, booked

DELHI POLICE CLEARS PROTEST SITE, DETAINS 700 ACROSS DELHI | **CHAOS ERUPTS AS WRESTLERS AND POLICE OFFICERS SHOVE AND PUSH EACH OTHER WHEN THE GRAPPLERS TRY TO MARCH TOWARDS THE NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING**



Security personnel detain wrestler Sakshi Malik during wrestlers' protest march towards new Parliament building in New Delhi, Sunday

New Delhi, May 28: Wrestlers Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia along with other protesters were detained Sunday after a scuffle with security personnel who tried to stop them from march-

ing to the new Parliament building as it was being inaugurated. Soon after, the Delhi Police cleared the site of their over-month-long sit-in at Jantar Mantar and said they will not be allowed to return there. The police said that 700 people were detained across the national

capital including 109 protesters at Jantar Mantar. While women detainees were released later in the evening, Delhi Police said it has filed an FIR against the protest organisers and others under IPC sections related to rioting, assault and obstructing public servant in dis-

charge of duty. Opposition parties slammed the Central government over the alleged manhandling of wrestlers, who had resumed their agitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh April 23 demanding

his arrest for alleged sexual harassment of several women grapplers including a minor. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said that the arrogant king is crushing the voice of the people on the streets as the coronation is over and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said it is shameful our champions are treated in this manner. Elaborate security measures had been made after the wrestlers' call for a women's 'Mahapanchayat' outside the Parliament for which they did not have permission. Chaotic scenes were witnessed at the dharna site at Jantar Mantar, barely three kilometres from where the new Parliament building was inaugurated by the prime minister, as protesters and police personnel shoved and pushed each other when the Phogat sisters, Sakshi Malik and others tried to breach the barricades. Immediately after the wrestlers and other protesters were pushed into buses and taken to different locations, the police personnel began clearing the protest site by removing cots, mattresses, coolers, fans and the tarpaulin ceiling along with other belongings of the wrestlers. Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Dependra Pathak claimed the protesters ignored repeated requests and warnings and wrestled with police personnel who tried to stop them. They were out to disturb the preparations made by security agencies, the senior police officer told PTT.

Contd...4

PM inaugurates new Parliament building



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament building here Sunday morning and expressed hope that it will become a cradle of empowerment, igniting dreams and nurturing them into reality. Dressed in traditional attire, Modi walked into Parliament premises from its Gate No. 1 and was welcomed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Amid Vedic chants by priests from Karnataka's Shringeri Math, the Prime Minister performed "Ganapati Homam" to invoke divine blessings. The Prime Minister prostrated before the Sengol and sought blessings from high priests of various adheenams in Tamil Nadu with the holy sceptre in hand. Modi then carried the Sengol in a procession amid tunes of nadaswaram and chanting of Vedic

mantras to the new Parliament building and installed it in a special enclosure on the right side of the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber. "As the new building of India's Parliament is inaugurated, our hearts and minds are filled with pride, hope and promise. May this iconic building be a cradle of empowerment, igniting dreams and nurturing them into reality. May it propel our great nation to new heights of progress," the Prime Minister tweeted later. He also shared pictures of the inaugural event held this morning. Several Union ministers, including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, S Jaishankar, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mansukh Mandaviya and Jitendra Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, BJP president JP Nadda among others were present on the occasion. The Prime Minister felicitated with shawls and souvenirs some of the workers for their key role in the construction of the new Parliament building. A multi-faith prayer was also held to mark the occasion. The events to mark the inauguration are being held amid a boycott by several Opposition parties.

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



They use us as the symbol of power but see how they honoured some sengol now!

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
MAX	37.2°C 37.2°C
MIN	24.0°C 24.0°C
Humidity	70% 65%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain

40 militants killed so far: Manipur CM

IMPHAL: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Sunday said nearly 40 armed militants involved in torching houses and firing at civilians have been killed by security forces since they began an operation to bring peace to the north eastern state beset by ethnic rioting. Singh's comments came in the backdrop of fresh clashes breaking out between armed groups and security forces at over half a dozen places across Manipur Sunday. The Chief Minister, who was interacting with the mediapersons at the state secretariat, claimed the latest round of "conflict is not between communities but between Kuki militants and security forces". Singh also said that there had been cases of armed militants firing at civilians with AK-47s, M-16 and sniper rifles. These militants were targeted by security forces in counter-attacks. **MORE P7**

Biswal, Moquim showcaused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 28: The disciplinary committee of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Sunday served show cause notices to the party's senior leaders from Odisha, Chiranjib Biswal and Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim, for their alleged anti-party statements. Both the Congress leaders have been accused of violating the party discipline and asked to explain why disciplinary action should not be taken against them. The duo was served showcase notices for their statements against the party affairs at a function at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, May 8. During the Soochana Bhawan programme ahead of the Jharsuguda bypoll, Biswal had stated that the selection of the bypoll candidate was wrong questioning the campaign committee headed by the OPEC president. Biswal had said that while the



party has only nine MLAs in the Odisha Assembly, 20 leaders aspire to become Chief Minister and this has affected the party unity. Incidentally, both Moquim and Biswal were left out of the list of Congress star campaigners for the Jharsuguda bypoll. However, Moquim said that he has not received any notice as of yet. While this is the first show cause notice for Chiranjib, Moquim was served show cause notice for voting in favour of President Droupadi Murmu during the Presidential polls.

YouTuber shoots duo over comment on post; 6 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, May 28: Industrial Estate police here Sunday arrested six persons including a YouTuber on charge of assaulting two youths and shooting at them over a comment posted on one of his videos on YouTube, May 24. This was stated here by SP Sagarika Nath at a press meet held at the Industrial Estate police station, Sunday. The prime accused was identified as Udit Nayak of Sobharampur area in the town. All the six accused are within 17 to 23 years of age. Seven high-end mobile phones, one cartridge, a mouser and two bikes were seized from their possession. Nayak was earlier involved in a murder case. After the arrest, police have launched efforts to freeze his bank account and wrote to the YouTube

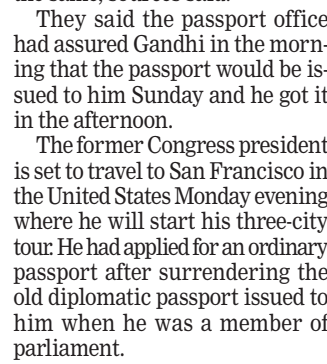


to close the channel. The SP said that Udit had opened a YouTube channel named 'Untalented Guy' and was posting videos using vulgar language. He was earning in lakhs through these videos as he had huge number of followers. The dispute arose after a follower posted some comments in the comment section of the video which was not to the liking of Nayak. This led to a brawl between Nayak and the follower. Later, Nayak, accompanied by his five associates, attacked Pinku Dash of Mandarapur village and Amit Kumar Dash of Niabag under Remuna Golei bridge, May 24. Pinku and Amit sustained critical injuries in the attack. Later, the two lodged a complaint at the Industrial Estate Police Station. On being directed by the SP two special teams led by the SDPO arrested one person after raiding various places in Balasure district and the rest five from Bhubaneswar.

Rahul gets new passport, all set for US tour today

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 28: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi received a new ordinary passport Sunday, two days after a local court granted its no objection to the issuance of the same, sources said. They said the passport office had assured Gandhi in the morning that the passport would be issued to him Sunday and he got it in the afternoon. The former Congress president is set to travel to San Francisco in the United States Monday evening where he will start his three-city tour. He had applied for an ordinary passport after surrendering the old diplomatic passport issued to him when he was a member of parliament.



Rahul Gandhi was disqualified as an MP following his conviction and two-year sentence by a Gujarat court in a defamation case over his Modi surname remark. Starting with San Francisco where he is scheduled to interact with students at the prestigious Stanford University, Gandhi will also address a press conference and have meetings with the lawmakers and think tanks in Washington DC. The Congress leader is likely to address Indian Americans, meet lawmakers and interact with members of think tanks, Wall Street executives and university students during his week-long tour of the USA. He is slated to conclude his trip with a large public gathering in New York June 4. The interaction would take place at the Javits Center in New York.

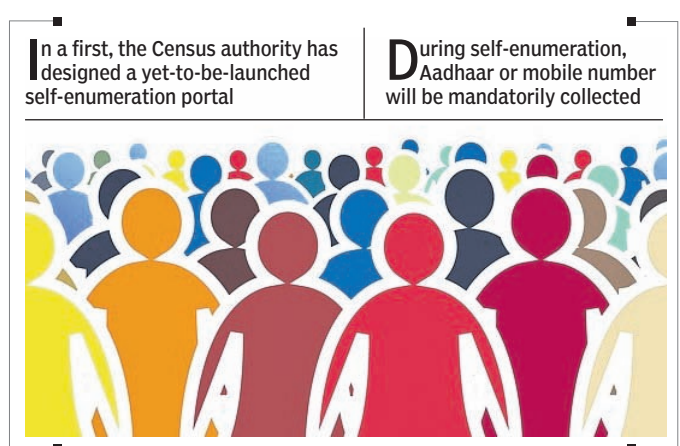
First 'digital' Census unlikely before Lok Sabha polls

CITIZENS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON SMARTPHONES, INTERNET, CEREALS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 28: The decadal Census, which was postponed for an indefinite period due to the pandemic, is unlikely to be held before the next Lok Sabha elections that are due in April-May 2024, officials said. Access to smartphones, Internet, laptops, computers, cars, two-wheelers, main cereal consumed are some of the 31 questions to be asked in the Census, whenever it is held. The house listing phase of the Census and the exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR) were scheduled

to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020, but was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Census operation continues to be on hold and the government has not yet announced a new schedule. In January, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India conveyed that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries - creation of new districts or sub-districts - has been extended to June 30, the officials said. According to the norms, the Census can be conducted only three months after (post September 30) freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, taluks and police stations. Two to three months will also be required to train the entire 30 lakh government employeeteachers



across India who will be engaged as enumerators for the Census. Meanwhile, the Election Commission will kick start the process for the next general elections such as revision of voter lists, etc. From October, there is little room to hold the Census exercise as the same set of people are supposed to be engaged both by the Election Commission and the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, the officials said. As the priority will be changed, in most likelihood, the Census operation will be carried out only after

the Lok Sabha elections, they said. This exercise, whenever it happens, will be the first digital Census, giving citizens an opportunity to self-enumerate. The NPR has been made compulsory for citizens who want to exercise the right to fill the Census form on their own rather than through government enumerators. For this, the Census authority has designed a yet-to-be-launched self-enumeration portal. During the self-enumeration process, Aadhaar or mobile number will be mandatorily collected. According to the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 31 questions to be asked to the citizens have been set. These questions include whether a family has a telephone line, Internet connection, mobile or smartphone, bicycle, scooter or motorcycle or moped, whether it owns a car, jeep or a van.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

Today you may think that you have the Midas touch, but Ganesh warns you to keep in mind that everything that glitters may not be gold. You need to give quality time to your family members to keep them happy. You need to give credit where it is due, and maybe buy a gift or two for your kids.

TAURUS

If you are a manager or an administrator, Ganesh forecasts an outstanding day for you. Thing will turn out far better than your expectations. Even if you are in some other profession you will stand out at your workplace and be appreciated and admired.

GEMINI

You will be in the mood to break free of the rut and routine of daily life today. Trying to keep up with numerous deadlines will keep you tense with worry. You will end up neglecting your familial duties in pursuit of work related activities. You need to find a balance between your responsibilities at work and at home, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Ganesh predicts success for your efforts to strengthen your status or prestige through collective activities. Your kind and generous attribute will see you cross a new peak. You will spend resources for an entertainment or recreational pursuit. Get ready for a hectic and fun-filled day, says Ganesh.

LEO

You will be in a jovial mood today. You will complete all tasks with energy and enthusiasm. Pending tasks will be completed now, and your routine tasks will be finished in a jiffy. In the morning you will be able to complete all tasks impulsively, but the later half of the day will see you taking a more measured approach, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Ganesh says all signs indicate that today will be a very optimistic and beneficial day. Remember that apocalypse is not going to happen anywhere in the near future. Each new day will bring better new things with it, as per the indications of the planets. Therefore, Ganesh says keep all your hopes alive.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that today will be spent in entertaining, throwing parties and in general having a good time. You will be able to plan a trip in the near future with your family members. You may be able to put your money into something that is safe or into a business and will also want to invest a good amount for future needs.

SCORPIO

You are likely to be occupied with your health issues in the first half of the day. Your stars indicate some fortunate events during this time. Evening will be spent relaxing at a serene place in pleasant company of your friends or beloved.

SAGITTARIUS

Your flexible, down-to-earth and optimistic attitude is likely to pay off well, personally and professionally, feels Ganesh. Celebrations and soiree during the lunch time demand for social exchanges. Evening will be more relaxed, with you and your beloved gazing at the setting sun and remembering good old days!

CAPRICORN

Hard-work never goes unnoticed and so will be yours. Your superiors will appreciate your talents and contribution to the progress of the company, predicts Ganesh. Supportive and cooperative, your colleagues will help you tread the path you have chosen.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will receive favourable news from overseas. You will aim for the bull's eye and leave no stone unturned to hit it. You will be competing with yourself and this will certainly enhance your overall performance. Don't slow down the speed though, keep working hard, says Ganesh.

PISCES

A mundane day filled with the boring ruts of routine awaits you. You will find yourself struggling to find the motivation to deal with repetitive tasks. Post afternoon should see you in a much more positive frame of mind, and better equipped to deal with the demands of the day. Do not negotiate new contracts or establish new partnerships today, says Ganesh.



ELIZABETH OLSEN WARNS FUTURE MARVEL ACTORS

Actress Elizabeth Olsen has warned actors to only sign up for one Marvel movie at a time. The 34-year-old *WandaVision* star advised others in her profession to choose their projects carefully and not give up creative control, reports *Female First UK*.

EMILY BLUNT FORGIVES PEOPLE TOO QUICKLY

Actress Emily Blunt has shared that she sometimes forgives people too quickly. The 40-year-old star has admitted she is hard to offend, which has made her an ideal cast member for directors or fellow actors looking to avoid on-set drama, and she has learned to let things go, reports *Female First UK*.



IIFA-2023 Alia, Hrithik bag top awards

ACTOR-FILMMAKER KAMAL HAASAN RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION WHEN HE WAS HONOURED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN INDIAN CINEMA

Abu Dhabi: After sweeping the technical awards at IIFA 2023, *Gangubai Kathiawadi* continued its winning run on Saturday night, with Alia Bhatt getting Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female).

Ajay Devgn's *Drishyam 2* got the Best Film trophy and the honour for Best Director went to R. Madhavan for *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*.

Hrithik Roshan, meanwhile, bagged the trophy for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his turbo-charged performance in *Vikram Vedha*, which also starred Saif Ali Khan.

Hrithik said in his acceptance speech: "I have lived with Vedha for many years now. It began right here in Abu Dhabi. I gave my first shot as Vedha here ... it feels like life has come full circle to me."

Celebrated actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan received a standing ovation when he was honoured for Outstanding Achievement in



Indian Cinema.

Accepting the golden trophy, Kamal expressed his gratitude and said: "I grew up in cinema ... I came here when I was three and a half ... You have been kind enough to allow me to survive till this stage."

Senior actor Anil Kapoor also received an award - for Performance in a Supporting Role (Male) for his part in *Jugjug Jeeto*.

The awards that went to



Playback Singer (Shreya Ghoshal, female, and Arijit Singh, male) and for Best Supporting Actor (Female) for Mouni Roy.

Late actor Irrfan Khan's son, Babil Khan, won the Best Debut (Male) award for the film *Qala*, and shared it with Santanu Maheshwari, who starred in *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. Khushali Kumar won Best Debut (Female) for *Dhoka Around the Corner*. IANS

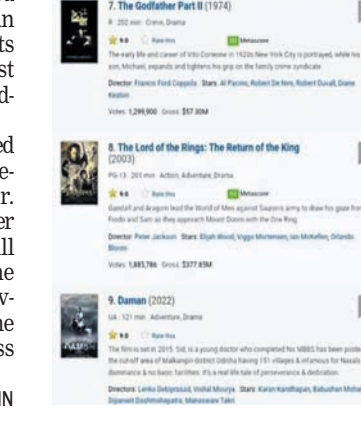
Daman enters the top 10 on IMDB

Bhubaneswar: The recently released *Daman*, an Odia film that drew audiences to the theatres in unprecedented numbers, has accomplished yet another feat by cracking the top 10 films on IMDB. The film, which was co-directed by Vishal Mourya and Debi Prasad Lenka, is currently ranked ninth, leaving behind international movies such as *Pulp Fiction* (11), *Inception* (15), *Fight Club* (17), and many others.

Prior to that, it received a 9.7 out of 10 rating on IMDB, making it the highest-rated Indian film. After being dubbed in Hindi, the film also had a pan-India release.

The Deependra Samal-produced movie, which features Babushaan and Dipanwit in key roles, depicts a doctor's tenacious battle against superstitions and endeavour to educate tribal people on malaria.

The Odisha government declared the movie tax-free following its release in November last year. Applauding the plot, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "This will encourage the employees of the health department and other government employees posted in the remote areas to excel in selfless service."



Sara on the three words that define her

Mumbai: India is a culturally rich country with many languages, emotions and it is important to promote it at a global platform like the Cannes Film Festival, says actor Sara Ali Khan. The *Kedarnath* actress had attended the 76th edition of the festival earlier this month, where she walked the red carpet and attended events at the India Pavilion.

"I think it's important to promote Indianness. We are such a culturally rich country. We have so many languages, emotions and so much depth and I'm proud to be able to talk about it on a global platform. "I was invited by the Indian pavilion and I was also invited by the Red Sea Film Festival people who invited me there to celebrate women both behind the camera and in front of the camera," the 27-year-old actor told PTI.

Sara said the three words that define her as an individual are - 'woman', 'actor' and 'Indian'. "And I got to represent all these aspects," she added.

On the work front, the actor said she is open to work opportunities, whether they come from regional cinema or the West.

Her upcoming movie is a family drama, *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*, co-starring Vicky Kaushal. PTI



Priyanka reveals when she felt embarrassed

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra garnered rave reviews from the audience and the critics alike for her performance in *Aitraaz*. The actress had portrayed a bold and confident character with negative shades.

In an interview with a news portal, Priyanka recalled the time when Rakesh Roshan insisted on watching her performance in *Aitraaz*. No sooner did she come to know about this than she called up Abbas-Mustan and requested that they not show him the scene where her character rapes Akshay Kumar's character.

Priyanka added that she was worried because Rakesh Roshan had a particular way of portraying women in his films, which was different from her character in *Aitraaz*. However, despite her efforts, Roshan ended up watching that scene, and to her surprise, they even cast her in *Krishi*.

The *Citadel* star even went on to reveal that she was so embarrassed that she couldn't look him in the eye.

Priyanka will next be seen in Farhan Akhtar's *See Le Zaraa*, with Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif in the lead roles. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



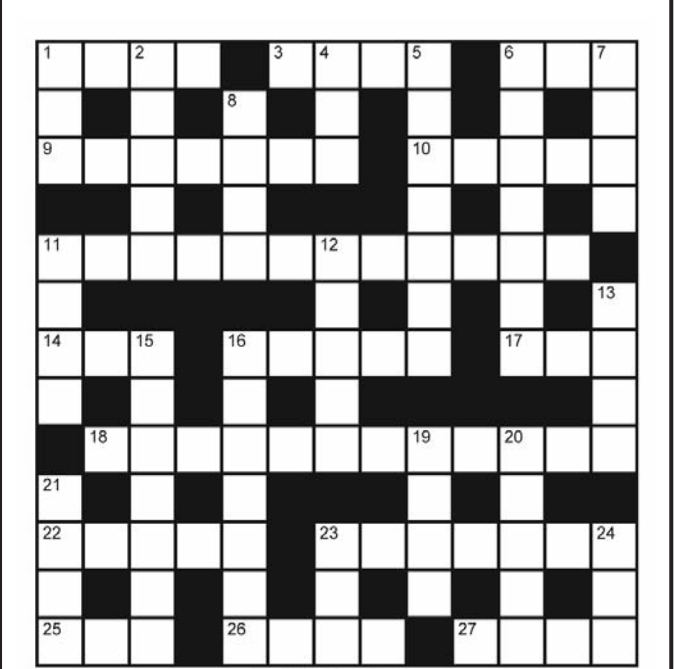
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



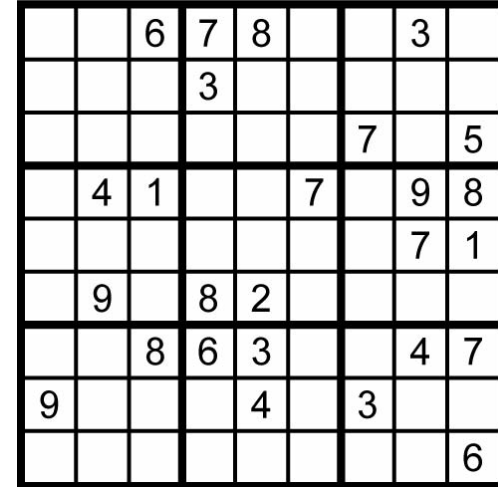
FUN post CROSSWORD



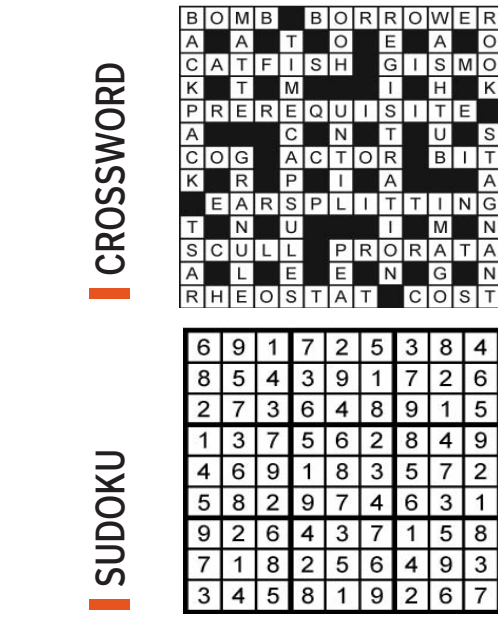
- Across**
- 1 Wither away
 - 3 Know-it-all
 - 6 Quick punch
 - 9 Aromatic hydrocarbon
 - 10 Quarry worker
 - 11 Employer's demand
 - 14 Harvest goddess
 - 16 Steer clear of
 - 17 Groove
 - 18 Sweet roll, e.g. (6,6)
 - 22 Traffic sign
 - 23 Quell
 - 25 Novel
 - 26 Face-off
 - 27 Tuckered out
 - Down**
 - 1 Little lie
 - 2 Wild dog
 - 4 Guitar kin
 - 5 Emotionally stable
 - 6 Office worker, of sorts
 - 7 Unadorned
 - 8 Squire
 - 11 Hotel amenity
 - 12 Incisor
 - 13 Command to Fido
 - 15 Songbird
 - 16 Liqueur flavoring
 - 19 Turkish honorific
 - 20 Dinette part
 - 21 Augury
 - 23 Winter coat
 - 24 Diaper wearer

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



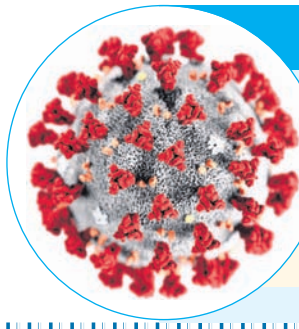
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



GRACEFUL MOVE

Artistes perform at a dance festival organised by Nrityanjali at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	689,399,257	661,820,747	6,883,592
India	4,49,89,744	4,44,52,908	5,31,864
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Mass cleaning drive by BMC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 28: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) authorities Sunday organised a mass cleaning drive at Sukhmeswar Temple premises here. Mayor Sulochana Das initiated the cleaning work in the presence of Health and Sanitation standing committee chairman Biranchi Narayan Mahasupakar. Local corporators, BMC's Swachha Sathis and Swachh supervisors were present on the occasion.

The cleaning drive is being organised to increase community participation for City sanitation. Mayor

Das said, "We are doing such activities in different wards to make sanitation a community driven approach. BMC is also serious about cleaning of heritage and tourist spots of the City. Greater community participation can take forward such drive to save our heritage."

The participants cleaned the premises around the temple. Bush cuttings were done by the sanitation workers. Among others, Mission Shakti groups, priests of the temple and sanitation agency took part in the drive. Additional Commissioner Suvendu Kumar Sahoo and Dy. Commissioner Manoranjan Sahu coordinated the programme.



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Servitors working overtime to prepare chariots for the Car Festival at Rath Yard in Puri, Sunday

OP PHOTO

ELECTROCUTION DEATH

NHRC directs CS to pay ₹4L to farmer's NoK

CHIEF SECRETARY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SUBMIT A COMPLIANCE REPORT OF PAYMENT ALONG WITH THE PROOF WITHIN SIX WEEKS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 28: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the state Chief Secretary to pay compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the relatives of a poor farmer who was electrocuted after coming into contact with a live electric wire in Dhamnagar area of Bhadrak district last year. The chief secretary has been instructed to submit a compliance report of payment along with the proof within six weeks.

The NHRC issued the directions while hearing a plea filed by Rights Activist and Supreme Court Lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy in this regard. The rights activist has sought monetary compensation to deceased's next of the kin (NoK) and stringent action against the erring officials responsible for the mishap.

Tripathy alleged in his petition that the victim farmer, Ramesh Chandra Nayak, came into con-

tact with the live electric wire lying on the road while returning from his agricultural field at Bauturapal in Dhamanagar block of Bhadrak district August 18, 2022.

He was rushed to the district Head Quarters Hospital (DHH) in Bhadrak where the doctors declared him "brought dead". Nayak reportedly electrocuted to death on the spot. "This incident happened due to the inaction, negligence and failure of the electricity department," alleged the petitioner.

Subsequently, the commission sought reports from the authorities of state Energy department and Bhadrak South Electrical Division of TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL). Following the examination of the enquiry reports, the commission issued a show cause notice to Odisha government on payment of compensation to the family members of an electrocution victim February 27, 2023.

"In response, the Addl. Secretary,



The petitioner alleged that the victim farmer, Ramesh Chandra Nayak, came into contact with the live electric wire lying on the road while returning from his agricultural field at Bauturapal in Dhamanagar block of Bhadrak district August 18, 2022

Subsequently, NHRC sought reports from the authorities of state Energy department and Bhadrak South Electrical Division of TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL)

Energy department vide communication dated 18.04.2023 submitted the reply of CEO, TPNODL wherein it is submitted that alleged fatal accident was solely attributable

to the negligence of Dinabandhu Nayak (neighbour of deceased). He was electrocuted after coming in contact with the damaged and illegally hooked wire by him while he was going to take bath at the tube well situated near his house," informed Tripathy.

On the other hand, the executive engineer-cum-deputy electrical inspector, Bhadrak in its report submitted October 10, 2022 had concluded that the 10KVA, 11/23 KV Sub-station from which the LT AB cable line emerged was in a very unsafe condition. No LA dropout fuse or isolator has been provided to the sub-station. No protection arrangement such as link switch with proper rating fuse or circuit breaker/MCCB of adequate rating was provided on the secondary side of the transformer.

The commission found that the TPNODL had violated the Regulation -35(3)(ii) of CEA (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply), Regulation, 2010. Hence, it confirmed the compensation amount holding the negligence on part of the Electricity department responsible for the death of Ramesh.

CP raids night clubs, bars in City; one detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 28: The Commissionerate Police carried out surprise raids at various night clubs and bars under Infocity and Chandrasekharpur police limits here during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday for allegedly flouting norms. One of the staffers of a bar was detained at Chandrasekharpur police station.

Two teams comprising three inspectors, CTS Force, members of Team 60 and three platoons of police forces conducted raids at night clubs, bars and hotels in Chandrasekharpur and Infocity area to check whether these entities are adhering to conditions set by the Excise department like timing and sound level.

"We conducted checking at six bars and night clubs- Embassy, Reborn, BBI, Middleton and Aangan Horizon and Oopre. All these business establishments have the license to open the bar till 1:30am. We found that Reborn violated the sound limit norms while three bars, BBI, Middleton, Aangan were opened beyond the permitted time period

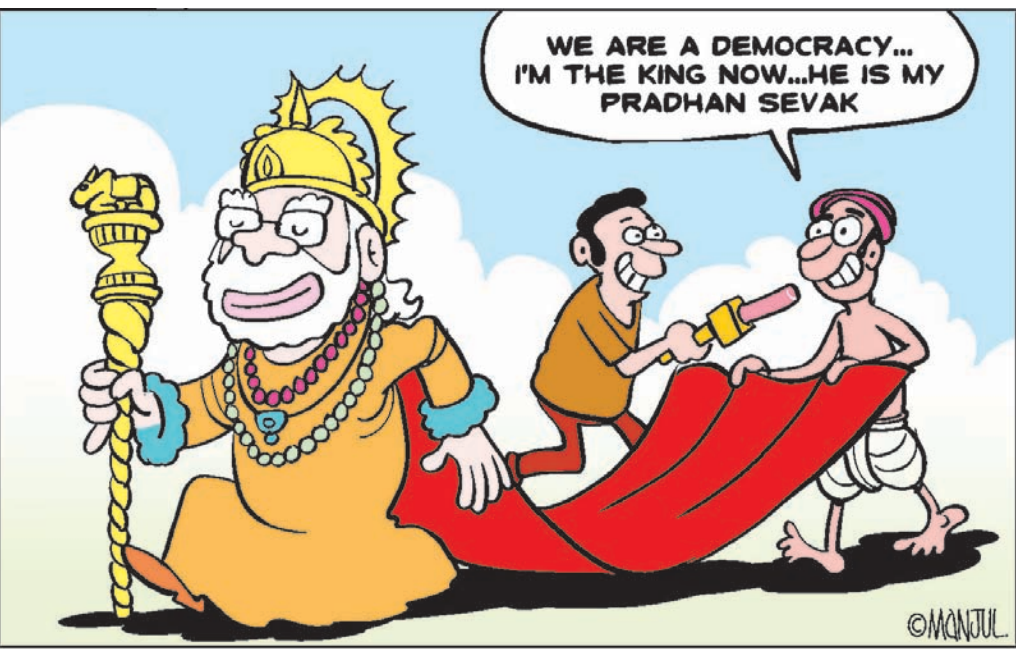


Two teams comprising three inspectors, CTS Force, members of Team 60 and three platoons of police forces conducted raids at night clubs and bars

but no customers were present there. However, Oopre and Embassy were running with customers flouting the permitted time period. One person has been detained and report will be sent to the Excise department against the bars found violating

norms," told Ramesh Chandra Bishoi, ACP, Zone-VI. According to the police, more such raids will be conducted soon and action will be taken against the nightclubs and bars that were found violating the norms.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



NCB seizes 273.8 kg of ganja; 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 28: The Bhubaneswar Zonal Unit of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sunday seized 273.8 Kg of ganja during a raid in the City. The NCB has apprehended two persons including the driver of the vehicle carrying the contraband items.

Both the accused persons are residents of Dhanbad district in Jharkhand.

Following a tip-off, the NCB team Sunday intercepted a Dhanbad-bound TATA truck (NL-08D-3670) at Rasulgarh under Mancheswar police station area here Sunday morning. During the search, the sleuths found huge quantity of



ganja concealed in the specially made cavity in the driver's cabin of the truck.

The accused reportedly revealed before the sleuths that the contraband items were sourced from Kandhamal and Boudh districts and being transported to

Jharkhand. The suspects were on the radar of NCB for quite some time sensing their involvement of this illicit trade.

"This seizure and arrest is an important breakthrough on the scene of Inter-State Drug Trafficking in Odisha. Through this seizure,

The accused revealed before the sleuths that the contraband items were sourced from Kandhamal and Boudh districts and being transported to Jharkhand

NCB is aiming to neutralize a major Inter-State Drug Trafficking syndicate involved in trafficking of ganja across the country. Since 2020, NCB, Bhubaneswar has seized 8,983 Kg Ganja and 28.2 Kg of opium and succeeded to arrest 53 traffickers," informed NCB sources.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE INAUGURATION

Odisha's Dalai among workers feted by PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated a worker from Odisha who was engaged in construction of the new Parliament building.

Puranjan Dalai from Chandipur area of Balasore district in Odisha was among the workers felicitated by PM Modi at the inauguration ceremony of new Parliament House.

Soon after inaugurating the new Parliament House along with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, he felic-

itated the workers presenting them shawls and mementos for their contribution in the making of the new building. The workers who received felicitation from the Prime Minister include Satya Ranjan Das from West Bengal's Sundarban.

He had arranged water and food for the workers at the construction site. Modi met Bhai Ram Murmu who kept up the cleanliness and Ejaz Ahmed the supervisor and stair master. Modi also facilitated Puranjan Dalai from Odisha's Chandipur and Kishanlal from Rajasthan's Barmer who worked on the lobby's design of

the new building.

Devlal Sukhar from Vadodara and Anil Kumar Yadav from Bihar worked on putting the sandstones on the outer wall of Parliament, Subrata Sutradhar from the north-east worked on bamboo flooring, Muzaffar Khan from Jharkhand worked as a mechanic and kept all the machines going during construction, Dharmendra from Delhi did the gas welding job and Anand Vishwakarma from Varanasi did the ceiling of both the chambers and the job of chairs in the new building.

Stomach cells may secrete insulin

Stem cells from the human stomach can be converted into cells that secrete insulin in response to rising blood sugar levels, offering a promising approach to treating diabetes, a significant pre-clinical study has said.

Researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City in the US showed they could take stem cells obtained from human stomach tissue and reprogramme them directly - with strikingly high efficiency - into cells that closely resemble pancreatic insulin-secreting cells known as beta cells.

Transplants of small groups of these cells reversed disease signs in a mouse model of diabetes, said the study which appeared in the journal Nature Cell Biology.

"This is a proof-of-concept study that gives us a solid foundation for developing a treatment, based on

DIABETIC MANAGEMENT



patients' own cells, for type 1 diabetes and severe type 2 diabetes," said study senior author Dr Joe Zhou, a professor of regenerative medicine and a member of the Hartman Institute for Therapeutic Organ Regeneration at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr Zhou has been working toward this goal for more than 15 years.

"The stomach makes its own hormone-secreting cells, and stomach cells and pancreatic cells are adjacent in the embryonic stage of development, so in that sense it isn't completely surprising that gastric stem cells can be so readily transformed into beta-like insulin-secreting cells

In a 2016 study, again in mice, he and his team showed that certain stem cells in the stomach, called gastric stem cells, are also highly sensitive to this activation method. "The stomach makes its own hormone-secreting cells, and stomach cells and pancreatic cells are adjacent in the embryonic stage of development, so in that sense it isn't

completely surprising that gastric stem cells can be so readily transformed into beta-like insulin-secreting cells," Dr Zhou elaborated.

After turning human gastric stem cells into beta-like cells, the team grew the cells in small clusters called organoids and found that these organ-like pieces of tissue quickly became sensitive to glucose, responding with secretions of insulin. Dr Zhou said that he and his lab still need to optimise their method in various ways before it can be considered for clinical use.

Ultimately, the researchers hope to develop a technique enabling the relatively easy harvesting of gastric stem cells from patients, followed by the transplant, weeks later, of insulin-secreting organoids that regulate blood sugar levels without the need for further medication.

Complete Samalei project work in time: 5T Secretary

SAMALEI PROJECT, EXECUTED UNDER 5T INITIATIVE, IS BEING DEVELOPED IN AN AREA OF SOME 30 ACRES, OUT OF WHICH ABOUT 25 ACRES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACQUIRED WITH WORK IN PROGRESS



and asked the officials to expedite the procurement of all finishing items.

After reviewing the plaza area, with the 'heritage welcome gates' under construction on three sides, Pandian examined the heritage corridor under construction.

He also inspected the vending zone, information counter, pilgrim facility and temple facility centre and an iconic watch tower whose construction are under fast progress.

Moving on to the river front area, he instructed for finalisation of design for an iconic foot overbridge and to expedite progress of pitching and the river front column foundation works. 5T Secretary then visited the crematorium construction site where he suggested to use colours with lighter themes to celebrate passing of the human spirit.

Pandian also interacted with local people and took feedback from them on various development issues of the district and region.

Samalei project, executed under 5T initiative, is being developed in an area of about 30 acres, out of which about 25 acres have already been acquired and work is in progress.

Notably, the 5T Secretary interacted with pilgrims and visited the entire area, including the site for construction of the heritage pond complex, podium, queue management system, cloak room and other associated components.

THE 5T SECRETARY ASKED THE OFFICERS ON GROUND TO PROJECT THE LOCAL HERITAGE OF THE DISTRICT AND THE CITY IN AN ATTRACTIVE MANNER HE STRESSED ON ADEQUATE SHADE FOR THE VISITING PILGRIMS WITH PLANTATION OF TREES AND ASKED THE OFFICIALS TO EXPEDITE THE PROCUREMENT OF ALL FINISHING ITEMS

an attractive manner. He stressed on adequate shade for the visiting pilgrims with plantation of trees



SERENE MELODIES: Vocalists perform at the concluding evening of Gandharva Kala Mahotsav, 2023, at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Adopt an environment-friendly lifestyle: Priyadarshi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 28: A 'skatathon' was organised here Sunday by the Integrated Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in association with the Unicorn Skating Academy, Bhubaneswar, to commit towards and promote a 'lifestyle for environment.'

Police Commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi joined the occasion as the chief guest and flagged off the awareness skatathon along with the Forests (central) deputy director general Arta Trana Mishra



and the Forests (central) deputy inspector general Padma Mahanti.

The Commissioner addressed school and college students participating in the skatathon to adopt a healthy, environment-friendly

lifestyle and contribute to the cause of environment protection. The Forests (central) deputy director general explained to the students about the 'Mission' and the life and life style changes needed for an environment-friendly living.

The students started their journey from the office of Commissionerate of Police and the skatathon culminated at Integrated Regional Office, Chandrasekharpur, with a pledge administered by the Forests (cen-

tral) deputy inspector general Padma Mahanti to all the participants to pick up healthy lifestyle habits and to disseminate awareness about green living among their family members and friends. Certificates were distributed to all the participants of the skatathon.

The programme ended with a note on adopting non-motorized transport and being a part of India's commitment to reduce carbon emission and combat climate change. The staffs of Integrated Regional Office, Commissionerate Police, and parents of the participants, were present on the occasion.

Continued from P1 Wrestlers...

The detained protesting wrestlers will not be allowed to continue with their dharna at Jantar Mantar. The entire protest venue at Jantar Mantar has been cleared, Pathak said. Taking to Twitter, Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik, however, vowed to continue their sit-in at Jantar Mantar:

"Our movement is not over... We will start our satyagraha at Jantar Mantar. In this country, there will be no dictatorship but there will be satyagraha held by women wrestlers," she tweeted in Hindi.

All the female wrestlers who were detained have been released and the male wrestlers will also be released soon, a senior officer said later in the evening.

Vinesh Phogat told PTI, "They (police) have released me, Sakshi (Malik) and Sangeeta (Phogat). The rest are still under detention."

The police claimed the wrestlers broke and scaled the barricades, misbehaved and pushed the police personnel including the women constables.

Security was heightened near the new Parliament building, at the Jantar Mantar, as well as at Delhi's borders with neighbouring states and many farmer groups who were planning to join the wrestlers' protest were stopped from entering the national capital.

Several farmer leaders in Haryana were detained for few hours, the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) claimed.

A group led by BKU leader Rakesh Tikait held a sit-in at the Ghazipur border which was closed as they tried to enter the national capital to take part in a protest called by agitating wrestlers.

The protesters later dispersed. All farmers who had gathered at the Ghazipur border have left for their homes. The Ghazipur border is now open for vehicular traffic, a senior police officer said in the evening.

Asked about the police being criticised for the way they handled the situation, Pathak said that they had urged the wrestlers politely to carry out their protest at Jantar Mantar but they started wrestling with the police.



STANDING STRONG: Contenders and guests pose for picture at a 'kung fu belt test' organised by Kung Fu Association of Odisha at a school in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Experts to discuss language learning materials at CUO

As per the Central government's National Education Policy, learning materials are being prepared to train Kui and Desia speaking students in reading, understanding and writing at the level of elementary education in Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 28: Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, is hosting a five-day national level workshop, starting from today May 29, for preparation of learning materials for Kui and Desia speaking students to promote speaking, reading, and writing in the above-mentioned languages among these students.

As per the Central government's National Education Policy, 2020, learning materials are being prepared to train Kui and Desia speak-

ing students in reading, understanding and writing in the languages at the level of elementary education in Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

The national workshop, jointly organised by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi; Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar; and the Central University of Odisha, Koraput, will be held at Central University of Odisha from May 29 to June 02, 2023.

"The main objective of the workshop is to provide learners and

teachers with learning materials useful for oral language development, reading and writing skills development of Kui or Desia language learners," informed a university staffer.

The workshop is being organised under the aegis of NCERT director Dinesh Prasad Saklani and CUO vice-chancellor Chakradhar Tripathy, under the supervision of Odia Classical Language Centre director Basanta Kumar Panda.

For the workshop, Mahendra Kumar Mishra, Gopabandhu Mohanty, Parmanand Patel, Rajendra Padhi, Kapil Khemundu, Rudrani Mohanty, Govind Chandra Pendei, Suresh Khara, Sana Santa, Trinath Khara, Somnath Amanatya, Geetanjali Pujari, Narayan Majhi, Govind Kumjharja, Surendra Tanti and Shivshankar Patnaik will be present.

A breakthrough in testing can help save frogs worldwide

The Chytrid fungus is behind severe decline in over 500 frog species and caused extinction of 90 species, including seven in Australia

For the past 40 years, a devastating fungal disease has been ravaging frog populations around the world, wiping out 90 species. Unlike the global Covid pandemic, you may not even be aware of this "panzootic" - a pandemic in the animal world. Yet it's the world's worst wildlife disease. Recently published in the journal Transboundary and Emerging Diseases, a multinational study has now developed a method to detect all known strains of this disease, caused by the amphibian chytrid fungus. This breakthrough

will advance our ability to detect and research this disease, working towards a widely available cure. Chytridiomycosis, or "chytrid" for short, has driven severe declines in over 500 frog species and caused 90 extinctions, including seven in Australia.

The extreme rate of mortality, and the high number of species affected, makes chytrid unequivocally the deadliest animal disease known to date.

Chytrid infects frogs by reproducing in their skin. The single-celled fungus enters a skin cell, multiplies, then breaks back out onto the surface of the animal. This damage to the skin affects the frog's ability to balance water and salt levels, and eventually leads to death if infection levels are high enough.

Chytrid originated in Asia. It's believed that global travel and trade in amphibians led to the disease



being unwittingly spread to other continents.

Frogs in regions such as Australia and the Americas did not have the evolutionary history with chytrid that could grant them resistance. So, when they were ex-

posed to this new pathogen, the results were devastating.

Many species' immune systems were simply not equipped to defend against the disease, and mass mortalities ensued. In the 1980s, amphibian biologists began to no-

tice sharp population declines, and in 1998, the chytrid fungal pathogen was finally recognised as the culprit.

Since then, much research has focused on infection trends and how to protect vulnerable frog species. To track such trends, we need a reliable way to detect chytrid in the first place.

To find out if a frog is carrying chytrid, researchers swab the animal and run the same type of test you might recognise from Covid-19 testing - a qPCR. It stands for quantitative polymerase chain reaction, and simply put, is a way to measure the volume of DNA from a species of interest. The test was developed at CSIRO in 2004; unlike a Covid test, however, scientists swab the frog's skin, not the nose.

Because this test was developed from chytrid in Australia, decades after the pathogen's arrival in the country, a divergence between the Australian and Asian strains meant

this test could not detect chytrid in its region of origin.

This has been a major limitation to the past two decades of chytrid research.

Over the past several years, a team led by researchers at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in India has been working on a new qPCR test that can detect strains of chytrid from Asia.

In collaboration with researchers in Australia and Panama, we have now verified the new test also reliably detects chytrid in these countries.

Furthermore, the test can detect another closely related species of chytrid that infects salamanders. The test is also more sensitive, meaning it can detect very low infection levels - thereby broadening the scope of species we can study.

PTI (THE CONVERSATION)

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Confusion over use of Kanpur project water

FARMLANDS MAY SUFFER IF INDUSTRIAL HOUSES ALLOWED TO DRAW WATER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, May 28: The work on Kanpur irrigation project being constructed over Baitarani river in Joda block of Keonjhar district has reached its last leg, sources said Sunday. However, rumours are floating thick and fast as to how the water from the project will be used. Questions are being asked as to whether the water will be supplied to various industrial houses or will be used for irrigation.

Doubts have come up as already various industrial houses are drawing water from the rivers flowing in the district and transporting raw materials through slurry pipelines. Even though the Kanpur project is yet to be completed, sources informed that two companies are planning to use water from it.

As per a report by the state pollution control board (SPCB), Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) and JSW Steel (JSW) are planning to draw water from the project.

JSPL is planning to draw 23.00 cusecs of water through a pipe of 26 inch thickness while JSW is



planning to get 39.00 cusecs of water through a pipe having 32 inch thickness. Another company, BRPL is already drawing 4.70 cusecs of water from the Baitarani through a pipe having 13 inch thickness since 2013. On the other hand, Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel is drawing 11.77 cusecs of water from the river near Basantpur since 2009.

It has been said that the Kanpur project will help irrigate 29,578

hectares of farmlands under Champua, Jhumpura, Patana, Keonjhar Sadar and Joda blocks in the district. The project when completed will also be used to produce 4.3 megawatt of hydroelectricity.

It is apprehended that there will be shortfall of water for farmlands if the industrial firms are allowed use water from the project. Sources also pointed out that in case there is any leakage or rupture in the slurry pipes, it will lead to pollution.

The damage of a slurry pipeline on Suna river in 2021 is a case in this point.

When contacted, engineer Prasanna Kumar Pani said that he is not aware about the plans of industrial houses using water from the project. He asked this correspondent regarding the source of information. He also denied that approvals have been given to industrial houses to draw water from the Kanpur project.

Notably, the National Green Tribunal in an order on Suna river had observed that laying of slurry pipelines on the riverbed will lead to an increase in pollution. A joint committee was formed in 2022 comprising Keonjhar ADM Jadumani Mahala, scientists GP Singh and Sandip Nandi (both from Kolkata), superintendent engineer Pranab Nayak of Baitarani irrigation division, regional officer Prashant Kar of SPCB to look into the alleged pollution.

The committee had recommended that industrial houses while laying the slurry pipelines should inform the Water Resources department if any of the pipes are passing through water bodies. It had warned of action in case of any discrepancies.

The committee also said the companies should take preventive steps early on to get advance information if there are leakages and ruptures in the pipelines. That way contamination of river water can be prevented. The committee also said that river water should be used in a proper manner to prevent scarcity.

NHRC show cause over alleged poacher's death



PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, May 28: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a show cause notice to Odisha Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena asking why a compensation of ₹7 lakh will not be paid to the next of the kin of deceased, Dhaneswar Behera, who was allegedly killed by Forest department officials.

Acting on a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC issued the show cause notice May 24. It has directed the Chief Secretary to reply within four weeks.

Tripathy, in his petition, alleged that Behera of Khuntakata village under Badamba police limits of Cuttack district was detained by Forest department officials on charges of poaching a tusker and removing its tusks in the first week

of February this year.

Later, Behera was found dead in the custody of the Forest department under mysterious circumstances. The villagers and family members of the victim alleged that he was beaten and tortured by Forest officials leading to his death. A case has been registered against six Forest department officials in this matter. They are Subrat Kumar Behera, Manoj Das, Deepak Kumar Sethi, Sunayak Majhi, Kuna Behera and Pravat Pradhan. They were arrested and produced in court May 6 and since then they have been behind bars. They have also been suspended from their jobs since February 8, to facilitate the investigation process. Strangely however, all reports including post-mortem, chemical and histopathological examination of the viscera are yet to be received by the probe officials.

Remains of ancient temple found in Kalahandi village



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, May 28: Remains of an ancient temple belonging to medieval period were retrieved Sunday during the de-silting of a pond at Dadpur village about 12km from Bhawanipatna Sadar block of Kalahandi district, sources said

Sunday. As a result, District Collector P Anvesha Reddy had to issue orders to stop the work and seal the area to prevent people from barging into the site.

A police team have been deployed to guard the pond while the district administration has approached the state Archaeology

department to carry out research on the findings to ascertain the history of the temple. Sources claimed that the ancient remains might date back to 11th or 12th century when the royals of Ganga dynasty were ruling Kalahandi.

The pond was being de-silted with funds sanctioned to the Dadpur panchayat by the state finance commission (SFC). A JCB excavator was being used for de-silting when it suddenly got stuck in the middle of the pond.

Later, labourers were engaged to manually dig the pond leading to the discovery of the remains of the temple. Some researchers who visited the site informed that proper excavation of the pond may lead to the discovery of some more remains of the temple. Meanwhile villagers alleged that before the police team took charge of the pond a few people decamped with parts of the ancient temple that was unearthed.



STIR FOR A RIVER BRIDGE: Residents stage a 'Jal Satyagraha' demanding completion of an under-construction bridge in Dubudubi river in Alumeda panchayat under Sadar block of Balasore district, Sunday

Outside traders call the shots in wildlife poaching

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 28: Inter-state traders and poachers are reportedly behind the increasing incidents of wildlife poaching in Similipal wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district.

They are reportedly calling the shots as they lure the gullible tribals and forest dwellers living on the foothills of Similipal with money and use them as conduits to poach wild animals like Royal Bengal Tigers, leopards, tuskers and other animals inside the sanctuary. In light of this scenario, forest officials have never tried to find out where the guns come from and who all are providing guns to the poachers.

Poachers are not even sparing reptiles like pangolin in the sanctuary. They are handing over guns to the forest dwellers and providing them training in wildlife poaching. The rampant and unabated poaching of wild animals has sparked fear on extinction of wildlife from the sanctuary.

Sources said that the poachers are mostly using country-made guns to poach wild animals but the Forest department has done little to curb such rampant poaching.

The forest officials often seize guns from poachers but fail to book them under Arms Act. Illegal possession of arms is a serious of-

SIMILIPAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

THESE OUTSIDE TRADERS SPEND MONEY TO GET THE POACHERS RELEASED FROM JAIL ON BAIL AND AGAIN ENGAGE THEM IN POACHING

FOREST OFFICIALS OFTEN SEIZE GUNS FROM POACHERS BUT FAIL TO BOOK THEM UNDER ARMS ACT

ARRESTED POACHERS COULD BE PUNISHED LEGALLY IF THE FOREST DEPARTMENT HANDOVERS THE SEIZED GUNS TO POLICE PERSONNEL

fence but rule debarbs Forest department to register cases under Arms Act.

As a result, these outside traders spend money to get the poachers released from jail on bail and again engage them in poaching wild animals. The permission to get a

gun license is given at the government level and the applicant has to pay hefty revenue to get the license. However, this rule is not applicable in the case of poachers.

The forest officials are often nabbing poachers during patrolling and registering cases

against them. This only emboldens them to get involved in poaching once they are released from jail on bail. A former honorary wildlife warden Sanjukta Basa said that the arrested poachers could be punished legally if the Forest department handovers the seized guns to police personnel for further probe.

The Similipal wildlife sanctuary has turned into a safe haven for outside traders and poachers with forest officials failing to act tough against them.

Reports said that around eight to 10 country gun manufacturing units are functioning in clandestine manner on the foothills of Similipal but neither the forest officials nor the police personnel have any clue about it. Even there are some gun manufacturing units in and around this town and in Udala.

The forest officials except for registering cases under Wildlife Act and conducting probes have done nothing much to reach to the root of poaching and lay their hand on the mastermind. Former honorary wildlife warden Bhanumitra Acharya said that Similipal will cease to exist as a wildlife sanctuary if the Forest department fails to shut these gun manufacturing units down and does not take stringent action against the wildlife smugglers and traders.

ODISHA'S DEMAND OVER KOTIA GROWS LOUDER

■ Hundreds of letters sent through Kotia post office to establish authenticity of PIN code allotted by postal department

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, May 28: In a bid to assert Odisha's jurisdiction on Kotia panchayat in Koraput district and negate claims of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh over the area, hundreds of letters were sent through the Kotia post office, Saturday.

A team comprising members of Eastern India Philatelic Association (EIPA) led by Biswajit Mohanty and other office bearers and Anil Dhir of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and former Collector of undivided Koraput district Sanjeeb Hota visited the panchayat in contention and unveiled an envelope carrying an image of Kotia with its PIN code.

Later, they posted letters from the Kotia post office to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, his Andhra counterpart YS Jaganmohan Reddy, all legislators of both the states and several other prominent persons in the country. The letters were also



sent to the Attorney General and to Odisha's advocate who is fighting the case in the Supreme Court. It has been mentioned in the letter that Kotia panchayat is in Koraput district of Odisha.

The Union Postal department has given its approval for which the postal department in Odisha has assigned the postal index (PIN) code for Kotia as 764039.

In the letters, Dhir mentioned that it is futile for the Andhra Pradesh government to lock horns with Odisha over Kotia as the PIN code has received the approval of Union postal department and Odisha postal division. The state government of Odisha has been submitting various documents in the Supreme Court to substantiate its claim on the Kotia panchayat.

Hota said that the PIN assigned to the Kotia post office starts with 76. It is Pottangi's PIN code and it is also available on 'Google'. He pointed out that by confirming

the PIN code, the Postal department of the Central government has confirmed that Kotia is under the jurisdiction of the Odisha government.

It should be stated here that the British government before independence had mentioned in a map prepared in Patna in 1945 that the Pottangi-Tadibals heritage road in Kotia panchayat belongs to Odisha. So even then, Kotia was under the jurisdiction of Odisha.

Receipts and other maps available also point to the fact that residents in Neredibals, Tadibals, Elangabals villages in Kotia panchayat used to pay taxes to Jeypore zamindars in Koraput district.

Notably, the latest incursion from Andhra Pradesh side into Kotia area was reported May 4 when officials from Parvathipuram Manyam district visited the region and held discussions with the locals in Phagunsenery and Phatusenery villages.

Man killed in wall collapse

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 28: An elderly man was killed after a wall collapsed on him in Chikita village under Agarpada police station limits in this district Sunday. The deceased was identified as Ananta Sahu, a resident of the village.

Police said that Sahu was repairing the wall of a neighbour when it suddenly collapsed on him. He got buried under the rubble. By the time, he was rescued by

other villagers from under the rubble, Sahu had lost his senses. He was rushed to the Agarpada community health centre, but doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Hearing about the incident block president Manoranjan Ghadei and other members of the local panchayat visited the house of Sahu and offered condolences to the deceased's family. They also promised assistance to the bereaved family.

HUGE QUANTITY OF COUNTRY LIQUOR SEIZED, 1 ARRESTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 28: Excise sleuths arrested Sunday morning one person after seizing 500 litres of country liquor from a car near Panposh square in this town. The accused has been identified as Biki Sahoo (35) a resident of Daily Market locality in this town.

Officials stated that the Excise department were tipped off about the huge quantity of country

liquor being illegally transported to Malgodown area in this town. Accordingly a team led by ASI Sridhar Mohanty was formed to intercept the vehicle.

They managed to intercept the car close to the Brahmani bridge and seized the liquor which was being brought from Ankurpali under Hatibadi police limits in Nuagaon block. Police said that the approximate value of the liquor seized was well over ₹1,00,000.

Two arrested for smuggling ganja

Malkangiri: Kalimela police Saturday arrested two persons for smuggling cannabis in a scooter. As per reports, two persons riding a scooter were checked by the police while doing patrolling near MV-19 village under Kalimela police limit. Upon inspection, police found 25 kg cannabis loaded in a sack. Police immediately seized the scooter and the contraband and arrested them. The two arrested persons have been identified as Ajay Mandal and Baburam Rao. Police also seized their mobile phones. "The two accused were forwarded to court after cases were registered against them", said an official of Kalimela PS.

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from interested parties for disposal of Rain Water Soaked Boiled Rice of 1414.5 Quintals, lying in Godown of M/s. Ashirbad Agro Products Pvt. Ltd of village- Mulari, Pankoli, Jajpur, 755043, Contact Person (Employee in-charge Name Sri Ananta Barik Mobile No-9078084309) between 10AM to 5PM on working days (Monday to Monday) from Dt.22.05.2023 to 29.05.2023 at 5 PM. The interested individual or Firm should quote their best offer after inspection of the damaged materials laying at the discussed Rice Mill. The Quotation letter should be clearly mentioned the name & address of buyer with Contact Number in a sealed Envelop Indicating "Quotation for Rain Water Soaked Boiled Rice" sent through Speed Post only with a token EMD of an amount of Rs.5,000/- through Bank draft payable to M/s. Ashirbad Agro Products Pvt. Ltd should be attached to the offer Quotation. The Token amount of Rs.5,000/- will be returned to Unsuccessful buyers after opening of tender. The Quotations will be opened on 5.30 PM of Dt.29.05.2023 in presence of all available Interested Parties / participants & the Concerned Surveyor / Insurer. The Insurance Company reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

FOCUS CULTURE

BUNGLED RETURN



While there are lingering doubts about Europe's and America's willingness to return treasures that were looted or illicitly obtained during the colonial era, there are also questions about some countries' readiness to honour the commitments governing such transfers

post-colonial guilt and help Germany gain favour with Africa's most populous country and largest market. Instead, it has become a liability, triggering a heated debate in the Bundestag and widely regarded as a display of political dilettantism.

In Nigeria, the run-up to the presidential election in March was marked by escalating tensions. As local politicians vied for the international recognition that the return of the bronzes would bring, conflicts arose between Edo's governor and the Oba. The Oba has closer ties to Buhari, who sought to settle old scores before leaving office. This fiasco could have been avoided had both parties not ignored the warning signs. While Germany did not account for the inherent risks of Nigeria's political instability and neglected to ensure the agreement's robustness, Nigeria failed to reckon with its own historical involvement in the slave trade.

Given that several transfers are currently being negotiated or already underway, we must heed the lessons of the Benin Bronzes debacle. First, negotiating parties must rely on the 1970 UNESCO Convention, which provides a shared framework for the import, export, and transfer of cultural property. Since its establishment in 1945, UNESCO has acquired extensive experience in managing complex and sensitive cultural exchanges, making it well-equipped to balance the interests of all stakeholders.

Second, impartial intermediaries are crucial to preventing political opportunism. One solution would be to designate UNESCO as the body overseeing negotiations to return cultural artefacts and the implementation of restitution agreements. This would align with UNESCO's current role as the custodian of world heritage sites and prevent narrow national interests from undermining the process. By entrusting complex cultural exchanges to a trusted, neutral intermediary, we could avoid future blunders like the Benin Bronzes' botched return.

The writer is Professor of Sociology at the Hertie School in Berlin. #PROJECT SYNDICATE

Until recently, the protracted saga of the Benin Bronzes' repatriation appeared to be heading toward a satisfying conclusion. These sculptures and artefacts, looted by British soldiers in 1897 during a raid on the historic Kingdom of Benin (in what is now Nigeria's southern state of Edo) and scattered across Europe and North America, were set to return to Nigeria. But their status is once again uncertain.

The campaign for the return of the Benin Bronzes took an unexpected turn on 23 March, when outgoing Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari declared Ewuare II, the Oba (King) of Benin and traditional ruler of Edo, their rightful owner. Buhari's announcement "blindsided" museums in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, delaying the restitution of the bronzes. Worse, the declaration threatens to privatise the process, as well as the statues and plaques that have already been returned, thereby jeopardising several ongoing negotiations to return stolen cultural property from former colonial powers.

At first glance, these developments may seem perplexing. But a closer examination reveals a complicated story that offers important lessons for the global movement to return stolen national treasures.

In the aftermath of the British colonial forces' sacking of the Oba's palace in Benin City, the looted artefacts were shipped to England, where they soon found their way into European and American museums and private collections. For decades, Nigeria has campaigned for their return. Over the past few months, however, the repatriation of the Benin Bronzes has evolved into an international test case for cultural relations.

While there are lingering doubts about Europe's and America's willingness to return treasures that were looted or illicitly obtained during the colonial era, there are also questions about some countries' readiness to honour the commitments governing such transfers. Buhari's announcement violated the terms of the agreement to return the artefacts, alarming politi-

cians, museum officials, and art historians in countries currently negotiating future transfers.

In December 2022, Germany returned some of the bronzes to Nigeria to much fanfare. Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Claudia Roth, Germany's commissioner for culture and media, travelled to Abuja to present 20 sculptures to high-ranking Nigerian officials, stating that this act of restitution was intended to heal the wounds of the past and foster trust between the two countries. For Nigeria, the event marked the culmination of the decades-long effort to recover some of its national treasures.

According to the signed agreement, Edo - as the recognised owner of the bronzes - was tasked with building a dedicated museum where the objects could be professionally curated and publicly displayed, and Germany pledged several million euros to support the museum's construction. But Buhari's announcement has thrown these plans into disarray. The unexpected twist has stoked fears that many of the bronzes will end up on the black market.

There are also growing concerns over the Oba's moral claim to ownership of the bronzes. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Ewuare II's ancestors actively participated in the transatlantic slave trade, hunting down members of neigh-

bouring tribes and selling them to European merchants in exchange for copper and bronze manillas. These materials were subsequently used to forge statues and plaques. It could be argued, therefore, that if any group had a moral claim to the bronzes, it would be the descendants of those enslaved and sold by the Oba and his forces. One solution, advocated by the New York-based Restitution Study Group, is to keep the bronzes where they currently are. Doing so would ensure that the greatest number of rightful "owners" - the descendants of slaves, now largely residing in the Americas - would have the opportunity to view "their" property.

But both Germany and Nigeria essentially decided to overlook these historical circumstances. The key stakeholders, including the German and Nigerian governments, the curators, and the restitution groups, lacked a shared narrative regarding the legal and moral rights to the stolen artefacts, and their interpretations of the relevant history differed significantly.

Worse, Germany and Nigeria intentionally allowed the handover of the bronzes to be politicised. Initially, the return seemed to be an easy win for Baerbock and Roth, both members of the Green Party. The artefacts' repatriation would appeal to their upper-middle-class constituents'



Helmut K. Anheier

THE DELAYED REPATRIATION OF THE BENIN BRONZES HAS EVOLVED INTO AN INTERNATIONAL TEST CASE FOR THE RETURN OF TREASURES STOLEN DURING THE COLONIAL ERA

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Grim reality of shrinking trade deficit

The European and the US crises are hitting the Indian economy. What is touted as shrinking trade deficit is a grim reality of fall in exports and imports remaining higher. The prospective rise in the US debt ceiling beyond \$31.4 trillion or the lack of it could cause turmoil in the world economy even as Europe is to come out of a tough low-sale regime. This hits the pattern of global demand and can lower Indian sales in the developed markets as well as might impact manufacturing and overall growth.

Corresponding fall in wholesale and retail price indices though look positive, these still have to materialise in a low-price regime because of compounding effect of higher-than-normal inflation for a prolonged period. The silver lining that the industry expects is to have a pause again of interest rate hike by the Reserve Bank of India.

Presenting the positive of the trade balance, Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Sarangi noted that it was at a 20-month low at \$15.2 billion in April. It's less to cheer up and is not due to fall in imports but fall in exports. Exports of goods and services are estimated to have in-

creased 14.7% to \$775.9 billion, around \$6 billion higher than the earlier estimates. Imports were around \$894.9 billion, 17.7% higher resulting in a trade deficit of \$118.3 billion.

The WPI slipping to 0.9% year-on-year gives less of hope. While agricultural input costs have not come down, the sales are drawing abysmal rates. This has hit farmers as sale prices dipped by 18.7% for potato, 18.4% for onion, 15.5% for oilseeds and 6.6% for non-food items. While statistically it brushes up presentations, in actuality the losses to the rural economy are high and relief to consumers mere rhetoric.

Statistical management of prices is fine for records, but it helps none except confusing assessments. There was a time when the Planning Commission used to come out with realistic presentations. Now it's passe.

The nation is too euphoric at telling how high the GST collections are. The April collections are said to be record, as most of the past few collections have been breaking their own records. India's gross GST revenues hit a record high in April at ₹1,87,035 crore, 12% higher than the same month last year, which had clocked the previous

highest tax tally of ₹1.67 lakh crore. The GST is irrational in many ways. The latest is the RBI directions on penal interest charges. This could have a deleterious effect on all transactions, forcing a rise in unprecedented prices.

The GST itself needs to be redone and the states be given the charge to collect it. This has impacted the federal character of the country. Similar systems lead to multiple taxation, which even GST, being an assimilation of a few taxes, is. It is an important component in deciding prices. With the abolition of Monopolies Commission, fixing MRPs has virtually no basis. It does not represent the cost of the product. The MRPs often are fixed at 20-30% higher than the actual leading a system of built-in undercutting by larger companies.

We have, however, not benefited so much from the 'Make in India' campaign for import substitution and exports promotion, notes Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist of Bank of Baroda. A recession in the West would also mean that the demand for Indian labour as well as computer related services would come down. These could affect our balance of payments.

The ratio of exports to GDP has come down over time. This is both good and bad news, says Sabnavis. The good part is that it shows growth is primarily driven by domestic factors and hence decline in exports does not affect GDP growth significantly. The concern being Indian goods are less in demand.

The moot point is that the US sanctions on China and Russia in the wake of the Ukraine war have not helped India capturing those spaces. The dream to be an economy with significant contributions from exports, one important aspect to be a global power, has not been fulfilled. This means that if exports grow these would support the domestic economy, but in itself, India is not an export-led economy. This gives some resilience to the economy as also creates the issue of having robust foreign reserves.

New strategy through moderation of several domestic taxes, interest rates and low cost on transportation is necessary. Exports cannot be increased with high domestic costs as prices would be prohibitive. Calculated planning is critical.

The writer is Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication. #INFPA



Shivaji Sarkar

THE MOOT POINT IS THAT THE US SANCTIONS ON CHINA AND RUSSIA IN THE WAKE OF THE UKRAINE WAR HAVE NOT HELPED INDIA CAPTURING THOSE SPACES

WISDOM CORNER

Contradictions do not exist. Whenever you think you are facing a contradiction, check your premises. You will find that one of them is wrong. **AYN RAND**

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. **ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON**

Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome. **ISAAC ASIMOV**

WORDSWORTH

Incunabulum

This word - meaning a book published before the beginning of the sixteenth century - is better known in its plural form incunabula. Though rare, it survives because there is so much interest in early printed works. It conjures up an image of shelves of dusty and ancient books, no doubt overseen by dusty and ancient collectors. The odd thing about this word is that originally it had nothing whatever to do with books. It derives from a Latin word incunabula, plural like its English descendant, meaning the swaddling bands that held an infant in the cradle (if you trace it back further still, you arrive at the Latin root cunae, cradle). Even in Latin, the word had a figurative sense of infancy in general, very much as we use cradle in phrases like "The cradle of the Industrial Revolution". Incunabulum is a fairly recent import into English, appearing only at the beginning of the nineteenth century. At this stage it could refer to the early stages in the development of anything. Thomas De Quincey - the author of Confessions of an Opium Eater - is its first recorded user. But the first person to apply it to early printed books, those created in the infancy of the art, was John Mason Neale, in his splendidly entitled Notes Ecclesiastical and Picturesque on Dalmatia, Croatia, Istria, Styria, with a Visit to Montenegro of 1861, though he makes it clear he was borrowing it from German. A variant form of the singular is incunabula and someone who collects such works is an incunabulist.

LOL

HAVE A FIRST CHILD

A man and his wife were making their first doctor visit, the wife being pregnant with their first child. After everything checked out, the doctor took a small stamp and stamped the wife's stomach with indelible ink. The couple was curious



about what the stamp was for, so when they got home, the husband got out his magnifying glass to try to see what it was. In very tiny letters, the stamp said, "When you can read this, come back and see me."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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Diabetes epidemic

Sir, India is facing a growing health concern with diabetes, making it the second-largest country in terms of the number of diabetics worldwide. Over 74 mn Indians were diagnosed with diabetes in 2021, and this number is projected to exceed 124 mn by 2045. The country is often referred to as the "Diabetes Capital of the World," accounting for 17% of the global diabetic population. Factors contributing to the diabetes epidemic include a shift from undernutrition to overnutrition, sedentary lifestyles and genetic susceptibility. Obesity is prevalent, with 67% of individuals with type 2 diabetes also experiencing obesity. The increase in diabetes cases among young adults is a worrisome pattern that can be linked to various factors. These include genetics, insufficient physical activity, mental stress, unhealthy eating habits, and sedentary lifestyles. If this trend continues unchecked, it will further burden the healthcare system. To tackle this issue, it is vital to promote healthy lifestyles and provide education on the risks associated with diabetes. Untreated diabetes can lead to debilitating complications, affecting multiple organs and systems in the body. These complications include coronary heart disease, retinopathy, strokes, nephropathy, and reduced life expectancy. The financial burden of diabetes is particularly challenging for socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, with significant annual and lifetime expenses for diabetes care. The diabetes epidemic in India is driven by rapid socioeconomic transition, industrialisation, and urbanisation. Access to treatment is limited, particularly for the lower and middle-income classes who make up 95% of the diabetic population. To combat the growing diabetes epidemic in India, it is essential to develop affordable and comprehensive treatment plans, focus on prevention strategies, and invest in public health initiatives that promote healthy living.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Pawar support

Sir, Sharad Pawar's support for Arvind Kejriwal in his battle against the Centre's ordinance should embolden the latter. The NCP patriarch intended to inspire non-BJP parties to join forces and safeguard democracy. Pawar asserted that a crisis plagued the country and not just Delhi. Kejriwal and his Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann visited Pawar as part of their nationwide tour to garner support. Earlier Tuesday, Mamata Banerjee backed the Delhi CM in the AAP-BJP power tussle.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

of the day quote

Gujarat's renewable energy capacity has reached up to 20 gigawatt (GW). It is 15 per cent of India's total renewable energy capacity.

If Congress forms government in Madhya Pradesh it will file case of treason against Bharatiya Janata Party and Bajrang Dal functionaries for allegedly spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence

India faces a very complicated challenge from China, and the Narendra Modi government has taken steps to ensure that no attempts are made to change the status quo in the border areas unilaterally

SHORT TAKES

Drone shot down: Amritsar: The Border Security Force (BSF) shot down a Pakistani drone which arrived in Indian territory at a village near the Indo-Pak border here, officials said Sunday.

Three killed: Mirzapur (UP): Three persons, including a couple, were killed when the bike they were riding collided with a speeding truck in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Sunday.

UP man fined: Lucknow: An Unnao-based videographer, living in Lucknow, has been challanged for flying a drone from the Kasmanda Apartment in the Hazratganj area.

Two drown: Thane: A 23-year-old medical student and his minor sister drowned in a lake at a village in Maharashtra's Thane district Sunday, a fire official said.

Fresh violence in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, May 28: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Sunday said nearly 40 armed militants involved in torching houses and firing at civilians have been killed by security forces since they began an operation to bring peace to the north eastern state beset by ethnic rioting.

Separately, police officials said Sunday said at least two persons were killed and 12 injured in different instances of firing upon civilians and clashes between militants and security forces since the early hours of the day.

At Phayeng in Imphal West district, one person died and another sustained bullet injuries after being fired at by suspected Kuki militants, police officials said.

The Chief Minister, who was interacting with the media persons at the state secretariat, claimed the latest round of "conflict is not between communities but between militants and security forces".

The CM appealed to the public not to hinder the movement of security personnel and urged them to have "faith in the government and support the security forces."

100 students fall sick in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 28: Around 100 students at a government school in Bihar's Araria district fell sick after consuming a mid-day meal in which a dead snake was found Saturday.

The officials of the state Education Department however claimed that only 30 students fell sick and were admitted to Forbisganj sub-divisional hospital and their conditions are said to be out of danger.

The school administration claimed that the food (Khichari) was supplied by an outsourcing



agencies. When the villagers learnt about the incident, they rushed to the school to know the status of their children.

Many students were immediately taken to Forbisganj sub-divisional hospital for treatment.



Police personnel stand guard in a violence-hit area of Imphal town in Manipur

property and torching houses have been captured by the Jat regiment. The Chief Minister said the government is also "deeply saddened by the casualties on both sides" and assured "all possible steps in bringing back normalcy".

He said the spurt in violent attacks on civilian houses in the peripheral areas of the Imphal valley seemed well-planned. Singh termed it as "strongly condemnable ... Especially when Minister of State Nityanand Rai is in Manipur and group peace missions are being formed to bring back peace".

Singh said 38 vulnerable areas have been identified and that the state police has been conducting operations there. The house of BJP MLA Khwairakpam Raghunani Singh at Uripok in Imphal West was vandalised and his two vehicles have been set on fire, a top security official said.

He said that clashes broke out in the early hours of the morning at several places both between rival ethnic militant groups as well as between militants and security forces. "According to our information, firing has been reported from Sugnu in Kakching, Kangvi in Churachandpur, Kangchup in Imphal West, Sagolmang in Imphal East, Nungoi pokpi in Bishenpur, Khurkhul in Imphal West and YKPI in Kangpokpi," the official said.

New roadblocks have also sprung up in areas manned by women. There was also an unconfirmed report of arms being looted from Kakching police station by a Meitei group, the official said.

At Napat, Serou and nearby Sugnu in Kakching district militants burnt down some 80 houses of Meitei community prompting villagers to flee in midnight hours.

State police personnel deployed in the area retaliated leading to heavy exchange of fire, police said. One police personnel was killed and another injured at Sugnu in the firing. Six persons were also injured at Sugnu and another four at Serou.

On the eastern side of Manipur valley, armed militants came down to Yaingangpokpi in Imphal East district, and torched two houses and fired upon villagers.



Commuters board a bus on a waterlogged road after rain in Bikaner

School removes Malala's photo following protests

Malala is known for human rights advocacy, especially the education of women and children in her native homeland, Swat, where the Pakistani Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ramgarh, May 28: A government school in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district which had put up a picture of Pakistani female education activist and Nobel peace prize

winner Malala Yousafzai to motivate girl students, removed it following protests, an official said Sunday. Panchayat representatives and local people demonstrated in front

Unarmed 'secret force' coming up in MP's Maoist-hit areas

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, May 28: Aimed to having a strong grip over Maoist-hit districts - Balaghat, Mandla, and Dindori, the Madhya Pradesh government is in the process of establishing an unarmed force - the Vishesh Sahyog Dasta (Special Support Squad) - in the region.

The Dasta will be a non-policing staff of local tribal youths, who will be given special training by the police and will be tasked to keep close watch on activities of suspects and to pass the information to the security forces secretly through a channel set up. The structure will be in the line of area commander, zonal incharge and a central command.



dition, Mandla was identified as one among the 'Districts of Concern' among eight districts from six states. According to IGP Intelligence

Patch up between Gehlot, Pilot on cards?



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Here, he will be meeting Kharge along with state unit chief Govind Singh Dotasra, and state in charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and co-incharges Qazi Muhammad Nizamuddin, Amrita Dhawan, and Virendra Rathore. Sources said that Kharge might also meet Pilot, and Gehlot and Pilot might meet separately too.

Party leaders said that the high command is seriously contemplating plans to ensure two leaders patch up their differences to repeat the Karnataka story in Rajasthan and hence comes these series of meetings. There is speculation that Pilot might be given the position of state party chief in Rajasthan but party workers from the Gehlot camp are not happy with this decision.

Now the party leaders in Delhi want the two leaders to patch up so that they can go for Assembly polls with a united face. Assembly polls are scheduled in Rajasthan in December this year

Now the party leaders in Delhi want the two leaders to patch up so that they can go for Assembly polls with a united face. Assembly polls are scheduled in Rajasthan in December this year

BSP MP Danish Ali targets govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 28: BSP MP Danish Ali Sunday hit out at the Modi government over Delhi University's Academic Council passing a motion to remove a chapter on poet Muhammad Iqbal from the political science curriculum.

"Removing Allama Iqbal's unit from Delhi University's Under Graduate syllabus and playing 'Saare Jahan Se Achcha' in the background during the inauguration of New Parliament exposes the contradiction of 'New India'," Ali said. He was referring to the tune of the song playing in the background of a short film screened on the construction of the new

Parliament building during the inauguration ceremony on Sunday.

While other BSP MPs attended the event, Ali was not present during the inauguration. Born in 1877 in Sialkot in undivided India, Iqbal had written the famous song 'Saare Jahan Se Achha'. He is often credited with giving birth to the idea of Pakistan. Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh had said on Saturday that those who laid the foundation of breaking India should not be in the syllabus. In a meeting on Friday, the university's Academic Council passed the motion for the removal of the chapter titled 'Modern Indian Political Thought' that is part of the BA's sixth-semester paper.

Malala's struggle for women's education

Malala is known for human rights advocacy, especially the education of women and children in her native homeland, Swat, where the Pakistani Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school.

"We have removed Malala's photo from school after protests and controversy erupted," the headmaster said.

Malala's struggle for women's education.

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"We have removed Malala's photo from school after protests and controversy erupted," the headmaster said.

Tourists head to Kashmir to beat the heat

Srinagar, May 28: While most parts of the country are reeling under heat wave conditions, tourists are enjoying the pleasant weather in Kashmir as the Valley has witnessed rains over the past few days, leading to a drop in the mercury. "I feel very good, the weather here is very pleasant. We are feeling relaxed here. In Punjab, the temperature is 40 degrees, but here it is only 10-15 degrees," Akansha and Happy Singh from Punjab told PTI. Pooja, a tourist from Gujarat, said they were wearing woollen clothes and enjoying the pleasant



weather in the valley. "In Gujarat, the temperature has gone up to around 45 degrees Celsius. Here, it is below 20 de-

■ The maximum temperature in the Valley, over the last few days, hovered around 20 degrees Celsius and most of the days; the weather has remained cloudy while some areas witnessed rainfall

■ The pleasant weather has brought cheer to the tourists

grees. We are enjoying the greenery and weather here," she said. The tourists also witnessed snowfall at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. "Yesterday, we visited Gulmarg and witnessed rain and snowfall there. We are

enjoying the cool weather in Kashmir," Mukesh, another vacationer from Gujarat, said. "This is my first trip to the Valley. There is a famous phrase that Kashmir is God's own land. Now, after seeing Kashmir, I can say that it is indeed true. In Kolkata, it was 38 degrees Celsius, but we went to Pahalgam and Sonmarg where it was 8 degrees Celsius," Sana Ahmad, from Kolkata, said. Even as the Valley witnessed a sunny day Saturday, the Meteorological Department has forecast a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm towards the evening at scattered places.

Farmers ready to take up black wheat cultivation



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Shahjahanpur (UP), May 28: A large number of farmers in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh are willing to grow black wheat even as the absence of a local market for the crop is proving to be a deterrent for many.

"This time, black wheat was produced in over 250 acres by more than 200 farmers in the district. At the local level, the wheat is being bought at ₹6,000 per quintal, while in the bigger cities, it is being sold from ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 per quintal. The district administration is making efforts that the farmers benefit at the local level," Shahjahanpur DM (district magistrate) Umesh Pratap Singh told PTI.

Prem Shankar Gangwar, a resident of Tilhar, said that this time he grew black wheat on an experimental basis on one acre of land, and also set up a (food) processing unit for the crop, in which instead

Black wheat is a different kind of wheat which comprises high quantity of anthocyanin, an antioxidant pigment. The presence of this pigment in the wheat leads to an increase in its nutritional value.

of 'maidaa' (flour), biscuits are being made using black wheat. He also said that the black wheat flour has become a better alternative to normal flour.

Chief Development Officer of Shahjahanpur Shyam Bahadur Singh said that information about cultivation of black wheat is given to farmers in all the villages. Apart from making seeds available to them, the agriculture department has formed a team, which will also train the farmers in growing this variety. The team will inspect the crop and also give directions for proper maintenance of the crop.

Another farmer Rakesh Pandey said that with the help of the administration black wheat is being grown on a large area in Kalan, Tilhar and Powaya tehsils of the district.

Pandey also said that if processing units are installed here or if the farmers get a market, their income will increase by more than double.

Drive underway to rescue children in street situation



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Jammu, May 28: As many as 18 children forced into begging or labour were rescued over the past couple of days in the city by a special task force constituted to deal with such cases, officials here said Sunday.

The task force was set up by Deputy Commissioner (Jammu) Avny Lavasa to collect information on Children in Street Situation (CISS) and carry out rescue operations within the ecosystem created by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. The task force members include the senior superintendent of police, chief medical officer, district child protection officer, assistant labour commissioner, the NGO Kitaab aur Kalam Foundation and Childline (Jammu).

"We have rescued 18 children, including two girls, below the age of 14 years, from different hotspot areas in the city over the past couple of days. The children were then produced before the Child Welfare Committee for their proper reha-

bilitation," Arti Choudhary, Protection Officer of the Social Welfare department's Mission Vatsalya, told PTI. She said the drive was initiated in busy marketplaces, outside religious sites, traffic signals, posh localities, including Gandhi Nagar, Vikram Chowk and Bohu Plaza, immediately after the joint task force was set up Tuesday.

Its focus remained on children being forced to beg, work as rag pickers, sell articles or engage in labour work at construction sites, she added. "Children are the future of our nation and we have to end this disease to protect their childhood. After rescuing a child, verification is done to know whether he or she is from within or outside Jammu and Kashmir and a rehabilitation plan is chalked out accordingly," Choudhary said.

The official said the rescued children have been admitted to child care institutions where proper diet, counselling and medical care are available.

Since most of the children rescued are from Rajasthan, efforts are underway to establish contact with the authorities concerned to ensure that they are linked to government schemes for their proper rehabilitation in their home districts, she said. The rescued children will be enrolled in Anganwadi centres or schools and their information uploaded in the CISS portal so that they are not dragged back into begging or labour.

The official said the rescued children have been admitted to child care institutions where proper diet, counselling and medical care are available

KPs celebrate annual 'Kheer Bhawani' mela

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Tulmulla/Jammu, May 28: Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) Sunday paid their obeisance at the famous Ragnya Devi temple in Ganderbal district and celebrated the annual 'Kheer Bhawani' mela.

Nestled in the shade of mammoth Chinar trees in the central Kashmir district, the temple witnessed massive crowds of devotees, most of them Kashmiri Pandits, who made the journey from across the country.

The devotees, walking barefoot, carried rose petals and offered tribute to the goddess as men took a dip in the stream close to the shrine. As the devotees jostled with each other to move closer to the main temple complex, the chants of hymns echoed through the temple compound and paid obeisance to the deity while offering milk and kheer (rice pudding) at the sacred spring within the complex.

The mela, a symbol of communal harmony, passed off peacefully as the administration had made elaborate arrangements, including security related, for the devotees. Gudi Zutshi, a devotee from Jammu, said their 'pooja' is incomplete without visiting the temple shrine on the occasion of the annual mela held on the birthday of the deity. "She is our deity. It is an important day for us and without her, our pooja is incomplete, so we have to come here to celebrate her birthday. The deity has taken the form of water here. The colour



Kashmiri Pandit devotees light earthen lamps

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, who also paid obeisance at the temple, said that she prayed for the dignified return of the Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley

of the stream keeps on changing when something happens," she said. It is believed that the colour of the sacred spring water which flows below the temple indicates the situation in the Valley.

While most of the colours do not have any particular significance, the black or darkish colour of the water is believed to be an indication of inauspicious times for Kashmir. However, the water in the spring was clean and milky white this year. Zutshi said last year when she was here, she had witnessed that the colour of the stream water was red, apparently referring to the several attacks on the minority community in the

Valley. Another devotee, Dileep, said there was about 80-85 per cent improvement in the situation from the 1990s in Kashmir.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti, who also paid obeisance at the temple, said that she prayed for the dignified return of the Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. "I came here to welcome our Kashmiri Pandit brothers who have come from Jammu and other places. We are here to pray for the dignified return of these people to their homes so that once again Hindu-Muslim-Kashmiri Pandits live together in Kashmir with brotherhood," she told reporters.

No hike in power tariff by UPERC

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Lucknow, May 28: In a major relief to power consumers, the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) has announced that power tariff will remain unchanged for 2023-24.

This would be the fourth year in a row that the power tariff in the state has not been increased - the last revision was done in 2019-20.

The development also assumes much significance in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls due next year. The power consumers, essentially in the urban areas, would thus continue to pay their electricity bills as per the earlier slabs.

The electricity regulator which held separate public hearings in all distribution companies junked the

proposal put forth by the UP Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) suggesting an average tariff hike of 16 per cent. The UPPCL had proposed a tariff hike of 18 per cent for urban domestic consumers, 16 per cent for industries, around 12 per cent for agricultural and 17 per cent for lifeline category consumers (rural/urban poor who are provided power at a low rate).

Russian poplars pose health risks



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Srinagar, May 28: Russian poplars were introduced in Kashmir nearly four decades ago to meet the rising timber demand in the valley, but the shedding of fluffy cotton-like pollen by these imported trees is posing health risks to the residents.

Every year during the month of

May and June, there is a substantial increase in the cases of respiratory problems, particularly among the children and elderly.

"These type of trees were brought here and the farmers were told that this species will yield more and mature in eight years. But now we see these pollen remain for almost two months in the environ-

ment and results in throat infection, chest discomfort, eye irritation and other ENT diseases. People with asthma, rhinosinusitis and allergies have to bear the brunt more," Dr Hakeem Naseer told PTI.

To deal with the annual menace, several districts including Srinagar had issued orders to fell these Russian poplars. However, a large number of these trees are still standing as they provide raw material for the plywood industry.

Many people including tourists are compelled to wear face masks to avoid any health issues. "After seeing the locals wearing masks, I thought it was because of Covid-19. But when I asked people, they said it is because of the thing flying in the air," Gautam, a tourist, said.



MATTER OF BREAD: Villagers fish with wicker baskets in Panzath spring in Qazigund, Jammu and Kashmir

UP: New authority to develop waterways

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Lucknow, May 28: Uttar Pradesh will now have a dedicated body to oversee the development of new waterways. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced the setting up of a new authority that would explore options of waterways and also work out policies to provide cheaper options of transport to give a boost to the micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.

Yogi said that Uttar Pradesh's first waterway from Varanasi to Haldia was functional and the proposed authority should do its work by conducting a survey.

He said Uttar Pradesh had Yamuna Expressway while Agra-Lucknow Expressway was nearing completion when his government was installed in 2017.

Parvovirus outbreak causes scare among dog owners

THE CANINE PARVOVIRUS OR CPV IS A CONTAGIOUS VIRUS IN YOUNG DOGS THAT SPREADS THROUGH DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONTACT WITH THEIR FAECES, WHICH MEANS THAT IT CAN BE TRANSFERRED THROUGH THE AIR AND VIA TOUCH

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Lucknow, May 28: The spread of parvovirus among dogs in Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a major cause of concern among pet owners. Two pet dogs have died recently in Lucknow due to the deadly virus.

The canine parvovirus or CPV is a contagious virus in young dogs that spreads through direct or indirect contact with their faeces, which means that it can be trans-

ferred through the air and via touch.

Although vaccines can prevent this infection, many cases lead to hospitalisation of the dogs. According to veterinarians, they are receiving nearly 40 cases of parvovirus per week.

Parvovirus usually makes an appearance in puppies during winter but this time, it has struck in summer.

Neeta Ghoshal, who feeds dogs in her neighbourhood, gets them



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

neutered and vaccinated, said that this is the first time she is seeing an outbreak of parvovirus in the summer.

Dr Rajeev Pandey, a veterinarian, said, "The symptoms are typically vomiting, loose motion, loss of appetite - in the later stages the dogs vomit blood and there are traces of blood in their stool as well."

The most effective way of prevention is early detection and vaccination, which needs to be renewed almost yearly.

"Once parvovirus is detected in a puppy, it should be immediately quarantined and their diet should be stopped," he said. This infection is seen primarily in dogs of two months to three years old, and it is rarely seen in older dogs.

"The symptoms are like that of gastroenteritis and therefore it is often confused for the same. If par-

vovirus is detected in a dog, their diet should be stopped entirely as they are bound to throw up that food and water, and many of them even die due to dehydration in such cases," he said.

Once symptoms are detected, the dog should be taken to a veterinarian for treatment as then they can be administered medication through intravenous drips, said Dr Pandey.

Vishakha Shukla, founder of Nawabi Tails, an animal rescue shelter, said, "Right now, I have six cases of parvo at my shelter - this is not normal at all. Since not a lot of veterinary research goes on in India, we are not yet aware of the reason for this possible mutation of the virus. The parvovirus is typically unable to exist in high temperatures, but lately that has not been the case."

of the day quote

The Union government is trying to ruin the development of Kerala. The recently imposed control on the state's borrowing limit indicates this

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

It is the responsibility of the society to protect the Vedic 'purohitis' who are always engaged in the service of well-being of the whole world and in the divine service. The same philosophy is involved behind the implementation of many schemes for the welfare of Brahmins

K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

Azam Khan was implicated in a false case and justice was now being delivered with his acquittal by higher court

SHIVPAL YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

3 women dead

Mandsaur: Three women were killed and more than 20 persons were injured after a bus overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred near Bhaugarh on Mhow-Neemuch road, some 18 kilometres from the district headquarters, in the afternoon, City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Satnam Singh said.

Deer killed

Medininagar (Jharkhand): A three-year-old male deer was shot at by poachers while it was quenching its thirst at a water body amid extreme hot weather conditions in Jharkhand's Palamu district, a forest official said Sunday. The animal was rescued by the local forest protection committee and handed over to the forest department but it succumbed to its injuries during treatment, he said.

Cop ends life

Kondagaon: A police constable allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Chhattisgarh's Maoist-hit Kondagaon district Sunday, an official said. The incident took place at around 10 am in a family court premises where Constable Jitendra Patel was posted on security duty, he said, adding no suicide note was found at the spot. As per preliminary information, Patel reported to his duty place at around 9.30 am following which two other constables who were on duty went to take bath. Suddenly, they heard a gunshot and found Patel lying in a pool of blood in a room in the court premises, the official said.

Leopard found dead

Narmadapuram: A leopard was found dead on the railway tracks near Itarsi station in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday morning, a forest official said. It was apparently hit by a train in an area under Bagdev forest beat and a team of doctors and a dog squad had visited the site, the Satpura Tiger Reserve official said.

Man kills parents

Firozabad: A man shot dead his parents over a land dispute in a village here Sunday, police said. The incident happened in area under Eka police station and the deceased were identified as Rakesh Yadav (55) and his wife Guddi Devi, they said. Additional Superintendent of Police Sarvesh Mishra said the couple had an old argument over possession of a piece of land with their elder son Bitu Yadav.



It is more than three weeks since violence broke out in Manipur and at least 75 people are dead. The Hon'ble PM has not uttered a word so far. Nor has he made an appeal for peace and harmony. Just to remind him, he holds the metaphorical Sengol in his hand

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

HARYANA HIKES SCHOLARSHIP

To mark the inauguration of the new Parliament building and honour the workers who made it possible, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Sunday announced an increase of the scholarship of the children whose parents are registered with the state Labour Welfare Board



Parliament inauguration: Oppn slams PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 28: The inauguration of the new Parliament building Sunday was marked with a boycott by 21 opposition parties which accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of treating the event like his "coronation", and said democracy is run by people not by buildings.

The opposition leaders also accused the government of violating Constitutional norms by not inviting President Droupadi Murmu to the event. The government has rejected the opposition argument, saying no protocols were violated and that Modi respects the President.

The Congress claimed the new Parliament was inaugurated in a grand fashion by a "self-glorifying authoritarian PM with utter disdain for Parliamentary procedures". Democracy does not run from the buildings but through the voices of the people, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said.

"The right to inaugurate the new Parliament was snatched from the President. Women players were beaten up on the streets with dictatorial force," he said in a tweet in Hindi. "The three lies of the BJP-RSS rulers now stand exposed before the country -- democracy, nationalism and Beti Bachao." "Remember Modi ji, democracy does not run from the buildings but functions



Members of Parliament, Chief Ministers of different states and other dignitaries in the Lok Sabha chamber, at the new Parliament building in New Delhi

through the voice of the public," Kharge said.

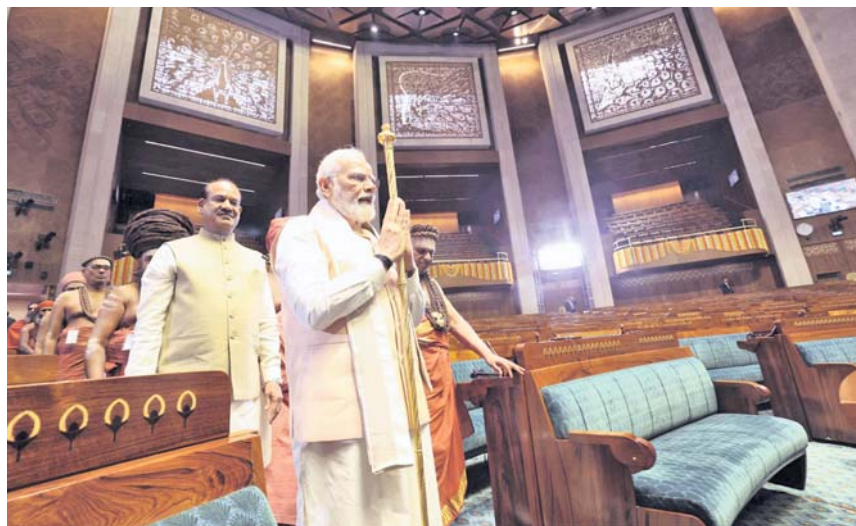
The Rashtriya Janata Dal was most stinging in its criticism of the project as it likened the new Parliament building's triangular shape to a coffin, drawing a sharp response from the BJP. "What is this," the party asked in the tweet, while sharing a picture of the coffin and that of the new Parliament. The BJP's Bihar unit responded to the tweet saying, "The first picture is your future and the second is of India. Understood?"

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Parliament is the voice of the people but the prime minister is treating the inauguration of the new building like a "coronation". "Parliament is the voice of the people! The prime minister is treating the inauguration of the Parliament House as (a) coronation," Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi soon after Modi inaugurated the building.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar said various rituals performed at

the inauguration of the new Parliament building show the country was being taken backwards by decades. The Left parties also compared the PM inaugurating the parliament building with the coronation of a monarch by relegating the people of the country to being "subjects (praja)".

CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury alleged the inauguration ceremony was held amid "loud propaganda" with the declaration of a "new India". "This declaration of a 'New India' comes



PM Narendra Modi carries the 'Sengol' in a procession before installing it in the Lok Sabha chamber



PM Narendra Modi with high priests of various 'adheenams' during installation of 'Sengol'

Man beaten to death

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, May 28: A 65-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by three men under the influence of alcohol in the New Palam Vihar area in the wee hours of Sunday, police said.

According to the police, the victim Rajveer, a native of Bihar, was currently residing with his family on rent in the New Palam Vihar police station area.

The deceased's family members told the police that, Rajveer was sitting on a stool outside the house at around 5:30 a.m. on Sunday.

"During this, three youths living in the neighbourhood were quarrelling with each other. When Rajveer interfered and asked the reason behind the dispute, the trio started beating Rajveer with sticks and stones and injured him badly," the family told the police.

Fresh call to ban online pharmacies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 28: The Delhi High Court has granted six weeks' time to the Centre to inform it about the outcome of consultations and deliberations with stakeholders on draft rules to regulate e-pharmacies.

The court was hearing pleas seeking a ban on "illegal" sale of drugs online and challenging the draft rules published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to further amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad made it clear that pendency of these matters will not come in way of the Central government in taking action against persons who are violating the court's December 12, 2018 interim order putting a stay on the sale of



drugs without licence by online pharmacies.

On perusing the latest status report filed by the Centre, the court noted it has been categorically stated that the Union of India has not yet finalised the draft notification of August 2018 and it is pending for consultation and deliberations.

"The Union of India is granted six weeks' time to inform the outcome of the consultations and deliberations and also to inform the final stand taken by the Union of India in the matter. List on August 28, 2023. It is made clear that the pen-

deny of the present matters will not come in the way of the Union of India in taking action against the persons who are violating the interim order dated December 12, 2018," the bench said.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued the draft amendment to the Rules, 1954 for inclusion of the rules to regulate online sale of drugs vide its August 28, 2018 notification and had called for objections and suggestions from all stakeholders to be considered by the Central government.

Thereafter, based on the comments/suggestions received, after due consideration, the draft rules may be finalised for publication in the official Gazette, the ministry has stated in the status report. It said the petitioners have given representation to authorities which are under consideration.

Satellite launch: Countdown begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh), May 28: Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Sunday at 7.12 am commenced the 27.5 hour countdown for the launch of a navigation satellite on board a GSLV rocket here on May 29.

The Bangalore-headquartered space agency is all geared up to launch the second-generation navigation satellite series, a significant launch which would ensure the continuity of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) services - an Indian regional satellite navigation system, similar to GPS, providing accurate and real-time navigation in India and a region extending to 1,500 km around the mainland. NavIC signals are designed to provide user position accurate to better than 20-metres and timing accuracy better than 50 nanoseconds.

The 51.7 metre tall Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, on its 15th flight, would carry the navigation satellite NVS-01 weighing 2,232 kg on Monday at 10.42 am from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) here, about 130 km from

Chennai. Nearly 20 minutes after the flight, the rocket is scheduled to deploy the satellite in a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) at an altitude of about 251 km, ISRO said.

The NVS-01 carries navigation payloads L1, L5 and S bands and in comparison with the previous one, the second-generation satellite would also carry an indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock. It is for the first time that an indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock would be used in Monday's launch, ISRO said. According to the space agency, scientists earlier used imported rubidium atomic clocks to determine date and location. Now, the rubidium atomic clock developed by Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre will be on board.

It is an important technology that only a handful of countries possess, it said. ISRO developed the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system to meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of the country, particularly with regard to civil aviation and military requirements. NavIC was earlier known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).



BJP battling with its Satraps too

The BJP's humiliating defeat in Karnataka has brought big smiles on the faces of many regional Satraps who were cooling their heels. With the next Assembly polls due in five states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh later this year, these strong state leaders in wilderness for a long time, are hopeful of rehabilitation. It is no secret that the party high command doesn't like former

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia. She was neither made state BJP chief and not the Leader of the Opposition in Assembly. The same goes for Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh who ruled the state for three terms. The BJP leadership tried many combinations but could not succeed. In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP leadership is looking to replace Shivraj Singh Chouhan who may fail to win the state as was the case in 2018. But there is no other strong face who can turn an election.

Faulty drafting, Kejriwal smiling

The Modi government's National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, was aimed at nullifying the ruling by a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court that handed over the reins of services to the Kejriwal government. The newly created Authority will have the power to recommend the transfer

and posting of all Group A officers and officers of DANICS serving in Delhi. Since any review or appeal by either side will have to wait until the SC re-opens in July, no immediate remedy may be available to the Kejriwal government. Secondly, the AAP may find it difficult to muster a majority in Rajya Sabha to get the bill defeated.

New ₹1,000 note soon!

Denials notwithstanding by the RBI, it transpires that the Modi government may introduce a new 1,000 rupee note once the process of discontinuing Rs 2,000 note is completed on September 30. Interestingly, the RBI order is silent on the status of the 2,000 rupee note whether it would be an illegal currency after September 30. It is said that the RBI may issue more clarifications in the weeks to come. The sources familiar with the issue say that the new 1,000 rupee is

being printed in government press and may be released at an appropriate time.

Worrying trend

Three senior Income-Tax officers belonging to the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) have put in their papers seeking voluntary retirement. Earlier, nearly a dozen such officers opted for voluntary retirements a couple of months ago. They also belonged to the IRS cadre and were posted in many states including Delhi. Many of the officers, it is learnt, are likely to take up more lucrative posts with the private sector, sooner or later after the cooling period as per rules. Three members of the rank of additional secretary have resigned in a span of six weeks. Though these officers do not admit that they are leaving the service to join the private sector, sources close to them said many of them are set to take up lucrative posts with corporate majors.

