



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

Biswal, Moguim showcaused

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

PTI PHOTO

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 plers 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.

AGENCIES

into reality.

Om Birla.

New Delhi, May 28: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi inaugu-

rated the new Parliament build-

ing here Sunday morning and ex-

pressed hope that it will become

a cradle of empowerment, ignit-

ing dreams and nurturing them

Dressed in traditional attire,

Modi walked into Parliament prem-

ises from its Gate No. 1 and was

welcomed by Lok Sabha Speaker

Amid Vedic chants by priests

from Karnataka's Shringeri Math,

the Prime Minister performed

"Ganapati Homam" to invoke divine

blessings. The Prime Minister pros-

trated before the Sengol and sought

blessings from high priests of var-

ious adheenams in Tamil Nadu

Modi then carried the Sengol in

a procession amid tunes of

nadaswaram and chanting of Vedic

with the holy sceptre in hand.

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 Contd...4 told PTL

a powerful message to the world about India's unwavering determination NARENDRA MODI I PRIME MINISTER

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.

# Rahul gets new passport, all set for US tour today

AGENCIES

### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



### YouTuber shoots duo over comment on post; 6 held



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

WEAT			
	BHUB	СТК	Carry
<mark>€</mark> MAX	37.2℃	37.2°	C
H MIN	24.0°C	24.0°	<b>Forecast</b>
Humidity	70%	65%	Light to
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	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

ciplinary 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 antiparty 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 OPCC 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 vet. 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.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, 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 Navak 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 Navak. This led to a brawl between Navak 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 Balasore district and the rest five from Bhubaneswar.

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 OUESTIONS ON SMARTPHONES**, **INTERNET, CEREALS** 

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 con-

sumed are some of the 31 ques-

tions to be asked in the Census,

Census and the exercise to up-

date the National Population

Register (NPR) were scheduled

The house listing phase of the

whenever it is held.

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 contin-

ues 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 employeesteachers

n a first, the Census authority has designed a yet-to-be-launched self-enumeration portal



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

During self-enumeration, Aadhaar or mobile number will be mandatorily collected

the Lok Sabha elections, they said. This exercise, whenever it hap-

pens, 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 selfenumeration 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.













# eisure



### **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.

Brahmastra: Part

One - Shiva in-

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Best

### **EMILY BLUNT FORGIVES PEOPLE TOO OUICKLY**

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.



### FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

Today you may think that you have the Midas touch. but Ganesha 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 of two for your kids

### TAURUS

If you are a manager or an administrator, Ganesha 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 Ganesha

### Ganesha 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 fo an entertainment or recreational pursuit. Get ready for a hectic and fun-filled day. says Ganesha

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 Ganesha

### **VIRGO**

Ganesha says that today

Ganesha says all signs indicate that today will be a SI. 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, Ganesha says keep all your hopes alive.

**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



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 Pavillion "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

Indian Cinema.

this stage."

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

Senior actor Anil Kapoor also re-

ceived an award -- for Performance

in a Supporting Role (Male) for his

is a culturally rich

country with many lan-

guages, emotions and it is

important to promote it at a

global platform like the Cannes

The awards that went to

part in JugJugg Jeeyo.

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.

Kaushal. PTI

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

Hatke Zara Bachke, co-starring Vicky

Her upcoming movie is a family drama, Zara



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

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

### IIFA-2023 Alia, Hrithik bag top awards Daman enters the top 10 on IMDB

Bhubaneswar: The recently re leased *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. **PNN** 

### 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 came 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 Krrish.

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

Priyanka will next be seen in Farhan Akhtar's

AGENCIES

Jee Le Zaraa, with Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif

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 Ganesha. 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 Ganesha. 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 overal performance. Don't slow down the speed though, keep working hard, says Ganesha.

### 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 Ganesha.

### PEANUTS

BREVITY



### CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### SUDOKU

in the lead roles.

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.

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						7		5
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	9		8	2				
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SO





# 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
rld	689,399,257	661,820,747	6,883,592
a	4,49,89,744	4,44,52,908	5,31,864
sha	13,36,304	13,26,915	<b>9,20</b> 4

### Mass cleaning drive by BMC

Das said, "We are doing such ac-

tivities in different wards to make

sanitation a community driven ap-

proach. BMC is also serious about

cleaning of heritage and tourist spots of the City. Greater commu-

nity participation can take forward

premises around the temple. Bush

cuttings were done by the sanita-

tion 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

The participants cleaned the

such drive to save our heritage."

### 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





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

### **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

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 electrocu-



National Human **Rights Commission** 

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 Freports 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

#### 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," in formed 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.



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 norms," told Ramesh Chandra there. However: Oopre and Embassy were running with customers flouting the permitted time period. One person has been detained and report

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

that the victim farmer, Ramesh Chandra Nayak, came into con-

tion victim February 27, 2023. "In response, the Addl. Secretary,

it is submitted that alleged fatal accident was solely attributable

BBI, Middleton, Angan were opened beyond the permitted time period

will be sent to the Excise department against the bars found violating

### **POLITICKLE by MANJUL**



### 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 Dhanbadbound TATA truck (NL-08D-3670) at Rasulgarh under Mancheswar police station area here Sunday morning. During the search, the sleuths found huge quantity of

in response to rising blood sugar

levels, offering a promising ap-

proach to treating diabetes, a sig-

nificant pre-clinical study has said.

Medicine in New York City in the

US showed they could take stem

cells obtained from human stom-

ach tissue and reprogramme them

directly -- with strikingly high ef-

ficiency -- into cells that closely re-

semble pancreatic insulin-secret-

these cells reversed disease signs

in a mouse model of diabetes, said

the study which appeared in the

that gives us a solid foundation for

developing a treatment, based on

"This is a proof-of-concept study

Transplants of small groups of

ing cells known as beta cells.

journal Nature Cell Biology.

Researchers at Weill Cornell



NCB seizes 273.8 kg of ganja; 2 held

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 northeast 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 tem cells from the human DIABETIC MANAGEMENT stomach can be converted U into cells that secrete insulin



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.

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 JOE ZHOU WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE

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 hor mone-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 levelswithout the need for further medication.









### downtown

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# **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 ACOUIRED WITH WORK IN PROGRESS

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



#### PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 28: Visiting the Maa Samaleswari Temple as per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday, 57 Secretary VK Pandian instructed engineers engaged in the Samalei (Maa Samaleswari temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative) project to speed up the work and achieve completion within the set time.

**OrissaPOST** 

MONDAY | MAY 29 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

The secretary, who started his visit by offering prayers to Maa Samleswari, also asked the officers involved to project the local heritage of the district and the city in

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 an attractive manner. He stressed pond complex, podium, queue manon adequate shade for the visiting agement system, cloak room and pilgrims with plantation of trees other associated components.



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

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 environmentfriendly 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 medallist 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



### 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 speakstanding and writing in the languages at the level of elementary education in Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The national workshop, jointly oranised by the National Council of

ing students in reading, under-

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 Kumjharia, Surendra Tanti and Shivshankar Patnaik will be present.

be released soon, a senior office 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 Harvana 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

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 work-

shop is to provide learners and

### A breakthrough in testing can help save frogs worldwide

POST NEWS NETWORK

for environment.

mit towards and promote a 'lifestyle

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

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

or the past 40 years, a devas-tating fungal disease has been ravaging frog populations around the world, wiping out 90 species. Unlike the global Covid pandemic, vou 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 repro-

ducing in their skin. The singlecelled 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



results were devastating.

Many species' immune systems

were simply not equipped to de-

fend against the disease, and mass

mortalities ensued. In the 1980s.

amphibian biologists began to no-

posed to this new pathogen, the 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 extice 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 chvtrid 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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### **OrissaPOST**

### state MONDAY | MAY 29 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR **Confusion over use of Kanpur project water** NHRC show cause over alleged poacher's death

FARMLANDS MAY SUFFER IF INDUSTRIAL HOUSES ALLOWED TO

#### 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

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 Keonihar 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



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

in the custody of the Forest department under mysterious circumstances. The villagers and familv 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, Sunavak Maihi, 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 postmortem, chemical and histopathological examination of the viscera are yet to be received by the probe

Later, Behera was found dead

of February this year

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 desilting when it suddenly got stuck in the middle of the pond.

Later, laboureres 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 panchavat under Sadar block of Balasore district. Sunday

Outside traders call the shots in wildlife poaching **ODISHA'S DEMAND OVER** against them. This only emboldens them to get involved in poach-MILDUEE CANCTUADY

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



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
THEM IN POACHING	ARMS ACT	POLICE PERSONNEL

fence but rule debars 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 pa-

HUGE QUANTITY OF COUNTRY

trolling and registering cases

ing once they are released from iail 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 Achrya 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.

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 (EPA) 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-Tadibalsa 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 Neredibalsa. Tadibalsa. Elangabalsa 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

arrival

#### 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

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.

### 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 SEIZED, 1 ARRESTED 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 scooty. As per reports, two persons riding a scooty 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 scooty 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

Water Soaked Boiled Rice of 1414.5 Quintals, lying in Godown of M/s Ashirbad Agro Products Pvt. Itd of village- Mulari, Panikoili, Jajpur, 755043 Contact Person (Employee in-charge Name Sri Ananta Barik Mobile No-9078084309) between 10 AM to 5 PM on working days (Monday to Monday) from Dt 22.05.2023 to 29.05.2023 at 5 PM. The Interested individual of 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. Itd 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.







### power post

### FOCUS CULTURE

**BUNGLED RETURN** 

One who loves God finds the object of his love everywhere SRI AUROBINDO



### **Edifice of Discord**

The inauguration of the country's new Parliament Building May 28 should have been an occasion for national celebration, but it got mired in ugly political bickering and a slug fest between the ruling BJP and an Opposition combine of 19 parties. For the unseemly turn of events both sides contributed their share of acrimonious, confrontationist politics that should have been kept out of the construction of the seat of parliamentary democracy. The Opposition parties boycotted the programme which presented a spectacle too familiar to the people who have been made to witness at sickening intervals walkouts and boycotts of parliamentary proceedings by the Opposition and the ruling alliance's reluctance to allow debates on issues that have potential to put it on the defensive. That the same tactic was followed even before sessions could start in the new Parliament building does not augur well for democracy in India.

The whole event was turned into a crude political showmanship from the beginning of the project. The ruling party did not rise above narrow politics as it did not take the Opposition into confidence about the construction where the soul of democracy would supposed to reside. It was part of the government's ambitious project to develop the Central Vista complex in the capital replacing colonial-era buildings. The Narendra Modi-government had been accused of rebuilding the nation's corridors of power in its own image as part of their nationalistic political agenda. Launching the project in 2020, Modi had said the new parliament building would "become a witness to the creation of a self-reliant India". The Central Vista project, which is to cost over \$2.4bn, also involves building a new government secretariat and a new prime minister's residence and office. The government was charged with a lack of transparency after the project was awarded to architect Bimal Patel, who is from Modi's home state of Gujarat and has been granted some of the most high profile government projects in recent years

The irony of the inauguration of the new parliament building is that the materials and designs for the structure had been brought in from all over India to reflect the country's cultural diversity and different architectural styles, including marble from Rajasthan and teak from Maharashtra, but it was a one-sided show by the BJP, bereft of the the involvement of others.

Given the country's existing political climate it was understandable that the BJP-government would indulge in political posturing to enhance its image and that of its mascot, the Prime Minister. This is why the present President, who is not only the first citizen and head of state but also a woman and added to that from an indigenous tribe (adivasi) from the eastern part of the country, was denied the opportunity of contributing either to lay the foundation stone or inaugurate the building. The PM represents the executive head and as such the government should have let the President of the Union inaugurate the new Parliament building. The government's role should have ceased after the construction was over. But, the brand of politics that has been on display, it was a foregone conclusion that the ruling party would not let slip this occasion loaded with, what they must consider, cosmic symbolic value.

The ruling BJP committed the second wrong by coinciding the inauguration with the birth centenary of a controversial figure known as Savarkar. He could be an icon for the saffron party but his actions since he was incarcerated in the Andamans cellular jail by the British have made many question his credentials as a freedom fighter. Such a figure should not have been associated with the inauguration of a building that stands for the country as an independent democracy.

The Opposition, by not attending the programme has correctly taken the stand to demonstrate protest to an icon that should have been shown as all encompassing and inclusive in attitude of all political thoughts that exist on this soil

The irritation caused by the brazen and conspicuous presence of some Hindoo priests may not upset everyone. However, there is great logic behind the argument by some sections, especially modern city planners, who suggest that the whole Central Vista could have been a brand new city located and developed adjacent to New Delhi. The cost involved would have been similar. A totally new location would have enabled new accomodation to the Parliament, Central Secretariat, Prime Minister's bungalow as well as new residences for Ministers, Members of Parliament and also bureaucrats with the latest, global standard waste management, security, water supply and a generally healthier environment with space for inhabitants to have enough physical activities, new green areas (now lost in these constructions) could have been aesthetically designed and created away from the presently unhealthy highly polluted New Delhi.



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** 

peared 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

ntil recently, the pro-

tracted saga of the Benin

Bronzes' repatriation ap-

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-



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

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 neighbouring tribes and selling them to European merchants in exchange for copper and bronze manillas. These materials were subsequently used to forge statutes 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

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 negotia tions 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

### SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Grim reality of shrinking trade deficit

Sadly a great opportunity has, once again, eluded this country because of the petty egos of some individuals

### 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 AYN RAND wrong.
- Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that vou plant. **ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON**

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

### WORDS**WORTH**

### Incunabulum

his 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 Ecclesiological 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 incunable and someone who collects such works is an incunabulist.

### LOL

### **HAVE A FIRST CHILD**

man and his wife were making Atheir 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





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

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinior

101

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

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% yearon-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 benefitted

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.

### **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 Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD initiatives that promote healthy living.

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



# national

rioting.

itants and security forces since

At Phayeng in Imphal West dis-

trict, one person died and another

sustained bullet injuries after being

fired at by suspected Kuki mili-

tants, police officials said. The lat-

est clashes began after the army and

para-military forces commenced

combing operations to de-arm com-

munities in order to bring peace,

interacting with the media per-

sons at the state secretariat, claimed

the latest round of "conflict is not

between communities but between

militants and security forces".

Singh also said that there had been

The Chief Minister, who was

officials said

counter-attacks.

the early hours of the day.



Jharkhand has immense possibilities for investment in infrastructure and the government is making constant efforts in this direction HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

### **WELCOME MOVE**

Punjab has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for investigating cases of human trafficking, especially women from Punjab to Middle East countries under visit and employment visas, who are being exploited, an official said Sunday



### **Fresh violence in Manipur** uote

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

of India's total renewable energy capacity. Gujarat, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, has targeted to generate 100 GW of renewable energy under its green hydrogen mission

BHUPENDRA PATEL GUJARAT CM



Party and Bairang Dal functionaries for allegedly spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence DIGVIJAYA SINGH CONGRESS LEADER

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 S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

### 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. According to an official statement, at around 9.30 pm on Sunday, BSF troops heard the buzzing sound of a drone in village Dhanoe Khurd in Amritsar. The troops immediately shot down the drone. "During subsequent searches of the area, BSF troops recovered a drone from the fields of the village," it said

### Three killed

Mirzapur (UP): Three persons, including a couple, were killed



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

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 at-

tacks 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".

cases of armed militants firing at Singh said 38 vulnerable areas civilians with AK-47s, M-16 and have been identified and that the sniper rifles. These militants were state police has been conducting optargeted by security forces in erations there. The house of BJP MLA Khwairakpam Raghumani The CM appealed to the public Singh at Uripok in Imphal West not to hinder the movement of sewas vandalised and his two vehicurity personnel and urged them cles have been set on fire, a top security official said.

to have "faith in the government and support the security forces.""We He said that clashes broke out in have experienced hardship for so the early hours of the morning at long and we will never allow the several places both between rival state to disintegrate," Singh said. ethnic militant groups as well as He said many militants involved between militants and security in killing civilians and destroying forces. "According to our infor-

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 incident occurred at Amauna middle school under Jogbani police station area of the district The school administration claimed that the food (Khichari) was supplied by an outsourcing

mation, firing has been reported from Sugnu in Kakching, Kangvi in Churachandpur, Kangchup in Imphal West, Sagolmang in Imphal East, Nungoipokpi 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

### Kejriwal meets Jain

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 28: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal Sunday met former Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain in the hospital, describing him as a hero.

Kejriwal shared three different photos on Twitter, in which he is seen shaking hands with Jain, hugging him, and talking while sitting on a chair. "Meeting the brave man, the hero," Kejriwal tweeted while sharing pictures with Jain on social media.

Jain was recently granted interim bail for six months by the Supreme Court on health grounds and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on May 31, 2022. in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case. He was lodged in Tihar Jail since then. Initially, the Delhi High Court had denied him bail.



However, on last Thursday, Jain fell in the bathroom in Tihar Jail, leading to his admission to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. Subsequently, Jain filed a bail plea before the apex court on medical grounds through senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi. The apex court granted him interim bail till July 11

### Patch up between Gehlot, Pilot on cards?



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, May 28: The Congress high command is planning to get Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot patch up their differences, as per party sources.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will hold back to back meetings with Rajasthan leaders Monday and Tuesday in New Delhi. Gehlot is also leaving for Delhi in this context. He will depart from Jaipur at 10 a.m. on Monday, and stay in the national capital till Tuesday noon.

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.

ongress president Mallikarjun Kharge will hold back to back meetings with Rajasthan leaders Monday and Tuesday in New Delhi

Party sources said that the high command is seriously planning to cool down Pilot who has given a 15-day ultimatum to the state government to fulfill his three demands

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.

Party sources said that the high command is seriously planning to cool down Pilot who has given a 15 day ultimatum to the state government to fulfill his three demands namely dissolution of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission, compensation to those youths being affected by paper leak and probe into alleged corruption cases being reported during former CM Vasundhara Raje's tenure. The ultimatum ends on May 30 and hence, the efforts by the top state leadership to resolve the issue.

### **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.





when the bike they were riding collided with a speeding truck in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Sunday. Station House Officer (SHO) Arvind Pandey said one Rani Mukherjee (22) her lover Vikas (25) and his friend Karan (24) were killed when their bike collided with a truck near Sumatia village of Jigna police station area late Saturday night. Police have recovered the bodies and sent them for post-mortem examination.

### UP man fined

Lucknow: An Unnao-based videographer, living in Lucknow, has been challaned for flying a drone from the Kasmanda Apartment in the Hazratganj area. As per reports, the residents spotted the drone flying in the skyline around the apartment and alerted the police. The police reached the scene, while a subinspector was sent to the spot from where the drone was being flown, for investigation. The sub inspector Anuj Tiwari in his report said he found the videographer Ankit Singh, residing on the sixth floor of the apartment, controlling the drone's navigation with a remote-control device.

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. The incident took place in Davadi village of Dombivili town in the afternoon, the official from MIDC fire station said. Ranjit Ravindran, a final year MBBS student, and his sister Kirti (16) had gone to the lake to give their dog a bath, when they drowned, he said.

.....



agency. 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 Forbesganj sub-divisional hospital for treatment.

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

### School removes Malala's photo following protests

PTI PHOTO

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

of the school after the management of the educational institution put up the picture of Malala Yousafzai who had won the Nobel peace prize in 2014

Jai Kumar Ojha, Mukhiya (village head) of Kuju West panchayat under Mandu block of Ramgarh district who also joined the protest, said that it's globally known that Pakistan backs state sponsored militancy against India and our country has paid heavily for the cross border terrorism.

Hence, there was no need to

take peace lessons from the

Ravindra Prasad, Head Master

of the Government Public School

in coal belt Kuju, said he had

granted permission to display

the photo of Pakistani female ed-

ucation activist after a teacher ap-

proached him with the suggestion

to motivate girl students from

Pakistani activist, he said

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.

### 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' would 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 com-

mander, zonal incharge and a central command. As per the officials, local tribal

youths will be given most priority on the line of Chhattisgarh's District Reserve Guard (DRG), but the working pattern will be completely different. The functioning of the new group will be directly supervised by the state police's Intelligence Department. The process of recruitment has

already been initiated as an experiment in one of these three districts that are covered under the 'Security Related Expenditure (SRE)' scheme, which funds focused operations against the rebels in  $\overline{70}$ LWE-affected districts in 10 states. In its classification list released

in 2021, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs included Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh among the '25 Most Affected Districts across eight Indian states. In ad-



dition, Mandla was identified as one among the 'Districts of Concern' among eight districts from six states

According to IGP Intelligence

Anurag, the idea of the 'Vishesh Sahyog Dasta' is to connect the tribals living in Maoist-hit areas into mainstream of development. The new system will also be utilised

for implementing community policing, and the youths will be encourage to join police and security services

Anurag (who uses a single name), a 2003 batch IPS officer; said with development of road connectivity in dense forests have strengthened the grip of security forces a lot, but still there is need to reach to the people who are highly dominated by Maoists. He said that Vishesh Sahyog Dasta will be a multi-tasking unit. "It would be non-policing staff of

local youths with sound minds, who will be creating impression among people living in Maoist-affected areas that they are being used by Left Wing Extremists (LWE) to excute their plans on the direction of the anti-national forces. After getting recruited, they will be given special training by the police. It would a non-armed secret force will be functioning through a proper set up channel," the IGP said.

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra claimed the activities of Maoists have reduced as the security forces have successfully targetted their shelters and have eliminated their top leaders in the past one and a half decade.

According to data from the state Home Department, a total 11 dreaded Maoists were eliminated by state Hawk Force between 2008 and 2021. The Hawk Force, a specialised force deployed on anti-Maoist duty, is drawn up mainly from the state armed police and its personnel get an additionalhardship allowance for serving in Maoist areas.











### Tourists head to Kashmir to beat the heat Farmers ready

The maximum temperature in

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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 Vallev witnessed a sunny day Saturday, the Meteorological Department has forecast a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm towards the evening at scattered places.

## to take up black wheat cultivation



different kind of heat which comprises igh quantity of anthocyanin, an antioxidant pigmen he presence of this pigment in the wheat leads to an increase in its nutritional value

Shahjahanpur (UP), May 28: A large number of farmers in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar ing to be a deterrent for many.

Singh told PTI.

Prem Shankar Gangwar, a reshe grew black wheat on an experimental basis on one acre of land,

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.

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pradesh are willing to grow black wheat even as the absence of a local market for the crop is prov-'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

ident of Tilhar, said that this time and also set up a (food) processing unit for the crop, in which instead

### No hike in power tariff by UPERC

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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).

### Drive underway to rescue children in street situation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 rehabilitation," 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 The protect their childofficial said the hood. After resrescued children have cuing a child, verification is been admitted to child done to know

care institutions where whether he or she is from proper diet, counselling within or outand medical care are side Jammu and Kashmir and a reavailable habilitation plan is chalked out accord-

ingly," 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 we have to come here to celebrate portal so that they are not dragged her birthday. The deity has taken back into begging or labour. the form of water here. The colour

# **KPs celebrate annual 'Kheer Bhawani' mela**

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 mam-

Celsius. Here, it is below 20 de-

moth 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 pooia is incomplete, so



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

### Russian poplars pose health risks

May and June, there is a substan-

tial increase in the cases of respi-

ratory problems, particularly among

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 al-

most two months in the environ-

'These type of trees were

the children and elderly.



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

### **UP: New authority to** develop waterways

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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.

ment and results in throat infection, chest discomfort, eve 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

Pti photo

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** 

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 transferred 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



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 tem-peratures, but lately that has not been the case."





# national



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 metaphoric 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

Raja and Praja."

country.

in Hindi.

ever, congratulated the Centre for

the inauguration of the new

Parliament building and said it

should be used in the interest of the

this new building is used in the

interest of the country and its peo-

ple as per the humanitarian

thoughts of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao

Ambedkar and the noble inten-

tion of the sacred Constitution

made by him," she said in a Tweet

Meanwhile, the Jharkhand unit

of Congress, CPI and some tribal

the continuation of age-old cul-

tural traditions of our nation,'

said in a tweet.

"It would be appropriate that



### uote

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 'purohits' who are always engaged in the service of wellbeing 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 hiaher 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-vear-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.

### **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

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')".

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

### A mix of tradition and modernity

New Delhi, May 28: Artworks on display in the new in the absence of the President of India, Vice President of India Parliament building, which was and opposition parties! India = inaugurated by Prime Minister Nation and Citizen; New India = Narendra Modi Sunday, narrate the stories of India's dem-Opposition Bahujan Samaj Party ocratic traditions from the Vedic (BSP) supremo Mayawati, how-

period to the present day. The growth of democracy in the country is depicted through a series of exhibits in the Constitution Hall on the new Parliament building, which itself is inspired by the Sri Yantra, used for worship in the Hindu traditions and considered a source of pure energy.

The Constitution Hall, which has a digitised copy of the Indian Constitution, has a touch of modernity as it also houses a Foucault's Pendulum to demonstrate the rotation of the earth. The Foucault's Pendulum hangs from a large skylight from the triangular roof of the Constitution Hall and signifies the idea of India with that of the

universe The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers boast of a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics, and state-ofthe-art audio-visual systems to ensure effective legislative proceedings.

The building has three ceremonial foyers where huge brass images of Mahatma Gandhi, Chanakya, Gargi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B R Ambedkar, and the Chariot Wheel from the Sun Temple at Konark are on display.

The public entrances lead to three galleries -- the Sangeet Gallery which exhibits dance, song, and musical traditions of India: the Sthapthya Gallery depicts the architectural heritage of the country and the Shilp Gallery showcases distinct handicraft traditions of different states.

The new parliament building is home to nearly 5,000 artworks, including paintings, wall panels, stone sculptures and metal murals.

The interiors of the Lok Sabha chamber are based on the theme of the national bird peacock, while that of the Rajya Sabha depict national flower lotus.



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

Fresh call to ban online pharmacies Satellite launch:

Family Welfare issued the draft

amendment to the Rules, 1945 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

Thereafter, based on the com-

ments/suggestions received,

after due consideration, the

draft rules may be finalised for

the Central government.

organisations staged demonstrations in Ranchi to protest against the Centre for "not inviting' the inauguration of the new President Droupadi Murmu to the inauguration event. BJP leaders and Union ministers, however, hailed PM Modi, saying he has added a new chapter in the democratic history of the country by dedicating a new Parliament to the nation."The installation of the 'Sengol' in the CPI(M) General Secretary new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks



### 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.

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 Raiveer, 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.

#### 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.

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

Raiasthan Chief Minister

A bench of Chief Justice Satish

dency 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

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-

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

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

### Worrying trend

hree 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.

**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 bv 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

he 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

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**

he 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 Keiriwal 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





international



Major launchpad upgrades should be complete in about a month, then another month of rocket testing on pad, then flight 2 of Starship ELON MUSK | SPACEX CEO

### **S KOREAN HELD FOR OPENING PLANE DOOR**

A man who opened an emergency exit door during a flight in South Korea was formally arrested on Sunday and faces up to 10 years in prison on a charge of violating the aviation security law



uote

The care and support workforce is integral to the Australian economy, particularly as demand for aged care and early education services is

on the rise

ANTHONY ALBANESE AUSTRALIA'S PM

I call on relief agencies and donor countries to provide the necessary support to (Sudan's) neighboring

countries in order to continue undertaking this role ABDEL-FATTAH AL-SISI EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT

I hope that OPEC ... will be able to control (market) tensions and bring calm to the oil market EBRAHIM RAISI IRANIAN

PRESIDEN

### SHORT TAKES

### Nepal Prez pardons 501 prisoners

Kathmandu: Nepal President Ramchandra Poudel on Sunday pardoned 501 convicts including Tharuhat leader and Nagarik Unmukti Party chief Resham Chaudharv who is serving life imprisonment. Earlier in the morning, a meeting of the Council of Ministers decided to recommend a presidential pardon for 501 jail inmates. including 19 political prisoners, according to the President's Office. Chaudhary has been serving life imprisonment for brutally killing nine people, including eight policemen, during a riot linked to the Tharuhat movement in the Tikapur area of the Kailali district in 2015.

### **Powerful guake** hits parts of Pak

.....

Islamabad: At least three children were injured in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Sunday after two

# Biden, GOP rush to fix debt ceiling deal



Washington, May 28: With days to spare before a potential firstever government default, President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy Sunday were finalising a deal to raise the nation's debt ceiling while trying to wran-

gle enough Republican and Democratic votes to pass the measure in the coming week. The compromise announced late Saturday includes spending cuts but risks angering some lawmakers as they take a closer look at the concessions McCarthy and Biden were set to

put the finishing touches on the agreement in a midafternoon call once the final legislative text was drafted. Biden told reporters at the White House upon his return from Delaware that he was confident the plan will make it to his desk and that

no sticking points remained. The days ahead will determine whether Washington is again able to narrowly avoid a default on US debt, as it has done many times before, or whether the global econ-

omy enters a potential crisis. A US default could shatter the USD 24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and spark an international financial crisis.

In the United States, analysts say millions of jobs would vanish, borrowing and unemployment rates would jump, and a stock-market plunge could erase trillions of dollars in household wealth. Anxious retirees and others were already making contingency plans for

Security payments due soon.

McCarthy and his negotiators tried to portray the deal as delivering for Republicans though it fell well short of the sweeping spending cuts they sought. Top White House officials were phoning Democratic lawmakers to try and shore up support. Senior administration officials.

including budget director Shalanda Young, National Economic Council Deputy Director Aviva Aron-Dine and John Podesta, the White House's senior adviser on climate, planned a virtual briefing with House Democrats in the afternoon, according to a House Democratic aide. One of Biden's chief negotiators, presidential counselor Steve Ricchetti. was making one-on-one calls to Democrats as the administration

ramped up efforts to sell the deal. McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol on Sunday that the agreement "doesn't get everything everybody wanted," but that was to be expected in a divided government.

The agreement would raise the age for existing work requirements on able-bodied adults, from 49 to 54, without children. Biden was able to secure waivers for veterans and the homeless.

The two sides had also reached for an ambitious overhaul of federal permitting to ease development of energy projects.

put in place changes in the landmark National Environmental Policy Act that will designate "a single lead agency" to develop environmental reviews, in hopes of streamlining the process.

Erdogan claims victory in Prez poll

## **Russia unleashes drone attack on Kyiv**

The pre-dawn attacks came on the last Sunday of May when the capital celebrates Kyiv Day, the anniversary of its official founding 1,541 years ago

### AGENCIES

Kyiv, May 28: Ukraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war, local officials said, as Kyiv prepared to mark the anniversary of its founding Sunday.

At least one person was killed. Russia launched the "most massive attack" on the city overnight Saturday with Iranian-made Shahed drones, said Serhii Popko, a senior Kviv military official.

On Sunday morning, organisation member Volodymyr Golubenko came to pick up his things. He was helped by his son Mykola, who searched for his father's belongings among the rubble and at the same time tried to describe to his father what his office looks like now. "This wall on the right is destroyed and on left also," said Mykola to his father.

Volodymyr Golubenko worked at this place for more than 40 years. He says it is a home for many blind people, because they come here to talk and support each other. "If you don't even have a job, it's difficult to get a job now, because these events (war) have been going on since last year. At least people come

here to chat," said Volodymyr. Like Golubenko, many people in his district heard the sound of Shahed drones for the first time. Among them was 36-year-old Yana who has three boys. The family hid in a corridor all night. 'Something started to explode above us. The children ran here in fear." said Yana. Ukraine's air force said that Saturday night was also record-breaking in terms of Shahed drone attacks across the country

Of the 54 drones launched, 52 were shot down by air defense systems. In the northeastern Kharkiv province, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said a 61-year-old woman and a 60-year-old man were killed in two separate shelling attacks.

Kyiv Day marks the anniversary of the city's official founding. The day is usually celebrated with live concerts, street fairs, exhibitions and fireworks. Scaled-back festivities were planned for this year, the city's 1,541st anniversary.

The timing of the drone attacks was likely not coincidental, Ukrainian officials said. "The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians

The attack lasted more than five hours, with air defense reportedly shooting down more than 40 drones

■ A 41-year-old man was killed and a 35-year-old woman was hospitalised

Air Force said on Telegram that Russia had targeted military and critical infrastructure facilities in the central regions of Ukraine, and the Kviv region in particular



Ukraine's chief presidential aide, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram.

"Today, the enemy decided to congratulate' the people of Kyiv on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles)," Popko also wrote on the messaging app.

Local officials in Russia's southern Krasnodar region said that air defence systems destroyed several drones as they approached the Ilsky oil refinery. Russia's southern Belgorod region, bordering Ukraine, also came under attack from Ukrainian forces on Saturday local officials said

Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported Sunday that a 15-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy were wounded in the shelling. Drone attacks against Russian

border regions have been a regular occurrence since the start of the



invasion in February 2022, with

attacks increasing last month.

Earlier this month, an oil refin-

ery in Krasnodar was attacked by

Ukrainian air defences, bolstered

by sophisticated Western-supplied

systems, have been adept at thwart-

ing Russian air attacks — both

drones and aircraft missiles. Earlier

in May Ukraine prevented an in-

tense Russian air attack on Kyiv

shooting down all missiles aimed

ditionally targeted locations across

Ukraine, included six Russian

Kinzhal aero-ballistic hypersonic

missiles, repeatedly touted by

Russian President Vladimir Putin

as providing a key strategic com-

The bombardment, which ad-

at the capital.

drones on two straight days.

## inaugural flight

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing/Shanghai, May 28: China's first indigenously built passenger aircraft C919 Sunday successfully completed its first commercial flight, marking its official entry into the civil aviation market as part of the country's bid to compete with Western rivals like Boeing and Airbus

The first commercial flight of C919 from the eastern metropolis of Shanghai to Beijing was operated by the state-run China Eastern Airlines. The plane carried 128 passengers on board. The flight time between Shanghai and Beijing was about two hours and twentyfive minutes, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The single-aisle, twin-engined



ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Instead, the agreement would missed checks, with the next Social

LONG OUEUE: Afghan women wait to receive food rations distributed by a humanitarian aid group in Kabul AP/PTI PHOTO

earthquakes joited the region, officials said. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), a powerful 6.0magnitude earthquake jolted several parts of Pakistan at 10.50 am Sunday, sparking panic and forcing residents to flee their homes. The epicentre of the quake was the border region of Afghanistan and Tajikistan and it originated at a depth of 223 km, which considerably reduced its devastating impact.

### 3 killed in shooting at motorcycle rally

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Houston: At least three people were killed and nine wounded at a motorcycle rally in Red River, US state of New Mexico. local media reported. The shooting that took place on Saturday appeared to be gang-related, Mayor of Red River Linda Calhoun told local media outlet KOAT. confirming three fatalities and five injuries, Xinhua news agency reported. The shooting erupted at the 41st Annual **Red River Memorial** Motorcycle Rally, running from May 25 to 29, with "28.000 bikers from all different backgrounds' attending, according to the rally's website

### **Oman's sultan** arrives in Iran

Tehran: Omans ruler arrived Sunday in Tehran for talks with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and other top officials, state television reported. Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said was officially welcomed by Raisi at the capital's Saadabad Palace, state media said. The sultan's visit followed an official invitation by the Iranian president.

Ankara, May 28: Turkiye's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has declared victory in his country's runoff election, extending his rule into a third decade.

In his first comments since the polls closed, Erdogan spoke to supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul

"I thank each member of our nation for entrusting me with the responsibility to govern this country once again for the upcoming five years," he said. He ridiculed his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, for his loss, saying "bye bye bye, Kemal," as supporters booed. "The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said. Preliminary unofficial results

from Turkish news agencies showed incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ahead with 98 per cent of ballot boxes counted in a presidential runoff that will decide whether the country's longtime leader stretches his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.



There was no immediate response to Erdogan's victory speech from his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu

### Addressing supporters, Erdogan said voters had given him the responsibility to rule for the next five years

The state Anadolu news agency showed Erdogan at 52.1 per cent, and his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, at 47.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, the ANKA news agency, close to the opposition, showed the results at 51.9 per cent for Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu at 48.1 per cent. In Istanbul, Erdogan supporters began celebrating even before the final results arrived, waving Turkish or ruling party

flags, and honking car horns. The outcome could have implications far beyond Ankara. Turkive stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it plays a key role in NATO.

Erdogan's government vetoed Sweden's bid to join NATO and purchased Russian missile-defense systems, which prompted the United States to oust Turkiye from a USled fighter-jet project.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, May 28: The United States and Saudi Arabia called on warring sides in Sudan to extend a fragile cease-fire due to expire Monday, as weeks of fighting reached a stalemate in the capital and elsewhere in the African country.

The Sudanese army and a rival paramilitary force, battling for control of Sudan since mid-April, had agreed last week to the weeklong truce, brokered by the US and the Saudis. However, the cease-fire, like others before it, did not stop the fighting in the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

In a joint statement early Sunday, the US and Saudi Arabia called for an extension of the current truce which expires at 9.45 pm Monday. "While imperfect, an extension nonetheless will facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people," the statement said. The statement also urged Sudan's mil-

itary government and the rival Rapid Support Forces to continue negotiations to reach an agreement on extending the cease-fire.

Sudan: US, Saudi Arabia call to

extend 'imperfect' cease-fire

The fighting broke out in mid-April between the military and the powerful RSF. Both military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF leader Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo led the 2021 coup that removed the Western-backed government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. The conflict has killed hundreds of people, wounded thousands and pushed the country to near collapse. It

has forced nearly 1.4 million people out of their homes to safer areas inside Sudan, or to neighbouring nations, according to the UN migration agency.

The US-Saudi statement came two days after Burhan demanded in a letter to the UN secretarygeneral that the UN envoy to his country be removed, The UN chief was "shocked" by the letter, a spokesman said.



aircraft has 164 seats. The plane was greeted with a water salute after touching down at Beijing Capital International Airport at 12:31 pm on Sunday, the report said.

The water salute ceremony is performed as a symbol of respect and honour for the aircraft, its crew, and passengers. The C919 is China's first self-developed trunk jetliner in accordance with international airworthiness standards and owns independent intellectual property rights.

The C919 is developed by the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) and it was granted a type certificate by the Civil Aviation Administration of China last September. With a range of up to 5,555 kilometres, the C919 will take on Airbus and Boeing, the world's major aircraft manufacturers.

### **MILITARY TOP BRASS**

### ROMANCE OVER, NOW IT'S STATE OF WAR **IMRAN VS.**

Khan's political future continues to become darker and difficult as his top party leaders continue to part ways from him, leaving him isolated and confined behind the walls of his Zaman Park residence in Lahore

AGENCIES

Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has had his fair share of love, extended support and unrelenting promotion by the country's powerful military establishment before coming to power in 2018. However, with Khan and his government falling apart after the

establishment shut the door on him, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief is now getting a taste of one of the most bitter outbursts of his counter-assault on the same military might, turning his love affairs into arch rivalry with the country's most powerful institution.

Since May 9, when Khan's arrest from Islamabad was responded Islamabad, May 28: Former Prime by violent, angry and chaotic scene of protests by supporters, party members and leaders of PTI, who expressed their anger by attacking, vandalising and looting military establishments in different parts of the country, the army, under its new chief General Asim Munir, along with the government

have decided to take on Khan. They have also decided to take on his anti-establishment narrative, open accusations against General Munir and other senior serving officers and threats of imposing a civil war in the country, by not only crushing the PTI's political existence, but also to make an example of Khan for all, who may think that challenging and targeting the country's military might, may be an option for future political gains.

The May 9 riots are being taken as Khan and his party's 9/11, which are proving to be the reason that may well see his image of the country's most popular political leader and his party being country's most popular political force, to a failed pressure group, a banned outfit led by a leader with exaggerated over-confidence with a lust for selfpromotion and power.

"The way his top party leadership has left the party and have suc-



cumbed to the pressure of arrests and jails; the future script for Imran Khan seems to have been written. His political graveyard is ready and his party is being buried in it." said Talat Hussain, a senior political analyst.

### Pak govt turns down talks offer

Pakistan's ruling coalition has rejected former prime minister Imran Khan's offer for dialogue, saying that talks were held with politicians, not terrorists, a media report said Sunday. The government also stated that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was now himself seeking a National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), the Express Tribune newspaper reported. The development came as Khan constituted a seven-member team to hold talks with the government - for developing consensus on a date for general elections - amid a massive crackdown on his party.

As far as Khan's relationship or rivalry with the establishment is concerned; his isolation and fast increasing political loneliness, coupled with his constant demand of initiating talks for a workable solution to the persisting crisis, seems to be completely ignored by the military establishment, who do not seem to be ready to give any space to Khan and want to ensure that his anti-military establish-ment politics is crushed, diminished and destroyed for good.







# business



### **MSI FLAGS PRODUCTION LOSS IN Q1**

Maruti Suzuki India expects production loss to continue in the first quarter with some relief anticipated in the July-September period as it continues to grapple with the shortage of electronic components, according to a senior company official. The country's largest carmaker has been facing a shortage of chips for a while which has impacted its supplies to cater to the market demand



Way of Life!



**Economic recession** 

in Germany is likely



We want to expand our footprint in South East Asian countries and other African nations like Egypt and Ghana as part of our focus on growing the export market

C MITHUN CHAND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KAVERI SEED

We had an order after the Cold War and there will be a new order with multiple drivers and a multipolar world. It will not be just Beijing and Washington... Hopefully, it will be an order where cooperation is at the core of it BORGE BRENDE PRESIDENT. WEF

While oil will continue to exist for the next few decades, we are preparing for life after oil in a world looking at transition

VARTIKA SHUKLA CMD, ENGINEERS INDIA LTD

### SHORT TAKES

### Uber partners with GeM portal

New Delhi: Soon personnel from the government ministries, departments, agencies and public sector units will be able to book taxis for official purposes from cab aggregator Uber as the company has partnered with public procurement portal GeM to provide the service. "It will be a kind of corporate service. At present, we have started the service on a pilot basis and gradually it will be available for all the government ministers, departments, agencies and public sector units (PSUs). We are planning to go phase by phase," an official said. The company would provide the service at a fixed price with zero cancellation charges and no surge pricing. Explaining further, the official said that an authorised person in each ministry or department can add riders/officials, who would be allowed to book the service through the Uber app from

### PERFORMING MARKET GLOBALLY BEST INDIAN MARKETS HAVE BEEN ON A ROLL AND ARE JUST SHY OF THEIR ALL-TIME HIGH

IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR RESULTING IN RECORD INFLOWS FROM FPIS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 28: India is the best performing market in May so far with a 2.8 per cent rally in Nifty as against the negative returns in European markets and just 1 per cent return in S&P 500. The performance of other emerging markets also is lacklustre.

Indian markets have been on a roll and are now close to their alltime high which were made on December 1, 2022, on a closing basis and an intra-day basis. These levels were 63,583.07 and 63,284.19 points on BSE Sensex and 18,887.60 points and 18,812.50 points on Nifty. The closing levels Friday, May 26, were at 62,501.69 points and 18,499.35 points, respectively.

The difference on a closing basis is about 1,100 points or 1.73 per cent on BSE Sensex and about 400 points or 2.11 per cent on Nifty. These levels could get breached in the coming week or markets may once again fail to cross the alltime high.

Markets because of various factors like Covid, global inflation and rising interest rates have done literally nothing over the last eight quarters. If we look at the BSE Sensex, it has been moving between 52,500 and 62,500 since March 21 till now. Similar levels on the Nifty are 15,700 and 18,500. The net change compared to June 21 is



There are two major drivers of this rally -one, sustained FPI inflows; two, India's improving macros

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

2,800 points on Nifty and 10,000 points on BSE Sensex.

The latest macro data reveals that the 'twin deficit' problem -stressed banking system and highly leveraged corporate sector- that plagued the Indian economy for long, is behind us. The banking system is in the pink of health with record profits and low NPAs. Corporate sector is deleveraged and so the corporates can now borrow and invest and banks have ad-

equate money to lend. ₹37,316CR; HIGHES1 The revival of capex in IN 6 MONTHS the economy, though nascent now, is set to pick up.

While many believe that the market has become quite complacent, data points otherwise. The India Volatility Index (VIX) has recorded the lowest readings recently as seen from the chart below. Such ultra-low VIX is generally a good indicator of an ensuing bull market, the report said.

### FOREIGN INVESTORS FLOCKING

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pumped Rs 37,316 crore in Indian equities in May so far, primarily due to strong macroeconomic fundamentals and reasonable valuation of stocks. This is the highest investment by

FPIs in the last six months. Before this, they made a net investment of Rs 36.239 crore in equities in November 2022, data available with the depositories showed. According to data from the de-

positories, FPIs invested a net sum of Rs 37,317 crore in Indian equities during May 2-26

This came following a net infusion of Rs 11,630 crore in equities in April and Rs 7,936 crore in March. The March invest-FPIS LIFT NIFTY BY 2.8% IN MAY ment was mainly driven by bulk investment in the Adani Group companies SO FAR by the US-based GQG **FPIs INVEST** Partners.

Moreover, in the first two months this year. FPIs had pulled out over Rs 34,000 crore.

Apart from equities, FPIs have invested Rs 1,432 crore in the debt market so far in May. With the latest inflow, net investment by FPIs in Indian equities reached Rs 22,737 crore in 2023 so far.

In terms of sectors, FPIs have been buyers across sectors, such as automobiles, capital goods, healthcare, oil and gas, and telecom. Moreover, massive buying was witnessed in financial services, particularly banking.

Results season is almost over and FPIs, who were aggressive sellers for the better part of 2022, have turned buvers.

### **Global EV market** penetration at 14%



*China emerges as the* frontrunner once again followed by Europe, US

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 28: The global electric vehicle (EV) market reached 11 million units last year with a penetration rate of 14 per cent, as more countries double down on electrification, connection, autonomous driving and sharing in the total of 14% automobile industry. of all new cars The top three play-

ers worldwide – China's BYD, Tesla **sold were electric in** and Wuling -- occupied 9% in 2021 and 36.11 per cent of the less than 5% market in 2022, according to the IDC.

Driven by improved supply, high oil prices, government subsidies and price-guaranteed promotions by car companies,

China's EV market reached almost 7 million units, with a penetration rate of 31.3 per cent. "Top performers have bigger market share," said Adela Guo, Research Director, Automotive Semiconductor

China was the frontrunner once again, accounting for around 60% of global electric car sales. More than half of the electric cars on roads worldwide are now in China and the country has already exceeded its 2025 target for new energy vehicle sales

We are a much more

is a lot more globalised. If

vou look at the overall tax

collection of taxes is one of

the highest in the world and

rate structure in India,

we are not the richest

economy of the world

to minimise tax evasion.

9.60 lakh crore.

tors." he said.

SURJIT BHALLA | EMINENT ECONOMIST

Bhalla said direct tax is one of

the areas where there is a lot of

bureaucratic involvement and it

should be a lot more streamlined

sion without doing something about

very very high rates of income

taxation. We need to change the

tax structure so that everyone ben-

efits rather than some selected sec-

"You cannot minimise tax eva-

globalised economy in

the world and the world

#### In Europe, the second largest market, electric car sales increased by over 15% in 2022, meaning that more than one in every five cars sold was electric. Electric car sales in the United States - the third largest market - increased 55% in 2022, reaching a sales share of 8%.

Electric car sales are expected to continue strongly through 2023. Over 2.3 million electric cars were sold in the first quarter, about 25% more than in the same period last year. The industry expects to see 14 million in sales by

the end of 2023, representing a 35% yearon-year increase with new purchases accelerating in the sec-SAIC-GM 2022, up from around ond half of this year. As a result, electric cars could account

for 18% of total car sales across the full calendar year.

create a high-tenacity supply chain, automotive companies need to consider changing their original pure outsourcing strategy and more actively arranging upstream core components from a strategic perspective, such as investment, cooperation, self-development to enhance the control and discourse

"The industry transition will be fast as both opportunities and challenges exist. Only by establishing advantage in advance, can the players get ahead of their competitors and win the final victory," Guo said.

in 2020 According to the IDC report, to power of the industrial chain.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 28: Homegrown firm JSW Group is exploring possibilities to acquire coking coal

BoM leads in NPA management in FY23

New Delhi, May 28: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the best bank as far as management of bad loans is concerned with its net non-performing assets (NPAs) falling as low as 0.25 per cent during the financial year ended March 2023.

This is the lowest ratio among all banks having total business above Rs 3 lakh crore and not just public sector banks (PSBs), according to published yearly numbers of banks. The Pune-based state-owned lender was followed by HDFC Bank with net NPA falling to 0.27 per cent and Kotak

Mahindra Bank clinching the third spot with 0.37 per cent of advances.

On the PSB side, BoM was followed by the country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) with net NPAs falling to 0.67 per cent and Bank of Baroda at 0.89 per cent at the end of March 2023.

BoM has provided almost completely for the NPAs and has the highest Provision Coverage Ratio at 98.28 per cent followed by UCO Bank at 94.50 per cent and Indian Bank at 93.82 per cent

With regard to Capital Adequacy Ratio, BoM has the highest CAR of 18.14 per cent among PSBs followed by Punjab & Sind Bank at 17.10 per cent and Canara Bank at 16.68 per cent as on March 31, 2023.

In terms of loan growth, BoM retained the top spot among the scheduled commercial banks by recording a 29.49 per cent increase.

With regards to deposits growth rate, HDFC Bank was at the first spot with 20.80 per cent, followed by Federal Bank with 17 per cent rise and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) with 16.49 per cent rise. However, in terms of low-cost Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) deposits BoM topped the chart with 53.38 per cent followed by IDBI Bank with 53.02 per cent and

Research, IDC Asia Pacific.

KMB at 52.83 per cent. 'Reduce direct tax to 25% from 40%' Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms



### JSW looks to acquire coking coal mines in offshore markets







their mobiles. It will be a cashless/cardless ride of the officials; additional vehicle categories for government riders have been added -- GeM Yatraa Hatch, GeM Yatraa Sedan; and there will be hourly rental for multiple-stops.

### PFC net profit rises 42% in Q4

New Delhi: State-owned nonbank lender Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has posted a 42.66 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 6,128.63 crore during March FY23 quarter, helped by higher income. It had clocked Rs 4,295.90 crore net profit from "continuing and discontinued operations" in January-March quarter of preceding financial year (FY) 2021-22, the company said Saturday. Total income increased to Rs 20,074.11 crore from Rs 18,873.55 crore in the year-ago quarter, registering a year-on-year rise of 6 per cent.

mines in offshore markets, industry sources said.

The steel-to-infrastructure group is exploring the mineral assets in countries like Australia and Mozambique etc, they said.

sibilities to acquire coking coal mines in offshore markets like Mozambique, Australia etc for captive purposes," sources said. Captive coking coal mines will

help group company JSW Steel reduce its cost of production for manufacturing steel, they explained.

JSW Steel is into manufacturing steel through the blast furnace route, a process which requires coking coal as a key raw material.

Due to the unavailability of coking coal, India remains dependent on imports to meet 85 per cent of its coking coal needs from far-located countries like Australia, South Africa, Canada and the US.

Specifically, JSW Steel meets 60 per cent of its coking coal requirement via imports. JSW Steel is among India's top six steel manufacturing companies.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA "JSW Group is exploring pos-New Delhi, May 28: While India

is not the richest country in the world, the tax collection here is one of the highest and the income tax rate should be reduced to 25 per cent from around 40 per cent at present, eminent economist Surjit Bhalla said.

While speaking to PTI, Bhalla said reduction in tax rate is required to accelerate the pace of economic growth.

"We are a much more globalised economy in the world and the world is a lot more globalised. If you look at the overall tax rate structure in India, collection of taxes is one of the highest in the world and we are not the richest economy of the world," Bhalla said.

He said that tax collection by state, Centre and local bodies is around 19 per cent of India's GDP. We should move towards re-



TAX COLLECTION BY STATE, CENTRE AND LOCAL BODIES IS AROUND 19% OF INDIA'S GDP

ducing it by 2 percentage points. As far as direct taxes are concerned, I think the overall tax rate should not be more than 25 per cent. Right now it is close to 40 with surcharges etc. 25 per cent, which is our corporate tax rate, that's what our income tax rate should be," Bhalla said.

Currently, the highest income tax rate in India stands at 39 per cent. The Budget 2023-24 had lowered India's highest rate of income tax from 42.74 per cent, by reduc-

LAST FISCAL ing the surcharge applicable on

20% DURING

high net-worth individuals. Bhalla said that taxes need to come down for all and not just benefit a select section of the society.

India's gross direct tax collection during the last fiscal ended March 2023 grew over 20 per cent to Rs 19.68 lakh crore.

This includes gross corporate tax collection growth of 16.91 per cent at over Rs 10.04 lakh crore. Gross personal I-T collection jumped 24.23 per cent to over Rs

most valued firms jumps ₹1.51L-cr

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 28: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-ten most valued firms jumped Rs 1,51,140.39 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers.

While Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India and Bharti Airtel made gains in their market valuation, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and HDFC faced erosion.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 772.01 points or 1.25 per cent.

Reliance Industries added Rs 43,131.02 crore to take its valuation to Rs 16,95,833.65 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS jumped Rs 39,243.32 crore to Rs Rs 12,18,098.20 crore.

ITC's mcap rallied Rs 29,578.69 crore to Rs 5,51,431.15 crore and that of Infosys climbed Rs 20,171.09 crore to Rs 5,46,662.99 crore.

The valuation of State Bank of India zoomed Rs 9,638.58 crore to Rs 5.22.848.39 crore and that of Bharti Airtel advanced Rs 6,981.11 crore to Rs 4,56,031.45 crore.

Hindustan Unilever added Rs 2,396.58 crore to Rs 6,23,017.62 crore in its mcap.

However, HDFC Bank's valuation tumbled Rs 17,825.74 crore to Rs 9,02,742.36 crore.

The mcap of HDFC tanked Rs 11,382.46 crore to Rs 4,88,466.16 crore and that of ICICI Bank declined by Rs 2,642.52 crore to Rs 🔫 6,64,553.58 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued company followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

90% of retail digital payments by 2027 to be UPI: PwC India

UPI on track to record 1 billion transactions per day by FY2026-2027

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 28: Growing at a steady pace, UPI transactions are likely to reach 1 billion per day by 2026-27, accounting for 90 per cent of the retail digital payments in the country, said a PwC India report. Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which is driving the digital payments revolution, accounted for about 75 per cent of the total transaction volume in the retail segment during 2022-23, said the PwC report titled "The Indian Payments Handbook - 2022-27"



UPI is projected to account for 90 market saw steady growth at a per cent of the total transaction vol-CAGR of 50 per cent (volume-wise) ume in retail digital payments over and is expected to reach 411 bilthe next five years, the report said. lion transactions in FY 2026-27 from 103 billion in FY 2022-23, the The Indian digital payments

In the next five years, the payments industry is expected to focus on ecosystem expansion and new use cases for existing payment platforms. Areas like embedded and

ecosystem finance, digital lending based on payment transactions and offline payments will drive the next phase of growth for the payments industry. In the ever-evolving Indian payments landscape, innovation and inclusion are paving the way for a seamless digital economy

MIHIR GANDHI | PARTNER AND PAYMENTS TRANSFORMATION LEADER, PWC INDIA

report said.

"It is estimated that UPI will record 1 billion transactions per day by FY2026-2027, going from 83.71 billion transactions in 2022-23 to 379 billion transactions by 2026-27," it added.

It further said the credit card segment continues to grow at a healthy rate, as card (both debit

and credit) payment is one of the most used instruments for retail digital payments after UPI. The volume of transactions in credit cards is expected to surpass debit cards by FY 2024-2025

While credit card issuance is expected to grow at a healthy CAGR of 21 per cent in the next five years, debit card issuance is expected to

have a stagnant growth with a CAGR of 3 per cent in the same period, the report said.

'The decline in debit card usage is because the major use case of debit card transactions is cash withdrawal, which can now be replaced by an easier way of withdrawing cash using UPI," it added.

The PwC report further said revenue through the credit card business accounts for nearly 76 per cent of the overall cards' revenue in 2022-2023, making it a lucrative business segment for banks, NBFCs and FinTech.

The revenue for credit card issuance increased by 42 per cent in 2022–2023 compared to 2021–2022 and is likely to grow by a CAGR of 33 per cent for the next five years, it added.





### **OríssaPOST** MONDAY | MAY 29 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# Odisha juniors go down tamely to Uttar Pradesh in summit clash

# **Prannoy ends 6-yr title drought**

Indian shuttler triumphs at Malayasia Masters beating Chinese adversary after tough fight

### AGENCIES

Kuala Lumpur, May 28: Indian shuttler HS Prannov ended a sixyear-long title drought with a three-game win over China's Weng Hong Yang in a thrilling men's singles final at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here Sunday. The 30-yearold Indian showed great composure and resolve during a 94-minute battle to notch a 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 victory against China's World No. 34 Weng Hong Yang, a 2022 Asian Championships bronze medallist.

The win helped Prannoy him to claim his maiden BWF World Tour title and also the first singles crown of the year for India. Prannov was instrumental in India's epic Thomas Cup victory last year but an individual title has eluded him since the 2017 US Open Grand Prix Gold.

Prannoy has battled a series of injuries and health issues before turning his career around in the back end of 2021. In the last two years, he has been the most consistent Indian player in the circuit and yet he was not being able to win a title.

This week however, Prannoy gave ample display of his physical and mental fortitude as he outfoxed his opponents - World No. 5 Chou Tien Chen. All England

### SHORT TAKES

### Eves confident of good show in Japan

Bangalore: The Indian women's hockey team left for the Junior Asia Cup 2023 from here Sunday morning. The Junior Asia Cup, which is a qualifying event for the FIH Junior World Cup, will start June 2 in Kakamigahara, Japan. India are in Group A with the other teams being Korea, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan. The Indian eves begin their campaign June 3 against Uzbekistan. Their other matches will be against Malaysia (June 5), Korea (June 6) and Chinese Taipei (June 8). "We are very confident. We have a good, experienced team and have worked hard over the past few months. The team are quite excited and eager to do the best in Japan," said captain Preeti.





HS Prannoy poses with his winner's cheque and trophy after his victory Sunday

I think there are too many emotions at this time and I didn't expect that it (title) would happen after six years

champion Li Shi Feng and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto - all in three games.

The first game was a close affair with the lead changing hands frequently. The Indian used his angled returns to create chances and his economical court mobility helped him to keep pace with his quick lefthanded opponent. Prannoy went into the break leading 11-10. Soon the score read 16-16. However, an aggressive Prannoy brought up two game points with some telling smashes. He missed the first one, but closed the game as Weng netted a back-hand return.

In the second game, Weng, taking advantage of Prannoy's mistakes lead 16-10 at one stage and he closed it out without much ado.

The third game was a repetition for the first with leads changing hands frequently. At the break, Weng was ahead 11-10, but on resumption Prannoy led 16-13. Then from 18-all he reeled off three points in a row to win the title.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz (Jr) glided

sideways into the barriers and

was lucky not to damage his

Ferrari. Kevin Magnussen lost

control of his Haas and Lance

Stroll retired after damaging his

Red Bull had wisely put

Verstappen on the versatile and

more suited to the wet conditions

intermediates on Lap 56 and they

carried him to his second win in

Lewis Hamilton finished fourth

for Mercedes and picked up a point

for fastest lap. His teammate

George Russell was fifth, having

earlier almost slammed into Sergio

Perez's Red Bull as visibility wors-

ened. A serious crash was some-

how avoided in a hectic few min-

utes before the rain eased off.

Monaco. The first was in 2021.

slid around

Aston Martin.



An Odisha player tries to dribble his way past Uttar Pradesh defenders during the final played Sunday

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 28: Favourites Uttar Pradesh Hockey won the 13th Hockey India Sub-Junior Men's national championships Sunday defeating Hockey Odisha 7-1 in the final played at the iconic Birsa Munda Stadium here. In another match played on the day Hockey Haryana beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh 4-2 finish third

Uttar Pradesh were expected to win the title as they had players of better quality. However, local supporters were hoping that the Odisha colts will be able to provide tough challenge to Uttar Pradesh. Fans had gathered in large numbers to inspire the hosts. However, the moment the game started, UP players asserted their dominance in no uncertain terms. However, the Odisha players must be praised for at least making it to the title round. Ujjwal Pal (sixth, 38th and 47th)

converted three penalty corners for Uttar Pradesh while registering a hat-trick. The other goals for UP were scored by Rahul Yadav (30th), Ketan Kushwaha (39th), Rahul Rajhbar (52nd), and skipper Ajit Yadav (54th). Deonath Nanwar (57th) scored a consolation goal for Odisha.

In the first session, the Odisha juniors put up some semblance of a fight. After conceding an early goal, the hosts took the fight to the opposition. They created a few opportunities also, but ran out of

ideas inside the Uttar Pradesh 'D'. Had Odisha utilised even one of the chances that came in the first session, it could have been a different story to tell. Conceding a goal just before half time destroyed all aspirations that Odisha had. Once the game started in the second session, it was UP all the way as they pumped in five goals.

OP PHOTO

The third-fourth place match saw Hockey Haryana claim a 4-2 comeback win over Hockey Madhya Pradesh. Tushar Parmar (14th) and Subhan Abid (22nd) scored to give Madhva Pradesh a comfortable lead, but Harvana fought back with goals from Sunil (29th, 51th), Happy (37th), and Neeraj (58th) to secure victory for Harvana.

### Sabalenka eases Verstappen rules Monaco GP into second round

AGENCIES

Paris, May 28: Second seed Aryna Sabalenka started off her French Open campaign in style with an easy 6-3, 6-2 win over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk at the Roland Garros here Sunday. The match was marred by a bit of controversy as Kostyuk did not go for the customary handshake after the game as Sabalenka is from Belarus, a country which supports Russia in the battle against Ukraine. However, Sabalenka brushed it aside stating, "I can't help it if some people hate me. It is up to them." Sabalenka also went on to add that she has never been a supporter of war.

In the men's sections fifth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas overcame a third set meltdown to beat doubles veteran Jiri 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7). Tsitsipas said after the match that he certainly 'did not expect such a tough opening'

### Rain forces shifting of IPL final to reserve day

### AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, May 28: The final of the Indian Premier League 2023 was Sunday moved to the reserved day after relentless rains delayed the toss and subsequently the start of the summit showdown here. The announcement was made at 10:55pm local time. The title clash between Gujarat Titans (GT) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK), thus, will be played here Monday at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

With the weather forecast not being too promising for the final Sunday, it only kept getting worse for the fans who had turned up to pack the house. It began raining here in the evening half-an-hour before the toss time – around 6.30pm local time and did not stop for more than three hours.

The rain, however, did stop after his best effort. 9.00 pm local time and the covers were taken off, with two super soppers already in action from around 8.30pm. However, heavy spell of rain returned to force the ground staff to cover the field again and the title. players off the pitch, who had started warming up. There are no such predictions of rain here Monday, which means that there is possibility of a full game. It will make fans happy. As per rules, if the IPL final is

Rayudu **retires** – Ahmedabad: Former India ODI

specialist and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) regular Ambati Rayudu announced Sunday that the IPL final against Gujarat Titans (GT) will be his last game in cashrich league. In a tweet, the 38year-old Hyderabadi said that his decision is final after scoring 139 runs in 15 games. "It's been quite a journey. I have decided that tonight's final is going to be my last game in the IPL. I truly have enjoyed playing this great tournament. Thank u all. No u-turn (sic)," Rayudu tweeted. Before the final, Rayudu played 203 IPL games for Mumbai Indians and CSK, scoring 4,329 runs at a strikerate of 127 with 22 half centuries and a single century. The 602 runs in the 2018 season for CSK was

### own world record

Los Angeles: Olympic and World shot put champion Ryan Crouser produced a sensational performance to obliterate his own world record at the Los Angeles Grand Prix here Saturday. The 30-year-old American star heaved a mammoth 23,56m throw at Drake Stadium to smash his previous world mark of 23.37m set at the US Olympic trials in Eugene in 2021. Crouser incidentally is the 2016 and 2020 Olympic gold medallist and reigning world champion.

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

his triumph Sunday at Monaco

champion Max Verstappen's lights-

to-flag victory win at the Monaco

Grand Prix (GP) gave the Red Bull

driver his fourth victory of the

in six races, while Frenchman Esteban Ocon secured third place Monaco, May 28: Formula One (F1)

Max Verstappen (with cap) celebrates with the Red Bull team members after

and a rare podium for Alpine. For most of the race, Verstappen coasted on a dry and narrow track where overtaking is the hardest in F1. But an incident-free race in Monaco is rare and heavy rains played havoc with about 20 of the 78 laps left. Some drivers had pitted for the wrong medium tires shortly before the downpour and

PHOTO TWITTER

4TH VICTORY OF THE SEASON FOR THE DUTCHMAN IN SIX RACES

Perez, who won the race last vear. started from last after a clumsy crash in qualifying and finished 16th.

Verstappen's 39 F1 wins have all been with Red Bull since his first on debut for the team at the Spanish GP in 2016 when he became the youngest F1 winner at 18 years old. He set a team record for wins as he passed former Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel's previous tally of 38 victories for the team when he won four straight titles from 2010-13.

The match of the day however, was between Karen Kachanov against Constant Lestienne. The latter seemed on course for the first upset of the tournament as he won the first two sets against the 11th seed. However, Kachanov came back strongly in the match and won 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3. It seemed that after the second set, Lestienne had run out of breath as he made many unforced errors.

also affected on the reserved day by weather conditions or is washed out, the team that ended at the first position after the league round win

Defending champions Gujarat Titans had topped the points table after the 70-match league round. They won 10 out of their 14 matches to finish on 20 points. CSK, on the other hand, were second in the table with 17 points.

### India, Pak play out thrilling 1-1 draw

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Salalah (Oman), May 28: India played out a thrilling 1-1 draw against arch rivals Pakistan in their third Pool A game to continue their unbeaten run in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here. Sharda Nand Tiwari (24th minute) gave India the lead in the high-stake match late Saturday night but it was nullified by Basharat Ali in the 44th minute.

The result means India, with seven points from three matches, stay second in Pool A behind Pakistan (same points) but are ahead on goal difference. Japan, who beat Chinese Taipei 10-1 earlier Saturday, are third with six points from three outings. India had earlier thrashed Chinese Taipei 18-0 before beating Japan 3-1 in their second match.

India won a couple of penalty corners early in the game but couldn't capitalise on them. Pakistan, on the other hand, also managed to create a few chances. However, goalkeeper Amandeep Lakra was rock solid under the bar and made a 🔫 number of good saves.

India broke the deadlock in the second quarter when Nand brilliantly converted a penalty corner to give his team the muchneeded lead. India also had a coupleof chances in the quarter, but failed to increase their lead.

### Jaiswal named stand-by

London: The ICC has confirmed the 15-member squads and reserve players for both India and Australia ahead of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023 final to be played at the Oval June 7-11. For India, uncapped in-form left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has been included as a stand-by player alongside middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav and rightarm pacer Mukesh Kumar. Jaiswal, who amassed 625 runs in 14 innings of IPL 2023 for Rajasthan Royals, including a century and five 50s, replaces Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is reportedly getting married in the initial days of June.

### Brazil top group

Buenos Aires: Brazil scored two goals late in the first half to beat Nigeria 2-0 and finish top of Group D at the Under-20 football World Cup. Italy also reached the last 16 of the tournament in Argentina with a 3-0 victory against the Dominican Republic, to finish second in the group ahead of Nigeria. However, Nigeria will also advance as one of the four best third-place teams. AGENCIES

3

season and extended his championship lead here Sunday. Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso was a season's best second for Aston Martin as he collected a fifth podium

### Upcoming tourneys, a **CONTRASTING FORTUNES** scope to learn: Chhetri FOR MESSI, RONALD

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 28: Indian men's team football captain Sunil Chhetri has said that playing against Lebanon and Kuwait in the upcoming tournaments will give the side an understanding of where they stand and what needs to be improved.

The preparations are in full swing in the Blue Tigers; camp, as the senior men's national team get ready for back-to-back tournaments – the Intercontinental Cup (June 9-18, Bhubaneswar) and the SAFF Championships (June 21-July 4). The competition in both tournaments is set to be tough, with quality teams participating.

India (101 in FIFA rankings) will take on the likes of Mongolia (183), Vanuatu (164) and Lebanon (99) in the Intercontinental Cup. while they will face Kuwait (143), Nepal (174), and Pakistan (195) in Group A of the SAFF Championship.

For India skipper, playing such teams in the year leading up to the AFC Asian Cup 2023, which is set to take place in Qatar next January, will help the team gauge themselves.

'Lebanon and Kuwait will give us an understanding of where we stand, especially as we have to play teams like Syria in the Asian Cup.

We need to identify our deficiencies as in the Asian Cup we will play against some very tough teams like Syria

Uzbekistan could be a level higher. Syria are also a top team. They have improved a lot. They are a top side, and obviously, we all know that Australia are one of the best in Asia," Chhetri pointed out in an interview released by the AIFF.

"The more games we get to play against better opponents, the better it will be for us. We just need to make sure that we manage it well against these opponents. It's important to improve as a team and individually as well. What we do in the camp is really important, we must make sure that we are in a position to put our best foot forward once the Asian Cup is here," Chhetri added.

The Indian captain also pointed out that India should depend on home-grown players. "You can always bring footballers of Indianorigin from abroad, but that won't help as you will not have the supply line. So it is better to develop players at home despite setbacks, Chhetri added.



target as his team Al-Nassr team was beaten to the league championship title by Al-Ittihad.

PSG played a 1-1 draw at Strasbourg. Even though Messi's opener was cancelled out by a Kevin Gameiro equaliser, the result gave PSG an unassailable four-point lead over second-placed Lens with

one match of the season remaining. PSG moved ahead of the previous record of 10 titles set by Saint-Etienne in 1981 that they equalled a year ago under former coach Mauricio Pochettino. It is PSG's ninth title in the last 11 seasons, a period in which they have dominated French football under Qatari ownership.

"This afternoon I watched the last day of the season in the Bundesliga and you can see that it is very difficult to win the league, any league," PSG coach Christophe Galtier told broadcaster 'Canal Plus'. "It is a title and we must not believe it is normal to win, even if we are Paris Saint-Germain," he added.

At Dammam in Saudi Arabia, Ronaldo failed to score as Al-Nassr were held to a 1-1 draw with Ettifaq. On the other hand, their main rivals Al-Ittihad defeated Al-Feiha 3-0 and established an unassailable five-point lead in the league with one game remaining.

Ronaldo arrived in Riyadh in January after being released from his contract by Manchester United. However, he had to settle for second place. Ronaldo scored 14 goals in 16 league games since making his debut in January, but it was not enough to guide his club to the title.

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Paris, May 28: Saturday was a

day of contrasting fortunes for ri-

vals Lionel Messi and Cristiano

Ronaldo. While Messi scored and

helped Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)

clinch a French record 11th Ligue

1 title here, Ronaldo failed to hit the

AGENCIES



