

Seva, Sushasan
Garib Kalyan
Years



9 years: Building New India, Ensuring Welfare of the Poor

Serving the poor, Honouring the marginalised

- 80 crore people getting free food grains
- Over 3 crore families receive pucca houses under PM Awas Yojana
- 11.72 crore toilets built under Swachh Bharat, ensures dignified life
- 12 crore households get tap water connections



Affordable, Accessible and Quality Healthcare for All

- Number of AIIMS increased from 8 to 23 in last 9 years
- 50 crore people covered under Ayushman Bharat for free treatment of ₹ 5 lakh annually
- Quality medicine available 50 to 90% cheaper at Jan Aushadhi Kendras, saving of ₹ 20,000 crore of needy



Naari Shakti-Driving Nation's Progress



- Smoke free kitchen for women, 9.6 crore LPG connections under Ujjwala Yojana
- Respect for women ensured, Permanent commission in Armed forces
- Over 27 crore MUDRA loans to women beneficiaries
- Paid maternity leave increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks

Fulfilling aspirations of Yuva Shakti

- One College in every two days and one University every week established
- No. of Medical Colleges increased from 387 to 693 in last 9 years
- 7 new IIMs and 7 new IITs established in last 9 years
- 1.37 crore youth trained under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- India becomes third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, more than 97,000 start-ups in the country, over 100 Unicorns



Ensuring Farmers' Welfare



- More than 11 crore beneficiaries receive ₹6,000 every year under PM KISAN
- Nearly 6-fold rise in agriculture budget in 9 years
- Over Rs. 1.33 lakh crore settled in claims under PM Fasal Bima Yojana
- Neem coated Urea, Soil Health Cards, PM Sinchai Yojana, e-NAM making life easy for farmers

New age Infrastructure for New India



- 18 semi high-speed Vande Bharat trains operational
- Number of airports doubled from 74 to 148 in 9 years
- Metro rail network expanded from 5 to 20 cities
- Speed of construction of National Highways doubled, more than 53,000 kilometers of highways built
- Over 3.53 lakh KMs of rural roads constructed in last 9 years

India's rising stature in the world

- Total exports cross \$750 billion
- India provides new impetus to solve global issues through its G-20 Presidency
- Extended help to more than 100 countries during COVID pandemic through Vaccine Maitri
- Initiatives including International Yoga Day, International Solar Alliance, Mission LiFE and International Year of Millets underline India's leading role on the global stage



Virasat aur Vikas



- Magnificent Shri Ram Temple being constructed in Ayodhya
- Honouring the faith of the people through reconstruction of cultural & spiritual heritage sites
- More than 230 stolen artefacts brought back to India
- Shedding the colonial mindset, the country is marching towards a developed India

“Today, a New India is setting new goals and forging new paths. There is a new enthusiasm and a new zeal. There is a new journey and a new perspective. The direction is new and the vision is new. The resolve is new, the confidence is new.” Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



For more information
visit NaMo App or scan the QR code

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

A plain Jane day. Work goes on as usual, and there is progress. But as Ganesha says, it's an ordinary day. Hum, whistle, doodle, and sip your green tea. While day dreaming, start planning your dream home. After all, that's where the first plan takes shape.

TAURUS

Luck is a four-leaf clover in your pocket. You might get the long desired success in education related matters today — a favourable result of a competitive examination, maybe. You will proudly smile at your power of resilience and sense of proportion, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

The day will be dedicated to spending quality time with children, predicts Ganesha. You will be overloaded with household responsibilities and will find it tough to deal with them. However, you will manage to do well and will be satisfied with the outcome. Avoid getting too sentimental if you are a parent; also, you may have to act tough with your kids, suggests Ganesha.

CANCER

Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesha needs to do to predict your day is take a peek into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan. You are likely to keep your views to yourself, and will hardly betray what's on your mind.

LEO

Most battles are fought and won inside our head. Hence, Ganesha urges you to maintain a positive outlook today. The stars grant you the ability to double your efforts, and allow your imagination to take flight and chart new routes to success. This should curb your frustration of the last few days.

VIRGO

A day to look inside and contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesha. Clam up like those oysters and discover the pearl within you. A fine helping hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

Ganesha has a feeling that today may not be the best day to undertake any government dealings. Call it red-tapism, or bureaucratic procrastination, but it is highly unlikely that such tasks shall be fruitful today. This may test your patience, and in doing so, bring out your competency and efficiency to the fore, especially if you happen to be a public servant. Touché!

SCORPIO

It is about time you learn to deal with frustration in a more healthy manner. The right choice is always the hardest to make. Do not let sentiments sway you into hasty choices because they may feel right, but might also be extremely impractical.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, arranging meetings with customers and suppliers will eat into most of your time. Your patience will enable you to listen to suggestions and opinions offered by people. The result of all this, however, is slated to be most favourable and productive.

CAPRICORN

You have always been generous by nature, but your benevolent attitude will do you no good, warns Ganesha. People will try, almost blatantly, to take advantage of you, and for once, you will feel that being crafty and unrelenting would have helped kept those blood-sucking leeches at bay. But as the day progresses, you will thank the Almighty for all the precious things he made you the guardian of.

AQUARIUS

Today, you work hard and party harder! The morning sees you sweating it out at work, as you do your best to implement your plans. In the evening, you will don your best attire and get ready to have a gala time with your beloved. Ganesha says, you receive as much as you give.

PISCES

You set impeccable standards for yourself, but what keeps your subordinates from grumbling about it is the efforts you make to help them achieve perfection in their endeavours, says Ganesha. You inspire, they aspire.



LEONA NEEDED COUNSELLING AFTER BECOMING A MOTHER

British singer and actress Leona Lewis had to have counselling in the early days of motherhood because she was losing sleep. She told *The Sun* newspaper's Fabulous magazine: "I was so drained, so tired and then I'd have these anxious thoughts that kept me up, so I wasn't ever able to rest."

TAYLOR SWIFT, MATTY HEALY ARE MOVING IN TOGETHER

Taylor Swift and *The 1975* frontman Matty Healy are moving in together after dating for just a few weeks, according to reports. Revealing the news *The Sun* said: "He and Taylor are so loved up and want to spend as much time together as they can."



'Dance doesn't get its due at award shows'

Mumbai: Actor Nora Fatehi admits she wants to see more layered stories coming from the dance world onto the screen.

Be it at award shows, music concerts, paid gigs and even in movies, dance continues to be the backbone of the entertainment industry. However, actor-dancer Nora Fatehi feels it still

doesn't get its due appreciation.

Referring to recent award shows, she rues the absence of any categories for 'Best Performer in a Song' despite dance performances playing an integral part in the success of films. "Some of our icons have reached that stature because of their dance styles, but they were never awarded for their iconic dances that made Bollywood what it is today. I hope that changes one day," she asserts.

She wraps up the conversation by saying, "Ever since Bollywood came into existence, dance has shaped the identity of the industry. Dance is what sets Bollywood apart from other film industries. Over the decades, we have seen a variety of dance styles on the big screen, and of late, we have seen more diversity in dance styles and music, which I find really cool. Let's see that at award shows as well."

AGENCIES

Abhipreta Kala nominated for BoB Rashtrabhasha Samman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The Bank of Baroda, a public sector bank, announced Monday the list of 12 nominations for the first edition of the Bank of Baroda Rashtrabhasha Samman Awards 2023.

Eminent author Paramita Satpathy's Odia novel *Abhipreta Kala*, translated to Hindi by Ajoy Kumar Patnaik, is part of the list drawn up for the honour. The award aims to recognise and promote literary works in various Indian languages and make the best Indian literature available to Hindi readers through translations.

The award will be presented to both the original author and the translator of the book. The two will receive ₹21.00 lakh and ₹15.00 lakh, respectively. The authors and the Hindi translators of the next five shortlisted books will also receive ₹3.00 lakh and ₹2.00 lakh each respectively.

Abhipreta Kala tells the story of the contributions of those known and unknown people who empowered India's freedom struggle in their own way. Speaking on the occasion, Debadatta



Chand, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "This award will provide a major boost to Indian language literature and seeks to give national recognition to regional language novels. The Award underlines the importance of India's cultural and literary diversity and will further enrich the languages of our country."

The five-member awards jury is chaired by renowned author and

Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree. The other members are poet Arun Kamal, academican Pushpesh Pant, poet and novelist Anamika, and Hindi fiction writer and translator Prabhat Ranjan. The name of the winner will be announced June 11, 2023, in Delhi.

Here's why Amitabh called himself an 'idiot'

Mumbai: Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan Sunday penned a short blog, apologising to his fans for an error he had made in a previous post.

"My apologies .. and my gratitude to the most efficient Ef for pointing it out to me .. the "the answer my friends is blowing in the wind ..." is NOT the Beatles .. its Bob Dylan .. yes of course .. such an idiot I am .. so do excuse the error .. shall correct it immediately .. till then my love," Big B had shared on his blog.

In his previous blog post Saturday, the *Sholay* actor wrote, "There are moments

in life when you give .. give because you wish to .. Do I do wrong .. do I announce .. do I make that public .. do I seek aggrandisement from the others or the moral social attribute givers of the Universe .. ?"

The answer my friend is written in the Wind .. the answer is written in the Wind ~ the Beatles (he struck off the two words) an atrocious error .. ~ its BOB DYLAN !!!!!

The veteran actor has been busy shooting for Section 84 in the city and took time off from the sets to greet his fans Sunday at the gates of his Juhu bungalow Jalsa.

IAN5



Sambhabana juggles shoots with studies

New Delhi: Odisha-born actress Sambhabana Mohanty is one of the few actors from the state who has carved a space at the national level.

The Pyaar Ka Pehla Naam Radha Mohan actor has given her career trajectory a dramatic non-entertainment industry twist by pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology while juggling her studies with a busy TV career.

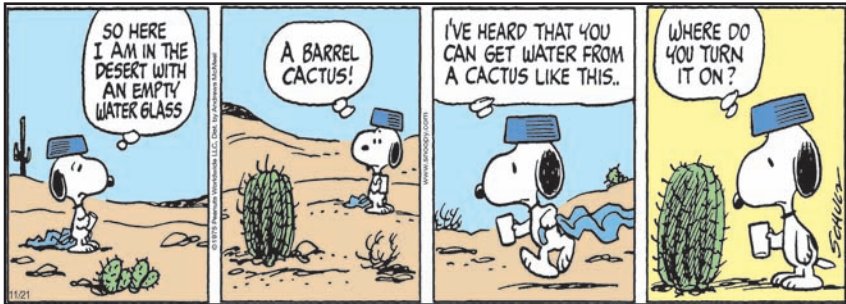
Sambhabana says: "My mother is an actress from the Odia film industry, my father is a music album director, but I still am inclined towards studies. After my graduation, I worked in a few Hindi and Odia television serials and then decided to pursue my studies and enroll myself for a Ph.D. in Sociology at Sambalpur University in Odisha."

Talking about her life's twists, Sambhabana said: "Clearly, life had a different plan for me. Soon after signing up for the course, I got the offer to play Damini in the show, and without giving it a second thought, I took it up."

Undoubtedly, it's a lot of work. "It is not easy to juggle between the studies and shoots. I really have to take out time from the busy shoot schedule, but the professors and my production team are very supportive. So, I am able to manage both things, and I hope I clear my exams with flying colours," adds the actress.

IAN5

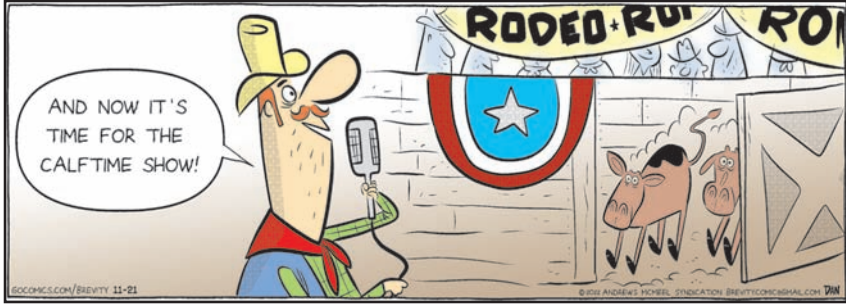
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

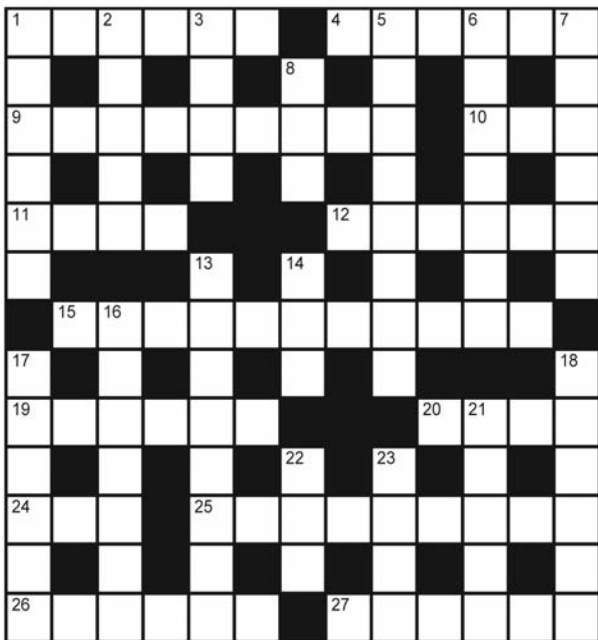


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Steal
- 4 Heartache
- 9 Asian cuisine
- 10 Bottom line
- 11 Decorative pitcher
- 12 Injury
- 15 Book store buys (4,7)
- 19 Hypothesis
- 20 Dog biter
- 24 Genteel affair

Down

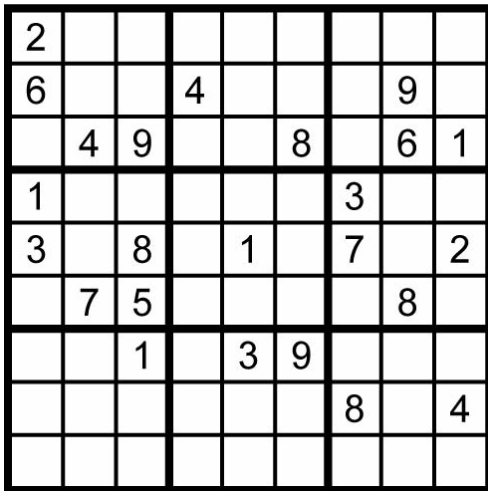
- 25 Wing it
- 26 Like some tunes
- 27 Vinegar dispensers
- 1 Champagne holder
- 2 Wash cycle
- 3 Aerial maneuver
- 5 Veto

Across

- 6 Saviour
- 7 Australian marsupial
- 8 Spell
- 13 Marine invertebrate
- 14 Quagmire
- 16 Deluxe
- 17 Radio noise
- 18 Waffles
- 21 River of Orléans
- 22 Pertinent
- 23 Drop anchor

SUDOKU

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

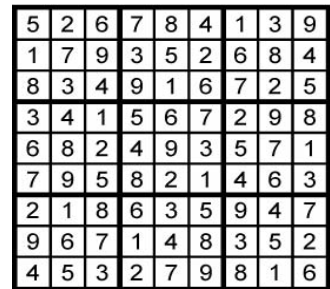


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ROOTING FOR DANCE

Actor-dancer Nora Fatehi rues the absence of any category for dance in major award shows of Hindi films

LEISURE



NEPAL HONOURS CLIMBERS

Nepal honours Sherpa guides to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest by Hillary and Norgay

INTERNATIONAL

P8



STEPHENS ADVANCES

Sloane Stephens kicks off her French Open campaign with a 6-0, 6-4 win over 2-time major finalist Karolina

SPORTS

BACK PAGE

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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY MAY 30 | 2023

P1

Cabinet nod to 'Mo Ghara', 17 more proposals

The ruling BJD, which completed four years of its fifth term in office, had promised to convert all 'kutcha' houses into 'pucca' ones in this term

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: To woo voters ahead of 2024 elections, the state government Monday announced a new rural housing scheme 'Mo Ghara'. Approximately 4 lakh people will be covered under the new scheme for which the government will bear ₹2,150 crore in two years.

On the occasion of completion of the fourth year of the fifth term of his government, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday chaired the state Cabinet meeting, in which 18 important proposals including 'Mo Ghara' housing scheme were approved.

State Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said the Cabinet has approved the new housing scheme called 'Mo Ghara' (my home) to provide financial assistance to meet the aspirations of the lower and lower middle-income households of rural Odisha.

The scheme will cover all such families who were left out in the existing housing schemes due to stringent eligibility criteria or due to insufficient allocation and also those who had received housing assistance of smaller amounts in the past and now want to upgrade or expand their houses, he said.

This is a credit-linked housing scheme with capital subsidy which is fully funded from the state Budget. This scheme aims at construction/up-gradation and completion of houses, Amat said.

Under the scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan up to ₹3 lakh which can be repaid in 10 years excluding 1 year moratorium period in easy installments. They can opt for one of the four slabs of the loan amount-Rs 1 lakh, ₹1.5 lakh, ₹2 lakh and ₹3 lakh, he pointed out.

For loan amount of ₹1 lakh,

KEY APPROVALS

- 8 drinking water projects for districts including Bolangir
- ₹2,000 crore for VSSUT, Burla transformation
- Establishment of 'Odisha University of Health Sciences'
- Konark Heritage Area Development Plan
- Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action Plan
- Sustainable harnessing of ground water in water deficit areas
- Zwigato and recently released Odia movie *Delivery Boy* made tax-free

₹1.50 lakh, ₹2/3 lakh, the state government will provide subsidy of ₹30,000, ₹45,000, and ₹60,000, respectively. However, the family headed by SC/ST and PwD, will get an additional subsidy of ₹10,000.

In order to further reduce the financial burden for the beneficiaries, the registration fee and stamp duties required during mortgage of title deed have been waived off by the state government, Amat said.

Further, he said, the legal consultation fee is also standardised to ₹1,000 maximum, which the state government will reimburse to the banks.

A dedicated web portal <https://rhodisha.gov.in/moghara> will be launched for filing of on-line applications, monitoring and implementation of the scheme. The eligible people can submit their applications through this portal from June 16, 2023, the minister added.

The government has set the eligibility criteria for the scheme. If the family is staying in a kutcha house or one pucca room with RCC roof, it is eligible to reap the benefit of the scheme.

MORE P2



LIFE AMID WAR: People take cover at metro station during a Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday. Explosions have rattled Kyiv during daylight as Russian ballistic missiles fell on the Ukrainian capital

AP PHOTO

People pass by as lover stabs girl over 20 times

KEJRIWAL BLAMES L-G FOR GIRL'S MURDER; IT'S LOVE JIHAD, SAYS BJP

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: A 16-year-old girl was stabbed over 20 times and bludgeoned to death by a youth in a busy bylane as passersby looked on in northwest Delhi's Shahbad Dairy area - an incident that has drawn massive outrage as the video of the horrific killing appeared online.

Delhi Police said the accused, 20-year-old Sahil, was arrested from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh Monday.

He and the victim, Sakshi, were in a relationship but had a quarrel Saturday. The victim had gone shopping Sunday evening for the

birthday party of her friend's child when she was accosted by the accused in the densely populated neighbourhood, they said.

A nearly 90-second video of the incident that was shared online showed the accused pinning the victim to a wall with one hand and stabbing her repeatedly. He did not stop even when the girl slumped to the ground, jabbing the knife into her over 20 times, kicking her and then slamming a cement slab on her repeatedly.

In a shocking display of public apathy, people can be seen passing by, with some bystanders staring in alarm, but not doing anything to stop the brutal attack.

DIABOLIC DELHI CRIME



The accused is seen walking away from the victim in a casual manner only to turn back and again hit her with the slab before leaving the site.

"I have never seen such a frightening case. What was the fault of the 16-year-old girl that she was brutally killed on the road? Several people saw this but did not pay heed. No one is afraid of the police and the law in Delhi," Delhi Commission

for Women Chairperson Swati Maliwal said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other AAP leaders attacked Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, saying it was his responsibility to maintain law and order in the city, while the Delhi BJP claimed it was a case of love jihad, and slammed the AAP for trying to portray it as an ordinary murder and a law and order issue.

A case under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Shahbad Dairy police station on the complaint by the victim's father, the police added.

A police officer said that the girl's skull was ruptured, citing preliminary findings of the post-mortem. Sakshi, whose father is a labourer, passed Class 10 this year

CBI books Rolls Royce for scam in AJT purchase

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: The CBI has filed a corruption case against British aerospace and defence company Rolls Royce PLC, top executives of its Indian unit and arms dealers for alleged kickbacks in the procurement of Hawk 115 Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force and Navy, officials said.

The CBI has registered a case against Tim Jones, Director Rolls Royce India, alleged arms dealers Sudhir Choudhrie and his son Bhanu Choudhrie, Rolls Royce Plc and British Aerospace Systems under IPC section 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating) and provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act after completing a six-year-old preliminary enquiry registered in December 2016.

Email sent to Rolls Royce seeking comments remained unanswered.



A British court order in 2017 also mentioned the alleged involvement of intermediaries and payment of commission by the company for swinging the deal, they said.

It is alleged that during 2003-12, these accused entered into a conspiracy with unidentified public servants who abused their official positions in lieu of huge bribes, commissions and kickbacks paid by Rolls Royce to approve the aircraft purchase.

The company paid intermediaries, even though the agreements, integrity pacts and associated documents of the deal prohibited such payments, the CBI FIR has alleged.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) had approved the procurement of 66 Hawk 115 AJTs September 3, 2003, under which 24 BAE Hawk 115Y AJTs in flyaway condition with all the accoutrements along with material for 42 aircraft to be manufactured by HAL were cleared for GBP 734.21 million, equivalent to ₹5,653.44 crore (calculated at ₹77 per GBP), was sanctioned.

Procurement of 42 aircraft, to be licence manufactured by HAL at an additional cost of GBP 308.247 million, equivalent to ₹1,944 crore, and a payment of GBP 7.5 million to Rolls Royce as a Manufacturer's licence fee was also cleared.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



A medal for beating Olympic medal winners

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	62846.38 ↑ 344.69
NIFTY	18598.65 ↑ 99.30
DOLLAR	82.74 ↑ ₹0.03
EURO	88.47 ↓ ₹0.28
GOLD	₹59,547 ↑ ₹194
SILVER	₹71,235 ↑ ₹6

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
MAX	38.8°C 38.4°C
MIN	27.1°C 27.5°C
Humidity	77% 77%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain

BGMI returns with riders

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: South Korean video game developer Krafton Monday announced that the video game Battlegrounds Mobile India (BGMI) is now available for play in India.

BGMI is now playable and has been rolled out with the 2.5 Update, offering a refined and immersive experience for gamers. To ensure a seamless experience, the game's playability will be staggered, allowing users to login in phases, the company said. Within a maximum of 48 hours, all users will be able to



login and play the game. The game will also be available for iOS users to download and play in the country, according to the company.

Krafton stated that the playtime for users under 18 will be three hours whereas for the rest of the players will be six hours daily plus, parental verification and daily spending limit for minors continue to be a part of the game.

Dad jabs poison into 20-day old girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, May 29: Police arrested a man Monday for trying to kill his 20-day old newborn by injecting a poisonous liquid into her body

simply because he did not want a daughter. The incident has been reported from Singiri village under Nilagiri police limits in this district. Police are now questioning the accused, identified as Chandan Mahana, as to why he tried to commit such a heinous crime.

Residents of the village said that Chandan had married

Tanmayi last year. The couple was blessed with a child 20 days back. Tanmayi incidentally was residing at the house of her parents after childbirth.

Chandan's father-in-law Bhagirathi Singh informed that he had come to their residence Sunday. "He seemed aloof from the moment he arrived," he said. "He was near the newborn when the latter started wailing in agony. Initially when asked, he did not confess that he had injected poison into the body of my granddaughter," he added.

Tanmayi meanwhile stated that after persuasion, Chandan confessed that he had used a syringe to inject poison into the newborn. Hearing this, other family members immediately rushed the infant to a hospital in this town. Currently the newborn is admitted to the ICU and is undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, police detained Chandan after a complaint was lodged. They said Chandan has confessed that he tried to kill the newborn as he wanted a son and not a daughter.

'Indian GPS' satellite successfully put into orbit

■ It is for the first time that an indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock has been used in a mission in a departure from imported ones used earlier

AGENCIES

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh), May 29: India successfully put into orbit the first of its second generation navigation satellite NVS-01 Monday in a copy book style.

The launch of the 2,232 kg NVS-01 is significant as it would ensure the continuity of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) services - an Indian regional satellite navigation system, providing ac-

curate and real-time navigation. Simply put, NavIC is an Indian 'GPS' - Global Positioning System.

Signals from NavIC are designed to provide user position accurate to better than 20 metres and timing accuracy better than 50 nanoseconds.

At the end of a 27.5 hour countdown, the 51.7 metre tall, 3-stage Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle with a cryogenic upper stage, lifted off at a prefixed time of 10.42 am from the second launch pad at the spaceport here, located about 130 km from Chennai. This was GSLV's 15th flight.

Breaking free of the earth's gravitational pull the rocket went up and up with a bright orange fire at its tail. At the rocket mission control room Indian space scientists at ISRO were glued to their computer screens watching the



rocket's flight progress.

Just over 19 minutes into the flight the rocket slung NVS-01 into

the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from where the satellite will be taken up to its final position.

The Indian satellite navigation system NavIC consists of nine satellites - seven in orbit and two as substitutes. NVS series of satellites will sustain and augment the NavIC with enhanced features.

The NVS-01 with a mission life of 12 years is powered by two solar arrays capable of generating power up to 2.4kW and a lithium-ion battery during the eclipse.

This series has payloads that operate on L1, L5 and S bands thereby widening its services.

The L1 navigation band is popular for providing Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services for civilian users and for interoperability with other Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)

signals, ISRO said. Monday's success came after the GSLV F10 debacle, as an anomaly in the cryogenic stage of the launch vehicle in August 2021, following which the then mission could not be fulfilled.

Be that as it may, ISRO had used imported atomic clocks on all the nine navigation satellites it had launched earlier. Each satellite had three atomic clocks.

It was said the NavIC satellites were performing well until the atomic clocks in IRNSS-1A failed.

Sources in ISRO had earlier said some of the atomic clocks in a couple of other satellites too were not functioning properly. The clocks are used for precise time and location.

Currently there are eight first generation NavIC satellites in orbit.

₹2K-CR R&D BOOST PLAN FOR VSSUT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: An institute development plan for transformation of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) in Sambalpur's Burla with an outlay of Rs 2,000 crore is among the 18 proposals approved by the state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, here, Monday.

Briefing newsmen after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said the implementation of the institute development plan will broaden the horizon and give an impetus to multidisciplinary teaching and research VSSUT.

"This will not only help introduce new generation industry-oriented and employment-linked courses, but also expand the scope for opening different schools to deliver multi and inter-disciplinary courses. Implementation of institute development plan would also enable VSSUT to have better access to academic resources," Jena said.

It will facilitate the university to have strong focus on research and introduce doctoral and post-doctoral programmes.

VSSUT, which was established in 1956 as an engineering college – University College of Engineering (UCE) – to promote education, research and training in engineering and technology, was upgraded it to a technical university in 2009, it was learnt.

The state Cabinet approved tenders for execution of eight rural drinking water supply projects worth Rs 2,312.11 crore in Ganjam, Bolangir and Gajapati districts.

Jena said supply of safe drinking water to the people in the rural areas is one of the priority areas of the state government.

Accordingly, the state Cabinet has approved the lowest tender of Rs 1,509.91 crore for execution of a mega piped water supply project to provide safe drinking water in Ganjam out of JJM (Jal Jeevan Mission) funding. By execution of the project, around 9,92,368 people of 770 villages under 228 GPs of 12 blocks of Ganjam will be benefited, he said.

Similarly, the Cabinet has also approved a tender worth Rs 379.17 crore for execution of two rural drinking water supply projects in Gajapati. It would benefit over 1.31 lakh in 346 villages.

The government has also cleared two tenders of Rs 423 crore for execution of five drinking water projects in Bolangir, Jena said, adding that all the drinking water projects will be completed in two years.

The state government has decided to spend Rs 364.40 crore in three years (2022-23 to 2024-25) for



KEY CABINET DECISIONS	
₹2,312 crore	for drinking water projects
₹330.17 crore	for establishment of Odisha University of Health Sciences
₹209.73 crore	for development of Konark Temple Complex
₹156.21 crore	for execution of the Ekamra Plan
TRANSFER OF 'CHAKA' LAND ALLOWED	

NOD TO APARTMENT OWNERSHIP ORDINANCE

The state Cabinet has decided to repeal the Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, 1982 (Odisha Act 1 of 1984) and enact a fresh legislation – Odisha Apartment (Ownership and Management) Ordinance, 2023, an official said. The repulsion of the Act by way of promulgation of Odisha Apartment (Ownership and Management) Ordinance, 2023 will go a long way in addressing issues relating to the ownership of an individual apartment in a building with an undivided interest in common areas and facilities. It will also help provide for better management of such apartments, said the official.

implementation of the state plan scheme 'Sustainable Harnessing of Ground Water in Water Deficit Areas'. The Cabinet has approved allocation of Rs 330.17 crore for establishment of Odisha University of Health Sciences.

It has approved a tender worth Rs 209.73 crore for development of Konark Temple complex.

Konark Heritage Area Development Plan (KHADP) under Integrated Development of Heritage and Monuments and Tourist Destination Scheme will transform the physical infrastructure in and around the temple complex and upgrade the visitors' experience, he said.

The Chief Secretary also informed that another tender of Rs 156.21 crore for execution of the Ekamra Plan has been approved by the Cabinet.

The Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Plan is an integrated approach towards reviving and enhancing the heritage value of the inner core of the Old Town area of Bhubaneswar through urban design intervention and infrastructure upgradation of the 11th century Lord Lingaraj Temple.

The Cabinet has also decided to allow transfer of Chaka land. "The move will give relief to the landowners in terms of sell/transfer/partition of their Chaka land and updation of land records. It will also result in revenue generation through collection of stamp duty and registration fee on the transactions," Jena said.

Besides, the Cabinet also approved a proposal to make Hindi movie 'Zwigato' and recently released Odia movie 'Delivery Boy' free of tax till June 30, 2023.

Man dies, wife critical as car falls into Taladanda

Cuttack, May 29: A 60-year-old man died and his wife suffered grievous injuries after the car they were travelling in fell into Taladanda Canal near Andarpur under Madhupatna police limits here, Monday.

According to sources, the mishap took place around 12 in the noon when Gyanaranjan Jena and his wife Anjana Jena, residents of Sartol area here, were returning home in a car after withdrawing cash from a bank.



"They were heading towards Andarpur from Matrubhawan when they couple couldn't proceed as the road was closed. There was no warning about the under-construction open end of Taladanda. Ignorant about the open end, the man (Gyanaranjan) reversed the vehicle which veered into the canal," said an eye witness who was first to inform the police.

Police reached the spot and recovered a lifeless Gyanaranjan and his injured wife.

Anjana is undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH). The vehicle has been brought out of the canal. Rs 2 lakh in cash has been recovered from the car," said ACP Amarendra Panda.

1,500 new bridges on cards: Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: In a bid to boost rural connectivity, the state government is planning to construct 1,500 new bridges under Biju Setu Yojana (BSY) with an outlay of Rs 6,000 crore in the next 5 years. This was revealed during a review meeting taken by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Monday.

Patnaik reviewed the progress of Rural Development (RD) department as part of the department-wise performance review. After the review, RD Minister Pritranjan Gharai and principal secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh presented the details of the achievements against the promises made in the election manifesto and highlighted the transformational initiatives taken by the department.

Addressing a press meet held at Geeta Govinda Sadan, Gharai said that the department budget has increased 25 times to Rs 7,500 crore in 2023-24 as against Rs 305 crore in 2000-2001.

Till date, the department has constructed 2,241 bridges under different schemes while another 1,304 bridges are at various stages of construction. In the road sector, 1,03,731 kms are maintained by the department by providing all-weather connectivity to 18,161 habi-

tations. More than 10,000-km roads have been constructed using green technologies. Similarly 8,700 buildings of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAVs), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), colleges & schools, multipurpose cyclone shelters and Health department buildings have been constructed.

As against the manifesto for 2019-2024, commitments were made for 750 bridges under BSY and the department has so far constructed 679 bridges. However, 900 bridges will be constructed by March 2024.

Similarly, 6,247-km roads have been constructed under Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY) and other State Plan schemes against the commitment of 3,000 km.

The department also targets to construct another 6,000-km roads under MMSY by March 2024.

This apart, 27,079 km of roads have been constructed under PMGSY while the department targets to construct another 7,643 Km under PMGSY by March 2024 totalling 34,722 kms.

Highlighting the transformational initiatives of the department, the minister said that till 2000, the department had constructed only 58 bridges.

At present, the department has constructed 2,241 bridges while another 1,304 bridges are at various stages of construction.

TPCODL official, lady aide held for bribe

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance department officials Monday arrested an official of TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) and his woman associate on charges of accepting bribe from a consumer to deliver an order in favour of the complainant on his grievance petition. The accused identified as Tarun Ranjan Nayak works as office assistant at the office of Grievance Redressal Forum (GRF) of TPCODL at Nayapalli here. The anti-corruption wing sleuths have also arrested his associate Sailaja Muduli for receiving the bribe money through UPI on behalf of Nayak.

Rath Yatra: DGP asks cops to be proactive

Cuttack: State DGP SK Bansal called upon the Police officers to be proactive and extra vigil for the world famous Rath Yatra at Puri to be held June 20. The DGP instructed the officers at a preparatory meeting held under his chairmanship at here to chalk out a strategy for the smooth conduct of the festival. The DGP said, "In addition to the Rath Yatra, important rituals like Nabajauban Darshan June 19, Bahuda Yatra June 28, Suna Beshha June 29 and Niladri Bijie July 1 will attract large number of devotees." After a thorough discussion, decision has been made to make elaborate security arrangements during the celebration of these important rituals, he said.



FOR A CAUSE: AIDSO members stage a demonstration near College Square in Cuttack, Monday, condemning the alleged police excess on protesting wrestlers in New Delhi

AI holds huge growth potential: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday launched 'Odisha for Artificial Intelligence for Youth' initiatives at a programme here. International technology company Intel is involved in the initiative, officials said.

Launching it, the Chief Minister said it will be implemented in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack cities in the first phase.

The government has focused on technology driven transformation, which is one of the key components of its 5-T (team work, technology, transparency, timely completion leading to transformation) initiative, he said.

The initiative will augment digital literacy of the masses and



THE INITIATIVE WILL AUGMENT DIGITAL LITERACY OF THE MASSES AND MAKE THEM FAMILIAR WITH THE NEXT GENERATION CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

IT WILL CREATE AN ECOSYSTEM FOSTERING RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND APPLICATION ACROSS SECTORS

make them familiar with the next generation cutting-edge technology. It will also create an ecosystem fostering research, innovation and application across sectors, he said.

Patnaik asked all government departments to take advantage of these programmes and train officials.

He expressed confidence that the initiative will harness AI for economic growth, transformation of governance and the betterment of

lives of the state's citizens and society.

Electronics and IT Minister Tusharkanti Behera highlighted the state's initiative in technology that is transforming Odisha in different sectors.

The AI initiative will put Odisha in the top league among the states in the country, he said.

Intel India head Nivruti Rai also spoke on the occasion.

CLASSIFIED LOST

Date 15.05.23 at about 2.00 P.M. Malati Behera of Unit-4, Bhubaneswar, when she was travelling Baramunda to Unit-4 she lost her Gharabari Patta Village -Chatua, Khata No.207, Plot No. 353. If any one found please contact mob:9938632160.

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit I, Bijay Kumar Behera, S/o- Late Amarswar Behera of Nalco Township, Damanjodi to state that my Father's actual name is Amarswar Behera mentioned in my Aadhaar, PAN and other documents. My father's name is mentioned as Amarswar Behera in my Passport. That both the name Amarswar Behera and Amarswar Behera belongs to one and same person. I intend to change my Father's name to Amarswar Behera in my Passport. Sd./- Bijay Kumar Behera

Hit by shelter woes, youths seek govt help

The Capital city of Bhubaneswar might have grown exponentially in terms of business, employment opportunities, education, sports and other facilities, but youths migrating to the smart city in search of jobs and education are grappling with lack of basic amenities like a roof over their heads. It's quite surprising that in a city where apartments are mushrooming, the working population is struggling to find a shelter. Eyes filled with hope, some of the youths shared their plight with **Orissa POST** and urged the state government to find a solution to the issue and provide hostel facilities to them.

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

Being a single woman, renting a location-friendly room has become a Herculean task. I'm not a stranger here. Earlier, I was studying and now I'm working here. A lot many predicaments kick in when you land a job. For me, it began with finding a place to stay. I took the help of brokers and found many places were occupied while others seemed to be either unsafe or the home owners

were too picky. Because I was a single woman, landlords were quite reluctant to rent out their rooms. The gravity of the issue may be gauged from the fact that I have shifted twice within a span of eight months. This is a bigger problem that requires attention as it is unsafe and difficult for anyone to manage work-life and a temporary stay from where you could be removed anytime.

PRIYA SANJAL I TELE MARKETING EXECUTIVE



Sky-rocketing room rent is burning a hole in our pockets for which we have no option than to stay in an accommodation which is far from our office. I'm staying in a PG accommodation at Satya Nagar which is far from my office at Patia. I am paying a huge amount as rent but the amenities are not up to the mark. Finding a good rented house with homely facilities in Bhubaneswar is pretty difficult. I think the government should carefully consider the issue. PG hostels are charging a huge amount as security deposits but they seldom take care of the basic

requirements. I believe the work places in the city should make arrangements for their employees and provide hostels with security

PRATIKSHA MOHAPATRA (NAME CHANGED)

Searching rooms online is easier than going around the city with the broker. I came across this perfect match that was within my budget. Looked well and is even location friendly. Upon contacting the owner, I was shocked when he asked me to share the room with him. Most of the rooms here are quite expensive and shar-

ing is the best option. I am unable to move in because I can't find a partner and can't afford all of it. I feel government-aided hostels could come to the rescue of we like working women.

PRAGYAN PANDA I MEDIA PROFESSIONAL

If you think renting places to single women is a problem and boys have it all easy then you are completely mistaken. Women do have this problem a notch higher but men have had to bear with the weirdest lines from the flat owners. My flat owner interviewed me regarding the budget and my workplace. After an hour-long discussion and negotiation of rent, the owner asked me whether I can bring in a flat mate. The landlady straightaway denied renting me the flat as I'm single. The perception that 'boys indulge in immoral activities' deprives us from getting a good accommodation. My request for flat was turned down on other grounds like 'boys never keep the rooms clean and are destructive'. I sincerely request the state government to help address this bigger issue.

NIKHIL NANSAL I STARTUP ENTREPRENEUR

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-SaiAudio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-976056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Disappearing Jaipur wetlands spark concerns



POST NEW NETWORK

Jajpur, May 29: The fast disappearance of wetlands in this district has become a cause for concern. The wetlands play an important role in maintaining bio-diversity, helps in water conservation and purification and also in controlling floods. They also hold the key to climate regulations.

However, now the very existence of the wetlands is in danger due to change in land status, discharge of solid and liquid wastes by industrial firms that have mushroomed in the district. Also pollution is eroding and destroying wetlands rapidly. Environmentalists have pointed out that wetlands need to be safeguarded for protecting the environment.

As per reports Jajpur district is spread over an area of 2,885 square kilometres. Out of this total area, 15,714 hectares are wetlands. Among them, 380 wetlands are more than 2.25 hectares in size while the remaining 2,169 are less than 2.25 hectares.

The Union Forest, Environment and Climate Change Ministry directed all state governments March 8, 2022 to identify and demarcate the wetlands on the basis of Wetland Conservation and Management Rules-2017. It should be stated here that the State Wetland Management Authority (SWMA) held its last meeting, August 17, 2019.

During the meeting a technical committee was formed comprising officials of Forest and Environment, Water Resources, Housing and Urban Development, Panchayatiraj and Drinking Water, Revenue and Disaster Management and Fisheries departments. The panel was asked to identify all the wetlands in Odisha and submit a report so that a special action plan could be prepared for their protection and preservation. However, the efforts of the committee have been pretty disappointing to say the least.

The Union Forest, Environment and Climate Change Ministry had included Sukinda creek (Pata) in the Wetland Atlas of India in 2010.

It had shown that the wetland was spread over 400 acres even though the record of the Odisha government says that 'Sukinda Pata' encompasses an area of 6,000 acres. The Sukinda creek is found on land belonging to the Solagadia, Labang, Sorisha, Marthapur, Baliposhi, Gotua, Kimbhiragadia, Marutikar, Jagadiha and Chakua revenue mouzas. It extends from the west of Brahmani river to Jokadia and Mundomal in the east. Nothing was done however, to rectify the mistake in the Wetland Atlas.

The Gonda nullah, which is always in the news for pollution due to discharge of toxic effluents by industrial firms, originates from the hills in Sukinda and neighbouring Keonjhar district. During floods, the Sukinda creek remains submerged in the water of Gonda nullah. Moreover, the district has also several other prominent wetlands like Mantira Pata, Gadamadhpur Pata, Jenapur Pata, Sorisha Pata and Bena Pata. However, these wetlands are slowly losing their existence as development works are being undertaken.

The importance of wetlands in maintaining bio-diversity and environment cannot be ignored. Various plants, insects, aquatic animals, reptiles, birds, fishes and mammals depend on these wetlands for their habitat and food.

Members of Kalinganagar Suraksha Samiti have demanded action to protect the wetlands in Jajpur district. They have written to the Principal Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Ministry, Jajpur Collector and DFO, Cuttack to look into the matter and restore the wetlands to their original glory.



SCINTILLATING SHOW: Girl students perform a Sambalpuri dance routine during the annual function of ABCD Charitable Trust held at the Tapaswini Auditorium in Sambalpur, Monday

BJP woman leader murdered in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 29: Miscreants allegedly bludgeoned a lady BJP leader to death at Binida village, under Pandapada police limits and Ghatagaon block in this district, late Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Satyabhama Singh (45), a former samiti member of Binida panchayat and BJP vice-president of Pandapada zone. She is also a pala artiste and had carved a niche for herself in the district with her performances.

It is suspected that Satyabhama might have been murdered either over personal enmity or political rivalry. Sources informed Monday that she was not on good terms with another fellow pala artiste. The killing has spread shockwaves in the area.

On being informed, police recovered her body from a ground



Satyabhama had gone to nearby Radha Krishna temple to participate in a 'Sankirtan' performance Sunday evening leaving behind her elderly mother at home

ice. The SDPO said that very soon the accused will be identified and arrested. The actual reason behind the murder can be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available, the SDPO added.

As per the police report, Satyabhama had gone to a nearby Radha Krishna temple to participate in a 'Sankirtan' performance,

Sunday evening leaving behind her elderly mother at home. The programme got over around 9.30pm and all the performers left for their respective residences. Satyabhama's mother initially waited for her, but then went off to sleep thinking that she might have stayed back at the temple.

Satyabhama's death came to the fore only after some villagers spotted her body lying in a pool of blood near her residence. Later her family members informed the police regarding the murder. It is suspected that more than one person might be involved in the crime.

A delegation of BJP members led by Maheswar Sahu, president of 'Nari Suraksha Samiti' visited the village Monday to meet the bereaved family. Sahu demanded a proper probe into the case and arrest of the persons involved in the gruesome murder.

'Green Mahanadi Mission' goes haywire in Keonjhar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, May 29: Despite the Odisha government's best efforts in creating green cover in various rural areas of Keonjhar district, the programme is going haywire and funds are being misappropriated, sources said Monday. The 'Green Mahanadi Mission' scheme was launched by the Forest department a few months back and already funds worth several crores have been spent. Locals however, alleged that the project is yet to take off due to the whimsical and apathetic attitude of some unscrupulous government officials.

Sources said that over 24,000 saplings were planted in rural areas of Anandapur forest division under the scheme, but only 2,400 have survived. They pointed out that lack of upkeep and maintenance has led to the destruction of most of the saplings. The plantation programme was launched in FY 2022-23.

The sapling plantation was undertaken on 15 hectares of land in Guhalia, and Tukuna localities in Hatibandha reserve forest under Anandapur range. Among the saplings were fruit and medicinal plants

including mango, amla, arjun, custard apple, asana, bahada, balisisu, deodar, gambhari, jamun, cashew, neem, peepal, guava and jackfruit. Saplings of trees that produce valuable timber like piasal, phanphana, patuli, teak and sirisha were also planted.

Sources said that in the first phase 4,000 saplings were planted while in the second, the remaining 20,000. They pointed out that after the saplings were planted, Forest department staff failed to take care of those in a proper manner.

During investigation, it was found that fencing put around the plantation area had also snapped enabling entry of domestic animals. They ate up a sizeable portion of the saplings. Locals have demanded a probe into the misappropriation of funds and stringent action against erring officials.

The then forester Malaya Sahu said that the saplings withered as it did not rain for a period of over six months. Anandapur DFO Abhaya Kumar Dalai pointed out that the scorching heat has resulted in destruction of a large number of saplings. He added that the Forest department will again plant new saplings soon.

50kg ganja seized; 1 arrested

Berhampur: Excise sleuths arrested Monday a man who was trying to smuggle 50kg of cannabis, near Fastgate locality in this town. The accused, identified as Himanshu Behera, is a resident of Puri. A team of Excise department officials intercepted his car and found 50kg of the contraband item in three packets. The value of the seized cannabis is worth more than ₹15 lakh, officials said and added that it had been procured in Kandhamal. "Himanshu illegally procured ganja from Kandhamal district and was smuggling it to Puri," said Excise department deputy superintendent Kuber Sethi. A case (No 96/23-24) was registered and Himanshu was also forwarded to the court Monday, official said. The seizure came following a tip off to the department.

YOUTH DIES IN ROAD ACCIDENT

Bhadrak: A youth died Monday in a road accident near Haladidihia bypass on Bhadrak-Chandabali road here. The deceased was identified as Prafulla Behera, son of Bhajju Kishore Behera of Sabaranga locality in this district. Eye-witnesses informed that Prafulla was coming to this town when his two-wheeler met with a head-on collision with another bike coming from the opposite direction. The force of the impact was so high, that Prafulla was flung from his scooter. Locals rushed the critically injured Prafulla to the district headquarters hospital here, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Police have initiated a probe as to how the mishap took place. After post-mortem of the body of the deceased, it was handed to his family members.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL PANCHAYAT SAMITI COLLEGE, BELPARA DIST: BALANGIR

Phone:06658284448, E-mail:psc_belpara@yahoo.co.in

No.419 Date:29.06.2023

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed quotation in duplicate are invited from the distributors/dealers/registered firm/ supplier to supply Science Lab Equipments, Electronics items and office items. The Sealed Tender documents are to be submitted on or before 16.06.2023 by Regd. Post or Speed Post only as per prescribed terms and conditions. For further details and list of items please contact: 9937731266.

Sd./- Principal P.S. College, Belpara

No. B-261

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SUNDARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, SUNDARGARH

E-mail ID: pwd_sng@yahoo.co.in

"e"- Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. SE-R&B-SNG-06 OF 2023-24

Letter No. 3099 Date: 23.05.2023

1. The Superintending Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in single cover system on ON-LINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licenses for execution of Building works as detailed in DTCN.	
2. Nature of Works :-	Building Works
3. No. of work :-	08 (Eight) Nos.
4. Tender Cost :-	Rs. 6,000/-
5. Class of Contractor :-	D & C
6. Availability of Bid Document in the website :-	From 11.00 A.M. Date:- 05.06.2023 to 05.00 P.M. Date- 17.06.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid :-	11.00 A.M. On Dt. 19.06.2023
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division

OIPR-34043/11/0003/2324

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda

REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SAMBALPUR

AT: PODDAR HEIGHTS, MAIN ROAD, KHETRAJPUR, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA-768003

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA** for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Name & Address of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1) Mr. Alok Kumar Meher, S/o.: Khirud Kumar Meher, Dist: Subarnapur in the name of Mrs. Puspabati Meher, W/o.: Khirud Kumar Meher, Both residing at Vill: Sahajipita, P.O.: Baidyanath, G.P.: Haradkhola, Dist: Subarnapur / Guarantor: Mr. Balram Meher, S/o.: Surubabu Meher, residing Vill: Sahajipita, P.O.: Baidyanath, G.P.: Haradkhola, Dist: Subarnapur	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Vide Plot Neo.: 102, Holding No.: 134/24, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec., Mouza: Sahajipita, P.S.: Sonepur, Dist: Subarnapur in the name of Mrs. Puspabati Meher, W/o.: Khirud Kumar Meher, Bounded by East: House of Purna Chandra Meher, West: Road, North: House of Balaram Meher, South: House of Puspabati Meher	04.11.2017 / 25.05.2023	₹9,39,768/- as on 24.05.2023
Borrower: Mr. Apharoj Khan, S/o.: Tayub Khan, residing at Ainlapali, P.O.: Bisimunda, Dist: Subarnapur / Guarantor: Mr. Binod Sahu, S/o.: Krishna Prasad Sahu, residing At/P.O.: Khambeswaripali, G.P.: Bisimunda, Dist: Subarnapur	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building consisting Khata No.: 144, Plot No.: 398, Area: Ac.0.09 Dec., Mouza: Ainlapali, P.S.: Sonepur, Dist: Subarnapur, Standing in the name of Mr. Apharoj Khan, S/o.: Tayub Khan, Bounded by South: House of Hajira Bibi, North: Road, East: Part of Plot No.: 398, West: Part of Plot No.: 398	04.11.2017 / 25.05.2023	₹11,32,749/- as on 24.05.2023

Place: Sambalpur, Date : 29.05.2023 **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR

First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, Email Id: cmcpc_bbsr@mahabank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

(E-Auction) Sale of secured immovable Assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIO TO RULE 8(6) / 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Applicant /Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of Maharashtra**, will be sold on "**As is where is**", "**As is what is**" and "**Whatever there is**" basis on Auction Date mentioned hereunder, for recovery of balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower/Co-Applicant /Guarantor as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/Co-Applicant /Guarantor, amount due, short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under.

Sl. No.	BERHAMPUR BRANCH (BRANCH PH.NO.: 6370704853) / Name and Address of Borrower/ Co-Applicant /Guarantor	Short Description of the Immovable property with known encumbrances / Possession Type	Amount Due (Rs.)	Reserve Price / EMD/BID Increment Amount	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Borrower: Mrs. Narmada Kumari Beja, W/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN- 761209 / Co-Applicant: Mr. Ranjan Kumar Beja, S/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN- 761209 / Guarantor: Mr. Ratnakar Beja, S/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN- 761209	All that Part & Parcel of Equitable Mortgage of Land and House situated at House site property bearing Khatian Sl. No.: 250/206, Survey/Plot No.: 163/855, SRO: Patrapur, situated at Mouza: Mukundapur, P.O.: Khariaguda, Tahasil: Patrapur, Dist.: Ganjam, Area: 1394 sq.ft. together with the Buildings and Structures/Residential Block constructed to/to be constructed thereon admeasuring 1918 Sq.Ft (Carpet) i.e. 1918 sq.ft. (Built up) in aggregate consisting of 4 rooms on 2 floor/s and all the fixtures annexed thereto, standing in the name of Mrs. Narmada Kumari Beja, Bounded(As Per Document) by East: Site of Dilip Kumar Guru, West: Road, North: Main Road, South: Govt. Land (R.I.Office) / Physical	₹ 28,13,639/- + Future Interest w.e.f 06.09.2022	₹ 20,00,000/- / ₹ 2,00,000/- / ₹ 50,000/-	23.06.2023 between 1.00 PM to 5.00 PM with auto extension for 5 minutes in case bid is placed within last 5 minutes

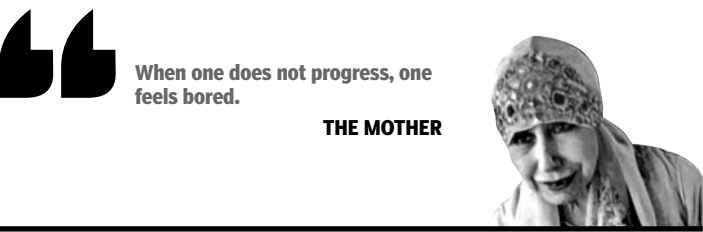
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid / Deposit of EMD & Proof: 23.06.2023 upto 1.00 PM

Date & Time of Inspection of Property: on or before 22.06.2023 during banking hours on any working day between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM

Note: This Notice is treated as 15 days Notice for Concerned Borrower/Co-Applicant/Guarantor. The Auction Sale will be online E-Auction/Bidding through Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>, For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link "<https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/proposal.asp>" provided in the Bank's website and also on e-Bikray (e-बिक्रय) portal (www.ibapi.in)

*** "Borrowers take the intimation and Kindly submit the application at before Berhampur Branch on or before 19.06.2023 for removing/taking back the movable items available at secured asset as per punchnama drawn on dated 09.03.2023 at the time of taking physical possession of secured asset. If no application made within stipulated time then will take it as implied consent, that Borrowers are not interested to removing/taking back the movable items and Auction will conduct, "No further demand and claim will be entertained in this regard".**

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 30.05.2023 **Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra**



Kashmir Again

The BJP never tires of accusing the Congress and other Opposition parties of internationalising the Kashmir issue. But, the Centre has needlessly tried to do the same by organising the three-day-long G20 tourism working group meeting in Srinagar last week. The ostensible reason for taking over 60 delegates from G20 countries there was to showcase Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as a peaceful territory with huge potential for investment. If economic wellbeing is one of the main agenda of G20, the entire country, as a profitable destination, should have been promoted and not just one state. That makes the very attempt, to make J&K the focus of the tourism meet, suspect.

Much before the event took place, Pakistan had first tried to raise the issue of the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the former state of J&K as an illegal act. The Indian response of not bothering about the hue and cry made by Pakistan on the ground that the latter does not belong to the G20 group is inconsequential. The fact that Pakistan could drag the Kashmir issue into international focus discredits the Indian government somewhat. Predictably, China followed Pakistan and sought to reinforce Pakistan's arguments with the claim that the event was being organised in a disputed territory. Both Pakistan and China had previously made unwarranted references to the conversion of J&K state into an Union Territory.

This resulted in China promptly announcing its boycott of the meeting. This had a chain reaction in the international arena and Turkey and Saudi Arabia sent out signals they were following in the footsteps of China.

What is even worse is that the government's action gave the UN special rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, an opportunity to slam the Centre's handling of the Kashmir imbroglio. Criticising the venue of the meeting he said the meeting would support a "facade of normalcy" while "massive human rights violations" continue in the region. India's mission at the UN in Geneva rejected the statement as "baseless" and "unwarranted allegations." But, the whole episode was uncalled for.

That the narrative of peace and stability in J&K since the abrogation of Article 370 is suspect was unnecessarily brought under international scrutiny. For the G20 tourism meet India's elite National Security Guard, including its counter-drone unit and marine commandos, were deployed to help the police and paramilitary forces to secure the event venues. The main city of Srinagar appeared calm as the event started. The roads were unusually clean. Most of the usual security checkpoints had been removed or camouflaged with G20 signs. Officials said hundreds of officers were specially trained in what they called "invisible policing" for the event. However, authorities did not take chances and shut many schools in the city.

The measures taken during the programme contrasted sharply with the visible security imposed in the days before the event. A massive security cordon was placed around the venue on the shore of Dal Lake, with elite naval commandos patrolling the water in rubber boats. The city's commercial centre was spruced up.

It would be naive for the Centre to think that international delegates would have been convinced with a stage managed show that peace had returned to the region. The G20 includes the world's 19 wealthiest nations plus the European Union, together accounting for 85% of global economic output and two-thirds of its population.

India has got the responsibility of hosting the G20 summit as a routine rotational chair system. But, the BJP-led government has been from the beginning projecting it as if it is an international recognition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. The reason is not far to seek. Lok Sabha election will be held in 2024 and the government has failed on the economic front with a series of disastrous policies, including an ill-conceived demonetisation, botched up GST and record unemployment. The G20 summit offered an opportunity to the government to divert the people's attention from the bread and butter issues and project their mascot as an international leader. However, the fallout for India on the long run has been bad.

WISDOM CORNER

- The two most powerful warriors are patience and time. **LEO TOLSTOY**
- It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see. **HENRY DAVID THOREAU**
- Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony. **MAHATMA GANDHI**

WORDSWORTH

Indian summer

This is connected with Native Americans, though nobody seems to know quite how. The first reference that we have is from a book with the title A Snow Storm as it affects the American Farmer, which was written by a French-American farmer named J H St John de Cr vecoeur in about 1777. In it he said "Then a severe frost succeeds which prepares it to receive the voluminous coat of snow which is soon to follow; though it is often preceded by a short interval of smoke and mildness, called the Indian Summer". There are several explanations for where the phrase came from, mostly put forward in the early nineteenth century, which suggested the term was of sufficient antiquity by then that its origin had gone out of living memory. William and Mary Morris suggest it came about because the word "Indian" had been adopted as a term among early colonists to describe something false, or a poor imitation of the real thing, as in Indian corn or Indian tea. Whatever the reason, this name for a short period of fine weather at the end of autumn is now the standard term, even in Britain, where older names such as St Luke's summer, St Martin's summer or All-Hallowen Summer are now obsolete or rare.

Informavore

This word is always applied to human beings. By analogy with terms like herbivore and carnivore, it seeks to suggest that we are a species that lives by processing and communicating information. It's not a particularly appropriate linguistic analogy as a matter of fact, as the only thing all these words have in common is the suffix -ivore. That's a close relative of our voracious, and comes from the Latin vorare "to devour". So it properly refers to consumption rather than manipulation. Though it's sometimes said that we humans devour information, we actually process it, not consume it. Cognitive scientists usually take informavore to refer to our ability to manipulate representations of the outside world inside our heads and to transmit information to each other through language. These are regarded by many as the crucial abilities that distinguish modern humans from all other species. The word is sometimes used in connection with the huge growth in information media in the developed countries in the latter part of this century.

LOL

Would you please move your cars?

It had been snowing for hours when an announcement came over the intercom: "Will the students who are parked on University Drive please



move their cars so that we may be plowing." Twenty minutes later there was another announcement: "Will the nine hundred students who went to move fourteen cars return to class."



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

ONLY THE RICH ARE BENEFITED BY DEBT INDUCED GROWTH WHILE THE POOR BEAR THE BURDEN THROUGH CUT IN WELFARE EXPENDITURE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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FOCUS TECHNOLOGY

AI & THE GLOBAL ORDER

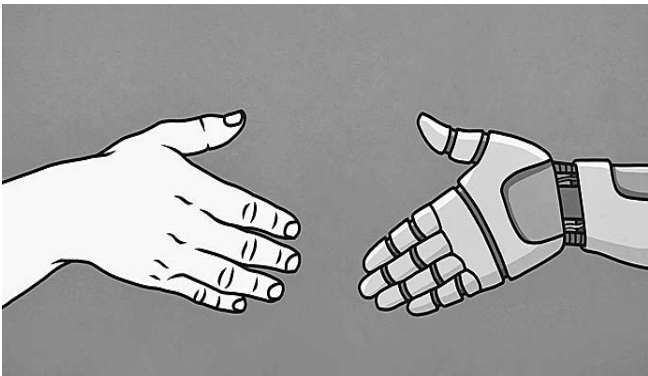
Future historians may well mark the second half of March 2023 as the moment when the era of artificial intelligence truly began. In the space of just two weeks, the world witnessed the launch of GPT-4, Bard, Claude, Midjourney V5, Security Copilot, and many other AI tools that have surpassed almost everyone's expectations. These new AI models' apparent sophistication has beaten most experts' predictions by a decade.

For centuries, breakthrough innovations – from the invention of the printing press and the steam engine to the rise of air travel and the internet – have propelled economic development, expanded access to information, and vastly improved health care and other essential services. But such transformative developments have also had negative implications, and the rapid deployment of AI tools will be no different.

AI can perform tasks that individuals are loathe to do. It can also deliver education and health care to millions of people who are neglected under existing frameworks. And it can greatly enhance research and development, potentially ushering in a new golden age of innovation. But it also can supercharge the production and dissemination of fake news; displace human labour on a large scale; and create dangerous, disruptive tools that are potentially inimical to our very existence.

Specifically, many believe that the arrival of artificial general intelligence (AGI) – an AI that can teach itself to perform any cognitive task that humans can do – will pose an existential threat to humanity. A carelessly designed AGI (or one governed by unknown 'black box' processes) could carry out its tasks in ways that compromise fundamental elements of our humanity. After that, what it means to be human could come to be mediated by AGI.

Clearly, AI and other emerging technologies call for better governance, especially at the global level. But diplomats and international policymakers have historically treated technology as a "sectoral" matter best left to energy,



For decades, diplomats and international policymakers have treated technology as a "sectoral" matter best left to energy, finance, or defence ministries. But the sudden arrival of ground-breaking AI tools has created an urgent need for a more holistic and global approach to tech governance

finance, or defence ministries – a myopic perspective that is reminiscent of how, until recently, climate governance was viewed as the exclusive preserve of scientific and technical experts. Now, with climate debates commanding central stage, climate governance is seen as a superordinate domain that comprises many others, including foreign policy. Accordingly, today's governance architecture aims to reflect the global nature of the issue, with all its nuances and complexities.

As discussions at the G7's recent summit in Hiroshima suggest, technological governance will require a similar approach. After all, AI and other emerging technologies will dramatically change the sources, distribution, and projection of power around the world. They will allow for novel offensive and defensive capabilities, and create entirely new domains for collision, contest, and conflict – including in cyberspace and outer space. And they will determine what we consume, inevitably concentrating the returns from economic growth in some regions, industries, and firms, while depriving others of similar opportunities and capabilities.

Importantly, technologies such

as AI will have a substantial impact on fundamental rights and freedoms, our relationships, the issues we care about, and even our most deeply held beliefs. With its feedback loops and reliance on our own data, AI models will exacerbate existing biases and strain many countries' already tenuous social contracts.

That means our response must include numerous international accords. For example, ideally we would forge new agreements (at the level of the United Nations) to limit the use of certain technologies on the battlefield. A treaty banning lethal autonomous weapons outright would be a good start; agreements to regulate cyberspace – especially offensive actions conducted by autonomous bots – will also be necessary.

New trade regulations are also imperative. Unfettered exports of certain technologies can give governments powerful tools to suppress dissent and radically augment their military capabilities. Moreover, we still need to do a much better job of ensuring a level playing field in the digital economy, including through appropriate taxation of such activities.

As G7 leaders already seem to recognise, with the stability of

open societies possibly at stake, it is in democratic countries' interest to develop a common approach to AI regulation. Governments are now acquiring unprecedented abilities to manufacture consent and manipulate opinion. When combined with massive surveillance systems, the analytical power of advanced AI tools can create technological Leviathans: all-knowing states and corporations with the power to shape citizen behaviour and repress it, if necessary, within and across borders. It is important not only to support UNESCO's efforts to create a global framework for AI ethics, but also to push for a global Charter of Digital Rights.

The thematic focus of tech diplomacy implies the need for new strategies of engagement with emerging powers. For example, how Western economies approach their partnerships with the world's largest democracy, India, could make or break the success of such diplomacy. India's economy will probably be the world's third largest (after the United States and China) by 2028. Its growth has been extraordinary, much of it reflecting prowess in information technology and the digital economy. More to the point, India's views on emerging technologies matter immensely. How it regulates and supports advances in AI will determine how billions of people use it.

Engaging with India is a priority for both the US and the European Union, as evidenced by the recent US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) and the EU-India Trade and Technology Council, which met in Brussels this month. But ensuring that these efforts succeed will require a reasonable accommodation of cultural and economic contexts and interests. Appreciating such nuances will help us achieve a prosperous and secure digital future. The alternative is an AI-generated free for all.

Manuel Mu  iz is Provost of IE University. Samir Saran is President of the Observer Research Foundation.

  PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM US DEBT CRISIS

The trickle-down theory has failed

The US is the most powerful country in the world with the highest nominal GDP of nearly \$26.7 trillion. It subjugates other countries and threatens with dire consequences if they don't accept its suzerainty.

Even it has inflicted war on some countries, and spurred terrorist activities. It preaches to other countries how to manage their economies and avert sovereign debt default. But it is never free from economic crises because of its capitalistic system that strives on deceit, fraud, exploitation and greed.

Recently the US economy was inundated by a banking crisis with three major banks collapsing or taken over by other financial behemoths. Now, the looming debt ceiling crisis threatens the supremacy of US economy and darken its economic horizon.

In other words, in January 2023, US debt ceiling crossed its maximum limit of \$31.4 trillion. If the US doesn't raise debt ceiling, the treasury may run out of cash and the country may default on loan payments.

In order to raise debt ceiling, approval of Congress is necessary. But Republicans, who lead the narrow majority in the House of

Representatives, are reluctant. House Republicans are stubborn and demanding cuts of up to \$130 billion, with spending next year capped to 2022 levels. They also want a clawback of unspent pandemic aid dollars. But they don't want to cut military expenditure. This means health, education and other social security and welfare expenditure will be trimmed which will have detrimental impact on poorer sections of society. But Democrats rejected the proposed cuts and want the Republicans to sign off on a no-strings-attached hike, as they have dozens of times in the past increased debt ceiling too.

If the problem is not solved and the US defaults, the impact would be vicious, destructive to the US economy in particular and world economy as a whole. Experts predict the US credit rating would get hit and GDP would decline.

Interest rates have already been steadily rising due to 10 consecutive rate hikes by the Federal Reserve to tame inflation. Another shock like a debt default would increase interest rates further and likely trigger a recession. The cost of borrowing may be too high which will squeeze economic activities and investment. Tax payers

will be worst hit. The housing market would also be devastatingly affected. The stock prices would also likely plummet and cause havoc on retirement savings. Moody's predicted that under a prolonged default scenario, stock prices would plummet by one-fifth, obliterating about \$10 trillion in household wealth. An estimated 2.7 crore Americans would be dragged into poverty without social security.

The real solution to tackle the current gridlocked situation is to raise resources by taxing the rich and the corporates. One of the main reasons for the US debt crisis is cutting the tax both for the rich and the corporates as part of trickle down theory since the Regan era in the 1980s. Trickle-down theory is an economic strategy where taxes levied on the high-income group are curtailed. This theory is based on the belief that huge corporations, wealthy individuals, entrepreneurs, and investors would reinvest tax savings to generate more employment opportunities. But this is not true.

In 1981, Regan reduced tax rate from 70 per cent to 50 per cent, but in two years, revenue collections declining 9 per cent. Bush (2004-2012) was also responsible for massive tax cuts that led to deficit and increase

of debt. He had reduced tax rate from 39.5 per cent to 35 per cent. Donald Trump also resorted cutting tax to benefits of rich and corporates. In his era of tax cuts, Democrats say, \$3.5 trillion debt has been added. Pandemic stimulus package is also another cause for spike in the debt. The US had budget surplus of \$ 0.24 trillion in 2000. Due to tax cuts and concessions to rich and corporates in 2022, the budget deficit reached \$1.367 trillion. The higher deficit means higher borrowing. To accommodate higher debt due to revenue losses spurred by tax cuts, the US Congress had to increase debt ceiling unthinkingly times.

Tax cuts for affluent individuals and corporates adversely affect the economy by raising inequality. Now America is paying a heavy price for embracing tax cuts for the rich. Other countries including India emulating the us are facing mammoth inequality. Now is the time to tax the rich and borrow less. Only the rich are benefited by debt induced growth while the poor bear the burden through cut in welfare expenditure.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

Missed opportunity

Sir, This refers to "Parliament inauguration: Oppn slams PM." **Orissa POST**, May 29. By boycotting the Parliament inauguration, the Opposition scored a self-goal. It is a unifying moment meant to assert our collective sovereignty and independence by moving our democratic soul from a British-built building to a made-in-India masterpiece. By remaining absent on such a historic occasion, it is the Opposition parties rather than Modi who look diminished. In their bid to score a political point, they have made one of Independent India's most historic days all about one man. Our syncretic ethos is evident in the design of the new Parliament. It incorporates symbols from across religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Christianity and Sikhism. Carvings of different cultures that have enriched Indian civilization are used here. The national bird peacock, national flower lotus, banyan tree and many other symbols of pride have also been integrated in its design. This opportunity to build Independent India's own Parliament was available to every prime minister before, but it was Narendra Modi who took on the project and had it built in record time. It's been designed by an Indian architect (Bimal Patel), built by an Indian firm (Tatas), and it has taken the hard work of 7,000 Indian labourers. It's truly an Indian Parliament made for Indians by Indians. However, the Opposition parties missed the opportunity to be the part of such a rare event.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Symbol of authority

Sir, It is essential to fathom the Sengol's significance as a symbol of the Dharma Danda or the ethical-spiritual authority rather than viewing it as a relic or a symbol of political authority. The narrative should revolve around the Sengol's rich heritage and its significance in the context of civilisational tradition. The objections raised by the Opposition parties must be seen and addressed within the democratic framework, respecting their opinions and sentiments. After all, the Parliament is a representative body, and important decisions like this should ideally be taken in a democratic manner. Meanwhile, had Lord Mountbatten handed over the sceptre as a symbol of transfer of power, the Britishers themselves would have publicised it and celebrated the occasion. But they didn't. And Jawaharlal Nehru is not someone who would have accepted symbols of monarchy, and on the contrary must have treated the sceptre a mere gift.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



Use lesser groundwater in farming in Bengal: Study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, May 29: A recent study by a group of environmental scholars and researchers from two leading institutions from West Bengal and one from Australia has suggested lesser use of groundwater in farming to prevent arsenic exposure for farm products, especially in case of rice.

The study paper by scholars and researchers from the School of Environmental Studies, the National Institute of Biological Genomics and Australia's University Of Newcastle pointed out that since groundwater is more prone to arsenic exposure, farm products produced by using that water also become prone to the

same exposure.

To prevent this, the report has suggested stressing on rainy season farming so that rainwater can be used. This remedy is extremely important considering that West Bengal is among those states which have extremely high arsenic concentration in groundwater. Historically as many as 83 blocks scattered over seven districts in West Bengal have arsenic levels in groundwater higher than the permissible limits.

The report, published in science magazine "Environmental Science & Pollution Research", suggests if rice is cooked using arsenic-free water equivalent to three times of the quantity of rice being cooked, the level of arsenic



exposure in that cooked rice comes down substantially.

It has also suggested that since

selenium acts as instruments for combating arsenic, selenium fertilisers should be extensively used

while paddy farming.

The research on this count was conducted on paddy varieties collected from Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, and West Midnapore. The research has revealed that of these varieties collected, the danger of arsenic exposure is maximum and also alarming in North 24 Parganas. While that from Kolkata is prone to moderate exposure, the one from West Midnapore is relatively safe on this count.

In 2020, following a reach jointly conducted by the West Bengal Agriculture Department and National Botanical Research Institute of Lucknow, the state government announced the development "Muktoshri", a variety of rice that is resistant to arsenic.

Tourists heading to Shimla to escape heat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, May 29: Occupancy in hotels has increased to about 90 per cent in Shimla during the weekend as vacationers are making a bee-line to the 'queen of hills' to escape the scorching heat.

While the hotel occupancy here went up Saturday, the summer rush during weekdays is yet to pick up, vice president of Shimla Hotel and Restaurant Association Prince Kukreja said.

The peak summer tourist season starts from April 15 onwards till June 15 in Himachal Pradesh. The summer vacations in the schools in the plain areas also start from May end and a large number of people take to the hills to beat the heat.

The majority of the people are coming on short notice and there is a decline in advance bookings, Kukreja said. The room occupancy is about 80-90 per cent on weekends but it drops to 30-40 per cent during the weekdays, said M K Seth, president of the Tourism Industry Stakeholders Association.

A total of 1,57,335 vehicles entered and exited Shimla from Shoghi Barrier on Chandigarh-Shimla road since May 22 out of which 30 per cent of vehicles (46,998) moved

The peak summer tourist season starts from April 15 onwards till June 15 in Himachal Pradesh

The summer vacations in the schools in the plain areas also start from May-end and a large number of people take to the hills to beat the heat

in and out of Shimla on Friday and Saturday. Shimla Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said.

Of the total to and fro vehicle movement, about 55-60 per cent entered Shimla, he said. Seth said the hotels have also witnessed a fall of 30-40 per cent in advance bookings as the vacationers prefer on-the-spot check-in.

He said that the accommodations running without permission and under 'Bed and Breakfast' (B&B) schemes have become a bane for the hotel industry in Shimla. The tariffs of registered hotels are fixed by the Tourism Department but the online operators are booking rooms in private flats, homes, bungalows, and villas and misleading the tourists by offering heavy discounts, hitting the hotel industry hard, Seth said.

Himachal aiming to improve income

Under the programme, there is a plan to form 2,603 clusters across the state

At present, 889 clusters have been identified

A total of 58,278 bighas will be covered that will benefit 28,873 families, an official statement said



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, May 29: A majority of Himachal Pradesh's population lives in rural areas and is directly or indirectly associated with agriculture and double their income, the government is promoting integrated and holistic agricultural activities under the Him Unnati scheme.

Under the programme, there is a plan to form 2,603 clusters across the state. At present, 889 clusters have been identified. A total of 58,278 bighas will be covered that will benefit 28,873 families, an official statement said.

Special emphasis is also being laid on ensuring the use of technology in the agriculture sector. To ensure productive utilisation of the crops, the government focuses on value addition by enhancing the quality, taste and nutritional

value of these crops through facilities like grading, processing, packaging, and cold storage.

The state government is encouraging farmers to adopt natural farming to reduce the cost of agriculture, besides improving soil health, reducing environmental pollution and produce chemical-free crops.

Currently, 165,221 farmers in 3,611 panchayats have adopted natural farming and encouraging results are being seen, the statement said. To promote natural farming, the government is providing a financial assistance for the purchase of indigenous cows. Emphasis is also being laid on setting up special natural farmer-producer organisations in the state. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Sukhu, the state government is ensuring the welfare of every section of society, the statement said.

'Green Cracker' cluster proposal raises eyebrows



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, May 29: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's proposal to create a 'Green Cracker' cluster in the state to accommodate the workers currently employed in the mushrooming illegal fire-cracker factories has raised the eyes of the environmentalists.

They feel that it is doubtful how far the Chief Minister's proposal will be practical, considering the sound decibel norms imposed by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB).

According to environmentalist and green technologist Somendra Mohan Ghosh, while regular fire-crackers emit around 160 decibels of sound, green crackers produce between 110 and 125 decibels of sound.

The WBPCB imposed sound limit for crackers in the state is 90 decibels. In such a situation, the question is how to build the cluster that will ensure manufacturing of green crackers within the prescribed sound decibel limit," he said.

In fact, in October last year, a section of WBPCB officials too had expressed apprehension over green crackers coming from outside the state to be noisier than the prescribed sound decibel limit in West Bengal. Environmentalists like Ghosh admit that often because of the enhanced focus on fire-cracker related emission issues, which is surely an important factor, the enforcement related to maintaining the sound limit norms are neglected.

The Chief Minister's announcement for the Green Cracker cluster came in the wake of a series of explosions or fires at illegal fire-crackers units in different parts of the state during the last two weeks, which killed 20 persons.

HP lights up trek to hilltop shrine with solar power

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, May 29: Local authorities in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district have lit up a steep trek to the hilltop ancient Adi Himani Chamunda Temple with solar lights, making the trail of lights a fairy tale after the sunset.

"Recently 101 solar lights have been installed by the district administration en route to Adi Himani Chamunda Temple," said Deputy Commissioner Nipun Jindal.

"A panoramic view in the late evening hours. The trail of lights to the holy temple is truly a spectacular sight to behold. #JaiMataDi #Tourism," remarked Jindal in a tweet.

The ancient Himani Chamunda temple can be reached through an uphill trek of about 16 km from

the famous shrine of Chamunda Devi near Dharamsala town, some 250 km from the state capital Shimla.

Earlier, the government allowed a private operator to daily ply a heli-taxi to the famous shrine, but it failed to evoke response from the public who preferred to trudge that to opt a sortie.

Officials said the government also plans to link Aadi Himani Chamunda with a six-km-long ropeway with a carrying capacity of 1,000-1,200 people per hour each way between Dharamsala and the temple.

The total travel time by the ropeway would be around 20 minutes. Himachal Pradesh has 28 Hindu temples. The popular shrines are Chintpurni in Una, Naina Devi in Bilaspur, Baba Balak Nath in Hamirpur and Jwalaji in Kangra.



Members of SUCI (Communist) participate in a protest over Delhi Police's action against the protesting wrestlers at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

Prince Dwarkanath Tagore's favourite well restored

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, May 29: Maheshmunda in Jharkhand is more than 300 km from Kolkata (Howrah) by rail. No rail link existed between this non-descript location (now a census town) and the then capital of the British Raj 200 years ago.

Yet, pots of water from a certain well in Maheshmunda would make their way to the Jorasanko Thakurbari in central Kolkata - birthplace of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore - to meet the whims of Prince Dwarkanath Tagore who believed that the water was pure and helped in digestion.

Prince Dwarkanath Tagore was the grandfather of Rabindranath Tagore and among the first Indians to plan a railway line in the country way back in the 1840s.

His company Carr, Tagore and Company was subsequently merged with East Indian Railway (EIR) - predecessor of Eastern Railway (ER) - that finally launched rail services from Howrah in 1854,



nearly eight years after his death. Maheshmunda is now a rail station in the Madhupur-Giridih Section of ER's Asansol Division and that well that has water with 'medicinal properties' is part of it. No wonder, ER has restored it.

"We have no clue whether the water of this well has medicinal properties but people from far and

wide do travel to Maheshmunda to taste it. "Till a few years ago, when water pipelines had not been laid, this well would serve the needs of the local population. It is also true that a section of the Bengal gentry would travel to Madhupur and Giridih for a change of air (hawa bodol) and a taste of the water that supposedly improved their diges-

tion. It's difficult to say how Prince Dwarkanath actually got his pots of water from this well to Jorasanko, but it certainly needed attention and we have done that," a senior ER official said.

According to Kaushik Mitra, CPRO, ER, the water from this well

is used by locals as well as passengers who continue to believe that it enhances digestion. After all, the Jorasanko Thakurbari, apart from its literary achievements, is also known for its culinary acumen. The book 'Thakurbari Ranna' that translates to 'Recipes of the Tagore Family', continues to remain a bestseller. And without good digestion, it may have been difficult to appreciate the food that has touches from nearly all continents.

"The well is about 4.25 metres in diameter and has a depth of nearly 30 feet in this rocky terrain. We have restored it and added a strong shed. It remains open for all who care to have a drink or take away some water," Mitra said.

Prince Dwarkanath Tagore was the grandfather of Rabindranath Tagore and among the first Indians to plan a railway line in the country way back in the 1840s

India's economy is growing at more than 6 per cent and foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by manifolds. The country received 950 billion dollars of FDI since 1947 to date. Of the total FDI, 532 billion dollars were received in the last eight years

V K SINGH | UNION MINISTER

The taxi drivers will have to undergo a mandatory orientation programme to learn all the traffic rules and to learn how they should behave with the tourists and passengers

MAUVIN GODINHO | GOA TRANSPORT MINISTER

The state-of-the-art Delhi government school inaugurated today is better than private schools in the country. Parents now willingly opt for Delhi government schools over private schools. To make the country number one in the world, we must ensure that every child gets quality education. Delhi's education revolution has given a bright future to lakhs of children

ATISHI MARLENA | DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Arpita puts full blame on ex-min

Kolkata: Arpita Mukherjee, an accused in the alleged multi-crore recruitment scam in state-run schools in West Bengal and once a close confidant of former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee, Monday put the entire blame on Chatterjee for dragging her into the case. After Mukherjee was presented before a special PMLA court here, her counsel described Chatterjee as the mastermind in the case in which flats owned by his client were used to store the proceeds of the scam. To recall, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had recovered several crores of rupees, gold biscuits and ornaments from the two flats in the name of Arpita Mukherjee last year.

Police rescue 21 tourists

Srinagar: Police Monday rescued 21 tourists from the Dal Lake here after they were stranded in the water body due to strong winds. "River Police wing of Srinagar Police today safely rescued 21 tourists in different sorties by speed boats. The tourists were stranded in Shikaras inside Dal Lake, because of sudden change in weather and gusty winds," the police tweeted.

Punjab to digitise all land records

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday said land records in the state will be made online and other routine administrative work hassle-free. The CM, who was chairing a high-level meeting of Punjab Land Record society, said all land related records must be put online so that people can get access to them with a single click.

Leopard trapped

Gangtok: A leopard which had killed over half a dozen cattle was trapped in Sikkim's Soreng district and released into the wild, a forest official said. Officials of the Soreng wildlife range had been receiving numerous complaints from residents of several villages in the district about the killing of domestic animals. Acting upon the complaints, the staff of Soreng Wildlife Range installed camera traps at various locations which revealed that an adult leopard (*Panthera pardus*) was the hunter.



Prime Minister, India does not have a single religion. India follows every religion. It is regrettable that the PM took religious leaders of only one faith into the new Lok Sabha. I wish you were big-hearted to also take Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and Jains (religious leaders) inside

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

CHAMELEON IN MID-DAY MEAL

Around 45 students fell sick Monday after consuming mid-day meal that contained a chameleon in Bihar's Supaul district. The incident occurred at government middle school located in Thudi village under Bhimpur police station in the district



MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Situation calm day after spurt in clashes

Widespread ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur's 11 of the 16 districts after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for ST category status

AGENCIES

Imphal, May 29: An uneasy calm prevailed in Manipur, affected by ethnic conflict, a day after a sudden spurt in clashes and firing between militants and security forces, officials said Monday.

The death toll from clashes a day before rose to five Monday as three more people, who were undergoing treatment in hospitals, succumbed to their injuries, they said. Army and paramilitary personnel continued combing operations in the Imphal valley and sur-



rounding districts, an official said. The Army operation is aimed at confiscating illegal caches of arms, he said. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Army personnel apprehended three miscreants from Imphal East district on Sunday, and later handed over to the Manipur Police, a defence spokesperson said. The army recovered arms and ammunition from them, he said.

"Responding to specific intelligence about armed miscreants venturing openly with the intention to carry out an attack on security forces in the area of City Convention Centre of Imphal East district, the

Army mobilised three columns on Sunday to establish multiple mobile vehicle check posts there," the defence spokesperson said.

During the checking, the Army personnel intercepted a car, and on being stopped, the miscreants got down from the vehicle and attempted to escape from there but the security team apprehended them, he said.

"One INSAS rifle with magazine, sixty rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition, one Chinese hand grenade and one detonator were also recovered. All three miscreants with weapons and ammunition were later handed over to Manipur Police," the defence spokesperson said.

The police had Sunday said that at least two persons were killed and 12 injured in different instances of firing upon civilians and clashes between militants and security forces.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said nearly 40 armed militants involved in torching houses and firing at civilians have

Shah arrives in Manipur

Imphal: Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in ethnic strife-torn Manipur Monday night to restore peace by hammering out a solution between the clashing communities, officials said. He reached the Bir Tikendrajit Imphal International Airport in Imphal aboard a special flight from Delhi, beginning his four-day visit to the state. Shah is expected to hold several rounds of meetings Tuesday to assess the situation and plan steps to restore normalcy, sources said.

been killed by security forces since they began an operation to bring peace to the northeastern state beset by ethnic rioting.

Posters, banners and messages come up in Manipur Monday welcoming Union Home Minister Amit Shah on his four-day visit. The messages have come from both Meiteis and Kuki communities which have been in the news after the recent spate of violence.



BUSY BEE: A bee collects nectar from a flower near India Gate lawn PTI PHOTO

TERROR FUNDING CASE

HC issues notice to Yasin Malik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The Delhi High Court Monday issued a notice to separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is presently serving a life term, on a plea by the National Investigation Agency seeking death penalty for him in a terror funding case.

A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh also issued warrants for production of Malik before it August 9. Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, who appeared on behalf of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), argued that the accused indulged in terrorist and secessionist activities and should be awarded death penalty by treating the matter as a "rarest of rare" case.

Mehta stated that Malik committed the "sensational" killing of four IAF officers and even kidnapped the daughter of then home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed which led to the release of four dreaded criminals who mas-termined the 26/11 attack in Mumbai in 2008.

"In view of the ground that Yasin Malik, sole respondent in this appeal, has inter alia pleaded guilty to a charge under IPC section



121 (waging war against the Government of India) which provides for an alternate death sentence, we issue notice to him... To be served through the jail superintendent," the court ordered. Let warrants be issued for his production on the next date of hearing, it added.

The court also issued notice to Malik on NIA's application seeking condonation of delay in "re-filing" the present appeal. Mehta urged the court to condone the delay, saying "technicalities" should not

have a bearing in matters such as the present one.

On May 24, 2022, a trial court here had awarded life imprisonment to Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front chief Malik after holding him guilty for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the IPC.

Malik had pleaded guilty to the charges, including those under the UAPA, and he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Army rounds up 25 miscreants with arms in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, May 29: At least 25 miscreants with arms, ammunition and grenades have been rounded up by Indian Army and paramilitary forces across ethnic-strife riven Manipur, officials said Monday.

A spokesperson for the defence forces said a number of people were detained with weapons after fresh incidents of firing and clashes broke out in and around Imphal valley Sunday.

"During operations in Sanasabi, Gwaltabi and Shabunkhol Khunao in YKPI Bowl in the hilly region of Imphal East district, Army apprehended 22 miscreants with weapons and other war like stores.

Army mobilised several columns to establish multiple Mobile Vehicle Check Posts (MVCP) and undertake search operations after getting specific intelligence about armed miscreants venturing out for burning of houses, he added.

In all 25 miscreants were caught and handed over, along with weapons and munitions, to Manipur Police. The Defence PRO also said that Sugnu and Serou villages of Kakching district witnessed violent clashes Sunday which saw the army intervening to rescue people affected.

While aerial surveillance cover was given by UAVs, Mine Protected Vehicles and area domination patrols were put in place on ground to ensure safe and incident free evacuation, the official said.



Ten killed in bus-car collision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mysuru (Karnataka), May 29: Ten people, including two children, died on the spot and three persons were injured in a road accident in which a car was crushed in a head-on collision with a private bus in T Narasipura taluk here Monday, police said.

The incident took place near Kuruburu village on Kollegala-T Narasipura main road. According to the police, the car was completely crushed due to the impact

of the accident in what seems to be a head-on collision between the two vehicles.

The injured have been rushed to hospital and are receiving treatment. The deceased, said to be from Sanganakallu in Ballari district, were returning from B R Hills in an Innova car they had hired when the incident took place, a police officer said, adding that they had their train ticket reserved from Mysuru back to Ballari in the evening. Two children are among the deceased, sources said. The

private bus was said to be on its way towards Kollegala. The three injured, also passengers of the car, have been shifted to Chamarajanagara hospital. One of them is in serious condition, while the two others are stable, the officer said.

Fire and emergency personnel, with the help of locals, removed the bodies from the car after cutting through it using a spreader and metal cutters, officials said. They said the bodies were in "very bad" condition.

Inter-state trafficking racket of minors busted

Gujarat has been hitting headlines for all the wrong reasons with religious regularity in recent times. Even as the establishment is busy investigating a slew of recruitment examination paper leaks, digital fiscal frauds, the fake who breached India's formidable security and the high profile businessman con-star, comes news of another scam that may well take the sheen of governance in the union home minister's home state.

A tale of three girls of a southern state who are radicalised and forced into a terror network may have inadvertently become a subject of political weaponisation for electoral benefits countrywide but what has come to light here is much more sinister. Only that it has

no meted out communal angle so is not of much use as a political ploy.

The disappearance of a 13 year old girl from Ahmedabad district early this month and her tracking down from a village in neighbouring Gandhinagar district lifted the veil of a thriving inter-state racket wherein minor girls from impoverished families were targeted, abducted, raped and auctioned into a vicious cycle of marriage and re-marriage through continuing sale. A seven member team including a married couple and their 15 year old son besides a 70 year old and another married woman are in the dock.

A published report traces the modus operandi and also brings out the gruesome nature of the per-

petrators of this heinous crime wherein in the minor is subjected to multiple rapes by the ringleader in the presence of his own wife and



15 year old son to break her down. Besides rape, torture also forms an intrinsic part of the 'treatment' meted out to the minor. Investigators speak of at least ten cases and suspect very many more as their net widens to pull in many more on the rim. The racket which

has spread its tentacles into neighbouring Maharashtra and Rajasthan has been flourishing unhindered in Gujarat for almost a decade as the case of one of the minors sold into marriage to 15 men over eight years brings out. A veritable market auction was being carried out at some place on the Rajasthan side of the Gujarat-Rajasthan border with agents from across the country involved in the bidding process. The price ranged anywhere from ₹2 to 4 lakhs.

According to senior journalist DP Bhattacharya who had extensively reported on the demographic changes taking place in the coastal district of Kutch said that in the decade ending 2012 hundreds of bangla-speaking muslim women

had been trafficked from Bengal and Bangladesh to Kutch where they were sold as brides to meet the unmarried's hunt for wives propelled by a skewed sex ratio.

However the Ahmedabad racket under police investigation differs from the Kutch case as it has dark criminal antecedents. The married minors were kept track of by the criminal masterminds and at an appropriate time after they had won the confidence of the family, they were forced to decamp with cash and valuables, in effect, turning them into accomplices in crime. The investigating teams are still to trace the bulk of the minors, though the kingpin has admitted that many of these trafficked minors were forced into marriage twice in the course of an year.

Earlier this month, a published report, quoting data published in Crime in India-2020 stating that 41,261 women had gone missing between 2016-20 in Gujarat, had created a furor with the Gujarat Police clarifying in a tweet that 39497 women had since then returned and the said information was also part of the said report. However by its own admission 2,124 still remain missing over the period in question and the figures for 2021 and 2022 are yet to come into public domain. Ironically, the present investigations into this case has also brought to the fore how laxity bordering on callous indifference, on the part of the earlier police investigations had allowed this racket to flourish thus far.

international

of the day quote

I will sign a bill that creates a powerful commission, ostensibly meant to investigate Russian influence in Poland



ANDRZEJ DUDA | POLISH PRESIDENT

If he (Imran Khan) takes corrective measures and apologises to the nation for the May 9 carnage, negotiations could be held



ISHAQ DAR | PAKISTAN FINANCE MINISTER

Please continue to keep your vaccinations up-to-date, as it reduces the risk of severe illness. As COVID-19 remains endemic in Singapore, we must continue to stay safe and healthy



LEE HSIEN LOONG | SINGAPORE PM

SHORT TAKES

Saudi executes two Bahraini men

Dubai: Saudi Arabia said it executed two Bahraini men Monday after being convicted of belonging to a militant group wanting to destabilise the two Mideast kingdoms. Amnesty International and other rights groups have criticised their trial as being grossly unfair. The Saudi Interior Ministry's announcement, carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, identified the men as Jaafar Sultan and Sadeq Thamer. The Saudi statement said that the Specialised Criminal Court convicted the two men of belonging to a militant group spreading chaos and smuggling explosives to be used inside Saudi Arabia.

Four dead as tourist boat sinks

Milan: Italian firefighters said Monday that they have recovered four bodies from a northern Italian lake after a tourist boat capsized in a sudden, violent storm. Divers searched overnight after a whirlwind overturned the boat carrying more than 20 tourists and crew Sunday evening. The final body was recovered early Monday.

Space race intensifies

Beijing/Jiuquan: China Monday announced plans to send a manned mission to the moon by 2030 for lunar scientific exploration, amid its deepening space race with the West. The announcement was made by Lin Xiqiang, Deputy Director of the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), as China is preparing to send a third set of astronauts to its space station Tuesday. China's manned lunar mission came as the US space agency NASA aims to send a second manned mission to the moon by 2025 to explore the South Pole for frozen water.

NEW WAVE OF STRIKES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, May 29: Explosions rattled Kyiv during daylight Monday as Russian ballistic missiles took aim at the Ukrainian capital, hours after a more common nighttime barrage of the city by drones and cruise missiles.

Russian forces fired 11 ballistic and cruise missiles at Kyiv at about 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT; 4:30 a.m. EDT), according to Ukraine's chief of staff, Valerii Zaluzhnyi. All of them were shot down, he said, and puffs of white smoke could be seen in the blue sky over the city from street level.

Debris from the intercepted missiles fell in Kyiv's central and northern districts during the morning, landing in the middle of traffic on a city road and also starting a fire on a building's roof, the Kyiv military administration said. At least one civilian was reported hurt.

The blasts unnerved some locals, already under strain after being awakened by the night attack. "After what happened last night, I react sharply to every siren now. I was terrified, and I'm still trembling," shared Alina Ksenofontova, a 50-year-old woman who took refuge in the Kyiv subway

Fresh attack on Kyiv after intense drone barrage



with her dog Bublik.

The central station, Tetatralna, was crowded with sheltering locals. Artem Zhyla, a 24-year-old who provides legal services abroad, took his laptop with him and kept working underground. "I heard two or three explosions, went to the bathroom, and then I heard five or seven more explosions. That's when I realized something terrible was happening," he said.

Like many others in the capital, he feels exhausted and stressed.

However, he has no intentions of giving up and plans to attend his yoga class to recharge. "This is certainly not enough to break us," he said. Russia used Iskander short-range missiles in the morning attack, the spokesman for Ukraine's air force said on local television.

The missiles were fired from north of Kyiv, Yuri Ihnat said without clarifying if he meant Russian territory. Kyiv lies around 380 kilometres from the Russian border. The Russian Defence

IN RECENT MONTHS, UKRAINE HAS BEEN RECEIVING ADVANCED AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS FROM ITS WESTERN ALLIES, IMPROVING ITS ABILITY TO FEND OFF BOMBARDMENTS BY THE KREMLIN'S FORCES

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THE UKRAINIAN AIR FORCE SAID THAT OVER SUNDAY NIGHT IT SHOT DOWN 37 OUT OF 40 CRUISE MISSILES AND 29 OUT OF 35 DRONES LAUNCHED BY THE KREMLIN'S FORCES

Ministry said that early Monday it launched a series of strikes targeting Ukrainian air bases with precision long-range air-launched missiles. The strikes destroyed command posts, radars, aircraft and ammunition stockpiles, it claimed. It didn't say anything about hitting cities or other civilian areas.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba warned against indifference, saying the repeated strikes on civilian areas amounted to "war crimes." "Russia's drone and missile attacks on peaceful Ukrainian cities cannot be seen as usual, no matter how frequent they grow," he tweeted in English.

WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION

Uganda enacts harsh anti-LGBTQ law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kampala (Uganda), May 29: Uganda's President has signed into law tough new anti-gay legislation supported by many in this East African country but widely condemned by rights activists and others abroad.

The version of the bill signed by President Yoweri Museveni doesn't criminalise those who identify as LGBTQ, a key concern for campaigners, who condemned an earlier draft of the legislation as an egregious attack on human rights.

But the new law still prescribes the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality," which is defined as cases of sexual relations involving people infected with HIV,



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni

as well as with minors and other categories of vulnerable people.

A suspect convicted of "attempted aggravated homosexuality" can be imprisoned for up to 14 years, according to the legislation. Parliamentary Speaker Anita Among said in a statement that the president had "answered the cries of our people" in signing the bill.

"With a lot of humility, I thank my colleagues the Members of Parliament for withstanding all the pressure from bullies and doomsday conspiracy theorists in the interest of our country," the statement said.



INS Delhi arrives in Malaysia as part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet deployment to ASEAN countries, at Port Klang, in Malaysia

CURBING RELIGIOUS SLANDER

Sri Lanka is drafting a new legislation to curb the growing incidents of religious slander and online vitriol, according to the country's religious affairs minister



N KOREA WARNS OF SATELLITE LAUNCH

Japan puts missile defences on alert



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, May 29: North Korea Monday notified neighbouring Japan that it plans to launch a satellite in coming days, which may be an attempt to put Pyongyang's first military reconnaissance satellite into orbit.

Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said he ordered Japan's Self Defence Force to shoot down the satellite or debris, if any entered Japanese territory.

Japan's coast guard said the notice it received from North Korean waterway authorities said the launch window was from May 31 to June 11, and that the launch may affect waters in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and east of the Philippines' Luzon Island.

The coast guard issued a safety warning for ships in the area on those dates because of the possible risks from falling debris. Japan's coast guard coordinates and distributes maritime safety information in East Asia, which is likely the reason it was the recipient of North Korea's notice.

To launch a satellite into space, North Korea would have to use long-range missile technology banned by UN Security Council resolutions. Its past launches of Earth observation satellites were seen as disguised missile tests.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the launch would violate UN resolutions and

was a "threat to the peace and safety of Japan, the region and the international community." Japan has already been on standby for falling missile debris from North Korean launches earlier this year and has deployed missile defence systems such as land-to-air PAC-3 and ship-to-air SM-3 interceptors in southwestern Japan and in the East China Sea.

Matsuno said it was possible the satellite would enter or pass above Japan's southwestern islands including Okinawa, where the United States has major military bases and thousands of troops. South Korea warned Monday that North Korea will face consequences if it goes ahead with its launch plan in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions that ban the North from conducting any launch using ballistic technology.

"Our government strongly warns North Korea against a provocation that threatens peace in the region and urges it to withdraw its illegal launch plan immediately," a ministry statement said. It said South Korea will cooperate with the international community to resolutely cope with any North Korean provocation. Earlier this month, North Korean state media reported leader Kim Jong Un had inspected a finished military spy satellite at his country's aerospace centre and approved the satellite's launch plan. Monday's launch notice did not specify the type of satellite.

PUBLIC OUTRAGE

JAPAN PM'S SON TO RESIGN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, May 29: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday his son is resigning as his executive policy secretary to take responsibility for using the prime minister's residence for a private party at which the merrymaking was exposed in magazine photos that triggered public outrage.

Shotaro Kishida, his father's executive secretary for political affairs and eldest son, invited a group of people including relatives to a year-end party on Dec 30 at the Prime Minister's Official Residence.

Photos published by the weekly Shukan Bunshun magazine showing Kishida's son and his relatives posing on red-carpeted stairs in an imitation of the group photos taken of newly appointed Cabinets, with his son at the center — the position reserved for the prime minister. Other photos showed guests standing at a podium as if holding a news conference.

"As secretary for (the prime minister's) political affairs, a public position, his actions were inappropriate and I decided to replace him to have him take responsibility," Kishida told reporters Monday night. He said his son will be replaced with another secretary, Takayoshi Yamamoto, on Thursday.

Kishida acknowledged that he had briefly greeted the guests but said he didn't stay at the dinner party. He said he severely reprimanded his son for the party, but that failed to quell ongoing criticism from opposition lawmakers and public outrage which have pushed down his support ratings.

UK bars export of Tipu Sultan's rare sporting gun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 29: A rare 18th century decorated gun made in India for Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan, and valued at around GBP 2 million, has been barred from export to allow time for a UK-based institution to acquire it for the public study of a "fraught period" in the India-UK history.

UK Arts and Heritage Minister Lord Stephen Parkinson took the decision last week to impose the export ban on the "Flintlock Sporting Gun" following advice from the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA).

The 14-bore gun, dated between 1793 and 1794, was designed for



FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF TIPU SULTAN, HIS DISTINCTIVE PERSONAL WEAPONS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PALACE AND GIVEN TO LEADING BRITISH MILITARY FIGURES OF THE TIME

shooting game (birds) and is signed by its maker Asad Khan Muhammad.

This British colonial-era firearm is said to have been "presented to General the Earl Cornwallis", who previously fought Tipu Sultan between 1790 and 1792.

"This visually striking firearm

is a significant antiquity in its own right, as well as an illustration of the important, interconnected history between Britain and India," said Lord Parkinson.

"I hope that it can be shared with the widest possible public and used to deepen our understanding of a fraught period which

HERCULEAN EFFORT

Nepal honours climbers to mark 70th anniv of Everest conquest

On May 29, 1953, Hillary, a beekeeper from New Zealand and his Sherpa guide Norgay scripted history by becoming the first human beings to scale the treacherous terrains of the world's highest mountain peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, May 29: Nepal honoured record-holding Sherpa guides and climbers Monday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

On May 29, 1953, Hillary, a beekeeper from New Zealand and his Sherpa guide Norgay scripted history by becoming the first human beings to scale the treacherous terrains of the world's highest mountain peak.

Thousands of Sherpa guides and government officials participated in a rally here to mark the 70th anniversary. They waved banners that read "Save the Himalayas." Among those honoured include Sherpa guides Kami Rita, who climbed Everest for a record 28 times, and Sanu Sherpa, who climbed all the world's 14 highest peaks twice.

Hari Budha Magar, who became the first double above-the-knee amputee to climb Everest, was also ho-

noured by Nepal's Tourism Minister Sushila Sirpali Thakuri.

On the occasion, a silver badge encrypted with the logo of Everest was distributed to dozens of Nepalese and foreign Everest summitters. Those receiving the badge include an Indian citizen, who climbed the 8,848.86 metres-high Everest in 2021.

Russian, North American and French climbers were also bestowed with this honour. "For the first time, we are honouring local and foreign climbers who have climbed Everest with medals," Mohan Lamsal, the general secretary of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, said.

A special programme was also organised to honour the families



Record holder veteran Sherpa guide Kami Rita at an event to honour Nepal's record climbers on the International Everest Day, in Kathmandu

of the day quote

The government is monitoring inflation. We are monitoring all data on ground level also. Inflation is already moderating

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

We expect the top five steel makers to incur a capex of ₹55,000-60,000 crore per annum over the next couple of fiscals, compared with ₹30,000 crore per annum on average over the past five fiscals

ANKIT KAHKU | DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

In the case of cabin crew members, it is about ten times and in the case of pilots, it is about five times on an annual rate of the pre-privatised airline

CAMPBELL WILSON | CEO, AIR INDIA

SHORT TAKES

JioCinema, NBC Universal ink deal

Bangalore: JioCinema, the streaming platform run by Reliance Industries Ltd, has signed a partnership with NBC Universal Media in a push to increase Hollywood content on the platform for Indian viewers, the companies said Monday. The multi-year deal will give JioCinemas premium subscribers access to popular shows such as “Downton Abbey”, “Suits” and “The Office,” the companies said in a joint statement. This comes after JioCinema signed a content streaming deal with Warner Bros Discovery Inc in April for shows such as “Succession” and “Game of Thrones”. JioCinema announced its premium pricing earlier this month, moving away from free content model to fight rivals like Netflix and Disney in the content streaming space.

ONGC targets net-zero by 2038

New Delhi: India’s top oil and gas producer ONGC will invest Rs 1 lakh crore by 2030 on energy transition projects as it targets net zero carbon emissions by 2038, its chairman Arun Kumar Singh said Monday. The firm joins fellow state-owned oil and gas firms Indian Oil (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL), GAIL and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) in preparing roadmaps for net zero emissions as part of the nation’s commitment to deal with the climate challenge. Net-zero for a company means achieving a balance between the quantum of greenhouse gases it places into atmosphere and the amount it takes out.

Rolls-Royce set to slash 3K jobs

London: Luxury car and jet engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce is reportedly planning to slash thousands of jobs, around 3,000 ‘non-manufacturing employees’, as it aims to cut costs and streamline operations. According to The Times, the new CEO Tufan Erginbilgic, who described the company as a “burning platform” that needs to reform to survive, has roped in consultants led by McKinsey to guide on how to streamline the company.

Xiaomi to locally make earsets

New Delhi: Xiaomi India Monday announced a partnership with Optimus Electronics Limited (OEL) to manufacture its audio products in the country. Through this partnership, Xiaomi has kicked off the production for its first locally-manufactured audio product at the OEL factory in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.



Banks need to focus on digitalisation and keep a vigil on stressed loans
BHAGWAT K KARAD | MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

TRAVEL TECH UNICORN FLIX TO ENTER INDIA

Germany-headquartered global travel tech unicorn Flix has announced that it intends to enter the Indian market by 2024 in a bid to provide ‘competitive’ intercity, air-conditioned bus services to commuters. For Flix, which is valued at around \$3 billion, India is set to be the 42nd country of operations. It already operates extensive train and bus services in the Americas, Europe, and Turkey



₹2,000 withdrawal a headache for Indians in Gulf

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, May 29: Several Indians in the Gulf nations are having a harrowing time ever since the Indian government decided to withdraw the ₹2,000 notes from circulation, with a lot of them saying that the banking institutions in the region are claiming to be not aware of the policy change.

On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a surprise announcement of the withdrawal of ₹2,000 currency notes but gave the public time till September 30 to either deposit the ₹2,000 notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

The RBI said it had asked banks to stop issuing ₹2,000 notes with im-

mediate effect. In the UAE, Indians are facing a tough time getting ₹2,000 notes exchanged.

Among many is Firoza Sheikh (name changed on request) who landed in Dubai last week with her two children to join her husband for a month-long break.

Days later, as she heard the announcement of the ₹2,000 currency withdrawal, she rushed to an exchange centre to get the local currency equivalent of the eight notes of the ₹2,000 denomination. To her surprise, the exchange counter refused to entertain her request.

“We have instructions from the management not to exchange ₹2,000 notes,” she was bluntly told. She tried to reason out, citing the Indian



Netizens have started sharing reports of the ₹2,000 notes being refused by exchange centres across the Gulf region

government announcement, but to no avail.

“INR 2,000 notes not being accepted in Saudi Arabia exchange offices,” a message shared via social media said. “I request all hajjis (Haj pilgrims) to bring ₹500 notes

from India. It’s important and please share this information with those embarking on the pilgrimage this year,” the post said.

Non-Residential Indian (NRI) businessman Chandrashekhar Bhatia of the Global Federation

said a lot of people he knows are stuck with ₹2,000 currency notes.

“We are in the middle of a holiday season and the last thing someone visiting the region needs is the bulk of their cash becoming of no use,” he said.

Another businessman, who chose to remain anonymous, said it’s not much the decision but its implementation that leaves much to be desired.

“If banks and financial institutions were informed in advance so that they could exchange these notes, things wouldn’t be that bad. If you are told the currency in your pocket has no value, one begins to look like a fool who has nowhere to go,” he said.

ADANI STOCKS’ REBOUND

India back in world’s top 5 stock markets

Foreign investors have added \$5.7 billion worth of stocks since the start of April

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: India has reclaimed its spot as the world’s fifth largest stock market after losing that status to France in January, as foreign investors snap up the Asian nation’s shares, as per reports Monday.

India’s market capitalization stood at \$3.3 trillion as of Friday, helped also by a rebound in Adani Group’s stocks after a short seller report earlier in the year sparked a heavy selloff.

Meanwhile, France lost more than \$100 billion in market value last week as luxury goods makers such as LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE and Vivendi SE saw a rout amid fears of a slowdown in China and the US.

Adani’s 10 listed entities added around \$15 billion to their market

value last week to trim their losses post-Hindenburg’s report to \$105 billion from as high as \$153 billion earlier.

The S&P BSE Sensex Index has bounced back more than 9% after briefly entering correction territory in mid-March, closing in on record high levels.

A rebound in Adani’s stocks has gathered steam turn after a court-appointed panel said it found no conclusive evidence of stock price manipulation as alleged by US short seller Hindenburg Research.

Global funds are piling into Indian stocks as a stuttering economic recovery in China has sparked a rotation. Foreign investors have added \$5.7 billion worth of India stocks since the start of April, lured by a stable earnings outlook and one of the highest GDP growth rates among the world’s largest economies.

The US remains the world’s largest stock market with mcap of \$44.54tn, followed by China (\$10.26tn), Japan (\$5.68tn) and Hong Kong (\$5.14tn)



Indonesian IPOs a magnet for investors

Investors have pulled back from major equity markets over the past year as rising interest rates have pushed up the cost of capital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, May 29: One of the hottest IPO markets this year is not in a country brimming with global tech giants, nor does it rank among the top 10 global economies by size.

But Indonesia, a collection of islands with a big population and a fast-growing economy, sits on vast deposits of the metals



It is not normal. This year will likely be the best for Indonesia ever

PERRIS LEE | ANALYST (ASIAN EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS), ASIAN EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS

needed to make batteries for electric vehicles. That has made the country an important engine of the global green transition – and a magnet for investors, CNN reported.

The Southeast Asian country currently ranks as the world’s fourth-largest market for newly listed companies when measured

by the amount of capital raised, according to data from Dealogic, putting it behind leader China, the US and United Arab Emirates.

It has overtaken Hong Kong – for one of the top IPO markets – for the first time since 1995, and is outpacing economic powerhouses India, South Korea and Japan, CNN reported.

So far this year, investors have poured \$2.1 billion into Indonesian IPOs, Perris Lee, who focuses on Asian equity capital markets at data provider Dealogic said. That’s just shy of the \$2.2 billion the country’s firms raised over the whole of 2022, while at least five more major IPOs are set to come in 2023.

Part of Indonesia’s IPO success this year can be explained by lackluster performances elsewhere, CNN reported.

The US IPO market, usually the world’s largest, has suffered given its reliance on particularly rate-sensitive tech companies, Lee said. Hong Kong, meanwhile, has been held back by poor valuations and the legacy of strict Covid lockdowns, he added.

‘Gaps in corporate banks’ governance despite guidelines’

RESERVE BANK CHIEF STRESSED THAT ASSETS MISREPORTING WERE SEEN AT SOME BANKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 29: The Reserve Bank has found gaps in banks’ corporate governance despite issuing guidelines on the matter, Governor Shaktikanta Das said Monday.

Addressing directors of bank boards, Das said such gaps, which have been mitigated, could have caused “some degree of volatility”. He also hit out strongly against “smart accounting” to conceal stress and bloat financial performance.

“It is...a matter of concern that despite these guidelines on corporate governance, we have come across gaps in governance of certain banks, with the potential to cause some degree of volatility in the banking sector,” Das said at

the meeting specially convened by the Reserve Bank.

Bank boards and management should not allow such gaps to creep in, he said, adding that the RBI has taken up such matters with the banks at an individual level in the past.

It is the joint responsibility of the chairman of the board and the directors, both whole-time and non-executive or part-time directors, to ensure robust governance in banks, the governor noted.

Banks try to conceal the real status of stressed loans by getting two lenders together to evergreen each other’s loans by sale and buy-back of loans or debt instruments, persuading good borrowers to enter into structured deals with a stressed borrower to conceal the stress, ad-



just borrower’s repayment obligations by using internal or office accounts, he said.

“We have also come across a few examples where one method of evergreening, after being pointed out by the regulator, was replaced by another method. Such practices

beg the question as to whose interest such smart methods serve. I have mentioned these instances to sensitise all of you to keep a watch on such practices,” he said.

Without naming any particular case, Das said the RBI has noticed the dominance of chief executives

RBI has also found banks adopting smart accounting methods to artificially boost financial performance

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

in board discussions and decision-making and ruled that the boards do not assert themselves.

“We would not like this type of situation to develop. At the same time, there should not be a situation where the CEO is inhibited from doing his duties,” he added.

Das advised banks to be cautious in the pursuit of their growth strategies, pricing and portfolio composition.

“Over-aggressive growth, underpricing or overpricing of products both on the credit and deposit sides, concentration or lack of adequate diversification in deposit/

SOLAR CAPACITY INSTALLATIONS PLUNGE 48% YOY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The solar capacity addition in India fell by 48 per cent year-on-year to 1.9 GW in January-March period of 2023, according to Mercom India Research.



The country had added 3.6 gigawatt (GW) of solar capacity during the same period in 2022, the research firm said in its latest report.

“India added 1.9 GW of solar capacity in the first quarter of calendar year 2023, a 48 per cent decrease year-over-year (YoY) compared to the 3.6 GW added in Q1 2022,” the report titled ‘Q1 2023 India Solar Market Update’ said.

On a quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) basis, the installations were 30 per cent lower compared to the 2.7 GW solar capacity installed in October-December period or fourth quarter in 2022.

Out of 1.9 GW, large-scale solar projects accounted for 74 per cent of installations, with rooftop solar making up an additional 26 per cent.

India’s cumulative installed solar capacity currently stands at 64.5 GW. As of March 2023, the country’s utility-scale project development pipeline stood at 58 GW, with an additional 58 GW of projects tendered awaiting auction.

India’s solar industry passed an important milestone in 2022, setting a new record with 13 GW of capacity added.

However, in 2023 the additions are expected to be lower as commissioning deadlines for several projects have been moved to next year. Besides, a number of projects are facing delays due to land and transmission issues, Mercom India said.

BIZ BUZZ



Bhubaneswar: The 8th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair and Global Business Carnival 2023 organised at Janata Maidan is witnessing massive footfall. As per report, over 30,000 customers visited the fair on its 9th day and business worth more than 2.5 crore was concluded. The event which was scheduled to end May 29 has been extended for another six days till June 4 on the request of traders and customers. The decision was announced by Sujit Gupta, Chairman and Payal Gupta Acharya, director of Gupta Event Management. The traders’ body has also decided to give special discounts to customers in the extended period for more business.

credit profile can expose the banks to higher risks and vulnerabilities,” he said.

The governor also said that while the Reserve Bank has nudged banks to adjust their business strategies in some cases where they were creating “avoidable vulnerabilities” by being aggressive, the central bank does not interfere in the commercial decision-making of the banks.

Employees cannot be rewarded for increasing short-term profits without adequate recognition of the risks and long-term consequences, Das said.

In the remarks that come weeks after turbulence in the American banking sector, Das also asked bank boards to be wary about basic aspects like asset-liability mismatches, saying as suboptimal ALM can lead to serious liquidity risks and destabilising effects on the bank itself.

‘HIGH 5’ FOR SUPER KINGS



AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, May 29: It was a fitting result for a 30-hour wait, which began 7.30 pm Sunday and finished around 1.30 am Tuesday. In the end, it was Chennai Super Kings, who claimed their fifth Indian Premier League title, equalling Mumbai Indians’ feat of most titles by a franchise.

The match had everything – runs, drama, interruptions. After winning the toss, CSK invited defending champions Gujarat Titans to bat and the Hardik Pandya-led side posted a massive 214/4, courtesy B Sai Sudharsan (96, 47b, 8x4, 6x6) and Wriddhiman Saha (54, 39b, 5x4, 1x6).

However, the CSK innings was affected by a strong passing shower. The MS Dhoni-led side were 4/0 in 0.3 overs as the second innings began slightly late due to mid-innings show. After a couple of in-

spections by umpires, the CSK innings was reduced to 15 overs with a target of 171 runs via DLS method.

Ruturaj Gaikwad (26, 16b) and Devon Conway (47, 25b, 4x4, 26x) started off strongly after the resumption adding 74 runs in 6.2 overs before the former got out. Shivam Dube (32 n o, 21b), Ajinkya Rahane (27, 13b) and Ambati Rayudu (19, 8b) made crucial contributions, while Dhoni got out for a first-ball duck.

Requiring 13 runs off the final over, bowled by Mohit Sharma (3/36), CSK had managed only three runs off the first four deliveries. With 10 needed off last two balls, Ravindra Jadeja (15 n o, 6b) hit a six and four in consecutive balls to finish off the match in favour of CSK.

Earlier, Sudharsan forged crucial partnerships helping GT find their feet in the summit clash,

after Shubman Gill perished for 39 and Saha failed to go beyond his half century. Put in to bat, Gujarat Titans posted a formidable 214/4.

A big moment arrived in the game as early as in the second over when Tushar Deshpande had Gill flicking a delivery on the leg side, as if executing a well-planned delivery, but with no success. Deepak Chahar, positioned at short fine leg, spilled a regulation chance but Gill also could not hurt CSK the way he did Mumbai Indians a few nights ago, here.

Saha piled further pressure on the bowler, collecting 16 runs off the third over and providing the Titans momentum. Gill followed with three consecutive fours off Deshpande, but Chahar’s poor luck continued when spilled a tough return catch off Saha’s bat. The two drops indeed proved costly as GT reached 62 for no loss after the powerplay.

However, the brilliance of Dhoni ended Gill’s sensational IPL with the bat, stumping the batter for a 20-ball 39 (7x4s) off Jadeja in the seventh over.

With 890 runs in 17 matches with three centuries and four fifties, an average of 59.33 and strike rate of 157.80, the 23-year-old Gill finished with the second best performance for any batter in IPL history.

Saha brought up his second fifty of this IPL in the 13th over but his 64-run stand with Sudharsan ended in the 14th over, with Chahar getting him caught by Dhoni.

The second highest run-scorer for Titans this season, Sudharsan accelerated to his third fifty in this IPL, bringing it up with consecutive fours off Matheesha Pathirana.

The young left-handed batter from Chennai recovered well from a sedate start to accelerate after the

14th-over mark, hitting three fours and a six off Deshpande and two sixes against Theekshana.

In fact, Sudharsan was on 36 from 25 balls when Saha was dismissed, and on the next 21 balls he faced, the 21-year-old former CSK academy alumni smacked 60 runs.

However, in the final over, Sudharsan’s carnage ended as Pathirana pinned him in front of the wickets for his first breakthrough in the game. GT skipper Hardik Pandya scored an unbeaten 12-ball 21.

BRIEF SCORES: GT 214/4 (Sai Sudharsan 96, Wriddhiman Saha 54, Shubman Gill 39, Hardik Pandya 21 n o; Matheesa Pathirana 2/44, Ravindra Jadeja 1/38, Deepak Chahar 1/38) lost to CSK 171/5 (Devon Conway 47, Shivam Dube 32 n o; Mohit Sharma 3/36, Noor Ahmad 2/17) by 5 wickets via DLS method.



Ravindra Jadeja reacts after hitting the winning runs in the final

ROHIT TO HIT NETS TODAY

Kohli joins training ahead of WTC final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Arundel (Sussex), May 29: Batting mainstay Virat Kohli joined the national team’s training session Monday at the picturesque Arundel Castle Cricket Club along with left-arm seamer Jaydev Unadkat, who seemed to have recovered from left shoulder injury. India will play Australia at the Oval in the one-off Test from June 7 to 11.

The BCCI Monday shared pictures of the members of the team, including Kohli, pace duo of Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Siraj on their official twitter handle. “Team India members begin their preparations for the WTC23 at Arundel Castle Cricket Club,” BCCI said in a tweet.

While Kohli, Umesh and Siraj were seen jogging in their new training kit, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin could be seen rolling his arm over at the nets.

Unadkat was also engaged in a discussion with head coach Rahul Dravid and bowling coach Paras Mhambrey. Cheteshwar Pujara, who has been playing for Sussex in

the English county circuit to prepare for the final, also was seen arriving in the training ground. Umesh and Shardul Thakur were among the first batch of Indian players to arrive for the WTC final.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and young Mumbai opener Yashasvi Jaiswal have also reached, while the last batch including Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill, Mohammad Shami, KS Bharat and Ajinkya Rahane, will be leaving Tuesday following the IPL final in Ahmedabad.

Jaiswal was included in the squad as a stand-by player after Ruturaj Gaikwad informed BCCI about him getting married June 3-4.

India had finished runners-up in 2022 after losing the WTC final to Kane Williamson-led New Zealand by eight wickets in Southampton two years ago. India won’t play any warm-up game as the English County Championship is on and also this being an ICC event, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is under no obligation to arrange practice matches for the visiting team.



EVERTON
BREATHE
SIGH OF
RELIEF

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leicester, May 29: Seven years after the most improbable Premier League title triumph of all, Leicester was relegated from English football’s top division while Everton pulled off another last-day escape to extend their 69-year stay.

Leeds was also consigned to the drop with Leicester and already-relegated Southampton Sunday as the league season reached its conclusion.

Everton’s 1-0 win over Bournemouth meant Leicester’s 2-1 victory against West Ham was ultimately meaningless. Leeds’ miserable campaign ended in a 1-4 loss at home against Tottenham.

Leicester’s demise stands out because of the dramatic nature of their fall after experiencing the most spectacular period in their history in recent years.

By winning the title as a 5,000-1 shot in 2016, they provided the Premier League with their greatest fairy tale – being crowned champion two years after being promoted from the second tier.

In 2021 they were celebrating victory against Chelsea in the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium, a

period that also saw them achieve back-to-back fifth-place finishes. Relegation was not seen as a realistic threat this season – even after a summer in which Leicester failed to make major moves in the transfer market.

In the Premier League, however, fairy tales do not guarantee happily-ever-after endings and Leicester now face an uncertain future with interim manager Dean Smith out of contract and a host of its star players likely to leave in the summer.

While it was a day of anguish for Leicester, Everton was celebrating once again as the league’s great survivor. Having been in the top division since 1954, it pulled off another great escape, having avoided relegation on the final day of the season in both 1994 and 1998 previously.

The Merseyside club, which only narrowly avoided the drop last year, took it to the wire yet again this season. Abdoulaye Doucoure smashed home a 57th-minute goal to earn the win that sparked jubilant scenes at Goodison.

Everton’s fate was always in their own hands, starting the day in 17th place, two points above

Leicester and Leeds. It is a triumph for manager Sean Dyche, who was hired in January and tasked with the job of turning the club’s season around.

UNITED FINISH 3RD

Two cup finals and now a third-place finish in the Premier League. United rallied to beat Fulham 2-1 thanks to goals from Jadon Sancho and Bruno Fernandes to finish above Newcastle in third place. Newcastle could only draw 1-1 at Chelsea.

A run of four straight wins to end the league campaign sent up United for their shot at Manchester City in the FA Cup final Saturday.

VILLA INTO EUROPE

Aston Villa will play in Europe next season for the first time in 13 years after beating Brighton 2-1 to finish in seventh place. Villa’s win meant Tottenham finished in eighth place and out of the European positions.

GOLDEN BOOT

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland finished his first season in English football with the Golden Boot award as the Premier League’s top scorer having 36 goals to his name. City ended their campaign with a 0-1 loss at Brentford.



Police action against wrestlers upsets Bindra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: India’s first individual Olympic gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra has denounced the police action against the country’s top wrestlers at Jantar Mantar, saying the “horrifying images” had left him “sleepless” and “haunted”.

Unprecedented scenes of police dragging Olympic and world championships medalists, including Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sangeeta Phogat, were witnessed when the wrestlers and their supporters breached the security cordon during their march towards the new Parliament building for the planned women’s ‘Mahapanchayat’.

The wrestlers are demanding the arrest of outgoing WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly sexually harassing several women wrestlers, including a minor. They had called for a women’s Mahapanchayat at the new Parliament building at a time when it was being inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“Last night was sleepless, haunted by the horrifying images of my fellow Indian wrestlers protesting,” tweeted Bindra, even as India’s most successful foot-



baller Sunil Chhetri and former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan too criticised the action against the wrestlers.

“It’s high time we establish independent safeguarding measures across sporting organizations. We must ensure that if such situations arise, they are dealt with utmost sensitivity and respect. Every athlete deserves a safe and empowering environment,” added Bindra, the 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medalist in air rifle.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati also tweeted

in support of the wrestlers.

“Our daughters who have brought laurels for the nation on global stage have been forced to protest and demand action against Wrestling Federation of India chief on allegations of sexual harassment. I urge the central government to come forward and deliver justice to these daughters,” Mayawati tweeted.

Another former UP CM Akhilesh Yadav also accused the centre for making hollow promises on safety of women. “The incident at Jantar Mantar (Sunday) has made it clear that BJP’s slogans on women’s

safety and security are hollow and means of trying grab votes,” he tweeted.

Sunday as the wrestlers breached the barricades and marched towards the new Parliament building from Jantar Mantar, the police personnel shoved and pushed them before detaining them and taking them to different police stations in Delhi.

Vinesh provided a strong resistance against her detention and Sangeeta clung on to her cousin while lying on the road as the struggle continued for a few minutes. The police officials dragged and lifted them into buses along with several other wrestlers and their supporters.

Though they were released after seven hours of detention, it left several athletes in other disciplines anguished. “Why does it have to come down to our wrestlers being dragged around without any consideration? This isn’t the way to treat anyone. I really hope this whole situation is assessed the way it should be,” tweeted India football captain Chhetri.

Pathan said a solution to the issue should be found immediately. “I’m so sad to see the visuals of our Athletes.... Please solve this ASAP,” Pathan tweeted.

India in Junior Asia Cup semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Salalah (Oman), May 29: Defending champions India moved into the semifinals of the Men’s Junior Asia Cup with a 17-0 win over Thailand in their last Pool A match.

India, who are likely to top the four-team Pool A with 10 points from four games, were unstoppable with Angad Bir Singh scoring four goals (13th, 33rd, 47th, 55th min).

Besides Angad, the other goal-getters for India late on Sunday night were Yogamber Rawat (17th), captain Uttam Singh (24th, 31st), Amandeep Lakra (26th, 29th), Arajjeet Singh Hundal (36th), Vishnukant Singh (38th), Bobby Singh Dhani (45th), Sharda Nand Tiwari (46th), Amandeep (47th), Rohit (49th), Sunit Lakra (54th) and Rajinder Singh (56th).

Stephens through at French Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 29: Back on her “favorite court in the world,” Sloane Stephens looked sharp in her opening match at the French Open with a 6-0, 6-4 win over two-time major finalist Karolina Pliskova.

While Stephens’ only Grand Slam title came at the 2017 US Open, she’s also had sustained success at Roland Garros, finishing as a runner-up to Simona Halep in 2018 and reaching two quarterfinals on the red clay in Paris – including last year.

She helped American women go 4-0 through the first few hours of play on Day 2 of the tournament after a 1-4 start Sunday, when the only US victory came in a match between two players from the country – Jessica Pegula beat Danielle Collins.



Madison Keys beat Kaia Kanepi 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 Monday to improve her career record in the first round of majors to 35-5. Keys next plays American qualifier Kayla Day, who eliminated French wild-card entry Kristina Mladenovic 7-5, 6-1.

Also, Croatian-born American

Bernarda Pera beat former No.2-ranked Anett Kontaveit 7-6(8-6), 6-2. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, a finalist in Paris in 2021, breezed past Czech teenager Linda Fruhvirtova 6-2, 6-2; and 22nd-seeded Donna Vekic beat qualifier Dayana Yastremska 6-2, 7-5.