



SPILLING BEANS

Actor Alaya F reveals why she decided to become an actor despite studying film direction

LEISURE P2



WAR DEEPENS

A rare drone attack jolts Moscow early Tuesday, causing only light damage but forcing evacuations

INTERNATIONAL P10



A CAREER MILESTONE

Doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty achieves a career-best World No.4 spot in the BWF rankings

SPORTS P12

WRESTLERS PUT OFF PLAN TO IMMEDIATELY IMMURSE MEDALS

AGENCIES

Haridwar, May 30: On a drama-filled Tuesday, some of India's best wrestlers accompanied by hundreds of supporters gathered here on the banks of the Ganga, threatening to immerse their World and Olympic medals in the holy river but refrained after being convinced by Khap and farmer leaders who sought five days to address their grievances.

Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik, Bajrang Punia and Asian Games gold medallist Vinesh Phogat arrived at Har ki Pauri to protest the inaction against outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has allegedly sexually harassed several women grapplers.

Sakshi, Vinesh and her cousin Sangeeta were seen sobbing as their husbands tried to console them, even as scores of their supporters formed a cordon around them. The wrestlers stood for about 20 minutes in silence after reaching Har ki Pauri. They then sat on the banks of the river holding their medals and looking distressed.

Bajrang joined them after 40 minutes. Sombir Rathi, husband of Vinesh, was holding the Asian Games medals won by her wife. Sakshi was holding tightly the framed Olympic bronze medal she had won in 2016 in Rio. As the deadline for the immersion of the medals drew closer, senior farmer leaders Sham Singh Malik and Naresh Tikait sought five days' time from the grapplers to resolve the issue.

"The khap leaders put their turbans before us and said 'do not lose hope'. Keep the dignity of the turban and return. So we decided to wait," said wrestler Jitender Kinha, who has been a part of the protesting group.



FOR A CAUSE: Protesting wrestlers Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and Sangeeta Phogat at Har ki Pauri ghat, in Haridwar, Tuesday

10 VAISHNO DEVI PILGRIMS DEAD

AGENCIES

Jhajjar Kotli/Jammu, May 30: At least 10 Vaishno Devi pilgrims, most of them from Bihar, were killed and 57 injured as the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and rammed into the railing of a bridge before falling off it, Tuesday, officials said.

The death toll may go up as Government Medical College Hospital Principal Shashi Soodan said two of the injured admitted there are critical.

The officials said the bus, which was on its way to Katra from Amritsar, met with the accident in Jhajjar Kotli area on the Jammu-Srinagar NH between 6:30 and 7:00 am. Katra is a base camp for the pilgrims visiting the famous shrine atop the Trikuta hills.

Most of the travellers were members of an extended family from Bihar's Lakhisarai and were on pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi temple for a ritual of a child. "The accident took place at Jhajjar Kotli bridge. 10 people have died. Rescue operation is almost complete. We are investigating the reasons behind the accident," Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police Chandan Kohli said.

Local residents, CRPF and police personnel rushed to the spot and launched the rescue operation.

The troops of 137 CRPF battalion carried out the rescue operation to evacuate passengers from the bus, which turned turtle and fell down from Jhajjar Kotli bridge on highway, they said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Yeah, it's brutal but not a newsworthy crime. The victim and the accused both belong to the same religion

Drain work claims Cuttack girl's life

Locals blame 'slapdash' attitude of agency engaged in the construction work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 30: A day after a 60-year-old man lost his life as his car fell into Taladanda canal due to absence of barricade, a minor girl died a few hours after being trapped between huge pipes and a concrete slab on a temporary bridge during box drain construction in Kesharpur-Gamandia area under Purighat police limits here, Tuesday.

According to sources, N Mohini Das, daughter of Krishna Das and Hema Das, of Gamandia area was crossing the bridge when huge pipes fell on her, leaving the girl trapped in between the concrete slab and the pipes.

With no way out, the Plus II student of Emarti Devi Women's College in the Silver City raised an alarm following which locals rushed to her rescue.

Locals pulled out all the stops to rescue the girl after more than an hour of intense operation. Meanwhile, the bridge (pathway), which was built to facilitate the movement of people from one end of the drain to the other, collapsed during the rescue operation.



A trapped Mohini

The pipes were precariously stocked for construction of the box drain, they said.

The critically-injured girl was rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack and later to a private healthcare facility in CDA area, where she died.

On Monday, Gyanaranjan Jena, a resident of Sartol area here, died and his wife Anjana Jena suffered grievous injuries after the car they

were travelling in fell into Taladanda canal near Andarpur under Madhupatna police limits here.

The mishap took place around 12 in the noon when Gyanaranjan and his wife were returning home in a car after withdrawing cash from a bank. They were heading towards Andarpur from Matrubhawan when they couple could not proceed as the road was closed. There was no warning about the under-construction open end of Taladanda. Ignorant about the open end, the Gyanaranjan reversed the vehicle which veered into the canal.

The district administration has sought a report from the R&B superintending engineer and sub-collector (Sadar) in connection with the incident.

According to locals, the mishap happened due to the 'slapdash' attitude of the agency engaged in the construction work.

"It is the negligent attitude of the administration and the private agency executing the construction work for which two lives were lost in as many days," said Praveen Swain, a resident of Purighat area.

13,000 more Plus II seats

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: In a bid to ensure accommodation of more students, the state government has decided to offer 13,000 more Plus II seats at 106 upgraded higher secondary schools from 2023-24 academic session, School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Sudam Marndi said, Tuesday.

Briefing media after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewed the performance of S&ME department, Marndi said the decision to increase the Plus II seats was taken in view of the higher pass percentage in the annual High School Certificate (HSC) Examination this year.

This year, a record 96.4 per cent of students have cleared the Class X examination against 90.55 per

RESULTS TODAY

Bhubaneswar: The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will announce Plus II Science and Commerce results at 11am May 31, an official said Tuesday. "Plus II Science and Commerce results will be announced May 31. However, the results of Arts and Vocational streams will be published on a later date," CHSE Controller of Exams Ashok Kumar Nayak said. Around 3.75 lakh students have registered themselves for the Annual Higher Secondary Examination (AHSE) 2023.

cent last year, Marndi said, adding that the seats would be increased considering the requirement.

The S&ME Minister said the government is all set to provide 13,000 more Plus II seats at 106 up-

graded higher secondary schools from 2023-24 academic session.

The minister said officers have been asked to ensure that admissions of students are made smoothly.

Over 5.21 lakh students of 8,954 schools had appeared for the matriculation examination. Of them, over 5.12 lakh passed the exam, the result of which was announced by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) May 18.

According to S&ME Commissioner-Cum-Secretary Aswathy S, the state has 5.09 lakh Plus II seats. "Addition of 13,000 new seats will ensure all eligible students get a Plus II seat," she said.

Marndi said the government has fulfilled almost all promises made in the domain of S&ME and launched several programmes to enhance the quality of education.

40 med colleges derecognised

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 30: Around 40 medical colleges across the country have lost recognition over the past two months allegedly for not following standards set by the National Medical Commission (NMC), official sources said Tuesday.

About 100 more medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Assam, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and West Bengal may also face similar action soon, they said.

The colleges were not found to be

complying with the set norms and several lapses related to CCTV cameras, Aadhaar-linked biometric attendance procedures and faculty rolls were found during inspections carried out by the Commission, an official source said.

According to government data, the number of medical colleges has increased significantly since 2014. There is an increase of 69 per cent in medical colleges from 387 before 2014 to 654 as of now, MoS for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar had told the Rajya Sabha in February.

MAN HANGS SELF AFTER KILLING WIFE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhannagar, May 30: A 42-year-old man allegedly killed his wife by slitting her throat and later hanged himself to death over marital discord at Mulana Sahi in Ward-8 under Dhannagar police limits in Bhadrak district, police said Tuesday.

The deceased couple was identified as Bhaskar Samal and Sasmita Samal, 36.

Before ending his life, Bhaskar shot a live video and uploaded it to his social media account.

The matter came to the fore Tuesday morning after some villagers spotted Bhaskar's body hanging from a tree near his house. Later, Sasmita's body was found in a pool of blood inside the house.

The couple was married for the last 16 years and had two sons. However, they were not in good terms and always fought over some issue. Their dispute was resolved a few days back in the presence of village elders at the local police station.

The bodies have been sent for postmortem. And a probe has been launched, Dhannagar IIC Banamali Barik said. Two separate cases were registered in this connection over complaints filed by the woman's father and Bhaskar's brother, the IIC added.

ChatGPT, Bluetooth earbuds used to cheat in exam

AT LEAST 49 PERSONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE TELANGANA STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAM PAPER LEAK CASE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

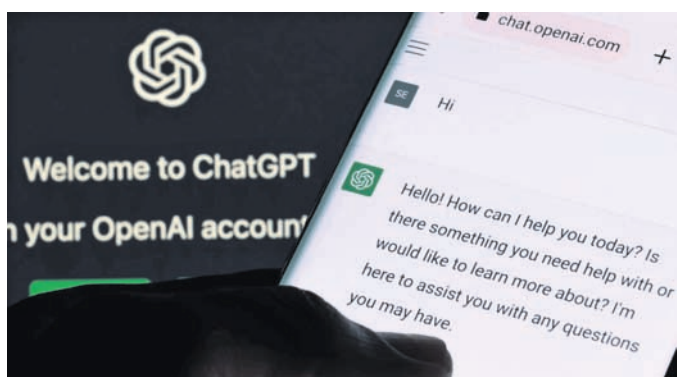
Hyderabad, May 30: The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) exam paper leak case could be one of the first instances in the country where ChatGPT and Bluetooth earbuds were used to cheat the system.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the paper leak claimed that Poola Ramesh, 35, a divisional engineer with Telangana State Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (TSNPDC) in Peddapalli, used ChatGPT to get answers after he accessed the question papers for recruitment of as-

sistant executive engineer (AEE) and divisional accounts officer (DAO). Ramesh later relayed the answers to aspirants who used Bluetooth earbuds while answering the exams in the hall.

Ramesh allegedly shared the answers through electronic devices with at least seven candidates present in the exam hall. This is the first time in the sensational case that the use of ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-training Transformer) and electronic devices have come to light, sources said.

The SIT Monday arrested Prashanth, Naresh, Mahesh and Srinivas who allegedly wrote the



exam with the help of electronic devices. The investigating officials are now trying to find out how the can-

didates managed to enter the exam hall with electronic devices without being detected at the entrance.

They were looking for an examiner who helped them enter the exam hall with the devices -- Bluetooth earpieces. The examiner is also suspected to have taken photos of question papers and sent them to Ramesh on WhatsApp 10 minutes after the exam started.

With the arrests made Monday, the total number of people arrested in the case has gone up to 49.

Ramesh had received the leaked question paper from another accused Poola Ravi Kishore, a junior assistant in the electricity department. Ramesh further sold the leaked question paper to about 25 candidates for ₹25 lakh to ₹30 lakh

each. The exam was held March 5, an official said.

Earlier in January and February exams, Ramesh also used the latest AI technology and microelectronic devices to help the aspirants.

After receiving the question paper on his mobile from the exam centre through an examiner, he with the help of four others used ChatGPT to get correct answers and relayed the same to candidates present in the exam hall using Bluetooth earbuds.

Ramesh allegedly had a deal with each candidate for ₹20 lakh to ₹30 lakh.

leisure



PADMA HOPES TO BECOME OLDEST SWIMSUIT MODEL

Indian American model, TV host, author and activist Padma Lakshmi hopes to become the oldest Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue model in history. The 52-year-old model has said that she'd love to replace Martha Stewart, 81, in the record books.

DEPP CANCELS SHOWS FOLLOWING ANKLE INJURY

Hollywood star Johnny Depp has been forced to postpone a slate of his upcoming tour dates due to an injured ankle. Depp told his Instagram followers: "I am sorry to say that I have fractured my ankle and have been asked to avoid all activities for the moment."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You are likely to remain careful and watchful today, foretells Ganesha. And because you'll be invited to parties and other social events, your enthusiasm will remain buoyant. You will also strike the right balance between business and pleasure, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
In all probability, you will discuss certain sacred issues with your beloved today, predicts Ganesha. In the evening, you will be possibly visiting holy places. You had better make up for the lost time to finish pending work in the afternoon.

GEMINI
The idea of being with your family will keep you motivated throughout the day. In business, your inquisitive approach will do you a lot of good. In fact, you will have the proverbial Midas touch – whichever venture you put your hands on will turn into a glittering success.

CANCER
Today, you will shift your entire focus on the problems plaguing your personal life, feels Ganesha. Your ability to nip a problem in the bud has helped you to have a good personal life so far. And today, you will have to use your skills to mend the strain in your relationship with your loved ones.

LEO
Even slender shoulders gain the strength when the time comes to handle responsibilities. And so shall you, says Ganesha, as today brings with it an increased amount of responsibility. You may find yourself drained of all your energy by the end of it. After all, handling important tasks is a tough thing.

VIRGO
A cocktail of business and pleasure is on the house today. Parties will run till dawn. You will also take the correct route to success by making important decisions. People will stand to gain if they involve you in their do, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
"Efforts made are never in vain, even when they may seem otherwise". Let this be your motto for the day. Today may not seem to be the most productive day, especially when it comes to interviews. You may feel like the rook in the chess set – sometimes coming back to square one despite making many moves forward to the ultimate checkmate! So remember, persistence is the key, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
The day just went from bad to worse today, says Ganesha. Troubles are coming in faster and thicker than a locust swarm. But keep a leash on yourself, says Ganesha, and steer clear of it all. Take criticism in your stride today and pay attention to what is being said, not who is saying them.

SAGITTARIUS
Hedge your bets carefully, says Ganesha. Solving problems will come naturally to you. But, beware, as you may face the music from certain disgruntled individuals. Worry not, and keep the spring in your step.

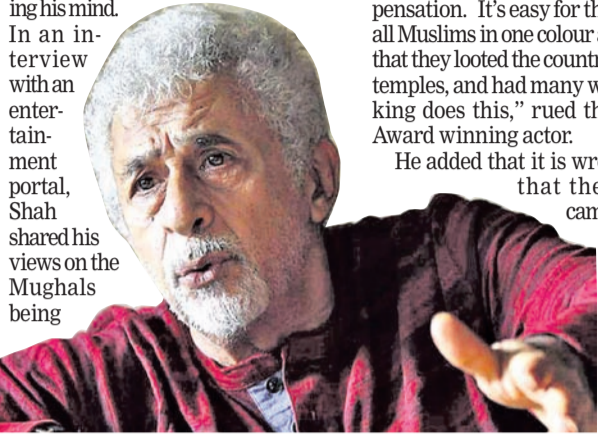
CAPRICORN
Ganesha can hear the wedding bells. There is all the likelihood that you will find your perfect match today and will let him/her know about your feelings, says Ganesha. Your family means the world to you and you will be more expressive about this today than you have been in the past few years. In fact, your warm feelings will be reciprocated in equal measure and you will be showered with love – unconditional and unrestrained.

AQUARIUS
Meditate, and tune in to your inner sanctum. As you do this, you will realise you don't need others' advice all the time. Your boss will cooperate with you, while your loved ones will encourage you. An exciting date should close the day on a lovely note, says Ganesha.

PISCES
A highly productive day awaits you. You will be driven to succeed, and filled with energy and enthusiasm to achieve your goals. Meetings with your superiors ought to yield some much anticipated results, says Ganesha.

Mughals didn't come here to loot: Naseer

Mumbai: Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has been one of the few in the Hindi film industry who does not shy away from speaking his mind. In an interview with an entertainment portal, Shah shared his views on the Mughals being



demonised by people from the ruling party and their supporters. "Running the Moghuls down is very convenient for the present dispensation. It's easy for them to paint all Muslims in one colour and to claim that they looted the country, destroyed temples, and had many wives. Every king does this," rued the National Award winning actor.

He added that it is wrong to state that the Mughals came to India to take away its riches. "The Mughals came here to make this their home-

land," he said. "They did not come here to loot and loot. Like Nader Shah stole the peacock throne. He destroyed Delhi and massacred the citizens of Delhi and took his loot and pushed off. People don't know this."

Shah also criticised the changing of school syllabuses these days in order to spread a particular political ideology.

When asked if he has always been rebellious, Shah wrapped up by saying, "I think so (laughs). I rebelled against my father and my upbringing. I rebelled against the authorities in schools, college, drama school, FTII; everywhere I went. As Ram Guha, who is a good friend of mine, told me, 'You seem to have a problem with figures of authority.'"

Priyanka shares her 'hateful' experience

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra is currently basking in the success of her recent spy series *Citadel*, co-starring Richard Madden. Priyanka Chopra plays the role of Nadia Sinh in this series created by The Russo Brothers. In a recent video shared by Prime Video India, Priyanka is seen taking a lie detector test, and answering some interesting questions.

When asked if she has acted in a movie that she hated, Priyanka said that while she cannot reveal which movie it was, the experience was 'pretty hateful'. Priyanka said, "I can't tell you what movie it was but I can tell you the experience was pretty hateful. I used to just wait around for hours.

My lines made no sense, I was constantly a damsel, which I am kind of not. So it was tough."

Further, when asked whether she snores in her sleep, Priyanka said that her hubby Nick Jonas tells her she does snore, but she denies it. "I don't snore," said Priyanka, after which the lie detector turned red.

Priyanka is joining hands with Hollywood stars John Cena and Idris Elba for *Heads of State*, which is touted to be an action thriller.



Randeep asked not to distort history



Mumbai: Randeep Hooda's directorial debut, *Swatantritya Veer Savarkar*, has stirred controversy thanks to his claim that the freedom fighter and Hindutva's ideology was the inspiration behind Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh and Khudiram Bose, the youngest martyr of the freedom struggle.

Warning Hooda in a tweet, Netaji's grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose said, "If you respect #Savarkar, please don't distort history", and then said in an interview with a news channel that his famous grand-uncle was inspired by two people: Swami Vivekananda

and Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das.

Moreover, Netaji in a speech May 12, 1940 had said, "By taking advantage of religion and desecrating it, the Hindu Mahasabha has entered the arena of politics. It is the duty of all Hindus to condemn it. ... Banish these traitors from national life. Don't listen to them."

Veer (Vinayak Damodar) Savarkar, incidentally, was a Hindu Mahasabha leader.

On the other hand, Bhagat Singh, on the day he was being tried for bombing the Central Legislative Assembly, asked the magistrate to deliver a telegram drafted by him to Lenin

which was meant to carry forward the ideas of the Russian leader.

Coming to Khudiram Bose, he was barely 18 when he was hanged and had nothing to do with Savarkar.

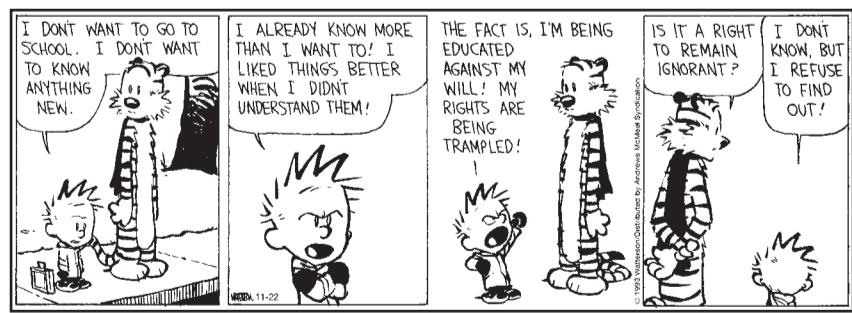
Later, he joined the revolutionary group, Anushilan Samiti, and was greatly influenced by its leader and the editor of the Jugantar Bengali weekly, Barindra Kumar Ghosh, who was also Sri Aurobindo's younger brother.

Savarkar, contrary to what Ranveer Hooda is propagating, had no role in the lives of these three freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country.

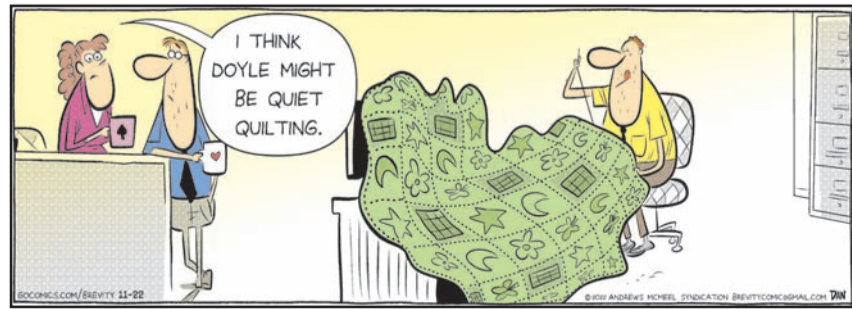
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

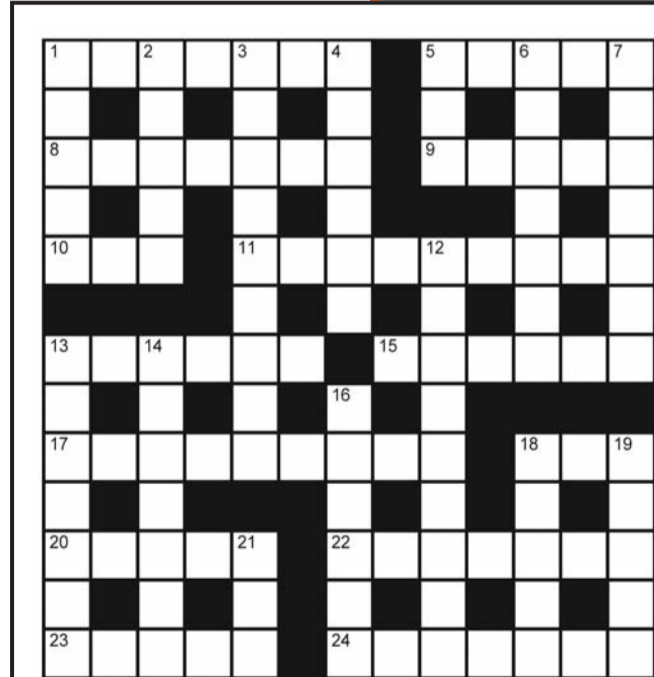


BREVITY



FUN post

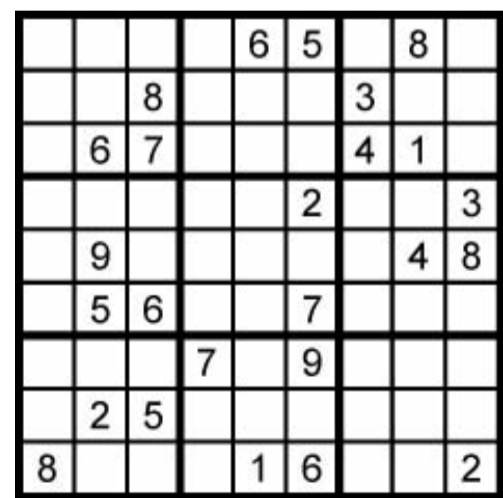
CROSSWORD



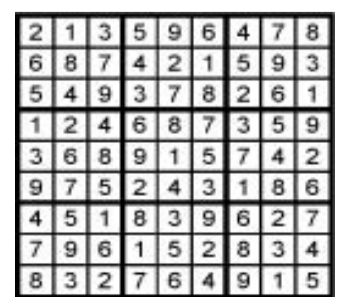
- Across**
- 1 Lessen
 - 5 Provoke
 - 8 Rejected
 - 9 Small goose
 - 10 Auction unit
 - 11 Certain spectacles
 - 13 Seafood cocktail items
 - 15 Weed eater, maybe
 - 17 Lizard in disguise?
 - 18 Spanish aunt
 - 20 Unreactive
 - 22 Violent commotion
 - 23 Tennyson poem
 - 24 Spa employee
 - 5 Alehouse musical group
 - 6 Mid-sized
 - 7 Radical
 - 12 Soubriquets
 - 13 Tosca composer
 - 14 Military school
 - 16 Nasal partition
 - 18 Motif
 - 19 Fragrant oil
 - 21 el
- Down**
- 1 Rope fiber
 - 2 More than just candid
 - 3 Instability
 - 4 Withstand
 - Amarna, Egypt

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



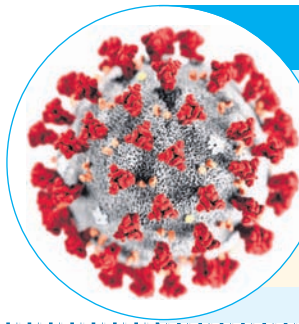
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DRAINAGE WOES

Commuters faced utter inconvenience at New Rousapatna in Cuttack due to an overflowing drain, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,94,93,074	66,19,38,685	68,84,169
India	4,49,90,278	4,44,53,908	5,31,867
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Govt brings all agri markets under e-NAM

The farmers can now access agri-commodities markets functioning across the country through an android phone and sell their produce at the price of their choice from within the comfort of their homes



In 2017, there were only 10 RMCs on e-NAM platform, but Odisha has achieved 100% onboarding of all the markets under RMCs

has left many agriculturally advanced states behind with 100 per cent onboarding of all its agricultural markets under all RMCs. The department has onboarded 401 farmer producer organisations (FPOs) to the platform," said Chadha. About 400 women self-help groups (WSHG) of the state, as members of these FPOs, can now reap the benefits of the online platform. Facilities have now been developed enabling transactions through android phones. And all steps are being taken to ensure that the RMCs are

operating without hassle, informed the principal secretary. The department has undertaken some other reforms like unified licensing system and single point levying of market fees, with suitable amendment to Odisha State Agricultural Produce Marketing Act to pave ways for these reforms. Further, to boost agricultural marketing, the department has initiated a project on 'Agri Marketing Network' linking all 66 RMCs, 43 Krushak Bazars, 76 municipal markets including 800 FPOs and WSHGs. "All these efforts have started yielding results. The farmers of the state have accepted this modern idea enthusiastically and till now have traded commodities to the tune of 90.44 lakh quintals and fetched a whopping amount of ₹2,364.80 crore," informed an official.

MKUY norms tweaked

POST NEWS NETWORK

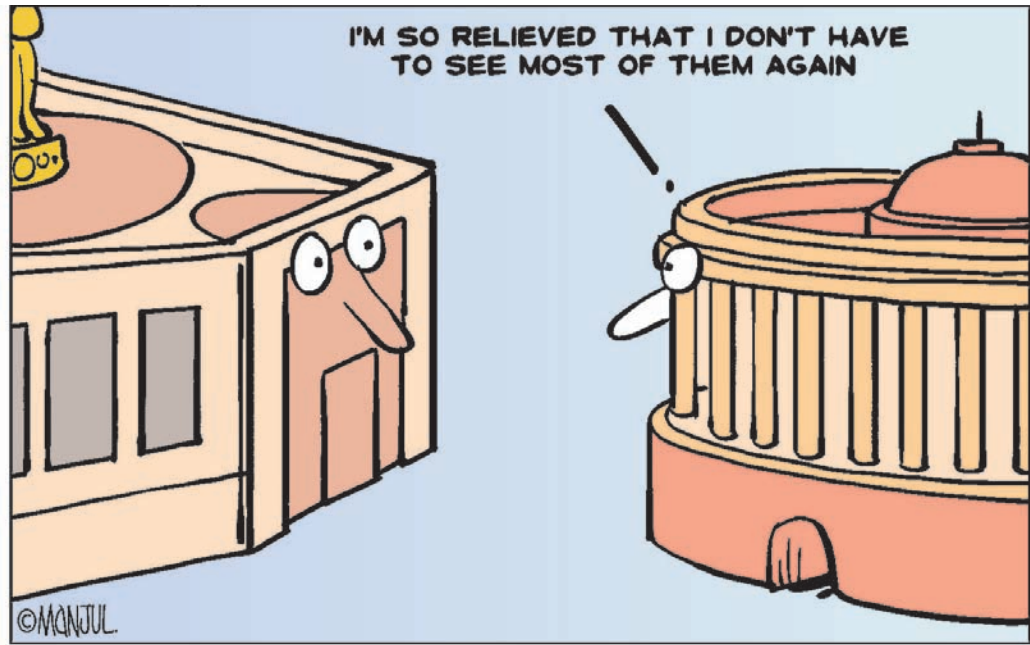
Bhubaneswar, May 30: The guidelines for Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY) have been modified to promote setting up of more commercial agri-enterprises to create income and employment opportunities in the state. In order to exploit the potential of the state in agriculture & allied sectors, subsidy has been enhanced from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore. Further, to attract higher investment in this sector, agri-enterprises, having total project cost more than ₹20 crore and less than ₹50 crore are included under MKUY.

- Capital investment subsidy enhanced from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore
- Project cost upto ₹50 crore allowed under MKUY
- Transgenders are allowed to avail 50% assistance under the scheme

Moreover, a provision has been made to make eligible the privileged category - transgender entrepreneurs - to avail 50 per cent assistance under MKUY. MKUY has been implemented in the state for encouraging agri-entrepreneurs and bringing more investments to generate employment opportunities. It provides ample scope for employment generation in rural areas and augmentation of income of the farmers. The modifications shall come into effect retrospectively from April 1, 2023.



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



CM flags off 4 industrial units

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday inaugurated four industrial units and laid foundation stones for 17 projects with cumulative investment of ₹3,600 crore. These projects can create employment opportunities for 9,200 persons. Speaking on the occasion, Patnaik said that Odisha now ranks second among the top states in attracting investments. State government's unceasing endeavour in making Odisha a top choice for investors is now taking shape, he said. "We have always endeavored to provide a hassle-free environment and a prompt system for doing business in Odisha on the philosophy of 5T initiative. The Make in



Odisha Conclave-2022 was an outstanding success as it could potentially generate around 10 lakh jobs in the state," Patnaik said. He assured the investors to provide facilitation support and urged them to expand their businesses in Odisha. The Chief Minister inaugurated the manufacturing unit of Shiva Cement set up with an investment of ₹1523.24 crore and a food processing unit of Gadre Marine Export Pvt. Ltd. established with a cost of ₹68.11 crore.

A manufacturing unit of Shiva Cement set up with an investment of ₹1523.24 crore and a food processing unit of Gadre Marine Export Pvt. Ltd. established with a cost of ₹68.11 crore were inaugurated by the CM. Project units of HIL and Raraan Fluid-Tech Pvt. Ltd. set up in Balasore and Khurda respectively were also launched. Project units of HIL and Raraan Fluid-Tech Pvt. Ltd. set up in Balasore and Khurda respectively, were also inaugurated. HIL will be manufacturing AAC blocks and cement sandwich panels, entailing an investment of ₹63.24 crore while Raraan Fluid-Tech Pvt. Ltd. will be investing ₹49.50 crore.

Truck hits van on flyover; 1 killed



Bhubaneswar, May 30: The driver of a pickup van died while another sustained injuries in a mishap on the National Highway-16 flyover near Vani Vihar Square here Tuesday evening. The deceased was identified as Arjun Aich, 55, of Kamakhyanagar area in Dhenkanal district. Sources claimed that Aich was going towards Lingipur under Dhauri police limits on the outskirts of the city when a tyre of the vehicle carrying polythene sheets burst on the flyover. Aich got down from the vehicle and started altering the tyre. Meanwhile, a speeding coal-laden truck going towards Cuttack hit the pickup van from the rear, killing Aich on the spot. On being informed, Saheed Nagar police reached the spot and regulated vehicular movement on the flyover. Police have sent the injured to a hospital for treatment and initiated a probe.

ST & SC schools nearly doubled in 20 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: The number of high schools under Scheduled Tribe & Scheduled Caste Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department has increased to 422 from 215 in the last 20 years, said the department Minister Jagannath Saraka, Tuesday. According to sources, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewed the performance of the department at Lok Seva Bhawan here. After the review meeting, Saraka addressed the media at Geeta Govinda Sadan and presented the achievements of the department in last four years. Saraka said that more than 6 lakh students from 42 lakh households are studying in 1,735 schools functioning under the department. He also said that the number of high schools under the department has increased to 422 from 215 in the last 20 years. Similarly, 62 higher secondary schools have been opened while in 17 micro project areas with PVTG communities, 17 dedicated



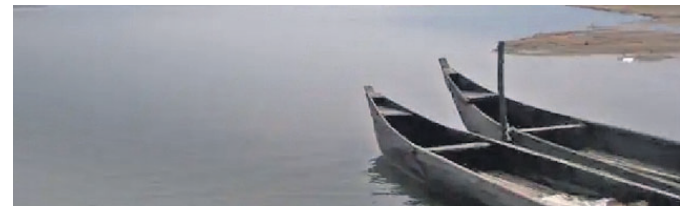
educational institutions from Class I-X are functioning since 2007-08. To promote girl child education and reduce dropouts, the department has dedicated KBK hostels and 188 exclusive girls' high schools. These hostel students are provided with free textbooks, uniforms and meals. To take care of the holistic nutritional development of the students, an additional ₹1,000 per child per annum has been provisioned. As many as 5 lakh ST&SC students are provided with ₹50 crore pre-matric scholarship annually. The department has a multi lingual education (MLE) policy under which content has been prepared

To promote girl child education and reduce dropout rates, the ST & SC dept has dedicated KBK hostels and 188 exclusive girls' high schools in the state

in 21 bilingual and trilingual languages for different classes. For livelihood of the tribal people, the department has started several schemes. Under Mukhya Mantri Janajati Jeevika Yojana, a state scheme for livelihood at household level intervention for three-

years from 2022-23 to 2025-26 with budget of ₹500 crore has been launched. The scheme focuses on tribal-dominated 119 blocks covering 931 panchayats with provisions for critical input support to beneficiaries. Under Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme, a community model approach aimed to improve the living conditions and alleviate poverty among the targeted households belonging to these groups. The programme has directly benefited over 51,000 households. Special Development Councils (SDCs) are formed under the chairmanship of an eminent tribal person of the locality to focus on promotion, protection and preservation of the tribal culture and traditions, heritage and identity by involving tribal people. An amount of ₹223.5 crore has been allocated for 23 SDCs for the year 2023-24. SDCs have been able to save 4,731 sacred groves in nine districts.

Hearing on Mahanadi water dispute July 8



New Delhi, May 30: The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT), which has recently concluded its Odisha visit, would hear the petition filed by Odisha and Chhattisgarh over the river water sharing dispute July 8. A three-member team of the tribunal headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice AM Khanwilkar had concluded the second phase of Mahanadi basin visit in Odisha May 28. Before this, the MWDT had visited Chhattisgarh in April and inspected several barrages being constructed on Mahanadi river by the upper riparian state.

The two assessors, who accompanied the judges and teams of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, would prepare a report of the inspection. Earlier, Odisha had alleged before the tribunal that Chhattisgarh had violated the 1947 arrangement with respect to Mahanadi water sharing. The Odisha had alleged that upper riparian state has developed infrastructure for about 11 million acre feet (MAF) water which is in excess of its equitable share and in violation of arrangement of 1947. Odisha has claimed that as per the DPR of Hirakud project of 1947, the equitable share of Chhattisgarh is 8.33 MAF water.

Time to work together to combat tobacco menace: Experts

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar: Tobacco use has been linked to a wide range of negative impacts to both individuals and the society. The tobacco industry itself is considered to be a major contributor to environmental damage. Even though the Odisha government has banned the sale and manufacturing of tobacco in 2013, the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) reveals that one in every two men and one in every four women consume the substance in the state. According to NFHS-5, though consumption of tobacco has marginally dropped in Odisha, it is among the top states where a significant proportion of the population still uses tobacco in all forms - be it through chewing or smoking. The prevalence of tobacco use in Odisha can be gauged from the fact that nearly half (51.6 per cent) of the state's men, aged above 15, and 26 per cent of women are tobacco users, well above the national average of 38 per cent for men and 8.9 per cent for women. Worse, people in rural areas consume more tobacco than people of urban areas. In villages, 54.1 per cent

of men and 28 per cent of women consume tobacco as compared to 40.5 per cent of men and 16.6 per cent of women in urban areas. Keeping all this in view, on the World No Tobacco Day, Orissa POST spoke with Doctors, health experts and activists about the steps that need to be taken to reduce tobacco consumption and prevent all the health and social hazards emanating because of it. **Mohammad Imran Ali**, an anti-drug activist and managing director of Salaam Jeevan says that tobacco use among children and youths has reached an alarming stage in Odisha. "Tobacco consumption in Odisha is higher than the national average. We must act to ensure tobacco-free childhood everywhere. All educational institutions must be designated tobacco free places. As family members, we must not send children to fetch tobacco goods from market," he said. Though gutkha and pan masala



Members of social outfit Vande Mataram staged a street play at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, to spread awareness about the health hazards of tobacco consumption. These habits also have a significant impact on our oral health. Tobacco affects how gum tissue attaches to bone and impairs the function of gum tissue cells. This leads to gum recession, exposing the sensitive tooth roots and causing increased tooth sensitivity, tooth and jawbone loss, he said, adding tobacco use significantly increases risk of oral cancer. "Quitting tobacco and improving dental health can be achieved by seeking professional help, consulting a dentist who can provide guidance on quitting strategies, like nicotine replacement therapy," advised Behera. About what attracts the youths towards tobacco, **Amrit Pattajoshi**, a psychologist and health expert says, "It gives the youth instant gratification, but they forget that it has long term hidden costs as habit forms." The first important thing is peer pressure - their friends encourage them to try cigarettes and to keep smoking, it becomes a way of rebelling and showing independence, explained Pattajoshi, adding that the tobacco industry's clever marketing tactics has also contributed to increased consumption among teenagers. **Priyanka Singhdeo**, a fitness expert, says some of the chemicals in tobacco, like nicotine, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, arsenic, and lead, can have a significant impact on women's health. "Women who smoke are at greater risk for health problems such as lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and chronic respiratory diseases, as well as early menopause and infertility. There is also evidence that smoking during pregnancy can cause a variety of birth defects, including low birth weight, preterm delivery," she says. A senior excise official says, "We have carried out raids at hookah bars in the past but found the bars were using herbal substances." "We conduct raids whenever receive any complaint regarding sale of tobacco products in hookah bars. Similarly, the officials of Excise department, city police, district health department, food inspector jointly conduct raids under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003," he said. Meanwhile, the commissionerate police has carried out several raids at the shops in the capital city and collected fine of ₹41,980 from 308 persons for violating the COTPA act in May so far.

Power woes of Hansapal locals

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Aggrieved at low voltage and other problems, electricity consumers of Hansapal area Tuesday sought the intervention of TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) authorities seeking immediate redressal of their issues. The consumers submitted an application before the junior engineer of TPCODL, Phulnakhara claiming that they have been facing low voltage problem since long. The situation has been further aggravated with the addition of new electricity consumers in the area at regular intervals. Lifting groundwater through motors is impossible due to low voltage, they said, adding that voltage fluctuation is causing damage to electrical equipment. This apart, most of the plots have commercial connections so the low voltage and fluctuation in power supply are harming their business interests.

4G mobile network in all villages likely in a year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: The state government has taken steps to provide 4G mobile connectivity to all unconnected villages of the state in a year, IT secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra said Tuesday.

On completion of the fourth year of the fifth tenure of his government, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday took a review of the Electronics and IT (E&IT) department. Minister Tusharkanti Behera briefed the CM on the important initiatives undertaken by the E&IT department and the transformational impact of these initiatives on governance and citizens.

Briefing the press after the meet, Mishra said, "Non availability of telecom network is a major problem the state is facing. During Covid-19 pandemic, students from rural areas faced difficulties attending online classes."

The Chief Minister has taken up this issue up to PM-level and got sanction of telecom towers. To speed up the telecom tower establishment works, state Cabinet has also decided to provide 2,000 sq ft of land free of cost, he said.

Reliance Jio has got sanction for setting up of 3,000 towers in 10 districts, of which land has been handed over in almost all identified places. The land allotment has not been completed in only 36/38 places



due to forest diversion issues, the secretary said.

Mishra said the coverage of Odisha State Workflow Automation System (OSWAS) has been extended across all departments in state Secretariat, all directorates/HoDs, all district collectorates, and DG and SP offices of Odisha, encompassing approximately 15,000 users today and resulting in prompt decision making at all levels.

Video conferencing facility has also been made available all the way from state level to block level. Optical Fibre Connectivity has been provided to all GPs, ensuring a digitally connected and digital ready population, he said, adding, "We are planning to connect all panchayats through VC mode so that the government can directly connect all GPs at once."

IT exports have increased by almost two and a half times, increasing from ₹2317 crore in the year 2013-14 to ₹5,500 crore in 2021-22. The IT workforce has increased from approximately 9,800 in 2010-11 and 20,000 in 2018-19 to around 40,000 in 2022-23, he pointed out.

The expenditure for IT enablement of government process re-engineering and services has increased by approximately 30 times in 10 years, increasing from ₹43.97 crore in 2012-13 to ₹1,290 crore in 2022-23.

Due to IT enablement, social benefits are transferred directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries. While in the year 2017-18, only ₹10,881 crore was transferred through DBT, in the year 2022-23, it has been increased to ₹25,878 crore, he added.



VICTION DRIVE: An excavator deployed by CMC pulling down shanties near Khannagar Kali Bhawan in Cuttack, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

CM buys 1st ticket for Intercontinental Cup

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday bought the first ticket for the upcoming four-nation Intercontinental Men's football tournament, which will be hosted in Bhubaneswar from June 9-18. The four-nation tournament will feature India, Lebanon, Mongolia, and Vanuatu.

Captain of the Indian Football team, Sunil Chhetri handed the first ticket for the marquee event to the Chief Minister in the presence of Shaji Prabhakaran, the general secretary of the All-India Football Federation and Coach of the Indian Football



team, Igor Stimac. "There is a lot of love for football amongst the people of Odisha. Hosting this spectacular event is another honour for us and will undoubtedly thrill the numerous football fans across the state and India.

Odisha hosted the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, SAFF U-20 Championship 2022, ISL seasons, IWL 2021-22, and the Odisha Women's League thus providing a huge boost to the development of the football ecosystem in the state.

In partnership with AIFF, the Capital city of Bhubaneswar is also the base of the Indian U16 and U19 teams, frequently hosting camps and training sessions at the state-of-the-art infrastructure.

The Intercontinental Cup is set to kick off June 9 with Lebanon taking on Vanuatu while the home team India will be taking on Mongolia in their first game of the campaign.

I would like to wish the teams the best of luck and encourage the fans to turn out in huge numbers to watch the top-quality football that will unfold," Patnaik said.

Odisha has been emerging as a major hub for football as well.

Tehsildar arrested for receiving ₹12L bribe

VIGILANCE SLEUTHS DETECTED 3 CASES IN WHICH BRIBE MONEY WAS DEMANDED THROUGH CHEQUES, PHONEPE



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday arrested Karanjia tehsildar in Mayurbhanj district for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹12 lakh through two cheques from a person, an official said.

The tehsildar, Charles Nayak, had allegedly demanded a bribe from the complainant to release his compensation amount of ₹51.75 lakh for the acquisition of his land by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the official said.

He had demanded the bribe through two cheques of ₹10 lakh and ₹2 lakh, to release the compensation money.

The victim handed over the cheques to Nayak and then informed the anti-corruption agency about the matter following which he has been arrested.

The vigilance official said searches are being carried out at Nayak's office chamber and government quarter in Karanjia and at his house in Bhadrak.

"This is the first case of a government official receiving bribe through cheques and also the highest-ever bribe amount collected by a government officer arrested by the vigilance in Odisha," the official said.

The vigilance officials Monday arrested one Tarun Ranjan Nayak, an official of a power distribution company, at Nayapalli in

Bhubaneswar. Nayak had allegedly received the bribe through his associate Sailaja Muduli. They had accepted ₹10,000 as a bribe from a person through PhonePe (digital mode) for processing the grievance application for the electricity connection.

"In both the cases, private persons helping government servants by taking bribe money in their PhonePe/Bank accounts have also been arrested/prosecuted," a vigilance release said, warning of strong action against the corrupt officials and their facilitators.

"Remember, you aren't safe when taking bribes through PhonePe. We will follow the digital footprints and come after you," the release said.

In the third case, the vigilance has caught three officials of the minor irrigation division of Berhampur in Ganjam district and arrested them for demanding bribes of ₹24,000.

The accused are two junior engineers - Prasanna Kumar Padhy & Dharendra Kumar Panda, - and supervisor Ajaya Patra. For processing the file for a work, Panda was found taking ₹10,000 cash while the supervisor Ajaya Patra previously accepted ₹14,000 through Phonepe. Following the case, raids have been conducted in the properties of the three officials.

35K acres of land reserved for afforestation: Mallik

MINISTER PRAMILA MALLIK SAID LAND ACQUISITION FOR NATIONAL HIGHWAY, RAILWAYS AND IRRIGATION NETWORK HAS BEEN FAST-TRACKED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: The state government has reserved 35,000 acres of land in different districts to carry out compensatory afforestation, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik said Tuesday.

Speaking to media persons about the achievements of her department, Mallik said land acquisition for national highway, railways and irrigation network has been fast-tracked.

Existing Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act will be amended to streamline land acquisition without compromising the interests of the displaced families, she said.

To spur industrial activities, a policy has been put in place to either remit or obviate stamp duty

and registration fees, when land is registered in favour of MSME, IT or ITES units. To sustain ecology, approximately 35,000 acres of land have been reserved for compensatory afforestation, she pointed out.

Since 2019, 3.9 lakh and 55,000 RoRs have been corrected and sent to citizens either through speed post or Rajaswa Rath within seven days and one day respectively.

All the tehsils have been instructed to hold regular camp courts in each tehsil preferably 2-3 days a week. Virtual courts have been started in all the tehsils. 11,183 cases have been disposed of after hearing through virtual platforms, Mallik said.

The Minister further informed that 34 lakh resident and 24 lakh income certificates have been delivered on the basis of self-declaration after introduction of 5T charter.

On disaster management, she said, alert siren towers have been

installed at 122 locations along the coastline for warning dissemination and SMS alerts to citizens.

Similarly, 16,442 disaster-resilient houses have been constructed under Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP) and with state funding in Ganjam, Khurda and Puri districts.

During the last 3 years ₹387.16 crore ex-gratia has been disbursed to 9,816 families affected in various disasters.

Mallik said ₹33.81 crore has been provided for the development of Bagapatia under Rajnagar block, where 571 displaced families of Satabhaya (Rajnagar) have been relocated and rehabilitated due to submergence of their villages under the sea.

While 20 ODRAF units have been strengthened with state-of-the-art equipment and building, 32,633 community volunteers have been trained in search and rescue and first-aid to assist the community during disasters.

Community-led disaster management plans have been prepared in 10,000 villages and disaster management has been included in the school curriculum, she added.

NCC training facility to be set up at Kuspangi



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 30: In a bid to prepare the youths as trained future citizens of India, the NCC directorate of Odisha organised an event for setting up of a training area and camping ground at Kuspangi in Cuttack Tuesday. This will be a unique and first such training infrastructure to be developed in the state.

NCC Odisha thanked the Cuttack district Collector BS Chayani for extending his support for allocation of 5-acre land for developing the training infrastructure. The Athagarh Sub-Collector, Cuttack ADM (Revenue) PC Mishra and Athagarh Tehsildar Priyabrata Dash facilitated the completing of land-related procedures.

A project plan, prepared under the supervision of Roads and Building department's superintending engineer PK Mohanty, for approximately ₹55 crore has been forwarded to the DHE.

Deputy Director General of NCC Directorate Commodore J Suresh congratulated Cuttack NCC Group for this achievement. Group Commander NCC Group Col Rajnish Kapoor commended the efforts of Lieutenant Colonel SP Otta, Officer Commanding, 1 (Odisha) Artillery Battery and his team for making this possible.

The facility, once developed, will provide training on arms shooting, physical training, obstacle training and will have state-of-the-art and modern facilities like arms training simulators, rowing simulator and a large-sized auditorium. This will also impart competitive sportsmanship amongst the NCC cadets to help in their career development and instill in them a sense of nationality and pride of being part of the largest uniformed youth organisation of the world. Director Higher Education Narahari Sethi and Revenue Inspector Suchindra were also present on the occasion.

State inks pact to aid oil palm plantation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Directorate of Horticulture Tuesday signed memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with 10 companies to achieve the set target for oil palm plantation in the state.

The MoU was signed in presence of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain and department secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee.

"The oil palm companies will establish seed gardens and nurseries to meet the seedling requirement, take up area expansion programmes in the allotted districts as well as set up at least one processing unit in each district within the palm gestation period," informed a department official.

Meanwhile, the government will ensure provision of fencing to safe-



The harvested fresh fruit bunches will be procured by the companies at the government declared price through direct benefit transfer and the farmers will be assisted again through viable gap price in case the formula price is less than the viable price

guard the plantation, intercropping with oil palm other crops like maize, millets, vegetables, banana and cotton and provision of micro irrigation to the plantations in close coordination with the oil palm companies that will be engaged in the 'Oil Palm Development Programme.'

"The oil palm farmers of the

state government will ensure provision of fencing to safeguard the palm plantations, intercropping of oil palm with other crops and provision of micro irrigation to the plantations

The oil palm farmers will be given assistance under the centrally sponsored scheme National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm to the extent of ₹29,000 per ha in the plantation period

The harvested fresh fruit bunches will be then procured by the companies at the government declared price through direct benefit transfer and the farmers will be assisted again through viable gap price in case the formula price is less than the viable price," explained the official.

Notably, India is dependent on other countries to meet its edible oil requirements and has come to be the largest importer of edible oil

in the world. During 2020-21, the country imported around 133.50 lakh tonne of edible oil, out of which, the share of palm oil was about 56 per cent.

To reduce the import of edible oils and dependence on other countries, the NMEO-OP scheme has been launched by the Central government. The Central government has set target of 10,500 ha for oil palm cultivation under NMEO-OP from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

As per information, under the scheme, till date Odisha has covered around 19,000 ha in 15 districts from 2006-07 onwards with involvement of six companies. And it has covered around 950 ha in the last 2 years. This year, the state has planned to cover 1,100 ha of oil palm plantation on cluster basis under NMEO-OP and subsequently will cover 5,000 ha in the next two financial years.

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Land acquisition delay hits Khurda-Bolangir rail project

Railways set to miss June deadline for train services to Sonepur



When Modi inaugurated the 15-km long route connecting Bolangir with Bichhupali, January 15, 2019 there was hope that laying of tracks till Khurda will soon be completed. It was then expected that the work will be expedited from the Bolangir side. However, it has not happened. Sources pointed out that work has been delayed due to lack of effective coordination between the Odisha government and Centre. They said there is a lack of urgency in acquiring land by Subarnapur district administration officials for the project.

This has only delayed the laying of tracks from Bichhupali to Narsinghgarh and finally to this town. The Railways had targeted to end work on the Jhartarbha to Narsinghgarh route by March 2023 and from Narsinghgarh to Sonepur by June 2023. However, now it appears to be a distant dream with sources stating that route may not be functional this year.

The Railways initially had planned to construct a bridge for a two-lane road near Dhubabahal locality here. However, it is now planning to construct a four-lane bridge as the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will develop a bypass road for NH-57.

When contacted, a senior Railway official said that the entire project will be delayed by an additional six months. He added that the laying of tracks and construction of the bridge leading to Sonepur will be over by the end of 2023.

Subarnapur district is complete from the Bolangir side. Trains have started plying till Jhartarbha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10-km long Bichhupali-Jhartarbha route among other projects through video conferencing, May 18.

Officials pointed out that delay in land acquisition has affected the pace of the project in some parts of Subarnapur district. They added that earlier also laying of tracks suffered due to glitches in forest land acquisition. Similarly due to non-cooperation of Revenue department, work on a two-kilometre stretch in Bahirakhman under Sonepur block got delayed. Work in this stretch started only two months back and as a result plying of trains to Narsinghgarh under Sonepur block may not start on the scheduled date in June.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, May 30: Delay in land acquisition has affected the expansion of Khurda-Bolangir rail route to Subarnapur district, sources said Tuesday. As a result train services to Sonepur by the end of June are mired in uncertainty. Sources confirmed that the scheduled deadline will be missed given the pace at which work is progressing.

Residents here have been waiting with bated breath for train services to start from Sonepur which is the headquarters of Subarnapur district. However, it now seems that their wait will be prolonged.

As per reports available, work on the Khurda-Bolangir route has started from both the sides. The laying of tracks till Jhartarbha in



HOME GROWN RICE: Collector Abdaal M Akhtar flagging off a consignment of Koraput's Kalabati (black rice) to be used in research work at the Horticultural Research station of Assam Agricultural University, Tuesday

Woman, daughter killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, May 30: A woman and her minor daughter were killed in a road accident at Chasapada Square under Balikuda police limits in this district Tuesday, police informed. The deceased have been identified as Kalima Bibi and her six-year-old daughter Alia Khatun.

Eye-witnesses said that Mukhtar Khan of Mulisingh village under Tirtol police limits was taking his daughter-in-law and her two kids on his scooter to a hospital. A sand-filled truck hit the two-wheeler head on as they approached Chasapada Square. Kalima and



Alia were flung apart and died on the spot. Mukhtar and his other grand-daughter however, escaped with minor injuries.

Locals seized the truck and detained the driver. After police arrived the driver was handed over to them. Police took the bodies to a hospital for post-mortem following which those were handed over to their family. The truck was also taken to the Tirtol police station.

As word spread about the accident an irate mob staged a road block by burning tyres. They demanded measures to prevent accidents and also compensation for the deceased's family. As a result traffic came to a standstill for several hours.

Inspector-in-charge (IIC) of Balikuda police station, Salil

Pradhan and other policemen arrived at the spot and assured that steps will be taken to prevent road mishaps. After that the agitators relented and ended their protests allowing the resumption of traffic movement.

Locals benefit from Hindalco's MHUs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Hindalco Industries Limited, a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Group, has taken several healthcare initiatives to ensure better livelihood for locals in Sambalpur district. In 2022, approximately 14,000 people from five wards of Hirakud have availed the healthcare facilities.

Through its mobile health unit (MHU) under the 'Healthcare at Doorsteps' initiative, Hindalco is providing primary healthcare services to the community at their doorsteps. The MHUs have proved beneficial especially to the elderly, women and children who are unable to access healthcare facilities in remote areas.

Kailash Pandey, cluster head, Hindalco, Hirakud, said, "Under the 'Healthcare at Doorsteps' initiative, the company is operating one MHU which goes around the peripheral villages at a fixed time on a given day. Altogether, Hirakud and its peripheral areas are covered under this programme at 10 strategic locations. The healthcare initiatives are actively monitored by our HR head Krishna Padhi. We are keen to extend this service to reach the maximum number of people in and around Hirakud."

Furthermore, Hindalco has touched the lives of 1,838 people through specialised mega health camps. Over 1,000 persons have availed its OPD service at CHC-Hirakud. Specialised medical service is rendered to patients at CHC-Hirakud where specialists in Medicine, Gynecology, Paediatrics etc provide better healthcare services to the public. Further to supplement this, mega specialist health camps are organised on a quarterly basis which witness record footfalls - over 1,000 patients on an average.

Success has been achieved during the second phase of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP-II). A total of 556 households of Ujalpur field management unit (FMU) under Sundargarh Forest division are participating in this programme.

Potato is the most preferred food in this tribal dominated district and as a result its demand is quite high. However, even though, potato cultivation is a profitable source of earning, many farmers do not take it up. This is because most of them are not aware that potato cultivation is a profitable business. Also the lack of funds to acquire seeds and fertilizers acts as a hindrance.



In such a situation, potato farming by members of the Van Surakhya Samitis (VSS) has brought smiles on the faces of the poor tribal farmers and helped them earn in lakhs. The 556 families belonging to 20 VSS now are a happy lot as they are managing to lead a comfortable lifestyle.

15 families ostracised for exposing gambling racket

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koshagumuda, May 30: A total of 15 families have been socially ostracised by residents of Churahandi village under Temera panchayat in this block of Nabarangpur district after they allegedly informed police about a gambling racket. Sources said that initially 25 families were ostracised. However, 10 of them paid the penalty amount slapped on them and got relief.

The ostracised families have been barred from participating in functions and rituals. Their kids have been barred from attending the local Anganwadi centre. Sources said that the families have been asked to pay a fine of ₹2,000 each for removal of the order and ₹500 as penalty for allegedly passing on information



to the police regarding the gambling racket.

The families have been barred from lighting fires and using water from ponds in the village. They also cannot buy anything from the village shops. Other residents of the village have been asked to stay away from the ostracised families. Failure to do so would invoke a penalty of ₹500.

Left with no option, the ostracised villagers are travelling for over

five kilometres to the Koshagumuda block or to Temera village which is about two kilometres away to buy their daily provisions and fulfil their other needs.

The matter came to the fore after some of the ostracised family members met the local tehsildar and Nabarangpur SP, S Suresh and lodged a complaint in this regard, Tuesday. The tehsildar and Koshagumuda police personnel visited the village and launched

an investigation.

The incident is stated to be fall-out over a gambling racket which was operational within the village during the 'Chaitra Festival' in April. On being informed, Koshagumuda police personnel reached the village and busted gambling dens that had been opened in the village.

An influential group of people in the village, who were allegedly running the gambling rackets suspected that 25 families in Mali Sahi, Mirgan Sahi and Harijan Sahi might have tipped off the police. These people then conducted a meeting where a decision was taken to ostracise 25 families. Now even though 10 of the families have got relief, the other 15 are living in constant fear of harassment.

Youth drowns in water-filled pit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, May 30: A 22-year old youth died Tuesday in Padmapur village under this police limits in Keonjhar district after he accidentally fell into a 25 feet deep pit filled with water. The pit had been dug up by an agency appointed by Anandapur barrage division.

The deceased was identified as Abhimanyu Behera, son of Dhira Behera. Anandapur police sent the body for post-mortem and launched an investigation.

The incident sparked anger and resentment in the locality. Locals claimed that the tragedy occurred due to the

negligence of the agency as it left the pit uncovered after completion of work. Sources said that the Anandapur barrage division had employed the agency for completion of unfinished work on a canal. The agency entrusted with the job had dug up a pit in Padmapur village.

Abhimanyu had gone to the pit to collect water for cattle grazing in the field. However, he slipped and fell into the pit and drowned.

A farmer working on a nearby land sensed something amiss when he failed to spot Abhimanyu and raised an alarm. Some youths rushed to the spot and fished out Abhimanyu, but by then he had breathed his last.

Potatoes give new lease of life to Sundargarh farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, May 30: Potato cultivation is turning out to be a blessing in disguise for many families in this district. Tribals and woman are earning a sustainable livelihood through potato cultivation, sources said Tuesday.



Under the guidance and counselling by NGO 'Sewak', farmers undertook potato cultivation on 117 acres of land in the last Rabi season. They were also helped by officials of the Horticulture department. Ujalpur team leader Digambar Upadhyaya informed Tuesday that

more than 2,500 quintals of potatoes have been produced so far. However, the figure will go up as the total data is yet to be collected, added Upadhyaya.

The official also stated that in 2022, five farmers who undertook potato cultivation earned hefty profits. This year 20 farmers are expected to reap rich rewards by spending time on tuber cultivation. Success in potato cultivation has given a new lease of life to the VSS members and traditional tribal dwellers.

When contacted, divisional forest officer (DFO) Pradeep Mirase said thousands of families residing under Sundargarh forest division are benefiting from various activities being undertaken as part of inter-departmental convergence of OFSDP-II. Due to various income-generating programmes, the tribals are slowly decreasing their dependence on forest produces.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general is informed that the original previous Registered Sale Deeds (Link deed / chain deed) more particularly described below

- 1. Registered Sale Deed No. 10861003145 dated 02/08/2010 executed by the previous owner / vendor Sri Bhimsen Nayak in favour of the purchaser Sri Parmeswar Naik in respect of land measuring Ac. 0.450 of mouza: Kherual, Ps. Jharsuguda.
- 2. Registered Sale Deed No. 1460 dated 20/05/2007 executed by the previous owner / vendor Trinath Tripathy in favour of the purchaser Smt. Rukmani Patel in respect of land measuring Ac.0.630 of mouza: Kherual, Ps. Jharsuguda.
- 3. Registered Sale Deed No.2958 dated 27/11/2006 executed by the previous owner / vendor Anulya Pradhan in favour of the purchaser Trinath Tripathy in respect of land measuring Ac.0.630 of mouza: Kherual, Ps. Jharsuguda.
- 4. Registered Sale Deed No. 1942 dated 22/05/2008 executed by the previous owner / vendor Kamal Prasad Bondia in favour of the purchaser Smt. Satyabhama Prasad in respect of land measuring Ac.0.150 of mouza: Kherual, Ps. Jharsuguda.
- 5. Registered Sale Deed No. 303 dated 01/02/2007 executed by the previous owner / vendor Smt. Sabita Mali in favour of the purchaser Kamal Prasad Bondia in respect of land measuring Ac. 0.150 of mouza: Kherual, Ps. Jharsuguda.

Which has been lost / misplaced from the custody of Sri Tapas Ranjan Panigrahi S/o. Late Lalit Mohan Panigrahi, and I am unable to trace / find the same despite my best efforts. And that I am required to submit above mentioned deed in Punjab National Bank for availing loan facility. I have not created any equitable mortgage / charge with any Bank/Co-operative society and financial institutions by depositing the said registered sale deeds in original as security for any advance. If any individual, Bank and financial institution is holding the said documents in original as security for any advance / loan granted or having any sort of stake against the said property they are requested to inform the Punjab National Bank, Mid Corporate Centre-1, Tatibandh, Raipur (C.G.), in the address given below in whose favour I am going to deposit the certified copy of the abovementioned registered sale deeds along with the original.

- 1. Registered Sale Deed No. 10862000526 dated 17/02/2020 executed by the previous owners / vendors Sri Ashok Kumar Soni S/o. Kishan Lal Soni and others in favour of the purchaser Sri Tapas Ranjan Panigrahi S/o. Late Lalit Mohan Panigrahi in respect of land measuring Ac. 7.340 of mouza: Kherual, Ps. Jharsuguda.
 - 2. Registered Sale Deed No. 10862000750 dated 06/03/2020 executed by the previous owner / vendor Smt. Satyabhama Prasad W/o. Ashok Kumar Prasad in favour of the purchaser Sri Tapas Ranjan Panigrahi S/o. Late Lalit Mohan Panigrahi in respect of land measuring Ac. 0.150 of mouza: Kherual, Ps. Jharsuguda. (Original) within 7 days from the date of publication of the notice relating to the landed property of mouza Kherual Dist. Jharsuguda (Odisha) as security for the advance granted to Kalyani Transco Private Limited having its office at Sarbahal, Jharsuguda P.O./P.S./Dist. Jharsuguda (Odisha).
- If no objection is received from any corner within a period of 7 days from publication of this notice, it will be deemed and presumed that the landed property described above is free from encumbrances.
- Branch Manager Punjab National Bank Mid Corporate Centre-1, Tatibandh, Raipur (C.G.), 492099
- Sri Tapas Ranjan Panigrahi S/o. Late Lalit Mohan Panigrahi R/o. Sarbahal, Jharsuguda P.O./P.S./Dist. Jharsuguda (Odisha)

EAST COAST RAILWAY
No. SDCM/KUR/Prkg/E-auction/
Publication/2637, Date : 26.05.2023
Auction Catalogue No. :
Prkg-KUR-23-36
(Sl. No. 1) Station & Location:
GANGADHARPUR - 2 Wheeler (Near
Circulating area).
(Sl. No. 2) Station & Location:
KHURDA ROAD - 2 Wheeler (Opposite
Kalyan Mandap).
(Sl. No. 3) Station & Location:
MALATIPATPUR - 2 Wheeler (In
circulating area).
Auction start date & time (for all lots):
06.06.2023, 1100 hrs. Auction end
date & time: 06.06.2023, 1130 hrs.
(for sl. no. 1), 06.06.2023, 1140 hrs.
(for sl. no. 2), 06.06.2023, 1150 hrs.
(for sl. no. 3).
Note: Prospective bidders are advised
to visit the <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
and check the upcoming e-Auctions
leasing tab to get all required information
regarding this e-Auction.
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager,
PR-220/O/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No: 04-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24
Name of work: (A) OUTSOURCING OF DATA
ENTRY OPERATORS FOR OHE DEPOTS,
PSI DEPOTS, RRD/KHURDA ROAD, RRD/
VEHICLE/KHURDA ROAD, IN THE OFFICES
OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL
ENGINEER/TRD/ ICHCHAPURAM,
ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL
ENGINEER/TRD/TALCHER, ASSISTANT
DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER/TRD/
CUTTACK, DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL
ENGINEER/TRD/JAJPUR KEONJHAR
ROAD & DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL
ENGINEER/TRDKENDUJHARGARHANDIN
THE OFFICE OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER/TRDKHURDA
ROAD FOR THREE YEARS.
Advertised Value ₹3,59,09,353.35, EMD:
₹ 3,29,600/-, Period of completion: 1095 Days.
Bidding start date: 31.05.2023, Tender Closing
Date & Time: at 1300 hrs. of 14.06.2023.
Manual offers are not allowed against this
tender and any such manual offer received
shall be ignored.
Complete details & tender documents will be
available at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),
PR-215/O/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIBBS
2023025 Dtd.: 18.05.2023
Name of work: (A) CONSTRUCTION OF (i)
A FLYOVER BRIDGE NO.481A OF SPAN
1x61.00x2x30.5M OPEN WEB THROUGH
GIRDER AT CH.2000 (ii) MAJOR BRIDGE
NO.481B OF SPAN 1x6.50+1x30.50
+1x6.50M COMPOSITE GIRDER AT
CH.2228.22 (iii) MAJOR BRIDGE NO.481D
OF SPAN 1x18.30M COMPOSITE GIRDER
AT CH.3024 AND (iv) MAJOR BRIDGE NO.8
OF SPAN 1x61.0M OPEN WEB THROUGH
GIRDER BETWEEN HARIDASPUR AND
CHANDIKHOLE OF HARIDASPUR-
PARADEEP LINE. (B) CONSTRUCTION OF
A FLYOVER BRIDGE NO.4 OF SPAN
1x60.10x30.50M AT CH.1569 BETWEEN
SLIJ AND PARADEEP CROSSING YARD
TO AVOID SURFACE COACHING OF
TRAINS UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION
OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approx cost of the work ₹ 6388.27 Lakhs,
EMD: ₹ 33,44,100/-, Completion period of the
work: 24 (Twenty four) months.
Tender closing date & time: at 1200 hrs. of
19.06.2023.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in
person shall be accepted against such
e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's
letter head and received in time. All such manual
offers shall be considered invalid and will be
rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender
documents of the above e-tender is available
in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the
website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of
closing of tender to note any changes/
corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders
must have Class-III Digital
Signature Certificate and must be registered on
IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/
bidder can participate on e-tendering.
The tenderers should read all instructions to the
tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all
instructions including check lists, para 3.1
(additional check-list) of Tender form (Second
sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender
documents, submission of Annexure-B/G & G1
duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.
Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/
PR-28/CG/23-24 Bhubaneswar



Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, the Infinite All is the composer and audience.

SRI AUROBINDO



Film & Falsehood

There is yet another film claiming “real life” story and yet another instance of falsification of facts to suit a particular narrative with obvious intent to serve the interests of a political party. The way a section of the country’s film industry is sacrificing the art of film-making at the altar of politics and false propaganda is a cause of serious concern. More so because this is being done in the name of rewriting the country’s history which turns out to be nothing more than pseudo-history intended to vitiate the minds of the youth and those without clear ideas about what really happened in the past. The latest instance is the third in quick succession marked by gross distortion of truth. The audacity of such film-makers to pass off one-sided propaganda as authentic portrayal of history is astounding.

This time the making of a bio-pic on the controversial proponent of a blind, right-wing Hindutwa ideology, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, is still in progress when the process of falsification has started. The shooting of the film has not reportedly begun yet, though it is expected to be released later this year. Yet, its director and lead cast chose the birth anniversary of Savarkar, May 28, to release a teaser of the film that has been immediately slammed as a travesty of truth. The sheer opportunism for publicity and helping the cause of the ruling BJP to project its icon as “an unsung hero” of the freedom movement is evident as the teaser followed the inauguration of the new Parliament Building, which was itself made to coincide with Savarkar’s birth anniversary.

Whatever the intention, one might not have objected to the timing of the teaser but for the fact that Hooda’s promotional tweet made utterly false claims to glorify Savarkar. The teaser describes the protagonist of the film as “the most wanted Indian by the British, the inspiration behind revolutionaries like – Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh & Khudiram Bose.” In the tweet he repeated those claims and wrote “Watch his true story unfold!”

Immediately thereafter a grandnephew of Netaji, Chandra Kumar Bose, sought to debunk the falsehood and said Netaji’s and Savarkar’s ideologies were poles apart. He charged the film is an attempt to distort history and expressed concern that it will pass on wrong facts to the present generation. “How did the censor board allow this? This is causing serious harm (to India’s history) by disseminating wrong information,” he said.

Chandra Bose further explained that Subhash Chandra Bose, in his unfinished autobiography, The Indian Struggle, had clearly mentioned that “nothing can be expected from Mr Savarkar and Md. Ali Jinnah”. On another instance, Netaji wrote : “Nothing can be expected from Hindu Mahasabha or Muslim League”. Netaji might have met Savarkar once, but that does not prove his support towards Savarkar’s ideology, his nephew said. In fact, the two people who truly inspired Netaji were Swami Vivekananda and Deshbandhu Chittaranjan. “Swami Vivekananda was his spiritual guru while Chittaranjan was his political mentor,” Bose stated.

Likewise the claims made in the teaser that Savarkar had inspired Bhagat Singh and Khudiram Bose were preposterous and far from the truth. Khudiram was martyred at the age of 18 in 1908, whereas Savarkar was in London from 1906 to 1911. It is also a fact that Savarkar had not uttered a word on Bhagat Singh’s hanging and there is no evidence that he had inspired Bhagat Singh or had ever met him.

The question is why such falsification of history is being repeatedly tried by film-makers for the past few months starting with The Kashmir Files, followed by The Kerala Story. In both the films Moslems were demonised and a one-sided false pro-Hindoo narrative dished out. That the whole purpose was to help the BJP’s cause became clear after top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lauded and promoted those earlier movies. It could also be that the BJP election think tanks are drying up in terms of new ideas to keep the Hindutwa narrative alive and kicking.

WISDOM CORNER

- Any idiot can face a crisis – it’s day to day living that wears you out. **ANTON CHEKHOV**
- When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves. **VIKTOR E. FRANKL**
- Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible. **MAYA ANGELOU**

WORDSWORTH

■ Inglenook

Almost more than any other, this delightful word for a chimney corner evokes quiet contemplation in a comfortable seat by a warm fire after a hard day, in the company of friends and a pint that’s been created by a brewer with a conscience. Here’s Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in The Valley of Fear, evoking the scene: “Finally he lit his pipe, and sitting in the inglenook of the old village inn he talked slowly and at random about his case, rather as one who thinks aloud than as one who makes a considered statement”. Prosaically, an inglenook is just a seat in the nook, or corner, near the fire, or ingle. We hardly ever encounter the latter word nowadays except in dialect usage or when accompanied by its other half. Various etymologists have had a stab at a source foringle. The most common explanation is that it comes either from the Scots Gaelic or Irish aingeal; in the former, it means a light or fire, in the latter a live ember. These associations are too powerful for alternative explanations to stand much chance of success, though some dictionaries hazard an origin in the Latin igniculus, a diminutive of ignis, fire.

■ Ingrained

The word is featured here not because it is in itself odd, but because of the way that its modern sense of something firmly fixed or established has come about. One of the most ancient dyestuffs is a deep red colour that today we call crimson. The Greeks got it from a scale insect that lives on a type of oak tree found around parts of the Mediterranean. Some Roman writers, such as Pliny, referred to the insects as granum, grain. There is some excuse for this, since the way the insects cluster together makes them look like a clump of grain. Following this Latin usage, in Medieval English people spoke of engraining something or dying in grain for dyeing cloth with it. But over time, people began to think the word really referred to the grain of the cloth, like the grain of wood, and that the word meant, not dying with a particular colour, but dying it to its very roots, colouring it throughout its whole substance. The adjective engrained, originally describing something dyed crimson, slowly altered its sense to refer to a person whose characteristics were so firmly fixed as to be unalterable. Over time, the word changed its spelling to ingrained.

LOL

The train has failed

A large two-engined train was crossing America. After they had gone some distance one of the engines broke down. “No problem,” the engineer thought, and carried on at half power. Farther on down the line, the other engine broke down, and the train came to a standstill. The

engineer decided he should inform the passengers about why the train had stopped, and made the following announcement: “Ladies and gentlemen, I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for some time. The good news is that you decided to take the train and not fly.”



FOCUS THE MILK WAR

COOPERATIVE OR COMBATIVE?

During the recent Karnataka elections, one divisive issue was about the milk brand Amul from Gujarat versus the local brand Nandini. How did this become an electoral issue? That is because Amul was seen to be muscling into Nandini’s territory. The entrant was identified with the incumbent ruling party, and local Nandini’s cause was championed by the Opposition. It was also framed as a fight to preserve local identity versus a nationally rolled juggernaut with a Gujarati origin! Normally, a fight between consumer goods brands (whether food or clothing or even milk) would be welcomed by consumers. That’s because it signifies more choice, better quality, and perhaps lower prices. That’s how capitalism works. And how companies compete. But Amul and Nandini are not companies. They are cooperatives of milk producers. The success of a cooperative is not measured by only sales revenues or profits, but how well it serves its members. Since each member is a farmer, the gain to the farmer comes via fetching a higher price for his milk, which he sells to his cooperative. But high procurement price of milk means lower profits for the cooperative since it is a bulk buyer. That is ok, since in the final analysis the net gain to the farmer with higher procurement price (as a farmer member) plus lower profit share (as a shareholder) is superior to max profit and lower procurement price. Hence whether it is Amul in Gujarat or Nandini in Karnataka it is an emotive issue, not just for loyal consumers but also farmer producers. The success of Amul meant the death of Nandini, and loss to local farmers. That’s why it became an emotive issue in the elections. Amul was able to contemplate going beyond its state borders thanks to an amendment in the Cooperatives Act nationally, which affect multi-state cooperatives. Nandini cannot retaliate by muscling into Amul’s home territory in Gujarat.

Ajit Ranade

AMUL, THE BRAND OF GCMMF, IS ONE OF INDIA’S MOST SUCCESSFUL BRANDS WITH A TURNOVER OF ₹55,000 CRORE, AHEAD OF GIANTS SUCH AS HINDUSTAN UNILEVER AND NESTLE

The original idea of promoting cooperatives was to protect the interest of small farmers, be they in milk, oilseeds, sugarcane or credit. By pooling their produce they gain more bargaining power vis-à-vis their customers. It is a voluntary association of producers. As per India’s Constitution, the cooperatives are in the States’ list and are supposed to operate with-



Cooperatives are essential when the small producers’ income and livelihoods need some protection, be they in milk or groundnut or oilseeds or even sugarcane. That is why the government has been actively pushing the farmer producer companies’ model which is a hybrid between a cooperative and a capitalist company

state boundaries. But in 1984 a Multi-State Cooperatives Societies Act was passed which was later amended in 2002, and most recently in 2022. The most recent amendment makes it easier for cooperatives to expand their national footprint, often to the detriment of local producers of the same commodity.

As such, the growth and expansion of cooperatives is inherently constrained because they cannot raise unlimited capital. In a company, one shareholder can bring in large amounts of capital, become the dominant or majority owner, and pursue growth and call the shots, since the voting rights are proportional to shareholding. Not so in a cooperative. Even with large contribution of capital, no single member can get more than one vote. This creates a disincentive for influx of capital, and hence growth. In that sense cooperatives are the opposite of capitalism. But they have been hugely successful, especially in Gujarat, thanks to the early, pioneering, and visionary leadership of

Verghese Kurien. Since milk is a daily production and consumption item, and Kurien’s insistence that the major share of the price of milk flow back to the producer of the milk and not to middlemen or suits running the “company”, the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation became a huge success. Naturally, after Kurien it attracted the attention of politicians, since it became a vehicle to grant political patronage. Amul, the brand of GCMMF, is one of India’s most successful brands with a turnover of ₹55,000 crore, ahead of giants such as Hindustan Unilever and Nestle. It is called the “Taste of India.”

Amul’s success has many factors, and this space is too limited to describe the entire strategy. It has become a staple of case studies in business schools. Basically, it collects milk from millions of small farmers, who get a decent price. And the value-added products like ice cream, butter, cheese are managed in a more centralised, and often “corporate” style. These are manufactured in state of the

art plants located in many states, and the shelf life of these products is much longer than the plain milk sourced from the farmers. The growth of a super brand also has helped sustain profits and income to its members. There is no danger of a hostile takeover, except perhaps by politicians, which is the bane of all successful cooperatives. The case of sugarcane is interesting. India is the world’s largest producer of sugar, with roughly one-third coming from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu plus two southern states. However, it is only in Maharashtra that sugar factories continue to be run by cooperatives whereas more than two-third of India’s sugar sector is run in the capitalist mode. Of course, this sector does not enjoy the huge success and profitability of Amul and other milk federations. Income of dairy farmers who are members of milk cooperatives grows faster and is more stable than those of sugarcane farmers, or oilseeds. Besides sugarcane is sinking with huge subsidy burden and unpaid dues to farmers.

So Amul’s growth now needs more territories, i.e. operations in other states, and possibly taking away market share of local dairy cooperatives. This was the bone of contention between Nandini and Amul. It is also a proxy for the tension between the cooperative model which cannot grow in an unlimited way, and the capitalist model of shareholder owned company.

Cooperatives are essential when the small producers’ income and livelihoods need some protection, be they in milk or groundnut or oilseeds or even sugarcane. That is why the government has been actively pushing the farmer producer companies’ model which is a hybrid between a cooperative and a capitalist company. But except for the milk sector, the success of cooperatives has been limited. And in milk sector, the success of local milk federations requires that giants like Amul are kept at bay, and not allowed capitalist style “hostile takeovers”. For Amul is not only a Super Brand, globally known, but also a precious success story of homegrown cooperative movement. Nurturing that success story means some constraint on its growth too.

The writer is a noted economist.
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IN JEST THIS

Be courteous to everyone when flying

I do not fly often, but when I do, I try to be a good passenger. I will not recline my seat, for example, if the person behind me looks like a professional boxer.

Actually, any type of boxer – professional or amateur – will keep me from reclining my seat. But common courtesy also dictates that I’m careful about reclining my chair if the person behind me has a drink on the tray table that might spill or a laptop that might tip over. But common courtesy is not as common as one would wish. That’s why a veteran flight attendant named Kristie Koerbel recently published an article in the New York Times entitled, “Never a Reason to Take Off Your Socks”: A Flight Attendant’s 12 Etiquette Rules.”

I’ve borrowed partly from her list to create my own list of seven etiquette rules that everyone should follow. These are different from the rules to stay off the

government’s ‘no-fly list,’ which I wrote about recently. Reclining your chair aggressively won’t get you on the ‘no-fly list,’ but it may get you into a fight with a fellow passenger that will land you on the ‘no-fly list.’

If you follow these seven rules, you will not receive any awards, but you’ll be contributing to a better flying experience for everyone.

1. Clean up after your kids and yourself. If your kids make a mess, whether it’s spilling food in the aisle or scattering their crayons under the seat, don’t expect the flight attendants to clean it up for you. Just remember: Your ticket price does not include maid service. But if you have a maid, you’re welcome to buy a ticket for them.

2. Don’t give parents any nasty looks. Parenting is hard, and nobody is perfect. Try to be considerate, especially when parents are flying with babies. When babies cry, don’t expect a parent to muffle them.

The best thing you can do is wear an earphone and try to remember how much you cried when you were a baby.

3. Use earphones when having conversations on FaceTime, WhatsApp or any other platform. Your fellow passengers aren’t interested in hearing both sides of your conversation. They may have no choice but to hear you saying goodbye to your mother: “I just boarded the plane, Ma. I’m looking for my seat now.” But they don’t need to hear your mother saying, “Pick a good seat, beti – not close to any single men. Don’t sit near married men either.”

4. Don’t take your socks off, unless you are certain that your fellow passengers will enjoy the smell of your feet. Trust me, it’s quite unlikely that they will. You would be wise to keep your socks on throughout the flight. You would also be wise to keep your feet to yourself. Do not stretch them onto any arm-

rest. It is not the best way to introduce yourself to the passengers in front of you.

5. Flush the toilet. Look for the button that you need to push. Don’t assume that the toilet flushes automatically or that the person using the toilet after you will be impressed with your output.

6. Mind your own devices. In other words, keep your ears and eyes to yourself. Don’t be a snoop. You don’t need to see what your seatmate is reading or watching. Even if it’s your favourite movie, don’t look at it until your seatmate has dozed off.

7. Don’t move other people’s bags. The space in the overhead compartment above your seat does not belong to you. You may slide bags to maximise space, but don’t take anyone’s bag out without asking them. Trust me, it’s always better to be on the safe side and assume that the bag belongs to a professional boxer.

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
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Resplendent victory

Sir, The winning of the coveted IPL trophy by the resplendent Chennai Super Kings has shown that nothing is impossible if there is teamwork pepped with grit, guts and gumption. The way they won the finals in a triumphant manner against the Gujarat Titans with Ravindra doing the mesmerizing final touches once again proved that cricket is one such game that can have anybody spell bound with its magical, adrenaline pumping, thrilling, chilling effects. What makes the match a beauty is that both the teams well deserved to be in the finals and both matched each other. Whether it was batting, bowling or fielding it looked beautiful to watch some of the world class players along with emerging ones come out with their best to clinch the championship. The way the young and the old players of the CSK led by the dynamic, evergreen MS Dhoni displayed their skills in a very confident and composed manner throughout the tournament truly shows their diligence in realising and learning from their shortcomings and their ability to adapt a different tactic to play the games and win the final match. Overall the tournament showcased the talent of the young and the old and also saw the advent of some players who shall rule the cricket field with their superb skills and outstanding performances. The future of cricket is really bright.
M Pradyu, KANNUR (KERALA)

Significant milestone

Sir, Neuralink, the brain-implant company founded by Elon Musk, has achieved a significant milestone with the green light from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to commence its first-in-human clinical study. This is a critical turning point for Neuralink which earlier faced challenges in obtaining regulatory clearance. Since 2019, Musk had expressed his anticipation for such human trials, which holds the potential to address severe conditions like paralysis and blindness. However, despite the company’s establishment in 2016, it wasn’t until early 2022 that Neuralink initiated the process for FDA approval. Regrettably, the agency rejected their application, according to information shared by seven current and former employees with Reuters in March. The FDA had raised several concerns that needed to be resolved before granting authorisation for human trials, as revealed by the employees. Now FDA’s approval is a significant step forward. The company acknowledged the collaborative efforts between its team and the FDA, emphasising the importance of this milestone in paving the way for their technology to benefit numerous individuals in the future. **Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

of the day uote

In the by-elections held for two seats of the UP Legislative Council, despite the defeat being certain, the SP fielded Dalit and OBC candidates in the election and got them defeated, while ignoring them when they (SP) were in power... Proves that the conspiracies of the SP towards these classes has not changed even a bit

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

Delimitation of Lok Sabha seats after 2026 will be a gross injustice to southern states if it is taken up on the basis of population

K T RAMA RAO | BRS LEADER

Numerous attacks are happening on the rights of the states and this is one brazen way by getting an ordinance. We protest against this and whenever we get a chance to vote against it, we will. I appeal to all political parties to come forward to protest against this ordinance

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Body found

Patna: The body of a 14-year-old girl was found floating in a pond in Brahmapura village in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Tuesday after which villagers went on a rampage and torched several vehicles. The girl was missing since last 24 hours and the body was found floating in the pond of her village. The deceased is identified as Saloni Kumari, a student of Class 10, Saloni, who went to school on Monday, did not return. Saloni's father Vinod Singh alleged that four students of her class may be involved in her murder.

Girl gangraped

Patna: A 13-year-old minor girl was gangraped by two persons in a village on outskirts of Patna, an official said Tuesday. The incident occurred on Sunday night when the girl, along with her mother had gone to attend a marriage function Mahadev Asthan mandir in the village under Dhanarua police station. She was kidnapped by two persons identified as Rohit Yadav and Saurav Yadav and taken to an isolated location on Patna-Gaya highway where they took turns to rape her.

Farmer killed

Lakhimpur Kheri: A 50-year-old farmer was attacked and killed by a tiger in Belrayan range of the Dudhwa buffer zone. The farmer had gone to check on his sugarcane crop on Sunday and had been missing since then. Dudhwa buffer zone deputy director Sundaresh said that on Monday evening, the villagers recovered his half-eaten body from the neighbouring forests. He added that pugmarks on the spot and other circumstantial evidence indicated a tiger attack. He said the body had been sent for a post-mortem examination while further proceedings were on.

Forester killed

Guwahati: A forest officer was killed and three others were critically injured following a clash that occurred over alleged timber smuggling in Assam's Goalpara district, officials said Tuesday. The incident occurred in Krishnai Salpara Darapara area. According to sources, the Boro Matia Reserved Forest was the site of an operation against alleged illegal timber smuggling on Monday night. During the operation, the forest team confiscated a tractor and some illicit timber.



One of the reasons why inflation is high is because of the artificially-kept high prices of petrol and diesel

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

LIFE SAVING JACKETS MANDATORY

The Jammu and Kashmir government has made 'life saving jackets' mandatory for Shikara boats in Dal and Nigeen lakes besides other water bodies of the region, an official statement said Tuesday



No bail for Sisodia, allegations 'serious': HC

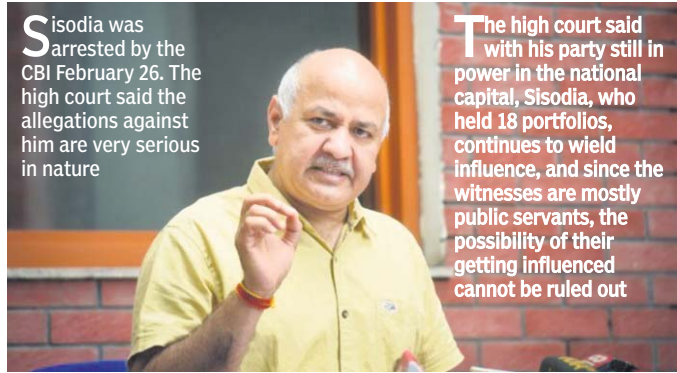
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The Delhi High Court Tuesday denied bail to AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the excise policy scam case being probed by the CBI, saying having been the deputy chief minister and excise minister, he is a "high-profile" person who has the potential to influence the witnesses.

It said since Sisodia was at the "helm of affairs" when the alleged scam took place, he cannot say he had no role to play.

The high court said with his party still in power in the national capital, Sisodia, who held 18 portfolios, continues to wield influence, and since the witnesses are mostly public servants, the possibility of their getting influenced cannot be ruled out. "The applicant (Sisodia) was one of the most important functionaries in the government at the relevant time. The applicant at this stage cannot be seen saying that he had no role to play. He being the deputy chief minister and minister of excise was at the helm of affairs. The witnesses in the present case are mostly public servants.

"Presently also, the party of the applicant is in power. Therefore, it cannot be disputed that the applicant is a high profile person and has potential to influence the witnesses.



Sisodia was arrested by the CBI February 26. The high court said the allegations against him are very serious in nature

The high court said with his party still in power in the national capital, Sisodia, who held 18 portfolios, continues to wield influence, and since the witnesses are mostly public servants, the possibility of their getting influenced cannot be ruled out

Therefore, the apprehension of the CBI that the applicant might tamper with or otherwise adversely influence the witnesses cannot be ignored. The applicant is also not entitled to parity in view of his unparalleled position," Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma said in a 43-page judgment.

Sisodia was arrested by the CBI on February 26. The high court said the allegations against him are very serious in nature. Citing the allegations against the AAP leader, it said, the excise policy was formed at the instance of the "South Group" with mala fide intention to give undue advantage to them.

"Such an act points towards the misconduct of the applicant, who was admittedly a public servant and holding highest position. The statement of the concerned excise

officers has been relied upon by the CBI," it said.

The high court said it was restraining itself from making any comments and minute examination of the material on records so no prejudice is caused to Sisodia or the prosecution during the trial. The gravity (of offence) and the allegations do not entitle the accused to be admitted to bail, it said, adding the court is clear about the fact that the excise policy has not been examined in the present proceedings nor the powers of the government to frame economic policies.

"This court has no doubt in its mind that it is for the executive/elected government to decide the policies. There is also no doubt that the government is not bound to accept the recommendation of

any expert committee. "The government is answerable to the public at large and they are duty bound to frame the policies which to their understanding is best for the welfare of the public," the court said.

It said economic policies framed by the government also fall within their domain and courts have to be very slow in interfering with them. "However, the court cannot interfere into the same, only if such policy decisions have been taken bona fide and in the interest of the public. But if such policy decisions or schemes are alleged to have been taken mala fide or have the taint of any corrupt practice then certainly such decisions are required to be enquired into by concerned investigating agencies and examined by the court," the high court said.

It also said the AAP leader failed the triple test required for grant of bail in the view of the seriousness of the allegations and his position. Under the triple test, an accused can be granted bail if it can be established that he or she is not a flight risk, will not influence witnesses and will not tamper with evidence.

"Though the petitioner has resigned from the post of minister, but still his position is influential qua the witnesses. In the facts and circumstances, the petitioner is not entitled to bail," Justice Sharma said.

Court sends Sahil to two-day police custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: Accused Sahil planned for two days the horrific killing of the 16-year-old girl carried out on Sunday evening in the Shahbad Dairy area here after she had rebuffed him in front of her friends and refused to continue their relationship, police claimed Tuesday.

The 20-year-old accused was sent to two-day police custody by a court here. Police officials investigating the case claimed the killing was pre-planned and Sahil was waiting for the victim, Sakshi, in a bylane to attack her on May 28.

On Tuesday, new CCTV footage surfaced on social media in which Sahil could be purportedly seen talking to a person just minutes before committing the brutal crime. During interrogation, Sahil confessed to the murder and told investigators that Sakshi and her friends had threatened to beat him up if he continued to pressure her to patch up with him, the police claimed.

Sakshi was stabbed over 20 times and bludgeoned to death on Sunday evening allegedly by Sahil in a

busy bylane of the Shahbad Dairy area of northwest Delhi as passers-by looked on in fear and disbelief. Police said that Sahil had bought the knife used in the crime from Haridwar around 15 days ago. After the murder, he threw it in bushes in Rithala while fleeing to his aunt's residence in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.

The Delhi Police sought the custody of Sahil, stating that he frequently changed his statements and the weapon used for committing the offence was yet to be recovered, sources said.

According to the police, Sakshi was found to have 34 wounds on her body and her skull was ruptured. The aunt of Sahil, who lives in Bulandshahr, demanded suitable punishment for the crime committed by him. "Sahil should be punished for what he has done. He did this to that girl today, tomorrow he can do the same to us," Shammo, his aunt, said here.

"He should be punished for what he (Sahil) has done. We are saying this with folded hands, whatever the punishment may be, beat him or hang him or whatever you do, he should be punished. We have nothing to do with him," she said.



Air India passenger assaults crew member

In recent months, there have been multiple incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard aircraft and the latest incident happened onboard flight AI882 enroute from Goa to Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: A male passenger onboard an Air India flight from Goa Monday physically assaulted a crew member and the unruly passenger was handed over to the security personnel after landing at the Delhi airport, according to the airline.

In recent months, there have been multiple incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard aircraft and the latest incident happened onboard flight AI882 enroute from Goa to Delhi.

"The said passenger verbally abused the crew members and then went on to physically assault one of them on board. On landing at Delhi airport, the passenger continued with the unprovoked, aggressive behaviour and was handed over to the security personnel. We have also reported the incident to the regulator," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement

on Tuesday.

Further details about the incident could not be immediately ascertained. "Safety of our crew and passengers is of utmost importance to us and we strongly condemn this unruly behaviour of the passenger. We will offer all support to the affected crew members," the spokesperson said.

Earlier this month, Air India imposed a two-year flying ban on an individual who caused physical harm to two female cabin crew members onboard a Delhi-London flight on April 10.

An unruly air passenger can face flying ban for varying periods under the regulations of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). As per the rules, unruly passenger behaviour can be classified into three levels.

Unruly behaviour such as physical gestures, verbal harassment and unruly inebriation are classified as Level 1 while physically abusive behaviour like pushing, kicking or sexual harassment are classified as Level 2. Life threatening behaviour such as damage to aircraft operating systems, physical violence like choking and murderous assault are considered as Level 3.

Depending on the level of unruly behaviour, an internal committee set up by the airline concerned can decide on the duration for which an unruly passenger can be banned from flying.



Members of the Association of Mid-day Meal Assistants raise slogans during a protest against the West Bengal government in Kolkata

CHHATTISGARH OFFICIAL FINED FOR WASTING WATER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, May 30: The Chhattisgarh government has imposed a fine of Rs 53,092 on an official who allegedly drained out 41 lakh litres of water from a reservoir to retrieve his mobile phone.

The Water Resources department imposed the fine on Rajesh Vishwas, a food inspector posted in Pakhanjore area of Kanker district, an official said Tuesday. Vishwas was earlier

suspended after the incident at Paralkot weir came to light.

In a letter to him, the department said he drained out water from the cistern of a waste weir using a diesel pump without seeking permission from the competent authority after his mobile phone fell into it. This act was illegal under the Chhattisgarh Irrigation Act, it said. Vishwas wasted 4,104 cubic meters of water (41 lakh litres) for which he has

been asked to pay Rs 43,092 at the rate of Rs 10.50 per cubic meter, the letter said. Besides, a penalty of Rs 10,000 has been imposed for evacuating water without permission, the letter stated.

The official was, thus, asked to pay a total of Rs 53,092 to the department within ten days. Vishwas had gone to the reservoir for an outing with friends when his phone fell into the cistern of a waste weir while he was taking a selfie.

Chinese haven't gone back, is a challenge: CDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, May 30: The continued deployment of China's PLA in strength along India's northern borders is a "challenge" and the armed forces are committed to maintaining the legitimacy of the country's claims on the LoC, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said Tuesday.

Addressing the passing out parade of National Defence Academy's 144th course in Pune, he also said the armed forces are committed to playing a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability not only in our immediate but also in the extended neighbourhood.

The CDS said, "PLA deployment on the northern borders is not increasing day by day, it is at the same level as it was in 2020. So there is a challenge, and the armed forces are taking all kinds of steps so that there is no untoward situation." "We have been able to get back to all places except two: Demchok and Depsang. Negotiations are on. Hopefully, that will come about, we are hopeful of that," he added. "The idea in this whole thing is that we should be able to maintain the legitimacy of the claim line. We should be able to patrol the areas which we actually did before this crisis happened in 2020," he said. In one of the major border escalations in over four decades, Indian and Chinese armies clashed in Galwan valley in June 2020, resulting in casualties on both sides.

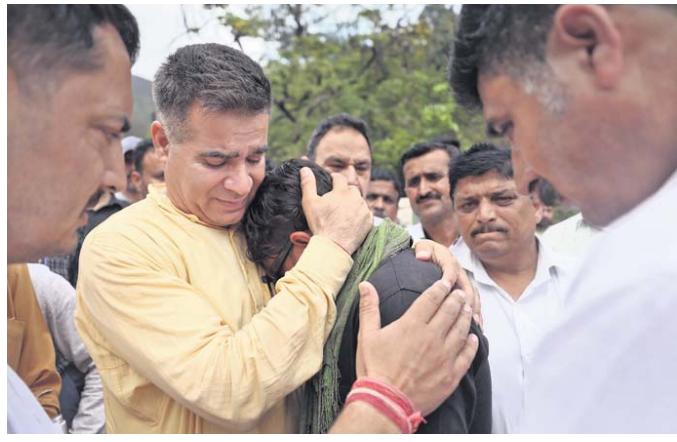
Killed circus worker was family's sole earner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Udhampur, May 30: Deepu Kumar (27) was expecting his first child in June but his life was cut short in a terror attack in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, leaving his poor family without its sole breadwinner.

Kumar, who worked at a circus in the district's Janglat Mandi area, was gunned down by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in the latest incident of targeted killing when he had gone to the market to buy milk around 8:30 pm on Monday.

His body was Tuesday moved to his remote Thial village in Udhampur district where, in a heart-wrenching gesture, locals came forward to help the Below Poverty Line-family perform his last rites. "Kumar was the only earning hand in the family comprising his ailing father Mashu Ram, blind brother Raju and his wife, and their two minor children," local



Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina meets the family members of Deepu Kumar during his last rites, in Udhampur district. Kumar, a circus worker, was shot dead by terrorists in Anantnag district, Monday

resident Shankar Dass said.

He said the family moved to the remote village from Kathua dising his ailing father Mashu Ram, blind brother Raju and his wife, and their two minor children," local

sight about four years ago while his father is hearing impaired.

"Over the past six years, he was in Kashmir and moving from place to place with his circus. We talked to him just before he was killed. He

had transferred some money to meet the family's medical expenses," Raju said. Devastated after hearing the news of Kumar's killing, his father asked, "What was his fault? He was there to earn a livelihood for the family."

The family, living in a single-storey mud-house on a hill slope and whose sole possessions are three goats, demanded justice for Kumar's murder. Abhi Sharma, the circus owner, said they were in the Janglat Mandi area for the past two months and planned to move to another destination within a day or two when the incident occurred.

"He married Gudya about two years ago and the couple was expecting their first child around June 15," Sharma, who was among those accompanying the body in an ambulance, said. He said they have been frequently organising shows in the Valley over the past few years but never faced such a situation. "The incident happened outside

our camping site, which was well protected... We have our own private security," Sharma said, demanding adequate compensation and a job for Kumar's wife.

Amid anti-Pakistan sloganeering, a large number of villagers turned up to receive Kumar's body around 1.30 pm despite a drizzle. The body had left Anantnag in an ambulance under police protection at 8 am.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who represents Udhampur in the Lok Sabha, condemned the terror attack and sought strict security measures to prevent such targeted killings in the Valley. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has also condemned the attack and said the government and the entire nation is standing shoulder to shoulder with the family.

"Our security forces remain committed in their resolve to thwart the designs of terrorists and all efforts will be made to bring the perpetrators to justice," he said.

UP Police, Amazon India join hands to fight online scams

THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UP POLICE WILL COMPLEMENT AMAZON INDIA'S CONSUMER EDUCATION RECENT INITIATIVE, 'MISSION GRAHAQ', THAT IS SPREADING AWARENESS ABOUT SAFE ONLINE SHOPPING PRACTICES, CONSUMER RIGHTS AND MORE



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 30: The Uttar Pradesh Police and Amazon India are coming together to tackle the menace of online shopping scams with a consumer education and awareness campaigns.

The two partners are collaborating to explore several joint initiatives aimed at empowering consumers to shop online with greater confidence.

The UP Police and Amazon India have agreed to join hands to educate online consumers about their rights as well as raise awareness about safe shopping practices and protecting online shoppers from bad actors.

These joint projects will also include special initiatives aimed at enhancing online safety of women by creating awareness about identity theft, impersonation and online financial frauds.

"Amazon is excited to join forces with the Uttar Pradesh Police to promote awareness on online scams and frauds. This association will help us deliver on our shared mission of enhancing online safety and promote a trustworthy digital space. This collaboration will not only educate a large consumer

base and but also enable us to identify to foster a secure digital experience," said Chetan Krishnaswamy, Vice President, Public Policy at Amazon India.

Prashant Kumar, Special DG Law and Order, Uttar Pradesh, said, "Amazon is a strong partner and our alliance will help us not just fight, but also prevent online scams.

Our partnership comes at a time when we are witnessing a significant surge in online transactions post-Covid, courtesy convenience of online shopping and UPI payment infrastructure.

There is an increased need for consumers to be vigilant and our joint initiatives will help us do just that."

The partnership with the UP Police will complement Amazon India's consumer education recent initiative, 'Mission GraHAQ', that is spreading awareness about safe online shopping practices, consumer rights and more.

Amazon endeavours to dial-up efforts against online scams through collaborations with law enforcement agencies, government agencies, consumer groups, small businesses and industry associations among others.

Joint exercise held by Army, Air Force along western border



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, May 30: A major fortnight-long training exercise was conducted in Punjab by various units and formations of Army's Ambala-based Kharga Corps, an official statement said here Tuesday.

The units successfully went under training exercises for latest operational concepts such as deployment of attack helicopters in support of ground forces, conducting operations deep across adversary's obstacle systems, use of hi-tech drones as force multipliers, fighting in obstacle-ridden terrain, sustained operations deep inside enemy territory by forces, and helicopter operations, it said.

The exercise, held from May 11 to 27, also incorporated aspects of joint training with the Indian Air Force for operations in the enemy territory across western borders, special forces drops behind enemy lines, and simulated battlefield air strikes by IAF.

"The exercise was witnessed by the Army Commander, Western Command and other senior dignitaries, who complemented all ranks on professional readiness," the statement further said.

Mann orders completion of flood protection work by June 30

To prevent floods in southwestern Punjab, the state government has taken several initiatives like rectifying the alignment of some drains, laying down of pipes to connect the low-lying areas with canals and remodelling bridges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 30: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday gave directions for the completion of flood protection work and cleaning of drains across the state before June 30.

Mann was chairing a meeting of

the state flood control board to review the ongoing flood protection works in the state, according to an official release. The Chief Minister said the total length of drains in the state is 8,136 km and that of the 'dhusi bandh' (embankment) is 1,365 km. In 2022, over ₹34 crore was spent on drain cleaning and ₹ 48.32



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

crore on flood protection works, he said. Mann informed that this year, ₹39.90 crore has been spent so far on flood protection works and ₹39.43 crore on cleaning drains. The work of cleaning waterways beneath bridges and removing silt lumps from them, besides strengthening weak points prone to frequent flooding due to rains, has already been started, he said.

Mann said he will regularly oversee the flood protection works being undertaken in close coordination with deputy commissioners across the state.

Probe intensifies in conversion racket

The accused were booked under the UP Unlawful Religious Conversion Prohibition Ordinance, which lays down jail term up to 10 years if the conversion is through "misinformation, force, unlawfully or by any other such deceitful and dishonest means"

AGENCIES

Azamgarh, May 30: Police in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district have intensified its probe into alleged conversions after 18 persons, including the mastermind, were arrested last week.

The police are now looking into the number of people approached by them for conversion.

According to police, the mastermind Sikandar, who claims association with a shrine in Barabanki, and his companions had decorated an area in the slum of Chirkhit village of Devgaon like a shrine and used to encourage conversions during their regular qawwali and religious discourse sessions. Among those held in the crackdown last week was Sikandar who belongs to Barabanki. The police are now looking for those whom they had allegedly approached and managed to convert.

Azamgarh SP Anurag Arya told reporters that when the cops



reached the spot May 25, qawwali and discourse sessions were on with a big crowd, and additional forces had to be called in to control the gathering while the arrests were made. The accused were booked under the UP Unlawful Religious Conversion Prohibition Ordinance, which lays down jail term up to 10 years if the conversion is through "misinformation, force, unlawfully or by any other such deceitful and dishonest means". The police claimed Sikandar

and the others had confessed during interrogation to having mobilised people for conversion at this event, and that they received funds for such activities.

Meanwhile, in a related development, a pregnant Dalit woman was raped and poisoned to death "for refusing to convert".

The victim, employed at a local hospital, was three-months pregnant. According to police sources, the victim was in a relationship with the accused, Mohd Naved, who had presented himself as a Hindu.

The woman was admitted to district hospital in Shahjahanpur in a critical condition Saturday night by Naved and his friend Farhad Khan. Naved told the hospital staff "she was his wife Zoya Siddiqui".

The hospital staff, however, found their activities suspicious as they both tried to flee after coming to know the woman had died. Both were arrested after it was found that they had entered incorrect details in hospital records.

SIT to probe human trafficking cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 30: Punjab Police's Bureau of Investigation has formed a Special Investigation Team to investigate all human trafficking cases in the state, officials said.

The SIT will be headed by an officer of the Indian Police Service (IPS), according to an order by bureau director, L K Yadav, issued Friday.

"It has been reported that a number of women were trafficked from India to other countries in the Middle East, primarily on the pretext of providing decent employment and salary but these women were held captive and left to struggle for survival and starvation," according to the order. "A case FIR dated May 2, 2023, has



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The SIT will be headed by an officer of the Indian Police Service (IPS), according to an order by bureau director, L K Yadav

been registered for the commission of offences under section 420 IPC and section 13 of the Punjab Travel Professionals (Regulation) Act, 2014 at police station Ghali Khurd, Ferozepur in one such instance," it added.

In view of the sensitivity and gravity of the matter, it is hereby ordered that any such complaint received by any other field unit shall immediately be registered as an FIR, without any loss of time, the order said.

Made in Uttar Pradesh liquor is keeping everyone in high spirits

Made in Uttar Pradesh liquor is keeping everyone in high spirits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 30: Made-in Uttar Pradesh alcohol, which is extremely popular within the country, seems to be in high demand in the overseas market as well.

The provisional figures released by the excise department (demand between April 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, have established at least 23 per cent increased demand for UP-based liquor brands compared to the previous fiscal year.

While during the 2021-22 fiscal year, a total of 7.74 lakh cases of alcoholic beverages were sold abroad, during the nine-month period of the FY 2022-23, the state has already exported 9.48 lakh cases.

The sale volume for the last quarter (January to March 2023) is yet to be compiled and the final figures are expected to be much higher.

Though the state is home to about more than two dozen different IMFL (India made foreign liquor) companies, only Mohan Meakin and Radico Khaitan have been able to create demand for their brands internationally.

Officials said that the dark rum produced by Mohan Meakin in Ghaziabad continues to be the hot seller internationally. "Of late, the demand for Indian single malt and craft gin has also picked up. The two premium products are produced in Rampur by Radico Khaitan," said a senior officer from the department.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The two companies have been recording steady growth in the business for the past six years (barring the pandemic-induced slowdown) and are catering to 38 countries. They have operations in other states as well and could be exporting more brands. While the popular dark rum and premium products have demand in developed countries such as the US, UK, Canada, Australia, Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Norway, New Zealand, Russia,

Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Qatar, Oman among others, the least developed countries including Congo, Liberia, Zambia, Djibouti in Africa and Haiti in the Caribbean, also procure affordable and cheap IMFL brands from Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, Excise Commissioner Senthil C Pandian said that handholding sessions for other liquor manufacturers will be organised in the coming months to improve the business prospects.

Anti-corruption helpline receives close to 8K plaints

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 30: The Punjab government's anti-corruption action line' has received close to 8,000 complaints since March 2022, an official statement said.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the helpline number in March 2022 that allows people to upload video/audio proof of officials asking for bribes or indulging in malpractices.

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB), in its relentless pursuit of eradicating corruption, has made remarkable progress in its recent anti-corruption campaign, said an official statement.

"From March 23, 2022, to the present date, the chief minister's anti-corruption action line (ACAL) has received a staggering 7,939 complaints accompanied by necessary evidence, signifying the unwavering commitment of the Punjab government to promote transparency and accountability in public administration," said the statement issued here. A spokesperson of the bureau said it is fully dedicated to its mission of eradicating corruption and encourages citizens to continue utilising the ACAL to report any instances of corruption they encounter.

"On this citizen-centric artificial intelligence-enabled platform, any person could file complaints 24x7 along with relevant audio and video recording regarding demand of illegal gratification," he added. The spokesperson said to en-



Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the helpline number in March 2022 that allows people to upload video/audio proof of officials asking for bribes or indulging in malpractices

sure an efficient process, an 'automatic bot' had been installed on the web portal to filter out frivolous entries, spam, junk posts and unrelated to corruption. "As a result, out of a total of 4,02,133 entries, 3,90,050 entries were identified as irrelevant or classified as junk posts and non-corruption-related matters which were duly rejected. "This initiative aims to optimise resources and focus solely on actionable complaints that contribute to combating corruption effectively," he said. Providing additional details, he further explained that out of the remaining 12,083 complaints/entries, a thorough evaluation revealed that 4,144 complaints were further found to be extraneous and unrelated to corruption.

Six-year-old UP girl swims across Yamuna in 11 min



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), May 30: A six-year-old girl scripted her success story when she crossed the Yamuna River in just 11 minutes.

Vritika Shandilya, a resident of Preetam Nagar in Prayagraj, left her trainers stunned with her feat. A student of Class 2 at St Anthony Girls' Convent School, Vritika, under the guidance of her trainers, started swimming from Meerapur Sindu Sagar ghat at 6:10 a.m. and crossed the river, reaching another side of the river at Vidyapeeth Mahevaghata at 6:21 a.m.

Her master trainer Tribhuvan Nishad said, "She was determined to cross the river through her hard work since the first day when she started learning swimming.

Vritika first offered prayers at the famous Maa Lalita Devi temple and Lord Hanuman temple (Bargad ghat) and then sought blessings from her trainer Kamla Nishad before starting her journey to cross the river.

She crossed river Yamuna in just 11 minutes whereas children of her age had earlier crossed the river by taking 15 or more minutes.

Nishad, meanwhile, claimed, "When Vritika was crossing the river, her parents, Pankaj Kumar Singh and Nivedita Singh, along with grandparents and others were encouraging and cheering her." Nishad said three boats accompanied the girl for emergency assistance. There are currently 150 children in all age groups undergoing training at the Navjeevan Swimming club. Vritika is one of the trainee swimmers from the age group of 3 to 8-years, who has accomplished the feat and is winning applause.

national

of the day quote

A decision on the appointment of new state election commissioner in West Bengal will be taken at appropriate time

CV ANANDA BOSE | BENGAL GOVERNOR

They (Congress) want to do everything new and end the old rules and steps taken by the BJP government. It is not so easy. The children have already started learning and whatever step is taken, should be taken in their interest

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA'S FORMER CM

Bajrang Dal's Panna district co-convenor Sundaram Tiwari has been caught by Railway police for smuggling ganja. Is smuggling of cannabis a cultural act? Chief of RSS and Bajrang Dal should give reply on this matter

DIGVIJAYA SINGH | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Drugs seized

Greater Noida: Another drug manufacturing laboratory allegedly set up in a house in Greater Noida was busted Tuesday. The police claimed to have seized 20 kg drugs valued at Rs 200 crore in the international market, and also arrested two foreign nationals.

Explosives seized

Kasaragod (Kerala): Kerala police Tuesday seized explosives, including over 2,800 gelatin sticks and 6,800 detonators, among other things that were illegally stored at a residence in Kasaragod district of northern Kerala and arrested a man in connection with the matter.

Eight injured

Patna: Eight persons suffered burn injuries after an LPG cylinder exploded during a marriage ceremony in Bihar's Saran district Tuesday, police said. Among the injured, three were women and are they suffered 80 per cent burns.

Two arrested

Bhopal: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has arrested two persons allegedly for smuggling marijuana in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district. They were arrested by the police at Uchehra railway station on Monday. According to the RPF, the arrested persons have been identified as Sundaram Tiwari, a resident of Panna district, while the other accused has been identified as Raj Chaurasia, a native of Chandauli district in Uttar Pradesh.

NCERT drops Khalistan mention from Class 12 textbook

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The NCERT has dropped references to the demand for a separate Sikh nation Khalistan from the Class 12 political science textbook following objections from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), according to top education ministry officials.

The SGPC had last month alleged that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) misrepresented historical details about Sikhs in its Class 12 political science textbook.

The Sikh body's objection pertained to the mention of the Anandpur Sahib resolution in the book "Politics In India Since Independence". The dropped sentences are - "the resolution was a plea for strengthening federalism but it could also be interpreted as a plea for a separate Sikh nation"

and "the more extreme elements started advocating secession from India and the creation of 'Khalistan'".

"The statements have been rewritten as 'the resolution was a plea for strengthening federalism'. 'Representation from SGPC was received regarding withdrawing objectionable content against Sikh community by misrepresenting Sri Anandpur Sahib resolution. A committee of experts was constituted by NCERT to examine the issue and the decision was taken on basis of the recommendations of the panel,' said Sanjay Kumar, School Education Secretary, Ministry of Education.

"A corrigendum has been issued by NCERT. While the physical books for the new academic session have already been printed, the changes will reflect in the digital books," Kumar added.

The Anandpur Sahib resolution



was a document adopted by the Shiromani Akali Dal in 1973. The resolution affirmed the party's commitment to the Sikh religion and demanded greater autonomy for Punjab. It also demanded that the city of Chandigarh should be handed over to Punjab and that Punjabi should be given second-language status in neighbouring states. Dropping several topics and por-

The BJP can go to any extent to defame Samajwadi Party and its leaders ahead of the polls. In such a situation, it is important that the leaders make sure that they are not provoked by anyone to say anything and their conduct towards all party men should be respectful

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

EFFORTS ON: STALIN

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Tuesday said the state Forest Department was taking all efforts to nab the rogue wild tusker Arikomban, after it strayed into the state from neighbouring Kerala last week and allegedly attacked a man in Theni who later died



Monkeys cool off on a hot day in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Shah chairs security review meet in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, May 30: In his efforts to bring back peace in Manipur, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday met various Meitei and Kuki groups which expressed their commitment for peace and assured that they would work for restoring normalcy in the trouble-torn state.

Shah also held a security review meeting with senior officials of Manipur Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Army and said peace and prosperity of Manipur are the government's top priority and instructed them to strictly deal with any activities that disturb peace.

Beginning his day with a meeting with a group of Meitei women leaders (Meira Paibi) in Imphal and subsequent meetings with prominent citizens and civil society group, the home minister also travelled to Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district where he met prominent persons and a delegation of civil society organisations.

"Held a meeting with a group of women leaders (Meira Paibi) in Manipur. Reiterated the significance of the role of women in the



Top Congress leaders Tuesday met President Droupadi Murmu and sought her intervention in helping bring normalcy in violence-hit Manipur, and called for the constitution of a high-level inquiry commission headed by a serving or retired Supreme Court judge to probe the incident

Shah will visit Moreh and Kangpokpi areas Wednesday. He will interact with the delegations of various local groups in Moreh followed by meeting with civil society organisations in Kangpokpi

society of Manipur: Together, we are committed to ensuring peace and prosperity in the state," Shah tweeted.

In a separate tweet, he said "Had a fruitful discussion with the members of the different Civil Society Organisations today in Imphal. They expressed their commitment

to peace and assured that we would together contribute to paving the way to restore normalcy in Manipur."

According to a home ministry spokesperson, Shah had a (separate) meeting with prominent personalities in Imphal in the morning

who assured their commitment to peace and also conveyed that they would work towards restoring peace in the state.

The home minister also had a separate meeting with political leaders of Manipur. Before leaving for Churachandpur, he interacted with a group of prominent personalities, intellectuals, retired army officers as well as civil servants. The delegation expressed their commitment to peace and assured that they would together contribute to paving the way to restore normalcy in Manipur.

The delegates urged the home minister for effective intervention to restore peace and normalcy. Later in the evening, Shah, along with Chief Minister N Biren Singh, held a security review meeting with senior officials. He also held an all-party meeting in Imphal.

"Reviewed the security situation in Manipur in a meeting with senior officials of the Manipur Police, CAPFs and the Indian Army in Imphal. Peace and prosperity of Manipur is our top priority, instructed them to strictly deal with any activities disturbing the peace," he tweeted.

22 MLAs, nine MPs want to leave Shinde Sena: Uddhav camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) Tuesday claimed 22 MLAs and nine MPs from rival Shiv Sena were feeling suffocated due to "step-motherly treatment" by the BJP and could quit the group led by Maharashtra Chief minister Eknath Shinde.

Latching on to Shiv Sena MP Gajanan Kirtikar's remark that his party was getting step-motherly treatment, an editorial in Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' dubbed the Shinde group MLAs and MPs as "hens and cocks" imprisoned in the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) coop and that it cannot be said when they could be slaughtered.

It said Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (then undivided) severed ties with the BJP (in 2019) due to the same "step-motherly treatment" which became unbearable, and also for its safety and self-respect. The Thackeray-headed Shiv Sena exited the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2019 and joined hands with the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party to form a government in Maharashtra.

After the split in the Sena last

year, Shinde joined hands with the BJP to become CM. Kirtikar, the Lok Sabha member from Mumbai, on Friday said, "We are part of the NDA... So our work should be carried out accordingly, and (NDA) constituents should get a (suitable) status. We think we are being given step-motherly treatment."

The editorial in Saamana Tuesday said reports are that

The editorial in Saamana Tuesday said reports are that Shinde group's "22 MLAs and nine MPs are feeling suffocated because of step-motherly treatment by the BJP and they have developed the mindset to quit the group"

Shinde group's "22 MLAs and nine MPs are feeling suffocated because of step-motherly treatment by the BJP and they have developed the mindset to quit the group."

It said the Shiv Sena MPs and MLAs

"betrayed" the Thackerays and joined hands with the BJP, but within a year, their "love affair" has turned sour and there are talks of their divorce. Kirtikar last week said the Shiv Sena contested 22 Lok Sabha seats (out of total 48) in Maharashtra in the 2019 and this arrangement with the BJP will continue in the state even in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The editorial claimed the Shiv Sena has asked for contesting 22 seats in the Lok Sabha, but the BJP will not give it more than five to seven seats. The Shiv Sena's claim that it will fight on 22 seats is laughable, the Marathi daily said.



Training aircraft makes emergency landing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Belagavi, May 30: A major tragedy was averted as a training aircraft developed technical snag and made an emergency landing at a farm in Marihal police station limits of Belagavi district in Karnataka Tuesday.

The training aircraft VT-RBF belonged to Redbird Institute and took off from the Sambra Airport in Belagavi and was on routine sortie. Two persons including the pilot were on board, according to sources. The pilot suffered minor injuries.

Belagavi District Fire Officer, Shashidhar Neelagar, stated that the incident took place at 9.40 a.m. As soon as the airport authorities



were informed, a water tanker and a rescue team were rushed to the spot.

"We found the training aircraft crash landed on agricultural land. The pilot is safe and he has been sent to the hospital," he said. The arrival of the technical team is awaited and the team will ascertain the exact cause for the emergency crash landing, he stated.

SC grants protection to woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The Supreme Court Tuesday directed the Delhi Police to grant protection to a 20-year-old woman who allegedly ran away from home and is apprehending threat to her life from her family members.

The top court passed the order while declining to interfere with a Madhya Pradesh High Court order cancelling the anticipatory bail granted to a man accused of kidnapping her. As the matter was being heard by a vacation bench of Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, the woman appeared via videoconferencing and requested the court to permit her to appear in-person.

After being granted permission, she appeared before the bench and expressed apprehension that there is a threat to her life from her fam-



ily members and alleged that her brother is following her.

The woman expressed apprehension that she will be forcibly taken back to her home, where she does not want to go. According to her, she stays in Varanasi and wants to return there. However, she sought protection.

When the women told the court about her condition, the bench said the high court had cancelled the anticipatory bail granted to the man by observing that he was not cooperating with the investigation and not responding to the investi-

gating officer despite being called.

"We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned orders passed by the high court." In that view of the matter, it is directed that the petitioner shall surrender to the concerned police station within two days. However, it shall be open for the petitioner to make appropriate application seeking bail as may be permissible under the law and the same shall be decided by the concerned court as expeditiously as possible without being influenced by the observations made in the present order," the bench said.

Since the woman has expressed apprehension that there is a threat to her life, the apex court directed the Tilak Marg SHO in New Delhi to provide protection to her. It also ordered the SHO to make necessary arrangements to drop her in Varanasi on Tuesday itself.

BJP's mass connect programme begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: Union ministers and senior organisational members of the BJP will fan out across the country as part of its month-long mass connect exercise to mark the Modi government's ninth anniversary in what is also seen as the ruling party's mega outreach to drum up support as the 2024 Lok Sabha elections approach.

Campaign in-charge Tarun Chugh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally launch the exercise with a rally in Rajasthan's Ajmer on Wednesday. The drive, though, began from Tuesday and will continue till June 30.

Chugh said senior party leaders will address 51 rallies across the country. Modi may address more such public meetings besides the likes of Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and BJP chief JP Nadda. The BJP national general secretary claimed that it will be the biggest such mass connect programme.

A total of 500 public meetings will be held at the Lok Sabha-level and party members will connect with over five lakh eminent families -- around 1,000 in every Lok Sabha constituency -- across the country, Chugh said. The party has divided the 543 Lok Sabha seats into 144 clusters, each having three to four constituencies. Two senior party leaders, including ministers, will spend eight days in every cluster and hold various public connect programmes with different segments of society, including beneficiaries of government schemes, and present the government's report card on good governance and the poor's welfare, he said.

With the Congress running a campaign claiming that the government's nine years have been marked by incompetence and failures, Chugh hit back, saying the UPAs 10-year rule was mired in scams and scandals while the Modi government is known for its "zero tolerance" for corruption.

legations about a bid to delete these portions surreptitiously.

The NCERT had described the omissions as a possible oversight but refused to

The SGPC had last month alleged that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) misrepresented historical details about Sikhs in its Class 12 political science textbook

undo the deletions, saying they were based on the recommendations of experts. It has also said the textbooks are anyway headed for revision in 2024

when the National Curriculum Framework kicks in.

However, later NCERT had changed its stand and said "minor changes need not be notified". Among the references that were dropped from class 12 history textbook were certain portions on Mahatma Gandhi and how his pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity "provoked Hindu extremists", and on a ban on the RSS. "Gandhi's death had magical effect on communal situation in the country", "Gandhi's pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity provoked Hindu extremists" and "Organisations like RSS were banned for some time" are among the portions deleted from the textbook.

The portions referring to Gujarat riots were also dropped from class 11 sociology textbook, months after NCERT removed the reference to the 2022 communal violence in two class 12 textbooks.



We must never forget the price that was paid to protect our democracy. We must never forget the lives these flags, flowers and marble markers represent

NK WILL LAUNCH FIRST MILITARY SPY SATELLITE North Korea said Tuesday it would launch its first military spy satellite in June and described space-based reconnaissance as crucial for monitoring the United States' "reckless" military exercises with rival South Korea



of the day quote

We need to keep the steering wheel in the right direction of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation. China's development is an opportunity for the world

QIN GANG | CHINA'S FOREIGN MINISTER

Many political and constitutional breakthroughs occurred when political leaders sat across the table to craft a consensus

SHHEBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PM

It was necessary for the country to speed up the modernization of its national security system and capabilities

XI JINPING | CHINA PRESIDENT

UKRAINE WAR ENTERS MOSCOW

SINCE RUSSIA SENT TROOPS INTO ITS NEIGHBOUR IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, THE WAR HAS LARGELY BEEN FOUGHT INSIDE UKRAINE, THOUGH MOSCOW HAS REPORTED SOME ATTACKS ON ITS TERRITORY AND SAID ONE WAS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

AGENCIES

Kyiv, May 30: A rare drone attack jolted Moscow early Tuesday, causing only light damage but forcing evacuations as residential buildings were struck in the Russian capital for the first time in the war against Ukraine.

The Kremlin, meanwhile, pursued its relentless bombardment of Kyiv with a third assault on the city in 24 hours. The Russian Defence Ministry said five drones were shot down in Moscow and the systems of three others were jammed, causing them to veer off course.

President Vladimir Putin called it a "terrorist" act by Kyiv. The attack, causing only what Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin called "insignificant damage" to several buildings, brought the war home to civilians in Russia's capital. Two people received treatment for unspecified injuries but did not need hospitalisation, he said in a Telegram post, adding that residents of two high-rise buildings damaged in the attack were evacuated.

Andrei Vorobyov, governor of the wider Moscow region, said some of the drones were "shot down on the approach to Moscow." Ukraine made no direct comment on the attack, which would be one of its deepest and most daring strikes into Russia since the Kremlin launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than 15 months ago.

Putin said Moscow's air defense "worked in a satisfactory way," but added it is "clear that our task is to plug the gaps" in the system.

Russian political analyst Tatiana



A view shows a damaged multi-storey apartment block following a reported drone attack in Moscow



A view shows an apartment building damaged during a massive Russian drone strikes in Kyiv

TWO INJURED IN MOSCOW, ONE DEAD IN KYIV ATTACKS RUSSIAN POLITICIANS ALARMED AT RISKS TO CAPITAL KYIV SUFFERS 17 AIR ATTACKS IN MAY LAVROV ACCUSES WEST OF BACKING GENOCIDE

Stanovaya, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, said the Kremlin's policy is to play down the attacks.

Still, the attacks raised questions about the effectiveness of Russia's air defences. A senior Russian lawmaker, Andrei Kartapolov, told Russian business news site RBC that "we have a very big country and there will always be a loophole where the drone can fly around the areas where air de-

fense systems are located." Kartapolov said the purpose of the attacks was to unnerve the Russian people. "It's an intimidation act aimed at the civilian population," RBC quoted him as saying. "It's designed to create a wave of panic."

Moscow residents reported hearing explosions before dawn. Police were seen working at one site of a crashed drone in southwest Moscow. An area near a residential building was fenced off, and police put the drone debris in a cardboard box before carrying it away. At another site, apartment windows were shattered and there were scorch marks on the building's front.

It was the second reported attack on Moscow. Russian authorities said two drones targeted the Kremlin May 3 in what they portrayed as an attempt on Putin's life. Ukraine denied it was behind that attack. Last week, the Russian border region of Belgorod was the target of one of the most serious cross-border raids since the war began, with two far-right pro-Ukrainian paramilitary groups claiming responsibility.

Officials in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar near annexed Crimea said two drones struck there Friday, damaging residential buildings. Other drones have

reportedly flown deep into Russia multiple times. In December, Russia claimed it had shot down drones at airfields in the Saratov and Ryazan regions in western Russia. Three soldiers were reported killed in the attack in Saratov, which targeted an important military airfield.

Before that, Russia reported downing a drone that targeted the headquarters of its Black Sea Fleet in the Crimean port of Sevastopol.

In Ukraine, Russia launched a pre-dawn air raid on Kyiv, killing at least one person, wounding 11 others and sending the capital's residents again scrambling into shelters.

Ukrainian military analysts, though unable to confirm that Kyiv had launched the drones against Moscow, said the attack may have involved UJ-22 drones with a maximum range of about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and are produced in Ukraine.

Imran appears before anti-terrorism court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, May 30: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday appeared before an anti-terrorism court in four cases, including the attack Lahore Corp Commander House, and submitted surety bonds in connection with his pre-arrest bail till June 2. "Khan appeared before the ATC Lahore judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar and submitted surety bonds worth PKR 100,000 each in the four terrorism cases in which he had already been given pre-arrest bail till June 2," a court official told PTI.

As the 70-year-old chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party appeared in the court amid high security, a group of lawyers chanted slogans in his favour. Khan's counsel also challenged the search warrants of the former premier's Zaman Park Lahore residence in the anti-terrorism court. The judge summoned the Punjab police DIG (operations) for next hearing and directed him to submit a reply.



On May 9, violent protests erupted after the arrest of Khan by paramilitary Rangers in Islamabad. His party workers vandalised over 20 military installations and government buildings, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi was also attacked by the mob for the first time. Khan was later released on bail.

SHORT TAKES

India extends \$1bn credit line to Lanka

Colombo: India Tuesday extended its under-utilised USD 1 billion credit line to Sri Lanka for another year to help the island nation hit hard by an unprecedented economic crisis procure much-needed food, medicine and other essential items. An agreement was signed between the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Sri Lankan government for USD 1 billion credit facility in March last year. India extended the credit line to Sri Lanka at the height of the country's economic crisis. India reaffirms its commitment to the people of Sri Lanka.

South American leaders meet

Brasilia: South America's leaders gathered Tuesday in Brazil's capital as part of an effort by the Brazilian president to revive regional cooperation in energy, crime-fighting and the economy. The regional bloc previously known as Union of South American Nations, or Unasur, first gathered 15 years ago to boost cooperation between the 12 South American nations. But the group eventually fractured amid the continent's political swings and polarization, and this is their first meeting in nine years.

Rahul Gandhi in San Francisco

San Francisco: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrived here Tuesday for a three-city US tour during which he will interact with the Indian diaspora and meet American lawmakers. He was received at the airport by Indian Overseas Congress chairperson Sam Pitroda and other members of the IOC. Gandhi had to wait for two hours at the airport for the immigration clearance, party sources said.

DeSantis kicks off President campaign

Washington: Ron DeSantis plans to kick off his presidential campaign in Iowa Tuesday, the start of a busy week that will take him to 12 cities in three states as he tests his pitch as the most formidable Republican challenger to former President Donald Trump. The Florida governor's two-day trip to the leadoff caucus state - starting at a suburban Des Moines megachurch and ending at a Cedar Rapids racetrack - comes after a stumbling online announcement last week that formalized his long-anticipated entry into the growing Republican field. It will be followed by stops in early primary states New Hampshire and South Carolina.

US debt ceiling deal to face 1st test in Congress

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, May 30: President Joe Biden says he "feels good" about the debt ceiling and budget deal negotiated with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy as the White House and congressional leaders work to ensure its passage this week in time to lift the nation's borrowing limit and prevent a disastrous US Default.

Biden spent part of the Memorial Day holiday working the phones, calling lawmakers in both parties, as the president does his part to deliver the votes.

A number of hard right conservatives are criticising the deal as falling short of the deep spending cuts they wanted, while liberals decry policy changes such as new work requirements for older Americans in the food aid programme.

A key test will come Tuesday afternoon when the House Rules Committee is scheduled to con-



A BIPARTISAN DEAL TO RAISE THE \$31.4 TRILLION US DEBT CEILING FACES ITS FIRST TEST IN CONGRESS

RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT, NOW \$31 TRILLION, WOULD ALLOW TREASURY TO CONTINUE BORROWING TO PAY THE NATION'S ALREADY INCURRED BILLS

sider the package and vote on sending it to the full House for a vote expected Wednesday.

To those progressive Democrats raising concerns about the package, the president had a simple message: "Talk to me." As lawmakers size up the 99-page bill, few are ex-

pected to be fully satisfied with the final product. But Biden, a Democrat, and McCarthy, a Republican, are counting on pulling majority support from the political centre, a rarity in divided Washington, to join in voting to prevent a catastrophic federal default.

Wall Street will open early Tuesday morning delivering its own assessment, as the US financial markets that had been closed when the deal was struck over the weekend show their reaction to the outcome.

McCarthy acknowledged the hard-fought compromise with Biden will not be "100% of what everybody wants" as he leads a slim House majority powered by hard-right conservatives.

Facing potential blowback from his conservative ranks, the Republican speaker will have to rely on upwards of half the House Democrats and half the House Republicans to push the debt ceiling package to passage.

Sunak clamps down on free vapes for kids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 30: "My daughters are 10 and 12, and I don't want the way vapes are marketed, promoted and sold to be attractive to them," British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Tuesday as he launched a crackdown to protect children from "rogue companies and online crooks".

Announcing the new set of measures aimed at curbing underage vaping, Sunak said expressed his shock at reports of illicit vapes containing lead getting into the hands of schoolchildren.

Taking to Twitter, the father of schoolgirls Anoushka and Krishna said: "My daughters are 10 and 12, and I don't want the way vapes are marketed, promoted and sold to be attractive to them." "That's why I am launching a new crackdown today to protect children and go after the rogue companies and online crooks who are putting vapes into their hands," he said.

A loophole that allows retailers to give free samples of vapes to



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, right, visits a lab testing vaping products at Kent Scientific Services in West Malling, England

children in England is set to be closed under the new plans. While selling vapes to under 18s is illegal in the country, businesses have been found to be targeting children with colourful packaging of free samples. The UK government has also announced that there will

be a review into banning retailers selling "nicotine-free" vapes to under-18s.

"I am deeply concerned about the sharp rise in kids vaping and shocked by reports of illicit vapes containing lead getting into the hands of school children," Sunak

said in a statement. "Our new illicit vape enforcement squad - backed by GBP 3 million - is on the case, but clearly there is more to do. That is why I am taking further action today to clamp down on rogue firms who unlawfully target our children with these products," he said.

The marketing and the illegal sales of vapes to children is completely unacceptable and I will do everything in my power to end this practice for good," added the British Indian leader.

The clamp down follows recent National Health Service (NHS) figures for 2021 showing that 9 per cent of 11 to 15 year old children used e-cigarettes or vapes, up from 6 per cent in 2018.

While selling vapes to under 18s is illegal in the country, businesses have been found to be targeting children with colourful packaging of free samples



SPACE RACE: A Long March rocket carrying a crew of Chinese astronauts in a Shenzhou-16 spaceship lifts off at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China. China Tuesday successfully sent three astronauts including its first civilian into orbit, signalling another leap forward for the country's ambitious space programme

NATO TROOPS ON GUARD IN KOSOVO SERB TOWN

AGENCIES

Leposavic, Kosovo, May 30: Serbian protesters smashed two cars belonging to journalists in Kosovo's Leposavic town Tuesday, a day after 30 NATO soldiers and 52 protesters were hurt in clashes, as EU and NATO officials urged a de-escalation of the violence.

Unrest in the region has intensified since ethnic Albanian mayors took office in northern Kosovo's Serb-majority area after April elections that the Serbs boycotted, a move that led the US and its allies to rebuke Pristina Friday.

NATO said in a statement it would send additional forces to Kosovo to curb the violence, adding it "has directed the deployment of the Operational Reserve Forces (ORF) for the Western Balkans."

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Kosovo and Serbian leaders to find a way to de-escalate tensions through dialogue. Northern Kosovo's majority



Polish Kosovo Force (KFOR) soldiers stand guard at a municipal office in Zvecan, Kosovo

Serbs have never accepted Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence from Serbia, and consider Belgrade their capital more than two decades after the Kosovo Albanian uprising against repressive Serbian rule.

Ethnic Albanians make up more than 90% of the population in Kosovo as a whole, but northern Serbs have long demanded the implementation of an EU-brokered 2013 deal for the creation of an association of autonomous municipalities in their area.

business

of the day quote

While fierce pressure in education is a reality, advertising must not perpetuate this problem, normalise it or exploit student and parental vulnerability

India is on a growth path and the services sector including the travel and tourism business is emerging as a major growth engine for the Indian economy, having successfully put the pandemic behind

ADB will simultaneously increase support for better education, health, and social protection, and will assist improvements in urban livability and rural development while ensuring gender empowerment and environmental sustainability

SHORT TAKES

Go First extends flight cancellations

New Delhi: As uncertainties continue over its future course, crisis-hit Go First Tuesday announced extending cancellation of flights till June 4. Go First stopped flying May 3 and the latest announcement means that the budget carrier will remain grounded for one month. This is the eighth time that the carrier has extended the cancellation of flights since the first announcement was made on May 2 when the services were cancelled for three days till May 5. "We regret to inform that due to operational reasons, Go First flights scheduled till 04th June 2023 have been cancelled," the airline said in a tweet. According to the tweet, a full refund will be issued to the original mode of payment shortly. The carrier is undergoing insolvency resolution process and last week, aviation regulator DGCA asked it to submit a revival plan within 30 days.

ATL Q4 rises 85%

New Delhi: Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) has posted an 85.48 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at ₹439.60 crore during March FY23 quarter, helped by higher income. It had clocked a net profit of ₹237 crore during the January-March quarter of the preceding 2021-22 financial year (FY), the company said Monday. The total income of the company increased to ₹3,494.84 crore from ₹3,165.35 crore in the year-ago quarter. For the whole FY23, the net profit rose to ₹1,280.60 crore from ₹1,235.75 crore recorded in FY22.



(Setting up new large) refineries are high cost (proposition). We are looking a large number of up to 20 million metric tonne per annum capacity refineries which are smaller ones. If we make it too big then land acquisition and other issue come up

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

NAYARA FOLLOWS RELIANCE

After Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc of the UK, Nayara Energy - the nation's largest private fuel retailer - has started selling petrol and diesel at Re 1 less than the fuel sold by state-owned retailers, officials said



Growth momentum to sustain: RBI

INDIAN ECONOMY EXHIBITED ROBUST RESILIENCE IN 2022-23 AMIDST A GLOBAL TURMOIL FOLLOWING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: The Reserve Bank Tuesday said that India's growth momentum is likely to continue in 2023-24 even as it made a case for pushing structural reforms to deal with the geopolitical developments and also to achieve sustained growth in the medium-term. The Reserve Bank's annual report flagged slowing global growth, protracted geopolitical tensions and a possible upsurge in financial market volatility as possible downside risks to growth.

The report notes that volatility has ebbed in global financial markets and risks to financial stability from the failure of banks in some advanced economies (AEs) in March 2023 have eased. Resolute policy actions have stemmed the tide of confidence runs for now. "Amidst strong global headwinds, the Indian economy is expected to have recorded a growth of 7.0 per cent in real GDP in 2022-23," it said.

A sustained recovery in discretionary spending, particularly in contact intensive services, restoration of consumer confidence, high festival season spending after two consecutive years of Covid-19 induced isolation and the government's thrust on capex provided impetus to the growth momentum. In the second half of the year, however, the pace of year-on-year growth moderated because of unfavourable base effects, weaken-

ing private consumption demand caused by high inflation, slowdown in export growth and sustained input cost pressures, it said. "On the back of sound macro-economic policies, softer commodity prices, a robust financial sector, a healthy corporate sector, continued fiscal policy thrust on

RBI's balance sheet grows 2.5% in FY23

Mumbai: The size of the Reserve Bank's balance sheet increased by 2.5 per cent for the year ended March 31 to about ₹63.45 lakh crore on higher income, as per the central bank's annual report released Tuesday.

The balance sheet of the RBI plays a critical role in the functioning of the country's economy, largely reflecting the activities carried out in pursuance of its currency issue function as well as monetary policy and

reserve management objectives.

"The size of the balance sheet increased by ₹1,54,453.97 crore, i.e., 2.50 per cent from ₹61,90,302.27 crore as on March 31, 2022 to ₹63,44,756.24 crore as on March 31, 2023," the report said.

While income for the year increased by 47.06 per cent, the expenditure increased by 14.05 per cent.

The year ended with an overall surplus of ₹87,416.22 crore as against ₹30,307.45 crore in the previous year, resulting in an increase of 188.43 per cent. The RBI transfers the surplus as dividend to the central government.

The central bank spent ₹4,682.80

crore on printing of currency notes during 2022-23, marginally lower than ₹4,984.80 crore in the preceding year.

As March 31, 2023, total gold held by the Reserve Bank was 794.63 metric tonnes as compared to 760.42 metric tonne as March 31, 2022. The increase, the RBI said, is on account of addition of 34.21 metric tonne of gold during the year.

The value of gold (including gold deposit) held as asset of Banking Department increased by 17.20 per cent from ₹1,96,864.38 crore as March 31, 2022 to ₹2,30,733.95 crore as March 31, 2023, the RBI said.

India now largest coal producer and importer: Minister

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, May 30: Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi Monday said that from 500 million tonne of coal production in 2014, today India is the largest producer and importer of the dry fuel.

Addressing the first Mining Startup Summit here, Joshi said that today India has the fourth largest coal reserves.

"This year, the production of coal has reached 850 million tonne. We hope to stop import of thermal coal completely by 2025-2026. Further, a transparent system has been put into place for exploration and auction and all discretionary power has ended," he said.



"This first Mining Start Up Summit has 82 Start Ups and 140 participants. Dependence on imports leads to rise in costs and increase in foreign expenditure. To discourage imports we must have new ideas and thoughts," he added. "From 300 Start-Ups in 2014, in the last nine years we have touched one lakh Start Ups and a hundred unicorns. They have created nine lakh jobs and added a cumulative value of \$333 billion. We however need to take this further. Sustainable and optimum mining technology is the need of the hour. For the same, Start-Up technology is essential," Joshi said.



The Indian economy is expected to have recorded a growth of 7.0 per cent in real GDP in 2022-23

of monetary policy will continue to be guided by the objective of achieving the medium-term target for Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

The Reserve Bank said it will undertake liquidity management operations in sync with the monetary policy stance and taking into account the needs of the productive sectors of the economy

Currency in circulation rises in value, volume

The value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by 7.8 per cent and 4.4 per cent, respectively, during 2022-23 as compared with 9.9 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, in 2021-22, revealed the RBI annual report released Tuesday. In value terms, the share of ₹500 and ₹2,000 banknotes together accounted for 87.9 per cent of the total value of banknotes in circulation as March 31, 2023, as compared to 87.1 per cent a year ago. The Reserve Bank has announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes, and holders of the highest value currency have been given time till September 30 to exchange or deposit them.

Counterfeit notes in banks dip

The total number of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) detected in the banking sector declined to 2,25,769 pieces in 2022-23 from 2,30,971 pieces in the previous fiscal year, it is noteworthy that it had surged in 2021-22. The number of counterfeit currency notes of ₹500 denomination detected by the banking system, rose by 14.6 per cent to 91,110 pieces in 2022-23 compared to last year, according to the Reserve Bank of India's annual report released Tuesday. At the same time, the number of counterfeit notes of ₹2,000 denomination detected by the system, fell by 28 per cent to 9,806 pieces during the same period. The RBI's annual report also highlighted an 8.4 per cent rise in counterfeit notes detected in the denomination of ₹20, and a 14.4 per cent increase in ₹500 (new design) denomination. On the other hand, counterfeit notes detected in ₹10, ₹100, and ₹2,000 denominations fell by 11.6 per cent, 14.7 per cent, and 27.9 per cent, respectively. According to RBI, during FY23 the number of fake notes detected in the denominations of ₹10 were 313 pieces, ₹20- 337 pieces, ₹50- 17,755 pieces, ₹100- 78,699 pieces ₹200- 27,258 pieces, ₹500- 91,110 pieces, ₹500 (specified banknotes - 6 pieces), ₹1,000 (specified banknotes - 482 pieces). The total expenditure incurred on security printing during 2022-23 was ₹4,682.80 crore as against ₹4,984.80 crore in the previous year.



FAME-II SUBSIDY CUT

Electric 2-wheelers to get dearer

EV INDUSTRY SPLIT ON SUBSIDY CUT FOR TWO-WHEELERS - FORWARD-LOOKING MOVE OR WILL IT DENT DEMAND

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 30: The government has announced to reduce the subsidy provided under FAME-II (Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme applicable on electric two-wheelers registered on or after June 1, 2023.

The decision is going to hurt the industry significantly as prices of electric two-wheelers (E2Ws) will skyrocket after June 1.

As per an earlier notification of the Heavy Industries Ministry, the demand incentive for electric two-wheelers will be ₹10,000 per kWh. The cap on incentives for electric two-wheelers will be 15 per cent of the ex-factory price of vehicles from 40 per cent at present.

While some stakeholders and experts have urged the government to relook at the decision, fear-



ing it may significantly dent the demand for E2Ws, others have argued that this is a step in the right direction and will allow the manufacturing ecosystem to grow.

Ather Energy has said that the prices of its two-wheelers will increase by up to ₹32,500. "Limited stock. Limited time. Get your Ather 450X before FAME-II incentives reduce & prices increase. Warp to the Ather Space closest to you today," the EV maker has tweeted.

The CEO of Ather Energy, Tarun Mehta said that the industry must learn to live without subsidy. In a tweet he said that the subsidy was ₹30,000 in 2019 which went up to ₹60,000 in 2021 and now it has gone down by ₹22,000.

An official from Ola Electric said the price of E2Ws that are eligible for FAME-II subsidy will rise from June 1. However, he believes that the subsidy reduction will not impact

We live in the most roller coaster of an industry. What goes up, must come down. The industry must stand on its own feet very soon

TARUN MEHTA | CEO, ATHER ENERGY

the growth trajectory of Indian electric two-wheeler market. In his opinion the, the FAME-II scheme has already served its purpose.

According to reports, another key player in the country, Okinawa has revealed that price of E2Ws will rise to the extent of reduction of the subsidy value.

However, Hero Electric has announced that it will not increase the prices of its e-scooter models despite the recent reduction in the FAME II subsidy. The company said it remains dedicated to promoting the adoption of E2Ws and dispelling misconceptions about their cost of ownership.

The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles (FAME) India scheme commenced April 1, 2019, for a period of three years, which was further extended for a period of two years up to March 31, 2024.

India to lure makers with electronics repair pilot project

REUTERS

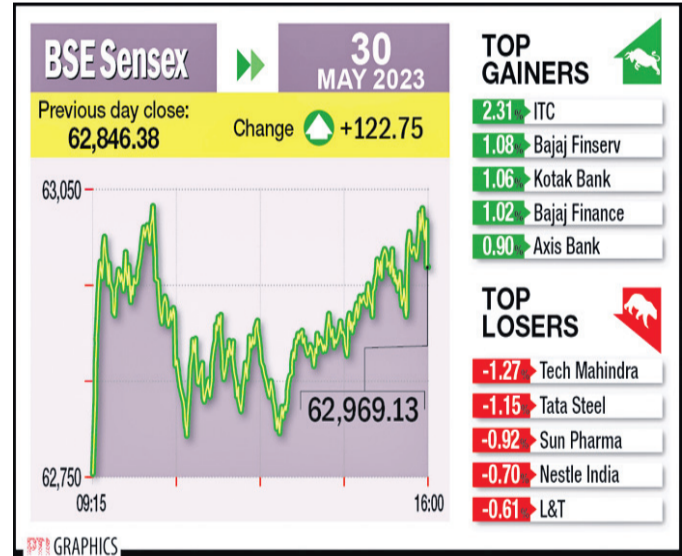
New Delhi, May 30: India will start a pilot project this week to establish itself as an electronics repair hub by relaxing cumbersome import-export rules, a move that could draw tech majors such as Flex to expand such operations in the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promoted electronics manufacturing in India and attracted the likes of Apple and Xiaomi, but the country still lacks an industry for repair outsourcing which is estimated to be worth \$100 billion globally and currently dominated by China and Malaysia.

Following a push by an industry group for IT and electronics manufacturers, MAIT, the Indian government will test changes to lower the time required for necessary approvals for imports and exports to a day from as much as 10 days.

In the pilot phase, which will see participation from companies including Lenovo and Cisco, India will also permit re-export of the imported electronics goods to countries different from the original one - currently it is banned under foreign trade rules.

Markets see fourth straight day of gains



EQUITIES ARE IN BRIGHT SPOT AS SENSEX ADVANCED BY 2% WHILE NIFTY ROSE BY 2.26% IN FOUR-DAY RALLY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 123 points while Nifty closed above the 18,600 level in their fourth straight day of gains Tuesday helped by FII inflows and firm Asian markets. Gains in financial, banking, capital goods and industrial shares helped the key indices close in the green in a range bound trade. Selling in select metal, IT and oil and gas shares restricted gains in key indices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 122.75 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 62,969.13. During the day, it jumped 189.74 points or 0.30 per cent to 63,036.12. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 35.20 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 18,633.85. Stock markets have been on the rise since Thursday last week. Sensex advanced by 1,195 points or 2 per cent while Nifty rose by 348

points or 2.26 per cent in the four-day rally.

Hotels to cigarette conglomerate ITC was the biggest Sensex gainer, rising by 2.31 per cent.

Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, HCL Technologies, Wipro, UltraTech Cement, Maruti and Infosys were among the major gainers. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra fell the most by 1.27 per cent among Sensex shares. Tata Steel, Nestle, Larsen & Toubro, TCS, Tata Motors and Titan were among the laggards.

Among the indices, financial services, services, teck, capital goods, bankex, IT and industrials were the gainers. Commodities, energy, telecommunication, auto, consumer durables, metal, oil & gas and realty were the laggards. The rupee depreciated by 4 paise to 82.67 against the US dollar Tuesday as the strength of the American currency in the overseas market weighed on investor sentiments.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital market Tuesday as they purchased shares worth ₹2,065.62 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2.30 per cent to \$75.30 a barrel.

STREAMING GIANT

JioCinema sets benchmark in world of digital sports

JIOCINEMA BREAKS WORLD RECORD WITH OVER 3.2 CRORE VIEWERS DURING IPL FINAL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 30: JioCinema, the official digital streaming partner of IPL (Indian Premier League) 2023, has broken the world record for the most concurrent views to a live-streamed event Monday as over 3.2 crore viewers witnessed the finale of this year IPL, featuring Chennai Super Kings versus Gujarat Titans.

During Qualifier 2 of the IPL 2023, JioCinema recorded over 2.57 crore concurrent viewers witnessing the sensational century by Shubman Gill in the first innings between Gujarat Titans and



Mumbai Indians. Disney's Hotstar, the former digital streaming partner of the

IPL, drew over 2.5 crore simultaneous viewers for a cricket match in July 2019, a record that stood un-

broken for several years. Moreover, April 17, about 2.4 crore viewers came together to watch MS Dhoni's CSK defend against a high-octane run chase from Royal Challengers Bangalore with bated breath at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

This record was set after bettering the one set April 12 of a peak concurrency touching 2.2 crore, again when Dhoni almost pulled off another heist against Rajasthan Royals.

JioCinema continues to set global benchmarks in the world of digital sports viewing as it clocked over 1,500 crore video views in

the first seven weeks of this year's IPL.

In the 16th edition of the IPL, Chennai Super Kings defeated Gujarat Titans by five wickets (via DLS method) in the rain-affected rescheduled final of the season to win a record-equaling fifth IPL title at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Last year, Ambani's Reliance won a \$3 billion bid against Disney securing the rights for IPL for five years until 2027. This was the first time IPL cricket matches were streamed for free and it happened soon after JioCinema got the streaming rights.

CURTAINS DOWN...

THE QUOTES

Circumstantially, this is the best time to announce my retirement. But the amount of love I have received all over, the easy thing would be to walk away from here, but the harder thing would be to work hard for nine months and try to play another IPL

—MS DHONI

They say there are no fairy tales in the sport, but it was a pretty good one today. We have lost finals on the last ball which is an absolute heartache. I was gearing up myself for another heartache when Jaddu hit one for six and there could have been more heartache or more joy, I was not sure. But when I saw the ball go down, finally there was pure joy. This competition takes you to emotional levels that you cannot imagine

—STEPHEN FLEMING

It's a fairytale finish. I couldn't have asked for more. I'm fortunate to have played in really great sides. I can smile for the rest of my life. All the hard work I've done in the last 30 years, I'm happy I got to finish on this note

—AMBATI RAYUDU

Feels amazing, winning my fifth title in front of my home crowd. I'm from Gujarat, and it's a special feeling. This crowd has been amazing. They were waiting for rain to stop till late night, I'd like to say a big congratulations to the CSK fans who came to support us. I'd like to dedicate this win to a special member of the CSK side, MS Dhoni

—RAVINDRA JADEJA

I'm very happy for him (Dhoni). Destiny had this written for him. If I had to lose, I don't mind losing to him. Good things happen to good people and he's been one of the best people I know. God has been kind, God has been kind to me as well but today was his night

—HARDIK PANDYA

It (Orange Cap) means a lot. The hard work that I've put in is going in the right direction for me. I think it was very important to start well and I started well. By the business end of the tournament, I converted the starts into big ones. I practiced a lot of (sixes) and I changed my technique a little bit for the death

—SHUBMAN GILL

Definitely, (I am) very happy and grateful to have contributed to the team, but a little bit sad also because the result was not on our side

—SAI SUDHARSAN

Majority of my IPL and India career has been under Mahi bhai. My good results have come under him, big credit goes to him for getting the best out of me. But what matters more for me is how much you are enjoying the game. The 2013-2016 for CSK was the golden period in my career but in terms of environment, it is the best I have experienced in the IPL

—MOHIT SHARMA

AWARDS & REWARDS

Winners
Chennai Super Kings
(Trophy & ₹20 Crore)

Runners up
Gujarat Titans
(Shield & ₹12.5 Crore)



The season – Indian Premier League 2023 – had it all ... runs, wickets, aggression, verbal duels, thrill, drama but above all, the sea of yellow. The tournament also had a fitting finish considering the way the past two months had panned out with unpredictable results. The final was also nothing short of dramatic. Around 30 hours to find a winner considering the match was shifted to reserve day (7.30 pm, May 29) after the scheduled day (7.30 pm, May 28) due to rain. However, rain yet again interrupted and forced the match to end at around 1.30 am (May 30). Nevertheless, the highlight of the match was the last two balls where 'Sir' Ravindra Jadeja hit a six and four to help Chennai Super Kings and 'Thala' MS Dhoni lift a record-equalling fifth IPL trophy. It was the farewell game for Ambati Rayudu, who had the honour to receive the winners' trophy instead of Dhoni. The skipper has yet again denied to confirm anything about his retirement...



INDIVIDUAL HONOURS



ORANGE CAP
(Most runs)
Shubman Gill (GT)
₹10 lakh



PURPLE CAP
(Most wickets)
Mohammad Shami (GT)
₹10 lakh

Emerging Player of the Tournament: Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR), ₹10 lakh
Electric Striker of the Tournament: Glenn Maxwell (RCB), ₹10 lakh
Game Changer of the Season: Shubman Gill (GT), ₹10 lakh
Most Valuable Player of the Season: Shubman Gill (GT), ₹10 lakh
Most Fours in the Season: Shubman Gill (GT), ₹10 lakh
Longest Six of the Season: Faf du Plessis (RCB), ₹10 lakh
Catch of the Season: Rashid Khan (GT), ₹10 lakh
Fairplay Award: Delhi Capitals (DC), ₹10 lakh
Best pitch and ground of the season: Eden Gardens (Kolkata) & Wankhede Stadium (Mumbai), ₹50 lakh

STATS AT A GLANCE

BATTING

- **Most runs:** Shubman Gill (GT), 890
- **Most 50s:** Faf du Plessis (RCB), 8
- **Most 100s:** Shubman Gill (GT), 3
- **Most 4s:** Shubman Gill (GT), 85
- **Most 6s:** Faf du Plessis (RCB), 36
- **Highest score:** Shubman Gill (GT), 129 (vs MI)
- **Fastest 50:** Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR), 13 balls (vs KKR)
- **Fastest 100:** Cameron Green (MI), 47 balls (vs SRH)

BOWLING

- **Most wickets:** Mohammed Shami (GT), 28
- **Most 4-wicket hauls:** Yuzvendra Chahal (RR), 3
- **Most 5-wicket hauls:** Mark Wood (LSG), Akash Madhwal (MI), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (SRH) & Mohit Sharma (GT), once each
- **Most maidens:** Trent Boult (RR), 3
- **Most dot balls:** Mohammed Shami (GT), 193
- **Best average (min 10 innings):** Mohit Sharma (GT), 13.37 in 14 innings
- **Best economy (min 10 innings):** Axar Patel (DC), 7.19 in 13 innings
- **Best figures:** Akash Madhwal (MI), 5/5 (vs LSG)
- **Most runs conceded (in an innings):** Yash Dayal (GT), 69 in 4 overs (vs KKR)
- **Most hat-tricks:** Rashid Khan (GT), 1 (vs KKR)

TOURNAMENT STATS

Highest total
257/5
LSG (vs PBKS)

Lowest total
59
RR (vs RCB)

Total 4s **2174**
Total 6s **1124**



Coming out of T20 mould for WTC final a big test for India, feels Gavaskar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 30: Legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar feels emerging from the IPL T20 mode will be the biggest challenge for the Indian players when they take on Australia in the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia next week.

Rohit Sharma's India will play the WTC final at The Oval from June 7 with a majority of the players having come through the rigours of IPL, which concluded on Monday with Chennai Super Kings lifting the trophy for a record-equalling fifth time.

"The biggest test will be the fact that just about everybody will be coming out of a T20 format, and Test cricket is a longer format. So, I think that's going to be the big challenge," said Gavaskar on Star Sports Tuesday.

He added that among all the India players only veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara was well acclimatised to the longer format as he has been playing county cricket.



Cheteshwar Pujara who has been playing in the English County Championship, so he will be the only guy who has played the longer format in these conditions, so that's going to be the big challenge for them."

On Ajinkya Rahane, who after a long form slump has come back strongly in the IPL and helped CSK win the title this season, Gavaskar said the 34-year-old's experience of English conditions will be beneficial to the side.

"He's got a lot of experience having played in England, having scored runs in England. So, yes, I think he is going to be crucial down at number 5. And yes, I do believe he has a point to prove, I still feel he has got plenty of cricket left in him, and this is a wonderful opportunity for him."

The cricketer-turned-commentator hoped Rahane makes full use of the opportunity that has come his way to extend his professional career. "I'm hoping he will be able to grab this opportunity with all the experience that he has and make a place for him back in the Indian team."

Satwik-Chirag pair achieves career-best rank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: India's top doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty gained a place to achieve a career-best ranking of World No.4 in the latest BWF rankings issued Tuesday.

The Satwik-Chirag pair now has 74,651 points from 12 tournaments. Fresh for his maiden BWF World Tour title at Malaysia Masters last week, HS Prannoy jumped one place to regain the world number 8 ranking, while Kidambi Srikanth climbed three positions to get his place back in the top 20. He is 20th. Lakshya Sen, however, slipped a



place to world no. 23 after an early exit from the Malaysia Masters. In women's singles, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu re-

mained static at 13th spot, while Treena Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also stayed at the 15th position in women's doubles.

Sports personalities warn govt to return awards

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, May 30: Thirteen sports personalities and medal winners in international meets Tuesday urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to restore peace and harmony in Manipur at the earliest and to take stern action against Kuki militants, warning they will otherwise return their medals and awards.

In a memorandum to the visiting Union Home Minister, the celebrity sportspersons said that the Kuki terrorists have been challenging the integrity of Manipur by killing people and burning down houses despite the deployment of large companies of central security forces.

"Paramilitary forces might have been reluctant to prevent Kuki terrorists from attacking innocent

civilians," claimed the signatories, including Arjuna award winner weightlifter Kunjarani Devi, former Indian women football team captain Oinam Bem Bem Devi, boxer L Sarita Devi, Dhyanchand awardee Anita Chanu, Olympian judoka Likmabam Shushila Devi, Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu, and Dronacharya awardee (boxing) L. Ibomcha Singh.

They demanded the government revoke the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with the Kuki militant groups, to protect unity and integrity of Manipur; and in rejection of demand to disintegrate Manipur. Meeteis be allowed to settle both in the hilly and valley areas, to deport illegal immigrants to their respective countries, and ensure free movement of foods and essential supplies in the Imphal-Dimapur National Highway.



Oinam Bem Bem Devi (L) and Mirabai Chanu are among the sportspersons who warn to return their medals and awards if peace not restored in Manipur

Leading NGO Kabui Mothers' Association (KAMA), Manipur, General Secretary Ranjita Golmei in a separate statement said that the unfortunate incident that had started from May 3 had occurred due to a misunderstanding be-

SVITOLINA BEATS SEEDDED PLAYER IN 1ST SLAM MATCH IN 16 MONTHS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 30: So much has changed for Elina Svitolina, who played — and won — her first Grand Slam match in nearly one and half years at the French Open, eliminating 2022 semifinalist Martina Trevisan 6-2, 6-2.

For one thing, she's now a mother: Svitolina and her husband, French tennis player Gael Monfils, welcomed their daughter, Skai, in October.

For another, Svitolina is now ranked 192nd, nowhere near the career high of No.3 she first reached in

2017, back in the days when she was regularly reaching the second weeks of major tournaments — including a pair of semifinal runs. Away from the courts, her home country of Ukraine was invaded by Russia last year, and the war continues.

She hadn't played at a Slam since a third-round exit at the Australian Open in January 2022. She hadn't played a match anywhere since March 2022, when she was still ranked 20th.

Monday at Roland Garros, she used her big forehand to compile a 20-12 edge in winners and never faced a single break point against Trevisan, who was seeded 26th.



Elina Svitolina is now ranked 192nd, nowhere near the career high of No.3 she first reached in 2017.

tween two communities. "The situation has intensified to a large extent because of the misunderstandings. We, all the communities, have been living together peacefully and lovingly in Manipur since time immemorial irrespective

of we are from Naga, Meitei, Pangal, Kabui or Kuki or other communities."

Golmei appealed to the Prime Minister and Home Minister to bring back normalcy in the state at the earliest. "Moreover, blockades in the National Highways have also created a problem for all due to non-availability and price rise of essential items."

The KAMA appealed to the media to not spread the news as an issue between the Christians and non-Christians. It is a misunderstanding between two communities and this happens sometimes in every part of the world and would like to appeal to the government of India and all the citizens to intervene as soon as possible to bring an amicable solution to bring peace in the state, the organisation added.