



Beyond regionalism
Actor Priyamani says it's time industry folks look beyond north-south divide as all are Indians

LEISURE | P2



NATO's 75th birthday
NATO marks 75 years of collective defence across Europe and North America, with its top diplomats vowing to stay the course in Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Mining resumes in Goa
Mining in Goa resumes after a gap of six years, with mining major Vedanta commencing operations at Bicholim mineral block in the state

BUSINESS | P11



CSK face SRH today
A tough test awaits Chennai Super Kings when they go head to head against an unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

Sonia, Ashwini among 14 take oath for RS

New Delhi: Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav were among the 14 who took oath as members of the Rajya Sabha (RS) Thursday. Vice-President and RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar administered the oath to them in the new Parliament house building. While Sonia Gandhi took oath as a member of the Upper House from Rajasthan, Vaishnav was sworn-in as a member of the same house from Odisha. Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Syed Naseer Hussain from Karnataka, BJP leader R P N Singh from Uttar Pradesh, and BJP member Samik Bhattacharya from West Bengal were among the 14 who took the RS oath.

Classes XI, XII exam format changed: CBSE

New Delhi: The exams for Classes XI and XII from the 2024-25 session will include more competency-based questions that assess the application of concepts in real-life situations, according to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) officials who announced a change in the format, Thursday. While the percentage of competency-focused questions in the form of MCQs, case-based questions, source-based integrated questions or any other type has been increased from 40 to 50 per cent, the percentage of constructed response questions including short and long answers has been reduced from 40 to 30 per cent.

Gold hits all-time high

New Delhi: Gold prices surged by ₹850 to reach a new peak of ₹70,050 per 10 grams (24 carats) Thursday on strong global cues, according to HDFC Securities. This is the second straight session that precious metal prices have hit all-time high levels. In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at ₹69,200 per 10 grams. Silver prices also zoomed ₹1,000 to hit record ₹81,700 per kg. In the previous session, it had finished at ₹80,700 per kg.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MILITARY DRILLS: A service member of the 37th Marine Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces removes empty cartridges from a French AMX-10 RC armoured fighting vehicle during military drills, in an undisclosed location in southern Ukraine

Open drain claims 1 more life

The killer drains of Cuttack claimed yet another precious life when a 48-year-old migrant worker fell into the death trap late Wednesday night. The incident is a horrific reminder of a series of casualties reported in the Millennium City over the years as uncovered drains and unmarked pits continue to play havoc for pedestrians, children, and citizens at large. Despite repeated whippings from NHRC and law courts, the civic administration refuses to wake up from its deep slumber and address the clear and present danger.



DEATH TRAP
JULY 19, 2023: P Narasingha, a 27-year-old sanitation worker, died after falling into an open drain at Barapathar in the Silver City
JANUARY 15: Joseph Sahani, 9, a Class III student of Modern Public School, died after falling into an open drain in Bidanasi area
FEBRUARY 1, 2018: 32-year-old Santosh Kumar Das died after falling into an open drain in Meria Bazaar area

in the drain and informed the police. Soon, a police team rushed to the spot and recovered the body before sending it for an autopsy. CRRI police inspector in-charge (IC) Bijaya Kumar Barik said Khan's mobile phone helped ascertain his identity. "During the search, a mobile phone was found in his pocket. We used it to dial his contacts and subsequently learn his identity. Khan's family members have been informed and the body will be handed over to them after completing the post-mortem procedures," Barik said, adding that an unnatural death (UD) case has been registered in this regard. About the events and circumstances leading to the tragic incident, Barik said they suspect Khan could have fallen into the drain in an inebriated condition. Locals, however, alleged that

HC respite for Kejriwal

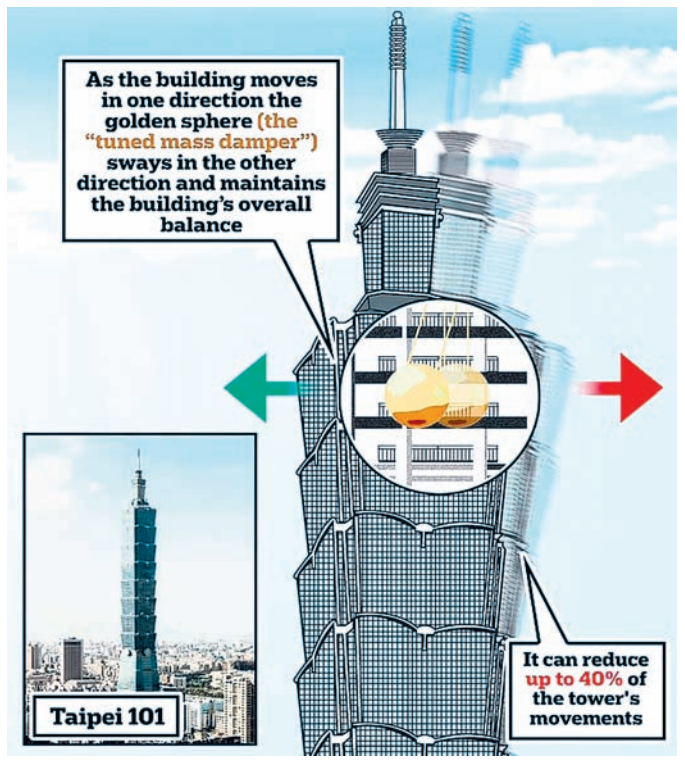
New Delhi, April 4: In a respite for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the high court here Thursday refused to entertain a PIL seeking his removal as the CM following his arrest in the excise policy-linked money laundering case, saying it was his 'personal call'. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora said it recently dismissed a similar PIL seeking Kejriwal's removal from the CM's post and thus, it cannot take a different view. "At times, personal interest has to be subordinate to national interest but that is his personal call. If he does not want to do that it is up to him. We are a court of law and have to go by the law. Your remedy does not lie here, it lies elsewhere. You go before the competent forum," the bench said. As the court refused to interfere in the matter, petitioner Vishnu Gupta's lawyer said he has instructions to withdraw the petition and that he will approach Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena with his plea. The court disposed of the plea while allowing the petitioner to withdraw it. During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel said a consti-



tutional deadlock has been created following Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) March 21. The court, however, made it clear that it cannot decide the matter and it is up to the LG or the President of India to take a call on the issue. "How can we declare that the government is not functioning? The LG is fully competent to decide it. He (LG) does not need our guidance. We are no one to advise him. He will do whatever he has to in accordance with law," the bench said. It asked whether there was any precedent of a court imposing President's rule or Governor's rule. "This is a practical issue, not a legal issue. We won't go into this. We will declare that the government is not functioning? Governor is fully competent. He does not need our guidance. There is a discretion to take the call. Let's not anticipate that they won't discharge their functions. We can't venture into this," it said.

How Taiwan's tallest skyscraper withstands quakes

Taipei, April 4: When a 7.4-magnitude earthquake rocked Taiwan Wednesday, killing at least 10 people, toppling buildings and even triggering tsunami warnings, those inside the island's tallest skyscraper - Taipei 101 - were protected by a large 'yellow pendulum' at the building's centre that helped absorb the shock. Amid the chaos, eerie footage shows the \$1.8 billion skyscraper gently swaying like a stick in the breeze. Measuring 1,671 feet in height, the building is fitted with an ingenious solution - passive damping system - that reduces overall building sway by 40 per cent during quakes and winds. A 660 metric tonne golden sphere called the 'tuned mass damper' hangs inside the building from the 92nd floor. As the building moves in one direction, the steel sphere sways in the other direction and main-



Although it is odd to see a building swaying, modern skyscrapers are built to be flexible, especially in earthquake-prone zones like Taiwan. "The materials they are made out of are elastic which means that they stretch or contract according to the changing loads acting on them," professor Antony Darby at the University of Bath's Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering told MailOnline. "The amount of this deformation in an individual element (a beam or column) is only very small, but when you multiply this across all the elements in a tall building, this can lead to significant lateral [sideways] movements. These movements are not dangerous to the structure itself, but, if excessive can lead to discomfort to occupants," Darby said. Construction of Taipei 101 began in 1999 and was completed in time for New Year's Eve 2004, when it finally opened to the public. It was designed to resemble a bamboo shoot rising upwards in eight sections - looking like a series of square buckets stacked one on top of the other. Every floor was installed with supporting steel 'outrigger trusses' running from the building's core to its outer columns to increase the towers stiffness. While other tall buildings keep tuned mass dampers hidden, Taipei 101's is visible to visitors on the 88th through 92nd floors, making it something of a tourist attraction. Unfazed tourists have even filmed the sphere's movement during previous earthquakes, which are a frequent occurrence on the island. Taiwan is one country especially prone to earthquakes because it's close to where two tectonic plates meet - the Philippine Sea plate and the Eurasian plate. Powerful seismic activity can be detected along the tectonic plate borders, where the plates rub up against each other, causing earthquakes.

MARKET WATCH

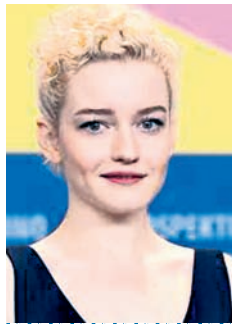
INDEX	VALUE	CHG	VAR
SENSEX	74227.63	↑	350.81
NIFTY	22514.65	↑	80.00
DOLLAR	83.50	↓	₹0.03
EURO	90.67	↑	₹0.45
GOLD	₹69,929	↑	₹151
SILVER	₹79,855	↑	₹844

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	37.4°C	38.0°C
Min Temp	26.3°C	26.0°C
Humidity	88%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
DRY WEATHER VERY LIKELY

leisure



JULIA GARNER JOINS THE FANTASTIC FOUR

Emmy and Golden Globe-winning actress Julia Garner has been roped in to join Marvel's *The Fantastic Four* as Shalla-Bal, a version of Silver Surfer from the comics, reports variety.com

BROOKE SHIELDS 'PROUD' OF STRIPPING IN LATE 50s

Model-actress Brooke Shields has revealed she felt 'sexy' posing in lingerie for Kim Kardashian's SKIMS shoot - admitting she feels 'proud' to have been able to strip off at the age of 58.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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ARIES
High hopes and expectations are a good thing as long as they can push you to give your best. You will plan with care and perform admirably. But you may be focused on impressing a member of the opposite sex! Don't get carried away, says Ganesh, especially while taking decisions.

TAURUS
Stress might take its toll on you today. Ganesh foresees a demanding and difficult day. There may be a need for solitude to spend time with yourself. In relationships, you will look for a common ground to live and let live, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you would want to take your beloved into your embrace and confidence. You will whisper your feelings and secrets into his/her ears as you hold him/her. There are other things though, in your list of preoccupations, education being the topmost.

CANCER
Today you may behave quite aggressively for most part of the day, predicts Ganesh. You may spend the afternoon with your business associates, and if you can use your aggression in a controlled manner, you can secure a very important deal today.

LEO
Today, you are defined by high hopes and expectations. It makes you incredibly calculative, and you weigh all pros and cons before taking any decision regarding work. The upshot of this is that your performance in financial transactions will be phenomenal. After all, money always increases one's fascination and appeal, particularly in the eyes of the opposite sex, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Opening up to your beloved about your whims and fancies, as well as your goals, is the key today. Energy levels will hit the sky today. Pay due reverence to higher education and social customs. People will look up to your epicurean tastes, especially in the performing kinds.

LIBRA
When it comes to your children, no pain is too much. Today seems to justify that statement as you may indeed take pains to improve your children's welfare. But it's all worth the effort in the end. Afternoon brings with it the possibility of happiness and success.

SCORPIO
You will understand the importance of creating a divide between your personal and professional life, feels Ganesh. On the professional front, your diligence and commitment to work will bring praise and benefits. Later in the evening, you will celebrate your success with your sweetheart.

SAGITTARIUS
The fountain of creativity will be gushing within you today. You may strive to take on new challenges later in the day. Workplace may offer economic gains later in the evening. But do not neglect your health, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Power is a privilege of a few. It's a day for those of you in power, of governance and the national purse, says Ganesh. A marvellous day awaits all civil servants and government employees. The dealings you will undertake will materialise and earn you distinction; rewards for the commendable efforts you have put in the past may also come.

AQUARIUS
A sunny day and a starry night! Today is for friends, says Ganesh. You chat, sing, yell, and even talk philosophy, values and politics with your pals. You may indulge in a romantic evening with your partner, either in a restaurant or at the beach, or simply on the sofa watching Clark Gable woo Scarlett O' Hara.

PISCES
Honesty, sincerity and integrity both in your dedication to work and in your devotion to your family, is your hallmark. On the strength of this foundation, you will reach an important milestone today. Socially as well, your reputation will receive a boost, says Ganesh.

Priyamani's take on north-south divide

Mumbai: Actress Priyamani has opened up about the south actor tag. In an interview with an entertainment portal, she spoke about the response to her recent Hindi film *Article 370* as well as the challenges she faced as an actor who worked predominantly in the south. When asked if she has faced stereotypes in Hindi films because she started her acting career with Telugu and Tamil cinema, Priyamani, who was seen in Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Jawan*, said, "Yeah, sometimes they (Bollywood filmmakers) will say, 'Oh, because it is a south Indian character, we want to cast you'. I hope that changes soon." The *Family Man* actress added, "See, even though we

are from south India, I think we can speak the language (Hindi) quite fluently; we are as good-looking as anybody else. Probably our skin type might not be as fair and sparkling white as the ladies here (Bollywood), but I don't think that should matter. I think now the thing of north and south should change. We are always Indian actors." On the work front, Priyamani will be seen next in *Maidaan*, co-starring Ajay Devgn. AGENCIES



Taapsee to look beyond work

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu recently secretly tied the knot with beau Mathias Boe. And now, in her recent interview, she offered an insight into her current mindset following her marriage to a long-term partner and badminton player. Speaking to *Elle* during her first post-wedding interview, she discussed her newfound appreciation for life beyond her career. "At this point, I feel my professional choices are largely driven by the value of my time. I

want to be sure if taking up a certain project is worth my time because I want to enjoy life beyond work. The second factor is relevance. I would love to cherish my filmography years from now. So, I don't want to invest time in something that will not stand the test of time." Regarding her marriage, although the actress has not officially confirmed the event that reportedly occurred in March in Udaipur, a leaked video of the wedding has delighted fans worldwide. The video captures moments of joy as Taapsee, adorned in a striking red salwar suit, enters the ceremony with her sister and friends to the song *Kothe Te Aa Mahiya*. The ceremony featured traditional rituals, including garland exchanges, amidst a celebratory atmosphere. On the professional front, Taapsee's upcoming projects include *Phir Aayi Hasene Dillruba* and *Khel Khel Mein*. AGENCIES

I voice my opinion as a citizen: Richa

Mumbai: Actress Richa Chadha, who is known to be vocal about her opinions on social

media and public platforms, says that those assuming she voices her opinions with a political motive are wrong and that she is only doing her job as a citizen of a democratic country. Radiating in the glow of her pregnancy, Richa, who was accompanied by husband Ali Fazal, spoke candidly when asked if her outspoken bursts have any political motive. "When I have an opinion, it is only mine, and I am not acting as a mouthpiece for anyone," she clarified, adding, "As a tax-paying upright citizen in a democracy, I am entitled to free speech, which we all do. But often we outsource this responsibility of airing the right opinions to courts and law agencies." "People often ask me if I have political aspirations. But if I am commenting on the pollution or inflation in the prices of commodities, is that personal or political? I am not interested in becoming a politician," she said. IANS



Celebs hail Gen-Z for mixing style with comfort

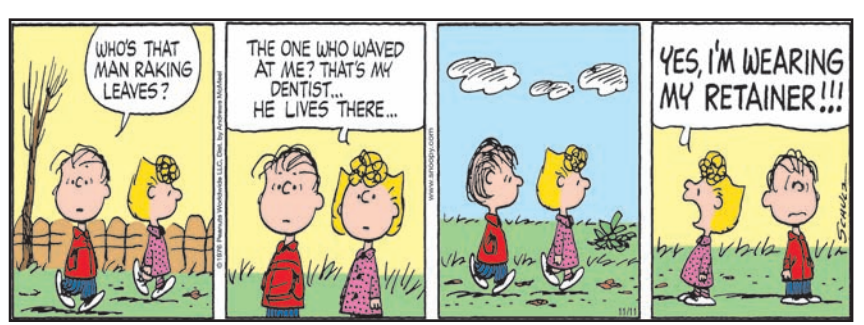
New Delhi: Love it, hate it, but you surely can't ignore the fashion statement of the Gen-Zs as they have brought back the baggy wear fever or the Y2K dressing with bright hues. 'Zoomers' are being praised by popular actors for 'rewriting the rule-book' for style. Talking about how she feels Gen-Zs have redefined fashion, Alaya F expressed: "I definitely feel that Gen-Zs have redefined fashion. I feel they have influenced a lot of trends. They sort of grew up in the era of trends. Thanks to social media, everything is about the newest trend and concept growing viral." On how they have given a



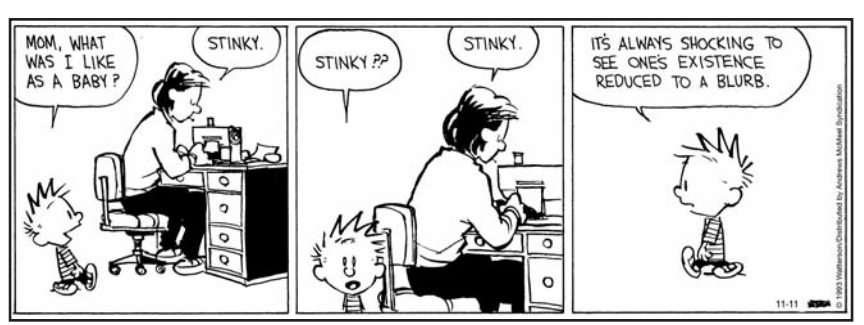
fresh new take to fashion, she shared: "Their fashion trends are fun, a lot more colours have come in. Comfort is key and that has made a comeback. Another aspect of Gen-

Z dressing is that comfort has come back with baggier looks and even some cute miniskirts, crop tops, and bright colours, Gen-Z style has brought variation to it and I think very customisable for each individual. There is no body-type that will feel that Gen-Z style is daunting for them because it implies to everyone." Actress Barkha Singh, who has worked in Madhuri Dixit-Nene's film *Maja Ma*, said, "The Gen-Zs have definitely redefined fashion. I think they started with trashing the skinny jeans, which we millennials absolutely loved. I actually enjoy Gen-Z fashion because they believe in a lot of baggy clothes, and I absolutely love baggy clothes." IANS

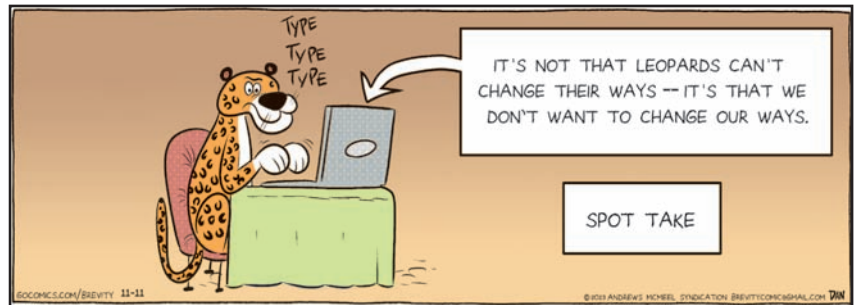
PEANUTS



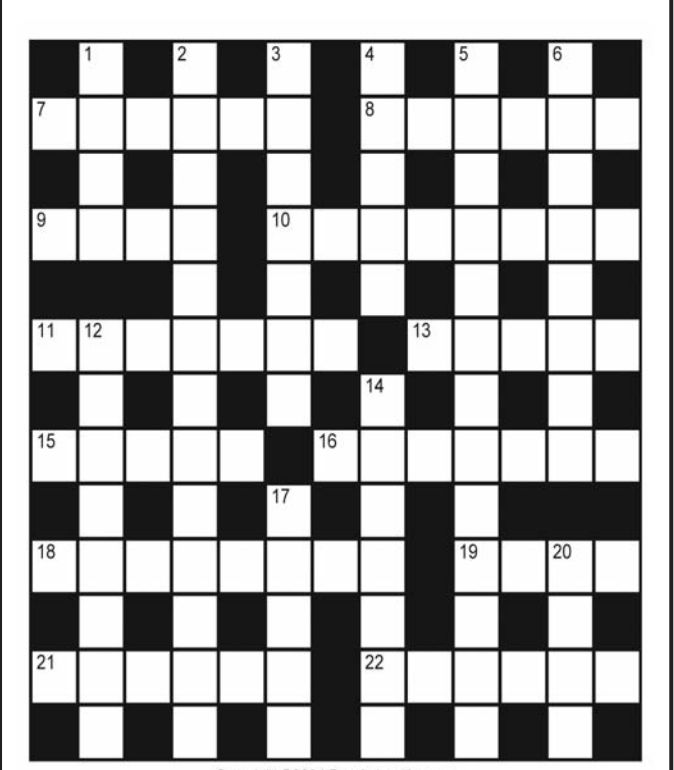
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



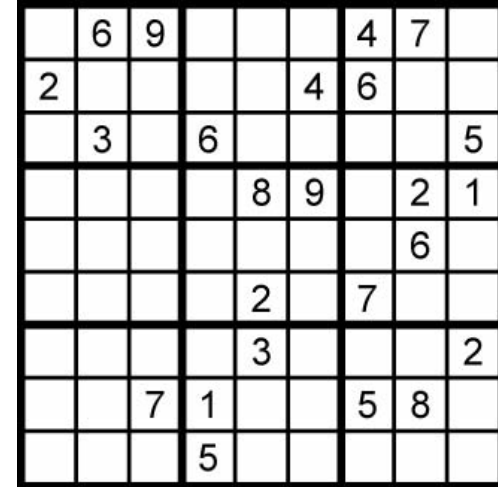
FUN post CROSSWORD



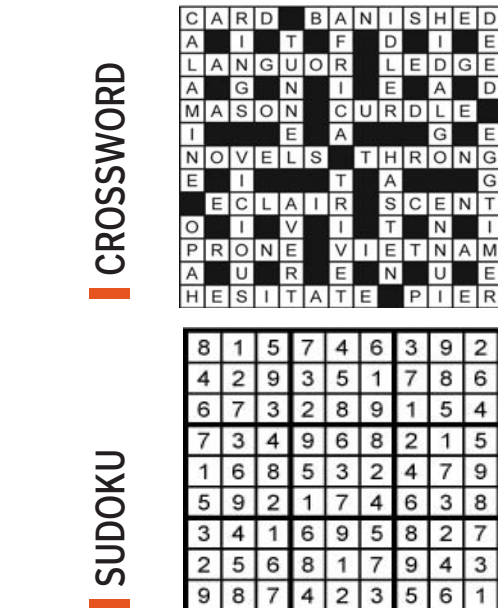
- Across**
- 7 Sudden violent storm
 - 8 Little angel
 - 9 Canine tooth
 - 10 Soak
 - 11 Tasteless
 - 13 Fish and
 - 15 Antsy
 - 16 Cézanne, e.g.
 - 18 Cinematic stand-in (5,3)
 - 19 Tolstoy hero
 - 21 Beach accessories
 - 22 Big cat
 - Down**
 - 1 Prefix with plane or lung
 - 2 Thrifty shopper (7,6)
 - 3 Charge card
 - 4 Intense
 - 5 Deplorable
 - 6 More than one
 - 12 Footnote, e.g.
 - 14 Exaggerate
 - 17 Demolish
 - 20 Family member

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

PAYING HOMAGE

A state-level function was organised at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar to observe the death anniversary of martyred freedom fighters Raghu-Dibakar, Thursday



30pc turncoats among BJD LS picks



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 4: In the lead-up to the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the state, there's a flurry of party-switching among leaders, with the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) nominating around 30 per cent turncoats as candidates.

Out of the 20 candidates announced by the BJD for the 21 Lok Sabha seats, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's party has nominated at least seven leaders who came from either the BJP or the Congress.

The turncoats who have been nominated by Patnaik for the Lok Sabha elections are Surendra Singh Bhoi (Bolangir), Parineeta Mishra (Bargarh), Bhrgu Baxipatra (Berhampur), Manmath Routray (Bhubaneswar), Ansuman Mohanty (Kendrapara), Pradeep Majhi (Nabarangpur) and Dhanurjaya Sidhu (Keonjhar).

While a number of senior

leaders including former MP Prasanna Patsani were in the race for the party ticket from Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat, Patnaik preferred to pick Manmath Routray, a commercial pilot and son of six-time Congress MLA Suresh Routray. He was given BJD ticket within hours of his induction in the regional outfit.

In case of Berhampur Lok Sabha seat, Patnaik denied renomination to the party's sitting MP Chandrasekhar Sahu. The party elevated Sahu to the post of vice-president and manifesto committee chairperson before announcing name of Bhrgu Baxipatra as its candidate. Baxipatra joined the BJD on Wednesday.

Similar was the case of BJD leader Parineeta Mishra. Mishra and her husband Sushat joined BJD after resigning from the saffron party Wednesday afternoon and got Patnaik's nomination in the evening. Baxipatra, who was a vice-

president of BJP and a party cadre for last 23 years, will take over on Pradeep Panigrahy, a former close aide of Patnaik. Panigrahy was expelled from the BJD in November 2020.

Baxipatra, was the runners up in Berhampur Lok Sabha seat in the 2019 polls. Patnaik preferred to field him in the seat after dropping incumbent MP Chandrasekhar Sahu.

In Balangir parliamentary constituency, the BJD has fielded Surendra Singh Bhoi, a three-time Congress MLA and a former minister. He joined the party March 29 and got a ticket April 3.

BJD also picked ex-Congress MLA Anshuman Mohanty and fielded him as its candidate. Similarly, Patnaik fielded Pradeep Majhi as the BJD's Nabarangpur candidate. Majhi was a former Congress MP and got elected in 2009. He had joined the ruling dispensation ahead of 2022 panchayat polls. The ruling BJD denied nom-

ination to its sitting MP Chandrani Murmu from Keonjhar and fielded former Congress MLA from Champua Dhanurjaya Sidu as its candidate from the seat.

In 2019, Sidu had contested on a BJP ticket from Telkoi Assembly seat and lost to BJD's Premananda Nayak by 5,920 votes. Sidu then switched to BJD ahead of the 2022 panchayat polls, following which Nayak resigned from the party and joined the BJP.

Similarly, the BJP from among its 21 Lok Sabha candidates, picked three BJD leaders and fielded them. They are Bhatruhari Mahtab (Cuttack), Pradeep Panigrahy (Berhampur) and Malavika Keshari Deo (Kalahandi).

Malavika Keshari Deo, wife of former MP Arka Keshari Deo, is a member of the royal family of Kalahandi district.

Arka Keshari Deo was elected to Lok Sabha from Kalahandi in 2014 as a BJD candidate after the death of his father Bikram Keshari Deo, who won the seat thrice. Arka and his wife quit the BJD after being denied tickets in 2019 and joined the BJP in 2023.

Cuttack's sitting MP Mahtab, who resigned from the BJD on March 22 and joined the BJP on March 28, was announced as the saffron party's candidate from the same seat.

Gopalpur MLA Panigrahy, who was expelled from the BJD in 2020, joined the BJP in February and was fielded as a saffron party aspirant from Berhampur Lok Sabha seat. Panigrahy will face BJD's Baxipatra in the polls.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

I'VE IMPROVED THE ECONOMY SO MUCH THAT EVEN THE LOSS-MAKING COMPANIES COULD DONATE HUNDREDS OF CRORE TO US



Four held over dacoity plans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 4: The Commissionerate Police here arrested four hoodlums for allegedly preparing to commit dacoity, under Tamando police station limits, Thursday.

Three knives, one hammer, chili powder packets and mobile phones were seized from the possession of the accused, said a senior officer at the Tamando police station, adding that they have been booked under Sections 399 and 402 of IPC.

IIC Tamando police station Sudhir Kumar Meher said the hoodlums were loitering near Subudhipur cricket ground a little past Wednesday midnight



with an intention to rob motorists and heavy vehicle drivers. They had fixed their targets on the vehicles plying from Tamando to Kalinga Nagar area, he added.

Meher said during questioning, the hoodlums failed to provide satisfactory answers after a police team apprehended them near the spot. Later, during sustained

questioning they disclosed about their intention to rob motorists, he added.

The accused were identified as SK Rahim alias Raja, 37, Ananta Das alias Ganesh, 22, Akash Swain, 26 and Niranjana Nayak, 28. The arrested accused were produced before a local court for remand, today.

Prepared to counter Naxal activities during polls: DGP

Odisha Police set up special cell to deal with circulation of fake news during elections

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 4: The Odisha Police are ready with operational preparedness to counter any Maoist activity during the Lok Sabha elections, Director General of Police (DGP) Arun Sarangi said, Thursday.

"Maoist activities have substantially reduced in the last few years. During the last elections in 2019, there were 20 Maoist-affected districts in Odisha. The number has come down to 10 in this election," Sarangi said. "Maoists along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border have withdrawn to Chhattisgarh, but they might create disturbances during the elections," he cautioned.

Maoists in the state are confined to core areas in Boudh, Kandhamal and Kalahandi districts and the police have made elaborate security arrangements and operational plans to counter their activities, if those increase during the election period, he said.

"Anti-Maoist operations are underway. Recently, we have neutralised



a divisional committee commander and seized explosive materials in the last two to three months," he said.

On election preparedness along the inter-state border areas, he said 15 police districts of Odisha share borders with neighbouring West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

"We have already held inter-state co-operation meetings with Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, while we will have a meeting with West Bengal very soon," he said.

During the meetings, discussions were held on issues related to border sensitivity, the movement of various elements that may disturb the election

process, and the movement of cash, illicit liquor, and narcotic drugs.

Odisha has already set up 118 check posts along different borders.

"We have our longest inter-state boundary with Chhattisgarh and that area is affected by Maoist activities. So, our discussion was mostly around the exchange of intelligence and operational coordination, joint anti-Maoist operations, and how to counter the movement and infiltration of Maoists to either side," the DGP added.

Similar discussions were held with Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh authorities and those were successful, he said.

"We are emphasising cooperation from the lower level to the level of DGP with these states so that the elections are held smoothly, peacefully and fairly, allowing a level playing field for everyone during the polls," he said.

When asked about steps taken to check fake news, Sarangi said a special cell under the leadership of an IGP has been formed to deal with it.

"We are keeping a close watch on social media and the contents shared in it. If we find any content that may affect public peace and security, we will take strong action," he added.

Free blue checks are back on X

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, April 4: Elon Musk's X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, has begun restoring complimentary blue checks for some of its users, the latest unexpected shift to cause a lot of confusion on the platform.

For years, Twitter's blue checks mirrored verification badges that are common on social media, largely reserved for celebrities, politicians and other influential accounts. That changed months after Musk bought the platform for USD 44 billion in October 2022.

Last year, X began issuing verification checks only to those who paid the starting price of USD 8 per month for it, and stripping verification badges from many celebrities and other prominent accounts. That also led to confusion, complaints, and a large number of fake accounts pretending to be someone else, blue check included.

But late Wednesday night and early



Thursday, numerous users reported seeing the blue checks return to their accounts, or appear for the first time, despite the fact that they were not paying for "premium" service on X.

Musk said last week that all X accounts with more than 2,500 verified subscriber followers would get Premium features — which includes a checkmark — for free going forward, and that accounts with over 5,000 would get Premium+ for free.

Specific reasoning behind this new policy was not clear. X did not immediately respond to a request by The Associated Press for comment Thursday.

Reactions were mixed. While a handful of users were excited about the verification, others were frustrated.

"What happened? I didn't pay for this. I would NEVER pay for this," actress Yvette Nicole Brown, who appeared to be among the prominent names to see a blue check return, wrote in a post Wednesday evening.

As X's blue check has also evolved into what some argue is a signal of support for the platform's new ownership and subscription model, a few other accounts even shared instructions on how to get their newly-placed blue checks removed through settings changes.

Multiple AP staff had also received verification status that they did not pay for or request as of Thursday.

Beyond blue checks, X has faced user and advertiser pushback amid ongoing concerns about content moderation as well as the spread of misinformation and hate speech on the platform, which some researchers say has been on the rise under Musk.

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MERCURY TOUCHES 42°C AT TWO PLACES

According to IMD, maximum and minimum temperatures in Bhubaneswar are likely to be around 39 degree and 27 degree Celsius respectively in the next 24 hours



Bhubaneswar, April 4: The state, which is reeling under intense heat, Thursday recorded the season's highest temperature so far of 42 degrees Celsius at two places, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Seven places in the state recorded a maximum temperature of 41 degrees Celsius and above, while the mercury shot up to 42 degree Celsius at Malkangiri and Boudh.

After Malkangiri and Boudh, Angul and Bolangir were the hottest at 41.7 degrees Celsius, followed by Jharsuguda (41.6), and Bhawanipatna (41).

The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack reg-

istered maximum temperatures of 37.4 and 38 degree Celsius respectively.

The maximum and minimum temperatures in Bhubaneswar are likely to be around 39 degree and 27 degree Celsius respectively in the next 24 hours, the IMD said.

The Regional Meteorological Centre at Bhubaneswar said that the maximum temperature is likely to be above 40 degree Celsius at many places in the state and may be above normal by three to five degree Celsius in some districts till April 6.

The IMD predicted heatwave conditions to prevail at one or two places in Bolangir, Keonjhar, Boudh, Malkangiri, Nayagarh and Angul districts.

Warm night conditions are likely at one or two places in Bolangir, Kandhamal, Boudh and Bhadrak, it said.

In its evening bulletin, IMD said, "Due to prevailing Northwesterly dry air and high solar insolation, maximum temperature (Day) likely to be more than 40 degree Celsius at many places over the districts and likely to be above normal by 2 to 4 degree Celsius over till April 6. People are advised to take precautionary measures while going outside during day time between 11am and 3pm.

Also maximum temperature (Day) likely to be between 39 and 41 degree Celsius at few places over the interior districts of the state and between 37 and 39 degree Celsius over the coastal districts of the state during next 3 to 4 days. Heat is tolerable for general public but slight health concern for vulnerable people including infant, elderly, pregnant women and sick people.

IMD advised to avoid prolonged heat exposure, wear light weight, light colored, loose cotton clothes, cover your head with a wet cloth, use hat or umbrella while going out during peak hours, drink sufficient water to avoid dehydration, use ORS, homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), sugarcane juice, lemon water and buttermilk to re-hydrate the body.



LODGING COMPLAINT: A BJD delegation meets Chief Electoral Officer Nikunja Bihari Dhal over alleged attack on party supporter from Chandbali, Mahendra Patra, by BJP workers, in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Enrolment drive held for City slum children

Bhubaneswar, April 4: With the objective of putting the dropout slum children back in government schools, ActionAid, in collaboration with Centre for Child and Women Development (CCWD) and Government Primary School Second Postal Colony, conducted an enrolment drive on the occasion of Pravesh Utsav, Thursday.

The programme was organised at Patharabandha slum under ward 17 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).



Under the drive, the aim was to identify the children from urban slum pockets working as child labourers, domestic help and rag pickers and enroll them in

schools

Various slogans like "Dhara silata dhara khadi, chala jiba patha padhi" and "Sisu ra bikash desha ra bikash" were used to sensitise the slum dwellers and to enroll their children in schools. Headmistress Sailaprava Panda, teachers Majulata Behera and Naxtramalini Pattanayak joined the campaign.

"Education helps a child become a confident individual. It teaches them how to socialise with people in society, outside their family, and more. It also helps a child interact with people of different beliefs, ages, genders, backgrounds, and a lot more," Panda said.

"Education provides stability in life, and it is something that no one can ever take away from you. By being well-educated and holding a college degree, you increase your chances for better career opportunities and open up new doors for yourself," she added.

The programme was coordinated by Bhaskar Chandra Pradhan, Shiba Sahoo, Soumya Ranjan Das, Sucharita Behera and Bishnupriya Samal.

SUMUM bags top honours at Kuala Lumpur

Bhubaneswar, April 4: SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM), Odisha's newest quaternary care hospital here was presented the 'Excellence in Hospitality and Healthcare Service Award' at an event held recently at Kuala Lumpur.

SUMUM's Chief Executive Officer, Swetapadma Dash received the award, for being chosen as the best hospital in eastern India, at the event organised by "MIRCH".

"I am deeply humbled to accept this award as this recognition has filled us with immense pride and joy," Dash said.

Within four years of its inception, the 500-bed hospital has made remarkable progress by becoming the most preferred healthcare centre, she said adding "this award exemplified the hard work and dedication of every member of our team."

"Together we have created history and set new standards of excellence in the healthcare industry. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our patients, their family members and the community at large for their unwavering support. This award is as much theirs as it is ours," she said.



BEO seeks reply from schools on RTE violation

Bhubaneswar, April 4: The Block Education Officer (BEO) sent show-cause notice to 13 private schools for violation of Right to Education (RTE) Act here Thursday.

The notice was sent after several parents gheraoed the BEO office and locked the gates. They unlocked it following assurance from the BEO.

In a letter to private schools, BEO said, "As per allegation of Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF), you have denied to take admission of the students selected under RTE Paradarshi. The parents are agitated against your refusal. Hence you are directed to explain regarding denial of admission by April 5."

Earlier, the parents launched a protest in the City alleging that children, who are eligible to receive free education in private schools, are being deprived of the benefit and the schools do not adhere to the guidelines.



OPF, in a letter to BEO said, "Some schools are saying they don't have seats for this year admission in Class I. In the admission portal, vacant seats were reflected and updated by these schools. Some schools have strongly denied accepting this year RTE applications due to non-payment of last few years RTE students' fee. We met the Director, Elementary Education of the state yesterday and submitted our grievances to him."

"We request your kind support to initiate an inquiry on the above violation of RTE Act 2009 and Rule 2010 and recommend for strong action on it," the letter said.

The guardians pointed out under the Right to Education Act 2009, privately managed schools are required to reserve 25 per cent of seats i.e. 15 per cent of seats to be reserved for the disadvantaged and the rest 10 per cent is for children belonging to the weaker sections of society as fundamental right.

SCB conducts 1st liver transplant surgery

Bhubaneswar, April 4: With an aim to facilitate the poor patients with advanced medical technology, Srirama Chandra Bhanja Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH), Cuttack, for the first time, conducted the liver transplant surgery, Wednesday. A male patient suffering from liver cirrhosis was transplanted with liver donated by his family member.

Taking to X, the Health and Family Welfare department said, "Glad to share that SCBMCH has successfully conducted its first liver transplant operation today. The 10-hour long surgery was conducted by experts of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG), Hyderabad and SCBMCH. Both the recipient and the donor are in good condition. The care was provided completely free of cost."

After almost a decade long wait, complex treatment process has been facilitated in the state government hospital. The advanced treatment has begun at the special modular operation theatre at the trauma building on the hospital premises.

Notably, liver transplant costs between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 30 lakh in private hospitals across the country. However, the state government is planning to make it affordable at SCBMCH.

The complex operation took around 12 to 13 hours. Recently, an MOU was signed between AIG and SCBMCH for the liver transplantation process.

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Jatan Nagar Palace: A glimpse into bygone era of grandeur

Dhenkanal's history is intricately woven with tales of valour, culture, heritage and fairs and festivals. This district in Odisha boasts a rich tapestry of history dating back centuries.

Jatan Nagar Palace is one such place which is located amidst the serene landscapes of the district, has its own share of tales, a palace which is embedded in everyone's memory but still seems forgotten.

The palace stands as a testament to the grandeur and architectural finesse of the region's royal heritage. Built in the early 20th century, this palace is located at a distance of around five kilometers from Dhenkanal town.

According to the legend, while Raja Sri Shankar Pratap Singh Deo Mahindra Bahadur was in England, his younger brother, Pattayet Nrusingha Pratap Singh Deo was ruling over Dhenkanal and built the Jatan Nagar Palace.

It is believed that the palace was built with forced labour and elephants were used to carry the heavy stones to



build this mega structure. Every worker was tortured a lot and it is said that many of them even died during the construction and their spirits live within the walls of the palace. The labourers were said to be tortured and in addition to that the Raja's accountant also extracted money from common men. Subsequently, the building was ruined and became one of the haunted palaces in India.

After all these incidents people expected an improved state of affairs after Raja Sri Shankar Pratap would return from abroad and take over administration from his younger brother. Though there are these stories that exist about this palace but no one can pin point if it is true or some of it is just a myth.

Some stories say there were 99 rooms and some mention that there were 100

rooms, people also believe that the king never actually stayed at the Jatan Nagar Palace or even that it was never completed but during an interview with RP Singh Deo, a member from the king's family, mentioned that there aren't 99 or 100 rooms and that the king did indeed stay there for a few days but because of the agitation against the Britishers he could not manage to live there alone and took the decision to shift all the way to Cuttack.

It was also mentioned in the interview that people talk about the palace for various reasons and he also talked about how some say that a person from their family went to stay at the palace for a night and vanished but RP Singh Deo termed it as not true.

Over the years, the Jatan Nagar Palace has been offering a glimpse into the bygone era of royalty and grandeur. As of today, it stands as a heritage landmark, attracting tourists and history enthusiasts alike, who are drawn to its majestic architecture and past, ensuring that the legacy of Dhenkanal's royal heritage lives on for generations to come.

Jatan Nagar Palace is a tangible testament to the city's rich historical legacy and this magnificent palace stands as a symbol of grandeur. Currently the palace is being maintained and has been set up with various lights to give it a whole new look at night and caretakers have also been stationed who look after the maintenance of it and switch those on once the sun sets.

Today, it has become more like a local hangout spot where students often spend time and people often go to conduct photo shoots and night photography as well since the palace is situated on top of a hill and provides a marvelous view of the night sky.

Another reason people visit the palace is that it offers a huge view of the town of Dhenkanal and looks even more astonishing once the sun goes down.

THE JATAN NAGAR PALACE WAS DESIGNED BY BRITISH ARCHITECTS IN A BLEND OF TRADITIONAL ODIA AND COLONIAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES. ITS SPRAWLING COMPLEX ENCOMPASSES ORNATE FACADES, INTRICATE CARVINGS, AND SPRAWLING GARDENS, EVOKING A SENSE OF REGAL SPLENDOUR

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Firm flouts rules for mineral transport

ENVIRONMENTALISTS FEEL THAT VEHICLE MOVEMENT WILL SEVERELY AFFECT BIO-DIVERSITY AND ALSO HARM WILDLIFE IN THE FOREST



FILE PHOTO

Joda, April 4: Despite being banned from using a road running through a forest in this district, a mining company is allegedly using it for transportation of minerals, locals alleged here Thursday.

mained unusable for a few days. Later on locals were surprised to find that the trench had been filled up and the vehicles of the company were using it again to transport minerals.

They added that the permission was granted without organising a gram sabha in accordance with the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

53/2004/March 19, 2024) issued by the DFO and in possession of this correspondent, states that the company has been allowed to use the rural road through the forest for mineral transportation.

Class-III student critical after falling in hot gruel



POST NEWS NETWORK

Marshaghai, April 4: A Class-III student sustained critical injuries Thursday after he fell into a pot filled with hot rice gruel at the Ananta Narayan Government Upper Primary School at Bahakandia village under Mehendinganagar panchayat of Marshaghai block in Kendrapara district.

Youth's death in accident sparks tension; villagers set truck ablaze

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 4: A 22-year-old youth was killed on the spot after being run over by a 14-wheeler truck at an area in Banspal block of this district Wednesday night.



Thursday he was sent to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, sources said. Locals complained about police atrocity Wednesday night.

said cops arrested about 25 people including children and took them to the police station. They are yet to be released. He alleged that women had been harassed by the cops and the doors of many houses had been broken open.

Woman injured in tusker attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, April 4: A woman suffered serious injuries when she was attacked in the wee hours of Thursday by a tusker while collecting 'mohua' flowers in a forest of Sundargarh district.

that the condition of Lata is stable. It should be stated here that the 'mohua' flowers are also delicious fodder for the elephants. Lata was unaware about the presence of the tusker in the forest when she was collecting the flowers.

Luckily for Lata, other villagers were nearby. Hearing Lata's screams they rushed to the spot and managed to scare the elephant away. Despite catching Lata with the trunk, the elephant could not throw Lata to a distance as other villagers had arrived. However, even then Lata suffered a number of broken bones.

Man gets 20 yrs RI for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 4: Keonjhar Fast Track Court Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra sentenced Thursday, a 53-year-old man to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for raping a five-year-old girl.



centre for treatment. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim's father at the Ghatgaon police station, cops arrested the convict.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the IndusInd Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 13-09-2023 calling upon the Borrower - M/S SIDHARTH ENGINEERING (Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Ranjan Kumar Das, MR. RANJAN KUMAR DAS (Guarantor/Mortgagor) and MRS. SMITARANI DAS (Guarantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs. 49,11,172.41/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Eleven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two and Paise Forty One Only/-) as on 31st August, 2023 with further interest from the date and Interest mentioned against respective credit facility in the said notice dated 13-09-2023 plus penal interest @ 18.75% p.a. (Simple Basis) from 1st September, 2023 plus costs, charges and expenses etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 03rd day of April of the year 2024.

Fever patient given anti-rabies injection

Bhandaripokhari: In a case of gross negligence, a patient suffering from high fever and body ache was wrongly administered an anti-rabies injection instead of a painkiller. The incident occurred Thursday at the community health centre (CHC) here in Bhadrak district.

Newborn goes missing from Balasore DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK



Balasore, April 4: An eight-day old newborn boy undergoing treatment at a special care unit at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here went missing Thursday. Sources said that the boy had been stolen by miscreants who exchanged the newborn with a baby girl.

had to be shifted to the district headquarters hospital after doctors at the Bhograi health centre found that he was suffering from jaundice. The boy was admitted to the newborn care unit of the DHH, Tuesday.

IndusInd Bank POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) Appendix IV [Refer Rule 8(1)]

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The Atheist is God playing at hide and seek with Himself. SRI AUROBINDO



Lessons From History

On 1 April, 1924, Adolf Hitler should have been terrified. Four and a half months earlier, the Nazi leader had led a failed coup d'état in Munich...

The Nazi attempt to seize power ended the following morning, with a column of 2,000 armed putschists, led by Hitler, confronting the police and the German army in the Odeonsplatz (a large public square).

After two and a half days in hiding, Germany's most wanted man was discovered in the rural Bavarian home of his ardent supporter, Harvard graduate Ernst "Putzi" Hanfstaengl.

And yet, on 1 April - ironically, April Fools' Day - the judge, having found Hitler guilty, imposed the minimum sentence required by Bavarian law: five years of "honorable confinement," with the possibility of early release for good behaviour.

Hitler's sympathisers gleefully taunted his liberal opponents, telling them not to get too "emotional" and that they should "let the past be the past," while calling the sentence "severe."

Some media outlets eagerly played along. One center-right Munich newspaper even declared that it was "no secret" that its sympathies lay with the accused...

Historians agree that Hitler's 1924 trial was a travesty. Instead of ending Hitler's political career, the case helped solidify his popularity and mold him into the leader who would dismantle the Weimar Republic less than a decade later.

But there is less consensus about the relevance of Hitler's 1924 trial today. Just as American conservatives reject comparisons of Trumpism and fascism, some historians argue that the fate of the Weimar Republic, however fascinating, offers few lessons for navigating the current political tumult in the United States.

Conservatives are not alone in their unwillingness to draw these parallels: most American liberals are likewise reluctant to dissect the events of 1924. If they did, they would understand that the various cases against Trump, the Republican party's presumptive presidential nominee, are having the same effect as the Hitler trial had a century earlier: invigorating the defendant's supporters.

Like Hitler in 1924, Trump is using the courtroom as a stage on which to present himself as the victim, arguing that a crooked "deep state" is out to get him. Only by taking this comparison seriously, rather than rejecting it out of hand, will Democrats come to recognise the importance of campaigning on what they are, rather than what they are not.

The writer is Assistant Professor of History at University College Dublin.

WISDOM CORNER

The most glorious moments in your life are not the so-called days of success, but rather those days when out of dejection and despair you feel rise in you a challenge to life, and the promise of future accomplishments.

There is no fixed physical reality, no single perception of the world, just numerous ways of interpreting world views as dictated by one's nervous system and the specific environment of our planetary existence.

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.

LOL Choose punishment

A man was caught for speeding and went before the judge. The judge said, "What will you take...30 days or \$30."



The man replied, "I think I'll take the money."

FOCUS KATCHATHEEVU ROW

FLOGGING A DEAD HORSE



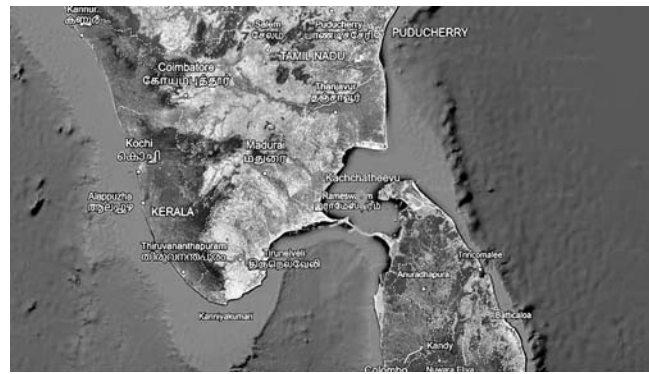
DK Giri

KATCHATHEEVU IS NOT THE SAME AS ANY TERRITORY OCCUPIED OR CLAIMED BY CHINA

A tweet by the Prime Minister has stirred up a hornets' nest in diplomatic and political circles. On 31 March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Eye opening and startling new facts reveal how Congress callously gave away Katchatheevu Islet to Sri Lanka."

Scanning the reactions, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, son of Karunanidhi tried to take a pot shot against the Prime Minister, "What steps Prime Minister has taken to retrieve the Islet? Karunanidhi had opposed ceding it away."

The Prime Minister's tweet rings a bell regardless of accusations of political opportunism. Under the Congress leadership, India lost quite a bit of territory and strategic advantages, ironically, after the British pulled out of the Indian Sub-Continent.



One may say the Prime Minister is flogging a dead horse; it is a political rhetoric during election time. However, the historic lapses with regard to our territory are painfully reminded through the reference to Katchatheevu

Historians argue that Chou-en-Lai, the Chinese Premier, talked Nehru into legitimising Chinese sovereignty over Tibet without any reciprocal concession. Nehru acquiesced in Chinese wish as "he had too much faith and confidence in China."

In 1974, Sri Lanka and India signed a Maritime Boundary Agreement which ended the dispute. India relinquished any claim over the Island. The Agreement affected the rights of Indians in Katchatheevu.

India had surrendered fishing rights in the Island. A subsequent pact signed on 23 March, 1976 about Gulf of Mannar, the Bay of Bengal and related matters "settled beyond doubt" the sovereignty of Sri Lanka over the Islet.

The Congress argument refers to the exchange of territories around these agreements. India secured, in return, the exclusive rights of Wadge Bank the waters in the South of Cape Comorin.

Apparently, the BJP is attempting to correct some strategic mistakes committed in the past. As said above, giving away Tibet is one such blunder. Taking Kashmir into the United Nations as Indian Army was clearing the Pak-backed tribal invaders is another. Several such lapses have been pointed out by historians. I have referred to quite

a few of them in this column. Digging into the debates in the 1960s about Katchatheevu, indicate an indifferent approach adopted by Nehru. As per the available documents, Nehru said that he attached, "no importance at all to Katchatheevu and that he would have no hesitation in giving up claims to it."

Nehru's attitude was similar when he harshly commented that "not a blade of grass grew in Aksai Chin." This was during a debate in Rajya Sabha when China was invading, infiltrating and occupying Ladakh (Aksai Chin). In fact, a Member of Parliament, Mahavir Tyagi sarcastically retorted to Nehru pointing to his bald head, "There is no single hair on my head, shall I then cut it off?"

Of course, Katchatheevu is not the same as any territory occupied or claimed by China. It was given away or relinquished under a peaceful, negotiated agreement. Also, Sri Lanka is a friendly country. One may say the Prime Minister is flogging a dead horse; it is a political rhetoric during election time. However, as said, the historic lapses with regard to our territory are painfully reminded through the reference to Katchatheevu.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

SPECTRUM MEDIATION

Boon for commercial dispute resolution



P Madhva Rao

IT TOOK TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REALISE THAT COMMERCIAL MATTERS TOO CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH MEDIATION

In the backdrop of over 4.5 crore cases pending in Indian courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms are gaining importance and becoming quite approachable to industry, businesses, and individuals in resolving their commercial disputes. The Mediation Act, 2023, enacted in September 2023, has changed the landscape of dispute resolution in India, reducing dependency on traditional courts.

The reasons were obvious. It took time for the government to realise that commercial matters too can be resolved through mediation. Thus, the commercial courts came into existence with over 8,200 cases pending in them for settlement today. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, after realising the importance of the approach of mediated settlement of disputes, was amended in 2018 to include pre-institutional mediation between parties for an amicable settlement outside courts.

The law makers again forgot that the cases in motor accident claims tribunals, debt recovery tribunals, disputes under negotiable instruments, acts, civil and construction contracts between government bodies and private firms, and licencing systems for starting businesses could also form part of commercial disputes and could be amicably settled to allow trouble-free growth of industry and business.

ties to the dispute is the Central Government, or State Government, or agencies, public bodies, corporations, and local bodies, including entities controlled or owned by such Government and where the matter pertains to a commercial dispute or (v) to any other kind of dispute if deemed appropriate and notified by the Central Government, or a State Government from time to time, for resolution through mediation under this Act, wherein such Governments, or agencies, public bodies, corporation, and local bodies including entities controlled or owned by them, is a party.

This emphasis on the government's intention about a mediated settlement of its commercial disputes with the public need not be overemphasised. The Act assigns enormous responsibility to the government now to institutionalise mediation in India, establish the proposed Mediation Council of India, and accord permissions to existing mediation institutions so that the public could utilise mediation services without waiting any further for the already delayed system of easy access to justice.

The writer is a former international senior advisor to the UNDP.

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

Maritime development

Sir, In hindsight India is yet to fully realise its maritime potential. Every 5 April is observed as National Maritime day to defend, shield and preserve India's maritime zone. For a country with a long coastline of over 7,500 km, this only reflects a lack of political will.

Breather for Cong

Sir, In a breather for the Congress, the Income Tax Department informed the Supreme Court that it would abstain from taking any coercive action against the cash-strapped party regarding tax demands till the Lok Sabha elections were over.

Whims of agencies

Sir, This refers to the news report "No trace of money: SC" (Orissa Post, April 3). The AAP MP Sanjay Singh has been released on bail by the apex court as no bribe money has been recovered from him.

NJ Ravi Chandar, BANGALORE

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

BINHARPUR ASSEMBLY SEAT

Pramila may face tough fight

The ruling BJD aims at highlighting the success of state government in implementation of various welfare schemes while the opposition parties are preparing to target the ruling dispensation over corruption and failure in implementation of various schemes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/Pritipur, April 4: BJD's Pramila Mallik is likely to face a tough fight in Binjharpur Assembly constituency under Jajpur Lok Sabha segment this time, said sources.

According to reports, all the Assembly constituencies, including Binjharpur, in the district will witness a high-octane fight this time.

The ruling BJD aims at highlighting the success of state government in implementation of various welfare schemes while the opposition parties are preparing to target the ruling dispensation over corruption and failure in implementation of various schemes.

The Assembly seat is the only reserved constituency in the district. Chatters are abuzz that Pramila, who has been on a winning spree since the BJD was formed, will have to face a tough battle.

On the other hand, BJP has fielded Babita Mallik while Kanaklata Mallik is an aspiring candidate from Congress. Speculations are rife that if Congress declares Kanaklata as its candidate, the contest will be among three women. While



PRAMILA MALLIK, BABITA MALLIK, KANAKLATA MALLIK

the BJD and BJP have announced their candidates, the delay in declaring the nominee by Congress has led to wide speculations.

Political analysts said that the contest will be mainly between BJD and BJP. However, multiple aspirants in BJP, before Babita was picked by the party, emerged as a concern for the saffron party. One such candidate is Amiyakanta Mallik, who had contested from Jajpur Lok Sabha segment in 2019. He is reportedly unhappy over Babita's nomination. He might play spoiler for Babita if BJP fails to appease him.

Babita is active in Binjharpur politics for the last two decades and had faced Pramila in 2019, securing 58,000 votes.

Likewise, Congress aspirant Kanaklata is a former block chairperson of Binjharpur and has a sizeable support base.

The ruling BJD is using implementation of public welfare schemes as its major poll plank. It claims to have achieved 50 per cent success in transportation and communication sector in the constituency.

Observers, however, claimed that the success rate in road construction sector could have reached 100 per cent had the au-

thorities spent 80 per cent of the government funds sanctioned for the constituency. However, the constituency is only witnessing the rule of contractors as corruption has reached its peak, observers said.

Check dams have been built for the farmers but most of them are lying defunct. The double-laning of Singhpur-Jajpur road that began during 2019 elections is yet to be completed. Multiple projects announced for the constituency are only on pen and papers, they added.

Ghantiali-Kantia bridge, upgradation of Binjharpur community health centre (CHC), establishment of blood bank and availability of surgery facilities in the hospital are still a distant dream.

Benga nullah project, which aimed at providing irrigation facilities to 30 per cent of the farmlands, declaration of Binjharpur as an NAC, Kharasrota river embankment project and construction of a dam on the downstream are some of the projects which are yet to be implemented.

These are some of the major poll issues which the opposition parties are cashing in on to corner the ruling BJD.



MERGER MEET: BJP and Congress members of Pottangi block in Koraput district join BJD at Sankha Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

CLOSE CONTEST IN BRAJARAJNAGAR ON CARDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Brajarajnagar, April 4: Buzzing political activities and speculations by fortune tellers have now become new normal in this Assembly constituency of Jharsuguda district as all the three prominent parties have declared their nominees for the hustings.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has declared Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari as its MLA candidate for Brajarajnagar constituency, the Congress has fielded former minister Kishore Patel. Likewise, BJD Wednesday re-nominated Alaka Mohanty, wife of late BJD MLA Kishore Mohanty from the constituency.

Alaka had registered a landslide victory in the 2022 byelection.

However, it would be a tough task for the voters to pick the right candidate this time as all are old and known faces.

The 2022 byelection saw a triangular fight between Patel (Cong), Radharani Panda (BJP) and Alaka (BJP). While Radharani secured 22,745 votes, Kishore polled 27,450 votes. Alaka, who forayed into electoral politics straight from the kitchen, won the bypoll by securing 93,540 votes. Alaka, who aimed at realising the dreams of her late husband, carried forward the developmental activities of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik by relying on party workers in the constituency.

Similarly, BJP candidate Pujari is an experienced and capable leader, though he had faced drub-

blings thrice in previous elections from the same Assembly seat.

Political analysts believe that it would not be a cakewalk for Pujari to unite and convince them to work for him. Three youth leaders and ticket aspirants of BJP - Sujit Singh, Radheshyam Pradhan and Biswajit Sarangi - have engaged themselves in organisational activities for the last two years in Brajarajnagar.

There are similar issues in Congress too. Party leader and Belpahar municipality chairman Bulu Panda being denied a ticket may pose hindrances to Patel. It remains to be seen how the three candidates for the Assembly seat would face the election given the fact that dis-sidence is ubiquitous.

Rourkela Congress faces infighting bar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, April 4: The Congress in Rourkela has been riddled with infighting hurdles like elsewhere in the state. No sooner than Birendra Nath Pattnaik got the Congress party ticket for Rourkela Assembly seat, a powerful faction has risen against the decision of the party high command.

One group led by DCC president Rabi Ray, former DCC president and 2019 MLA candidate of the party Biren Senapaty and Prabhat Mohapatra, comprising more than 100 workers Thursday threatened to resign from the grand old party en masse if the decision was not reversed. They also expressed their dissatisfaction against trade union leader Gopal Das who has got the ticket from Raghunathpalli Assembly constituency.

In the meeting, the decision of the PCC was pooh-poohed by these prominent local leaders who have been raising the Congress flag for over a few decades. Attempts to speak to Biren Senapaty failed as he did not respond. However, Prabhat Mohapatra, the last Congress candidate to win from here in the 90s in a David vs Goliath fight by defeating Dilip Ray, was found in

a different mood. Speaking about the development, he said, "I think instead of opposing him let us listen to Birendra Nath Pattnaik and also Gopal Das." In my opinion both should talk to all those persons who are opposing their nominations and sort out the matter. This needs immediate attention so that the wound would not fester enough to damage the party, he further added.

On the other hand, Rashmi Padhi, who was unceremoniously removed from the DCC president post after a two-and-half-month stint recently by PCC chief Sarat Pattanayak, was not happy with the development. "I have been removed as DCC president very quickly. Have I done anything against the party or the leadership? That was a party decision so let us respect it," Rashmi said. Castigating the dissident groups severely he said, "Biren babu lost by a huge margin and now he wants the ticket. I don't know how he is staking his claim."

Some of the known faces like Sabbir Hussein, Rashmi Padhi, Prabodh Das, Satyakanta Barik were absent in the meeting. Observers say, "This is the same old story of Congress. The party has touched rock bottom still they don't understand."

Gamang, Pangi families out of poll fray after 5 decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, April 4: The announcement of Congress party's candidates for Koraput and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seats highlighted the absence of prominent political families, including those of former chief minister Girdhar Gamang and ex-Koraput MP Jayaram Pangi.

If they opt not to run as independent candidates, it would be the first time in over five decades that these influential families won't be in the electoral competition in this tribal-dominated district.

Gamang, 81, who served as the Chief Minister of Odisha from February to December 1999, had represented the Koraput Lok Sabha constituency nine times between 1972 and 2004 before facing defeats to BJD in 2009 and 2014.

Despite his wife, Hema Gamang, also having represented the Koraput Lok Sabha seat in 1999, the landscape changed when the Gamang family switched allegiance from Congress to BJP in 2015, later aligning with Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) before returning to the grand old party in January.

Although Gamang's son Sisir sought the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat, and Hema applied for the Gunupur Assembly constituency under Koraput Lok



Sabha seat, the denial of tickets to Gamang family members by Congress sidelines them from the electoral process, potentially for the first time since 1972.

According to political observers, the Gamang family's debacle in electoral politics started in 2009 when Gamang lost the Koraput LS seat on a Congress ticket to his rival BJD's Jayaram Pangi.

In the same year Gamang's wife Hema lost the Assembly polls from Gunupur seat.

In 2014, Gamang was again defeated by BJD's Jhina Hikaka from Koraput LS seat and his wife, who had switched over to BJD from Congress and contested the 2014 Assembly poll from Laxmipur. Lost the election, in spite of CM Naveen Patnaik's wave sweeping across the state.

Similarly, Pangi who had en-

One can trust a snake but not BJP: Mamata

TMC SUPREMO URGES EC TO ENSURE LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL PARTIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cooch Behar/Malbazar (WB), April 4: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, at a poll rally Thursday, accused the BJP of not adhering to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the Lok Sabha polls, asserting that one can trust a poisonous snake but not the saffron camp.

Addressing a rally in Cooch Behar, Banerjee alleged that the central investigating agencies, Border Security Force (BSF), and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) are working at the behest of the BJP, urging the Election Commission to ensure a level playing field for all political parties.

"The BJP is asking you to enroll names for Awas Yojna again. Why will the names be enrolled again? They want further enrollment so that they can remove them. You can trust a poisonous snake; you can even pet it, but you can never trust the BJP.. The BJP is destroying the country," she said.

Asserting that her party TMC will not bow before the "threats of central agencies", Banerjee urged women in Cooch Behar to file police complaints if "there are instances of BSF torturing locals" ahead of the polls, scheduled for April 19.



At another poll meeting in Malbazar, she said, "The central investigating agencies, the NIA, Income Tax, central forces like BSF and CISF are working for the BJP. We will humbly plead to the Election Commission to ensure a level playing field for all parties as central agencies are working for the saffron camp. I will ask the people to guard the EVMs after the voting till results are out as BJP will try to tamper with people's verdict," she said.

Recalling the death of four civilians at Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar district during assembly elections in 2021 in firing by central forces, Banerjee accused them of being trigger-happy.

She also charged the BJP with trying to use Indian Army hospitals for its self-interest, accusing the saffron party of eroding the independence of forces which had been the pride of the nation for ages. The BJP only "follows the principle of one nation, one party", the TMC supremo claimed.



UPPING THE ANTE: BJD workers staging a demonstration at Lamtaput in Koraput district demanding to replace Raghuram Padal as the party candidate for Koraput Assembly constituency, Thursday



STIFF RESISTANCE: Several BJP workers submit a memorandum to party's former state president Samir Mohanty in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, opposing the nomination of Sisir Mishra as MLA candidate from Hinjili constituency



Earlier, students were compelled to go abroad for medical education but we ensured that they get quality medical education in the country
MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

GOVT LAUNCHES 'myCGHS' iOS APP

The government has launched the 'myCGHS' app for iOS to provide Central Government Health Scheme beneficiaries access to electronic health records, information, and resources



of the day quote

Scams in cooperative banks in Kerala, mismanagement of state funds, the silence of Rahul Gandhi on these issues, especially the misgovernance of the INDI alliance partner -- the Left front -- speaks volumes
SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

Employment is my biggest priority. The children who are educated till seventh-eighth standard can also get jobs through skill development and driving learning centres which were set up because of my initiative
KAMAL NATH | FORMER MP CM

I'm criticised for travelling by helicopter (to a farm) and doing farming. But why is there so much pain when the son of a farmer becomes a Chief Minister? It is better to travel on a helicopter and do farming than do photography from it
EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

SANDESHKHALI VIOLENCE

COURT RAPS WB GOVT

Calcutta High Court Thursday pulled up the ruling Trinamool Congress government in Bengal while hearing several pleas filed on the Sandeshkhali violence. During the hearing, the court said that it's entirely the ruling party's "responsibility" if a citizen's safety is under threat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 4: Observing that it would be "highly shameful" if even one per cent of the allegations of sexual assault in Sandeshkhali were found to be true, the Calcutta High Court Thursday said that West Bengal's image as the safest state for women will fall.

Petitioner-lawyer Priyanka Tibrewal submitted a voluminous compilation before the court which she said contained around 100 affidavits of alleged victims of sexual assault, apart from those of land grabbing and violence.

"If at least one per cent (of the allegations) is true, it is highly shameful," a division bench presided by Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam said. The division bench was hearing a suo motu motion on alleged sexual assault and land grabbing at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district and petitions seeking transfer of investigation of these cases to the CBI.



Opposing the prayers for transfer of investigation, West Bengal's Advocate General Kishore Dutta claimed before the division bench that central agencies have lost the trust posed in them. He questioned the conviction rate of central agencies in cases they were probing in the state, while the Enforcement Directorate's counsel accused it of non-cooperation in taking forward investigations. Maintaining that it is shameful if even one of the affidavits is correct, the Chief Justice said, "The entire district administration and the ruling dis-

if one closes his or her eyes. Tibrewal, who prayed for transfer of investigation to the CBI, placed before the division bench, also comprising Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya a number of complaints by alleged victims. Stating that she had gone to Sandeshkhali on three week-ends along with other lawyers and notaries to record the affidavits, Tibrewal claimed that the voluminous files contained around 100 complaints by women alleging sexual assault, apart from several of alleged land grabbing and other instances of violence and destruction of property. Tibrewal also prayed for constitution of a committee by the court to look into the complaints and payment of compensation to the victims. The division bench had March 7 granted permission to Tibrewal, who claimed to represent the victim women, to file an application/supplementary affidavit bringing on record whatever the alleged victims wish to place before this court.

CASTE CERTIFICATE CASE

SC relief to Amravati MP Navneet Rana



AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 4: The Supreme Court Thursday restored the scheduled caste certificate of sitting Amravati MP Navneet Kaur Rana, holding that the Bombay High Court overstepped while re-appreciating the findings of the scrutiny committee, in a huge last-minute relief that cleared the decks for her to contest the Maharashtra seat reserved for dalits on a BJP ticket.

Pronouncing the order on the last day of nomination for the seat, the apex court set aside the 2021 Bombay High Court verdict on a plea seeking cancellation of her caste certificate dated August 30, 2013 issued by a Mumbai deputy collector who held she belonged to the 'Mochi' caste. "We are of the considered opinion that High Court inadvertently undertook an erroneous exercise of appreciating evidence in exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of Constitution and swayed itself into a roving inquiry which was not expected as per settled legal position," a bench comprising jus-

of caste on the basis of the documents falls solely within the domain of the scrutiny committee which decided the issue after taking note of inputs received from the vigilance cell. "Having perused the order passed by the Scrutiny Committee and findings recorded by it to reach its subjective satisfaction with respect to claim of appellant, at this juncture, if we look at the whole exercise carried out by high court from the perspective of settled principles of law for invocation of jurisdiction under Article 226 of Constitution, particularly in relation of writ of certiorari, it leaves us with no scope of doubt that the high court has clearly overstepped by re-appreciating the evidence in absence of any allegation of malafide or perversity," it said. A writ of certiorari is issued by a court higher in authority to a lower court or tribunal ordering them either to transfer a case pending with them to itself or quash their order in a case.

SHORT TAKES

Rahul Gandhi declares assets worth Rs 20cr

Wayanad: Rahul Gandhi, who is seeking a successive term from the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, has declared assets of over Rs 20 crore in his nomination papers. Gandhi filed the papers before the returning officer on Wednesday. He has declared movable assets to the tune of Rs 9,24,59,264 and showed the purchasing price of his self-acquired immovable assets as being worth Rs 7,93,03,977 in the affidavit. He has also declared that the current market value of the self-acquired immovable assets is Rs 9,04,89,000 and the value of the inherited assets is Rs 2,10,13,598.

HDK, Tejasvi Surya file nominations

Bangalore: JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy, his brother-in-law and noted cardiologist C N Manjunath, Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya were among prominent candidates, who filed their papers Thursday, the last day for filing nominations for the first of two-phase Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka, April 26. Kumaraswamy, a former Chief Minister is contesting from the Mandya Lok Sabha seat. He was accompanied by BJP veteran B S Yediyurappa, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and party candidate from neighbouring Mysuru and son of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

Jawan shoots himself dead

New Delhi: A 36-year-old CISF constable allegedly killed himself using his service rifle at the Paschim Vihar (West) Metro Station Thursday, officials said. The incident took place at around 6:40 am, they said. The body of the deceased jawan, Sahare Kishore Samrao, was recovered from near the X-ray baggage scanner, they said.

Earthquake hits Chamba in HP

Shimla/Chandigarh: Tremors were felt in parts of north India as a 5.3-magnitude earthquake hit Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh Thursday. The earthquake struck at 9:34 pm, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said. Mild tremors were also felt in Chandigarh and parts of Punjab and Haryana. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 10 km in Chamba district, officials of the meteorological department in Shimla said.

Vistara cancels flights; efforts continue to address pilots' issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 4: Vistara continued to cancel flights Thursday as the Tata Group works to address pilot issues, while fares spiked in some routes due to cancellations, according to sources and travel industry executives.

A day after Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan apologised to pilots about the issues and assured them of taking steps to resolve them, the airline saw cancellations of around 20 flights.

The number of flight cancellations was in the double digits Thursday but less than 26 cancellations were seen Wednesday and the situation is improving, the sources said. Vistara, which is to operate more than 300 flights daily in the ongoing summer schedule, has decided to temporarily scale back operations.



Meanwhile, two pilots' groupings Thursday said the problems raised by Vistara pilots are not isolated but rather indicative of systemic issues across Tata Group aviation entities. In a detailed letter to Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran, the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPI) and the Indian Pilots' Guild (IPG) urged the group to engage in a constructive dialogue with the pilot community.



People take part in a boat rally during a voting awareness campaign organised by the district administration ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

India urges Israel to ensure safety of workers

New Delhi: India Thursday said it has urged Israel to ensure safety of the Indian construction workers who have gone to the country this week under the framework of a bilateral mobility agreement. Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon said Tuesday the first batch of over 60 Indian construction workers has left for Israel. "As you are aware, these (first batch) workers have gone to Israel as part of a mobility agreement that we have signed with the country," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. "This agreement predated the conflict. We are conscious of their safety. We have urged the Israeli authorities to ensure their safety and well-being," he said. Last month, India said it is focusing on ensuring the safety and security of all its citizens in Israel in the wake of the death of an Indian in that country in a missile attack reportedly launched by Hezbollah.

IAF's Apache attack chopper makes emergency landing

New Delhi: An Apache helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) made an emergency landing during an operational sortie in Ladakh and it sustained damage due to "undulating" terrain and high altitude, the IAF said Thursday. The IAF said the incident took place Wednesday and both the pilots on board are safe. It was the first such incident involving an Apache chopper in the IAF, military officials said. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the incident. The IAF had procured 22 Apache attack helicopters and the chopper that had to make the emergency landing was based in the Pathankot Air Force station in Punjab. "An IAF Apache helicopter carried out a precautionary landing during an operational training sortie in Ladakh April 3. During the process of this landing, it sustained damage due to undulating terrain and high altitude," the IAF said in a brief statement.

Haryana Women Commission issues notice to Surjewala

Chandigarh: The Haryana State Commission for Women Thursday issued a notice to Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala for allegedly making "indecent" remarks against actor and BJP leader Hema Malini. Commission chairperson Renu Bhatia said Surjewala has been asked to present himself before the panel April 9 and give a clarification. The commission took suo motu cognisance of media reports and issued the notice. It said his alleged "indecent" remarks hurt the dignity of a woman. BJP IT department head Amit Malviya had shared an undated video on X in which the Congress general secretary is purportedly making some objectionable remarks about the actor-politician and two-time Mathura MP while attacking the ruling party. However Thursday, Surjewala alleged that BJP's IT Cell has developed a habit of distorting facts and spreading lies and added that he neither intended to insult Hema Malini nor hurt anyone.

NCP VS NCP

SC asks Sharad, Ajit Pawar groups to abide by its order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 4: Days before the first vote for the Lok Sabha polls is cast, the Supreme Court Thursday asked the rival NCP factions led by party founder Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar to abide by its directions on the use of symbols, party names and disclaimers in publicity material for the elections. On March 19, the top court had allowed the Sharad Pawar faction to use 'Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar' as its name and 'man blowing turha' (a traditional trumpet also known as tutari) as the symbol for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and assembly elections in four states.

Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Odisha are being held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls.

The Election Commission has recognised the faction led by Ajit Pawar as the "real" Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and allotted it the 'clock' poll symbol used by the outfit before the split.

The apex court has said to which faction the 'clock' symbol ultimately goes will depend on the outcome of the proceedings initiated by Sharad Pawar against the EC's decision.

The top court had directed the Ajit Pawar bloc to issue a public notice in English, Hindi and Marathi newspapers making it clear that the matter of allocation of the 'clock' symbol is sub judice before the court and its use is subject to the final outcome of the proceedings.

India gets first home-grown gene therapy for cancer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 4: President Droupadi Murmu Thursday launched India's first indigenously-developed CAR T-cell therapy for cancer treatment, hailing it as a major breakthrough that provides "new hope for humankind" in the battle against the disease.

Developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Tata Memorial Centre, the gene-based therapy is being rolled out in India at about one-tenth of its price outside the country, a senior official said. Speaking at the launch event at IIT Bombay here, Murmu said the indigenous development of the therapy was an example of the Make in India initiative.

A CAR T-cell therapy involves modifying a patient's T cells (a type of immune system cell) in



the laboratory and using them to attack and destroy cancer cells. The 'NexCAR19 CAR T-cell therapy' is the country's first 'Made in India' CAR T-cell therapy which is expected to bring down the cost of treatment significantly. This therapy is considered a phenomenal advance in medical sciences, the president said in her speech. "The development of this therapy is also an example of the 'Make in India' initiative and speaks volumes about Indian scientists and physicians," she said. "The launch of India's first gene therapy is a major breakthrough in our battle against cancer. As this line of treatment, named CAR T-cell therapy, is accessible and affordable, it provides a new hope for the whole of humankind," Murmu added. Sudeep Gupta, director of the Tata Memorial Centre, said the CAR T-cell therapy was enormously expensive and out of the reach of an overwhelming majority of patients. NexCar19 needs to be custom manufactured for every

development of this therapy is also an example of the 'Make in India' initiative and speaks volumes about Indian scientists and physicians," she said.

"The launch of India's first gene therapy is a major breakthrough in our battle against cancer. As this line of treatment, named CAR T-cell therapy, is accessible and affordable, it provides a new hope for the whole of humankind," Murmu added.

Sudeep Gupta, director of the Tata Memorial Centre, said the CAR T-cell therapy was enormously expensive and out of the reach of an overwhelming majority of patients. NexCar19 needs to be custom manufactured for every

patient under the most stringent conditions, but it has been rolled out at approximately one-tenth of the price at which it is available outside India, he said. IIT Bombay director Prof Subhasis Chaudhuri said the treatment costs approximately Rs 4 crore abroad against Rs 30 lakh in India. The low-cost CAR T-cell therapy is a huge achievement for the country and for cancer patients, and places India firmly on the global map of cell and gene therapy, he said.

Gupta said the treatment will help some 20,000 Indians every year, and its rollout is a milestone in the field of cancer care and genetic engineering. "This treatment is not only a scientific achievement of the highest order, but also has immense practical application. NexCAR19 will save many, many lives and wipe many, many tears," he said.

The development of this therapy is also an example of the 'Make in India' initiative and speaks volumes about Indian scientists and physicians
DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

Shashank show sinks GT Super Kings take on unpredictable SRH



Shashank Singh appreciates a big shot from Ashutosh Sharma, Thursday

just 25 balls. Shashank single-handedly kept PBKS in the fray with his pyrotechnics. He was ably supported by Ashutosh as the duo snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

Earlier sent in to bat, opener Gill made a rousing start to the innings as he clobbered spinner Harpreet Brar straight over his head for the first six of the match. Runs flowed for GT till the third over before Kagiso Rabada (2/44) ousted Saha.

Kane Williamson (26), who replaced injured David Miller, looked in great touch. But his knock was cut short by Brar's extra bounce in the ninth over. Gill and new man Sudharsan then picked up 14 runs off the 12th over.

Gill led from the front and clobbered Rabada for a maximum before Sudharsan struck the bowler to the mid-off boundary to keep up the tempo. Sudharsan went about his business in style, picking up boundaries at will while Gill was happy to play second fiddle.

Sudharsan's cameo came to an end when Harshal Patel snared him. Gill brought up his fifty off 31 balls with a boundary behind deep square leg in the 15th over. Gill was at his imperious best as he dispatched Harshal over long-on for a maximum in the 17th over.

While Gill was going all guns blazing from one end, Vijay Shankar was flat and was caught by a diving Brar at long-off off Rabada. In his second spell, Harshal was wayward with his lengths and Tewatia made good use of it as the penultimate over yielded 20 runs. Tewatia played a blinder, including two boundaries off pacer Arshdeep Singh in the last two balls.

BRIEF SCORES

GT 199/4 (Shubman Gill 89 n o, Sai Sudharsan 33; Kagiso Rabada 2/44) lost to PBKS 200/7 (Shashank Singh 61 n o, Prabhsimran Singh 35, Ashutosh Sharma 31 n o; Noor Ahmad 2/32) by 3 wickets.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mukesh Choudhary. Shardul Thakur is also yet to get a game thus far. Their opposition Sunrisers Hyderabad will be looking to make the most of home comforts in their second game at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium.

Hyderabad, April 4: Without their in-form bowler Mustafizur Rahman, Chennai Super Kings will need to sharpen their all-round game when they take on an unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here Friday. Consistency is the hallmark of CSK who would be looking to restore "normal service" following their first loss of the season against Delhi Capitals.

It is a long tournament and an odd dip in performance is expected, as mentioned by the CSK captain Rituraj Gaikwad after the game in Visakhapatnam. However, he and his opening partner Rachin Ravindra will need to be ready for the moving ball after being found wanting on that front against Delhi.

The majority of cricketers world wants MS Dhoni to bat higher than number eight, especially after his 16-ball 37 in his very first outing with the bat this season. However, that is unlikely to happen as Dhoni would want the likes of Shivam Dube and Sameer Rizvi to finish the job ahead of him.

In the bowling department, CSK will need to rethink their combination with Mustafizur back in Bangladesh to process his visa for the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean.

The overseas combine of Mustafizur and Matheesha Pathirana had been working well for CSK who could bring in a like-for-like replacement for the Bangladesh cricketer in

The batters will take immense confidence from their record showing against Mumbai Indians here. The pressure is piling up on opener Mayank Agarwal who is yet to make an impact.

The game against Gujarat Titans was Sunrisers' first batting failure in the tournament and they would be looking for immediate course correction.

Even on the bowling front, the likes of Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande and Bhuvneshwar Kumar have proved expensive. The seasoned Bhuvneshwar has especially been disappointing with the new ball and is yet to pick up a wicket in three games.

Skipper Pat Cummins have kept things tight with a sub 8 runs per over economy rate to complement his four wickets in three games. He will need support from others Friday night.

The pitch in the opening game here produced more than 500 runs, raising hopes of another six-hitting slugfest.

MATCHDAY

Indian Premier League

SRH vs CSK

Time: 07:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network

Stream: Jio Cinema

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 4: Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill's unblemished unbeaten half century was overshadowed by uncapped Shashank Singh's fiery knock as Punjab Kings registered a thrilling three-wicket win in an Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

Gill made an unbeaten 89 (48b, 6x4, 4x6) to guide GT to an imposing 199/4. He was also helped

generously by B Sai Sudharsan's 19-ball 33 (6x4) and Rahul Tewatia's eight-ball unbeaten 23 (3x4, 1x6).

However, there was a heartbreak in store for GT as Shashank played the knock of his life, remaining unbeaten on 61 (29b, 6x4, 4x6) to guide PBKS home with a ball to spare. He was ably supported by Ashutosh Sharma (31, 17b, 3x4, 1x6) as the duo shared 43 runs off just 22 balls to raise PBKS' hopes, which eventually came true.

Chasing a big total, PBKS suffered an early jolt in the form of captain Shikhar Dhawan off Umesh Yadav. Jonny Bairstow (22) was then cleaned up by Afghanistan left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmad.

PBKS kept on losing wickets at regular intervals as the next to follow was Prabhsimran Singh (35, 24b, 5x4, 1x6) as PBKS slid to 64/3 by the end of the eighth over. Sikandar Raza was dropped twice in Umesh's 11th over, albeit

both were difficult chances.

But it was Shashank who capitalised on the lives, clobbering Umesh for two boundaries and a six to pick up 17 runs in the 11th over. Raza, however, didn't last long as he edged a Mohit delivery to Wriddhiman Saha behind the stumps.

Shashank kept on using his long handle, picking up a few boundaries and sixes to keep PBKS in the hunt. He held on to one end and brought up his 50 off

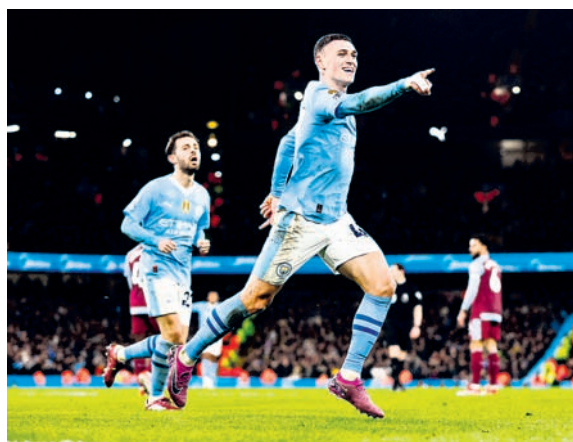
Foden steps up in Haaland absence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, April 4: Erling Haaland was left out of Manchester City's starting lineup for its Premier League match against Aston Villa. But it didn't hinder the defending champion as Phil Foden scored a hat-trick in a 4-1 rout at Etihad Stadium.

Haaland, the league's top scorer, was named as a substitute for the game a day after City manager Pep Guardiola described him as the "best striker in the world."

Haaland was criticized by former Manchester United captain and now TV analyst Roy Keane after he



failed to score in City's 0-0 draw with Arsenal Sunday. Guardiola defended the forward Tuesday but still opted

against naming him in a potentially crucial game in City's title defense. Kevin de Bruyne was also named as

a substitute.

"We put the players out to win it not just to rest players," Guardiola said afterward. "We need fresh legs and we only played three days ago against Arsenal. We needed it because of the schedule so we needed the rest."

The win moved third-place City level on points with Liverpool in second. Arsenal moved top after a 2-0 win against Luton at Emirates Stadium.

Guardiola's team plays at Crystal Palace Saturday before facing Real Madrid away in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final.

DOUBLES PAIR OF SATWIK, CHIRAG PULLS OUT OF BAC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 4: Shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Thursday pulled out of their men's doubles title defence at next week's Badminton Asia Championships with the former recuperating from a shoulder injury.

Last April, Satwik and Chirag, currently ranked world number one, had made history by breaking a 58-year-old drought as they became the first Indians after Dinesh Khanna to be crowned champions at the Asia Badminton Championships in Dubai. Dinesh Khanna had achieved the rare feat of winning gold in 1965.

However, Satwik and Chirag, who have been in rollicking form this season, having won the French Open Super 750 and finishing runner-up in two finals, Thursday decided to opt out of the tournament. "It is not a new injury, it is something which happens due to overuse of shoulder and Satwik is already on road to recovery. They are still training but the intensity is little less. So, looking at the bigger picture, they decided to withdraw," a source in the know of things told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"They have been consistently playing the finals and in a way they are lucky that it didn't crop up during major events. So it is a good time to address the issue.

They are elite athletes and need to choose events wisely, they shouldn't rush things."

It is a recurrent injury as Satwik has been troubled by his right shoulder in the past but he had recovered from it as he and Chirag went on to win laurels for the country. But following the European leg this season, it seemed to have flared up a bit.

Satwik and Chirag are currently into their 10th week as world number one, surpassing Saina Nehwal's record of nine successive weeks at the top of BWF rankings.

The crack pair had a stellar season in the last two years, winning the 2022 world championships bronze, 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal, 2023 Asia championships gold, the 2023 Asian Games gold medal, 2022 Thomas Cup winners, 2023 Indonesia Super 1000 champions and 2023 Korea Open winners.

The duo has been named in India's strong Thomas Cup team which will look to defend their title in China from April 27. "Thomas Cup remains an important event and they will be back for the prestigious tournament as we are the defending champions," the source said.

The withdrawal of the top pair means HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu will now lead India's charge at the prestigious tournament.

Double delight for Saina at chess nat'ls



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 4: Woman International Master Saina Salonika clinched two gold medals – individual and team events – in the National Team Chess Championship, played in Dharmasala from March 29 to April 4.

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) bagged gold medal in team event while Telengana and LIC of India bagged silver and bronze medals, respectively. Saina was representing PSPB in the tournament.

PSPB team won all the seven matches they played and secured top position. The gold winners in the team event bagged a prize money of ₹1.25,000 while Telengana pocketed ₹1,00,000 and LIC were awarded ₹75,000 for their second and third place finishes.

Saina won all four matches she played and clinched the yellow metal while her teammate IM Soumya Swaminathan got gold medal and both IM Nisa Mehta and WGM Marry Ann Gomes got individual silver medals in their respective board.

Another Odia girl WGM Kiran Manisha Mohanty, who was representing LIC, clinched individual gold medal in her board and team bronze medal. Smaraki Mohanty of Odisha also bagged individual bronze in her board.

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ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ : ଭବିଷ୍ୟତର ଧାତୁ

ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ ଏକ ବିଶ୍ୱସ୍ତରୀୟ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ପରିଣତ ହେବାର ଉତ୍ସାହୀ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ଏହା ଉଚ୍ଚ-ପ୍ରଯୁକ୍ତିମୂଳକ ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗ, ଉଦ୍ୟମାନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଯଥା ମହାକାଶ, ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷା, ଅକ୍ଷୟଶକ୍ତି ଏବଂ ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ ଯାନ ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗ ପାଇଁ ଅପରିହାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ।

ଭାରତ ବିଶ୍ୱର ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ବୃହତ୍ତମ ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ କ୍ଷମତାର ଅଧିକାରୀ ।

ବେଦାନ୍ତ ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ

- ବେଶର ସର୍ବବୃହତ ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ, ସବୁଜଧାତୁ ଉତ୍ପାଦନକାରୀ ।
- ଜିଡିପି ଉପରେ ୧୫% ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ପ୍ରଭାବ ପକାଏ ଏବଂ ସହସ୍ରାଧିକ ଏମଏସଏମଏ ଏବଂ ଲକ୍ଷାଧିକ ନିୟୁକ୍ତ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରେ ।
- ଗୋ ଲୋକସ୍ୱ ସଂସ୍କେଦନିର୍ମିତ ସୁତାର ବିଶ୍ୱସ୍ତରୀୟ ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ କମ୍ପାନୀଗୁଡ଼ିକ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବିଦ୍ୟା ଯାନରେ ଅବସିତ ।
- ଭାରତରେ ଏକମାତ୍ର କମ୍ କାର୍ବନ "ସବୁଜ" ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ ଉତ୍ପାଦନକାରୀ, ଯାହା ରେକ୍ଷୋରା ଦ୍ରାଘ ରୂପେ ପରିଚିତ ।

ବେଦାନ୍ତ ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ନିର୍ମାଣ ଏବଂ "ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭର ଭାରତ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତିଦାତ୍ତ ।



ବେଶର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ପାଇଁ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭର ଭାରତ ପାଇଁ

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