

ORERA Registration No.: RP/07/2022/00795  
 Website: www.rera.odisha.gov.in

*Find Your Perfect Space for Life*



Member Of  
**CREDAI**  
 Bhubaneswar Foundation

**CMC**  
 Approved

This is what you have been searching for  
**Low Rise, Low Density**

**Work in Full Swing,  
 Possession on  
 March 2026**

**NETRA GALAXY :  
 Iconic Paradise Living Apartments**

"Netra Galaxy" located @Nuahat adjacent to NH-16, Phulnakhara Square, Cuttack & well connected to all the major landmarks having wide road access and very comfortable communication route.



**OUTDOOR Amenities**

- Kid's Play Area.
- Water Wall & Lilly Pool.
- Open Amphitheater.
- Senior Citizen's Sit-out.
- Walking Track.
- Lush Green Landscaping.

**3 side ventilated 3, 3.5 & 4.5 BHK Residential Apartments | S+5 Floor | 1380 sft. onwards | 5 Blocks | Dedicated Luxury Club House with Modern Amenities | 12000 sft. of central courtyard area | 60% open to sky area | 3.770 Acres of Land Parcel.**

**3 BHK Price Starts From ₹80 Lacs\***  
 with all amenities  
 (Excluding Registration & GST)

**30% Units Left out**



- Close to Panda Cancer Hospital, Grand Bazaar and Reliance Petrol Pump.
- 2 mins drive from SUM Hospital (Under Construction), Phulnakhara Sqr.
- 5 to 6 mins drive from Pal Heights Mantra and Pahala Square.
- 6 to 8 mins drive from DPS Kalinga School and Mothers Public School.
- 6 to 8 mins drive from Symphony Mall.
- 8 to 10 mins drive from Rasulgarh Square, Esplanade Mall.
- 8 to 10 mins drive from Link Road, Cuttack.
- 20 to 25 mins drive from Bhubaneswar Railway Station.
- 30 to 35 mins drive from Biju Patnaik International Airport.

**CLUB CALISTO**  
 Blending Relaxation with Sophistication



Developer:  
**ALISHAN REALCON PVT. LTD.**  
 Plot No.-N2/12, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751015  
 E-mail: netragalaxy@gmail.com, Web: www.netragalaxy.com

**:: Contact us ::**  
**7008563697 / 9937938024**  
**9937005103**



# leisure



## JENNIFER DIDN'T WATCH MOVIES BEFORE HER ACTING CAREER

Actress Jennifer Connelly, who made her acting debut in the 1984 crime film *Once Upon a Time in America*, has revealed that she never really pursued a career in the movies. She shared, "I started working when I was so young. I started working when I was ten years old. And it wasn't something that I had pursued. I never even did a school play. Like, I didn't even watch movies."

## JOEY SHARES RESULTS OF HER ALLERGY TEST

Actress Joey King seems to be pretty allergic to everything. The *Kissing Booth* actress recently took to her social media and shared a photo of an allergy test she had undergone. Her entire back was covered in markings made of orange ink, reports *People magazine*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

#### ARIES

You are creative, and today you will prove to be resourceful and thereby successful! Okay, you are ambitious, says Ganesh, but don't bite off more than you can chew. Be confident of your abilities, work hard and have faith in providence.

#### TAURUS

You will feel the burden of financial responsibilities on your shoulders today, says Ganesh. Do not let expenses bother you. Money will come to you from unexpected sources later in the day. If you can maintain an impartial judgement, then you will yield wonderful results on the financial front, advises Ganesh.

#### GEMINI

Today, you would love to spend as much time alone as possible with your sweetheart, says Ganesh. A casual conversation between the two of you may culminate into a sensuous consummation. In the evening, you will keep people charmed with your wit and wisdom, feels Ganesh.

#### CANCER

There is a fat chance that you will take pleasure in the company of your close friends and relatives, predicts Ganesh. You may have an awesome time with your mate. There may be a few minor problems here and there, but your family will rally behind you and will help you in solving your problems.

#### LEO

The travel bug inside you is itching to be let loose, but things are not so simple when it comes to finding new destinations, says Ganesh. With you, holidaying goes hand in hand with delays. So, although you might be excited at the prospect of going to new places, this excitement will be somewhat curtailed thanks to postponements of travel plans.

#### VIRGO

Motivation will remain high today, says Ganesh. Your talents and skills make you stand out as a superb artist. Words will glow if you let your creativity flow, and should you decide to dance or sing, you'll set the stage on fire today. Cultivate hobbies in performing arts and literature, advises Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

It sure is tiring to run with the herd. You may feel the desire to get away from the rat race at work today. Maybe it is the monotonous and stressful environment in office that is pushing you to your limits. But you may seek a new direction and lifestyle, one that is less taxing.

#### SCORPIO

You shall follow all things to the dot today. Your approach will be methodical and robotic. It is likely that you shall symbolise the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words'. Your powers of persuasion will help you amass the confidences of many, predicts Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

A la a phoenix from the ashes, find yourself reborn as the perfect family person. You are bound to shower love and care on your betrothed. Children, too, will receive your share of love, and they will love it. Enjoy spending quality time with your loved one, says Ganesh.

#### CAPRICORN

The work load may take away all your vigour, leaving you lethargic and dull, but you will come out of the sluggish phase before it can do any harm to your reputation, says Ganesh. Being observant and attentive while in meetings will help you in the long run, and in more ways than you can imagine.

#### AQUARIUS

Good news from across the seven seas brings cheer! If you're seeking a visa, you may get one today. Everything looks positive and it reflects in your mood. Share your happiness with your family, says Ganesh, and you will find it multiplies manifold.

#### PISCES

Conflicts galore will come your way at the workplace today. Keep a calm head over your shoulders and do keep tabs on your tongue. Differences only crop up if there are substantial thought processes involved, and keeping this in mind ought to give you the perspective needed to get ahead, says Ganesh.

## Sonakshi recalls being treated disrespectfully

**Mumbai:** Actress Sonakshi Sinha recently shared in an interview that she cannot go back to being called 'maal' and about her journey in the film industry.

The *Akira* actress explained, "As an artiste, you have a responsibility. There are a lot of people who look up to you. I do stand by the fact that, yes, I was young and was getting the opportunity to be a part of some very big films. Nobody in their right mind would have said no at that point in time. So I did them, but yes, certain things did feel off even then. Then

you grow, and people notice it, talk about it, and bring it to your attention. It's criticism, but it's constructive."

She added, "You can very clearly see the shift in the kind of roles that I have been playing from *Akira*, so I have not just said it for the sake of saying it. I am staying true to my words. I don't think I can ever go back to being called Maal. It is a step everybody has to take."

On the work front, Sonakshi was recently seen in *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*.



## Karisma on her bond with Bebo

**Mumbai:** Actress Karisma Kapoor talked about her strong bond with her sister Kareena Kapoor at a recent event in Kolkata. She mentioned being protective of Kareena and admiring her as an idol.

During the event, the *Murder Mubarak* actress confessed to being quite protective of her sister, Kareena. She expressed, "She has always had a strong personality. Even as a child, she knew her mind. But to me, she'll always be my first baby."

Karisma also revealed, "My grandfather's personality, his work, and his life behind the camera were very inspira-

tional. I also admire Bebo as an idol because she is incredibly strong. She continued working during both her pregnancies."

The actress recalled her debut in the 1991 film *Prem Qaidi* alongside Harish. Reflecting on her journey, she expressed feeling overwhelmed by witnessing the evolution of showbiz over the past three decades. She recalled, "I worked during a time when even going to the washroom meant walking kilometres." I've witnessed tremendous growth and change in the industry."

On the work front, Karisma will be next seen in an OTT project *Brown*. On the other hand, Kareena Kapoor Khan has Hansal Mehta's *The Buckingham Murders* and Rohit Shetty's *Singham Again* in her kitty.



## Kriti slams B-town's gender wage gap

**Mumbai:** Actress Kriti Sanon, in an interview, discussed pay parity and wondered why some of her male co-stars get paid 10 times more than what she gets.

"The difference in payment (between male actors' and female actors') currently is huge for no reason. Sometimes, for no reason. When you feel like it's not like that person has given a hit in 10 years, then why is he getting paid 10 times?" said Kriti.

She also explained how producers justify the pay gap. "A lot of the time, what the producers say is recovery. The recovery happens with digital and satellite, which sort of happens before a film is released. Before the word kind of takes off. So to get that kind of budget from digital and satellite—because on digital and satellite, the male-centric films actually do very, very well as compared to a film on a girl. I think there's a difference," the *Dilwale* actress added.

She also claimed that producers weren't willing to put in the same budget in *Crew*, which has three A-list female actors, as they would in a similar entertaining comedy with three male actors. She said that aspect hasn't changed in the six years since Rhea Kapoor and Ekta Kapoor, producers of *Crew*, backed an all-women mainstream film in *Veere Di Wedding*, which starred Kareena and Sonam Kapoor, who had to take pay cuts to keep the budget of the film in check.

On the work front, Kriti will be next seen in Netflix India thriller *Do Patti* alongside Kajol.

**Mumbai:** Actress Sharmin Segal Mehta, director Sanjay Leela Bhansali's niece who played a key role in *Heeramandi*, recently addressed the criticisms against her performance in the show and the online trolling that followed.

Despite opening to polarising reactions, Bhansali's first-ever streaming series, the period drama *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, is earning massive praise from certain quarters. Following its theme and presentation, much of the scrutiny has been directed towards the *Malaal* actress.

Since the series debuted, she has faced intense backlash for her performance, which many have deemed poor, and has reportedly disabled comments on her Instagram account.

The actress said, "There is a lot of pressure, and sometimes it manifests in weird ways. But I have a really good support system. I think my strongest support system is my sister. She also happened to be an assistant director on the show. So, it worked out in a way where I do have outlets where I can vent." "In my personal life, I am secure enough today to come home to my husband and put everything that I have done at work aside. But I am not that person who's going to constantly put that much pressure on it. In that way, if I start taking all that pressure on myself, I am a very strong advocate for mental health and living a happy life. So, I do want to do what I want to do, and I would love for everyone to love Alamzeb (her character). But, at the end of the day, there will be people who have to say what they have to say," she ended.

## Sharmin addresses online trolling

### PEANUTS



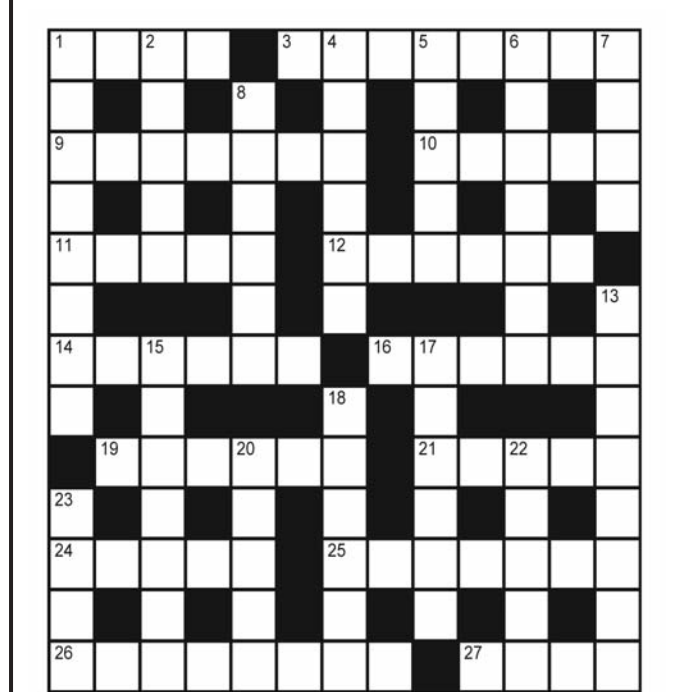
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



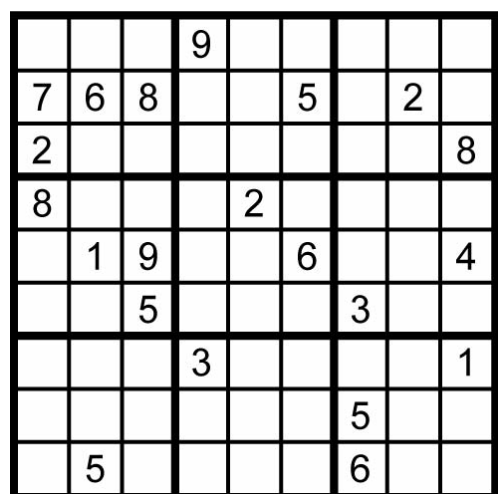
### FUN post CROSSWORD



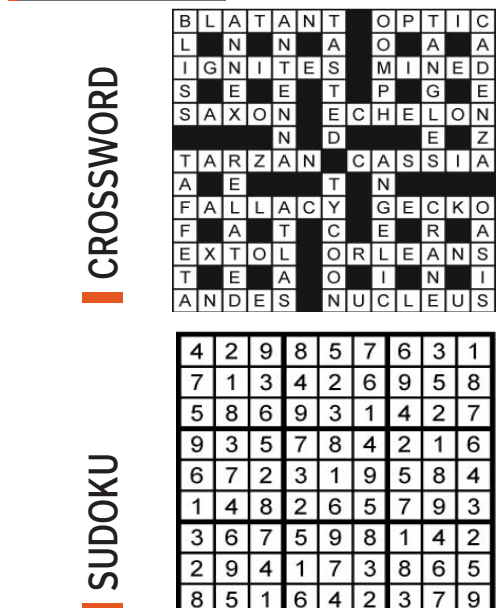
- Across**
- 1 Mission
  - 3 Bomb fragments
  - 9 Employer's handout
  - 10 Bury
  - 11 Classic theatre
  - 12 Fairness
  - 14 Thomas a Becket, e.g.
  - 16 Dried fruit
  - 19 Large lizard
  - 21 Sign of life
  - 24 Place to lounge
  - 25 Orator's forte
  - 26 Guessing game
  - 27 Seed cover
  - Down**
  - 1 Pubs
  - 2 Fashion
  - 4 Bisects
  - 5 Gallic goodbye
  - 6 Writes down
  - 7 Tackle box item
  - 8 Bligh's ship
  - 13 Inherent
  - 15 Boat race
  - 17 Fund-raising letter
  - 18 Injure badly
  - 20 Plato's plaza
  - 22 Large-eyed primate
  - 23 "Beowulf," for one

### 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





**Curious case of Kotia**  
Sandwiched between two states, people of disputed Kotia cluster of villages to cast votes in both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha polls May 13

STATE | P3



**New evacuations**  
Israel orders new evacuations in Gaza's southern city of Rafah Saturday, forcing tens of thousands more people to move

INTERNATIONAL | P8



**Power crunch ahead**  
India is projecting its biggest power shortfall in 14 years in June after a slump in hydropower generation

BUSINESS | P9



**Departure confirmed**  
Kylian Mbappe confirms his departure from Paris Saint-Germain ahead of a widely expected move to Real Madrid

BACK PAGE

**Severe solar storm triggers auroral arc in Ladakh sky**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** A crimson glow lit up the dark sky in parts of Ladakh in a rare stable auroral red arc event at the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in the high Himalayas due to the strong solar magnetic storms launched towards Earth. The solar storms or coronal mass ejections are from the AR13664 region of the sun that has produced several high energy solar flares, some of which are travelling towards Earth at a speed of 800 km/s, scientists at the Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences in India (CESSI), Kolkata, said. Spectacular auroras or northern lights lit up the skies in the higher latitudes of the northern hemisphere as skywatchers from Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Switzerland, Denmark and Poland shared pictures and short videos of the dancing lights on social media. "We were fortunate to witness Aurora activities on our all-sky camera during regular telescope observations," Stanzin Norla, an engineer at the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, told this news agency.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



It will take a little longer. We are waiting for the bigger tempo... to carry our MLAs

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
<b>Max Temp</b>	39.8°C	38.8°C
<b>Min Temp</b>	26.9°C	26.8°C
<b>Humidity</b>	66%	71%
<b>Rainfall</b>	0.1mm	Nil

**FORECAST**  
NO MAJOR CHANGE IN NEXT 2-3 DAYS

Putting the earlier speculations about a seemingly 'friendly tussle' between the BJP and the BJD to rest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik went on a warpath Saturday as the campaign for Odisha's first phase polls came to an end. While Modi tore into the state government over a string of issues including Odia pride and Ratna Bhandar controversy at his rallies in western Odisha, Naveen spared no time in his retort in a video message with a scathing response

**Naveen can't name 'My people know all districts: Modi**

**Phulbani/Bolangir/Bargarh, May 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing several election rallies in western Odisha Lok Sabha seats, Saturday, claimed that Odisha's 'asmita' (pride) is in danger, adding, the BJP is fully devoted to the development of Odia language and culture. "I am here to invite you to the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP CM in Bhubaneswar June 10. A son or daughter of the soil who understands the state's culture, language and tradition will be made the CM," he said, in an indirect reference to BJD leader Kartik Pandian's assertion that he is the natural successor to all great values of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Further attacking Pandian without taking his name, Modi alleged that Patnaik has outsourced the government and the state is being run by outsiders.



"There is a super CM, who yields more power than the CM chosen by elected MLAs. Are sons and daughters of Odisha not capable of running the government?" he questioned. Launching a scathing attack on Patnaik, Modi said, "A CM, who is unable to name all the districts and headquarters cannot understand the issues faced by the people." Referring to the sensitive issue of Lord Jagannath's 'Ratna Bhandar', he said the last inventory of the valuables was made 40 years ago and key of inner chambers has been missing since the last six years.



**Bhubaneswar:** Asserting that the BJP would not be able to win Odisha in the next 10 years, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday claimed his BJD would return to power for the sixth consecutive time after the Assembly elections. Patnaik was reacting to PM Narendra Modi telling an election rally earlier in the day that the swearing-in ceremony of a 'BJP chief minister' will be held in Bhubaneswar June 10. Responding Modi's claim that he can't remember the name of Odisha districts, Naveen, in a nearly three-minute video mes-

sage on X, said that people of Odisha know what he remembers in the last 24 years. He said the people of Odisha remember the promises Modi and the BJP made to the people in 2014 and 2019. "Do you also remember the promises you made in 2014 and 2019? The people of Odisha remember your promise - controlling prices of essential commodities, creating 2 crore jobs, reducing prices of LPG, petrol and diesel, and providing mobile connectivity in remote areas," he said. "You are remembering Odisha only during the elections and this will be of no use," he added. "There are so many brave sons of Odisha, a few of whom you spoke about today. Don't any of them, including Biju Patnaik, deserve the Bharat Ratna?" Patnaik asked. Patnaik said while ₹1,000 crore was allotted by the Centre for promoting Sanskrit, no money was given for Odia even when it is a classical language.

**Kejriwal's 'One nation, One leader' jibe at PM**

**New Delhi, May 11:** A day after his release on interim bail, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging he was on a 'One nation, One leader' mission to impose 'dictatorship' by putting all leaders from opposition behind bars and 'politically finishing off' those in the BJP. Addressing a gathering at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) headquarters here Saturday, the party supremo said that PM Modi is asking for votes for Union Home Minister Amit Shah, claiming that the latter will be Modi's successor after he 'retires' on turning 75. "These people ask INDIA bloc about their (PM) face. I am asking the BJP who will be their PM. Modi ji is turning 75 on September 17 next year. He had made the rule that people aged 75 would be retired. They retired LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Sumitra Mahajan," Kejriwal added. "Modi will retire next year. He is seeking votes for making Amit Shah the prime minister. Will Shah fulfil Modiji's guarantee?" the Delhi CM asked. He as-



serted that the AAP will be part of the next government at the Centre and will get full statehood for Delhi. "In the last 20 hours after release from jail, I talked to poll experts and people, and got to know the BJP is not going to form the government," Kejriwal said. Ahead of restarting his election campaign, Kejriwal along with his wife Sunita and Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann offered prayers at the Hanuman temple in central Delhi's Connaught Place. Meanwhile, brushing aside Kejriwal's remarks, Shah asserted at a press conference in Hyderabad that Modi will continue to lead the country and there is 'no confusion in the BJP' on the issue.

**NASA plans rail system on moon**

**New York, May 11:** As the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) readies to return astronauts to the moon and convert the space rock into an orbital outpost, plans are apparently being mulled to build a train on its surface. "We want to build the first lunar railway system, which will provide reliable, autonomous, and efficient payload transport on the Moon," robotics expert Ethan Schaler of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California told New York Post. Both the lunar landings — a series of Artemis missions returning personnel to the moon in 2028 — and the proposed high-tech train are pivotal to NASA's Gateway project, a lunar orbiting space station that will serve as a hub for vast planetary exploration, especially for Mars. "A durable, long-life robotic transport system will be critical to the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base in the 2030's," Schaler ex-



plained. Unfortunately for astronauts eager to hitch a ride on the Lunar Express, this train will be for machines only. JPL proposes "Flexible Levitation on a Track," or FLOAT, as the answer to "transport payloads of varying shape" — up to 110 tons in weight, primarily from landing zones to more permanent outpost settings. The system will do so using unpowered magnetically polarized ro-

bots to levitate above a three-layer track made of flexible films. "FLOAT robots have no moving parts and levitate over the track to minimize lunar dust abrasion / wear, unlike lunar robots with wheels, legs, or tracks," Schaler said. A layer of graphite keeps them afloat, a "flex-circuit layer generates electromagnetic thrust to controllably propel robots along tracks," and a third optional solar panel can generate thermal energy for the lunar base, the pro explained. "FLOAT will operate autonomously in the dusty, inhospitable lunar environment with minimal site preparation," he added. Unlike typical roads or railways, FLOAT tracks have the ability to unroll themselves to avoid any other major construction projects happening on the surface, according to Schaler. "Its network of tracks can be rolled-up / reconfigured over time to match evolving lunar base mission requirements," he said.

**POLLING OFFICIAL KILLED**

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Umerkote/Chikiti, May 11:** A polling official was killed and two others injured in separate incidents of road mishap in Nabarangpur and Ganjam districts, Saturday. In the first incident, the deceased identified as Alekh Randhari, a fifth polling officer, was killed after he was

hit by a speeding bike while getting down from a bus near a polling booth at Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir of Umerkote in Nabarangpur district. Meanwhile, two polling officials had a close shave after a bus carrying them overturned at Pitatali under Chikiti block in Ganjam district.

DSPL-05

**PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HEATSTROKE DURING POLL**  
Elderly, sick persons & pregnant women are more prone to heat stroke

**SYMPTOMS OF HEATSTROKE**

- Severe sweating
- Reeling, nausea and vomiting
- Severe thirst
- Muscle cramp
- Fainting / Fits

**PRECAUTIONS**

- Prefer cool hours of morning/afternoon for going outside
- Drink enough water before going outdoors
- Use light colour loose cotton dress, umbrella & foot wear
- Avoid physical labour / long walking under sun
- Take rest in shade periodically

**HEATSTROKE TREATMENT**

- Shift the patient to an open and cool place, give ORS/salt-sugar solution/plain water
- Remove clothing as far as practicable
- Provide head bath and cold sponging
- Keep the patient under AC or fan
- If condition does not improve, shift to hospital

Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha

Facebook.com/HFWDOdisha @HFWDOdisha http://www.health.odisha.gov.in/



# Bakul hosts launch of 'Nandini Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Orissa'



Bakul Foundation founder Sujit Mahapatra, Dharitri and OrissaPOST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, journalist and author Ruben Banerjee, linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak, author Pallavi Rebbapragada and the dailies' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy during the launch of 'Nandini Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Orissa' at Bakul Library in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Nandini Satpathy was way ahead of her times in not just introducing pro-people policies, but she was even a sophisticated cultural icon of her era, renowned journalist Pallavi Rebbapragada said at the launch of her biography on Odisha's only chief minister here Saturday.

The event was held at Bakul Library where the author shared compelling glimpses of Nandini's political and personal life, which ranged from being Information and Broadcasting



Minister in Indira Gandhi's Cabinet to becoming the chief minister.

Talking to founder of Bakul Foundation Sujit Mahapatra, Pallavi said, "Even though India

Bangla Radio, which gave a sense of hope among fellow Bengalis for a separate nation". While the entire state questioned the mum of Nandini during the Emergency times, Pallavi said the chief minister was, too, pained by the autocratic rule of Indira Gandhi. "While civil rights were in a state of downhill in the entire

nation, Nandini ensured fewer arrests in the state, in comparison to others," she said.

"The entire period of writing the biography has been a liberating process for me. When I became pregnant, I came across that Nandini was also arrested while she was pregnant and she was lodged in a narrowly-structured jail. This was a sort of awakening inside me that realised the greatness of the lady," Pallavi added.

Sharing further details, Pallavi said very few people know that Nandini was good friends with Raj Kapoor and many yesterday stars of Hindi film industry. "In fact, Nandini Satpathy flew to Paris to the ad-shoot of Vogue, a lifestyle magazine," she said. The event was attended by Editor, Dharitri and OrissaPOST

Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive of the dailies Adyasha Satpathy. Former Editor-In-Chief of Outlook Ruben Banerjee and many others also graced the occasion. The event ended with a question and answer session with the author. Later, a few signed copies of the biography were distributed at the event.

# Present generation must know the story of Nandini Satpathy: Pallavi



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Oxford Bookstore here Saturday also hosted the launch of 'Nandini Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Orissa', which is a poignant tribute to the indomitable spirit and legacy of Odisha's only woman chief minister Nandini Satpathy. The book is penned by acclaimed author Pallavi Rebbapragada.

The event, organised by the Kalinga Literary Festival's monthly community literary event, KLF Corner, was abuzz with literary enthusiasts and admirers.

A discussion held on this occasion was moderated by educationist and VC of DN Wisdom Tree Global School, Panchami Manoo Ukil. The insightful talks delved deep into the life, achievements, and enduring impact of the formidable leader, shedding light on her unparalleled contributions to the socio-political landscape of Odisha and beyond.

During the discussion Pallavi said, "I stumbled upon her during my work for the story on women-related issue and during that time, I learnt about her and her work as chief minister; her role in 1971 war; relationship with Indira Gandhi and others. She was a great daughter of Odisha and India."

She said, "My main aim of writing this book is to celebrate Nandini Satpathy legacy and wanted to tell a story of a leader who was forgotten." Stating that she wants the book to be made in biopic movie in future, Pallavi said, "The people of Odisha, especially the present generation, must read this book to understand and know her story." Tathagata Satpathy, son of Nandini Satpathy and Editor of Dharitri and OrissaPOST graced the occasion among others.

# National workshop on sustainable environment at IIIT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** IIIT-Bhubaneswar in collaboration with IEEE GRSS Kolkata Chapter, hosted a two-day national workshop on 'Remotely Sensed Data Analysis for Sustainable Environment' May 10 and 11 here.

IIT-Bhubaneswar director Ashish Ghosh delivered the inaugural address and conveyed the contemporary relevance of the theme of the workshop. Chief guests included IIT-Bhubaneswar associate professor Debadatta Swain and Odisha State Disaster Management Authority Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System division head Rakesh Ranjan Thakur. Swain delivered a seminar on 'Remote Sensing Theory' and Thakur conducted a hands-on training session on tools and techniques for disaster management.



Over 25 students, researchers and faculty members participated in the workshop. On day one, Professor Deepak Mishra from Indian Institute of Space, Science and Technology, Kerala and Saurabh Das from SIGMA Research Lab, IIT Indore joined the workshop.

The second day began on an engaging note with insightful lectures and discussions on various topics associated with remote sensing, climate informatics, atmospheric analysis and disaster prediction and management. ISRO scientist Anup Das presented ongoing research work on the topic 'Earth Observation'. NIT-Rourkela associate professor Umesh Pati discussed the deep learning and change detection framework in the field of remote sensing.

Ghosh, in his closing remarks emphasised the significance of research initiatives in current times and felicitated the participants. Lipika Das anchored the inaugural and valedictory ceremony and Deepak Rout delivered vote of thanks.

# FIRST PHASE SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS IN STATE TOMORROW

# Over 62L voters to decide fate of 280 candidates

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** The stage is set for the Phase I (IV nationally) of simultaneous elections to four Lok Sabha segments, and 28 Assembly seats under it, in the state when 62,87,222 voters will decide fate of 280 candidates in fray May 13. Significantly, women constitute the majority voters in the first phase polls.

The hustle bustle of high voltage campaign for the first phase polls in the state came to an end Saturday. There will be three more phases which will be held May 20, 25 and June 1.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Nikunja Bihari Dhal said the four Lok Sabha seats that will go for polls Monday include Kalahandi, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Berhampur. Voting for the 28 seats Assembly seats under these Lok Sabha constituencies will be held simultaneously, he added.

Of the 62,87,222 eligible voters, while 30,97,527 voters are male, 31,89,060 are female. 635 voters are from the third gender. While there are 1,75,136 first-time voters (in the age group of 18-19 years), 14,68,504 are in the age group of 20-29, the CEO said.

Dhal added that 39,995 voters are above 85 years old, 1,294 are



4 LOK SABHA AND 28 ASSEMBLY SEATS WILL GO TO POLLS MAY 13

- Kalahandi (LS)**
  - Nuapada
  - Khadial
  - Lanjigarh
  - Junagarh
  - Dharmagarh
  - Bhabanipatna
  - Narla
- Nabarangpur (LS)**
  - Umerkote
  - Jharigaon
  - Nabarangpur
  - Dabugam
  - Kotpad
  - Malkangiri
  - Chittrakonda
- Berhampur (LS)**
  - Chhatrapur
  - Gopalpur
  - Berhampur
  - Digapahandi
  - Chikiti
  - Mohana
  - Paralakhemundi
- Koraput (LS)**
  - Gunupur
  - Bissam Cuttack
  - Rayagada
  - Laxmipur
  - Jeypore
  - Koraput
  - Pottangi

### VITAL STATS

31,89,060 female voters	1,75,136 first-time voters	7,303 total booths	100 cos of CAPFs deployed
30,97,527 male voters	1,294 voters above 100 yrs	53,000 officials deployed	60% booths have webcast facility

above 100 years old and 31 are non-residents and 6,296 are service voters.

Detailing the poll preparedness, he said as many as 7,289 booths and 14 additional booths have been readied for May 13 elections.

Of the 7,303 booths in the phase, 748 are in urban areas and 6,555 in rural areas. There are 662 model booths, the CEO said.

A total of 53,000 officials have

been deployed across the booths. Around 60 per cent of the booths have webcast facility, he said.

While 37 candidates—30 male and seven female—are in fray for four LS segments, 243 candidates—214 male and 29 female—are fighting for 20 Assembly seats set to go to polls in the fourth phase.

"While Koraput, Kalahandi and Berhampur LS segments have 11 candidates each, four

are contesting from Nabarangpur seat. While a maximum of 17 candidates are in fray for Berhampur Assembly seat, the least of three candidates each are contesting for Jharigaon, Nabarangpur and Dabugam Assembly segments," the CEO said.

Altogether 18,538 (9,155 for LS) ballot units, 19,039 (9,507 for LS) control units and 19,945 (9,988 for LS) VVPAT units have been commissioned for the first

phase of simultaneous elections, he said.

This phase has a total of eight general observers, three police observers and 12, four for LS and eight for Assembly, expenditure observers.

Elaborating on the security measures, the CEO said more than 100 companies of CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces) have been deployed in the segments.

As the polls will be held amid heatwave conditions, arrangements are in place to tackle possible heatstroke.

"Though IMD has predicted a pleasant weather on the polling day, ASHAs will be stationed at booths to provide ORS sachets and emergency treatment in case of heat strokes. A paramedic will accompany every section officer and carry required medicines. Mobile health units will also visit booths in intervals. Moreover, heatstroke wards have already been set up at PHC, CHC and DHs," the CEO said.

Volunteers will help elderly and differently-abled voters at the booths. Basic facilities like toilet, rest and toilet have been provided at the booths.

Moreover, the administration will ensure elderly and differently-abled voters reach booths, cast votes and go back home absolutely free of cost.

# Nandan leaves behind a remarkable legacy of conservation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Nandan a fabled Royal Bengal Tiger who is known for siring over half a dozen of cubs passed away at a ripe age of 18 following six months of intensive treatment at the Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP), Saturday. He has left behind a remarkable legacy of conservation.

"It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Nandan, a beloved wild tiger and an integral part of the Nandankanan family," said a statement by the NZP on the demise of the big cat whose progenies are playing a crucial role in the protection of the National Animal of India.

The foray of Nandan into NZP was as accidental as his stay in the park and his subsequent popularity. He was first sighted near the white tiger safari area of NZP March 24, 2013.

Thereafter, March 25, 2013 he was again seen near the white tiger safari. Since then, pugmarks were regularly sighted around the safari area and up to an enclosure (No-32). Eventually he was allowed to enter into the 30-acre safari area in the midnight of April 29, 2013 where he stayed till May 30, 2013. The next day when he was allowed to enter the enclosure (No 32-C), he escaped by scaling an 18 feet height chain link mesh fence late in the night. However, the tiger did not go



away from Nandankanan sanctuary area and was found frequently coming near the tigers

at enclosures No 30 and 31. He was again allowed to enter into white tiger safari in the late

# The majestic tiger who weighed 167 kg at his prime, sired a total of nine cubs before his death

night of June 23, 2013 and eventually shifted to enclosure number 32-C, July 7, 2013. He was then shifted to the top-covered enclosure (No 31-D), July 9, 2013.

A magnificent specimen of a wild tiger, Nandan weighed 167 kg. He was given a name (Nandan) and kept at Nandankanan with permission of the Central Zoo Authority for use in conservation breeding programme and infusing new blood line in the zoo tigers. He

was exhibited to visitors from December 29, 2016.

Nandan became a vital participant in the conservation breeding programme, siring a total of nine cubs.

Nandan was estimated to be about seven-year-old at the time of his confinement.

"His legacy lives on through his offspring, some of whom have been given in exchange programmes to other zoos too, thus ensuring the continuation of his bloodline across the country. We at Nandankanan will always miss his regal and magnificent presence, every bit the epitome of an awe-inspiring male tiger," the NZP authorities said in a condolence message.

# FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8995550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



# 2 states, 2 votes: Curious case of Kotia

**SANDWICHED BETWEEN TWO STATES, PEOPLE OF DISPUTED KOTIA CLUSTER OF VILLAGES TO CAST VOTES IN BOTH ANDHRA, ODISHA POLLS MAY 13**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kotia, May 11:** Armed with two voter cards issued by two states, over 5,500 electors of the disputed Kotia region are eligible to exercise their franchise in both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha elections in the fourth phase May 13.

Twenty one of the 28 villages of the picturesque Kotia cluster are claimed by both states and a case over the dispute has been pending with the Supreme Court since 1968.

Due to the dispute, residents of Kotia get the best of both worlds since they have Aadhaar and ration cards issued by both states and receive the benefits of schemes announced by the two governments.

"I will vote in both states. While the Andhra Pradesh booth is nearer, the one established by Odisha for our village is at Ransingh, and to reach there we have to trek a few miles. Nevertheless, we will participate in polls of both states," Tamal Kanaya, a resident of Tadivala village, said.

"We are not bothered about the

dispute between the two states. We vote in both states because we benefit from the schemes of both," said Gamel Chinmoyee, another villager.

Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be held simultaneously in both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

When contacted, Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer Nikunj Bihari Dhal said, "The issue of dual voting in Kotia has not come to my attention. No one has made any formal or informal complaint so far."

Requesting anonymity, an official of Koraput district confirmed that the people of Kotia cast votes in elections of both AP and Odisha.

"An individual has two names in voter and Aadhaar cards provided by the two states. Suppose, a man who is known as Parameswar Gamel in Odisha is named G Parameswar in his Andhra cards," he said.

Altogether 5,502 voters, including 2,913 women, reside in 21 of the 28 villages of Kotia. They cast their

votes in all elections - from panchayat to Lok Sabha - in both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Odisha has designated nine polling stations in the area, while Andhra Pradesh has three in this year's election, officials said.

Political campaigns have been scant from Odisha parties, with visits mainly from Andhra's TDP and YSR Congress candidates.

"No party from Odisha has come to our village; we don't even know the candidates. However, TDP and YSR Congress candidates from Andhra have visited our village," said Kamati Gamel of Arajuwalasa.

Kotia falls under Koraput (ST) Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha and Araku (ST) Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh.

The Koraput Lok Sabha seat is held by the Congress, while Araku is represented by the YSR Congress.

The main occupation of the villagers is farming on the slopes of the Eastern Ghats, while several others sell minor forest produce like broom-

sticks, tamarind and bamboo for livelihood.

Despite the challenges, villagers seem content with the current setup, reaping the rewards of both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Twenty-one-year-old Kiran Majhi, who will be voting for the first time in the elections, prefers that the dispute remains unresolved as it benefits the villagers.

The Odisha government has bolstered infrastructure with hospitals, police stations, roads, bridges and drinking water facilities. The Andhra Pradesh administration, on the other hand, has social security schemes like old age pension.

"Kotia had recorded approximately 70 per cent polling in the 2019 general elections. We have undertaken awareness drives this time to increase the voting percentage," said Keerthi Vasani V, the District Election Officer-cum-Collector of Koraput.

The dispute over the ownership of 21 of the 28 villages of Kotia panchayat had first reached the Supreme Court in 1968. In 2006, the apex court held that inter-state boundaries do not fall under its jurisdiction and only Parliament could resolve them. The court imposed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

Despite the Odisha administration's objection citing the Supreme Court directive to maintain the status quo in the disputed area, AP conducted rural polls in 2021.

# Man kills self as daughter marries against his wish



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Tihidi, May 11:** Unable to bear his daughter's move to get married against his wish, a 51-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train on Bhadrak-Dhamra railway track near Kandapur village under Tihidi police station limits in Bhadrak district late Friday night, police said.

The deceased was identified as Hemanta Kumar Rout, a resident of Kandapur village. Villagers said he took the drastic step after his daughter married a person without his wish.

As per reports, Hemant's wife departed some years ago. After his

wife's death he was taking care of his three daughters alone. Out of his three daughters one has left home and residing at Bhadrak. Shocked over the news of his elder daughter's marriage to a person Friday without his wish, the man got severely depressed and killed himself by jumping in front of a train late Friday night.

Locals came to know about the incident around 4am Friday and informed police. On being informed police reached the spot, seized the body and initiated an investigation into the incident. Police after registering a case of unnatural death sent the body for post-mortem Saturday morning.

# 5-year-old boy run over by pick-up van

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Basudevpur, May 11:** Tension prevailed here following the death of a five-year-old boy who was run over by a pick-up van at Bandhamunda Chhak near Mandari bridge on Basudevpur-Dhamra road in Bhadrak district Saturday.

The deceased child was identified as Saroj Mallick, son of Kanhu Mallick of Bandhamunda village.

According to reports, the pick-up van was going from Basudevpur towards Balimunda area when the child suddenly came onto the road and the speeding vehicle ran over him leading to his death on the spot. Tension ran high as the angry locals put the body on the road and staged a blockade. Three workers, occupants of the pick-up van, were also injured in attack by the villagers. The injured persons were identified as Biswajit Maity (driver) and Sudarshan Mandal, residents of Bahabalpur village and Ganesh Maity, a resident of Kasafal Muhana area. Informed, Bhadrak Sadar SDPO Sourav Otta and

Basudevpur PS IIC Lopamudra Nayak along with two police teams from Kasia Marine police station and Chudamani Marine police station reached the spot and pacified the angry mob.

# Lightning strikes claim 3 lives

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baliapal/Hatadihi, May 11:** Three persons including a woman died in lightning strikes during nor'wester rains at separate places in Balasore, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts Saturday.

In the first incident, Binati, 40, wife of Amulya Kumar Prusty of Sahuchaka village of Kasafala panchayat under Singla police limits in Balasore was struck by lightning

strike while she had gone to field to bring back the livestock. Locals rushed her to Basta hospital where the doctor declared her dead.

Muna Singh of Athanagaon under Udala police limits in Mayurbhanj died in lightning strike while taking bath in a river. Similarly, Padu Pradhan, 65, resident of Dehuri Sahi of Soso police limits in Keonjhar district died after he was struck by thunderbolt while he was returning home after tending to his livestock.

**Format C-1**  
(for candidate to publish in Newspapers)

**Declaration about criminal cases**  
(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Qrs. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of Candidate : **Jual Oram,**  
**At - Kendudihi, PO-Kaleiposh,**  
**PS-Lahunipara, Dist - Sundargarh,**  
**Pin - 770040**

Name of Political Party : **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**  
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **General Election to Loksabha - 2024.**  
\*Name of Constituency : **02, Sundargarh (ST) Parliamentary Constituency.**  
I Jual Oram, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents :

(A) Pending criminal cases			
Sl. No.	Name of Court	Cases No. and dated	Status of cases (s) and brief description of offences (s)
1	JMFC, Rourkela	G.R. No - 62/2022, JMFC, Rourkela	Pending U/s 294, 509 IPC Intending to insult the modesty of women
2	SDJM, Bonai	Gr. No - 480/2007	Pending U/s - 143, 341, 283, 149 IPC/174 Blockage of Rail line for public issue
3	JMFC, Rourkela	G.R. No 62/1999	Pending U/s - 143, 341 of IPC Blockage of road for public issue

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences			
Sl. No.	Name of Court & date (s) of order (s)	Description of offences (s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed
1	NIL	NIL	NIL
2	NIL	NIL	NIL
3	NIL	NIL	NIL

\*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

**Sd/- (Girish Chandra Sahu)**  
Election Agent of Sj. Jual Oram.  
**02, Sundargarh (ST) Parliamentary Constituency**

**Central Bank of India** **POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar,  
Near Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003  
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the following Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notices. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India** for an amount stated and interest thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

SAHEED NAGAR BRANCH/ Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	Name and Address of Guarantors/Mortgagors	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice/Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
<b>Borrower: Maa Mangala Fly Ash Bricks, Prop.: Sarmila Subhadarshini Nayak, W/o.: Niranjan Swain, At/P.O.: Nayahat, P.S.: Puri - 752017, Niranjan Swain, At/P.O.: Nayahat, P.S.: Puri - 752017, 2) Tapsi Patra, W/o.: Ganesh Kumar Patra, 3) Ganesh Kumar Patra, S/o.: Madhabananda Patra, Both are At: Dasiathenga, P.O.: Kundhei, Dist.: Puri - 752118 / Mortgagors: 1) Sarmila Subhadarshini Nayak, W/o.: Niranjan Swain, At/P.O.: Nayahat, P.S.: Puri - 752017, 2) Tapsi Patra, W/o.: Ganesh Kumar Patra, At: Dasiathenga, P.O.: Kundhei, Dist.: Puri - 752118</b>	<b>Guarantors: 1) Niranjan Swain, At/P.O.: Nayahat, P.S.: Puri - 752017, 2) Tapsi Patra, W/o.: Ganesh Kumar Patra, At: Dasiathenga, P.O.: Kundhei, Dist.: Puri - 752118</b>	<b>₹20,75,095/- as on 07.11.2023 + interest thereon &amp; other expenses etc.</b>	<b>07.11.2023 / 07.05.2024 &amp; 08.05.2024</b>	<b>1) All that part &amp; parcel of the property in the name of Sarmila Subhadarshini Nayak, W/o.: Niranjan Swain, situated at Khata No.: 328/331, Plot No.: 446/1962, Area: Ac. 0.054 Dec., Mouza: Jagannath Prasad, P.S: Chandaka, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Bounded by East: Sub Plot No.: 1 &amp; H, West : 20 Ft. wide Road, South: Sub-Plot No.: O-17, North: Sub-Plot No.: O-15 (Date of Possession: 07.05.2024), 2) All that part &amp; parcel of the property in the name of Tapsi Patra, W/o.: Ganesh Kumar Patra, situated at Khata No.: 565/174, Plot No.: 1372, Area: Ac. 0.29 Dec., Mouza: Kahala, P.S: Kakatpur, Tahasil: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Bounded by East: Sagarbandhu Das, West : Govind Chandra Das, South: Chandrasekhar, North: Rakhita (Date of Possession: 08.05.2024)</b>

**Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India**

**Format C-1**  
(For candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

**Declaration about Criminal Cases**  
(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of Candidate: **Shri Mukesh Mahaling**  
Name of Political Party: **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**  
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)  
Name of Election: **General Election 2024**  
\*Name of Constituency: **66 - Loisingha (SC) Assembly Constituency**  
I Shri Mukesh Mahaling (Name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending Criminal Cases				
Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and Dated	Status of Case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1	Sambalpur Town P.S.	Sambalpur Town P.S. Case No. 29, Date: 21.01.2021	Pending for investigation	U/S Disaster management Act, 2005- 56, Epidemic, Diseases Act, 1897-3, IPC 1860-143, IPC 1860-269, IPC 1860-270, IPC 1860-336, IPC 1860-353

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences			
Sl. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of Offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

\*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

**Sd./- Mukesh Mahaling**

**FORMAT C - 2**  
(For political party to publish in website, newspapers, TV)

**Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party**  
(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors.Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party : **COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST)**  
Name of Election : **SIMULTANEOUS GENERAL ELECTION, 2024**  
Name of State/ODISHA

Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Name of Candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases	(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences			
			Name of Court Section of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date (s) of order(s) Description of offence (s) & punishment imposed Maximum punishment imposed			
1.	14- BONAI (ST) A.C.	Laxman Munda	G.R No- 489 of 2021, DJM, BONAI	U/S 147,448,341, 363,149 of IPC Demonstration in front of DDM office, Koida for work employment	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.			G.R No- 488 of 2021, DJM, BONAI	U/S 188, 269, 234, of IPC Demonstration in front of DDM office, Koida	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.			RMC case No- 1/2020 of UK BEHERA JMFC, RKL	U/S 145, 147, 174-A of RLY Act Demonstration on PUBLIC RLY ISSUE	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.			RMC case No- 2/2019 of UK BEHERA JMFC, RKL	U/S 145-B, 147 of RLY Act Demonstration on PUBLIC RLY ISSUE	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.			RMC case No- 1/2019 of UK BEHERA JMFC, RKL	U/S145,147,174-A of RLY Act Demonstration on PUBLIC RLY ISSUE	NIL	NIL	NIL
6.			GR No-454 of 2018, SDJM, BONAI	U/S 143, 149, 186, 283, 341 of IPC DEMONSTRATION ON PUBLIC ISSUE	NIL	NIL	NIL
7.			GR NO-50 OF 2018, SRI UK BEHERA, JMFC, RKL	U/S143, 448, 341, 294, 427, 186, 353, 506 & 34 OF IPC DEMONSTRATION AT DDM, KOIDA, FOR OPENING CLOSED MINES	NIL	NIL	NIL
8.			GR NO-49 OF 2018, SDJM, BONAI	U/S143, 448, 341, 294, 427, 186, 353, 506, 149 OF IPC, 3 P.D.P.P ACT, 7Cr LA ACT DEMONSTRATION FOR OPENING CLOSED MINES	NIL	NIL	NIL
9.			RMC CASE NO-9/2018 OF UK BEHERA, JMFC, RKL	U/S145-B, 147, 147-A OF RAILWAY ACT, DEMONSTRATION ON PUBLIC RLY ISSUE	NIL	NIL	NIL
10.			RMC CASE NO-3/2018 OF UK BEHERA, JMFC, RKL	U/S 145A, 147,174-A OF RLY ACT, AGITATION REGARDING PUBLIC RLY ISSUE	NIL	NIL	NIL
11.			GR NO-560 OF 2017, SDJM, BONAI	U/S143, 149, 186, 283, 294 & 34 OF IPC DEMONSTRATION AT BHASKAR STEEL AGAINST POLLUTION & FOR EMPLOYMENT	NIL	NIL	NIL
12.			GR NO 522 OF 2017, SDJM, BONAI	U/S143, 149, 283, 341, OF IPC DEMONSTRATION AT BHASKAR STEEL AGAINST POLLUTION & FOR EMPLOYMENT	NIL	NIL	NIL
13.			GR NO.91 OF 2017, JMFC (R) RKL	U/S147, 148, 149, 294, 307, 341, 323, 324, 325, 427, 506 & 120-B OF IPC DEMONSTRATION AT BIMALAGARH RLY SIDING FOR EMPLOYMENT	NIL	NIL	NIL
14.			RMC CASE NO. 8/2017 OF UK BEHERA JMFC, RKL	U/S 145, 147, 174-A OF RLY ACT AGITATION AT RLY STATION FOR REPAIRING N.H. 215/520	NIL	NIL	NIL
15.			RMC CASE NO 5/2017 UK BEHERA JMFC, RKL	U/S174-A, 147, 145 OF RLY ACT AGITATION AT ROXY RLY STATION FOR REPAIR OF N.H. 215/520	NIL	NIL	NIL
16.			RMC CASE NO 4/2017 UK BEHERA JMFC, RKL	U/S 174-A, 147, 145 OF RLY ACT AGITATION AT PSJ RLY STATION FOR REPAIRING OF N.H. 215/520	NIL	NIL	NIL
17.			RMC CASE NO 3/2017 OF UK BEHERA JMFC, RKL	U/S 174-A, 147, 145 OF RLY ACT AGITATION AT PSJ RLY STATION FOR REPAIRING OF N.H. 215/520	NIL	NIL	NIL
18.			PS CASE NO. 11 OF 2016, BNDM GRPS, DIST-SUNDAR-GARH	U/S 143, 149 & 34 OF IPC & 174 OF IR ACT DEMONSTRATION DEMANDING TALCHER-BIMALAGARH RLY LINE	NIL	NIL	NIL
19.			PS CASE NO.21 OF 2014 BNDM, GRPS, DIST-SUNDAR-GARH	U/S 143, 341, 283, 149, 146, 147 OF IPC & 174 OF RLY ACT DEMONSTRATION DEMANDING TALCHER-BIMALAGARH RLY LINE	NIL	NIL	NIL
20.			RMC CASE NO.8/2013 OF UK BEHERA, JMFC, RKL	U/S 174-A OF RLY ACT DEMONSTRATION ON PUBLIC RLY ISSUE	NIL	NIL	NIL

**Sd./- Aii Kishor Patnaik, Secretary**  
**Communist Party of India (Marxist Odisha State Committee)**



FOCUS SOCIETY

# FLAWED COMPARISON



**Undoubtedly, some anti-Semites have used today's student protests as cover for stirring up hatred of anyone Jewish, irrespective of their views on what is happening in Gaza. But to characterise the protests in general as comparable to Nazi anti-Semitism is grotesque**

seek to brand critics as anti-Semites. Now the US House of Representatives has – perhaps unwittingly – lent its support to blurring the crucial distinction between anti-Semitism and opposition to Israel. By a 320-91 vote, the House approved a resolution that combines a condemnation of anti-Semitism with the stipulation that the US Department of Education should use the definition of anti-Semitism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The way the IHRA initially defines anti-Semitism is simple and unobjectionable: "Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews." The problem is that this definition is followed by examples of anti-Semitism, one of which is: "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor."

In 1896, when Theodor Herzl published "The Jewish State," a pamphlet that is widely regarded as the founding text of Zionism, there were very few Jews living in what is now Israel.

Jews everywhere felt a historical connection to the Israel of the Hebrew bible, and each year, at Passover, they would say, "Next year in Jerusalem." But that was a ritual, not the expression of a desire to move there. For my parents, in the years before the Nazis came to power, the idea of leaving buzzing, sophisticated, multicultural Vienna for Palestine was laughable.

The early Zionist movement popularised the slogan: "A land without a people for a people without a land." It was true that Jews at that time were a minority everywhere, so there was no land, or country, that was predominantly Jewish. But it was also obviously false that Palestine was without people.

If we assert that Jews, or Roma, or any other people who are everywhere a minority have a right to self-determination, we should surely acknowledge that any such right must be constrained by the rights of others to determine the kind of state that will govern the land in which they live. For those groups that are everywhere a minority, that may mean that there is no country in which they can

exercise a national or collective right to self-determination.

What about the claim that the state of Israel is a racist endeavour? Israel's Law of Return gives me the right to become a citizen of Israel, even though I am an atheist, have never observed Jewish religious laws, learned Hebrew, or had a bar mitzvah. But the fact that my maternal grandmother was Jewish is enough for me to have the right to "return" to Israel. That does seem uncomfortably close to a racist criterion for deciding who has the right to become a citizen of Israel.

In 2010, as part of a group of Australian Jews, I publicly renounced my right of return. We did so because we do not believe that we should have that right when Palestinians who can document that their ancestors had homes in what is now Israel, and at least some of whose ancestors were driven out by hostile Jewish military or paramilitary action, do not.

Despite my objections to the IHRA definition, I acknowledge that it does, to its credit, include the important statement that "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic." That's sufficient to show that Netanyahu is wrong to describe what is happening on US campuses as anti-Semitism.

Strong criticism would be leveled against any country that subjected a civilian population to the widespread bombardment that Israel has launched against Gaza, even if the country were responding to horrific attacks like those committed by Hamas on 7 October, 2023. That is why today's protests, taken as a whole, cannot be labeled anti-Semitic.

*The writer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the organization The Life You Can Save and a founding co-editor of the Journal of Controversial Ideas.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

**NETANYAHU STANDS IN A LONG LINE OF DEFENDERS OF ISRAEL WHO SEEK TO BRAND CRITICS AS ANTI-SEMITES**



Peter Singer

Last month, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu condemned the protests on US campuses against his country's attacks on Gaza, saying that they were "reminiscent of what happened in German universities in the 1930s." He was, apparently, comparing the protesters to the Nazi student groups that beat up Jewish students and faculty.

That comparison dilutes the horror of Nazism by overlooking both the extent of the violence that Nazi students inflicted on anyone who was Jewish and their avowedly racist goal of purging the universities of all Jewish students and professors. They achieved that goal after the Nazis came to power, and we can now see that it was a step toward their ultimate objective: a world without Jews.

I know what Nazi anti-Semitism in the 1930s was like. My parents, Viennese Jews, became refugees. My grandparents did not leave in time, and three of them were murdered in the Holocaust. When I was a child, my father would rise early on Sunday mornings and take out photos of his extended family, weeping over the loss, not only of his parents, but of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

My family's history led me, when I was an undergraduate, to study the rise of fascism and anti-Semitism in Europe in the 1930s. I read some of the primary sources, like the virulently anti-Semitic newspaper Der Stürmer (The Stormtrooper), and although I eventually took up philosophy rather than history, the visceral hatred of Jews that came through these writings made a lasting impression on me.

Undoubtedly, some anti-Semites have used today's student protests as cover for stirring up hatred of anyone Jewish, irrespective of their views on what is happening in Gaza. But to characterise the protests in general as comparable to Nazi anti-Semitism is grotesque.

Netanyahu stands in a long line of defenders of Israel who

SPECTRUM DEFENCE

# The making of a nuclear power

The second nuclear test conducted by India on 11 May, 1998 in the Pokhran range of the Army in the deserts of Rajasthan stunned the world with its scientific supremacy and technological prowess. The series of five tests achieved their desired yields with minimal radioactive leaks and gave India the capability to build both fission and thermonuclear weapons with yields up to 200 kilotons sufficient to deter the enemy. This had several implications: Firstly, India entered the world's elite nuclear club as the sixth country after the USA, Russia, China, Britain and France establishing itself as a formidable power in nuclear technology. Secondly, the explosion came as an upshot of a well established scientific culture of research base with a legacy founded by Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai. Thirdly, and most importantly, India demonstrated the perfection of its scientists and engineers in achieving mastery over the crucial technology reaffirming the fact that the country's achievements were based on years of well

planned research and scientific base rather than being a clandestine one like that of our neighbouring countries. To commemorate this landmark achievement, the Govt of India declared 11 May as National Technology Day.

The landmark test was carried out under the leadership and supervision of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, then Head of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Prime Minister's Chief Scientific Advisor and Dr R. Chidambaram, then Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission. Special care was taken to maintain confidentiality so as to avoid the world's attention and the tests were given the code name Operation Shakti. Scientists, divided into small groups, assembled at the test site in army attire under different nicknames. Even their family members, relatives and top officials had no idea about their plan. To avoid the eyes of American spy satellites, most work was carried out at night and the equipment were brought back to the base camp before the day break

to pretend as if there were no movement of machinery. Even the shafts dug in the sandy desert for placing bombs were covered with camouflage nets to match with the surroundings for deception. A special regiment in the Army's Engineering Wing was created to execute the plan with utmost secrecy and diligence.

The nuclear devices were shifted from Mumbai to Jaisalmer airport by special Air Force planes and, from there, finally shifted to the test site by four trucks in four trips. The makeshift house in which the materials were kept was named as Prayer Hall to avoid publicity. The L shaped shafts into which the devices were lowered were given different code names like the White House, Taj Mahal, Kumbhakaran etc. By the early afternoon of that day, the winds had died down and the test sequence was initiated. As per protocol, Dr K Santhanam of the DRDO, in charge of the test site preparations, handed over the two keys that activated the test countdown to Dr M Vasudev, the Range Safety Officer, who was responsible for verifying that all test in-

dicators were normal. After checking the safety indicators, Dr Vasudev handed one key each to a representative of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and the DRDO, who unlocked the countdown system together. At 3:45 PM the three devices were detonated. Shortly after this, then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee announced in a press conference about the success of these tests.

The world reaction to this incident was strong and quick. Many countries including the USA, China, Pakistan, Japan and Canada condemned the tests and the United Nations felt that a regional nuclear arms race might be triggered. Sanctions were imposed by various countries on India on economic and scientific fronts. However, India stood its ground and believed that the tests were necessary for making the country self-reliant in nuclear technology while maintaining the status of a responsible nuclear power nation.

*The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.*



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

**THE SERIES OF FIVE TESTS ACHIEVED THEIR DESIRED YIELDS WITH MINIMAL RADIOACTIVE LEAKS**

## Healing touch

Sir, The tremendous contribution of nurses to humanity has set the nursing profession apart. Since 1965, to commemorate the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the International Nurses Day (INC) is observed all over the world on 12 May. Nightingale was another name for compassion, and she established plenty of nursing schools during the nineteenth century. Patience, love, forgiveness, dedication and selflessness are the pillars on which a nursing occupation is assiduously built. Therefore, a nurse is described as a "universal gift" to mankind. Neither a drug nor a tonic can provide care and comfort to an ailing patient as much as the words and service of a nurse can give. It is heart-warming that the profession of nursing has gone beyond gender stereotype of a different kind. "Caring for one is called 'love'; but caring for hundreds is 'nursing'"—these words may seem poetic but are meaningful and apt.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Language & skill

Sir, The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has instructed all its schools across the country to make use of educational materials, focussing on teaching in one's mother tongue in an effort to encourage multilingual education. When children develop their mother tongue, they are simultaneously fostering a host of other essential skills, such as critical thinking and literacy skills. It is this skill-set that they take with them into formal education. Research tells that any skills and concepts gained in the learner's home language don't need to be re-taught when they transfer to a second language. For example, if a child has developed the ability to guess the meaning of a word through its context or to infer meaning by reading between the lines, these skills are easily transferred when they begin studying in a second language. A strong mother tongue foundation equips children with the skills they need to learn additional languages, allowing them to transfer their understanding of the structure of language to several new languages.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

There is nothing small in God's eyes; let there be nothing small in thine.

SRI AUROBINDO



# Route We Have Taken

Arvind Kejriwal has been released for a few days to campaign, after which he has to return to jail. He has not been convicted of course, and is in jail merely because the BJP opposes his bail. The judges observed that Kejriwal was "the Chief Minister of Delhi and a leader of one of the national parties. No doubt, serious accusations have been made, but he has not been convicted. He does not have any criminal antecedents. He is not a threat to the society."

The court also noted that the case was registered in 2022 but Kejriwal was arrested on 21 March this year, days before voting began. Voting began on 19 April. Kejriwal missed more than a month of the initial campaign and then was kept in jail while three phases of the election were over. It was his wife who was campaigning on his behalf around the country. Will such an election be considered free and fair when results are out on 4 June? Locking up your opponents while you are free to campaign is the sort of "election" that happens in nations that are called autocracies.

The former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi and Kalvakuntla Kavitha of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, which ran the previous government in Telangana, are all in jail and none of them has been convicted. The BJP's argument in court is that politicians should not be treated differently from other accused and should not be given bail to campaign. What it is not saying is that democracy is unimportant and elections are incidental to their desire to keep their opponents locked up. Again, we must note that not a single one of these politicians in jail is a convict. They are merely accused, and accused by the BJP, that they have done something wrong.



Aakar Patel

**Locking up your opponents while you are free to campaign is the sort of 'election' that happens in nations that are called autocracies**

What the court noted in the case of Kejriwal also applies to the rest. They have no antecedents, they are not a threat to society, and they are all leaders in political parties. Kejriwal got a rousing reception on his release and the BJP was not pleased. One of its national executive members tweeted that "by picking a side right in the middle of elections, the lordships that be have made themselves a part of the campaign. When the billion ballots speak, they may not like it."

The problem of course is that the courts are being forced into this. The real question is whether one should accept the word of the BJP that it is not attacking democracy when it engages in such actions. India is quite divided on this with the Prime Minister's supporters egging him on over such things. Let us assume that the Opposition and those who back it are totally biased and can be ignored. What does the outside world, which presumably has less of a stake or no stake at all, feel about the route India has taken?

We need only go back to what has been said several times, over several years, including in this column. The outside world says that India is not only sliding into authoritarianism, it is no longer even a democracy. Freedom House has said "the BJP has increasingly used government institutions to target political opponents." This is a fact. Freedom House ranks India as being "partly free." This is also a fact, and indeed it reflects the position of Kejriwal as much as it does of our country. The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index monitors civil liberties, pluralism, political culture and participation and electoral process. In 2014, India was ranked 27th. In 2020, India was classified as a "flawed democracy." Last year the ranking was 41 and this was the "result of democratic backsliding under the leadership of Narendra Modi." They made other observations about the attack on minorities by the government which we need not go into here.

The global alliance of civil society organisations CIVICUS in 2017 rated India's civil space as "Obstructed" but it has since fallen to "Repressed." Is repressed the sort of word that is used for democracies? No. In March 2022, CIVICUS said: "India has been added to a watchlist of countries that have seen a rapid decline in civic freedoms" and that Modi "continues to resort to drastic measures to silence critics." Jailing them during elections is one especially good measure to silence your critics, particularly articulate ones like Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh, who was also jailed by ED without conviction but recently given bail.

Lastly, the University of Gothenburg's V-Dem report says that India has suffered "one of the most dramatic shifts among all countries in the world over the past 10 years." It said that under Modi India lost its status as a democracy and was classified as an "electoral autocracy," joining nations like Hungary and Turkey. On freedom of expression, media and civil society, India was "as autocratic as is Pakistan, and worse than both Bangladesh and Nepal."

When these reports began to come after 2014, the government and its supporters scoffed and said they were the result of bias. Today in 2024, the BJP jails its opponents during an election and still believes, or at least wants us to believe, that it is only following the rules of democracy.

WISDOM CORNER

You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something - your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.

STEVE JOBS

All fixed set patterns are incapable of adaptability or pliability. The truth is outside of all fixed patterns.

BRUCE LEE

If there is a meaning in life at all, then there must be a meaning in suffering. Suffering is an ineradicable part of life, even as fate and death. Without suffering and death, human life cannot be complete.

VIKTOR E. FRANKL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1820: English nurse Florence Nightingale, who founded trained nursing as a profession for women, was born in Florence, Italy; International Nurses Day is celebrated on her birthday.

1926: First flight over the North Pole. Aboard the semirigid airship Norge, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, American scientist Lincoln Ellsworth, and Italian engineer Umberto Nobile made the first undisputed flight over the North Pole on this day in 1926.

1972: The British rock group the Rolling Stones released Exile on Main Street, a double album that is considered one of their defining works.



# Caste key factor in Beed

As this seat goes to polls May 13, deep caste fault lines are evident in almost every village of the district after Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange's agitation last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beed, May 11:** In Neknour village of Kej Assembly segment in Maharashtra's Beed Lok Sabha constituency, four friends are sitting in the shade of an open hall, playing cards after a hot afternoon. They seem to share a sense of camaraderie, but in the May 13 polls, they say they will vote for candidates according to the caste they belong to.

Forty-one candidates are in the fray in Beed this time, but the main contest is between NCP (SP) candidate Bajrang Sonawane and BJP's Pankaja Munde, a former Maharashtra minister, while Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) has fielded Ashok Hinge.

"All Maratha votes here have consolidated in favour of Bajrang Sonawane as have the Muslim votes. Due to this, the non-Marathas will vote for the BJP," claims Bhima Ganji as he plays his next card, adding Muslims comprise nearly 50 per cent of the population of his village.

His three friends at the card game are Abimaan Shinde, a Maratha, Ganpat Giri (from Gosavi community - Vimukt Jati and nomadic tribe) and Nagesh Raut (from the OBC community). Ganji is also from the OBC community.



Muzzamil Sheikh (52), who runs a transport business in the village, says referring to NCP (SP) symbol, "The trumpet will blow this time, not just in Neknour but across Beed."

Neknour resident Bhagwat Kale (52), a Maratha and a former 'kar sevak' who claims to have gone to Ayodhya in 1992 during the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, says this is for the first time that he is confused as he has so far voted for the BJP.

"We want Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre, but this time the community is not happy with the party over the reservation issue and statements of some of their lead-

ers," says Kale.

Neknour perhaps exemplifies what is happening in villages across the Beed constituency.

As this seat goes to polls May 13, deep caste fault lines are evident in almost every village of the district after Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange's agitation last year. What has further deepened the divide is the police's baton-charge on protesters in Antarwali Sarati village in adjoining Jalna district and riots in Beed, where houses of MLAs were torched.

Beed is one of the eight districts of Marathwada, a region grappling with issues like economic backwardness, frequent droughts and high rate of farmers' suicide. It has six Assembly segments - Gevrai, Majalgaon, Beed, Parli, Kej and Ashti. Five Assembly seats have Mayauti MLAs (three NCP and two BJP), while one is with the NCP (SP). The constituency has 21.42 lakh voters.

Members of the Munde family have represented the Beed Lok Sabha seat since 2009 - first by Pankaja's father and former Union Minister late Gopinath Munde. He was re-elected in 2014, but died in a road accident which necessitated a by-election that was won by his daughter Pritam (Pankaja's younger sister) in 2014. She retained the seat in 2019. But the BJP fielded Pankaja instead of Pritam this time.

Pankaja, who represented the family's pocket borough Parli Assembly seat since 2009, lost to her cousin Dhananjay Munde in 2019. But this time, Dhananjay has put his weight behind Pankaja as both are now part of the ruling Mahayuti alliance.

Gopinath Munde was known to be one of the tallest OBC leaders of the state. After his death, Pankaja has projected herself to be a leader who champions the cause of the OBC community.

# Has anything changed, ask voters in Lakhimpur Kheri

LOCALS SAY THAT EVEN THE TRADITIONAL VOTE BANKS OF POLITICAL PARTIES ARE LOOKING FOR OPTIONS THIS TIME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lakhimpur Kheri, May 11:** "Political leaders promised many things but has anything changed," asks Kamali Devi, who runs a small store in the Ghausina area here.

This appears to be a common refrain in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri Lok Sabha constituency where farmers want better prices for their produce and respite from the stray cattle menace and others want political leaders to talk about job creation instead of issues like the Ram temple and Article 370.

The district came into the spotlight in October 2021, when four Sikh farmers and a journalist were run over by an SUV in the Tikunia area. Ashish Mishra alias Monu, the son of sitting Lakhimpur Kheri MP and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra 'Teni' was made an accused in the case. Ashish Mishra is currently out on bail. The BJP has renominated Ajay Mishra from the seat. The Samajwadi Party (SP) has



fielded Utkarsh Verma from the seat and the BSP has fielded Anshay Kalra. Mishra enjoys popularity among the core upper caste voters in the constituency. His election campaign is focused on the development carried out in the region under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have held multiple rallies to garner support for Ajay Mishra.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav and BSP supremo Mayawati have also held rallies in support of candidates of their parties.

Locals say that even the traditional vote banks of political parties are looking for options this time. Ranvijay Pandey, a retired bank employee said, "The excitement of elections is missing this time. People have faced tough times in the past few years but they know who has steered the country through it and took it towards development."

On the BJP raising issues like

the Ram temple, removal of Article 370 and triple talaq, Kamal Pal Singh, a garment shop salesman, said, "All these issues have not given me a job. I am turning 35 and still do not have a permanent job."

Lakhimpur Kheri has over 18.6 lakh voters. Of these, around 7 lakh voters belong to Kurmi and other OBC communities. There are 2.5 lakh Dalit voters, 3 lakh Brahmins, 2.65 lakh Muslims and around 1 lakh Sikhs, according to internal surveys of political parties. Some farmer groups are upset with the BJP for renominating Ajay Mishra.

"Naming a person whose son is accused of running over farmers with his vehicle as the candidate from the Lakhimpur seat is nothing but a slap on the face of farmers and the family members of those who were killed that day. We would urge the people of Lakhimpur to respond to this injustice," said Kulwant Singh, an office bearer of the Kisan Union (Tikait).

Also known as Uttar Pradesh's sugar bowl, Lakhimpur Kheri is known for its sugarcane production. Farmers here have various concerns.

"We get ₹6,000 annually from the government but that money is not enough to even procure fertiliser for one crop season. The cost of everything has increased but the prices we get for our produce have not," said Farzan Khan a farmer, from the Nighasan area.

# BJP's theatrics not going to work this time: Mayawati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shravasti, May 11:** Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati Saturday said none of the theatrics and catch-phrases of the BJP is going to work in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing a rally in support of Haji Daddan Khan, the BSP candidate from Shravasti, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said the people of the country 'have understood the BJP'.

She said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has made innumerable promises regarding good days for the poor, weak, middle class and other working sections of the society but in reality, not even a quarter of those have been fulfilled.

"None of its old and new theatrics, statements and guarantees will be of any use in the election this time," she added. Mayawati reiterated that the BSP is the only political party in the country that has not taken money from any capitalist through electoral bonds.

"The BJP has spent most of its time and energy to make its favourite capitalists more rich, giving concessions to them and protecting them at every level. With financial support from them, this party and other parties run their organisations and contest elections," she said.

Training her guns on the Congress, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said the grand old party ruled the country and most of the states for years since independence, but was thrown out of power due to its wrong policies and functioning. "Same is the situation with its allies too," she added.

"It appears that this time, the BJP is also not going to come back to power at the Centre provided that the polls are free and fair and there are no irregularities in the voting machines," Mayawati said.

Shravasti is scheduled to go to polls in the sixth phase of the seven-phase election May 25 and the counting of votes will be taken up June 4.



# Writings critical of govt cost son ticket: Maneka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sultanpur, May 11:** BJP leader Maneka Gandhi Saturday indicated that her son Varun Gandhi's writings that were sometimes critical of the government may have cost him the party's Lok Sabha ticket from Pilibhit but asserted that he would do very well even without it.

In an exclusive interview with PTI at her residence here, the former Union minister and BJP's Sultanpur candidate also said Varun Gandhi wants to come and campaign for her but a decision on that hasn't been taken yet.

The Sultanpur seat in Uttar Pradesh goes to polls May 25 in

the sixth round of the seven-phase general elections. Polling was held in Pilibhit in the first phase April 19.

On Varun being denied a ticket and if she felt bad as a mother, Maneka said, "Well I can't say I was delighted but I am sure Varun will do very well even without a ticket."

Asked about calls from Pilibhit that he should have been fielded from there this time also, she said, "Yes, he should have been there but the party has taken a decision and that's it."

On whether in future Varun may switch to Sultanpur like earlier or Pilibhit was his 'karmabhoomi' now, Maneka said that "at the moment, of

course, Pilibhit, and India is his karmabhoomi, let him work all over."

Asked if his writings on certain subjects that were critical of the government cost him the ticket, she said, "I can't think of one other reason."

On whether Varun will campaign for her in Sultanpur, Maneka Gandhi said he is happy to come and has been asking to come "but we haven't decided on it as yet." "I don't want to put everybody through this," she added.

The eight-time MP also asserted that in her elections she only talks about local issues.

"It is just about work that has been done and work that will be done because that interests people much more than national issues," she told PTI.

On how she is placed this time as compared to the last time when she won by over 14,000 votes, she said, "I have settled in and the election seems to be going well and hopefully we will do much better."

On her late husband Sanjay Gandhi's development works in the region and its towering impact on the minds of the people, she said that "the family is remembered and he is remembered a lot."

# 520 villages in Raigad may be hit by disasters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Alibag, May 11:** A disaster management survey carried out by the Raigad administration showed the district has 520 villages that can be affected by calamities like landslides, flooding and water incursion due to high tides, an official said Saturday.

There are 239 landslide-prone villages, 136 villages that could be affected by floods and 145 villages that could face adverse effects of high tides, he said.

"As per the IMD, there will be 22 high tide days this monsoon. Some of the tides will be as high as 4.5 metres. Moreover, there are 262 villages in the district that are on the banks of Aamba,

Patalganaga, Gadhi, Savitri, Gandhari, Ulhas, Kal and Kundalika Balganga rivers," he said.

As many as 1,820 cases of snake bites were reported from the coastal district in Maharashtra from January 2023 to April this year, resulting in the death of five persons, a district health official has said.

According to the district administration, the cases of snake bites spike when farmers undertake pre-monsoon work in the paddy field.

"Five persons died during treatment at hospitals," the official said.

Sufficient stock of anti-venom medicine is available in government hospitals, he said.

# Protest to save Navi Mumbai's DPS flamingo lake

THE 30-ACRE WATER BODY IN NERUL, WHICH ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF MIGRATORY FLAMINGOS EVERY YEAR, WAS GETTING 'KILLED' DUE TO BLOCKING OF TIDAL WATER BY VESTED INTERESTS IN VIOLATION OF A BOMBAY HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thane, May 11:** Nature lovers and environmentalists in Navi Mumbai marked World Migratory Bird Day Saturday by holding a human chain protest to get authorities to increase efforts to protect wetlands used by flamingos.



Holding huge banners with #SaveDPSFlamingoLake emblazoned on them, participants in the protest said the 30-acre water body in Nerul, which attracts thousands of migratory flamingos every year, was getting 'killed' due to blocking of tidal water by vested interests in violation of a Bombay High Court judgement.

The main channel on the south side of the lake has been buried due to the construction of the Nerul jetty as part of the state government's water transport project, alleged NatConnect Foundation's director BN Kumar.

"Over a period of time 10 flamingos died and five were injured after getting disoriented due to

such developments. We have been raising this issue for the past one month. The government must restore the lake," he said.

In response to a letter sent by NatConnect Foundation, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) and the Maharashtra CMO had ordered a probe into the block-

ing of water to the lake but no action is being seen on the ground, Kumar claimed.

Officials from Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, CIDCO and state forest department have visited the area and it is hoped rectification measures will be taken quickly, said Anjali Agrawal of Save Flamingos and Mangroves Forum.

Sandip Sareen from Navi Mumbai Environment Preservation Society (NMEPS) said his organisation was consulting legal teams since the developments related to the lake are "a clear cut case of contempt of court."

Activists Vishnu Joshi and Hemant Katkar also condemned the authorities for their attitude on the issue and said they are duty bound to protect the area, which is part of Navi Mumbai's environmental heritage.

World Migratory Bird Day is a global campaign to promote conservation efforts for migratory birds as they journey across borders.

Format C-1 (for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV) Declaration about criminal cases (As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Amr.))				
Name and address of candidate: Kamakshya Prasad Pradhan; Plot No-885, Chandimata Colony, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar-751010				
Name of political party: "Independent" (Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)				
Name of Election: Legislative Assembly *Name of Constituency: 109- Satyabadi, Odisha I Kamakshya Prasad Pradhan, a candidate for the abovementioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:				
(A) Pending Criminal Cases				
Sl. No	Name of Court	Case No. & Dated	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1	Court of Hon'ble JMFC, Bhubaneswar	1776/09	Charges have been framed. Sub justice before Court of Hon'ble JMFC, Bhubaneswar of Smt. S Mishra	IPC section No: 363/365/368/386/392/34
2	Brahmagiri, GRNL, Case No. 0098 of the year 2021		Subjudice before the court of Brahmagiri, GRNL	IPC section No: 294/323/34/341/354/354-B/506 The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 (Amendment Act, 2018): 3(1)(r), 3(1)(s), 3(2)(va)
(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences				
Sl. No	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed	
	Nil	Nil	Nil	
*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency				





BJD candidate for Athamallik Assembly constituency Nalini Kanta Pradhan campaigning in a village under Kishorenagar block in Angul district, Saturday



Congress party workers take out a bike rally for party's Koraput Lok Sabha nominee Saptagiri Ulaka in Rayagada town on the last day of the campaigning, Saturday

## BJP hopes to trounce BJD over 'Odia Asmita', 'outsider' issues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** The political battleground has heated up in Odisha, with candidates of the three major parties - Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress -- making an all-out effort to sway the voters in their favour.

The ruling BJD is confident of continuing the winning streak with the help of its strong support base among the women voters and the popularity of its flagship welfare schemes.

The opposition BJP too plunged into the battleground with issues like alleged corruption calling for a double engine government in the state.

Among the major poll planks, 'Odia Asmita' (Odia self-identity) has taken the centre stage with opposition parties sharpening their attacks against bureaucrat-turned politician VK Pandian, a close confidant of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and one of the star campaigners for BJD.

The principal opposition, BJP, has made 'Odia Asmita' its main poll plank to wrest power from BJD, ending nearly 25-year-old rule of Patnaik.

The BJP top brass has sharpened its attack against the ruling dispensation (BJD) and are now constantly raking up the issue of threats to Odia culture, language and literature with, who they call an 'outsider', Tamil Nadu-born Pandian, taking over the reins of government post 2024 general elections.

Prime Narendra Modi said during an interview that the 'Odia Asmita' (Odisha's self-identity) and Odia language are at stake.

PM Modi again raked up the issue during his recent address at Nabarangpur May 6 saying that if the BJP comes to power, it will ensure a son of this soil with respect for the culture of



Odisha takes oath as the state's chief minister, not an outsider. Similarly, BJP's national president JP Nadda advised Odisha voters to remain vigilant regarding efforts to force upon an 'outsider' as their leader.

On being branded an 'outsider', Pandian said that he is an Odia by breath and only the people of Odisha would decide whether he is an outsider.

"My God is Lord Jagannath. My guru is Naveen Patnaik. My 'karmabhoomi' is Odisha. Both of my children have Odia as their mother-tongue and Odisha is their motherland. Finally, people of Odisha would decide whether I am an outsider or one among them," Pandian said recently.

Some political analysts claimed that the issue of an outsider at the helm of Odisha government was first raised during discussions among the public across the state.

The opposition later picked up the issue to corner the ruling party.

The opposition parties and some activists have continuously been raising issues regarding non-Odia bureaucrats holding plum portfolios in Odisha administration and non-Odia contractors being awarded huge contracts in the state for the last couple of years. However, this is the first time that the issue has become the biggest poll plank in the election campaign, said journalist Saswat Panigrahi.

Panigrahi said the issues of 'Odia Asmita' and 'outsider' are surely going to stir the masses and benefit the BJD's political ri-

vals in the elections in Odisha beginning from May 13.

It is pertinent here to mention that the ruling BJD had secured 112 seats with 44.71 per cent vote share while BJP got only 23 seats despite acquiring 32.49 per cent vote share in 2019 elections to Odisha Assembly.

A buoyant BJP this time hopes to improve its seats tally and the vote share by striking an emotional chord with the voters exploiting the 'Odia Asmita' and 'outsider' issues.

Meanwhile, some political analysts submitted that the opposition parties are not themselves clear about the issues, and it will have negligible or no impact at all on the election prospect of the ruling party.

The issue of 'Odia Asmita' and Odia language is making some buzz in the electoral politics in Odisha. But since there is no clarity in the issue, it is not taking the centre stage in the poll battle, said senior journalist Dilip Kumar Bisoi.

Bisoi added that leaders of Congress and BJP are expressing concern that the 'Odia Asmita' and Odia language are in danger.

But they are not clarifying what the dangers are. Perhaps they themselves are not clear about it. How come they would convince the voters, questioned Bisoi.

Assembly and Lok Sabha elections will be held simultaneously in Odisha in four phases from May 13 to June 1.

The results of the polling for both Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha will be out June 4.

## Modi lashes out at Congress over Ram Mandir 'purification' remarks

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday lashed out at Congress over remarks on the "purification" of the Ram Mandir by the senior Congress leader Nana Patole.

Addressing a huge public meeting in Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency, PM Modi said that the Congress leader's statement is an insult to President Droupadi Murmu and the whole tribal community.

He said that the BJP made a tribal daughter of Odisha the President of India but the Congress and its allies are repeatedly disrespecting President Murmu.

"President Droupadi Murmu recently visited Ram Mandir. She offered puja inside the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Mandir. She sought the bless-



ings of Ram Lalla for the well-being of the country. On the next day, one of the Congress leaders said that Ram Mandir would be purified with Ganga water. Isn't this an insult to the country, mothers and sisters and the whole tribal society?" PM Modi asked.

He also urged the people to "punish" Congress for the disrespect to President Murmu by making the party's candidates lose their deposits in every Lok Sabha and Assembly seat.

PM Modi also said Congress is trying to snatch away the rights of SC, ST and OBCs by backstabbing the Constitution. He termed himself as the "Chowkidar" of the rights of all the poor and deprived people of the country.

PM Modi told the gathering that everyone should remain alert from the Congress Party.

"Congress wants to snatch away the reservation rights of ST, SC and OBCs and give it to its vote bank. No one has the power

to backstab the Constitution when a tribal daughter is holding the highest constitutional position and your Pradhan Sevak, who belongs to a backward caste, holds the Prime Minister's post. Modi won't allow anyone to snatch the rights of ST, SC and OBCs," roared PM Modi.

Referring to senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Modi said that nowadays Congress's "Shehzada" is now talking about the Constitution but he tore it into pieces during a press meeting.

He stated that this is not only an insult to the Cabinet and Indian government but to the Constitution itself.

PM Modi further asserted that the Congress will get less number of seats than the age of its "Prince" Rahul Gandhi this time and will also lose the recognised opposition party status in the Parliament.

## Campaigning ends for first phase polls in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Campaigning for four Lok Sabha and 28 Assembly seats in Odisha, slated for polling May 13, came to an end Saturday with a slew of prominent leaders from major political parties embarking on rapid-fire tours of constituencies in southern and western parts of the state.

Polling is scheduled for Nabarangpur, Koraput, Kalahandi, and Berhampur Lok Sabha seats, along with 28 Assembly segments under these constituencies.

Spearheading the BJP's campaign, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party president JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh crisscrossed the poll-bound areas, addressing a multitude of rallies.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai, and former Tripura CM Biplab Deb also canvassed for the BJP in these seats.

For the ruling BJD, party president and CM Naveen Patnaik, seeking a sixth term, and his close aide VK Pandian conducted extensive tours of the poll-bound areas. Pandian, particularly, toured extensively across multiple Assembly segments slated for polling in the first phase.

Conversely, the Congress campaign lagged, with top leaders like Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra notably absent from the initial phase campaign.

Although Rahul Gandhi was slated to address a rally in tribal-dominated Rayagada district, he cancelled his tour at the last moment due to other commitments. Former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel campaigned for Congress

candidates in Kalahandi and Koraput Lok Sabha seats instead.

A total of 37 MP candidates and 243 MLA candidates, including heavyweight leaders from the BJD, BJP, and Congress, are contesting in the first phase Assembly elections in state. Ramesh Majhi, Pradeep Majhi, Bhargu Baxipatra, and Dibya Shankar Mishra are among the key candidates from the BJD.

From the Congress, Saptagiri Ulaka, Sarat Pattanayak, Taraprasad Bahinipati, Bhakta Das, and Bijay Patnaik are among those vying for seats.

Moreover, over 1,264 polling stations, including all booths in Maoist-affected areas, have been identified as critical booths. The voting process will involve 53,000 polling personnel, with 715 all-women booths and 39 booths run by PwD staff among the arrangements.

## Rahul calls PM 'puppet king' of 'tempo billionaires'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him a 'puppet king' of 'tempo billionaires'.

Continuing his attack on Modi over his remarks on the Congress receiving cash loaded in tempos from Adani and Ambani, the former Congress president also shared on X a video containing some excerpts from his speech at an event in Lucknow Friday.

Along with video he posted in Hindi, Narendra Modi is not a prime minister, he is a king. A 'puppet king', whose strings are in the hands of 'tempo billionaires'.

At the Lucknow event, Gandhi had accused the prime minister of attacking the Constitution, and said he is a king.

"Modi ji is a king... He is not the prime minister, he is a king. He has nothing to do with the Cabinet, Parliament or the Constitution. He is the king of the 21st century and is the front for two or three financiers who have the real power," Gandhi had said at the event.

At a poll rally Wednesday, Modi had accused the Congress of having a deal with Ambani and Adani, and asked if the party had received tempo loads of black money from the two industrialists for Gandhi to stop abusing them.

In a change of narrative on the Ambani-Adani issue, which was until now used by the Congress to attack Modi and his government at the Centre, the prime minister demanded that the party explain why it had stopped raising the issue as its 'shehzada' (Rahul) used to do for the past five years and asked if it had struck a 'sauda' (deal).

Gandhi and other Congress leaders have said the prime minister should order CBI or ED probe into whether Adani and Ambani had sent black money to the party.

### '75 YEARS AGE RULE IN BJP'

## PM Modi will continue to lead: Shah on Kejriwal's remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, May 11:** Top BJP leader Amit Shah Saturday asserted Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to lead the country post 2024 Lok Sabha polls and hit out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for claiming the PM was seeking votes for making Shah his successor, citing the 75 years age 'rule'.

There was nothing written in the BJP's constitution on any such age ceiling, Shah told reporters here. There was no confusion in the BJP over the matter.

Shah was responding to Kejriwal's claim that Modi was asking for votes for the Union Home Minister to make him PM as the prime minister would turn 75 next year.

"I would like to tell Arvind Kejriwal and company and the whole INDI alliance, Modi be-

comes 75, there is no need for you to feel happy. It is not written anywhere in BJP's constitution. Modi will complete the term and will continue to lead the country. There is no confusion in BJP on this," Shah told reporters here.

To a related query, Shah said, "His (Kejriwal) base is that Modi ji will be changed. I have made it clear that Modi will not be changed. At the root, why did he say that Modi ji will be changed after 75. It has been decided not to change."

Kejriwal had charged that Modi is asking for votes for Shah.

"These people ask INDIA bloc about their (PM) face. I ask BJP who will be their PM? Modi ji is turning 75 September 17 next year. He had made the rule that people aged 75 will be retired. They retired LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Sumitra Mahajan," Kejriwal said. "He (Modi) will retire next



year. He is seeking votes for making Amit Shah the prime minister. Will Shah fulfil Modi's guarantee," the CM, out on bail

in the Delhi Excise Policy scam, asked. Further, Shah launched a scathing attack on Congress and

its leaders, alleging that due to the fear of Pakistan having a nuclear bomb, the grand old party wants to give up India's rights over Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

On Saturday, Shah addressed election rallies at Vikarabad and Nagarkurnool in Telangana and later a press conference here on the last day of campaigning for the May 13 Lok Sabha polls in the state.

He also said if Kejriwal thinks that Supreme Court's interim bail is a clean chit, then his understanding with regard to law is poor.

The home minister also expressed confidence that the BJP would emerge as the largest party in South India in terms of Lok Sabha seats.

The BJP is confident of winning more than 10 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana, he said.

In his address at a rally at Vikarabad, Shah recalled that

former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had conducted nuclear tests at Pokhran on this day in 1998 and made the country a nuclear power.

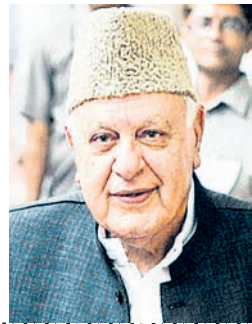
The Congress does not have the courage to conduct surgical strikes and airstrikes, he alleged.

He said PM Modi did surgical strikes and air strikes within 10 days after Pakistan terrorists attacked the country and finished them.

Referring to the reported comments of Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar and that of National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah on Pakistan having an atom bomb, the home minister said he would like to ask Rahul Gandhi if PoK would be given to the neighbouring country because of it possessing a nuclear bomb.

"As long as BJP is there, it cannot happen and PoK belongs to India and we will take it," he said.





We do not have to fear them as tomorrow they will be under your feet, their pride will go away. I want to tell LG (J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha) to stop harassing people. If you think that by using police to harass our people, you (BJP) will win elections, then you will lose the elections by such things FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC CHIEF

WEST NILE VIRUS SCARE

The Tamil Nadu government's health department has increased surveillance in several villages of Coimbatore District against the spread of the dreaded West Nile Virus and deployed 12 Mobile Medical Teams (MMT) to screen people in 12 blocks



of the day quote

Our (BJP's) alliance with the JD(S) will not be affected. That (Prajwal case) has no connection with the alliance. I'm confident that the alliance will continue

B S YEDIYURAPPA | BJP STALWART

The BJP government at the Centre has deprived the people of West Bengal for the last 10 years. The Centre has stopped paying dues which the state owes under schemes like 100 days' work and Awas Yojana

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TRINAMOOL CONGRESS LEADER

The governor had released an edited video. I saw the entire footage and its contents are shocking. The truth is yet to come out. I have got another video... Your conduct is shameful

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Kejri holds roadshow after release from jail



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during a road show for Lok Sabha elections, at Mehrauli in New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 11: AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday asserted that the BJP will not form the government June 4 and said if the INDIA bloc comes to power, the direction and fate of the country will change.

He held his first roadshow for Lok Sabha election campaign along with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann in the South Delhi constituency, a day after his release from Tihar jail. "It is a historic moment. The history is taking a turn. If the INDIA bloc forms government, the direction and fate of the country will change."

"I am fighting against dictatorship with all my power. I need your support. The country never accepted any dictator and people removed them. I have come to seek your support to fight dic-

tatorship," he said.

He also asserted that the Modi government will not be formed June 4. "They are losing seats everywhere, be it Karnataka, Haryana. In Punjab, they will not win anything and even in Delhi, all the seven seats will be won by the INDIA bloc," he claimed.

If the INDIA bloc comes to power, full statehood will be provided to Delhi, he said. Party leaders and workers gathered in large numbers while Kejriwal and Mann mounted an open-roof vehicle waving and greeting people.

"I have come straight to you after being released from jail. I missed Delhi people a lot. I want to thank crores of people who prayed and sent blessings to me," he said.

Recalling his days in jail, he said his wife Sunita, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

I am fighting against dictatorship with all my power. I need your support. The country never accepted any dictator and people removed them. I have come to seek your support to fight dictatorship

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

and his ministers used to come to meet him.

"I used to ask my ministers about the welfare of people while in jail. During my stay in jail, I used to think what is my fault that I was arrested. My fault was that I provided good schools and hospitals for people. I provided health facilities to people. They (BJP) stopped my insulin for 15 days in jail."

"They want to shut everything to paralyse the Delhi government," he charged. Remembering his former ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain, who are in Tihar jail, he claimed they changed the face of schools and hospitals. "Sisodia changed the face of schools in Delhi. He should be made the Union minister of education," he said. AAP volunteers, holding party flags and raising slogans, marched behind the vehicle in the narrow streets of Mehrauli in South Delhi, in support of party candidate Sahi Ram Pehalwan.

Kejriwal, who is out on an interim bail granted by the Supreme Court till June 1, earlier in the day said he will campaign across the country to fight against "dictatorship".

He will also take part in a roadshow in East Delhi constituency in support of AAP candidate Kuldeep Kumar.

Kharge slams Modi for 'luring' Uddhav, Pawar into NDA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 11: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Saturday lambasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "luring" Maharashtra satraps Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar into the BJP-led NDA.

Kharge, addressing a press conference here, also claimed that it will be "extremely difficult" for Modi to form the next government in the country. "In Nandurbar, Modi said Thackeray and Pawar should cross over and all their wishes will be fulfilled. He said it would be better than dying with the Congress. Does a Prime Minister speak such language?" Kharge said.

The PM had made the remark referring to a statement by Pawar, the founder of the NCP, who had predicted that many smaller parties opposed to the BJP would come close to the Congress, and some may even "merge". The Congress chief also claimed that Modi has lost his earlier spark, citing absence of the characteristic "bluster ('abhiman') and pride ('garv') at the PM's rally in Telangana the day before.

"I, too, was in Telangana and adjoining Andhra Pradesh on the same day," stressed Kharge, who spoke in presence of senior party colleagues Meira Kumar and Mohan Prakash, besides Bihar allies Dipankar Bhattacharya of the CPI (ML) L and Manoj Jha (RJD).

Kharge, addressing a press conference here, also claimed that it will be "extremely difficult" for Modi to form the next government in the country

"After three phases of Lok Sabha polls, I can safely say it is going to be extremely difficult for Modi to become the PM again - a reason why he has given up speaking about achievements of his 10 years in power and is trying to create a Hindu-Muslim divide," Kharge alleged.

He said that there was "tremendous public anger" against the ruling dispensation at the Centre, which has been unable to tackle unemployment and "unbearable inflation".

"Modi, on his part, has been wary of speaking on inflation, and even on unemployment, despite famously promising two crore jobs per year. For 10 years, he has focused all his energies on harassing political opponents through agencies like ED and CBI. Hence, he has no achievements to speak of and is taking recourse to creating a Hindu-Muslim divide. But, people can see through the ploy," he said.

Kharge asserted that the "INDIA bloc will form the next government", but ducked queries on who would get the top job if the Opposition coalition came to power.

BASANTGARH ENCOUNTER Cops release sketches of six terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 11: Jammu and Kashmir Police Saturday released the sketches of six terrorists, who infiltrated from Pakistan into Basantgarh area of Udhampur district and killed a village defence guard in a gunfight before fleeing deep into the forest, officials said.

Udhampur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh announced the first breakthrough in the case with the arrest of an overground worker, who had provided logistic support to the terrorists.

Singh said the sketches of the six terrorists, two of whom are believed to be brothers, were prepared based on the inputs from various agencies, the public and questioning of the suspected persons.

"We hope the people will come forward and help the security agencies to neutralise the terrorists. Anyone with credible information leading to neutralization of each terrorist will be given a reward ranging from ₹five lakh to ₹10 lakh," the officer told reporters in Udhampur. Village Defence Guard (VDG) Mohd Sharief was killed in an encounter with the terrorists following a cordon and search operation in Panara village of Basantgarh April 28.

A massive joint search operation by the army, police and paramilitary forces is going on in the area to flush out the terrorists, who are believed to have crossed into Udhampur from nearby Kathua district after successfully infiltrating from across the border. The SSP said at least 12 terrorists are believed to have infiltrated into the area and added "it is our collective responsibility to make it once again the abode of peace by neutralising them". "The area has remained peaceful for a very long time and our enemy wants to disturb it. But we will frustrate their designs with the cooperation of the people and will ensure a peaceful atmosphere," he said.

SHORT TAKES

Massive dust storm hits Delhi

New Delhi: Three people, including a 19-year-old woman, were killed and 23 injured in storm-related incidents in Delhi, as strong winds uprooted trees and electricity poles and led to portions of walls collapsing across the national capital. Power supply was also disrupted in many areas as a dust storm swept the national capital late Friday.

Naxalite killed in encounter

Raipur: A Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security personnel in the forests along the border of Dhamatri and Gariaband districts in Chhattisgarh Saturday, police said. The gunfight occurred in the afternoon when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Dhamtari was out on an anti-Naxalite operation along the inter-district border, Dhamtari Superintendent of Police Anjneya Varshney told PTI.

HC grants bail to IM operative

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has granted bail to Abdul Subhan Qureshi, the alleged co-founder of banned terror organisation Indian Mujahideen (IM), in a terror case. A bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain considered the period of incarceration undergone by him, which was around five years, and directed that the terms and conditions of the bail would be decided by the trial court.

SC grants bail to Pradeep Sharma

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted bail to former Mumbai Police officer Pradeep Sharma, awarded life sentence in the 2006 fake encounter killing case of gangster Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakkhan Bhaiya. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Prashant Kumar Mishra noted the submission of the lawyer for the Maharashtra government that the state had no objection to the court granting bail to Sharma.

Woman killed in elephant attack

Udhagamandalam (Tamil Nadu): A 62-year-old woman died in the district Saturday after being attacked by a wild elephant, police said. The deceased was identified as Nagammal (62) of Pithirkadu near Gudalur. She was attacked by the elephant when she ventured out of her house Saturday and was rushed to a nearby government hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

SNIPPETS

Tripura grapples with fuel crisis

Agartala: Tripura is facing a fuel crisis as goods train services to the northeastern state have not yet been restored, an official of the Food and Civil Supplies department said Saturday. The goods train service to the state stopped April 26 after derailment of a goods train in Assam's Jatinga area but the passenger train service remains unaffected. "The petrol crisis is severe as goods trains are not coming to the state since April 26. We don't know when the track will be ready for resumption of goods train service fully," Director of Food and Civil Supplies department, Nirmal Adhikari said. The state government started rationing petrol and diesel for two-wheelers, cars and commercial vehicles from April 30.

Speeding vehicle kills 60 sheep

Srinagar: A speeding vehicle maulled 60 sheep to death and injured another 40 on the national highway last night in J&K's Kulgam district. Officials said that 60 sheep had been killed and 40 others injured by a speeding vehicle in the Khudwani area of Kulgam district during the night. "Two flock caretakers were also injured in this incident. They have been hospitalised for treatment. "The driver of the vehicle was arrested and an FIR has been registered against him," officials said.

BJP leader Devaraje Gowda remanded to judicial custody

Hassan (Karnataka): BJP leader and advocate G Devaraje Gowda, arrested for alleged molestation and rape, was Saturday remanded to 14 days judicial custody. The BJP leader was arrested at the Gulihal toll gate by the Hiriyur Police in Chitradurga district late Friday night. He was arrested on a tip-off by the Hassan Police. Earlier Saturday, he was taken to Holenarasipura in Hassan district, where the incident had allegedly taken place, for questioning, police said. He was then produced before a Magistrate, who remanded him to 14 days' judicial custody. An FIR was registered against Gowda on a complaint by a 36-year-old woman from Hassan district, who alleged that he molested and raped her on the pretext of helping her sell her property. A case of molestation was registered against Gowda April 1. The woman Friday once again approached the police and alleged that she was also raped by him, a police officer told PTI.

Teenage girl's severed head found on tree branch

Kodagu: In connection with the horrifying incident of beheading of a teenage girl, the Karnataka Police found the severed head of the beheaded minor girl on a mango tree on Saturday in Kodagu district of the state. The victim 16-year-old Meena was hacked to death by the accused 32-year-old Prakash a.k.a Omkarappa Thursday following the cancellation of their engagement. The gruesome incident took place in Surlabbi near Kumabaraqadige village in Kodagu district. The accused had beheaded the victim with a machete and had escaped with her severed head to the forest. Earlier, there were reports that the accused committed suicide by hanging from a tree after committing the crime. However, police said that the accused had not committed suicide and was arrested from Somwarpet town in Kodagu district. "The accused was hiding in the forest," the police said. The accused then led the police to the spot where he had kept the severed head of the girl after the preliminary investigation. The accused told police that he was distraught after the cancellation of his engagement with the victim. He had confessed that he committed the crime after a heated argument with the girl in the forest. The police said that the head was kept on the branch of a mango tree located 300 metres away from the spot, where he killed the girl.

Avoid cooking oils with carcinogenic contaminants: Experts

The GE and 3-MCPD are contaminants that can be found in improperly processed cooking oils, and Europe has recently set limits on the permissible amount of such contaminants which, experts say, are linked to cardiovascular diseases and can cause cancer and other serious health issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 11: Health experts have emphasised the need for conformity to European safety standards for glycidyl esters (GE) and 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol esters (3-MCPD) in cooking oils, contending that their presence poses significant health risks.

Dr Praveen Chandra, Chairman and Head of the Cardiology Department at

Medanta, stressed that ensuring the safety of cooking oils is paramount

"The presence of GE and 3-MCPD poses significant health risks, particularly for heart health. These contaminants have been linked to cardiovascular diseases and other serious health issues."

"Consumers should choose cooking oils that comply with these regulations to safeguard their heart health and overall



well-being, Dr Chandra said. As Codex classifies these contaminants as potentially carcinogenic, India's oncologists are also urging government bodies and manufacturers to ensure compliance with European

emphasised that with increasing cancer rates in the country, there is an urgent need to address carcinogenic contaminants like GE and 3-MCPD in cooking oils.

These contaminants, present in all types of cooking oils, can lead to cancer in the long run.

"With the rising cancer rates in India and the widespread use of cooking oils, relevant government bodies and FSSAI should take steps to implement these regulations in our country. Mandatory display of compliance with GE and 3-MCPD limits according to European regulations on labels is essential," Dr Bhargava said.

Dr AR Sharma, Founder and Chairman of AP Organics Ltd, Dhuri, stated, "While Europe has been at the forefront of implementing stringent regula-

tions on GE and 3-MCPD, Indian regulatory bodies are also working to establish limits for these contaminants which could be present in improperly processed oils."

"Due to our stringent processing conditions, our processed and packed brands of rice bran oil are trans-fat-free and also fully compliant with the new EU Food Safety Regulations regarding GE and 3-MCPD contaminants. This shows our dedication to consumer health and safety," he said.

In collaboration with A P Organics Limited, Dhuri said, other industry leaders, including Vestige, a direct-selling company, have updated their labels to show compliance with European safety standards for GE and 3-MCPD on their brands.



Nurses take a pledge on the eve of International Nurses Day, at a hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

PTI



# international



Trump is trying to make the country forget how dark things — and unsettling they were as he left the office. But we're not going to forget  
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

## 'KATE MIDDLETON DOING WELL'

Prince William, the heir apparent to the British throne, Friday said his wife Catherine is "doing well", one of the royal's few comments about her condition since her cancer diagnosis. The Prince of Wales made the remarks about Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales, during a visit to St Mary's Community Hospital on the Isles of Scilly



## of the day quote

Singapore, which scouts talent globally, has the biggest concentration of graduates from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM)  
LEE HSIEN LOONG | SINGAPORE PM

We are deeply alarmed about democratic backsliding in Georgia  
JAKE SULLIVAN | US NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

The Polish-Belarusian border is a unique place due to the pressure of illegal immigration. In fact, we are dealing with a progressing hybrid war  
DONALD TUSK | POLISH PM

## SHORT TAKES

### Joost Klein is kicked out of Eurovision

**Malmo (Sweden):** The Netherlands' contestant in the Eurovision Song Contest was dramatically expelled from competition hours before Saturday's final of the pan-continental pop competition, which has been rattled by protests over the participation of Israel. Competition organiser the European Broadcasting Union said Swedish police were investigating "a complaint made by a female member of the production crew" against Dutch performer Joost Klein.

### Saudi Prince's visit to Pak postponed

**Islamabad:** Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman's much-anticipated visit to Pakistan has been deferred for unspecified reasons, according to media reports Saturday. He was earlier expected to arrive in Islamabad May 19 on a two-day visit, *Geo News* reported. Commenting on the visit of the Saudi crown prince, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch Friday clarified that details of the visit will be made public as soon as a schedule is worked out between Islamabad and Riyadh.

### 7 killed as bus falls into river

**St Petersburg:** Seven bus passengers died and several others were injured after their bus careered off a bridge and into the Moika river in the Russian city of St Petersburg Friday, the local department of the emergencies ministry said. Russia's Investigative Committee said seven people died in the incident. Earlier reports said six people had been injured on the bus, which carried about 20 passengers.

### Zardari gets immunity

**Islamabad:** Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari Saturday received immunity from prosecution as a head of state in two cases of alleged corruption. The Park Lane and Toshakhana cases were filed against him by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the national anti-corruption watchdog. Islamabad-based Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana was hearing the cases.

### Iranians vote

**Tehran:** Iranians voted Friday in a runoff election for the remaining seats in the country's Parliament after hard-line politicians dominated March balloting. Voting was extended for four hours because it was a weekend holiday. The official IRNA news agency said that counting began immediately after polls closed. Final results were expected by Monday, though counts in smaller constituencies will likely be announced sooner.

## RAFAH EXODUS Israel orders new evacuations



AGENCIES

**Rafah, May 11:** Israel ordered new evacuations in Gaza's southern city of Rafah Saturday, forcing tens of thousands more people to move as it prepares to expand its operation and adding that it is also moving into an area in northern Gaza where Hamas has regrouped.

The order comes in the face of heavy international opposition and criticism. US President Joe Biden has already said he will not provide offensive weapons to Israel for Rafah, and Friday the US said there was "reasonable" evidence that Israel had breached international law protecting civilians in the way it conducted its war against Hamas — the strongest statement that the Biden administration has yet made on the matter.

The United Nations and other agencies have warned for weeks that an Israeli assault on Rafah, which borders Egypt near the main aid entry points, would cripple humanitarian operations and cause a disastrous surge in civilian casualties.

More than 1.4 million Palestinians — half of Gaza's population — have been sheltering in Rafah, most after fleeing Israel's offensives elsewhere. Considered the last refuge in the strip, the evacuations are forcing people to return north where areas are devastated by previous Israeli attacks. Aid agencies estimate that 1,10,000 had done so before Saturday's order that adds a further 40,000 to that number.

People have been displaced multiple times and there are few places left in the embattled strip to move to. Those fleeing fighting earlier this week erected new tent camps in the city of Khan Younis — which was half

- More than 1.4 million Palestinians — half of Gaza's population — have been sheltering in Rafah, most after fleeing Israel's offensives elsewhere
- Considered the last refuge in the strip, the evacuations are forcing people to return north where areas are devastated by previous Israeli attacks
- Aid agencies estimate that 1,10,000 had done so before Saturday's order that adds a further 40,000 to that number

destroyed in an earlier Israeli offensive — and the city of Deir al-Balah, straining infrastructure.

Georgios Petropoulos, an official with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Rafah, said humanitarian workers had no supplies to help them set up in new locations. "We simply have no tents, we have no blankets, no bedding, none of the items that you would expect a population on the move to be able to get from the humanitarian system," he said. Israeli troops have captured the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing with Egypt, forcing it to shut down.

Rafah was the main point of entry for fuel. The World Food Program has warned that it will run out of food for distribution in southern Gaza by Saturday, Petropoulos said. Aid groups have said fuel will also be depleted soon, forcing hospitals to shut down critical operations and bringing to a halt trucks delivering aid across south and central Gaza.

Heavy fighting is also underway in northern Gaza, where Hamas appeared to have once again regrouped in an area where Israel has already launched punishing assaults.

## Powerful solar storm hits Earth

THE MOST POWERFUL SOLAR STORM IN MORE THAN TWO DECADES STRUCK EARTH FRIDAY, TRIGGERING SPECTACULAR CELESTIAL LIGHT SHOWS IN SKIES FROM TASMANIA TO BRITAIN -- AND THREATENING POSSIBLE DISRUPTIONS TO SATELLITES AND POWER GRIDS AS IT PERSISTS INTO THE WEEKEND

AGENCIES

**Cape Canaveral, May 11:** An unusually strong solar storm hitting Earth could produce northern lights in the US this weekend and potentially disrupt power and communications.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a rare severe geomagnetic storm warning when a solar outburst reached Earth Friday afternoon, hours sooner than anticipated. The effects were due to last through the weekend and possibly into next week.

NOAA alerted operators of power plants and spacecraft in orbit to take precautions, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "For most people here on planet Earth, they won't have to do anything," said Rob Steenburgh, a scientist with NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Centre.

The storm could produce northern lights as far south in the US as Alabama and Northern California, according to NOAA. But it was hard to predict and experts stressed it would not be the dramatic curtains of colour normally associated with the



Northern lights appear in the night sky above the Brocken early Saturday

northern lights, but more like splashes of greenish hues. "That's really the gift from space weather — the aurora," said Steenburgh. He and his colleagues said the best aurora views may come from phone cameras, which are better at capturing light than the naked eye.

Snap a picture of the sky and "there might be actually a nice little treat there for you," said Mike Bettwy, operations chief for the prediction centre.

The most intense solar storm in recorded history, in 1859, prompted auroras in central America and possibly even Hawaii. "We are not anticipating

that" but it could come close, said NOAA space weather forecaster Shawn Dahl.

This storm poses a risk for high-voltage transmission lines for power grids, not the electrical lines ordinarily found in people's homes, Dahl told reporters. Satellites also could be affected, which in turn could disrupt navigation and communication services here on Earth.

An extreme geomagnetic storm in 2003, for example, took out power in Sweden and damaged power transformers in South Africa.

Even when the storm is over, signals between GPS satellites

## Musk's Starlink satellites disrupted

Starlink, the satellite arm of Elon Musk's SpaceX, warned Saturday of a "degraded service" as the Earth is battered by the biggest geomagnetic storm due to solar activity in two decades. Starlink owns around 60% of the roughly 7,500 satellites orbiting Earth and is a dominant player in satellite internet. Musk said earlier in a post on X that Starlink satellites were under a lot of pressure due to the geomagnetic storm, but were holding up so far.

and ground receivers could be scrambled or lost, according to NOAA. But there are so many navigation satellites that any outages should not last long, Steenburgh noted.

The sun has produced strong solar flares since Wednesday, resulting in at least seven outbursts of plasma. Each eruption — known as a coronal mass ejection — can contain billions of tons of plasma and magnetic field from the sun's outer atmosphere, or corona.

## Russia captures five villages in northeast Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kyiv, May 11:** Russian forces have captured five villages as part of a renewed ground assault in Ukraine's northeast, the country's Defence Ministry said Saturday.

Ukrainian journalists reported Friday that Russian troops took the villages of Borysivka, Ohirtseve, Pylina and Strilecha, all of which lie in a militarily contested "grey zone" on the border of Ukraine's Kharkiv region and Russia.



Russian officials said they had also captured another village, Pletenivka, in renewed attack on the region that Ukrainian authorities said forced more than 1,700 civilians to flee.

Artillery, mortar, and aerial bombardments hit more than 30 different towns and villages, killing at least three people and injuring five others, said Kharkiv Governor Oleh Syniehubov.

Ukraine rushed reinforcements to the Kharkiv region on Friday to hold off a Russian attempt to breach local defences, authorities said.

Ukrainian forces also launched a barrage of drones and missile Saturday night, Russia's Ministry of Defence said, with air defence systems downing 21 rockets and 16 drones over Russia's Belgorod, Kursk and Volgograd regions. One person died in a drone strike in the Belgorod region, and another in the Kursk region, local officials said.

## Maldives replaces Indian military with civilians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Male, May 11:** Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer Saturday said 76 Indian military personnel were replaced by civilian employees of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited which manufactured the helicopters gifted by India, thus also ending the suspense over the exact number of those repatriated.

The Indian military personnel, stationed in the Maldives to operate two platforms for helicopters and a Dornier aircraft used primarily for medical evacuations, were repatriated by Friday, as per the May 10 deadline set following an agreement between the two countries in February in New Delhi.



That agreement was a result of the demand of pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu made within hours of his assuming office in November.

Local media reports Saturday quoted Zameer addressing a press conference a day after he returned from his first official visit to India, detailing the presence of Indian soldiers stationed in Hanimaadhoo, Kadhdhoo and Gan.

"As many as 26 soldiers withdrew from Gan between March 7 and March 9, while another 25 soldiers withdrew from Hanimaadhoo between April 7 and April 9, and 12 withdrew from Kadhdhoo Tuesday. The final batch of 13 soldiers withdrew from Kadhdhoo Thursday," news portal *Sun.mv* reported, quoting Zameer as saying.

The Maldivian government had previously said that docu-

ments show there are 89 Indian soldiers in the Maldives, to operate two military helicopters and a Dornier aircraft, it added.

Zameer said that it is the civilian employees of the company that manufactured the Indian-gifted helicopters, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) that have come to replace the Indian military personnel.

*Edition.mv*, another news portal, said that the minister while addressing the concerns raised by many alleging that the military personnel still remained in Maldives but in civilian clothes, said: "Indian military was not here under any deception, were they? So there is no reason for us to have doubts when the Government of India has stated that these are civilians."

## Constructing world's tallest buildings creates high emissions

Since ancient times, people have built structures that reach for the skies — from the steep spires of medieval towers to the grand domes of ancient cathedrals and mosques.

Today the quest is to build the world's tallest skyscrapers, such as Burj Khalifa in Dubai. Soaring above the rest, its decorative spire accounts for 29 per cent of its total height — 4,000 tonnes of structural steel just for aesthetics. Burj Khalifa isn't unique in this respect. "Vanity height" — the extra height from a skyscraper's highest occupied floor to its architectural top — shapes city skylines around the globe.



Our research shows the pursuit of "vanity height" makes this a pressing issue. Even a modest spire increases the carbon emissions from the production of materials for a skyscraper's structure by about 15 per cent.

Building tall is not just about architecture; it's big business. Being ranked among the world's tallest buildings can transform an otherwise ordinary skyscraper into a globally recognised icon. This creates an in-

centive to add vanity height. Our proposed solution is to rethink the global standard for ranking the world's tallest buildings.

**A matter of measurement** Historically, there wasn't much debate over skyscraper heights as early buildings typically had flat roofs. The first significant issue arose in 1929 when the Chrysler Building in New York City installed a last-minute spire, securing the self-proclaimed title of the "world's tallest building" over the Bank of Manhattan.

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, founded in 1969, established criteria in the early 1970s that included deco-

orative spires. This formalised a practice that would be contentious time and again. A landmark moment in the council's history was the 1998 showdown between Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur and Sears Tower in Chicago, now known as Willis Tower. Imagine these two giants side by side: the pointy spires of the Petronas Towers, with 88 floors, and the flat-topped Sears Tower, with 108 floors. But the council uses "height to architectural top", which includes decorative spires. As a result, it declared Petronas Towers the tallest building in the world, outstripping Sears Tower for the

title. Back in Chicago, this was not a popular verdict. Picture the folks on the 108th floor of the Sears Tower looking down at the celebrations on the 88th floor of the Petronas Towers, perplexed by how those extra metres of spire made the difference.

**The hidden cost of vanity height** Sixty years ago, the renowned Bangladeshi-American architect and engineer Fazlur Rahman Khan demonstrated the exponential impact of a building's height on the amount of material needed to build it. Indeed, doubling the height of a building could triple the structural materials required. **THE CONVERSATION**



**of the day quote**

We believe that the next decade will be marked by unparalleled technological progress in AI, cloud and connectivity, presenting new opportunities for India to strengthen its foothold in the global technology landscape

**TARUN CHHABRA**  
COUNTRY MANAGER, NOKIA INDIA

The industry appreciates the high growth in capital goods at 6.1 per cent in the IIP data. We look forward to the growth trajectory of the Indian economy remaining on the high road in 2024-25 too

**SANJEEV AGRAWAL** | PRESIDENT, PHDCCI

The demand for Indian cotton went up as the prices ruled 8-10 per cent lower than the international prices during December 2023 till March 2024. Our cotton is mainly exported to countries like Bangladesh, China and Vietnam

**ATUL GANATRA** | PRESIDENT, CAI

**Q4 RESULTS**

**Union Bank net rises**

**Mumbai:** State-owned Union Bank of India Saturday reported an 18.36 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter to ₹3,328 crore, helped by lower provisions. For the fiscal 2023-24, the lender reported a consolidated net profit of ₹13,797 crore against ₹8,512 crore in the year-ago period. In the quarter under review, its standalone net profit increased to ₹3,311 crore from ₹2,782 crore a year ago. The core net interest income grew 14.38 per cent to ₹9,437 crore on an 11.7 per cent growth in advances and widening of net interest margin to 3.10 per cent from 2.97 per cent in the year-ago period.

**Eicher Motors PAT up**

**New Delhi:** Eicher Motors Saturday reported an 18 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax to ₹1,070 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024, driven by higher sales. The company posted a profit after tax of ₹906 crore in the same period last year. Its total revenue rose 12 per cent to ₹4,256 crore in the January-March quarter of FY24 compared to ₹3,804 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2022-23, Eicher Motors said. Royal Enfield, the two-wheeler division of the company, recorded sales of 2,27,925 motorcycles in the fourth quarter, up 6 per cent from 2,14,685 units in the year-ago period.

**PSB net slumps 70%**

**New Delhi:** State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank Friday posted a 70 per cent decline in net profit to ₹139 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024 on account of provisioning for bad loans. The bank had earned a net profit of ₹457 crore a year ago. However, the total income increased to ₹2,894 crore during the quarter under review against ₹2,652 crore in the same period last year, Punjab & Sind Bank said.

**ABB net shines 87%**

**New Delhi:** ABB India Friday reported an over 87 per cent rise in its net profit at ₹460 crore in the March 2024 quarter, pushed by higher revenues. It had posted a profit after tax of ₹245 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, the company said. The electrification and automation major follows the financial year from January to December. Its consolidated revenues during the quarter under review also rose to ₹3,080 crore from ₹2,411 crore in the year-ago period, it added.



**INDIA TO LIFT BAN ON BINANCE SOON**  
Retail investors need to exercise certain level of due diligence while investing in SME companies and not be swayed by seemingly attractive returns that may quickly come their way  
**ASHWANI BHATIA** | WHOLE TIME MEMBER, SEBI

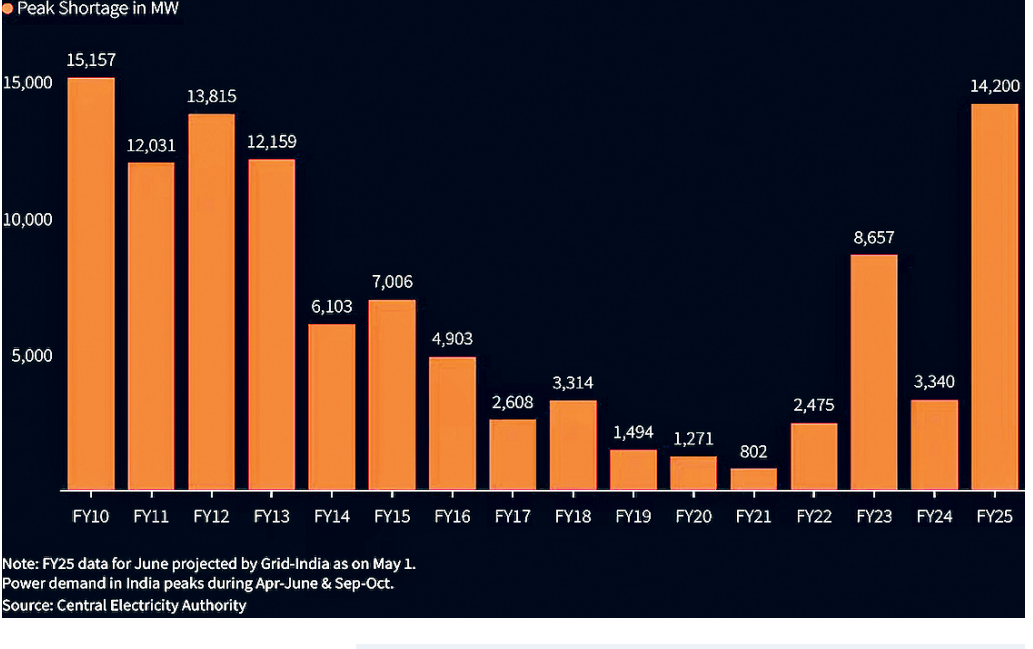


**BIGGEST SHORTFALL IN 14 YEARS**

**POWER CRISIS LOOMS**

India's hydroelectricity output fell at the steepest pace in four decades in the year ended March 31, while renewable energy generation was flat

Grid Operator expects 14.2 GW peak-hour shortfall at nighttime in June due to capacity shortfall for the first time in nearly a decade. Coal shortage was the main cause of power deficit in previous years.



Note: FY25 data for June projected by Grid-India as on May 1. Power demand in India peaks during Apr-June & Sep-Oct. Source: Central Electricity Authority

**MEASURES IN PLACE: GOVT**

**NEW DELHI:** The government has taken adequate measures to meet the estimated 235 GW peak power demand in May and 240 GW in June, according to an official statement. "With various measures, we have been able to successfully meet the peak evening power demand of 224 GW during April 2024," said the Ministry of Power Friday. The power demand is projected to peak at 235 GW during the day-time and 225 GW during evening hours for May and 240 GW during day-time and 235 GW during evening hours for June 2024, it said in the statement. The power ministry has estimated around 260 GW of peak demand during this summer season. Elaborating on the measures, the ministry said section 11 directions have been issued to gas-based power plants besides coal-based units to make full capacity available for electricity generation.

ning body for the power sector, told Reuters in a statement. "The planning process relies on worst-case scenarios," it said. The gap is the widest since 2009-10, according to publicly available government data.

Power Minister RK Singh held an emergency meeting last week to take stock of the situation, and decided to defer shutting down power plants for planned main-

tenance during June and revive 5 GW of idled coal plant capacity, two separate government sources present in the meeting said.

"All efforts have been made to maximise generation, and with the measures in place it is expected that the power demand would be adequately met during the day and the non-solar hours in the coming months including June 2024," the statement said.

Grid administrator Grid-India projects maximum night-time demand of 235 GW in June, the statement said. On the supply side, nearly 187 GW of thermal capacity is available, and about 34 GW from renewable sources, according to government sources.

The figures on power demand and capacity projections have not been previously reported. The power ministry last month invoked emergency rights for the first time to direct gas-based and imported coal-based power plants to operate at full capacity. India has long defended use of coal, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration had slowed capacity growth based on the heavily polluting fuel to focus on the green energy transition, with an eye to meeting 2070 net zero emission goals.

Plans to set up new coal power plants in the country, which is under pressure from rich economies to stop coal use, gathered momentum last year, but they will take a minimum of four years to start generation. Existing coal-fired power plants and solar plants will help the nation meet its electricity demand during daytime hours, one of the government sources said.

**OMCs' profit rises 25-fold in 2023-24**



**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**

**New Delhi, May 11:** The state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have not only ensured fuel availability at affordable rates in 2023-24, with one of the lowest fuel price inflation globally in India, but they have also rewarded the shareholders' trust by posting an outstanding annual performance, according to a note prepared by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The combined profit of the three oil marketing companies for FY 2023-24 stood at ₹86,000 crore, over 25 times higher than the extraordinarily difficult previous fiscal year. For the full 2023-24 fiscal, HPCL reported a record net profit of ₹16,014 crore as opposed to a loss of ₹6,980 crore in the previous year. Indian Oil Corporation capped an excellent year with the historically best refinery throughput, sales volume and net profit.

BPCL's profit after tax for FY 2023-24 came in at ₹26,673 crore, nearly 13 times higher than the previous fiscal year. Additionally, the company's planned capital outlay of 1.7 lakh crore over 5 years under 'Project Aspire' underlines its commitment to creating long-term value for shareholders, the note points out. Markets have reacted positively to the results with BPCL and HPCL share prices rising after the announcement of results. Moreover, analysts have taken cognisance of the performance and many of them have put a buy recommendation, a strong validation of their annual performance and the outlook for the current fiscal year, it states.

Over the last few years, the government has unleashed the potential of OMCs by allowing the right mix of freedom and accountability. The government maintains an arm's length distance from their business decisions while fully supporting and encouraging ambitious plans that are aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat, 2047, the note added.

**PUBLIC SECTOR OIL GIANTS SEE COMBINED PROFIT AT ₹86,000 CRORE IN FY24**

**AMID FLUCTUATIONS IN CRUDE PRICES, THE OMCs ENSURED FUEL AVAILABILITY AT AFFORDABLE RATES, WITH ONE OF THE LOWEST FUEL PRICE INFLATION GLOBALLY**

**Over \$320mn raised by 24 startups this week**

Last week, around 28 early and growth-stage startups collectively raised nearly \$340 million in funding

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**

**New Delhi, May 11:** More than \$320 million has been raised by 24 Indian startups in funding this week, which includes 7 growth-stage deals and 13 early-stage deals.

Four early-stage startups did not disclose the amount raised, reports Entracker. Last week, around 28 early and growth-stage startups collectively raised nearly \$340 million in funding. Among the growth-stage deals, seven startups secured around \$287 million in funding this week. Data and AI governance firm Atlan secured the highest funding of \$105 million. This was followed by the dialysis chain NephroPlus, shared electric mobility startup GreenCell Mobility, education service provider K12 Techno Services, and lending firm Lendingkart, which raised \$105 million, \$36.7 million, \$27 million,



and \$10 million, respectively. Moreover, 13 early-stage startups secured funding worth \$33 million during the week. Direct-from-farm produce supply chain startup Superplum topped the list followed by a platform for wholesale buying and selling Poshn, log analytics startup Parseable, fodder ecosystem to support dairy cattle farmers, Cornext, and re-engineered tyre startup Regrip. The list of early-stage startups also includes - GyanLive, QUE, trackNOW, and Food Square, which kept the funding amount undisclosed. City-wise, Bangalore-based startups led with nine deals followed by Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Indore and Kolkata.

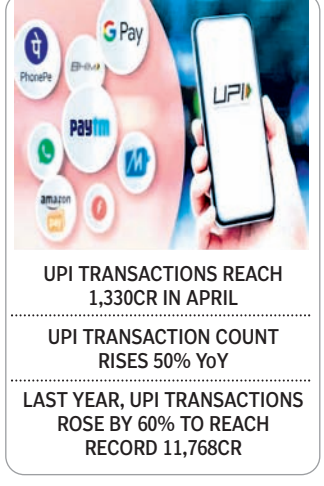
**UPI payments rising unabated**

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**

**New Delhi, May 11:** As India's digital and less-cash journey gains steam, more and more people are not only purchasing their daily essentials via unified payments interface (UPI) mode of digital transactions but also costly home appliances, high-end gadgets and designer apparels, among other things.

The seamless digital journey via the UPI mode has also resulted in people overspending on stuff they actually may not need at times, experts said Saturday.

The purchasing trend via UPI/QR code is due to the fact that digital transactions now take a jiffy to complete the purchase journey via smartphones. According to a recent survey by IIIT Delhi, nearly 74 per cent of people in the country are 'overspending' as a result of using UPI and other digital payment methods. "The convenience and ease of digital transactions through UPI, in comparison to cash, may indeed lead to lower awareness of spending, as transactions are



seamless and reduce the tangible feel of money leaving one's possession," Prabhu Ram, Head, Industry Intelligence Group at market intelligence firm CMR, told IANS. Latest data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) revealed that the number of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions reached 1,330 crore in April. On a year-on-year basis, the UPI transaction count has increased by 50 per cent. Last year, the UPI transac-

**UPI maintains its position as the uncontested frontrunner, buoyed by substantial expansion in mobile transactions. This trend underscores users' growing confidence and familiarity with smartphone-based payment methods**

**RAMESH NARASIMHAN**  
| CEO-INDIA, WORLDRINE

tions increased by almost 60 per cent to reach a record 11,768 crore. The average ticket size (ATS) of UPI transactions has also declined by 8 per cent from ₹1,648 to ₹1,515. According to experts, consumer spending in India is soaring, with people splurging on cars, smartphones, TVs and other items, boosting the country's economic growth. However, the trend has also seen people overspending on certain high-priced items, thanks to UPI. A recent report by Nielsen Media India, on behalf of Amazon India, showed that digital payment methods are on the rise in the country, with 42 per cent of consumers saying they will choose UPI for online festive shopping.

**3X RISE IN 5 YEARS Indian luxury homes claim major chunk**

Luxury homes — categorised as those priced over ₹15mn — made up 21% of all residential units sold across top seven cities in Q1

**AGENCIES**

**New Delhi, May 11:** According to a report by property consultant Anarock Group, the share of luxury homes sold in India has tripled over the past five years. Luxury homes — categorised as those priced over ₹15 million — made up 21% of all residential units sold across the top seven Indian cities in the first quarter of 2024, according to a report released Friday. It was 7% for the same period in 2019. The boom in India's property market comes amid strong economic growth and demand from non-resident Indians. Earlier this year, DLF Ltd's luxury proj-



ect consisting of more than 1,100 homes near the capital New Delhi sold out in three days even before starting construction, with a quarter bought by non-resident Indians. Affordable housing units saw their share of sales decline to 18% from 37% in the same period,

while the mid-range and premium housing segment — homes priced between ₹4 million to ₹15 million — remained the dominant segment with nearly 59% share. "The luxury segment is driven by a mounting appetite for bigger homes by branded developers in superior locations," Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock

said in the report. Affordable houses are "nowhere near to recouping its stellar sales share in 2019," he said. Puri attributes the growing traction in luxury housing to the increasing demand for larger homes in prime locations by branded developers. In contrast, the retreat of affordable housing is primarily due to lower ticket sizes. He emphasises that any revival in the affordable housing sector would depend on further government incentives and support.

**Affordable vs Luxury: 5-year trend**  
In 2019, luxury homes constituted approximately 11% of the

overall new supply across the top 7 cities. Fast forward to Q1 2024, this share has skyrocketed to 25%. In 2019, a modest 25,770 units were launched in the luxury segment for the entire year. However, in just the first quarter of 2024, a staggering 28,020 luxury homes were introduced. On the other hand, affordable housing has witnessed a stark reversal in its trend. In 2019, affordable homes accounted for 40% of the overall new supply additions, totaling approximately 2.37 lakh units across the top 7 cities. However, data from Q1 2024 indicates a sharp drop in its supply share, plummeting to a mere 18% of the total new launches.

IRDAI approval is crucial for the transfer of insurance businesses of Reliance Capital i.e. Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, to the IIHL. Reliance Capital is one of the promoters of Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance. The National Company Law Tribunal February 27, 2024, approved Hinduja Group firm IndusInd International Holdings Ltd's ₹9,650-crore resolution plan for Reliance Capital. In November 2021, the Reserve Bank superseded the board of Reliance Capital on governance issues and payment defaults by the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group company. The central bank had appointed Nageswara Rao Y as the administrator, who invited bids in February 2022 to take over the company. Reliance Capital had a debt of over ₹400,000 crore, and four applicants had initially bid with resolution plans. However, the committee of creditors rejected all four plans for lower bid values and a challenge mechanism was initiated in which IIHL and Torrent Investments participated.



# All eyes on Neeraj

OLYMPIC CHAMPION TO COMPETE BEFORE HOME FANS AFTER THREE YEARS, WHILE ATTENTION WILL ALSO BE ON LOCAL LAD KISHORE AT NATIONAL FEDERATION CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra's presence will turn the National Federation Cup, starting Sunday, into a high-profile domestic competition though several top athletes have decided to skip the four-day Senior Championships.

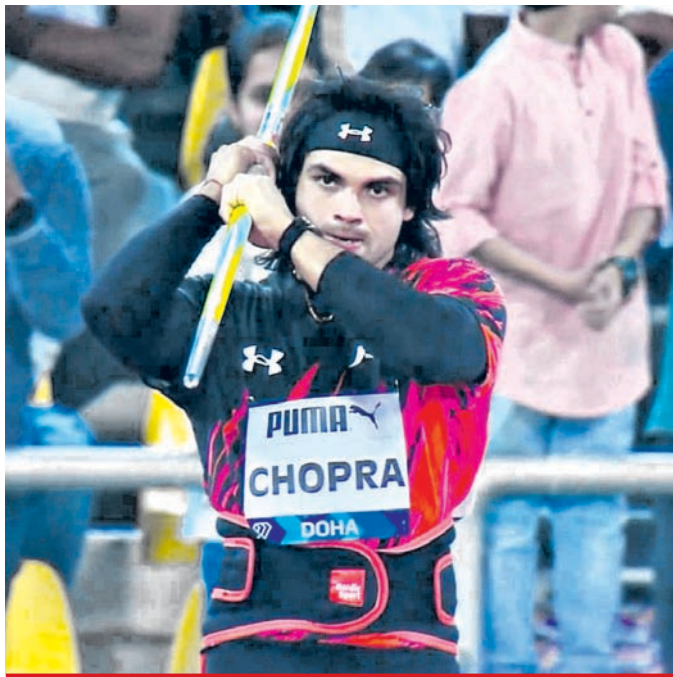
The 26-year-old Chopra will be competing in a domestic event for the first time in three years, after featuring in the 2021 edition of the same event. It will also be the first time that Chopra will compete in India after winning a historic gold in Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

Chopra last took part in a domestic competition at the same Federation Cup in March 2021, when he won a gold with a throw of 87.80m. Since then, he has mostly been training and competing abroad, accumulating silverware and titles.

He became a World Champion, won three individual Diamond League titles, one DL champion's trophy and defended his Asian Games gold in China.

The superstar Indian, who is hoping to defend his Olympic gold during the Paris Games, is heading to India from Doha where he began his season with a second-place finish in the Diamond League with an impressive final round throw of 88.36m on Friday.

"For me more important is my sport. It's good for my profile if I play in India," Chopra said. "Before Tokyo (Olympics), I always trained in India but right now I just want to focus on my game. I will train in India later," he added. Some of the top ath-



The meet will miss the presence of Asian Games medallists Avinash Sable (men's 3000m steeplechase), Jyothi Yarraji (women's 100m hurdles), Parul Chaudhary (women's 3000m steeplechase), Annu Rani (women's javelin throw) and Harmilan Bains (women's 800m & 1500m) due to their ongoing training abroad

letes, including the likes of shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, would also be looking to either breach the Paris Olympics qualifying mark or gain valuable ranking points.

Asian Games silver medallist Kishore Jena, whose Diamond League debut in Doha on Friday

ended in disappointment with a ninth-place finish, will also compete in the event, and so as DP Manu, who had finished sixth in the 2023 World Championships.

All eyes at the Kalinga Stadium will be on the javelin throw event. As per the schedule, the men's javelin qualifying round will be

held May 14 and the final will take place May 15.

In the men's 400m, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh, who were part of the Indian 4x400m squad that qualified for the Paris Olympics during the World Relays in Bahamas recently, have entered the fray. The participation of Ramesh, though, could be doubtful after he sustained muscle cramps in Bahamas.

Asian record holder shot putter Toor would be looking to breach the Olympic qualifying mark of 21.50m after he began his outdoor season with 19.82m effort at the National Throws meet.

Jeswin Ardrin, who has been inconsistent in the past one year, will be the favourite to win the men's long jump gold in the absence of injured Murali Sreeshankar. Aditya Kumar Singh, the latest entrant in the 8m club has also entered his name.

The men's triple jump could see the battle of supremacy between national record holder Praveen Chitravel and Abdulla Aboobacker while reigning Commonwealth Games champion Eldhose Paul, who won title recently in a German event, opted out. In the women's section, the long jump pit could see another duel between Nayana James and Shailli Singh after the India Open Jumps Competition in March. Ancy Sojan is missing from action.

The quarter-mile race will see MR Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Subha Venkatesan and Vithya Ramraj - members of India's 4x400m relay squad that booked a Paris Games berth taking part.

# KKR QUALIFY FOR PLAYOFFS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 11:** Venkatesh Iyer stood out with a 21-ball 42 for Kolkata Knight Riders before their bowlers performed well to lead the side to a 18-run win over Mumbai Indians in IPL, Saturday. With this, KKR became the first team to qualify for the playoffs.

After Iyer's innings, a disciplined Mumbai Indians bowling unit restricted KKR to 157/7. Chasing a challenging 158, MI were off to a flying start courtesy Ishan Kishan (40, 22b, 5x4, 2x6) as they scored 62/0 in the powerplay. In the end, they finished their innings on 139/8.

It was looking good, but once Kishan was dismissed in the seventh over off Sunil Narine (1/17), it all went downwards for MI. The visitors lost wickets at regular intervals and they were reduced to 92/5 in 12.1 overs. Varun Chakravarthy (2/17) was excellent in his four overs. There were some late striking by Tilak Varma (17-ball 32) and Naman Dhir (6-ball 17).

Earlier, battling a strained hamstring, Iyer lifted KKR after their worst start of the season with his counter-attacking knock after MI won a good toss following a late start because of rain. Having missed 11 matches because of a finger injury, Nitish Rana made a 23-ball 33 in a key partnership with Iyer before get-



VENKATESH IYER

ting run out. But Mumbai bounced back well with leg-spinner Piyush Chawla returning 2/38 from his three overs, taking the two key wickets of Iyer and Andre Russell (24).

Russell was looking in the mood and his wicket against the run of play denied KKR some extra runs. Bumrah (2/39) ended his splendid spell by dismissing Rinku Singh for a 12-ball 20.

On a tacky wicket that remained under covers for three days owing to persistent rain in the city, KKR had their worst start of the season and lost their openers - Phil Salt (6) and Sunil Narine (0) - in seven balls.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer also looked tentative and was bowled around the leg by Anshul Kamboj

for a 10-ball seven. Iyer had a tough time after being hit on his heel by a throw from square leg.

After some treatment, the left-hander batted with disdain and attacked MI's best bowler when he hit him for a six and even stepped out for a boundary in a 15-run over.

His innings ensured that KKR kept their run-rate high, and they were 45/3 in the power play, which was reduced to five overs because of rain. Chawla got him with his first ball, but then, Russell kept the momentum.

**BRIEF SCORES:** KKR 157/7 (Venkatesh Iyer 42, Nitish Rana 33; Piyush Chawla 2/28, Jasprit Bumrah 2/39) beat MI 139/8 (Ishan Kishan 40, Tilak Varma 32; Varun Chakravarthy 2/17) by 18 runs.

## PANT HANDED ONE-MATCH SUSPENSION

**New Delhi:** Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant will miss Sunday's crucial match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru after he was handed a one-match suspension for maintaining a slow over-rate for the third time this IPL season. Pant was also fined Rs 30 lakh for the Code of Conduct breach that took place during DC's 20-run win against RR, May 7 here. "As it was his team's third offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Rishabh Pant was fined INR 30 lakh and suspended for one match," an IPL statement read. The Capitals had been found guilty of maintaining slow over rates against Chennai Super Kings (March 31) and Kolkata Knight Riders (April 3) earlier in the season.

**MATCHDAY**  
Indian Premier League  
**CSK vs RR**  
Time: 03:30 pm  
**RCB vs DC**  
Time: 07:30 pm  
Telecast: Star Sports Network  
Stream: Jio Cinema

# Mbappe confirms his departure from PSG



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, May 11:** Kylian Mbappe confirmed what the football world was long expecting to hear, announcing that he is leaving Paris Saint-Germain ahead of a widely expected move to Real Madrid.

Mbappe said on 'X' Friday that his final home game for PSG will be Sunday against Toulouse. "I never thought it would be this difficult to leave my country," he said in the video post. "I think I needed this, a new challenge after seven years."

An emotional-looking Mbappe gulped and paused for breath as he addressed PSG's fans. "It's a club I will keep in my mind for my entire life. I will tell everybody I had the chance to play here"

According to sports daily L'Equipe, Mbappe went to meet and dine with PSG ultras known as CUP (Paris Ultras Collective) shortly after making his announcement. They were set to discuss tributes to him at Parc des Princes Sunday night.

After that game, French champions PSG have league games to follow at Nice and Metz. He is once more the French league top scorer, with 26 goals.

The 25-year-old Mbappe now

captains France and won the World Cup in 2018, becoming the second teenager, after Pele, to score in a World Cup final. He top-scored at the 2022 World Cup, including a rare hat-trick in the final.

Mbappe joined PSG in 2017 from Monaco in a deal worth 180 million euros (USD 194 million). He is expected to join 14-time Champions League winners Real Madrid.

In 2021, PSG turned down a bid of 180 million euros from Madrid for Mbappe. He renewed his contract with PSG but didn't take up the option for an extra year. Earlier this year, he told PSG he's leaving at the end of the season. And he confirmed it, Friday.

"I wanted to announce to you all that it's my last year (season) with Paris Saint-Germain. I will not extend (my contract) and the adventure will come to an end in a few weeks," he said.

"First of all, I want to thank my teammates, all the teammates I had, all the coaches: Unai Emery, Thomas Tuchel, Mauricio Pochettino, Christophe Galtier and Luis Enrique."

He has 255 goals for PSG. He trudged off the field Tuesday night when PSG went out of the semifinals of the CL after losing to Borussia Dortmund 0-1 in each leg. Mbappe's departure will end the superstar era at PSG.

# Djoko "fine" after being hit on head

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Rome, May 11:** Novak Djokovic said he was "fine" after accidentally getting knocked on the head by a water bottle after a win at the Italian Open.

A man was leaning over the railing to hand Djokovic a notebook for a signature and an aluminum-type water bottle fell out of his backpack and hit the top-ranked player on the top of his head Friday.

"Thank you for the messages of concern. This was an accident and I am fine resting at the hotel with an ice pack," Djokovic posted on X. "See you all Sunday."

After getting hit, Djokovic placed both of his hands on his head and then curled up on the ground as a security guard shielded him. Then he was helped down the tunnel into the locker room.

Djokovic had a bump on his head and he was checked by doctors, tournament organizers said. He did not hold his usual post-match news conference.

"While leaving center court after his match, Novak Djokovic was hit on the head by a water bottle while signing autographs. He received medical attention and has already left the Foro Italico to return to his hotel. His



condition is not a cause for concern," organisers said in a statement.

Djokovic had a bit of blood on his head but did not require stitches, Italian Tennis Federation spokesman Alessandro Catapano said. "He was upset, but he seems OK," Catapano said.

"We're also very upset about what happened and we are trying to figure out who it was and understand the dynamics. The police came and asked for in-

formation but the person who did it had already left," Catapano added. "We're going through all of the video and camera angles to see if we can determine what exactly happened."

The incident occurred shortly after Djokovic's 6-3, 6-1 win over French qualifier Corentin Moutet in his opening match. The 24-time Grand Slam champion was returning after nearly a month off. Djokovic has a day off before his next scheduled match at the clay-court tournament Sunday.

## SHORT TAKES

### Indian camp begins

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Indian men's football team camp commenced here Saturday after 19 players and the coaching staff arrived Friday evening. Another 13 players will join May 15. Nine players from the original list of 41 will not be present in the camp owing to their respective injuries or personal reasons. The first batch of players has begun their training with a gym session Saturday morning, which was followed by an on-pitch training session in the evening.

### Ramit advances

**NEW DELHI:** India's Ramit Tandon made a fine start to his campaign in the World Squash Championships with a breezy win over USA's Faraz Khan at Cairo. The World No.36 Tandon, who gained a direct entry into the tournament, emerged an 11-1, 11-3, 11-3 winner in the first round, dismantling Khan, World No.57, in just 13 minutes. Tandon, the lone Indian in the fray here, will face seventh seed Mohamed El Shorbagy of England, a 10-time medallist in the World Championships, in the second round Sunday.

# City stay in control of EPL title race

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, May 11:** Manchester City stayed in control of the Premier League title race by beating Fulham 4-0 Saturday, with Josko Gvardiol scoring a double to add to his unlikely end-of-season haul of goals.

City extended their unbeaten run to 33 games in all competitions and only has to win its final two matches - at Tottenham Tuesday and at home to West Ham May 19 - to capture an unprecedented fourth straight English top-flight title.

Gvardiol, who has been playing out of position as an attacking left back, opened the scoring in the 13th minute by exchanging a one-two with Kevin De Bruyne before slotting home right-footed. He wrapped up the victory by sliding in to meet Bernardo Silva's cross with an effort that dribbled over the line in the 71st.

It took the Croatia international's tally to five goals in his last seven games. He hadn't scored once in his previous 32 matches for City. Between



JOSKO GVARDIOL

Gvardiol's strikes, Phil Foden slotted home a finish off the post in the 59th to notch his 17th league goal of the season.

Julian Alvarez added a fourth in the sixth minute of stoppage time from the penalty spot after

# Anderson to retire after Lord's Test against WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, May 11:** Legendary pacer James Anderson Saturday announced that the first Test against the West Indies this summer will be his final appearance for England, bringing down the curtains on an illustrious career spanning over 20 years.

Regarded as one of the greatest bowlers of all times, the 41-year-old is England's leading wicket-takers and is one of only three bowlers to take over 700 Test scalps. "Hi everyone. Just a note to say that the first Test of the summer at Lord's will be my last Test," Anderson wrote on his Instagram. "It's been an incredible 20 years representing my country, playing the game I've loved since I was a kid. I'm going to miss walking out for England so much. But I know the time is right to step aside and let others realise their dreams just like I got to, because there is no greater feeling," he added.

Anderson's announcement comes after England red-ball coach Brendon McCullum conveyed to the seamer that they are looking at the future, with an eye on the Ashes 2025-26 in Australia. Anderson made his Test debut



back in 2003 and has since claimed a remarkable 700 wickets in a record 187 Test matches.

He currently ranks third on the all-time list of Test wicket-takers, trailing behind spinners Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka and Australia's Shane Warne.

Affectionately nicknamed 'Jimmy', Anderson holds the record for playing the most Test matches by any England cricketer. He ranks second on the all-time list of Test appearances, with only India's legendary Sachin Tendulkar (200) ahead of him.

He has also picked up 269 ODI wickets from 194 outings and 18 scalps from 19 T20Is. England are set to play a three-Test series against the West Indies, starting with the opener at Lord's July 10.

# Aman, Sujeet a win away from Olympic spots, Punia ousted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Istanbul, May 11:** Deepak Punia was eliminated from the Paris Olympics qualification race following his crushing first-round defeat but young Aman Sehrawat and Sujeet Kalkal got closer to securing quotas by reaching the semifinals at the World Qualifiers, here Saturday. No Indian male wrestler has yet qualified for the Games and this is the last chance to secure berths.

Aman comfortably defeated Georgi Valentinov Vangelov before overpowering Ukraine's Andrii Yatsenko. He will now face North Korea's Chongsong Han.

Punia (86kg) lost to China's Zhusen Lin 4-6. The Chinese later lost his quarterfinal, closing the repechage route for the Indian.

Sujeet won 3-2 against Uzbekistan's Umidjon Jalolov and followed that up with a technical superiority victory against Korea's Junsik Yun. He will take on Mongolia's Tulga Tumur-Ochir, the Asian Games champion.