



CHING OUT: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik addresses a gathering during his roadshow as part of the BJD's election campaigning in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, as PIC: MAUSAM NANDA party leader Kartik Pandian looks on

SC rider for ED arrest AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 16: In what came as a blow to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), often accused of working at the behest of the BJP-led Centre, the Supreme Court Thursday held that the agency cannot arrest anyone under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) without specific instruction of the special court holding trial.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said when an accused appears before a court in pursuance of a summons, the agency will have to apply to the court concerned to get his custody.

"If the accused appears before the special court by summons (issued by court), it cannot be treated that he is in custody," it said. "Accused who appeared before the court pursuant to the summons not required to apply for bail, and thus twin conditions of Section 45 of PMLA not applicable," the bench said in its judgment. The twin conditions state that when an accused in a money laundering case applies for bail, the court has to first allow the public prosecutor to be heard and only when it is satisfied that the accused is not guilty and unlikely to commit a similar offence when released, can bail be granted.

The SC judgment was pronounced on a question of whether an accused in a money laundering case has to meet the stringent twin test for bail even in cases where the special court takes cognisance of the offence.

Even Covaxin 'unsafe'

A study by Banaras Hindu University on indigenously-developed Covaxin has claimed to have found Adverse Events of Special Interest like stroke and Guillain-Barre syndrome – a rare disorder that affects nerves – among nearly one-third of recipients. The findings came in the backdrop of UK pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca admitting its Covishield can cause rare side effects of blood clotting and lowering of platelet count. With a majority of Indians having received multiple shots of either of the two anti-Covid vaccines, and given the country's population size, the likely side effects of the hurriedly-prepared vaccines would leave a colossal trail of unwitting victims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: Nearly one-third of 926 individuals, who received Bharat Biotech's anti-Covid vaccine Covaxin, reported 'Adverse Events of Special Interest' (AESI), according to a oneyear follow up study conducted by a team of researchers at Banaras Hindu **Covishield linked to fresh** fatal blood clotting disorder

AstraZeneca vaccine, sold in India as Covishield, is linked to a rare fatal blood clotting disorder - Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VITT). according to a new study by scientists from Flinders University, Australia



low-up period, predominated by viral upper respiratory tract infections. The study involved 635 adolescents and 291 adults, who received the

BBV152 vaccine. Published in the journal Springer Nature, the study comes amid AstraZeneca admitting its Covid vaccine can cause rare side-effects of blood clotting and lowering of platelet count in a UK court. "Close to one-third of the inorders (10.2 per cent), and nervous system disorders (4.7 per cent) were the common AESIs in adolescents. General disorders (8.9), musculoskeletal disorders (5.8 per cent), and nervous system disorders (5.5 per cent) were the common AESIs in adults. Menstrual abnormalities were noticed in 4.6 per cent of female participants.

Ocular abnormalities and hypothyroidism were observed in 2.7 per cent and 0.6 per cent of participants respectively. Four deaths (three female individuals and one male individual) were reported in adults, it added.

"Interestingly, adults receiving three doses and those receiving one dose of BBV152 were respectively at four and two times higher risk of AESIs compared with adults receiving two doses of the Covaxin," the study said.

A booster dose mechanistically enhances the production of anti-Spike antibodies above that produced by the second dose. Significant cross-reactivity has been shown between anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and diverse human antigens and this can explain the multi-system AESIs witnessed in

the study participant, it said. Adults

with co-morbidities had more than two times higher odds of AESIs and

persistent AESIs, the study stated.

In response, Bharat Biotech, how-

ever, said, "Any study on the safety of

Covaxin and its AESI for individuals

who received it should examine a

wide range of data to avoid investigator

bias and ensure effective findings."

NAVEEN GUARANTEE

ବଜ୍ର ଜନତା ଦଳ

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University (BHU).

Serious AESI, which included stroke and Guillain-Barre syndrome, were reported in one per cent of individuals, the study, which looked at long-term safety of the BBV152 (Covaxin) vaccine in adolescents and adults, claimed.

The study, conducted from January 2022 to August 2023, stated that nearly 50 per cent of the sample size complained of infections during the fol-

dividuals developed AESIs. New-onset skin and subcutaneous disorders, general disorders, and nervous system disorders were the three most common disorders observed in adolescents after receiving the vaccine," the study said. The participants were interviewed telephonically about long-term AESI after one year of vaccination.

New-onset skin and subcutaneous disorders (10.5 per cent), general dis-

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



two parties? My family needs

15 kgs of free ration

SHORT TAKES

Sec 144 clamped in Khallikote

BHUBANESWAR: The death of a 28-year-old BJP worker during clashes between supporters of BJD and the saffron party at Sri Krushna Saranapur under Khallikote police limits in Ganjam Wednesday triggered massive tension in the locality Thursday, with police resorting to lathicharge and clamping Section 144 CrPC. Dilip Pahana of the village succumbed to injuries during treatment at a nearby hospital. Irate BJP workers vandalised vehicles near the house of Khallikote Assembly seat's BJD candidate and blocked road near the police station. "While arresting eight persons, police officials were attacked by BJP workers with stones, leaving many injured. In retaliation, police resorted to lathicharge and clamped Section 144 CrPC." an official said. Amid violence, the Election Commission decided to deploy P3 2,000 central forces personnel for polls in Ganjam.

'BJP struggling for 200'

BHUBANESWAR:

Asserting that INDIA bloc will form the next government at the Centre, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday said the BJP and its partners are struggling to get 200 seats as people are opposed to their policies. Referring to PM's claim that the NDA will secure 400-plus seats this time, Kharge asked, "From where the BJP will get these seats? BJP will not form the government at the Centre. It will struggle to secure 200 seats.'

Sunil Chhetri hangs up his boots

The long-serving national team captain, 39, has played for the country for 19 years, having scored his first goal during his debut match in 2005

AGENCIES New Delhi, May 16: The iconic Sunil Chhetri Thursday announced his

a glorious career that is unparalleled in Indian football for its longevity and consistency.

The long-serving nadecision to retire from tional team captain an-

Chhetri, with 94 goals, is fourth in the all-time list of international goal scorers behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (128), Iran's Ali Daei (108) and Lionel Messi (106)

international football nounced his decision via after the FIFA World a video he posted on X.

tains

Cup qualify-Chhetri, who made his ing match debut in 2005, has scored 94 goals for the country. against He will leave the scene Kuwait

as India's all-time top June 6, scorer and most-capped bringing the curplayer.

He is also third in the down on list of goal scorers among

active players behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi and currently sits as the fourth in the all-time list of international goal scorers as well.

Chhetri, 39, will walk into international sunset after rendering yeoman service for nearly two decades, 19 years to be precise, to a team that was heavily reliant on the 5'7' forward to deliver the goods every time he wore the blue jersey

"The match Against Kuwait is the last," Chhetri said while announcing his decision MORE: P12



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leisure



FURIOSA GETS STANDING OVATION AT CANNES

Chris Hemsworth and Anya Taylor-Joy-starrer Furiosa received a thunderous response at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. The audience at the world premiere of Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga, gave the high-octane action film a six-minute standing ovation.

SOPHIE TURNER CONTEMPLATED **TERMINATING FIRST PREGNANCY**

Game of Thrones actress Sophie Turner revealed that she was not sure about stepping into motherhood in her early 20s and even considered terminating her first pregnancy. Turner spoke about how she considered not keeping the child and discussed the situation with her estranged husband, Joe Jonas.



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> You may want to meet up with friends you haven't met in a long time, and the stars indicate that you will have great fun. Your enthusiasm will add a glow to whatever you do. Your sincerity in approach is what makes it special, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

You will focus on nurturing the positive aspects of your life today, says Ganesha. You might exhaust yourself mentally try-

ing to set things straight. It would be bet-ter to brainstorm with someone close to you or approach people whom you have lifferences with

GEMINI

You will let your personal likes and dislikes cloud your iudgement today. Don't let that happen, or you may lose a worthy friend. You are likely to have a chance meeting with your soul mate or maybe even your ex-sweetheart. A romantic evening is on the anvil.

Today may not be a productive day for you. Though there may not be any major loss, you may feel a little lost and would like to be left alone. If you have kids, you may suffer from the empty nest syndrome with your kids not at home

LEO

You may wear the trendiest suit. drive the swankiest car and dine at the costliest restaurant, but if luck is not on your side, you can forget becoming a business tycoon. Fortunately, that is not the case with you today. With a favourable align ment of the cosmos, you are set for a day where your business proposals will be the hardest thing to overlook

VIRGO

Family matters. And matters of family matter more. Your negotiation skills are supreme and you shall bring harmonious ends to disputes today. Life has taught you to be balanced and level-headed, and you strongly believe that there is progression in opposition



somehow. The day promises to be full of activities, especially those old contacts. Expect a call to appear for an interview for a better job. Also, look forward to being put in charge of organising events at work, says Ganesha.

Deepika features in global disruptors' list

Mumbai: Actress Deepika Padukone has added another feather to her cap as she joined the ranks of global disruptors for the class of movers and shakers 2024. Alongside international stars Eva Longoria, Uma Thurman, and Lee Sung Jin, she has been recognised by the international publication Deadline for her significant contributions to the entertainment industry.

As the only Indian star featured on the Global Disruptors List, she solidifies her position as a trailblazer on the world stage, hailed as 'Racket to Rocket: India's Surprise Superstar is on a mission to break barriers and taboos.

This acknowledgement places the actress, who is expecting her first child with her husband and actor Ranveer Singh, among an exclusive cohort of influential personalities who are actively

reshaping the global entertainment landscape. In a statement reflecting on her journey and motivations, Deepika emphasised her profound appreciation for the collaborative nature of the film industry, stating, "Of course, the success of a movie is important, but for me, the time I've had with people and the experiences I have on the set of a film are the most important." The information has also

been shared by Deepika's team on her official website

On the work front, Deepika has *Singham* Again and Kalki 2898 AD in her kitty. AGENCIES

'Turned to fashion for self-discovery'

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar revealed that she struggled with confidence while growing up and said that she turned to fashion as a form of self-discovery.

When I was growing up, I struggled with feeling confident, especially because of the pressure to fit into certain beauty ideals. But instead of letting that define me, I turned to fashion as a form of self-discovery. Bhumi said.

evolved. It's not just about looking good anymore or following trends. It's about embracing my individuality, expressing my personality, and celebrating what makes me unique. Today, fashion and beauty are a medium through which I can express myself, my emotional canvas, and my state of mind."

Even though Bhumi has received mixed views over her fashion and style statement, she will still experiment with her looks as she loves it and she loves it that way, but her fashion is to shatter that perception and show people who she really is and how she wants to be seen.

"I'm a young, confident Indian woman who is expressing herself through fashion, and I'm enjoying the love that my looks are getting,' ends the Bhakshak actress. IANS

FUN

Banita joins **Bridgerton** cast

Mumbai: British-Indian actress Banita Sandhu, who made her screen debut with Shoojit Sircar's October opposite Varun Dhawan, has joined the cast of popular show Bridgerton Season 3.

Banita, who plays Miss Malhotra in the Netflix series based on the book by Julia Quinn, has been hailed by the netizens on Twitter as soon as her character got introduced in the show.

Banita's character Miss Malhotra is anticipated to bring a new and unique dynamic among eligible bachelors. She has a crucial role amid the brewing romance between Penelope Featherington and Colin Bridgerton. Despite being a new addition to Bridgerton cast, Banita's fresh appearance is gaining prominence among fans on Twitter. A person tweeted, "Banita Sandhu is in BRIDGER-TON whatttttt?!?!?

A fan also captioned her tweet as. "Banita about to eat up her 2 minutes of

screen time Bridgerton (cart emoji)."A netizen shared a screenshot of one of the scenes from the show featuring Banita and tweeted, "Banita Sandhu in Bridgerton (cart emoji) season 3." A fan also wrote, "Let's hope she appears all throughout the season.

Bridgerton is currently streaming on Netflix. AGENCIES



Vicky's unique wish

place in the industry through his dedication and versatile performances, starting with

Mumbai:

Actor Vicky

fied his

Kaushal has solidi-

his debut in Masaan (2015). After winning millions of hearts in movies like Udham Singh, Uri, Dunki and Sam Bahadur, the actor has expressed a keen interest in portraying negative characters, finding them intriguing and challeng-

In a recent interview with an entertainment portal, he was asked if he would ever portray a wicked villain. He responded by saying, "Oh, I would love to. I would love to because there's so much, like-you must have heard this from many actors because it is probably true—that there is so much in that. It just sounds fun to get to play a fullblown negative character. I don't know when that'll happen, but I really would do it

SCORPIO

In all probability, you are set to shine out as a man of care and kindness. Ganesha advises you to shut the doors on worries and open the windows to let merrymaking and happiness sweep you off your feet today. The social bug will bite you hard, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Providence smiles upon you today, predicts Ganesha. Catching a film with your beloved today is a very good idea. Chances are you may have a nice outing along with your friends or family. In either case, the load in your wallet is likely to lessen, steadily if not dramatically.

CAPRICORN

Not many can match you when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle, and as Ganesha says, health won't be an issue today either. On the work front, you are likely to complete pending projects successfully and your boss, who may be furious because of the delay caused, will reluctantly admit that you did justice to the work and that it was worth the wait.

AOUARIUS

Today, you will wish there were two of you! You are deluged with pending work, and even doubling up efforts will not seem enough. You may even cancel you movie date. deciding to deal with your sweetheart's tantrums later.

PISCES

Bright prospects will greet whatever new ventures you decide to focus on today savs Ganesha. It is a good time to implement your plans. Apart from short-term monetary gains, you may also find yourself pursuing activities which bring you intangi ble rewards, like goodwill for example



I've gotten older, my relationship and understanding of beauty and fashion have

I TELL YOU, HOBBES

THERE'S A FORTUNE

TO BE MADE .

The actress added:



On the work front, Vicky will be seen next in Chhava sharing the screen with Rashmika Mandanna. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

9						8	3
	8	6	5				
						1	4
	8			8	6		
		5					
	7		3		1		
		8		4			2
		7	9		3		
		3		1		4	9

SOLUTIONS S H CROSSWORD UNITE CE NSURE E Т IAI 2 8 7 9 5 6 1 6 4 9 2 8 3 7 9 8 4 7 6 5 SUDOKU 4 1 3 9 2 8 5 8 9 2 7 6 3 1 4 4 6 3 7 9 1 8 5 2 9 5 8 4 6 2 3 7 1

3

9 6



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MAKING OF THE JUGGERNAUTS

Construction work for the sibling deities' chariots in progress ahead of the Rath Yatra in Puri, Thursday









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28 Lok Sabha candidates in Phase III polls crorepatis



LS

while

Sambit

from Puri, has

declared assets

worth₹1.98 crore.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OF

Bhubaneswar, May 16: As many as 28 of the 64 candidates in fray for six Lok Sabha (LS) constituencies-Sambalpur, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Cutttack, Keonjhar and Dhenkanal- in the state going to polls in the third phase (sixth nationally) May 25 are crorepatis, according to a report by poll watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), and Odisha Election Watch (OEW).

Party wise, the ruling BJD has six crorepati candidates, followed by four each from BJP and Congress, and three from BSP which had fielded candidates in five of the six LS seats. Interestingly, eight Independents contesting the elections in the third phase are also crorepatis. The average assets per candidate contesting the Phase III LS polls in the state stands at

₹11.80 crore. BJD's Cuttack candidate Santrupt Misra, a former HR head of Aditya Birla Group, tops the list with total assets of over

Samal with ₹36 crore, and Ram

Prasad Hembram of BSP from Keonjhar constituency who has declared his assets at ₹35 crore. Union Minister and BJP nom-

inee from Sambalpur segment, 18 (28%) Dharmendra CANDIDATES HAVE Pradhan has DECLARED CRIMINAL declared that CASES AGAINST THEM he owns assets worth ₹ 13 CANDIDATES HAVE DECLARED 6.92 crore,

SERIOUS CRIMINAL CASES AGAINST THEM Patra, BJP ONE CANDIDATE HAS DECLARED candidate

CASES RELATED TO MURDER (IPC SECTION -302) AGAINST HIM

BJP national spokesperson and Bhubaneswar candidate Aparajita Sarangi has total assets worth ₹4.62 crore, the re-

port said. Similarly, BJD nominees ranab Prakash Das Pranab (Sambalpur), Arup Mohan Patnaik (Puri) and Manmath Kumar Routray (Bhubaneswar) and ₹15.57 crore, respectively. Dillip Kumar Baral, an Independent contesting from Puri LS seat, has the lowest declared assets of ₹4,000, while Subash Chandra Bhoi a SUCI candidate from the same constituency, and Natabar Maharana (Bhartiya Bikas Parishad) contesting from Bhubaneswar seat own assets worth ₹19,500 and ₹25,000, respectively.

The report said the average assets of BJD candidates contesting in the third phase election is ₹95 crore, while that of BJP candidates is ₹5 crore.

The report also said 19 (30 per cent) candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between 8 th and 12th standards, while 43 (67 per cent) candidates have declared of having educational qualification of grad-

uate or above. One candidate is a diploma holder, while another has declared himself as 'iust literate'

Also, out of 64 candidates analyzed, 18 (28 per cent) have declared criminal cases against themselves, while

13 have declared serious criminal cases against them. One candidate has declared cases related to murder (IPC Section -302) against himself.

Four candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section 307) against themselves, and an equal number of candidates have declared

Naveen leads roadshow in Bhubaneswar



Artistes performing tribal dance during Chief Minister and BJD Supremo Naveen Patnaik's roadshow in City

"Though we have seen him on TV, this is an opportunity to see him physically," said Susama Behera, a housewife.

Patnaik waived and greeted people as his vehicle proceeded through Gopabandhu Chhak, DAV School (Unit-8), HDFC Bank Square, Mamtaj Ali School, Srikrishna Club, Behera Sahi, Bayababa Mutt Chhak and Master Canteen Square before culminating at Sisu Bhawan Square.

said he was always elated to meet the people.

NADDA'S ROADSHOW IN CITY

BHUBANESWAR: During a roadshow here to garner support for party candidates, BJP president J P Nadda Thursday asserted that people of the state have "decided to give rest" to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik by electing the saffron party to power. Nadda, who was standing in a saffron-coloured open-hood vehicle flanked by Bhubaneswar BJP MP and candidate Aparajita Sarangi and Ekamra-Bhubaneswar Assembly seat's party nominee Babu Singh, was seen waving at crowds on both sides of the road during the roadshow from Mausina Chhak to Lingaraj temple.

tions were imposed on certain areas in the city for the road show Polling in Bhubaneswar is

scheduled to be held May 25.

The BJD has fielded Manmath

stituency. For the Assembly elections, the party has re-nominated MLA Ananta Narayan Jena in Bhubaneswar Central, minister Ashok Panda in Bhubaneswar-

Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha con-

OP PHOTO

Before the roadshow, Patnaik

₹482 crore, followed by party's Dhenkanal candidate Abinash have declared that they own assets of ₹2.30 crore. ₹22.97 crore

women against them.

cases related to crime against

people lined up on both sides of the road to have a glimpse of the chief minister.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

his party.

Bhubaneswar, May 16: Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik led a

roadshow in state capital

Bhubaneswar Thursday, seek-

Accompanied by his close aide

Kartik Pandian, Patnaik also

addressed people in between the

roadshow, urging them to vote for

'conch' -- the election symbol of

The roadshow began at

Ganganagar Chhak amid tight

security with a large number of

ing votes for his party BJD.

Tight security arrangements were made, and traffic restricRoutray against BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi in the

Ekamra and MLA Susant Rout in Bhubaneswar North.

NAVEEN CONDEMNS **GANJAM VIOLENCE**

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 16: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday condemned the violence at Khallikote in Ganjam district in which a BJP worker died during clashes between supporters of the ruling BJD and the saffron party, Wednesday.

"Deeply disturbed and sad dened at the very unfortunate and tragic incident of violence in the Khallikote area. Such incidents of violence have no place in our democracy and civil society. I strongly condemn this incident. My deepest condolence to the family who has lost their loved one and praying for early recovery of those who sustained injuries. I am sure police will take strong and exemplary action against the perpetrators of this heinous crime," CM Patnaik posted on his 'X' account.

Expressing deep concern over the incident, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha, Nikunja Bihari Dhal Thursday instructed the Ganjam district Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) to take immediate steps to establish peace by getting the violence under control in the district.

Local sources claimed that the deceased, Dilip Pahan, along with other BJP workers, who recently joined the party after leaving the ruling BJD, were putting up election campaign posters at Srikrushnasaranapur village late Wednesday night. A scuffle broke out when some BJD workers objected to putting up the posters. Several persons, including Dillip, sustained serious injuries in the fight. Dilip succumbed to the injuries while undergoing treatment at the MKCG hospital.

bv MANJUL



Beware of WhatsApp calls from Pak numbers: Police

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 16: Odisha Police Thursday issued a warning to mobile users, urging caution against answering calls originating from Pakistani numbers starting with +92 on WhatsApp.

Through their official social media platform, the Odisha Police advised mobile users to exercise vigilance and refrain from engaging with callers claiming to be police officers demanding money under false pretenses involving their relatives.

The cautionary measure was prompted by a surge in reports across the state regarding fraudulent calls, wherein cybercriminals impersonate law enforcement officials to extort money

races: she runs strictly without

socks and never wears the same



from unsuspecting individuals.

creasingly adopted by cyber

fraudsters, involve falsely ac-

cusing recipients' relatives, ex-

ploiting their trust to manipulate

them into divulging personal

information or transferring

funds. The Odisha Police em-

These deceptive tactics, in-

maining vigilant and urged citizens not to disclose any details upon receiving such calls. Prior to this advisory, the

phasized the importance of re-

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications had issued a similar cautionary notice, warning mobile users to be wary of incoming calls from foreign numbers, specifically those beginning with +92, on WhatsApp.

The Ministry's advisory underscored the importance of withholding information when confronted by callers purporting to be government officials threatening to disconnect mobile services due to alleged involvement in illicit activities.

AGE NO BARRIER FOR THIS 90-YEAR-OLD SPRINT Q

azzenga is one of the unsung stars of Italian athletics, currently holding five world records, nine European records and 28 best Italian performances in various categories of Masters sprinting - competitive races for older run-

ners organised by age group. "I am very happy and satisfied, and also a bit surprised because I didn't think I went that fast,' Mazzenga said modestly after her record-breaking run May 5, beating the previous record of 53.35 seconds set by Japan's Emiko Saito in 2022.

The women's 200 metres world

record, one of the oldest athletics records on the books, was set by the late American athlete Florence Griffith Joyner with a time of 21.34 seconds in 1988. She was 28 at the time.

The World Masters Athletics record for the women's 50 and over category is 24.33 seconds, held by Jamaican-Slovenian athlete Merlene Ottey, while the record for women 70 and over is 31.30 seconds, held by Ingrid Meier of Germany. There is even a record for women aged 100 and over of 1 minute, 29.79 seconds, held by Diane Friedman of the United States.



Like many athletes, Mazzenga follows precise rituals for her shoes as for training.

She also likes to enjoy a beer with fellow runners to celebrate her successes, even though she usually has no direct rivals in her W90 category. "If I have no competitors, I know that I'll win from the start, so my aim is to do a good time," she said the day after her latest world record, proudly polishing the trophies on display in her living room.

She ran as a young woman, but then stopped for many years after getting married and having children. Her running career as a Masters athlete, which she kicked off at the age of 53, has

been an important comfort for Mazzenga's later years. "It got me through some difficult times, which of course haven't been lacking in a life as long as mine, she said.

"Running also allowed me always to be surrounded by a lot of people, so that I was never alone," she added.

Her next commitments include the Italian championships starting in June and she has an eye on the world championships in Sweden next year, but Mazzenga joked that she prefers-"not to make long-term plans." REUTERS







downtown

SC stays proceedings in UP religious conversion case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: The Supreme Court Thursday staved criminal proceedings before a trial court in Uttar Pradesh (UP) over five FIRs lodged against the vice-chancellor of the Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) and others for alleged illegal conversion of Hindus to Christianity.

OrissaPOST

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The top court, which has been granting protection from arrest and bail to the accused, did not allow the prayer of the UP government for the trial court proceedings to continue

"There should not be further proceedings in connection with the FIRs in the trial court in the case," a bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Mano Misra said in its order.

The bench took note of the submission of a battery of lawyers including senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for SHUATS VC Rajendra Bihari Lal, that the proceedings in the trial court be stayed as all the accused will have to appear following summons that will be issued to them in pursuance of fresh charge sheets filed by the

state police in these cases. Senior lawyer Mukta Gupta,

appearing for one of the accused, said testimony of none of the alleged victims, who were claimed to have been lured into Christianity, was recorded by the state police.

The bench heard the arguments and will resume the hearing August 2.

Earlier, the bench had fixed for final hearing the nine petitions seeking the quashing or clubbing of five FIRs lodged against the SHUATS VC and others pertaining to alleged illegal religious conversions

The cases against Lal pertains to offences under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 504 (intentional insult with an aim to provoke breach of peace) and 386 (extortion) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). He has also been booked under certain provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. The top court has been pass

ing orders from time to time protecting the accused from arrest in connection with the FIRs lodged in Fatehpur.

The UP Police had earlier told the court that Lal and the other accused are the "main perpetrators" of a mass religious conversion programme that involved funds from about 20 countries.

Police have alleged that Lal, among the other accused, is actually a "notorious criminal" involved in 38 cases of various nature, including cheating and murder, registered across UP over the last two decades.

Police have also alleged that about 90 Hindus congregated at the Evangelical Church of India in Hariharganj, Fatehpur for converting to Christianity and were put under "undue influence, coercion, and lured through fraud and the promise of easy money"

Bhubaneswar, May 16: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar observed National Dengue Dav here Thursday by organising a series of public awareness programmes aimed at educating the public on preventive meas

ures to combat dengue. Institute's executive director Ashutosh Biswas, who is also an international expert on Dengue and vector-borne diseases, emphasised the importance of keeping homes and surroundings clean and free from water accumulations to prevent mosquito breeding, especially with the onset of the monsoon season. "Larvae can survive for a long

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

time in stagnant or clean water.



It is crucial to maintain cleanliness and eliminate water stagnation to prevent mosquito breed ing. During the monsoon, preventive measures such as using bed nets, mosquito repellent, and wearing full-sleeve clothes are essential to avoid mosquito bites,"Biswas said.

AIIMS' General Medicine department organised a public awareness programme in the OPD lobby. Public information materials on dengue were distributed to raise awareness about the disease and its prevention. The event was graced by AIIMS medical superintendent Dillip Kumar Parida and DDA Lt. Col. Abhijit Sarkar. Also, in attendance were the General Medicine HoD Anupam Dey, faculty members Rashmi Ranjan Mohanty, Debananda Sahoo, and Srikant Behera

Faculty members from the pediatrics department, including Rashmi R Das, and from the department of Community Medicine & Family Medicine (CMFM) Arvind Singh also participated in the programme.

During the event, experts highlighted the public health importance of dengue, epidemiological risks, and the necessity of adopting preventive measures. They also provided insights into the clinical diagnosis and treatment of dengue in both adults and children.

₹2.5 lakh seized -

from man at BPIA

Bhubaneswar, May 16:

Stepping up the drive against

cash flow for elections, the po-

lice seized ₹2.5 lakh from a

man at Biju Patnaik

International airport (BPIA)

police station, Tusharkant

Sethi, the accused has been

identified as Sachin Parik. He

is a native of Jharsuguda area

who arrived here by a flight

According to IIC of Airport

POST NEWS NETWORK

here, Thursday.

IMD issues yellow alerts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 16: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Bhubaneswar Thursday issued yellow alerts for rain and thundershowers in many districts during the next three days. Heatwave conditions are likely to return to the state this week The day temperature (maximum temperature) is gradually increasing by two to three degrees Celsius across the state.

On May 17, thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph may occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam,

and Gajapati districts. Yellow warning of thunderstorm with lightning has been issued for one or two places in Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Ravagada. Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam, and Gajapati during the subsequent 24 hours. Heatwave conditions may return to the state May 19 with yellow warning issued for districts of Nuapada, Balangir, Bargarh. Jharsuguda. Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, and Angul.

COAL IMPORT SCAM Plea seeking FIR by MMTC dismissed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: A special court has dismissed a plea by the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) seeking the registration of an FIR by the CBI in connection with alleged corruption in the import of coal from an Australian company at inflated rates in 2009,

officials said Thursday. The PSU had sought directions to the CBI to register an FIR in matter which is now being investigated by the Central probe agency by registering a preliminary enquiry.

The Central probe agency had A preliminary enquiry is the first step by the agency to asregistered a preliminary encertain if there is prima facie quiry last year. The case perenough material in the allegatains to a long-term agreement signed between MMTC and tions to warrant a full-fledged investigation through an FIR or a Anglo American Metallurgical regular case, they said. Coal Pvt. Limited March 7, 2007 The plea was dismissed by for the purchase of freshly-mined the special court which said it and washed cooking coal. It is alleged MMTC officials does not have power to direct the CBI to register an FIR and inproposed and sanctioned USD vestigate the case 300 per metric tonne rate for the Citing orders of the Supreme fifth delivery period between Court and high courts, the spe-July 1, 2008 to July 30, 2009 despite cial court said the powers to issue being fully aware that the price directions to the CBI to register of cooking coal had drastically an FIR lie with the Supreme fallen in the wake of Lehman Court and high courts only. Brothers collapse, and purchas-The public sector undertaking ing coal at USD 300 PMT would had approached the special court cause a huge loss, they said.



with a plea it had submitted two complaints with the CBI --September 2, 2022 dated November 23, 2022 -- seeking the registration of the FIR in the matter as the complaints were disclosing the commission of the cognisable offences, but no

action was taken by CBI.

Odisha FPOs tap global markets

Farmer Producer Organisations mark their foray into global markets with first commercial shipment of fresh mangoes and vegetables

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 16: In a significant boost to farm exports from Odisha, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in the state have marked their foray into the global markets with the first commercial shipment of fresh mangoes and vegetables.

This feat was made possible through a strategic collaboration between the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the state Directorate of Horticulture and Palladium which is the technical support unit for the 'Promotion and Stabilisation of Farmer Producer Organisations (PSFPO)' project. On May 15, as much as 0.75 tonne of fresh vegetables were exported to Dubai from the Biju Patnaik International Airport. Bhubaneshwar. This included 0.5 MT supplied by the Madanamohana Farmers **Producer Cooperative Society** Ltd, an FPO from Dhenkanal



district, a statement said.

Besides, 1.22 tonne of premium Amrapali and Dussehri variety mangoes from the same FPO were shipped to Italy over the last couple of days, it said.

in linking FPOs with global markets is praiseworthy,' Mandal added. Biswajit Behera, Associate

Wednesday night, he said. Giving further details, Sethi Director of Palladium, said with said, "Sachin works as a conover 800 FPOs, the state Odisha struction builder in Jharsuguda. However, it has not been clear whether the cash was meant for political donations or regular purposes. The cops would probe the incident further for more details.' Sources in the Airport said the incident came into light after security officials in the bag-check counter detected the cash in Sachin's bag. During questioning, he was not able to give a satisfactory answer.



MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION SENSEX **73663.72** 會 679.69 BOI NIFTY 22403.85 1 203.30 DOLLAR 83.482 1 ₹0.06 EURO ₹0.60 90.7390 GOLD ₹261 ₹72.841 SILVER ₹87.071 1 ₹206

WEATHER

	BBSR	СТС						
Max Temp	38.0°⊂	37.0°⊖						
Min Temp	27.8°C	26.6°(
Humidity	53%	62%						
Rainfall	0.5	1.0						
FORECAST		M						
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY								
		50						

Farmers associated with these FPOs realised 20-30 per cent higher prices for their produce in the export markets as compared to domestic sales, it added.

Lauding the efforts, Sitakanata Mandal, APEDA's Regional Head, said, "We wanted to facilitate exports of fresh produce this season. Our partnership with Palladium made this possible as they identified and connected the FPOs with exporters.' "The work done by Palladium

has immense potential to export fresh farm produce worldwide.

The market linkages created with export supply chains will boost farmer incomes and create sustainable business opportunities for the state's FPOs. he stated.

'We aim to provide more such global markets connected to FPOs in remote areas and help them adopt efficient quality control systems to scale up their operations," Behera said.



bout 50 per cent of people with high blood pressure (BP) or hypertension are likely to experience kidney damage in the long term and may require dialysis or transplantation,

said experts on Thursday ahead of World Hypertension Day. World Hypertension Day is observed every year May 17 to raise awareness about the "silent killer" that affects a whopping 188.3 million people in India.

"Uncontrolled hypertension may narrow, harden or weaken the arteries around the kidneys disturbing the kidney's process of filtering blood, regulating fluid and electrolytes in the body. Hypertension damages the blood vessels and filters in the kidney, and it is challenging to remove

waste from the body," L H Suratkal, Nephrologist, at Lilavati Hospital told IANS

"Unmanaged hypertension causes scarring of kidney tissue kidney failure or end-stage renal disease (ESRD) leading to negative outcomes and deaths. About 30 per cent of people with hypertension tend to suffer from kidney damage in the long run and may require dialysis or transplantation," he added

High BP is also known to affect the heart, brain, and eyes. According to health experts, a sedentary lifestyle, obesity, physical inactivity and stress have increased the burden of hypertension in young Indians aged 15-60.

"The number of patients suffering from kidney disorders is



affects a whopping 188.3 million people in India Uncontrolled hypertension may narrow, harden or

weaken the arteries around the kidneys disturbing the kidney's process of filtering blood, regulating fluid and electrolytes in the body

High BP is also known to affect the heart, brain, and eyes. According to health experts, a sedentary lifestyle, obesity, physical inactivity, and stress have increased the burden of hypertension in young Indians aged 15-60

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), if half of the people with hypertension in India keep blood pressure under control, at least 4.6 million deaths can be averted by 2040

increasing. About 80 to 100 pafound to have hypertension," Ruju Gala, Consultant Nephrologist & Renal Transplant Physician, Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai, told IANS.

The doctor explained that hypertension wreaks havoc on the kidney structure by straining the blood vessels in the kidneys and causing nephrosclerosis,

where the kidneys become hard and their ability to filter waste products declines

"Hypertension also leads to an imbalance in the hormones and enzymes involved in managing blood pressure and maintaining fluid balance in the kidneys," Ruju said

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), if half of the people with hypertension in India keep blood pressure under control, at least 4.6 million deaths can be averted by 2040.

To manage hypertension, the experts advised eating a nutritious diet. reducing sodium intake, maintaining an optimum weight, quitting smoking and alcohol, and avoiding intake of processed foods. IANS

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tients come for treatment every

month. Of those patients who

come for treatment with kidney

problems, 50 to 75 per cent are

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-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823. Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714. Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821. Privadarshini 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.







state

4 killed in Jajpur mishaps POST NEWS NETWORK



Officials conducting a probe at the accident site in Binjharpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, May 16: Four persons were killed Thursday in two separate accidents one of which was due to caving in of soil in Binjharpur block and the second happened during drilling of a stone quarry in Dankari hills under Dharmasala tehsil.

Several labourers were also injured in Binjharpur while sources informed that seven persons are still feared trapped inside the stone quarry with three earth-moving equipment buried under the debris

In the first incident, three persons died after a massive amount of soil fell on them near Rahansha village under Kapila panchayat during installation of pipelines by a private company. The pipelines were being laid to provide irrigation facilities to the farmlands.

The deceased were identified as Firoz Ansari, 23, Aftab Ansari, 28, both from Bihar and Chidambaram Velulai, 44, from Tamil Nadu. Tragedy struck while the workers were laying the pipes at 1.00am Wednesday.

Locals rushed to the spot and rescued all those who had been buried under the soil. They were rushed to Binjharpur hospital. As condition

of three of them turned critical they were referred to the district headquarters hospital here. However, they were pronounced dead on arrival. The others who had suffered injuries were discharged from

Binjharpur hospital after treatment, doctors informed. Locals meanwhile stated that excavation of land was not being carried out in a planned manner and it

led to the tragedy. In the second incident, a labourer was killed and seven others were



Police personnel visit the mine at Dankari hills where the mishap occurred OP PHOTOS

Excise dept crackdown leads to huge seizures

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 16: Since the announcement of the dates of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha, the Excise department has been on an overdrive in and around this town. Elections to the Sundargarh Lok Sabha constituency and the Assembly segments within it will be held May 20. The Excise department has launched a massive crackdown on people selling illegal liquor and drugs.

Officials of the Excise department informed here Thursday that the crackdown has vielded tremendous results. A total of 515 cases have been registered between March 16 to May 11 and 441 persons have been arrested for dealing in contraband items. Along with it, huge quantities of cannabis, heroin, country and for-

eign-made liquor have been seized. The jurisdiction of the Rourkela Excise department covers this city. Biramitrapur municipality and Bonai sub-division. So far the department has seized 15,546 litres

of country liquor, 2.36 quintals of fermented 'mahua', 195 litres of 'fake' foreign liquor, huge quantities of beer and Indianmade foreign liquor (IMLF). All these seized items have been destroyed, officials said. The department has also seized 22.14 kilograms of cannabis, they added.

"With polls just round the corner we expect more seizures. We have been on our toes even before the election dates were announced," Excise department inspector S Pradhan informed. he stated that along with the contraband items they have also confiscated the vehicles that were being used for transportation of the contraband items.

trapped when a portion of the quarry at the Dankari black stone mines caved in. According to information available, efforts are on to rescue those trapped inside the quarry.

Locals informed that one person lost his life after a huge slab of stone fell on him. He died on the spot and his identity is yet to be ascertained.

Police, who rushed to the spot. are supervising the rescue operations along with district administration officials. Fire services personnel have also been pressed into service to rescue the trapped workers.

On being informed, Deputy Director of Mines (DDM) Jay Prakash Nayak, Jajpur Road SDPO Sanjay Patnaik, Dharmasala tehsildar Subhankar Mohanty, Dharmasala police station IIC Tapan Kumar Nayak and his Jenapur counterpart Subhendu Sahu rushed to the spot to supervise the rescue operations

Sources informed that excavation at the black stone mine was being carried out illegally as it had not been leased out to anyone. They demanded probe into the matter.

> EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2024-T-209 NAME OF WORK : REPLACEMENT OF UNDER RATED AND DEFECTIVE UNDERGROUND CABLE CROSSINGS

AT CABLES IN MAJOR STATION OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx Cost of the work (₹): 1,27,21,401.69, EMD (₹) : 2,13,600.00 ompletion period of the work : 06 (Siz

Tender Closing Date and Time At 1500 Hrs. of 07.06.2024

vithout any consideration.

Note : The prospective tenderers an advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteer days before the date of closing of tender note any changes / corrigendum issue Keonjhar accident victims identified were related.

Keonjhar, May 16: A day after a gruesome road mishap snatched the lives of six occupants of a car near Rimuli under Champua police limits in this district cops identified the deceased Thursday. They informed that five of the deceased

Name of Political Party

Name of Constituency

Name of Election

The deceased were identified as Sanjay Mahakud, his wife Sandhya Mahakud and their 12-year-old daughter Pihu, Lucy Palei (sister of Sandhya) and Phulanti Palei (mother of Sandhya and Lucy). The sixth person who died was the driver of the vehicle, Promod Palei.

The bodies were sent to Champua sub-division hospital for post-mortem following which they were handed over to the respective families Thursday for the last rites

Police officials visited the mishap site Thursday and launched an investigation to find out the real cause behind the mishap. Police have also seized the truck that allegedly hit the ill-fated car from the rear. Due to the violent impact from the back, the car crashed into another truck in front leading to the death of all the six occupants. Police had to call fire brigade personnel to bring out the bodies from the car.



FORMATC-1/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 and Anr.)

LAXMANMUNDA Name and Address of Candidate

AT-Sarasposh, Po-Gopana, PS-K.Balang, Dist-Sundargarh, Odisha, Pin-770040 COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (Marxist)

(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here) **GENERAL ELECTION-2024**

14-BONAI (S.T) CONSTITUENCY, SUNDARGARH, ODISHA

ILAXMAN MUNDA (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election; declare for public information the ing details about my criminal antecedents

SI No	FIR No. with name & address of Police station concerned	RNo. with ne&address olice station of the Court no. of		Section(s) of concerned Acts/ bdes involved (give of the Section, e.g. ction of IPC, etc.) Brief description of offence C D		Ifansweragainst (e)above is YES, then give the date on Which charges were framed	Whether any Appeal Application for revision has been filed against the proceedings (mention YES or NO)
1	A PSCaseNo.10 of2018,Koida PS,District Sundargarh	G.R. No 49 of 2018, SDJM, Bonai	C U/s, 143, 448, 341, 294, 427, 186, 353, 506, 149 of IPC, 3 P.D.P.P, Act. 7 Cr.L.A. Act.	D Demonstration at DDm, Koida for opening of Closed Mines.	E Under Trial	F Under Trial	G NO
2	PS Case No. 11 of 2018, Koida PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 50 of 2018, Sri.U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s, 143, 448, 341, 294, 427, 186, 353, 506 & 34 of IPC	Demonstration at DDm, Koida for opening of Closed Mines.	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
3	PS Case No.135 of 2017, Lahunipara PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 560 of 2017, SDJM, Bonai	U/s143,149,186,283, 294&34 of IPC	Demonstration in front of Bhaskar Steel, Tumkela against pollution and local emplyoment	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
4	PS Case No.68 of 2021, Koida PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 488 of 2021, SDJM, Bonai	U/s188,269&34 of IPC	Demonstration in front of DDM Office, Koida	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
5	PS Case No.69 of 2021, Koida PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 489 of 2021, SDJM, Bonai	U/s147,448,341,353, 149ofIPC	Demonstration in front of DDM Office, Koida for worker issue & emplyoment	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
6	PS Case No.124 of 2017, Lahunipara PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 522 of 2017, SDJM, Bonai	U/s143,149,283,341of IPC	Demonstration at Bhaskar Steel, Tumkela against Pollution & for emplyoment for local youth	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
7	PS Case No.117 of 2018, Lahunipara PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 454 of 2018, SDJM, Bonai	U/s143,149,186,283, 341ofIPC	Demonstration on Pulic Issue	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
8	PS Case No.3 of 2017, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 91 of 2017, J.M.F.C.(R), Rourkela	U/s147,148,149,294, 307,341,323,324,325, 427,506,&120-BofIPC	Demonstration at Bimlagarh Rly Siding for demanding emplyoment for local youth	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
9	PSCaseNo.11 of 2016, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	PS Case No.11 of 2016, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	U/s 143, 149 & 34 of IPC, and 174 of I.R.Act	Demonstration for Talcher Bimlagarh Rail Line	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
10	PSCaseNo.21 of 2014, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	PS Case No.21 of 2014, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	U/s143,341,283,149, 146,147 of IPC, and 174 of Rly. Act	Demonstration for Talcher Bimlagarh Rail Line	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
11	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 456 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.3/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s174-A,147,145of Railway Act.	Agitation at P.S.J. Railway Station for repairing of NH-215/520	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
12	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 457 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.4/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 174-A, 147, 145 of Railway Act.	Agitation at P.S.J. Railway Station for repairing of NH-215/520	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
13	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 458 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.5/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 174-A, 147, 145 of Railway Act.	Agitation at Roxy Railway Station for repairing of NH-215/520	UnderTrial	UnderTrial	NO
14	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 484 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.8/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145, 147, 174-A of Railway Act.	Agitation at BUF Railway Station against loading of intend No. 154 by Rashi Steel & Power	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
15	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 283 of 2018, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.3/2018 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s145-A,147,174-A of Railway Act.	Agitation regarding public Railway issue	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
16	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 450 of 2018, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.9/2018 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145-B, 147, 147-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
17	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 4of 2019, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.1/2019 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145, 147, 174-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
18	RMCCaseNo.2/2019 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	RMC Case No.2/2019 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s145-B,147 of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
19	RMCCaseNo.1/2020 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	RMC Case No.1/2020 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s145,147,174-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	UnderTrial	Under Trial	NO
20	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 176 of 2019, District Sundargarh.	RMC Case No.8/2013 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 174-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO

RAILWAY

AND REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVI

Months from the date of issue of LOA.

o manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person accepted against suc tenders even if these are submitted of irm's letter head and received in time. A

uch manual offers shall be considered nvalid and shall be rejected summari Complete information including e-tende ocuments of the above e-tender ilable in website : http://www.ireps.gov.i

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engi PR-122/P/24-25 Sa

Man gets 10-vr Rl for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 16: POCSO court judge Abhilash Senapati convicted Thursday Jogendra Pinga, a resident of Narimunda village in this district for raping a minor girl in 2017 and sentenced him to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI). The judge also slapped a fine of ₹1 lakh on the convict. Failure to pay the penalty will mean an additional one year in prison for Pinga, the judge said.

According to the police report, the heinous crime was committed on the evening of November 18, 2017. The victim, a resident of the same village, had gone to a desolate field to answer nature's call. Taking advantage of the situation, the convict took her to a secluded place and raped her. He also threatened to kill the girl, if she disclosed the matter to anyone.

However, after returning home, the minor girl disclosed her ordeal to her mom. The family members of the girl then lodged a complaint at the Gobindpur police station and a case (No 153/2017) was registered under Section 376(2)(I)and 6 of the POCSO Act. Police then arrested Pinga and produced him in court.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. SHRAM SHAKTI BHAWAN** RAFI MARG, NEW DELHI - 110 001 Central Employment Exchanges

Advt. No.- 05/2024

Applications are Invited from eligible SC/ST jobseekers for (1) Special Coaching (2) 'O' level One year Software training (3) 'O' Level Computer Hardware Maintenance training (CHM) (4) Office Automation, Accounting and Publishing Assistant (5) Computer Application and Business Accounting Associate (6) Cyber Secured Web Development Associate Programme which is likely to commence from 01.07.2024

National Career Service Centres for SC/ST offer the followings courses free of cost for SC/ ST jobseekers at various locations. During the course period, the candidate is entitled for the stipend @ Rs. 1000 per month.

The details of eligibility criteria for training programmes is given as under:

SI. No.	Name of the course	Duration of the course	Age limit	Minimum Qualifi- cation	Family Income	Books & Statio- nery	Likely to be com- menced
1	Special coaching Scheme	One Year	18-27 years (as on 01.07.2024)	10+2	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per annum	Free	01.07.2024
2	'O' Level one year computer training through NIELIT	One Year	18-30 years (as on 01.07.2024)	10+2	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per annum	Free	01.07.2024
3	'O' Level Computer Hardware maintenance training through NIELIT	One Year	18-30 years (as on 01.07.2024)	10+2	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per annum	Free	01.07.2024
4	Office Automation, Accounting and Publishing Assistant through NIELIT	One Year	18-30 years (as on 01.07.2024)	10+2	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per annum	Free	01.07.2024
5	Computer Application and Business Accounting Associate through NIELIT	One Year	18-30 years (as on 01.07.2024)	10+2	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per annum	Free	01.07.2024
6	Cyber Secured Web Development Associate through NIELIT	One Year	18-30 years (as on 01.07.2024)	10+2	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per annum	Free	01.07.2024

Desirous SC/ST jobseekers may visit www.ncs.gov.in or www.dge.gov.in and submit their application (in enclosed format) to the National Career Service Centre for SC/STs (list may be seen on DGE website or NCS portal) where the candidate is interested for participating in the above said program. Last date for Submission of application to NCSC for SC/ST is 15.06.2024. Candidates would be considered for only one course. The candidates may indicate their choice of courses in order of their preferences.

CBC 23105/11/0003/2425



politics and social environment.

Hamas' terrorist attack last October.

some genocidal maniacs in Israel).

itly identified with the anti-imperialist

Viet Cong position and a broader, positive

socialist project, whereas today's protest

ers very rarely identify with Hamas, and

As Berardi puts it: "Despair is the psy-

chological and also cultural trait that ex-

plains the wide identification of young

people with the Palestinians. I think that

the majority of the students today are con-

sciously or unconsciously expecting the ir-

life, irreversible climate change, a long-

lasting period of war, and the looming

danger of a nuclear precipitation of the con-

flicts that are underway in many points of

It would be difficult to explain the situ-

ation any better than that. The authorities

obscenely repressive response to the protests

supports Berardi's hypothesis. The harsh

crackdowns are not motivated by any fear

that the protests will launch a new politi-

despair that pervades our societies.

the geopolitical map."

instead are "identifying with despair."

Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you

THE MOTHER

hese are crazy times. Biblical disturbances in nature, such as the

repeated torrential rain in Dubai or the mass fish die-off in

Vietnam's overheated reservoir, seem to mirror our overheated

At such moments, it is crucial to keep a cool head and analyse all the

weird phenomena as closely, objectively, and dispassionately as possi-

ble. And few phenomena nowadays are weirder than the protests sur-

rounding Israel's bombardment and invasion of Gaza in response to

such as those who recently demonstrated in Hamburg, Germany, chant-

ing "Kalifat ist die Lösung" ('Caliphate is the solution'). And we should

concede that, despite the massive presence of Jews among the protesters,

there are at least a few true anti-Semites among them (just as there are

While many commentators have noted the parallel between today's

pro-Palestinian demonstrations and the 1968 student protests against

the Vietnam War, the Italian philosopher Franco Berardi points to an

important difference. Rhetorically, at least, the 1968 protesters explic-

We should acknowledge the rhetoric from some politicised Muslims,

Protests of Despair

attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions

power post

hree decades ago, I

began my journey at

a business school as a

faculty member, while

my friend ventured into his fam-

ily business of providing in-

terstate transport services. At

the same time, across the road,

FOCUS ECONOMY

INEQUALITY & INHERITANCE

DV Ramana

HAVING LAWS TO TAX THE RICH AND REDISTRIBUTING **THE PROCEEDS AMONG THE POOR ALONE WILL NOT SUFFICE**

another young person started a small hair salon. With a modest charge of Rs 5 per service, juxtaposed against my monthly salary of approximately Rs 3000, and significantly higher monthly business income of my friend, all three of us laboured diligently in our respective vocations. However, over the course of three decades, a significant gap emerged in our financial fortunes. While my income experienced a rise reflecting the characteristics of a white coloured worker, the proprietor of the hair salon witnessed only a marginal increase in earnings, and my friend's wealth and income increased manifold. This stark contrast in income and wealth serves as an exhibit of the economic inequality prevalent in our society. Such inequality results in unequal opportunities among the citizens of a country.

Financial inequality is seen as a reward for productivity in a capitalist economy, but unequal opportunity, on the other hand, defies the meritocratic ideals of any civilised society. Unequal opportunity has serious economic consequences too. According to the Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, "...growing inequality is the flip side of something else: shrinking opportunity. Whenever we diminish equality of opportunity, it means that we are not using some of our most valuable assets - our people - in the most productive way possible.'

At the heart of this divergence lies the phenomenon of inheritance. Inheritance refers to all or part of the assets of an estate that are passed on to the heirs after the death of the propIt's essential to recognise that every tax law has loopholes, allowing the affluent to exploit them to their advantage. The inheritance tax laws are no exception

ing a just and equitable society.

Article 39(b) mandates that the

ownership and control of the

the operation of the economic

concentration of wealth and

means of production to the detri-

ment of the common good.

Against this backdrop, the in-

troduction of inheritance tax

emerges as a pragmatic policy

measure to uphold the objec-

tives delineated in Article 39.

Inheritance tax is tax on in-

heriting any property or assets

from parents or grandparents or

any other relative or friend. It

is calculated on the total value

of a property that is held by a

person at the time of his/her

death. The tax is supposed to

be paid by the receiver of such

property, after it is passed on

to them, depending on how the

By imposing tax on the trans-

fer of wealth from one genera-

tion to the next, inheritance tax

serves as a mechanism to pre-

vent the undue accumulation

law is framed.

nomic policies aimed at fostererty owner. The inheritance may be in the form of a cash endowment, real estate, shares, or any other form of property. Those born to wealthy families material resources of the cominherit more than those born to munity shall be so distributed poor ones This inheritance conas best to discharge the comsolidates the economic ability of mon good. Furthermore, Article some and creates hurdles to eco-39(c) explicitly articulates the nomic advancement for those state's obligation to ensure that less fortunate. system does not result in the

The problem is not the wealthy families, but the concentration of wealth in the hands of a small percentage of the population. For example, in India, the income and wealth share of the top one per cent of the population increased to 22.6 per cent and 40.1 per cent, respectively, in 2022-23. According to the famous French economist Thomas Piketty, as wealth remains within a small part of society, so does it increase at a faster rate than the wealth of the rest of society. It contributes towards widening the gap between the top and bottom of the pyramid. Is concentration of wealth unconstitutional? Unfortunately, the issue is still unresolved.

Within the framework of the Indian Constitution, the principles enshrined in Article 39 serve as guiding principles for the formulation of socio-eco-

of riches within privileged families, thereby fostering greater economic inclusivity and soci etal well-being.

Several countries have recognised the inheritance tax, however, there are a lot of different names used for it, such as estate duty, transfer tax, succession tax and even death tax. The rate of the inheritance tax also varies from country to country, ranging from 55 per cent in Japan to 30 per cent in Belgium and Germany.

Historically, India had a mechanism to address wealth inequality in the form of Estate Duty. The Estate Duty Act was introduced in India in 1953 to reduce economic disparity by taxing wealth transferred through inheritance. However, it was repealed in 1985.

While the introduction of the Estate Duty depicted a concerted effort to address wealth inequality, its subsequent repeal in 1985 marked a departure from the State's commitment to uphold the principles enshrined in Article 39. Will reintroduction of the tax reduce the inequality prevalent in the country?

It's essential to recognise that every tax law has loopholes, allowing the affluent to exploit them to their advantage. The inheritance tax laws are no exception. Having laws to tax the rich and redistrib uting the proceeds among the poor alone will not suffice. Therefore, the narrative should shift towards the overarching goal of creating a meritocracy driven egalitarian society. We need more effective alternatives to reduce inequality. The nexus between inheritance, wealth concentration, and unequal opportunity highlights the necessity for equitable fiscal policies and legislative interventions to foster a more in-

clusive and just society. The writer is a professor at XIMB. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

PoK: Rhetoric & reality

n response to former J&K hold the parties to account. In Indian part of the Kashmir, Chief Minister Farooq many democracies, manifestoes Abdullah's reference to are not to inform people but to Pakistan having atom bombs, Union Home Minister Amit Shah groups that they issue them by retorted that India is not afraid of Pakistan's bomb and that every inch of PoK belongs to India. He further asserted that India will reclaim PoK one day or the other. This is indeed a tall claim but a right one to make. However, is it only an election gimmick or a serious intention which becomes a part of BJP's manifesto? Notably, it has not been included in the manifesto. Why not? This is the question this article seeks to address. Let me throw a caveat. Election promises either written into a manifesto or announced in public meetings amount to populism, to whip up emotions of the electors and create jingoism when it comes to foreign policy issues, in particular, Pakistan. Manifesto is a cardinal document of a party which is presented at the time of elections. Remember, the famous Communist manifesto which provided the basis for progressive politics in the world: Communism and its variants. Since then, however, manifestoes have not been adhered to in letter or sprit. In developed democracies, there is some ethical regard to manifestoes and the voters can

give political identity to the

should claim PoK without which the integration of Kashmir into India is incomplete. Pakistan is deviously using

demand. It is difficult to predict if this would settle the issue. In Kashmir, it is a matter of

contention between India and Pakistan, Thus far, Pakistan has been relentlessly agitating in international fora for getting the Indian part of Kashmir. India, although has not made a formal claim of PoK, the BJP leadership has been raising it off and on. This is perfect strategy on Kashmir: the entire Kashmir has to be integrated with India.



obstacle to peace in the Middle East, Palestinian statehood is a precondition for any between the two

threatening it with sanctions should it decide to issue an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Although this was strictly a Republican undertaking, President Joe Biden's administration also has pressured the ICC not to charge Israeli officials over war crimes committed in Gaza. Such threats signal nothing less than the demise of shared global values. Though this ideal was always somewhat hypocritical (the United States, for example, has refused to join the ICC), governments at least upheld it in spirit.

The second recent example supports the same conclusion. On 4 May, France (complying with a German-issued visa ban) denied entry to Ghassan Abu-Sitta, a British-Palestinian surgeon who was scheduled to provide testimony to the French Senate on what he had witnessed while treating victims of the war in Gaza. With such crude acts of censorship and marginalization happening before our eyes, it is no longer an exaggeration to say that our democracies are crumbling.

Everyone knows that the situation in Gaza is unacceptable. But a great deal of energy has been devoted to postponing the kind of intervention that the crisis requires

One way to help break the impasse is to offer public support for the student protests. As US Senator Bernie Sanders put it on 28 April, "What Netanvahu's right-wing, extremist, and racist government is doing is unprecedented in the modern history of warfare ... Right now, we are looking at the possibility of mass starvation and famine in Gaza. When you make those charges, that is not anti-Semitic. That is a reality." After the 7 October attacks, Israel emphasised the raw realities of what Hamas had done. Let the images speak for themselves, Israeli authorities said. The brutal killings and rapes had been recorded by the perpetrators and were there for everyone to see. There was no need for complex contextualisation. Can we not now say the same about the Palestinian suffering in Gaza? Let the images speak for themselves. See the starving people in packed improvised tents, the children slowly dying as Israeli missile and drone strikes continue to reduce buildings to ruins, then to rubble, and then to dust. I am reminded of what Michael Ignatieff (then a journalist) wrote in 2003 about the US invasion of Iraq: "For me, the key issue is what would be the best result for the Iraqi people - what is most likely to improve the human rights of 26 million Iraqis? What always drove me crazy about the opposition [to war] was that it was never about Iraq. It was a referendum on American power."

cal movement: rather, they are expressions serious negotiations of panic – a futile refusal to confront the sides ter to the International Criminal Court

Signs of this panic are everywhere, so allow me to offer just two examples. First, late last month, 12 US senators sent a let-



The same point does not apply to today's anti-war protests. Far from a referendum on Palestinian, Israeli, or American power, they are driven primarily by a desperate plea simply to stop the killing of Palestinians in Gaza.

So, what should the Biden administration do (aside from replacing Vice President Kamala Harris with Taylor Swift on this year's ticket)? For starters, the US can join the global initiative to recognise Palestine as a state. Far from being an obstacle to peace in the Middle East, Palestinian statehood is a precondition for any serious negotiations between the two sides. By contrast, rejecting (or endlessly postponing) such recognition will inevitably support the fatalistic conclusion that war is the only option.

Strange as it may sound, we are witnessing one of the downsides of America's loss of hegemonic power (as was also the case with the US withdrawal from northern Syria and then Afghanistan). Ideally, the US would simply invade Gaza from the sea, re-establish peace and order, and provide the population with humanitarian assistance. But don't count on it. One can always rely on the US to miss an opportunity to deploy its remaining imperial power for a good cause.

The writer, Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, is International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

I was born not knowing and have had only a little time to change that here and there

RICHARD P. FEYNMAN

You don't look out there for God, something in the sky, you look in ALAN WATTS

It is through gratitude for the present moment that the spiritual dimension of life opens up ECKHART TOLLE

DK Giri

TO THE SURPRISE OF ELECTION STRATEGISTS, BJP DID NOT INCLUDE Pok IN ITS MANIFESTO

focusing their antipathies. That is why perhaps Prime Minister Modi, in order to be more persuasive, called the BJP manifesto 'Modi Ki Guarantee'.

Coming back to PoK, it is in order that we briefly reflect on the history of India's partition and integration of princely states into the Indian Union. Kashmir, a Muslim-majority region under the rule of a Hindu king decided to accede to Indian Union. Some Muslim tribals backed by Pakistani army invaded Kashmir to separate it from Indian Union on the basis of the majority argument. As per the rule of accession, Kashmir belonged to India. Indian Army was beating back the invaders but for some controversial reasons, Prime Minister Nehru asked it to stop. He took it to the United Nations. The rest is history.

The line where the advancing Indian Army was asked to stop became the LAC between India and Pakistan. The latter has been claiming Kashmir on the Indian side whereas the entire Kashmir belongs to India. Pakistan has no case. Some of us have been arguing that India, instead of being defensive on

PoK to draw China into the conflict between India and Pakistan. This has dramatically transformed the geopolitical situation in the region. India did not join the Belt & Road Initiative launched by China as it runs through PoK. Pakistan leasing off parts to China is alarming. Now a huge rebellion in PoK is witnessed against Pakistan. Apparently, people of PoK protesting against Pakistan against inflation and scarcity have hoisted the Indian flag. Such a development should be encouraging to

India BJP leadership is speaking in a forked tongue. On the one hand, it is asserting that every inch of PoK belongs to India. But apparently the Govt. of India is doing precious little to reclaim PoK. The other rendition of BJP is that the people of PoK will opt to join India as they are fedup with Pakistan's inefficiency and corruption in PoK. This seems to be wishful thinking. Pakistan will not let PoK secede without a fight or unbearable international pressure. The Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif has sanctioned \$82.6 million to PoK to quench the

To the surprise of election strategists, BJP did not include PoK in its manifesto. This should have polarised the electorate if INDIA partners did not echo the reclaiming of PoK. That brings us to our initial hypothesis that PoK could be an afterthought and is pressed mid-way as election propaganda. If that be so, it is disappointing.

Be that as it may. Elections will be over in a couple of weeks. The issue of PoK would writ large on India's foreign policy visa vis China as well as Pakistan. So, the current leadership. namely the incumbent government, be better advised to make PoK their political conviction and go for it.

> The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

The silent killer

Sir, Hypertension is a widespread health issue affecting over one billion people globally, resulting in more than 7.5 million deaths each year. It's a major contributor to global mortality and morbidity, particularly impacting low- and middle-income countries and hindering social and economic development. Nearly half of all adults worldwide suffer from hypertension, regardless of their socio-economic status, with its prevalence increasing with age. Since 1990, hypertension has been the primary cause of death and disability, and projections suggest a further rise of 15-20 per cent by 2025. Often called the 'silent killer,' many people are unaware they have hypertension, which puts them at risk of disability, a reduced quality of life, and potentially fatal heart attacks or strokes if left untreated. World Hypertension Day, celebrated on 17 May, underscores the importance of regular blood pressure monitoring and hypertension prevention. It calls for early detection and proactive measures from individuals, healthcare professionals, and policymakers. With rising hypertension rates among younger people, this year's theme, "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer," highlights the need for precise monitoring and effective management, especially in low to middle-income regions, stressing accurate measurement, control strategies, and lifestyle changes for better health. Through effective communication and education initiatives, World Hypertension Day aims to raise awareness and empower communities to combat hypertension. By advocating for early intervention and effective management, this global initiative seeks to reduce premature deaths and alleviate the burden of hypertension-related complications, ultimately promoting healthier lives worldwide.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Diplomatic victory

Sir, India's contract to manage Iran's Chabahar port for the next 10 years is a major commercial and strategic victory. India will get a permanent trade route to Afghanistan, Iran and various countries of Central Asia. In the future, this port will be a major link between India and Europe. It will also act as a counterbalance to Pakistan's Gwadar port and China's Belt and Road Initiative. Chabahar port will also play a crucial role for the International North South Transport Corridor project. -

Nabnit Panigrahi, RAYAGADA







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and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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are most welcome to contribute letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are



HOARDING COLLAPSE Toll at 16, rescue operation ends

The crime branch team of Mumbai Police arrested Bhavesh Bhinde from Udaipur Thursday. Bhinde is the director of Ego Media Private Limited, the advertising agency responsible for erecting the hoarding at Ghatkopar area in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 16: Bodies of a retired General Manager of Mumbai airport ATC and his wife were retrieved from the wreckage at the crash site of a giant hoarding here, taking the toll to 16 as the rescue operation was called off Thursday morning with no hopes of find ing survivors three days after

the tragedy, officials said. Former Mumbai ATC Manoj Chansoria (60) and his wife Anita (59) were missing since Monday evening when they left for Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh from the ATC guest house in western Mumbai in a car.

The bodies of a man and a woman were extricated from a car stuck underneath the collapsed hoarding shortly after midnight Wednesday and the victims were later identified as Manoj Chansoria and his wife, they said. Five interconnected girders of the hoarding had to be cut one by one to rescue the bodies of the couple.

A 120 feet x 120 feet billboard, which according to officials was illegally installed, collapsed on a petrol pump in the Chheda Nagar area of suburban Ghatkopar during a dust storm Monday evening, killing 14 people and injuring 75 others.

A Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) official said the bodies of Chansoria and his wife were in a "decomposed state" and taken to the nearby civic-run Rajawadi Hospital around 1am.

On Tuesday night, Chansoria's mobile phone location was tracked to the petrol pump on which the hoarding had collapsed a day earlier. It is believed Chansoria had stopped at the petrol pump for refuelling his car when the billboard crashed.

The search and rescue operation at the crash site, which went on for 66 hours, was called off at around 10.30am Thursday, an official of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) said

BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani made an announcement about it after inspecting the site. Speaking to reporters, Gagrani

said 16 people have died in the tragedy and the search and rescue operation was now complete at the site.

The civic chief said they have thoroughly checked the site to ensure that no more person is trapped there.

Now, the work of clearing the

BODIES OF EX-GM OF ATC, WIFE RETRIEVED AT CRASH SITE -----



Another hoarding collapses on stationary mini truck near Pune

A hoarding installed on the roadside collapsed on a stationary min Atruck in Pimpri Chinchwad area of Maharashtra's Pune district Thursday as a result of strong winds, police said. "A 30 x 30 feet hoarding erected on the margin of the road at Jai Ganesh Samrajya chowk in Moshi area collapsed around 4:30pm. It fell on a stationary tempo truck and a couple of two-wheelers. Fortunately, no injuries were reported as there was nobody inside or on the vehicles," an official from the Pimpri Chinchwad police said. A crane was pressed into service to remove the crashed iron structure, he said.

debris will continue through the day, he said.

He said agencies like BMC, Mumbai Police, BPCL, NDRF, Mumbai fire brigade and Mahanagar Gas participated in the rescue operation and completed it "maintaining proper coordination.

Action is being taken on a 'war footing' to remove illegal hoardings in the metropolis, the IAS officer said. 'There should be no hoard-

ings (in the city) other than those meeting the specifications laid down for them. So it is not a question of who owns them or whose place they are in," Gagrani said.

Gagrani said structural stability of hoardings is mandatory for the ones permitted by the BMC.

Similarly, the Railways have been directed to follow the specifications and remove those hoardings that do not conform to the parameters, he said.

The illegal giant hoarding that collapsed in Ghatkopar stood on a piece of land in possession of the Government Railway Police (GRP), officials had said

90 hospitalised after temple feast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 16: In a suspected food poisoning case, at least 90 persons were admitted to different hospitals after consuming eatables during a temple feast in Maharashtra's Nanded district, police said Thursday. The incident occurred

Wednesday evening at Naigaon, an official said. "A feast was organised and

food was served to devotees just outside a Shiva temple. They were given 'ambil' (porridge) and 'khir' (a sweet dish) to eat,' he said.

But after having food, the devotees felt dizzy and started vomiting, he said



"Initially, some of them were rushed to a hospital. But towards late evening, there were more complaints of food poisoning. Till late night, a total of 90 people were admitted to various hospitals for treatment," he said The condition of all of them

is stable and they are out of danger, the official added. Taking cognisance of the in-

cident, a police team visited the spot and an inquiry is being conducted, he said.

ICG evacuates British crewman off Kochi coast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, May 16: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has successfully coordinated the medical evacuation of a critically ill crewman of British nationality from a foreign vessel off the Kochi coast Thursday, a Defence release said here.

In a Swift operation **India Coast Guard Ship** C-410 ensured prompt and safe medical evacuation of a 62-years critically ill crew of MV Alvin Point off Kochi

It said Wednesday, at about 9pm, the United Kingdom Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) raised a message to the MRCC in Mumbai regarding the medical emergency of the crew member, namely Kenneth Hiller (62), with a probable diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis onboard the vessel Alvin Point, which was proceeding from Dubai to Muara. Considering the gravity of the

situation, MRCC Mumbai directed the Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) in Kochi to coordinate the operation and also advised the vessel to proceed with the best available speed to Kochi for medical evacuation.

MRSC Kochi arranged for telemedicine to assess the criticality of the patient's condition and advised providing first aid.

Thereafter, District Headquarters No-4 (Kerala and Mahe) launched ICG ship C-410 with a medical team. ICG ship Arnvesh was also diverted to wards the vessel to provide medical assistance and evacuate the patient to the shore, the release said.

ICG ship C-410 rendezvoused with the foreign vessel Alvin Point off Kochi, and the patient was transferred onboard C-410 for passage to Kochi harbour. Initial medical assistance was provided to the patient onboard the ship and was brought to Kochi, it said.

Upon arrival, the patient was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for further medical support. The condition of the patient is reported as stable and is kept under observation, the release added.

5 held for kidnapping

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Akola, May 16: The police in Maharashtra's Akola district have arrested five persons for allegedly kidnapping a businessman, an official said Thursday.

The businessman was bundled into a car by two to three persons near his scrap godown May 13. After being informed about the kidnapping, the police launched a probe and even announced a reward of ₹25,000 for credible information connected with the case, the official said.

The accused freed the businessman, whom they had brought on an autorickshaw,_ Wednesday night.

The crime branch which was tracking the auto subsequently arrested five persons for their alleged role in the kidnapping. They also recovered a car and two country-

Kin of man who died in Oman protest outside AISATS office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 16: The family of a man who died in Oman recently protested with his body outside the AISATS office here Thursday, seeking compensation, stating that had Air India (AI) Express not cancelled flights, his wife would have been by his side and he may not have died.

The family members of the deceased said his wife was unable to go and see him due to the AI Express cabin crew strike, which led to repeated flight cancellations and he died in that Gulf nation with no one to take care of him.

The man's father-in-law claimed that had the wife been provided a ticket to travel, maybe the death

include ground handling, passenger assistance and air cargo handling

Subsequently, AI Express officials arrived there and held a discussion with the family members, including the woman's father, in the presence of police. After the discussions, the protest was called off, and the

body was taken home to perform the last rites. The person was hospitalised in Muscat. Oman following a massive heart attack, leading his wife to book tickets on an

AI Express flight for May 8. However, she, along with hundreds of other passengers, were in for a rude shock when they reached airports across the state and informed that all flights were cancelled.



could have been prevented.

The body of the man was brought to Kerala in the morning, and his relatives went with it directly to the office of Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) which provides gateway services that

Air India Express had cancelled 'scores of flights' last week due to a shortage of cabin crew members, as a section of them reported sick to protest against alleged mismanagement at the Tata Group-owned airline.

People cover themselves with a cloth on a hot summer day, in Mumbai, Thursday

made pistols from them, he said. District Superintendent of Police Bachchan Singh said the

ΡΤΙ ΡΗΟΤΟ

Doctor operates tongue instead of

removing a sixth finger; suspended

five kidnapped the businessman for easy money. They wanted to demand a ransom of ₹1 crore, but could not get through to his family members, the SP said.

Rains to intensify in Kerala; IMD issues orange alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 16: : Rains in Kerala are likely to intensify in the next few days as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday predicted very heavy rainfall in the state between May 18 and 20 due to likely prevalence of strong westerly and south westerly winds in the region.

The IMD issued an orange alert for Palakkad and Malappuram for May 18, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki for May 19 and in seven districts of the state for May 20.

It also said that while an orange alert has been issued in some districts for May 20, the rainfall would probably be similar to that of a red alert.

For Thursday, the IMD had issued a vellow alert in nine out of the 14 districts of the state. A red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rain of over 20cm within 24 hours, while an

orange alert means

very heavy rain between 6cm to 20cm. A yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6cm to 11cm

IMD The IMD also prepredicted dicted thunderstorms with thunderstorms with lightning and lightning and gusty gusty winds winds till May 20 and from Thursday till advised fishermen May 20 in some not to venture into places in the district the sea It further said that

squally weather with strong winds are likely to prevail along and off the southern Kerala coast and advised fishermen in those areas not to

Map-based QR code to help voters locate polling booths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, May 16: The district authorities in Maharashtra's Thane have unveiled a mapbased QR code system for three Lok Sabha (LS) constituencies in the district to facilitate voters in finding the route of their polling booth, an official said Thursday.

There are three LS seats in Thane district - Thane, Kalyan and Bhiwandi.

This initiative has been introduced in response to consistent complaints received from voters that they find it difficult to locate their polling booth to cast their vote, district collector and district election of ficer Ashok Shingare said.



"This map-based QR code system is aimed at guiding voters seamlessly to their designated polling booths. Separate QR code has been assigned to each of the three Lok Sabha constituencies. Voters can simply scan the QR code, select the relevant assembly constituency and choose their specific polling station," he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kozhikode, May 16: A doctor has been suspended after a wrong surgery was performed on a four-year-old girl at the Government Medical College Hospital here Thursday.

The child had been scheduled for surgery to remove a sixth finger on her hand at the Maternal and Child Care Centre of the Medical College Hospital, instead of which an operation was performed on her tongue mistakenly

The girl's family alleged that the error came to light when they discovered cotton stuffed in the child's mouth post-surgery, prompting them to investigate further.

Upon closer inspection, they found that the surgery had been performed on her tongue, not on her hand as intended.

As the issue created uproar in Kerala, the state government initiated action, suspending associate professor Bejohn Johnson, pending an inquiry.

Health Minister Veena George announced the decision to suspend the doctor after receiving a report from the director of Medical Education, who was asked to conduct an immediate investigation into the incident earlier in the day

An official statement said the minister has also directed that



a detailed inquiry is conducted and further action taken.

George has given strict directives to the hospitals to ensure that protocols are followed correctly, it said.

Meanwhile, the family has lodged a complaint with the police, seeking action against those responsible for the grave error. "No one should have such an experience again at the Medical College Hospital," the child's

family said. They said that the child had no issue with her tongue.

The family also said the hospital authorities should take responsibility if any adverse consequences arise for the child due to this procedure.

"The hospital authorities informed us that it was a mistake as they had scheduled surgery for two children on the same date," a family member said.

A family member said the doctor had apologised to the

family for the error.

Expressing shock over the incident, Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly VD Satheesan said it was "serious medical malpractice" and sought strict disciplinary action against those responsible for it.

"Presently, the government's actions seem to undo the progress Kerala has achieved in the health sector over the years," he said in a statement here.

Satheesan alleged that the credibility of government hospitals is being questioned due to repeated medical errors.

"Apart from just asking for a report right away, what steps has the health department and the minister taken to address each incident? This isn't the first problem at Kozhikode Medical College," he pointed out, recalling the case of Harshina, who protested after a -(device got stuck in her stomach during surgery.

18 to 20

venture into the sea from May

As a result of the heavy rains and

winds, there is a likelihood of

poor visibility, waterlogging of

roads, uprooting of trees, dam-

age to vulnerable structures,

possibility of flash floods and

It advised people to follow traf-

fic advisories, avoid staying in

vulnerable structures, stay away

from river fronts or areas that

face waterlogging problems and

not work in the fields during

thunderstorms and lightning.

landslides, the IMD said.











Star campaigners of BJD, Babusan Mohanty and Elina Samantray, canvassing for the regional party 's Bhograi Assembly nominee Goutam Buddha Das in Balasore district, Thursday

BJD leader and Chief Minister's close aide Kartik Pandian addressing an election meeting at Saintala in Bolangir district

BJP struggling to get 200 seats: Kharge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 16: Asserting that INDIA bloc will form the next government at the Centre, Congress president Mallikariun Kharge Thursday said the BJP and its partners are struggling to get 200 seats as people are opposed to their policies.

rissapost

MAY 17 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that NDA will secure 400-plus seats this time. Kharge asked. "From where the BJP will get these seats? You (Modi) are nowhere in sight in South India. In the rest of the country, seats will come down by half. BJP will not form the gov ernment at the Centre. It will struggle to secure 200 seats.'

Addressing a presser, he pointed out that the NDA partners are facing difficulties in Karnataka. Kerala. Tamil Nadu. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. "You are also facing problems in Odisha as people are in a mood to vote for the Congress as they are fed up with both the BJD and the BJP," Kharge added.

Lambasting both the BJD and BJP, the Congress president claimed that the Naveen Patnaik government will be voted out and the Congress will come to power in the state.



Dwelling upon various fail-Patnaik government ruled the ures of the state and central govstate for 25 years. The state is rich ernments, Kharge hoped that in natural resources on which inthis time the coalition governdustries of other states are dement will come to power at the pendant. There is no develop-Centre to save democracy and

ment here," he said. Kharge also expressed concern on the high rate of unemployment in Odisha. As per the ILO report, Odisha has the highest unemployment rate of 41 per cent among all states, he said.

Referring to corruption. Kharge said lakhs of crores of rupees have been looted through chit fund and mining scams in the state and appealed to people to throw the BJD govern-

Noting that Odisha was an ment out of power. "There are 30 lakh govern-Kharge alleged that both the ment posts lying vacant in the BJD and the BJP have destroyed country, which have not been filled in the last 10 years. Out of "There is no development in these 30 lakh posts, 15 lakh were Odisha even though the Naveen meant for Dalits, tribals and backward communities "Kharge said, adding, "As soon as the INDIA bloc government is formed, we will fill all these vacant posts. We will start working on this August 15, which is within two months of formation of the government.

Appealing to people to vote for the Congress in order to save democracy during an election rally in Kandhamal district, Kharge said the party promises to provide 10 kg rice per head under the food security scheme.

Kharge reminded people that the Congress had contributed a lot for the development of the state. He said the party had a role in setting up the Paradip Port, Rourkela Steel Plant, Nalco, Hirakud Dam and others along with KBK Yojana for eradication of poverty.

The Congress president also said the Congress is the only party that all along fought for the welfare and protection of tribals, dalits, OBCs and others.

"The Modi government has been attempting to abolish reservation for the STs, SCs and OBCs. It is also trying to change the Constitution and deny fundamental rights to people," he said, appealing to people to save democracy and save the Constitution.

NEARLY 67% TURNOUT IN 1ST **4 PHASES OF LS ELECTIONS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: The cumulative turnout in the first four phases of Lok Sabha elections has been recorded at 66.95 per cent, the Election Commission (EC) said Thursday, adding 45.10 crore of the nearly 97 crore electors have voted so far in the ongoing electoral exercise.

In a statement, the poll panel urged the electorate to come out and vote in large numbers in the coming phases.

According to the poll authority, the updated voter turnout in the fourth phase of polling held May 13 was 69.16 per cent, 3.65 percentage points higher than the corresponding phase in the 2019 parliamentary polls.

The updated voter turnout figures for the third phase of polling in Lok Sabha election stood at 65.68 per cent. In the third phase of the 2019 general election, the turnout was 68.4 per cent.

In the second phase of the election held April 26, the turnout was recorded at 66.71 per cent as against the 69.64 per cent in the second phase of the 2019 polls.



A TOTAL OF 379 SEATS ACROSS 23 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES HAVE VOTED IN THE FIRST FOUR PHASES OF ELECTIONS

In the first phase of the ongoing general elections, a 66.14per cent turnout was recorded. In the 2019 elections, the turnout in the first phase was 69.43 per cent.

The election watchdog said there is enhanced focus on to inform, motivate and facilitate voters in the remaining three phases of the parliamentary polls and state chief electoral officers have been asked to step up measures. 'The Commission strongly

believes that partnership and collaboration are essential pillars of voter awareness programme. It's really heartening to see that on Commission's request, different institutions, influencers and celebrities having significant reach are working enthusiastically on pro-bono basis,' Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said.

OP PHOTOS

A total of 379 seats across 23 states and Union Territories have voted in the first four phases of elections.

A high voter turnout, Kumar felt, would be a message from Indian voters to the world about the strength of Indian democracy. He urged voters to cast their ballot in huge numbers, as voting day is not a holiday but a day of pride to participate in the festival of democracy.

The poll panel also listed out outreach efforts undertaken by various private and public bodies to enhance voter participation in the elections.

Banks, post offices, private entities and telecom platforms are using their public interface to encourage registered voters to ____ turn up at the polling stations on various voting days.

Babus running govt in Odisha; MLAs, MPs redundant: Nadda SP, Cong want to try out 'TMC politics' in UP: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Padampur/Sundargarh, May 16: BJP president JP Nadda Thursday warned the people of Odisha that their votes were not being effectively utilised, as those they elected to power were not the ones governing them.

Nadda made the remark at two election rallies in Padampur under Bargarh Lok Sabha seat and Sundargarh parliamentary constituency.

He highlighted that although the people voted for BJD candidates, the government was being run by someone who isn't even their elected representative.

"Do you need such a government? Officials are running the government here while MLAs/MPs have been made redundant. Do MLAs wield any power in the state? There is only

one person who is taking the stage here and there is no place for the MPs and the MLAs. Are you able to meet your Chief Minister? Does he speak to you in Odia?", Nadda asked the gathering in both the places.

protect the Constitution as well

Dismissing Modi's guaran-

tees, Kharge said, "In the past too,

the PM had made promises like

Rs 15 lakh per family, doubling

of income of farmers by 2022, two

crore jobs per year and others.

Those have not been fulfilled.

Rather Modi increased the prices

of all commodities including oil

important state for the Congress,

and cooking gas."

the state.

as to make India united.

Nadda emphasised the necessity for a young, locally rooted Chief Minister who actively manages daily administration, stressing the importance of preserving Odisha's cultural identity and pride.

While seeking votes for BJP candidates, Nadda accused the BJD government of being corrupt. "Will you allow corrupt people to return to power? It is the time to bless the BJP and help it form the government in the state," he said.

Nadda also addressed the issue of Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar (treasury), echoing con-



cerns previously expressed by PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He criticised the BJD government over the missing Ratna Bhandar keys, suggesting that pressing the lotus button at the polling station would lead to the BJP government opening the temple's treasury, a task the BJD has failed to accomplish. Referring to BJD government's

alleged misrule, Nadda said, "People of Odisha will not tolerate anymore. They will vote for

the lotus symbol twice, one for MP and another for MLA, and get double development.

Claiming that BJP means growth-centric politics, Nadda said before 2014, politics was all about vote-bank, divide and rule and appeasement.

"But today, the culture of politics has changed completely. It has now become politics of performance and politics of 'report card," Nadda said.

Though there is no BJP government in Odisha, Nadda pointed out that PM Narendra Modi has been very concerned towards the state's development.

"Modi has always ensured the state's development. He increased the grant-in-aid and also established a permanent campus of IIM at Sambalpur," he said.

Nadda said the allocation in the railway budget for Odisha was increased 12 times and 4,300 km of national highways was laid in the state. The third railway line connecting Manoharpur-Rourkela-Jharsuguda-Jamga is under progress. These are development milestones," Nadda added.

The BJP chief also came down heavily on the BJD government for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state.

He said nearly 68 lakh families were deprived of Rs 5 lakh health

OP PHOTOS

cover due to non-implementation of the scheme in Odisha.

"It would have helped Odias living outside the state but Naveen Patnaik did not like this health cover being given by Modi and kept harping on Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna," he said.

Nadda also pointed out that the Modi government provided 5 kg rice and 1 kg dal to each family holding a ration card. "Under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, about 11.78 crore farmers, including those in Odisha, are getting Rs 6,000 annually.'

While everyone had accepted that there will be no change in this country, Modi came to power in 2014 following which India started embracing transformation. The able leadership of Modi made everyone believe that India would become a developed nation by 2047, he said.



AGENCIES

Bhadohi (UP), May 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress want to try out the "Trinamool politics", terming it a politics of appeasement and harassment of the Dalits and women.

Attacking INDIA bloc partners at an election rally at Bhadohi, where the opposition has fielded a Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate, Modi said, they were conducting a trial of West Bengal's "TMC politics" in Uttar Pradesh.

'It is difficult for the SP and Congress to even save their deposit, so they are doing a political experiment in Bhadohi," he said.

"The TMC politics means murder of Hindus, harassment of Dalits and adivasis, and atrocities on women. So many BJP leaders were killed there and TMC MLAs say that they will kill Hindus by drowning them in river Ganga," Modi said.

"You know the kind of politics the TMC does in West Bengal," the Prime Minister said.

Modi said the TMC's politics includes calling Ram temple "impure", banning Ramnavami celebrations, sheltering Bangladeshi intruders, promising "poisonous arrow of appeasement" and calling for "vote jihad".

He picked "vote jihad" from an SP candidate's remarks.

Training guns on the SP, Modi said under the previous state government, the terrorists got - (special treatment and the government was kind towards SIMI.



ତହୁରେ ଭୋଟ ଦେଇ ଜୟଯୁକ୍ତ କରାନ୍ତ୍ର

BJP's Dhenkanal Lok Sabha nominee Rudra Narayan Pani campaigning with his supporters at Kamakhyanagar in Dhenkanal district, Thursday











national



Today marks Sikkim's completion of 49 years in the democratic system. The journey from voluntary integration into the world's largest democracy May 16, 1975 until today has been profoundly memorable and meaningful for Sikkim and its people NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

WE'LL BE PART OF INDIA BLOC: MAMATA

A day after announcing that she would extend outside support to the opposition front INDIA after it comes to power, West **Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** Thursday said she is very much part of the anti-BJP alliance at the national level and would continue to be in it





When Article 370 was scrapped, Rahul Gandhi had said that it would lead to bloodshed Five years have elapsed and not a pebble

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

has been hurled

She (Mamata Baneriee) has lost her credibility. She has understood the crude reality that voters are gearing towards the

INDIA bloc. She has realised that she has been isolated in national politics ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY WB CONG

PRESIDENT

While pressing the button. remember if you are pressing the button for Kejriwal's freedom or for sending Kejriwal to jai

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER





among the public in the last 10 years Indira ji used to come here on foot. He just CONGRESS LEADER

waves at the public from his vehicle and never comes down from the stage. If he doesn't listen to 'Janta ki mann ki baat' but only says his own 'Mann ki baat', then how will he know about the problems being faced by the public. He (the PM) says he has never said anything about Hindu-Muslim. But their (BJP) whole politics is based on this.. (Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was addressing an election

PoK will come back to India: Jaishankar

Indicating at serious economic issues plaguing Pakistan, the External Affairs minister said the neighbouring country's policy of continuously going against India has brought it down

to where it is

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 16: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar Thursday said that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is an inseparable part of the country that will eventually come back to India.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: Air India

Limited (AIL) ceased to be State

or its instrumentality under

Article 12 of the Constitution

after its disinvestment and take

over by the Tata Group in

January 2022, and no case of al-

leged violation of fundamental

right would lie against it, the

Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

appeals filed against a

September 20, 2022 verdict of

the Bombay High Court which

had disposed of four writ peti-

tions instituted by some em-

ployees of AIL over alleged stag-

nation in pay and non-promotion

The apex court dismissed the

Reacting to the growing unrest and continued violence that is taking place in PoK, he said that there is no doubt that people in PoK have been watching and getting affected with the massive development that has been taking place in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few years.



"People in PoK are seeing the positive changes across the Line

of Control and they are asking themselves that if things are like that, then why are we suffering and why are we accepting this kind of mistreatment? So. they are undoubtedly getting affected by all this. We would love to see where this goes," said EAM Jaishankar while speaking at 'Vishwabandhu Bharat' interaction in Nashik,

Maharashtra. Complete chaos prevails in PoK's Muzaffarabad which has been rocked by violent protests as the locals, fed up with the rising inflation and high electric-



ity bills, continue to clash with police over the past many days. "PoK is a different category be-

cause eventually PoK is India and it will come back to India. I don't think we should ever have any doubt about it. Pakistan has a lot of other problems, including in Balochistan and various other parts as well," commented the EAM.

Pakistan's economic woes too continue to dampen its credibility amid fears of a complete meltdown, he said.

"They also have severe economic problems right now. Whether they do the right reforms, and whether they take the right policies... Because, this policy of continuously going against India, today has brought Pakistan down to where it is. We have to see whether there is any change in thinking there," stated Jaishankar.

Earlier this week, while addressing a campaign rally in Palghar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also made it clear that "PoK was, is, and will continue to be an integral part of India" and no power can challenge this position.

BJP worker found dead in West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Monteswar, May 16: A BJP worker was found dead in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district Thursday, police said.

The BJP alleged that he was killed by the "goons" backed by the ruling TMC, a charge reiected by the state's ruling party.

The body of Abhijit Roy, the BJP's booth president in Jamna in Monteswar police station area, was found hanging near a farmhouse. He had been missing since Wednesday night, police said.

Roy had played a crucial role for the BJP when the area, which is a part of the Burdwan-Durgapur Lok Sabha seat, went to the polls May 13, party leaders said.

"The body has been sent for post-mortem. We are investigating the case," a police officer said.



Dark clouds cover the skyline at Azhimala Shiva temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Thursday

MERCURY MAY HIT 45 DEG C IN DELHI Northwest India to face extreme heat

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 16: Heatwave conditions are expected over northwest India during the next five days, with Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi predicted to bear the maximum impact, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday.

A fresh heatwave spell will also commence over east and central India from May 18.

The Met office issued an orange alert for Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi, emphasising "high health concern" for vulnerable people, including infants, the elderly, and those with chronic diseases.

It warned of an increased likelihood of heat-related illnesses in people exposed to the sun for prolonged periods or engaging in heavy work.

"Severe heatwave conditions are very likely in some parts of west Rajasthan during May 17-20 and in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi during May 18-20," the IMD said.

The mercury could soar to 45



According to IMD data, heatwave days in April were the highest in 15 years in Gangetic West Bengal and nine

years in Odisha

Several places recorded their highest-ever April day temperatures, with the mercury soaring to 47 degrees Celsius. At least two people died in

stroke

Kerala due to suspected heat-According to IMD data. heatwave days in April were the high-

The SIT had sent two notic



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 16: A court here Thursday granted interim bail to JD(S) MLA and former Karnataka Minister HD Revanna in a sexual harassment case.

The case of sexual harassment of a 47-year-old house help was registered against Revanna and his son and MP Prajwal Revanna at the Holenarsipur town police station in Hassan district April 28.

Prajwal reportedly left for Germany April 27 and is still at large

The complainant had claimed that the father-son duo had sexually abused her at the 66-yearold MLA's house

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) which is probing the alleged sexual abuse charges against Prajwal and related cases, had sought custody of the former minister.

Revanna's advocates sought anticipatory bail in the case. However, the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (ACMM) heard the matter and gave interim relief to Revanna till Friday.



SHORT TAKES

rally in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli)

Lightning claims **11 lives in Bengal**

Malda: At least 11 people were killed Thursday afternoon after being struck by lightning in various places across Malda district of West Bengal, a government official said. Several persons were also injured in the lightning strikes. Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee expressed her grief over the deaths and extended her condolences to the bereaved families.

Bangalore student found dead

Bangalore: A female college student was found dead in suspicious circumstances at her residence in

Subramanyapura police station here. The body of the woman, identified as 20-year-old Prabhudhva, was found with her throat slit and cut marks on her hands. The police have registered a case of unnatural death. The incident took place Wednesday night and came to light Thursday.

Kejriwal's aide booked for assault

New Delhi: Delhi Police Thursday registered an FIR in connection with the alleged assault on AAP MP Swati Maliwal by an aide of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, even as the BJP hit out at the AAP supremo for maintaining silence over the incident. Bibhav Kumar, the personal assistant of Kejriwal, has been named as an accused in the case, officials said.

of employees and delay in payment of wage revision arrears, among others.

The top court noted that the petitions before the High Court had claimed violation of Articles 14 (equality before law), 16 (equality of opportunity in matters of public employment), and 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Sandeep Mehta noted that the High Court had disposed of the pleas on the ground of nonmaintainability of the writ petitions owing to the privatisation of AIL. It said there was no dispute

that the Government of India, having transferred its 100 per cent share to Talace India Pvt Ltd, ceased to have any administrative control or deep pervasive control over the private entity and it said.

12 of the Constitution of India," it said. The bench said once AIL

ceased to be covered by the definition of State within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution, it could not have been subjected to the court's writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution.

hence, "the company after its

disinvestment could not have

been treated to be a State any-

more after having been taken

over by the private company".

respondent no.3 (AIL) after its

disinvestment ceased to be a

State or its instrumentality

within the meaning of Article

"Thus, unquestionably, the

"The respondent no.3 (AIL), the erstwhile government run airline having been taken over by the private company Talace India Pvt Ltd, unquestionably, is not performing any public duty inasmuch as it has taken over the government company Air India Limited for the purpose of commercial operations, plain and simple, and thus no writ petition is maintainable against respondent no.3 (AIL),'

Monteswar witnessed vio lence even on the day of the polling with BJP candidate Dilip Ghosh being heckled by TMC workers when he tried to visit a booth following allegations of rigging

State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said, "Abhijit Roy was receiving threats from TMC goons for the last few days. It is the TMC that has killed him. We want a thorough investigation and want the culprits to be punished.'

The TMC said that the alle gations were baseless.

"Police are investigating the case. Let the investigation be over. The BJP should not jump to conclusions," TMC leader Santanu Sen said.

degrees Celsius in the national capital by Saturday.

A vellow alert has been issued for east Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha

The Met office had earlier predicted a higher-than-normal number of heatwave days in the northern plains and central India in May.

Normally, the northern plains, central India and adjoining areas of peninsular India experience around three days of heatwayes in May

April saw record-smashing maximum temperatures in east, northeast and southern peninsular India, prompting health warnings from government agencies and some states to suspend in-person classes in schools.

est in 15 years in Gangetic West Bengal and nine years in Odisha.

Odisha also experienced the longest heatwave spell (16 days) in April since 2016.

On Wednesday, a group of leading climate scientists said similar heatwaves could occur once every 30 years and they have already become about 45 times more likely due to climate change. World Weather The Attribution (WWA) group em-

phasised that heatwaves intensified by climate change are making life much tougher for people living in poverty across Asia.

Amid the prevailing but weakening El Nino conditions, the IMD had earlier warned of extreme heat in India during the April-June period, coinciding with the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections which end June 1.

to Revanna, son of JD(S) patriarch and former PM HD Deve Gowda, and Prajwal to join the investigation, but both of them skipped it.

On Thursday Revanna applied for anticipatory bail and the SIT objected to this and sought his custody or that he be remanded in judicial custody. The court, after hearing both sides, decided to hear the matter again Friday and till then gave relief to Revanna

Govt slashes prices of 41 medicines

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 16: The Union government has reduced the prices of 41 commonly used medicines and six formulations used to treat diseases such as diabetes, heart and liver ailments.

Antacids, multivitamins, and antibiotics are among the medicines that will become cheaper, according to a notification issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

The pharma companies have been instructed to pass on the information on the reduced price of various medicines to dealers and stockists with immediate effect. The decision was taken at the 143rd meeting of the NPPA in order to ensure that the cost of essential medicines remains affordable for the public.

India is among the countries with the highest number of diabetes cases in the world with \rightarrow over 10 crore diabetes patients in the country who are expected to benefit from the price cut.

Last month, the Department of Pharmaceuticals released its annual revised ceiling prices for 923 scheduled drug formulations.

UK watchdog applies extra control measures on Indian spices

REUTERS

Hyderabad, May 16: Britain's food watchdog has applied extra control measures on all spice imports from India, it said Wednesday, becoming the first to ramp up scrutiny of all Indian spices after contamination allegations against two brands sparked concerns among global food regulators.

Hong Kong last month suspended sales of three spice blends produced by MDH and one by Everest, saying they contained high levels of a cancer-causing pesticide ethylene oxide.

Singapore also ordered a recall of the Everest mix, and New Zealand, the United States, India and Australia have since said they are looking into issues related to the two brands.

MDH and Everest - two of India's most popular brands have said their products are safe for consumption.

UK's Food Standards Agency said in light of the concerns it has "applied extra control measures for pesticide residues in spices from India which includes ethylene oxide"

In the most stringent crackdown so far impacting all Indian spices, the UK's Food Standards Agency (FSA) said that in light of the concerns it has "applied extra control measures for pesticide residues in spices from India which includes ethylene oxide"

The agency did not elaborate on the exact steps it is taking. "The use of ethylene oxide is

not allowed here and maximum residue levels are in place for herbs and spices," James Cooper,



deputy director of Food Policy at the FSA, said in a statement to Reuters.

India's Spices Board, which regulates exports, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. India is the biggest exporter, consumer and producer of spices in the world.

In 2022, Britain imported \$128 million worth of spices, with India accounting for almost \$23 million, data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity website shows.

tion, we have no evidence to MDH and Everest export their

products to many regions including the US, Europe, South East Asia, Middle East and

Australia. Indian regulators have also conducted testing of all spice products and inspected samples of MDH and Everest products, though no results have been made public so far.

MDH has since 2021 seen an average 14.5 per cent of its US shipments rejected over the presence of bacteria salmonella, a Reuters analysis of US FDA data has found.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency told Reuters in a statement it was aware of the concerns around MDH and Everest's products and "continues to monitor the situation". 'Based on current informa-



international

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The China-Russia relation-

ship today is hard-earned, and

the two sides need to cherish

and nurture it," Xi told Putin.

'China is willing to ... jointly

achieve the development and re-

juvenation of our respective

countries, and work together to

uphold fairness and justice in the

A joint statement spoke of

concerns about what were de-

scribed as US efforts to violate

affairs as one of the main sta-

bilising factors in the interna-

Sydney, May 16: The French

government sent more police to

the Pacific island of New

Caledonia Thursday and said it

would crack down on rioters,

scrambling to restore order after

tional arena

REUTERS

tary ties.

world.'



Over the years, we've had so much more participation by Indian Americans in the electoral process running for office. But the numbers are still not reflective of the size of the growing population KAMALA HARRIS VICE PRESIDENT, US

MOUNT IBU ON BOIL

Indonesian authorities Thursday raised the alert level for Mount Ibu, a volcano in North Maluku province, to the highest level following a series of eruptions since last week. The 1,325-metre volcano on the island of Halmahera has been spewing thick grey ash and dark clouds up to 5,000 meters into the air every day since last Friday



confrontation" in a joint state-

ment with outgoing President

The two politicians represent

rival political camps but

Caputova said they wanted "to

send a signal of understanding"

as she urged an end to "the vi-

Surgeons spent hours in the op-

erating theatre, battling to save

the 59-year-old leader after the

shooting, which happened

Wednesday afternoon as Fico

spoke to members of the public

Deputy prime minister Robert

Kalinak said doctors stabilised

Fico's condition, "but unfortu-

nately, his condition is still very

serious as the injuries are com-

Media reported that the sus-

The alleged suspect's son told

Slovak news site aktuality.sk he

had "absolutely no idea what fa-

ther was thinking, what he was

Political analyst Miroslav

Radek said the attack risked

causing "further radicalisation

of individuals and politicians

planning, why it happened".

pected gunman was a 71-year-

UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK

cious circle of hatred"

after a meeting.

plicated"

old writer.

Zuzana Caputova.

Independence Image: Slovak PM SHOOTING Ingapore Slovak PM SHOOTING Ingapore Image: Slovak PM SHOOTING <td

THE TWO ALLIES CONDEMN INCREASINGLY AGGRESSIVE US BEHAVIOUR

links between Singapore and India by providing local firms with market outreach and advisory on the Indian market

LEE HSIEN LOONG FORMER PM, SINGAPORE

The Singapore Indian

Chamber of Commerce and Industry has helped

strengthen economic

The United States underscored the importance of ensuring AI systems are safe. secure and trustworthy in order to realise these benefits of AI - and

of continuing to build global consensus on that basis. The United States also raised concerns over the misuse of AI, including by the PRC ADRIENNE WATSON NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SPOKESPERSON, US

The Sudanese people are trapped in an inferno of brutal violence with famine, disease and fighting closing in and no end in sight

CLEMENTINE NKWETA-SALAMI TOP UN HUMANITARIAN OFFICIAL, SUDAN

SHORT TAKES

Indonesia's flood toll rises to 67

Tanah Datar: The number of people killed by flash floods and mud slides over the weekend in Indonesia's West Sumatra province has risen to 67, and 20 are still missing, authorities said Thursday. The government plans to relocate survivors to safer areas. Five who had been reported missing were found dead, increasing the death toll from 62 Wednesday, the national disaster management agency BNPB said in a statement. More than 4,000 people have been evacuated to nearby buildings and temporary shelters.

Beijing, May 16: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned what they cast as increasingly aggressive US behaviour Thursday and pledged to deepen their countries' already close defence and mili-In a clear snub to Washington, whose top diplomat flew into China last month to try to persuade Beijing to scale back its relationship with Moscow, Xi signalled Beijing and Moscow saw eye to eye on a range of important issues, including on Ukraine, and would resist Western preshe sent tens of thouthe principles of jussure to downgrade their ties.

tice and a democratic world order reflecting It is of fundamental multipolar realities and importance that relations

told Xi.

hased on inbetween Russia and China ternational are not opportunistic and are law," Putin not directed against anyone Putin's visit

comes weeks US after Secretary of State Antony Blinken flew into China to raise concerns about what he said was China's

support for Russia's military and a day after he said Washington would continue to impose sanctions on Chinese companies supplying Russia's defence sector.

Blinken's China trip appears Beijing's co-operation in world "Together we are defending February 2022, just days before

VLADIMIR PUTIN PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

to have been an unsuccessful attempt to undermine a "no limits" partnership proclaimed when Putin visited Beijing in

deadliest land war in Europe since World War Two SENDING A MESSAGE By picking China for his

sands of troops

into Ukraine

triggering the

first foreign trip since being sworn-in this month for a six-year term that will keep him in power until at least 2030, Putin is sending a message to the world about his priorities and the strength of his personal ties with Xi.

Xi said both sides agreed that a political settlement to the Ukraine crisis was the "right direction" and the joint statement said both countries were opposed to a drawn out conflict in Ukraine and its possible tran-

sition to an uncontrollable phase. Putin, who arrived Thursday for a two-day visit that will include talks on Ukraine, Asia, energy and trade, said he was grateful to China for trying to solve the Ukraine crisis, adding that he would brief Xi on the situation there, where Russian forces are advancing on several fronts.

Describing his initial talks with Xi as "warm and comradely", he outlined sectors where the two countries were strengthening ties, from nuclear and energy co-operation to food supplies and Chinese car manufacturing in Russia.

CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS OF TIES

Putin, 71, and Xi, 70, will participate in a gala celebration marking 75 years since the Soviet Union recognised the People's Republic of China, which Mao Zedong declared in 1949.

The United States casts China as its biggest competitor and Russia as its biggest nation-state threat, while US President Joe Biden says this century will be defined by an existential contest between democracies and autocracies.

Putin and Xi share a broad world view, which casts the West as decadent and declining, just as China challenges US supremacy in everything from quantum computing and synthetic biology to espionage and hard military power.

China has strengthened trade and military ties with Russia in recent years as the United States and its allies imposed sanctions on both countries, particularly Moscow, for its invasion of Ukraine.

with murder bid

Slovak PM Fico in serious but stable condition, a day after being shot multiple times in the stomach

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Banska Bystrica, May 16: Authorities charged an alleged gunman Thursday with the attempted murder of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, saving the shooting was sparked by the election win last month of a Fico ally.

The premier's condition has stabilised but was still "very serious" a day after the violence that prompted deep worries of an escalation in the politically polarised nation.

'This is a lone wolf whose actions were accelerated after the presidential elections since he was dissatisfied with its outcome," interior minister Matus Sutaj Estok said.

Slovak president-elect Peter Pellegrini, the Fico ally who won April's vote, earlier Thursday called for calm, urging political parties to halt campaigning for June's EU parliament election.

The leader of the biggest opposition party, centrist Progressive Slovakia, announced his grouping had already done so.

Slovakia's politics have been divided for years between pro-Europeans and nationalist-leaning camps, with the latest elections heavily influenced by disinformation and verbal attacks on social media. Pellegrini, Fico's ally who will

in Slovakia" "I am afraid that this attack may not have been the last," assume office in June, said Slovakia should avoid "further Radek told AFP.

NIJJAR MURDER CASE 4th Indian nat'l appears in court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa, May 16: An Indian national charged in connection with the killing of a Khalistani separatist appeared before a Canadian court, which ordered him to re-appear May 21 alongside three co-accused arrested in the high-profile case that has severely strained India's relations with Canada. Amandeep Singh, a 22-yearold suspect in the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, appeared via video in a Surrey court Wednesday, and the matter has been put forward to next week, local media reports said. Nijjar, 45, was killed outside Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia June 18,2023 Amandeep was charged May 11 with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, just over a week after identical charges were announced against three co-accused --Karan Brar (22), Kamalpreet Singh (22) and 28-year-old Karanpreet Singh. Amandeep appeared in court in Surrey virtually from Ontario. where he was already in the custody of Peel Regional Police for unrelated firearms charges.A judge set his next court date for May 21 - when he'll appear alongside the other three men charged with conspiring to kill Nijjar. More than two dozen people gathered outside the courtroom before Amandeep's appearance, holding flags in support of Khalistan. The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar. India has dismissed Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and "motivated. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had recently said that by allowing political space to Khalistani separatist elements, the Canadian government is sending a message that its votebank is "more powerful" than its rule of law.



Ferry service resumption between Ngapattinam, KKS delayed indefinitely

Colombo: The resumption of the passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam in India and the Kankesanthurai region near Jaffna in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka has been delayed again for an indefinite period, Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has said. The passenger ferry service

between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai (KKS) suburb of Jaffna district, which was to resume May 13, was delayed due to a technical shortcoming, de Silva said Wednesday. The nature of the technical shortcoming was not revealed by the minister. The service, launched in October last year after nearly 40 years, was halted a few days later owing to rough weather. Since then, the resumption of the service, which is a vital component of India-Sr



the strategic nuclear balance, about global US missile defence that threatened Russia and China, and about US plans for high precision non-nuclear weapons. Putin, on his first overseas trip since being inaugurated this month for a new presidential term, described Moscow and

Mosque attack leaves 8 dead

three nights of upheaval that have killed four people. Rioters angry with a



rise from 1,700 to 2,700 by Friday evening, with a small number of

Abuja: At least eight worshippers were killed and 16 others injured early Wednesday morning after a man attacked a mosque with a locally made explosive in northern Nigeria's Kano state, resulting in a fire outbreak, the police said. The suspect, a 38-year-old local resident, confessed that he attacked the mosque in Kano's remote Gadan village "purely in hostility following (a) prolonged family disagreement," police spokesman Abdullahi Haruna said in a statement Wednesday.

toral reform have burnt businesses, torched cars, looted shops, and set up road barricades, causing a "dire situation" for access to medicine and food in the French-ruled Pacific island, authorities said.

'Everything's burning, people have literally no limits, because they are literally shooting at each other, I've never seen this much violence," New Caledonia

student Olivia Iloa said. France declared a state of emergency in New Caledonia and went on to put at least 10 people under house arrest and ban TikTok.

Numbers of police and gen-

soldiers assisting. 'The situation in New

Caledonia remains very tense, with looting, riots, fires, attacks which are unbearable," Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said. President Emmanuel Macron

"asked us to show the utmost firmness towards looters and rioters," Attal said, announcing a toughening of sanctions.

Rioting erupted over a new bill, adopted by lawmakers in Paris Tuesday, that will let French residents who have lived in New Caledonia for 10 years vote in provincial elections - a move some local leaders fear will dilute the indigenous Kanak vote.

Lanka maritime cooperation, has been delayed three times. Situated in the northern region of Sri Lanka, the Kankesanthurai Port or the KKS Port, with an area of approximately 16 acres, is located at a distance of 104 kilometres (56 nautical miles) from Karaikal Port in Pondicherry.



Pakistani lawmaker lauds India

Islamabad: Pakistani lawmaker Syed Mustafa Kamal drew a comparison between India's achievements and the precarious situation in Karachi, by mentioning India's moon landing mission. The Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MOM-P) leader said that while India is landing on the moon, Karachi is making news of children being killed by falling in open gutters. "Today, the condition in Karachi is that, while the world is going to the moon, children are dying by falling into gutter in Karachi. On the same screen, there is news that India landed on the moon, and just after two seconds, the

news is that a child died in an open gutter in Karachi." Kamal said in his address to the Parliament Wednesday. He further highlighted the lack of fresh water in Karachi. The MOM-P leader also said citing a report that there are 70 lakh children in Karachi and over 2.6 crore children in Pakistan, who are not able to go to schools.

Celebs being mass-blocked for not 'speaking up' GAZA

5

APART FROM HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES, ALIA BHATT, PRIYANKA CHOPRA AND VIRAT KOHLI ARE AMONG THE PROMINENT INDIAN NAMES WHO HAVE COME UNDER CRITICISM

AGENCIES

Washington, May 16: There's a new movement making rounds on the internet, and it's against the celebrities who have kept mum over Israel's relentless bombardment of Gaza where men, women and children continue to die every day.

The movement, known as 'Blockout 2024', has gained momentum, with a growing list of celebrity names being blocked on the social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and Twitter

The Blockout list features globally recognised names, including Kim Kardashian, Taylor Swift, Beyonce, Kylie Jenner, Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez, Zendaya, Zac Efron, Kanye West, Katy

Perry and many others. Apart from Hollywood celebri-

ties, Alia Bhatt, Priyanka Chopra, and Virat Kohli are among the prominent Indian names who have come under criticism for not 'speaking up"

What is the Blockout 2024 movement?

A recent Instagram post has shed light on the 'Blockout 2024' social media movement urging users to take action against celebrities and influencers who have stayed silent on Israel's retaliation of the October 7 attack

by Hamas. According to the post, the movement says the Israeli occupation is committing genocide against Palestine and criticises celebrities for "shamelessly remaining silent" and for 'spreading lies and propaganda."

The movement argued that these celebrities and influencers "make millions" from



their followers and consumers, and therefore, it is within the power of consumers to decrease their popularity, followers, and engagement by unfollowing and blocking them on social media platforms. "We don't need them, they need us," it claimed. "If their profits plummet, they

will listen," the post read, stat-

ing that big corporations prioritise profits above all else. The movement also says not to tag or mention the celebrities as it would only boost their engagement. "No engagements mean no \$\$\$," they said, adding that this is the "absolute bare minimum that we can do.'

They stressed the movement was "about applying pressure"

on accounts with a huge number of followers "to speak up and use their platforms for good.' It questions supporting celebrities "who can't even speak out about a genocide" despite their massive influence and support from their followers.

Furthermore, it stressed this was not just a passing online trend but a real-life issue af-

The Blockout 2024 movement intensified after pictures from the Met Gala 2024 surfaced alongside harrowing images from Gaza's Rafah region, the latest and last frontier to come under attack from Israel

fecting thousands of children and families in Palestine. It called for an end to "celebrity worship" and urged users to remember the cause behind the movement - advocating for the victims of the conflict in Gaza and beyond. "This is for the thousands of parents who had to go around and collect their children by their LIMBS," they said. The post concluded with a call

for action, with chants of "Free Congo! Free Sudan! Free Palestine!"









business



This financial year we will become a \$4 trillion economy. Either very early next year or even you know this year, we will cross Japan to become the world's fourth largest economy SANJEEV SANYAL | MEMBER, ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PM

RELIANCE PARTNERS UK'S ASOS

Reliance Retail Thursday said it has entered into a partnership to sell British online retailer ASOS' products in India. "Under a long-term licensing agreement, Reliance Retail will be the exclusive retail partner for ASOS across all online and offline channels in India," the firm said in a statement. ASOS' products cater to young adults





We are looking for merchandise exports between \$500-510 billion in 2024-25. In the services, we expect

exports to be around \$390-400 billion for the current fiscal

ASHWINI KUMAR PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

In the next three years we are looking at deploying ₹37,000 crore of cash. A large part of that is going into the auto vertical

ANISH SHAH MD AND CEO, MAHINDRA GROUP



achievements, including a successful IPO, expansion into the premium segment, and a notable transition to mid-income housing from affordable housing

PRADEEP KUMAR AGGARWAL CHAIRMAN, SIGNATURE GLOBAL

SHORT TAKES

SBI raises FD rate

New Delhi: The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has hiked fixed deposit rate on select shortterm maturity up to 75 basis points, a move likely to be followed by other lenders. For term deposits of 46-179 days, the rate has been increased by 75 basis points to 5.50 per cent, as against the earlier 4.75 per cent, as per the revised figure posted on SBI website. There has been a 25 basis point increase in the other two maturity buckets --180-210 days and 211 days to less than 1 year, to 6 per cent and 6.25 per cent respectively. The new rates on deposit less than ₹2 crore are effective from May 15, 2024.

Windfall tax cut

New Delhi: The government has slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude

FIEO warns against dumping in India The US announced Tuesday plans to slap new *tariffs on Chinese electric* vehicles, advanced

US-CHINA TRADE WAR

batteries, solar cells, steel, aluminum and medical equipment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: China has overcapacity in many sectors such as electric vehicles and hence threat of dumping of goods cannot be ruled out in the domestic market due to the escalating trade war between Beijing and Washington, exporters' body FIEO said Thursday.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Ashwini Kumar said industry and the government should keep a close watch on the imports from China and if surge or dumping happens, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) should take appropriate action to safeguard businesses.

"China is sitting on overcapacity in many sectors and thus the threat of dumping, in any case, not ruled out and more so when an important market is closed for their exports," Kumar told reporters here. The US Tuesday announced

plans to slap new tariffs on

Chinese electric vehicles, ad-

vanced batteries, solar cells,

steel, aluminum and medical

equipment -- an election year

move that is likely to increase fric-

tion between the world's two

goods in the Indian markets.

largest economies



Opportunity may come in China also with retaliation on US exports, provided we have market access in products targeted by China 56 ASHWINI KUMAR | PRESIDENT, FIEO

However, Kumar added that this also provides opportunity to India and other competitors to chip in at the supply gap.

Of the products affected by additional duties on China, India has opportunities in facemasks, PPE, syringes, needles, medical gloves, aluminium and iron and

steel. Further, he said that the Red Sea crisis is having a significant negative impact on both sea freight and air freight, which is in turn affecting Indian exports. As some goods traditionally shipped by sea are being diverted to air due to the crisis, there is a rise in air freight demand. This has pushed air cargo costs upwards, with some reports suggesting a jump of over 300 per cent for routes like India

to Europe, Kumar said. According to a report by think 'The rise in both sea and air tank GTRI, the escalation of the freight costs makes Indian extrade war between the US and ports more expensive for for-China may push Beijing to dump eign buyers. This can hurt India's competitiveness in the global market. We have lost few orders due to high freight rates, particularly in metal and commodities." he added. He also said that delays and

higher costs can disrupt the smooth flow of Indian exports, leading to potential order cancellations and reputational damage.

'Overall, the Red Sea crisis is creating a challenging situation for Indian exporters. The Indian government and businesses are looking for strategies to mitigate these impacts, such as exploring alternative shipping routes and negotiating with shipping lines," he said.

The DGTR (Directorate General of Trade Remedies) is an investigation arm of the commerce ministry that deals with anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty, and countervailing duty. These duties are trade remedy measures, provided under an agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to its member countries.

PC market grows 2.6% in Jan-March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: The traditional PC market in India, comprising desktops, notebooks, and workstations, grew 2.6 per cent to 30.7 lakh units in the March quarter, market research firm International Data Corporation said Thursday.

HP led the personal computer (PC) market with a 30.1 per cent share despite an 8.8 per cent decline in shipments.

The company's PC shipment dropped to 9.23 lakh units during the quarter from 10.12 lakh a year ago.

Dell Technologies and Acer Group's PC volume shipments market share grew 28.8 per cent each to 17.5 and 15.4 per cent, respectively.

The market shares of Lenovo and Asus declined to 15.1 and 5.9 per cent, respectively, during the reported quarter.

The share of Lenovo declined 1.3 per cent to 4.64 lakh units from 4.7 lakh while that of Asus declined 8.3 per cent to 1.82 lakh from 1.98 lakh on a year-on-year basis.

"The PC market in India is facing challenges in the commercial segment due to reduced PC procurement from the IT and ITES sector and global accounts which traditionally drive significant volumes," IDC India Associate Vice President, Client Devices and IPDS, Navkendar Singh, said.

The market is expected to start recovering by the end of 2024 with refresh buying from the enterprise segment, Singh said.

According to the International Data Corporation (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly Personal Computing Device Tracker report, the desktop and workstation categories grew 10.1 per cent and 2.7 per cent year-on-year, respectively, and notebooks declined 1.7 per cent.

Even with reduced demand for notebooks, premium notebooks (priced above \$1,000) grew a healthy 21 per cent.

Global stocks rally pushes indices 1%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 16: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty shot up nearly 1 per cent Thursday, driven by buying in HDFC Bank and Infosys and a rally in the US and Asian markets.

In a highly volatile trade, the climbed 676.69 points Sensex up 0.93% to

settle at 73,663.72 or 0.93 per cent to settle at 73,663.72. During Nifty rises 0.92% to end at 22,403.85 the day, it hit a high of 73,749.47 and a low of

72,529.97. The NSE Nifty surged 203.30 points or 0.92 per cent to 22,403.85.

"The domestic market experienced a late surge, driven by strong global

trends that pointed to lowerthan-expected US consumer inflation figures, which suggests at least two interest rate cuts in 2024," Geojit Financial Services Head of Research Vinod Nair said.

Among the Sensex components, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Infosys, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major gainers.

Maruti. State Bank of India. Power Grid, Tata Motors and

"The market exhibited volatility during trading hours but managed to gain nearly one per cent, indicating a continuation of its recovery trend. Positive global cues led to a gap-up opening in the Nifty; however, the initial gains diminished quickly as the session progressed.

IndusInd Bank were the laggard.

Subsequently, it witnessed sharp fluctuations on both sides before settling near the day's peak," said Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking

Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.07 per

cent and smallcap index rallied 0.85 per cent. Among the indices, capital

lowed by industrials (1.99 per cent), teck (1.66 per cent), realty (1.59 per cent), IT (1.55 per cent), telecommunication (0.99 per cent) and healthcare (0.70 per cent)

Utilities index emerged as the only laggard.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.33 per cent to \$82.45 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2.832.83 crore Wednesday.

Adani Energy acquires Essar's **BIZ BUZZ** New Delhi: Adani Energy Solutions Thursday said it has complet-

Diesel sales slide, petrol almost flat sion, which should also propel

Electioneering for general elections traditionally has



sales Month-on-month petrol sales were up 11 per cent compared to

1.23 million tonne of consump-

tion in April 1-15. Diesel demand

was 4 per cent higher month-

on-month against 3.15 million

tonnes in the first half of April.

sumed fuel, accounting for al-

most 40 per cent of all petro-

leum product consumption. The

transport sector accounts for 70

per cent of all diesel sales in the

Diesel is India's most con-

VOLATILE MARKET

goods jumped 2.05 per cent, fol-

oil to ₹5,700 per tonne, from ₹8,400 per tonne, with effect from Thursday. The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED). The SAED on the export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'. The new rates are effective from May 16, an official notification said. India first imposed windfall profit taxes July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

ed the acquisition of Essar's Manan-Sipat Transmission assets for 🕵 an enterprise value of ₹1,900 crore. The share acquisition is pursuant to definitive agreements signed in June 2022, a company statement said. According to the statement, Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL), has acquired a 100 per cent stake in Essar Transco Limited after obtaining the requisite regulatory and other approvals for an enterprise value of ₹1,900 crores. The acquisition covers a fully-operational 400 kV, 673 ckt kms (circuit kilometre) inter-state transmission line linking Mahan in Madhya Pradesh to the Sipat pooling substation in Chhattisgarh.

Reliance sells REC Solar Norway



Oslo-listed Elkem ASA for around \$22 million. REC Norway is a wholly-owned unit of REC Solar Holdings and is involved in the manufacturing of kerf-based polysilicon in the Scandinavian country. In October 2021, a unit of Reliance acquired Norway's solar panel manufacturer at an enterprise value of \$771 million as the Indian oil-to-retail conglomerate sought to extend its dominance into alternative energy. In January this year, Reliance stated that REC Solar Holdings AS, a step-own wholly-owned subsidiary, January 14, 2024, entered into a share purchase agreement with Elkem ASA for the sale of its 100 per cent equi-

ty stake in REC Solar Norway AS for an aggregate cash consideration of \$22 million.

led to a surge in fuel demand as candidates extensively use automobiles to reach voters. But the trend in sales by PSUs so far does not reflect that

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: India's diesel sales continued to slide in May while petrol consumption was almost flat despite election campaigns for the general elections hitting a peak, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed Thursday.

Petrol sales of three state-owned

firms, which control 90 per cent of the fuel market, at 1.367 million tonne in the first half of May was almost the same as 1.36 million tonne of fuel consumed in the same period last year. Month-onmonth consumption however soared 11 per cent.

Diesel sales dropped 1.1 per cent to 3.28 million tonne during May 1 to 15. The demand for the nation's most consumed fuel had

fallen 2.3 per cent in April and 2.7 per cent in March.

Besides electioneering, the summer harvest season is also the scorching summer that increases the demand for air conditioning in cars, which should lead to a rise in fuel consumption.

Also, petrol and diesel prices were in mid-March reduced by ₹2 per litre, ending a nearly twoyear-long hiatus in rate revicountry. It is also the predominant fuel used in agriculture sectors, including in harvesters and tractors Consumption of petrol during May 1-15 was 6.5 per cent higher than in the first fortnight of May 2022, and 41.6 per cent

more than in the Covid-marred

to tax evasion and that decen-

tralised peer to peer (P2P) ac-

tivities in cryptocurrencies would

rely on voluntary compliance -

both representing risks to fis-

same period of 2020.

GAIL 04 net triples

New Delhi: State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd Thursday reported more than tripling of its fourth quarter net profit after natural gas transmission and petrochemical business saw a turnaround. Its standalone net profit of ₹2,176.97 crore in January-March - the fourth quarter of 2023-24 - was 261 per cent more than ₹603.52 crore net profit in the same period last year, according to stock exchange filing by the company. The net profit was, however, 26 per cent lower than ₹2,842.62 crore earning in the preceding quarter of October-December.

Mahindra Q4 PAT up

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra Thursday reported a 4 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to ₹2,754 crore for the March quarter, driven by strong performance of its automotive business. The company had posted a consolidated PAT of ₹2.637 crore in the January-March quarter of FY23, M&M said in a regulatory filing.

SEBI open to oversight of crypto trade, in contrast to RBI

INDIA HAS TAKEN A TOUGH STANCE AGAINST **CRYPTOCURRENCIES SINCE 2018**

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 16: India's market watchdog has recommended that several regulators oversee trade in cryptocurrencies, documents show, the strongest signal to date that at least some authorities in the country are open to allowing the use of private virtual assets.

The position of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) contrasts with that of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which maintains that private digital currencies represent a macroeconomic risk, separate documents show.

Both sets of documents, which have been seen by Reuters, have been submitted to a government

panel which is tasked with formulating policy for the finance ministry to consider. SEBI's stance has not previously been reported.

India has taken a tough stance against cryptocurrencies since 2018, when the central bank prohibited lenders and other financial intermediaries from dealing with crypto users or exchanges though the move was later struck down by the Supreme Court.

In 2021, the government prepared a bill that would have banned private cryptocurrencies though it has not been introduced. Last year, when it was president of the G20, India called for a global framework to regulate such assets.

The RBI remains in favour of a ban on stablecoins, according to a person with direct knowledge of the panel's discussions. The person, who was not authorised to speak to media and declined to be identified, added that the panel plans to firm up its report



as early as June.

Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies designed to maintain a constant exchange rate with fiat currencies so that they are less vulnerable to wild volatility.

In its submissions to the government panel, however, SEBI recommended different regulators should oversee activities linked to cryptocurrencies that fall under their domain and that a single unified regulator for digital assets should be avoided.

SEBI said it could monitor cryptocurrencies that take the form of securities as well as new offerings called Initial Coin Offerings (ICO). It

could also issue licenses for equity market-related products, said the person aware of the panel's discussions.

FISCAL POLICY RISKS This would be similar to the In its submissions, the RBI US, where tokens that are in the said cryptocurrencies could lead

nature of securities and crypto exchanges fall under the purview of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Crypto assets that are backed by fiat currencies could be regulated by the Reserve Bank of India, it said.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Pension Fund Regulatory

Development Authority 31 (PFRDA) should regcountries have ulate insurance and pension-reregulations in lated virtual asplace that allow for sets, the documents showed. trade in It also recommended that

cryptocurrencies grievances of investors trading in

Act

It also said cryptocurrencies may lead to loss of "seigniorage" income, which is the profit earned by a central bank from money creation. After the RBI's 2018 orders and

cal stability.

were challenged by the industry and struck down by the Supreme Court, the central bank asked financial institutions to strictly comply with tough money laundering and foreign exchange rules, effectively keeping cryptocurrencies out of India's formal financial system.

Even so, trade flourished and in 2022 the government introduced a tax on crypto transactions in India to discourage such trading. It followed that up by asking all exchanges to register lo-transactions from within the

country.







cryptocurrencies

should be resolved under

India's Consumer Protection





CHHETRI SETS LAST DATE WITH INDIA KIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: The iconic Sunil Chhetri Thursday announced his decision to retire from international football after the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Kuwait June 6, bringing the curtains down on a glorious career that is unparalleled in Indian football for its longevity and consistency.

The long-serving national team captain announced his decision via a video he posted on his social media accounts. Chhetri, who made his debut in 2005, has 4 scored 94 goals for the country. He will leave the scene as India's all-time top scorer and most-capped player.

He is also third in the list of goal scorers among active players behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi and cur

rently sits as the fourth in the all-time list of international goalscorers as well.

Chhetri, 39, will walk into international sunset after rendering veoman service for nearly two decades, 19 years to be precise, to a team that was heavily reliant on the 5'7" forward to deliver the goods every time he wore the blue jersey. "The match Against Kuwait is the last,² Chhetri said while announcing his decision.

Chhetri's final match will be played at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, and it is appropriate that he will end his journey in a city, where he has played a lot of his football while evolving into a potent striker.

India are currently second in Group A with four points, behind leaders Qatar. Chhetri had made his 150th national appearance in March and scored on the occasion against Afghanistan in Guwahati. India, though, stunningly lost that game 1-2.

On his international debut against Pakistan way back in 2005, Chhetri, who would go on to become one of the game's most lethal strikers, scored, and he

rated it as his best moment. "There is one day that I never forget and remember it quite often is the first time I played for my country man, it was unbelievable. But the day before, morning

of the

day, Sukhi sir (Sukhwinder Singh), my first national team coach, in the morning he came to me and he's like, you're going to start? I can't tell you how I was feeling man,' Chhetri recalled.

He added, "I took my jersey, I sprayed some perfume on it, I have no idea why. So that day, everything that happened, once he told me, from breakfast to lunch and to the game and to my first goal in my debut, to conceding late in the 80th minute, that day is probably that I will never forget and is one of the best days of my national team journey."

Speaking on the future of Indian football, Chettri said that it was time for the country to

find the next 'No.9'. He felt the team is currently handicapped as none of the cur rent lot of players play as the main 懈 striker for their respective clubs and sees the massive hole in the current na-

tional

team.

cent

times.

Chhetri

could

said he

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he was head-

end of his glo-

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ing towards the

In re-

thought individually, these are the many games that I've played for the country, this is what I've done, good or bad, but now I did it.

"This last one and a half, two months, I did it and it was very strange. I did it because probably I was going to-

> wards the decision that this game, this next game is going to be my last.

The moment he had arrived at the decision, memories came flooding back to his mind. "And the moment I told myself first, that res, this is the game that is going to be my last, is when I started recollecting everything.

"It was so strange, I started thinking about this game, that game, this coach, that coach. that team, that member, that ground, that away match, this good game, that bad game, all my individual performances. everything came, all the flashes came. So when I did decide that this is it, this is going to be my last game.

His family members reacted differently to his big decision. "I told my mom, my dad and my wife, my family first, my dad was...he was normal, he was relieved, happy, everything, but my mom and my wife started crying," he said. "They couldn't express to me

as to why they burst into tears. It's not that I was feeling tired, it's not that I was feeling this or that, when the instinct came that this should be my last game, then I thought about it a lot.



BHAICHUNG BHUTIA: Sunil, no doubt, will go down as one of the greatest players India had ever produced. His contribution to Indian football is immense. It's a great loss for Indian football. I am fortunate to have played with him as senior player. When I came in (I M) Vijayan was senior to me, after that Sunil (Chhetri) came. I am fortunate to have served Indian football in between two stalwarts of Indian football

AIFF: Your legacy on and INDIA off-the-field will always be remembered! You have always been and will continue to inspire us. Thank you



YUVRAJ SINGH: A real legend of the game who took Indian football onto the global stage. Your passion has inspired a generation to take up the game... your legacy in Indian sports will be remembered forever...you can look back with pride as you get set for your final game, thank you

GURPREET SINGH SANDHU:

Never wanted to see this

happen, I wish I could do

something to change your

mind but I also understand

whole country needs to

why it is happening bhai. The

celebrate your international

career on the 6th of June the

way you deserve. My Captain



RCB: What a ride this has been, skipper! 94 international goals, so many laurels, an unbroken conviction and you've inspired so many young Indians to dream big. Happy farewell to the No.11 (No.9) but India's 1

BCCI: Your

career has been

nothing short of

you have been a

phenomenal icor

for Indian footbal

and Indian sports

Go well, Captain!

extraordinary and

The day I was given the armband, it was in Malaysia by Bob Houghton, there was an instant pressure because of what I was - a backbencher. Myself, Steven (Dias) and (NP) Pradeep made fun of the senior players, that was me. Everything was a prank and was mischievous. But when I wore the armband, for the initial three-four games I started sitting ahead. That was me taking the pressure that I have become captain now. It's not these things but doing the right stuff that you were doing before and being a little more thoughtful. It's not only you, it's the team now SUNIL CHHETR

SHORT TAKES

Man U win at home

Manchester: Amad Diallo scored his first Premier League goal and assisted on another to power Manchester United to a 3-2 victory over Newcastle United Wednesday at Old Trafford in a battle between teams fighting for a European berth next season. Erik ten Hag's team remained eighth in the table but level on 57 points with seventh-placed Newcastle. Chelsea are sixth on 60 points after beating Brighton & Hove Albion 2-1 earlier Wednesday. Anthony Gordon drew Newcastle level in the 49th after Kobbie

Hussey hopes MSD continues as player

the feel-

ing that I

recollect in

the last 19 years

is a very nice com-

bination between

mense joy. I never

duty, pressure and im-



that Dhoni's workload is being managed appropriately, given that he had undergone knee surgery

'That (knee surgery) is why we have had to manage him a little bit, and he only comes in at the back end. But, there has been no one better in being able to come in and hit the ball so cleanly from ball one than MS. He has been phenomenal," he added.

The Australian said Dhoni wanted to stick around in the transition phase as Gaikwad was handed the captaincy. "MS sort of announced that he was

Mumbai, LSG look to end dismal campaigns with win





of -0.787 will not improve significantly for them to get back into contention, as Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at No.6, are much better placed with a NRR of 0.387.

Five-time IPL champions MI

were the first team to be knocked

out of the playoffs race this year

as they endured a terrible first sea-

son under new skipper Hardik

matches so far. MI can at best

finish with 10 points if they win

Friday, something that can pos-

sibly help them avoid a last-place

With only four wins from 13

Pandya.

finish.



Sports world pays tribute

The leading sports personalities from India lauded Sunil

Chhetri's achievements after the iconic India striker Thursday

announced his decision to retire from international football.

Commenting on Chhetri's video post on Instagram, Kohli wrote for his

good friend: "My brother. Proud." Let's take a look at some other reactions...

Mainoo's 31st minute opener. Diallo restored the lead eight minutes later. Rasmus Hojlund scored in the 84th before Newcastle's Lewis Hall pulled one back in injury time.

Juve reign supreme

Rome: An early goal from Dusan Vlahovic was all Juventus needed to beat Atalanta 1-0 Wednesday in the Italian Cup final to cap what had been a disappointing season with a trophy. Vlahovic scored four minutes in by finishing off a counterattack then had another possible goal waved off for offside in the 72nd. It's Juve's recordextending 15th Italian Cup title. Juventus have fallen to fourth place in Serie A.

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ting well.

Gaikwad was handed the reins of the side.

Bangalore, May 16: Chennai 'We are hoping he does keep Super Kings batting coach going. He is still batting so well. He does prepare well – he gets Michael Hussey is hoping that charismatic MS Dhoni would into the camp very early and hits a lot of balls. He has been continue with the team for a couple of years more, saying in good touch all season really," the former skipper was still bat-Hussey said on ESPN's Around the Wicket show.

"I guess we just got to try to manage him from the body side of things. He had a knee surgery after the last season. So, he has been managing that from the

initial stage of the tournament.

"I hope he keeps going for another couple of years. But we will just have to wait and see. He is the only one who will make that call. And, he likes to sort of build the drama a little bit as well. So, I wouldn't expect a decision anytime soon.

Dhoni, who led the side to record five IPL titles, has been batting quite down the order this season, sometimes at number eight, and faces only a handful of deliveries. Hussey said

not going to be attending the pre-tournament captains' meeting. And we're like, 'Oh, no. What's going on?'. He said Ruturaj was going to be captain from then on.

"So, it was a little bit of a shock to start with, but it has been managed really well. We have sort of known for a little while that he was the right man to take over the job when MS decided to step aside.

"He wanted to still be here while the new captain took over, to try to help him along the way and sort of mentor him a little bit," said Hussey.

Under Gaikwad's leadership, CSK has fared decently. The team is placed third on the points table and is likely to make the playoffs

oning from the IPL playoffs. Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants will look to end their campaign on a winning note when they clash at the Wankhede Stadium here Friday. While MI were knocked out of the playoffs race long ago, LSG's

Mumbai, May 16: Out of reck-

chances of making the last-four are extremely bleak even if they win their last IPL game here by a huge margin. Three consecutive defeats have not only denied LSG crucial points, they have also battered their net run-rate.

A 98-run loss to KKR was followed by a 10-wicket hammering by Sunrisers Hyderabad with a 19-run defeat to Delhi Capitals all but ending their chances of getting into the playoffs after making the final-four in the previous edition.

The seventh-placed LSG's NRR

MATCHDAY Indian Premier League MI vs LSG Time: 07:30 pm Telecast: Star Sports Network Stream: Jio Cinema

Rain seals SRH's IPL playoff berth

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Hyderabad, May 16: Sunrisers Hyderabad Thursday qualified for the IPL playoffs after rain washed out their IPL match against Gujarat Titans here without a ball being bowled.

SRH thus became the third team to make the cut after following Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals, who are currently occupying the top two places in the standings.

The SRH received one point to take their tally to 15 points with one match to go. They will face Punjab Kings, who have already been eliminated, May 19 in their last league assignment.

GT were knocked out of the playoff race after their previous match was also abandoned due to rain. They thus end the season with 12 points from 14 matches. Four teams - CSK (14), RCB (12), DC (14) and LSG (12)are still in fray for the battle for the last spot.

Griezmann shines

Madrid: Antoine Griezmann scored a hat-trick as Atletico Madrid defeated Getafe 3-0 in the La Liga Wednesday to secure a Champions League spot next season. The Frenchman scored twice in the first half and again in the second. The victory at Getafe moved Atletico 11 points clear of fifth-place Athletic Bilbao with two rounds remaining.

Winning streak ends

Orlando (Florida): Drake Callender made three saves for his second clean sheet of the season and Inter Miami played Orlando to a scoreless draw Wednesday night. Miami, who have never defeated the Lions in MLS play in Orlando, had their five-game winning streak come to an end. Miami were looking to become the third team since 2019 to win six straight regular-season matches in the same season. Lionel Messi did not play for Miami due to a left leg injury.

Meiraba, Satwik-Chirag in quarters Once I'm done, I'll be gone, says Virat Kohli PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 16: Well aware that he "can't keep going forever", Indian batting superstar Virat Kohli wants to give everything he has to his cricket career because he once he is done, he says he would be "gone" and

The 42-year-old Dhoni sur-

prised everyone by stepping

aside as captain of the team

just a day before the start of

the 2024 season. Ruturaj

won't be seen "for a while." In a video posted by RCB on social media, the 35-year-old said the desire to live a regret-free life keeps him going. "So, it's just about not leaving any undone business behind and not having any regrets later, which I'm very sure of I won't. Once I'm done,

I'll be gone; you won't see me

after he led India to title triumph in the 2008 U-19 World Cup and he has continued to be with the franchise ever since.

"I think, as sportsmen, we do have an end date to our careers, so I'm just working backwards, I don't want to finish my career thinking what if I had done this on that particular day because I can't keep going on and on forever," he added.

"So, I want to give it everything I have till the time I play and The former India captain is that's the only thing that keeps part of the Indian squad for the me going," said Kohli when asked T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies beginning next Kohli was picked by RCB soon month

Bangkok, May 16: Continuing their splendid run, young Indian shuttler Meiraba Luwang Maisnam and star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the quarterfinals of Thailand Open Super 500 here Thursday

A day after his upset win over compatriot HS Prannoy, the 21year-old Meiraba, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, eliminated Denmark's Mads Christophersen 21-14, 22-20 in a second round clash men's singles clash that lasted 50 minutes. Meiraba will face a litmus test when he takes on World Champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand next.

World No.3 Indian pair of Satwik and Chirag defeated Xie Sao Nan and Zeng Wei Han, ranked 69th, 21-16. 21-11 in their second round match. The Asian Games gold medallists will next face Malaysia's



Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap. Olympic-bound women's pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa beat Chinese Taipei's Hung En-Tzu and Lin Yu-Pei 21-19, 21-17 to also reach the quarterfinals. The fourth seeded Indian combination will meet sixth seeds Lee Yu Lim and Shin Seung Chan of Taipei next.

Among other Indians, Ashmita Chaliha's gruelling fight ended in a narrow loss as she went down 15-21, 21-12, 12-21 to top seeded Chinese Han Yue in women's singles.

In mixed doubles, Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath lost 10-21, 17-21 to Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari to bow out of the competition. Odisha's Panda sisters - Rutaparna and Swetaparna – failed to cross the second round. losing 16-21, 13-21 to Japan's Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi.

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what keeps him hungry

for a while.





