



leisure



KATY BIDS ADIEU TO AMERICAN IDOL

Singer Katy Perry took the American Idol stage for the final time as a judge before bidding adieu to the singing-based reality show. Perry, along with names such as Luke Bryan and Lionel Richie, sauntered into the 22nd season finale hand in hand, reports *deadline.com*.

CLARKSON NAMED UK'S SEXIEST MAN

Mumbai: It's been a year and two months since Nandita Das critically ac-

claimed direc-

Zwigato, re-

leased in

theatres. and it still

seems to

be strug-

gling to

findan

OTT re-

lease, and

Goswami

starring Kapil

Sharma, not

getting an

OTT release

window even

after one year

not on any

actress Shahana

torial,

Jeremy Clarkson, aged 64, was crowned the sexiest man in the UK and Ireland for the second time in a row. The English television presenter, journalist, and writer, beat the likes of actors Cillian Murphy, Idris Elba and Tom Holland, as well as Prince William, to secure the top spot.



FORTUNE FORECAST



If you get a chance to display your presentation skills don't lose it, says Ganesha. Your eloquence may receive wide acclaim. Your children too may give you reason to be proud. Do remember to take time out for the elderly in your family.

TAURUS

You may feel that you woke up on the wrong side of the bed today, says Ganesha, The day is filled with a fair share of jittery moments and lingering worry. Stand firm and remember that every night has a dawn. The law of averages will make your evening more eniovable. You may discuss certain intimate issues with your sweetheart for the betterment of your relationship

GEMINI

Lady Luck is likely to smile on you, foresees Ganesha. You are generally shy, but today is a different day. You will remain outgoing and will be able to freely express your feelings. This temporary change will do a lot of good to your ego, says Ganesha.

Those around you have

always thought that there is something different about you, but could never put their finger on what exactly it was. You always knew. You are better than them, and today is the day to make them realise that. How? The best course of action is to do your job in the best possible manner.

LEO

Easy come, easy go - thatis the best way to sum up money. Try holding on to it, advises Ganesha, as there is a strong pos sibility that you shall incur a lot of wasteful expenditures today. Always think twice before you spend your hard-earned money. Remember the Grasshopper, cautions Ganesha, and learn from the fable, i not the life philosophies of the famous rich men of our age. Start saving some thing for a rainy day.

VIRGO

Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationshins On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesha.



The theatrical you comes to you to put up a show in all

Mumbai: Actress Jasmin Bhasin is known for her straight-

forwardness, and recently, she addressed the issue of actors facing criticism for undergoing cosmetic sur-

geries or any alteration in trolls mocking their appearance. She encountered a social media post where a senior actor

targeted for looking different, a situation she found unnecessary and toxic. The actress emphasises that such negativity only amplifies insecurities and serves no constructive purpose.

Reflecting on the recent backlash against actor Rajkummar Rao for his jawline surgery, she speaks generally about the pressure actors face to maintain their appearance. She stresses that actors strive to look their best due to the demands of their profession. However,

Kiara on life, work

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani recently made her debut at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, attending the Women in Cinema Gala. On the sidelines of the prestigious event, she opened up in an interview about her professional and personal life, particularly her re-

lationship with actor-husband Sidharth Malhotra. In the interview, Kiara addressed the spec-

ulation about their potential future collaborations. She expressed gratitude for the affection they received as a couple through Shershaah. I feel like Shershaah gave us a lot of love as a couple. There's a certain excitement, and people want to see us together," she said.

However, the Kabir Singh actress emphasised that any decision to work together again would be based on the appeal of the project itself. She said that they have never really thought of it, like, 'As a couple, how does this work?" "We think we're in-dividual people first and actors first, so that's how we would go about looking for something,' Kiara said.

The actress further emphasised that they both love to work together, but the project should be an exciting one.

Kiara and Sidharth tied the knot February 7, 2023, in a private ceremony. Since then, their fans have been eagerly anticipating their next on

> screen pairing. AGENCIES

Jasmin highlights the toll Jasmin slams

such criticism can take on individuals, particularly when they may already be dealing with personal

challenges or stress. She questions the need for such harsh attention, not-

ing its potential to exacerbate mental health issues like depression and anxiety.

As she continues her work in the industry, Jasmin advocates for a more empathetic approach

has shared her disappointment over her film Zwigato, Shahana on Zwigato not of its release. She said, "It's very un-fortunate that Zwigato is still OTT release OTT platform for viewing, and I honestly don't know the reason behind it. In fact, I keep checking with the makers about when, how, and why, but they also don't have the answers. The 38-year-old, who played the role of Kapil's onscreen wife

Pratima, said, "I know that this film would have been loved by people if they managed to get a chance to watch it. So many people still keep asking about when that will come out on OTT, but I don't know the status. It's very sad."

"I remain hopeful. It's never too late for something good to happen. The long wait for it to appear on an OTT platform might make it even more special. In a year or two, it could become a prized possession. I believe everything happens for the best, so when Zwigato finally streams, it will be the right time,'



STARS FULFIL HEIR CIVIC DUT

Mumbai: One of the most visible features of the just-concluded fifth phase of polling in Mumbai, which also marked the completion of Maharashtra's tryst with the ballot, was the spotlight on Hindi film industry.

As they turned up in casuals, away from the glamour and glitz of events, in cars that ranged from a Maybach (Deepika-Ranveer) to an oldfashioned Maruti (Tabu), followed closely by the paparazzi, the stars obliterated the political figures who usually dominate headlines emanating from Maharashtra.

Even high-profile candidates such as Piyush Goyal and Ujjwal Nikam could not dominate the media mindspace as much as the stars, from Akshay Kumar, who was voting after getting his Indian citizenship, to Shah Rukh Khan, who happily posed for shutterbugs with his wife Gauri and son Aryan, to Amitabh Bachchan, who showed up with wife Jaya, suffering the blazing heat but not showing the least discomfort.

Most of the stars, from Sanya Malhotra to Ranbir Kapoor, were happy to simply flash their inked index finger and not speak, but some, notably Dharmendra, Akshay Kumar, Manoj Bajpayee and Rajkummar Rao, gave statements to the media urging Mumbaikars to vote.

Yet others, such as SRK, Anupam Kher and Paresh Rawal, urged people to not waste the right in statements they put up on their social media handles hours before the fifth phase started at 7 a.m. on Monday.

There was a reason for this constant egging on. Mumbai had recorded a mere 55.11 per cent voter turnout in 2019, which, incidentally, was the highest in three decades -- and this was just 4 per cent higher than the percentage recorded in 2014.

And though the final figure is not out yet for the fifth phase, it appears that the Maximum City will again fall short of the tantalising 60 per cent mark that seems to elude it in each election. Ironically, the city's richest and most edu-

IANS





was being

PEANUTS

P

THERE'S NOTHIN

WRONG WITH READING CEREA

CALVIN AND HOBBES

BOXES ...

tion to your work, or dedication to your family. You may give the best in the busi ness a run for their money as you prove to be the perfect choice for all tasks assigned to you. A great day at work, and the right amount of affection towards vour spouse and children back home you sure are perfect today!

SCORPIO

Signs indicate you may face unexpected expenses today. But this spending is likely to be on family and friends especially in entertaining them. But keep track of every penny. To be on the safer side, Ganesha advises you not to have any pockets at all today.

SAGITTARIUS

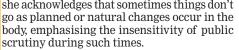
Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesha predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

It's time to party, whether or not you have no reason for it. Friends and even acquaintances will be invited to take part in the celebrations; you will be all charged up to have a blast of a day, says Ganesha. For those engaged in business. profits may come but it won't be the result of the efforts you put in. Any dealings related to real estate and construction will yield good results.

You may be sorely disappointed today. With no support from family, and the kids driving you up the wall, you need to keep your cool. Family feuds are highly likely, and neighbours may attempt to interfere. For now, all you need is to remain unruffled, says Ganesha.

PISCES

While you may have a wide circle of acquaintances, it is only a select few who you bless with your munificence. And that is precisely what you will be busy with, as a day filled with socialising and leisure-filled activities beckons, says Ganesha



SOME OF THE BEST

STORIES I'VE EVER READ

WERE ON CEREAL BOXES AND YOU DON'T HAVE

TO TURN ANY PAGES!

towards public figures appearances and personal struggles. AGENCIES

SEE

MARCIE

DID IT!

YOU'RE

WEIRD,

SIR

I PREDICT THAT SOME

DAY A CEREAL BOX WILL

WIN THE PULITZER PRIZE



21

6 Before modern

or sound

7 Florence is

12 Crème brûlée,

15 Lacking social

17 Fresh from the

there

e.g.

14 Symbol of

purity

polish

shower

19 Decorative

jugs

23

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22 Trip the light

fantastic

23 Gofer's trips

1 Relaxed

2 Aching

3 Deplorable

(4.3.6)

4 Brush up on

5 London's bane,

circa 19th century

21 Fishing expedition

20 Bitter

<u>Down</u>

FUN

CROSSWORD

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.

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			5			7		
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	3				1			
2						5		7

SOLUTIONS
SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD			н		С		Е		Т		D		U
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ONE CARD.	in a	A STA	I FOLD. CHEATING?"
ML E			

BREVITY

Across

1 Kind of

penguin 5 Short trip

8 Cut corners

9 Leaves the

premises

10 Contrasting

11 Literary olio

youngsters

13 Peace officer

16 Dry, as wine

18 Use ballast

12 Farm



SUDOKU





www.orissapost.com

4 of family killed in **Dhenkanal mishap**

Dhenkanal, May 20: Four members of a family were killed Monday as the bike they were travelling on was hit by a Hyva truck near Pingua village under Nihalprasad police limits in Dhenkanal district Monday. Among those killed were a couple and their two kids, a boy and

a girl, a senior officer of Nihalprasad police station informed. Efforts are on to ascertain their identities, police added. Eye-witnesses said that the truck hit the two-wheeler from the rear. The man and the woman died on the spot. Locals rushed the kids to a nearby hospital for treatment, but they succumbed to their injuries. Cops have seized both the bike and the truck involved in the accident. Police said that the driver of the truck fled the scene immediately after the accident. Efforts are on to trace him. Police also informed that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem. However, till the time of filing the

POST NEWS NETWORK

sale of Sal seeds on account of their lack of awareness about MSP

STATE | P3

status despite Chinese aggression

INTERNATIONAL | P8





WOOING VOTERS: (L) Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik addresses a gathering while participating in a roadshow Monday in Bhubaneswar; (R) Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd during a roadshow in Puri along with Lok Sabha candidate Sambit Patra, Monday

Sporadic violence mars Odisha polls

Odisha registered its second pollrelated death Monday when an auto driver was fatally stabbed in Bargarh district when he was carrying voters to a polling booth. However, CEO NB Dhal and senior police officials termed the murder a thing of personal enmity. This incidentally is the second poll-related death after a BJP worker was killed in Khallikote, May 15. In the 2nd phase, the overall voter turnout stood at 69.34%, till reports last came in, as compared to 75.68% in the first phase

report no one has come to iden-

tify and receive the bodies.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: One person was killed in an incidence

Maoists in Nupada district as Odisha recorded 66.70 per cent voter turnout till 10.00pm in the polling for five Lok Sabha constituencies and 35 Assembly segments, officials said. The jawan who is currently undergoing treatment at Raipur is currently out of danger, officials said.

Voting started at 7.00am in Aska, Kandhamal, Bargarh, Bolangir and Sundargarh Parliamentary constituencies along with 35 Assembly segments within the jurisdiction of these Lok Sabha seats.

Voting in a booth under Kantamal Assembly segment was stopped after some people created a disturbance, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha, Nikunja



Security tightened outside the Sarsara Primary School polling booth under Sadar block in Bargarh district after the murder of a person, Monday OP PHOTO

Bargarh

Bolangir

Sundargarh

the polling station, Dhal said. Regarding the murder of a man near Sarsara village under Sadar police limits in Bargarh district, the CEO said: "It is not a pollrelated violence, but an incident of crime which had taken place

60% TURNOUT **IN 5TH PHASE**

of cooling appliances

BUSINESS P9

NEW DELHI: Over 60 per cent voter turnout was recorded Monday in 49 constituencies in six states and two Union Territories in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections amid sporadic incidents of violence in West Bengal along with EVM glitches at some booths in the state. While Maharashtra recorded the lowest voter turnout at 54.33 per cent, West Bengal recorded the highest polling percentage at 75.56%.

are Bhatli (79.23%), Jharsuguda (78.50%), Biramitrapur (75.50%), Boudh (75.12%) Attabira (74%), Brajarajnagar (75.02%). Bonaj (73.25%) and Daspalla (72%). However, the turnout was lowest in Hinjili at 58.21%. CM Naveen Patnaik is contesting from Hinjili and Kantabanji (67.96%).

Sambit: Jagannath is disciple of Modi⁻⁽

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: BJP Lok Sabha candidate from Puri Sambit Patra said Monday that Lord Jagannath is a devotee of Narendra Modi while talking to mediapersons in Puri.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik slammed Patra for his comment. "Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath is the Lord of Universe. Calling Mahaprabhu a bhakt of another human being is an insult to the Lord. This has hurt the sentiments and has demeaned the faith of crores of Jagannath bhaktas and



POLITICAL DISCOURSE NAVEEN PATNAIK

power-hitting slugfest

SPORTS BACK PAGE

Odisha Asmita'. Congress leaders also lodged a complaint with the CEO of Odisha over Patra's comments and filed a complaint at the Town Police station in Puri.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal also criticised Patra.

of poll-related violence Monday in Bargarh district while a member of Odisha police's Special Operation Group (SOG) was injured during a shootout with

Bihari Dhal informed. One presiding officer of a booth in the Kantamal Assembly segment was taken into custody by police after some irregularities were found at

outside the polling station. It was due to personal enmity. Polling was not affected because of the incident," he said. In the Assembly elections,

AGENCIES

Kandnamai	10.31%
Aska	60.78%

LOK SABHA POLLS

76.20%

67.74%

71.46%

eight constituencies recorded over 70% voter turnout. They Odias across the world," said Patnaik on 'X'.

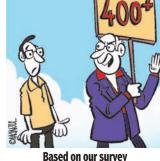
'The Lord is the greatest Symbol of Odia Asmita. Calling Mahaprabhu a bhakt of another human being is totally condemnable. I strongly denounce the statement made by the BJP Puri Lok Sabha candidate and I appeal to the BJP to keep the Lord above any political discourse. By this you have deeply hurt Odia Asmita and this will be remembered and condemned by people of Odisha for a very long time,"

Other political parties including the Congress also came down heavily on Patra for his it was a 'direct attack on

"I strongly condemn this statement of BJP. They have started thinking that they are above God. This is height of arrogance. Calling God bhakt of Modi ji is an insult to God," Kejriwal said on 'X'.

Amid uproar over his words, Patra took to 'X' and said he spoke to multiple media channels after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Puri where he mentioned that 'Modi ji is an ardent Bhakt of Shri Jagannath Mahaprabhu... by mistake during one of the bytes, I pronounced just the opposite. I know you too know and understand this... Sir let's not make an issue out of a nonexistent issue... We all have slip of the tongue sometimes," Patra said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Based on our survey in Nirvachan Sadan..

Tusker electrocuted

ANGUL: An elephant was found dead Monday in Kantamegha village, under the Bantala forest range of this district. Forest department officials who were called to the scene said that the tusker had been electrocuted. This is the second instance of an elephant death in less than two months. A tusker belonging to the same range had died because of electrocution April 15. Officials said that the elephant must have come in contact with the electric wire while trying to enter a banana plantation belonging to Antara Sahoo.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	38.8°€	38.2℃
Min Temp	28.4°C	25.5℃
Humidity	70%	67%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		M
PARTLY CLOUDY	'sky	8

Iranian President Raisi dead in chopper crash 'Casual', 'cavalier' plea rejected by SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

President Ebrahim Raisi, 63, the New Delhi, May 20: The country's Foreign Minister Supreme Court refused Monday Hossein Amirabdollahian, 60. and several other officials were to entertain a petition which challenged the enactment of three found dead Monday, hours after new laws that seek to overhaul their helicopter crashed in a India's penal codes. A vacation foggy, mountainous region of bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi the country's northwest, the state media reported. and Pankaj Mithal however, al-The crash comes as the Middle lowed petitioner advocate Vishal East remains unsettled by the

Tiwari to withdraw the plea. The Lok Sabha on December 21 last year, passed three key legislations – the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill. President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the bills December 25. These new laws will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act respectively.

At the outset, the bench told Tiwari, "We are dismissing it (petition)." The bench said these laws have not come into force so far. As the court showed its disinclination to entertain the plea, Tiwari urged that he be allowed

to withdraw the petition. "The petition has been filed in a very casual and cavalier manner," the bench observed. "If you had argued more, we would have dismissed it with cost but since you are not arguing, we are not imposing cost," the bench added. Seeking a stay on the operation

of the three new laws, the PIL filed by Tiwari had claimed they were enacted without any Parliamentary debate.

Israel-Hamas war, during which Raisi under Supreme Leader Dubai, May 20: Iranian Ayatollah Ali Khamenei launched an unprece-

dented drone-and-missile attack on Israel just last month. During Raisi's term in office, Iran enriched uranium

closer than ever to weapons-grade levels, further escalating tensions with the West as Tehran also supplied bombcarrying drones to Russia for its war in Ukraine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

expressed shock and sadness Monday at the demise of Raisi, and said his contribution in strengthening India-Iran bilateral relationship will always be remembered. "Deeply saddened and shocked by the tragic demise of Dr Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Modi

Patnaik added.

remark. Congress leaders said that Patra had hurt Odias and

Saudi's 1st all-women band creating waves

said on X.

MORE AND MORE WOMEN TURNING TO ARTS AS A FORM OF EXPRESSION AS SAUDI ARABIA RELAXES RULES

AGENCIES

Riyadh, May 20: Leaning into the microphone in Saudi Arabia's capital, Nora lets loose a primal scream. Guitars wail and drums throb behind her as part of a set with her bandmates during a recent show.

The performance by Seera, an all-women psychedelic rock band that blends traditional Arabic melodies with the resurgent psychedelia of bands like Tame Impala, would have been unthinkable just years earlier in the kingdom.

But as Saudi Arabia liberalises some aspects of its society, Seera represents way women now are finding their voice and expressing themselves through the arts in a nation long associated with ultraconservative Islam and the strict separation of sexes.



'We didn't know how people would react," said Meesh, the band's bassist, who like other members asked to be identified by their stage names. "We believe strongly in self-expression. To our surprise, they really had open arms for us," Meesh added.

The band's name, Seera, can mean 'life' or 'biography' in Arabic. Band members say they try to embrace the multiple meanings one can draw from a word in the language in its sound, whether through driving drums and cymbals or the synthesizer backing the guitars.

Seera's music style revolves around life experiences of the four-member band, who are all Saudi nationals. They sing in the Saudi dialect of Arabic, while drummer 'Thing' wears a traditionally embroidered red face covering. "I thought this would be great as a reflection of the culture, the heritage and the roots," 'Thing' said.

The members are quick to point out they aren't the first female band in the kingdom. Instead, they say that goes to The Accolade, which was formed in 2008 and could only play underground. Things have changed radically in the kingdom in recent years since the accession of King Salman and his assertive son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In 2018, women gained the right to drive. Movie theatres and other entertainment centres opened up for them. Women are no longer required to wear the fully cloaking black abaya. However, clear limits still remain on speech and any political activity in the tightlygoverned kingdom.

But in the arts space, Saudi Arabia is slowly opening up, as could be seen by Seera's show earlier this month at 'The Warehouse'. a live music space in Diriyah neighbourhood of this town.

There, dozens of youths in leather jackets and black rock Tshirts swaved and danced to the music. The fashion choices resembled any other punk show at a club in the West, though there was an absence of smoking or any alcohol in the dry kingdom. This scene couldn't have beenseen in any part of the kingdom even a decade ago.







downtown

Heatwave set to return

25. Elections will be held for the

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack,

Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Puri and

Sambalpur Lok Sabha con-

stituencies along with 42

Assembly seats under them. It

added heavy rains are expected

in the districts of Keonjhar,

The IMD also informed that

there will be light to moderate

rainfall in a number of districts

of the state from May 25 to May

Meanwhile, the Special Relief

Commissioner's (SRC) has cau-

tioned fishermen not to venture

into Bay of Bengal (BoB) from

May 23 and asked those in sea to

return to coast before the pe-

riod as a low pressure area is

likely to form over southwest

In a letter to the Collectors of

Bhubaneswar, May 20: The

amassing disproportionate assets

BoB around Wednesday.

AGENCIES

corruption.

(DA).

fiscation.

Sambalpur and Puri.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: The heatwave which had hit Odisha from mid-April is set to return again Tuesday onwards for three days, the regional office of the IMD informed Monday here. However, it also added that there will be relief from May 25 as there will be rainfall in many districts. The rainfall will be accompanied by gusty winds.

OrissaPOST

TUESDAY | MAY 21 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

The IMD said that heatwave conditions will prevail in a number of districts for the next three days. Among them are the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jaipur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati. Temperatures are expected to rise by two to four degrees Celsius than the normal temperatures at these places. The IMD also said that heavy

Grand welcome to **'India Skills' winners**



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 20: After bagging the first place in the recently concluded 'India Skills 2024' competition at New Delhi, the members of winning team returned to Capital Monday.

Skill Development and Technical Education Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) Director of Employment and CEO Rashmita Panda, Skill Development and Technical Education Additional Secretary Pinaki Patnaik and World Skill Center (WSC) officials welcomed the champions on their arrival at Biju Patnaik International Airport. The team won a total of 51 medals including 17 gold, 13 silver. 9 bronze along with 12 'Medallion of Excellence'.



Ganjam, Puri, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak and Balasore as well as the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department, SRC Satyabrata Sahu said that the IMD has intimated that in association with likely depression over BoB, a low pressure area is likely to form over southwest BoB around May 22. It is likely to move initially northeastwards and concentrate into a depression rainfall may disrupt the third over central BoB by morning of phase of polls in Odisha May May 24.

The SRC said under its influence, squally wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely over central BoB from the morning of May 23. "It would extend to adjoining

areas of north BoB from May 24 with increased in wind speed of 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph. Sea condition is likely to be rough to very rough over central BoB from May 23 and over north BoB from May 24 onwards," he said.

In this connection, the fishermen are advised not to venture into sea from May 23 onwards. Also, fishermen who were out at sea are advised to return to the coast before May 23.

"It is, therefore, requested to ensure the above advisory among the fishermen at your level," the SRC letter said.



REGALING POSE: Artistes perform during Guru Debaprasad Das award ceremony organised by Nrutyarchana at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday ор Рното

SC bars curbs on space of open air prisons

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 20: The Supreme Court has directed that there shall be no attempt to reduce the area of open air prisons functioning in the country.

Semi-open or open prisons allow convicts to work outside the premises during the day to earn a livelihood and return in the evening. The concept was introduced to assimilate the convicts with society and reduce psychological pressure as they faced difficulties in leading normal lives outside.

and Justice Sandeep Mehta noted advocate K Parameshwar, assisting it as an amicus curiae in a matter related to jails and prisoners, submitted that a model draft manual has been prepared by the Centre wherein the nomenclature 'open correctional institutions' was used for open air camps/institutions/prisons.

"We further direct the (Union) Ministry of Home Affairs to present a status report on recent developments in respect of the open correctional institutions after coming of the Model Prison Manual, 2016, and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023," the bench said in its order passed May 17.



Semi-open or open prisons allow convicts to work outside the premises during the day to earn a livelihood and return in the evening

pacity," it said.

stitutions, apart from ad-

dressing the issue of over-

crowding of jails, will also help

in the rehabilitation of pris-

oners and do away with caste

discrimination faced by them.

The top court directed

Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala

and West Bengal, where such

facilities are functioning most ro-

bustly, to share their best prac-

tices, applicable rules, guide-

lines and experience on setting

The bench noted it has been informed that there is a proposal to reduce the area at Sanganer open air camp in Jaipur.

"We thus direct that there shall be no attempt of reduction in area of open air camps/institutions/prisons, wherever they are functioning," the bench said.

"The data put on record, wherein such open correctional institutions are shown to be functioning in different names. would further show that the said institutions are not being utilised to their optimum caup, expansion and management of open correctional institutions with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

'The registry shall communicate this order to the chief secretary of the states of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala and West Bengal for compliance," it said.

Taking into consideration the importance of the matter, the bench asked the amicus curiae and the counsel appearing for NALSA to jointly prepare and circulate a questionnaire to obtain information from all the states in respect of the status and functioning of open correctional in-

It noted that insofar as the modalities for visitation by lawyers in jail are concerned. NALSA's counsel stated she has modified the format of letter to be filled by the visiting advocate.

'The same is taken on record and approved," the bench said and posted the matter for further hearing in the second week of July.

While hearing the matter May 9, the apex court had observed that establishing open jails can be one of the solutions to overcrowding and also address the issue of rehabilitation of prisoners.



court in Bhubaneswar July 24, 2019.

The over ₹1.07 crore assets Following the conviction, the are 3,600 sqft land at Batamangala Vigilance approached the competent authority to take approin Puri, 126 decimal land at Janla, and a 2,400 sqft GA plot at priate action against Tripathy. Later, the official's full pension Bharatour in Bhubaneswar, This apart, bank and postal deposits and gratuity were withheld by have also been ordered for conthe competent authority from January 4, 2023.

In all DA cases against senior Earlier, Tripathy was chargesheeted by the Vigilance ranks, Vigilance has been siin a case under multiple Sections multaneously launching conof the Prevention of Corruption fiscation proceedings in special Act, 1988 for possession of DA courts established for the purand convicted by the Vigilance pose.

Ex-SCO's ₹1.07cr worth assets to be confiscated

A bench of Justice BR Gavai

stitutions. It noted the amicus curiae submitted that strengthening of the open correctional in-

LOST

I, Sri Pratap Chandra Sahoo, aged 49 years, S/o · Biswanatha Sahoo of village - Rampei, Po/Ps-Khuntuni, Dist - Cuttack would have to inform that the original link document of my property situated of village Khuntuni, bearing Khata No. - 234/621, Plot No. -677/1337 Gharabari, Area A0. 10 dec i.e Regd Sale deed No. - 10401501273, dated 07/08/2015 SRO Athagarh & ROR Khata No. - 234/426 in favour of Mr. Prasant Kumar Mohanty which has been lost on 06th day of May 2024 while I was going to Athagrh from my native place. Inspite of our sincere effort to it could not be traced out. I Sri Pratap Chandra Sahoo has applied for a Home Loan facility from SBI, Khuntuni Branch on the said property. If anybody found these documents please submit with said SBI, Khuntuni Branch or contact me in My Phone No. is - 9438794489.

Ekamra Talkies: A debate on Bhubaneswar vs Cuttack

Bhubaneswar, which evolved from

Cuttack, has surpassed its progenitor in terms of development and cultural integration. It has organised two Hockey

World Cups and boasts six universities

DEBOO PATNAIK I ENTREPRENEUR AND HISTORIAI

remarked.

munity spirit defined by broth-

erhood and mutual support," he

He also pointed out that despite

Bhubaneswar's growth, Cuttack's

unique charm and close-knit

community remain unparal-

leled. He repeatedly expressed his

happiness with Bhubaneswar's

development, comparing it to a

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 20: The third edition of Ekamra Talkies - an engaging series, featuring a lively verbal duel on the nuances of life and lifestyle of people living in the twin-cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttackwas held here recently.

The well-attended event, organised by the Bakul Foundation and moderated by its founder Suiit Mahapatra, delighted the attendees with fascinating anecdotes and spirited arguments.

At the outset, Mahapatra welcomed the audience, and said that since his childhood he always kept hearing comparisons between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, particularly with Cuttackis (as the residents of Cuttack are colloquially called) always claiming to be better. But although he himself was a Bhubaneswariya (a colloquial sobriquet for people living in the Capital City) throughout, his passport gave him a Cuttack identity placing his place of birth as Cuttack. Most people in the twin cities had a similar

fate. The debate opened with Charudutta Panigrahi, a re-



A typical Sunday for a Cuttackia starts with a visit to the neighbourhood snacks punter, followed by a haircut, a hearty bhoji (feast), and ends with a khatti (informal chit-chat) with friends ARUDUTTA PANIGRAHI | PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL AND AUTHOR

spected technocrat, public intellectual, and author, representing Cuttack. He painted a vivid picture of an average Sunday in Cuttack, highlighting the city's vibrant cultural life. "A typical Sunday for a Cuttackia starts with a visit to

the neighbourhood snacks counter, followed by a haircut, a

hearty bhoji (feast), and ends with a khatti (informal chitchat) with friends," he began. This depiction set the stage for a discussion that emphasised Cuttack's deep-rooted community spirit and leisurely lifestyle.

"Cuttack has given us two priceless gifts: the legendary Akshaya Mohanty and a comfather-son relationship. "Just as a father is happy when his son makes progress in life, I am pleased to see Bhubaneswar, the son, thrive," he said.

Responding to Panigrahi, Deboo Patnaik, a well-known entrepreneur, investor, start-up mentor, and now historian, represented Bhubaneswar. He emphasised Bhubaneswar's rapid development and cultural integration. "Bhubaneswar has organised two Hockey World Cups and boasts six universities," he stated

He also highlighted the city's green spaces, claiming it to be one of the greenest cities in India. Patnaik noted that Bhubaneswar. which evolved from Cuttack, has surpassed its progenitor in terms of development and cultural integration and also pointed out that cultural movements such as theatre often started in Cuttack but found longevity in Bhubaneswar, which has replaced Cuttack as a cultural hub.

The verbal match between the twin cities was played in a spirit of great sportsmanship with the audience cheering and clapping for interesting arguments and counter arguments. Despite their differences, both speakers acknowledged the unique qualities of each city. Panigrahi conceded that Bhubaneswar's growth has brought about a vibrant mix of cultures, while Patnaik admired Cuttack's deeprooted community ties and enduring traditions.

The historical shifts that shaped both cities were also a key point of discussion. In a moment of consensus, both agreed on a concerning trend: the diminishing appreciation and awareness of the cultural past among the younger generation. They emphasised the need for initiatives to revive and preserve the rich cultural heritage (particularly intangible and not just the tangible heritage) of both cities.

The event concluded with a sense of mutual respect and appreciation for the rich histories and cultures of both Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. At the same time, the audience left with a deeper understanding of the cities' unique identities and the dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity in Odisha.

The first edition of the talk series was on the 'History of Eating Out' by Deboo Patnaik and the second edition had been on 'The Story of Sports in the City' by Ashok Mohanty.

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OrissaPOST TUESDAY | MAY 21 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR



Sal seed: Traders make hay as tribals resort to distress sale



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dabugaon, May 20: Tribals under this block in Nabarangpur district are resorting to distress sale of Sal seeds on account of their lack of awareness about the prices of the minor forest produce (MFP) as fixed by the state government, a report stated.

In the absence of any proper mechanism, traders are calling the shots while deciding the prices that suits to their convenience. Left with no option, the collectors of the seed have to sell off their stock at throwaway prices to traders and continue to remain impoverished.

The trend has been reported from the tribal dominated Dabugaon block where the inhabitants collect Sal seeds during summer season and make their living out of the proceeds of sell. It is alleged that the Sal seeds collectors incur losses by resorting to distress sale as they are not aware of the state government-fixed prices. This is allegedly due to the failure of the government officials in making the tribals aware of the support price and facilitating the sale at the right costs.

Sources said the state government has permitted the panchayat samitis to fix the prices of MFPs and facilitate their sale. However, the order seems to have remained only on papers as the tribal villagers are completely ignorant of the prices of various MFPs.

It is alleged that the traders in the haats fix the prices of MFPs at their will and fleece the gullible tribals. The apathy of the government officials in panchayats is to be squarely blamed for the state of affairs. The tribal population is depend-

ent on the collection of 64 varieties of MFPs including Sal seeds and Mohua flowers to earn their livelihood.

The plight of the collectors at tribal dominated Saraguda village under this block is a case at this point. It is a ritual for men and women in this village to wake up early and collect the Sal seeds from the jungles in the vicinity. They go about collecting till evening when they return home.

On an average, each of them collects around 10 to 15 kg Sal seeds daily. But they are oblivious of the government prices for their stock. After collecting a sizeable stock, they go to the panchayat haats where they are forced to sell the seeds at ₹12 to 15 per kg as pegged by the traders. Scores of women from the village, including Buduri Pujari, Sanai Bhatra, Manai Pujari, Kalam Pujari, Jambati Pujari, Manak Bhatra, Bagabati Pujari, Dashri Pujari, Dhandi Bhatra and Jaymani Bhatra have made these allegations.

However, the price of Sal seeds as fixed by the state government and available with Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation of Odisha Ltd (TDCC) stands at ₹20 per kg. A comparison between the government price and the rate at which the tribals sell their stocks reveals that the hapless sellers are incurring losses anything between ₹5 to ₹8 per kg.

In 1967, the state government set up the TDCC to facilitate the marketing of tribal products with a view to ensuring remunerative prices to the primary producers and collectors.

Sources said that 50 per cent of the forests near Dabugaon block, spread over 2,519 sqkm, is covered by Sal trees. A senior Forest official, requesting anonymity, said that in past, 1 lakh quintal of Sal seeds used to be collected every year from Dabugaon block alone.

The state government has delegated the sale and management of MFPs to the panchayats 20 years back. However, it has been seen that over the years the panchayats are only sanctioning licenses to the traders instead of doing anything good for the collectors.

The state government appears to have equally turned a blind eye towards the collectors' plight and seldom took stock of what the panchayats are doing for the tribals in all these years. A senior official said that TDCC is planning to buy Sal seeds from tribals and efforts are on to construct a godown in the district.

When contacted, Dabugaon panchayat development officer (PDO) Padmanabha Bhalla said that the prices of the MFPs are fixed in October every year and the price of Sal seeds have been fixed at ₹20 per kg.

Two killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 20: Two persons were killed after the bike on which they were travelling was hit by a truck from behind on the National Highway here under Chamakhandi police station in Ganjam district Monday.

The deceased were identified as Gadadhar Pradhan, 45, a resident of Samantaraypur under Krushnaprasad block in Puri district and his brother-in-law Karunakar Biswal. 50

According to reports, Gadadhar, along



Man gets life term for killing wife, mom-in-law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, May 20: A court in Mayurbhanj district Monday sentenced a 50-year-old man to rigorous life imprisonment for killing his wife and motherin-law in 2019.

Mayurbhanj district additional sessions judge

Satyanarayan Patra also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on Purna Chandra Mohanta, and in case of default, the convict has to remain in jail for another six months. said

Krushna Chandra Das, additional public prosecutor.

The court pronounced the iudgement after examining the statements of 13 witnesses and medical reports, he said.

Due to a family dispute,

Purna Chandra killed his wife

Mamata and mother-in-law Sunati Mohanta with an axe June 17, 2019 in Khuntapal village under Moroda Police station in the district. Both died on the spot, he said.

Based on an FIR lodged by Purna's brother-in-law, the police registered a murder case and arrested the accused.

B	बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda ४ एस्ट्र 🕩 स्थ	Regional Office (Sambalpur Region) 1st Floor, G.M. College Chowk, Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001	POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable/movable Property)
		endix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforceme	
Wherea	as, the undersigned bein	g the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Se	ecuritisation and Reconstruction of
Financial As	ssets and Enforcement	of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred	ed under Section 13(12) read wit
Rule 3 of th	he Security Interest (En	forcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices calling upon th	e Borrowers to repay the amour

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

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
PHULBANI BRANCH/ Borrower: Mr. Ashok Kumar Nayak, S/o: Sankirtan Nayak / Co-Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Mamina Nayak, W/o: Ashok Kumar Nayak, 2) Mr. Asutosh Nayak, S/o: Ashok Kumar Nayak, All are residing At: Linepada, Anduguda, P.S.: Tikabali, Kandhamal, Odisha-762027	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building having Khata No.: 178/88, Plot No.: 330/882, Area: Ac. 0.0210 Hector i.e. 2287 sqft. situated at Mouza: Kusumendi, Tahasil: Chakapada, Thana: Ghumusar Udaygiri, Dist.: Kandhamal, Odisha-762027, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of Mr. Ashok Kumar Nayak , S/o: Sankirtan Nayak, Bounded by East: Rakesh Kumar Nayak, West: Muni Nayak, South: Village Road, North: Pradip Nayak	30.05.2023 /	₹13,27,585.46 as on 17.05.2024 + further interest thereon a contractual rate plus costs charges and expenses til date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Simadri Gobinda Rao, S/o- Late Jayaramulu, At: Marathiguda, Gunupur, Ta in the name of Mr	e of Land and Building situated at Khata No.: 41/851, ;, Area: Ac. 0.015 cent. measuring in length 62'0" feet eet, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Marathiguda, Tahasil/ hasil No.: 599, P.S. No.: 162, Dist.: Rayagada, Odisha . Simadri Gobinda Rao, Bounded by East: Thatched Vest: Thatched Shed of Abhi Sabar, North: Street Road, d	20.12.2023 / 15.05.2024	₹8,32,954.20 as on 13.05.2024 + further interest thereon a contractual rate plus costs charges and expenses til date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Jugal Kishor Rout, S/o: Sri Prafulla Kumar Rout, At: Badapada, Ward No.: 57 Patnagarh, Odisha / Guarantor: Mr. Bhola Nath Sandh, S/o: Sri Santosh Kumar Sandh, At: Bounder	e Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Khata No.: , Plot No.: 2366/4954, Area: Ac.0.052dec., Kissam: tri & Plot No.: 2368/4955, Area: Ac.0.020dec., Holding 8/639, Total Area: Ac.0.072dec., situated at Mouza: rh (KA), P.S/ Tahasil: Patnagarh, Dist.: Bolangir in the f Mr. Jugal Kishor Rout, S/o: Prafulla Kumar Rout, d by North: Road, South: Bijay Dash, East: Biraj Rout, adheshyam Dhorua	26.09.2023 / 17.05.2024	₹3,70,787.35 as on 15.05.2024 + further interest thereon a contractual rate plus costs charges and expenses til date of payment
	ESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SA Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpu		PARAMETER PROFESSION AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
BOLANGIR BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s. Manohar Guria Store, F Mr. Manohar Guria, S/o: Mr. Masidas Gur Rengalbeda, P.O: Koira, Dist.: Sunderg 770048 / Guarantor: Mr. Manoj Jaiswal Mr. Mathura Prasad Jaiswal, At: Ja Complex, P.O: Koira, Dist.: Sundergarh - 77	For the second s		₹37,14,519.80 as on 07.04.2024 + further interest thereon a contractual rate plus costs charges and expenses til date of payment
		harland Offi	icer, Bank of Baroda

Notice

Bank of India BOI Bihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249 It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by **15.06.2024**, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at **Concerned Branch Premises** on **17.06.2024 at 11.00 AM**. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any incovenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or indegruate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the data and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to intersted bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal.

SI. No		Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Gross Wt. in Gram	Net Wt. in Gram	Total Dues as on 30.04.2024 (excluding unapplied interest Charges, Cost & Expenses)	
	PARADEEP BRANCH,	467, CORE SECTOR, PARADEEP PORT, PARADEEP, DIST: JAGATSINGHP	UR, ODIS	HA-7541	42, MOB.: 8789569334	
1.		Pradip Kumar Mandal, S/o- Nanda Dulal Mandal, At: Baulakani, PO: Mahakalapada, Dist.: Kendrapara, Odisha-754224.	48.600	41.300	₹2,05,879.94	-(
	GANGAN	AGAR BRANCH, PLOT NO.: 13, UNIT-6, GANGANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR	8-751001,	MOB.: 9	776032273	l
1.		Biswanath Barik, S/o- Bipin Bihari Barik, Flat No.: Balmik-3/401, Block- H 3, Debashram, Kesura, Bankual, Bhubaneswar-751002	19.580	18.210	₹87,605.27	
Pla	ace: Bhubaneswar,	Date: 20.05.2024		Zonal	Manager, Bank of India	l

Water purification plant, ATM opens in Paradip

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, May 20: Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), under its CSR initiative, "Project Trupti", has installed a community water purification plant in Handia village under Nuagarh gram panchayat, Paradip recently, with the objective of providing clean and safe drinking water to

the residents. The purification plant is equipped with Water ATM, which is a smart card-based contactless system of dispensing water to the beneficiaries.

The community water purification plant is equipped with advanced multi-stage treatment technology, ensuring safe and clean water for the community.

The plant has multiple filtration stages, including sand and carbon filters - ensuring quality water in compliance with WHO and IS10500 standards. With a capacity of dis-

women and SHG groups, members of local youth organisations, and several village leaders.

pensing 500 lph, which will ben-

The facility was inaugurated by

Suresha G, Executive Director,

Swain, Village President,

Laxmipriya Mohanty, Naib-

efit over 1,500 households.

Suresha G, said, "AM/NS India always strives for promoting good health and hygiene amongst its community members through various interventions. Under Project Trupti, we are proud to set up this community water purification plant.

Hospital in Berhampur when the driver of a speeding truck (AP 05-TD-7439) lost control over the vehicle and hit the bike from behind killing both the riders on the spot.

On being informed, police reached the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur for post-mortem. Police are investigating the incident.

No end to traffic woes on 5 major roads

taken place at any of these crowded

places so far. However, minor accidents

and the resultant road-fights have

"Auto-rickshaw drivers are a men-

ace. They are both unaware of and lit-

tle bothered about traffic rules," said

an octogenarian who suffered a bro-

ken limb in an accident sometimes

back when he was riding a scooter.

these three wheelers parked allover

along with the fruit carts lined up a

little ahead. The place becomes chaotic

especially when the 'A' shift and the

general shift end, also during the

start of the 'B' shift. In the inter-

vening time between the shifts, over

three thousand vehicles converge on

Traffic Gate, barely 100 metres away

from Bisra Chowk as the place is

home to a big vegetable vending zone.

A similar situation prevails at

the road

At Bisra Chowk one would find

become a regular feature, of late.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 20: Vehicular traffic problems in the Steel City are more specific to some major chowks and crossings, rather than a citywide phenomenon. However, the issues on the arterial Main Road in the walled city area here is perennial in nature and needs separate approach.

Places like, Bisra Chowk, Traffic Gate, STI Chowk, DAV Crossing and the one near Panposh Market are some of the areas that require immediate attention. Interestingly, any new Superintendent of Police (SP) promises to address traffic issues as his focus area while taking charge of Rourkela. However, despite the SPs being categorically told about these five places by the media, nothing has happened so far.

Fortunately, no big accident has

Stray animals like cows and bulls are the added components for causing accidents, apart from pull carts, disorderly parked autos and two wheelers of buyers. Neither RMC nor RSP cares little about clearing the road of stray animals.

Ditto is the scene on the entire stretch from STI Chowk, up to Trishakti Mandir Chowk - into the Hanuman Vatika Complex. The entrance of the newly built temple opens to this busy road and even during normal days (without celebrations or Puja days) the place remains crowded. Along with this, the west entrance of RGH also opens to this road.

Moreover, the STI Flyover lands just in the middle of this road. There are hardly any traffic personnel visible on the road. "We need strict order on this stretch. Mere posting of a couple of traffic personnel is not the answer," said a woman who commutes on the road every day.

DAV Crossing is one of the busiest junctions. This place becomes packed during the opening and closure time of the school. Commuters on the Ring Road add another dimension to the already bustling traffic at the place.

Side by side, the bus bay has been taken over by the fruit sellers. The shops occupy the entire bay area, posing imminent dangers to motorists.

At Panposh Chowk, the new market building is yet to be fully functional. At any given time of the day, the traffic snarls resemble a jigsaw puzzle.

AUCTION Bank of India बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Ph.: 0674-2362249 Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

SI. No.	<u>BRANCH/</u> Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantor/ Mortgagor/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount					
1.	CHAKEISIANI BRANCH, PH.: 7978881718 / Borrower: M/s. Shivashakti Traders, Prop.: Mr. Kabiraj Behera, S/o.: Mr. Dhruba Charan Behera, Address- 1: At: Plot No.: 409, Sameigadia, PO.: Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar-751010, Address- 2: At: Plot No.: 89/257, Mouza: Kalyanpur, Near Anukulachandra Mandira, Bhubaneswar / Total Dues: ₹44,75,637.02 as on 17.05.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 18.05.2023, less any part amount repaid. Part of this Plot, West: Plot No.: 83, Bounded (as per Phys 89, West: Plot No.: 82 & 83	Property-1: All that part and parcel of the Property situated over Khata No.: 216/89, Rev. Plot No.: 89/1201, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec. i.e. 1742.4 Sqft., Kissam: Homestead (Gharabari) at Mouza: Kalyanpur, P.S.: New Capital, Thana No.: 09, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar No.: 276, Registration SRO: Bhubaneswar & Dist.: Khurda, Standing in the name of Mr. Kabiraj Behera, S/o.: Mr. Dhruba Charan Behera, Bounded (as per Sale Deed) by North: Rest Part of this Plot, South: Road, East: Rest sical) by North: Plot No.: 88, South: Road, East: Plot No.:	Property-1: ₹12,31,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,23,100/- / ₹50,000/- Property-2:					
	Property-2: All that part and parcel of the Property situ Ac.0.080 Dec. i.e. 3484.8 Sqft., Kissam: Homestead (Gh. No.: 09, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar No.: 276, Registration SRC RCC Building of G.F Built up Area: 904 Sqft., Standing Charan Behera, Bounded (as per Sale Deed) by North: F Vendee, Bounded (as per Physical) by North: Plot No.: 8	arabari) at Mouza: Kalyanpur, P.S.: New Capital, Thana D: Bhubaneswar & Dist.: Khurda, alongwith single storied in the name of Mr. Kabiraj Behera, S/o.: Mr. Dhruba Plot No.: 89, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 93 & 94, West:	₹31,35,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,13,500/- / ₹50,000/-					
2.	SAILASHREE VIHAR BRANCH, PH.: 9777629826 / Borrower: M/s. Loknath Agency, At: Holding No.: 229, Ward No.: 25, Malgodown, College Square, Cuttack, Odisha - 753003 / Partners: 1) Mr. Baidyanath Parwat, At: Nazarpur, Jagatpur, Choudwar, P.O/P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack-754021, Odisha, 2) Wajid Ali Khan, At: Somapur, Kishannagar, Cuttack, P.O/P.S.: Somapur, Dist.: Cuttack-754130, Odisha / Total Dues: ₹4,69,98,688.90 as on 28.04.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 29.04.2023, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Revenue Plot No.: 2176, Revenue Khata No.: 699/628, Area: Ac.0.0760 Dec. i.e. 3310.56 Sqft, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 16 Kathagada Sahi, P.S.: Purighat, Tahasil: Cuttak Sadar, within the registration Sub-District and Dist.: Cuttack, standing in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Parwat , S/o.: Ramdev Parwat, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2174, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 2177, West: Plot No.: 2175	₹3,15,14,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹31,51,400/- / ₹50,000/-					
3.	PARADEEP BRANCH, PH.: 8789569334 / Borrower: M/s. Asian Trading Corporation, Prop.: Mr. Jogendra Swain / Guarantor: Mrs. Sona Swain, W/o.: Mr. Jogendra Swain, Both are at HIG-43, Housing Board Colony, Madhuban, Paradeep, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, PIN-754142 / Total Dues: ₹66,93,991.87 as on 31.01.2022 + interest, costs and expenses from 01.02.2022, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of property consisting of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 09, Plot No.: 03 (P), Area: Ac.0.25 Dec. i.e. 10,890 Sqft., Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Sandhakuda, P.S: Paradeep, Tahasil: Kujanga, SRO: Kujanga-754120 situate within the Registration District of Jagatsinghpur, in the name of Mr. Jogendra Swain, Bounded by North: Govt. Land, South: Road, East: A.K. Lenka, West: Jitendra Swain	₹93,70,000/- (excluding GST & other statutor dues) / ₹9,37,000/- / ₹50,000/-					
	with unlimited exter	26.06.2024 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. nsion of 10 (Ten) minutes each.						
		f EMD & Documents: 25.06.2024 upto 4.00 P.M						
		e bidders on any working day before 25.06.202 t of the authorised officer	24 with prior					
	The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan ac settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above me For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) https://www.ibi (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (3) www.bankofindia.co.in							
DL	ace: Bhubaneswar, Date: 21.05.2024	Authorised Office	er Bank of Indi					



power post

FOCUS FRAGMENTATION

When one does not progress one feels bored. THE MOTHER



Ladakh Lesson

he Union Territory of Ladakh, carved out of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir in 2019, went to polls today. What makes the contest for the lone Lok Sabha seat in Ladakh, the country's largest Parliamentary constituency in terms of area, significant is that the outcome of the election may be considered a referendum on the region's demand for statehood and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution

Ladakh is divided into two regions - the Buddhist-majority Leh and the Shia Moslem-majority Kargil. For many years, the Buddhist community has been advocating for a distinct region for their people. while those in Kargil have expressed their desire to merge with the Moslemmajority region of Kashmir. In the wake of 5 August 2019 when Article 370 of the Constitution was abrogated, the people of Ladakh were initially happy because they considered it an escape from the step-motherly treatment they were receiving in undivided Jammu & Kashmir. They have long wanted to get either a separate state or UT status. However, the euphoria soon gave way to resentment and a year later, the districts of Kargil and Leh came together to create the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance with the objective of addressing the issues concerning the people of the UT. They realised that now the UT was being remote-controlled from Delhi and the local inhabitants had no say in governance and decision-making. The two civil society groups have organised massive demonstrations in protest against the Union government over their demand for statehood. Their other demand is the enforcement of the Sixth Schedule, a Constitutional safeguard that preserves the rights of tribal communities to establish self-governing bodies for legislating on matters concerning land, healthcare, and farming among other things. It is pertinent to note that almost 97 per cent of Ladakh's inhabitants belong to tribal groups

The protests for statehood and inclusion under Sixth Schedule hogged international headlines in March this year when noted climate activist Sonam Wangchuk began a 21-day hunger strike in subzero temperatures. Thousands joined Wangchuk for the cause as they believed that autonomy and provision of Sixth Schedule are both crucial to protect the region's fragile ecosystem and the interests of its people. Wangchuk has accused the BJP of going back on its promise of including the UT under the Sixth Schedule. The Himalayan region is highly vulnerable to climate change, putting its inhabitants at great risk. The shrinking glaciers result in water scarcity and more frequent floods, worsening the condition for locals. If proper measures are not taken, living conditions in these mountains will continue to deteriorate. These threats make the Sixth Schedule all the more crucial for Ladakh.

Apart from these issues, pasture lands, used for grazing by the local nomadic tribes, being taken over by China is another major concern. Cases of Chinese troops entering Ladakh and preventing residents from allowing their livestock to graze have exacerbated tensions. In January this year, a confrontation occurred between a group of local herders and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers when the locals were prohibited from taking their cattle to their customary grazing areas near the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The location of Ladakh holds great geostrategic significance for India as it shares borders with both China and Pakistan, and both had strongly opposed India's decision to revoke Article 370. This problem has become even more complex because the Government of India simply refuses to accept ground realities and hence is unwilling to recognize the fact that China has indeed occupied massive tracts of land in Ladakh in the recent past.

Whatever may be the results of the polls, one must commend the spirited people of Ladakh who have come together for a cause putting aside their differences of region and religion - a lesson for other parts of the country where easily getting divided on irrelevant issues is usually the norm.

Tragedy in Iran

he cruel irony of the sad demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi along with the country's foreign minister and several other officials 20 May after their helicopter crashed in a foggy, mountainous region in the country's northwest is that the chopper was manufactured in the US, the regime's sworn enemy. The maintenance of the helicopter had suffered due to non-availability of spare parts, the supply of which was stopped as part of the sanctions against Iran by the US and its Western allies. Iran had purchased the Bell helicopter in the early 2000s. Aircraft in Iran face a shortage of parts. For this proper safety checks are often not carried out. Former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sought to blame the US for the crash in an interview soon after the tragic news was made public. In strong words of condemnation he said "one of the main culprits of the tragedy is the US, which embargoed the sale of aircraft and aviation parts to Iran and does not allow the people of Iran to enjoy good aviation facilities." This, according to him, will be recorded "in the list of US crimes against the Iranian people." The accusation would sound far-fetched if one considers the fact that it is unbelievable that the helicopter of the country's all-powerful President had not gone through the motions of rigorous checks before he boarded it. The outpourings of anger all the same bring out the truth about the regime run by the 63-year-old Raisi now in the grip of its worst crisis as the Middle East is going through a turbulent phase in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war and its spillover affecting neighbouring countries, including Iran. Raisi under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei launched an unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel just last month. A conservative cleric and former judiciary chief, Raisi was the focus of international attention for his decades of vicious crackdowns against his own people's aspirations for greater personal freedom and democracy. He was instrumental in the arrest, torture and execution of tens of thousands of the Islamist regime's opponents. Educated in the seminary city of Qom since he was 18, he came to be known as "the butcher" for his alleged involvement in the execution of thousands of political prisoners in the late 1980s, according to Iran's Opposition. As judiciary chief, he ordered the arrests and executions of dozens of protesters against the regime in 2019-2020. His role came in for sharpest criticism in recent times when he crushed the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement that followed the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini with iron-fisted repression. Tens of thousands were arrested, and the death toll is estimated to be over 500. Raisi was believed to be the fittest candidate to replace the 85-yearold, ailing Khamenei as supreme leader for his loyalty to the regime and its brutal methods. However, his lack of competence in managing the country's economy, which is in trouble, cast doubts about his final elevation. On top of it, the circumstances around his presidential win in 2021 undermined his credibility as a potential leader. He had managed to secure victory through massive disqualification of opponents and on the back of record-low turnout. Most people opted not to vote, while a large number of voters who turned up deliberately spoiled their ballots as a mark of their disapproval of the candidate. His death triggers speculation that Khamenei's own son, Mojtaba, could be the frontrunner in the race to succeed his father. Iran's foreign policy under Raisi was marked by a direct confrontation with the West, with its leaders repeatedly threatening all-out war against Israel since the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza. He also provided military purpose drones and other weapons and political support to Vladimir Putin's Russia in the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war. Iran's ties with China under Xi Jinping were cemented through collaborations, sale of Iran's oil to China and operation of a large number of Chinese companies in Iran. It is unlikely that Iran's stand on the raging Hamas-Israel war and attacks on Israel by Iran-backed Houthis and Hezbollah would change after Raisi's demise. The situation may become even more complicated before a proper replacement of Raisi is found. In short, the geopolitical situation in and around the Middle East is poised for an even murkier and uncertain phase. This is not good for the world's economy and peace.

VULNERABLE WORLD ECONOMY

oday's economic outlook is strangely contradictory. While global markets, led by technology and energy, have been ebullient over high short-term profits, the mood at the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund last month was decidedly somber. Two global institutions that normally speak in banalities issued strong warnings about the growing risks of economic fragmentation.

The idea that an interdependent global economy can work within a geopolitical system based on the national sovereignty of nearly 200 states has always reflected a certain amount of idealism. Or perhaps it was more like hubris. This strange marriage did. after all, collapse in the 1930s, with the division lasting through the end of World War II.

But idealism was not dead, and the global system was subsequently rebuilt on a foundation of agreed rules, shared international institutions, a degree of mutual forbearance, and crisis management. From the start, security considerations were kept as separate as possible from the economy, but this became especially important in the 1990s, when countries with radically different regimes began integrating into the global economy.

Today, however, the foundations of this system are eroding fast, and global economic integration has seemingly gone into reverse. As Gita Gopinath, the IMF's first deputy managing director, recently explained, economic fragmentation could have far-reaching implications for trade, such as reduced efficiency gains, and increase the risk of macro-financial volatility. Fragmentation could also reduce capital flows to the Global South and undermine the provision of global public goods, including climate action.

Five key factors are driving this trend toward fragmentation. First, rising geopolitical risks have fueled mistrust and reduced systemically important countries' will to cooperate. Though policymakers rarely acknowledge it, a crisis over Taiwan - a flashpoint in the Sino-American rivalry – could



The idea that an interdependent global economy can work within a geopolitical system based on the national sovereignty of nearly 200 states has always reflected a certain amount of idealism

well bring down the global economic system.

Second, key countries are increasingly allowing security considerations to shape economic policy, with some taking expansive action to secure access to inputs, infrastructure, and technologies. While this is understandable, countries must exercise restraint. Whereas globalisation happened gradually a deglobalisation process driven by security-motivated measures (which are almost guaranteed to trigger escalation by rivals and partners) would probably be fast and unwieldy, posing severe systemic risks.

The third factor underlying economic fragmentation is a deepening rift between the Global North and Global South. Public and private support for devel oping economies has collapsed at a time when many are wrestling with the legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic and confronting climate change. The decades-long trend toward convergence with developed economies has seemingly been interrupted, and resentment is building in the Global South. Net financial flows to developing countries have turned negative in 2023, and the trend is worsening in 2024. This partly explains the reluctance or refusal of many Global South countries to back the West on key geopolitical issues, such as sanctions against Russia in response to its war of aggression in Ukraine.

Fragmentation also reflects the rapid escalation of climate risks and disasters. With "oncea-lifetime" floods, mega-fires, and droughts proliferating. many countries are at risk of destabilization within the next few years, and there is no global "safety net" in place. Meanwhile, as Harvard's Dani Rodrik has pointed out, countries are competing for dominance in green technologies, rather than working together to accelerate progress. Lastly, the exponential growth

of artificial intelligence is fueling national competition, rather than the global cooperation that is required. As MIT's Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson have noted, regulations, policies, and institutions will be essential to ensure that AI creates jobs, rather than only destroying them. Global South countries need a voice in AI regulatory efforts.

To be sure, the global economic system still has many sources of resilience. As the recent Indonesian, Indian, and Brazilian G20 presidencies have shown, most of the Global South remains committed to both interdependence and global governance. Furthermore, the private sector is still characterised by interdependence. We still have dedicated international organisations, global education networks, and a global civil society. But we must not underestimate the dangers ahead. There

is good reason to think that the coming months and years will bring a series of shocks and crises. If leaders respond with tit-for-tat policies aimed at securing advantages over rivals, the integrated global economy could unravel. The speed of that process could overwhelm policymakers, and the path from economic pain to social upheaval to the abandonment of shared global rules may well prove to be short.

As it stands, leaders are so preoccupied with wars, power struggles, social tensions, and political polarisation that they appear largely unwilling to invest in saving the integrated global economy, let alone strengthening its capacity to deal with the existential risks we face. But history, economic theory, and current empirical trends indicate that this is a mistake.

Even a partial collapse of our interdependent global economic and financial systems would be catastrophic, not least because it would undermine investment in global public goods. For politicians worried about migration's effect on their countries, it is worth noting that, without massive investments in combating climate change, reversing desertification, and reducing poverty, millions could be attempting to cross the Mediterranean by 2050.

National security must be a priority for policymakers. But measures to "secure" the economy must be combined with efforts to improve communication with rivals and invest in global public goods. To this end, world leaders should use the G20 and other plurilateral bodies to elevate working groups and institutions that support collective governance, with a focus on managing AI risks, addressing climate change, and averting the collapse of the global economic system on which we depend.

Bertrand Badré is a former managing director of the World Bank. Yves Tiberghien is Professor of Political Science and Director Emeritus of the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

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Satya Narayan Misra

POLITICS, AS THEY SAY, IS THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE, WHERE BOTH MODI **AND RAHUL SWEAR BY AMBEDKAR**

copy of the Indian Constitution and, assuring the minorities and backward sections of society that their rights would be protected, and PM Modi riding a wave of Hindu nationalism bring to memory the contrasting perspective of Dr. Ambedkar and MS Golwalkar. Ambedkar piloted a Constitution based on equality and brotherhood while Golwalkar, the RSS ideologue, wanted the Constitution to be based on the ancient Indian scripture Manusmriti. Since Modi is an unabashed admirer of Golwalkar. it is ironic how he makes Ambedkar a centerpiece of his political campaign. Politics, as they say, is the art of the possible, where both Modi and Rahul swear by Ambedkar. India's ongoing general election has become the proscenium where the theatre of the absurd is played out by its principal actors.

Golwalkar was an ardent admirer of both Hitler and Mussolini and was particularly moved by the ideological link between the

ahul Gandhi, flaunting a Manusmriti and the philosophy of Nietzsche who, in turn, had inspired Hitler. To keep up the purity of the race and its culture, Germans purged the country of the Jews. Golwalkar argues in his book "Bunch of Thoughts" that territorial nationalism is barbarism. A nation is not a bundle of political and economic rights, but an embodiment of national culture, ancient and sublime Hinduism. He sneered at democracy which is alien to Hindu culture and lavished praise on the code of Manu, as the greatest and wisest lawgiver of mankind. Deendayal Upadhyaya wanted that the Constitution should embody a Hindu political philosophy, befitting an ancient nation like Bharat.

The Constitution at crossroads

Ambedkar responding to these vicious tirades against the Constitution wrote: "If we wish to preserve the Constitution in which we have sought to enshrine the principles of government of the people, by the people and for the people, let's resolve not to be tardy in the recognition of the evil that lies across our path, nor to be weak in our

initiative to remove them." Though Ambedkar said that "democracy in India is only a top-dressing which is essentially undemocratic" he never lost faith in Parliamentary democracy, rule of law, universal suffrage, and equality of all citizens in free India, unlike Golwalkar and Deendayal who wanted an unequal India based on ancient scriptures, languages like Sanskrit, Hindu supremacy and second class status to mi-

norities like Muslims. It is indeed most disquieting that echoes of Deendayal and Golwalkar are heard when the nation celebrates Constitution Day on 26 November. The resurrection of ideas of Golwalkar goes back to the medieval obscurantism of a society based on deep prejudices against women and minorities, which is the bedrock of Manusmriti. Granville Austin in his epic

commentary on the Indian Constitution "Working a Democratic Constitution" (1999) observes that "democracy, social revolution, and national unity are three strands that form

to realise its goals in the Preamble which puts primacy on liberty, equality, socio socio-economic justice for all its citizens where a secular spirit should permeate and fraternity and brotherhood bind all its citizens. Despite the economic prosperity that we have achieved, rising inequality, lack of employment opportunities on a large scale, and most importantly denial of equal opportunity to quality education and healthcare make discourses like Hindu Rashtra extremely toxic. The famous sociologist Andre Beteille wrote: "A constitution may indicate the direction in which we are to move, but the social structure will decide how far we move and at what pace." Quite clearly a social structure based on religious divide will only drive us on a path of disaster. Instead of foisting cultural homogenisation, the time for fostering brotherhood was never so keenly called for. The writer teaches

a seamless web." The nation has

Constitutional Law. Views are personal.



Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 101 requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Uninspiring claim

Sir, This refers to "I.N.D.I.A govt will herald stable, predictable policymaking: Cong," OrissaPOST, May 20. The Congress touched the most significant factors of providing a stable government and predictable policymaking by the I.N.D.I.A government, if voted to power defeating BJP. Firstly, the alliance should clarify the pertinent questions - confronting the electorate that whether the Opposition bloc has a common agenda to govern the country? Can it name a leader to lead the coalition? Until now, the Opposition's major charge against the Modi government is that the latter would change the Constitution. It didn't even attempt to provide an alternative narrative and optics to the people. Its incessant charge that Modi government is vindictive doesn't resonate and influence voters, as people strongly believe all politicians are corrupt. It's unconvincing that the Opposition alliance can provide stable government, even as the so-called allies are fighting against each other in several constituencies. Also, its fresh in the minds of the people, how the Congress-led UPA government indulged in scams in its decade-long regime and eventually faced a humiliating defeat in 2014, even as policy paralysis has inflicted damage to the economy. Thus, the Congress' claim is uninspiring

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Long life span

Sir, An individual's life span is dictated by a myriad of factors. According to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, the global life expectancy is expected to increase by 4.9 years in men and 4.2 year in women by the year 2050. This trend will tend to be more exemplified in nations with history of very low life expectancy. While diseases and disorders have taught people lessons, mortality and morbidity around them have disciplined their lives. But enhanced life span means more exposure to communicable diseases like cancers. Therefore, a paradigm shift from communicable, maternal and nutritional diseases to the non-communicable ones will almost become a norm. An Indian's life expectancy, that was 67.4 in 2021, is expected to be 75 years for men and 80 for women by 2050. Health outcomes can be significantly improved by efficiently addressing the risk factors and maintaining a safe environment.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA







Congress to stir against CAA Emergency centres,

THE BJP-LED GOVERNMENT HAS FORMED A SIX-MEMBER EMPOWERED COMMITTEE IN THE STATE TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE CAA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, May 20: The Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Monday threatened to launch a protest against the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the state.

Addressing a press conference here, senior Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman said granting citizenship to selected migrants will alter the demographic composition of both Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) and non-ADC areas.

The BJP-led government has formed a six-member empowered committee in the state to process applications for citizenship under the CAA.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 paves the way for granting Indian nationality to undocumented non-Muslim migrants - Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis



The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, aims to provide citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who arrived in India before December 31, 2014. The act has sparked significant debate and varying responses across the country, with states preparing to execute its provisions amid public scrutiny and political discussions

and Christians - from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014. Barman noted that the cur-

rent 31 per cent reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Tripura will automatically decrease if the population of nontribals increases after citizenship is granted to the "thousands" of migrants from

the three countries.

He accused the BJP of using the CAA for political gain and warned that the move would embolden extremists in other countries to intensify their persecution of religious minorities. Criticising Tipra Motha with-

out directly naming it, Barman questioned why the "messiah" of Tiprasa people, an indirect reference to Pradyot Kishore We strongly oppose the CAA's implementation and will submit a memorandum to the chief secretary on Tuesday. Following that, the party, along with its tribal wing, Adivasi Congress, will launch a statewide protest against this controversial Act SUDIP ROY BARMAN CONGRESS MLA

Manikya Debbarma, remained silent on the CAA's implementation.

"The Tipra Motha was established to oppose the CAA, yet

STATE-LEVEL COMMITTEE

he Tripura state government has started the process of appointing officials to the State Level Empowered Committee and the District Level Committee

for the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019. In an official notification, R Reang, IAS, Director of the Directorate of Census Operations in Tripura, has instructed all district magistrates to nominate a Tripura Civil Service (TCS) officer as an invitee for the District Level Committee. This move is part of the broader effort to process citizenship applications under the amended law. The notification, referencing a communication from RD Meena, Director (Citizenship) at the Ministry of Home Affairs, reads, "With refer ence to the subject cited above, I am to inform you that RD Meena, Director (Citizenship), Govt of India, MHA, Foreigners Division (Citizenship Wing), has intimated the Director of Census Operations of all States/UTs regarding the con stitution of the District Level Committee in connection with the implementation of CAA, 2019 for processing citizenship applications under Section 6B of the Citizenship Act, 1955." "In this regard, you are requested to nominate one TCS officer who shall be an invitee of the District Level Committee for the purpose of processing citizenship applications under Section 6B of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The name of the said officer may kindly be sent to this directorate at the earliest," it said. In a parallel directive, S Debbarma, Undersecretary of the Tripura Government, reiterated the urgency of the nominations. In his communication to the District Magistrates, Debbarma emphasised the need for prompt action, requesting that the nominated officers' details be forwarded immediately for onward submission to the Ministry of Home Affairs. As Tripura moves forward with these appointments, it marks a critical step in the practical implementation of the CAA, aiming to facilitate the legal processing of applications from eligible individuals within the state.

the regional party is now silent. Its leaders claim the Act won't be implemented in the Sixth Schedule Areas of the state, but if the CAA is enforced, the entire state's demographics will change since the autonomous tribal council is part of the state," he said.

"We strongly oppose the CAA's implementation and will submit a memorandum to the chief secretary on Tuesday. Following that, the party, along with its tribal wing, Adivasi Congress, will launch a statewide protest against this controversial Act," he added. hospitals on alert Incessant rains push possibility of landslides, epidemics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 20: With heavy rains continuing to lash several parts of the state, the Kerala government said Monday that emergency operation centres have been opened in all district collectorates and taluk offices as there is a possibility of landslides and mudslides.

Hospitals have also been put on alert and supplies stocked to handle any eventuality, such as an epidemic outbreak.

Special directions have been given to alert tourists who arrive in the state about the rain situation, state Revenue Minister K Rajan said.

He stressed the need for strict regulations in hilly areas in the wake of possible landslide threats.

"The Disaster Management Authority has warned that there is even the possibility of mudslides on the road due to heavy rains," he told reporters here. Safety boards would be in-

stalled in such areas to warn travellers about the threat of a possible landslide, he said. District collectors have told to impose a night travel ban in

to impose a night travel ban in hilly areas if necessary, Rajan explained.

"The 24x7 Emergency



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, May 18: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said the Maitri Setu in South Tripura and Agartala-Akhaura (Bangladesh) rail link will become operational very soon.

The Matri Setu built over river Feni connecting South Tripura's Sabroom with Bangladesh's Ramgarh was jointly inaugurated March 9, 2021 and Agartala-Nischintapur (Indian part of Agartala-Akhaura rail link) was inaugurated November 1, 2023 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



minister told reporters Friday. "The trial in Agartala-Akhaura railway link has already been completed, and it will also be made operational soon," Saha said, adding that many investors are coming to the northeastern state to invest.

The Matri Setu built over river Feni connecting South Tripura's Sabroom with Bangladesh's Ramgarh was jointly inaugurated March 9, 2021

ect has almost been completed. Now, the train service will be made operational after discussion between both sides," he said. Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) Manager, Agartala.

KERALA PASSES ORDER TO INCREASE 1,200 NEW WARDS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, May 20: A special cabinet meeting here Monday chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan passed an ordinance to add one new ward in all the local bodies in the state.

The ordinance will now be sent to the Governor for his nod. As per this ordinance, the total number of wards will increase from around 21,900 to 23,100 in the 2025 local election.

As of now, there are 1,200 local bodies in the state comprising 941 grama panchayats, 152 block panchayats, 14 district panchayats, 87 Municipalities and six Corporations. The ordinance has directed the State Election Commission to take steps for delimitation to add another 1,200 wards. The committee to be set up under the State Election Commissioner has to submit its report in six months.



Operation Centres have been opened in all collectorates and taluk offices with the coordination of various departments to tackle all urgent situations," the revenue minister added.

Meanwhile, intense water logging, uprooting of trees, and snapping of electric wires were reported in various places across the state Monday due to heavy rains.

Health Minister Veena George today said the Health Department has issued a warning to all districts about the possible outbreak of epidemics in the wake of continuing heavy rains.

"Many epidemics are likely to occur due to climate change. Hospitals have been alerted. Instructions have already been given to ensure availability of medicines," she said in a statement.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) continued to place Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki districts on "red alert", forecasting extremely heavy rainfall Monday and Tuesday.

and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

But both connectivity facilities are yet to be made operational.

"Election is almost over, and a new government will be formed. Under the leadership of PM Modi, who has always emphasized the Act East Policy and provided us with the HIRA (highway, i-way, railway, airway) model, the Maitri Setu will become operational soon", the chief "The future of Tripura is bright. After the rail connectivity is established, we will be able to reach Kolkata in a short period," he said.

Anil Kumar Khandelwal, Member Infrastructure, Railway Board inspected Nischintapur railyard (Indian part of Agartala–Akhaura) May 15 to check the ongoing work.

"The construction work in Agartala-Akhaura railway proj-

ra is Debasish Nandi Saturday told nec-PTI, "We are ready to open the Maitri Setu by introducing passenger movement in the first phase. All necessary facilities including immigration have been put in place at Sabroom Land Custom Station (LCS). The goods movement can be flagged off later. The final date of the becinping of passenger movement

to off later. The final date of the beginning of passenger movement in will be taken by Delhi and bi- Dhaka."

The last time the full-fledged delimitation took place was in 2010, while in 2015 it was a limited exercise.

REFUGE IN FOREST: Displaced people take shelter in a makeshift tent as they wait to get proper rehabilitation at Panisagar forest area, in Tripura. Several families from various parts of Tripura have taken refuge in the forest land of Panisagar after losing their land

NO VALID DOCUMENTS

5 Bangladeshis held for entering India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, May 20: Five Bangladeshi nationals were arrested from Tripura's Khowai district for entering Indian territory without any valid travel document, a police officer said Monday.

The five Bangladeshi citizens identified as Litan Das (37), Babul Das (26), Pankaj Sarkar (18), Nikku Sarkar (22) and Rupan Das (26) sneaked into Khowai after crossing over border fencing at Ashrambari, a border village and were going to Santirbazar in South Tripura district, they officer said.

"They entered Indian territory after crossing over border fencing at Ashrambari. When the five were travelling from Ashrambari to Santirbazar by a vehicle, they were detained on Sunday," said the official.

He said as they could not pro-

duce any passport or visa for travelling to Indian territory they were arrested.

The five arrested Bangladeshi nationals would be produced before court Monday, he added.

Meanwhile, Hannan Miah, a resident of Sepahijala district, who was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a human trafficking case, was arrested from Rastarmatha Sunday, said Officer in Charge (OC), Bishalgarh police station, Rana

Chatterjee. The arrest was made following a request from the NIA Guwahati office, he said, adding that the mastermind of the human trafficking case will be taken to Guwahati on transit remand.

According to police, Hannan who was on the run for many months, is the mastermind of a human trafficking case lodged by NIA in Guwahati. VIJAYAN BOASTS ABOUT KOCHI WATER METRO, HIGHWAYS, INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 20: The Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala marked its three-year anniversary in office Monday.

Celebrating his government's entry into the fourth year, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan highlighted the state's achievements, stating that the Kerala model is advancing by fulfilling manifesto promises and initiating new projects.

Through social media, Vijayan emphasised the government's dedication to shaping a progressive Kerala, showcasing its commitment to social welfare and economic growth. He noted that the government's approach, balancing social welfare and economic development, has earned national acclaim.

'Kochi Water Metro has



He claimed that the fundamental sectors, including public education and health, have been strengthened.

"Big companies are investing in IT and the startup sector is gaining international recognition. It has become a model for the country in public welfare schemes, including employment guarantee scheme, social security pensions and Karunya Insurance," Vijayan said.

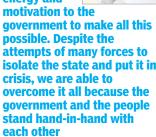
As LDF govt hits 3-yr mark, CM highlights feats

He said his government has received national recognition, including from Niti Ayog, in areas including governance, development, quality of life, education, and health.

"It is the support given by the

people that gives energy and motivation to the government to make all this possible. Despite the attempts of many forces to isolate the state and put it in crisis, we are able to overcome it all because the government and the people stand hand-in-hand with each other," Vijayan said.

The chief minister said that even when communalism and sectarianism subjugated many regions, the state under Left rule It is the support given by the people that give energy and metivation to



PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CM, KERALA

was able to set an example for others by upholding the greatness of democracy, religious harmony, and humanity.

"We express gratitude to all who supported us in advancing this development model and strengthening Kerala's secular fabric, even when we encountered numerous hurdles. Let's stay united and rally forward for a brighter tomorrow of enhanced democracy, unity, and prosperity," he said.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the chief minister shared sweets at the office, joinedby Chief Secretary Venu V and other officials.















A boy taking his disabled kin to Ekatali booth in Jharsuguda, Monday

PHASE II POLLS IN STATE



A pink booth at Chhend in Rourkela under Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat



Polling underway amid tight security at Bandhabahal under Brajarajnagar Assembly segment in Jharsuguda district



his inked finger after casting his vote



BJP's Sundargarh Lok Sabha nominee Jual Oram showing after casting his vote at Brahmachari Primary School in Bargarh seat Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo

Congress candidate for Bolangir Assembly seat Samarendra Mishra OP PHOTOS

BJP's Bargarh Lok Sabha nominee Pradip Purohit and his wife after casting votes at Paikamal Girls' Upgraded UP School in Bargarh district

CMO under grip of corrupt coterie: PM Strong wave in INDIA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA What the BJD government has given to Odisha, Modi asked, adding that the BJD has given What the BJD government has given to Odisha, Modi asked, adding that the BJD has given Will be in Delhi, he will ensure that Odisha's BJP government does not face any difficulty." Bloc's favour: Ramesh - Construction

Angul/Cuttack/Puri, May 20: Asserting that Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government in Odisha is on its way out, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said he was hurt over the "destruction" of the state.

Addressing public meetings in Dhenkanal and Cuttack Lok Sabha seats, Modi said though the state is rich in mineral resources, its people are distressed.

The PM said the Odisha Chief Minister's office and residence are under the grip of a coterie which destroyed the state and shattered the dreams of the youths. "Who is responsible for the

sorry state of affairs in Odisha? It is the BJD government which is under the control of some corrupt people. A handful of corrupt persons have grabbed the Chief

adding that the BJD has given land mafia, sand mafia, coal mafia, and mining mafia to the state. The BJD MLAs and ministers are indulging in such practices day and night, the PM said. He also said that the Modi

government is allocating a higher amount of funds to the state. But, the BJD government is "misappropriating" the funds.

Modi said neither the mineral resources nor the cultural heritage of Odisha is safe in the hands of the BJD government.

"Even, the temple of Lord Jagannath in Puri is not safe in the hands of this government," Modi said, expressing concern over the missing keys of Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar (treasury) for last six years. "A coterie roaming around

PM Narendra Modi addressing the Vijay Sankalp Samabesh at Baliyatra Upper Ground in Cuttack, Monday

know why the BJD has suppressed the judicial commission report on Ratna Bhandar keys. "The role of BJD in the case is a suspect. The BJP government after it comes to power June 10 will make the report public," Modi said, adding that it is said

does not face any difficulty."

He said people have imposed faith on the BJD government for the past 25 years. "Entire Odisha is now introspecting what the people have got in these vears. Farmers are facing hardships, youths are migrating to other states for livelihood while the situation is worse in tribal hinterland," he said.

Expressing concern over the large migration of people from Odisha despite the state being rich in natural resources like mines, forests and water, Modi asked: "Why people of Odisha are forced to reel under extreme poverty.

Noting that he came from the land of Lord Somnath to offer prayers in the land of Lord Jagannath, the PM said, "After seeing the poverty in Odisha, I feel hurt. Who has destroyed my Odisha? Who has ruined the dreams of the youths? This gives me extreme pain. Earlier in the day, Modi offered prayers at the Srimandir in Puri and led a roadshow here to canvas support for BJP candidates. He led the roadshow from Marichkote Square to Medical Square on Grand Road in Puri. The PM was accompanied by state BJP president Manmohan Samal, party's Puri Lok Sabha candidate Sambit Patra and Puri Assembly nominee Jayanta Sarangi.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sirsa (Haryana), May 20: Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh Monday claimed that there is a strong wave in the country in favour of INDIA bloc and the coalition is going to form the next government at the Centre.

History is repeating itself in the country after 20 years as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties is all set to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), just like the Congress-led UPA defeated the NDA in 2004, Ramesh said here.

The Congress general secretary, who was here to campaign



to change the Constitution. He also claimed that Modi has

crops

against reservation and wants speak a single truth even by default," the Congress leader was quoted as saying in a statement.

Mentioning some of the guarantees the Congress has given in



Minister's office and residence. Small workers of BJD have now become crorepatis," the PM said.

Coming down heavily on BJD. Modi said the state government has prevented people from availing the benefits of mineral resources. "In 2014, Modi had prepared a new mineral exploration policy, under which Odisha is getting high royalty," he said.

Stating that Odisha received ₹50.000 crore as mineral royalty and ₹26.000 crore from the district mineral fund (DMF), Modi said the money should have been spent on roads, schools and drinking water, but the BJD has "misused" it.

the Chief Minister is responsible for this," Modi said, adding that one particular mafia has captured all the sectors and does not allow any competition in the state. "After BJP forms the government in Odisha, we will break the backbone of this mafia." Modi said

He said the Modi government is allocating a higher amount of funds to the state, but the BJD government stalls their implementation of big projects. Later, the ministers and MLAs allocate such contracts to their close people after getting cuts or commissions.

Modi said Odisha wants to

that the Ratna Bhandar key has gone to Tamil Nadu.

While claiming formation of a double-engine government in the state, Modi rejected the pos-

sibility of a hung Assembly in Odisha. "Some media persons are saving that Odisha is going to witness a hung Assembly. It is just a rumour because BJP will form a full majority government in the state. BJP can only take for-

ward development of the state to a new height," he said. Referring to BJD's demand to announce the name of BJP's

CM face for Odisha, Modi said: "I have experience in running a state government. Though Modi

for former Union minister Kumari Selja, the party's Lok Sabha poll candidate from Sirsa. expressed confidence that the INDIA bloc will sweep all the 10 parliamentary constituencies in Haryana, besides emerging victorious in the state Assembly polls that are scheduled to be held a few months after the general election.

Accompanied by AICC secretary Vineet Punia, Ramesh said people have understood that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "spreading an epidemic of lies in the country by repeatedly lying about everything".

Parties infuse star power in campaign to woo voters

"The Prime Minister cannot

lost the trust of people. its "Nyay Patra" (manifesto), Ramesh said farm loans will be

Recalling the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, which the BJP had fought on the theme of "India Shining" under the leadership of the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Ramesh said nobody had believed 20 years ago that the saffron party would lose the election.

"But the Congress-led UPA made that happen and it is going to make that happen again," he said, adding, "History is set to repeat itself."

Ramesh said reports after five phases of polling suggest that the INDIA bloc is headed for a "clear and decisive victory'

He alleged that the BJP is

damage or loss to their crops, farmers will be compensated within 30 days. Poor people will be given 10kg ration instead of five kg, the Congress leader said. Voting for 10 Lok Sabha seats

waived and farmers will also

get a legal guarantee on the min-

imum support price (MSP) for

He also said in case of any

in Haryana is scheduled to take place in the sixth phase of the seven-phase election May 25 and the counting of votes will be taken up June 4.

Slain BJP worker's family casts votes in Ganjam



AGENCIES

Berhampur, May 20: The family members of a 28-year-old BJP worker, who was killed in a prepoll clash with BJD supporters in Ganjam district, exercised their franchise amid tight security Monday, officials said.

Dillip Pahan was killed in a clash between BJP and BJD supporters at Srikrushnasaranapur village last week over putting up posters of candidates

His widow Sabitri and father Rama Chandra Pahan were among four members of his family who cast their votes in their village, which falls under Khallikote Assembly seat and Aska parliamentary constituency. "Initially, we had thought of

not casting our votes in this mo-

ment of grief. But later we decided that we must exercise our democratic right," Rama Chandra Pahan said.

Dillip's younger brother, who had sustained injuries in the clash, is undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

A platoon of central armed police forces was deployed in the village and patrolling was conducted, an official said, adding that no untoward incident happened and voting passed off peacefully.

Over 650 of the 1,071 voters in the village exercised their franchise till 5:30 pm, sources said

A total of 11 people have been arrested in connection with the clash and an SIT has been formed to probe the incident.

Sabitri, the widow of the deceased BJP worker, however, claimed that the main accused were yet to be nabbed.

"Around 40 people were involved in the clash. We demand that the main accused be nabbed at the earliest," she said.

Bhubaneswar, May 20: As celluloid has become an essential

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

ingredient of Indian politics, especially elections, several political parties are roping in stars from the tinsel world to bask in their reflected glory and add a dash of glamour to the campaign for the ongoing simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly

elections in Odisha. Apart from big leaders like Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who are campaigning for their party candidates, the parties are infusing 'star power' of the

film industry to woo the voters. Recently, BJD's Jharsuguda

Assembly candidate Dipali Das and Sundargarh Assembly nominee Jogesh Singh brought stars like Bhagyashree and Neil Nitin Mukesh of the Hindi film industry to wean away the voters in Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts recently, said sources. Similarly, veteran actress

Hema Malini, known as 'Dream Girl' of Bollywood, was also roped in by BJP for campaign-

BJD's Jharsuguda Assembly Candidate Dipali Das and Sundargarh Assembly nominee Jogesh Singh brought stars like **Bhagyashree and Neil Nitin Mukesh** of the Hindi film industry to wean away the voters in Jharsuguda and Sundargarh

eteran actress Hema Malini, known as 'Dream Girl' of Bollywood, was also roped in by BJP for campaigning in places like Bhubaneswar. Cuttack and Deogarh

his apart, several actors and actresses from Odia film industry hitting the campaign trail also added hues to the hustings

ing in places like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Deogarh.

This apart, several actors and actresses from Odia film industry hitting the campaign trail also added hues to the hustings.

Odia actors Babushaan Mohanty and Elina Samantaray were seen campaigning for Gautam Buddha Das, BJD candidate for Bhograi Assembly seat under Balasore Lok Sabha segment. They also canvassed for



BJD's Chhatrapur Assembly candidate Subash Chandra Behera

Star couple Sabyasachi Mishra and Archita Sahu also campaigned for BJD candidates in Berhampur and Kalahandi.

Meanwhile, young Odia stars are also not far behind as Sivani Sangita and Sailendra Samantaray joined campaigning for BJD's Malkangiri candidate Manas Madkami. Likewise, young actress Suryamayee

Mohapatra was also seen campaigning BJDfor candidates

Both BJP and BJD had re-

leased the list of 'star cam-

for BJD, and Hema Malini, Pinki

Pradhan, Anubhav Mohanty,

Sritam Das and Harihar

In the hustings 2024, these

stars are emerging as big crowd pullers and can be seen in different districts with the party leaders. The Odia film industry this

year is a little divided as several film personalities who were part of BJD for long have switched over to other parties. Big names such as Anubhav Mohanty, Arindam Roy, Sidhanth Mohapatra, Akash Das Nayak,who had been in BJD for many years have joined BJP.





Mohapatra for BJP.

paigners' for Odisha which went to polls from May 13. The list includes Babushaan, Elina, Suryamayee, Sivani and others





ONE-DAY MOURNING FOR RAISI

Chatterjee faced protests from

TMC activists led by TMC MLA

Ashima Patra. A huge police

and central forces contingent

Violence was also reported

In the Liluah area of Howrah,

the BJP accused TMC workers

of 'booth jamming' leading to

clashes between groups. The

Central police forces rushed to

In Bongaon constituency's

Gayeshpur area, local BJP leader

Subir Biswas was allegedly

beaten by TMC supporters out-

side a booth. He was later shifted

In the Kalyani area of the

same constituency, Union

Minister and BJP candidate

Shantanu Thakur caught a per-

son using the identity card of

his rival TMC candidate Biswajit

The person was later removed

TMC workers also held

from the booth by Central forces.

protests in some areas follow-

ing allegations that central forces

were assisting BJP workers in 'in-

timidating' voters at some booths

of Hooghly. "There was no vio-

lence anywhere in the state.

About 250 complaints regard-

ing slow voting and EVMs were

received by the EC," according

to Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral

constituency in Lalitpur dis-

In three booths in the Jhansi

Officer Navdeep Rinwa.

Das inside a polling booth.

the area and dispersed them.

from various parts of the Howrah

was rushed to the spot.

constituency.

to the hospital.

A one-day state mourning will be observed across India Tuesday as a mark of respect for Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash, the Union Home Ministry has announced. The national flag will be flown at half-mast on all buildings where it is regularly flown across India and there will be no official entertainment during the period of state mourning



Gujarat ATS nabs 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lankans with IS links

Ahmedabad, May 20 :The

Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad

(ATS) has arrested four Sri

Lankans with links to the banned

Over 60% turnout in Phase V LS polls

maining now. Counting of votes

lence marred the polls in seven

Parliamentary constituencies

of West Bengal where TMC and

BJP workers clashed in various

parts of Barrackpore, Bongaon,

Till 4.30 pm, the state CEO's of-

fice received 1,913 complaints

in connection including those

related to EVM malfunctioning

and polling agents being stopped

from entering booths, an election

Clashes broke out between

supporters of the TMC and BJP

in the Khanakul area of the

In neighbouring Hooghly con-

stituency, BJP sitting MP and

party candidate Locket

Arambagh constituency.

and Arambagh seats.

official said.

Scattered incidents of vio-

thinking of any cabinet



power can never pick you up and take you to Kashmir. That is not going to happen and you have to show boldness on your part for your return to your homes in the valley and we will also support you MEHBOOBA MUFTI FORMER CM, JK



necessary to count every every person

community, with whose support BJP

leaders became MPs, are being ignored

SACHIN PILOT SENIOR LEADER, CONGRESS

Seeing its defeat, the BJP wants to rob democracy by putting pressure on the government machinery to deny the mandate

RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER





devastating. Ukraine is being slowly erased. eroded, destroyed... a man and his minions have been

allowed to terrorize countries because of money and power. And those who makes excuses for people like that having a seat at the table, those politicians who say big words and sing fun songs while people are dying...are complicit.

SHORT TAKES

Mute woman from PoK held along LoC



incidents of violence AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 20: Over 60 per cent voter turnout was recorded Monday in 49 constituencies in six states and two Union Territories (UTs) in the Phase V of Lok Sabha elections. of violence in West Bengal besides EVM glitches at some booths in the state and neigh-

bouring Odisha and complaints of slow voting in Maharashtra. West Bengal recorded the highest polling percentage at 76.05,

while Maharashtra recorded the lowest at 54.33 per cent, with six Lok Sabha constituencies of Mumbai witnessing voting between 47 per cent and around 55 per cent per cent. Thane recorded a turnout of 49.81 per cent, according to the EC's voter

turnout app

The EC had Sunday flagged

Soren misusing state machinery to subvert probe, ED tells SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20 : Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren is actively attempting to subvert the probe into the money laundering case against him by "misusing state machinery", the Enforcement Directorate told the Supreme Court Monday and opposed his "special prayer" for interim bail to campaign in the Lok Sabha polls.

Contending that a politician can claim no special status higher than that of an ordinary citizen, the ED told the apex court that if Soren is granted interim bail for poll campaigning, then all incarcerated politicians would seek a similar treatment claiming that they are a "class of their own". A vacation bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta is scheduled to hear Soren's plea against his arrest and for interim bail Tuesday. Emphasising that elections are all-year-round phenomena in the country, the probe agency said no politician can be arrested and kept in judicial custody if Soren's prayer for grant of "special treatment" is acceded to.



is June 4.

urban voter apathy in Mumbai, Thane and Lucknow and had urged people to come out and vote. Among other states, Bihar recorded 54.85 per cent turnout, Jharkhand 63.09 per cent, Odisha 69.34 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 57.79 per cent and Ladakh 69.62 per cent. The figures, the EC

said, were "approximate trend" as data was still being collated. According to the figures made available by the Election Commission around 10 pm, the approximate polling percentage was 59.06.

The last four phases have registered a total voter turnout of 66.95 per cent. With the end of polls in the fifth phase, voting has been completed in 25 states and UT and 428 constituencies out of 543 in the ongoing Lok Sabha

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Two get death penalty for raping, burning minor girl Jaipur: A POCSO court in Rajasthan's Bhilwara

Monday awarded death sentence to two men for raping and burning alive a 14-year-old girl in a coal furnace in August last year. "Kalu and Kanha were awarded death penalty by the court," Special Public Prosecutor Mahaveer Singh Kishnawat said. The court Saturday had convicted the two for the crime that

took place in August last year. Seven others accused of destroying evidence were acquitted by the court. Kishnawat said the acquittal will be challenged in the high court. Welcoming the court's decision, the victim's mother said justice has been done and she was satisfied with the punishment. Former chief minister Ashok Gehlot said his government had taken immediate action against the accused and arrested them. "At that time ADG Crime was sent to the spot and the case was taken up under the Case Officer Scheme. The charge sheet of this case was filed within about a month. Today, within about 10 months, these culprits have been sentenced," he said. The girl had gone missing while she had gone to graze cattle August 2 last year. The two men raped her and then hit her with sticks. Considering her dead, they threw her in a coal furnace.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. May 20: The Enforcement Directorate has written to the Union Home Ministry alleging the Aam Aadmi Party, which rules Delhi and Punjab, has received more than ₹7 crore foreign funds in contravention of the FCRA, official sources said Monday.

trict, 100 per cent of polling was reported.

. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is in the fray from Rae Bareli which was represented by his mother and former party president Sonia Gandhi earlier, visited different polling booths in the constituency and posed for pictures with local residents. He also interacted with Congress booth workers in Bachhrawan and visited a Hanuman temple in Churuva.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (Lucknow), Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani (Amethi), Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishor (Mohanlalganj), Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti (Fatehpur) and Union Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma (Jalaun) are among those in the fray in seats in Uttar

Pradesh. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati was among the early voters in Lucknow.

Defence Minister Singh, who is eyeing a fourth term from Lucknow, cast his vote at a polling booth in Vipul Khand here and also appealed to the people to vote.

The Congress alleged EVM malfunctioning at several places and accused the BJP of not allowing people to cast votes in three booths in Bela Khara village in Rahi block.

THE ENFORCEMENT **DIRECTORATE WRITES TO MHA SEEKING FCRA PROBE**

The federal probe agency sent the communication after it re-



Acting on a tip-off, the ATS apprehended the accused at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel airport here after they travelled from Sri Lanka's capital Colombo via Chennai Sunday night, an official said.

The men travelled to India to carry out terror activities at the behest of IS, Director General of Police Vikas Sahav said.

The ATS team also recovered three Pakistan-made pistols and 20 cartridges lying abandoned at a location in the city's Nana Chiloda area based on geo-coordinates and photographs found on the mobile phone seized from the accused, Sahay said.

The men were allegedly directed by their Pakistani handler to collect these weapons, he said.

The accused, Mohammad Nusrat (35), Mohammad Faarukh (35), Mohammad Nafran (27) and Mohammad Rasdeen (43), took a flight from Colombo and reached Chennai in the wee hours of Sunday.

The men informed investigators that they were earlier associated with the banned Sri Lankan radical militant outfit, National Thowheeth Jamath (NJT), and joined IS after getting in touch with Pakistani handler Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi, he said.

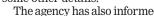
ED alleges ₹7cr foreign funding to AAP ⁻

Home Affairs (MHA).

Sources said the ED found the AAP received overseas donations of about ₹7.08 crore till now and they allegedly "mis-declared and manipulated" the identities and nationalities of the foreign donors apart from some other details.

amount donated, mode of donation and bank account number of the receiver, billing name, address, phone numbers, email, time and the date of donation and payment gateway used, the sources said. Some fundraising events held

by the AAP through its overseas wing volunteers in the USA and Canada between 2015 and 2016 are reported to have been made in alleged violation of the FCRA, the agency told the ministry. Alleging violations in a particular instance, the ED also informed the MHA that the names of some Canada-based people and their nationalities had been "concealed" in the party's financial



the MHA about the verified names of the donors, their nationalities, passport numbers,



elections. Two more phases --

There were sporadic incidents

Raiouri: A 45-vear-old mute woman from Pakistanoccupied Kashmir (PoK) was detained by the Army along the Line of Control in Raiouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. officials said Monday. The woman was detained from forward Pukherni village in Laam sector late Sunday night, they said. According to an identity card recovered from her possession, the woman is a resident of Sakhi Nath village in Kotli district of PoK. She is believed to have inadvertently entered the Indian territory. the officials said.

18 killed as vehicle plunges into valley

Kawardha: Seventeen women and a man were killed and four others injured when a mini goods vehicle they were travelling in plunged into a valley in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district Monday, police said. The victims were returning after plucking tendu leaves from a forest in the vehicle meant for transporting goods, he said. The vehicle skidded off the road, tumbled down considerably and crashed onto the road below the valley, the official said. After being alerted, a police team rushed to the spot and launched the rescue exercise, the official said. The remaining four injured persons, including three women, were referred for further treatment, he said.

5 drown in Ganga

Begusarai: Five persons, all men aged between 17 and 20, drowned in Ganga in Bihar's Begusarai district Monday, police said. The incident happened at Simaria Ghat where residents of a nearby village had come for a holy dip. said Neerai Kumar Chaudhary, the SHO of Chakia police station.

Govt working with spice makers to ensure **EtO norm compliance**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: The government has found that some samples of Everest Spices were noncompliant under the strictest standards (0.1 mg per Kg) regarding presence of ethylene oxide and it has been asked to take corrective measures, an official said Monday. In view of the reports on the

recall of two Indian spice brands' -- MDH and Everest -- products in Singapore and Hong Kong due to the presence of ethylene oxide (EtO) residue in certain spices, the government has conducted these tests on the presence of this carcinogenic chemical.

"We have carried out sample testing from both these companies and we have found that all 18 samples of MDH were compliant with standards. Different countries follow different MRL (maximum residual limit) for EtO. While the EU has fixed this limit at 0.02-0.1 mg per kg, Singapore's limit is 50 mg per kg and Japan has

0.01 mg per kg. These samples were tested for 0.1 mg per kg.

Pune cops seek permission to try teen involved in accident as adult



Pune: Pune Police Monday said they will seek a higher court's permission to try as an adult a 17-year-old boy whose car allegedly knocked down and killed two persons in Kalyani Nagar area here. The accident took place on early Sunday morning. The Juvenile Justice Board's decision to grant the youngster bail on the same day while asking him to write an essay on road accidents has drawn

criticism. The youngster, son of a real estate developer, was drunk at the time of the accident, police claimed on Monday. A case has been registered against him under section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and sections of the Motor Vehicles Act. A group of friends were returning on motorbikes around 3.15 am on Sunday after a party when a speeding luxury car hit one of the motorcycles at Kalyani Nagar junction. The two riders -- Anis Awadhiya and Ashwini Costa -- died of their injuries. The youngster who was allegedly driving the car was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board which granted him bail. It also directed him to visit the Regional Transport Office and study all the rules and regulations, and submit a presentation to the Board within 15 days.

covered some documents and emails during a drugs-linked money laundering probe against former Punjab AAP MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira and some others.

The probe was launched in 2021 and Khaira was arrested by the ED that year. He is now with the Congress party.

Official sources said the ED had sent a detailed communication to the Union Home Ministry in August last year, underlining the alleged violations by the AAP and categorising these instances as contravention of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and The Representation of the People Act.

It is understood that the ED recently shared some fresh inputs in this case with the Ministry of

records to "hide" the foreign donations being made to the party into its Indian bank account.

Graffiti targeting Kejriwal appear in several metro trains: Police files FIR

The police have registered an FIR and started a probe into the graffiti bearing AAP national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's name found scribbled inside metro trains and at stations, an officer said Monday. The Aam Aadmi Party Monday accused the BJP of being behind the graffiti and sought time from the Election Commission for a meeting on the issue. Deputy Commissioner of Police (metro) G Ram Gopal Naik said the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has given a complaint regarding defacement inside the metro coaches. "Accordingly, a case under relevant laws has been registered at Rajouri Garden Metro Police Station for further investigations," he said. Another police officer said pictures of certain messages scribbled inside metro trains and at stations were shared through the Instagram account "ankit.goel_91". One of the graffiti inside a metro train read, "Kejriwal Dilli Chhor Dijiye (Kejriwal, leave Delhi). Please. Otherwise, you will have to remember three slaps, which you planted (sic) before the election. Now the real and actual punch/slap will be there soon. Today's meeting at Jhandewalan.... Ankit.Goel_91". Another message read: "#CM Delhi leave us, we don't need freebies anymore. #45 Crore on CM Awas."

Modi attacks Mamata over RKM ashram remarks

PM ACCUSES TMC OF VOTE BANK POLITICS; MAMATA CLARIFIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

STANCE

Jhargram, May 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday engaged in a heated exchange over the latter's remarks against Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha, with Modi accusing the TMC of threatening monks for vote bank politics and Banerjee clarifying that her criticism was directed at certain individuals, not the in-

stitutions Addressing an election rally in West Benga's Jhargram, Modi condemned the vandalism at Ramakrishna Mission ashram in Jalpaiguri Sunday and accused the TMC regime of instigating

violence against monks to appease their vote bank.

"It is shameful that the TMC has taken up the onus of hurting the religious faith of Hindus in Bengal. The CM is threatening the Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Ashram monks. On Sunday, Ramakrishna Mission ashram in Jalpaiguri was attacked. The people of Bengal will not tolerate this,' Modi said.

His remarks followed the vandalism incident Sunday, where miscreants stormed the Ramakrishna Mission (RKM) premises in Jalpaiguri, threatening monks and other employees at gunpoint.

The attackers then vandalised the premises, breaking CCTV cameras and locking the main gate before fleeing. Police later rescued the stranded monks and staff.

An RKM official suggested that a local land mafia was behind the early Sunday morning



incident, which was reportedly a property dispute issue. The monks have lodged a complaint at Bhaktinagar police station against a local tough and his associates

Modi criticised Banerjee's recent comments against certain monks of RKM and BSS that they were working as per instructions of the BJP, asserting that these socio-religious organisations are being threatened to appease the TMC's vote bank.

'ISKCON, RKM, and Bharat Sevashram Sangha are known for service and morality, but today the CM of Bengal is threatening them. This is being done to ap-

The Prime Minister accused Banerjee of abusing saints and monks of the state to appease her vote bank.

Modi had also accused Banerjee of "threatening" these socio-religious organisations under pressure from Muslim extremists to "appease" the TMC's vote bank.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, speaking at rallies in Onda and Panskura earlier, praised the RKM and BSS for their philanthropic work and clarified that her criticism was directed at specific persons.

"I am not against the Ramakrishna Mission, why should I be against an institution or insult it?" Banerjee said. "I have spoken about one or two persons."

Swami Pradiptananda Maharaj of BSS, also known as Kartik Maharaj, announced he had sent a legal notice to Banerjee, demanding an apol-ogy for her alleged defamatory remarks about the organisation.







will not tolerate this insult."

pease the vote bank. As the CM

is threatening the monks, TMC

goons now dare to attack

Ramakrishna Mission," he said.

in Goghat under Arambagh Lok

Sabha constituency Saturday,

Banerjee had claimed, "Some

monks of Ramakrishna Mission

and Bharat Sevashram Sangha

are working under the influence

Criticising her statements,

Modi said, "The TMC does not

care about the sentiments of the

people of Bengal. They have no

sympathy for the feelings of the

Hindus here. The people of Bengal

of BJP leaders in Delhi.³

Addressing an election rally

OrissaPOST TUESDAY | MAY 21 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

international

together with other attacks and collective punishment against the civilian population of Gaza are acute, visible and widely known KARIM KHAN | CHIEF PROSECUTOR, ICC

radar system in the Iranian city

of Isfahan, causing no casual-

ties but sending an unmistak-

The sides have waged a

shadow war of covert op-

erations and cyberat-

tacks for years, but

the exchange of fire

in April was their

first direct military

Hamas

The ongoing war

between Israel and

has

Iranian allies,

with each attack

attack

and counter-

threaten-

ing to

set

drawn in other

confrontation.

able message

The effects of the use

of starvation as a

method of warfare,

BALTIMORE TRAGEDY: SHIP REFLOATS

IRAN'S PRESIDENT DIES FOLLOWING A HELICOPTER CRASH

for years have called for Israel to

Raisi, a hard-liner viewed as

sor of Khamenei, chastised Israel last

month, saying "the Zionist

Israeli regime

has been com-

mitting op-

against the peo-

ple of Palestine

pression

for 75 years."

WAR STRETCHING

FROM LEBANON TO YEMEN

Lebanon's Hezbollah militant

group, Iran's most militarily ad-

vanced proxy, has waged a low-

intensity conflict with Israel

since the start of the Gaza war.

The two sides have traded strikes

on a near-daily basis along the

Israel-Lebanon border, forcing

tens of thousands of people on

So far, however, the conflict

has not boiled over into a full-

blown war that would be disas-

Iran-backed militias in Syria

and Iraq launched repeated at-

tacks on US bases in the opening

months of the war but pulled

back after US retaliatory strikes

for a drone attack that killed

trous for both countries.

both sides to flee.

a protégé and possible succes-

be wiped off the map.

I announce five

days of public mourning

and offer my

condolences to the dear

people of Iran

ALI KHAMENEI I SUPREME

LEADER, IRAN

IN A MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF THE COUNTRY SUNDAY

The container ship that caused the deadly collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge was refloated Monday and has begun moving back to port. The Dali has remained at the collapse site since it lost power and crashed into one of the bridge's supporting columns March 26, killing six construction workers and snarling traffic into Baltimore Harbour



Leaders killed in chopper crashes

Abdul Salam Arif, President of Iraq (1966): Abdul Salam Arif, the second President of Iraq, played a crucial role in the 1958 revolution that overthrew

the monarchy. On April 13, 1966, Arif died when his Iraqi Air Force plane crashed near Basra.

Sanjay Gandhi, Indian politician and Congress leader (1980): Sanjay

Gandhi, son of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, died June 23, 1980. Sanjay's life was cut short when he lost control of his aircraft at Delhi's Safdarjung airport.

Rashid Karami, Prime Minister of Lebanon (1987): Rashid Karami. Lebanon's most frequently elected Prime Minister, was a

prominent figure during the Lebanese Civil War. On June 1. 1987, a bomb exploded in his helicopter en route to Beirut. killing Karami and wounding several others on board.

Muhammad Zia-ul Hag, President of

Pakistan (1988): General Muhammad Zia-ul-Hag, the sixth President of Pakistan, died August 17,

1988. His C-130 Hercules aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from Bahawalnur.

Madhavrao Scindia, Indian Politician and

Congress leader (2001): Madhavrao Scindia, a prominent Indian politician and member of the Congress, died in a plane

crash on September 30, 2001. The crash occurred near Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, when his private Beechcraft King Air C90 caught fire mid-air.

Sebastian Pinera, **President of Chile** (2024): Sebastian Pimera, the former President of Chile, died in February 2024. Pinera's helicopter crashed into a lake in southern Chile, resulting in his death.

Raisi's death could echo across ME

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, May 20: The apparent crash of a helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the country's foreign minister and other officials is likely to reverberate across the Middle East.

That's because Iran has spent decades supporting armed groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and the Palestinian territories that allow it to project power and potentially deter attacks from the United States or Israel, the sworn enemies of its

Tensions have never been higher than they were last month, when Iran under Raisi and

strike against an air defense

It's a combustible mix that could be ignited by unexpected events, like a helicopter carrying top officials disappearing into a mist.

A BITTER RIVALRY WITH ISRAEL

Israel has long viewed Iran as its greatest threat because of Tehran's controversial nuclear program, its ballistic missiles and its support for armed groups sworn to Israel's destruction. Iran views itself as the chief

patron of Palestinian resistance to Israeli rule, and top officials



the last say in all matters of state. Mokhber became first vice president in 2021 when Raisi was

DIVIDED IRAN Muted mourning, furtive celebration history



A year after Raisi's hardline government cracked down violently to end the biggest anti-establishment demonstrations since the 1979 revolution, opponents even posted furtive video online of people passing out sweets to celebrate his death

REUTERS

Dubai: Iran proclaimed five days of mourning for President Ebrahim Raisi Monday, though the muted atmosphere revealed little of the spectacular public grief that has accompanied the deaths of other senior figures in the Islamic Republic's 45-year packed into mosques and squares to pray for Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, both killed in a helicopter crash, most shops remained open and the authorities made little effort to interrupt ordinary life. Laila, a 21-year-old student

While government loyalists

in Tehran, told Reuters by phone that she was not saddened by Raisi's death, "because he ordered the crackdown on women for hijab. But I am sad because even with Raisi's death this regime will not change."

Rights groups say hundreds of Iranians died in 2022-2023 demonstrations triggered by the death in custody of a young Iranian Kurdish woman arrested by morality police for violating the country's strict dress codes.

The authorities' handling of an array of political, social and economic crises have deepened the gap between the clerical rulers and society.

Mokhber new interim President | Bagheri new acting foreign min

Mohammad Mokhber, 68, Iran's first vice president became interim president following the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash. As interim president, Mokhber is part of a

that will organise a new presidential elecdeath. Mokhber, like Raisi, is seen as close to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who has elected president.

Iran's veteran nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri, a harsh critic of the West, was Monday named acting foreign minister to replace the top diplomat killed in a helicopter crash along

with the president. Bagheri, 56, had served as deputy to the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, who perished along with the Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and seven others in the accident. Bagheri is considered close to Iran's ultraconservatives and a member of the inner circle of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is the father-in-law of Bagheri's brother.

Sunak apologises for Britain's historic infected blood scandal Taiwan inaugurated

Lai Ching-te as its new president, installing a relative moderate who will continue the self-governing island

New Taiwanese Prez calls on China to stop threats

tory by Lai, 64, who is widely known by his English name, William.

In attendance at the ceremony are former US officials dispatched bv President Joe Biden, lawmakers from countries including Japan, Germany and Canada, and leaders from some of the 12 countries that still maintain forAssange wins bid to dare US extradition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 20: Wikileaks founder Julian Assange Monday won a major reprieve as a London court permitted him to appeal against his extradition to the US on espionage charges, a legal saga which has been going on for over a decade. The 52-year-old Australian national has been held at Belmarsh high-security prison in London since 2019. While the US authorities want Assange to face trial for allegedly endangering lives by publishing thousands of classified documents on Wikileaks, his lawyers have argued that the case against him is politically motivated. On Monday, two High Court judges at the Royal Courts of Justice granted the Australian-born Assange permission to appeal against his extradition order.

1990s, with over 3,000 having died PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

documented in the inquiry. The scandal involves over 30,000 people being infected with life-threatening viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis C while they were under NHS care between the 1970s and 1990s, with over

1979 Islamic Revolution. off a wider war.

Supreme Leader Avatollah Ali Khamenei launched hundreds of drones and ballistic missiles at Israel in response to an airstrike on an Iranian Consulate in Svria that killed two Iranian

generals and five officers. Israel, with the help of the United States, Britain, Jordan and others, intercepted nearly all the projectiles. In response, Israel apparently launched its own

tion within 50 days of the president's

The scandal involves over 30,000

threatening viruses such as HIV and

Hepatitis C while they were under

NHS care between the 1970s and

people being infected with life-

London, May 20: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Monday apologised after Britain's state funded National Health Service (NHS) was accused of cover up in an infected blood scandal dating back to the 1970s in a public inquiry report submitted to the government. Speaking in the House of

Commons hours after inquiry chair Sir Brian Langstaff delivered his scathing verdict on the issue, the British Indian leader said it was a "day of shame for the British state" after a catalogue of failures and attitude of denial 3,000 having died.

"I find it almost impossible to comprehend how it would have felt...I want to make a wholehearted and unequivocal apology," said Sunak, addressing the victims and their families.

"On behalf of this and every government stretching back to the 1970s, I am truly sorry," he added, confirming compensation to all "whatever it costs".

The scandal involves infected batches of Factor VIII. an essential blood clotting protein which haemophiliacs do not produce naturally, imported from the US and used widely to treat patients at the time.

democracy's policy of de facto independence while seeking to bolster its defences against China REUTERS

Taipei, May 20: Taiwan President Lai Ching-te asked China Monday to stop its military and political threats, saying in his inauguration speech that peace is the only choice and that Beijing had to respect the choice of the Taiwanese people. Lai, addressing the crowd out-

side the Japanese-colonial-era presidential office in central

Taipei, repeated a call for talks with China, which views the proudly democratic island as its own territory and has never renounced the use of force to bring it under Beijing's control.

"I also want to urge China to stop intimidating Taiwan politically and militarily, and to take on the global responsibility with Taiwan to work hard on maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the region, to ensure the world is without the fear of war breaking out," he said. "We also want to declare this to the world: Taiwan makes no concessions on democracy

and freedom. Peace is the only option and prosperity is our goal for long-term peace and stability." Taiwan has faced pressure from China, including regular air force and navy activities near

the island, since the election vic-

Taiwan independence is a dead end. Regardless of the pretext or the banner under which it is pursued, the push for Taiwan independence is destined to fail WANG WENBIN | FOREIGN MINISTRY

SPOKESPERSON, CHINA LAI CHING-TE PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

mal diplomatic ties with Taiwan, such as Paraguay President Santiago Pena.China makes its 'One China' policy, meaning Taiwan is part of it, mandatory for all nations to have diplomatic ties with it.

We want to declare this to the world: Taiwan makes no concessions on democracy and freedom. Peace is the only option and prosperity is our goal for long-term peace and stability

SHORT TAKES

IN LINE OF FIRE: CAMPUS PROTESTS IN US UNIVERSITIES

SA's Zuma barred from elections

Johannesburg: South Africa's former president Jacob Zuma is barred from running for parliament in this month's election, the country's top court ruled Monday, a judgment that could influence the outcome and trigger unrest from Zuma's supporters. The constitutional court found Zuma's 15month jail sentence for contempt of court in 2021 disgualified him from standing in the May 29 election, as the constitution prohibits anyone given a prison sentence of 12 months or longer from holding a parliamentary seat.

Nepal PM wins vote of trust

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Monday won a vote of confidence in Parliament, the fourth within 18 months of taking office. Prachanda, 69, a former guerilla leader from the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) -- the third largest party in the House of Representatives (HoR) -- received 157 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives.

BISHNUPRIYA PADHI

awaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, viewed university as onward march of human race towards ever higher objectives of humanism, tolerance, reason. adventure of ideas and the search for truth. The university should endeavour to promote national integration, social justice, secularism, democratic way of life, international understanding and scientific approach to the problems of society. It should shape minds and foster a sense of citizenship. Nehru was of the opinion that a university stands for everything that is ideal in the world, everything that makes us human. University is an abode of freedom of speech and expression and academic thought. University campuses are unique hubs of intellectual discovery

and debate, designed to teach

students how to act within a free

In April 2024, American uni-

versity campuses erupted in

protest over the conflict in Gaza.

Leading universities such as

Columbia in New York, Harvard,

society

Yale, New York University, the University of Virginia, the University of Texas among over 50 campuses witnessed hundreds of student protesters. There have been a few building takeovers, limited use of civil disobedience and absence of bombing and arson. Robert Cohen of New York University is of the opinion that though there were nonviolent encampments in campuses of America, police have been called to suppress the protests. As a result, 2600 arrests were made nationally for minimally disruptive acts such as occupying outdoor campus spaces, including lawns and plazas. As per his view, a few lessons can be drawn from such atrocious acts of university au-

thorities. a) Most influential college and university leaders today are less respectful of free speech, right of students and much quicker to use police force (including antiterrorist squads in combat gear) to suppress protests. Student protest movements have always been unpopular with the American public, owing to the cultural conservatism of society.



In his opinion, the anti-Gaza war student movement's romantic embrace of Palestinian nationalism makes it especially easy to demonise them as pro-Hamas, anti-Semitic and promoters of intifada violence against Israel. b) The student protests have

been immensely unpopular with cagey university administrators, trustees, some wealthy donors and politicians. Many of them have used their wealth and power not just to advocate but also to enforce suppression of the movement. Cohen has cited an example saying that pressure from billionaire donors and the Congress cost the presidents of Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania their jobs last year. While the suppression of radical or youthled movements are not new. current efforts have an unprecedented heavy-handed approach. To substantiate his point, Prof. Cohen states that the Speaker of the House, Mike Johason, in his trip to Columbia University has urged the varsity president to resign for not doing enough to suppress the movement against war in Gaza.

The university authorities have not honoured the rules framed by the American Civil Liberties Union. The rules inter alia state that:

1) No view point, however offensive, must be censored or disciplined:

2) No student or group should be targeted or intimidated in any way in the name of free speech

3) Universities can place restrictions on time and place of protests so as not to hamper the functioning of university.

4) The police must be called only as a last resort.

5) Campus leaders must not yield to political pressures.

Sadly, these rules were observed more in their violation. The students were concerned about the devastating plight in Gaza and demanded that universities divest from corporations with links to Israel. In such an atmosphere, the students have the guts to speak truth to the power in campuses. One wonders, where are the thought leaders and Nobel laureates that these Ivy League universities are justly proud of? Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University's professor, a Jew himself, has stated in an interview that, "they (the students) have empathy for what was going on in the world. How could anybody not react after seeing the pictures, after seeing the numbers of people dying, being injured?" He has strongly decried

interference in the academic

freedom by the government and police.

TT Ram Mohan in his perspective article in Business Standard dated May 16, 2024 has stated that "the faculty may hold forth on human rights abuses and limits on freedom of speech in China, Russia, Myanmar and other places. They may write on government and regulatory bodies and record stirring notes of dissent. They may write searing critiques of political parties succumbing to powerful lobbies. They may exhort graduating students to stand by the values of university and to speak truth to power... academics like sensible people everywhere, know which side their bread is buttered.'

Politics and money polarise university campuses. None so, in election year campus activism has almost been a rite of passage in American universities. It has moved the dial on civil rights, on American involvement in wars on foreign lands, on racial equality. The protests and disruptions are destined to continue at a +time when it has never seemed to be so politically divided.



business



INCUBATION CENTRE

The Commerce and Industry Ministry's organisation National Council for Cement and Building Materials has established an incubation centre for the manufacturing sector. The centre would support innovative and technologydriven knowledge-based entrepreneurship or startups for contribution toward achieving net zero emission, sustainability and circular economy in the cement, construction, building materials and other allied sectors.



Peak power demand hovering near 235 GW uote

Authorities are increasingly considering the broader impact of new age business practices on consumer choice

innovation, and overall market health beyond just price effects. This consumer-centric approach ensures that the benefits of competition extend directly to the public RAVNEET KAUR CCI CHAIRPERSON

At least, no one will lecture India about 'WTO norms' anymore. More

seriously, this is the inevitable outcome of decades of extreme monetary madness, which gave rise to exploding trade deficits and debt SRIDHAR VEMBU ZOHO FOUNDER AND CEC

We are looking at steep growth this year and next year, based on the portfolio and the geographical expansion

SWADESH SRIVASTAVA HERO MOTOCORE CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER

Q4 RESULTS CORNER

SAIL profit dips 2 pc

New Delhi: Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) Monday reported a marginal 2 per cent fall in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,126.68 crore during the March guarter, because of higher raw material prices. It had posted a Rs 1,159.21-crore net profit in the year-ago period, the company said in an exchange filing. The company's revenue from operations also fell to Rs 27.958.52 crore from Rs 29,130.66 crore in the March quarter of FY23. The fall in profit and revenues were coupled with high cost of raw materials in the fourth guarter of FY24 at Rs 15,130 crore, higher from Rs 14.828.04 crore a year ago. Its total expenses were lower at Rs 26,473.86 crore as against Rs 28.088.17 crore in the same period a year ago.

Oil India net

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: India's peak power demand is hovering near the projected 235 GW level in May, following excessive use of cooling appliances like air conditioners and desert coolers amid severe heat waves in the country.

According to the power ministry data, the peak power demand met or the highest supply in the day has already reached 233 GW May 6 compared to 221.42 GW recorded a year ago.

Earlier in the month, the power ministry estimated that the power demand would peak at 235 GW during the daytime, and 225 GW during evening hours in May; and 240 GW during daytime and 235 GW during evening hours in June 2024.

Last week, the peak power supply touched 229.57 GW May 18, while it was around 226 GW May 15, 16 and 17.

The peak supply was 229.77 GW on May 4, and interestingly the highest supply in a day

New Delhi, May 20: Ride hail-

ing app Uber has received an

aggregator licence by the Delhi

Transport Department to oper-

ate buses in the national capital

under the Delhi premium Bus

Scheme, the company said in a

Delhi becomes the first state

to award a licence for bus oper-

ations and Uber becomes the

first aggregator to be granted a

licence under the Delhi Premium

Bus scheme, the statement said.

statement.



crossed the 221.42 GW, recorded in May last year, May 2 this year. The industry experts opined

that power demand would increase further due to the increase in the intensity of heat in May, as the Southwest Monsoon, which brings relief from the scorching heat in summer, is likely to hit the Kerala coast June 1 every year.

Moreover, the Southwest Monsoon covers almost the entire country and reaches Delhi by the end of June, experts said, adding that therefore, power demand would remain steady and high next month also.

Earlier in March this year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had projected that India is likely to experience a warmer summer and more heatwave days this year. with El Nino conditions predicted to continue at least until May.

From March to May, the abovenormal number of heatwave days is likely over most parts of the country, except northeast India, the western Himalayan region, the southwest peninsula and the west coast, it stated.

According to the IMD report Monday, the maximum temperatures were in the range of 43 to 47 degrees Celsius in most places in Harvana. Chandigarh. Delhi. Rajasthan and in many parts of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Madhya Pradesh; in some parts of East Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

The temperature varied in the range of 40 to 42 degrees Celsius in many parts of Vidharbha, in isolated pockets of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Maharashtra and plans of Uttrakhand and Himachal Pradesh

The IMD, in its bulletin, said that heat wave to severe heat wave conditions is very likely in many/most pockets of Punjab, Harvana, Chandigarh. Delhi, West Rajasthan; in some parts of West Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan and Northwest Madhya Pradesh during May 20 to 24.

Real estate: Sentiment Index Score at a high



A SCORE OF 50 INDICATES NEUTRALITY. SCORES ABOVE 50 SIGNAL POSITIVE SENTIMENT. AND SCORES BELOW 50 DENOTE NEGATIVE SENTIMENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, May 20: Real estate sector in India is in a booming stage. As per The Knight Frank-NAREDCO Real Estate Sentiment Index Q1 2024 (January-March) report, the Current Sentiment Index Score jumped to 72, compared to last quarter's 69, setting a decadal

high. The Future Sentiment score experienced an increase, rising from 70 in Q4 2023 to 73 in Q1 2024. A score of 50 indicates neutrality, scores above 50 signal positive sentiment, and scores below 50 denote negative senti-

ment. As per this quarterly survey, 73 per cent of the respondents are anticipating an increase in residential sales in the next six months, compared to 65 per cent in the previous quarter. The positive homebuyer sentiment and stability in home loan interest rates have led stakeholders to expect that growth in demand will prevail in the residential sector in the next six months. 80 per cent of survey participants in Q1 2024 believed that residential launches would improve in the next six months. 82 per cent of the survey respondents in Q1 2024 expect residential prices to increase in the next six months.

However, during Q4 2023, 65 per cent of survey respondents held a similar view.

Office leasing is expected to improve in the next six months by 74 per cent of survey respondents in Q1 2024. 69 per cent of survey respondents had a similar opinion in the previous quarter. 58 per cent of survey respondents expect office supply to improve in the next six months. In the previous quarter, 62 per cent of respondents held a similar opinion. With strong momentum in office leasing, the outlook towards new supply has also strengthened in the near term.

In Q1 2024, 65 per cent of the survey respondents expect office rents to increase. The survey respondents in Q4 2023 shared a similar view, with 53 per cent holding it.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, "The significant rise of the Current Sentiment Index Score within the optimistic territory is driven by India's robust economic landscape. Confidence among stakeholders has surged, with Indian enterprises, including those in the real estate sector, anticipating gains from a flourishing do-

mestic economy. Hari Babu, President-NAREDCO, said, "The Knight Frank NAREDCO Real Estate Sentiment Index for Q1 2024 paints a buoyant outlook for the Indian real estate sector. With the Current Sentiment Index rising from 69 to 72 and the Future Sentiment Score climbing from 70 to 73, stakeholders demonstrate unwavering optimism. driven by the government's commitment to aggressive economic growth

ernment wants to issue them

through a consultative process,

the official said, "We will make

the draft guidelines and will cir-

culate those amongst the possi-

Uber gets licence EPFO adds 14.41 lakh to operate buses net members in March in national capital PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: Retirement fund body EPFO has recorded a net addition of 14.41 lakh members in March this year, according to the latest payroll data released Monday.

The payroll data highlighted that approximately 11.80 lakh members exited and subsequently rejoined the EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation), a labour ministry statement said.

According to the statement, these members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under the ambit of EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, safeguarding longterm financial well-being and extending their social security protection.

The EPFO's provisional payroll data released Monday also showed that the body has added 14.41 lakh net members in March

2024, the ministry stated. The data indicates that around

7.47 lakh new members have been enrolled during March 2024. A noticeable aspect of the data

is the dominance of the 18-25 age group, constituting a significant 56.83 per cent of the total new members added in March 2024, indicating that the majority of individuals joining the organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers.

Gender-wise analysis of payroll data showed that out of 7.47 lakh new members, around 2 lakh are new female members.

Also, the net female member addition during the month stood at around 2.90 lakh. The female member addition is indicative of a broader shift towards a more inclusive and diverse workforce.

Month-on-month comparison of industry-wise data displays growth in the members working in establishments engaged in industries like manufacturing, marketing servicing, usage o

computers, Restaurants, Chartered or regd, accountants, fish processing and non-veg food preservation, beedi making etc. Of the total net membership, around 43 per cent addition is from expert services (consisting of manpower suppliers, normal contractors, security services, miscellaneous activities etc).

The payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise, as updating employee records is a continuous process. The previous data hence gets updated every month.

Since April 2018, the EPFO has been releasing payroll data covering the period from September 2017 onwards.

In monthly payroll data, the count of members joining EPFO for the first time through a validated Universal Account Number (UAN), existing members exiting from coverage of EPFO and those who exited but re-joining as members, is taken to arrive at net monthly payroll

profit up 18%

New Delhi: State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) Monday reported an 18 per cent rise in net profit in the March quarter on the back of higher prices of crude oil. The consolidated net profit of Rs 2,332.94 crore in January-March -- the fourth quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal year -compared with Rs 1,979.74 crore earning in the same period of the previous financial year, according to a stock exchange filing by the nation's second biggest state-owned oil and gas producer. Higher oil prices led to a 16 per cent rise in turnover to Rs 10,375.09 crore. Earnings from crude oil produced and sold rose 18 per cent but the same from gas dropped 16.5 per cent on lower prices. For the full 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024), net profit fell 29 per cent to Rs 6,980.45 crore.

significant demand for buses, we are thrilled to officially introduce the convenience of Uber rides to buses in Delhi," Uber Shuttle India head Amit Deshpande said.

"Following a successful pilot

iere we witne

Customers will be able to prebook seats on their preferred route by choosing the 'Uber Shuttle' option on the Uber app. The formal launch of Uber

Shuttle, a bus service tailored for daily commuting needs, brings to fruition a pilot programme that was initially tested in Delhi-NCR and has been operational in Kolkata since last year under an MoU with the West Bengal government, as per the statement.

Commuters will be able to prebook seats up to a week in advance, track the live location and route of the bus, and view its expected time of arrival (ETA) -- all through the Uber app, it said.

Each shuttle vehicle will be able to accommodate 19-50 passengers and will be operated by local fleet partners using Uber's technology

Central Bank of India opens state's first all-women branch

Bhubaneswar: Sanju V Mangrulkar, General Manager, Central Office, Mumbai, who visited Bhubaneswar May 20, inaugurated the state's first all-women branch at Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar. He addressed a gathering and emphasised that women are leading in all fields and as such importance of an allwomen branch will cater to the need of women entrepreneurs which will

help in boosting the bank's



business. In the later part of the day, a customer meet and review meeting of all branch heads of Bhubaneswar Region was organised. Mangrulkar interacted with the customers and assured them to provide best services. Further he advised all Branch Heads to reach every needy customer. The programme was held in presence of BR Ramakrishna Naik, Zonal Head Raipur, Shrish kumar Sharma, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region and Suresh Chandra, Dy Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region and Dipika Shradhanjali, Branch Head, Nayapalli Branch along with other senior Bank officials.

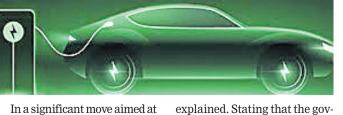
Govt to hold talks for new EV policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: The Ministry of Heavy Industries will hold a second round of meeting with stakeholders in a 'month or two' to issue draft guidelines for the new electric vehicle (EV) policy that has been framed to attract global automakers like Tesla to set up manufacturing operations in India, a senior official said Monday.

Automakers wishing to avail of incentives under the policy will have to invest afresh as per the new norms, and old investments will not be considered, the official said.

This has been told to Vietnam's electric carmaker Vinfast, which in February this year had said it would invest USD 500 million (Rs 4,000 crore) in Tamil Nadu over a period of five years, according to the official.



In a significant move aimed at revolutionising the EV landscape in India, the government approved the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SP-MEPCI) March 15, 2024.

attended.

ble applicants and again call a The first stakeholders' meetconsultative meeting. Asked whether Tesla will be ing was held in April in which an advisor representing Tesla invited for the second consulta-The Asia Group (TAG) - had also tive meeting, he said, "We will invite everyone, whoever wants

"We have got a lot of repreto come is welcome.' sentations. We have studied them He said eligible firms under the SPMEPCI can import at a reso maybe in a month or two we may have the second consultative duced duty, provided they invest USD 500 million in greenfield meeting. The task before us is to issue guidelines," the official investment.

IRFC net profit grows 34%

New Delhi: Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) Ltd Monday reported a 34 per cent rise in its profit to Rs 1,717.3 crore for the March 2024 guarter on account of higher income. It had clocked a profit of Rs 1,285.2 crore during the fourth quarter of the last fiscal, the stateowned company said in a regulatory filing. The company's total income rose to Rs 6,477.9 crore in the January-March guarter from Rs 6,230.2 crore in FY23. During the period under review, its expenses stood at Rs 4,760.6 crore as against Rs 4,945 crore a year ago. Besides, the board of the company also approved a final dividend of 70 paise per share for the FY 2023-24.

GenAI both enabler and destructor: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: GenAI presents dual prospects of possibilities and peril, and a large majority of cybersecurity leaders from around the world are wary of its negative impact, a global survey has found.

A staggering 93 per cent respondents of the survey conducted by CyberArk said they anticipate negative impact from AI, with AI-powered malware and phishing topping the list. CyberArk's 2024 Identity Security Threat Landscape Report -- which surveyed 2,400

countries -- found that "cyber debt continues to build with GenAI the rise of machine identities, and increasing third and fourth-party risks"

The report said about 99 per cent of organisations take help of AI in cybersecurity defence initiatives.

However, it also predicted "an increase in the volume and sophistication of identity-related attacks, as skilled and unskilled bad actors also increase their capabilities, including AI-powered malware and phishing."

A total of 93 per cent respondents, it said, anticipate AI-powered tools to create cyber risk for



their organisations in FY25. "In the last 12 months, 9 of 10 organisations were victims of a breach due to a phishing/vishing attack. These types

of attacks will be harder to detect as AI will automate and personalize the attack process,' it said.

Altogether, 93 per cent of Indian organisations had two or more identity-related breaches in 2023, it said.

"Looking at the year ahead, organisations can expect to be affected by data leakage from compromised AI models, AIpowered malware, and phishing," it added.

The report further raised concerns around the burgeoning circulation of deepfakes, especially with elections round the corner.

"Get ready for a pivotal and unsettling Decision 2024 as over 4 billion voters prepare to elect leaders in over 60 countries -- and AI-powered deepfake campaigns become the weapon of choice for anyone wanting to influence election outcomes," it said.

The report also named machine identities as a vulnerable source of risk, "ready to be exploited by bad actors with-AI-powered ability to execute at scale."

cybersecurity leaders across 18





Zverev's stock is rising

German World No.4's Italian Open triumph makes him favourite for French Open success amid questions over Djokovic, Nadal, Sinner and Alcaraz

ASSOCIATED

Rome, May 20: Top-ranked Novak Diokovic hasn't won a tournament all year. Record 14time French Open champion Rafael Nadal has been far from his best. Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have been out injured. And Daniil Medvedev has won only one clay-court title in his career.

Considering the state of his rivals in the top five, Alexander Zverev's credentials entering Roland Garros are looking pretty good following his second Italian Open title. The clay-court Grand Slam in Paris starts this weekend.

Zverev won 44 of his 49 service points in a 6-4, 7-5 victory over 24th-ranked Nicolas Jarry in Rome Sunday to earn his biggest trophy since a gruesome ankle injury two years ago.

It's been a long road of recovery for the fifth-ranked Zverev after tearing three ligaments in his right ankle during the 2022 French Open semifinals against Nadal. In all, Zverev has reached three consecutive semifinals at Roland Garros — which has led him to declare it's the tournament he wants to win more than any other.

The loss in the 2020 US Open final to Dominic Thiem remains the closest that the 27-year-old Zverev has come to winning a Grand Slam title. Having been in the top five of the rankings for years, claimed Olympic gold in Tokyo three years ago and won the ATP Finals twice, a Grand Slam title is the only big thing missing in his career.

And if Zverev is going to contend in Paris, he's going to have to do it while dealing with a major distraction. Zverev has disputed a penalty order from a

German court over allegations that he caused bodily harm to a woman and he will go on trial in his home country starting May 31 — entering the middle weekend of the French Open. Zverev is accused of physi-



cally abusing and damaging the health of a woman during an argument in Berlin four years ago. He said in Rome that he won't attend the start of the legal proceedings. Zverev shared an emotional

moment over the weekend with his father and coach, who is also named Alexander Zverev. While Zverev kept his composure on the court, dad was teary eyed in the stands during the trophy ceremony.

TENNIS **ROUND-UP**

Nagal bows out

Geneva: India's top-ranked singles player Sumit Nagal made a first round exit from the Geneva Open after going down fighting against Argentina's Sebastian Baez. The World No.94 went down 6-7(7-9). 3-6 to the Argentine, who is a clav court specialist, in a match that lasted one hour, 52-minutes here Sunday.

Rohan's partner in Paris

New Delhi: India's top doubles player Rohan Bopanna will pick either N Sriram Balaji or Yuki Bhambri as his partner for the Paris Olympics and All India Tennis Association (AITA) will most likely approve his choice even as the combinations will be discussed by the selection committee. The gualifier cation criteria gives top 10 players the privilege to pick their partners, who should be inside top 300 on the ATP and WTA ranking charts. According to AITA sources, Bopanna had recommended names of Balaji and Bhambri to the national federation for inclusion in TOPS as his potential partners for Paris Olympics.

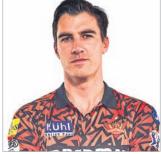
Raducanu pulls out

Paris: Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from French Open qualifying and will instead focus on training for the grass and hard-court seasons. The 21-yearold had been expected to try to fight her way through three rounds of qualifying at Roland Garros, as she famously did on her way to winning the US Open in 2021. But the British tennis player instead surprisingly pulled out of the clay-court tournament. "It's important for me to keep laying on the foundations and I will use the time to do a healthy block before the grass and subsequent hard-court seasons to give myself a chance to keep fit for the rest of the year," she said.



IPL 2024 QUALIFIER 1

Knights take on SRH in



At Ahmedabad, as seen in the World Cup final last year, teams Ahmedabad, May 20: Highbatting second have had more sucflying Kolkata Knight Riders cess, winning four out of six completed games while only twice the team and an unpredictable Sunrisers

> $A \hbox{lso, against the style of play for} \\ A \hbox{both these teams} - \hbox{to bury oppo-} \\ \\ \end{array}$ sitions under mountains of runs - this venue has had only two scores of 200 or above in 12 innings, which means the bowlers will also have their say

which batted first could defend suc-

MATCHDAY IPL Qualifier 1 KKR vs SRH Time: 07:30 pm **Telecast: Star Sports Network** Stream: Jio Cinema

KKR (19 points) will also have to fill in the huge void at the top with their second-highest run-scorer and wicket-keeper Phil Salt (435 runs) leaving the camp for national duties with England.

Salt had forged a devastating partnership with Sunil Narine (461) at the top, backed up well by a potent middle-order, which includes the skipper, Venkatesh Iyer, Nitish Rana and Andre Russell.

In many ways, SRH match KKR's firepower on paper. Travis Head (533 runs) and Abhishek Sharma (467) have both got their runs at a strike-rate exceeding 200. Additionally, Heinrich Klaasen has rediscovered his form, which only makes SRH even more formidable.

Deepthi wins gold in 400m with WR time at Para Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kobe (Japan), May 20: India's Deepthi Jeevanji clinched the gold medal with a world record time of 55.07 seconds in the women's 400m T20 category___ race at the World Para Athletics Championships here Monday

Deepthi smashed American Breanna Clark's earlier world record of 55.12 seconds set dur-

Rohit's accusations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: IPL broadcaster 'Star Sports' Monday denied airing the audio of any personal conversation involving Rohit Sharma after the Indian captain accused the channel of "breaching" his privacy despite his requests to stop the recording. A video shared by KKR, involving Rohit and KKR assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, in which the former was purportedly seen contemplating his future at the Mumbai Indians, had gone viral May 11. KKR subsequently deleted the video from its social media pages. Rohit was seen having a chat with Dhawal Kulkarni ahead of MI's fixture against Lucknow Super Giants, May 16. The opener requested the broadcaster to turn off the audio when he noticed that the cameras were once again directed towards him. He, Sunday, accused the channel of airing a private conversation but Star denied the charge in a statement. "The clip, taken during a training session May 16 at Wankhede stadium, for which Star Sports had authorised access, momentarily showed the senior player in conversation with his friends on the sidelines. No audio from this conversation was either



Broadcaster denies Barca seals lucrative 2nd place in La Liga

SORLOTH SCORES 4 AS VILLARREAL DRAW WITH CHAMPIONS REAL MADRID IN 8-GOAL THRILLER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, May 20: Barcelona routed Ravo Vallecano 3-0 to secure the lucrative second place in the La Liga Sunday, while champion Real Madrid drew 4-4 at Villarreal with Norway striker Alexander Sorloth scoring all four goals for the hosts.

There won't be much left to fight for in the final round next weekend as Cadiz became the





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

1 here Tuesday.

in a high-intensity playoff game will also pose a unique challenge. KKR and SRH will get only a day's time to traverse thousands of kilometres and get here for the first half of the playoffs as they both featured on the final day of

the league round Sunday. SRH would feel they have hit their strides following a comprehensive win over PBKS and having also got recent gametime, which isn't the case for KKR whose last complete game

was May 11. Shreyas Iyer's KKR had won four games on the trot before rains washed away their last two league games. Table-toppers

Hyderabad, teams that have built cessfully their IPL 2024 campaign on power-hitting, will look to outmuscle each other in Qualifier If KKR were the first team to make IPL playoffs this year, SRH gave themselves a huge boost by inflicting a four-wicket loss on Punjab Kings Sunday to even-

recorded or broadcast. 'The clip, which only showed the senior player requesting for the audio of his conversation

to not be recorded, got featured in Star Sports' live coverage of pre-match preparations and

lacked editorial relevance beyond this," the channel stated. Rohit had called for restrain while recording on-field moments. "The need to get exclusive content and focused only on views and engagement will one day break the trust between the fans, cricketers and cricket. Let better sense prevail," Rohit said on Sunday.

The channel said it was committed to protecting players' privacy. "Respect for players' privacy while bringing fans, moments of intense action and preparations, sits at the core of this ethos, which the broadcaster remains committed to," it stated.

last team to be relegated after being held to a 0-0 draw at home against Las Palmas. Real Sociedad secured the last Europa League spot with a 2-0 win at Real Betis, which was left with a place in the Europa Conference League.

Pedri scored twice and Robert Lewandowski once for Barcelona, who kept a four-point gap to Catalan rivals Girona with a round to go. Girona won 3-1 at Valencia for their first-ever thirdplace finish in the league. They had already clinched a Champions League place in advance. Atletico Madrid will finish fourth after a 1-4 loss to midtable Osasuna at their Wanda Metropolitano stadium. Barcelona second

Lewandowski scored in the third minute and Pedri added goals in the 72nd and 75th as Barcelona won for the fourth time in five matches to seal second place and a spot in the lu-

Pedri reacts after scoring against Rayo Vallecano; Villarreal's Alexander Sorloth (inset) shows his four fingers indicating his four goals against Real Madrid, Sunday

crative Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia. Madrid and Copa del Rey finalists Mallorca and Athletic Bilbao also will play in the Super Cup next season. Sorloth thrives

Sorloth scored once in the first half and three times in the second to give eighth-place Villarreal a draw against Madrid, which scored all of their goals before halftime. Arda Guler scored twice and Joselu and Lucas

Vazquez added a goal each for Madrid, who played with a mostly reserve squad as it continues to prepare for the Champions League final against Borussia Dortmund, June 1 in London. Madrid had clinched their 36th league title three rounds ago. **Cadiz demoted**

Cadiz needed a win against Las Palmas to avoid returning to the second division for the first time since the 2019-20 season.

Cadiz, coming off two consecutive victories, had a goal disallowed by video review for offside in the first half, and saw defender Victor Chust sent off with a straight red card in the 74th. Cadiz had spent 14 straight sea-

sons in the lower divisions - including seven years in the third tier - before making it to the top flight in 2020-21. Almeria and Granada had already been relegated before Sunday's games.

6 NORTH-EASTERN STATES GET

INDOOR CRICKET ACADEMIES

ing last year's edition of the championships in Paris.

Aysel Onder of Turkey was second with 55.19 seconds while Lizanshela Angulo of Ecuador was third with 56.68 seconds on the fourth day of competitions.

Deepthi had qualified for the final after winning her heat race in an Asian record time of 56.18 seconds Sunday.

The T20 category is meant for athletes who have intellectual impairment.

Yogesh Kathuniya then added a silver in men's F56 category discus throw with an effort of 41.80 metres. The F56 category is meant for athletes who compete in field events from a seated position.

Different athletes, including those with amputations and spinal cord injuries compete in this class.

India's tally has now swelled to four medals - 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze.

Double delight for mixed 4x400m relay team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, May 20: India's mixed 4x400 relay team set a national record while winning the gold medal at the inaugural edition of Asian Relay Championships here on Monday but missed the target of entering the Paris Olympics qualification bracket.

The quartet of Muhammed Ajmal, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes 14.12 seconds to win the race. The earlier national record of 3:14.34 was clocked by the Indian team while winning silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year. India was leading in all the four legs of the relay race. Sri Lanka finished second with a time of 3:17.00 while Vietnam



spot.

was third with 3:18.45. Monday's timing will put India in the 21st place – from earlier 23rd - in the Road to Paris list of World Athletics while the aim compete in the mixed 4x400m relay event in Paris.

Fourteen mixed 4x400m teams have already automatically qualified for Paris Olympics during the World Athletics Relays in Nassau, Bahamas earlier this month, and only two spots were left to be filled on the basis of best timings of countries till the qualification deadline of June 30.

Czech Republic (3:11.98) and Italy (3:13.56) are currently in the 15th and 16th spot in the Road to Paris list, below the top 14 teams that have booked Paris ticket during the World Athletics Relays in Bahamas, where India had failed to make the grade. India's target here on Monday was to at least better 3:13.56 and sit at the 16th spot, but the country failed to do so.

Aravindh in front at Sharjah Masters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, May 20: Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram made sure he stayed in front with a draw against Sam Shankland of the USA in the sixth round of the Sharjah Masters Chess tournament here Monday.

With five points in his kitty from six games, Chithambaram is just two points shy of joining the 2700-rated players' club considered elite in the chess world. With three rounds remaining,

the top-seeded Erigaisi Arjun sealed a thumping victory over Daniil Yuffa of Russia. As many as six players, including Arjun, share the second spot on 4.5 points apiece.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: The Indian cricket board (BCCI) Monday laid the foundation stone for indoor cricket training academies in six North-Eastern states, with the sole emphasis on helping budding cricketers from the region. The indoor cricket academies

will serve players from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim and will be based in Shillong, Itanagar, Kohima, Aizawl, Imphal and Gangtok.

"Honoured to have laid the foundation stone for BCCI's upcoming state-of-the-art indoor training facilities in the North-East," Shah wrote on 'X', formerly Twitter.

Earlier, cricketers from these states were required to travel to centres in Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai or Ahmedabad for training during the monsoon season

The BCCI had also created North-East Cricket Development Committee. "Our cricketers from six states – Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim - will soon benefit from world-class indoor nets, indoor swimming pools and fitness centres for year-round training options," Shah wrote.

'This, along with the launch of the new pavillion in Mizoram, are big steps towards our vision to enhance cricket infrastructure in the region, exciting times ahead." he added.

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was to be either in the 15th or 16th

India, thus, is in a difficult

position to make the Olympics

cut as only sixteen teams will









