**BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY MAY 30, 2024** 



### Shining star

Actress Deepika Padukone tops the IMDb list of Top 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars of the Last Decade

LEISURE | P2



### **Executions on the rise**

The number of executions recorded worldwide last year jumps to the highest level since 2015

INTERNATIONAL | P10



### Positive outlook

After a gap of about 10 years, S&P Global Ratings ups India's outlook to positive from stable on robust growth prospects for next three years

BUSINESS | P11



### **Bright start**

Shuttler PV Sindhu starts well at the Singapore Open with an easy straight games win over Line Hojmark of Denmark

SPORTS | P12

### VOLUME 14, ISSUE 59 | www.orissapost.com

### SHORT TAKES **MONSOON LIKELY TO HIT KERALA TODAY**

New Delhi: Spurred on by cyclone 'Remal'. southwest monsoon is expected to hit the Kerala coast and parts of northeast by Thursday, a day ahead of the date forecast by the weather office. "Conditions continue to become favourable for the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala during the next 24 hours," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday.

### TV CHANNEL IN SOUP FOR EXIT POLL SHOW

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) has directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Odisha to take immediate action against a private TV channel for telecasting exit poll results in the state, sources said Wednesday. They pointed out that exit polls are banned under Section 126A of Representation of the People Act, 1951 before the conclusion of elections in all phases. The seventh and last phase of the Lok Sabha polls will be held Saturday. The EC had notified the prohibited period from 7am of April 19 to 6:30pm of June 1 through an order issued March 28.



an interview, citing my IQ... said it wasn't low enough

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WEATHER

Max Temp

**Min Temp** 

**Humidity** 

Rainfall

**FORECAST** 

TEMPERATURE TO

**RISE BY 2-3 DEGREE** 

**1** ₹0.14

₹0.21

38.0°C

**MARKET WATCH** 

WHEEL OF FAITH: Blacksmith servitors fixing the hub of a chariot wheel on the occasion of 'Shrikhetre Bhaunri' in Puri, Wednesday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 73, during his last leg of visit to Odisha before the final phase of the elections raked up the 'health issues' of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and wondered whether there is a conspiracy behind the sudden deterioration of Naveen's health during the last one year. Modi also vowed to form a committee to inquire into the 77-year-old Chief Minister's medical history. However, Naveen retorted to the PM's jibe saying that he is in perfect health, and has been campaigning in the state for the last one month. The BJD supremo also said a number of BJP people from Odisha and Delhi are spreading lies about his health

# worsening health: Modi campaigning: Naveen

Baripada/Balasore, May 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday promised that if the BJP forms the government in Odisha, it would constitute a committee to ascertain the reason behind the "sudden" deterioration of the health condition of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, hinting at a "conspiracy" behind it.

Modi asserted that after a gap of five decades, a full maiority government would be formed at the Centre for the third consecutive term.

Addressing election rallies in Mayurbhanj and Balasore Lok Sabha seats in Odisha, he said, "The well-wishers of Naveen babu are worried over his deteriorating health condition. It has been worsening over the last one year. Is there a conspiracy behind this? Is the lobby that is currently running the Patnaik government on his behalf responsible for it?"

"If the BJP forms the government in Odisha after the



ongoing Assembly elections, it would constitute a committee to ascertain the reason behind the deterioration of Patnaik's

health," Modi said. Attacking the BJD government, he said, "Wherever you step in Odisha, there is natural wealth but the state remains poor because it was first looted by the Congress and then by

the BJD for the last 25 years." 'People of Odisha know that voting for BJD would mean wasting their vote. They don't trust it anymore... you gave 25 years to the party, and it deceived you, looted you and kept you underdeveloped," the Prime Minister added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# Plot behind Naveen's I am in perfect health,

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday retorted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe saying that he is in perfect health, and has been campaigning in the state for the last one month.

"He (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) has stated publicly earlier that I am his good friend. All he had to do was pick up a telephone and ask me about my health. But a number of BJP people from Odisha and Delhi are spreading rumours about my health. Let me assure the PM that I am in perfect health and I have been campaigning in our state for the last one month,'

Patnaik said. The CM said, "Instead of concerning about the rumours about my health, you (Modi) should concentrate revision of coal royalty for our state and also our demand for special category state, which we have been making for years. This will benefit the people of Odisha.'

Patnaik also posted on X that



"4.5 crore people of Odisha are my family. My dear mothers, the youth must give a proper response to this disrespect by vot ing on June 1st."

Patnaik's statement came hours after Modi in three back-to-back election rallies stated that the Odisha Chief Minister is not in a state to do his routine duties.

Meanwhile, replying to Modi's allegation that BJD failed to develop mineral-rich Odisha despite being in power for the last 25 years, senior BJD leader Kartik Pandian Wednesday said Odisha is rich in minerals but the Centre has been "grabbing" the major benefits from the minerals of the state.

**ANTICIPATING INDIA BLOC VICTORY** 

Women rush to open post office a/c in Bangalore

# Delhi bakes at record 52.9 degrees Celsius

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Delhi's Mungeshpur Wednesday logged a maximum of 52.9 degrees Celsius, the highest ever temperature recorded in the city, even as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it is examining sensors and data of the area's weather station for any potential error.

The national capital and large swathes of north India have been reeling under heatwave conditions for the past few days, with at least three weather stations here – Mungeshpur, Narela and Najafgarh - recording nearly 50 degrees Celsius even Tuesday.

Delhi's primary weather station Safdarjung observatory Wednesday recorded a maximum temperature of 46.8 degrees Celsius, the highest in 79 years, according to IMD data. It was 46.7 degrees Celsius June

On the temperature at Mungeshpur, the IMD, however, said it is examining sensors and data of the weather station for the area.

"The maximum temperature over Delhi-NCR varied from 45.2 degrees Celsius to 49.1 degrees Celsius in different parts of city. Mungeshpur reported 52.9 degrees Celsius as an outlier compared to other stations. It could be due to error in the sensor or the local factor. IMD is examining the data and sensors," the de-

### **SRC** issues caution

Bhubaneswar: Even as severe heatwave conditions continued to grip Odisha Wednesday, with temperatures soaring to 46.3 degrees Celsius in Bolangir, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu instructed all district Collectors to implement precautionary measures such as reviewing basic facilities at healthcare centres and ensuring sufficient staffing, especially at the grassroots level. The Health department was advised to assess the availability of doctors and health workers to address heatrelated issues, particularly in coastal areas experiencing high humidity.

partment said. In a post on X, Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju said, "It is not official yet. Temperature of 52.3 degrees

Celsius in Delhi is very unlikely. Our senior officials in IMD have been asked to verify the news report. The official position will be stated soon.

Other areas of the city also sizzled with maximum temperatures recorded at 49.1 degrees Celsius in Najafgarh, 49 degrees Celsius at Pusa and 48.4 degrees Celsius at Narela, according to the data. The temperatures soared in the national capital as hot winds blew into the city from Rajasthan, said officials.

In the evening, there was a sudden change in weather, with drizzle in some parts of the city.

## 30 injured as crackers go off during Chandan Yatra

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, May 29: More than 30 persons were injured, many of them critically, in a firecracker explosion during Chandan Yatra of Lord Jagannath and His siblings at Narendra Pond here Wednesday night.

Sources said hundreds of people had congregated near the pond to witness the water sports of the deities when the mishap took place.

"Huge quantities of firecrackers were kept near the pond. Some youths were bursting those one after the other. Suddenly, an explosion took place. Many people, including a few children, suffered severe burns in the explosion," they

While 10 of the injured are being treated at the district head-



facilities like SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack they pointed out. Meanwhile, Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik directed Chief Secretary PK Jena and the district administration to ensure proper treatment of the injured.

"All expenses for the treatment of the injured will be met from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. I pray Lord Jagannath for the speedy recovery of the injured," Patnaik said.

## MP man kills 8 of his family, hangs himself

Chhindwara (MP), May 29: In a ghastly incident, a 'mentally disturbed' man allegedly hacked to death eight members of his joint family with an axe in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district Wednesday before committing suicide by hanging himself, police said.

The incident took place at around 2:30am in Bodal Kachhar village and the reason behind it was not yet clear, they said.

The man, identified as Dinesh Sariyam, 26, who was "mentally disturbed", got married May 21, Superintendent of Police (SP) Manish Khatri told reporters.

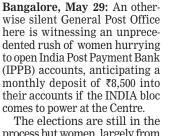
He allegedly hacked to death his wife, mother, sister, brother, the latter's wife and three minor

children. The man later also attacked another nephew but he managed to escape from the spot, the official said

A woman raised an alarm early in the morning following which police rushed to the spot and tried to search for the man, but he was later found hanging from a tree. Khatri said

The bodies were sent for autopsy and the injured person was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chhindwara.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the incident and directed minister Sampatiya Uikey to rush to Chhindwara and visit the other family members of the deceased. Prima facie, a probe suggested the man was mentally unstable, according to officials.



process but women, largely from the minority communities sporting burqas, stood in long queues to open the account. Some of them believed that opening the IPPB account would ensure that they get ₹8,500 per month. A woman said she stood in queue early in the morning itself.

Another said everyone in her

neighbourhood was saying that

money would start coming from

the day the account is opened, so

she too came to open an account. Most of the women PTI spoke to were from Shivajinagar,

Chamarajpet and surrounding places in the city.

Talking to reporters, Chief Post Master of GPO, Bangalore HM Manjesh said people have been coming to the office to open IPPB accounts in the belief that



the Department of Posts would credit ₹2,000 or ₹8,500 into their accounts. "Somebody has spread this

rumour. The department will not pay any amount to them. However, this account can be used for any type of online transaction or even Direct Benefit (Transfer) scheme," Manjesh

clarified. He said that the department has already informed the customers about this. "We have displayed some posters also. In spite of that, customers are requesting that we open IPPB accounts for them.

There was such a rush that more counters were opened outside the GPO building, under the open sky, he added.

"Earlier we used to open 50 to 60 accounts in a counter. Now we have made separate arrangements. We have brought our postmen for this purpose and we are opening around 500 to 600 accounts regularly and sometimes even 1,000 accounts a day," Manjesh said.

According to sources in the department, this rush has been witnessed for the past three days. It is learnt that some Congress MLAs spread the rumours, believing which the women made a beeline for the GPO. The MLAs said that the women

will start getting money after June 4 "when the INDIA bloc will come to power"

The Congress has made a promise to launch the Mahalakshmi scheme under which ₹8,500 will be directly credited into the account of women heads of families belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category every month. It is similar to the Gruha Lakshmi guarantee scheme started by the Karnataka government in which ₹2.000 is paid to women heads of BPL families.

Notably, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi had May 16 announced that women across the country will get ₹8,500 in their accounts from July, if the-INDIA Alliance forms the government at the Centre.



# leisure



### **SCHEANA SHAY WANTS** VALIDATION FROM FRIENDS

Reality star Scheana Shay has confessed to seeking validation from her friends. The Vanderpump Rules star has denied being jealous of Ariana Madix's recent run of success but she has confessed to wanting validation from her friends and romantic partners.

### I'M EMBRACING THE **AGEING: SHANIA TWAIN**

**DEEPIKA** 

tops IMDb's 100 Most Viewed

Mumbai: Actress Deepika Padukone, who will be soon seen

in Singham Again and Kalki 2898 AD has topped the IMDb

She further mentioned: "This recognition is

truly humbling and inspires me to continue

connecting with and reciprocating the love I

The second spot is occupied by actor

Shah Rukh Khan, third by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. Alia Bhatt is on the fourth spot

followed by the late actor Irrfan Khan.

receive from audiences, both on and off the

screen with authenticity and purpose.'

Aamir Khan and Salman

Khan, too find a place in

the top 10. While Aamir is

at number six, Salman

number seven.

holds the eighth spot, sep-

arated by the late actor

Sushant Singh Rajput at

The list also includes

Hrithik Roshan, Akshay Kumar,

Triptii Dimri and others.

April 2024. IANS

Katrina Kaif, Amitabh Bachchan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Kareena

Kapoor, Nayanthara, Ajay Devgn,

The Top 100 Most Viewed Indian

Stars of the Last Decade on IMDb list is based on the IMDb weekly rankings from January 2014 through

list of Top 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars of the Last Decade.

Reacting to the news, the Om Shanti Om actress said, "I'm

deeply grateful to be included in a list that captures the senti-

ment of a global audience. IMDb stands as a beacon of credibility,

reflecting the true pulse of people's passion, interests and pref-

Country music star Shania Twain has revealed she doesn't worry about ageing and is fine with getting older. She told Extra: "I'm embracing the ageing. I'm fine with it. I don't have a choice. I can't change it. So I decided whatever I can't change, I need to have fun with."





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You will experience a profound connection with the cosmos today. And you will be very grateful to the almighty for showering his grace on you. Your love for your kith and kin deepens today, says Ganesha, and you will spend extravagantly on them

### **TAURUS**

Much to the disappointr and annoyance of your friends and associates, you are likely to act unduly possessive and self centred about persons and objects, warns Ganesha. Be sure, your overprotective attitude is not likely to amuse anyone

### **GEMINI**

You will be more inclined towards religious teachings and rituals today. You will probably visit a place of worship and spend some time there and this will bring you mental peace and calm. However, you still need to do justice to your duties, says Ganesha.

### **CANCER**

Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task vou take up. But the However, that should not be a reason for you to get dejected or anxious. You will get your due sooner or later. Also, spending some time with your loved ones will be quite gratifying emotionally.

You will need to keep from being agitated today. Let your spouse or business partner take critical decisions if you aren't n the right frame of mind. Decisions you take today may have to be rethought of later. Important meetings will proceed smoothly, but you will not be able to commit to any final conclusions or contracts.

Appreciate the things that people do and try your best to inspire them to achieve greater success, says Ganesha. Put on your thinking cap and contemplate seriously. Simply criticising others will only hurt you. Be as level-headed as you can and keep pegging on towards your targets

Ganesha says you will try to attain prestige in society come to you via the field of communication or by your own thought processes. In your ree time you will be able to learn about various topics of interest to you. Ganesha wishes you all the very best in life.

### **SCORPIO**

Till now you have experienced all the highs. Today you may come across the lows of the professional world. The equation between your boss, colleagues and you may get slightly disturbed. However, you will make it up by evening. Freshers may look for some career opportunities.

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Upholding all that is right and just will be the highpoint today. You will be in the right spirits to fight injustice and discrimination. The day promises to be as splendid as your will. Ganesha advises you to stand up and conquer all today.

### CAPRICORN

Lack of confidence may leav you glum in the first half of the day, and to add to it, you will be loaded with work that you may have taken up from company other than the one employing you full time, says Ganesha. The sullen mood will turn jovial by evening, and you can expect to have a good time socialising with friends and relatives.

### AQUARIUS

Your plate will be full with plenty of work, and you will have no clue about how to handle all the chaos. Patience and organisational skills, your best qualities will help you sail through these difficult times, assures Ganesha, You will successfully wind up the day at work and geared up to party later in the evening.

### PISCES

Financial bearings will be at the fore front of your atten-Bank accounts, stocks, loans and other such things will dominate your thoughts and words. Earning money will be your primary goal and you will focus on those methods that will be most profitable to you, today. Give work your best shot and punch in your 100% as Ganesha feels that you will reap the benefits of the effort you put in today.



She said, "For that we also need filmmakers who believe in us. like Sundar sir and everybody else, who put an effort to put such a film on our shoulders. I think art and cinema should be beyond gender. It's high time we were treated like that. Films like

Article 370, Crew and Raashii: our film have only proven that women are as far ahead as Art should Even this conversation go beyond gender shouldn't exist in time. Everybody

and art should be judged by the way it's made and not by who is in it. That should go beyond gender, I

should be

treated equally,

However, she did accept that pay disparity exists and hopes that one day it won't. She added, "We should get better pay cheques in films, honestly, because there's a huge gap, and I

hope that vanishes over time. It's a process and I am very proud of what has happened in Cannes as well. seeing those women is an amazing feeling because anybody who leads, paves the path for all of us.'

On the work front, Raashii will be seen in Aranmanai 4.



Actress Jacqueliene Fernandez made noise with her appearance at the Cannes Film Festival this year. The actress

represented a German-made luxury vehicle brand and was also spotted doing a red carpet outing as she attended the premiere

> of The Substance. For the actress, international events lead to some overwhelming moments amidst chaotic sched-

### 'I always believe in being in moment'

tress said, "I always believe in being in the moment. I don't miss even a second and absorb

ules. So, how does she keep

tips and tricks, the Kick ac-

many pictures as you can so that when you return home you can go back in memory and watch it all over again.

Known for her fashion sense, the actress always chooses comfort over fashion every time she hits the red carpet. She ad said, "I always believe in comfort over fashion. If it is something that actually made me feel comfortable I would go with it and if there is something that made me even a tad bit uncomfortable then I would not.'

it all in. Secondly, just breathe... because I think sometimes we forget to do that and it just stresses us out. So, try and be relaxed. And thirdly, click as

FUN

## Being an entrepreneur is daunting: Sonakshi—

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha, who has also stepped into the world of business with her nail label, said that being an entrepreneur is a bit more calm and sail through the daunting as it doesn't extravaganza? Sharing her come naturally to her.

Talking about what's more daunting being an actress

being a business person. Sonakshi told IANS, "I

think acting comes like second nature to me and it has always been like I

have learnt everything on the go but I never felt uncomfortable doing anything. Right now as an entrepreneur, that is something very new."

"I am again learning the ropes and I am involved as much as I can be. It's something really different for me. I really love it. I feel that is a bit more daunting than acting was for me because it doesn't come naturally.

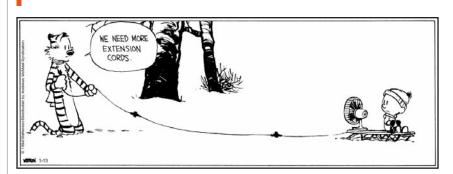
The actress added that business is something I have to learn still and I think I am doing pretty well at

On the work front, Sonakshi was re cently seen in Heeramandi: the Diamond Bazaar.

### **PEANUTS**



### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

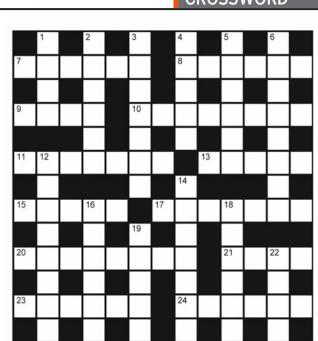


### BREVITY



## OOST

### **CROSSWORD**



## 21 Fill to the gills

23 Pollen producer

24 Indistinct

### Across

- 7 Clunker 8 Gully
- 9 Package
- wrapper
- 10 Dormancy 11 Footrest
- 13 Itinerant 15 Spam medium
- (1-4)
- 17 Give the sack 20 Powerful

<u>Down</u>

- 1 Spanish wine 2 Ravel classic
- 3 Emblematic
- 4 Chocolate source
- 5 Like some mixed drinks

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 6 Sketchy summary
- 12 Urban centre
- in Mali 14 Germ
- 16 Worker's goal
- 18 Place to view exhibits
- 19 Spiral-horned antelope
- 22 Like sour grapes

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.

			4		5			
	5					8		3
				2			4	
	3			5	4			7
		8	65	2	07			
7				3			1	
	4				8	5		
	1		3		7		6	
		7				2		1

### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD ANVILB

	8	2	1	9	7	3	5	4	6
	5	4	3	2	6	1	8	9	-
	1	3	5	8	2	9	6	7	4
)	6	7	9	1	4	5	3	2	8
Š	2	8	4	7	3	6	တ	1	4,
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	3	1	2	4	5	8	7	6	ý

9 6 7 5 8 4 1

# downtown

### **CEO MOVED**

A BJP delegation after submitting memorandum to the CEO in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, alleging violation of mode code of conduct by BJD



# Take measures to tackle heatwave conditions, SRC tells Collectors

Bhubaneswar, May 29: As sweltering heatwave continued to grip Odisha, the state government Wednesday asked all district Collectors to take precautionary measures, such as reviewing basic facilities at healthcare centres and ensuring sufficient staffing, especially at the grassroots level, to tackle heat-related issues.

In a letter to all Collectors, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satvabrata Sahu said the maximum day temperature would be more than 40 degrees Celsius at many places in the interior districts. The maximum temperature is likely to be above normal by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in a few districts in coastal Odisha, he said.

As hot and high humid conditions will prevail over coastal Odisha during this week, the SRC has asked the Collectors to review the basic health facilities at the community health



centres, primary healthcare centres, sub-divisional and district headquarters hospitals to tackle heat-related problems.

Sahu has also advised the Health department to review the engagement of doctors and health workers working at the grassroots level.

According to the regional centre of the IMD here, Bolangir was the hottest place in the state for the day as it saw temperature reaching 46.3 degrees Celsius.

Sonepur recorded a temperature of 46.2 degrees Celsius, while Titlagarh and Jharsuguda logged 46 degrees Celsius.

Additionally, 16 other places recorded temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius or above, with

Sambalpur reaching 45.6 degrees, Boudh (45.3) and Hirakud (45.1). Bhubaneswar and Cuttack registered temperatures of 39.9 degrees and 38 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions would prevail in the districts of Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Boudh, Kandhamal, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Angul, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Bargarh, Nuapada, and Kalahandi Thursday, the weather office said.

People in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, and Dhenkanal would experience hot and humid weather condition Thursday, it said.

As election campaigning for the last phase of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections is set to end Thursday, the IMD advised people to take necessary precautions during rallies, especially in high humid and temperature areas.



BRIEF RELIEF: Attendants of patients at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack take refuge under the tree as day temperature soars, Wednesday

# Application for UG courses starts June 3 43% avg rise in assets of 324

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Common Application Form (CAF) for admission into undergraduate (UG) courses in degree colleges, including self-financing colleges, for 2024-25 academic session under Student Academic Management System (SAMS) will be available online from June 3, the Higher Education (HE) department said, Wednesday.

Releasing the timeline, the HE department said students can apply for the UG courses by filling up the CAF online, through www.samsodisha.gov.in, by 11:45pm of June 17.

"Correction, if any, in the CAF can be done online between 11am of June 18 and 7pm of June 19,

2024," it said.

Publication of provisional allotment of seats for the first round will be done June 25. Selection of college and online payment of admission fees can be done between 7pm of June 25 and 11:45pm of June 28.

"Applicants must report at al-

lotted institutions for taking admission (first round) between

June 26 and 29, it said. Publication of provisional allotment of seats for the second round will be done July 5. "Selection of college and online payment of admission fees can be done between 7pm of July 5

and 11:45pm of July 8," it said. Applicants must report at allotted institutions for taking admission (second round) between 9am July 6 and 5pm of July 9.

Publication of provisional allotment of seats for the third round will be done 4pm of July 15. "The online payment of admission fees by  $\bar{t}he$  selected students can be done between July 15 and 18," the HE department

The Council of Higher Secondary Education (Class XII) declared the Class XII results May 26. The pass percentage was 80.95 for Arts, 86.93 for Science and 82.27 for Commerce, with girls outperforming boys across all streams. The Vocational stream recorded a pass rate of

# MPs re-contesting in LS polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: There has been an average increase of 43 per cent over the last five years in the assets of 324 MPs who have entered the poll fray again in this Lok Sabha election, according to an analysis by a poll rights body.

The average assets of these MPs in 2019 was around ₹21.55 crore while in the current electoral cycle, the average asset value has increased 'significantly' to ₹30.88 crore, marking an increase of ₹9.33 crore over the past five years, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in a report.

It analysed the financial growth among Members of Parliament (MPs) re-contesting in the 2024 general elections. The counting of votes for the seven-phase polls will be taken up June 4.

The percentage growth in assets for these 324 MPs between the 2019 and 2024 polls averages at 43 per cent, the ADR said.

The report said a comparative analysis of party-wise average assets between 2019 and 2024 further elucidates this trend.

It said among the major parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party saw a 39.18 per cent increase in the average assets of its re-contesting 183 MPs (Rs 18.40 crore to ₹25.61 crore). It was 48.76 per cent for 36 Congress MPs (Rs 44.13 crore to ₹65.64 crore).

For re-contesting 10 MPs of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam it was 19.96 per cent (Rs 30.93 crore to ₹37.10 crore), 48.13 per cent for eight Shiv Sena MPs (Rs 19.77 crore to ₹29.28 crore), 20.53 per cent for five Samajwadi



The average assets of 324 re-contesting MPs in 2019 was around ₹21.55 crore while in the current electoral cycle, the average asset value has increased 'significantly' to ₹30.88 crore, marking an increase of ₹9.33 crore over the past five years, according to the ADR

Party MPs (₹20.56 crore to ₹24.78 crore) and 84.13 per cent for eight Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party MPs (₹28.66 crore

The report said the average increase in assets of 16 re-contesting MPs of the Trinamool Congress was 53.84 per cent (₹15.69 crore to ₹24.15 crore), 35.54 per cent for 11 Janata Dal (United) MPs (₹4.55 crore to ₹6.17 crore), 14.34 per cent for one Nationalist Congress Party MP (₹12 crore to ₹14 crore), 52.94 per cent for three Bharat Rashtra Samithi MPs (₹38 crore to ₹59 crore), 21.05 per cent for three NCP (Sharad Chandra Pawar) MPs (₹48 crore to ₹58 crore), 52.94 per cent for three Bharat Rashtra Samithi MPs (₹38 crore to ₹59 crore) and 317 per cent for one Janata Dal (Secular) MP (₹9 crore to ₹40 crore).

The increase for re-contesting MPs of the Bahujan Samaj Party was 25.37 per cent (₹8.46 crore to ₹10.61 crore), 68.4 per cent for the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) (₹7.01 crore to ₹11.80 crore), 184.02 per cent for the Biju Janata Dal (Rs 2.41 crore to ₹6.85 crore), 143.2 percent for the Telugu Desam Party (₹18.90 crore to ₹45.97 crore), 104.9 per cent for the Indian Union Muslim League (₹13.07 crore to ₹26.78 crore) and 3000.51 per cent for the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (₹4,78 lakh to ₹1.48 crore), the report said.

It said the increase was 35.12 per cent for re-contesting MPs of the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (₹10.43 crore to ₹14.09 crore), 97.61 per cent for the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (₹85.40 lakh to ₹1.68 crore)

It was 117.36 per cent for the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, the report said and added that the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) saw a slight decrease of three per cent in assets of re-contesting

### **2 BIKE LIFTERS HELD IN CITY**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: The Capital police here Wednesday arrested two members of a bike lifting gang for theft of five motorcycles near Unit II market in the City.

Capital police inspector incharge (IIC) Sudhansu Bhusan Jena said they have arrested Narayan Badajena and Manoranjan Swain, residents of Malipada area, from Ganganagar area.

The police crackdown, the IIC said, came while investigating the theft of a motorcycle of Laxman Kumar Sahoo from Unit II market parking lot here, May 25.

Jena said the stolen motorcycles were recovered from the accused while they were planning to sell those to prospective buyers. "Efforts are on to arrest the other members of the bike lifting gang," the IIC said.

### ith the arrival of spring, a timeless ritual begins anew - male birds fill the air with song, seeking to attract mates and defend their ter-

IN FULL SWING: Construction work for the redeveloped Bhubaneswar railway station in progress, Wednesday

ritories from other competing

But there is a lot we still don't understand about how birds learn which sounds to sing. Our latest study offers new insights and suggests genes may play a more important role than scientists realised.

In nearly half of the world's bird species, young birds learn by imitating the songs of adults. As birds learn songs from one another, mistakes inevitably happen, leading to variation in songs between populations of the same species, similar to the formation of dialects in human lan-

Female birds usually prefer males that sing songs typical of the local population, as it may show that they are well adapted

to the nearby environment. Additionally, songs are crucial for defending territories. Male birds singing foreign songs often struggle to hold onto territories against local competitors.

This potential role as a mating and social barrier is why there has been a long-standing hypothesis that song differences can drive the formation of a new

However, scientists don't yet fully understand what happens to these song differences when birds move between populations. Imagine you're a local bird, and a newcomer arrives singing a foreign song. What's to stop you from learning this new song? If enough local birds learn the songs of newcomers, it could erase the song differences between populations, and thus the

mating barrier. But birds tend to only learn songs from their own species, even when they are exposed to

the birdsong of other species. This suggests that birds have genetic predispositions guiding them to learn only "appropriate" songs. So far, these genetic predispositions have only been shown to limit song learn-

ing from different species. This raises an interesting possi-

Could these genetic predispositions also restrict song learning within the same species — and could it explain why some song differences are maintained across different populations of the same

species? There are a few lab-based studies that have explored this idea. But it has rarely been tested in the wild, where birds are exposed to songs from different populations and species

That's why we wanted to see

whether these lab results would hold true if we took the test into the field

Into the wild In the spring seasons

How genes shape birdsong, even when birds grow up far from home

of 2017-2019, we translocated eggs of pied flycatchers (a small misongbird breeds Europe) from their

nests in the Netherlands to a population in Sweden. We carefully transported these eggs to their new home, where they were placed in Swedish nests and eventually raised by Swedish parents. Come winter, these translocated birds fledged and made the long journey to their wintering grounds in Africa, along with their Dutch and Swedish counterparts. With the return of spring, they flew back to Sweden, now as adults with fully formed songs, ready to find potential mates.

We recorded the songs of these birds and compared them to the songs of their local Swedish environment where they were raised. We also compared them to songs of their ancestral Dutch population. Overall, songs of translocated males resembled songs of the Swedish popula-

This came as no surprise, since we know that social learning plays a crucial role in song development for pied flycatchers. However, we discovered that translocated males did not just learn any Swedish song element

— they learned those elements most similar to their ancestral Dutch population. This meant their songs did not completely overlap with Swedish ones but resembled both Swedish and Dutch songs. This suggests that the translocated males are genetically predisposed to learn songs of their ancestral Dutch

population. These findings show how genetic differences within a species can effect cultural change. We think that as songs continue to diverge between these two populations, the genetic predispositions should also become more distinct. Eventually, birds from the local population may not recognise immigrants from other populations as part of their own species as regional variations tend to become more pronounced over time. This coevolution between genes and songs may reduce the likelihood of birds from different populations mating with eachother, driving the formation of new species.

# Man held for molesting minor daughter makes suicide bid

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 29: In a shocking incident, a man accused of sexually assaulting his minor daughter reportedly made a suicide Wednesday attempt in the police station following his arrest in Bhubaneswar.

The accused was identified as Badal Das of Chadbali in Bhadrak district. He was residing at Santi Vihar area of Maitri Vihar in the Capital

IIC of Maitri Vihar police station, Mrutyunjay Swain said that Badal was arrested Tuesday night after his 15-year-old daugh ter along with his wife filed a police complaint alleging that he was touching the minor girl inappropriately and molesting her.

Swain said that Badal's daughter alleged that May 25, she was sleeping in her room with her parents and siblings when her father started touching here inappropriately. Initially, she did



not disclose the incident out of fear and shame but later confided in her mother after which the duo reported the matter to Maitri Vihar police.

Following the complaint, a case under POCSO Act was registered and probe initiated which revealed that accused Badal was committing sexual assault on his minor daughter. He was taken into custody after medical examination Tuesday night.

After reaching the police station, the accused reportedly requested the police to allow him

The accused was identified as Badal Das of Chadbali in Bhadrak district. He was residing at Santi Vihar area of Maitri Vihar in the Capital city

to attend the nature's call which he was allowed to do so. But he suddenly locked the toilet door from inside. On hearing a loud scream, police broke open the door and found the accused bleeding after inflicting injury on himself with a sharp object.

He was immediately rushed to Capital Hospital and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

The police have booked Badal under Sections 309, 324 and 326 of IPC and Section 6 of POCSO ACT. He was produced before a local court Wednesday.



TRADITION RITUALS: The representative deity of Lord Sakhigopala, Madana Mohana during 'Bhaunri Khela' at Chandan pond in Sakhigopala, Puri, Wednesday

### Conference on climate issues held at Colombia

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 29: A global coalition of people facing issues related to extractivism met at a six day-long conference, recently held at Finca in Colombia. which is regarded as a sacred place of indigenous communities of the country.

On the occasion, the global coalition declared its principles and objectives to fight against corporate capture and international financial institutions funding for fossil fuel production and extractive industrialisation practices, some of the pivotal reasons for climate change.

Participating in the confer ence, environmental activist and Green Nobel recipient, Prafulla Samantara from Odisha addressed the delegates about the resistance from the tribals in the state and the country against illegal mining and resource ex-

Samantara explained that the tribals are resisting mining of bauxite, coal and iron ores by corporate, mostly tribal hinterlands. "Every national government in the world has to have line of control on exploration of natural resources and there must be restriction on over consumption by the rich so that we all can adopt sustainable development means and fulfil the basic needs," he added.

hildren exposed to air pol-

lution could be at higher

risk of experiencing men-

tal health problems, including de-

pression and psychosis, as youths,

The study examined the long

term effects of children being ex-

posed to air and noise pollution

while in mother's womb, early

The effects on three common

mental health problems were

analysed -- anxiety, depression

and psychosis, a mental state in

which an individual loses touch

with reality and can experience

Researchers, led by those at the

University of Bristol, UK, found

that for every 0.72 micrograms

per cubic metre increase in PM2.5

pollutants in the air during preg-

nancy, the chances of experi-

encing psychosis increased by 11

per cent, while those of experi-

encing depression increased by

For the same exposure dur-

ing childhood, the chances of

psychosis were found to increase

The findings are published in

The Journal of the American

a new research has found.

childhood and teenage.

hallucinations.

10 per cent.

by nine per cent.

## Two new initiatives by Manipal Hospitals



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Commemorating World Emergency Medicine Day, Manipal Hospitals Bhubaneswar, formerly AMRI Hospitals Bhubaneswar, recently unveiled two new initiatives - Manipal Advanced Response System (MARS) and Manipal Emergency Health Card (MEHC) - to ensure quality emergency medical services for the people in Odisha.

MARS, a first-of-its-kind emergency response system in the state, will have a comprehensive fleet of ambulances - road ambulances, air ambulances and bike ambulances. These state-of-the-art road ambulances are equipped with life-saving equipment including ventilators, defibrillators, monitors, built-in ECG machines, syringe pumps, and more, allowing for continuous monitoring and treatment of critical patients during transport

People can access these life-sav-

Network Open.

the study said.

'This is a major concern,

because air pollution is now

such a common exposure, and

rates of mental health prob-

lems are increasing globally,"

a preventable exposure, inter-

"Given that pollution is also

ing services 24/7 by calling the dedicated MARS helpline 0674 6666666 for any emergency situation, including stroke, accident, cardiac arrest, trauma, and more, officials said.

The MEHC will offer people with prompt and personalised medical care during critical situations at a nominal annual fee

Joining the event as chief guest, DCP, Bhubaneswar, Prateek Singh said, "The launch of MARS and the Manipal Emergency Health Card by Manipal Hospitals is a landmark moment for emergency healthcare in Odisha. This initiative will ensure faster response times, improved care during transport, and a more accessible emergency

care system for all residents." Hospital director Saktimaya Mohapatra said, "MARS will ensure our expert care reaches patients faster, while the MEHC provides peace of mind, especially for families with elderly loved ones living in Odisha."

such as low emissions zones.

could potentially improve men-

tal health," said lead author

Joanne Newbury from the

Exposure to pollution could be

rapidly reduced by making tar-

geted interventions available

for vulnerable groups, includ-

University of Bristol.

Early air pollution exposure linked to poor mental health

# 191 BJP, 143 Cong LS candidates face serious criminal cases: ADR

130 of the total BJP candidates in the poll fray have declared serious criminal cases, while for the Congress it is 88 candidates (27 per cent of the total candidates)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Out of the 440 BJP candidates contesting the Lok Sabha polls, 191 have declared criminal cases in their election affidavits, according to an analysis by a poll rights body.

For the Congress, out of its 327 candidates, 143, or 44 per cent, have declared criminal cases, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in a report based on data compiled from the affidavits on the Election Commission's website.

The cases, it said, include those related to murder, attempted murder, crimes against women and hate speech.

The ADR said the data obtained from the poll panel's website reyeals that a significant portion of candidates contesting in the elections have self-declared criminal cases against them.

The analysis presents a break-

down of candidates with declared criminal cases party-wise, it said.

The report stated that among the major parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party has 191 (43 per cent) of candidates who have declared criminal cases, while the Congress has 143 (44 per cent) of such candidates.

The report also delves into the number of candidates facing serious criminal cases

One hundred and thirty of the total BJP candidates in the poll fray have declared serious criminal cases, while for the Congress it is 88 candidates (27 per cent of the total candidates it has fielded), according to the report.

The Samajwadi Party has 71 candidates in the elections and 40 have declared criminal cases, with 30 of them named in serious crimes.

Thirty-three of the 52 candidates of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) have declared criminal cases, with 18 facing serious charges, and in the Trinamool Congress, 20 of 48 candidates have declared criminal cases with 12 facing serious charges.

The state-wise analysis also provides insights into the prevalence of candidates with criminal backgrounds.

For instance, in Maharashtra, 266 of the 1,119 contesting candidates have declared criminal cases, with 183 names serious crimes. Tamil Nadu has 137 out of 945 candidates with criminal cases, with 83 facing serious charges. In Uttar Pradesh, 213 out of

851 candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves with 179 of them being registered against serious of-

In Telangana it is 104 of 524 candidates, 112 of 507 candidates in West Bengal and 115 of 496 candidates in Bihar. For Jharkhand it is 69 of 242 candidates, Odisha it is 52 of 207 candidates and Kerala it is 67 of 189 candidates.

In Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, 69 of 328 candidates and 88 of 450 candidates, respectively, have declared criminal cases. In Delhi, 25 of 162 candidates have declared criminal cases, the report stated

### Naveen leads mega roadshow in Nimapara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik led a mega roadshow in Nimapara Wednesday.

A large number of people gathered on both sides of the road as Patnaik greeted them from a specially-designed bus. On the two-kilometer route, he was greeted by supporters holding cutouts of 'conch', the party's election symbol. The chief minister also delivered a brief speech, in which he assured the gathering of providing free electricity and extending the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) scheme to people of all sections.

"No electricity bill will come from July. All will be covered under BSKY. Mission Shakti members will get pensions," he said, urging the people to bless the BJD in the simultaneous elections to the state Assembly and Lok Sabha.

### **HC** grants bail to activist Sharjeel in sedition case $\ \ \ne$



New Delhi, May 29: More than four years after he was arrested, the Delhi High Court Wednesday granted bail to student activist Sharjeel Imam in connection with a 2020 communal riots case involving allegations of sedi-

tion and unlawful activities. Sharieel had assailed a trial court order refusing to release him even though he had undergone more than half of the maximum sentence that could be awarded to him, if convicted. He claimed he was entitled to bail under the criminal statute.

"Appeal is allowed," a bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain said after hearing the counsel for Sharjeel and the Delhi Police.

He will, however, stay behind bars as he has not been granted relief in the case involving alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 North East Delhi riots which left more than 50 people dead and hundreds of others injured.

According to the prosecution, Sharjeel made speeches at Jamia Millia Islamia December 13, 2019 and at the Aligarh Muslim University December 16, 2019 where he threatened to cut off Assam and the rest of the North East from

■ The study examined the long-term effects of children being exposed to air and noise pollution while in mother's womb, early

 The research analysed effects on three common mental health problems - anxiety. depression and psychosis, a mental state in which an individual loses touch with reality and can experience hallucinations

childhood and teenage

women, recruited in 1991 and 1992, and was subsequently followedup, along with their children.

The

they were 13,

Given that pollution is also a preventable exposure, interventions to reduce searchers exposure, such as low compared the participants' emissions zones, could mental health potentially improve mental health reports when

JOANNE NEWBURY LEAD AUTHOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

pants from the children of the 90s birth cohort, founded in those points in time. Bristol. The cohort includes

"An increase of 0.72 micrograms per cubic centimetre in

18 and 24 years old against outdoor air and noise pollution in Bristol at PM2.5 levels during pregnancy and during childhood was associated with elevated odds for psychotic experiences. Pregnancy PM2.5 exposure was also associated with depression," the authors wrote.

Further, being exposed to higher noise pollution in childhood and teenage was linked with raising the chances of anxiety by 19 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively.

"Childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood are critical periods for the development of psychiatric disorders: worldwide, nearly two-thirds of those affected become unwell by the age of 25.'

"Our findings add to a growing body of evidence - from different populations, locations, and using different study designs - suggesting a detrimental impact of air pollution (and potentially noise pollution) on mental health," said Newbury.

The findings, by themselves, do not prove cause-and-effect relationships. However, other recent studies have shown that areas with low emissions appear to positively impact mental health, the authors said.

Medical Association (JAMA) ventions to reduce exposure, ing pregnant women and chilmore than 14,000 pregnant

dren.

Newbury said.

For the study,

the researchers

analysed the data

of over 9,000 partici-

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823. Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

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### **OrissaPOST** THURSDAY | MAY 30 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

# RMC awaits legitimate election DRDO successfully test-fires has been challenged in the OHC," said Ray sometimes back. Rudra air-to-surface missile

Rourkela, May 29: In a few days, Rourkela Assembly seat will get its new elected representative. However, despite the upgradation of Rourkela Municipality to Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC), the Steel City civic body is yet to get an elected body to take care of its day-to-day affairs.

The last election of the civic body was held in 2008 and its upgradation was done in 2014. The term of the elected council led by BJD's Rashmibala Mishra as chairperson of the municipality came to an end in 2013. A long time has passed since then but the wait for an elected body of Rourkela Municipal Corporation is yet to

The number of wards under the civic body increased from 33 to 40 by merging Jagda area and parts of Jhartarang panchayat after Rourkela



Municipality was upgraded to Municipal Corporation. This met with massive tribal opposition and legal hurdles, as a case was filed in the Orissa High Court opposing the enhancement status in 2015. Ironically, it was George Tirkey, who is now in BJD, who had led a month-long seizure of the RMC office and also had filed the case in the Orissa HC. Notably, his son Rohit Joseph Tirkey is contesting on a party ticket from Biramitrapur Assembly segment in the ongoing polls.

No serious effort is visible on the part of the BJD government to conduct the elections and take the plea as "the matter is sub-judice". Nihar Ray, former chairman of Rourkela Municipality, who fought as an independent candidate as he was denied BJP ticket for the Assembly polls, filed a writ petition in OHC in 2021

"My point is that the government should hold elections for the 33 wards of the municipality and not for the corporation since the latter's status

He had further alleged that, the state government is deliberately avoiding elections and is not serious about the legal hurdle as that will help it to take de facto control over the municipality by installing a commissioner here.

Interestingly, when the monthlong siege was laid by Tirkey, most of those who sat in demonstration did not belong to Rourkela. "They were drawn from all parts of the district to continue the agitation," a police officer had said then.

Today, in the absence of any elected representative, the city residents are completely dependent on the mercy of the RMC staff. It has affected all the denizens and also the overall performance and achievements of RMC. Now, the question arising in everybody's mind is: when the elections will be held for RMC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Chandipur, May 29: Defence Research **Development Organisation** (DRDO) Wednesday successfully test-fired a Rudra air-to-surface missile from a Su-30 fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.

The Defence Ministry said the flight-testing of the RudraM-II missile met all the trial obiectives.

RudraM-II is an indigenouslydeveloped solid-propelled airlaunched missile system meant for air-to-surface role to neutralise several types of enemy assets.

A number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by various DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile system.

"The DRDO successfully flighttested the RudraM-II air-to-sur-

face missile from Su-30 MK-I on-board ship. platform of the Indian Air Force

off the coast of Odisha at around 1130 hours on May 29," the ministry said. 'The flight-test met all the

trial objectives, validating the propulsion system and control and guidance algorithm," it said.

The ministry said the performance of the missile has been validated from the flight data captured by range tracking instruments like electro-optical systems, radar and telemetry stations deployed at various locations, including the

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, the IAF and the industry on the successful test-flight of RudraM-II.

"The successful test has consolidated the role of the RudraM-II system as a force multiplier to the armed forces," he said.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Samir V Kamat complimented the DRDO team for their untiring efforts and contribution culminating into the successful flight-test, the ministry said in a statement.

### **Blackbuck carcass** recovered in Aska

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aska, May 29: Forest officials recovered the decomposed carcass of a male blackbuck lying near a pond in Narayanpur village here under Aska forest range in Ganjam district, Wednesday.

The animal aged about 10 years had two horns measuring 3-feet in length. The carcass was buried inside the Aska forest range of fice after veterinarians conducted a post-mortem, ranger Pramod Kumar Panda said.

It is suspected that the animal might have died two to three days back. However, the actual reason behind its death can be ascertained only after availability of the post-mortem report, Forest officials said.

Notably, there are around 800-900 blackbucks in Odisha. The animal is mostly found in Balipadar-Betnoti area comprising about 70 villages of Buguda, Aska and Kodala forest ranges

### Police officials injured in attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 29: In an untoward incident, two senior police officials were injured after they were attacked by irate villagers of Belpal village under Badasahi police limits in Mayurbhanj district following a land dispute Wednesday.

The injured police officials were identified as Betnoti SDPO Sudarshan Dash and Badasahi PS IIC Umashankar Navak, who were rushed to PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada.

As per sources, a fight broke out in the village between two parties over taking possession of a land in which one

person was critically injured. Following the incident, villagers staged a road blockade at Belpal Chowk on Badasahi-Betnoti road demanding immediate arrest of the accused.

On being informed, Badasahi BDO and tehsildar reached the spot and tried to pacify the irate villagers in vain. When the police force reached the spot to remove the blockade, angry villagers attacked the team and damaged the police van. Two police officials were critically injured in the attack.

As per the instruction of Mayurbhanj SP S Susree, other police officials reached the spot and kept a close watch

### Ganjam man kills wife for dowry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 29: In a shocking incident, a woman was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry at Benigohiri under Rambha police station in Ganjam district. The deceased was identified as K Namita Patra, daughter

under K Purushottampur police limits and the accused as her husband K Santosh Patra, son of K Sanyashi Patra of Benigohiri. Sources said the couple tied nuptial knot last year but two months after the marriage Namita's in-laws started torturing her for dowry. Brother of the deceased lodged a complaint with the police and a probe is on.

### of K Raghunath of Nimapali village

Kandhamal: In the early hours of Wednesday, a critical intelligence tip-off led to a decisive operation launched by Company Operating Base (COB) Pahireju in the forested region of Tilkapanga village in Pahireju panchayat under Gochhapada police limits in Kandhamal district. BSF troops, in collaboration with local police officials, swiftly moved to the designated area and conducted an extensive search operation. During this meticulous search, a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) concealed within the forest terrain was discovered. Promptly, the bomb disposal unit was alerted and the IED was expertly dismantled neutralising a significant threat. Prior to the establishm of the COB in Pahireju village, the region was a notorious hotbed of Naxal activities. However, the deployment of BSF forces has profoundly transformed the security landscape, instilling a renewed sense of safety among the local populace. The once unchecked Naxal movement has been severely restricted, underscoring the success of the BSF in stabilising the area. This operation marks a substantial victory for the BSF and a devastating blow to Naxal insurgents. The timely intervention not only safeguarded the community but also prevented a potentially catastrophic incident during the crucial Parliamentary and Assembly elections. This triumph stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment and vigilance of the BSF, ensuring the continued security and peace of the region.

BSF troops recover IED in Kandhamal

# THE SCIENCE OF EXTREME

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SI.No.	Contact Person Name	Designation	Contact Number	e-mail address
1	Shri Subhendu Maji	Assistant Manager (L-TS), Angul	9064073084	majis1@indianoil.in

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### EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. ST-OT-ANGL-SKND-WORKS-382, Dt. 22.05.2024

Name of Work: MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF SIGNALLING AND TELECOMMUNICATION GEARS AND ASSETS IN THE SECTION OF ANGUL DIVISION EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR A PERIOD OF OF 36 MONTHS.

Tender Value: ₹12,69,20,336.38, EMD:

ng Start Date: 30.05.2024, Date & time of Tender Closing: 13.06.2024 at 1100 hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against sucl e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such ma offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. documents of the above e-Tenders is available n website http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note:- The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes nda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)/ PR-160/P/24-25 Khurda Road Khurda Road

WAG-9 LOCOMOTIVES AT ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, ANGUL FOR TWO

Advertised Value: ₹47,60,869.53, EMD:

(2) Tender No. ELS-ANGL-OT-24-25-04 Name of Work: TRANSPORTATION OF RAILWAY MATERIAL BETWEEN ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, ANGUL AND OTHER UNITS OF INDIAN RAILWAY BY ROAD THROUGH TRUCK/TRAILER FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS. Advertised Value: ₹56,86,950/-, EMD ₹1,13,700/-, Cost of Tender Document:

Completion period: 24 Months (for sl. no. 1 and 36 Months (for sl. no. 2).
Bidding Start Date: 31.05.2024 (for sl. no. 1) and 06.06.2024 (for sl. no. 2), Tender Closing Date and Time: 14.06.2024 at

1500 hrs. (for sl. no. 1) and 20.06.2024 at 1500 hrs. (for sl. no. 2) anual offers are not allowed against this

Complete details & Tender documents will be vailable in the website at http://www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS) PR-165/P/24-25

### TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES SCHOOL OF SKILL EDUCATION, MUMBAI

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TISS-SSE ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

ΓISS is a Multi-Campus Networked Deemd to be University funded by the University Grants Commission through the Ministry of Education. TISS-School of Skill Education announces the following Bachelor Degree, Post-Graduate Diploma and Diploma Programmes for the Academic year 2024-25. For information about Eligibility, Admission Procedure. Online application form and other updates/amendments, please visit https://sve.tiss.edu/TISS/.

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**FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25** 

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Bachelor in Industrial Tools Manufacturing Bachelor in Social Research and Data

Management Bachelor in Electronic Manufacturing Services

10. Bachelor in Office Automation 11. Bachelor in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

12.B. Optom (Bachelor in Optometry)

13.B.Sc. in Dialysis Technology 14.B.Sc. in Medical Imaging Technology

15.B.Sc. in Medical Lab Technology

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26. Bachelor in Hotel Management

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(Golden Threshold Programme)

24.Bachelor in Hospitality Management

20. Bachelor in Journalism

18.B.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence and machine

22.Bachelor in Retail Management with

Specialization in Automotive Retail (in

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Management

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### application with all the necessary documents as mentioned in the NIT/Application form must be submitted at the address as mentioned in the NIT on or before the closing date and time. Corrigendum, if any shall

DEMAND

(Sponsored by State Bank of India) Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, At/PO: Dhanupali, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768005 Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 A notice is hereby given that the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Legal Heir(s) have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice was issued to the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Legal Heir(s) under Section 13(2) of Securitization

and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 on their last known addresses by Registerec Post with A/D, but they have been returned undelivered/un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice

**UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK** 

BRANCH / Details of Property/ies/Address of Secured Assets Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Legal Heir(s) **BUDHAMBO BRANCH** / Borrower: M/s Ramadevi Rice Mill, Prop.: Sr Bhagirathi Bisoi / Guarantors: 1) Sri Arakhita Bisoi

Late Jogi Bisoi, 2) Smt. Rama Bisoi, W/o- Sr

Arakhita Bisoi, All are At: Khojapali, PO Mathasarsingi, Via: Kodala, Dist.: Ganjam, PIN

Sasan, PS/Via: Polasara, Dist.: Ganjam, PIN-761105.

Property situated at Mouza: Khojapali, PS/Tahasil: Kabisurya Nagar, Ganjam, (1) Khata No.: 352/ ₹43.73.784/-07.02.2024 as on 07.02.2024 35. Plot No.: 499, Area: Ac.0.010dec., Kisam: Gharabari, Recorded Owner Rama Bisoi, W/o- Arakhita Bisoi, (2) Khata No.: 352/20, Plot No.: 859, Area Ac.0.180dec., Kisam: Gharabari, Khata No.: 354, Plot No.: 430, Area: Ac.0.030dec., Kisam: Gharabari, Recorded Owner: **Arakhita Bisoi**, S/o- Late

JUJOMURA BRANCH /

Borrower: Niranjan Jena, S/o- Mohit Ranjan Jena, At/PO: Jujomura, Dist.: Sambalpur / Guarantors: 1) Sri Sushanta Mohapatra, S/o-Purna Chandra Mohapatra, At/PO: Jujomura, Dist.: Sambalpur, 2) Sri Digambar Dharua, S/o- Laba Dharua, At: Rugudipali, PO: Godloisingh,

Dist.: Sambalpur CHIRIKIPADA SASAN BRANCH / Borrower: Late Prashanta Kumar Nayak, S/o- Late Raghunath

Nayak, Legal Heirs of Late Prashanta Kumar Nayak: 1) Smt. Suchitra Nayak, W/o- Late Prashanta Kumar Nayak, 2) Miss Nibedita Nayak (Minor), D/o- Late Prashanta Kumar Nayak, Represented by mother/guardian Smt. Suchitra Nayak / Guarantors: Term Loan: 1) Sri Anirudha Nayak, S/o- Bhubaneswar Nayak 2) Sri Basanta Kumar Swain, S/o- Shama Sunder Swain, For Cash Credit: 1) Sri Bhagaban Sahu, S/o- Kirtan Sahu, 2) Sri N. Bhagirathi Dora, S/o- Late N. Krushnamurthy Dora, All are At/PO: Chirikipada

Property situated at Mouza: Jujomura, PS: **30.04.2024** Jujomura, Tahasil: Jujomura, Dist.: Sambalpur Ac.0.17dec., Recorded Owner: Niranjan Jena, S/o-Mohit Ranjan Jena. (1) Property situated at Mouza: 07.02.2024 ₹53.83.408/as on 07.02.2024 Chirikipada Sasan, Tahasil:

Polasara, Thana: Polasara, Dist.: Ganjam, Khata No.: 1139/ 106, Plot No.: 3654, Area: Ac.0.262 dec., Plot No.: 3651 Area: Ac.0.280 dec., Plot No.: 4610, Area: Ac.0.042 dec Kissam: Gharabari, Recorded Owner: Prashanta Kumar Navak S/o- Raghunath Nayak. (2) Property situated at Mouza: Chirikipada Sasan, Tahasil: Polasara, Thana: Polasara, Dist.: Ganjam, Khata No.: 1139/104, Plot No.: 4471, Area: Ac.0.798 dec., Kissam: Gharabari, Recorded Owner: Raghunath Nayak, S/o- Agadhu Nayak.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Legal Heir(s) are hereby called upor to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of the demand notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Legal Heir(s) are also put on notice that in terms of sub-section 13 of section13, they shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets mentioned in this notice without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Date: 29.05.2024, Place: Sambalpur Authorised Officer, Utkal Grameen Bank

### SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES

Regd. Office: A-54/1 & A-55/1, Dinalipi Bhawan, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003 Email: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com, web site: www.suryofoods.com, CIN - L05004OR1989PLC002264 Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2024

(Rs. In '000', except EPS) **Quarter Ended** Year Ended 31.03.2024 31.12.2023 31.03.2023 31.03.2024 31.03.2023 SI. **Particulars** No (Audited) (Un Audited) (Audited) (Audited) Total Income from operation (net) Other income (net) 2,058 2,507 2,134 17,871 4.247 Other Gains/(Losses) Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax 2 1,538 1,573 1229 14,114 -1,614Exceptional and Extraordinary items) Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax. 1,538 1,573 1229 14,114 -1,614(after Exceptional and Extraordinary items) Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax, -1.2621,573 1239 11,314 -1,604(after Exceptional and Extraordinary items) Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period -1,2621,573 1239 11,314 -1,604(after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 39,600 39,600 39,600 39,600 39,600 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of -67,241-67,636 -76,822 -67,241-78,446the previous year Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) . Basic: 2.86 0.31 2.86 0.41

2. Diluted:

a) The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2024 have been reviewed by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on 29th May,

2.86

0.40

The above financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) presribed under section 133 of the companies act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies

to the extent applicable. The full format of the financial results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2024 are available at the Company's website http://www.suryofoods.com and websites of all Stock Exchanges, where

the Equity shares of the Company are listed. For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited Place: Bhubaneswar **Amarendra Dash** Date: 29th May, 2024

**Chairman Cum Managing Director** 

0.31

2.86

-0.41



The first principle of true teaching s that nothing can be taught.

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



Arvind Subramanian

establish a supply

independent of

chain that is largely

China - a trend that

is slowly underway

in the electronics

gain a competitive

China and countries

sector - it could

advantage over

linked to it

If India can

# Tough On Trade

S President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee in November's presidential election, are competing to portray themselves as tough on trade and China. Biden has already imposed a 100% tariff on Chinesemade electric vehicles, and Trump has vowed to impose a 200% tariff on Chinese cars manufactured in Mexico, along with a range of other protectionist measures affecting steel, solar panels, semiconductors, and batteries. The European Union is likely to follow suit,

Under President Xi Jinping, China is widely expected to respond with tit-for-tat tariffs rather than turn the other cheek, thus increasing the likelihood of a trade war that could significantly impede the green-energy transition and potentially lead to a broader geopolitical conflict.

What is often missing from the debate about the escalating rivalry between the United States and China is the perspective of other countries, especially larger developing economies. After all, these tariffs are not just protectionist but also discriminatory. If there is any truth to the joke that China is the only country in history with a comparative advantage in every industry, then targeting the world's most efficient

exporter and supplier with protectionist measures could create lucrative opportunities for its competitors.

In analysing these developments, it is instructive to consider the free-trade agree ments of the postwar period. These FTAs were a mirror image of today's discriminatory measures: while they reduced tariffs on imports from partner countries, effectively diverting trade away from third-country suppliers, today's tariffs are being imposed on imports from perceived adversaries like China, redirecting economic activity toward third-country suppliers considered allies.

The Biden administration's China trade policy, which US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan likened to "a small yard and a high fence" in 2023, could further weaken Chinese manufacturing. In fact, the higher the tariffs, the greater the competitive advantage third-country suppliers will gain over Chinese firms, particularly in large markets like the US and Europe.

To be sure, these gains will depend on the extent of US protectionism. If Sullivan's "small yard" grows larger, with US tariffs imposed not only on imported goods from China but also on goods from third countries that either use components produced in China or by Chinese firms located in these countries - the benefits to these thirdcountry suppliers will be reduced. In the language of FTAs, rules of origin can be

so restrictive on Chinese inputs that third countries gain less than they would otherwise.

In the first wave of discriminatory protectionism unleashed by Trump, the scope of protectionism was limited to direct imports from China. As a result, as documented by Aaditya Mattoo and others at the World Bank, third countries like Vietnam benefited significantly. This time, given bipartisan support in Washington for anti-China legislation, the scenario of a growing yard cannot be ruled out.

Broadly speaking, the countries affected by Western protectionism can be divided into two groups: those integrated into the Chinese supply chain, such as Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Korea, and those less dependent on it, like Mexico, India, Turkey, Brazil, Poland, and Hungary. The second group stands to gain more from

India offers a prime example. It has successfully attracted several Western firms exiting China since launching its "China Plus One" strategy in 2014. Notably, Apple has significantly expanded its iPhone manufacturing operations in India, and Tesla reportedly may follow suit. This shift presents India with an opportunity to revitalise its consistently underperforming manufacturing sector. To this end, the government is offering subsidies to attract foreign investment and offset disadvantages such as relatively poor infrastructure.

By increasing the returns on investing in India, current US trade policy could complement its own industrial policy. If India can establish a supply chain that is largely independent of China – a trend that is slowly underway in the electronics sector – it could gain a competitive advantage over China and countries linked to it.

Solar panels are a case in point. I recently visited an Americanowned factory just outside of Chennai that produces solar panels for export to the U.S. This operation owes its success to Trump's tariffs on imported solar panels from China, which the Biden administration has maintained. Without these measures, Chinese manufacturers' efficiency and scale - helped by massive government subsidies - would have rendered India an unattractive investment destination. But India was able to seize the opportunity and increase its solar-panel exports.

More broadly, the greater the overlap between America's strategic interests and third countries' capabilities and comparative advantages, the more likely that discriminatory protectionism will be longlasting and provide certainty to investors seeking to diversify away from a ruthlessly efficient China. In pharmaceuticals, for example, India has the capability to step in if the US decides to impose tariffs on Chinese drug manufacturers, which dominate the global production and export of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

But China's competitors should curb their enthusiasm. Discriminatory protectionism is currently confined to relatively sophisticated industries and is unlikely to extend to labour-intensive sectors like apparel and footwear, where poorer countries have a stronger comparative ad-

More importantly, US and EU discriminatory protectionism is beneficial only in moderation. Should today's trade war escalate into a fullscale geopolitical conflict, any potential advantages would be negated by a broader economic downturn and increased uncertainty, which could have a chilling effect on global trade and investment. In this scenario, evervone would lose.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and a former Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian government. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the

Let others lead small lives, but not you. Let others argue over small things, but not you. Let others cry over small hurts, but not you. Let others leave their future in someone else's hands, but not you.

If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair.

FOCUS INEOUALITY

# TIME FOR TAX JUSTICE



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

**OUR SYSTEM IS RIGGED TO FAVOUR** THE RICH **ESPECIALLY AFTER THE** INTRODUCTION **NEO-LIBERALISM** 

mid the ongoing debate on wealth and inheritance tax, a new research paper titled "Proposals for a Wealth Tax Package to Tackle Extreme Inequalities in India" by a World Inequality Lab study released in the midst of 18th general elections in the country proposes a comprehensive tax package on the ultra-wealthy to tackle the massive concentration at the very top of the wealth distribution and create valuable fiscal space for enhanced crucial social sector investments.

The authors of this paper Nitin Kumar Bharti, New York University, Lucas Chancel, Harvard Kennedy School, Thomas Piketty and Anmol Somanchi, Paris School of Economics in their working paper titled "Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj,' released on 20 March had said India's income inequality at 100-year high; worse than the colonial era.

The recent paper said that the taxation proposal needs to be accompanied by explicit redistributive policies to support the poor, lower castes, and middle classes. The paper noted that the taxation proposal needs to be extensively debated, with a consensus on specific details of the design emerging from a broader democratic debate on tax justice and wealth redistribution in India.

The paper proposes a 2% annual tax on wealth over ₹10 crore and a 33% inheritance tax on estates exceeding the same value alone would generate a massive 2.73% of GDP in revenues. This will raise enough resources to double the current public spending on education, which has stagnated at 2.9% of GDP over the past 15 years, well below the 6% target set by the National Education Policy 2020.

Under the moderate and ambitious variants, the paper introduces further progressivity in the tax schedules along with increase in tax rates to generate



A low tax-to-GDP ratio exacerbates debt problems and poses gargantuan challenges for the government to spend money on health, education, and other welfare measures

more resources. The paper says such taxation proposals are feasible as they are going to affect only 0.04% of adults, meaning, 99.96% of the population will remain unaffected by the tax. The top 0.04% (i.e. roughly those with net wealth exceeding ₹10 crore) alone hold over a quarter of the total wealth of the country. Their total wealth amounts to a whopping 125% of India's

A low tax-to-GDP ratio exacerbates debt problems and poses gargantuan challenges for the government to spend money on health, education, and other welfare measures. When tax-GDP ratio is low, India's tax system is regressive with the burden of tax falling on the poor more as more revenue is generated through indirect taxes like GST, VAT, and excise taxes. This needs to be reversed.

Our system is rigged to favour the rich especially after the introduction of neo-liberalism which is linked with the failed theories of Reaganomics and Thatcherism. Reaganomics proposed that decreases in taxes, especially for corporations, stimulate economic growth. If the expenses of corporations are reduced, the savings then 'trickle down" to the rest of the economy, spurring overall growth, Margaret Thatcher advocated privatisation and said that there is no alternative (TINA) to capitalism. But both the theories have failed as due to tax cuts, countries are dragged into the quagmire of debt trap while privatisation transfers national assets to private individuals.

On the other hand, some describe the imposition of higher tax on the rich as an act of "Robin Hood" - to rob the rich and pay the poor. Some economists cite Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek who argued that redistributive policies can stifle innovation and productivity. If individuals feel their efforts will be heavily taxed or redistributed, they may not be motivated enough to invest in

new ventures or improve productivity, leading to an economic slowdown.

By contrast, Oxford University Press says that giving poor children access to better education and paying for it by taxing the affluent is one way to reduce inequality while also fostering future growth and poverty reduction. A tax is designed to alter the distribution of income or wealth. But history has recorded that rulers have used taxation to redistribute in their own favour which has increased inequality Hence there is a strong case for shifting resources from those at the top of the income scale to those at the bottom.

Both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund support imposition of a wealth tax to counter rising global inequalities. A joint WB-IMF conference on 19 Oct., 2021 noted "the persistence in income inequality" and concluded that a "progressive tax policy is one of the prime tools for addressing such inequality." Secondly, a wealth tax is also meant to respond to social unrest and restiveness.

Nobody can become rich or accumulate wealth without support from the State. Today crony capitalism is rampant that helps the rich and corporate to amass wealth illegally India's Constitution-makers haven't explicitly spoken of wealth redistribution. However, Article 39(b) and (c) in Part IV contain principles that are aimed at securing economic justice. They provide that ownership and control of material resources of the society should be distributed to serve the common good and that the operation of the economic system does not result in concentration of wealth to the common detriment. Hence economic justice through redistribution of wealth requires a profound reorientation.

> The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist

### SPECTRUM JUSTICE

# The imperative of speedy trials



Venkatesh Kumar Singh **SPEEDY TRIALS INDEED PRESENT A DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN EXPEDIENCY AND FAIRNESS IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE** 

n the realm of justice, time is not just a mere commodity; it L is the essence of fairness and integrity. The concept of a speedy trial, both domestically and internationally, is not just a procedural formality but a constitutional right that safeguards the very essence of justice.

In the Indian context, the judiciary has played a pivotal role in recognising and upholding this right, ensuring that justice is not delayed, but served promptly. The right to a speedy trial, enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution, emerged prominently in the landmark 1979 case of Husainara Khatoon v. Home Secretary, State of Bihar. The Supreme Court expanded the scope of fundamental rights, emphasising that this right begins with the arrest of the accused and continues through all stages of the legal process. Subsequent cases such as Kartar Singh v. State of Punjab reinforced this principle, highlighting that undue delays can prejudice the accused and violate their fundamental rights.

Internationally, various legal

Trees to rescue

instruments recognise the importance of speedy trials. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and regional treaties such as the African Charter on Human Rights and People's Rights all guarantee the right to a fair and timely trial. Even in nations like the US, the UK, and Canada, constitutional provisions or common law principles ensure the right to a speedy trial.

A speedy trial is not just a matter of convenience; it is essential for the ends of justice. Delays in legal proceedings can have severe repercussions, leading to the erosion of evidence, fading memories, and prolonged suffering for both victims and accused. Justice delayed is indeed justice denied, as it undermines public confidence in the legal system and can perpetuate injustices.

The consequences of delayed trials are profound and far-reaching. For victims, delayed justice prolongs their trauma. On the other hand, accused individuals suffer prolonged uncertainty and deprivation of liberty, often facing stigma and hardship even before their guilt is established. Families are torn apart, livelihoods are lost, and faith in the legal system diminishes with each passing day of delay.

Speedy trials indeed present a delicate balance between expediency and fairness in the pursuit of justice. While the swift resolution of legal matters is essential to prevent iniustice from festering, it must not come at the cost of due process. The maxim "Justice hurried, justice buried" encapsulates this dilemma aptly, reminding us that rushed proceedings can lead to miscarriages of justice. The Supreme Court's decision in 2019 case to set aside a death penalty verdict in a rape and murder case serves as a stark illustration of this principle. In that case, the accused was convicted after a mere 12-day trial, during which he lacked proper legal representation. The appointed legal aid lawyer was given insufficient time to prepare a robust defense, undermining the accused's fundamental right to a fair trial. This highlights the

critical importance of striking a careful equilibrium between the expeditious dispensation of justice and the protection of individual rights, ensuring that no one is unjustly deprived of their liberty or subjected to undue harm.

In conclusion, the right to a speedy trial is not just a legal technicality; it is a cornerstone of justice and human rights. The imperative of ensuring justice in time through speedy trials is a cornerstone of any just society. While expedited proceedings are essential to prevent injustice, it's crucial to maintain a delicate balance with due process. The case of the Supreme Court setting aside the death penalty verdict due to a rushed trial underscores the need for such equilibrium. By upholding the right to a fair and timely trial, societies can foster trust in their legal systems and prevent the erosion of fundamental rights.

> The writer is an independent thinker from Port Blair. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

that the earth writes upon the sky.'

Sir, At a time when the whole India is gripped by a punish-

ing heatwave, the value of growing trees assumes signifi-

cance. Besides providing shade and shelter, trees do offer a lot

of benefits. Trees can soothe and relax us, and help us con-

nect with nature. Green is a calming and cool colour that

helps your eyes quickly recover from strain. By planting and

caring for trees, you help improve your surroundings, re-

duce pollution, lower energy costs, improve the appearance

of your community and increase the value of your property.

As part of Corporate Social Responsibility, companies need

to take proactive steps in supporting green initiatives, which

are now a part of global governance practices. These companies

should go a step further by planting more trees in replacement

of the trees often felled by both Central and state govern-

ments, citing reasons of "development." Said the renowned American writer and poet Kahlil Gibran, "Trees are poems

### **Education first**

Sir, Right to education is a fundamental right that was brought into being through the 86th Constitutional Amendment in 2002. Every child is entitled to education and it is the duty of the government and the local bodies to ensure so. Article 21-A of the Constitution has declared that the state government shall provide free and compulsory education to all children in the 6-14 age group. But poor implementation of the rules has made sure that compulsory education is still a far cry. At the same time, government aided private schools are minting money by charging students excessively. As a rule of thumb, socio-economically challenged children opt for aided schools though gaining admission into unaided private schools is their dream. The government should also see to it that aided schools do not face scarcity of funds. The private educational institutions, that are expected to reserve 25 per cent of the seats to children of weaker sections, are not doing so much to the detriment of such students.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# LG calls Delhi govt insensitive



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena Wednesday directed officials to ensure a paid break for labourers from noon to 3 pm, water and coconut milk at construction sites, and water pitchers at bus stands as the city sizzles under an intense heatwave.

The directions will be implemented across all construction sites in Delhi, including those of government agencies and private establishments, officials said.

Saxena directed that the three-hour break for labourers has been implemented by the Delhi Development Authority since May 20 and will continue across all sites till temperatures come down below 40 degrees Celsius, according to a letter sent to Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar by the principal secretary to the Lt

It said Delhi is facing an unprecedented heatwave with temperatures hovering over 50 degrees Celsius in some parts for the first time in the city's history

"Ordinarily, he (Saxena) had expected that the Chief Minister or the concerned minister would convene a meeting for a heat action plan in the city. The lack of sensitivity and seri-

### **HEATWAVE**

ousness in dealing with the heatwave is a matter of grave concern for him,"

The LG had instructed the DDA May 20 to make adequate arrangements for providing water and coconut water to labourers at construction sites so that they can stay hydrated, officials said.

In the letter, Saxena said the chief secretary may immediately call a

### Power demand soaring



New Delhi: The extreme summer heat in Delhi pushed its peak power demand to an all-time high of 8,302 MW Wednesday afternoon, officials said. It is the first time in the history of the national capital that its power demand has crossed the 8.300-MW mark. Power distribution companies had estimated the power demand to peak at 8,200 MW this summer, the discom officials said.

meeting of officers from the Public Works Department, Delhi Jal Board, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, Power Department, and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board and issue necessary directions for protecting labourers and supervisory staff from extreme heat conditions.

He also directed that earthen pots with drinking water should be arranged at bus shelters, treated water from STPs be sprinkled on the roads, and water sprinklers installed at high-rise buildings be activated to bring down the ambient air temperature and tackle pollution, they said.

The letter said, the plight of the poor labourers, who toil relentlessly in sweltering heat warrants a humane approach of administration. Thousands of homeless people and street vendors who spend their day on the footpaths, sometimes with babies without access to drinking water is a heart-rending sight.

The Labour Department of the Delhi government, in an advisory issued May 27, listed the various measures needed in view of the heatwave conditions prevailing in the national capital.

The circular asked establishments to ensure adequate clean drinking water availability at the workplace, availability of coolers/fans at the workplace and proper ventilation.

The circular also said no worker should be allowed to work in direct exposure to sunlight, and advised a change in the shift of work as far as possible to avoid peak hours between 12 noon to 4 pm.

Sensitising the workers about precautions to be taken during the heatwave conditions including covering their heads during direct exposure to sunlight, availability of emergency kits having ice packs, oral rehydration solution sachets and other items were prescribed in the advisory.

## Radio-Sonde launched from ISRO centre at Samba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samba/Jammu, May 29: Centre University of Jammu (CUJ) Wednesday announced that its Radio-Sonde, a crucial tool for atmospheric data collection, was launched successfully from its ISRO centre in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The launch, a part of a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) between the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO and CUJ, aims to enhance the understanding of atmospheric conditions and climate change, contributing valuable data to both national and global meteorological research, a varsity spokesperson said.

Using hydrogen-filled balloons, the scientists record atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind direction, and speed from 12 kilometres above earth's surface and the data is transmitted to the ground via radio signals. The spokesperson said this is only the third testing facility of its kind established

by ISRO at CUJ. CUJ vice chancellor Prof Sanjeev Jain said the milestone event marks a significant achievement in the university's ongoing commitment to advancing space science research and technology. 'Today's successful launch of the Radio-Sonde exemplifies our commitment to enhancing innovation and research in space sciences. This entire Radio-Sonde system is fully developed indigenously by ISRO under the 'Make in India' vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Other centres and institutions are collecting data only in the morning and evening hours. Kumar said, adding that the balloon will ascend upwards at a rate of five metres per second up to a maximum height of 40 km. The Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences, a premier facility within the university, has been instrumental in providing the state-of-theart infrastructure and resources for such pioneering projects, the spokesperson said.

### Fire engulfs forest area in Udhampur

Jammu, May 29: A massive forest fire swept through large areas of Udhampur district in Jammu and Kashmir causing extensive damage to forest resources, including wildlife, officials said Wednesday.

Efforts of the forest department and local people to control the blaze have been unsuccessful so far and residents have sought the deployment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) choppers to douse the blaze.

The fire, which began in the Darsoo forest area between Udhampur and Jammu districts Tuesday, has spread across five to six sq km.

'We urge the administration to deploy helicopters from the IAF to douse the fire. The current efforts by the forest department and locals have been insufficient and the fire is spreading to new areas," local resident Harvinder Singh said. "It has caused enormous losses and immediate aerial support is crucial," he said. The cause of the fire remains undetermined, though some locals suspect it may have been deliberately set by miscreants.

To bolster firefighting efforts, the State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) joined local teams but the fire continues to spread, exacerbated by winds, the officials said.

The forest areas in Kathua and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir were engulfed by fire Tuesday, causing significant damage to forest

# ₹2,000 fine for wasting water in Delhi

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL IS FACING WATER SHORTAGE DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED SUMMER HEAT WITH TEMPERATURES HOVERING AROUND THE 50 DEGREES CELSIUS MARK IN PARTS OF THE CITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: A fine of ₹2,000 will be imposed on water-wasting activities like washing vehicles with a hose and using domestic water supply for construction and commercial purposes, the Delhi government said Wednesday.

Water minister Atishi has directed the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to deploy 200 teams across the city to prevent water-wasting activities like car washing with a hose, overflowing water tanks, and use of domestic water supply for construction and commercial purposes

In a note to the DJB's chief executive officer, Atishi said, "These teams will be deployed from 8 am Thursday and impose fines on anyone found wasting water. These teams will disconnect any illegal water connections at construction sites or commercial establishments.

The minister said intense heatwave conditions are prevailing in the national capital and there is a shortage of water supply since Haryana is



not releasing Delhi's share of water. "Under these circumstances, conservation of water becomes extremely important. However, it has been seen that there is serious wastage of water in many parts of Delhi," she said.

Also, there are illegal connections of domestic supply at construction sites and commercial establishments, the minister said, adding that there is a need to crack down on such misuse of water. In a post on X, she informed about the crackdown on wastage of water in the coming days, saying illegal connections of domestic supply at construction sites and commercial establishments will be disconnected.

Atishi Tuesday accused Haryana of not releasing the city's share of water since May 1 and said the Delhi government will be implementing a slew of measures including rationalising the supply of water in the national capital.

She said the Delhi government may approach the Supreme Court if the supply of Yamuna water to the city does not improve in the coming days.

"The water level at Wazirabad was 674.5 feet May 1. This is the average level that should be maintained. Last year in April, May, and June, the minimum level was maintained

at 674.5 feet," Atishi said Tuesday. Sharing data, the minister said till May 8, the water level at Wazirabad came down to 672 feet and by May 20 it was at 671 feet. It declined further to 669.8 feet Tuesday,, she said.

MCD issues fire advisory to health facilities

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has issued an advisory directing all health facilities to take up measures like inspection of fire-fighting equipment, electrical load audits and installing automatic sprinklers in ICU to prevent fire incidents. The in-charges of health facilities have also been asked by the civic body to submit an action taken report by May 31. The advisory comes after a fire at a private children's hospital in East Delhi Saturday night killed six newborns. Health facilities are directed to regularly inspect fire-fighting equipment such as extinguishers, hydrants and alarms to ensure all are functional, according to the advisory issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)



REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH: SAMBALPUR Ground Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 14.06.2024 & 30.06.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "PHYSICAL/SYMBOLIC POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/Guaranton Secured Assets/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 30.06.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M. Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD: 29.06.2024 latest by 2.00 P.M. The linking of interested property started after 5.00 P.M. on 29.06.2024 till 2.00 P.M. on 30.06.2024 STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS UNDER RULE 6(2) & 9(1) AS PER AMENDED

`	STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS UNDER RULE 6(2) & 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002						
SI. No.		Description of the Property & the Owner	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues (Type of Possession)			
1.	JHARSUGUDA BRANCH/ Borrower: Mr. Hemsagar Meher, S/o.: Mr. Laba Meher, At: Junadih, Main Road, Belpahar, Jharsuguda, PIN-768217 / Guarantor: Mr. Ramesh Sena, S/o.: Mr. Laba Sena, At/P.O.: Belpahar, Near Sani Mandir, Jharsuguda, PIN-768217  Meher, S/o: Laba Meher, Bounded by East: Nat North: Dulamani Debta, South: Rabi Meher	stands in the name of Mr. Hemsagar	₹21,71,000/- / ₹2,17,100/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 27,31,255/- as on 11.05.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Symbolic)			
2	KOIRA BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Manohar Guria Store, Prop.: Mr. Manohar Guria, S/o: Mr. Masidas Guria, At: Rengalbeda, P.O: Koira, Dist.: Sundergarh - 770048 / Guarantor: Mr. Manoj Jaiswal, S/o.: Mr. Mathura Prasad Jaiswal, At: Jaiswal Complex, P.O: Koira, Dist.: Sundergarh - 770048 Guria, Bounded by East: Road, West: Plot Plot No.: 2237.	Plot No.: 2245 and 2235/7008, Area: Ac. 0.113 Dec., at Mouza: Jharsuguda, Town Unit-9, Panchapada, Tahasil/Dist.: Jharsuguda, standing in the name of <b>Mr. Manohar Guria</b> , S/o.: Mr. Masidas	₹23,03,000/- / ₹2,30,300/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 37,14,519.80 as on 07.04.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
3.	JHARSUGUDA BRANCH/ Borrowers: 1) Mr. Tarik Ahmad, S/o.: Late Mohammad Maikhan, 2) Mr. Amjad Ahmad, S/o.: Late Mohammad Maikhan, Both are At: Gumadera, Belpahar, Near: Masjid, Dist: Jharsuguda / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Atick Ahmad, S/o.: Late Mohammad Maikhan, At: Belpahar Near Masjid, PO.: Belpahar, Dist.: Jharsuguda 2) Mr. MD. Nasir Ansari, S/o.: Late Alagu Ansari, At: Belpahar, PO.: Belpahar, Dist.: Jharsuguda	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building recorded in the name of Mr. Tarik Ahmad, S/o.: Late Mohammad Maikhan, situated at MS Khata No.: 1261/4084, Plot No.: 1102/17748, situated at Mouza: Belpahar, Tahasil: Lakhanpur, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Area: Ac.0.03 Dec, Bounded by East: Municipality Road, West: Plot No.: 6639, North: Land of Elias Ahmed, South: Part of Plot No.: 1102/6635	₹15,62,000/- / ₹1,56,200/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 36,26,613.49 as on 30.04.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
4.	BELPAHAD BRANCH/ Borrower: Mr. Nrupalal Meher, S/o.: Mr. Rahasa Meher, At: Stationpada, Near Jaggannath Mandir, Belpahad, Jharsuguda, PIN-768217 / Guarantor: Mr. Madan Meher, S/o.: Mr. Siba Meher, At: Pipilimal, Belpahad, Jharsuguda, PIN-768217 S/o.: Mr. Rahasa Meher, Bounded by East: Plot North: Plot No.: 1313, South: Road	Belpahad, Tahsil: Lakhanpur, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Khata No.: 1261/4644, Plot No.: 1313/6712, Area: Ac.0.020 Dec, in the name of <b>Mr. Nrupalal Meher</b> ,	₹15,33,000/- / ₹1,53,300/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 10,74,651.47 as on 09.03.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Symbolic)			
5.	BELPAHAD BRANCH/ Borrower: Mr. Madan Meher, S/o.: Mr. Siba Meher, At: Pipilimal, Belpahad, Jharsuguda, PIN- 768217 / Guarantor: Mr. Nrupalal Meher, S/o.: Mr. Rahasa Meher, At: Stationpada, Near Jaggannath Mandir, Belpahad, Jharsuguda, PIN- 768217 West: Plot No.: 219 (P), North: Plot No.: 219(P),	Tahasil; Lakhanpur, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Khata No.: 201/589, Plot No.: 219/2691, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec, in the name of <b>Mr.</b> <b>Madan Meher</b> , S/o.: Mr. Siba Meher, Bounded by East: Dileswar Pradhan,	₹20,60,000/- / ₹2,06,000/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 10,64,051/- as on 11.05.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Symbolic)			
6.	SAMBALPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Rajib Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Mr. Pravakar Sahu / Guarantor: Mrs. Archana Sahu, W/o.: Mr. Rajib Kumar Sahu, Both are At: Govindtola, Driver Colony, PO.: Dhanupali, Sambalpur, PIN-768005, Odisha name of Mrs. Archana Sahu, W/o.: Mr. Rajib Ki 624, West: Plot No.: 624, Road, North: Plot No.:	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building situated over M.S. Khata No.: 120, Plot No.: 624/2787, Area: Ac.0.045 Dec, Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 2, Dhanupali, P.S.: Sambalpur, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768005, in the umar Sahu, Bounded by East: Plot No.:	₹27,79,000/- / ₹2,77,900/- /	₹ 15,14,326/- as on 11.05.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Symbolic)			
7.	BOLANGIR BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Pratap Kumar Mishra, S/o.: Late Dweipayan Mishra, At: Rameswar Nagar, PO.: Bolangir, Dist.: Bolangir, PIN-767001 321, Thana: Balangir No.: 152, Dist.: Bolangir, Sta Mishra, S/o.: Late Dweipayan Mishra, Bounded I Road, East: Road, West: Plot of Pramod Vyas an	Equitable Mortgage of Property consisting of M.S. Khata No.: 658/95, Plot No.: 456/5109, Area: Ac.0.046 Dec, Mouza: Bolangir KA, Tahsil: Bolangir No.: nding in the name of <b>Mr. Pratap Kumar</b> by North: Plot of Indurekha Pati, South:	₹35,17,000/- / ₹3,51,700/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 43,66,358.45 as on 09.03.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
8.	BOLANGIR BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Karadala Subba Rao, S/o: Mr. K. Venkata Rao, At: Talpadar, P.O: Sason, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768001 Dist.: Sambalpur, Standing in the Name of M Venkata Rao, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 198 196, 199(P), West: Plot No.: 199	Ajitpur Sason, P.S.: Sason, Tahasil/ <b>r. Karadala Subba Rao,</b> S/o: Mr. K.	₹3,33,000/- / ₹33,300/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 43,13,037.55 as on 07.04.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
9.	BARAGARH BRANCH/ Borrower: 1) Akil Ahmed Mohammad, S/o.: Badru Rahman Mohammad, 2) Gazala Parween, W/o.: Akil Ahammad Mohammad, Both Residing at Flat No.: 404, 4th Floor, Sainath Villa, N.H-6, Near Over Bridge, Bargarh Town, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768028 Tahasil: Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh, Standing in the r Badru Rahman Mohammad, Bounded by North:O Case, East: Corridor & Flat No.: 405, West: Open	Block-A, Sainath Villa, Near Over Bridge, Bargarh Town, developed on Khata No.: 1976, Plot No.: 933(P), Area: Ac. 0.415 Dec., Mouza: Tora, name of <b>Akil Ahmed Mohammad</b> , S/o.: pen Space & Flat No.: 405, South: Stair	/ ₹1,55,680/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 20,67,458.34 as on 11.05.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Symbolic)			
10.	JHARSUGUDA BRANCH/ Borrowers: 1) Mr. Daitari Hati, S/o.: Mr. Pada Hati, 2) Mr. Deepak Kumar Hati, S/o.: Mr. Daitari Hati, 3) Mr. Ganesh Hati, S/o.: Mr. Daitari Hati, All are At: Chhualiberna, PO.: Belpahar, Dist.: Jharsuguda, PIN-768217  Tahasil: Lakhanpur, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Standing ir Pada Hati, Bounded by North: Gali Rasta (Roa	d), South: Land of Jibardhan Chamar,	₹9,49,000/- / ₹94,900/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 21,59,280.58 as on 30.04.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
_	East: land of Subalal Dipar, West: Part of Plot No.: 1275  The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 14.06.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.						

Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD: 13.06.2024 latest by 2.00 P.M. The linking of interested property started after 5.00 P.M. on 13.06.2024 till 2.00 P.M. on 14.06.2024

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 6(2) &

9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002							
11.	ROURKELA MAIN BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s. Shree Jagganath Minerals, represented by its Partners, 1) Mr. Anup Singhal, 2) Mr. Mulchand Bidolia, 3) Mr. Om Prakash Prasad, Address: Koshala Hyundai Complex, Panposh Road, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN-770039 / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Anup Singhal, S/o: Mr Mulchand Bidolia, 2) Mr. Mulchand Bidolia, Both are at W-20, Civil Township, 7 & 8 Area, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN-769004, 3) Mr. Om Prakash Prasad, S/o.: Late Bharat Prasad, Janta Niwas Lane, Daily Market, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh,	No.: 250, 251, 249/339 & 150, Area: Ac.1.610 Dec, Mouza: Besarapada, P.S.: Biramitrapur No.: 17, Tahasil: Panposh No.: 89, Dist.: Sundergarh, standing in the name of <b>Mr. Anup Singhal</b> , S/o.: Mr. Mulchand Bidolia, Bounded by North: Road, South: Forest Land, East: Forest Land, West: Forest Land & Agriculture Land	₹26,85,000/- / ₹2,68,500/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 2,08,60,811/- as on 05.02.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
12.	SUNDERGARH BRANCH / Borrower: Mrs. Priyanka Choudhury, W/o.: Mr. Sanjay Kumar Choudhury /Guarantor: Mr. Sanjay Kumar Choudhury, S/o.: Mr. Tribhuban Choudhury, Both are At: Quarter No.: E-263, Sector-15, Rourkela, Dist: Sundergarh, PIN-769003 Pramod Thakur, South: Plot No.: 1954, East: Mu	Equitable mortgage of property consisting of Khata No.: 516/1951, Plot No.: 1955/6483, Area: Ac. 0.035 Dec., Mouza: Talsankara, Tahasil/P.S./Dist. Sundergarh, in the name of Mrs. Priyanka Choudhury, W/o.: Mr. Sanjay Kumar Choudhury, Bounded by North:	₹11,15,000/- / ₹1,11,500/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 78,51,867.98 as on 10.02.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
13.	Pruseth, S/o: Late Nilakantha Pruseth, At: Tola- Mohantypara, Behind of District Co-Operative Bank, PO: Sundergarh, P.S.: Town Sundergarh, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN- 770001 / Guarantor: Mr. Shashanka Sekhar Nayak, S/o: Mr. Lalit Nayak, House No-25, At: Mundalasa,	Tahasil/P.S./Dist.: Sundergarh, Plot No.: 76, bearing Khata No.: 249, Area; Ac.0.055 Dec or 2396 Sqft, in the name of <b>Mr. Jagannath Pruseth</b> , S/o.: Mr. Nilkantha Pruseth, Bounded by East: House of Shina Babu, West: Road,	₹39,61,500/- / ₹3,96,150/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 2,26,58,185.48 as on 27.01.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon till full payment (Physical)			
-			- notration and account of	Coon hove for more			

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders with prior appointment of the authorised officer Status of Possession of Properties: Physical/Symbolic, Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in

Also prospective bidders may contact the Authorized Officer on Mob: 7278141330 This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2) & 9(1) of security interest (Enforcements) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date Place: Sambalpur Date: 29.05.2024



Authorised Officer

Bank of Baroda



BJD's Rajnagar Assembly nominee Dhruba Charan Sahoo speaking at an election meeting in Talchua of Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district, Wednesday

# 'BJP design' behind EC action against IPS officers: Pandian

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Terming as "unfortunate" the Election Commission (EC) action against two IPS officers working in Odisha CMO for interfering with polls, senior BJD leader VK Pandian Wednesday alleged it was done as per design of the BJP, which was unable to digest imminent defeat in elections in the state.

The EC Tuesday suspended IPS officer DS Kutey and ordered the medical examination of another officer, Asish Singh, who has been on medical leave since May 4.

'It is very unfortunate that the ECI has taken action against some of the officers working in the CMO. I would say that those two officers are outstanding officers of Odisha and both of them have played a great role in controlling Naxalism in the state by risking their lives, be it Gajapati or Malkangiri. I think they have been awarded by the highest authorities of the coun-



told reporters at Balasore.

Stating the action as unfortunate, he said, "It is as per the design of the BJP, which cannot digest imminent defeat in the hands of BJD. And it cannot stand against the popularity of Naveen babu (Patnaik)." He also accused the ECI of taking action against the two officers at the behest of local BJP leaders.

The ECI, in a letter to the Odisha CEO, said that 1997-batch IPS officer DS Kutey, who is presently working as the special secretary to the chief minister, be placed under suspension on the charge of interfering

election, if you don't defeat the

BJP, then both our Constitution

and democracy will be at risk,

He also highlighted concerns

about the country's reservation

policy for SC, ST, and OBCs

being endangered if the BJP

Kharge further criticised the

along with your future.

assumes power.

port at the office of Resident Commissioner, Odisha at New Delhi Wednesday.

Similarly, Asish Singh, an IPS officer of 2010-batch who is presently working as IG (CM security), was asked to present himself for a detailed examination by a special medical board constituted by the director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, not later than May 30. He has been on medical leave since May 4.

On the other hand, senior BJP leader and Cuttack Lok Sabha MP Bhartruhari Mahtab welcomed the decision of ECI and criticised Pandian for questioning the credibility of Election Commission of India.

Talking to newsmen here, Mahtab said it was not 'witch hunting' rather appropriate legal and disciplinary action taken against the two officers based on evidence.

Voting for the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections is being held simultaneously in Odisha in four phases from May 13 to June 1.

### **BHADRAK ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY**

# **INORITY VOTERS HOLD KEY**



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 29: Votes of the minority community will play a decisive role in the election to Bhadrak Assembly constituency under Bhadrak Lok Sabha segment as the seat is all set to witness a neck-to-neck triangular fight June 1.

The issue assumes significance due to presence of a sizeable population of minority community in fielded former minister Prafulla Samal from this seat while the BJP nominee is Sitanshu Sekhar Mohapatra, the convener of Sahid Bhagat Sena in Bhadrak. Similarly, Congress has fielded Asit Patnaik, the son of former minister Jugal Kishore Patnaik from this seat

Political analysts said that the Assembly constituency is going to witness a big fight with each party fielding strong candidate from this seat. They said the population of minority community is more in Bhadrak and the candidate, for whom the voters of minority community will vote, will win the seat.

The seat is currently held by

BJD as the ruling party had won from this seat in 2019 election by trouncing its nearest BJP rival by over 33,000 votes. The Congress

party was placed in the third position. Sources

candidate

Asit Patnaik was vying for a BJD ticket but he joined Congress after the ruling party denied him a ticket. On the other hand, BJD changed its stance and changed its seating MLA Sanjiv Mallick from this seat and fielded him from Bhandaripokhari Assembly constituency. Instead, BJD has fielded Bhadaripokhari MLA Prafulla Samal from this seat.

After getting the party ticket, Prafulla made a swift move and managed to induct the Bhadrak

Gulmakki Habib and her husband Jahid Habib in BJD. He also managed to induct many BJP leaders into the BJD.

They included BJP nominee Pradip Nayak of 2019 election, BJP women's wing district president Harapriva Sahu and several sarpanches of the saffron party into the BJD. This has helped him strengthen the party from grassroots level.

On the other hand, the saffron party has fielded Sitanshu Sekhar Mohapatra, a noted social activist and convener of voluntary outfit Sahid Bhagat Sena as its candidate from this seat. Sitanshu is connected with several youths in the district through his Sahid Bhagat Sena which is going to help him in the elec-

His whole family and members of Sahid Bhagat Sena are campaigning for him while Sitanshu has managed to induct former block chairperson and a strong BJD leader Ialav Jena and several sarpanches into BJP.

Sitanshu's family has established themselves well in business in Bhadrak and he is fighting the election on the plank of Modi guarantee and welfare schemes of the Modi government. Chatters are abuzz that he will be able to give a strong fight to Prafulla Samal, the candidate

of the ruling BJD. It is hoped that the Assembly constituency will witness a big fight as all three parties have fielded strong candidates. Moreover, as the vote bank of BJD and Congress are from minority community, the casting of votes by the minority community will decide the outcome of the polls.

## 'BJP leaders project Modi as 11th avatar of Lord Vishnu'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore/Bhadrak, May 29: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday claimed that BJP leaders were trying to project Prime Minister Modi the eleventh avatar of Lord Vishnu which the people of the country will not accept.

Kharge said this while addressing public meeting in support of the party candidate Srikant K Jena, contesting from Balasore Lok Sabha seat.

"In Hindu dharma, we have heard about 10 'avatars' (incarnation) of Lord Vishnu like Ram, Krishna, Baman, Parsuram and others. There is a bid to project Modi as the 11th avatar of Vishnu," the Congress chief said.

Kharge cited the instance as to how BJP leader Sambit Patra had described Lord Jagannath as a devotee of Modi

Stating that BJP leaders are now making remarks against Naveen Patnaik on his health condition, Kharge advised

While launching a scathing attack on the BJP and Modi, Congress president asserted that if the saffron party returns to power, both democracy and the Constitution will be jeopardised.

Patnaik to maintain distance from the saffron party.

current government, stating, "Under the present rule, youth Kharge emphasised, "In this are suffering the most.

Unemployment rates are high, and there is a crisis across the nation.

However, Modiji seems indifferent to these issues. His sole focus is on retaining power."

Kharge said nearly 30 lakh central government and over 1.60 lakh Odisha government posts are currently vacant.

Questioning Modi's unfulfilled promises, Kharge remarked, "Modi had pledged to deposit Rs 15 lakh in the bank accounts of every person by bringing back black money, doubling farmers' income, and providing two crore employment opportunities to youth each year. Where are these promises?

The Congress president also expressed dismay over the handling of issues such as the unrest in Manipur, accusing Modi of neglecting the situation and prioritising his political interests instead.



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and party leaders at an election meeting in Jagatsinghpur, Wednesday

Does PM believe Lord Jagannath to be his devotee: Cong

### Modi stops speech, asks doctors to treat man who faints at rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, May 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday stopped his speech midway and asked

the medical team accompanying him to attend to a man who fainted in his poll rally in Baripada town on a hot and humid day.

The youth, identified as Dolagovinda Barik, a television journalist, was later taken to a hospital.

The maximum temperature in Baripada Wednesday was 39.5 degrees Celsius while humidity was 83 per cent, according to the Met department.

After seeing the man fainting, Modi stopped his speech and asked the crowd to create space for him to allow flow of

The PM's doctors provided

first aid to Barik and shifted to the district headquarters hos-

The man later recovered after being treated in the special ward



for heat wave patients, a doctor attending to him said. Barik thanked the Prime Minister for the gesture.

"Suddenly I could not see anything and fainted. I have not heard the PM asking his doctors to treat me. Later people told me that Modi ji was worried about my health condition,' Barik said.

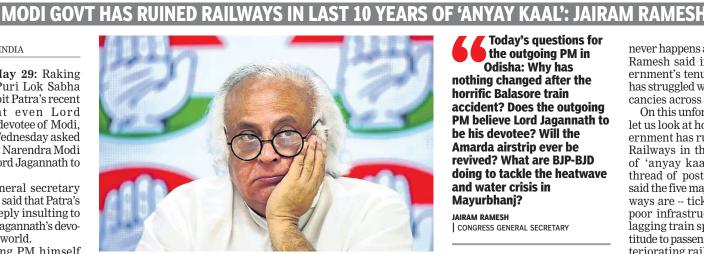
### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Raking up the BJP's Puri Lok Sabha candidate Sambit Patra's recent remarks that even Lord Jagannath is a devotee of Modi, the Congress Wednesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi if he believes Lord Jagannath to be his devotee.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that Patra's remarks are deeply insulting to crores of Lord Jagannath's devotees across the world.

"The outgoing PM himself has claimed that he was not biologically born but sent to Earth by the Creator himself. Can he tell us where he claims to fit in the pantheon of Indian Gods? Does he truly believe Lord Jagannath to be his devotee,'

As PM Modi campaigns in Odisha Wednesday, Ramesh in a post on X asked, "Today's ques-



tions for the outgoing PM in Odisha: Why has nothing changed after the horrific Balasore train accident? Does the outgoing PM believe Lord Jagannath to be his devotee? Will the Amarda airstrip ever be revived? What are BJP-BJD doing to tackle the heatwave and water crisis in Mayurbhanj?" Ramesh said that as Prime

Minister Narendra Modi visits Odisha to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections, one should remember that June 2 last year, one of the biggest train accidents of independent India took place there. He said 293 people were killed

and over a 1,000 injured in the horrific collision of three trains in Balasore last year, but three

Today's questions for the outgoing PM in **Odisha: Why has** nothing changed after the horrific Balasore train accident? Does the outgoing PM believe Lord Jagannath to be his devotee? Will the Amarda airstrip ever be revived? What are BJP-BJD doing to tackle the heatwave and water crisis in Mayurbhanj?

JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

railway officials were eventually held responsible and one can hardly absolve the Central government of their role in this mishap.

"The Modi Sarkar clearly has blood on their hands. After a disaster of this scale, why are staff vacancies still rampant in the railways? What is the BJP doing to ensure that such a disaster

never happens again," he asked. Ramesh said in the Modi government's tenure, the railways has struggled with high staff vacancies across the country.

On this unfortunate occasion, let us look at how the Modi government has ruined the Indian Railways in the last ten years of 'anyay kaal', he said in a thread of posts on X. Ramesh said the five major issues of railways are -- ticket vasooli, antipoor infrastructure priorities, lagging train speeds, callous attitude to passenger safety and deteriorating railways finances.

The Congress leader also asked when it was built during World War II, the Amarda airstrip had the longest runway in Asia.

Plans to revive the airport were first floated in 2021 and then approved in 2022 but no development has occurred till date, he claimed. "Why have the people of Odisha been left hanging," he questioned.

# national

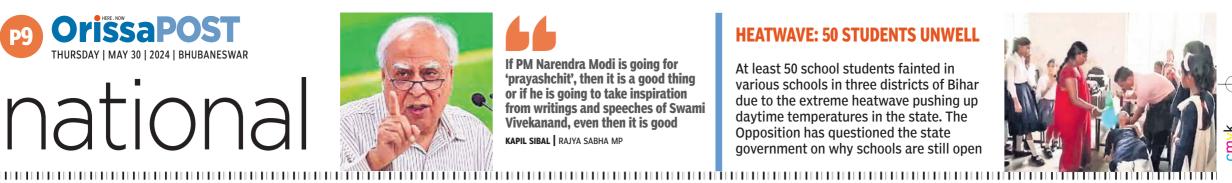


If PM Narendra Modi is going for 'prayashchit', then it is a good thing or if he is going to take inspiration from writings and speeches of Swami Vivekanand, even then it is good

KAPIL SIBAL | RAJYA SABHA MP

### **HEATWAVE: 50 STUDENTS UNWELL**

At least 50 school students fainted in various schools in three districts of Bihar due to the extreme heatwave pushing up daytime temperatures in the state. The Opposition has questioned the state government on why schools are still open





today, maximum cold stores are owned by Adani who decides the rate of apples and the fate of apple-growers



The black laws were repealed only after the protest of farmers who united against it. The black laws have been repealed but we

need to remain alert. If BJP come back to power, they will bring a similar law to encroach the land of farmer and adivasis

AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT



Independence in 1947, which Nehru did not listen to. But he is heeding to it and finishing Congress

MOHAN YADAV CM. MADHYA PRADESH





#Rafah Land Of The people who start this trend are the same people who abandon their parents on the streets when they grow

old because they have no humanity. Dear world wake up and unite against Genocide. #AllEyesOnRaffah #RafahOnFire #Rafah

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Two workers killed in mattress factory fire

Raipur: Two women workers a fire broke out in a mattress manufacturing factory in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur Wednesday, police said. The fire engulfed Shri Guru Nanak Mattress Company at Gondwara under Khamtarai police station limits area in the afternoon, Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh told PTI. After being alerted, firefighters were rushed to the spot and a rescue operation was launched.

### Mizoram landslides: Death toll rises to 29

Aizawl: The death toll in multiple landslides in Mizoram's Aizawl district mounted to 29 after four more bodies were recovered from various places, a police officer said Wednesday. Seven people are still missing and rescuers presume that they are trapped under the debris at different locations following landslides and incessant rain in the aftermath of cyclone Remal Tuesday, he said. A total of 25 bodies, including 14 from a stone quarry collapse site, were recovered till May 28 night.

### 16 cars gutted in east Delhi

New Delhi: Sixteen cars were gutted by a fire that broke out at a civic authority-run parking lot in east Delhi's Madhu Vihar area Wednesday officials said. No one got injured in the incident that was reported at 1.17 am. Nine fire tenders were pressed into service and they controlled the blaze in four hours, an official from Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said. The cars belonged to the locals who used to park their vehicles in the parking lot on rent basis, the officials said,

# **MONSOON TO HIT KERALA TODAY: IMD**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Spurred on by Cyclone Remal, southwest monsoon is expected to hit the Kerala coast and parts of northeast by Thursday, a day ahead of the date forecast by the weather office.

"Conditions continue to become favourable for the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala during the next 24 hours,"the India Meteorological Department said on Wednesday. On May 15, the weather office

had announced the onset of monsoon over Kerala by May 31. Weather scientists said that Cyclone Remal, which ripped through West Bengal and Bangladesh Sunday, had pulled the monsoonal flow to the Bay of Bengal, which could be one of the reasons for early onset over the north-east. Kerala has been receiving heavy rains for the past few days resulting in a surplus May rainfall, the weather office data showed

The normal monsoon onset date for Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, and Assam The conditions also continue

to become favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of South Arabian Sea, remaining parts of Maldives, Comorin, Lakshadweep, southwest and central Bay of Bengal, northeast Bay of Bengal and some parts of Northeastern states during the same period," the IMD said

The IMD declares onset of monsoon over Kerala if anytime after May 10 over 14 stations there and neighbouring areas receive 2.5 mm or more rainfall for two consecutive days, the Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) is low, and the direction

of the winds is south-westerly. Monsoon is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on it. It is also crucial for replenishing reservoirs

The weather office May 15 had announced the onset of monsoon over Kerala by May 31

■ Weather scientists said that Cyclone Remal, which ripped through West Bengal and Bangladesh Sunday, had pulled the monsoonal flow to the Bay of Bengal, which could be one of the reasons for early onset over the north-east

Kerala has been receiving heavy rains for the past few days resulting in a surplus May rainfall, the weather office data showed

■ The normal monsoon onset date for Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, and Assam is June 5

critical for drinking water, apart from power generation across the country

June and July are considered the most important monsoon months for agriculture because most of the sowing for the Kharif crop takes place during this period. El Nino conditions are prevailing at present, and La Nina may set in by August-September, scientists say.

El Nino - the periodic warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean - is associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India. La Nina - the antithesis of El Nino-leads to plentiful rainfall during the monsoon season.

The IMD is also anticipating the development of a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) or cooler-than-normal Indian Ocean in the east compared to the west, which helps bring rain to several states in southern India.

The IOD is currently 'neutral' and is expected to turn positive by August.

Another factor is the belownormal snow cover in the northern hemisphere and Eurasia. Historically, there has been an "inverse relationship" between the levels of snow here and the monsoon.

## China enhances military support to Pakistan along LoC in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kupwara, May 29: Pakistan's key ally China has been actively bolstering the defence capabilities of the Pakistani army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three years which includes the construction of steelhead bunkers and the provision of Unmanned Aerial and Combat Aerial Vehicles, officials said Wednesday.

Chinese assistance also extends to the installation of highly encrypted communication towers and the laying of underground fibre cables along the LoC

Moreover, advanced radar systems of Chinese origin, such as the 'JY' and 'HGR' series, have been deployed to enhance medium and low altitude target detection capabilities, providing crucial intelligence support for army and air defence units, they said.

Additionally, the presence of the SH-15, a 155 mm truckmounted howitzer gun manufactured by a Chinese firm, has been noticed at various locations along the LoC.

This move is seen as part of efforts to strengthen China's ties with Pakistan and safeguard Chinese investments in Pakistanoccupied Kashmir, particularly related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



Though the presence of senior PLA officials at forward posts, as was detected in 2014, was not found, some intercepts suggested that Chinese troops and engineers were setting up infrastructure along the LoC. including building underground

bunkers, officials said. Chinese experts were engaged in tunnel construction in the Leepa Valley of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), signalling preparations for an all-weather road to connect with the Karakoram highway, they said.

This strategic move is linked to Beijing's ambitious 46-billiondollar CPEC project, aiming to establish a direct route between Gwadar Port in Pakistan and Xinjiang province in China through the Karakoram highway, an area under the illegal occupation of China.

In 2007, a Chinese telecom company had taken over a

subsidiary of China Mobile Communications Corporation. In August 2022, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), while renewing the mobile licence of CMPak (Zong) for PoK, gave permission to expand Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS) in the region.

formed China Mobile Pakistan

(CMPak) -- a 100 per cent owned

While the Indian Army has maintained silence on the matter, intelligence agencies are reportedly being kept informed of the developments

The continued presence of Chinese military personnel in the region has raised concerns, with India voicing objections to Chinese activities in Gilgit and Baltistan areas in the past.

As tensions persist, India remains vigilant and prepared to thwart any potential threats emanating from across the

### **Cong attacks PM** over remarks on **Mahatma Gandhi**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The Congress Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that the "world did not know of Mahatma Gandhi till the film 'Gandhi' was made' and said those whose "ideolog ical ancestors" were involved in Gandhi's assassination can never follow the path of truth shown by him. Congress general secretary

Jairam Ramesh said, "I don't know in which world the outgoing Prime Minister lives where Mahatma Gandhi was not recognised across the world before 1982. If anyone has destroyed the legacy of the Mahatma, it is the outgoing Prime Minister himself. "His own government has destroyed Gandhian institutions in Varanasi, Delhi and Ahmedabad," the Congress leader alleged Former party president Rahul Gandhi said that those who follow Nathuram Godse's path of violence cannot understand Gandhi. "Now the lie is about to pack its bags and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

Congress general secretary Privanka Gandhi Vadra said that she heard from PM Modi that no one knew Mahatma Gandhiji until an Englishman made a film on him. Congress leader P Chidambaram said he was appalled by the Prime

# Brij Bhushan son's car knocks 2 to death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gonda (UP), May 29: Two cousins were killed and a woman was injured after being hit by an SUV that was allegedly part of the cavalcade of BJP's Kaiserganj candidate Karan Bhushan Singh here Wednesday. The car driver has been arrested, police said.

Karan Singh is the son of sitting Kaiserganj MP and former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Police personnel have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

Station House Officer, Kernalganj, Nirbhay Narayan Singh said Rehan Khan (17) and Shehzad Khan (20) were travelling on a motorcycle when they were hit by the SUV near a school. Both of them died on the spot. The driver of the SUV that hit the

duo lost control of the vehicle and also hit Sita Devi (60) who was walking on the roadside, the SHO said.

The driver, Lav Kush Srivastava, has been arrested and his vehicle seized. The bodies were handed over to the family members of the deceased after the completion of formalities, police said. An FIR has been registered at the local police station under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Motor Vehicles Act in the matter, police said.

Sita Devi is undergoing treatment at the medical college, they said. There were four vehicles in the convoy of Karan Bhushan Singh, also the president of the Uttar Pradesh Wrestling Association, who was sitting in the first vehicle, said a police officer on condition of anonymity.

The vehicle that hit the mo-



torcycle was at the end of the convoy. The speed of the vehicles in the convoy was above 100 kmph, said the officer who inspected the accident spot.

vent out of control after hitting The SUV's airbags deployed the motorcycle can be estimated from the fact that more than a dozen cemented poles erected in fields along the road to keep out stray animals were badly damaged." "This vehicle was also

fined ₹2,000 for violating traffic\_ rules December 21, 2023, and the penalty is yet to be paid. 'Police escort' was written on the rear windscreen "The speed of the vehicle which vehicle," the officer said.

> during the crash, keeping its passengers safe. The front of the car was badly damaged and one of its tyres was punctured after getting entangled in a barbed wire on the roadside, he said.

### Woman ultra with bounty killed

Bijapur (Chhattisgarh): Two Naxalites, including a woman cadre involved in over a dozen murders and carrying a reward of ₹8 lakh, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Wednesday, police said. The gunfight took place in the forest of Koranjed-Bandepara villages under Madded police station limits when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said.

### **HC to hear Bibhav's plea friday**

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court will hear Friday a plea by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's close aide Bibhav Kumar against his arrest for allegedly assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal earlier this month. Kumar's bail plea was dismissed by a sessions court Monday. Kumar was arrested May 18 and he was sent to police custody for five days.

### Four cops beaten up by Army men, FIR lodged

Srinagar: Four policemen were injured after they were allegedly beaten up by army personnel in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Wednesday. A defence spokesperson, however, said "minor differences" between the cops and the army personnel have been resolved amicably. Police has lodged an FIR in the matter. Special police officers Rayees Khan, Imtiyaz Malik and constables Saleem Mushtaq, Zahoor Ahmad -- posted at Kupwara police station -- were admitted to SKIMS Hospital at Soura late Tuesday night, officials said, adding their condition is stated to be stable.

### **Court rejects Prajwal's anticipatory bail plea**

Bangalore: A Special Court here Wednesday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna, who is facing allegations of sexually abusing several women, in a rape case. The special court for Elected Representative dismissed the bail application moved by his advocate Arun. According to official sources, Praiwal has booked a return flight ticket to Bengaluru from Munich May 30, and is expected to land in the city in the small hours of May 31. Prajwal, grandson of JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda, is accused in an alleged rape and sexual harassment case involving a 47vear-old woman

### **CAA:** Govt starts granting citizenship in three states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The Union government Wednesday started granting citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in West Bengal, Haryana and Uttarakhand

The CAA was enacted in December 2019 for granting Indian nationality to persecuted Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014. The applicants in West Bengal, Haryana and Uttarakhand were granted citizenship Wednesday by the respective State Empowered Committee, the Union Home Ministry said in a statement.

The first set of citizenship certificates after the notification of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, granted by the Empowered Committee, Delhi, were handed over to the applicants in New Delhi by the Union Home Secretary May 15.

# Tattoos pose inherent risks of hepatitis, HIV and cancers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 29: Love to get tattooed? Beware, the ink and needle used may raise your risk of getting diseases like Hepatitis B, C, HIV, and even cancers of the liver and blood, warned doctors Wednesday.

Tattoos have become very popular, especially among the youth, as a form of body art and a means of expressing their thoughts or passion.

"The most obvious health concerns emanate from the use of possibly infected needles used to draw these tattoos in non-expert hands and the risk of contracting infections like Hepatitis B, C or even HIV." Suhail Qureshi, Additional Director and Unit Head - Medical Oncology, Fortis Hospital Shalimar Bagh, told IANS.

In a recent study of 11,905 individuals, by researchers at Lund University in Sweden, tattooed individuals were found to have a higher risk of lymphoma. The risk of lymphoma was highest in individuals with less than two years since their first tattoo.

The risk associated with tattoo exposure seemed to be highest for large B-cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma.

"This is because the tattoo ink, which may contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) -- a known carcinogen, is injected into the skin. The body treats it as a foreign object that should not be there, and the immune system gets activated. A large part of the ink is trans-



ported away from the skin, to the lymph nodes where it is deposited," Tushar Tayal, Consultant, Internal Medicine, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram,

told IANS Recently, Australia's Department of Health also surveyed the composition of tattoo inks and found a mismatch between the labelling and the

They found PAHs in 20 per cent of the samples tested and in 83 per cent of the black inks. Other hazardous components

n a recent study of 11,905 individuals, by researchers at Lund University in Sweden, tattooed individuals were found to have a higher risk of lymphoma

he risk of lymphoma was highest in individuals with less than two years since their first tattoo

he risk associated with tattoo exposure seemed to be highest for large B-cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma

found in the inks included heavy metals like mercury, barium, copper, amines, and various colourants.

"These hazardous chemicals may cause simple ailments like skin problems to the more dangerous skin cancers," Suhail said.

He explained that the "ink may get absorbed from the dermis (outer layer of the skin) into the lymphatic system of the body and may increase the risk of some other cancers like liver, urinary bladder as well as blood cancers like lymphoma and leukaemia'

The hazardous chemicals in the tattoo ink are primarily responsible for these dangerous ailments and until the time health care authorities strictly regulate the contents of such inks, this risk will always remain.

"While not all tattoo inks contain these cancer-causing chemicals, we need to exercise caution while getting a tattoo since in India, there are no regulatoryframeworks that govern this,' Suhail said.







# international



**Everything** that we can see tells us that they are not moving into a major ground operation in population centres in the centre of Rafah JOHN KIRBY | NATIONAL SECURITY

### **AFGHAN HUNGER CRISIS HITS KIDS**

About 6.5 million children in Afghanistan were forecast to experience crisis levels of hunger in 2024, nongovernmental organization Save the Children said. Nearly 3 of 10 Afghan children will face crisis or emergency levels of hunger this year as the country feels the immediate impacts of floods, according to a report released late Tuesday by Save The Children





whatever is necessary for as long as it is necessary to support

PRESIDENT, FRANCE

The acquisition of military reconnaissance satellites is an essential task for our country to further strengthen our self-

defense deterrence ... in the face of serious changes to our nation's security environment caused by US military maneuvers and various

KIM JONG UN LEADER, NORTH KOREA

We never invited the military to intervene in politics. But Imran Khan wants to talk to those

who have the power to decide. Do you feel that those who have come to power through Form 47s have anything to offer? Holding talks with them would be fruitless

ARIF ALVI FORMER PRESIDENT, PAKISTAN

### **SHORT TAKES**

### Death for bribes

Beijing: A Chinese court has handed down a rare death sentence to a former banker for accepting \$151 million in bribes. Bai Tianhui, former general manager of China Huarong International Holdings (CHIH), was sentenced to death by a court in Tianjin Tuesday, state-run Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday. He was also deprived of his political rights for life and all of his personal property was confiscated. His illegal gains will be recovered and turned over to the state treasury, according to the verdict of the No 2 Intermediate People's Court of Tianjin.

### Ukraine gets \$1.23bn

Copenhagen: The Swedish government said Wednesday that it will donate military aid to Ukraine worth 13 billion Kronor (\$1.23 billion) in the largest help package Sweden has so far donated. "It consists of equipment that is at the top of Ukraine's priority list,' Deputy Prime Minister Ebba Busch said. It included air defense, artillery ammunition and armored vehicles. Sweden's Defense Minister Pal Jonsson reiterated that the country has ruled out for now sending any Swedish-built JAS 39 Gripen jets to Ukraine saying the focus on the Ukrainian side is on implementing the F-16 program.

### 2 more arrested in SL for ISIS links

Colombo: Sri Lankan police have arrested two more suspects allegedly linked to the Islamic State (ISIS) from the country's northwestern region, officials said Wednesday. The development comes days after the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad arrested four Sri Lankans with links to ISIS at the airport in Ahmedabad. The four men had taken an Indigo flight out of Colombo to Chennai May 19. Sri Lankan security forces suspect that a 46-year-old man - identified as Osmand Gerrard - acted as their handler and facilitated their movement from Lanka to India.

### Pak nabs 140 over

members of the Christian minority, their properties and police personnel on the issue of alleged desecration of the Quran. A charged mob led by radical Islamist Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activists last week attacked the Christian community in Mujahid Colony.

# Iran, ME fuel global executions rise NK sends balloons with

YEAR TO 1,153, THE HIGHEST SINCE 2015

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 29: The number of executions recorded worldwide last year jumped to the highest level since 2015, with a sharp rise in Iran and across the Middle East, Amnesty International said in a report released Wednesday.

The human rights group said it recorded a total of 1,153 executions in 2023, a 30 per cent increase from 2022. Amnesty said the figure does not include thousands of death sentences believed to have been carried out in China, where data is not available due to state secrecy.

The group said the spike in recorded executions was primarily driven by Iran, where authorities executed at least 853 people last year, compared to 576 in 2022.

Those executed included 24 women and five people who were children at the time the crimes

Amid global

condemnation regarding

incessant killing in Rafah,

Israel has now sent tanks

to raid the scarred region

Cairo, May 29: Israeli tanks

mounted raids across Rafah in

defiance of the World Court for

a second day Wednesday, after

Washington said the assault did

not amount to a major ground op-

eration in the southern Gazan

city that US officials have warned

Israel sent its tanks into the

heart of Rafah for the first time

Tuesday, despite an order from

the International Court of Justice

to end its attacks on the city.

where many Palestinians had

taken refuge from widespread

closest ally, reiterated its oppo-

sition to a major Israeli ground

offensive in Rafah but said

Tuesday it did not believe such

Rafah residents said

an operation was under way.

The United States, Israel's

REUTERS

Israel to avoid.

bombardment.

were committed, Amnesty said, adding that the practice disproportionately affected Iran's Baluch minority.

"The Iranian authorities showed complete disregard for human life and ramped up executions for drug-related offences, further highlighting the discriminatory impact of the death penalty on Iran's most marginalized and impoverished communities," Agnès Callamard, Amnesty's secretary general,

**GAZA-WIDE OFFENSIVE** 

Israeli tanks raid Rafah

Wednesday that Israeli tanks

had pushed into Tel Al-Sultan in

western Rafah and Yibna and

near Shaboura in the centre be-

fore retreating towards a buffer

zone on the border with Egypt.

in contrast with offensives else-

Israel's military controlled three

quarters of the buffer zone and

aimed to control all of it to prevent

Hamas smuggling in weapons.

Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's National Security

He expected fighting in Gaza

to continue throughout 2024 at

least, he said, signalling Israel

was not ready to heed interna-

tional calls to agree a ceasefire

with the Hamas militants who

run Gaza and exchange the

hostages they hold for Palestinian

The armed wings of Hamas

and its allies Islamic Jihad

said they confronted the in-

vading forces with anti-tank

rockets and mortar bombs and

blew up previously planted ex-

The Israeli military said three

soldiers were killed and three

others badly wounded in combat

prisoners.

plosive devices.

Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi said.

said in a statement.

The group said China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and the United States were the five countries with the highest number of executions in 2023. The total number cited in Amnesty's annual report was the highest it recorded since 2015, when 1,634 people were known to have been executed

Callamard said progress faltered in the US, where executions rose from 18 to 24 and "a

GAZA FIGHTING TO LAST AT

❖ ISRAEL CONTROLS THREE

GAZA DEATH TOLL RISES

BORDER ZONE

BEYOND 36,000

**QUARTERS OF EGYPT-GAZA** 

in southern Gaza, without elab-

orating. Israel's public broad-

caster Kan radio said they were

hurt by an explosive device set

Palestinian health officials

said several people were wounded

by Israeli fire in eastern Rafah

and stores of aid were set ablaze.

Residents said constant Israeli

bombardment overnight de-

stroyed many homes in the area,

from where most people have

fled after orders by Israel to evac-

ing what they described as un-

manned robotic armoured ve-

hicles opening fire from machine

guns in some parts of the city.

Internet and mobile signals

went down in parts of both east

air and ground bombardment,

the pro-Hamas Shehab news

agency, residents and other

journalists said. The Israeli

military said it could not con-

In northern Gaza, tanks

shelled several Gaza City neigh-

bourhoods, and forces thrust

deeper into Jabalia, the largest

of the enclave's eight biggest

historic refugee camps, where

residents said large residential

have been killed in Israel's Gaza

offensive, the enclave's health

More than 36,000 Palestinians

districts were destroyed

firm the reports.

and west amid heavy Israeli

Some residents reported see-

off in a building in Rafah.

LEAST SEVEN MORE MONTHS

demonstrated a chilling commitment to the death penalty and a callous intent to invest resources in the taking of human life AGNÈS CALLAMARD | SECRETARY GENERAL,

A number of states

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

number of states demonstrated a chilling commitment to the death penalty and a callous intent to invest resources in the taking of human life'

The report cited the introduction of bills to carry out executions by firing squad in Idaho and Tennessee, and Alabama's use of nitrogen gas as a new, untested execution method in January.

Amnesty said that despite the setbacks, there was progress because the number of countries that carried out executions dropped to 16, the lowest on record since the group began monitoring.

**3RD ATTACK IN MONTH** 

### Militants burn girls' school in Pakistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

group of militants used kerosine to set fire to a girls' school in a former Pakistani Taliban stronghold, destroying furniture, computers and books, police said Wednesday, in the latest in a surge in such attacks.

No one was hurt in the overnight

Dera Ismail Khan, May 29: A

attack in North Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. local police official Rehmat Ullah said. Two other girls' schools in the region were bombed earlier this month. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but authorities suspect Islamic militants, who targeted girls' schools years ago, saying that women should not be educated.

# excrement to SK as 'gift'

Seoul, May 29: North Korea sent hundreds of balloons carrying trash and excrement across the heavily fortified border to South Korea Wednesday, calling them "gifts of sincerity", prompting an angry response from Seoul, which said the act was base and dangerous.

Photographs released by the South Korean military showed inflated balloons with plastic bags tied to them. Other images appeared to show trash strewn around collapsed balloons, with the word "excrement" written on a bag in one photograph.

By Wednesday afternoon, more than 260 balloons had been detected, and most of them have landed on the ground, carrying animal faeces and rubbish, the South Korean military said in a statement, calling the act "base and dangerous"

North Korea said the balloons were in retaliation for an ongoing propaganda campaign by North Korean defectors and activists in South Korea, who regularly send inflatables containing anti-Pyongyang leaflets, alongside food, medicine, money and USB sticks loaded with K-pop music videos and dramas across the border.

Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister and a powerful ruling party official, issued a statement in state media KCNA, slamming Seoul as "shameful, brazen" for criticising the balloons while defending its citizens' own freedom of expression. The North's balloons were

'gifts of sincerity" for South Koreans who "cry for freedom of expression", she said, pledging to send dozens of times the number she said South Korea had sent into its territory An official at Seoul's presi-

dential office said the North

might want to "test" the South's

reaction but vowed to respond

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE** By putting rubbish and mis-

cellaneous objects into balloons, they seem to want to test how our people would react and whether our government is indeed disrupted, and apart from direct provocations, how psychological warfare and small-scale complex threats would play out in our country," the official told re-

The South Korean military's explosives ordnance unit and chemical and biological warfare response team were deployed to inspect and collect the objects. and an alert was issued warning residents to keep away and report any sightings to authorities. On Sunday, North Korea's vice

defence minister denounced balloons sent by South Korean activists, calling them "dirty things" and a "dangerous provocation," and warned that "mounds of waste-paper and filth" would be sent to the South in response.

North Korea also attempted to jam GPS signals in South Korea on early Wednesday morning, although no damage was reported, the Donga Ilbo newspaper said, citing multiple unnamed government sources.

A previous South Korean government sought to block such campaigns, especially after a 2014 incident when the North tried to shoot down balloons, which triggered complaints from residents near the border.

### **Centuries old tradition: Colombia** congress votes to ban bullfights

Bogota: Colombia's congress voted Tuesday to ban bullfights in the South American nation, delivering a serious blow to a centuries old tradition that has but has become increasingly controversial in the countries where



it is still practised. The bill approved by Colombia's congress calls for the banning of bullfights in a three year span. making the tradition illegal by the start of 2028. The new law now needs to be signed by President Gustavo Petro, who has been a long time opponent of these events. Bullfighting originated in the Iberian peninsula and is still legal in Spain, France, Portugal, Peru, Ecuador and Mexico, among other countries. In Colombia, where bullfights have been held since colonial times, less than two dozen municipalities continue to hold these events, although the annual bullfights in the city of Manizales still draw tens of thousands of spectators. It was once a popular event, broadcast live by multiple television networks. But the tradition has come under increased scrutiny as views change about animal welfare, and many find it unacceptable to see an animal suffer for entertainment's sake.

### **Russia's wealthy elite may** face higher income tax Moscow: Russia's wealthy elite could face higher

income taxes, according to a proposal the country's finance ministry floated Tuesday. The proposal, which would likely have to go through parliament for approval and subsequently a signoff by President Vladimir Putin, omes as Russia continues to spend vast amounts of money on the military campaign in Ukraine. The proposal involves a progressive tax on personal incomes and represents a change of course from the current flat-rate tax that was credited with bringing order and improving tax collections after it was introduced in 2001. It envisages imposing a 13 per cent tax for incomes of up to 2.4 million rubles (\$27,000) a year. For incomes over that amount, a steadily higher tax rates would apply. The maximum tax would be 22 per cent for annual incomes exceeding 50 million rubles (\$555,000). The increased taxes would affect only 3.2 per cent of Russia's working population, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said on the ministry's website. The 2.4-mil-

lion-ruble level is about three times higher than the country's average salary, he said in a commentary.



## THE ABANDONMENT OF NORDIC NEUTRALITY

**FRSIAL** 

AS THE THIRD AND FIFTH LARGEST COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, SWEDEN AND FINLAND HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED **NATO'S INFLUENCE AND BROUGHT VALUABLE CAPABILITIES TO THE ORGANISATION** 

ussian President Vladimir Putin's attempt to curb NATO by invading Ukraine backfired, as evidenced by Finland's accession to the alliance in April 2023, which significantly increased NATO's border with Russia, followed by Sweden's membership in March 2024. As US President Joe Biden has said of Putin: "He thought he'd get the Finlandization of NATO: instead. he got the NATO-ization of Finland—and Sweden.

Finland's policy of nonalignment during the Cold War was primarily driven by the need for survival rather than principled beliefs, as it was coerced into neutrality by its dominant Soviet neighbour. On the other hand, Sweden's neutrality was deeply ingrained and rooted in ideology, as the country saw itself as the moral compass of the world, yet it also had a strong affinity towards the West. Seizing the opportunity in 1994, just a few years after the Soviet Union's dissolution, both Sweden and Finland joined NATO's Partnership for Peace, a platform for security cooperation among member and non-member states. Consequently, these two nations now benefit from the protection provided by Article 5 of NATO's mutual defence clause. The abandonment of Nordic neutrality marks the end of the post-Cold War era in the northern region. As the third and fifth largest countries in the European Union, Sweden and Finland have significantly expanded NATO's influence and brought valuable capabilities to the organisation. While this membership represents a significant setback for

Moscow, it also raises the risk of



potential escalation. Finnish neutrality emerged

as a survival strategy after World War II. Between 1939 and 1945. Finland fought in three separate conflicts as its alliances shifted: a defensive war against the Soviet Union, an invasion of the Soviet Union with help from Nazi Germany, and then a war to drive out German troops, mostly from Finland's north. Afterward, Finland was made to surrender ten percent of its territory to the Soviet Union, as well as pay substantial war reparations. In 1948, as part of the Finno-Soviet Treaty, the Finns formally relinquished their right to join any military alliance. Defeated and afraid, the leadership in Helsinki settled into a long period of uncritical neutrality toward, if not subservience to. the Kremlin.

As the Cold War divided Europe, Finnish leaders used diplomatic acrobatics to position themselves between East and West. Without formally joining the process of European integration, Finland managed to build and retain strong economic links to Europe. In 1975, Helsinki even hosted the first meeting of what would become the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The summit symbolized Finland's standing as a neutral meeting place where East and West could come together to craft a new security architecture for Europe.

Russia's 2022 invasion of

Ukraine changed all that. Just weeks into the war, Finland's president at the time, Sauli Niinisto, met with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg as well as with US, British, and French officials. Public support for joining NATO skyrocketed, from 42 percent before the war to 80 percent by September 2022. By the time Finland officially joined the alliance, a new foreign policy consensus had emerged. In January of this year, when Finns went to the polls to pick a new president, not one of the eight candidates criticized the decision

to join NATO. Neutrality took a much different form in Sweden. If the Finns tended to be passive, reluctant to criticize either side in the Cold War, the Swedes prided themselves on their righteousness, In 1972, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme compared the United States' bombardment of Hanoi to the Fascists' bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War and to the Nazis' mass shooting of Jews at Babi Yar in Ukraine during World War II. "We should call things by their proper names,' he said in a fiery speech. "What is going on in Vietnam today is a form of torture." And when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the Swedes criticized that war as well—just as they had condemned the Warsaw Pact's invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the Red Army's incursion into Hungary in 1956.

In some ways, Sweden's abandonment of neutrality has been even more dramatic than Finland's. Until last year, Sweden had practiced nonalignment for over two centuries, since the Kingdom of Sweden ceded Finland to the Russian Empire in 1809. Even now. the Swedish public's enthusiasm for NATO membership is muted relative to that of the Finns. In January, a national poll found that only 63 percent of Swedes approved of their government's decision to join the alliance. Still, most Swedes believe that the security environment fundamentally changed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. A policy of nonalignment no longeroffered sufficient assurance of future security; Article 5 did.



suspects involved in attacking

# business



(Asset **Reconstruction Companies) to** adopt a regulation plus approach where you not only comply with the letter of the regulation but also its spirit SWAMINATHAN J | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

I would urge you

### **INDIGO'S NEW FEATURE** FOR WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Women booking tickets in an IndiGo flight can now know about the seats that have already been booked by other female passengers at the time of web check-in, with the airline introducing the new feature after a market research





mission and favourable government policies are game changers for the Indian drone sector. By fostering a supportive environment for technological innovation and domestic manufacturing, India is well on its way to becoming a leader in the global drone market

AADHAR BANSAL DIRECTOR, NEXGEN

HPCL's vast network and significant presence in India will ensure that existing and prospective EV users across the country have convenient access to our charging solutions

GAURAV GUPTA | CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER, MG MOTOF

Now, India should start talking for its semi and unskilled agreements. India

workforce also in the

provides low customs in trade agreements, so in lieu of that we can seek greater access for our labours BISWAJIT DHAR INTERNATIONAL TRADE EXPER

### **04 RESULTS**

### Tata Steel net falls

New Delhi: Tata Steel Wednesday reported a 64.59 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹554.56 crore during the March 2024 quarter on lower realisations and certain exceptional items. It had posted a profit of ₹1,566.24 crore in the year-ago period, the company said in a regulatory filing. Total income plunged to ₹58,863.22 crore from ₹63,131.08 crore in the January-March period of FY23.The company's expenses were at ₹56,496.88 crore as against ₹59,918.15 crore a year ago. Its revenues decreased by 6 per cent due to lower realisations partly offset by higher volumes in India. The board of the company has recommended a dividend of ₹3.60 per equity share of face

### SJVN net profit rises

New Delhi: State-owned SJVN has reported over two-fold jump in consolidated profit to ₹61.08 crore during the March guarter, on account of exceptional gains. The company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹17.21 crore in the year-ago period. The financial results of the company showed an exception gains of ₹103.84 crore during the quarter. However, total income of the company dipped to ₹573.23 crore in the quarter from ₹582.78 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated net profit of the company in 2023-24 was at ₹911.44 crore from ₹1,359.30 crore in year ago

# S&P ups India's outlook to positive

### THE AGENCY RAISES HOPE FOR RATINGS UPGRADE IN 2 YEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: After a gap of about 10 years, S&P Global Ratings Wednesday upped India's outlook to positive from stable on robust growth prospects for next three years and public spending, and raised hopes for an upgrade in two years provided the government continues reforms and policies to keep fiscal deficit under check

While retaining India's sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-', S&P said it expects broad continuity in economic reforms and fiscal policies, irrespective of the election

outcome. Results of the ongoing general elections will

be announced June 4. "India outlook revised to positive on robust growth and rising quality of Government spend," S&P said, while affirming long-term rating at 'BBB-'.

The ratings are looked at by investors as a barometer of the country's creditworthiness and has impact on borrowing costs.

"Our positive outlook on India is predicated on its robust economic growth, pronounced improvement in the quality of government spending, and political commitment to fiscal consolidation. We believe these factors are coalescing to benefit credit metrics," S&P said.

Irrespective of the June 2024 general election results, S&P expects the incoming government to carry on economic reforms to support the "growth vigor", continued infrastructure investment drive, and commitment to fiscal consolidation.

The finance ministry has been pushing for a rating upgrade on the back of improved fiscal management and strong economic fundamental, including high foreign exchange reserves.

S&P's rating commentary comes within a week of RBI's record ₹2.10 lakh in 2014, S&P crore dividend transhad upped India's fer to the government. The funds outlook to may be used to reduce the Centre's fisstable from

> negative The government hopes to bring down fiscal deficit to 5.1 per cent of GDP by March 2025 and further to 4.5 per cent March 2026.

cal deficit.

"We expect sound economic fundamentals to underpin the growth three years. Regardless of the election outcome, we expect broad continuity in economic reforms and fiscal policies," S&P said.

It said the composition of government spending has been transformed, with an increasing share going to infrastructure. This will ease bottlenecks to put the country on a higher growth trajectory.

S&P said India's robust eco-



### Outlook on 6 banks, state-owned cos revised

New Delhi: S&P Global Ratings Wednesday revised outlook on six Indian banks, including SBI and ICICI Bank to positive from stable, mirroring the rating action on the sovereign. S&P also revised the rating outlook to positive from stable on state-owned NTPC, ONGC, and Power Grid and affirmed 'BBB-' issuer and issue ratings on these companies. "Consequently, we revised the rating outlook on NTPC Ltd, Oil and Natural Gas Corp Ltd (ONGC), and Power Grid Corp of India Ltd to positive from stable. At the same time, we affirmed our 'BBB-' issuer and issue ratings on these companies," "&P said in a statement. In a separate statement, S&P said it has revised its rating outlook on six Indian banks to positive from stable.It affirmed BBB- long-term and 'A-3' short-term ratings on Axis

Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank

and Indian Bank, and also affirmed the issue ratings on the banks.

nomic expansion is having a constructive impact on its credit metrics.

"We expect sound economic fundamentals to underpin the growth momentum over the next two to three years. Regardless of the election outcome, we expect broad continuity in economic reforms and fiscal policies." S&P said.

The positive outlook reflects S&P's view that continued policy stability, deepening economic reforms, and high infrastructure investment will sustain long-term growth prospects.

"That, along with cautious fiscal and monetary policy that diminishes the government's elevated debt and interest burden while bolstering economic resilience, could lead to a higher rating over the next 24 months,' S&P said.

'remarkable comeback' S&P said the Indian economy

back" from the Covid-19 pandemic. It forecasts India's real GDP growth at 6.8 per cent this year, which compares favourably with emerging market peers amid a broad global slowdown.

The agency estimates real GDP growth in the past three years to have averaged 8.1 per cent annually, the highest in the Asia-Pacific region.

It expects these growth dynamics to continue to play out in the medium term, with GDP expanding close to 7 per cent annually over the next three years which will have a moderating effect on the ratio of government debt to GDP despite still wide fiscal deficits.

S&P said the quality of government spending has improved in the past four to five years and public investment and consumer momentum will underpin solid growth prospects over the next three to four years.

The Modi administration has increasingly shifted budget allocation to infrastructure spending. Capital expenditure is scheduled to increase to ₹11 lakh crore. or about 3.4 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2025. This is almost 4.5x from a decade before.

S&P believes that the improvements in infrastructure and connectivity in India will remove chokepoints, which are hindering long-term economic growth.

India's weak fiscal settings had always been the most vulnerable part of its sovereign rat-

### Centre to enlist dairy. fishery co-ops in rural banking outreach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The government is planning to launch a nationwide programme to rope in dairy and fishery cooperative societies as banking correspondents to expand financial services in rural areas, a top official said Wednesday.

Ministry of Cooperation Secretary Ashish Kumar Bhutani said the programme would leverage the existing network of dairy and fishery cooperatives to act as "bank mitras" or banking agents by offering services such as micro-ATMs and lower-interest farm loans.

"The pilot has been rolled out at the state level in Gujarat. We intend to nationally roll out shortly," Bhutani said while addressing a cooperative summit organised by PHDCCI here.

The plan follows a pilot project launched in two districts of Gujarat where members of dairy and fishery cooperatives were able to access banking services closer home, including doorstep delivery of microloans and facilitating other transactions.

Under the nationwide programme, these cooperative societies will be engaged as banking correspondents of district and state cooperative banks, official sources said.

To enable delivery of branchless banking services, the cooperatives will be provided with micro-ATMs with support from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the state agency tasked with development of rural India.

Cooperative members will also be issued Kisan Credit Cards, which typically offer farm loans at lower interest rates. Bhutani said the Ministry of

Cooperation has initiated 54 measures over the last two-anda-half years since its formation to strengthen and promote India's cooperative sector, including allowing grassroots-level Primary Agricultural Credit Societies undertake multiple activities.

Paytm, Adani Group

## **RBI** acts against two Edelweiss firms for 'evergreening' loans

REUTERS

Mumbai, May 29: India's central bank Wednesday barred two Edelweiss Group companies from acquiring financial assets or undertaking structured transactions, saying they engaged in "evergreening" distressed loans.

Evergreening refers to a practice where new loans are given to stressed borrowers to enable them to repay existing loans. The RBI has publicly warned against the practice, which is typically aimed at masking the amount of stressed loans a firm holds The entities, Edelweiss Asset

Reconstruction Co Ltd (EARCL) and non-bank firm ECL Finance (ECL), had entered into a series of structured transactions for evergreening stressed loans of ECL, the Reserve Bank of India said in a release The RBI added that the firms

circumvented applicable regulations by using the platform of EARCL and connected alternative investment funds. By taking over loans from

non-lender entities of the group for ultimate sale to the group ARC, ECL allowed itself to be used as a conduit to bypass regulations, the RBI said

According to the central bank's norms, asset reconstruction companies can acquire financial assets only from banks and financial institutions.



EARCL and Edelweiss Group did not immediately respond to a Reuters email seeking com-Incorrect valuation of security

receipts was also observed in both ECL and EARCL, the RBI

"Instead of taking meaningful remedial action to rectify the said deficiencies, it was observed that the group entities were resorting to new ways to circumvent regulations," the central bank said, directing them to ensure regulatory compliance "in letter and spirit at all times".

The RBI has increased supervision of regulated entities to prevent systemic risks and to ensure that regulations are

## PROFIT Markets in red for 4th day

Sensex declines 667, Nifty falls to 22,700 level

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 29: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined nearly 1 per cent Wednesday, continuing their losing streak for the fourth day running amid profit-taking by cautious investors ahead of the results of the Lok Sabha polls and weak global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 667.55 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 74,502.90. The index declined below the 75,000 mark to hit the dav's low of 74,454.55, plunging 715.9 points or 0.95 per cent. The BSE benchmark hit its all-time peak of 76,009.68 May 27

The NSE Nifty dropped 183.45 points or 0.80 per cent to 22,704.70 amid high volatility. The 50-share barometer hit its lifetime high of 23.110.80 Monday

From the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, UltraTech Cement, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries and Infosvs were the biggest laggards. Power Grid, Sun Pharma, Nestle, ITC and Bharti Airtel were the gainers

"Weak global cues prompted investors to take profits ahead of the US core PCE data, a key gauge of inflation that is antic ipated to rise," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

As many as 2.136 stocks de-



0.71 Nestle India 0.44 ITC 0.26 Bharti Airtel LOSERS -1.89 Bajaj Finserv -1.48 HDFC Bank

Nifty continued falling for the fourth consecutive day and recorded its biggest fall in 14 sessions

DEEPAK JASANI | HEAD OF RETAIL RESEARCH, HDFC SECURITIES

clined while 1,680 advanced and 113 remained unchanged on the BSE

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹65.57 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

After gyrating between gains and losses during the day Tuesday, the BSE benchmark finally ended 220.05 points or 0.29 per cent lower at 75,170.45. The

### **Investors' wealth** erodes by ₹5.12L-cr

Investors' wealth eroded by ₹5.12 lakh crore in four straight days of fall in the equity markets which witnessed profittaking after a record-breaking rally. In four sessions since May 24, the benchmark gauge dropped 915.14 points or 1.21 per cent amid profit-taking by cautious investors. The BSE benchmark Sensex hit an all-time high of 76,009.68 May 27. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded by ₹5,12,921.96 crore to ₹4,15,09,713.94 crore (\$4.98 trillion) in the four sessions to Wednesday.

NSE Nifty dropped 44.30 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at

### deny stake sale talks PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Paytm operator One97 Communications Ltd on Wednesday said it is not in talks to sell a stake to the Adani Group. Adani group has also termed such reports as "false and untrue.'

Commenting on a report that billionaire Gautam Adani was in talks with Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma for a possible stake buv. One97 Communications said, the "news item is speculative and the company is not engaged in any dis-

cussions in this regard.' Since shutting its banking unit after falling foul to regulations. Paytm has lost about half of its market value and there have been consistent speculation about it being a potential

# Reliance to buy Russian oil in roubles

**INDIA HAS ALSO PAID FOR RUSSIAN CRUDE IN RUPEES. DIRHAMS AND CHINESE YUAN** 

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 29: Reliance Industries, operator of the world's biggest refining complex, has signed a one-year deal with Russia's Rosneft to buy at least 3 million barrels of oil a month in roubles, four sources aware of the matter told Reuters.

The shift to rouble payments follows Russian President Vladimir Putin's push for Moscow and its trading partners to find alternatives to the Western financial system to facilitate trade despite US and European sanctions

A term deal with Rosneft also

secure oil at discounted rates at a time when the OPEC+ group of oil producers is expected to extend voluntary supply cuts beyond June.

The OPEC+ group comprising the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia is due to discuss the output cuts in an online meeting

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, has become the biggest buyer of seaborne Russian crude since the West halted purchases and imposed sanctions against Moscow in the aftermath of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. India has also paid for Russian crude in rupees, dirhams and

Chinese yuan. State-owned Indian refiners, meanwhile, have been tapping spot markets for Russian oil because they were unable to fi-



nalise term supplies for this year, Reuters has reported previously

"India is a strategic partner for Rosneft oil company," the Russian company said in an emailed response to questions from Reuters, adding that it does not comment on confidential agreements with partners. "Cooperation with Indian companies includes projects in the field of production, oil refining and trading of oil and petroleum products.'

Rosneft also said that commercial approaches to determining the value of sold crude are the same for all companies, regardless of whether they are private or state-controlled.

Under the terms of the deal, which took effect at the beginning of the Indian financial year from April 1. Reliance will buy two cargoes of about one million barrels of Urals crude with an option to buy four more each month at a discount of \$3 a barrel to the Middle East Dubai benchmark, the sources said.

The refiner will also purchase one to two cargoes a month of low-sulphur crude oil, mainly ESPO Blend exported from Russia's Pacific port of Kozmino, at a premium of \$1 a barrel to Dubai quotes, the sources added

Reliance has agreed to make payment for the oil using Russia's rouble through India's HDFC Bank and Russia's Gazprombank. the sources said. Further details on the payment mechanism were not immediately available.

### Irdai directs health insurers to decide on cashless authorisation in 1 hour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Regulator Irdai Wednesday released a master circular on health insurance specifying that an insurer will have to decide on cashless authorization within one hour of request.

The master circular on Health Insurance products repeals 55 circulars issued earlier and it is a significant stride towards reinforcing the empowerment of policyholders and bolstering inclusive health insurance, Irdai said in a statement.

"The circular has brought in one place the entitlements in a health insurance policy available to a Policyholder/prospects for their easy reference and also emphasizes measures towards providing seamless, faster and hassle-free claims experience to



a policyholder procuring health insurance policy and ensuring enhanced service standards across the health insurance sector," it said.

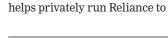
Sharing salient features of the master circular, it said, wider choice to be provided by the insurers by making available products/addons/riders by offering diverse insurance products catering to all ages, regions, medical conditions/ all types of Hospitals and Health Care Providers to suit the affordability of the pol-

It also specifies Customer Information Sheet (CIS) which is provided by the insurer along with every policy document.

It explains the basic features of insurance policies in simple words like type of insurance, sum insured, coverage details, exclusions, sub-limits, deductibles and waiting periods.

In case of no claims during the policy period, the insurers may reward the policyholders by providing an option to choose such No Claim Bonus either by increasing the sum insured or discounting the premium amount.

The master circular pitches for striving towards achieving facilitation of 100 per cent cashless claim settlement in a time bound manner.





# Mixed day for Indian shuttlers

### SINDHU WINS, BUT LAKSHYA GOES DOWN TO WORLD NO. 1, WHILE INJURED SRIKANTH RETIRES



PV Sindhu had a comparatively easy first round match Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, May 29: Former champion PV Sindhu progressed to the women's singles second round but Lakshya Sen went down fighting to World No.1 Viktor Axelsen while Kidambi Srikanth retired in his first round match at the Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament here Wednesday.

Sindhu's last title had been at the Singapore Open two years back. She defeated World No. 21 Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt of Denmark, 21-12, 22-20 win in a 44minute opening round match. She will next meet Carolina Marin of Spain, a player who has always dominated her and holds an 11-5 head-to-head record.

World No. 14 Lakshya fought hard but lost steam after the change of ends in the decider to go down 13-21, 21-16, 13-21 in 62 minutes against Axelsen. Srikanth's opening round match ended in agony as he retired with an injury after lagging 14-21, 3-11 against Japan's fifth seed Kodai Naraoka.

Sindhu held a 3-0 head-to-head

count against Line coming into the match but things started on an even note as the two were tied 8-8 at one stage before the Indian grabbed a two-point advantage at the break with a fine drop shot.

The Indian moved to 16-11 with some quick points as Line made too many unforced errors during the rallies. Sindhu soon held eight game points and converted it with a straight return.

After the change of sides, Sindhu continued the momentum to open up a 5-1 lead before taking an 11-7 cushion at the in-

terval, with Line finding the net. However, the Dane slowly clawed back at 14-14 and stood four points away at 20-16 from taking the match to the decider, but Sindhu stepped up the pace as she reeled off six straight points to

Lakshya looked a tad sluggish as he fell behind 1-4 against Axelsen, who rode on his attack to dominate the rallies. The Indian struggled with his length and also his defence lay in tatters against the Dane, who grabbed a massive 11-3 lead at the break.

Axelsen soon took 10 game points and though Lakshya saved three of them, he missed a net shot to hand the opening game to the Dane.

Lakshya showed better initiative in the second game as he tried to close out the net and go for attacking returns at the backline. He drew parity at 9-9 after trailing 6-9 and won the game comfortably. In the decider, even though Lakshya had a 7-3 lead, Axelson drew parity at 11-all and then reeled off eight points in a row to close the match.

In a match played late in the evening, HS Prannoy defeated Belgian Julien Carraggi, ranked 45th in the world 21-9, 18-21, 21-9 to progress to the second round.

### AT A GLANCE

- Laksya Sen lost to Viktor Axelsen 13-21, 21-16, 13-21
- Kidambi Srikanth vs Kodai Naraoka 14-21, 3-11 (retd hurt)

## Chhetri indebted to all teammates ,



Sunil Chhetri (left) arrives Wednesday in Kolkata ahead of the Kuwait match

### TALISMANIC STRIKER **TO HANG UP BOOTS JUNE 6 AFTER GAME AGAINST KUWAIT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 29: Approaching his international retirement. Indian football talisman Sunil Chhetri said Wednesday he remains indebted to his teammates, and the sport, for helping him become one of the country's greatest players.

The Indian team arrived here from Bhubaneswar for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifier against Kuwait to be played June 6, which will be the 39vear-old Chhetri's final outing in blue jersey. All eyes were on the goal-machine as the players exited the airport. There was also a huge banner welcoming him back to the city.

"These last few days, I've been caught in a bit of a dilemma. Now that there's a number to my days with the national team, what's the right route to take - do I count every day, every training session? Or do I simply turn up without the thought of how this is coming to an end?" asked Chhetri.

Chhetri has scored 94 goals from 150 international appearances. He said he is counting his blessings every day. "Over time, I seemed to have found middle ground. They say, count your blessings. And every single day I get to be on the pitch is a blessing that I've never taken for granted,'

asserted the striker. "So I've decided to count my sessions, but with a deep sense of gratitude. There's no apprehension. Instead, there's a feeling of being indebted to the sport, to my team, that I get to do this. If I could, I would capture this feeling in a box. Or

on the pitch is a blessing that I've never taken for granted, it has been a privilege SUNIL CHHETRI

instead, I'll take it to my next training session," Chhetri added.

Any India match in the 'City of Joy' draws much fanfare. However, this is not just any international game. If they earn three points, the Blue Tigers will take a giant leap towards a first-ever appearance in Round 3 of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, while also inching closer to automatic qualification for the AFC Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia 2027.

Chhetri had earlier this month announced that June 6 will be his last appearance in the international arena.

### SHORT TAKES

### Good show by **Indian pugilists**

Bangkok: Former World Youth Champion Ankushita Boro (60kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) registered comfortable victories to reach quarterfinals of the second Boxing World Olympic Oualifiers here Wednesday. National champion Arundhati Choudhary (66kg) also registered a convincing win to advance to the prequarterfinals. Boro was up against Asian champion Rimma Volossenko of Kazakhstan, but easily won on a 4-1 verdict. World Championships bronze medallist Nishant was clinical in his 5-0 demolition of Thailand's Peerapat Yeasungnoen to reach the last eight stage. Earlier in 66kg campaign with a clinical 5-0 win over Stephanie Pieneiro of Puerto Rico, Narender Berwal (+92kg) also put up a strong fight against Ecuador's Gerlon Gilmar Congo, but lost.

### Heart-breaking loss for Indian youngsters

Mönchengladbach (Germany): The Indian junior men's hockey team went down 2-3 to Germany in a match that went down to the final minute on the Europe tour. Yogember Rawat and Gurjot Singh scored for India in the game played late Tuesday night. The Germans took the lead in the second quarter, but the Indians were always on the lookout for the equaliser. Yogember soon equalised from a penalty corner. Gurjot made it 2-1 for the Indians, but the hosts hit back with two goals in quick succession in the fourth quarter to win the game. The winning goal came with a few seconds left on the hooter.

### Flick to replace **Xavi in Barcelona**

Madrid: Barcelona appear to be ready to announce the appointment of Hansi Flick as coach after officially confirming the departure of Xavi Hernandez, Wednesday. The club said in a statement that they had reached an agreement with Xavi 'to severe the contract the coach and his staff had' until the end of the 2024-25 season, Barcelona announced last Friday it would be changing coaches for next season. Minutes later. Barcelona published a post on X, with the picture featuring a German flag. It would be the 59-year-old Flick's first coaching job since being fired by Germany in September last year.

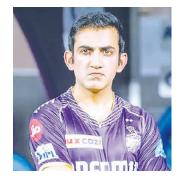
### 'GG' all set to become next India head coach

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: If rumours and BCCI sources are to be believed, the mentor of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Gautam Gambhir, will take over the hot seat vacated by Rahul Dravid after the T20 World Cup. Sources stated here Wednesday, that the BCCI is all set to appoint 'GG' (as Gambhir is popularly called) as the next head coach of the Indian men's cricket team. Gambhir has already proved his credentials as a 'mentor'. He was instrumental in Lucknow Super Giants reaching the IPL playoffs in 2022 and 2023. And now under his mentorship, KKR won the IPL this year after a decade.

The official deadline for application submission for the post of Indian cricket team head coach selection is over. Monday was the last date to submit the Google sheets of applications to the BCCI.

A report in a cricket-specific website gave details of what might be happening in the background. It claimed that a 'very high-profile owner of an IPL franchise, who is very close to the BCCI top brass' said that Gambhir's appointment as Indian cricket team coach is a 'done deal and the announcement will come soon'. It also said that a 'high profile commentator' told them that serious efforts are being made to rope in the KKR mentor.



The BCCI will also seek opinions from senior players of the Indian team regarding the appointment of a new head coach

The question however, is whether Gambhir, will desert KKR owner Shah Rukh Khan and take over the mantles of the Indian cricket team. Reportedly, Gambhir and SRK are very close and the latter wants him to continue with KKR. Also there has to be approval from the senior players of the Indian team regarding the coach. The BCCI will not appoint anyone against whom

the players have apprehensions. However, the report also added that since there has been no official announcement, it points to the fact that negotiations are still on multiple fronts - between the two parties and, perhaps, with some others too.

# Players look to shrug off IPL effect before T20 WC

New York, May 29: After two months of intense competitive cricket under night lights, the Indian cricket team, sans Virat Kohli, began their preparations for the T20 World Cup with a morning training session here, keeping in mind the 10.30am starts for all preliminary games. Kohli has taken a break for personal reasons after RCB's exit from the IPL. In all likelihood, he will join the squad Friday.

Having played 90 per cent of the matches under lights in the scorching Indian summer, the idea would be to adjust to pleasant mornings where temperatures will hover between 25 to 27 degrees Celsius with very

less humidity. A white Kookaburra in slightly windy mornings could be a challenge and to be prepared for that, the severely jet-lagged bodies need to get

used to morning conditions. And this is why the support staff, before initiating the skills training (net sessions) on the practice pitches at a ground on the outskirts of this city, decided to help the players acclimatise

with the conditions. "They (players) have been away two-and-half-months from us and getting to know where they stand and what needs to be done before the World Cup is the goal. The (first) target is to FOR KOHLI, ROHIT spend 45 minutes in the heat to get going," strength and conditioning coach Soham Desai was

quoted as saying by 'bcci.tv'. As far as the players are concerned, there is an element of curiosity about playing cricket in this city. "First time we are going to play cricket in New York, it is going be fun," Ravindra Jadeja said. "We have not yet played cricket, came here for a team activity. Hopefully, it will be good. The weather is really good, so we

are looking forward to it." Survakumar Yaday wanted to know more about the diaspora's cricket interests. "I heard cricket is growing here in the US. So we are really excited and the first day here was amazing, so very excited for the few days coming up," Surya stated.

# **COMMON AGENDA**

Bangalore: It's tough to find two

cricketers who are so different from each other vet so closely intertwined by the same thread of fate as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They started more or less at the same time, and their white ball cricket careers may end soon after the T20 World Cup in the Americas. The next T20 World Cup is in 2026, but Rohit would be touching 40 then and Kohli would be 38. It's hard to see them playing in any of those. So, both Rohit and Kohli will want to leave the stage with the winner's medal around their necks next month. Should they achieve that, it would be their second each after the 2007 T20 World Cup (Rohit) and the 2011 50over showpiece (Kohli).

### KALAHANDI CUP FIXTURES -**ANNOUNCED**

POST NEWS ETWORK

Cuttack, May 29: The super league matches for the Senior Inter-District cricket tournament for the Kalahandi Cup will start June 5, the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) said Wednesday in a release. All the matches will be played over two days, it added.

A total of 10 teams have qual-\_ ified for the Super League. The teams in Group A are East Coast Railways Sport Association (ECoRSA), Cuttack-A, Nayagarh, Rest of Odisha - A and Rest of Odisha – C. Teams that are in Group B are Bhubaneswar-A, Balasore, Bhadrak, Rest of Odisha - B and Rest of Odisha -D. Officials said that the Rest of Odisha teams have been made up of promising players of other clubs that failed to qualify for the Super League stage.

Officials said that on each of the match days four teams from each of the groups will be seen in action. On the first day of the tournament, ECoRSA will meet Cuttack A, Nayagarh will face Rest of Odisha - A, Bhubaneswar A will take on Balasore while Bhadrak will square off against Rest of Odisha - B.

The final will be played June 20 and 21 between the top two teams of the two groups. It will also be a two-day affair.

# Easy for Alcaraz, Djokovic

Paris, May 29: Third-seeded Carlos Alcaraz suffered a slight hiccup before winning his second round match against Jesper De Jong at the French Open tennis tournament here Wednesday. Alcaraz won 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Alcaraz suddenly lost his rhythm in the third set, but quickly regained it in the fourth to break his opponent twice and win the match.

Earlier defending champion Novak Djokovic shrugged off his recent troubles to sweep to his 93rd career win at the French Open here late Tuesday night. In the process, he extended his run of first round Roland Garros victories to a perfect 20.

Djokovic, chasing a fourth title in Paris and record 25th Grand Slam triumph, came through against 142nd-ranked French wildcard Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4. The 37-year-old, who saw career-long rival and 14-time champion Rafael Nadal



Novak Djokovic in action Tuesday evening during his match against

exit the tournament Monday, looked relaxed from the start.

Diokovic had arrived here under a cloud. For the first time

since 2018, he is without a title and is yet to reach a final this season. It was a solid performance,' said Djokovic. "I could have done better, especially on the return, but bravo to him for serving well.

"It's a victory in three sets, that's

what matters at this moment. I felt better compared to the last few weeks, I was focused, I encouraged myself, I am satisfied with my

state of mind," the Serbian added In other matches played Wednesday, former finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas had it easy against Daniel Altmaier winning 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4. The match lasted more than three hours.

### 7 Odisha eves in fray for selection to blind Indian cricket team

PNN & AGENCIES

Bangalore, May 29: Seven players from Odisha are in the list of 30 probables for selection to the Indian blind women's cricket team, the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled informed here Wednesday. The selection trials will be conducted at the IIG Sports Academy, KT Global School in Khurda, the CABI said in a release. CABI informed that it has appointed four observers to conduct the selection trials.

The seven players from Odisha who have found a place in the list of 30 probables are Padmini Tudu, Jamuna Rani Tudu, Basanti Hansda, Rachana Jena, Phula Saren, Jhili Barua and

The top 30 players were selected based on their performances in national tournaments during the last two years, officials said.

### KISS juniors emerge champs



POST NEWS NETWORK

against Balasore.

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS) emerged champions in the junior boys' category of the All Odisha Inter-districts Rugby 7s IXth Junior (boys and girls) and XIth Senior (men's and women's) championships here Wednesday. In the final KISS defeated Jagatsinghpur 12-5 at the KIIT University Ground here. It was a completely one-sided affair with the KISS players dominating the show. Mayurbhanj finished third by winning with a thumping margin of 26-0

Earlier in the semifinals, KISS and Jagatsinghpur defeated Mayurbhanj and Balasore 15-0 and 38-0 respectively.

It should be stated here that the KISS women's team had emerged champions Tuesday in the senior section. In the final they outplayed Jagatsinghpur 14-5.

KIIT sports department joint director Randeep Baruah gave 🛶 away the prizes as the chief guest of the closing ceremony. Among others, Odisha Rugby Football Association secretary Upendra Kumar Mohanty and Jajpur District Rugby Association secretary Bharat Chandra Sahoo were present.

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