



'ANAND' SET FOR REMAKE

Hrishikesh Mukherjee's cult-classic 'Anand', starring Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan, is set for a remake

LEISUREP2



SHORTAGES SET TO EASE

Sri Lanka's central bank secures foreign exchange to pay for fuel and cooking gas shipments that will ease the crisis


INTERNATIONALP10



FRANKFURT'S NIGHT OUT

Eintracht Frankfurt end their 42-year wait for a title defeating Rangers in the Europa League final

SPORTSP12



SC dismisses review plea on Mistry

New Delhi: The Supreme Court dismissed Thursday a plea of the Sapoorji Pallonji (SP) group seeking a review of the 2021 verdict which had upheld the Tata Group's decision to remove Cyrus Mistry as the executive chairman of the Tata Sons. A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, however, ordered the deletion of certain remarks made against Mistry in the March 2021 verdict. Ratan Tata and Tata Sons welcomed the Supreme Court's decision. Tata, who is the Chairman Emeritus said, "We would like to express our grateful appreciation of the judgement passed and upheld by the Supreme Court today."



Zareen punches her way to WC gold

New Delhi: Boxer Nikhat Zareen punched her way to a gold with a comfortable 5-0 victory over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the flyweight (52kg) final of the Women's World Championships (WC) in Istanbul, Thursday. The Telangana boxer completely out-punched her Thai rival. With this victory, Zareen became only the fifth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion. Six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006) are the other pugilists who have won the world title. Manisha Moun (57kg) and Parveen Hooda (63kg) bagged bronze medals for India.

P12



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Sidhu sentenced to prison for 1 year in 1988 road rage case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 19: The Supreme Court imposed Thursday a one-year sentence on cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu in a 1988 road rage case. A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and SK Kaul allowed the review plea filed by the victim's family on the issue of the sentence awarded to Sidhu. Though the apex court had in May 2018 held Sidhu guilty of the offence of 'voluntarily causing hurt' to a 65-year-old man in the case, it spared him a jail term and imposed a fine of ₹1,000. ".....We feel there is an error apparent on the face of record...Therefore, we have allowed the review application on the issue of sentence. In addition to the fine imposed, we consider it appropriate to impose a sentence of imprisonment for a period of one year....," the bench said while pronouncing the verdict.



Soon after the verdict, former Punjab Congress chief Sidhu said Thursday he 'will submit to the majesty of law'. Sidhu was in Patiala to take part in a protest against inflation. "Will submit to the majesty of law....," he said in a tweet.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



After coming to know that road rage case will take 34 years, grandpa has become quite a deadly driver!

GLAM GIRLS



American actress Viola Davis (left) along with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (centre) and Elle Fanning pose for the shutterbugs Wednesday in Cannes

Snana Yatra with devotees after 2 yrs

■Due to the Covid-19 situation, public participation in the ceremonial bathing ritual of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities had been suspended for last 2 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, May 19: Devotees, after a gap of two years, will get to witness the ceremonial bathing ritual of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities June 14 outside the 12th century shrine here. The decision to allow public participation at 'Snana Yatra' was taken by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), following its meeting with servitors. Devotees were denied the permission to congregate at 'Snana Yatra' due to the outbreak of Covid-19 during the last two years. "This time, however, the devotees will be able to get a glimpse (darshan) of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Lord Sudarshan and Devi Subhadra and the bathing altar June 14 from Grand Road. Deities will



be adorned with 'Hati Beshha' (elephant attire) on the same day," said SJTA official Durga Dash Mohapatra. "Devotees will be very happy to know that for the first time in two years, they will be allowed to go near the bathing altar to pay obeisance to the deities for two hours after 'Hati Beshha'. However, they cannot touch the deities," Mohapatra added. Mohapatra also said that there will be 'Parimanik' (paid) darshan during Pahandi of the deities to Snana Bedi. However, devotees will not have to pay any charges for darshan on the Snana Mandap during the bathing .

Contd...P4

Family cries foul after youth's mysterious death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 19: Cooking gas LPG price was Thursday hiked by ₹3.50 per cylinder, the second increase in rate this month following the firming of international energy rates. In the process, non-subsidised LPG crossed the ₹1,000-mark per mark per cylinder in the national capital. A 14.2kg cylinder will now cost ₹1,003, up from ₹999.50 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Bhubaneswar, the price increased to ₹1,030 per cylinder. This is the second increase in LPG rates this month and the third in less than two months. The price was hiked by ₹50 per cylinder March 22 and again by the same quantum May 7. Since April 2021, prices have risen by ₹193.5 per cylinder. Petrol and diesel prices however continue to be on freeze for the 43rd day in a row. The pause followed rates being hiked by a record ₹10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22. Alongside, state-run oil firms also hiked the price of commercial LPG cylinders, the ones used by establishments like hotels and restaurants, by ₹8 per cylinder to ₹2,354 per 19-kg bottle.



Bhubaneswar, May 19: The patrolling staff of Infocity police station recovered the senseless body of a half-charred youth from the hill-top of Sikharchandi temple in the intervening night between Wednesday and Thursday here. En route to the hospital, the youth succumbed to his injuries. The victim, identified as Abinash Pradhan, 22, was a resident of Balipada village under Nandankanan police limits. He was working as a software engineer in a private organisation. Police have started investigation registering a case under section 302 (Murder) of the IPC after family members of Abinash lodged a complaint alleging murder. However, contradictory opinions are floating around since the death of the victim. Sources claimed that the victim's father, Lalatendu called him Wednesday several times over his delay in returning home. The last time Abinash responded to the calls was at 8.15pm when he told his father he was leaving office. His last WhatsApp message was at 10.24pm. Police along with a forensic team and dog squad reached the spot Thursday morning and initiated

Putin's military might not good enough for this Zelensky

■ Call it coincidence or what you may, the Russian president's daughter has a lover who has the surname 'Zelensky'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Munich, May 19: Vladimir Putin's daughter Katerina Tikhonova has a lover called Zelensky - the same name as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, the 'Daily Mail' reported Thursday. Sanctions against the 35-year-old Katerina - imposed over her father's invasion of Ukraine - have stopped her regular flights from Moscow to Munich to enjoy with her new man. Whenever, Katerina visited him here, she would be accompanied by Russian secret service guards, the report said. Katerina's new partner, with whom she has a two-year-old daughter, is Igor Zelensky, 52. He is a leading professional ballet dancer and top director who until recently headed the Bavarian State Ballet. However, he had to give up his job as he refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The revelation comes from an investigation by Russian independent news outlet 'IStories' and Germany's 'Der Spiegel'. Katerina is the younger of Putin's two daughters from his marriage to ex-Kremlin first lady Lyudmila Aleksandrovna Ocheretnaya. She was earlier married to Russia's youngest billionaire Kirill Shamalov, 40. However, they split in 2017 when

she started the relationship with the ballet star who was also previously married and has two daughters and a son with choreographer Yana Serebryakova. The 'IStories' report said: "For two years, from 2017 to 2019, the little girl's mother had to fly this route from Moscow to Munich and back many dozens of times. She lived in Russia, and her daughter's father lived in Germany, where he directed the Bavarian State Ballet. His name is Igor Zelensky." The journalistic investigation also found documents proving flights involving 'Tikhonova, Zelensky, a child, nannies, security guards'. It revealed that over a two-year period 'she flew to Munich, where Zelensky worked, more than 50 times'. From an anonymous source, the outlet obtained 'documents from the e-mail of the Security Service of the President and



she started the relationship with the ballet star who was also pre-



viously married and has two daughters and a son with chore-

Katerina's personal security guard Alexei Skripchak'. "In Skripchak's documents there are passports of Putin's daughter, Zelensky and a girl born in 2017. Katerina's security guard bought them all tickets," Daily Mail reported. "We do not disclose the child's name for ethical reasons. It is enough just to say that her patronymic is Igorevna, which corresponds to Zelensky's name," the report further said. Igor, who is Russian born with Georgian roots and is not believed to be related to the Ukrainian President. Igor is described as one of Russia's most successful ballet dancers, a star of the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg, and the New York City Ballet Company. He was also guest soloist of the Royal Ballet in London.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	52792.23 ↓ 1416.30
NIFTY	15809.40 ↓ 430.90
DOLLAR	78.40 ↑ ₹0.11
EURO	81.76 ↑ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹50,600 ↑ ₹382
SILVER	₹61,471 ↑ ₹693

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP	MAX 34.6°C 34.8°C
	MIN 28.1°C 28.0°C
Humidity	75% 81%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Life sometimes smiles down upon you, and today seems to be such a day. Though you will remain occupied with your work, there will be no pressure. Same is the case with your personal life. What more does one need? Ganesha is probably trying to teach you to be content.

TAURUS

Your health and fitness cannot be taken for granted this day, asserts Ganesha. Be careful of what you eat and drink. Avoid dust and smog. You could get indispensed in any number of ways. If there are signs of illness, consult a medical specialist with wasting any time.

GEMINI

Today, you will get more assertive and aggressive when your authority is challenged, predicts Ganesha. You will probably take chances in financial matters later in the day. In the evening, an unpleasant occurrence is likely to throw you off guard.

CANCER

Today, you will get more assertive and aggressive when your authority is challenged, predicts Ganesha. You will probably take chances in financial matters later in the day. In the evening, an unpleasant occurrence is likely to throw you off guard.

LEO

There's more to glittering gold than meets the eye, says Ganesha. But today, you can be rest assured that monetary problems, which were troubling you for so long, will finally be solved as you make money from various sources later in the day. Still, this does not mean you incur avoidable expenses.

VIRGO

You are most likely to wield the baton if a question on your authority is raised, predicts Ganesha. Also on the cards is a possibly risky venture with finances. An unexpected and not-so-nice event in the evening will add certain lines of worry to your face.

LIBRA

Emotions may cloud your thinking today, portends Ganesha. Just remind yourself that like everything else, this phase too shall pass. You may seek refuge in religious and spiritual activities. But this said, today is a highly profitable day for moneylenders.

SCORPIO

A fair-weather day today. Fair winds will help you fare well, says Ganesha. You can hazard to expect astonishing financial gains in business dealings today. Academic learning curve will be exponential today. In spite of all, you remain sensitive and understanding, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Put your feet up and relax today. Ganesha predicts a stress-free, peaceful day. Your concentration might just waver because of some minor issues. But don't worry, says Ganesha. Your comic side will mesmerise the opposite sex today.

CAPRICORN

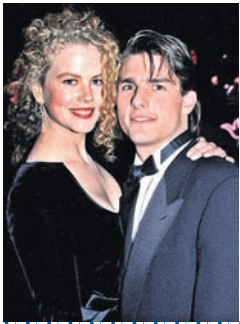
Who wouldn't enjoy spending fun time with friends? But it's the hectic work schedule that makes such gathering a rare occasion. You will be fortunate to be in the company of your friends today, says Ganesha. Your love life will blossom too, and your sweetheart will seem today more understanding of your problems than they have been in recent past. Your family will support you in every way, which will make you want to live up to their expectations.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will devote yourself to something you've neglected in the past. And it's advisable to organise your closet before it falls apart! If nothing, you may spend the day scouring job advertisements, and going for interviews. It's a busy day whichever way, says Ganesha.

PISCES

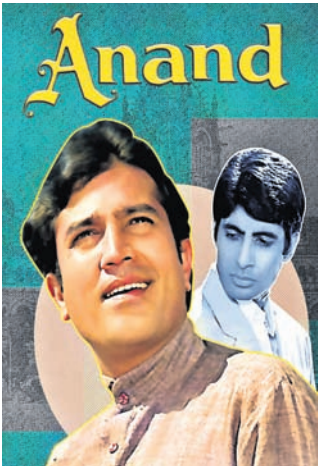
You are likely to reveal your innermost feelings and the true nature of your thoughts today, says Ganesha. Feel free to be optimistic about your chances of success if you are thinking of proposing to someone special in the evening.



KIDMAN EXCISED FROM CRUISE'S CAREER MONTAGE AT CANNES

Guess who was snipped out of Tom Cruise's 10-minute career retrospective montage at the 75th Cannes Film Festival? None other than his wife of 10 years and co-star in three of his films, Nicole Kidman. The montage was screened before the world premiere of *Top Gun: Maverick*.

Rajesh Khanna, Big B's Anand set for a remake



Mumbai: Filmmaker Hrishikesh Mukherjee's classic *Anand*, starring the then superstar Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan, is set for a remake helmed by Sameer Raj Sippy, grandson of the film's original producer, NC Sippy, and Vikram Khakhar.

The director and cast of the film, which is in its scripting stage, are yet to be finalised.

Sharing his excitement on the development, producer Vikram Khakhar said in a statement: "Digging into our own classics, we will find invaluable gems rather than scouting for stories, internationally or regionally. Placing *Anand* in the post-Covid era, where we emphasise on the value of life, will enhance the story of *Anand*."

The 1971 original featured Rajesh Khanna as a terminally ill cancer patient, Anand Sehgal, the onus of whose treatment is taken by Amitabh. However, destiny has its own plans as Anand's cancer reaches its final stage and he passes away but not before touching the lives of many people whom he spent time with, including a total stranger Isa Bhai Suratwala played by the legendary Johnny Walker.

The details with regards to the film's development and technical crew are under wraps. Produced by Sameer Raj Sippy and Vikram Khakhar, the film will soon go into production after finalising its cast.

AGENCIES

STAR-STUDDED LAUNCH OF 'STAR KIRAN'

Disney Star's new Odia entertainment channel to scale up the TV viewing experience through captivating storytelling and formats mounted on enhanced production quality

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Disney Star, India's leading television network, announced the launch of a dedicated Odia general entertainment channel Star Kiran at a colourful event here, Thursday. The channel will premiere June 6, 2022.

The network is all set to launch SD and HD versions of the channel, making Star Kiran the first regional HD channel in Odisha. Star Kiran also marks Disney Star's foray into the seventh local language market in the country.

"Odia viewers can now experience content that is deeply entrenched in the values and culture of the land with stories of inspiration, hope and progress. As we commence our journey in Odisha with a vision to create newer benchmarks of progress and success, we plan to showcase compelling narratives through iconic characters that will celebrate the ethos and emotions of the land. Star



Kiran will have a complete bouquet of entertainment for our viewers in Odisha," said Kevin Vaz, Head Network Entertainment Channels, Disney Star. In a video message Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik said the new Odia channel will be a nice platform for entertainment for the people of Odisha.

With Star Kiran, Disney Star aims to scale up the TV viewing

experience of Odisha through captivating storytelling and formats mounted on enhanced production quality. The channel will have a variety of shows ranging from mythology to popular fiction and fantasy thrillers to attract the viewers.

The channel will also showcase dazzling events and non-fiction shows. Viewers can experience the latest blockbusters through big world TV premieres with movies like *Premam*, *Dil Re Achhi Tora Na*, *Gupchup* and *Mahabahu* to name a few, said the officials.

This apart, new shows like *Tu Kahibu Na Mu*, *Suhaga Sindura*, *Shanti* and *Kiye Para Kiye Apanara* will be aired on both SD and HD platforms, it was learnt.



Top stars of Odia film industry at the event

Pratik to play Mahatma in biographical web series

Mumbai: A new biographical series based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi is in the works. The multi-season series, which has been adapted from historian Ramachandra Guha's two books -- *Gandhi Before India* and *Gandhi: The Years that Changed the World* -- has cast *Scam 1992* star Pratik Gandhi in the lead role. Pratik incidentally, shares



his last name with the father of the nation.

Sharing his excitement on the announcement, Pratik Gandhi said, "I deeply believe in the Gandhian philosophy and its values that echo simplicity in its purest forms. Personally too, I strive



to achieve and imbibe many of his qualities and teachings in my daily life."

Mahatma Gandhi taught the world that a revolution, resistance and reclamation of freedom doesn't always need to be violent, it can be achieved through truth, love,

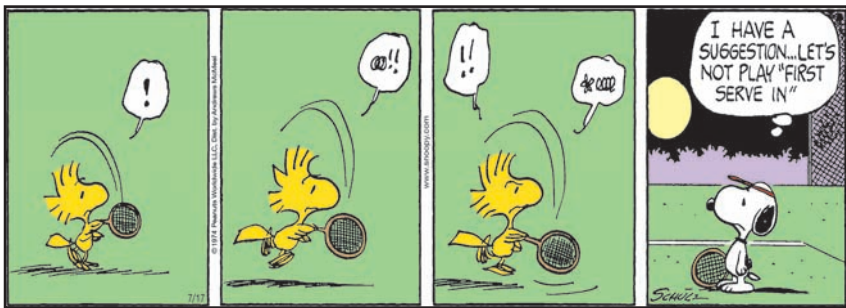
non-violence and an iron-willed determination.

From his earliest days to his actions in South Africa to the great struggle in India, the series will tell the lesser known stories of his life which played an important role in shaping young Gandhi into a Mahatma.

Applause Entertainment, which is a part of the Aditya Birla Group, has acquired the rights to Guha's books and the series will be produced at global standards for a worldwide audience and shot extensively across several Indian and International locations.

AGENCIES

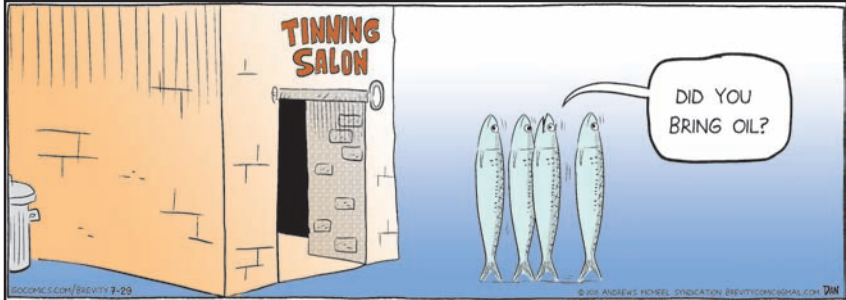
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

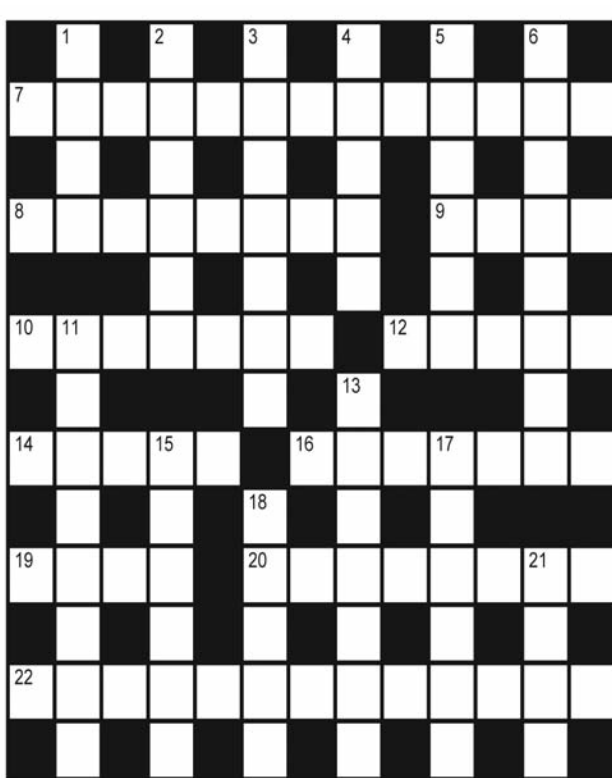


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across**
- 7 Hilarious
 - 8 Kind of instinct
 - 9 Leave out
 - 10 Division
 - 12 Tweak
 - 14 Floor it
 - 16 Tarness
 - 19 Pizazz
 - 20 Stretch
 - 22 Sundry
- Down**
- 1 Prima donna
 - 2 Building material
 - 3 View
 - 4 Sir or madam
 - 5 Saunter
 - 6 Poverty-stricken
 - 11 Stress
 - 13 Quick learner?
 - 15 Morals
 - 17 Level
 - 18 E-mail option
 - 21 Unbending

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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

SOLUTIONS

E	I	S	S	L	J
S	C	E	N	I	C
H	T	A	O	P	H
B	O	A	R	L	O
E	P	P	A	R	O
S	K	I	P	P	E
C	A	D	D	I	L
R	A	S	S	A	R
S	T	A	R	S	I
O	U	D	N	A	E
F	U	N	N	E	D
M	T	E	L	S	P

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

CONTINUED FROM P1

Snana Yatra with devotees after 2 years

Another official of the SJTA informed that on the occasion of Rath Yatra, devotees may be allowed to participate in the annual car festival if the Covid-19 situation remains under control. A meeting on this issue will be conducted Thursday here.

Sources said during the meeting, a section of the servitors suggested that the devotees be allowed entry into ‘Snana Mandap’ two-three hours after the ‘Gajajana Besha’. The Chhattisa Nijoga is also said to have given a proposal for two-three hours of ‘Sahana Mela’ darshan of Lord Jagannath.

“Discussions were held regarding conduct of rituals. It has been decided in the meeting that rituals should be conducted in a disciplined and well-organised manner,” Ram Krushna Das Mohapatra, secretary of Daitapati Nijoga said.

Maoist posters leave cops, locals in a tizzy

ULTRAS TENDER APOLOGIES FOR DEATH OF DHARITRI JOURNALIST ROHIT BISWAL, IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

M Rampur, May 19: Maoists have put up banners and posters in some villages of Kandhamal district bordering on Kalahandi district, triggering panic in fringe areas.

These banners were found at Landagan, Mandalipadar and other villages. In the posters, the Left-wing ultras have called for a 24-hour bandh in south-east Chhattisgarh Saturday.

In the poster, the Maoists have expressed regrets and tendered apologies to the bereaved family members and local people for the death of Odia daily Dharitri’s Mohangiri reporter Rohit Biswal



due to the landmine blast February 5, 2022. Biswal was in the area to collect information about Maoists when he accidentally stepped on a landmine planted beneath a poster. The landmine was targeted at police and CRPF jawans, but Biswal became victim, it was said. “It is very unfortunate,” a poster reads.

In the posters, the Left-wing extremists have called for a 24-hour bandh in south-east Chhattisgarh Saturday

Notably, the apologies from the ultras have come three months after this sad incident. However, the ultras have held police and state government responsible for the death of Biswal and another youth of Khiamunda. Another poster was found in front of a private educational institution at Nunupur Chhak under M Rampur block, citing various illegalities adopted by

the institution. Such a poster has appeared at the place for the second time. It was stated that girl students are being tortured.

The growing activities of Maoists have left the administration and police in tizzy.

It was alleged that police are yet to trace the SIM card used by the deceased reporter. Moreover, investigations into Maoists nexus with traders, contractors and political leaders are yet to be started.

It is further alleged that the ultras have been trying to gain hold over Rampur area with to tacit support of some political leaders of Mohangiri and Barabandha, to which police are mute spectators.

SOA faculty crowned ‘Woman of Substance’



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 19: Manisha Praharaj, a faculty of Siksha ‘O’ Anusandhan (SOA), has won the ‘Woman of Substance’ crown at the International Glam Icon Pageant-2022 held recently in Mumbai.

An assistant professor at the SUM Nursing College, Praharaj participated in the three-day event with different sessions including talent round, photo shoot and grooming session before the finale held May 10. Altogether 52 competitors from different states and countries participated in the pageant.

ULBs to cover all drains, manholes

The officials were also asked to identify vulnerable water logging areas/low lying areas and take appropriate steps for discharge of water expeditiously at the time of emergency by pre-positioning pump sets.

“Wherever there is encroachment of drain channels which causes obstruction to the free flow of storm, rain or waste water, the same should be demolished forthwith and channels are to be kept obstruction free,” Nayak wrote.

Wherever required, legal action should be initiated against the defaulting person or institution, in order to prevent them from further encroachment, Nayak said.

A large volume of construction and demolition materials pile up inside the drains and on the road side which causes congestion in drains. Therefore, the DMA has asked the ULBs to remove de-silting materials on a priority basis from the drains.

The DMA further ordered to strengthen enforcement of polythene ban. He also instructed to make immediate arrangements for emergency repair and restoration of roads/ drains etc.

For control of vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue & Japanese encephalitis & water borne diseases like diarrhoea and jaundice, Nayak asked the collectors to ensure there is no water logging in habitation areas.

All ULBs are requested for formation of a unified command and control centre headed by the commissioner/executive officer to manage the flood like situation within their jurisdiction.



Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain spoke at the ‘Three Days Induction Training Programme’ organised by State Institute of Consumer Awareness (SICA) and state Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 19: Puri Lok Sabha MP Pinaki Misra has claimed that the ground penetrating radar survey (GPRS) was done before digging commenced near the Srimandir for the Puri Heritage Corridor Project.

Opposition BJP leaders, including party’s national spokesperson Sambit Patra, have accused the lawmaker of misleading the nation.

Asked the date of GPRS, Misra told PTI, “Please wait for government affidavit in HC. I have given the extract of a copy in my tweet.”

Misra tweeted Wednesday, “Also, as documents will show, GPRS was duly done and therefore allegations about digging without doing GPRS are baseless. HC affidavit will clarify all these aspects ... All that is needed is a little patience and a little less malice. Jai Jagannath.”

Misra in another tweet said, “History will identify these people as charlatans and malefic clowns

GPRS done before digging, says Pinaki

who were obstructing development, security and conservation works of Puri Temple, purely out of selfish greed and unbridled malice.”

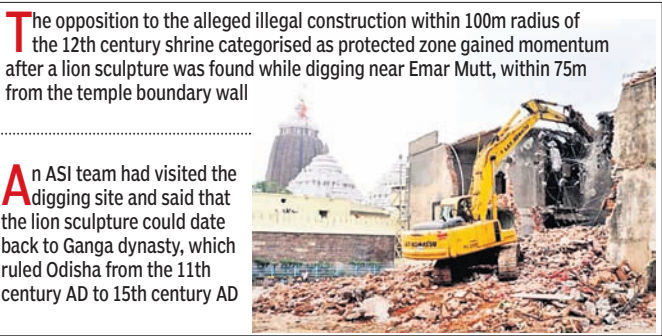
He also attached two pages of ‘Report on Underground Utility Detection by GPR Technology Report For the Shree Mandira Parikrama Project’ to his tweet.

The opposition to the alleged illegal construction within 100m radius of the 12th century shrine categorised as protected zone gained momentum after a lion sculpture was found while digging near Emar Mutt, within 75 m from the temple boundary wall.

An ASI team had visited the digging site and said that the lion sculpture could date back to Ganga dynasty, which ruled Odisha from the 11th century AD to 15th century AD

Noted archeologist and historian Anil Dhir in a statement said, “In another blatant attempt of misinformation and disinformation, BJD MP Pinaki Misra has tweeted that the GPRS Report of the Jagannath Mandir Parikrama has been conducted and will be submitted to the High Court as an affidavit.”

Dhir said that the MP has not as-



aged during digging, had there been proper GPRS before excavation for the construction of the corridor project.

Noted archeologist and historian Anil Dhir in a statement said, “In another blatant attempt of misinformation and disinformation, BJD MP Pinaki Misra has tweeted that the GPRS Report of the Jagannath Mandir Parikrama has been conducted and will be submitted to the High Court as an affidavit.”

Dhir said that the MP has not as-

Mayurbhanj’s Dandabose to be developed into tourist spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, May 19: The birthplace of Raghunath Murmu, the inventor of Santali language script Ol Chiki, in Mayurbhanj district will be developed into a tourist spot soon, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Bishweswar Tudu has said.

Murmu’s native village of Dandabose in Rairangpur, around 260 km north of Bhubaneswar, is considered a revered place for Santals living in Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam.

Santals add the prefix ‘Pandit’ to his name in reverence.

“Sadly, the village was being neglected by the state government. But now, a central project will be implemented wherein drainage system and road development will be taken up,” Tudu said.

“In the second phase, a mega statue of Murmu along with mu-

Raghunath Murmu, who was born in Dandabose in 1905, had invented the Ol Chiki script in his twenties

seum, library, park and cottages for tourists shall be built,” Tudu, who visited the village on Murmu’s 118th birth anniversary Wednesday, said.

The project will be completed by 2025 to mark the centenary celebration of the invention of Ol Chiki script, he said.

Murmu, who was born in Dandabose in 1905, had invented the script in his twenties.

Santali was recognised as an official language of India in 2004 under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Tudu hoped that Dandabose would attract a lot of visitors after the project is completed.

NHRC seeks ATR from Puri DM, SP

BHUBANESWAR: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Thursday asked the District Collector and Superintendent of Police of Puri to submit action-taken reports (ATRs) within four weeks in connection with the death of a rickshaw puller after falling into an open drain at Market Square in the Holy City late Tuesday night. The move came in response to a plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak, who sought a directive to the authorities for paying ₹40 lakh to the next of the kin of the deceased rickshaw puller Nidhi Bhoi (41).

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Sabana Perween, W/o Sheikh Khalid Iqbal change my name from Sabana Parween to Sabana Perween for all purpose.

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name Pranab Mohanty to Pranaba Mohanty for all purposes.

The research suggests that in the worst-case scenario, sufficient NOx could be produced over the time it takes a rocket to reach an altitude of 10 kilometres to pollute over 2 cubic kilometres of atmospheric air with an NOx concentration that, according to the World Health Organization, would be at a level hazardous to human health

Rockets’ propulsion emissions create significant heating and compositional changes in the atmosphere, finds a study.

Popularised by commercial space flights of companies like SpaceX and Virgin Galactic, reusable space technology has led to a rise in space transportation at a lower cost. But its effects on the atmosphere are poorly understood.

To explore, researchers at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus assessed the potential impact of a rocket launch on atmospheric pollution by investigating the heat and mass transfer and rapid mixing of the combustion byproducts for altitudes up to 67 km into the atmosphere.

They modelled the exhaust gases and developing plume at several altitudes along a typi-

cal trajectory of a standard present-day rocket, using a prototypical example of a two-stage rocket to transport people and payloads into Earth’s orbit and beyond.

The findings published in the journal Physics of Fluids showed the production of thermal nitrogen oxides (NOx), components of the combustion exhaust, can remain high up to altitudes with an ambient atmospheric pressure above or even slightly below the nozzles’ exit pressure, that is, below an altitude of approximately 10 km.

At the same time, the emitted mass of carbon dioxide as the rocket climbs 1 kilometre in altitude in the mesosphere is equivalent to that contained in 26 cubic kilometres of atmospheric air at



the same altitude.

The team found the impact on the atmosphere locally and momentarily in the mesosphere can be significant.

While air currents will gradually transport and mix the exhaust CO2 throughout the atmosphere, eventually bringing the CO2 back down to its naturally occurring levels, the time scale over which this happens is not clear.

“We show that pollution from rockets should not be underestimated as frequent future rocket launches could have a significant cumulative effect on the Earth’s climate,” said co-author Ioannis Kokkinakis from the varsity.

The scientists believe a certain number of rocket launches might still exist above

which mesospheric carbon dioxide could accumulate over time, thus increasing the naturally occurring levels and affecting our climate.

Their results suggest that in the worst-case scenario, sufficient NOx could be produced over the time it takes the rocket to reach an altitude of 10 kilometres to pollute over 2 cubic kilometres of atmospheric air with an NOx concentration that, according to the World Health Organization, would be at a level hazardous to human health.

“We hope that commercial flight companies such as SpaceX, Virgin Galactic and the New Shepard, and their associated engine manufacturers will consider these effects in future designs,” said Drikakis.

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Woman beats hubby to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

He also added that RWSS officials are yet to talk to him regarding the matter. Junior engineer Basudev Das said the matter has been intimated to the BDO. The work will be resumed once the top officials issue necessary directives, he added.

Zilla parishad member Tikai Gemel said they would hold discussions with the district Collector about resumption of the project work.


Kaptipada, May 19: A woman allegedly beat up her husband to death following a heated duel at Luthiasahi in Sariapal village under Sarat police limits of Mayurbhanj district Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Ladura Balmucha, son of Arjun Balmucha. The accused, Gurubari Balmucha, had fled the scene after committing the crime but police nabbed her from her parents' house. Police registered a case and launched an investigation after sending the body for post-mortem.

Police said the couple had gone to Debanbali haat where they drank liquor and returned home. The incident occurred after Ladura had a fight with his wife Gurubari. Enraged, Gurubari brutally assaulted her husband with a wooden plank. Ladura sustained critical injuries and died on the spot.

			Anajalasechita-I		Marwadi,P-Adanga 798
103	801	Private	Patita	0.0008394	Bahadur Lal Khandelwal,F-Hajiral Khandelwal,Caste-Baishya,P-Adanga 801
104	818	Private	Sarad	0.0323756	Laxmi Khandelwal,H-Deepak kumar Khandelwal,Caste-Baishya,P-Adanga 818
105	818/1206	Private	Sarad	0.0032376	Manas kumar Sahu,F-Hatbandhu Sahu,Caste-Kubera 818/1206
106	818/1207	Private	Sarad	0.0036423	Anshuman Chiranjib,F-Khagendra prasad Nayak,Caste-Khandayat,P-Uttareswar 818/1207
107	818/1227	Private	Sarad	0.0040469	Satish chandra Khandelwal,F-Hiralal Khandelwal,Caste-Baishya,P-Adanga 818/1227
108	818/1228	Private	Gharabari	0.0060704	Ashok kumar Rana,F-Narayan Rana,Caste-Kamila,P-Baulegada,Ps-Nigiri 818/1228
109	818/1229	Private	Sarad	0.0121408	Jagol kishore Khandelwal,Motilal Khandelwal,F-Badri prasad Khandelwal,Mukesh Khandelwal,Suresh Khandelwal,Rashmi Khandelwal,FDharamchand Khandelwal,Saraswati Khandelwal,H-Dharamchand Khandelwal,Sanjay Khandelwal,F-Raghubir prasad Khandelwal,Gamati Khandelwal,H-Raghubir prasad Khandelwal,Caste-Baishya,P-Adanga 818/1229
110	818/1358	Private	Sarad	0.0040469	Srinbas Lenka,F-Ranjit Lenka,Caste- Gopal,P-Sadamapur 818/1358
111	819	Private	Sarad	0.0040469	Satish chandra Khandelwal,F-Hiralal Khandelwal,Caste-Baishya,P-Adanga 819
112	827/1081	Private	Gharabari-II	0.0060704	Gajendra Biswal,F-Budhiram Biswal,Caste-Khandayat,P-Balanga 827/1081
113	827/1089	Private	Gharabari-II	0.0080939	Somnath Upadhaya,F-Biswanath Upadhaya,Caste-Brahman,PMukundapur, Ps-Nigiri 827/1089
114	827/1114	Private	Patita	0.0012141	Rajesh kumar Khandelwal,Dinesh Khandelwal,Gopal Khandelwal,Anil Khandelwal,F-Dulichand Khandelwal,Indu Khandelwal,H-Dulichand Khandelwal,Bahadur khandelwal,F-Hajarilal Khandelwal,Caste-Baishya,P-Adanga 827/1114
115	827/1152	Private	Gharabari	0.0040469	Tara Banarj,H-Sankar kumar Banarj,Caste-Brahman,P-Ghodasah 827/1152
116	827/1153	Private	Gharabari-II	0.0040469	Purna chandra Sahu,Nirod kumar Sahu,F-Kalesh chandra Sahu,Caste- Kuber 827/1153
117	828	Private	Gharabari	0.0080939	Rabindra Behera,F-Sudarsan Behera,Caste-Tanti,P-Lingapada 828
118	829	Private	Sarad	0.0024282	Purnachandra Behera,Nilamani Behera,Panchanan Behera,Rabindra Behera,F-Sudarsan Behera,Caste,tanti,P-Lingapada 829
119	830	Private	Sarad	0.0028329	Gopinath Behera,Amarendra Behera,F-Banshidhar Behera,Caste-Tanti,PLingapada 830
120	830/1167	Private	Gharabari-I	0.0020235	Bhabani sankar Sethi,F-Baragi charan Sethi,Caste-Dhoba,P-Raghunathpur 830/1167
121	9	Private	Gharabari-I	0.0101174	Joisna Das,H-Santosh kumar Das,Caste-Karana,P-Gopinathpur 9
Village: Mulesar-117					
122	2058/3030	Private	Sarad	0.0323756	Narahari Nayak,Sihrihari Nayak,F-Chandu Nayak,Caste Gopal,P-Teleganj samil Tundapada 2058/3030
123	2059	Private	Sarad	0.0485633	Raghunath Patanaki,Bhogneswar Patanaki,F-Bhagirathi Patnaki,Caste-Karana,P-Mubarakhpur 2059
124	2060	Government	Patita	0.0566572	Anabadi 2060
125	2061	Government	Patita	0.0161878	Anabadi 2061
126	2216	Private	Sarad	0.0323756	Hanhar Das,Jayanta Kumar Das, Sarat Kumar Das,F-Manmath kumar Das,Caste-Gopal,P-Tundapada samil Telaganj 2216
127	2220	Private	Sarad	0.0607042	Uttama Nanda Sahu,F-Bhagirathi Sahu,Caste-Bania 2220
Village: Talanagar-166					
128	905	Private	Sarad	0.0809389	Baidhar nayak,Upendra Nayak, Srutidhar Nayak,Murali Nayak,F- Duryadhan Nayak, Caste- Khandayat 905
129	910	Government	Rasta	0.0161878	Sarbasadharan 910
130	911	Private	Gharabari	0.0485633	Kamal lochan Patanaki,Bijayananda patanaki,F-Chakradhar patanaki,Bhaskar chandra Patanaki,F-Judhisitra Patanaki,Caste-Khandayat 911
131	912	Private	Gharabari	0.0161878	Basudeb Mohanty,F-Satuni Mohanty,Caste-Khantayat 912
132	929	Government	Adi	0.0404695	Rakhita 929
133	930	Private	Gharabari	0.0202347	Dayandhi Bal Prahlad Bal,Bhagaban Bal,F-Raghunath Bal,Koili Bal,H-Kalish Bal,Sachyutananda Bal,Ratikanta Bal,F-Kalish Bal,Caste- Khandayat,P-Banasiha, Karunakar Nayak, Ramesh chandra Nayak, Bimala Nayak,F-Mani charan Nayak,Upendra Nayak,Narendra Nayak,Ramakanta Nayak,F-Krushna charan Nayak,Caste- Khandayat,P-Own 930
Village: Uttarsar-100					
134	10	Private	Gharabari-I	0.0020235	Sabtri Sahu,F-Raghu Sahu,Chakradhar Sahu,F-Ram Sahu,Banamal Sahu,Gobinda Sahu,Muralidhar Sahu,F-Shyama sunder Sahu,Devimani Sahu,H-Shyam Sundar Sahu,Caste- Gudia 10
135	11	Private	Gharabari-II	0.0020235	Banamali Sahu,Gobinda chandra Sahu,Muralidhar Sahu,Devimani Sahu,H-Shyama sunder Sahu,Caste-Gudia 11
136	12	Private	Gharabari-II	0.0016188	Sumati Das,H-Basanta das,Caste- Kubera,P-Barabati,Ps-Balasore town 12
137	13	Government	Gharabari-I	0.0028329	Rakhita 13
138	14	Government	Rasta	0.0060704	Sarbasadharan 14
139	317	Private	Sarad	0.0121408	Tralokya nath Diwedi,F-Laxmi Diwedi,Gananath Diwedi,F-Rudra Diwedi,Caste-Brahman,P-Rapur 317
140	318	Private	Gharabari-I	0.0202347	Jitendra Mohanty,Narayan Mohanty,Jagamohan Mohanty,FBiswanath Mohanty,Subasini Mohanty,H-Jagamohan Mohanty,Caste- Khandayat,P-Chahala 318
141	318/907	Private	Gharabari-I	0.0121408	Srikanta Mohapatra,F-Jitendra Mohapatara,Caste-Brahman,P-Sarsatia 318/907
142	318/908	Private	Gharabari-I	0.0121408	Abhaya kumar Senapati,Ashok kumar Senapati,Ajay kumar Senapati,Atulya kumar Senapati,Pravat kumar Senapati,F-Narendra Senapati,Caste- Brahman,P-Somnathpur 318/908
143	43	Private	Gharabari-I	0.0220358	Biranchi narayan Behera,Manoranjan Behera,Manindra kumar Behera,HHRusikesh Behera,Binapani Behera,HHRus

“By your stumbling, the world is perfected.”
SRI AUROBINDO



Climate Overshoot

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change revealed what many had feared but were reluctant to admit: the continued failure to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions means that global warming will likely exceed 1.5° Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has warned that this key goal of the 2015 Paris climate agreement is now on “life support.” Even if emissions “peak before 2025 at the latest,” notes the IPCC, and are “reduced by 43% by 2030” (including a one-third reduction in methane), “it is almost inevitable that we will temporarily exceed this temperature threshold but could return to below it by the end of the century.”

If avoiding a breach of 1.5°C is still technically possible, we should of course not give up. But the window of opportunity is closing faster than we thought, and deepening geopolitical divisions – intensified by the pandemic, Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, and looming food, energy, and debt crises – do not augur well for the kind of cooperation that we need.

By surpassing 1.5°C, but then taking measures to bring temperatures back below that threshold by the end of the century, we will be in what the IPCC calls an “overshoot” scenario. Although climate models have long accounted for this possibility, not much is known about how to reduce the risks – both environmental and political – that it would create.

Average global temperatures have already risen 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, with significant environmental effects. Every additional tenth of a degree contributes further to the severity and frequency of extreme weather events and increases the risks to health, food, water, livelihoods, and biodiversity. By the time we reach 2°C, many human and natural systems will be under extreme stress; some ecosystems will struggle to survive, and others already will be gone.

Worse, overshoot increases the risk of what the IPCC describes as “cascading and irreversible climate impacts.” And the political consequences would be no less significant. For many, 1.5°C has become a line in the sand – a signifier of humanity’s ability and will to reduce climate risks. While breaching it could lead to a more forceful response to climate change, it also could invite despondency and fatalism. That is why we must start planning for it now.

To that end, I will be chairing a new Global Commission on Governing Risks from Climate Overshoot. Consisting of 16 eminent leaders with diverse backgrounds, we will consider how best to manage the physical and political risks of a world beyond 1.5°C. Most of the commission is from the Global South, including several former heads of government, ministers, and senior officials. We will present an integrated strategy to tackle the possibility of climate overshoot ahead of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference.

As an independent commission, we will conduct this important work without the political and organisational constraints that so often hamper such discussions. We are ready to consider all the options, including ideas that are sometimes considered too controversial to broach in other fora.

For example, while reducing greenhouse-gas emissions is and should remain our primary goal, we must recognise that this is no longer enough. Additional approaches are now in order. For example, we will explore the potential of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere on a large scale. This is unavoidable if we want to achieve net-zero emissions, let alone the net-negative emissions that are needed to start restoring our planet. But while there are many ways – both nature-based and technological – to remove CO2, none is ready at scale, and many elements of this strategy remain contested.

We also will explore avenues for improving and expanding adaptation efforts on the scale needed to address the growing effects of climate change, though the limits of what is feasible here remain unclear. Finally, we will examine the research on “sunlight reflection methods,” an intervention designed to reflect a small portion of incoming solar radiation back into space. This option appears to be viable, but it would pose global risks, implying significant governance challenges.

Our aim is to bring all these options together into one document for the first time, to weigh the risks of action against the risks posed by a rapidly warming world, and to recommend an integrated strategy based on independent scientific advice and stakeholder consultations. Our overshoot strategy will need to be effective, robust, and ethical, grounded in the best available evidence, and consistent with justice, equity, and respect for international law. As long as these principles apply, we will keep an open mind. At this 11th hour, we cannot afford to take any options off the table – at least not until we have investigated them fully.

It is tragic that we must confront the consequences of insufficient action and undertake this endeavor. But we have an overriding responsibility to be prepared if we fail to meet the Paris agreement’s targets. That means considering all potential responses that could minimise the damage and suffering to people and the planet.

The writer, President of the Paris Peace Forum, is a former director-general of the World Trade Organisation and EU trade commissioner.

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WISDOM CORNER

“He who controls others may be powerful, but he who has mastered himself is mightier still.”
LAO TZU

“God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well.”
VOLTAIRE

“Our own self-realisation is the greatest service we can render the world.”
RAMANA MAHARSHI

WORDSWORTH

Swashbuckling

A swashbuckler these days is somebody who engages in romantic and daring piratical adventures with ostentatious flamboyance. People who have fun with the word usually talk about some film hero buckling his swash. A nice try, but there’s no verb buckle hidden in it – the verbal bit is actually swash. You should really say that the hero swashes his buckler, but it’s not as good a joke. A member of this breed centuries ago actually did little more than that. A buckler was a type of small shield, held by a handle at the back, whose main purpose was to deflect blows from the sword of one’s opponent. Its name is from Old French (escu) bocler, literally “(a shield) with a boss” (this last word, for a protrusion at the centre of something, is itself from French). Someone who swashes is dashing about violently or lashing out with his sword, often in pretend fights. It seems to have been an echoic term from the sound of swords clashing or banging on shields. In the sixteenth century swashbuckler was created from these two words to convey the idea of a swaggering, bullying ruffian or undisciplined lout, who made a lot of noise but to little practical purpose. It was most definitely not a compliment to be called one in those days – a writer in 1560 described a man as “a drunkard, a gambler and a swashbuckler”. The romantic image came along several centuries later.



DK Giri

INTRIGUINGLY, THE SAME DAY AS MODI WAS IN LUMBINI, NEPALI PM SHER BAHADUR DEUBA INAUGURATED A CHINESE-BUILT \$76 MILLION AIRPORT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha in Nepal, on a day-long visit to lay the foundation of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage. The proposed centre will cost ₹1 billion and will take three years to complete. The occasion was the auspicious day of the Buddha Jayanti. The visit got associated with usual signing of MoUs and reiteration of Indian-Nepal ties, punctuated by the diplomatic niceties and hyperboles. The moot point is, however, whether India can leverage the historic religious and cultural affinity with Nepal for geopolitics.

Intriguingly, the same day as Modi was in Lumbini for laying the foundation stone, Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba inaugurated Chinese-built 76 million USD airport called Gautam Buddha International Airport. The Nepal government claims that this airport will connect Lumbini to other Buddhist-leaning countries in South-East Asia and elsewhere.

However, the point to note here is that Nepal is double-dealing with India as well as China for its benefit, whereas both New Delhi and Beijing are competing for leadership space in South Asia, mainly in Kathmandu. India’s new initiative in Lumbini in a sense is aimed at curtailing Chinese preponderance of patronage of Buddhist festivals and institutions.

In his speech, Modi invoked the historic ties between India and Nepal and made some evocative remarks. Sample these, “India-Nepal relations are unshakable like Himalayas.” Second, India-Nepal ties under the shared principles of Buddhism will benefit the entire humanity. Third, and more emotional for people of Nepal and India, “I had said in Janakpur that our Lord Ram is incomplete

without Nepal. Today, construction of Ram temple will make the people of Nepal happy.”

Six MoUs and agreements were signed. These mostly relate to educational exchange. The Lumbini visit was Modi’s fifth visit to Nepal since he began to head Government of India in 2014. The visit followed Sher Bahadur’s visit to India in April this year. Recall that Nepal had a change in July last year, of parties in government. The preceding government headed by KPS Oli had created a few cracks, mainly in Kala Pani, in the bilateralism between the two countries.

Until the aggressive advent of China into South Asia, India had healthy relationships with all South Asian countries except perhaps Pakistan. India-Nepal ties were smoothly conducted under the special relationship enshrined in the Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed in 1950. The current visit could be inferred to leverage religious and cultural diplomacy to emphasise the special relationship. Whether it will revive the economic and geo-political bonhomie, is a matter of speculation.

Evidently, cultural diplomacy can contribute to growth of trade,

economic and geopolitical relations. The question is how countries like India, with rich heritage of culture and civilisation, could use this soft power to bear upon strategic and economic relations. India has quite a role in delivering hydropower projects and those on transportation, infrastructure and connectivity in Nepal. Arguably, New Delhi has, in the past, misread the interface between politics and economy in its foreign policy. Now, it is expected, in the wake of the Lumbini visit, that New Delhi uses the complementarity between cultural diplomacy and foreign policy.

Let us note that New Delhi has not leveraged its huge religious and cultural influence in the entire South East Asia for enhancing bilateral relations. To have a glimpse of India’s historical-cultural footprints in South-East Asia, Angkor Wat is the largest religious monument in the world. It was initially a temple of Lord Vishnu gradually converting into a Buddhist temple.

In the third century BCE Hindu priests and Buddhist monks accompanied mercantile class and assumed a leading role in spreading the message of Indian thoughts

and culture to the entire South-East Asian region. Angkor Wat, Pagan and Borobudur, resembling the carvings of Konark temple in Odisha, display the deep penetration of Indian culture. The Indian epic Ramayana is used in Malaysia as Serirama and as Ramker (Ramayana Khmer) in Cambodia.

The Indian cultural influence got diluted and submerged with the conversion of South-East Asians into Islam. Yet, there are several religious monuments, practices and symbolic structures still maintained in South-East Asia. The Muslim majority Indonesia named its Airline as Garuda, the vehicle used by Lord Vishnu. The puppet dance, a particular folk dance form in Odisha, is still practiced in Indonesia.

Despite the above rich heritage, New Delhi has not had deep economic and trade relations with well-off South-East Asian countries until it signed the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in 2009. This proves the point that cultural diplomacy has been downplayed in India’s economic and foreign policy.

In Lumbini visit, this fault-line should be corrected. India has deep and wide religious and cultural links with Nepal. Both are only two majority Hindu countries in the world. In fact, Nepal was officially a Hindu kingdom until 2015 when its new Constitution made it secular like India has been. Understandably, the economic growth and trade potentials are the current measure of strength of a country. But cultural ties between countries can provide a conducive context for improving trade and economy. This hypothesis is to be tested after Modi’s Lumbini visit.

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC.

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The writer is Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank.

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FOCUS MODI IN NEPAL

CULTURE & GEOPOLITICS



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The Indian cultural influence got diluted and submerged with the conversion of South-East Asians into Islam. Yet, there are several religious monuments, practices and symbolic structures still maintained in South-East Asia. The Muslim majority Indonesia named its Airline as Garuda, the vehicle used by Lord Vishnu. The puppet dance, a particular folk dance form in Odisha, is still practiced in Indonesia.

Despite the above rich heritage, New Delhi has not had deep economic and trade relations with well-off South-East Asian countries until it signed the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in 2009. This proves the point that cultural diplomacy has been downplayed in India’s economic and foreign policy.

In Lumbini visit, this fault-line should be corrected. India has deep and wide religious and cultural links with Nepal. Both are only two majority Hindu countries in the world. In fact, Nepal was officially a Hindu kingdom until 2015 when its new Constitution made it secular like India has been. Understandably, the economic growth and trade potentials are the current measure of strength of a country. But cultural ties between countries can provide a conducive context for improving trade and economy. This hypothesis is to be tested after Modi’s Lumbini visit.

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC.

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The writer is Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank.

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SPECTRUM LEARNING

Post-COVID education catch-up



Albert Park

LEARNING LOSSES DURING THE PANDEMIC WERE NOT BORNE EVENLY, WHICH MAKES REVERSING THEM EVEN MORE CHALLENGING

Across Asia and the Pacific, students and parents are breathing a sigh of relief as schools reopen and in-person classes gradually resume. But now comes the reckoning: Failure to make up for students’ significant education losses during the pandemic could diminish their lifetime earning potential and substantially damage economic equity throughout the region.

With the new academic year in many Asian countries starting in a matter of months, governments must urgently mitigate these learning shortfalls by strengthening schools and social safety nets. While many schools offered remote learning during the pandemic, this was a poor substitute for in-person instruction – especially in developing countries. According to Asian Development Bank estimates, students in developing Asia lost over half a year of effective learning on average.

The costs of doing nothing are steep. If not remedied, students’ lost education will reduce their productivity throughout their working lives and translate into estimated aggregate forgone earnings of \$3.2 trillion in constant 2020 dollars, equivalent to 13% of developing Asia’s GDP in 2020.

Learning losses during the pandemic were not borne evenly, which makes reversing them even more challenging. Girls and students

from poorer households struggle disproportionately with remote learning, owing to less access to computers, the internet, a parent or other adult who can help them, and a conducive home study environment. Moreover, they are often taken out of school in response to economic hardship – which many Asian households experienced during the pandemic.

As a result, estimated learning losses for students from the poorest 20% of households in developing Asia are one-third higher than for students from the richest 20%, corresponding to a projected 47% greater loss of lifetime earnings. Girls are expected to lose 28% more than boys in future earnings.

To shrink these disparities and reduce overall losses, the region’s governments need to improve the quality of instruction, make up for learning gaps, and support disadvantaged students. As a first step, ensuring that in-person classes can resume safely, thereby preventing further loss of learning, is vital. This may mean expanding classrooms to enable adequate social distancing, ensuring proper ventilation, installing handwashing and sanitation stations, scheduling meals to avoid crowding, and monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms. Schools that mainly serve low-income students are in greater need of investment to make these improvements and should receive

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It is the priority of the state government to recruit teachers and make infrastructural development of Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

Universities should become a platform for exchange of views and not become spaces for ideological conflict. An ideology progresses through ideas and discussions

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Tamil Nadu should become a major investment destination in the whole of South Asia and Coimbatore has to play an important role to help achieve the targets set by the State government

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Modi to attend Tokyo Quad meet

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join US President Joe Biden and prime ministers of Australia and Japan at a summit of the Quad leaders in Tokyo May 24 which is taking place amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Making the announcement of Modi's participation at the summit, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Modi will also have bilateral talks with US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Ex-PCC chief Sunil Jakhar joins BJP

New Delhi: Former Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar joined the BJP Thursday, days after he quit the grand old party, and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accept him into the party fold. Jakhar, a prominent Hindu leader in Punjab, joined the BJP in the presence of party president J P Nadda. The 68-year-old leader had quit the Congress last week with a "good luck and good bye" message. Welcoming him to the BJP, Nadda said Jakhar enjoyed a special stature in Punjab that was independent of the party and will help the BJP strengthen nationalist forces in the border state.

Woman found dead on Goa Beach

Panaji: An 18-year-old woman was found dead on Velsao beach in South Goa Thursday afternoon and police suspect that she was allegedly murdered. The deceased was identified as Diya Naik.

Fire breaks out in Delhi forest area

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a forest area in north Delhi Thursday, but there were no casualties, official said. The official said that they received a call about the incident at a forest area behind a CNG pump near Majnu Ka Tila in north Delhi area at 2.45 p.m. after which two fire tenders were immediately pressed into service.

Headmistress jailed for carrying beef to school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Goalpara (Assam), May 19: The headmistress of a school in Goalpara district of Assam was arrested and sent to jail for bringing cooked beef to school as her lunch, officials said Thursday. Legal experts and opposition parties in Assam have slammed the police for arresting the teacher and the judiciary for sending her to jail as consumption of beef, even in public places, is not illegal in the state.

The headmistress, Daliman Nessa, allegedly brought cooked beef during the 'Gunotsav 2022', a state-wide exercise to evaluate school

performance held between May 11 and May 14. She was taken to the police station.

Consumption of beef is not illegal in Assam, but the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021, bans cattle slaughter and sale of beef in areas where Hindus, Jains and Sikhs are in a majority and in areas within a five-km radius of a temple or satra (Vaishnavite monastery). Additional Superintendent of Police Mrinal Deka said the president of the management committee of Hurkachungi Middle English School in Lakhipur police station area had lodged a complaint against the headmistress alleging that she had brought beef for lunch.

ASSAM SHOCKER



The BJP is running a 'Tughlaqi' regime (referring to 14th-century Delhi sultan Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq who was known to be wilful) in the country and is trying to divide the nation. It is controlling central agencies and using those to settle political scores

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

2ND BRIDGE IN PANGONG TSO REGION

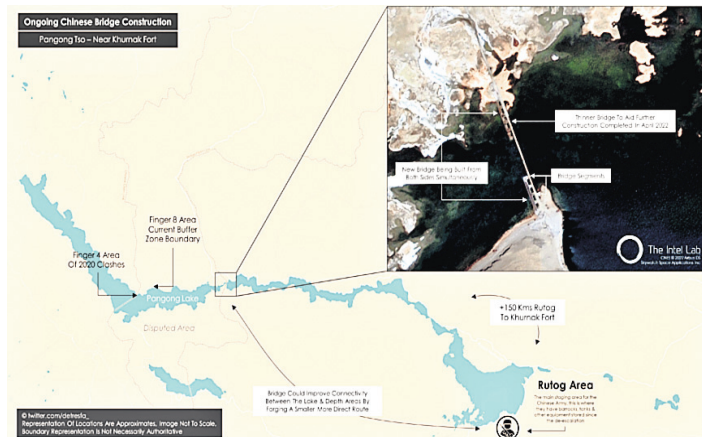
Monitoring China's move: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 19: India Thursday said the area where China is reportedly constructing a bridge across the Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh is considered an "occupied area" by New Delhi for decades, and that it monitors such developments.

At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also referred to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's comments in March that the "friction and tensions" arising from China's deployments since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship.

His comments came while responding to questions on reports of China building a second bridge across the strategically-located Pangong Tso region. "We have seen the reports on the bridge. It is a military issue. We consider it to be an occupied area. The Ministry of Defence will be able to comment on the details," Bagchi said. "The area that is referred to...We have always felt this was occupied and we have had our hope



for decades," he said, adding, "We monitor such developments."

Bagchi also indicated that there was a lack of clarity on whether a second bridge is being built in the area or it is the expansion and widening of the first bridge.

In January, when reports of China building the first bridge across the Pangong Tso emerged, the MEA had said it is located in an area that is under illegal occupation of China for

60 years. According to satellite imagery and military experts, the new bridge is adjacent to the first one. The spokesperson said Jaishankar had conveyed to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his visit to New Delhi in March about India's expectations regarding the military face-off. "You are also aware that Foreign Minister Wang Yi was here in March this year and the external affairs minister conveyed our ex-

pectations to him," he said.

"As the external affairs minister had said then talking to the media subsequently that the friction and tensions that arise from China's deployments since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between two neighbours," Bagchi said. "So we will continue to remain engaged with the Chinese side, both at the diplomatic and the military levels to ensure that the directions given by the two ministers are implemented fully," he added.

The spokesperson said India had various rounds of conversations with the Chinese side at the diplomatic and military levels. People familiar with Chinese construction on Wednesday said China is building a second bridge in an area held by it around the strategically key Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh. They said the new bridge is being built in an area that is over 20 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The eastern Ladakh faceoff began May 4-5 in 2020. India has been insisting on the restoration of status quo ante prior to the standoff.

CBI grills senior TMC leader, minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 19: Two senior Trinamool Congress leaders - Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal and junior minister Pares Chandra Adhikari - were questioned by the CBI here in separate cases Thursday.

The central agency had to cut short its interrogation of Mondal in connection with its probe into a cattle smuggling case in West Bengal after he complained of chest pain. Adhikari who is the minister of state for education was grilled by CBI sleuths on a Calcutta High Court order regarding a case of alleged illegal appointment of his daughter as a teacher in a state government-aided school.

The CBI, following orders of the high court, has been investigating a number of cases where teaching and non-teaching staff were allegedly appointed illegally in schools following recommendations by the West Bengal Central School Service Commission (SSC).

Nithari case: Death sentence to Koli

Judge Rakesh Tripathi awarded seven years imprisonment to Koli's employer -- bizman Moninder Singh Pandher -- in the case linked to the murders that rocked the country. The court imposed a fine of ₹62, 000 on Koli and ₹4, 000 on Pandher



as it shows his cruelty towards the victim who was strangled to death after being raped.

Her body was sliced into pieces and the parts were stuffed in polythene bags and dumped in a drain behind Pandher's house in Nithari. Meanwhile, Pandher urged the court to decrease his punishment as he is unwell and undergoing treatment in the jail hospital.

The sensational killings came to light with the discovery of eight skeletal remains of children from the drain behind Pandher's house December 29, 2006. Pandher and Koli were subsequently arrested by the Noida Police. With further digging and searching of drains and the area around Pandher's house, more skeletal remains were found. Most of these remains proved to be that of poor children and young women who had gone missing from the area. Within 10 days, the CBI took over case and its search resulted in the recovery of more bones.

During the interrogation, Koli had accepted rape, murder and cannibalism, according to the CBI. A total 19 cases were lodged but in three cases the CBI had filed closure reports due to lack of evidence, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the General Public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Teen Ek Party. The office of the party is located At: Padalguda, Post: Majhiguda, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN - 764059, Odisha. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act., 1951 - Names/Address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:
President: Monasi Bhatra, S/o. Binod Bhatra, At: Padalguda, Post: Majhiguda, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN - 764059, Odisha.
Secretary: Kranti Kumar Kotina, S/o. K. Manohar Rao, At: Padalguda, Post: Majhiguda, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN - 764059, Odisha.
Treasurer: Mohan Santa, S/o. Krushna Santa, At: Kadalijaba, Post: Baghasiuni, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN - 764059, Odisha.
If anyone has any objection to the registration of Teen Ek Party they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of publication of this notice.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, GANJAM, BHERHAMPUR**
Phone: 0680-2291405, Email: eerw_gm1@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/01/SERWDG-I/2022-23
Letter No. 1296/IRWDG-I/BAM/Date: 17.05.2022

No.	O-263:
1	Name of the Work :: Repair to Road Works
2	Estimated Cost :: Rs. 5.31 to 49.74 Lakh
3	Period of Completion :: As per Annexure Column No.05
4	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal :: From 23.05.2022 at 10.30 A.M. to 06.06.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.
5	Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal :: 06.06.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.
6	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid :: Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Ganjam, Bherhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division-I, Ganjam, Bherhampur
OIPR-25085/11/0002/2223

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
No. O-224 E-Mail: rw_boudh@yahoo.co.in
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/02/E.E.R.W. BOUDH/2022-23
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the work	:	Road Works 1 (One) No.
1. Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 74.34 lakhs (Approximately)
2. Period of Completion	:	3 (Three) Calendar Months
3. Date & time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	:	From 23.05.2022, 10.00 A.M. to 08.06.2022, 5.00 P.M.
4. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	08.06.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
5. Last date/time for seeking of tender clarification	:	07.06.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bid	:	09.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
7. Date & time of opening of Financial Bid	:	17.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
8. Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Boudh

Further details, corrigendum(s) etc can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>".
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
OIPR-25061/11/0002/2223 R.W. Division, Boudh

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevew, Email: eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com
Identification No. RWS/ 108/ 2021-22
Letter No. 3688/ Dated: 13.05.22

4th Corrigendum
No. O-256:- This corrigendum has been made for the NIT-108 invited online vide this office letter No. 1750 / Dated 10.03.2022 with date for selling, closing, clarification and opening which was on dt.17.05.2022 (Selling date), 31.05.2022 (Closing date), 19.05.2022 (Clarification date), 01.06.2022 (Opening date) as per 3rd corrigendum has been amended and to be read as 27.05.2022, 17.06.2022, 31.05.2022 and 18.06.2022 respectively as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Approx.) Rs. In Lakhs	EMD to be deposited online	Class of bidder	Cost of tender paper	Period of completion
1	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to Ramachandrapur under Marshaghai Block in the District of Kendrapara. (JMM Funds)	Rs.59.03	Nil	'B' and 'A'	Rs.10000	180 days

Sd./- (Er. B.K. Nayak), Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara
OIPR-25004/11/0033/2223



PROTECT 'BRAND BANGALORE'

Krishna raises 'sinking' image of city with CM

AGENCIES

Bangalore, May 19: Veteran BJP leader and former Union Minister SM Krishna has shot off a letter to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai warning him of recent developments due to incessant rains affecting the brand and image of Bangalore city.

The copious pre-Monsoon rains in the state especially in Bangalore have affected the normal life of the people. The havoc caused by rains in Bangalore, which is known as one of the most developing cities of the world, has caused concern, he said.

Krishna, who also served as the Chief Minister of the state during Congress rule, has feared that this development would affect the brand Bangalore at the global level. These developments convey a wrong message to investors who want to come here and it will adversely affect the establishment of industries in the state, he said.

He also raised concern that the industrialists who want to come to the state may opt for other states and it would adversely affect the development of the state.

"During my tenure as the Chief Minister, due to the prioritisation given to the Information Technology sector, Bangalore city developed on par with California City which is known as the Silicon Valley of America and generated employment for lakhs of youth. Following this, Bangalore city extended its boundaries by four times. The revenue has also been increased significantly which accounts for half of the state budget," he explained.

He listed out programmes to be implemented to retain the brand of Bangalore at the global level. The suggestions included reformation of the Bengaluru Agenda Task Force Committee,



Fire brigade personnel pump water from a flooded street after heavy rain, at Horamavu area in Bangalore, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Rain havoc in Bangalore which is at the forefront among the fastest growing cities in the world has raised a concern; this has caused a disquiet about the Brand Bangalore and may send a wrong message for those willing to set up industries and investors willing to invest in the state

SM KRISHNA | FORMER K'TAKA CM

enue has also been increased significantly which accounts for half of the state budget," he explained.

He listed out programmes to be implemented to retain the brand of Bangalore at the global level. The suggestions included reformation of the Bengaluru Agenda Task Force Committee,

which was started exclusively for the development of Bangalore city; inviting experts from across the sectors and preparing a blueprint for the city keeping future in mind.

This includes development of storm water drainage system in Bangalore; formation of a team of expert officers for development of new localities that have been joined to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike; taking up work before the Monsoon rains on war footing, reducing pressure on Bangalore by developing Mysore, Tumakuru and Hubballi cities industrial infrastructure.

Krishna has stated that CM Bommai should take up the measures in consultation with party leaders to ensure suitable action in the interest of the future of Bangalore city.

Rain continues to lash K'taka for third day

- RAIN RELATED DEATH TOLL RISES TO 4
- IMD RED ALERT IN 7 DISTRICTS OF K'TAKA
- CM BOMMAI TOURS RAIN-AFFECTED AREAS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 19: Heavy rain continued to torment the people in Karnataka Thursday with Bangalore being the worst affected.

Till now four deaths have been reported due to the heavy rain. Two migrant labourers died while working at a pipeline project in Jnanabharathi police station limits in Bangalore.

A 38-year-old person was electrocuted in Doddaballapur in Bengaluru Rural district while an elderly person died following the collapse of a wall of an old school building in Holenarasipura taluk in Hassan district. All incidents came to light Wednesday.

The Indian Meteorological

Department has issued a red alert for seven districts of the state. Due to the incessant rain in Dakshina Kannada, Mysore and Shivamogga, the district administrations have declared a holiday for schools Thursday.

The coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Chikkamagalur, Hassan, Kodagu and Shivamogga districts are likely to receive heavy rainfall in the next 24 hours. Necessary precautions have been taken to avoid any loss of life and property.

A yellow alert has been sounded in Bangalore, Bangalore Rural, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Tumkur, Ramnagar, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamaraajanagar, Dharwad, Davanagere, Chitradurga, Ballary, Yadgir, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur,



K'taka CM Bommai visits flood-affected areas, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Koppal, Gadag and Haveri districts.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai toured the rain-affected areas of Kamalanagar, Shankar Mutt, Laggere and Nagawara localities of Bangalore city. He also inspected the ongoing metro work and the storm water drains.

Bangalore Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL) authorities have appealed to the passengers to plan their travel accordingly as due to heavy rain in Bangalore, passengers might face water-logging and traffic jams in a few areas towards the airport.

No decision yet on joining BJP or AAP, says Hardik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 19: A day after resigning from the Congress, Patidar leader Hardik Patel Thursday said he wasted three years of his life in the party which indulged in caste politics, and maintained that he has not taken a decision yet on joining any other political outfit, be it the ruling BJP in Gujarat or the new entrant AAP.

Addressing a press conference here, Patel (28) hailed the BJP for its efforts in the Ayodhya case and also appreciated it for abrogating Article 370, while also accusing the leaders of the visionless Congress of being biased against the Gujarati people.

However, the Congress hit back saying that Patel quit the party as he was afraid that he might have to go to jail in sedition cases registered against him. The opposition party also claimed that Patel might join the ruling BJP.

Patel resigned from the Congress Wednesday, months ahead of the Assembly polls in Gujarat, criticising it over the functioning of the state leadership. Patel was made the working president in July 2020, a year after he was inducted into the party.

Asked if he would join the BJP or AAP, Patel said, "I have not taken any decision as of now on joining any political party, be it the BJP or AAP. Whatever decision I take, it will be in the interest of the people."

According to Patel, his main contention was that he was never given any meaningful work despite being the working president of the state unit.

"It is a fact that Congress benefited immensely in the 2017 Assembly polls due to the Patidar quota agitation (led by him).

However, I was not given any responsibility even after making me working president. I was not even invited to the key meetings of the party..." he said.

Some 7-8 leaders have been running the show for the last 25 years in Gujarat. Second cadre leaders are not given any importance. Party just believes in the theory of use and throw. During the last 7 years, nearly 122 Congress leaders had left the party, including 30 MLAs and nearly 40 former MLAs, Patel added.

He alleged that the party never speaks anything on the issues concerning Hindus, such as the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) or on the issue of a 'Shivling' (said to be) found in a mosque in Varanasi.

"Ruling BJP's efforts in the Ayodhya case were worth appreciating. I had welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict and my family even donated ₹21,000 for the construction of Ram Mandir. BJP also did a good job by scrapping Article 370. I will not hesitate to appreciate what is worth appreciating," he said.

"The Gujarat Congress is too much into caste-based politics, he claimed and added that poll tickets as well as party posts are given solely on that criteria. I regret that I wasted my three years in this party," Patel said.

Citing the examples of Patidar leaders Vitthal Radadiya and Narhari Amin, who had quit Congress and later joined BJP in the past, Patel alleged that Congress always did injustice to the leaders from the community and sidelined them whenever they became powerful.

The former Patidar quota agitation spearhead claimed that the Congress had no vision and that leaders of the party were biased against Gujarati people, like Adani and Ambani.

BHAGAT SINGH LESSON DELETION ROW

After facing backlash, BJP govt takes U-turn

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 19: The ruling BJP in Karnataka has taken a U-turn in connection with deletion of the lesson on freedom fighter and martyr Sardar Bhagat Singh from the syllabus.

According to sources, the government after sensing the opposition from all corners has decided to retain the lesson of Bhagat Singh in the textbook. The state government has also halted the distribution of books to the SSLC class students in this background.

The Text Book Revision Committee formed by the ruling BJP in the state to review the syllabus had decided to drop the lesson on Bhagat Singh from SSLC (Class 10) Kannada textbook.

The committee had decided to replace Bhagat Singh's text with writer Shivananda Kalave's Swadeshi Sutradra Sarala Habba lesson. This was criticised heavily and the state government then had come into a damage control mode.

The Opposition parties slammed BJP for disrespecting the freedom fighter. Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and state chief DK Shivakumar, former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy and



the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) had attacked the BJP over the issues.

They chided that the BJP was turning textbooks as party brochures. They also objected to the decision on the deletion of Bhagat Singh's lesson and inclusion of speech of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hegdegar in the textbook.

The TextBook Review Committee President, writer Rohit Chakrathirtha while defending the decision to include RSS founder's speech, stated that the committee had no intention of promoting right wing ideology. If they had such a motive they would not have deleted the lesson on Bhagat Singh. The lesson was included in the supplement textbook. It was not in the main part. There was no sufficient information about Bhagat Singh in the lesson. Hence, it was decided to remove the lesson, he had stated.

K'taka govt makes uniform mandatory for PUC students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 19: The Karnataka government has made uniform compulsory for Pre-University Course(PUC) students from academic year 2022-23.

The directive forms a part of the guidelines issued for the PUC students. According to sources, the ruling BJP took the decision considering the possibility of a hijab crisis, once the PU classes restart.

The SSLC (Class 10) results were announced Thursday in the state and admissions for the PU colleges will begin from Friday onwards.

In the guidelines issued by the Education Department for 2020-21 academic year, uniforms were not compulsory. Sources in the Education department said that the new rule will empower college managements to implement a ban on hijab in classrooms.

Several parents and students have questioned the government's decision. However, the Special Bench of Karnataka High Court which heard the matter upholding the government order stated that wearing of uniform is compulsory for students.

The court also dismissed the petition challenging the uniform rule



and asking for the right to wear hijab in classrooms. The petitioners have approached the Supreme Court on the matter.

Giving no scope for any confusion regarding wearing of hijab, the guidelines mentioned that uniforms prescribed by the School Development and Management Committee (SDMC) are compulsory for PUC students.

The new circular stated that in case of SDMC not prescribing any uniform, students are recommended to wear a garment that will maintain equality and unity and it underlined that it should not disturb public order.

Hijab row which made international news, began with the six girl students launching a protest demanding rights to wear hijab in classes. The protest for

hijab which started in Udupi Girl's Pre-University College, spread across the state.

The issue took a communal turn and threatened the law and order situation in the state. The crisis resulted in a chain of disturbing events causing social unrest in the state. Muslim organisations and traders protested against the High Court order on hijab.

Later, the Hindu organisations alleging that Muslim traders do not respect the court order, gave call boycott Muslim vendors, merchants, artisans. Muslim traders were asked to wind up their shops in temples and religious fairs. The issue of use of loudspeakers by mosques to call azaan against the Supreme Court guidelines is also being raised by Hindu organisations.

Vadnagar to be a world-class heritage tourism destination

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, May 19: On the occasion of International Museum Day May 18, the Gujarat government announced to turn the historic city of Vadnagar into a world-class heritage tourism destination. Vadnagar is also the native place of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Wednesday inaugurated the Vadnagar International Conference at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Gujarat government's Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities Department and the Directorate of Museums.

Patel said that Vadnagar is one of the oldest towns consisting of continuous human settlements since the 3rd and 4th centuries.



The town itself is an archaeological treasure, he said.

Vadnagar is known for its heritage and culture through its various monuments, works of art, and archaeological and historical heritage. The Vadnagar International Conference will be an interactive platform for the exchange of ideas, strategies, and strategic information in view of developing the town

as a world heritage site. The conference is also planned to cover a series of interesting topics curated about Vadnagar, as well as the relevance of archeological heritage in the context of global practice.

UNESCO representative Eric Falt said that UNESCO plays an active role in promoting India's cultural diversity and heritage. UNESCO will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2023 in which the government of India will nominate the Gujarati Garba folk tradition.

A coffee table book on Vadnagar was released on this occasion in the presence of the dignitaries. The Vadnagar International Conference will be seeing the participation of experts from four different countries, 33 national experts and 200 delegates as speakers.

Jain sect exhorts couples to have more kids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, May 19: To curb the declining population of Kutch Visa Oswal Jain community in Baroi village of Gujarat, 'Hum Do, Humare Teen' scheme was announced exhorting young couples of the sect to have more children.

As part of the scheme, ₹10 lakh each will be provided to second and third children of a couple (one lakh on birth and remaining nine lakh as installments of ₹50,000 on every birthday till he/she becomes 18-year-old).

The pamphlet of the campaign, initiated by 'Mumbaigara KVO Jain Mahajans' (a group of people of the community who have migrated to Mumbai), has also gone viral on social media.

Every second and third child born after January 1, 2023 will get the benefit of the said scheme.

Anil Kenya, secretary of Baroi KVO Jain Samaj said, "This scheme is only for the people of the Jain

'HUM DO, HUMARE TEEN'



community in our Baroi village. Jain society is still in the minority. The village houses 400 families which has now barely around 1,100 to 1,200 members."

"In some families there are only

Being educated and rich, Jains migrated to Mumbai, abroad or to other big cities. The quake also left many villages empty. You can't stop someone from migrating. So the only option is for the new generation to have more children

GAURANG JANI | SOCIOLOGIST

elders, so who will take care of them in future? In the next 50 years, the whole society may be wiped out. Many young couples today prefer to be single or childless. Many villagers in the surrounding villages also think about this step. Even in Jain society not all families are prosperous. So some families are also willing to take on the responsibility of other families, even if they have more than one child. This is a kind of incentive," Kenya added.

Well-known sociologist Gaurang Jani said as per the last three census, the overall family size of Kutch has decreased over the last three decades. This is not a new concern, one of the main reasons is that there has been a lot of migration.

"Being educated and rich, Jains migrated to Mumbai, abroad or to other big cities. The quake also left many villages empty. You can't stop someone from migrating. So the only option is for the new generation to have more children," Jani added.

"Today there are only 53,000 Parsis in all over India, so few that their separate religion column cannot be given in the census forms. We have 2.2 children per woman there, so the population of every society is declining," the sociologist pointed out.

The announcement may be appropriate in the eyes of the Jain community, but it remains to be seen whether the couples will accept it individually, he added.

of the day quote

Telangana is top among states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in crop production and per capita income

K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO |
TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

Education is the most effective tool for upliftment of marginalised communities. Youth coming out of colleges today, should think of contributing to society by making it a better place to live. They should think of resolving existing social issues

MANISH SISODIA |
DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

The international centre will help showcase the timeless message of Lord Buddha and how India continues to enrich the grand tradition by internalising the ideals of Lord Buddha and contributing to world peace

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Fire breaks out at factory, 1 killed

New Delhi: A 42-year-old man was killed and six others injured after a fire broke out at a factory in northeast Delhi's Mustafabad area Thursday, officials said. A call about the blaze was received at 12.17 pm following which seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot, officials said. The police said Inderjeet Pandey, a resident of Pusta Sonia Vihar, succumbed to burn injuries. He was worker at the factory, a senior police officer said.

5 LeT ultras held for grenade attack

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Thursday claimed to have solved the Baramulla grenade attack case on a liquor shop within 48 hours of the incident by arresting four Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists and a terror associate. On May 17, a burqa clad terrorist lobbed a grenade on the newly-opened wine shop at Dewan Bagh in Baramulla. After lobbing the grenade, the terrorist returned to his waiting accomplice and fled from the spot on a motorcycle, the spokesman said. He said the grenade explosion left four persons injured who were evacuated to GMC Baramulla hospital by police and army personnel.

Cabs, autos, trucks go off roads in Hyd

Hyderabad: Auto-rickshaws, cabs and trucks went off the roads in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana Thursday in response to a day-long bandh call given by various unions in support of their demands. Owners and drivers of auto trolleys, DCM vans and private buses are also participating in the 24-hour long bandh, which began at midnight. The Joint Action Committees (JACs) of owners and drivers of cabs, auto-rickshaw and trucks have called for the protest against the arbitrary hike in taxes and penalties and also to press for their demands.

Two cops found dead in paddy field

Palakkad (Ker): Two police personnel were found dead in a paddy field, located near Muttikulangara police camp in this north Kerala district Thursday. The deceased were identified as Mohandas and Ashokan, both havildars attached to the camp, police said. Both were not on duty and were missing since last night, they said, adding that a probe was already on to trace them. Electrocutation was suspected to be the cause of death as burn marks were reported to be found on the bodies.



The BJP is shying away from the question of rising inflation. BJP-RSS is involved in a conspiracy of dividing the society

AKHILESH YADAV |
SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) PRESIDENT

MISSION SUCCESSFUL

Space-sector start-up Skyroot Aerospace has successfully conducted the full-duration test-firing of the third stage of the Vikram-1 rocket, India's first privately built satellite launch vehicle. Named 'Kalam-100' after former President late A P J Abdul Kalam, the third stage of Vikram-1 produces a peak vacuum thrust of 100 kN (or ~10Tons) and has a burn time of 108 seconds



Why is India facing its worst power crisis in over 6 years?

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 19: India is facing its worst power crisis in over six years as a heatwave bakes vast swathes of South Asia, causing widespread power outages.

Here is a summary of the factors behind the crunch.

WHY IS INDIA FACING A POWER CRISIS?

A surge in air-conditioning demand due to an unrelenting heatwave this year, and an economic recovery due to removal of all Covid-related curbs on industrial activity, pushed power demand to record highs in April.

New hybrid work models adopted since Covid-19 struck in 2020 have resulted in millions of Indians working from home, boosting residential daytime power use. The gap between power supplied and consumed has often been wider at night when solar supplies stop and air conditioning demand surges.

Many power plants ran out of fuel as a result of increasing output aggressively, with average coal stocks held by utilities at the lowest for this time of the year in at least 9 years.

Despite record production by state-run Coal India (COALNS), which accounts for 80% of domestic coal output, many utilities were not able to replenish stocks due to Indian Railways' inability to supply enough trains Coal India.



REUTERS FILE PHOTO

WHAT IS INDIA DOING?

The crisis has pushed India to reverse a policy to slash thermal coal imports to zero, and asked utilities to continue importing for three years. It also invoked an emergency law to start generation at all plants running on imported coal, many of which are currently shut due to high international coal prices.

WHO IS IMPACTED BY THE CRISIS?

According to citizen-survey platform LocalCircles, nearly half of its 35,000 respondents from across the country said they faced power outages this month.

Factories in at least three states have been forced shut for hours as authorities struggled to handle demand. As the supply of coal to power plants operated by energy-intensive industries was restricted,

factories started drawing power from the grid, hiking industrial costs and putting further pressure on overworked coal-fired power plants.

Power use by eastern Odisha state, home to the country's biggest aluminium smelters and steel mills, rose over 30% in October-March, nearly ten times the average national growth.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Power generation from coal-fired plants, which account for nearly 75% of India's annual electricity output, is expected to grow 17.6% this year, the highest rate in over a decade.

Coal India's production and dispatches by train are likely to be hit during the annual June-September monsoon season.

RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION

Convict Nalini's mother expects her release soon



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 19: After the Supreme Court ordered the release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict Perarivalan, the mother of Nalini, another convict, expects that her daughter would also be released soon.

Speaking to IANS, Padma Sankaranarayanan, the mother said that she expects her daughter to be free soon given the Supreme Court release of another co-accused Perarivalan Wednesday.

"After the release of Perarivalan, I am convinced that Nalini will be released soon. Arputhamal, Perarivalan's mother, has gone through a lot of trauma and her relentless struggle and fight for his release paid off finally. I expect that Nalini will also be released soon," she said. Nalini's mother said that it was the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Kalaigarn Karunanidhi who had commuted her death sentence to life as she had a child. Padma Sankaranarayanan said that she has high hopes on the statement of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin that the state government would work for the release of all the other six convicts who are jailed in the case.

AADHAAR CARDS FOR SEX WORKERS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 19: The Supreme Court Thursday directed the issuance of Aadhaar cards to sex workers based on a proforma certificate issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and observed that every person has a fundamental right to be treated with dignity.

A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said there should be no breach of the confidentiality of the sex workers and their identity should not be revealed.

"Aadhaar cards shall be issued to sex workers on the basis of a proforma certificate issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and submitted by a gazetted officer at the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) or the project director of State AIDS Control Society along with the enrolment form," the bench also comprising Justices B R Gavai and A S Bopanna said. While passing the order, the bench observed that "every person has the right to be treated with dignity irrespective of activity. This should be kept in mind."

UIDAI had earlier suggested to the top court that Aadhaar Card

The SC had directed states and UTs to continue with the process of identification of the sex workers who do not have any proof of identity and who are deprived of distribution of ration

could be issued to sex workers without insisting on proof of identity, subject to their producing a certificate issued by a Gazetted Officer of NACO or a Gazetted Officer of Health Department of the respective State Governments/ Union Territory.

"Apart from ration cards, the State Governments shall also take steps to issue voter ID cards to the sex workers identified by NACO and Community Based Organisations after verification of the lists," the apex court had earlier said.

The apex court, hearing a plea that has raised the problems faced by sex workers due to the Covid-19 pandemic, has been passing orders for their welfare and on September 29 last year, had asked the Centre and others to provide dry ration to them without insisting on their identity proof.

The plea has highlighted the destitution faced by sex workers on account of Covid-19 and sought relief measures for over nine lakh female and transgender sex workers across India.



A crow drinks water flowing from a tap to quench its thirst on a hot summer day in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

Survey report lists Hindu symbols inside mosque

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Varanasi (UP), May 19: The court-appointed Commission to conduct videographic survey of the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi Mosque complex Thursday submitted, to the court, its report which said the members saw Hindu symbols like lotus, swastika, 'trishul' (trident), and 'bell shapes' in the building.

The report says that four doors of the Gwanvapi mosque were closed with new bricks.

The report on one of its pages concludes its findings pointwise.

1. Inside the second pillar of the mosque, there is a symbol of trishul, on which plaintiff number four registered objections and it was photographed and videographed.

2. On the west wall in the south-west corner of the mosque, a symbol of swastika was found engraved. There were three decorated lotus symbols, also found with overarching swastika symbol.

3. Further inside the mosque, several symbols of lotus were found

GYANVAPI CASE

engraved on the stones. Apart from this, the swastika was found on the petals of lotus.

4. On one of the pillars of the mosque, Hindi words are engraved in seven lines.

5. In the east south of the mosque, one of the walls has water seepage and the whole wall is damp. Even the floor underneath the wall is damp.

6. One side of the 'takhkhana' (underground section of the

mosque), four gates are closed with new bricks.

7. The stone pillars on both sides, the bell like shapes and flowery 'kalash' (urns) are engraved.

8. Just after the entrance of the takhkhana, swastika symbol was found engraved on the second stone.

The report said all these were photographed as well as videographed. Meanwhile, a Varanasi court hearing the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri case Thursday posted the matter to May 23 for the next hearing.

Climate change making extreme heatwaves in India: Study

CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY MAKING EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS SUCH AS HEATWAVES MORE INTENSE AND MORE FREQUENT, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/London, May 19: Climate change has made the record breaking heat waves in India and Pakistan over 100 times more likely, and also increased the chances that such events will occur more fre-

quently in the future, according to a study by the UK Met Office.

The analysis released oWednesday means extreme temperature events once expected every three centuries are now likely to happen every three years.

The study estimated the chances of exceeding the record temperature witnessed in April and May in 2010 - which saw the highest combined average April and May temperature since 1900.

The attribution study, which determines the influence of climate change on a particular weather event, shows that the natural probability of a heat wave exceeding the average temperature in 2010 was once in 312 years.

However, in the current climate scenario that accounts for climate change, the probabilities increase



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

to once in every 3.1 years.

The scientists estimated that by the end of the century, the probability of heat wave will increase to once every 1.15 years.

"With temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius in recent days, it is clear the current heat wave is an extreme weather event affecting communities and livelihoods,"

Professor Peter Stott, Met Office Science Fellow in Climate Attribution, said in a statement.

Although a new record is thought likely, climate scientists will have to wait until after the end of the month - when all the temperature records for the April-May period have been collated - to see whether the current heat wave will exceed the levels experienced in 2010.

"Spells of heat have always been a feature of the region's pre-monsoon climate during April and May," said Nikos Christidis, who produced the study.

"Our study shows that climate change is driving the heat intensity of these spells making record-breaking temperatures 100 times more likely. By the end of the century increasing climate change is likely to drive temperatures of

these values on average every year," Christidis said.

The scientists adopted the peer-reviewed risk-based methodology that infers probabilities of extreme events with and without the effect of human influence from large multi-model ensembles of climate model simulations. They noted that extreme pre-monsoon heatwave has eased a little after peak temperatures reached 51 degrees Celsius in Pakistan on Sunday.

"However, the heat looks likely to build again from mid-week, peaking later in the week or into the weekend, with maximum temperatures again likely to reach 50 degrees Celsius in some spots, with continued very high overnight temperatures," said Paul Hutcheon, of the UK Met Office's Global Guidance Unit.

international

of the day quote

Turkey will not approve Sweden's NATO membership if the country does not extradite "terrorists" upon Turkish request

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

A number of low-income societies are today confronted with the twin challenges of rising costs and difficulty in access to food grains. Even those like India, which have adequate stocks, have seen an unjustified increase in food prices. It is clear that hoarding and speculation are at work. We cannot allow this to pass unchallenged

V. MURALEEDHARAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA

The war has worsened food insecurity in poorer nations due to rising prices

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

Britain completes partygate probe

London: Scotland Yard said Thursday that the police investigation into alleged breaches of COVID-19 lockdown regulations at the UK government offices in Downing Street and Whitehall under Operation Hillman has been completed. The Metropolitan Police said the total number of referrals for fixed penalty notices (FPNs), or fines, in the so-called partygate scandal stand at 126 and they relate to events between May 2020 and April 2021.

Shanghai to reopen subways

Beijing: The locked-down Chinese metropolis of Shanghai will reopen four of its 20 subway lines Sunday as it slowly eases pandemic restrictions that have kept most residents in their housing complexes for more than six weeks. The city will also restart 273 bus lines connecting major urban centers, airports, train stations and hospitals as it resumes cross-district public transit, Yu Fulin, director of the Shanghai Transport Commission, said at a daily pandemic briefing.

Tugboat sinks; five missing

Milan: An Italian tugboat with six people aboard capsized and sank in the Adriatic Sea, leaving five crew members missing, Italian authorities said Thursday. The Coast Guard and other authorities were searching for four Italians and one Tunisian sailor. Authorities said the search was complicated by high winds.

School shooting: One wounded

Berlin: Shots were fired at a German school in the northern city of Bremerhaven Thursday and one person, who was not a student, was wounded, police said, adding an armed person had been taken into custody. On its website, the Lloyd Gymnasium, which has around 1,150 students, posted a notice saying: "Dear parents, your children are safe." It gave a phone number that parents could call for information.

Five bodies found

Tunis: The Tunisian Maritime Guard has found five bodies of illegal immigrants off the country's southeast coast, National Guard spokesman, Houcemeddine Jbabli said on social media. The Maritime Guard also arrested 142 illegal immigrants of different African nationalities off the coastal city of Sfax in southeastern Tunisia in five illegal immigration attempts.

FATE OF UKRAINIAN FIGHTERS UNCERTAIN



REUTERS

Kyiv/Slatyne, Ukraine May 19: Moscow said on Thursday that 1,730 Ukrainian fighters had surrendered in Mariupol over three days, including 771 in the past 24 hours, claiming surrender on a far bigger scale than Kyiv has acknowledged since ordering its garrison to stand down.

The ultimate outcome of Europe's bloodiest battle for decades remained publicly unresolved, with no confirmation of the fate of the hundreds of Ukrainian troops who had held out in a vast steelworks at

■ Fate of Azovstal defenders still unresolved

■ Pro-Russian separatist leader says half have surrendered

■ US reopens embassy in Kyiv

left - more than half have laid down their arms, Denis Pushilin told the Solovoyv Live internet television channel. Let them surrender, let them live, let them honestly face the charges for all their crimes. The wounded had been given medical treatment while those who were fit had been taken to a penal colony and were being treated well, he said.

Ukrainian officials say they cannot comment publicly on the fate

As long as [Russian President] Putin continues his barbarous assault on Ukraine, we will continue to target the Russian economy. We've already closed our airspace to Russian airlines. Today we're making sure they can't cash in their lucrative landing slots at our airports. Every economic sanction reinforces our clear message to Putin - we will not stop until Ukraine prevails

LIZ TRUSS | UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

Over the past 20 years, this is the first military conflict in the world that has caused such large-scale environmental damage. Russian missiles hit our oil depots, thermal power plants, chemical plants - this definitely affects the environment. Forests are burning, valuable protected things are being destroyed

RUSLAN STRELETS | MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF UKRAINE

the end of a near three-month siege. Ukraine, which says it aims to secure a prisoner swap, has declined to say how many were inside the plant or comment on the fate of the rest, since confirming that just over 250 had surrendered in the initial hours after it ordered them to yield. The leader of Russian-backed separatists in control of the area said nearly half of the fighters remained inside the steelworks, where underground bunkers and tunnels had protected them from weeks of Russian bombardment.

More than a half have already

of the fighters, as negotiations are under way behind the scenes to rescue them. The state is making utmost efforts to carry out the rescue of our service personnel, military spokesman Oleksandr Motuzaynik told a news conference. Any information to the public could endanger that process.

Russia denies that it agreed to a prisoner swap. Many of the Azovstal defenders belong to a Ukrainian unit with far-right origins, the Azov Regiment, which Moscow calls Nazis and says must be prosecuted for crimes.

LANKA FUEL SHORTAGE SET TO EASE

Most of Sri Lanka's petrol stations have run dry as the island nation battles its most devastating economic crisis since independence in 1948

REUTERS

Colombo, May 19: Sri Lanka's central bank has secured foreign exchange to pay for fuel and cooking gas shipments that will ease crippling shortages, its governor said Thursday, but police fired tear gas and water canon to push back student protesters.

Most of Sri Lanka's petrol stations have run dry as the island nation battles its most devastating economic crisis since independence in 1948. At some pumps in



A woman holds empty containers as she waits in a queue to buy kerosene at a fuel station

REUTERS

the commercial capital, Colombo, dozens of people stood in lines holding plastic jerry cans, as troops in combat gear and armed with assault rifles patrolled the streets. Traffic was extremely light.



Sri Lankan armed forces ended civil war with LTTE through 'humanitarian operation'

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA | SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

EYE ON CHINA

Biden heads to S Korea, Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, May 19: President Joe Biden departs on a six-day trip to South Korea and Japan aiming to build rapport with the two nations' leaders while also sending an unmistakable message to China: Russia's faltering invasion of Ukraine should give Beijing pause about its own saber-rattling in the Pacific.

Biden departs Thursday and is set to meet newly elected South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Their talks will touch on

What arouses attention and vigilance is the fact that, even before the American leader has set out for the meeting, the so-called joint Japan-US Anti-China rhetoric is already kicking up dust

WANG YI | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER



■ China's military assertiveness has grown over the course of Biden's presidency, with its provocative actions frequently putting the region on edge

■ While in Japan, Biden will meet fellow leaders of the Indo-Pacific strategic alliance known as the Quad, a group that includes Australia, India and Japan

trade, increasing resilience in the global supply chain, growing concerns about North Korea's nuclear program and the explosive spread of COVID-19 in that country.

While in Japan, Biden will also meet with fellow leaders of the Indo-Pacific strategic alliance

JOY IN THE AIR



Newly commissioned Coast Guard officers toss their caps at the conclusion of the 141st commencement at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut

REUTERS

COVID CASES RISING: WHO

The number of coronavirus deaths globally dropped by about 21per cent in the past week while cases rose in most parts of the world, according to the World Health Organization



POWERED BY SOLAR ENERGY

Highest weather station installed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, May 19: A team of experts from the National Geographic Society has installed the "world's highest weather station" on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres to automatically measure various meteorological phenomena, the Nepalese media reported Thursday.

Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) said the automatic weather station was installed a few metres below the summit point (8,848.86 metres) last week as the snow and ice on the summit are not suitable for fixing equipment.

The weather monitoring system, powered by solar energy, is supposed to measure various meteorological phenomena like air temperature, wind speed and direction, air pressure, change in surface height of snow, and incoming and outgoing short and long wave radiation.

Monkeypox spreads

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, May 19: Health officials in Spain reported seven cases of monkeypox and Portugal updated its number of confirmed cases to 14 Thursday as an outbreak of a viral disease typically limited to Africa expanded in Europe.

In Spain, all of the reported cases to date involved men in Madrid, officials said. Health officials are currently testing another 22 suspected cases, said Antonio Zapatero of the regional health department. "It's possible that more cases will emerge in the coming days," Zapatero told Spanish radio network Onda Cero.

Officials said all of the cases identified so far were mild and that the infections appeared linked to close contact among two chains of transmission. No details were given as to whether the men had traveled to Africa or whether the cases were connected to other reported cases across Europe.

Portuguese authorities said that the 14 cases confirmed in the country all were reported in the area surrounding the capital city of Lisbon.

ANOTHER DECREE

Female Afghan presenters must cover face: Taliban

REUTERS

Kabul, May 19: Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have asked television broadcasters to ensure that female presenters on local stations cover their faces when on air, an official said Thursday.

The move comes days after authorities ordered women to cover their faces in public, a return to a policy of the Taliban's past hard-line rule and an escalation of restrictions that are causing anger at home and abroad.

"Yesterday we met with media officials... they accepted our advice very happily," Akif Mahajar, spokesman for the Taliban's Ministry of Vice and Virtue, told Reuters, adding this move would be received well by Afghans.



While he framed the move as "advice", Mahajar added: "The last date for face covering for TV presenters is May 21," referring to when compliance with the new requirement should begin.

He did not respond to a query on what the consequences would be of not following the advice. Most Afghan women wear a headscarf for religious reasons, but many in urban areas such as Kabul do not cover their faces.

Key climate change indicators break records in 2021: Report

Global mean sea level reached a new record high in 2021, at a rate of more than double that between 1993 and 2002, mainly due to the accelerated loss of ice mass from the ice sheets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, May 19: Four key climate change indicators, including greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification, set new records in 2021, a report from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said.

According to the WMO State of the Global Climate in 2021 report Wednesday, the past seven years have been the warmest seven years on record, with 2021 being "only" one of the seven warmest because of a La Nina event at the start and end of the year, which had a temporary cooling effect but did not reverse the overall trend of rising temperatures.

The average global temperature in 2021 was about 1.11 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level, the



report added. That's based on the 2015 Paris Agreement in which countries set long-term goals to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global

temperature increase in this century to two degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius, Xinhua news agency reported.

The WMO report said greenhouse gas concentrations reached a new global high in 2020 and continued to increase in 2021 and early 2022, as ocean heat was record high and ocean acidification intensifying, which threatens organisms and ecosystem services, and hence food security, tourism and coastal protection.

Global mean sea level also reached a new record high in 2021, at a rate of more than double that between 1993 and 2002, mainly due to the accelerated loss of ice mass from the ice sheets. Extreme meteorological hazards such as exceptional heatwaves, flooding, drought and hurricane raged across the globe, affecting ecosystems and displaced millions of population.

The WMO also warned that the compounded effects of conflict, extreme weather events and eco-

nomic shocks, further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, undermined global food security. Of the total number of undernourished people in 2020, more than half, or 418 million, live in Asia and a third, or 282 million, in Africa.

In his video speech at the launch of the report, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres proposed five critical actions to jump-start the renewable energy transition, including greater access to renewable energy technology and supplies, a tripling of private and public investments in renewables and an end to subsidies on fossil fuels which amount to nearly \$11 million per minute. The world must act in this decade to prevent ever-worsening climate impacts and keep temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, he said.

of the day quote

The government's job should be laying down public policy framework, it is the private sector's job to create wealth. The only other areas where the government should be are health, education and nutrition

AMITABH KANT | CEO, NITI AAYOG

In 2021-22, the exports were \$16 billion and we are targeting \$19-20 billion this fiscal. But because of the price rise, it looks to be a concern on achieving the target. The industry is facing a big challenge at the raw material front

NARENDRA GOENKA | CHAIRMAN, AEPC

The BNPL and EMI options will help provide easy and quick access to short-term credit for our customers on attractive terms. This will help travellers meet their aspirations to travel more frequently and to newer destinations

RAJESH MAGOW | CO-FOUNDER & GROUP CEO, MAKEMYTRIP

SHORT TAKES

LIC shares fall 4%

After a flop debut on stocks exchanges, Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) shares fell nearly 4 per cent Thursday, adding to investor's losses from a lower listing Tuesday. Indeed, LIC's widely anticipated listing turned lacklustre, with its shares losing 7.75 per cent from their allotment price on its market debut Tuesday. While the insurance behemoth's shares ended almost flat in the previous session at ₹875.45, about 7.75 per cent lower than its issue price, LIC's stock fell a further 4.12 per cent to ₹840 Thursday.

Pak rupee hits new record low

Karachi: The Pakistani rupee continued its month-long run of devaluation, with the currency trading at its all-time low of ₹200 against the US dollar Thursday. The Pakistani rupee (PKR) continues to slide in line with the predictions of analysts who fear more losses ahead as the country remains mired in political and economic instability. A business analyst said the dollar was already selling for PKR 200 Wednesday in the open market but Thursday it breached the PKR-200 mark in interbank trading as well.

HPCL net profit drops 40% in Q4

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) Thursday reported a 40 per cent drop in net profit in the quarter ended March 31 as higher refining margins were wiped away by losses on auto fuel sales. Net profit of ₹1,795.26 crore in January-March compared with ₹3,017.96 crore a year back, the company said in a stock exchange filing. HPCL and other public sector oil companies held petrol and diesel prices for a record duration despite a surge in the cost of raw materials (crude oil) to a 14-year high. They started raising prices only March 22.

Adani forays into healthcare sector

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group has created a new company for its foray into healthcare services through the acquisition of large hospitals, diagnostic chains, and offline and digital pharmacies. Adani Enterprises Ltd - the group's business incubator firm - in a regulatory filing said a wholly-owned subsidiary, Adani Health Ventures Ltd (AHVL) was incorporated May 17, 2022.



India will have significant opportunities to share its renewable energy policies, expertise, experiences and products with developing countries, driving international cooperation on the energy transition during its upcoming G20 presidency

BINU PARTHAM | HEAD OF REGIONS, IRENA

India fastest-growing major economy: UN

The UN said in its World Economic Situation and Prospects report that the war in Ukraine has upended the fragile economic recovery from the pandemic, triggering a devastating humanitarian crisis in Europe, increasing food and commodity prices and globally exacerbating inflationary pressures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 19: As the Ukraine conflict impacts the global GDP, India is projected to grow by 6.4 per cent in 2022, slower than the last year's 8.8 per cent but still the fastest-growing major economy, with higher inflationary pressures and uneven recovery of the labour market curbing private consumption and investment, according to a UN report.

The global economy is now projected to grow by only 3.1 per cent in 2022, down from the 4.0 per cent growth forecast released in January 2022. Global inflation is projected to increase to 6.7 per cent in 2022, twice the average of 2.9 per cent during 2010-2020, with sharp rises in food and energy prices, it said.

The report said that the outlook in South Asia has deteriorated in recent months, against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and higher commodity prices and potential negative spillover effects from monetary tightening in the United States.

The regional economic output is projected to expand by 5.5 per cent

in 2022, which is 0.4 percentage points lower than the forecast released in January.

INDIA GDP GROWTH

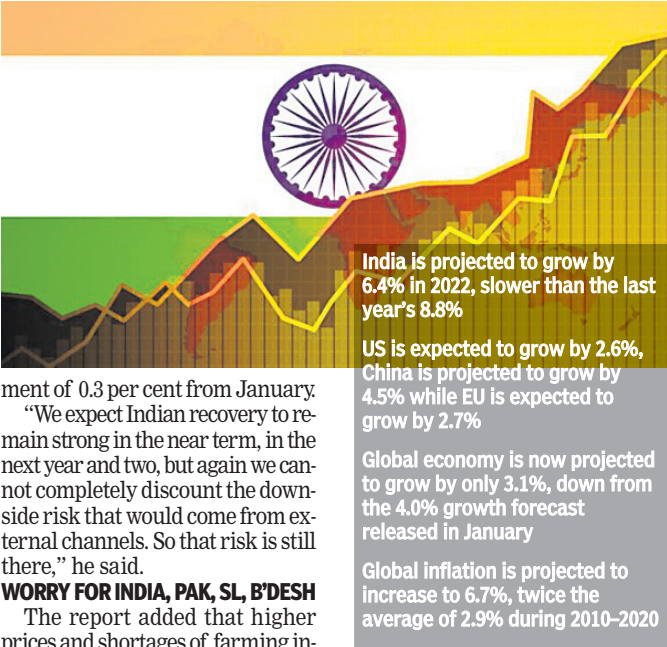
"India, the largest economy in the region, is expected to grow by 6.4 per cent in 2022, well below the 8.8 per cent growth in 2021, as higher inflationary pressures and uneven recovery of the labour market will curb private consumption and investment," it said.

For the fiscal year 2023, India's growth is forecast to be 6 per cent.

Lead Author & Chief, Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Hamid Rashid told reporters at the UN Headquarters that almost all regions in the world are affected by high inflation except for East Asia and South Asia.

He said "India in that sense" is a "little bit" in a better position as it did not have to aggressively pursue monetary tightening compared to other countries in Latin America. Brazil has raised interest rates repeatedly.

India's projected growth for 2022 is 6.4 per cent, a downward adjust-



ment of 0.3 per cent from January.

"We expect Indian recovery to remain strong in the near term, in the next year and two, but again we cannot completely discount the downside risk that would come from external channels. So that risk is still there," he said.

WORRY FOR INDIA, PAK, SL, B'DESH

The report added that higher prices and shortages of farming inputs including fertilisers are likely to persist in the region, negatively impacting the agricultural sector in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

"This will probably result in weaker harvests and exert further upward pressures on food prices in the near term," the report said.

The report also said that tighter external financial conditions will adversely affect regional growth prospects, especially for countries with high exposure to global capital markets facing debt distress or risks of debt default.

Indonesia to lift ban on palm oil exports

REUTERS

Jakarta, May 19: Indonesia will lift its palm oil export ban from Monday, following improvements in the domestic cooking oil supply situation, President Joko Widodo said Thursday.

The world's top palm oil exporter has since April 28 halted shipments of crude palm oil (CPO) and some derivative products to try to tame soaring prices of domestic cooking oil.

The decision comes despite bulk cooking oil having not yet receded



to the targeted 14,000 rupiah per litre price, as the government considers the welfare of 17 million workers in the palm oil industry, the president said in a video statement.

Jokowi, as the president is

known, said the supply of bulk cooking oil has now reached a level greater than what the domestic market needed.

"Average price of (bulk) cooking oil before the export ban in April was 19,800 rupiah per litre and after the ban the average price dropped to around 17,200 to 17,600 rupiah per litre," he said.

The ban has rattled global vegetable oil markets that were already struggling after the war in Ukraine removed a big chunk of sunflower oil supply.

Bokaro Steel, Dalmia Bharat Foundation ink pact

Bokaro: Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Dalmia Bharat Group has signed an agreement with Bokaro Steel Plant to drive its community-centric initiatives in Jharkhand by upskilling 600 youth, annually. The aim is to establish a skill training centre to impart short term, placement-based courses to local youth in the surrounding villages through DBF's DIKSHA (Dalmia Institute of Knowledge and Skill Harnessing) centre. The pact was signed by Chaudhary Ratneswar Kumar Sudhanshu, Deputy General Manager (CSR & SAIL-Uday), SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant and Vishal Bhardwaj, Group Head - CSR, Dalmia Bharat Group and Chief Executive Officer, Dalmia Bharat Foundation.



Patra new Zonal Head of Indian Bank, Berhampur Zone

Berhampur: Uchhab Chandra Patra has joined as the new Zonal Manager of Indian Bank, Berhampur Zone. Prior to this, he was working as DZM at Allahabad Zonal Office of the Bank. He had started his banking career in Indian bank in 1994 and gained ample experience in different capacities in various places in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. Out of his 28 years of dedicated service, he has worked 20 years in branches and 8 years in administrative offices. The bank has 202 branches in Odisha out of which 41 branches spreading over 9 districts belong to Berhampur Zone. The total business mix of Berhampur Zone has reached ₹2802 crore by the end of the last financial year 2021-22.



Blue Star unveils new range of deep freezers

Bhubaneswar: Air conditioning and commercial refrigeration major, Blue Star Limited, launched its new, indigenously designed, range of deep freezers as well as has augmented its manufacturing footprint with its new world-class manufacturing facility at Wada. The new, indigenously designed and manufactured, range of deep freezers, comes with temperature controls ranging between +2°C to -24°C. Available in both, hard top and glass top options, these elegant deep freezers, offer optimum storage space with storage capacities ranging from 300 liters to 650 liters. In addition, the freezers are embedded with superior technologies for highly efficient performance including technologies that provide even and optimum cooling from four sides; and ensure greater heat transfer for efficient cooling; amongst others. Besides, they come with 10% higher insulation leading to a longer holding time in case of a power failure.

Price capping on raw jute scrapped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 19: The government Thursday said it has decided to lift the price cap of ₹6,500 per quintal on raw jute from May 20 this year.

"It is expected that the cap removal will help the farmers, mills and jute MSME sector, wherein over 7 lakh people are dependent on the jute trade in addition to about 40 lakh jute farmers," the textiles ministry said.

Jute Commissioner Office has been collecting the information about the raw jute prices through formal and informal sources and it has found that the present prices are ruling near the capped price, it said.

"As the existing prices of raw

jute are ruling around ₹6,500 (per quintal), Government of India has taken a dynamic decision to lift the price capping w.e.f. (with effect from) 20th May, 2022," it said.

The price cap was fixed September 30 last year.

"The central government, after careful examination of the market dynamics of raw jute trade, has lifted price cap of ₹6,500 per quintal for TD5 grade of raw jute, fixed w.e.f. 30th September, 2021 on purchase of raw jute by the jute mills and other end users," it said.

The decreasing trend in prices will also benefit jute goods' exports, which constitute about 30 per cent of the industry's turnover in value terms, it added.

PANDEMIC BOOM WANES

JP Morgan downgrades India's IT sector

The \$194-billion sector whose software services helped businesses adapt to pandemic-era online shopping practices and remote working is facing a demand slowdown this year as employees return to offices. The Russia-Ukraine war weighs on spending from clients in Europe

REUTERS

Washington, May 19: Soaring



inflation, supply chain issues, and the Ukraine war-hit will end the growth boom India's Information Technology (IT) services industry enjoyed during the pandemic; JP Morgan analysts said Thursday that they downgraded the sector to "underweight".

"We see peak revenue growth behind us and EBIT margins trend-

The brokerage lowered TCS, India's top IT exporter, to an "underweight" rating from "neutral" but stayed "overweight" on rival Infosys

ing down from inflation, mean reversion," JPM said.

"While the bottom-up outlook remains positive from most Services, Software and SaaS names YTD, and the tech spending cycle remains buoyant structurally; we feel there are more downside risks to current earnings assumptions," they added.



RBI allows settlement of trade transactions with Lanka in rupee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 19: In view of difficulties being faced by exporters in getting payments from crisis-hit Sri Lanka, the RBI Thursday allowed settlement of trade transactions in Indian rupee outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism.

In March, the government had guaranteed a term loan of \$1 billion extended by the State Bank of India (SBI) to Sri Lanka for financing purchase of essential goods by the island nation from India.

"In view of the difficulties being experienced by exporters in receipt of export proceeds from Sri Lanka and SBI's credit facility...It has been decided that such trade transactions with Sri Lanka, falling under the said arrangement, may be settled in INR outside the ACU mechanism," the RBI said in a circular.

Under the arrangement, financing of export of eligible goods and services from India would be allowed subject conditions and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by SBI under the agreement.

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis has been caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which means the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

Sensex tanks over 1,400 pts

WALL STREET ROUT TRIGGERS GLOBAL MARKET MELTDOWN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 19: Equity indices sank in a sea of red Thursday, joining a global market sell-off after Wall Street suffered its worst drubbing since mid-2020 on renewed fears of scorching inflation crimping economic recovery.

Continued selling by foreign investors and the rupee sinking to another record low against the US dollar added to the woes.

Posting its biggest drop in over two months, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex dived 1,416.30 points or 2.61 per cent to settle at 52,792.23. The broader NSE Nifty tanked 430.90 points or 2.65 per cent to 15,809.40.

Investors lost ₹6.71 lakh crore in Thursday's session, with the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies falling to ₹2,49,06,394.08 crore.

IT counters led the losses, with Wipro emerging as the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack with a fall of 6.21 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, Infosys, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

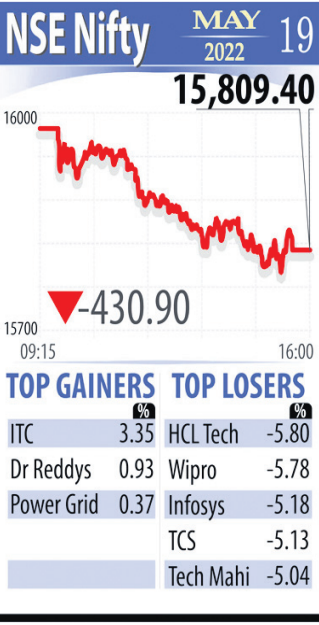
In contrast, ITC was the top gainer, spurting 3.43 per cent, after the company reported an 11.60 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹4,259.68 crore for the March quarter, driven by all-round growth across verticals. Dr Reddy's and PowerGrid were the only other winners.

Stock markets in the US plummeted over 4 per cent Wednesday



Deteriorating macro sentiments such as soaring inflation, recession fears, and the prospect of the Federal Reserve getting even more hawkish will continue to keep benchmarks on the edge. Another main reason for the pessimism can be attributed to relentless selling from the FIU camp

PRASHANT TAPSE | VICE PRESIDENT (RESEARCH), MEHTA EQUITIES LTD



INVESTORS POORER BY ₹6.71 LAKH CRORE

RUPEE ENDS AT ALL-TIME LOW, 5TH RECORD WEAK CLOSE IN 10 DAYS

the smallcap index declined 2.29 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices ended lower, with IT tumbling the most at 5.25 per cent, followed by teck (5.11 per cent), metal (4.23 per cent), telecom (3.46 per cent) and basic materials (2.81 per cent).

The rupee extended its losses and slumped 10 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 77.72 (provisional) against the US dollar.

Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors of flooded shares worth a net ₹1,254.64 crore Wednesday, as per stock exchange data.

NIKHAT ACES WORLD

RCB keep playoff hopes alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 19: Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen lived up to the expectations as she clinched the coveted gold in flyweight (52kg) division with a facile 5-0 victory over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the Women's World Championship final in Istanbul Thursday.

Capping off a stupendous campaign that saw her dominate all her rivals, the Telangana boxer out-punched her Thai opponent to win via unanimous verdict with judges scoring the bout 30-27, 29-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28 in her favour. This is India's first gold medal in four years. Mary Kom (48kg) had won the last title in 2018.

The 25-year-old Zareen produced some beautiful combination of punches to outclass Jutamas. Jutamas had a better start off the two but Zareen soon made up and took the upper hand. The first round was fought on an even keel but Zareen's blows were more powerful and her punches eye catching.

The Indian took the first round comfortably but Jutamas made a strong comeback in the second. The Thai boxer took advantage of her longer reach as she countered Zareen's attacks from a distance, while landing punches herself to take to take the round via a split verdict.

There was very little separating the two boxers but strength proved to be a key factor as Zareen used her powerful right hand and some produced beautiful combinations in the final round to seal the deal.

As the winner was announced Zareen was overcome by emotion and she jumped with glee and couldn't hold her tears back. This is Zareen's second victory over Jutamas. She had got the better of the Thai boxer at the Thailand Open back in 2019 as well.

The Hyderabad pugilist has been in stellar form this year. She became the first Indian woman boxer to claim two gold medals at the prestigious Strandja Memorial in February



Zareen became only the fifth Indian boxer to be crowned World champion. Six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006) are the other pugilists who have won the world title

Apart from Zareen's gold, Manisha Moun (57kg) and debutant Parveen Hooda (63kg) will return home with bronze medals.

A 12-member Indian contingent was sent to participate in the competition and while the medal haul has decreased by one, an Indian has been crowned World Champion after four

years. Mary Kom had last won the gold in the 48kg in the 2018 edition.

India's best performance in the event remains the one in 2006 when the country snared eight medals, including four gold, one silver and three bronze. India now have won 39 medals, including 10 golds, eight silver and 21 bronze in the event.



Parveen Hooda (L) & Manisha Moun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 19: A fired up Virat Kohli (73, 54b, 8x4, 2x6) roared back to form with a fine half century as Royal Challengers Bangalore stayed alive in the IPL playoff race with a thumping eight-wicket win over table toppers Gujarat Titans here Thursday.

This was after skipper Hardik Pandya scored a gritty half century (62 n o, 47b, 4x4, 3x6) to lift GT to a competitive 168/5 after opting to bat. Kohli and captain Faf du Plessis (44, 38b, 5x4) shared a match-winning 115-run opening stand before Glenn Maxwell (40 n o, 18b, 5x4, 2x6) went ballistic to ensure the team got home in 18.4 overs.

By virtue of this win, RCB moved to fourth place in the standings with 16 points but will have to wait for the Delhi Capitals-Mumbai Indians game Saturday to know their fate. A loss for Delhi would ensure RCB a playoff berth.

As the 'Kohli Kohli' chants suggested, the whole of Wankhede and probably the country wanted to see the former India captain back amongst the runs and with a little bit of luck going his way, he was back playing the shots he is known for.

When Kohli picked Mohammed Shami for two lofted boundaries over the bowler's head and cover in the third over, it looked it would be his night. A sign of his growing confidence was an aerial straight drive off Rashid Khan (2/32). Kohli was quick on his feet both against Rashid as well as the pacers. The Indian superstar brought up his second fifty of the season by whipping a full ball off Rashid over deep midwicket.

With Kohli on song, Du Plessis played his part perfectly and kept rotating the strike besides an odd boundary. After the captain's dismissal, Maxwell joined Kohli and went ballistic from ball one. The Australian's cameo included a reverse scoop shot off Hardik that went all the way.

After collecting his second six off Rashid, Kohli tried one too many and got stumped in the 17th over



Virat Kohli (R) and Faf du Plessis during their partnership, Thursday

but the job had been well and truly done by then.

Earlier, Hardik lifted GT to a competitive total. Coming into the game with a string of low scores, he warmed up nicely for the playoffs with a well crafted fifty even though he was not at his fluent best.

RCB limited GT to 72/3 in 10 overs, largely due to their brilliance in the field despite Wriddhiman Saha's (31, 22b, 4x4, 1x6) threatening stay in the middle.

Saha provided another brisk start but his opening partner Shubman Gill perished cheaply. Matthew Wade fell to a controversial call which also attracted empathy from Kohli. Wade was sure that he underdressed a sweep shot off Maxwell (1/28) and took no time in reviewing the on-field decision, which was out.

However, despite a clear deviation in the ball's trajectory before it thudded on to the pads, the UltraEdge did not detect it and the TV umpire stayed with the on-field umpire's call. Wade had no choice but to grudgingly walk back into the dugout.

Saha had Hardik for company in

the middle but following a mix up with his captain, the wicketkeeper fell way short of his crease when Du Plessis came up with stunning direct hit from mid off.

Hardik, who was dropped on 14, made it count alongside David Miller (34, 25b, 3x6) before Wanindu Hasaranga (1/25) got rid of the South African with a sharp return catch. Rashid (19 n o) joined Hardik in the death overs and did what he has done over the course of the season.

BRIEF SCORES

Gujarat Titans 168/5 (Hardik Pandya 62 n o, David Miller 34, Wriddhiman Saha 31; Josh Hazlewood 2/39, Wanindu Hasaranga 1/25) **lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore 170/2** (Virat Kohli 73, Faf du Plessis 44, Glenn Maxwell 40 n o; Rashid Khan 2/32) **by 8 wickets.**

TODAY'S MATCH

RR **V** **CSK**

Time: **07:30 pm**

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Frankfurt end 42-year wait

GERMAN CLUB EDGE PAST RANGERS IN SHOOTOUT TO CLAIM EUROPA LEAGUE TITLE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seville (Spain), May 19: Eintracht Frankfurt's 42-year wait for a European trophy is over. The German club ended their title drought with a penalty shootout win over Rangers in the Europa League final Wednesday.

Goalkeeper Kevin Trapp came up with a big save at the end of extra time and another in the shootout to help give Frankfurt the 5-4 win on penalties. The game ended 1-1 after regulation and extra time.

Colombia striker Rafael Borré, who scored a second-half equalizer for Frankfurt, converted the decisive penalty to clinch the club's first European trophy since the 1980 UEFA Cup, a predecessor to the Europa League. The win also secures a first appearance in the Champions League next season for Frankfurt.

Trapp, a former PSG goalkeeper, made a key save in the final minutes of extra time by stretching out a leg to stop a close-range shot by Ryan Kent. The veteran goalkeeper used his left leg to stop Aaron Ramsey's penalty in the shootout, setting off huge celebrations by Frankfurt's

"white wall" of fans behind the opposite goal.

There were also wild celebrations back in Germany as Frankfurt fans packed the club's stadium to watch a telecast of the final.

Joe Aribo gave Rangers the lead in the 57th minute and Borré equalized in the 69th for Frankfurt, which became the third team to go through the Europa League unbeaten after Chelsea in 2019 and Villarreal in 2021.

Ramsey the former Arsenal and Juventus midfielder, entered the match in the final minutes of extra time to be in the shootout. Christopher Lenz, Ajdin Hrustic, Daichi Kamada and Filip Kostic also converted penalties for Frankfurt, while James Tavernier, Steven Davis, Scott Airfield and Kemar Roofe found the net for Rangers in the shootout.

Rangers was trying to win its first European title since the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972. The Scottish club also lost to Zenit St. Petersburg in the 2008 UEFA Cup. It was trying to cap a comeback 10 years after it was sent to the lower divisions because of a financial meltdown.

Frankfurt will return to the top

flight of European competition for the first time since 1960, when it lost in the European Cup final to Real Madrid in Glasgow.

The game had been mostly even until a mistake by Frankfurt's Brazilian defender Tuta, who tripped while trying to chase down a routine back header. That allowed Aribo to speed past him to open the scoring at Sevilla's Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán Stadium by calmly sending a low shot past Trapp.

Tuta had to be substituted after getting injured in the incident. It was Aribo's first Europa League goal this season.

Frankfurt equalized 12 minutes later with Borré sliding in between two defenders to convert a cross by Kostic from the left flank. He came from behind central defender Calvin Bassey to send the ball past veteran goalkeeper Allan McGregor.

There was fan violence outside the stadium before the match, with supporters from both clubs throwing chairs and tables at each other. Five German fans were detained the night before after a confrontation with police. More than 150,000 fans came to the southern Spanish city, most of them without tickets for the final at the 43,000-capacity stadium.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, May 19: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu remains the lone surviving Indian shuttler in the competition after she sailed into the women's singles quarterfinals of the Thailand Open here Thursday.

The World No.7 Sindhu, seeded sixth, took just 37 minutes to get the better of Sim Yu Jin, who had played a pivotal role in Korea's Uber Cup win, 21-16, 21-13 in a second round match.

Sindhu, who had defeated World No.62, USA's Lauren Lam in the opening round, will next face second seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan. Yamaguchi beat Korea's Kim Ga Eun 21-23, 21-15, 21-16 in another second round match.



other second round match.

However, Kidambi Srikanth, one of the main architects of India's historic Thomas Cup triumph, exited from the BWF World Tour Super 500 event after handing a walkover to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rohidas to lead in Pro League away legs

NEW DELHI: Olympic medal-winning defender Amit Rohidas will continue to lead the Indian men's hockey team in the crucial last leg of the 2021-22 edition of the FIH Pro League in Belgium and the Netherlands, next month. India are leading the FIH Pro League standings with 27 points from 12 games, three ahead of Argentina. India will play World No.2 Belgium June 11 and 12 in Antwerp before facing the Netherlands June 18 and 19 in Rotterdam. **The team:** (Goalkeepers) Suraj Karkera, Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran; (Defenders) Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (vc), Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas (C), Jugraj Singh, Jarnanpreet Singh; (Midfielders) Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Shamsher Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Akasheep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma; (Forwards) Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek.

Zac Stubblety-Cook sets swimming WR

ADELAIDE: Olympic champion Zac Stubblety-Cook set a world record (WR) in the men's 200-meter breaststroke at the Australian swimming championships Thursday. Stubblety-Cook finished in 2 minutes, 05.95 seconds in the final to improve on the previous mark of 2:06.12 set by Russian swimmer Anton Chupkov at the 2019 world championships in Gwangju, South Korea. The 23-year-old Stubblety-Cook set an Olympic record in winning gold at last year's Tokyo Games.

Sift-Surya secure mixed event silver

NEW DELHI: Sift Kaur Samra and Surya Pratap Singh Thursday settled for a silver in the 50m rifle prone mixed team event as India finished on top at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suh, Germany. Sift and Surya lost 15-17 to the Polish pair of Maja Magdalena Gajewski and Wiktor Sajdak in the final. The women's skeet team of Parinaaz Dhalwal, Darshna Rathore and Areeba Khan blanked Germany 6-0 to win bronze, Wednesday. India bagged a rich haul of 33 medals, including 13 gold, 15 silver and five bronze.

Indian women archers secure recurve bronze

GWANGJU (South Korea): Indian women archers won a team bronze in the recurve section to take their medal's tally to three at the World Cup Stage 2 here Thursday. On a day when Indian men made a quarterfinal exit going down to lower-ranked France, the young trio of Ridhi Phor, Komalika Bari and Ankita Bhakat defeated Chinese Taipei 6-2 (56-52, 54-51, 54-55, 55-54) in a lopsided bronze medal playoff encounter. The Indian women's team had to fight for a bronze after they lost out to its nemesis and home favourites Korea 2-6 (53-55, 57-55, 51-53, 43-53) in the semifinal. Earlier a new look men's team which had the experienced duo of Tarundeep Rai and Jayanta Talukdar along with debutant Neeraj Chauhan capped a disastrous outing to lose out to their 15th-seeded France 2-6 (54-57, 55-52, 53-55, 47-53).

FIFA gives boost to their ties with KISS



PNN, AGENCIES

Zurich, May 18: The worldwide football governing body FIFA has decided to give a further boost to its ties with Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Bhubaneswar and strengthen co-operation in the 'Football for School' programme in Odisha, besides exploring opportunities to expand it across India and South Asia.

A letter of intent has been signed in this regard between Youri Djorkaeff, CEO of the FIFA Foundation, and Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KISS. The document broadly sets out terms for both entities to commit to investigating avenues of opportunity together—particularly concerning the extension of the Football for Schools programme, which is already ac-

tive across ten FIFA Member Associations, said a statement.

FIFA has selected KISS as the nodal agency for the promotion of football as it was encouraged by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's big emphasis on promoting sports and sporting activities in the State, the FIFA CEO said during the signing-in ceremony.

In October last year, KISS announced the launch of India's first-ever FIFA Football for School Programme in association with FIFA.

The latest development seeks to take the engagement between FIFA and KISS, a KIIT constituent, to a new level. According to the letter, KISS will act as knowledge hubs for Football for Schools training, and logistical hubs for Football for Schools balls distribution.