



LESSONS FROM CANNES

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia says it is extremely important to represent the country responsibly at such an event

LEISURE P2



ZELENSKY VISITS FRONTLINE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visits troops on the frontline in Ukraine's Kharkiv region

INTERNATIONAL P10



RECORD-EXTENDING WIN

Riding on a Vinicius (Jr) goal Real Madrid beat Liverpool to clinch the CL trophy for the 14th time

SPORTS P12

Day after security withdrawal, Pb Cong leader shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 29: Famous Punjabi singer and Congress leader Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead Sunday by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district a day after the state government curtailed his security cover.

Moosewala's cousin and a friend, who were travelling in



a Mahindra Thar jeep with him, were also injured in the attack. "This incident seems

to be a case of an inter-gang rivalry," Punjab Director General of Police VK Bhawra said, adding the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was behind the killing. He said at least three weapons were used and 30 rounds fired in the attack.

Moosewala, 27, had fought on the Congress ticket from Mansa assembly seat in the recent assembly election and was defeated

by AAP's Vijay Singla. Leaders of Congress and other political parties expressed shock and anger over the killing and blamed the AAP government for the incident. Announcing the formation of a Special Investigation Team to probe the murder, the DGP said Moosewala had not taken with him the two Punjab police commandos who were still provided for his security. (More P7)

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MAIDEN IPL TITLE FOR GT



THAT WINNING FEELING: David Miller (L) and Shubman Gill (R) roar after the latter hits the winning runs in IPL 2022 final at Ahmedabad, Sunday (Report P12)

TWITTER

Paradip to transform into world-class port

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Paradip Port will be developed into a world-class modern port which will have capability to handle capesize vessels at a cost of ₹3,004.63 crore, it said.

The project involves deepening and optimisation of inner harbour facilities including development of western dock on build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis under public-private partnership mode at the port, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said in a statement Sunday.

One of those visionary initiatives is capital intensive project at Paradip Port which will transform

the port into a world-class modern port which will have capability to handle capesize vessels... The estimated cost of the project is ₹3,004.63 crore, it said. Capesize is the largest class of bulkship that can carry any type of cargo, such as iron ore and coal. Such vessels are called capesize as they cannot pass through the Panama Canal and have to go around the Cape of Good Hope to sail between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The modernisation of Paradip Port includes development of the new western dock on BOT basis and capital dredging by the selected concessionaire at a cost of ₹2,040 crore and ₹352.13 crore, respectively. (Contd..P4)



Monsoon arrives 3 days early in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/New Delhi, May 29: The Southwest Monsoon has set in over Kerala Sunday, three days ahead of its usual date of June 1, marking the start of the four-month rainy season that is crucial for India's farm-based economy.

Kerala has been receiving rainfall since Saturday and 10 out of the 14 weather monitoring stations in the state have received more than 2.5 mm rains, thus fulfilling the criteria for the onset of monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. "Southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala on Sunday, May 29, against the normal date of onset of June 1," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

However, while the monsoon has advanced over Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu, the Bay of Bengal arm of the weather system was sluggish as it continued to linger just above the Andaman Islands. The Extended Range Forecast issued by the IMD has suggested that the progress of the monsoon over Karnataka, Ga and entire north-east India could be slow. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't know how much can I trust them. I get my monsoon updates on WhatsApp

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	38.2°C	38.8°C
	MIN	25.8°C	27.5°C
Humidity	78%	69%	Forecast
Rainfall	NIL	NIL	Light rain very likely

RAJYA SABHA POLLS

Naveen announces 4 BJD picks

This comes on a day that marks the third anniversary of the Naveen government's fifth tenure in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Chief Minister and ruling BJD president Naveen Patnaik Sunday announced names of four candidates of his party for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

The Biju Janata Dal named three new candidates - Sulata Deo, Manas Ranjan Mangaraj and Niranjana Bishi - and renominated Sasmit Patra for the polls to the Upper House of Parliament.

The announcement came on a day that marks the third anniversary of the Naveen Patnaik-led government's fifth tenure in the state.

Patnaik chose Bishi, a tribal face of the party in the western region of the state, while Mangaraj is from coastal belt and Patra is the former president of the Odisha Minority Forum. Deo is the only woman among the four BJD nominees for the Rajya Sabha polls.

The tenure of three incumbent Rajya Sabha MPs from Odisha - Nekkanti Bhaskar Rao, Prasanna



Manas Mangaraj



Niranjana Bishi



Sasmit Patra



Sulata Deo

Acharya and Patra - will expire July 1, while another seat in the Upper House of Parliament fell vacant due to the resignation of BJD's Subhas Singh.

Singh resigned as Rajya Sabha MP after he became mayor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation in March this year. He was elected to Rajya Sabha in April, 2020.

Polling for the three Rajya Sabha seats will be held from 9am to 4pm June 10, and the counting of votes will take place at 5pm that day.

The by-election to another seat of the Upper House of Parliament will be conducted June 13 and the counting will be held after the poll. The ruling party did not announce that who among the four candidates will contest the by-election for the Rajya Sabha seat that was vacated by Singh.

The BJD, which has 113 MLAs

in the 147-member Assembly House, is likely to win all the four seats. The opposition BJP and Congress have 22 and nine legislators respectively. According to party sources, the selection of Bishi, who joined the BJD just two days ago, was a surprise to several leaders.

Bishi whose nomination has created resentment among the party's tribal community leaders in the western region said, "I am thankful to the Chief Minister for reposing faith in me and will raise tribal issues in Parliament."

He is also the secretary-general of Paschim Odisha Adivasi Kalyan Mahasangha, a tribal organisation having its influence in the districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Sambalpur and Nuapada.

He hails from Patnagarh of Bolangir district, considered to be a strong hold of the opposition BJP.

Commenting to the party's announcement, Mangaraj said he has been in politics since 2002 and looking after the media affairs of the BJD government in the state. "Being a media person, I will raise various issues in the interest of the state in Parliament. I thank the Chief Minister for allowing me to serve the Odisha people."

Deo, the woman nominee from the BJD, said she became speechless after she found her name on the list of the BJD candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections.

"The BJD government has all along worked for development of women. I will work hard and thank our organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das," she said.

Patra stated that he is indebted to the Chief Minister for being renominated to the Upper House of Parliament.

Nepal plane crash: 4 of Odia family missing

Fate of fliers remains unclear as rescuers locate burnt-out wreckage of the crashed aircraft

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, May 29: The fate of four members of an Odia family and 18 others on board a small plane of a Nepalese airline remained unclear after the aircraft crashed Sunday in the mountainous region of the Himalayan nation minutes after taking off from the tourist city of Pokhara, officials said.

The airline issued the list of passengers which identified four Indians as Ashok Kumar Tripathi, his wife Vaibhavi Bandekar (Tripathi) and their children Dhanush and Ritika.

All of them belong to a family from Odisha and had gone to Nepal on a vacation. While Ashok was living in Bhubaneswar, his wife and children were staying in Thane city near Mumbai.

The Twin Otter 9N-AET plane belonging to Tara Air took off at 10.15am from Pokhara, and lost contact with the control tower 15 minutes later, according to an airline spokesperson.

Nepali Army Major General Baburam Shrestha in the evening said that the plane was spotted in a burning state at Laningchola, an



A Tara Air plane carrying 22 people went missing en route from Pokhara to Jomsom May 29 morning

upper area of Larikota in Thasang Rural Municipality-2 in Mustang district. The Rising Nepal newspaper reported.

The status of the crew and passengers were immediately not known. There are four Indian nationals, two Germans and 13 Nepali passengers besides a three member Nepali crew, said Sudarshan Bartaula, a spokesperson at the airlines.

Tara Air flight 9NAET that took off from Pokhara at 9.55am today with 22 people onboard, including 4 Indians, has gone missing. Search and rescue operation is on. The embassy is in touch with their family. Our emergency hotline number +977-9851107021, the Indian embassy in Nepal tweeted.

TO QUELL PANIC, GOVT WITHDRAWS AADHAAR WARNING

An UIDAI advisory Friday had warned not to share photocopies of Aadhaar as it can be misused, causing widespread panic online

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: The Central government has withdrawn a UIDAI advisory that cautioned the general public against sharing photocopy of their Aadhaar with any organisation, after the announcement

caused widespread panic on social media.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) withdrew the warning two days after issuing it, saying the release was published in the context of an attempt to misuse an edited Aadhaar card, and was being withdrawn "in view of the possibility of the misinterpretation."

The new statement clarified that the Aadhaar ecosystem had adequate features to protect the identity and privacy of users and that users are only advised to exercise "normal prudence".

A press release issued by the Bangalore Regional Office of the



Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) asked the general public not to share photocopy

of one's Aadhaar with any organisation because it can be misused. Alternatively, a masked Aadhaar

which displays only the last 4 digits of the biometric ID can be used for the purpose, it had added.

MeitY, in the withdrawal statement, said the UIDAI issued Aadhaar card holders are only advised to exercise normal prudence in using and sharing their Aadhaar numbers.

The warning triggered panic on social media as screen grabs of the press release and news articles went viral, with the issue among the top 10 trending topics in India on Twitter on Sunday. "I might have stayed in almost a 100 hotels who kept a copy of my Aadhaar! Now this," said a Twitter user.

The Unique Identification Authority of India says among its frequently asked questions, "It is near impossible to impersonate you if you use Aadhaar to prove your identity."

"People have been freely giving other identity documents. But did they stop using these documents for the fear that somebody would use them to impersonate? No!" it says.

India's Supreme Court had in 2018 upheld the validity of the Aadhaar, but flagged privacy concerns and reined in a government push to make it mandatory for everything from banking to telecom services.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today the stars advocate that you concentrate on money matters and how to save some, and in this purpose you will remain engrossed. However, Ganesha advises you not to neglect domestic duties lest you encounter a morose spouse. So carry on and make a dash for that movie as planned. Don't cancel it.

TAURUS

You are likely to turn excessively self centred today, says Ganesha. This could cause you to be very insecure. You will have a tendency to control and dominate others. There is a likelihood that you may, thereby, jeopardize important relationships. You are advised to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of all those you come across.

GEMINI

Ganesha opines that today you might feel a little blue and under the weather. You may harbour feelings of loneliness today. Your repressed emotions and yearnings as well as your intellectual leanings will likely come to the fore today, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Your ideas today are source of your energy. A situation may arise, which will force you to take hard decisions later. A new business or venture may prove beneficial. Your magical touch will bestow success in every endeavour. Ganesha is with you.

LEO

You might be the man of the house, but to make that house a home, you need a family. So keep that in mind, says Ganesha, and remember that your family is the foundation of your success. Make every possible effort to make your family's roots stronger. The fruits of such efforts shall only be sweeter. It's time to stop being stingy with giving credit.

VIRGO

Today might just bring those emotions to the fore that have been lying in the closet of your heart since long. You will even develop a bonding – a sentimental attachment – with your belongings. But, if and when you don't find the surroundings to your liking, you shall be like a fish out of the water.

LIBRA

Unleash the artist in you today! Don't be surprised if you happen to discover a love for the fine arts. The stars bestow on you refined aesthetic sense. As a result, your penchant for interior decoration is sure to get a boost. There is also the possibility of you capitalising on the commercial aspect of your newly acquired hobby, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Family matters have been screaming for long for your attention now. Your estranged spouse may deal the final blow to sever all ties, foretells Ganesha. But keep calm, and hold that tongue, advises Ganesha. Your priority should be to secure your family's peace.

SAGITTARIUS

The nerd in you will rise to the fore today. Religious literature will catch your fancy. Ganesha also sees you diving deep into pages of detective tomes, murder and science fiction. Au contraire, find some relief from the roller-coaster by listening to some soothing music.

CAPRICORN

The chances of you meeting financial success are few, but they are there nonetheless, says Ganesha. If you really want to improve your account balance and settle all the burgeoning debts, focus on what all needs to be done, and get it done without delay. You will make merry later in the day and will enjoy the company of your loved ones.

AQUARIUS

The day is taxing. You may find that others have dumped their share of work on you. But you are not one to admit defeat, and will deal with the challenge squarely, says Ganesha. You will outwit your opponents, and toast your success by starlight!

PISCES

While your day is unlikely to be very satisfactory, keeping your expectations low will help lessen your disappointment, says Ganesha. However, the evening is likely to be as refreshing as your day was depressing, with all the socialising in store for you. A rollicking party awaits you with good food, wine and music as accompaniments.



MOVIES ARE BEST FOR BIG SCREENS: PARK CHAN-WOOK

South Korean auteur Park Chan-wook, who was adjudged Best Director of Cannes fest, said during a press conference that the future of cinema is tightly connected with that of movie theatres, which alone can offer an incomparable cinematic experience.

BLEDEL STEPS AWAY FROM THE HANDMAID'S TALE

Actress Alexis Bledel, who essayed the role of a defiant handmaid Emily Malek on four seasons of *The Handmaid's Tale*, is leaving the Hulu drama ahead of its fifth season, reports *Entertainment Weekly*.



Richa's day out with jawans at Ladakh

Mumbai: Actress Richa Chadha was in Ladakh recently to attend and close the first edition of the Ladakh International Music Festival (LIMF).

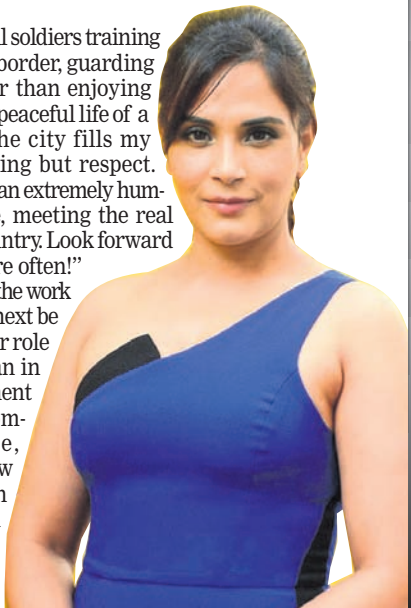
She also got the opportunity to spend time with Ladakh scouts at 12000 ft above sea level.

Richa was ecstatic to spend a few days with the Army and called it an experience that she'd remember for her entire life.

She said: "Spent a memorable day with these young soldiers in Ladakh at 12000 ft. above sea level, it was an experience of a lifetime for me. And there's always something about meeting defence personnel. It stirs you from inside."

"These youthful soldiers training hard to be at the border, guarding the nation rather than enjoying the luxuries of a peaceful life of a regular job in the city fills my heart with nothing but respect. Coming here was an extremely humbling experience, meeting the real heroes of our country. Look forward to doing this more often!"

Meanwhile, on the work front, Richa will next be seen reprising her role as Bholi Punjaban in the third installment of the buddy comedy franchise, *Fukrey*, the show *The Great Indian Murder* and *Heera Mandi*.



IAN S

Rasika gets too attached to her onscreen characters

Mumbai: Actress Rasika Dugal, who recently appeared in the short film titled *Miniaturist of Junagadh*, says as a performer she tends to get emotionally attached to most of the characters that she plays.

The story of *Miniaturist of Junagadh* is set in the era of the partition of India where a Muslim family of a miniature artist was forced to leave their ancestral house in Junagadh for Karachi and how they go through an emotional journey with the hope that one day, they will come back.

Asked about as an artiste if she too, gets attached to any characters she plays on-screen and Rasika said: "Yes, I tend to get emotionally attached to characters that I embody for my performance; because the journey happens from words to screen, from moulding my mind to feel the character and then the magic between action and cut! Otherwise also I am an emotional person, so I feel a sense of void when the shooting gets over when I leave the character forever."

She went on adding, "In fact, there is a joke in the family and especially with my husband, who actually gets prepared to welcome me home when I wrap a shoot. He knows that for that day, I will be constantly missing the character and the space where we shot. It is like, a part of me lived through those moments."



IAN S

CANNES DIARY

Tamannaah shares her red carpet experience

Cannes: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia made her debut at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, participating in the Indian representation at the Marche du Film and making a splash at the red carpet. Her black gown with a high slit at the Top Gun: Maverick premiere was talked-about, too. The Bahubali actress reveals that it was an absolute honour and pleasure for her to represent India on a global stage.

Asked on how was the experience, Tamannaah said, "It was surreal! It was incredible to be surrounded by the best and most creative minds of world cinema. My appearance at Cannes happened at the last minute but we still made the most of it. I'm happy with the way we pulled it off."

Red carpet outfits are often over the top. Did she ever face any inconvenience with her outfit? On this question, she said, "Yes, there is always a little bit of pressure because the appearance is going to be viewed internationally. But I had a really good team that was very hands-on and supportive. They were more excited for me than I was for myself, so that really gave me all the encouragement I needed to be able to function at the festival and do my best."

On the lessons that she has learnt from her debut Cannes experience, Tamannaah said, "While representation matters, it is important to take your role on an international stage like Cannes Film Festival very seriously. It is of utmost importance to represent your country responsibly."

AGENCIES



When Aamir was introduced to Hanks as 'Cameron of India'

THE FORREST GUMP ACTOR ADMITTED THAT HE LOVED AAMIR'S 2009 FILM 3 IDIOTS AND WATCHED IT AS MANY AS THREE TIMES



Aamir Khan is known for entertaining as well as making thought-provoking cinema. Not just in India, but his films are enjoyed by moviegoers across the world.

However, it has recently come to light that Tom Hanks is an admirer of Aamir as well. It so happened that Aamir Khan wished to remake *Forrest Gump* (1994) whose rights rested with its director Robert Zemeckis. Robert, however, refused to meet Aamir:

Left with no choice, he decided to meet Steven Spielberg, who was then shooting for his film

Bridge Of Spies (2015). Interestingly, the film starred Tom Hanks, who also starred in *Forrest Gump* and whose role Aamir wanted to essay in the remake. Robert Zemeckis held Spielberg in high regard. As a result, Aamir felt that if Steven Spielberg would succeed to convince Robert.

Aamir Khan reached the sets of *Bridge of Spies* and met Spielberg along with Tom Hanks. Spielberg introduced Aamir to Tom Hanks as 'James Cameron of India'. This is because according to the filmmaker, just like how James Cameron breaks his own box office records, so does Aamir!

Tom Hanks, however, made it clear that he knows Aamir very well. He also admitted that he loved Aamir's 2009 film *3 Idiots* and that he has seen it as many as 3 times!

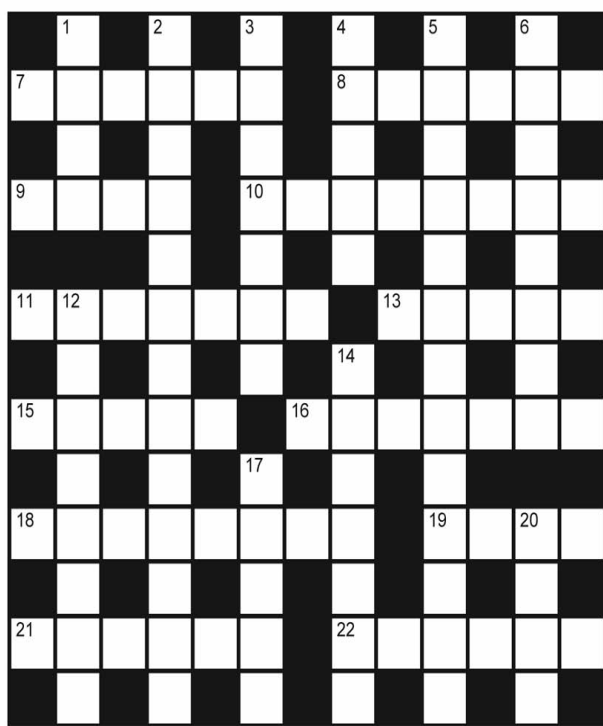
Aamir Khan then told Steven Spielberg about his predicament about Robert Zemeckis. To which Spielberg told Aamir that his relationship with Zemeckis was like that of a father and a son. And like most fathers and sons, they don't always get along well! He also revealed to Aamir that Robert Zemeckis was refusing to meet the superstar as he didn't want to say 'no' to Aamir's face.

Nevertheless, Aamir Khan kept on trying. At last, he won the remake rights. The remake of *Forrest Gump* came to be known as *Laal Singh Chaddha*. It is all set to release on August 11, 2022, and is one of the most awaited films of the year.

AGENCIES

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 7 Picture house
- 8 Family relation
- 9 Captain of the Nautilus
- 10 Phnom Penh locale
- 11 Ennui
- 13 Soiled
- 15 Man-made fibre
- 16 Japanese dish

- 18 Food turners
- 19 Seaweed
- 21 Agreement
- 22 Escort

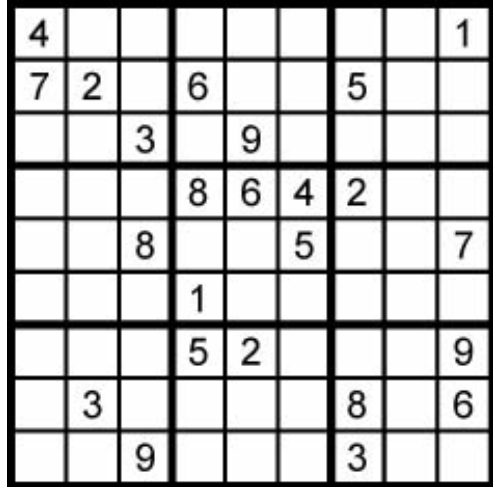
Down

- 1 Ocean motion
- 2 Oft-missing TV device (6,7)
- 3 Idyllically calm and peaceful
- 4 Little rascal
- 5 Black Death (7,6)
- 6 Evil
- 12 Athletic competition
- 14 Keep going and going
- 17 Glasgow's river
- 20 Wise guy

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

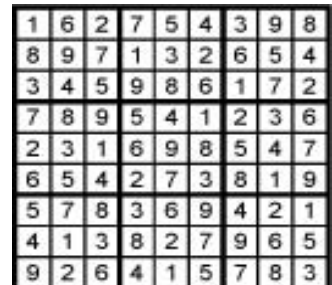


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



downtown

State showcases welfare schemes to IAS trainees



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the welcome session for the IAS probationers in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday encouraged the civil service probationers to follow the ideals and dreams of our founding fathers and strive to achieve excellence in jobs and serve the nation with pride.

Altogether 181 IAS probationers and two probationers from the Royal Bhutan Civil Service led by Radhika Rastogi, Joint Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) are on a four-day study tour to Odisha as part of their Bharat Darshan programme.

Welcoming the officers, Patnaik said, "You are all entering a crucial phase of your life. The country has great expectations from young officers."

Focusing on the 5T Transformative model of governance, the Chief Minister said that Odisha is fast emerging as a leading state in several fields. "We have adopted a transformative governance model built on the principles of transparency, team work, technology and time. We have transformative Initiatives across varied sectors like rural development, housing, skill development, sports, industrial development, mining, tourism, heritage conservation,

Altogether 181 IAS probationers and two probationers from the Royal Bhutan Civil Service are on a four-day study tour to Odisha as part of their Bharat Darshan programme

The IAS probationers are scheduled to visit Dhenkanal, Angul, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar and Balasore districts and get a first-hand experience of various welfare programmes and developmental schemes launched by the state government

road development and many others," he said. Patnaik said that Odisha was once known for poverty and disasters like cyclones.

"Today, we are recognised as a role model for disaster management across the world. We are a food surplus state. We have doubled the farmers' income in the last decade. There is rapid reduction in poverty in the state"

Under the Mission Shakti initiative, around 60 lakh women have been empowered in the state. The women have become part of a movement to bring about socio-economic change in rural areas. Through Kalia scheme, the state government has been able to directly transfer money into the ac-

counts of farmers, including small and marginal, Patnaik said.

"With Biju Swathya Kalyan Yojana, we have walked an extra mile and given health assurance to our citizens. While the healthcare infrastructure has undergone a major upgradation, the transformation of high schools under the 5T programme will bring a generational change in our students," added the Chief Minister.

Highlighting the drinking water provision, Patnaik said Puri has become the first city in the country with drink from tap facility and now this mission is being taken to other towns in the state.

The Chief Minister hoped that the IAS probationers would be able to learn from some of the welfare schemes of the state government during their brief stay in Odisha. "I hope that all of you would take back home fond memories of this beautiful state," Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister felicitated Rastogi and presented her a memento representing state's maritime glory. The LBSNAA Joint Director also presented a memento to the Chief Minister.

The IAS probationers are scheduled to visit Dhenkanal, Angul, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar and Balasore districts and get a first-hand experience of various welfare programmes and developmental schemes launched by the state government. The probationers will also get an exposure to the state government's success in disaster management, sources said.

Stay prepared for monkeypox: Health Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Health Minister Naba Kishore Das has asked the Public Health director to stay prepared in view of increasing monkeypox infections in non-endemic countries even though no case has been reported in India so far.

"Although no cases of monkeypox have been reported in the country so far, we must stay vigilant and make the necessary arrange-

ments in this regard," said Das.

He said, "We should follow the protocols set by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to combat the virus."

The Health department has been coordinating with all other departments to prevent the spread of the virus, said the Minister.

"We are keeping a close watch on unusual symptoms, especially those

who have a travel history from the monkeypox-infected countries. If any abnormal symptoms are found in any of the suspects, samples will be immediately collected and sent to the National Institute of Virology," added Das.

A meeting will soon be held with departmental directors and health experts to address the issue of monkeypox. Detailed discussion on prevention, contact tracing, monitoring and preventive measures at all levels will be done, he added.

Campaign for Brajarajnagar bypoll ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 29: The high-decibel campaign for May 31 bypoll to Brajarajnagar Assembly segment in Jharsuguda district came to an end Sunday, with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) stating that all arrangements were in place for carrying out free and fair voting.

The by-election was necessitated following the demise of BJD MLA Kishore Mohanty in December last year.

Although 11 candidates are in the fray, the constituency is set to witness a triangular contest among the ruling BJD, the opposition BJP and the Congress.

The three parties have campaigned vigorously for their respective candidates.

Several star campaigners had hit the roads over the past few days to seek votes from people, including Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Bishweshwar Tudu for BJP nominee Radharani Panda, and AICC general secretary in-charge of Odisha, A Chellakumar, for Congress candidate Kishore Patel.



Chief Electoral Officer SK Lohani addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

At least eight ministers and 30 MLAs of the BJD have campaigned for Alaka Mohanty, wife of the deceased legislator.

Addressing a press meet here, CEO SK Lohani said as many as 2,14,261 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the constituency, where polling would be held from 7 am to 6 pm. Counting of votes will take place on June 3.

"All preparations including special arrangements for PwDs (persons with disabilities) and Braille ballot papers for the visually challenged have been made," Lohani said.

Polling will be held in 279 booths - five of which would be supervised by women officers - with adherence to Covid-19 norms, he stated.

Lioness death: Plaint against zoo authorities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: The death of an African lioness at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) Saturday drew sharp criticisms from conservationists, with Animal Welfare Trust Ekamra (AWTE) approaching the Nandankanan police alleging that the animal died due to negligence of the zoo authorities.

Unavailability of adequate amount of anti-snake venom (ASV) stock resulted in the delay in the treatment of the lioness. According to government and WHO norms, 10 vials of ASV were to be administered within an hour of the bite. However, as per the zoo officials, only three vials had been given. It happened either due to lack of ASV stock or lack of knowledge on part of zoo veterinarians. In either case, sheer negligence killed the lioness, AWTE chief Purabi Patra said.

AVIRAL MISHRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 29: The last three years have been tough for Hamid Khan, a 33-year-old dry fruit trader from Afghanistan. Hamid's business has been hit hard by Covid-19 pandemic and political instability in his native country.

Hamid has been retailing dry fruits from Afghanistan at different places across India since 2015. He has to sustain his family of five, who are now residing in India and relatives back home. The dry fruit business of Hamid's family has witnessed its worst phase in the last three years ever since it was launched by his forefathers in 1960.

"Most of our business is in Delhi and other parts of north India. We faced a lot of problems in retailing dry fruits due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. We mainly relied on wholesale and bulk orders during the pandemic. However, things took a turn for the worse when the Taliban took over the administration in Afghanistan last year. Most of the trade routes were blocked. This has led to extreme shortage of stocks," Hamid said.

Sharing a similar tale, Abdullah Sayyid, a 27-year-old dry fruit trader from Afghanistan, said he has been able to make a meagre profit of Rs. 20,000 in the last three years. "Earlier, I used to save around Rs 35,000 monthly and would send Rs 10,000 back home. We have now mostly survived on our savings," Sayyid said.

With the upward trend in the demand for Afghani dry fruits across India, both Hamid and Sayyid are hopeful of a turnaround in their fortunes. Expecting a brisk business, the duo has set up their stalls at the 6th International Trade Fair at Janata Maidan here.

"Almond, cashew, pista and fig are mostly in demand at this fair. A kilogram of figs is being sold at Rs 900 while almonds at Rs 850. Till now, we have sold three kilos of almonds and 1.5 kilos of figs. We have been told that the demand for dry fruits will go up as some local festivals are round the corner. I am hopeful of making around a

ALTHOUGH 11 CANDIDATES ARE IN THE FRAY, THE CONSTITUENCY IS SET TO WITNESS A TRIANGULAR CONTEST AMONG THE RULING BJD, THE OPPOSITION BJP AND THE CONGRESS

AS MANY AS 2,14,261 VOTERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO EXERCISE THEIR FRANCHISE IN THE CONSTITUENCY, WHERE POLLING WOULD BE HELD FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM MAY 31

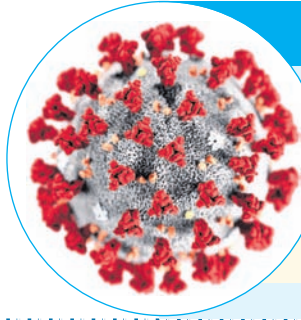
"Model booths will be set up at 30 places with ramp facilities, temporary shed and separate queues. Volunteers will also be deployed to carry people with disabilities (PwDs) and elderly persons on wheelchair," the CEO explained.

Web-casting arrangements have been made in 145 booths, he said.

"As many as 1,000 state police personnel and three companies of the central armed forces have been deployed at different booths to maintain law and order. Sixty booths have been identified as 'sensitive'," he said. A total of 1,228 officers have been engaged in polling duty, Lohani added.

NEW RECEPTION CENTRE

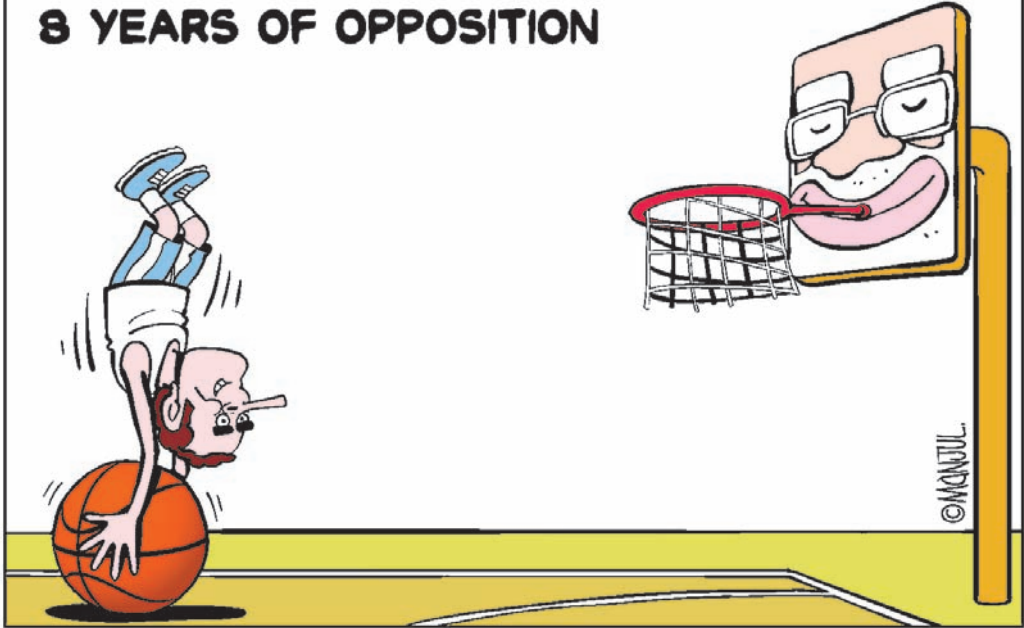
Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi inaugurating the new reception centre at Capital police station in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	53,15,06,651	50,21,61,194	63,10,677
India	4,31,53,043	4,26,11,370	5,24,586
Odisha	12,88,431	12,79,176	9,126

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Af dry fruit traders hope for good biz at City fair



Sayyid and his wife at their dry fruit stall at the 6th International Trade Fair at Janata Maidan

HAMID HAS BEEN RETAILING DRY FRUITS FROM AFGHANISTAN AT DIFFERENT PLACES ACROSS INDIA SINCE 2015. THE DRY FRUIT BUSINESS OF HAMID'S FAMILY HAS WITNESSED ITS WORST PHASE IN THE LAST THREE YEARS EVER SINCE IT WAS LAUNCHED BY HIS FOREFATHERS IN 1960

SAYYID AND HIS WIFE HAVE PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST 12 TRADE FAIRS ACROSS INDIA THIS YEAR. ONCE HE HAS ENOUGH MONEY, SAYYID WILL CARRY ON HIS BUSINESS THROUGH ONLINE PLATFORMS

WITH THE UPWARD TREND IN THE DEMAND FOR AFGHANI DRY FRUITS ACROSS INDIA, BOTH HAMID AND SAYYID ARE HOPEFUL OF A TURNAROUND IN THEIR FORTUNES. EXPECTING A BRISK BUSINESS, THE DUO HAS SET UP THEIR STALLS AT THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR AT JANATA MAIDAN

profit of Rs 15,000 from this trade fair," Hamid said.

Sayyid has a desire to open his stall at different fairs across the country. Sayyid and his wife have planned to participate in at least 12 trade fairs across India this year. Once he has enough money, Sayyid will carry on his business through online platforms.

"My family members and relatives in Afghanistan are dependent on our business in India. We are planning to bring some of our family members to India so that they can get good education and healthcare. For this purpose, we need a lot of money and efforts," Sayyid said.



Hamid Khan (R) at the fair in Bhubaneswar

PHOTOS: BIKASH NAYAK

No right to insist on posting at a particular place, says HC

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, May 29: The Orissa High Court has dismissed the plea of a government employee, who insisted to get promoted to a post situated at a particular place. The HC held that no government employee has a legal or statutory right to claim a post at a particular place and thereby avoid transfers.

According to sources, Dulamani Patel, a Jr. SES (assistant teacher) at the Girls' High School in Lephripara, was promoted and transferred to Deokaran Vidyalaya in Lathikata as Sr. SES (headmaster). Patel, however, did not join his promotional post claiming that he, being a chronic rheumatic arthritic patient, was unable to travel such a long distance.

Accordingly, Patel had September 18, 2020 urged the state government to forgo his promotion and allow him to continue as an assistant teacher in the Girls' High School in Lephripara.



The Orissa High Court held that no government employee has a legal or statutory right to claim a post at a particular place and thereby avoid transfers

However, the Director of Secondary Education rejected his application, prompting Patel to approach the HC.

Patel urged the HC to consider his promotion and absorb him in the Girls' High School in Lephripara, where he is con-

tinuing now, or in the alternative post him at BSDGM High School in Jogimal or at a nearer place keeping in view of his health condition.

While dismissing the petition, a single judge bench of Justice SK Panigrahi observed that Patel's prayer for promoting and repositioning him in the school where he was continuing or at a nearby place, is unsustainable as the petitioner was holding a transferable post and under the conditions of service applicable to him, he was liable to be transferred and posted at any place within the state. "The petitioner had no legal or statutory right to insist for being posted at one particular place," the court said.

The HC said Patel is not entitled to promotion to the post of Sr. SES (headmaster) as he preferred not to accept the promotion, out of his own volition and, accordingly, the vacancies have been taken for consideration for promotion of other candidates.

ANTI-LIQUOR ACTIVIST'S DEATH

Revert within 4 weeks or face music: NHRC to Jaipur DM, SP

Lakshmi Jena was killed for opposing the illegal liquor sale by Bijay Jena at Barehin village under Mangalpur police limits in Jaipur May 3 last year



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Expressing displeasure over the dillydally approach of the Jaipur District Magistrate (DM) and Superintendent of Police (SP) in connection with the death of an anti-liquor activist in the district May last year, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has given a final reminder to the officials to submit the reports within four weeks.

The national commission's move came while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak.

The petitioner had informed the commission that Lakshmi Jena was killed for opposing the illegal liquor sale by Bijay Jena at Barehin village under Mangalpur police limits in Jaipur May 3, 2021.

"Lakshmi's anti-liquor campaigns led to closure of Bijay's illegal business. An irked Bijay attacked the woman, leaving her critically wounded. Lakshmi succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack May 3, 2021," said the petitioner.

"Lakshmi's family alleged that

despite requests, Mangalpur police failed to provide security to the anti-liquor activist," the petitioner added requesting the commission for a directive to the authorities for providing ₹12 lakh compensation to the next of the kin of the deceased.

The NHRC had May 15 last year expressed concern over the safety of the social and rights activists. The commission had asked the Jaipur SP to get the allegations against the police officials inquired by a senior police officer and submit an action-taken report (ATR) along with status of probe of criminal case in this regard within six weeks.

The Jaipur DM, on the other hand, was asked to come up with the details of compensation facilitated to the next of the kin of the deceased under various schemes of the government within six weeks.

However, the commission received a cold shoulder from both the officials.

Expressing displeasure, the commission gave a final reminder to the SP and the DM to submit the reports within four weeks, failing which it may initiate a coercive process under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

BEACH YOGA



Children participated in a yoga session held at Puri beach Sunday morning

OP PHOTO

Railway Board Chairman visits Talcher

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: Railway Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) VK Tripathi in his visit to Odisha inspected the Talcher Coal Loading Points and took stock of the developmental activities in connection with traffic facilities and hassle free train operations, Sunday.

General Manager (In Charge) of East Coast Railway (ECOR) Sarad Kumar Srivastav and Divisional Railway Manager of

Khurda Road Railway Division Rinkesh Ray were present on the occasion.

Tripathi also discussed on various issues with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) authorities and assured to provide all kinds of support in the field of coal transportation and traffic facilities.

Senior Railway officials from ECoR Headquarters in Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road Division along with officials from MCL also participated in the inspection and review meeting.

WORLD DIGESTIVE HEALTH DAY

Early detection is key to CRC treatment: Experts



POST NEW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: The World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) was observed jointly by the Odisha chapter of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG), SCB Medical College, Cuttack and Kalinga Gastroenterology Foundation of Odisha at a City hotel, Sunday.

The theme for this year's WDHD was Prevention of Colorectal Cancer (CRC). Colorectal cancer starts in the colon or the rectum. These cancers are also known as colon cancer or rectal cancer, depending on where they start. Colon cancer and rectal cancer are often grouped together because they have many features in common.

Worldwide, it is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in males and the second in females with more than 1.4 million new cancer cases every year. Age standardised rate for CRC in India is at 7.2 per 1,00,000 population in men and 5.1 per 100,000 population in women. The Recent data indicates that India has been observing a significant increase in cases.

ISG Odisha secretary KN Panda said that CRC is gradually turning

into top cancer disease in recent times. For its treatment, prevention is key for in our country people suffer more because the diagnosis is done in a very advanced stage as people visit the doctors very late.

ISG Secretary General from AIIMS Govind Makharia said the CRC treatment depends on the stage of cancer and includes surgery for early stage cancers combined with chemotherapy. He said that tools for screening are stool tests, colonoscopy and CT colonography. It is recommended that adults aged 45 to 75 years be screened for CRC. Early detection can yield better outcome in terms of reducing the disease burden.

Head of Gastroenterology at KIMS Bhubaneswar AC Anand pointed out that CRC is very common in western countries because of their dietary that includes processed food which is different from ours but now in India that type of food is available which increases the chances of CRC in the country.

Senior Gastroenterologist of Appolo Sushanta Kumar Sethi said that rectal bleeding, abdominal mass, abdominal pain, unexplained weight loss and loss of appetite are some of the symptoms.

Paradip to transform into world-class port

Continued from P1

Paradip Port's investment will be to the tune of ₹612.50 crore towards providing Common Supporting Project Infrastructure.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said the project will be a milestone towards Paradip Port becoming a Mega Port.

He said, this is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of development of eastern states and will contribute to the port's capacity addition of 25 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonne Per Annum) as well as result in improvement of the port's efficiency.

The statement pointed out that the project will facilitate de-congestion of the port, reduce sea freight, thus making coal imports cheaper, and boost the industrial economy in the hinterland of the port leading to creation of job opportunities.

The port, after completion of the project, can easily handle very large ships for which 18 metre draft is required resulting in reduction in logistics cost and will boost EXIM trade in the current global competitive environment, it added.

Paradip Port Authority was commissioned in 1966 as a mono commodity port for export of iron ore.

The port has transformed itself to handle a variety of EXIM cargo which include iron ore, chrome ore, aluminium ingots, coal, fertilizer raw materials, limestone, clinker, finished steel products, containers, etc.

Paradip Port Authority (Concessioning Authority) shall provide the common supporting project infrastructure works like breakerwater extension and other ancillary works to facilitate handling capesize vessels by the selected BOT concessionaire with an ultimate capacity of 25 MTPA in two phases of 12.50 MTPA each.

The concession period shall be 30 years from the date of award of concession and it shall cater to the requirement of coal and limestone imports besides export of granulated slag and finished steel products considering the large number of steel plants established in the hinterland of Paradip Port.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 29: The Sishu Shram Nirakarana Sachetanata Ratha was launched Sunday by Labour and ESI Principal Secretray Chithra Arumugam from the premises of the Labour Directorate to spread the message of ending child labour and making Odisha a 'Child Labour Free State'.

It was launched as part of a 15-day exclusive campaign against child labour. The campaign has

been initiated by the state Labour and ESI Department in collaboration with Unicef, Peoples' Cultural Centre, Campaign Against Child Labour, CYSD, Community Radio Association of Odisha, Aide Et Action, International Justice Mission and several other civil society organisations of state.

This 15-day campaign, which began Sunday, will be taken up at district level throughout the state and different programmes like rally, signature campaign, sensi-

tisation meeting on Child & Adolescent Labour (P&R) Act, 1986, and sand art in Puri will be organised to spread awareness on the provisions against employers of children as labourers.

The campaign will conclude June 12 which is celebrated as the World Day against Child Labour. A state Level function has been proposed to be held this day with participation of converging government departments, civil society organisations and rescued chil-

The campaign will be taken up at district level and programmes like rally, signature campaign, sensitisation meeting on Child & Adolescent Labour (P&R) Act, 1986, and sand art in Puri will be organised to spread awareness on the provisions against employers of children as labourers

.....●●●●●●●●●●.....
dren who have become role models for others.

During the launch of programme, state Labour Commissioner N Thirumala Naik, Unicef State Head Monika Nielsen, Community Radio Association of Odisha Secretray Sisir Das, Aide Et Action regional head Umi Daniel, IJM Piyush Nanda, PECUC Director Anuradha Mohanty and senior officials and staff of state Labour and ESI Department were present.

94.11% registered informal workers earn ₹10K or less

TOP-5 STATES IN TERMS OF REGISTRATIONS ARE UTTAR PRADESH, BIHAR, WEST BENGAL, MADHYA PRADESH AND ODISHA

Over 94 per cent of 27.69 crore informal sector workers registered on the e-Shram portal have a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or below and over 74 per cent of the enrolled workforce belongs to scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST) and other backward classes (OBC), according to the latest data.

The proportion of informal workers getting a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or below was 92.37 per cent in the middle of November 2021 when total enrolments on e-Shram portal were a little over 8 crore.

Those belonging to SC, ST and OBC who enrolled on the portal were 72.58 per cent in the middle of November 2021.

The experts are of the view that as the enrolments progress on e-Shram portal towards the ultimate goal of enrolling all informal sector workers estimated at 38 crore in the country, the data would show sharp disparities in the society.

E-Shram portal is aimed at building a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) in the country.

The aim of the portal is to boost the last-mile delivery of the welfare schemes for over 38 crore unorganised workers in the country. It was launched on August 26, 2021.

Experts are of the view that almost all targeted informal sector workers should be registered on e-Shram portal during this calendar year only, which would give a big opportunity to the po-



litical leadership to draft an evidence-based policy for the large section of deprived classes in the country.

According to the latest data, as many as 27.69 crore informal sector workers are registered on the portal and show that this unorganised workforce is living under

extreme poverty and a majority of those belong to socially backward communities.

The data showed that 94.11 per cent of the registered informal workers have a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or below while 4.36 per cent have a monthly income between Rs 10,001 and Rs 15,000.

According to the latest data, as many as 27.69 crore informal sector workers are registered on the portal and show that this unorganised workforce is living under extreme poverty and a majority of those belong to socially backward communities.

Age-wise analysis of the data show that 61.72 per cent of the registered workers on the portal are of the age from 18 years to 40 years, while 22.12 per cent are of the age from 40 years to 50 years.

The proportion of the registered workers aged above 50 years is 13.23 per cent, while 2.93 per cent of workers are aged between 16 and 18 years.

Gender analysis shows that 52.81 per cent of registered workers are female and 47.19 per cent are male.

The social category analysis of the data shows that 74.44 per cent of registered workers are below the socially backward classes, including 45.32 per cent OBC, 20.95 per

cent SC and 8.17 per cent ST. The proportion of the General Category workers is 25.56 per cent.

Age-wise analysis of the data show that 61.72 per cent of the registered workers on the portal are of the age from 18 years to 40 years, while 22.12 per cent are of the age from 40 years to 50 years.

The proportion of the registered workers aged above 50 years is 13.23 per cent, while 2.93 per cent of workers are aged between 16 and 18 years. Gender analysis shows that 52.81 per cent of registered workers are female and 47.19 per cent are male. Top-5 states in terms of registrations are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

Occupation wise, agriculture is at the top with 52.11 per cent of enrolments done by those related to the farm sector followed by domestic and household workers at 9.93 per cent and constructions workers at 9.13 per cent. PTI

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

SHORT TAKES

Youth falls off tree, dies

Thakurmunda: A youth died tragically when he fell off a tree while collecting honey from a hive at Khaparkhai under Thakurmunda block in Mayurbhanj district Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Sana Khandual(30). Reports said, Khandual climbed a tree Saturday night to collect honey from a beehive. After collecting honey, he was coming down from the tree, but slipped and fell down heavily and died on the spot. Locals tried to revive him, but by then it was too late.

Overbridge for Jajpur Rly Station

Jajpur: The Railway Board has sanctioned ₹81.78 crore for construction of an overbridge over the south gate of Jajpur Road railway station. The Railway Board's decision to build the bridge came in pursuance to a Orissa High Court order in 2014 on a PIL, informed petitioner (advocate) Jitendra Pratihari. He added that the Railway Board has followed the order of the high court and sanctioned the requisite amount. Notably, Jajpur Road railway station is one of the busiest in Odisha. The town also has a large number of important destinations like the Jajpur Road CHC, NC High School, Kendriya Vidyalay and a livestock centre. A large number of people visit this town every day. They put their lives on the line as they cross the unmanned railway tracks to reach their destinations. Earlier, locals had approached the Railway Board urging it to build a bridge to ease the woes of the pedestrians. However, as the board had not responded, Pratihari had moved the Orissa High Court.

Case against four for assaulting cops

Basudevpur: Police registered Saturday cases against four persons on charge of assaulting police personnel on duty during the arrest of a person accused of arson under this police limits in Bhadrak district. Cases were registered against Suni Mallick, Tikili Mallick, Banchhanidhi Mallick and Bishnu Mallick of Adia village under this police limits after homeguard Sonali Mitra lodged a complaint against them. The incident occurred when police raided the village and arrested one Chakradhar Mallick on charges of putting a house on fire in the village. Police were trying to take Chakradhar to court when his wife and relatives waylaid the police van and misbehaved and assaulted the police personnel. They also tried to snatch away Chakradhar from police custody. However, no arrest been made so far.

Bridge relief for people of Derabish



POST NEWS NETWORK

Derabish, May 29: In the absence of bridges and road connectivity, people in this locality of Kendrapara district have been suffering a lot. However, construction of a bridge across Luna-Karandia river will start soon, reports said. The construction will begin in the next few days, sources said.

A team of officials visited the site, couple of days back. This was the second visit by officials, informed Pradip Samal, engineer-in chief of the Rural Development

For a long time, locals have been demanding two bridges across Luna and Karandia rivers – one at Gahaga-Sathilo and the other at Kulasahi-Sathilo

department.

Once completed, the bridge will provide huge relief to local people at the time of floods and in other trying circumstances. For days together, people of Derabish, Garadpur and Marshaghai blocks of this coastal district are forced to remain marooned and they fail to venture out of due to the absence of bridges over rivers.

For a long time, locals have been demanding two bridges across Luna and Karandia rivers – one at Gahaga-Sathilo and the other at Kulasahi-Sathilo.



Traffic on National Highway-63 connecting Kotpad in Koraput district with Chhattisgarh was disrupted for over three hours after trees and utility poles got uprooted and blocked the road during a thunderstorm, Sunday

OP PHOTO

LOWER SUKTEL PROJECT

Admin intensifies displacement process

Scores of houses of families identified for displacement have been demolished at Pardhiapalli, Koindapalli, Khuntapalli, Khagasabahal, Kakhal, Kankara, Kutensilat and Santenpalli. All these villages have been in existence for over 800 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, May 29: The district administration has intensified the displacement process for the on-going Lower Suktel irrigation project in Bolangir. Till date, 601 families have been displaced for the project. Sources said that the displacement process has also been in-



tiated for people of Santenpalli.

Reports said that earlier the work for the project often faced hindrances due to repeated agitations by the ousted families. However in the past one year, work for the Suktel project is progressing smoothly as the administration has been sorting out various bottlenecks and effectively handling the displacement and rehabilitation issues. The Odisha government is eyeing to complete the

project by 2023.

As the displacement process has gained more pace in comparison to the past, the work of the much-awaited irrigation project is expected to be completed soon.

The administration started displacement Friday at Santenpalli and 79 families were moved from their houses on the first day, it was stated. Eight houses had been pulled down and these families have been paid the compensation as per the

guidelines of the state government under rehabilitation and resettlement policy.

According to official sources, 50 families in Khagasabahal, 52 in Kakhale, 48 in Kankara and 57 in Kuntelsilat have been displaced so far. However, despite receiving compensation, some families said that they would not be able to buy agricultural land with the amount they have got. They are worried over their livelihood.

Mahadev Patel, Khageswar Patel, Jugeswar Patel, Gunanidhi Ray, Santosh Bag, Bkhatatabahu Das, Yudhistir Sahu, Gridhan Rai, Naresh Dehuri and Premraj Patel of Santenpalli said that the government has paid ₹45,000 to ₹80,000 per acre of land in various categories. However, they pointed out that to acquire land now they will have to shell out ₹7 to ₹8 lakh per acre. So they are worried as to how they will manage such huge amounts.

Addiction spreading fast among Angul street kids

POST NEW NETWORK

Angul, May 29: Several nomadic minor children in this town have fallen prey to sedatives and have become addicted, a source reported, Sunday. These urchins beg during the day. However, they also collect remnants of sedatives and then at night consume those to go into a stupor.

One of the most popular sedatives among the kids is glue which they sniff. It then turns into an addiction. Most of these kids sniff 'Dendrite' the tubes of which are thrown away after use. However, addiction leads to a different problem. It lures the street



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

kids to indulge in criminal activities.

Many intellectuals observed the number of injecting drug users (IDUs) has gone up considerably. This is a matter of concern because drug addicts often take injections in groups. This may lead to HIV infection as multiple users use the same needle. Addiction also leads to various forms of illness like depression, apathy, withdrawal, personality disorders, short-term memory loss and violent mood alterations, they observed.

Consequently, they end up committing petty crimes and more often than not get arrested, or

dealt with by the juvenile justice system in the case of minors.

Senior residents of the town observed that the retailers do not hesitate to sell such products to minors. They pointed out that the police and district administration should be proactive to prevent such sale.

When contacted, Angul child protection officer (CPO) Gouri Shankar Behera said, "We have been conducting awareness programmes from time to time for nomadic minor children in the slums. Town police will be requested to carry out raids at different retail outlets soon."

MLA, BDO trek in hilly terrains to see woes of Maoist-affected village

POST NEW NETWORK

Daringbadi, May 29: The villagers of Maoist-infested Gadapakali village under Daringbadi block in Kandhamal district, which hit the headlines in 2012 after the abduction of two Italian tourists by Maoists, were in for a pleasant surprise Sunday when MLA Saluga Pradhan, BDO Gadadhar Patra and Pliheri sarpanch Paul Pradhan trekked up the hill by foot and inquired on their living conditions.

The officials travelled around 10km by foot over difficult terrain to reach Gadapakali village. They talked to the villagers about the education of kids, healthcare facilities available and distribution of ration in the village.

Among the various problems that plague the village is absence of a proper road, mobile network, lack of a school, proper electrification and drinking water facilities. The villagers narrated that in the absence of roads, they are forced to carry pregnant women and sick persons in makeshift stretchers to hospitals. They informed that sometimes the patients die en route to hospital.

Village seniors also informed the lawmakers that even though many kids in the village want to

study, they cannot do so as there is not a single school.

The MLA and BDO gave a patient hearing to the problems of the tribals and assured them that their plight will be brought to the notice of the district collector and the state government. They promised to solve all the problems before bidding the tribals farewell.

On their way back, the officials also travelled to nearby villages like Sulumaha, Lambabandha and other inaccessible villages and reached out to the people living there in pathetic conditions.

It is worth mentioning, the Maoists had abducted two Italians tourists Boscusco Paolo and Clandio Colangilo back in March 14, 2012 from Gadapakali village. The Maoists had reportedly put forward a 13-point charter of demands for the release of the hostages. Among the demands were the halting of anti-Naxal operations and withdrawal of cases against tribals lodged in jails 'in the name of Maoists'.

Since then Gadapakali village has taken the appearance of a haunted place with officials shunning the locality due to the fear of Maoists. So the visit by the MLA and BDO will certainly give new hope to the tribals.



2022.05.29

‘Mahua’ flowers help Gajapati tribals survive



POST NEWS NETWORK

R Udayagiri, May 29: Despite multiple health benefits and medicinal uses, 'Mahula' or 'Mahua' flower is looked down as a curse as it is used in making country-made liquor.

However, things are changing for the better in tribal-dominated villages under R Udayagiri block in Gajapati district, where Tribal women and children are using this 'dreadful' flower to generate some income.

Every morning tribal women, children and elders go into the forest to collect 'Mahua' flowers. Once they return home, they dry the flowers under the sun. Once properly dried the flowers are ready for sale. Selling 'Mahua' flowers generates in-

Locals say, officials should hold an awareness campaign among the tribals who sell Mahua flowers as a source of livelihood. It must be ensured that they get a fair price

come for the forest dwellers for three to four months. The tribal people use the flowers as a food item also. They make delicious cakes with these flowers. Some also fry the flowers and use it as a side dish with the main course.

Tribals from villages like Kankadaguda and Lubusingh under R Udayagiri block,

Birikota, Adaba under Mohana block, Saralapadar, Parimal, Anuguru, Kirama, Puturupada and Betarasing under Nuagada block depend on these yellow flowers for livelihood.

However, the income from the sale of dried 'Mahua' flowers are affected due to the interference of middlemen. These touts force the tribals to go for distress selling as the latter are not aware about the price fixed by the Panchayat department for the flowers. As a result, they suffer huge losses. They have no option as they do not have the knowledge about the prices. On this meagre amount they have to run their annual livelihood.

If the labour the tribals put in to gather 'Mahua' flowers is compared to the earnings, it can be termed 'inadequate' to say the least. So it is high time that officials conduct an awareness campaign among the tribals who sell Mahua flowers as a source of livelihood. It must be ensured that they get a fair price.


On many occasions, flowers are collected illegally and smuggled. This apart, due to rampant forest fires and mining activity, the number of 'Mahua' trees is also decreasing. There may come a time when 'Mahua' trees will completely disappear from the district.

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED					
Regd. Office: A-54/1 & A-55/1, Dinalipi Bhawan, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003					
Email: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com, web site: www.suryofoods.com, CIN - L05004OR1989PLC002264					
Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2022					
(Rs. in '000', except EPS)					
Sl. No.	Particulars	31.03.2022 (Audited)	31.12.2021 (UnAudited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)	Year ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operation (net)	98	79	662	453
	Other income (net)				1,074
2	Other Gains/(Losses)				
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	-749	-1,097	-3935	-3,645
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	-749	-1,097	-3935	-3,645
5	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	-590	-1,097	-3715	-3,832
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-590	-1,097	-3715	-3,832
7	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-76,822	-76,266	-76,822	-76,822
	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
	1. Basic:	-0.15	-0.28	0.94	-0.97
	2. Diluted:	-0.15	-0.28	0.94	-0.97
Note:					
a) The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2022 have been reviewed by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on 28th May, 2022.					
b) The above financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) prescribed under section 133 of the companies act , 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.					
c) The full format of the financial results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2022 are available at the Company's website http://www.suryofoods.com, and websites of all Stock Exchanges, where the Equity shares of the Company are listed.					
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited					
Sd./- Amarendra Dash					
Chairman Cum Managing Director					
Place: Bhubaneswar					
Date: 28th May, 2022					

“

Care not for time and success.
Act out thy part, whether it be
to fail or to prosper.

SRI AUROBINDO



Gun Culture

Yet another shooting snuffed out the lives of 19 children and two teachers in an elementary school classroom in Uvalde, Texas in the span of just 10 days after a similar shooting had killed 10 people in a supermarket in Buffalo, New York 14 May. Once again it is a mass killing by a teenager - an 18-year-old.

The recent school shooting has, predictably enough, triggered fresh calls for action on gun control. Each time such mass murder takes place in the US, the same demand is made with anti-gun activists raising the pitch of their chorus for rigorous control of sale of guns knowing fully well that the gun-lobby continues to have a resonance in the hearts of an overwhelmingly large number of people in that country. This time as well, familiar obstacles will stand in the way of effecting any reform in the easy availability of guns in the US.

The Texas shooting has a chilling parallel to a similar mass murder by a young man who shot and killed 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012. The Sandy Hook shooting led to calls for national gun reform. At that time, President Barack Obama made an emotional plea for action. But efforts to advance gun-control legislation in the Congress were stalled.

Now, after the killing of 19 children and two adults in Uvalde, similar calls for action are being made from both politicians and activists. President Joe Biden has echoed Obama in clamouring for change. “Why are we willing to live with this carnage?” he said. “Why do we keep letting this happen? Where in God’s name is our backbone to have the courage to deal with it and stand up to the lobbies?”

It is a forceful and impassioned plea intended also to shame those who are opposed to any strict legislation preventing easy availability of guns. But, reality is Democrats control both chambers of the Congress and the presidency this time around. Yet efforts to pass new gun-control regulations are facing the same old roadblocks.

Following the Sandy Hook shooting, a majority of US senators supported passing legislation that stipulated expanded background checks for gun purchases. However, a mere simple majority is not enough for enacting such a legislation because of the US parliamentary procedure called the ‘filibuster’ which makes it mandatory to have a minimum of 60 votes in the 100-seat Senate to pass a legislation.

Today, only a handful of the 50 Republican senators appear open to new gun legislation. This means any new efforts in the direction of reforms in the sale of guns may meet a similar fate. Of course, this has not prevented the Democrats from considering new proposals for strict gun regulations. They are even expressing their readiness to work with the Republicans and find common ground on which the two sides can converge. However, Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer sought to remind the country of the harsh reality. He said there is only a “slim prospect, very slim, all too slim. We’ve been burnt so many times before.”

So far, the Republicans have shown readiness only to create a national database of school safety practices. The Democrats are engaging Republicans in a dialogue for doing more and a handful of Republicans have shown interest. Although recent polls indicate majority of Americans support such efforts, many Republican senators are from states with large pro-gun communities. It is noteworthy that the US has many Republican voters who are opposed to gun reform. The Republicans need the support of such voters to win primary elections. So, the harsh reality in the US is that unless and until sentiment changes among that constituency, Republicans are unlikely to go with the Democrats in any move to enact legislation to create obstacles to the easy purchase of guns.

But, the situation is not as bleak as it may appear. Though congressional efforts are mired in procedural wrangles, gun-control activists since 2015 made substantive progress in passing new laws at the state level. For example, in Connecticut, there was overwhelming support for reform from the communities yet to be reconciled to the brutality of the Sandy Hook attack. Other Democrat-controlled states like New York, Maryland and California passed their own legislation limiting magazine sizes and prohibiting the sale of certain types of firearms. In Vermont, Republican Governor Phil Scott changed his position and worked with Democrats to pass new legislation in the traditionally gun-friendly state in 2018 after a school-shooting plot was unearthed timely enough. He succeeded in having a law which raised the age to buy a firearm to 21, limited magazine sizes and made background checks mandatory. This antagonised his supporters on the Right. However, he could easily win re-election in 2018.

In spite of this, the US seems to be in a totally hopeless situation. Added to this is the recent news that former president Trump, after reading out the names of the Texas victims, has been filmed to have danced in joy.

WISDOM CORNER

“

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

MARK TWAIN

“

Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

“

All things are subject to interpretation whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

WORDSWORTH

■ Taradiddle


Not so much known now as it once was, this is mainly a British way of saying something is a minor lie. A contributor to Punch wrote in October 1892, “Lie, indeed! There is a middle course — say ‘fib’ or ‘tarradiddle!’” These days, she lived, thought, dreamed horses, almost like Verrall himself. The time came when she not only told her taradiddle about having “hunted quite a lot”, she even came near believing it. -- Burmese Days, by George Orwell, 1935. It has also appeared as tallydiddle and tarradiddle, a mark of people’s confusion about its origins. These are shared by modern etymologists, some of whom point uncertainly at the verb diddle, to cheat — recorded from the middle of the eighteenth century — as the source of their second element. Some argue that in turn this derives from the Old English dydrian, to deceive or delude, though other writers have been dismissive of the idea, mainly because if it were true diddle had been lurking unnoticed in the linguistic undergrowth for about seven centuries. All the experts are silent about the first element of taradiddle, which may be no more than a nonsense addition. Faradiddle is a variant spelling, which can have a broader sense of nonsense or rubbish: He smiled, obviously about to spin her some faradiddle, and Sarah’s frayed patience snapped. -- The Shadow of Albion, by Andre Norton and Rosemary Edghill, 1999. Taradiddle is sometimes used erroneously for the closely similar paradiddle, which musicians will recognise as one of the basic patterns of drumming; it consists of four strokes, either left-right-left-left or right-left-right-right. This is equally mysterious, though the second part might be from an old dialect verb meaning to shake or quiver.

LOL

Knitting & driving


A policeman spots a woman driving and knitting at the same time. Driving up beside her, he shouts out the window... “Pull over!”

“No,” she shouts back, “a pair of socks!”



FOCUS BIG FINANCE

CAPITAL FOR CLIMATE



To help address today’s existential sustainability challenges, capital markets and their major players need to be more innovative still and open the door to non-traditional, even disruptive, voices and ideas

Addressing the ever-worsening climate crisis will require the largest sustained movement of capital in history. At least \$100 trillion must be invested over the next 20-30 years to shift to a low-carbon economy, and \$3-4 trillion of additional annual investment is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and stabilise the world’s oceans.

Mobilising these huge sums and investing them efficiently is well within the capacity of the global economy and existing financial markets, but it will require fundamental changes to how these markets work. In particular, traditional financial institutions will need help in sourcing the right projects, simplifying the design and negotiation of transactions, and raising the capital to fund them.

Many sustainability ideas are small-scale, which partly reflects the nature of innovation, whereby ideas are developed, tested, and, if successful, eventually copied. But the disconnect between those developing sustainability projects and the world of traditional finance means that scaling such initiatives is not straightforward.

At the risk of oversimplifying, sustainability advocates may be suspicious of “Big Finance” and its history of funding unsustainable industries. Investors, on the other hand, may be wary of idealistic approaches that ignore bottom-line realities, and might not be interested in small-scale transactions.

Given this disconnect, how do we scale up sustainable projects from small investments to the \$100 million-plus range that begins to attract Big Finance and thus the trillions of dollars needed to make a global difference?

Three steps in particular are necessary. First, securitization techniques should be employed to aggregate many smaller projects into one that has enough critical mass to be relevant. Securitization got a bad name in 2007-08 for its role in fueling the subprime mortgage crisis that brought the developed world to the brink of financial ruin. But when properly managed, joint financing of many projects reduces risk, because the likelihood that all will have similar financial and operational issues simultaneously is low. For the resulting whole to interest investors, however, the numerous smaller projects need to have common characteristics so that they can be aggregated. This cannot be done after the fact.

For example, we need to develop common terms and conditions for pools of similar assets, as is already happening in the US residential solar market. Then, we need to explain the fundamentals of securitization to more potential grassroots innovators through regional conferences that bring together financiers and sustainable-project developers.

Second, we must reduce the complexity of key transaction terms and make it easier to design and negotiate the specifics of instruments used to invest in sustainable projects. In established financial markets, replicating significant parts of previous successful deals is much easier than starting from scratch for each transaction. This approach works because many of the terms and conditions for subsequent deals have already been accepted by key financial players.

Making successful innovations more visible to investors is therefore crucial. To that end, we should establish a high-profile, open-source clearinghouse of previous sustainable projects, including those that have been successfully funded and those that failed. This would be similar to many existing financial-sector databases but freely available, with reputable third-party oversight to ensure accuracy.

Third, the range of funding sources for sustainable projects needs to be expanded and made more transparent. Because sustainability investments may offer lower returns according to historic financial-market metrics, traditional asset-allocation practices, against the backdrop of “efficient markets,” would imply reduced attractiveness. But historic benchmarks do not sufficiently factor in the exploding field of impact investing, which embraces different return and time thresholds and now accounts for about \$2.5 trillion of assets. Securitizing tranches of different kinds of impact investing could prove to be a game changer for sustainability financing.

It would thus make sense to create an open-source database of in-

vestor appetite — similar to the project database mentioned above — that is searchable by innovators and designers of new sustainable projects. This would make it easier to identify investors — equity, credit, or some hybrid — who might commit funding. The database could be housed in an organisation such as the International Finance Corporation, the United Nations, or the Global Impact Investing Network.

There are encouraging precedents. The green bond market started just over a decade ago, and total issuance already could reach \$1 trillion this year. And a critical mass of the financial world attended the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow last November. Under the leadership of UN Special Envoy Mark Carney, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) has made \$130 trillion in climate-finance commitments.

In 1983, Muhammad Yunus founded Grameen Bank in order to provide banking services, and especially loans, to individuals (primarily women) previously considered to be “un-bankable.” By the time Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, “micro-lending” had become a global phenomenon, with traditional financial institutions involved in securitizing these loans.


The financial revolution that Yunus started transformed retail lending, streamlined how such transactions are structured, and tapped a new source of scaled investment capital. To help address today’s existential sustainability challenges, capital markets and their major players need to be more innovative still and open the door to non-traditional, even disruptive, voices and ideas.

J. David Stewart, a former MD at JPMorgan, is a sustainable-finance consultant. Henry P. Huntington is an Arctic researcher and conservationist.

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SPECTRUM TERRORISM

Kashmir and the sin of silence



Two days after Rahul Bhat was killed in a government office in Jammu and Kashmir 12 May, the building was reopened and all his colleagues, officers and subordinates trooped in and have been working silently since then. None of his colleagues or seniors even condemned the killing, or showed any sympathy according to Bhat’s family, which has been pointing fingers at them.

TV actress Amreena Bhat was shot dead by terrorists and her 10-year-old nephew injured in his arm at Chadoora in Badgam district. Her family and relatives shed tears and some even took to social media. But no one came out to protest — neither her colleagues, nor her neighbours. All went silently back to their usual routine.

Not long ago, the picture of little Safa in blood-soaked clothes, lying alone on a stretcher in a hospital and staring blankly, went viral. Safa got a bullet injury when her father, J&K Police constable Saifullah Qadri, 45, was killed by terrorists outside their home in Soura, on the outskirts of Srinagar. The family is struggling to come to terms with this. Safa’s pictures were shared a thousand times, and a few concerns were expressed, but silence has descended on her locality. This silence is deafening.

As one stands on the Shankaracharya hill in Srinagar, a vast expanse of homes interspersed by greenery and water bodies lies ahead. The surrounding silence seems meditative from above, but as one moves on the roads and the streets below, things don’t seem normal.

Three decades ago, it wasn’t like this. Even a small incident would evoke curiosity and neighbours and unknown people would come to help and stand by the victim’s family. Today, there is no reaction, no empathy; the only overwhelming presence is that of silence.

In all incidents of terrorism, whether a Muslim is killed or a minority community member, or a non-local is targeted, silence seems to be all-pervasive. No one protests, no one comes on roads to raise slogans and no one points out the identity of the killers. The neighbours, colleagues and even the affected family’s relatives choose to remain quiet. In a majority of these terror incidents, the perpetrators just come, kill and escape without any hindrance, and there never seems to be any eyewitness.

Rahul Bhat’s is a case in point. He was working in a secured government building with a CRPF picket nearby. Despite the security and the checks, the killers walked straight into his office and pumped five bullets into him while he was at his desk. Several questions are bound to arise: Why were the weapon-wielding men not detected as they entered the building? How did the killers know where Rahul was sitting? When they were leaving, why did no one raise an alarm or alert the picket guards? Everyone in Rahul’s office has slipped into a questionable silence, indicating either collusion or fear. Similar questions arise each time a targeted killing happens in Kashmir.

“Your very silence shows you agree.” Perhaps, the answers to these disturbing questions are to be found in this quote from Euripides, one of the greatest exponents of Greek tragedy. Targeted killings can be ‘successfully’ executed only when pinpointed information is available and those present at that time remain silent.

All targeted killings or other terror acts are always claimed by terror outfits. Security officials say that targeted killings are difficult to prevent, but if there is a public outpouring of anger, then pressure can be built up against the perpetrators. In Kashmir, however, any act of terror fails to generate the widespread public outcry it should.

Recently, when separatist Yasin Malik was convicted in a terror funding case and sentenced to life imprisonment, protests and incidents of stone pelting took place. Though the police arrested ten people near Malik’s home, the fact is that people did attempt to gather in support of a convicted terrorist. If people haven’t forgotten to react, then why do they so selectively and not in all the terror-related cases?

Security analysts have been blaming the rampant radicalisation in the Valley for the support being extended to terrorists. More than the fear of the gun, it is radicalisation that is helping the terror outfits and their sponsors in Pakistan to keep the terror momentum high in the Valley.

The reasons for the silence may be varied, but the reality is that this silence has ruined Kashmir. The majority silently saw the persecution and exodus of the minorities from the Valley; they have been quiet on the killing of moderates, they don’t raise their voice when girls are raped by terrorists; they don’t react when terrorists forcibly live in their homes; and they never question the killings. The silence is now weighing upon the majority which is failing to raise its voice against the drug menace, kidnappings, incidents of gangrape and acid attacks, which were unheard-of in the Valley before the advent of terrorism in the late 1980s.

Abraham Lincoln had said: “To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.” This sounds so true in Kashmir today.

©IANS

Better safe than sorry

Tables have turned

Sir, Tobacco literally kills. To succeed in the war against cancer one has to win the all-important battle against tobacco. Annually, about eight million people succumb to the direct and synergistic effects of tobacco, and the number is by no means static. Quitters are generally losers; not tobacco quitters — they always win. Both chewed tobacco and smoked tobacco are dangerous to the body due to the toxic chemicals in them. The “passive smokers” who inhale smoke of others’ cigarette are, many times, unfortunate sufferers of smoking. Also, no age is exempt from the ill-effects of smoking. The myth that smoking certain number of packs of beedi and cigarettes per day will lead to cancer should be eliminated. It is more often the duration of smoking that is the culprit though the number of cigarettes smoked per day cannot be discounted. However, the consoling factor is quitting smoking almost always helps the chronic smokers, and it is nothing more than mind over matter. Giving up the habit is like a marathon, not like a sprint. Patience, consistency and focus are key. The risk of cancers in those who totally abstain from puffing away is nearly halved if the smokers lock the butt. True to expectations, the strong tobacco lobby has been a stumbling block to governmental effort in bringing in a ban on smoking and chewed tobacco. But things are not so bad, and there is a growing realisation among smokers that a moment of “pleasure” can lead to years of distress. Therefore, better safe than sorry; it is safe to put a cigarette out before the cigarette puts you out.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Sir, The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) giving star Shah Rukh Khan’s son Aryan Khan a clean chit in connection with a narcotics case has raised doubts about the credibility of the arrests. The NCB’s special investigation team (SIT) did not find any evidence of drugs or related substances on Aryan and the other five accused. Besides, the initial probe, carried out under the supervision of then Mumbai zonal director of NCB Sameer Wankhede had several loopholes. The former NCB officer was also in the news for all the wrong reasons, including becoming an IRS officer using a forged Scheduled Caste certificate. The Centre ordered a full-scale probe against Wankhede for his “shoddy” work in the drugs case shows how the tables have turned.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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

of the day quote

I congratulate Nawab Malik for exposing the force behind the 'drugs on cruise' case involving Aryan Khan

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP

The Union government is working towards making coastal security strong and impenetrable by using new technologies

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

It is an opportunity for Champawat to lead from the front in Uttarakhand's growth journey

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

SHORT TAKES

Couple ends life

Vijayawada: Unable to bear the loss of their only son in an accident, a couple died by suicide in Andhra Pradesh Sunday. The shocking incident took place in Chinna Nandigama village in G. Konduru mandal of NTR district. According to the police, Arepalli Sambasiva Rao (43) and his wife Vijaylaxmi (38) hanged themselves at their residence. Their son Jagdish (18) had died in a road accident two months ago.

Internet service still suspended

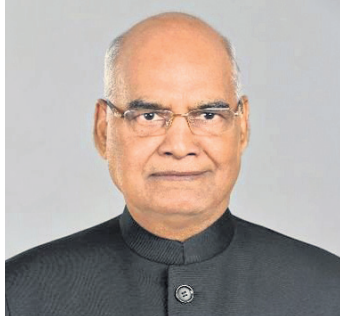
Amaravati: Five days after Amalapuram was rocked by violence over the proposal to rename Konaseema district as Dr B. R. Ambedkar, internet service remained snapped in the town and some other parts of the district. The internet service disconnected as a precautionary measure after Tuesday's violence to stop spread of false messages on social media has not been restored causing severe inconvenience to people. During the large-scale violence that rocked the town on May 24 during a protest called by Konaseema Parirakshana Samiti, residences of a state minister and an MLA were set afire and dozens of people including police personnel were injured.

Rana couple booked

Amravati: Independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana as well as some 15 of their supporters were booked for allegedly violating various norms and impeding traffic during a welcome event for the couple here, a police official said Sunday. The Rana couple was arrested April 23 after announcing they would recite Hanuman Chalisa in front of 'Matoshree', the private residence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in Bandra in Mumbai, the move leading to a tense stand-off with Shiv Sena workers through the day. They were granted bail on May 4 by a special court in Mumbai.

Boy killed in UP

Banda (UP): A 16-year-old boy was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people in Uttar Pradesh's Banda district, police said Sunday. The incident took place in Tendura village under Bisanda police station area on Saturday night. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Laxmi Niwas Mishra said the assailants threw the body of Prembabu alias Dadu in a pond after attacking him with sticks and fled. The condition of Parshuram alias Parsi (42), the father of the deceased, who was injured in the attack, remains critical. He has been admitted to the government hospital, the ASP said. Police have lodged a case against one Jayakaran and his three sons. Efforts are on to arrest them, the police officer said.



India is providing the most affordable medical facilities in the world and people from abroad, especially the neighbouring nations, visit the hospitals in the country to avail the health care services

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

FIRST TIME

The Department of Posts has for the first time delivered mail using a drone as part of a pilot project in Gujarat's Kutch district, covering a distance of 46 km in 25 minutes, officials said Sunday



Doctors helping ISRO for Gaganyaan mission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The Indian Space Research Organisation is taking help of doctors in building its human-rated spacecraft for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first human spaceflight that aims to take astronauts into a low earth orbit.

The ISRO has roped in doctors to understand the impact of the spaceflight on humans and will design the spacecraft accordingly. The astronauts selected for the mission have also been involved in making of the orbital module. "There are four astronauts who are part of Gaganyaan. We talk to them. They sit in a cockpit. We ask them to go through this and tell

us whether the placing of equipment is correct, whether the lighting is correct or whether the edges are causing discomfort," ISRO Chairman S Somnath said during a brainstorming session with health experts on the use of space technology in emergency medical services.

Somnath said scientists at the ISRO were developing the human-rated spacecraft. "We also look at various measures of quality to increase the reliability and finally to prove the redundancy," Somnath said, adding that space agencies the world over, including ISRO, have imbibed developing failsafe systems as a culture. "We are also looking at how doctors can connect with the human



spacecraft design. There is an interaction happening with doctors and engineers on the designing of the human spacecraft. If you have to conduct a successful human space flight and sustain it in India,

we need a strong pool of doctors who will get involved in this human spaceflight mission as well," he said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has said that the first unmanned

mission in the Gaganyaan series was expected to be launched next year. This would be followed by another unmanned mission, before Indian astronauts board the spacecraft for a sojourn in a low earth orbit.

According to a senior ISRO official, a human-rated spacecraft should be able to accommodate the crew as if they are living in normal acceptable conditions and they should be able to perform various activities during their stay. The engineers have to design the spacecraft by identifying potential hazards and developing systems to control such happenings. The spacecraft also should have the facility to safely recover the crew from any hazardous situation.

7 killed, 9 injured in road accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), May 29: Seven people, including three women, were killed and nine grievously injured when a tourist bus collided with a truck on the Bahraich-Lakhimpur highway in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, police said.

The bus carrying 16 people from Karnataka was going to Ayodhya when the incident occurred at Naniha market in the Motipur area as it entered the opposite lane, Additional Superintendent of Police, Ashok Kumar said.

While five, including the bus driver, died on the spot, two others succumbed to their injuries on the way to the hospital, the police officer said, adding nine people were seriously injured and were hospitalised.

The victims were identified after one of the injured passengers, Bhoomika (16), connected the police officials with the family members through a video call and by sharing photos. The deceased have been identified as Shiv Kumar Pujari (28), Jagdamba (52), Manmat (36), Anil (30), Santosh (35), Shashikala (38) and Saraswati (47) -- all residents of Gandhinagar in Karnataka's Bidar district, police said.

The truck driver managed to flee after the incident. A probe into the matter was on, the ASP said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has consoled the deaths and directed the officers concerned to ensure the injured get good medical treatment.

Cong names 10 RS candidates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The Congress Sunday announced 10 candidates for the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls, fielding former Union ministers P Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh and Ajay Maken, as well as the party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala.

The list includes two leaders - former Union minister Mukul Wasik (Rajasthan) and Vivek Tankha (Madhya Pradesh) -- who were among the group of 23 leaders who had written to Congress president Sonia Gandhi in 2020 seeking large scale organizational overhaul.

Chidambaram has been fielded from Tamil Nadu, Ramesh from Karnataka, Maken from Haryana and Surjewala from Rajasthan. The party also fielded Pramod Tiwari from Rajasthan, former Union minister Rajeev Shukla and Ranjeet Ranjan from Chhattisgarh and Imran Pratapgari from Maharashtra.

Of the 10 leaders, five are former Union ministers -- Chidambaram, Ramesh, Maken, Shukla and Wasnik. Three belong to Uttar Pradesh -- Shukla, Tiwari and Imran Pratapgari, who is also the head of the minority cell of the Congress.

Of the 55 vacancies arising in the Rajya Sabha in the next two months, seven Congress members -- Chidambaram (Maharashtra), Ramesh (Karnataka), Ambika Soni (Punjab), Tankha (Madhya Pradesh), Pradeep Tanta (Uttarakhand), Kapil Sibal (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhaya Verma (Chhattisgarh) will be completing their terms.

Punjabi singer and Cong leader shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 29: Famous Punjabi singer and Congress leader Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead Sunday by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district, a day after the state government curtailed his security cover.

Moosewala's cousin and a friend, who were travelling in a Mahindra Thar jeep with him, were also injured in the attack which is suspected to be a fallout of inter-gang rivalry, Mansa Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Toora said. Punjab's Director General of Police VK Bhawra said at least three weapons were used and 30 rounds fired in the attack.

Moosewala, 27, had fought on the Congress ticket from Mansa assembly seat in the recent assembly election and was defeated by AAP's Vijay Singla. Leaders of Congress and other political parties expressed shock and anger over the killing and blamed the AAP government for the incident.

Announcing the formation of a Special Investigation Team to probe the murder, the DGP said Moosewala had not taken with him the two Punjab police commandos who were still provided for his security.

The SSP said when Moosewala and his associates reached Jawahar Ke village in Mansa, two vehicles intercepted them and they were hit by a hail of bullets from the occupants of these vehicles. "Moosewala was immediately taken to civil hospital where he was declared brought dead. The two others were stable," said the SSP. The SSP said that the incident could be the result of an inter-gang rivalry.



He said the name of Moosewala's manager had cropped up in the murder case of youth Akali leader Vicky Middukhera last year. The SSP said that there was a rivalry between Lawrence Bishnoi and Lucky Patial gangs and the attack could be connected to it. "We are investigating the matter and we have got some leads," said the SSP.

Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu Moosewala, was among the 424 people whose security was withdrawn or curtailed by the Punjab Police Saturday. As his government drew flak over the killing,



Passengers disembark Maitree Express as passenger train services between India and Bangladesh resumed after a gap of over two years owing to the Covid pandemic, in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

PFI leader arrested in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 29: State council member of Popular Front of India (PFI), Yahiya Thangal was arrested by Kerala police Sunday in a case related to a child's provocative sloganeering during the May 21 rally at Alappuzha titled 'Save the Republic'.

Thangal is also in the dock over a provocative speech Saturday against the Kerala High Court judges.

Police, however, said that the arrest is on the case related to the child's provocative sloganeering as he was one of the organisers of the event in Alappuzha.

Regarding his comments against the judiciary, police said that it was for the High Court to take cognizance of the matter.

Anas, an active worker of the PFI in Erattupetta, Kottayam district who had carried the child on

his shoulders while the boy was rendering the provocative slogan, was the first one to be arrested in the case.

The Alappuzha district president of the PFI, Vandanam Navas and district secretary of the organisation, Mubeeb were also arrested.

The child's father was arrested on Saturday from his residence at Palluruthy in Ernakulam district and he had told the police that the boy had learnt the sloganeering on his own as he had attended several events of the organisation. He also said that the boy had shouted such slogans earlier also and added that it was being made out into a major issue this time.

Ernakulam Assistant Commissioner of Police, V.G. Ravendranath told media persons that the child was subjected to two-hour counselling and would again undergo counselling sessions.

Himachal banks on bumblebee to enhance fruit yield

India has over 48 species of bumblebees in the wild and efforts are underway in the state to utilize them for pollination

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

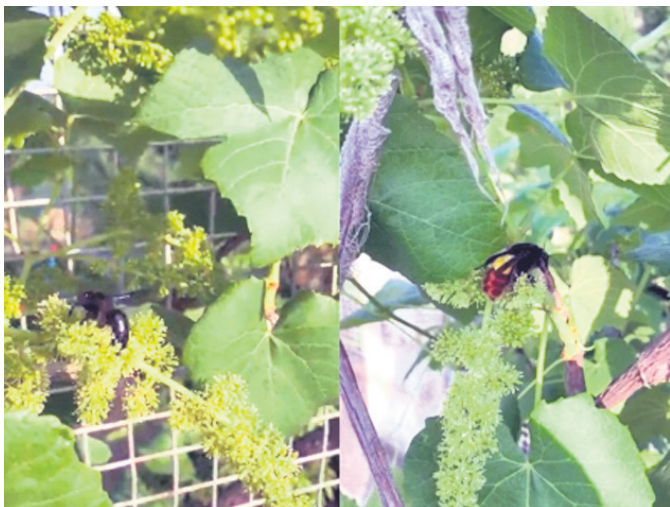
Shimla, May 29: The hard working wild bees and other pollinators play a crucial role in maintaining the ecosystem and are precious allies of the apple cultivators in Himachal Pradesh, which constitutes 89 per cent of the state's fruit economy. But now there is a noticeable decline in the population of the pollen carriers due to the humans' negative impact on the environment.

Researchers at the Dr YS. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry in Nauni near Solan town have been advocating the rearing of commercial bumblebees, a native species, to restore and enhance the

role of bees and benefit the farming community by spiking the crop yield. India has over 48 species of bumblebees in the wild and efforts are underway in the state to utilize them for pollination.

The state is one of the biggest producers of fruits in the country with nearly 2.5 lakh hectares of land under fruit cultivation. Keeping this in mind, the process of pollination by bees becomes very important.

"The bumblebee is an important pollinator and plays a crucial role especially in the hill states like Himachal Pradesh that is the country's major fruit basket. We are developing a technology for commercial rearing of



bumblebees that could increase fruit productivity up to 25 per cent," scientist R.K. Thakur, head of the Department of Entomology, said.

The department initiated bumblebee rearing in 1998.

"The university is developing technology and knowledge from Israeli counterparts to overcome constraints like year-round rearing of queens of bumblebee, mating and hibernation technology under controlled conditions, and tackle the incidence of different diseases and pests," he said.

According to Thakur, the modern houses in the rural areas leave little space to host bees and other

pollinators are also responsible for their massive decline in the wild. Unsustainable agricultural practices, pesticides, pests, habitat destruction and climate crisis are also responsible for their decline.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in celebration of World Bee Day 2022, which falls on May 20, warned of declining pollination services in many parts of the world. Thakur said the bumblebee can be domesticated at lower elevations of this hill state.

"In polyhouses of Haryana, the bumblebee is playing a crucial role in pollination for crops of tomato, brinjal and bell pepper, besides floriculture," Thakur said.

Pak drone with magnetic bombs shot down in Kathua

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 29: Ahead of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, police Sunday shot down a Pakistani drone carrying seven magnetic bombs and as many UBGL grenades in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh said the drone was shot down by a police party in Talli Hariya Chak area of Rajbagh shortly after it crossed over to the Indian side from across the International Border.

This is the third Pakistani drone with a payload of arms and ammunition being shot down by the forces in Jammu sector since June 2020.

Singh said a police search party picked up the movement of the drone in the morning and fired at it. The bomb disposal squad, called to inspect its payload, found seven magnetic bombs and an equal number of grenades compatible with Under Barrel Grenade Launchers (UBGL) attached to it.

He said police search parties were being regularly sent to the area because of the frequent drone activity from across the border. "The police party noticed a hexa-



copter drone and shot it down. Experts are on their way from Jammu to decipher the writing on the two batteries of the drone which we believe is Chinese (language)," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Ramesh Kotwal told reporters at the scene.

He said over the past six to eight months, the police contingents have been carrying out early morning anti-tunnelling, anti-drone and

border sanitisation activities as part of heightened security arrangements, especially in view of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

The SSP requested the border residents to immediately bring to the notice of the police any suspicious object or movement to ensure the overall security of the region.

The 43-day-long Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to begin June 30 on two routes - the traditional

48-km course through Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and the 14km route through central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

The police have termed the recovery of magnetic bombs or sticky bombs a major challenge during this year's annual yatra to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine.

In a first-of-its-kind seizure in February last year, the Border Security Force had recovered a

drone-dropped consignment of 14 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) with in-built magnets along the International border in Samba district.

The in-built magnets could be used as "sticky bombs" by sticking them on vehicles and controlling them using a timer and a remotely-held device.

On April 28, the security forces had detected such an IED on Sidhra bypass in the outskirts of Jammu.

Four IEDs fitted with sticky bombs were recovered in Poonch district in August and September, last year. On June 20, 2020, the BSF had shot down the first Pakistani Hexa-copter drone with a payload of five-and-a-half kilograms, including a sophisticated US-made M4 semi-automatic carbine and seven Chinese grenades at Border Outpost Pansar in Kathua district.

On July 23, 2021, the police had brought down a drone carrying five kilograms of IED along the International Border in Kanhachak area in the outskirts of Jammu.

The security forces had also recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition besides high grade narcotics airdropped by drones from Pakistan over the past couple of years.

Rise in heinous crimes sets alarm bells ringing in Bihar



In a bid to arrest notorious criminals, we have constituted 20 companies and 47 platoons under 'Operation Prahar' and managed to arrest 4,369 criminals till April this year. This includes 378 persons in murder cases, 1,056 accused in attempt to murder, 282 under SC & ST Act, 190 accused were arrested for attacking police personnel and 2,436 accused in other criminal cases

SK SINGHAL | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, BIHAR

The state government is used to transferring SPs, DSPs and other officers from one place to another. Such moves will not address the law and order situation in Bihar. It needs to change the mindset of the people. Honest officers are getting sidelined and corrupt officers are deployed in key areas. I will personally talk to the DGP and Chief Secretary to avoid giving protection to them

VIJAY KUMAR SINHA | SPEAKER OF BIHAR VIDHAN SABHA & BJP LEADER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 29: On May 28, the Sitamarhi police recovered the body of a person named Birju Patel (34) from the Chunarua embankment. He had several stab wounds on his body.

On May 27, the decapitated body of a girl was found in Alawalpur village under Gauri Chak police station on Patna's outskirts. The head was missing from the crime scene.

On the same day (May 27), unidentified robbers targeted the Bank of India branch in Araria district and took away Rs 37.50 lakh in cash and jewellery worth Rs 87.50 lakh kept in the cash box and lockers respectively. On May 20, body of a local journalist Subhash Kumar from Bihar's Begusarai district was found in an area falling under the Parihara police station.

These are some of the recent incidents which establish the rising graph of heinous crimes like murder, rape and loot in Bihar.

As per the data released by Bihar police, the department has witnessed a spike in murder cases. The department has registered 679 murder cases in the first three months of this year. In the corresponding period of 2021 the department had registered 640 murder cases.

However, Bihar police officials claimed that FIRs related to loot, dacoity, rape and violation of the SC & ST Acts have declined a bit. Still, they are a significant number.

In the first three months, the Bihar police registered 631 cases of loot which is slightly less compared to the corresponding period of last year when the department had registered 665 cases. Similarly, 60 cases of dacoity were registered this year, the figure for the same period of last year being 72.

The department had registered 317 cases of rape and gang rape from January 1 to March 31 this year which were 40 cases less compared to the corresponding period of last year when the department had registered 357 FIRs.

The number of cases under SC & ST Acts was 1,385 in the first three months. During the same period last year, the department had registered 1,548 cases.

Bihar Director General of Police SK Singhal, during a meeting Tuesday with SP and SSP rank officers of all 40 districts and also the railway SPs, directed them to take quick action against the accused in heinous crimes like murder, rape and deaths due to consumption of illicit liquor.

"We have directed the SP and SSP rank officers to ensure the arrest of accused involved in heinous crimes within two days. The police Station House Officers will be held responsible for failing to arrest the accused within a given time period. In these cases, if the SHO cannot give a satisfactory answer to the senior officials, the department may take action against them," Singhal said.

The police department has also initiated several measures to check crimes. As per an official, the department had launched "Operation Prahar" and it has been yielding positive results. Apart from murder cases, the number of rapes, dacoities, cases of loot and violation of the SC & ST Acts has come down.

Due to the rising crime graph, the Nitish Kumar government is not only the target of the opposition parties but also of ruling alliance partners like the BJP and the Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM). The BJP and HAM are targeting Nitish Kumar who holds the home portfolio also. This is one of the reasons that soured relations between the BJP and the JD-U.

BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal had raised the frequent crime incidents in Bihar to target the Nitish Kumar government. Though BJP leaders are avoiding raising this issue these days due to the tense political situation with the JD-U, Speaker of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha Vijay Kumar Sinha May 24 slammed the Nitish government for its failure to control crime.

North India's first Industrial Biotech Park opens in Kathua



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, May 29: Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union minister Jitendra Singh Saturday inaugurated north India's first Industrial Biotech Park constructed at Ghatti near Kathua.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor said that the park will transform the economy and enable scientists to tackle challenges of climate change. The enabling infrastructure will fuel new wave of innovation and impact various sectors, from health and agriculture to cosmetics and materials, he added.

The Lt Governor observed that new Industrial Biotech Park at Kathua will provide Start-Ups, Young Entrepreneurs and SMEs the tools that can make production cheaper, manageable and environmentally sustainable. Together with advances in data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, the biotech park will accelerate change, he said adding it will be a vital futuristic asset for agri-horticulture entrepreneurs, start-ups, researchers, youth entrepreneurs and scientists of the region.

With new biotech capabilities and innovation, J&K, bestowed with more than 3,500 medicinal plant species, will be able to harness market advantages in the most effective way and help the farmers to generate more income, he asserted.

Sinha further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister, the new Industrial Development Scheme has enabled J&K to fetch investment of more than Rs 38,800 crore as on dates, which also includes proposals of 338 industrial units associated with the biotech sector in some way or the other.

The establishment of organic based and pharmaceutical companies will definitely be successful in linking the abundant natural wealth neglected for decades with the industry, he added.

The Lt Governor said that another Biotech Park at Handwara, Kupwara is under construction and the park will cost ₹84.66 Crore, shared between Department of Biotechnology, GoI and Science and Technology Department of the UT government.

Meanwhile, Union minister Jitendra Singh said that the Biotech Park would act as hub for incubation of new ideas and will act as a robust platform to support the agri-entrepreneurs, startups, progressive farmers, scientists, scholars and students not only from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh but also from nearby states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

He said that the biotechnology park at Kathua has a potential to produce 25 startups in a year which will be among its great contributions.

THE LAST JOURNEY



Funeral procession of Naik Ramanuj Kumar Yadav was held in Patna, Sunday. Yadav along with six other Army personnel was killed after their bus skidded off the road and fell into the Shyok river in the Turtuk area of Ladakh

PTI PHOTO

PATNA COLLECTORATE DEMOLITION

Vintage steam roadroller awaits rescue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 29: A rare over a century-old steam road roller, built by a British company and once used by the Patna District Board for constructing roads, is languishing in a corner of the district Collectorate campus, many of whose historic buildings have been demolished in the last two weeks.

The road roller, manufactured by John Fowler and Co, Leeds, England, currently lies parked in an open area in front of the Dutch-era district engineer's office building situated on the banks of the Ganga, its iron wheels semi-buried in ground even as labourers shift old files and stocked material from the iconic building and other structures also marked for demolition.

However, talks are on between the district board authorities and Patna Museum authorities to shift this vintage beauty, perhaps a rare specimen of steam-powered road roller, to the premises of the historic museum, as there is a risk of the old machine getting damaged or even worse, buried in debris as demolition activity is being carried out using bulldozers, officials said.

"We have spoken with a senior official at Patna Museum and informed him about this heritage road roller that we have, though it needs restoration. We have also



told them about a very rare, historic printing press machine that we possess, which is housed in the district engineer's office building," said Kumari Stuti, Chairperson, District Board Patna.

"Unfortunately, this building is also set to be demolished, so we thought at least these rare relics of the past be preserved for the future generations," Stuti said.

"We have seen the steam road roller and the old printing machine. The road roller, particularly is very rare, not only for Bihar, but for the whole country. It will make for a great display and people would love it. The printing press machine is also rare and worthy of preser-

vation," said a senior official. The road roller along with the old buildings were popularised by the 'Save Historic Patna Collectorate', said Kumari Stuti, Chairperson, District Board Patna.

After demolition began May 14, its representatives had again appealed to authorities to rescue these historic artefacts, such as the hanging skylight in a room of the district engineer's office building, a vintage wall clock, safety vault, and louvered doors.

Some other artefacts included a ceramic name plate bearing 'district engineer's office' on its facade,

Bradma typing machines; a rare vintage safety vault built by Chubbs company of the UK, embedded in a wall inside the registry office building, a huge old safety vault embedded in a wall in the old treasury section of the DM office building among others.

An old safety vault of British-era was also embedded deep in the floor in a room of the District Board Patna building, which was the first to face the bulldozers, a day after the Supreme Court May 13 had rejected a plea filed by INTACH to save the historic buildings in the Patna Collectorate campus, paving the way for demolition.

The printing press was manufactured by Payne & Sons, Otley, Yorkshire, England, a firm established in 19th century.

The company is also known for the pioneering Wharfedale printing machines, which had revolutionised the printing industry making the printing press in possession of the district board Patna authorities "very rare".

The massive old press machine with "Payne & Sons Otley" embossed on it currently lies in a dark, unkept room in the building, whereas other small rare machines are also dumped next to it, covered in layers of thick dust and cobwebs all over the walls, signifying several years of disuse and neglect.

Srinagar-Baramulla rail link to connect Valley with rest of India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 29: The work of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project, which will connect Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country, is moving at a rapid pace and the railways has put the deadline of its completion in April, 2023.

Under the mega project, platforms and tracks will be built at a height of more than that of Qutab Minar and the running of train at such height is no less than a miracle.

Northern Railway general manager Ashutosh Gangal said that work on the rest of the 111 km, of the total 272 km stretch, is going on at a fast pace. Of the 111 km stretch, 58 km will pass through a tunnel.

The work for the Reasi railway station in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, a part of Jammu-Baramulla line, is in the final leg where concrete slabs have been laid at bridge number 39 built over 105 ft gorge. Of all the pillars installed for the bridge, height of the middle one is more than that of Qutab Minar. The height of pylon above the foundation is 193 metre. The bridge is 331 metre above the sea level and also earthquake resistant.

The bridge will be supported by 96 cables whose length will vary from 82 metres to 295 metres so

KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI



Of all the pillars installed for the bridge, height of the middle one is more than that of Qutab Minar

The height of pylon above the foundation is 193 metre while the bridge is 331 metre above the sea level and also earthquake resistant

hour on this stretch. The work of laying tracks is underway.

Right now, Pylon work has been completed and the construction is on for the deck. This deck will have 15 metre wide composite steel slabs having a depth of ten metre.

The first phase involves the casting of a 196.25 meter long deck with a continuous cast of 370 metric tonnes of reinforced steel and 900 cusecs of concrete.

The remaining part of the government's mega dream project will be completed on a mission mode. With the completion of this project, direct train services will start from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

According to the railways, this project is also important from the strategic point of view. It was declared a national project in 2022.

With evolving global realities, the engines of economic growth are moving towards our region. We have an opportunity here to become partners as the Indian Ocean becomes the centre of the emerging 'age of Asia'

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

The government has not yet thought about further cut in fuel tax

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

Both the Central and the state governments should work together. When the states develop, the nation as a whole will develop

M. VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Student booked

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has registered a case against a JNU student for allegedly molesting a fellow student, an official said Sunday. The case was lodged on the complaint by a third year student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Saturday, the Delhi Police said in a tweet. "A case has been registered U/S 354A/509 IPC at PS Vasantkunj North following a complaint of molestation from a JNU 3rd yr student. Accused, who is her known college mate has joined the investigation. Further probe is on," it tweeted.

Girl raped

New Delhi: An owner of a furniture showroom in South Delhi's Chittaranjan (CR) Park has been booked for allegedly raping a girl after calling her on the pretext of a job interview, police said Sunday. The police is looking into the matter while the accused, who has links to a political party, is on the run. The victim, who lives in East Delhi's Shakurpur, had been looking for a job for a long time. She searched on the internet and found an opening at the furniture showroom in CR Park.

Bike rider killed

Hardoi (Uttar Pradesh): In a tragic accident, a motorbike driver was killed when his bike rrammed into a bus coming from the opposite direction near the Tutiara village in Hardoi. The accident happened late Saturday night. The bike hit the diesel tank of the bus when it slid under the vehicle. The tank burst and the bus caught fire. All the passengers belonging to a marriage party were quickly evacuated but one youth, identified as Shobhit, received serious injuries.

Houses vandalised

English Bazar (WB): Crude bombs were hurled and houses were vandalised as two factions of the TMC clashed in West Bengal's Malda district, triggering tension among the people. The incident happened in Gopalpur Balutola area in Manikchak block on Saturday as a group of TMC workers led by panchayat samiti office-bearer Saifuddin Sheikh clashed with the faction led by the party's area president Nasir Ali.

Man dead

Mumbai: A 23-year-old man died and his sister was seriously injured after they were hit by a speeding car allegedly driven by a person in a heavily inebriated state in the early hours of Sunday, a Mumbai police official said. The incident took place on Mahim Causeway when the deceased Moiz Ansari and his sister were travelling on a scooter on their way to Dongri, the official said.



While crores of youth are frustrated and disappointed due to non-availability of recruitment, there are 60 lakh 'sanctioned posts' vacant in the country if 'government figures' are to be believed

VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

JHARKHAND TO GET WHO AWARD

Recognising its efforts in controlling tobacco consumption, the World Health Organization (WHO) has selected Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022, an official said Sunday



Goa's golden beaches turn murky as tar balls surface on seashore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, May 29: The Goa government has vowed to give clean and safe beaches to the tourists visiting the coastal state and also to the people of Goa so they can enjoy the environment and cherish the memories. However, it is facing the menace of tar balls, which are back on Goa's beaches deterring people from walking barefoot.

Tar balls - greasy blobs of thick weathered oil that wash ashore -- have started surfacing on the state's coastline. Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has said that he has informed the shipping ministry and the Pollution Control Board says they have taken measures. However, Drishti Marine, Goa's state-appointed professional lifeguard agency, has cautioned the beach

visitors to be careful if walking barefoot on the seashore.

The annual tar ball phenomenon not only harms human beings, but also affects the marine life. A study conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography in 2013 had reported that the tar ball being carcinogenic, it affects marine life and tar ball pollution degrades the coastal waters off Goa. Thus this has become a concern about the environment and is affecting the traditional fish catching activities in the coastal state. Fish being a staple food of Goans, the fishermen have also raised an alarm.

The stakeholders from the tourism sector blame the authorities and hold Bombay High and ONGC responsible for spilling oil in the high seas, which results in the tar balls. However, the gov-



ernment says it doesn't have conclusive evidence against ONGC.

"This spillage doesn't take place directly from Goa or ships. Various

departments are working together to keep a check and to have control over it. The Pollution Control Board has been given the mandate to act

Monsoon hits Kerala



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/New Delhi, May 29: The Southwest Monsoon has set in over Kerala on Sunday, three days ahead of its usual date of June 1, marking the start of the four-month rainy season that is crucial for India's farm-based economy.

Kerala has been receiving rainfall since Saturday and 10 out of the 14 weather monitoring stations in the state have received more than 2.5 mm rains, thus fulfilling the criteria for the onset of monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

"Southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala on Sunday, May 29, against the normal date of onset of June 1," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said. However, while the monsoon has advanced over Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu, the Bay of Bengal arm of the weather system was sluggish as it continued to linger just above the Andaman Islands.

The Extended Range Forecast issued by the IMD has suggested that the progress of the monsoon over Karnataka and entire north-east India could be slow.

Earlier, the IMD had forecast onset over Kerala on May 27 with help from the remnants of Cyclone Asani, which struck the Bay of Bengal a fortnight ago. The forecast had a model error of four days. However, the influence of the remnant weather systems, that lingered over the southern peninsula, petered out, dashing the forecast of an early onset over Kerala and

swift progress towards the north.

The other criteria for declaring the onset of monsoon over Kerala are - depth of westerly winds extending up to 4.5 km above sea level, strong westerly winds and outgoing long radiation (OLR) less than 200 W/M2 over the region. "All conditions for the onset of monsoon over Kerala have been satisfied on Sunday, May 29, 2022," the weather office said in a statement on Sunday.

It noted that cloudiness had increased over the southeast Arabian Sea and adjoining areas of Kerala, while the OLR was 189 W/M2 and westerly winds were blowing at a speed of 25-25 km per hour.

Conditions were favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some parts of central Arabian Sea, remaining parts of Kerala, some major parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, during next three to four days.

The IMD had declared the onset of monsoon over Andaman & Nicobar Islands on May 16 and had forecast rapid advance over peninsula India towards the end of May. The ERF shows that the rainfall activity will remain normal to below normal till about June 8 along these areas.

All southern states/UTs have received above-normal rainfall since March to May 28: Karnataka (136 per cent), Lakshadweep (112 per cent), Kerala (98 per cent), Puducherry (87 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (34 per cent). Only Telangana (minus 28 per cent) remains rain deficient during the pre-monsoon season.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Siliguri, May 29: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar Sunday said that issues were being created over his position and responsibilities as the chancellor of universities to divert attention from the pressing problems in the state.

He said that the matter was raised in December, 2021, too. "This is a ploy to generate media optics to divert attention (from pressing problems). "I am not concerned about what the government does unless the papers come to me. As and when papers come to me, I will take a call according to constitutional provisions," he told reporters

97 children fall ill after having 'pani puri'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, May 29: Ninety-seven children have taken ill after eating 'pani puri' at a fair in Singarpur of Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district.

The children from the nearby villages, who had gone to a fair on Saturday and had pani puri there, complained of stomach pain and vomiting. Parents of the ailing kids started rushing them to hospital but by the time police got information, the fair was over.

"Number of children complained of stomach pain and vomiting. We have received information about the incident. It was learnt that children who suffered with pain and vomiting had consumed pani-puri at the same stall. Search to identify pani-puri seller is underway," a police official in Mandla said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bagalkot, May 29: An FIR has been lodged against seven people, including principal, sub inspectors and five others in connection with alleged thrashing of a student for wearing a skull cap on the premises of a college in Karnataka, police said Sunday.

The case has been filed as per the directions of the local Banahatti JMFC court by Teradala police station in Bagalkot district of the state. Naveed Hasan Saab Tharathari, a college student, had submitted a petition in the court in this regard.

In his petition, Naveed had said

FRESH ROW



here, before leaving for Darjeeling, when asked about his reaction to the attempt to replace him as the ex-officio chancellor of state-run universities.

The Bengal cabinet has recently given its nod to a proposal that seeks to replace the governor with chief minister as the chancellor of

Dhankhar and the TMC government have been at loggerheads over several issues since he took charge as Governor in July, 2019

state-run universities. The proposal is set to get tabled in the Assembly in the form of a bill.

Dhankhar noted that "a bill becomes an act only when the governor signs on it. An ordinance is also issued when the governor gives consent". Maintaining that the recruitment process for jobs in ed-



Rosy pelicans cool off inside the National Zoological Park on a hot day in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Student thrashed for skull cap

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

In his petition, Naveed said that when he came to the Government First Grade College of Teradal wearing a skull cap, he was insulted and prevented from entering the institution

that on February 18, when he came to the Government First Grade College of Teradal wearing a skull cap, he was insulted and prevented from entering the institution, "be-

littling" his religious sentiments.

He had prayed before the court to lodge complaint against the Principal and police sub-inspector who boycotted him from the college, "insulting" his religion.

Considering the petition, the court had ordered the police to lodge an FIR against the accused.

The court will take up the case for hearing on June 30. Jamakhandi Deputy SP has been made investigator of the case. Earlier, Principal A.S. Pujara had lodged a police complaint against Naveed and his father accusing them of assaulting him and obstructing him from discharging his duty.

Judge's wife found dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The wife of a local court judge was found hanging from a ceiling fan at her brother's residence in South Delhi, police said Sunday.

Three suicide notes were recovered from the flat in Rajpur Khurd Extension, they said. Around 10.30 pm on Saturday, the Saket court judge informed the police that his wife had been to the Malviya Nagar market at around 11.30 am but did not return. He filed a missing complaint at the Saket police station and investigation was carried out, a senior police officer said.

Police checked the CCTV footage and found the 42-year-old woman boarding an auto-rickshaw. During an inquiry, the auto-rickshaw driver informed the police that he had dropped the judge's wife at Rajpur Khurd. The officer said this information was shared with the judge, who confirmed that his brother-in-law lived in that area, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said.

The judge, accompanied by the police, reached the building and found the flat to be latched from outside. The police gained entry into the flat after breaking the iron grills only to find the woman hanging from the ceiling fan with a 'dupatta', the DCP said.

"It was a vacant flat on the first floor. Her brother's family lives on the second floor. Three suicide notes were also found. The body has been shifted to AIIMS mortuary," the officer said, adding that investigation was underway.

of the day quote

Pakistan is expected to reach an agreement with the IMF next month to resurrect an enhanced bailout package to support the cash-strapped country's sagging economy

MIFTAH ISMAIL | PAKISTAN FINANCE MINISTER

The audiotape that surfaced recently exposes Imran Khan's hypocrisy & double standards

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

While keeping the national interest, mutual benefits and respect, the government is committed to strengthening and seeping its relations with neighbours and all friendly nations. And the government is also committed to protect the land belonging to Nepal

SHER BAHADUR DEUBA | NEPAL'S PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Mexico confirms 1st monkeypox case

Mexico City: Mexican health authorities have confirmed the country's first imported case of monkeypox, which was detected in the capital city. "This is a 50-year-old person, a permanent resident of New York City, who was probably infected in the Netherlands," said Undersecretary of Prevention and Health Promotion Hugo Lopez-Gatell.

Indian aid supply begins in Lanka

Colombo: The distribution of aid, including rice and milk powder, received under the Indian Line of Credit to low-income families in Sri Lanka has commenced, the Food Commissioner's Department said Sunday. Food Commissioner JP Krishnamurthy said that distribution of the aid to low-income families in all 25 districts, including Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Mullaitivu, Ampara, and others, has already commenced.

B'desh: 10 killed in bus accident

Dhaka: A passenger bus veered off the road and rammed into a roadside tree in Southwestern Bangladesh Sunday, killing at least 10 people, including a minor, police said. The accident happened in Barishal district's Wazirpur after the bus driver lost control of the vehicle. "Ten people lost their lives almost immediately and 20 others wounded after the bus hit a roadside tree in Barishal on Sunday morning," a senior police official said.

Landslides, floods kill 31

Brasilia: Landslides caused by heavy rains killed at least 29 people in the state of Pernambuco in northeast Brazil Saturday, authorities said. In Alagoas, another state in the region, two people died when they were swept away in river flooding Friday. More than 1,000 people have been forced to leave their homes because of the flooding in Pernambuco, civil defense officials said.

25 missing after cargo boat sinks

Makassar (Indonesia): Rescuers in Indonesia were searching for 25 people who were missing after a cargo boat sank in the Makassar Strait in South Sulawesi province, officials said Sunday.

Zelenskyy visits frontline in first official appearance

AGENCIES

Pokrovsk (Ukraine), May 29: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited troops on the frontline in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region Sunday, his first official appearance outside the Kyiv region since the start of Russia's invasion February 24.

"You risk your lives for us all and for our country," the President's office website cited him as telling the soldiers, adding that he handed out commendations and gifts.

Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, wrote on the Telegram app that the president had also visited Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv.

Yermak said Zelenskyy toured destroyed residential buildings, noting that their replacements had

Can't say 'yes' to Finnish, Swedish NATO bids: Erdogan

Istanbul: Turkey's president has told journalists he still intends to block Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO. Recep Tayyip Erdogan said meetings this week with Finnish and Swedish delegations had not been "at the expected level", noting there had been no steps taken to alleviate Turkey's security concerns. "As long as Tayyip Erdogan is at the head of the Republic of Turkey, we cannot say 'yes' to countries that support terror joining NATO," he told journalists on his plane following a visit to Azerbaijan Saturday.

Russia conducts another test-launch of Tsirkon missile

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Moscow, May 29: Russian frigate Admiral Gorshkov successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile from the Barents Sea, the Defence Ministry said.

The missile Saturday hit a naval target about 1,000 km away in the White Sea and the flight of the projectile corresponded to the designed parameters, *Xinhua* news agency quoted the Ministry as saying.

The Tsirkon missile has been test-fired several times from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate and a nuclear-powered submarine.

President Vladimir Putin said the Tsirkon missile is capable of flying at Mach 9 or nine times the speed of sound and striking a target over 1,000 km away.

2 Indians among 21 new cardinals named by Pope

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vatican City, May 29: Two Indian churchmen were among 21 who will be elevated by Pope Francis to the rank of cardinal in a ceremony at the Vatican in August, it was announced Sunday.

The two Cardinals from India



Ukrainian defenders hold out in Donbas city

Ukrainian forces were Sunday resisting a Russian assault on Sievierodonetsk, the largest city they still hold in the eastern Donbas region, but were weathering heavy artillery barrages, Ukrainian officials said. The shelling was so intense it was not possible to assess casualties and damage, the governor of Luhansk region, Serhiy Gaidai, said. Dozens of buildings have been destroyed in the past few days. "The situation has extremely escalated," Gaidai said. The Ukrainian government meanwhile urged the West to provide it with more longer-range weapons in order to turn the tide in the war, now in its fourth month.

to be built with bomb shelters in place.

The president's chief of staff added that 31% of Kharkiv region's territory was currently occupied by Russia, and a further 5% had been taken back by Ukraine having been occupied earlier.

RUSSIAN TROOPS STORM

Russian and Ukrainian troops engaged in close-quarter combat in an eastern Ukraine city Sunday as Moscow's soldiers, supported by intense shelling, attempted to gain strategic footholds in the region while facing fierce Ukrainian

resistance.

Ukrainian regional officials reported that Russian forces were "storming" the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk, where the fighting has knocked out power and cellphone services and terrorised civilians who haven't fled.

Sievierodonetsk, a manufacturing centre, has emerged as an epi-centre of Russia's quest to conquer Ukraine's industrial Donbas region.

Russia also stepped up its efforts to take nearby Lysychansk, where Ukrainian officials reported constant shelling.



NATURE'S DELIGHT: Birds sit on tree branches in front of a mountain range near Pokhara, Nepal

MATTER OF CONCERN

The number of fires breaking out in plastic recycling plants has soared in Turkey. Experts and activists suspect it's not a coincidence, believing that some entrepreneurs want to get rid of unwanted rubbish sometimes imported from Europe



Unrest erupts at Jerusalem holy site ahead of march

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, May 29: Nearly 2,000 Jewish pilgrims visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site early Sunday ahead of a nationalist parade through the Old City, prompting Palestinians barricaded inside the Al Aqsa Mosque to throw rocks and fireworks at the visitors and nearby Israeli police.

Some 3,000 Israeli police were deployed throughout the city ahead of Sunday's march, in which flag-waving Israeli nationalists planned to walk through the heart of the Old City's main Palestinian thoroughfare.

Israel says the march is meant to celebrate its capture of east Jerusalem, including the Old City, in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel has annexed east Jerusalem in a move that isn't internationally recognised and claims all of the city as its capital. But Palestinians, who seek east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state, see the march as a provocation.

Last year, the parade helped trigger an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants.

Ahead of the march, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that "flying the flag of Israel in the capital of Israel is an obvious thing" and that Israel had made this clear "from the first moment." At the same time, he asked participants to celebrate in a "responsible and respectful manner." Thousands of people normally take part in the march through the Muslim Quarter of the Old City, including some who shout out nationalistic or racist slogans toward the Palestinians, before making their way to the Western Wall in the Jewish Quarter. Last year, after weeks of Israeli-Palestinian unrest in Jerusalem, authorities changed the route of the march at the last minute to avoid the Muslim Quarter.

Schools around US boost security



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austin, May 29: In the aftermath of the elementary school massacre in Uvalde, Texas, schools around the US have brought in additional security staff and restricted visitors as they deal with a new rash of copycat threats.

For some families and educators it all has added to uneasiness in the wake of the deadliest school shooting since the 2012 attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Jake Green, 34, of Los Alamos, New Mexico, was jolted when he saw a plainclothes police officer for the first time while walking his seven-year-old daughter into school Friday morning.

He grew up in Colorado, not far from where two Columbine High School students shot and killed 12 classmates and a teacher in 1999. Green remembers attending memorials and candlelight vigils as a fifth-grader, but he's torn about whether having police at his daughter's school is best. The El Paso Independent School District has already encountered some reported threats that turned out to be false.

They were either "students joking or overly-sensitive parents," said Gustavo Reveles Acosta, a district spokesperson. "Our community is still raw from that incident," Acosta said. "It hits us in a

Biden grieves with Texas

Uvalde: President Joe Biden landed in the Texas town of Uvalde Sunday to comfort families ripped apart by the worst US school shooting in a decade as the public demands answers about why local police failed to act swiftly. There was mounting anger over the decision by local law enforcement agencies in Uvalde to allow the shooter to remain in a classroom for nearly an hour while officers waited in the hallway and children inside the room made panicked 911 calls for help.

pretty emotional way."

The district, which has its own police department, has also stepped up patrolling at all 85 campuses. Officers have been pulled from monitoring traffic or other duties. Schools already have updated camera surveillance systems. Visitors are required to ring a doorbell and show identification before they can enter. In Buffalo, New York, where a white gunman fatally shot 10 people in a racist attack in a supermarket May 14, the largest school district announced new security rules effective immediately.

Any visitors — parents, siblings, vendors — have to call ahead for approval. No exceptions will be made.

SL PM proposes to strengthen Parliament like done in India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, May 29: Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Sunday stressed that the crisis-ridden nation's Parliament should be strengthened with more powers as done in India and other countries.

Making a special statement, Wickremesinghe proposed that a system similar to that of pre-independence state council should be introduced to monitor public finances and create powerful and stronger laws to enable the Parliament to exercise monetary powers. "Now we need to change the structure of our Parliament and create a new system by combining the existing system of Parliament or the Westminster system and the system of State Councils. In those cases, the Parliament can participate in governing the country," the PM stated.

During his address, Wickremesinghe also stressed that there were two major issues in the political spheres - constitutional change with 21st Amendment to weaken the powers of Executive President and strengthening the Parliament, and to abolish the Executive Presidency. He charged that functioning of the Parliament has been paralysed due to the weakening of the Parliamentary powers by the 20th Amendment which was introduced by Mahinda Rajapaksa's government.



First of all, the existing laws need to be strengthened in order to give those powers to Parliament in the exercise of monetary powers. Following the example of countries such as the United Kingdom, New Zealand and India, we are proposing a stronger and more powerful law

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE I
SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER

"There is an allegation that even though the ruling party had a majority in the Parliament, it neglected the work of the Parliament. Everything was systematically controlled by the Cabinet ministers," Wickremesinghe said. To face the economic crisis, the premier proposed to appoint five committees to monitor public finances and find solutions to the problems faced by banks and financial institutions, besides appointing 10 other supervisory committees.

Beijing, Shanghai ease Cov curbs as outbreaks fade

AGENCIES

Beijing, May 29: Shoppers returned to the malls of Beijing Sunday as the Chinese capital relaxed pandemic restrictions after declaring a small but persistent Covid-19 outbreak effectively under control.

A partial reopening of stores and offices in Beijing was welcomed by a weary populace and struggling shopkeepers eager for life to return to normal.

Coupled with a gradual easing of restrictions in Shanghai, it signalled that the worst is over in the twin outbreaks in China's most prominent cities.

The lockdowns and other re-

strictions under China's "zero-Covid" strategy have increasingly frustrated residents as they see other countries ease up and reopen their borders.

Some have resisted and staged protests at apartment complexes and university dormitories, in an authoritarian country where people think twice about speaking out publicly because of possible repercussions. Restaurants remain closed in Beijing, except for takeout and delivery, and many people in Shanghai still can only go out with special passes and for a limited time period, even as the number of new cases has plummeted.

Officials tend to err on the side of caution under a system that



- Shanghai to remove many Covid curbs on firms
- City announces more tweaks to testing requirements
- Beijing reopens some public transport, some malls

readily punishes them for lax enforcement if outbreaks flare up or come back. China recorded 293

new cases Saturday, of which 78 were among people who had arrived from overseas.

N Korea moves to soften restrictions

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and other top officials discussed revising stringent anti-epidemic restrictions during a meeting Sunday, state media reported, as they maintained a widely disputed claim that the country's first Covid-19 outbreak is slowing. The discussion at the North's Politburo meeting suggests it will soon relax a set of draconian curbs imposed after its admission of the omicron outbreak this month out of concern about its food and economic situations.

Shanghai had the most non-imported cases, with 122, and Beijing had 21. That's in a population of more than 20 million people in both cities. Beijing allowed public parks, gyms and cinemas to reopen Sunday, all at 50 per cent of their capacity. A portion of the Great Wall in a rural part of Beijing,

about 60 kilometres from downtown, reopens to visitors Monday. Xu Hejian, a city spokesperson, said Saturday that sporadic cases are still being found in some districts, but they are within a controllable range. "This round of outbreak has been put under effective control," he said.

of the day quote

With the Goa Start Up Policy and World Class Infrastructure like Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Tuem, Goa is set to contribute in India's success story in Start Up sector

PRAMOD SAWANT | CM, GOA

The company plans to invest around ₹600-650 crore to come up with the required infrastructure over the next 18 months

YATIN GUPTA | MD, WARDWIZARD INNOVATIONS AND MOBILITY

We have some of the largest partnerships in the market and any new partnerships which are coming up potentially, we are happy to look at it, but if it doesn't come to us, we are happy to compete, no issues

SANJEEV MOGHE | PRESIDENT & HEAD - CARDS & PAYMENTS, AXIS BANK

SHORT TAKES

7 of top-10 cos add ₹1.16L cr in m-cap

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of seven of the 10 most valued firms jumped by ₹1,16,048.1 crore last week, with HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest gainer. The market valuation of HDFC Bank jumped ₹39,358.5 crore to reach ₹7,72,514.65 crore. While Infosys, HUL, ICICI Bank, HDFC, SBI and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the other winners from the top-10 list, Reliance Industries, TCS and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) emerged as the laggards. Last week, the Sensex climbed 558.27 points or 1.02 per cent. In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic company, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, HUL, LIC, ICICI Bank, HDFC, SBI and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

JK Tyre lines up ₹1,100cr capex

New Delhi: JK Tyre and Industries has planned a capital expenditure of ₹1,100 crore till next financial year, company's CFO Sanjeev Aggarwal said. The tyre maker plans to invest in capacity expansion as well as regular maintenance of the existing infrastructure. "Total spend over the next two years, ie, FY23 and FY24 would be ₹1,100 crore, including maintenance capex of around ₹300 crore," Aggarwal said in an analyst call. The majority of the capex -- ₹530 crore-- will go into the passenger car radial (PCR) capacity expansion. The company has also lined up capacity expansion of truck bus radial (TBR) at its unit Cavendish Industries.

EV maker BGauss to invest ₹40crore

New Delhi: Electric two-wheeler maker BGauss Auto Pvt Ltd plans to invest around ₹40 crore to double production capacity to 2 lakh units annually by next year, according to a top company official. The company plans to have five to six products in the high-speed electric scooters segment after two years. It is also eyeing around 8-10 per cent of the fast-growing electric two-wheeler market in three years' time. "This year we are targeting (to sell) around 80,000 to 1 lakh vehicles," BGauss Auto Founder and Managing Director Hemant Kabra told PTI. With plans to sell around 1 lakh units in the ongoing fiscal, BGauss Auto is now gearing up to increase its capacity to meet future demand. Asked about investment on capacity enhancement, he said, "We will be investing close to around Rs 40 crore."



The total valuation of these unicorns is more than \$330 billion, that is, more than ₹25 lakh crore. Certainly, this is a matter of pride for every Indian. Even in global pandemic, our startups have been creating wealth and value

NARENDRA MODI | PM

BoM TOPS LOAN GROWTH CHART

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2021-22. The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 26 per cent increase in gross advances at ₹1,35,240 crore at the end of March 2022



US, not China, is India's biggest trading partner

Trade experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the US will continue in the coming years also as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in further strengthening the economic ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The US surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2021-22, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at \$119.42 billion as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the US increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22 from \$51.62 billion in previous fiscal year, while imports rose to \$43.31 billion as compared to about \$29 billion in 2020-21.

During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at \$115.42 billion as compared to \$86.4 billion in 2020-21, the data showed.

Exports to China marginally increased to \$21.25 billion last fiscal year from \$21.18 billion in 2020-21, while imports jumped to \$94.16 billion from about \$65.21 billion in 2020-21. Trade gap rose to \$72.91 billion in 2021-22 from \$44 billion in previous fiscal year.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations Vice President Khalid Khan said, "In the coming years, the bilateral trade between



FY22 TRADE DATA

Bilateral trade between the US and India stood at \$119.42 billion as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21

Two-way commerce with China aggregated at \$115.42 billion as compared to \$86.4 billion in 2020-21

UAE with \$72.9 billion, was the third largest trading partner followed by Saudi Arabia (\$42.85 billion), Iraq (\$34.33 billion) and Singapore (\$30 billion)

India and the US will continue to grow. India has joined a US-led initiative to set up an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and this move would help boost economic ties further."

Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director of the Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM), Bangalore, too said that India is home to 1.39 billion people with the world's

third largest consumer market and the fastest growing market economy with unparalleled demographic dividend provides enormous opportunities for the US and Indian firms for technology transfer; manufacturing, trade and investment. "Major export items from India to the US include petroleum polished diamonds, pharmaceutical products, jewellery, light oils and petroleum, frozen shrimp, made ups etc. Whereas major imports from the US include petroleum, rough diamonds, liquified natural gas, gold, coal, waste and scrap, almonds etc," Joshi said.

America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus. In 2021-22, India had a trade surplus of \$32.8 billion with the US.

The data showed that China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 till 2017-18 and also in 2020-21. Before China, the UAE was the country's largest trading partner.

India is emerging as a trusted trading partner and global firms are reducing their dependence only on China for their supplies and are diversifying business into other countries like India

KHALID KHAN | VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

NCLT allows insolvency proceedings against NTC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered to initiate insolvency proceedings against state-run National Textile Corporation (NTC) after admitting a plea by one of its operational creditors claiming default of around ₹14 lakh.

The New Delhi bench of the NCLT has also appointed Amit Talwar as an interim resolution professional (IRP), suspending the board of NTC and has also declared a moratorium against the PSU as per the provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

A two-member NCLT bench also rejected the claims of NTC and said the dispute it raised over the due amount claimed by its operational creditor is merely a "moonshine dispute" and said default has occurred for the payment.

This is probably for the first time since the code has come into effect that insolvency proceedings against a central government-owned public sector unit (PSU) has been initiated.

NTC is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Textile, Government of India. It is engaged in the production of yarn and fabric through its 23 mills in operation, located all over India.

The NCLT direction came over a petition filed by Hero Solar Energy Private Ltd (HSEPL) through its counsel Pallav Mongia, claiming a default of ₹13.84 lakh for two contracts for installing solar rooftop power projects.

The matter relates to an almost six-year-old contract. NTC had awarded a work order in May 2016 in Tamil Nadu for a total 780 kWp grid-connected rooftop solar power PV system.

As per the contract of both the projects, the amount of ₹2.21 crore towards Project 1 and ₹1.86 crore towards Project 2 become due upon the completion of work December, 2016 and April, 2017, respectively.

GRIM SITUATION

India likely to face another power crisis in July-August

CREA said the power crisis that the country is facing was not due to coal production but "distribution and official apathy"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: A lower pre-monsoon coal stock at thermal power plants in India is suggestive of another power crisis in July-August, independent research organisation CREA has said. The current coal stock stands at 13.5 million tonne at pithead power stations and 20.7 MT cumulatively at all power plants across the country.

"The data compiled from official sources suggest that the coal power plants are in no position to address even a minor spike in the power demand and there is a need to plan for coal transportation well in advance,"



Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air's (CREA) latest report 'Failure to load: India's power crisis is a coal management crisis'.

The Central Electricity Authority of India (CEA) has predicted a peak power demand of 214 GW in August. In addition, the average energy demand could also increase to more than what it is in the month of May to 1,33,426 million units (MUs).

"The onset of the southwest monsoon will further hamper min-

FPI sell-off continues; pull out ₹39K cr from equities in May so far



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29: Continuing their selling spree, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have dumped Indian equities worth over ₹39,000 crore this month so far amid rising bond yields in the US, an appreciating dollar and prospects of more aggressive rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

Going ahead, FPI inflow into India is likely to remain volatile, given the headwinds in terms of elevated crude prices, inflation and tight monetary policy, according to Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

Foreign investors have remained net sellers for the seven months to April 2022, withdrawing a massive ₹1.65 lakh crore from equities. FPIs turned net investors in the first week of April due to a correction in the markets and invested ₹7,707 crore in equities.

However, after a short breather, they once again turned net sellers in the subsequent weeks.

FPIs have dumped equities worth a net ₹39,137 crore during May 2-27, data with depositories showed. Two trading sessions are still left in the month.

Himanshu Srivastava, Associate

With this, the net outflow by foreign investors from equities has reached ₹1.66 lakh crore so far in 2022

Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said investors are also cautious due to the fear that high inflation could hamper corporate profits and impact consumer spending.

These factors, along with the continuation of war between Russia and Ukraine, could further dislodge global economic growth.

On the domestic front too, concerns over surging inflation as well as further rate hikes by the RBI, and its impact on the economic growth, loomed large, he added.

In addition to equities, FPIs withdrew a net amount of about ₹6,000 crore from the debt market during the period under review.

Apart from India, other emerging markets, including Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines, too have witnessed outflows in the month of May till date.

Musk tops list of highest-paid CEOs, followed by Cook

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, May 29: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has topped the list of the most highly compensated CEOs on the Fortune 500 in 2021.

After Musk, the 10 most highly compensated Fortune 500 CEOs of 2021 are all tech and biotech CEOs, including the heads of Apple (Tim Cook), Netflix (Reed Hastings), and Microsoft (Satya Nadella).

In 2021, Musk "realized" compensation worth almost \$23.5 billion, from exercising some Tesla stock options awarded in a 2018 multiyear "moonshot" grant. That was -- by far -- the biggest CEO payday in 2021, according to Fortune.

Tesla ranked 65 on this year's Fortune 500. The company had a blockbuster in 2021, bringing in \$53.8 billion in revenue, up 71 per cent from 2020.

Meanwhile, the Apple CEO earned \$770.5 million in 2021 alone, mostly as a part of a 10-year grant of shares worth \$1.7 billion. The tech giant ranks 3 on the Fortune 500.

Hang, the co-founder of NVIDIA, and Reed Hastings of Netflix bagged third and fourth spots, respectively.

KING OF INDIAN ROADS 2.0

Hindustan Motors goes electric; plans EV avatar of Ambassador

The Hindustan Motors Ambassador once held 75% market share in the Indian automobile market, and faced a tough challenge from more affordable and smaller cars like the Maruti 800

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 29: The iconic Ambassador car, once the country's darling and the symbol of the powerful elite, is planning to make a comeback in Indian automobile market, though in a brand new electric avatar this time and is ex-

pected to hit roads in two years.

According to media reports, Hind Motor Financial Corporation of India (HMFICI) has reportedly collaborated with French carmaker Peugeot to redesign the Ambassador-fondly known as the 'King of Indian roads'. The two companies have already signed a



Uttam Bose, Director of Hindustan Motors said work is underway to bring out the new look 'Amby'

Ambassador 2.0 could be launched in India in the next 2 years

MoU to officiate the partnership, the reports added. The duo have also started creating new design and

new engines for the upcoming sedan. It must be noted that all the rights of the Ambassador brand

now lies with Peugeot as it has bought the same from Hindustan Motors for ₹80 crore in 2017.

According to Uttam Bose, Director, Hindustan Motors, work is underway to bring out the new look 'Amby'. He also confirmed that mechanical and design work for the new engine has reached an advanced stage.

The Kolkata based manufacturer plans to bring on road an EV giant in Indian market which is witnessing exponential growth due to surge in fuel prices. With this move the auto manufacturer will also venture into the ever growing electric 2 and 4 wheeler space. The report says that the company

will initially produce electric two-wheelers and eventually expand its operations to manufacture cars.

Reports also said the controlling stake of the combined entity would be with Hindustan Motors as the collaboration between Hindustan Motors and the European EV maker will be on a 51:49 ratio respectively.

The new electric car will be manufactured in Hindustan Motors' Chennai plant, which once used to produce Mitsubishi cars, reports said. The last Ambassador car was rolled out from Hindustan Motors' Uttarpara plant in West Bengal in September 2014.

TITANS ARE NEW IPL KINGS

SKIPPER HARDIK PANDYA LEADS FROM THE FRONT TO SCRIPT EMPHATIC VICTORY FOR GUJARAT



MEMORABLE MOMENT: Players of Gujarat Titans celebrate after winning the IPL 2022 title, Sunday

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, May 29: He came, he saw, he conquered. A lot had been written about Hardik Pandya at the start of IPL-2022 when he was named the captain of Gujarat Titans. There were apprehensions as to whether an injury-plagued Pandya was the right man to lead a new franchise. However, in the end, the Baroda all-rounder had the biggest smile on his face Sunday. Under his leadership, the Gujarat Titans (GT), the debutants in the cash-rich tournament, had won their maiden title. It couldn't have been a better fairytale ending.

There have also been discussions in the recent past about the

next generation of captains for the Indian cricket team. Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul, all had their fair share of takers. After May 29, 2022 another name will certainly be added on to that list... that of Hardik Pandya. He led from the front, was innovative, never afraid to do the unconventional and above all always ready to take the centre stage in the big games. What more can you ask from a skipper.

The skipper also played his role to perfection Sunday as GT thrashed Rajasthan Royals (RR) by seven wickets to win the coveted trophy. Pandya (3/17) had probably saved his best bowling effort for the final. He dismissed Jos Buttler (39, 35b, 5x4), Sanju Samson (14) and



MAN OF THE FINAL: Hardik Pandya is delighted after dismissing Jos Buttler of Rajasthan Royals

PTI PHOTO

Shimron Hetmyer (11) as GT restricted the Royals to 130 for nine

BRIEF SCORES

Rajasthan Royals 130 for 9 (Jos Buttler 39, Hardik Pandya 3/17, Sai Kishore 2/20, Rashid Khan 1/18) lost to **Gujarat Titans 133 for 3 in 18.1 overs** (Shubman Gill 45 n o, Hardik Pandya 34, David Miller 32 n o) by 7 wickets.

after the latter had elected to bat after winning the toss. Then as GT tottered a little in

their chase of the target Pandya (34, 30b, 3x4, 1x6) added 63 runs for the third wicket with Shubman Gill (45 n o, 43b, 3x4, 1x6) to put his team in a position from where they would never lose. Then David Miller (32 n o, 19b, 3x4, 1x6) delivered the coup de grace to take the team through to the top of the podium.

Earlier RR did not have the best time after electing to bat. With more than a lakh supporting the home team, Gujarat bowlers were able to maintain the pressure on the opposition though Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal (22) tried their best to break free. However, once

Jaiswal fell, RR continued losing wickets at regular intervals and could never post even a par score on a pitch that was tailor-made for batting.

Buttler, who began his innings with a crisp square cut, was joined by Samson after the fall of Jaiswal. Pandya immediately introduced Rashid Khan (1/18), but both batters did not take any chances.

The in-form Buttler decided to force the issue as he drove Lockie Ferguson over the cover fielder before cutting him for successive boundaries even though the Kiwi clocked the fastest ball of the tournament at 157.3 kmph.

Samson did not last long as Pandya removed him with the second ball of his spell. Pandya hit the hard length and Samson went for the pull shot only to be caught on the off-side, leaving Rajasthan at 60 for two in 8.2 overs.

Rajasthan's struggles worsened when Devdutt Padikkal (2) and Buttler departed in a space of three balls.

Rashid ended the painful stay of Padikkal before Hardik got the massive wicket of Buttler. The Englishman attempted to steer one to third man but ended up edging it back to Wriddhiman Saha behind the stumps. However, Pandya was not done yet. He then got Hetmyer with a slower which the batsman played early and was gleefully caught by the bowler.

Novak, Gauff ease into quarterfinals



AGENCIES

Paris, May 29: Top seeded Novak Djokovic continued his winning momentum by reaching the quarterfinals of the French Open here Sunday with a straight sets victory over World No. 16 Diego Schwartzman 6-1, 6-3, 6-3. In a match that lasted a little over two hours, Djokovic was always in control and became the first player to reach the quarterfinals.

Djokovic eased to the first set and look set for a comfortable afternoon, but Schwartzman looked to have control of the second set after opening up a three-game advantage. However, the World No. 1 reeled off the next six games in succession to give himself a two-set advantage.

Schwartzman held in the second game of the third set to stem the tide, but Djokovic had too much for the Argentine, claiming a further two breaks to seal his place in the next round.

Also advancing to the last eight stage was Alexander Zverev, a 7-6 (13-11), 7-5, 6-3 over Bernabe Zapata Miralles. After a tough first set, Zverev won the next two sets easily to reach the quarters.

In the women's singles Martina Trevisan and Coco Gauff also booked their places in the last eight. Both chalked out straight sets victories over their respective opponents. While Trevisan beat 7-6 Aliaksandra Sasnovich 7-6 (12-10), 7-5, Gauff chalked out a dominant 6-4, 6-0 win over Elise Mertens.

SHORT TAKES

Yadav creates history

New Delhi: Para-canoeist Prachi Yadav created history Sunday by becoming the first Indian to clinch a bronze medal in women's VL2 200m event at the Paracanoe World Cup at Poznan, Poland. Prachi bagged the bronze with a timing of 1:04.71 seconds behind silver medallist Brianna Hennessy of Canada (1:01.58s) and gold medallist Susan Seipel of Australia (1:01.54s). It is India's best-ever performance in the event which started May 26. Manish Kaurav (KL3 men 200m) and Manjeet Singh (VL2 men 200m) also made it to the finals of their respective events for the first time in the history of the tournament.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, May 29: It was a good day for Indian para shuttlers as they went on a gold rush Sunday at the IVth Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International tournament here. Manisha Ramadass claimed two gold medals, while Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat also secured the yellow metal to stamp India's authority at the event.

In women's SU5 category, Manisha defeated Japan's Akiko Sugino 21-17, 21-11 and then combined with Mandeep Kaur to outwit Thailand's Nipada Saensupa and Chanida Srinavakul 21-9, 21-13 in just 21 minutes.

In men's singles SL3, Bhagat, who won two gold medals at the recent Bahrain 2022 International, defeated compatriot Nitish Kumar 19-21, 21-17, 21-17 to emerge victo-

ries. So it turned out to be a 1-2 for India in the category.

"I am very happy to keep the winning momentum in singles, but unfortunately, we fell short in mixed doubles. This win will boost my preparation and training for Canada International," the 33-year-old Bhagat said. "Manisha is really a good emerging player in SU5 and I am sure we will deliver good results in future. I am sure we will bring many laurels for India," Bhagat added.

Manasi Joshi also claimed gold in SL3, beating compatriot Mandeep Kaur 16-21, 24-22, 21-14 in 43 minutes.

Toshniwal loses

NEW DELHI: Indian shuttler Smit Toshniwal suffered a straight-game loss Sunday in the women's singles semifinals after an impressive week at the Austrian Open International in Graz. Sixth seed Toshniwal, who had reached the finals of Odisha Super 100 and Slovenia International, lost 13-21, 11-21 to top seed Wen Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei in 28 minutes. In the earlier rounds, she had beaten Indonesia's Mutiara Ayu Pusapitasari and England's Estelle Van Leeuwen.

REAL NIGHT OF SORROW FOR REDS

Liverpool's hopes of even a treble dashed by Vinicius (Jr) as Madrid win record-extending 14th CL title

AGENCIES

Paris, May 29: Real Madrid secured a record-extending 14th Champions League (earlier called European Cup) title when they beat Liverpool 1-0 in a final delayed for more than half-an-hour after police tried to stop people trying to force their way into the Stade de France here Saturday. Vinicius (Jr) scored just before the hour with Real's first attempt on goal. However, the hero of the day was Real Madrid's goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. He made several fine saves to deny Liverpool, who ended the season with two domestic cups having also failed to win the Premier League.

Liverpool were looking for their seventh European Cup triumph but despite their best efforts they were left in awe of Courtois's sublime performance.

The game started after a 35-minute delay following incidents outside the stadium when fans were tear-gassed by riot police as people without tickets tried to force their way in.

Liverpool were the slight favourites Saturday but Real beat the Merseyside club for the sec-



ond time in a row after their 3-1 victory in 2018.

The Reds started the game by pushing high up the pitch, looking to quickly feed their full-backs, and the pressure on the Madrid back line became immense.

Mo Salah was picked out by Trent Alexander-Arnold in the box but



Courtois stretched to deny the Egyptian. Sadio Mane came much closer when he ghosted past Eder Militao and Casemiro before his fierce attempt was tipped onto the

We played a good game, but not the perfect game. We had a lot more shots on target, but none of them were really decisive

JURGEN KLOPP

I am a record man. I had luck to come here last year and had a fantastic season with a really good squad who showed a lot of mental character

CARLO ANCELOTTI

ROLL OF HONOUR		
Year	Opposition	Margin
1956	Stade de Reims	4-3
1957	Fiorentina	2-0
1958	Milan	3-2
1959	Stade de Reims	2-0
1960	Eintracht Frankfurt	7-3
1966	Partizan	2-1
1998	Juventus	1-0
2000	Valencia	3-0
2002	Leverkusen	2-1
2014	Atletico Madrid	4-1
2016	Atletico Madrid	1-1 (5-3)
2017	Juventus	4-1
2018	Liverpool	3-1
2022	Liverpool	1-0

post by the excellent Courtois in the 21st minute.

Liverpool were back at it early in the second half but Madrid soaked up the pressure until they struck in the 59th minute. It started when Luka Modric turned smartly away from Andy Robertson to create space and ended with Federico Valverde's pinpoint driven pass across to the far post being turned in by Vinicius.

Courtois then dived to superbly tip Salah's curled attempt away to keep Madrid ahead.

Karim eyes Ballon d'Or

FRENCHMAN SCORED 44 GOALS FOR REAL MADRID IN ALL COMPETITIONS

AGENCIES

Paris, May 29: Karim Benzema admitted Saturday after the Champions League final that he had done all he could with Real Madrid this season to make himself favourite for the Ballon d'Or. Benzema did not score in the final at the Stade de France here, but the Frenchman finished as the Champions League's top scorer with 15 including 10 in the knockout rounds.

"Of course," the 34-year-old told 'Canal Plus' when asked if the Ballon d'Or was on his mind after a season in which he also won La Liga with Real Madrid. "Now I will join up with the national team but I don't think I can do much more with my club. We will see what happens, but in any case I am proud of what I have done," Benzema added.

Overall in the season, Benzema scored 44 goals for Real Madrid. He scored hat-tricks against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea in the Champions League knockout rounds and netted three times across the two legs of the semifinal against Manchester City.

"There is no luck involved," Benzema said in reference to a series of remarkable comeback wins on their run to the final. "You can be lucky once but not every time. We deserve our victory. We put in the effort, we came back every time, we never gave up. Every



player is important in our squad, whether they are a starter or a substitute, or they don't play often but give everything in training," the Frenchman added.

Benzema has now won five Champions Leagues with Real Madrid. He said ending the season as the competition's top scorer was 'exceptional'. "But the most important thing is to win this fifth Champions League," Benzema informed.

The winner of the Ballon d'Or will be revealed in a ceremony here in October, before this year's World Cup in Qatar.