



GLOBAL GLORY

Actor Shruti Haasan will attend the prestigious Cannes Film Festival as the guest of honour for a conference on gender parity

LEISURE



CHINA WARNS TAIWAN

China is prepared to 'resolutely smash any form of Taiwan independence', its military said

INTERNATIONAL

P8



LIVERPOOL SCRIPT WIN

Liverpool keep their top-four hopes alive in the English Premier League after scripting a 3-0 win over Leicester

SPORTS

BACK PAGE



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IMD: MONSOON TO ARRIVE LATE



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 16: A slight delay is expected in the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala and it is likely to arrive by June 4, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, Tuesday.

The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala June 1, with a standard deviation of about seven days. "This year, the southwest monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be slightly delayed. The monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be June 4 with a model error of four days," the IMD said in a statement.

The monsoon arrived in the southern state May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.

The advance of the southwest monsoon over the Indian mainland is marked by the onset over Kerala and is an important indicator characterising the transition from the hot and dry season to the rainy season.

The IMD said its forecasts for the monsoon onset over Kerala have proved to be correct during the last 18 years except in 2015.

The predicted monsoon onset is within the standard deviation of seven days. It is unlikely to impact agriculture and overall rainfall over the country, IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

MORE P7



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FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Feeling sentimental always gets in the way. If things don't go your way, life seems glum. But take a look at the food on the table. Levi's in the cupboard and your spaniel licking your toes, and you will thank God for a blessed life. You're welcome, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
You will notice significant development in your business dealings, predicts Ganesha. Your progress may slow down in the afternoon. Later in the day, financial opportunities will knock at your door. You will also make worthwhile progress in relationship matters, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI
There are indications that you will most certainly guard against going off on a tangent in important meetings today, foresees Ganesha. You are also likely to let your brains on an overdrive to get things done at the workplace. You will have a fabulous dinner with your sweetheart in the evening.

CANCER
Chances are that your day will be filled with a lot of fun and celebration, says Ganesha. In the afternoon, you can expect a breakthrough in a very important business deal. At night, you will be busy partying.

LEO
You need to be on guard against making promises that you can't keep. For otherwise your reputation and image may suffer. Leisure activities, picnics and short journeys are possible. The evening will spent in an atmosphere of joviality, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
A roof, a cloth and two square meals a day is what you obviously provide for your family; but today, your thought will be burdened by how you can deliver the luxury too. Think on a new line at work today. You may host your loved ones to a fabulous dinner in the evening, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha sure hopes that you packed your kit right and are ready to take on anything, as today promises to be an action-packed day. Most of this action might concentrate around your family members. Towards the afternoon, you may begin to feel weighed down by household responsibilities. But on the upshot, look forward to a new relationship that might develop in the evening, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
You shall be magical with relationships today. Wave your wand and rebuild bridges, says Ganesha. You might even be involved in some cloak-and-dagger stuff. You are likely to be cavalier and bold in all the moves you make. Ganesha sees you blazing a trail and winning in your path to glory.

SAGITTARIUS
Expect to be on the go for business related work. Money matters will be a pressing issue in the afternoon. Be the team player and catch all that comes your co-workers' way. Expect to relax and end the day on a cheerful, romantic note.

CAPRICORN
In all probability, you will be in a bizarre frame of mind. At work, there will be a sudden turn of events that shall suddenly create a tottering pile of tasks on your table. In financial matters, you are likely to remain very cautious. In the evening, you can relax and enjoy yourself with your sweetheart, suggests Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will realise the importance of time in the business world. Ganesha says you will understand how much risk is involved in going about things in a haphazard manner. As a natural corollary, you will revamp and reschedule a lot of your plans, whether it's business or travel or just a family vacation.

PISCES
Your decision-making ability will be at its finest today, with all your spontaneous split-second decisions hitting the mark. However, do not get carried away by your early successes and temper your responses, for there could be implications later.



YEOH SAYS WICKED MUSICAL WAS A RISK

Oscar-winning actress Michelle Yeoh is saying that taking on the role in the *Wicked* musical was a risk. "I'm trying something new right now - filming Jon Chu's *Wicked* movie, which will be my first musical," Yeoh said during the Fifth Annual Meihodo International Youth Visual Media Festival in Japan.

Shah Rukh ideal successor to Dilip Kumar: Sudha Murthy

Mumbai: Renowned author and philanthropist Sudha Murthy recently made an appearance on *The Kapil Sharma Show*. During the show, Sudha Murthy made an interesting observation, stating that

actor Shah Rukh Khan is taking the place of the legendary Dilip Kumar in the film industry. While revealing that the late actor Dilip Kumar was her hero when she was young, Murthy said that only Shah Rukh can take his place in the film industry. During the episode, she asserted, "When I was young, my hero was Dilip Kumar. He was simply *la-jawaab*. Next to him, another actor who can act with that kind of emotion is Shah Rukh Khan."

The chairperson of Infosys further added, "When I saw *Veer-Zara*, I told my daughter that if Dilip Kumar was young, then he would have done

Veer-Zaara and now Shah Rukh Khan is taking his place."

Besides SRK, Sudha Murthy also spoke about Salman Khan while explaining he was the best fit for his 2015 release *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*. During the episode, she recalled, "I told my daughter

(Akshata Murthy) that Salman Khan has the innocence of a child and only he can bring it on the screen and he is fit to do *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*.

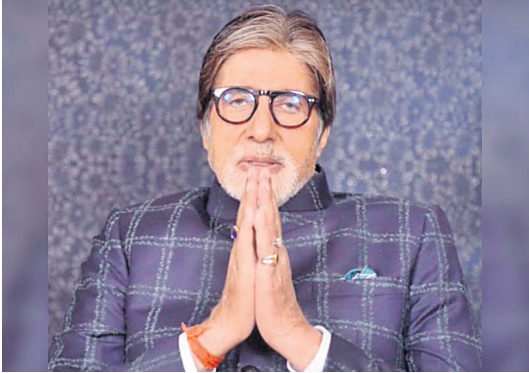
AGENCIES

Big B to be penalised for traffic rule violation

Mumbai: While most people can and do get away with all kinds of minor law-breaking activities, celebrities are scrutinised even for a negligible oversight perpetrated in a hurry.

Monday, Amitabh Bachchan made news for thumbing a ride with a 'stranger' (who became the most famous stranger in India for the day) to his workplace.

Now, one hears he will be law-



fully penalised for not wearing a helmet during his pillion ride.

A source, very close to the Bachchans says, "We don't know whether to laugh

or cry at this. It was flash decision. He was stuck in the traffic and getting late for his work. So, he stuck his neck out of his car and requested a ride. Was he supposed to carry a helmet with him in the car? He didn't plan to ride pillion. It was a spontaneous decision."

It adds that the family is work down with all the attention - from the 9-year old Aaradhya to 80-year-old Amitabh Bachchan, there is the constant scrutiny of every move.

AGENCIES

Shraddha scores blazing red in 'lie detector test'

Mumbai: Being a big-time foodie, Vada Pav is that one food that is at the top of Shraddha Kapoor's favorite food list.

Her love for Vada Pav is certainly so evident that she herself cannot resist and which gets well justified when she is asked if she would marry someone who doesn't love Vada pav, and the lie detector machine says it all.

Shraddha gives a hilarious answer when she is asked if she would marry someone who doesn't love Vada Pav. However, the intensity of the moment holds at this point to hear what Shraddha would answer, and the actress surprisingly said YES, but that's where the lie detector machine detects her lie and horns the red buzzer. That is when the actress accepted that her match with Vada Pav is something made in heaven that she also cannot deny and finally said 'I don't think so'.

The *Stree* actress and her love for vada pav have become an undeniable fact that is well witnessed from time to time. On her birthday also, the actress relished the special occasion by distributing vada pav to her fans.

Shraddha has been garnering a lot of love for her performance in *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar*. The actress is all over the internet ever since the film was released on OTT.

AGENCIES



Shruti to promote gender equality

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Haasan will attend the prestigious Cannes Film Festival as the guest of honour for their round table conference on gender parity.

The conference, titled Activating Change, hosted by 'Breaking through the lens' aims to discuss the challenges and opportunities for women in the entertainment industry, and explore ways to create a more equitable and inclusive environment.

Their objective is to provide realistic solutions for under-served filmmakers with a multicultural, intersectional, and results-driven approach.

Shruti has been very vocal about her opinions on women's rights and gender equality. The actress has been a strong supporter of initiatives aimed at promoting gender parity.

On the work front, Shruti awaits the release of her international project *The Eye*, where she plays a widow visiting a Greek island to spread her deceased husband's ashes.

She also has the action-packed film *Salaar*. The actress stars opposite Prabhas and is directed by the blockbuster KGF filmmaker Prashanth Neel.

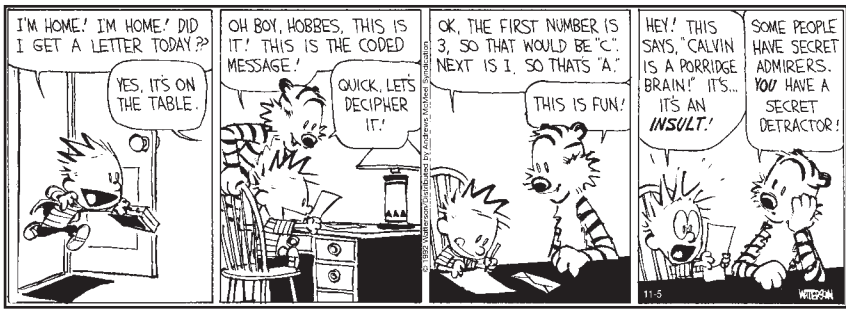
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PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

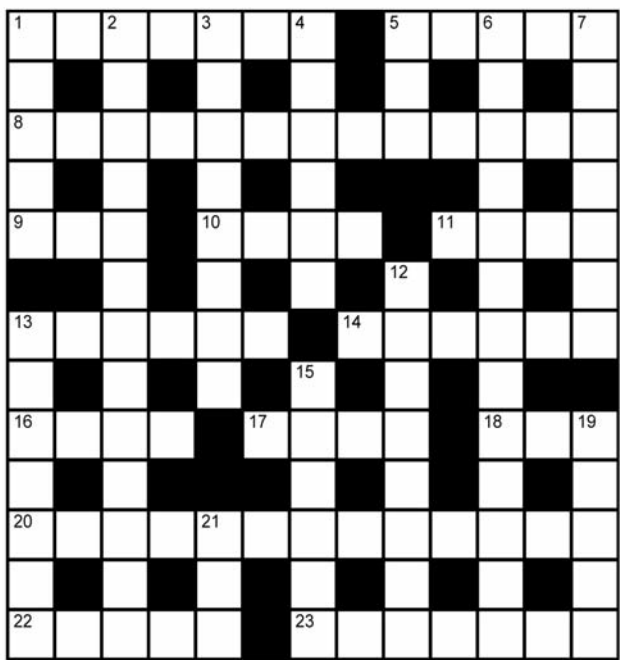


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Bird of night (4,3)
- 5 Egyptian water lily
- 8 Angler's gear (7,6)
- 9 Take to court
- 10 Joie de vivre
- 11 State (Fr.)
- 13 Aromatic seasoning
- 14 Femme fatales

- 16 Ocean predator
- 17 Fairy tale villain
- 18 Cat hangout
- 20 Type of pull (4,3,6)
- 22 Fable writer
- 23 Olympian, e.g.

- 3 Salad topper, at times (5,3)
- 4 Deadlock
- 5 Pastureland
- 6 Go for it (4,3,6)
- 7 Detectives
- 12 Dinner extra (4,4)

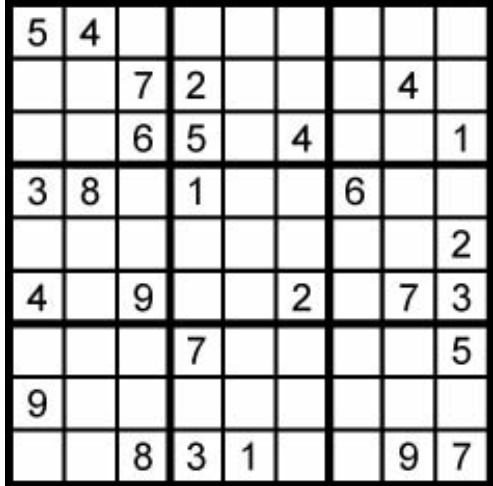
Down

- 1 Sword handles
- 2 Mamas' medical specialists
- 13 Black Sea republic
- 15 Large lizard
- 19 Sign of life
- 21 Rascal

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.

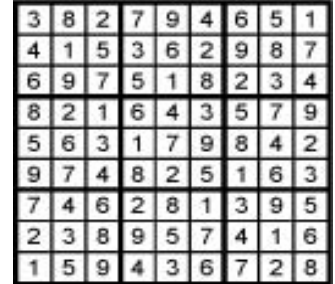


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



POST NEWS NETWORK

Results of open school and Madhyama exams will also be published on that day, he added.

Jajpur: Two persons drowned in a river here, Tuesday, police said. Amit Khandai and Malaya Nayak of Purusottampur village were bathing at Radhadeipur ghat of Genguti river when the incident happened, said Badachana police inspector-in-charge Priyabrata Pattanaik. Locals rescued them in a critical condition and rushed them to a nearby health facility, where they died while undergoing treatment, added Pattanaik.

WEATHER

BHUB

CTK

TEMP

MAX 38.6°C

MIN 28.8°C

38.0°C

29.0°C

Humidity 77%

68%

Rainfall Trace

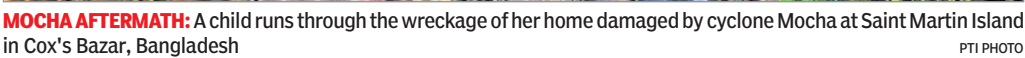
17mm

Forecast

Light to moderate rain

AGENCIES

“Bots have evolved rapidly since 2013, but with the advent of generative



AGENCIES

At the meet, the Odisha government will host prospective in-

During the event, the delegation shall apprise the investors about the various existing and upcoming investment opportunities in Odisha as well as showcase the measures taken by the state government to make Odisha a textile and apparel hub.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Odisha now has 8,329 POs, including branch offices, spread across different districts, Swain said. As per available information, 5,652 POs have been opened in the country during the last five years. As many as 326 new POs were established in the state in the period.

AGENCIES

The Trinamool Congress supremo said the next of kin of the deceased will get a compensation of Rs 2.5 lakh each and the injured will get Rs 1 lakh, while

The TMC chief claimed that the panchayat where the incident took place is being run by an independent politician backed by the BJP, and TMC workers were not allowed to enter the village.

Chief Minister, Odisha

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Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha

e-Medhabruti scholarship amount to be enhanced

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO IMPLEMENT MUKHYAMANTRI MEDHABI CHHATRA PROTSAHAN YOJANA FROM THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 16: To help the poor meritorious students to pursue higher studies, the state government has decided to enhance the e-Medhabruti scholarship amount from the current academic year.

The Higher Education department is going to implement Mukhyamantri Medhabi Chhatra Protsahan Yojana (MMPSY), which was announced during the presentation of the budget for the year 2023-24.

Existing three types of scholarships given to the students for pursuing higher studies, e-Medhabruti, Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Medha Bhasabruti and Gopabandhu Sikhya Sahayata Yojana, will be brought under umbrella scheme MMPSY.

Under the e-Medhabruti component, the department is going to enhance the number of students to be covered under the scholarship and the amount also.

According to the sources, the

BENEFITS OF SCHEME

Scholarship amount for meritorious UG students under e-Medhabruti will be enhanced from ₹5,000 to Rs 10,000 per year

Now, selected students will get ₹30,000 while earlier they were receiving ₹15,000

For two-year PG students, the scholarship amount will be enhanced from existing ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 per year

In total, there are 14,500 scholarships under e-Medhabruti which will be increased to 25,000

scholarship amount for meritorious UG students under e-Medhabruti will be enhanced from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 per year. In total, now, selected students will get Rs 30,000 while earlier they were receiving Rs 15,000. Similarly, the number of beneficiaries will also be doubled from existing 5,000 stu-

dents. For two-year PG students, the scholarship amount will be enhanced from existing Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per year. The number of beneficiaries will also be increased from 3,500 to 5,000 each year.

The scholarship money for technical and professional students has also been proposed to be doubled from existing Rs 10,000 per year. The students will get the scholarship each year till completion of duration of his/her course, the source said.

In total, there are 14,500 scholarships under e-Medhabruti which will be increased to 25,000.

As per existing norms, the e-Medhabruti scholarship is being provided to 3500 such students for UG courses and 2500 students for PG courses. It was proposed to extend the scholarship coverage to 10,000 UG & PG students, who are doing technical and professional courses, the sources said.

Moreover, to include more eligible students under the scholarship scheme, the government has also decided to enhance the income of parents of the students from 6 lakh to 8 lakh per annum.

However, there will be no change in the modality set for Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Medha Bhasabruti and Gopabandhu Sikhya Sahayata Yojana. The government is distributing one-time Rs 20,000 to 1200 UG students and 300 PG students as Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Medha Bhasabruti. Similarly, the beneficiaries of Gopabandhu Sikhya Sahayata Yojana are also receiving Rs 20,000 each year till completion of the course.



FINISHING TOUCH: Puri Railway Station tracks being spruced up ahead of the inauguration of Vande Bharat Express train's regular services between Puri and Howrah, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

681 super speciality hosps under BSKY now

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 16: As many as 681 super speciality hospitals from private sector have been brought under the umbrella of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), the Odisha government backed health care scheme.

As per an internal review meeting held under the chairmanship of chief executive officer (CEO) Brundha D, out of this total of 681 empanelled hospitals, 126 were from other states like Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttarakhand and rest 555 were



from Odisha.

The major world-class health facilities brought under BSKY included Sri Shankara Cancer Foundation, Tata Medical Centre, Tata Memorial Hospital group, Fortis Healthcare group, Christian medical college, and Narayan Hrudayalaya group of hospitals operating in different parts of India.

Besides, all major super speciality hospitals operating inside the state including AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, have also been empanelled under BSKY for high quality healthcare access to poor and vulnerable.

As many as 668 front-line personnel were engaged for extending necessary help to BSKY patients at hospital level. This included 65 district coordinators (DCs), and 614 Swasthya Mitras. Besides, 116 senior medical officers worked with dedication in providing backend support for seamless treatment to the BSKY patients.

The Nodal officers were advised to be in constant touch with the empanelled hospitals and resolve technical issues as and when they arise.

Brundha also asked the front line personnel to be in all readiness to help BSKY patients at hospital level. They were advised to have entire information like various clinical departments, wards, ICUs, doctors' digital diagnostic services, logistic facilities etc available in the hospitals to which they were tagged.

The Swasthya Mitras were also asked to assist the patients from remote rural areas proactively, particularly the aged, women, differently abled with information and handholding support regarding registration, admission, treatment and discharge matters.

Khimji announces diamonds campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 16: Khimji Jewellers, one of the most trusted brands in Odisha, has launched its latest campaign, "Why Not Diamonds", to celebrate individuality and empower customers to embrace their unique style through a stunning collection of diamond jewellery.

Apart from that, the jewellery store is breaking the myth that diamonds are an expensive investment by offering exclusive offers on its high-fashioned diamond jewellery collection.

Announcing the offers, Khimji director Mitesh Khimji stated, "Diamond jewellery has been a growing category of ours. We want to change the perception of people that diamonds are expensive by giving our customers exclusive offers on diamond jewellery. Keeping in line with our growing customer demands, we have launched an exquisite range which is a differentiator and will definitely attract our dynamic customer base."

Customers can avail of these exclusive offers by visiting Khimji stores from May 13-30. With an exquisite range of diamond pieces, each crafted to showcase individuality, customers can explore the collection and find a piece that speaks to them. Plus, with free insurance backing each purchase, customers can enjoy their jewellery with complete peace of mind.

Heat spell to continue for next five days: IMD

The twin city of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded a maximum temperature of 38.6 and 38 degree Celsius, respectively

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 16: The state sizzled Tuesday with as many as 18 places recording a maximum temperature of 40 degree Celsius or above amidst IMD forecast that the blistering heat will continue for five more days. However, there was a slight relief from the heat wave in the afternoon in some places due to thunderstorms and rain.

As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), Sambalpur was the hottest place in the state Tuesday with day temperature rising to 44.3 degree Celsius followed by Boudh (44.2) and Bolangir & Nuapada (44 each). Similarly, Jharsuguda recorded a day temperature of 43.8 degrees Celsius while Malkangiri and Titilagarh witnessed a maximum of 43.5 each.

It was 43.4 degrees Celsius at Rourkela, 43.1 degrees at Sonepur, 42.8 degrees at Sundargarh, 42.7 degrees at Angul, 42.5 degrees at Hirakud & Bhawanipatna and 42 de-

grees at Talcher.

The other places recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees or above are: Deogarh (41), Bargarh (40.8), Nabarangpur (40.2), and Paralakhemundi (40). The twin city of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded a maximum temperature of 38.6 and 38 degree Celsius, respectively.

The people in Capital city Bhubaneswar sighed a heave of relief as light rain lashed the City for a brief period in the evening.

The Met department predicted that there would be no change in Maximum day temperature during the next five days over the districts of Odisha.

The maximum day temperature is likely to be 42 degrees Celsius or more at a few places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Baragarh, Angul, Bolangir, Sonepur, Boudh and Kalahandi. Consequently, hot and discomfort weather is likely to prevail and people are advised to take precautionary measures while going outside from 11am to 3pm.

Meanwhile, the IMD also predicted that this year the southwest monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to set in over Kerala on June 4 with a model error of four days.



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 16: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has given green signal to setting up of Iron ore beneficiation plant in Sundargarh district and stated that the proposed plant will not have any significant impact on wildlife and forests.

Following the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), a committee, comprising senior forest officials from MoEF and the state forest department, visited the site in Sundargarh district and interacted with the various stakeholders. The committee has submitted its report to the NGT, which will hear the application against setting up of the plant in Sundargarh May 19. The tribunal had earlier stayed the setting up of proposed plant till the further orders.

The committee stated in the report that there are no environmentally sensitive areas nearby. Like any other integrated steel plant, this will also have environmental concern, which can be addressed / mitigated, the committee reported, adding that Wildlife Conservation plan, Eco-restoration Plan for the surrounding forests will also help in mitigating the adverse impact.

It further stated that the plant



should engage the local people by providing employment, address the health issue of the villagers around the proposed site through regular medical checkup as well as treatment facilities and create a green belt all along the boundary of the proposed plant.

Significantly, the NGT had passed the order in an application against setting up of Iron ore beneficiation plant by M/s KAI International Pvt. Ltd in Sundargarh district in alleged violation of environmental norms, particularly without requisite EC. It is stated that without requisite Forest Clearance (FC) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from Central Government, trees have been cut, illegally treating the area as 'non-forest'.

It was stated in the application that the company proposes to set up Iron ore beneficiation plant

with production capacity of 1.5 Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA). Iron ore Pelletisation Plant of 1.2 MTPA, Sponge Iron of 0.346 MTPA, Billet of 0.43 MTPA, Rolling Mill 0.417 MTPA, Captive Power Plant (CPP) of 75 MW, Producer Gas Plant 30,000 Nm³/hr and SMS Slag Crushing Unit 60.150 TPA in Kapand Mouza of Lahunipada Tahasil in Sundargarh district.

In view of high pollution potential, the environment clearance was not granted to the project, the petitioner stated, and alleged that the company has felled large number of trees illegally which will adversely affect animal habitat and animal movement in the area. The area is contiguous to Kukia Reserve Forest which is also a habitat to wild animals with rare and endangered species, the application reads.

Dowry harassment case against BJD MLA, family

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, May 16: Allegations of dowry harassment have been levelled against BJD MLA Shashi Bhusan Behera and his family members in Odisha.

Behera's daughter-in-law Ronali has lodged a complaint against the Kendrapara MLA and his family members at Banki police station. Though the complaint was filed March 3 this year, the matter came to limelight when Ronali narrated her story before the media Tuesday. In her complaint, Ronali alleged that her in-laws are demanding Rs 40 lakh and giving her mental and physical torture.

Ronali had married Behera's son Satyaprakash March 3, 2021.

"I have been there with my in-laws' family for five months. Just 10 to 15 days after the marriage, they started torturing me. They were demanding gold jewellery, cash and other goods," alleged Ronali. She has also accused her husband of having an illicit affair with another woman. "Based on the complaint of Ronali Behera, a case has been registered in Banki police station. We have started investigation into the case," said Gyan Ranjan Mishra, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), Banki.

On the other hand, Sashi Behera, who is also an ex-minister, refuted the allegations made by Ronali and said there might have been some personal problems between his son and daughter-in-law.

Builder held for cheating investors of ₹15 crore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 16: Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha police Tuesday arrested a builder for allegedly duping 127 investors of Rs 15 crore, officials said.

Accused Jyoti Ranjan Mishra, managing director of real estate company Mishra Creations Pvt. Ltd. had cheated complainant Swadesh Ray Chaudhury as well

as other investors in the name of giving flats in his project 'Utopia' at Chandaka on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

Chaudhury has booked a flat in the above said project in the year 2016 and paid an advance of Rs 16 lakh to Mishra. As per agreement, the flat was to be handed over within 30 months, but till date, neither the real estate firm handed over him the flat nor he was re-



funded the invested amount, the officials said.

The accused Mishra has collected amounts to the tune of Rs 15 crore from 127 investors from 2016 onwards promising them flats in the Utopia project. The real estate company was to hand over the flats within 30 months of booking.

The investors were made to enter into a tripartite agreement for financing with the banks and many of them paid almost 95 per cent of

the total cost of the flats. However, the real estate company did not hand over any single flat to the investors even after the elapse of 8 years, they said.

The officials also said that Mishra was giving false assurance to deliver the flat from time to time under different pretexts. The EWO has seized some incriminating documents from the builder and forwarded him to court.

Deepak Mishra new director of AHPGIC

Bhubaneswar: In a step towards improving the quality of cancer treatment facilities in Odisha, state government appointed renowned consultant, and professor, Deepak Kumar Mishra as director of Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC), Cuttack. Mishra, who is now serving as the director Department of Laboratory Sciences at Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata, has been appointed for a period of three years or till he attains age of 65, whichever is earlier. A notification to this effect was issued by Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit Tuesday. The academics of the state have welcomed appointment of professor Mishra with enthusiasm and excitement. His experience and wisdom will add value to cancer treatment in Odisha, they believe.



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Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-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 Map-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**-Cookiemana-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.



ACHYUTA SAMANTA

Art of Giving (AOG) is a philosophy of life that aspires to promote happiness and peace in the world. It starts on the premise that it is a basic human desire and nature to seek happiness and peace. But in the course of material pursuits, sometimes human beings as the most evolved characters lose this intrinsic habit and get jaundiced by self-interests. It is solely for this reason that AOG should be consciously practised so that there is proliferation of peace and happiness in the world. It is an attempt to heal the world and create a sea-change by spreading the message of Hope and Harmony transcending borders, castes, creed, nationality strengthened by the bonds of humanity.

Giving is a selfless and helpful action motivated by the desire to help another person without the expectation of any reward or even an avoidance of punishment in re-

Art of Giving: A way of life

turn. It is a natural instinct in humans, which if practiced can help create a society where peace and compassion takes centre stage. It is through practicing these principles of AOG, that society can create a space of sustainable co-existence. This informs the origin, evolution and growth of AOG.

We have empowered about two million lives through quality education and empowerment. In fact, I started giving and sacrificing at the age of five, when I was penniless. This selfless giving throughout my life culminated in 'Art of Giving' to give to the world a philosophical and action-oriented framework to experience the joy of giving on 17 May 2013, and since then AOG has become a civic movement – a volunteer-based campaign to make people aware of the art of giving. My experiences of deprivation taught me the true transformative power of giving, and it was from these experiences that the 'Art of Giving' was born with a deep desire to help those who are less fortunate and spread peace, joy, and harmony in the world.

The real objective of AOG is not just to give money or materialistic support to the ones who need but to help someone with dignity, not charity and bringing joy to their

lives. One cannot deny the power of patient hearing and sweet words that can give solace in a crisis.

'Art of Giving' took the form of a trust, an NGO that works on the cause of promoting positivity, kindness and compassion and expressing gratitude to the ones who give. In a world, where there is immense pain, misery and deprivation, yet plethora of wealth and riches, 'Art of Giving' provides a platform to connect the ones who need it and one who have enough to give but do not get a right way to contribute. 'Art of Giving' provides a trustworthy platform for people to give with discernment and encourage the habit of giving. It has been proven scientifically too, that when we give, we are in the state of happiness. More and more people worldwide are joining the movement to spread the message of peace & happiness in the world.

For the last nine years, 'Art of Giving' community, consisting of well-wishers and those inspired by it, celebrate 17th May as International Day of 'Art of Giving' on themes like Society, Spirituality, Humanity and to unite the three through art of giving in 2014, Kompassion: The Garment Bank to donate old recyclable clothes

and other material to the needy in 2015. Connecting with the World and Self through practice of gratitude in 2016, Cyclothon to spread a message of healthy living and green future in 2017.

Post the year 2017, the family of 'Art of Giving' rose from thousands to millions with the introduction of community contribution for community building. The numbers grew exponentially and so did the volunteers. Since then AOG has been what it was always meant to be: by the public, of the public and for the public. In 2018, 'Pyaar Bhara Pack' was a huge success. Over 20 million meals were distributed. In 2019, 'Bag of Happiness' united people together by gifting happiness kits to the students. Struggling during the pandemic, in 2020 the theme was 'AOG Fights Corona' to acknowledge the COVID warriors and help victims. In 2021, the theme was 'My Mother My Hero' wherein the AOG community wrote gratitude letters to mothers, the givers. In 2022, Hope, Happiness and Harmony was the theme to connect and support each other through simple acts of love, compassion, empathy, kindness and gratitude. This year, in the decade of 'Art of Giving' the theme is *Helping the Help*.

With over 20 million followers and 1.5 million members, the AOG family has grown exponentially. The conveners from over 300 locations in 120 countries across the globe, all states in India and all pan-chayats and blocks of Odisha work throughout the year for spreading the message of 'Art of Giving' and Volunteerism. Through social media, AOG has touched around 10 million lives and with a huge follower base that interacts virtually, and aims to unite the world by the spirit of giving.

Every day, AOG strives to make this world a better place. AOG works on numerous humanitarian projects and service initiatives including: disaster relief, sustainable rural development, empowerment of women, environmental sustainability, healthcare camps and democracy promotion. The young, dynamic, and committed volunteers are charged with the mission of harnessing the power of love and compassion to make a large-scale social impact.

'Art of Giving' is not a new concept; it has been practiced for centuries. Needless to say, charity is an important tenet of every religion, because compassion is essential for spiritual life. In Indian scriptures, 'daan' or charity occupies a

very prominent place. Every religion preaches the same ideology of philanthropy, be it the Quran's 'sadaqa' or 'zakat', Buddhism's charity to the needy; Jainism's charity of offering food, saving lives of others in danger, distributing medicine and spreading knowledge; Judaism's 'Tzedakah' meaning justice or righteousness to denote charity; Christianity's expression of charity as an essential component of faith and Zoroastrianism that considers poverty and suffering as an affliction of evil; hence it is the duty of every individual to fight this evil.

The 'Art of Giving' community has brought a fresh perspective to the concept of giving back to society. The organisation's philosophy of giving without expecting anything in return has touched numerous lives and has inspired millions to join the cause. The International Day of Art of Giving serves as a reminder to all of us that we can make a positive difference in someone's life through simple acts of kindness, love, and gratitude. The Art of Giving community is a shining example of how one person's actions can have a ripple effect and change the world for the better.

The writer is founder, Art of Giving.

Man hacks son to death, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, May 16: In a shocking incident, a man axed his son to death Tuesday at Ambagaon village under Damanjodi police limits in Koraput district, police said. The deceased was identified as Surendra Budia (18) while his dad Samara Budia has been arrested.

Sources said that after Samara returned from work, a quarrel broke out between him and Surendra which soon escalated. In a fit of rage, Samara lost his cool and picked up an axe and hacked Surendra repeatedly. Hearing the agonizing cries of Surendra, family members rushed to his help. They took a profusely-bleeding Surendra to a local hospital where doctors pronounced him brought dead.

After getting information about the murder, Damanjodi police personnel reached the crime spot and seized the axe. They also arrested Samara and sent the body of Surendra for post-mortem.

Sale of chemical-laced fish in Jajpur sparks concern



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur Road, May 16: Health hazards are on the anvil for all fish lovers in Vyasanagar town in Jajpur district, sources said Tuesday. They informed that health problems may arise due to the rampant sale of chemical-laced fish in local markets. This development comes at a time when fish brought from outside the state are rotting quickly because of the heatwave with temperatures rising above 40 degree Celsius. To keep the various varieties of fishes fresh, the traders are using a chemical called

Chorda Green Market and in New Market are selling these chemical-laced fish to buyers. Even though some fish traders have refrained from using the chemical, the majority of them are selling 'Formalin'-laced fish thereby increasing the chances of health hazards. This correspondent visited the fish market at Dhabalagiri and found six to seven traders selling such chemical-laced fish to buyers and in the process fleecing them.

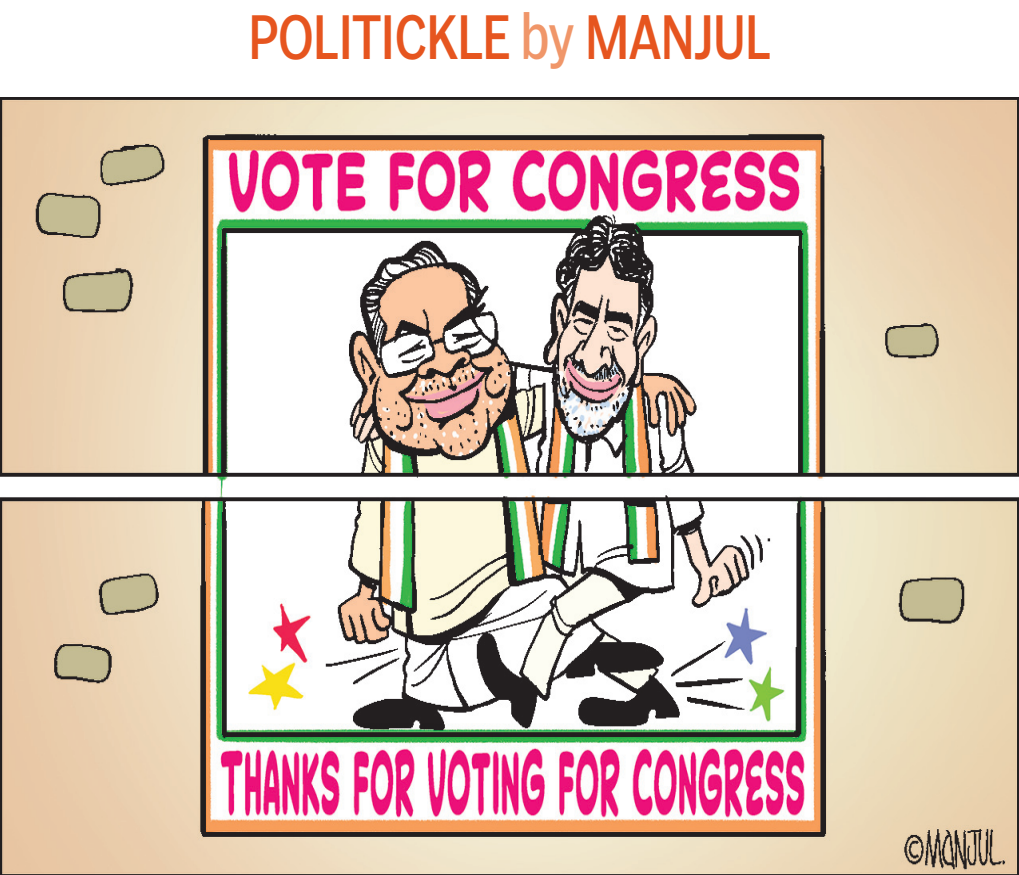
Moreover, the presence of the Dhabalagiri fish market near two temples has sparked resentment among the people and local traders. They have demanded that the fish market be relocated, but Jajpur Road Municipality authorities are yet to take any step in this regard.

Locals alleged that the civic body authorities except for collecting revenue from the traders have done nothing to alleviate the concerns of the buyers. They also pointed out that a price chart has also not been fixed by the local administration for the varieties of fishes that are being sold.

Residents have demanded before the district administration, Health department and the local civic body to intervene and take necessary steps to safeguard the interest of the locals and fish lovers.

'Formalin', sources said. Incidentally, 'Formalin' is a toxic substance and is carcinogenic in nature. The chemical is used to preserve dead bodies in mortuaries and also in science labs. Imagine the harm it will cause if 'Formalin' goes into the human body in large quantities. Traders here are injecting 'Formalin' into the body of the fish to increase its shelf life during transport and storage. The use of the chemical has become rampant as it is cheaper than ice.

Sources alleged that some unscrupulous fish traders in Dhabalagiri, Nahaka bypass road,



Man dies in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, May 16: A person was killed Monday near Samiyapali Chowk on NH-49, under Pallahada PS limits in this district after a speeding bus hit the motorcycle he was travelling on. The deceased has been identified as Sarat Pradhan of Sigada village under Pallahada police station limits. The bus hit Sarat's bike from the rear and due to the impact he was flung from the two-wheeler and suffered serious injuries. Locals rushed a profusely-bleeding Sarat to the sub-divisional hospital in Pallahada, but doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police have seized bus and are looking for the driver who fled the spot.

Man killed in tractor accident

Anandapur: A man lost his life Tuesday after the tractor he was driving fell off the Remal bridge under Ghasipura police station limit in Keonjhar district. Police said that a burst tyre had led to the accident. The deceased has been identified as Dipun Naik of Daudipala village of the same district. Police said Naik lost control of the tractor and it toppled over. After the accident, locals rushed Naik to the sub-divisional hospital here where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Case against Bolangir royals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, May 16: Bolangir royal family scion and BJD youth leader Arkesh Narayan Singh Deo found himself embroiled in controversy after his wife Adrija Narayan levellled allegations of domestic violence against him and her in-laws.

Adrija is the granddaughter of former PM VP Singh while Arkesh is the youngest son of former minister and senior BJD leader Ananga Udaya Singh Deo. Arkesh had unsuccessfully contested from the Bolangir Assembly constituency in 2019 and his wife Adrija had campaigned for him. Recently however, they have not been seen to-



gether much.

The issue of domestic violence came to the fore after a video went viral on social media. In the clip, Adrija is seen meeting the DGP of Uttarakhand at Dehradun and lodging a complaint in this regard.

Adrija and Arkesh got married in 2017, but it seems now that the situation has soured. In the video Adrija says she had filed a written

complaint with police seeking protection against the alleged torture of her in-laws. However, not getting any response from the police, she met the DGP. Sources said that the case has been handed to an assistant superintendent of police.

In the video, Adrija has claimed that she has been prevented from entering the house of the royal family in Bolangir: "I am the daughter-in-law and I have every right to stay there," Adrija says in the video.

When contacted, Arkesh termed the allegations as false. He informed that the matter is sub-judice in a Dehradun court and he has full faith in the judiciary. "Truth will come out soon," he said.

Andhra continues to woo Kotia residents

Ambulance from neighbouring state drops mother and newborn in Kotia village in presence of Odisha officials

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, May 16: The District Collector of Koraput Abdaal M Akhtar was shocked to find Tuesday the presence of an ambulance belonging to neighbouring state Andhra Pradesh at a village in Kotia panchayat. Akhtar was present at the panchayat office for some review work of the ongoing projects when the ambulance arrived. It just goes to prove that the neighbouring state is still continuing to offer healthcare sops to people in Kotia panchayat in an effort to woo them in support of Andhra Pradesh.

Odisha and Andhra Pradesh have gone to the courts over jurisdic-

tion of Kotia panchayat. The matter is sub-judice. In spite of that, the AP administration is trying its best to take control of some of the villages under Kotia panchayat.

It couldn't have been a more blatant exposure of the AP government's intentions as the ambulance from the neighbouring state arrived at Talasembi village to drop off a woman and her newborn. All of this happened in front of Akhtar only. The stubborn and defiant attitude of Andhra officials has come as a shock to many in the district administration including Akhtar.

Sources said the woman identified as Kuneti Lachhmi was pregnant and was ready for delivery.



However, her family members instead of taking her to the Kotia health centre chose to rush her to the Salur health centre which falls in Andhra territory. She delivered a baby Sunday night and as she did not have any major complication, she was released from the hospital Tuesday. The health centre also provided the ambulance to drop her home at her village.

The incident proves that the

Odisha government's effort to keep the people of Kotia panchayat in a happy frame of mind is proving futile. The state government is spending a substantial amount of money for development in villages under Kotia panchayat. However, people of villages near the border with Andhra Pradesh do not seem to be impressed by the efforts of the Odisha government. Instead they rely on the facilities being offered by the Andhra government.

Political observers said that officials in Koraput district need to work more and on a long-term basis to gain the trust of local people and wean them away from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
N.H. DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI (GAJAPATI)
Phone : 06815-222097, e-mail : ee.nhdgajapati@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 02 /EENHPKD of 2023-24
No. 505 / Dated: 12.05.2023

1) The Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Paralakhemundi (Gajapati) on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in single cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Road works** as detailed in the table below.
2) Nature of work : Road Safety/ Sign Board Works
3) No. of work : 1 no.
4) Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/-
5) Class of Contractor : "D" Class & "C" Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the Website: From 20.05.2023 12.30 PM to 31.05.2023 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 01.06.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in.
9) Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
N.H. Division, Paralakhemundi
OIPR-34150/11/0001/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, RAYAGADA
Phone No.(06856)-222081(Off.) E-mail: eemirgd@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE - 01/MID RGD/2023-24
Lt. No.1255/ MIDRGD // date. 12.05.2023

No. A-147/- The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

1.	Name of work	Improvement to MIPs under Critical Grant, MIPSP and DPIW for the year 2023-24.
2.	Total No. of works	3 (Three) Nos. Only
3.	Estimated cost	Varies from Rs. 8.34 Lakhs to 24.98 Lakhs (Approximately)
4.	Class of contractor	As mentioned against work
5.	Period of completion	As mentioned against work
6.	Date and time of availability of Bid Document in portal	From 10.00 AM on 20.05.2023 and upto 5.30 PM on 31.05.2023
7.	Last date / time for receipt of Bid Document in portal	From 10.00 AM on 20.05.2023 and upto 5.30 PM on 31.05.2023
8.	Date / Time of opening of Technical Bid	At O/o M.I. Division, Rayagada
9.	Date of Transparent Lottery between successful L1 Bidders	From 11.00 AM on 09.06.2023 At O/o M.I. Division, Rayagada
10.	Name and Address Officer inviting the Bid.	Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Rayagada
11.	Mode of Payment of Bid cost and Bid security.	Online

Sd./- Superintending Engineer,
M.I. Division, Rayagada
OIPR-32056/11/0002/2324

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 06-SBP-TRD-OT-2023-24. Dt.: 12.05.2023

Name of the Work: TRD RELATED WORK FOR PROVISION OF FOOT OVER BRIDGE, PLATFORM SHELTER, EXTENSION AND RAISING OF PLATFORM AT MAHASAMUND, KANTABANJI, KHARIAR ROAD AND HARISHANKAR ROAD UNDER AMRIT BHARAT SCHEME IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approximate cost: ₹ 1,05,04,529.98, EMD: ₹ 2,02,500/-, Completion period: 6 Months.

Tender closing date & time: at 1530 hrs. of 05.06.2023.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.irops.gov.in

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III digital Signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Sambalpur
PR-174/O/23-24

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. ECORMDCHBBS BMWD-SI-05 Dt.: 11.05.2023

Name of work: COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF HOSPITAL BIO-MEDICAL WASTE FROM THE RAILWAY CENTRAL HOSPITAL/EAST COAST RAILWAY/MANCHESWAR/ BHUBANESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS (1096 DAYS) WITH BARCODE BASED MANAGEMENT.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 22,62,911.20, EMD: ₹ 45,300/-, Cost of tender document: ₹ 2,000/-, Completion period of the work: 03 years (1096 days).

Tender closing date and time : at 1500 hrs. of 01.06.2023.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.irops.gov.in

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Medical Director/Central Hospital
PR-173/O/23-24 Mancheswar/Bhubaneswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 10/ET/SP/ENG/2023-24. Dt.: 11.05.2023

(1) e-Tender No. 06-eT-SDENC-SBP-23

Name of work: EXECUTION OF CIVIL ZONAL WORKS IN SARLA (EX)-DUNGIRALI (EX) SECTION EXCLUDING SAMBALPUR ROAD (IN)-SAMBALPUR (IN) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2024 UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BARGARH.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 1,49,39,030.56, Bid Security: ₹ 2,24,700/-.

(2) e-Tender No. 07-eT-SDENC-SBP-23

Name of work: EXECUTION OF ZONAL WORKS (FOR BRIDGE REPAIR WORKS) IN SARLA (EX)-DUNGIRALI (EX) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2024 UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BARGARH.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 1,06,85,888.20, Bid Security: ₹ 2,03,500/-.

(3) e-Tender No. 08-eT-SDENC-SBP-23

Name of work: EXECUTION OF CIVIL ZONAL WORKS IN DUNGIRALI (IN)-DEOGADH ROAD (IN) SECTION AND BALANGIR (EX)-BICHHUPLI (IN) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2024 UNDER SR. ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BALANGIR.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 1,50,35,201.58, Bid Security: ₹ 2,25,200/-.

(4) e-Tender No. 09-eT-SDENC-SBP-23

Name of work: EXECUTION OF ZONAL WORKS (FOR BRIDGE REPAIR WORKS) IN DUNGIRALI (IN)-DEOGADH ROAD (IN) SECTION AND BALANGIR (EX)-BICHHUPLI (IN) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2024 UNDER SR. ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BALANGIR.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 99,25,400/-, Bid Security: ₹ 1,98,600/-.

Completion period for the work: 30.06.2024 (for all tenders).

Tender closing date and time : at 1500 hrs. of 02.06.2023 (for all tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.irops.gov.in


Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Sambalpur
PR-170/O/23-24

“

Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, the Infinite All is the composer and audience.

SRI AUROBINDO



Clear Thai Mandate

When youth power is blessed by the old generation, tectonic change may be brought about. For, if the youth have zest for life, love of freedom and daring to challenge repressive regimes, the old have maturity and experience to guide them to achieve their goal. This is exactly what has happened in the parliamentary election in Thailand. It has given a resounding verdict in favour of pro democracy and anti military rule supporters, bucking the trend of autocratic rule seen today in neighbouring Myanmar as also in many other places across the globe.

Thailand's reformist opposition formed by the two main parties – the progressive Move Forward Party (MFP) and the populist Pheu Thai Party - has won the most seats and the largest share of the popular vote in a general election after voters outright rejected the military-backed parties that have ruled the Southeast Asian country for nearly a decade.

With almost all votes counted May 15, the two parties pledging to establish democracy are projected to win about 286 seats in the 500-member House of Representatives. This has become possible after MFP, a progressive youth-led party contesting the general elections for the first time promised to reform the monarchy and reduce the power of the military by rewriting the country's constitution and ending conscription. According to the preliminary results published on the election commission website, the MFP looked set to take 147 seats in the lower house. The figure includes 112 from the 400 seats that are directly elected and 35 from the 100 seats allocated to parties on a proportional basis.

The MFP's showing is spectacular since pre-election surveys had predicted that it would be Pheu Thai, which has won every election since 2001, that would be the biggest winner. The party is linked to the billionaire Shinawatra family. The latest results showed Pheu Thai winning a total of 138 seats — 111 directly elected and 27 from the party list. The royalist-military parties have suffered crushing defeat. The United Thai Nation Party of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who seized power as army chief in a coup in 2014, has managed to win a paltry 36 seats. His former party, the Palang Pracharath, is marginally ahead with 40 seats.

Coming in third is the Bhumjaithai Party, which spearheaded the campaign to legalise cannabis in Thailand. Part of the current ruling coalition, Bhumjaithai was projected to win about 70 seats.

The result is unquestionably a victory for youth power which launched a movement in 2020 for democratic governance, end of military domination and curbing the royalty's power to put people in jail for 15 years for the slightest criticism of the royal family. They are clamouring for bringing about the changes through parliamentary methods for which they formed the party called MFP. Its victory, indeed, marks a big turning point for Thailand because it indicates most people in the country want change. The country is witnessing the power of the electorate to use the ballot paper to get what they want.

The mood of the people was reflected during the voting day, May 14. By midday, more than half of the eligible voters – young and old alike - had braved the sweltering heat to exercise their right to vote. Across Thailand, voting proceeded smoothly with long and orderly queues.

These are the signs of time and the change in the air. Democracy may be down in many countries of the world, but certainly it is not out as Thailand shows. The MFP leader 42-year-old Pita Limjaroenrat realises the need for closing ranks with other pro-democracy and pro-change parties, especially the Pheu Thai and has reached out to them for coalition talks. The leader of Pheu Thai, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, reciprocated the gesture by congratulating MFP and asserting that the party with the most votes should get to take the lead in forming the next government. She also said her party is ready to talk to the MFP on government formation while waiting for the official result.

However, there is an element of uncertainty for the advocates of democracy coming to power as the parliamentary rules allow 250 members of a military-appointed Senate to vote on the Prime Minister. That means the MFP and Pheu Thai will need the support of smaller parties to establish a new administration with numbers that will stymie any move to overturn the results and install a minority government. The MFP has rightly cautioned that no one would dare throw away the people's clear mandate against the ruling coalition.

FOCUS

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

CALL FOR DISARMAMENT



From May 19-21, the leaders of the G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) as well as high-level representatives from the European Union will meet in Hiroshima, Japan. Many of these leaders will be visiting the city, one of two where nuclear weapons were used in August 1945, for the first time. And since the nuclear threat is now higher than at any time since the end of the Cold War, they must not use this occasion to pass off the same decades-old non-proliferation measures as something new; rather, they must commit to concrete and credible disarmament measures based on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who comes from a Hiroshima political family and had relatives who died in the 1945 bombing, decided to hold the G7 Summit in the city precisely because of its history. In light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent nuclear sabre-rattling, maintaining international peace and pursuing nuclear disarmament will rank high on the agenda. Kishida also has an eye on the Korean Peninsula, where, in the early months of 2023, North Korea continued to ramp up missile testing, and the US and South Korea mounted joint military exercises involving nuclear-capable aircraft.

The global threat posed by nuclear weapons cannot be overstated. In terms of the scale of the devastation they cause and their persistent radioactive legacy, they are the most destructive, inhumane, and indiscriminate weapons ever created. Their use would have a massive environmental impact, and even a limited nuclear conflict would trigger widespread famine. In recognition of these far-reaching consequences, five of the nine nuclear-armed states affirmed in January 2022 “that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought” – a statement echoed by G7 leaders in their communiqué from Elmau, Germany last year.

The casualties caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki demonstrate that any use of these weapons, even if it doesn't lead to all-out nuclear war; could kill hundreds of thousands of civilians and injure many more. Moreover, as the International

Third, in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent announcement of plans to deploy nuclear weapons in Belarus, the G7 leaders must agree to end the practice of stationing such weapons in third countries and engage Russia in dialogue to discourage it from following through. This will require the heads of state to reflect on their own “nuclear-sharing” policies: Italy and Germany – both G7 countries – as well as Belgium, the Netherlands, and Turkey are currently hosting American weapons. This practice must be ended across the board, as it only increases the risk of a catastrophe.

Lastly, the G7 should make practical, actionable commitments to disarmament. Its leaders must respond to Russian and North Korean nuclear recklessness – and the rapidly escalating threat of confrontation – by developing a plan for engaging with all nuclear-armed states to negotiate the reduction and eventual elimination of their arsenals.

Fortunately, they do not have to reinvent the wheel: the TPNW, an internationally recognised multilateral disarmament framework, is already at their disposal. Almost half of UN member states have signed or ratified the treaty, and as more states get on board, the international norm against nuclear weapons will grow stronger. Eventually, they will be regarded as beyond the pale, just like chemical and biological weapons, landmines, and cluster bombs.

As a venue, Hiroshima is a powerful symbol. Hidehiko Yuzaki, the governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, has said that he hopes visiting the city will allow G7 leaders “to understand the reality of the atomic bombings, fully recognise the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and understand once again that the only and certain way to escape the fear of their use is to abolish them.” The G7 summit offers an unprecedented opportunity to show true leadership at a time of heightened nuclear tensions. It would be foolish – and dangerous – to settle for empty promises.

The global threat posed by nuclear weapons cannot be overstated. In terms of the scale of the devastation they cause and their persistent radioactive legacy, they are the most destructive, inhumane, and indiscriminate weapons ever created. Their use would have a massive environmental impact, and even a limited nuclear conflict would trigger widespread famine

Committee of the Red Cross has warned, emergency-response systems and health infrastructure would be overburdened and unable to provide adequate assistance to survivors. Radioactive fallout would contaminate large areas, and widespread panic would cause mass movements of people and severe economic disruption.

The G7 foreign ministers issued a disappointing communiqué when they met in Nagano, Japan in April, and their superiors must do better at the summit. Specifically, they can and should take four steps to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again.

First, they must unequivocally condemn any and all threats to use nuclear weapons in terms as strong as those used over the past year by the parties to the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the G20.

At last year's summit, G7 leaders said they “condemn Russia's provocative statements which signal the threat of use of nuclear weapons.” In Hiroshima, they need to condemn not only such statements, which have also been

made by North Korea, but also preparations for using nuclear weapons, including nuclear exercises. This is particularly important as Russia's suspension of the New START treaty has halted information exchanges on such exercises. A lack of communication on this front significantly increases the risk of accidental conflict, because both the US and Russia maintain a launch-on-warning nuclear posture.

Next, they must formally recognise the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons. While in Hiroshima, G7 leaders will meet with survivors of the 1945 bombing, who lived through “hell on Earth,” as one man described it. The American, French, and British leaders who will talk to the Hibakusha (as the survivors are called) possess the authority to launch even more powerful nuclear weapons. Consequently, they should publicly acknowledge that their use would condemn countless civilians to the same fate, rather than paying lip service to the ideal of a world without nuclear weapons.

The writer is Interim Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- “

My favourite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time.

STEVE JOBS
- “

Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.

NAPOLEON HILL
- “

Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present.

JIM ROHN

WORDSWORTH

Humicubation

Once again we are in the realm of inconsequential words whose tenuous hold on existence is maintained by people who create lists of obscure words for our enjoyment and edification. Many writers and online dictionaries define it simply as “lying on the ground”, but on the few occasions on which it has been used in real life it has always had associations with religion, by adding to that bald sense the idea of penitence or humiliation. That's the result of its first, and perhaps its most significant, appearance, one of a series of tracts written in the 1650s by John Bramhall, then Bishop of Derry in Ireland, opposing the views of the English materialist philosopher Thomas Hobbes. Bramhall wrote: “He is afraid, that ‘this doctrine’ of fasting, and mourning, and tears, and humicubation, and sackcloth, and ashes, ‘pertaineth to the establishment of Romish penance.’” But in its etymology humicubation has no reference to penitence. It comes from the Latin words humi, on the ground, plus cubare, to lie down. The first bit is related to Latin humus, which we have taken over as the name for the organic component of soil. The second element is the source of cubicle(originally a bedchamber, a place in which one lies down), and concubine (a person with whom one euphemistically lies down).

LOL

Never talk to the parrot

Mrs. Peterson phoned the repairman because her dishwasher quit working. He couldn't accommodate her with an “after-hours” appointment and since she had to go to work, she told him, “I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dish washer, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a check. By the way, I have a large Rottweiler inside named Killer; he won't bother you. I also have a parrot, and whatever you do,



IN JEST THIS


Being bilingual can improve your brain health

“

I've always been impressed with people who are bilingual, trilingual or even quadrilingual. That's because I can speak only one language fluently. Despite studying French in secondary school, I can remember only a handful of phrases, such as “Je m'appelle Melvin” (My name is Melvin) and “Je suis une bonne mangue” (I am a good mango). My knowledge of my mother tongue, Tamil, is a little better, but I can't follow a Tamil movie without English subtitles. The same is true for Hindi movies. (My wife likes to read books; I like to read movies.) Many people in India can speak several languages, so being bilingual is nothing to brag about. Rohan: “I know four languages: Hindi, Punjabi, Odia and English. And I am currently learning Ukrainian.” Varun: “That's nothing. I know six languages: Marathi, Hindi, English, HTML, Java and Python. And I am currently learning Ruby.” I wish I was fluent in at least

Melvin Durai

MANY PEOPLE IN INDIA CAN SPEAK SEVERAL LANGUAGES, SO BEING BILINGUAL IS NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT



L

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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



OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Enforced camaraderie

Sir, This refers to “A victory, some concerns,” (Orissa POST, May 16) It is enthralling to see the way Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president DK Shivakumar has still decided to throw his hat into the ring even though he knows the fact that majority of the legislators are with his major contender, Siddaramaiah, for the Chief Minister's post. He has his reasons as the grand old party achieved tremendous success in the Vokkaliga belt in this election. Various cases of money laundering and income tax evasion against him are his Achilles' heel. Though the Congress says that there is no enmity between the two leaders, it is an open secret that both share enforced camaraderie. Irrespective of who becomes the Chief Minister, the party should deliver good administration for the people of Karnataka who had boosted their morale through this victory.

Vinayaka M, BANGALORE

e-Waste menace

Sir, New Exploration finds that our country's electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) has further than tripled in the last decade. The experts' study had estimated the e-waste in the country to understand its lifecycle, from deals of electronic particulars to e-waste generation. Their findings reveal that the e-waste generation per person has increased from 10 kg in 2000 to 29 kg in 2020. The e-waste in the country is anticipated to continue to rise in the near future and underscores the need for visionary prediction to manage the evolving electronics sector effectively. The experts' study provides useful perceptivity to policymakers for setting up targets for e-waste reduction and recycling to recover precious coffers from e-waste. e-Waste could also help to produce a secondary force chain of critical accoutrements reducing the pitfalls of implicit force dislocations. The estimated growth of e-waste is attributed to consumer habits and India's growing population. As the number of homes increases, so does consumption. The study exhibits that large menage appliances, such as refrigerators, mixers, microwave oven and washing machines, dominate the e-waste sluice considering mass, still the lower big particulars dominate in volume; household lighting is the top item, followed by toys, IT and telecommunications outfits, such as cellphones and laptops. Therefore effective recycling of e-waste in the country is needed imperatively to mitigate the problem.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

We levelled allegations of corruption against the BJP government in Karnataka. The Congress has got a mandate there and if no action against corruption by the (BJP's) Bommai government is taken, will people listen to us after five years? This is the situation here in Rajasthan. So I want action taken on this

SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

I would rather compete... With male developers... I was sent to Amethi not because I am a woman. I was sent to Amethi because I was the only person who could defeat that man (Rahul Gandhi)

SMRITI IRANI | BJP LEADER

An inefficient legislative drafting system can weaken laws and democracy and even affect functioning of the judiciary

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Modi to visit Japan, Australia

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia from May 19 to 24, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced Tuesday. Modi will be in Japanese city of Hiroshima from May 19 to 21 for the G7 summit. The MEA said the prime minister will speak at G7 sessions with partner countries on subjects such as peace, stability and prosperity of a sustainable planet; and food, fertiliser and energy security. From Japan, Modi will then travel to Port Moresby where he will host the third summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation jointly with Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea James Marape on May 22, the MEA said in a statement.

CBI arrests AAP worker

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested AAP worker Charanpreet Singh in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, officials said Tuesday. The federal agency alleged that Charanpreet Singh, who is based in Delhi, was collecting money from Angadins (hawala operators) and distributing it further for expenses incurred during the 2022 Goa Assembly election campaign of the party.

SIT formed to probe temple row

Mumbai: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday ordered setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for a probe into the alleged attempt by a group of people from a different religion to force their way into the famous Trimbareshwar temple in Nashik. Security guards at the Trimbareshwar temple had thwarted the group's attempt on Saturday night, a temple trust official said Monday. As per the temple management, only Hindus are allowed to enter the temple - one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. The temple trust had submitted a complaint to the police.

15 injured

Betul: Fifteen people were injured when a truck carrying members of a marriage party overturned on Betul-Paratwada highway in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said Tuesday. Five women were among those injured in the accident which took place on Monday night, sub divisional officer of police (SDOP) AC Mohit said.



Fake Aadhaar cards were used for casting votes in the recent Uttar Pradesh urban local body elections and this also makes the BJP's victory "fake"

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

NEW ADDITION

The 2019 Balakot airstrike, Pulwama attack and the 2016 surgical strike will be part of Lucknow University's (LU) defence studies' syllabus from the coming academic session 2023-24



Akhilesh backs Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, May 16: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Tuesday supported West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's assertion that her party will support the Congress where it is strong in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Supporting Banerjee's statement for opposition unity at the national level, Yadav said the party which is strong in a state should contest elections there and others.

Recently, Yadav met Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav here. He had also participated in a function of the TRS in Telangana early this year. On Monday, Banerjee cleared the air on TMC's stand on a possible strategy for opposition unity. She said her party will support the Congress where it is strong in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The Samajwadi Party is the main opposition in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, which sends the maximum 80 members to Lok Sabha. The SP in the recent past



Supporting Banerjee's statement for Opposition unity at the national level, Yadav said the party which is strong in a state should contest elections there and others.

Congratulations of Karnataka for defeating the BJP, Yadav said the people have rejected those who spread hatred. "BJP works to make the society fight," he said. Banerjee said, "Wherever the Congress is strong, let them fight. We will give them support, there is nothing wrong (in that). But they have to support other political parties too."

However, to get support, Congress also has to back other parties, she told reporters in Kolkata. On urban local body polls in UP, Yadav again alleged the BJP government "murdered the democracy". "To win the elections, BJP men adopted all tricks. To save democracy, we have to struggle," Yadav said.

CHHATTISGARH LIQUOR SCAM

Don't create atmosphere of fear: SC to ED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: Don't create an atmosphere of fear; the Supreme Court Tuesday told the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after the Chhattisgarh government alleged the probe agency is "running amok" and is trying to implicate Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in the state.

The state government alleged before a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A Amanullah that several state excise department officials have complained the ED is threatening them and their family members with arrest and is "trying to implicate the CM (chief minister)". The officers, the government claimed, have said they will not work in the department.

"The ED is running amok. They are threatening excise officers," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Chhattisgarh, told the bench. "It is shocking state of affairs. Now elections are coming and that is why it is happening," he told the bench.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for ED, countered the allegations and said the agency



is probing a scam in the state. "Even a bonafide cause becomes suspect when you behave like this," the bench observed, adding, "Don't create an atmosphere of fear".

Last month, Chhattisgarh became the first state to move the apex court challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) alleging that central investigating agencies

are being misused to "intimidate, harass and disturb" the normal functioning of the non-BJP state government.

The Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government has filed an original suit through advocate Sumeer Sodhi challenging the law under Article 131 of the Constitution which empowers a state to move the Supreme Court directly in matters of dispute with the Centre or

CBI books journo for spying

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: The CBI has registered an FIR against a freelance journalist for allegedly collecting sensitive information related to the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Army, and sharing them with intelligence agencies of foreign countries, officials said on Tuesday.

Following the FIR, the agency conducted searches on premises linked to Vivek Raghuvanshi, listed as India correspondent of a US-based portal on defence and strategic affairs on its web site, and people close to him at 12 locations in Jaipur and the National Capital Region (NCR), they said.

The agency has booked Raghuvanshi under Section 3 (spying) of Official Secrets Act read with Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. A number of sensitive documents was recovered during the searches and sent for legal scrutiny, the officials said.

Sources said the agency has launched an exhaustive probe to find Raghuvanshi's accomplices in India and abroad. He was allegedly collecting sensitive infor-

mation and minute details about the progress of various DRDO projects, the CBI alleged.

He was also collecting details of future procurement plans of the Indian armed forces which could have adversely affected the country's strategic preparedness, the agency alleged.

"It is alleged that he collected and passed on sensitive details about the future procurement of Indian armed forces which reveal the strategic preparedness of the country besides classified communications and information relating to national security, details of the strategic and diplomatic talks of India with our friendly countries and sharing such classified information with intelligence agencies of foreign countries," the CBI spokesperson said.



Students celebrate after the declaration of the Haryana Board of School Education Class 10 results at a school in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

Man kills wife, daughter before ending life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: A Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) employee allegedly killed his wife and daughter before hanging himself in east Delhi's Jyoti Colony area on Tuesday, police said.

A PCR call was received at around 12 pm where a Delhi Metro employee informed that when he reached out to his colleague Sushil Kumar (43), who did not come to the office, he was crying over the call and said that he killed everybody,



a senior police officer said.

Police reached Kumar's house and found three bodies there. While Kumar was found hanging from the ceiling, his wife Anuradha (43) and six-year-old daughter had stab wounds, Deputy Commissioner

of Police (Shahdara) Rohit Meena said. Kumar's 13-year-old son also received stab injuries and is currently undergoing treatment, he said. Kumar worked as a maintenance supervisor in the DMRC at East Vinod Nagar depot, police said.

The forensic science laboratory (FSL) teams are inspecting the spot. Prima facie, it seems that Kumar killed his wife and daughter before committing suicide. Further investigation is underway, the DCP said.

GADKARI GETS THREAT CALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: An unidentified man made a threatening call on the landline number of Union minister Nitin Gadkari's official residence on Motilal Nehru road here, police said Tuesday.

The call was received by a staff of Gadkari's office Monday night. The caller did not share his details and demanded to speak to the minister and threaten him, a senior police officer said. "The caller spoke in Hindi and said 'mujhe mantri ji se baat karni hai, unhe threaten karna hai' (I want to talk to the minister and want to threaten him), and disconnected the call," he said.

The minister's office reported the matter to Delhi Police which is now investigating the matter. "All call records details are being analysed. The accused had called on the landline number so we are trying to trace the number to get to the culprit. An enquiry is underway," the officer added.

Notably, the minister's office in Nagpur had received such threat calls on two separate occasions earlier this year. A team of the NIA had gone to Nagpur on May 9 to conduct a probe into the matter. The calls were allegedly made by a murder convict, Jayesh Pujari alias Kantha, who was arrested from a jail in Belagavi, Karnataka, and booked under the anti-terror law UAPA, police had said.

New Delhi, May 16: The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised against the use of non-sugar sweeteners to control body weight or reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases.

The recommendation is based on the findings of a review of the available evidence which suggests that use of non-sugar sweeteners (NSS) does not provide any long-term benefit in reducing body fat in adults or children.

The findings also suggest that there may be potential undesirable impact from long-term use of NSS, such as an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and mortality in



adults, the WHO said.

"Replacing free sugars with NSS does not help with weight control in the long term. People need to con-

sider other ways to reduce free sugars intake, such as consuming food with naturally occurring sugars, like fruit, or unsweetened food

and beverages," said Francesco Branca, WHO Director for Nutrition and Food Safety. "NSS are not essential dietary factors and have no nutritional value. People should reduce the sweetness of the diet altogether, starting early in life, to improve their health," Branca said in a statement.

The recommendation applies to all people except individuals with pre-existing diabetes and includes all synthetic and naturally occurring or modified non-nutritive sweeteners that are not classified as sugars. These sweeteners are found in manufactured foods and beverages, or sold on their own to be added to foods and beverages by consumers. Common NSS include acesulfame K, aspartame, advan-

tame, cyclamates, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, stevia and stevia derivatives.

The guideline does not apply to personal care and hygiene products containing NSS, such as toothpaste, skin cream, and medications, or to low-calorie sugars and sugar alcohols (polyols), which are sugars or sugar derivatives containing calories and are therefore not considered NSS, according to the WHO.

The WHO guideline on NSS is part of a suite of existing and forthcoming guidelines on healthy diets that aim to establish lifelong healthy eating habits, improve dietary quality and decrease the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) worldwide.



HP eyeing use of pine forest residue as biofuel

AGENCIES

Shimla, May 16: Nearly 22 per cent or 8,267 sq.km of the total forest area in Himachal Pradesh is fire-prone. A majority of the fires were reported from the pine forests since during summer the trees shed needles that are highly inflammable due to the rich content of turpentine oil. Last month it signed a memorandum of understanding with Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and is planning to start a pilot project for the bioconversion of pine needles into biofuel. The utilisation of pine needles for biofuel production through pyrolysis and other techniques will be a sustainable way to deal with the forest fires as well as the energy crisis. As per the pact, the government



and OIL will collaborate to harness and develop new and renewable energy resources, including CBG. The government is eyeing to take advantage of the forest waste. Pine

gasification may become a source of employment for rural people and also protect forests from fire. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said, "OIL has as-

- As per government data, 1,200 to 2,500 forest fires are reported in the state every year
- Mid and low hills in Shimla, Solan, Bilaspur, Una, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi and Sirmaur are the worst-affected districts
- For conservation, scientific management and sustainable use of pine forest residue that can be used as biofuel, an alternative to alleviate dependence on fossil fuel

sured all-out support to develop renewable energy, promote research and development, and create a sustainable and resilient energy system." The pact signed between two entities is a significant step towards achieving the goal of mak-

ing Himachal Pradesh the first green energy state of the country by March 2026." OIL would test the feasibility of producing CBG from the pine needle in its centre in Bengaluru. "If the results are encouraging, this will not only pave the way for producing sustainable energy sources, replacing traditional fossil fuels, but will also boost the economy of lower areas of the state," said the government in a statement. CBG has properties similar to CNG and can be used as Green Renewable Automotive Fuel. "CBG has the potential to replace CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial sectors. The abundance of pine needles makes it a promising source of energy," the Chief Minister added.

Varsity developing solution for stubble management in Hisar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, May 16: Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU) in Haryana's Hisar is developing an innovative solution for stubble management that will prove to be a boon for the farmers.

This information was given at the meeting of the university Board of Management, which was presided over by Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal.

The Chief Secretary praised the university's efforts and expressed confidence that the research outcomes would be swiftly disseminated to farmers, allowing them to take full advantage of the advances in stubble management.

It was appraised at the meeting that the university had released five varieties of Raya and Sorghum.

Of them, two varieties of Raya have been released at the national level which are suitable for Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Jammu, western Uttar Pradesh and northern Rajasthan with low erucic acid, and three in Sorghum -- Haryana Jowar Hybrid 1513 (HJH 1513), HJ 1514, and CSV 53F -- for cultivation recommended for Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission Monday announced a new tariff order for 2023-24. The new tariff order will be applicable with effect from today (Tuesday)

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, May 16: Electricity rates are set to go up in Punjab with the power regulator PSERC announcing an increase in power tariff by 25 to 89 paise per unit for different categories of consumers. Opposition parties Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal slammed the move, saying it was the AAP government's "first gift" to people two days after it won the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll.

The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) has issued the new tariff for those who consume more than 300 units per month and for the non-residential sector that does not get any subsidy. As per the new tariffs, which will come into effect from today (Tuesday), the charges for those having a load of up to 2 KW have been revised to ₹4.19 per unit for the first 100 units (an increase of 70 paise per unit), ₹6.64 per unit for 101 to 300 units (an in-



Justifying the hike, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the revised tariff would not impact the common people. The increase would be borne by the government

crease of 80 paise per unit), and ₹7.75 per unit for above 300 units (an increase of 45 paise per unit). For those having a load between 2 KW and 7 KW, the existing charge is ₹3.74 per unit for the first 100 units, ₹5.84 per unit for 101 to 300 units, and ₹7.30 per unit for above 300 units. Whereas, the new tariff will be ₹4.44 per unit, ₹6.64 per unit, and ₹7.75 per unit for the first 100 units, 101 to 300 units, and above 300

units, respectively. In the industrial category, the tariff has been increased from ₹5.53 to ₹5.67 per unit for those consuming up to 20 KVA. Justifying the hike, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the revised tariff would not impact the common people. The increase would be borne by the government. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Badal said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had mastered the politics of lies and deception by invoking a massive power hike across all categories of consumers immediately after winning the Jalandhar by-poll. Demanding an immediate withdrawal of the back breaking hike, the SAD president said "AAP has penalised Punjabis for reposing faith in the party and betrayed their trust".

HP to cover 1,800 ha for orange production



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, May 16: The Himachal Pradesh government has proposed to cover 1,800 hectares of land in the state for orange production, under HP Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition (SHIVA) project, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said.

State Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi-led delegation, which is on a six-day tour to Australia as part of the project, observed the micro-grafting technique in orange cultivation, besides discussing citrus pathology programme and national citrus repository programme, a statement said

The HP SHIVA project has been funded by the Asian Development Bank. Citrus fruits are grown in plain areas of the state where the maximum temperature is between

30 and 40 degrees Celsius. This is a key initiative of the state government to gain technical knowledge from Australia and utilise it to guide local horticulturists for improving the sector, the chief minister said, adding that this will help in preparing high quality orange plants in the state. Himachal Pradesh has been endowed with a wide range of agro-climatic conditions which has proved a boon for a large number of fruit crops like apple, citrus fruits, mango, apricot and emphasis is being laid on adopting new techniques to increase the income of farmers as well as the survival rate of plants, Sukhu said. The delegation during its visit observed and studied the modern techniques of screening, testing, cleaning and maintenance being adopted in the field of plant health management in Australia. They also visited the Strawberry Industry Certification Authority and the Elizabeth Agricultural Institute laboratories in Sydney and discussed modern techniques for nursery registration programmes, as per the statement.

Himachal to frame new energy policy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, May 16: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said the government is planning to frame a new energy policy with an aim to provide more share to the state in hydropower projects.

The Chief Minister said under the new policy, the provision of deferment of free power royalty will be completely abolished by ending the relaxation given earlier. He said there would be a provision to give 15 per cent share to the state for the first 12 years, 20 per cent for the next 18 years and 30 per cent for the next 10 years.

The state has set a target of starting 500 MW solar power projects this year

"Efforts would be made to increase the state's share in those projects which have recovered its cost, for which correspondence would be initiated with the central government and other PSUs," said Sukhu. He said for all upcoming hydel power projects, the land would be given for a 40-year lease as per the policy of the government.



MATTER OF FAITH: A devotee drinks water from the bucket of a volunteer performing 'sewa' at the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Punjab

Punjab govt to issue digital receipts for services

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, May 16: The Punjab government has started issuing fee receipts for its services on the mobile phones of applicants, saving an estimated ₹1.3 crore spent on paper every year.

The eco-friendly initiative was launched by the Department of Governance Reforms (DGR) Friday. The elimination of the paper receipt system would significantly reduce the carbon footprint at 'Sewa Kendras' and will also contribute to a sustainable future, Punjab Governance Reforms and Public Grievances Minister Aman Arora said. Applicants will no longer have



to worry about misplacing or losing paper receipts as now they can easily access their payment receipts through SMS, he added.

The minister said the digital receipts would carry all the information being found on the normal paper receipts, but if any applicant

JALANDHAR BYPOLL

Oppn ran negative campaign, says Mann



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 16: After his party won the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday alleged that opposition parties ran a negative campaign but AAP put up a positive agenda and sought votes on the basis of development.

Mann said AAP talked about farmers and labourers, giving 300 units per month free electricity to people, opening 'mohalla clinics', building schools and roads, ensuring congenial atmosphere for industry, whereas the opposition "sought votes in the name of caste, religion". "We sought votes on the basis of development and work we have done," Mann said. He said the rival parties ran a "negative campaign" and frequently trained guns on the chief minister.

"But I did not respond to their attacks. I left that to people and people of Jalandhar gave the reply. I am happy at the reply people have given them (in Jalandhar)," he said. He said before the bypoll, op-

position parties said it was going to be a "semi-final" ahead of next year's Lok Sabha elections. After the results, they can be heard saying the ruling parties generally win bypolls, he said.

Mann was addressing a gathering in Patiala, where he launched a modern bus terminal spread over eight acres and built at a cost of nearly ₹61 crore. The Chief Minister said the bus terminal will have 45 counters and shops, and it will handle 1,500 buses, while ramps have also been built for the physically challenged. Speaking about the bypoll, Mann said the people of Jalandhar have "shut many mouths". "I keep saying that people are supreme, but they (rivals) don't realise. They have a problem in digesting how common people are now occupying seats of power where they used to be once," he said.

On Saturday, the AAP breached the Congress stronghold over Jalandhar and won the seat by a margin of 58,691 votes. The Chief Minister also targeted the BJP.

Himachal Pradesh a haven for expensive morel mushrooms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, May 16: Himachal Pradesh's highly prized foraged fungi crop known worldwide for its meaty texture, robust flavor and to ward off free radicals that cause ageing, a large proportion of which are shipped to Europe, is bountiful this year in nature owing to plentiful post-winter precipitation, experts and traders said on Monday.

Guchhi, or morel mushroom, a mushroom variety which grows naturally in snowy slopes, is reaching markets across north Indian towns. A kg of dried guchhi is selling from ₹8,000 to ₹12,000 in the wholesale domestic market, depending upon the quality and size.

The morels sell for upwards of \$500 per kilogram in the international market. A freshly harvested one kg of guchhi is reduced to 80-100 grams after drying under natural conditions. In Himachal, a large number of Nepalese, who are otherwise working in Himachal orchards, are involved in collecting this fungus from the wild.

Its harvesting begins in May and lasts till June-end. Trade insiders told IANS that the demand for morel mushrooms from European consumers is rising due to growing interest for vegan food and animal protein substitute.

In Himachal Pradesh, guchhis are grown in dense deodar forests mainly in interiors of Shimla, Chamba, Kullu and Mandi districts. Since its trade is not regulated by the government, there is no estimation about its overall production. For foragers collecting morel mushrooms from their nat-



- Guchhi, or morel mushroom, a mushroom variety which grows naturally in snowy slopes, is reaching markets across north Indian towns
- A kg of dried guchhi is selling from ₹8,000 to ₹12,000 in the wholesale domestic market, depending upon the quality and size
- Almost 90 per cent of the produce in the hill state is heading offshore. Britain, Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands offer good prices

ural environment is time consuming and back-breaking exercise that lasts for days together. After the winter snow, frequent spells of rains in March and April are congenial for the mushroom crop to grow naturally. Even most apple growers find morels in the forests near their apple orchards. They use them for serving them at special occasions such as weddings and births.

The elimination of the paper receipt system would significantly reduce the carbon footprint at 'Sewa Kendras' and will also contribute to a sustainable future

AMAN ARORA | PUNJAB GOVERNANCE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES MINISTER insists on a paper receipt it would be provided to him/her duly stamped and signed at no extra cost. He urged the citizens to be a part of this environment-friendly initiative of the AAP government by not asking for paper receipts. Arora said the office copy of the

receipt would be printed on the backside of the first page of the application form only and would be duly signed and stamped by the operator at 'Sewa Kendras'. "In case of form-less service, the receipt will be printed on the backside of the system-generated form, if required," he said.

He said digital receipts have proven to be a popular alternative as they are much easier to store and access when needed. The paper-less fee receipt system would also save time for both the service provider and the user as it would cut off the printing time at the service counters of the Sewa Kendras, said Arora.

of the day quote

The Himachal Pradesh government will invest 50 per cent equity in an ethanol plant to be established at Jeetpur Behri in Una district by HPCL at a cost of Rs 500 crore

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

The drive to remove illegal encroachments is underway in the state and it will continue till all of them are removed

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI | UTTARAKHAND CM

Backed by growing healthcare needs and the government's commitment to facilitate growth, the Indian medical devices industry has the power to emerge as the global leader in manufacturing and innovation in the next 25 years

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Rahul to visit US

New Delhi: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US on June 22, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be visiting the country for a week at the end of this month during which he will attend several programmes. According to party sources, Rahul Gandhi is slated leave for the US on May 30 or 31 and will visit California, Washington and New York. "During his visit, he will participate in public outreach programmes as well at university meets," the sources said. On June 4, Rahul Gandhi will also address the Indian diaspora at Madison Square, New York.

Girl molested

Pilibhit: An eight-year-old girl was allegedly molested by her 17-year-old cousin in a village under the Barkhera police circle in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district when she was visiting her grandmother in the same village, police said. The incident came to light later that day when the victim narrated the ordeal to her mother. The matter was reported to the police late on Monday night following which an FIR was lodged in the matter and the accused was arrested.

FIR against Raut

Mumbai: The Nashik Police has filed an FIR against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut for advising the police and government officials to ignore the orders of the 'unconstitutional' government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, officials said here Monday. Raut had made the comments on Friday after the Supreme Court verdict on the June 2022 split in the original Shiv Sena which toppled the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) regime headed by former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.

2 undertrials hurt

Jaunpur: Two undertrials, accused in the murder of wrestler Badal Yadav, were attacked in broad daylight in a Jaunpur court on Tuesday when attackers opened fire on them. The undertrials, Surya Prakash and Mitihlesh Giri, were seriously injured in the incident and have been admitted to a local hospital and have now been referred to Varanasi for advanced treatment.

Female cop dies

Gunwahati: The family of Junmoni Rabha, an Assam Police sub-inspector who died in a road accident Tuesday, has dubbed her death as 'mysterious' and also demanded a high-level inquiry. The accident took place in the Kaliabor area of Nagaon district.



When it wins the BJP is graceless. When it loses BJP is disgraceful. This is the only thing to be said about how it is reacting to the resounding defeat in Karnataka. The factories manufacturing hate and poison are hyperactive. The people of Karnataka are wiser. They will remain vigilant and defeat these mischievous attempts of the BJP to disturb social harmony

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

NEW PARLIAMENT GETTING FINAL TOUCHES

Final touches are being given to the new Parliament building and it is likely to be ready by the end of this month, sources said. Although there is no official word from the government yet, sources said that it may be inaugurated by the Prime Minister in the last week of May to mark nine years of his government



Monsoon onset over Kerala to be delayed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: A slight delay is expected in the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala and it is likely to arrive by June 4, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

Scientists, however, said the slight delay is unlikely to impact agriculture and total rainfall over the country. The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1, with a standard deviation of about 7 days.

"This year, the southwest monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be slightly delayed. The monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be on June 4 with a model error of 4 days," the Met office said in a statement. The monsoon arrived in the southern state on May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.

The advance of the southwest monsoon over the Indian mainland is marked by the onset over Kerala and is an important indicator characterising the transition from the hot and dry season to the rainy season. The IMD said its forecasts for the monsoon onset over Kerala have proved to be correct during the last 18 years except in 2015.

The predicted monsoon onset is within the standard deviation of 7 days. It is unlikely to impact agriculture and overall rainfall over the country, the IMD chief said.

"There is no one-to-one relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season. Also, the monsoon arriving early or in late

in Kerala doesn't mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. The monsoon is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features," he said.

M Rajeevan, former secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said it is unlikely that the delay is due to Cyclone Mocha. "Had the cyclone occurred around May 20-May 25, it would have really affected the monsoon. The cyclone is already over." "It could be due to insufficient heating over the Indian subcontinent. The progress of the monsoon also depends on other factors such as the phases of Madden-Julian Oscillation and how the El Nino is evolving," Rajeevan added.

According to Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist at Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, a coastal El Nino has already developed in the east Pacific. "It should develop into a mature state by June-July. This can potentially impact the onset, progression and overall distribution of monsoon rainfall. The onset can be weak or delayed, and IMD onset forecast aligns with this."

He said cyclone Mocha may not have an impact on the monsoon, as it's much earlier with respect to the monsoon onset. "If the monsoon onset is delayed and the ocean conditions are warm, there could be potential of cyclone formation close to the onset. That can change the course of the monsoon. This happened with cyclones Nisarga and Tauktae. However forecasts don't indicate a cyclone yet. We'll need to wait and see," he said.

NORMAL RAIN IS CRITICAL FOR INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE, WITH 52 PER CENT OF THE NET CULTIVATED AREA RELYING ON IT. RAINFED AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL FOOD PRODUCTION, MAKING IT A CRUCIAL CONTRIBUTOR TO INDIA'S FOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY



Strawberries being packed after its harvesting, in a field on the outskirts of Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

2 held in Mirwaiz killing case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested two people who were involved in the killing of Mirwaiz Mohammad Farooq, 33 years after the then chief priest of the Valley fell to the bullets of Hizbul Mujahideen assassins, a senior police officer said here Tuesday.

Special DG CID Jammu and Kashmir R R Swain said the State Investigation Agency (SIA) arrested Javed Bhat and Zahoor Bhat who had managed to escape along with two others after the killing of Mirwaiz Farooq at his residence on May 21, 1990.

Officials, however, did not divulge other details such as when and from where the accused were arrested. Ayoub Dar, also an accused, was already arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment by a court. "The four accused were absconding. Main accused Abdullah Bangaroo was killed in an encounter while another accused, Ab Rehman Shigan, was also killed in an encounter during the investigation. "Javed Bhat alias Azmat Khan and Zahoor Bhat alias Bilal man-



OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, DID NOT DIVULGE OTHER DETAILS SUCH AS WHEN AND FROM WHERE THE ACCUSED WERE ARRESTED

BEFORE KILLING MIRWAIZ, ALL THE FIVE HIZBUL TERRORISTS HAD GONE TO PAKISTAN FOR TRAINING IN 1990

aged to escape. It was Zahoor who had pulled the trigger after entering the bedroom of the Mirwaiz," Swain told reporters here.

He said the absconders have been arrested by "the long arms of the law after more than 30 years. They will face a trial now". "With this all accused of Mirwaiz killing have been brought to justice," he added. Swain said the duo, who was arrested on the basis of intelligence developed by the SIA, have been handed over to the CBI.

Land-for-jobs scam: CBI conducts searches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Patna, May 16: The CBI Tuesday conducted searches at the premises of RJD's Sandesh MLA Kiran Devi and Rajya Sabha member Prem Chand Gupta at nine locations in multiple states in connection with the land-for-jobs scam, officials said.

The investigators searched properties linked to Kiran Devi and her husband Arun Singh in Bihar's Arrah and Patna, and those of Gupta in Gurugram and Rewari in Haryana, Noida in UP

and Delhi, they said. CBI officers searched the MLA's official residence at Harding Road in Patna in the morning and collected some documents, they added.

The investigators also searched properties linked to her in her constituency, Sandesh in Arrah, officials said. Despite repeated attempts by PTI, she could not be reached for comment.

It is alleged that during RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's tenure as railway minister from 2004-2009, appointments were made in

Central Railways in violation of norms and procedures of recruitment.

No advertisement or public notice was issued for the appointments but some residents of Patna were appointed as substitutes in different zonal railways located at Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur and Hazipur, it is alleged.

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwary alleged that the BJP-led government at the Centre started "misusing" central agencies against opposition leaders soon after the defeat in Karnataka.

"Shaken by the Karnataka election results, the BJP-led government has once again started misusing central investigative agencies to settle scores outside of the electoral battlefield. Today's searches on our leaders have once again exposed the BJP as how they are using central agencies against opposition leaders," he said.

Leader of opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha of the BJP said, "The central probe agencies are doing their job and taking action against the corrupt. Why are they (RJD) so scared of CBI's action?"

Experts call for increased efforts to combat dengue

India observes National Dengue Day May 16, each year to raise awareness about the deadly fever associated with the vector-borne disease

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: With India witnessing a significant annual increase in dengue cases over the past decade, experts have called for intensified efforts to fight the mosquito-borne disease, noting that it has been neglected for many years.

India observes National Dengue Day May 16, each year to raise awareness about the deadly fever associated with the vector-borne disease. India currently bears the majority of the global dengue burden, which can be attributed to various factors, including urbanisation, travel, trade, climate change, viral evolution, and the

absence of effective vaccines and drug treatments.

According to the most recent data published in The Lancet journal, 1, 10,473 (Over 1.1 lakh) dengue cases were documented in India between January and October 2022, which is similar to the number of cases reported in 2018. Despite the escalating threat, vaccines and treatments for dengue remain elusive.

"One of the main challenges in developing a vaccine for dengue is that the virus has four different serotypes or variants, making it difficult to create a vaccine that can target all four equally," explained dengue expert Neelika Malavige.

"With the virus evolving faster during intense transmission, new variants can emerge and lead to massive outbreaks, causing an increase in disease severity," Malavige, Head of Dengue Global Program and Scientific Affairs (India) at international not-for-profit Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative



(DNDi), said.

The first registered vaccine developed by French pharmaceutical company Sanofi has shown poor efficacy against serotype 2 and the potential to cause more severe disease in children who have not previously been infected with the virus.

Similarly, another registered vaccine developed by the Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda has poor efficacy against dengue serotype 3. "This (Takeda) vaccine appears to induce more durable immunity but has poor efficacy against dengue serotype 3,"

Malavige explained.

A recent study conducted by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru revealed that the dengue virus has undergone "dramatic" evolution over the last few decades in India. This underscores the urgent need to develop a vaccine that targets the strains found in the country.

Rahul Roy, a co-author of the IISc study, highlighted that India has experienced a rapid increase in infections caused by the dengue 4 variant (DENV4-1d), which is very different from its closest relative. The

new variant is believed to be more infectious, although further investigation is required to determine its severity in clinical symptoms.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately half of the world's population is at risk of dengue, with an estimated 100-400 million infections occurring each year.

"About 34 per cent of these infections occur in India. Dengue is endemic in almost all states in India, and all four serotypes of the virus have been reported in various parts of the country," added Arun Sankaradoss, a scientist at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Sankaradoss pointed out that despite the genetic similarity of dengue variants, the immune response to one serotype does not necessarily provide cross-protection. He also mentioned the presence of genetic variations within the serotypes, making it even more challenging to design a dengue vaccine.

international

of the day quote

We live in a moment, I think, at which freedom of expression, freedom to publish has not in my lifetime been under such threat in the countries of the West

SALMAN RUSHDIE | BOOKER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR

I believe that whoever planned this and incited the vandalism ... they are certainly guilty of terrorism, but they also managed to do what Pakistan's real enemy could not do in the last 75 years

SHAHBAZ SHARIF | PAK PRIME MINISTER

I want to assure you that I will do everything possible within the framework of this exploratory mandate for Bulgaria to have a stable, working, regular government

RUMEN RADEV | BULGARIA'S PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

16 dead in rival groups firing

Islamabad: At least 16 people were killed and four others injured in an exchange of fire between two rival groups in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said Tuesday. The incident occurred late Monday night over the demarcation of a coal mine disputed between two groups in Darra Adam Khel tribal area of Kohat district, police officials told Xinhua news agency. The police said that the firing took place due to a long-standing dispute between the two tribal groups, and that several sessions of Jirga, a local tribal court, had been held to reconcile the rival tribes.

Fire at NZ hostel kills 6

Wellington: A fire ripped through a hostel in New Zealand's capital overnight, killing at least six people and forcing others to flee the four-story building in their pajamas in what a fire chief Tuesday called his "worst nightmare." Six bodies were found but not all areas of the building had been searched yet because the roof on the top floor had collapsed, bringing down debris and making the area unsafe, said Bruce Stubbs, the incident controller for Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Fawad Chaudhry evades re-arrest

Islamabad: Pakistan's former information minister Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday made a sprint of his life to evade re-arrest by dashing into the building of a high court here. Chaudhry of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had been detained under the Maintenance of Public Order regulation in the wake of violent protests by the supporters of his party following Imran Khan's arrest last week, and had filed a petition for acquittal in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

4 terrorists held

Islamabad: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of police in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province has arrested four terrorists in various operations, CTD officials said. In efforts to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, multiple intelligence-based operations were carried out in different districts of the province over the last 24 hours, said the CTD Monday. During the operations, at least four terrorists were arrested, said the CTD, adding that they belonged to banned outfits, including Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and the Islamic State, Xinhua news agency reported.

Ukraine repels heavy Russian air strikes over Kyiv

AGENCIES

Kyiv, May 16: Ukrainian air defences thwarted an intense Russian air attack on Kyiv early Tuesday, shooting down all 18 missiles aimed at the capital with the help of Western-supplied weapons, officials said. Loud explosions boomed over Kyiv as the nighttime attack combined Russian missiles launched from the air, sea and land in an apparent attempt to overwhelm Ukraine's air defences. Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov cheered the display of defensive prowess, calling it in a tweet "another unbelievable success."

A metal fragment that landed inside the Kyiv zoo and was seen by Associated Press reporters was labelled Lockheed Martin and Boeing, two of the companies involved in the manufacture of the Patriot missile system. The barrage came as European leaders sought new ways to punish Russia for the war and a Chinese envoy sought traction for Beijing's peace proposal, which so far appears to have made little impression on the warring sides.

It also came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy returned home following a whirlwind European tour to greet Ukraine's key wartime allies, which spurred an additional tranche of pledged military aid. The overnight attack on Kyiv was "exceptional in its density—the maximum number of attacking missiles in the shortest period of time," said Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv military administration. Valentyna Myronets, a 64-year-old Kyiv resident, said she felt "pain, fear, nerv-

ousness, restlessness" amid the assaults. "God, we are waiting for victory and when all this is over," she said. UK Ambassador Melinda Simmons tweeted that the barrage was "pretty intense." "Bangs and shaking walls are not an easy night," she wrote.

It was the eighth time this month that Russian air raids had targeted the capital, a clear escalation after weeks of lull and ahead of a much-anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive. A Russian defense official said that Tuesday's attack destroyed a Patriot missile battery in Kyiv.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the system was destroyed by a "Kinzhal."

The bolstered air defences have deterred Russian aircraft from going deep into Ukraine and helped shape the course of the war, military experts say.

Later Tuesday, European leaders are taking part in a rare summit of the 46-nation Council of Europe, the continent's main human rights body.

The two-day meeting in Iceland seeks to set up a way of logging damage in Ukraine caused by the Kremlin's forces so compensation claims can be lodged against Moscow.

Meanwhile, a Chinese envoy is preparing to visit Ukraine and Russia in coming days as Beijing presses the peace plan it released in February.

Ukraine has cautiously welcomed China's proposal while saying it would want to see what specific actions China takes. Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government says it is neutral and wants to play a role as mediator in the war; but it has given Moscow political support, and a breakthrough appears unlikely more than 14 months after Russia's full-scale invasion.



Explosion of a missile is seen in the sky over the city during a Russian missile strike

EU countries adopt law banning products which fuel deforestation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, May 16: The 27 European Union countries Tuesday formally adopted new rules that should help the bloc reduce its contribution to global deforestation by regulating the trade in a series of products driving the decrease in forested areas across the world.

Under the legislation, companies trading palm oil, cattle, wood, coffee, cocoa, rubber and soy will need to verify that the goods they sell in the EU haven't led to deforestation and forest degradation anywhere in the world since 2021.

The regulation also covers derived products such as chocolate or printed paper.

Forests are an important natural means of removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, since plants absorb carbon dioxide when they grow.

According to the World Resource Institute, a forested area the size of 10 soccer fields disappears in the world every minute and the EU says that without the new regulation it could be responsible for the loss of 248,000 hectares (612,000



acres) of deforestation per year—a surface almost as large as member country Luxembourg.

"Effectively implemented, the law could significantly reduce greenhouse emissions that result from the clearing of tropical forests for food and other commodities," said Stientje van Veldhoven, the World Resource Institute regional director for Europe. "And it could help protect critical biodiversity and water resources in tropical rainforests."

The law will force companies to show that goods they import comply with rules in the country of origin, including on human rights and the protection of Indigenous people. Van Veldhoven added that the EU

The law will force companies to show that goods they import comply with rules in the country of origin, including on human rights and the protection of indigenous people

should now cooperate with producing countries to make sure they can adapt to the new legislation without hurting their economies and people's livelihoods. "This will require incentives for vulnerable groups like smallholder farmers to shift toward deforestation-free practices, ensuring they do not get left behind in this transition," she said.

Forests around the world are increasingly under threat from clearance for timber and agriculture, including soybean and palm oil. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that 420 million hectares (1.6 million square miles) of forest—an area larger than the EU—were destroyed between 1990 and 2020.



Floods caused by the annual rains have left a trail of destruction across Somalia

STÉPHANE DUJARRIC | UNITED NATIONS SPOKESMAN

RADIATION TESTS ON NK DEFECTORS

South Korea has kicked off radiation exposure tests on North Korean defectors who hailed from areas near the reclusive country's Punggye-ri nuclear testing site, an official at Seoul's Unification Ministry said Tuesday



Indian Ministers S Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Rajeev Chandrasekhar during a meeting with the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen a day before the India-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting in Brussels. The first ministerial meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was held in Brussels Tuesday during which the two sides discussed enhanced cooperation in digital and clean technology that will help them achieve their shared vision of a sustainable future

PTI PHOTO

Yellen warns US default could trigger recession

REUTERS

Washington, May 16: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Tuesday warned that a default on government debt would likely leave millions of Americans without income payments, potentially triggering a recession that could destroy many American jobs and businesses.

Yellen told a gathering of community bankers that the unprecedented economic and financial crisis would be exacerbated by possible disruptions to the federal government's operations, including air traffic control, law enforcement, border security and national defense, and telecommunications systems. The accompanying financial crisis could multiply the severity of the downturn, she said in remarks prepared for delivery, adding, "It is very conceivable that



we'd see a number of financial markets break - with worldwide panic triggering margin calls, runs and fire sales." "Yellen Monday told Congress the Treasury expects to be able to pay the US government's bills only through June 1 without a debt limit increase,

Democratic President Joe Biden and top congressional Republican Kevin McCarthy are expected to discuss new work requirements for benefits programs for low-income Americans during Tuesday's debt ceiling negotiation

heaping pressure on Republicans in Congress and the White House to reach a deal in coming days."

Failure to reach a deal would result in severe economic and financial consequences, she said. "Our economy would suddenly find itself in an unprecedented

economic and financial storm," she said, adding that 66 million Social Security beneficiaries and millions of veterans and military families would likely go unpaid. "And the resulting income shock could lead to a recession that destroys many American jobs and businesses," she said.

Yellen said the standoff over the federal debt limit is already driving borrowing costs higher and adding to the country's debt burden, and urged Congress to avoid the "eleventh-hour brinkmanship" over the debt ceiling in 2011 that led to the first-ever downgrade of the US credit rating.

"Time is running out. Every single day that Congress does not act, we are experiencing increased economic costs that could slow down the US economy," Yellen said in remarks to the Independent Community Bankers of America.

Pak high court extends Imran's bail in two cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 16: A Pakistan high court Tuesday extended bail of former prime minister Imran Khan in two cases pertaining to inciting violence and sedition until June 8.

A single bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) heard the pleas in cases pertaining to allegations against top officers of state institutions and the manhandling of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohsin Rana by Khan's supporters.



Chief Justice Aamer Farooq after hearing the arguments by the lawyers extended Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's bail till June 8. The extension was given after the court also granted the former prime minister exemption from court appearance for the day.

Justice Farooq also inquired about the registration of a first information report related to Khan's arrest made from the court's premises. Last week, the IHC had granted 70-year-old Khan bail, barring the authorities from arresting him in all the cases registered beyond May 9 and asked him to approach the Lahore High Court for further relief May 15.

Khan has been implicated in scores of cases since his ouster from power in April last year. He alleged that all the cases were politically motivated.

Meanwhile, the Lahore High Court (LHC) Tuesday reserved the verdict on Khan's petition seeking bail in all cases registered against him in Punjab province following his arrest in the Al Qadir Trust case last week that sparked violent protests by his supporters.

B'desh removes 'extra security' protection for foreign envoys

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, May 16: Bangladesh has withdrawn the "extra security escort" provided to top diplomats of India and three other countries, with foreign minister Dr AK Abdul Momen saying Dhaka will not provide this service with taxpayers' money.

Policemen equipped with riot gear used to escort in their vans the envoys of India, the United States, the UK, and Saudi Arabia during their movements in the city and an intensified security vigil for them was enforced following the July 1, 2016, Islamist militant attack in a posh Dhaka restaurant.

The attack killed 20 people — 17 foreigners including an Indian girl. Most of the other foreigners killed in the attack were however Japanese and Italians.

"The additional security protocol we were providing to ambassadors and high commissioners of some particular countries has been withdrawn. But the normal security measures for them are in place," a diplomatic security division official of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said Tuesday.

The official, who preferred anonymity, said the police gunmen will continue to accompany the envoys during their movements and the personnel from the designated police unit guarding the chancery complexes and residences of senior diplomats will also remain as usual.

The foreign minister said the existing law and order no longer required additional security measures for a few envoys and the decision to withdraw the extra protocols was taken as several embassies other than the four were demanding identical security rituals.

"We have decided not to provide additional security escort services to foreign ambassadors of any country," the minister told the media at the sidelines of an event.

He added that if any country felt the need for additional security measures, they might hire the services.

Momen said many countries were now asking for a similar protocol "but we will not give it to anyone, because it is discriminatory (and) no one gives such benefits to our ambassadors abroad".

LSG inch closer to playoffs



Yash Thakur (C) was pumped up after dismissing Suryakumar Yadav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, May 16: Mohsin Khan made a fine comeback from a long injury lay-off as the left-arm pacer defended 11 runs off the final over against the destructive Tim David (32 n o) to hand Lucknow Super Giants a five-run win over Mumbai Indians in the IPL here Tuesday.

Marcus Stoinis flaunted his raw power on way to an unbeaten 89 (47b, 4x4, 8x6) as LSG recovered from a poor start to post 177/3 after Mumbai opted to bowl. Mumbai were on course for a comfortable win but fluffed the chase in the second half of the innings to end with 172/5 in 20 overs.

Mohsin, who missed the whole of domestic season due to a shoulder injury, helped LSG take a major step towards a top-four finish by holding nerve in the final over. Mumbai too remain in contention for a playoff spot despite the loss.

Chasing 178 was not going to easy on this pitch but Rohit Sharma (37, 25b, 1x4, 3x6) and Ishan Kishan (59, 39b, 8x4, 1x6) raised possibility of a comfortable chase with a 90-run opening wicket stand off 58 balls.

However, both fell to leggie Ravi

Bishnoi in his successive overs as the hosts were back into the game. Going for shots from ball one was not the best option on this surface and even the usually unstoppable Suryakumar Yadav experienced that in the middle.

A master at extracting runs behind the wicket, he went for his trademark scoop shot off pacer Yash Thakur but ended up hitting it back to the stumps.

Mumbai needed 53 off the last 30 balls and with Nehal Wadhwa and David in the middle and Cameron Green yet to come, there was arsenal left in the tank. However, David could not finish the game.

Earlier, Stoinis shared an 82 run partnership with stand-in skipper Krunal Pandya (49 r h, 42b, 1x4, 1x6) after LSG found themselves reeling at 35/3 in the seventh over. As it has been the case through the season, batters had a tough time on a two paced surface.

LSG made a questionable call to leave out their leading run getter of the season, Kyle Myers, and the move did not work. Replacing him at the top, Deepak Hooda (5) was undone by a slower ball from Jason Behrendorff (2/30). The next ball



MARCUS STOINIS

from the left-arm pacer was angled away and Prerak Mankad got a faint touch on way to the wicketkeeper while trying to run towards the third man.

The situation got worse for LSG when Quinton de Kock (16) fell in the seventh over to leave the home

team reeling in the seventh over. The

onus was on the big-hitting Stoinis and Krunal to resurrect the innings and they did that with a gritty stand before the latter got retired hurt after being seen in a bit of discomfort in the 16th over. After that it was all Stoinis. Mumbai leaked

54 runs in the last three overs.

BRIEF SCORES

LSG 177/3 (Marcus Stoinis 89 n o, Krunal Pandya 49 r h; Jason Behrendorff 2/30) beat MI 172/5 (Ishan Kishan 59, Rohit Sharma 37, Tim David 32 n o; Ravi Bishnoi 2/26, Yash Thakur 2/40) by 5 runs.

Kings look to keep playoff hopes alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharamsala, May 16: Punjab Kings will be eager to register a big win to keep their IPL playoff hopes alive against wooden spooners Delhi Capitals, who will play for pride when the two teams face off here Wednesday.

It has been a roller-coaster ride for PBKS, with six losses and as many wins. They are placed at eighth spot with 12 points and are still in contention to make the qualifiers. However, they need to improve their net run rate (NRR), which stands at -0.268.

A 31-run win against the Capitals last week boosted their NRR and morale and the Shikhar Dhawan-led side will hope for an encore and then hope that other results go their way.

Punjab will have to put up a much improved effort with the bat. Against Delhi, opener Prabhsimran Singh waged a lone battle. Barring Dhawan, who has been their best batter; and to an extent Prabhsimran Singh, very few PBKS batters have contributed enough to their overall totals.

Their bowlers also need to pull up their socks. Boasting of a sound bowling attack with Nathan Ellis, Sam Curran and Arshdeep Singh, PBKS have often failed to defend runs.

On the other hand, Delhi Capitals have had a nightmare of a season and have already been knocked out of the playoff contention. The batting unit has disappointed all season. Delhi's Indian batters, barring Axar Patel, have flattered to deceive, putting up a dismal show.



Telecast: Star Sports channels

The abject failure of Prithvi Shaw and Sarfaraz Khan has contributed significantly to Delhi Capitals' travails this season, forcing the think-tank to pack all their overseas players at the top.

Skipper David Warner, wicket-keeper-batter Phil Salt and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh have given the team some momentum with the willow. But once they are gone, the middle order just crumbles.

In their previous game against Punjab, the Capitals looked on course for a comfortable win but then lost eight wickets for 67 runs. The Indian bowlers in the side are not faring as badly as the batters. Three of DC's four wins have come on the back of dominant bowling displays.

Old warhorse Ishant Sharma has done his job while the return of Khaleel Ahmed has also helped. Anrich Nortje, who had returned home for personal reasons, is back but it is to be seen if Delhi continue with the four overseas batters at the top or bring the South African pacer to tighten their bowling attack. The spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel have bowled economically.

SHORT TAKES

Cricketer no more

BHUBANESWAR: Former Odisha cricketer Dr Sanjay Satpathy breathed his last here Monday night. He was 76. He is survived by his wife Kalyani. A doctor by profession, he worked at Ipsat General Hospital in Rourkela. After his retirement, he was associated with few private hospitals. Satpathy had represented Odisha as well as East Zone. He played 23 first-class matches during his career, where he had opportunities to play against West Indies and Sri Lanka. He had scored a total of 265 runs, having a highest score of unbeaten 49. He had also 37 wickets to his name in his first-class career with the best figures of 6/89.

A new chapter

BHUBANESWAR: Roll ball and the traditional martial art of Punjab – Gatka, poised to get a significant boost nationwide as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has officially included this sport in the 37th National Games 2023, scheduled to be held in Goa in October. Speaking on this development, Odisha Roll Ball Association secretary Partha Sarathi Jena said, "Indeed a big day and another milestone added to the Indian origin, internationally grown and one of the world's fastest growing sport. Our state team is very much excited and looking forward to be the part of the National Games." Gatka, on the other hand, as a modern sporting discipline is a standardised style of stick fighting between two or more opponents.

Double delight

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha sprinters Amiya Kumar Mallick and Srabani Nanda Tuesday secured gold medals in the men's 100m and women's 100m events, respectively, at the ongoing National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championship at Ranchi. Amiya clocked 10.31 seconds, while another Odia athlete DM Jayaram bagged bronze in the same event with a timing of 10.40s. Srabani, on the other hand, clocked 11.57s to claim the yellow metal. Swadhin Kumar Majhi secured the bronze medal in the men's high jump event with an effort of 2.11 mtr.

Victory parade

BARCELONA: Nearly 80,000 people took to the streets of Barcelona to celebrate the club's Spanish league titles for the men's and women's squads. Barcelona's men clinched their first league title since 2019 Sunday. The women had already secured their title a couple of weeks ago. Players from both squads went on an open-bus parade through the Catalan capital Monday, greeting fans who sang and waved flags while fireworks and confetti were set off. The players from the men's team wore T-shirts with the words "La Liga is ours. The future too." The women carried the slogan "We play together, we win together."

SUNNY'S CANDID CONFESSION

MSD signing shirt an 'emotional moment'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 16: Batting legend Sunil Gavaskar reveals experiencing an "emotional moment" when he got MS Dhoni's autograph on his shirt after Chennai Super Giants' last league round match at the Chepauk against Kolkata Knight Riders in this IPL.

Gavaskar, who was on the field with the broadcast unit after the game Sunday night, requested Dhoni to sign his shirt as CSK players were doing a lap of honour around the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

"When I got to know about Chennai Super Kings and MS Dhoni are going to take a lap of honour at Chepauk, I decided to create a special memory. That's why I ran towards MSD to take his autograph. It was his last home game at Chepauk," Gavaskar was quoted as

saying on Star Sports.

"So, I went to Mahi and requested him to sign an autograph on the shirt that I was wearing. It was so nice of him to acknowledge it. It was a very emotional moment for me because this fellow has made immense contributions to Indian cricket," he said in a release.

CSK are currently placed second in the standings and look set to make the IPL playoffs. But it is yet to be determined whether Dhoni-led side would be back at the Chepauk, which will host the Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator.

"Of course, he will get a chance to play here if CSK qualifies for the playoffs. But I decided to make that moment special. I was fortunate enough that someone in the camera unit had a marker pen. So, I am thankful to that person as well," said Gavaskar, also a former India captain.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leicester, May 16: Liverpool plunged Leicester closer to relegation and kept alive their own chances of finishing in the top four of the Premier League with a 3-0 win.

Curtis Jones was the unlikely scorer of the first two goals Monday before Trent Alexander-Arnold whipped an indirect free-kick into the top corner to wrap up a mismatch at King Power Stadium between teams heading in opposite directions.

For Liverpool, a seventh straight victory in an impressive end-of-season rally secured at least a spot in the Europa League and moved the fifth-placed team a point behind both Newcastle and Manchester United in the race for the final two Champions League qualification positions, behind Manchester City and Arsenal.

Liverpool have two games left — against Aston Villa at home and already-relegated Southampton away — while Newcastle and Man United have three to play.

For Leicester, morale could hardly be lower with its top-flight status seriously under threat just seven years after winning the league in one of the great underdog stories in the history of sports.

The Foxes are in next-to-last place and two points from safety with two games remaining. They are at third-placed Newcastle, for one of the most daunting away games in the league, and at home to West Ham.

Leicester have won just one of



Curtis Jones (No.17) looks delighted after scoring one of his goals against Leicester, Monday

their last 14 league games and have conceded eight goals in their last two, after the 3-5 loss at Fulham last week.

Jones is an academy product enjoying a fine end to an injury-hit season. The 22-year-old midfielder had scored only once this season before running onto Mohamed Salah's right-wing cross to the far post and neatly side-footing home a finish in the 33rd.

The groans from the home fans inside the stadium were already audible and they increased three min-

utes later when Salah again picked out Jones, who controlled the ball in a central position at the edge of the area, spun and smashed a dipping effort into the far corner.

Salah completed a hat-trick of assists when he tapped a free-kick backward with the sole of his foot to give Alexander-Arnold a clearer view on goal to curl a shot high and beyond goalkeeper Daniel Iversen into the corner in the 71st.

Alexander-Arnold has also come into his own in the final section of the season after being deployed in

From being a 'backbencher, prankster' to leading by example

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 16: Sunil Chhetri was a 'backbencher and prankster' who made fun of senior players during the early days of his international career, but all that changed after he was made captain in 2011 as he realised that he needed to set examples for the team.

After the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia's retirement in the 2011 Asian Cup, then coach Bob Houghton elevated Chhetri to captaincy to lead a young side in the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers in Malaysia two months later.

"The day I was given the armband, it was in Malaysia by Bob Houghton, there was an instant pressure because of what I was — a backbencher," Chhetri said on an episode of 'Let There Be Sports' streaming on Disney Plus Hotstar.

"Myself, Steven (Dias) and (NP) Pradeep made fun of the senior players, that was me. Everything was a prank and I was mischie-

vous. But when I wore the armband, for the initial three-four games I started sitting ahead," added the 38-year-old, whose last major tournament for India could be the Asian Cup 2024 in Doha.

"That was me taking the pressure that I have become captain now. It's not these things but doing the right stuff that you were doing before and being a little more thoughtful. It's not only you, it's the team now," he added.

Senior players like Renedy Singh, Climax Lawrence and Mahesh Gawli played their last India matches in the latter part of 2011.

Chhetri made his international debut for India in 2005 in a friendly match against Pakistan in Quetta. He scored on his debut in a 1-1 draw. Sukhwinder Singh was the Indian team coach then.

Chhetri said he changed his approach to the game after taking charge as captain as he needed to lead the team by example. "Before there was this mindset that I am Sunil Chhetri — my dribble, my



pass, my crossing, my goal. I would raise my hands and go home. Even if I received abuse, I would take them and go home.

"But now you are thinking about yourself as well, but also about the team on and off the pitch. And

when I forced myself to think this way earlier, I was scared. I told myself to relax, the job is still the same. Be a good example on the pitch and off the pitch," he explained.

Chhetri, the third most prolific

scorer among active international players with goals only behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, said he made it a point to take the blame for the team's failures.

"More importantly, when there is a mistake, raise your hand and

apologise. Because when the responsibilities come and you become a senior player, it becomes more difficult to say it was my mistake.

"That was what I learned when I became a leader, that it's okay, you are going to make a mistake. All the big ones have made it. And when the captain gets up and takes the blame, the whole morale (of the dressing room) changes," he added.

The veteran striker, who currently plays for Bengaluru FC in the top-tier Indian Super League, has won several titles and accolades during his professional career, but revealed that defeats taught him to stay grounded.

"It's a blessing to be Sunil Chhetri, very honestly. But to take losses in life is something that sports teaches you and that's what I take from football. Every now and then, even now, when I am who I am, a phase or a loss will come which will tell you that you are nothing," he said.