



Noble goal
Actor Bhumi Pednekar says as a climate warrior, she wants to work towards actionable change

LEISURE | P2



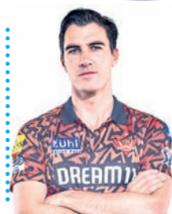
Rafah crossing seized
The Israeli military seizes control of the Gaza Strip side of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Household savings dip
Net household savings decline sharply by ₹9 lakh crore to ₹14.16 lakh crore in three years to 2022-23

BUSINESS | P11



SRH host LSG today
Sunrisers Hyderabad look to push for a playoff spot when they lock horns with Lucknow Super Giants in a crucial IPL match

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

Putin begins 5th term as President

Moscow: Vladimir Putin began his fifth term Tuesday as Russian leader at a glittering Kremlin inauguration, setting out on another six years in office after destroying his political opponents, launching a devastating war in Ukraine and concentrating all power in his hands. Already in office for nearly a quarter-century and the longest-serving Kremlin leader since Josef Stalin, Putin's new term doesn't expire until 2030, when he will be constitutionally eligible to run again. At the ceremony inside the gilded Grand Kremlin Palace, Putin placed his hand on the Russian Constitution and vowed to defend it as a crowd of hand-picked dignitaries looked on. **P10**

Govt trains girls to tackle sexual assault

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has undertaken a campaign at hostels to make girls aware about ways to tackle possible sexual assault by relatives during summer vacation, a senior official said. The drive, which started last week and ended Monday, was undertaken in around 5,800 hostels, targeting over 2.5 lakh girls, most of whom left for home Tuesday for summer vacation. The drive was aimed at educating girls to remain alert and be cautious while visiting their homes, an official said. **P4**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why waste so much time and effort setting up the question paper? It's going to be leaked anyway

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	CHG	VAR
SENSEX	73511.85	↓	383.69
NIFTY	22302.50	↓	140.20
DOLLAR	83.50	↑	₹0.02
EURO	89.88	↓	₹0.00
GOLD	₹71,082	↓	₹287
SILVER	₹82,843	↓	₹112

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.5°C	33.0°C
Min Temp	24.5°C	24.5°C
Humidity	70%	69%
Rainfall	4.2mm	4.2mm

FORECAST
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY



FRIEND INDEED: A child bathes his dog in a waterbody on a hot summer day, in Jammu, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Medico held in Bhadrak for impersonating NEET aspirant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 7: Three persons, including a third year medical student from a college in Kolkata, were arrested by the police for allegedly impersonating a NEET aspirant, here, Tuesday.

All the accused were produced before a court for remand, said Bhadrak SDPO Sourav Ota.

Ota identified the accused as Ankit Raj, 22, a resident of Ramachandrapur village under Pipariya police limits of Lakhisarai district in Bihar; Rajesh Kumar Madhukar, 40, a resident of Ramachandrapur village under Pipariya police limits of Lakhisarai district in Bihar; and Prem Shankar Pandey, a native of Nabrang market area of East Singhbhum district in Jharkhand who is currently living in Bhubaneswar. The actual candidate and two others involved in the cheating case are absconding, said the SDPO.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) had arranged the NEET at a private school here through Innovative Tech, an outsourcing agency, May 5.

During the test, the centre superintendent suspected the bonafides of a candidate and informed the administrative officer of Innovative Tech about it. During verification, the centre staff found the photo of the ex-



The three accused in the case being paraded before media at a presser

aminee put on the admit card. However, his fingerprint didn't match during Aadhaar verification. Later the imposter was handed over to the police.

During the course of investigation, cops found that the actual examinee was Saswat Tripathi of Mayurbhanj. Ankit Raj, who is pursuing his third year medical courses in Kolkata, was appearing the test impersonating Saswat, the SDPO said.

The imposter, who was in dire need of money, had made a deal of ₹10 lakh with the real aspirant for the con job. Aditya Kumar and Rajesh acted as middlemen between the two, police said. Police also seized the admit card, three mobile phones and a car from the accused.

Jolt to Haryana govt

Less than two months after the Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government won the trust vote by voice vote in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, it plunged into a massive crisis Tuesday following the withdrawal of support by three Independent MLAs. The development is likely to have its effects felt in the Lok Sabha elections in the state scheduled May 25, even as Leader of Opposition and former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda demanded immediate resignation of the government and declaration of fresh elections as BJP's strength in the House has reduced to 40, two short of a simple majority



The BJP has 40 MLAs, the Congress 30 and the JJP 10 in the House.

Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) announced their decision at a press conference in Rohtak in the presence of Leader of the Opposition (LOP) Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state Congress chief Uday Bhan.

"The government should resign. President's rule should be imposed in the state and elections held. This is an anti-people government," Hooda said.

The Congress said in a statement the three MLAs have already sent letters to the governor saying they have withdrawn their support to the government.

At the presser, Gonder said, "We are withdrawing support to the government and have decided to extend support to the Congress. We have taken this decision due to various issues, including those of farmers, inflation and unemployment."

Speaking at the presser, Uday Bhan said, "The three Independent MLAs have extended their support to the Congress... The BJP government earlier had support of 10 JJP MLAs and Independents, but the JJP also withdrew support and now Independents are also leaving.

The Assembly elections in Haryana are due in October, while elections for the 10 Lok Sabha seats will be held May 25. Hooda expressed his gratitude to the three MLAs for their support and said they have taken this decision keeping in mind the public sentiments.

At the presser, Gollen said, "We had given our support to the BJP government with honesty. But today unemployment is at its peak, and inflation and farmer issues are there. Every section of society is fed up. People are facing lot of issues with Parivar Pehchan Patra (family ID card) and property ID system."

When asked why they did not speak up on these issues earlier, Gollen said even during farmers' agitation, they had raised their voice. The Saini-led BJP government in Haryana had March 13 won the trust vote by voice vote in the House after he took oath as the new CM replacing Manohar Lal Khattar.

Khattar, who is contesting Lok Sabha polls from Karnal, had resigned as MLA from Karnal.

Over 63 per cent polling in Phase III

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Over 63 per cent voter turnout was recorded Tuesday in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in 93 constituencies spread over 11 states and Union Territories (UTs) with stray incidents of violence in West Bengal.

Assam recorded the highest turnout at 77.06 per cent, followed by Goa at 75.13 per cent and West Bengal at 73.96 per cent, while Uttar Pradesh witnessed the lowest at 57.34 per cent, with Bihar at 58.16 per cent, Gujarat at 57.62 per cent and Maharashtra at 61.44 per cent doing slightly better, according to the figures from the Election Commission at 10.40pm.

The overall voting percentage was 63.53 per cent. According to the EC, the figures are an 'approximate trend' and are likely to rise as data is being collected.

While the official time for the voting to conclude is 6pm, it can go beyond to enable voters who have come in the queue before the end of fixed polling hours to exercise their franchise.

Among other states and UTs, Chhattisgarh recorded 70.05 per cent polling. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 68.89 per cent, Karnataka 69.65 per

cent, and Madhya Pradesh 66.05 per cent, according to the EC.

As many as 17.24 crore people, including 8.39 crore females, were eligible to vote in the third phase and 1.85 lakh polling stations manned by 18.5 lakh officials had been set up.

With this, voting has been completed in 20 states/UTs and 282 Lok Sabha seats out of 543.

The overall voting percentage in the first and second phases was 66.14 per cent and 66.71 per cent, respectively.

Sporadic incidents of violence marred the polling in the four constituencies in West Bengal as TMC, BJP and Congress-CPI(M) workers clashed with each other in various parts of Murshidabad and Jangipur seats.

"Across all the states and UTs, voters from all walks of life have placed their faith in the NDA and our development agenda. INDI Alliance is losing even more steam, thanks to their regressive economics and outdated votebank politics," PM Narendra Modi said on X.

The Congress claimed that the BJP has been wiped out in the south and reduced to half of its strength after the three phases

"It's very clear that for the BJP, it is South mein Saaf, North mein Half," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X.

No CM duty for Kejriwal if out on bail: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: The Supreme Court said Tuesday it doesn't want Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to discharge his official duties if he is released on interim bail in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam as it would lead to a conflict of interest.

Kejriwal failed to get any relief from the top court, with a two-judge bench rising without pronouncing an order granting him interim bail to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader was arrested March 21 and is currently lodged in Tihar Jail under judicial custody.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta which reserved its verdict on the question of interim bail, said allowing Kejriwal to attend his office may have a "cascading effect".

"Suppose we grant you interim bail on account of elections. Then if you say you will attend office, it may have a cascading effect. If we give you interim bail, we don't want you to perform official duties as somewhere it will lead to conflict of interest. We don't want your interference at all in the working of the government," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal.

Making Lord Hanuman co-litigant costs man dearly

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 7: The Delhi High Court has imposed costs of ₹1 lakh on a man who made Lord Hanuman his co-litigant in a plea concerning the possession of a private land having a temple of the deity.

The plea, which was an appeal against a lower court order rejecting their 'objection petition' in relation to the transfer of the land to another party, claimed that since there was a public temple on the property, the plot belonged to Lord Hanuman and the appellant man was before the court as his next friend and a worshipper.

Calling it a case of "rank collusion with an intent to grab" the property, Justice C Hari Shankar dismissed the appeal and ruled that appellant man acted in "contumacious collusion" with the current possessors of the land so as to stop another party from regaining possession following a lawsuit between them and a settlement.

"The defendants (current possessors) grabbed the plaintiff's (the other party) land. The plaintiff sued to recover possession. The defendants pleaded adverse possession. Ultimately, the defendants asked the plaintiff to pay ₹11 lakh to vacate. The suit was



decreed on those terms. "Thereafter, the plaintiff actually paid the amount of ₹6 lakh but the defendants still did not vacate.

"The plaintiff filed for execution. In the execution, the present appellant, who is a third party, filed an objection saying there is a public temple on the property dedicated to Lord Hanuman and that, therefore, the land belongs to Lord Hanuman and that he was entitled to protect Lord Hanuman's interest as his next friend, as a deity is a minor in law," the court, in an order passed May 6, stated.

"I never thought that God would, one day, be a litigant before me. This appears, however, thankfully, to be a case of divinity by proxy," the court observed.

The court said there was no

concept of the right to worship at a private temple vesting in the public unless the owner of the temple makes such a right available or with the passage of time the private temple metamorphoses into a public temple.

In the present case, the court stated, there was nothing to indicate, even prima facie, that the temple was a public temple and therefore the appellant man's claim that he was entitled to defend Lord Hanuman as his next friend does not survive for consideration.

Dismissing the appeal, the court directed the appellant man to pay costs of ₹1 lakh to the other party.

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leisure



LILY ALLEN WANTS TO BE BURIED WITH HER PHONE

English singer-songwriter Lily Allen wants to be buried with her phone so no one will find her Internet search history. The 38-year-old revealed that when she gets some alone time, she likes to hunt for adult videos and doesn't want anyone to see out the 'dark' content she has been looking at after she has gone.

RIHANNA FORCED TO SKIP MET GALA DUE TO ILLNESS

Umbrella hitmaker Rihanna had to miss the 2024 Met Gala due to illness. As reported by *People* magazine and *Entertainment Tonight*, RiRi has come down with the flu and had to cancel her appearance.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Flow with the tide today. This is Ganesha's tip pertaining to your relationships. You are assertive as a general rule but you can save it for later. Today is the day to be generous and accede to the wishes of your beloved. You may even propose to him/her.

TAURUS
This day appears to be earmarked for a long shopping spree. Ganesha sees you doing the rounds of malls, markets, dollar stores and bargain counters. You are likely to be happily busy in haggling over prices, trying to get the best deals for your purchases. Before you are done you would have bought tons of stuff. On return in the evening, you will be happily absorbed in narrating the exciting and colourful details of your day long shopping.

GEMINI
A progressive day awaits you. However, you need to keep yourself in check when enjoying yourself. You will spend time with your friends and family and bond emotionally. Do not neglect your family members in the group activities that you take up, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today looks set to be a day full of extremes, especially when it comes to your shitty moods. However, you will need to keep reminding yourself of not getting overly emotional or impractical. Otherwise you may end up being in complicated situations, warns Ganesha.

LEO
Today there is a chance that you will meet that special someone that you have been waiting for all your life. You may possibly give your partner a beautiful gift. You will be more inclined towards the arts and will be able to exhibit this new-found appreciation to the max, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
It is more than likely that you will reap financial profits from foreign contacts, predicts Ganesha. You will excel in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of establishing a mammoth business enterprise in a foreign country will take flight today.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will be more conscious about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor or by purchasing expensive cosmetics. To enhance your appearance and personality you may also go on a shopping spree for clothes. Ganesha says you will gain benefits for your money today.

SCORPIO
You may expect the day to be as dull and mundane as those boring repeat telecasts of sitcoms. But remember, it's not always going to be grey! The dance of planets will usher in new change for a better tomorrow. Keep hoping and who knows you may stumble upon something very interesting.

SAGITTARIUS
Those around you will be impressed by the leader in you. You are the general and others will rally at your call to arms. And all the while, you swing your sword and make your way to the top, defying all odds. Do not forget to let people have their own time and space.

CAPRICORN
Confidence is the key to unlock the doors of success. Today, with your positive attitude you will mark your presence and come one step closer to success, says Ganesha. You're not a carefree person. You value your achievements and make every decision wisely. Adding to your confidence will be your strong determination and fate, and with the help of all of them, you will realise your dreams today.

AQUARIUS
You are a workaholic. With a lot of hard work you have achieved your targets. You are not somebody who will fail to differentiate between a pit stop and the final destination. Your success will motivate you to plan for bigger and longstanding goals.

PISCES
Your patience and capabilities will be on trial today and will be put to test with every work you undertake. Even simple tasks and common goals will seem hard to achieve and will require a considerable amount of effort to complete.

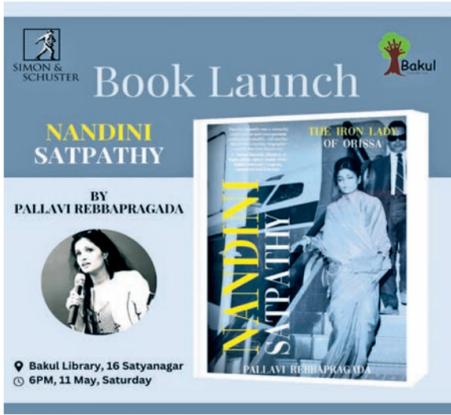
Bakul to host unveiling of Nandini Satpathy's biography

Bhubaneswar: The Bakul Library here at Satya Nagar is set to host the unveiling ceremony of *Nandini Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Odisha*, the most awaited biography of the first and only woman Chief Minister of Odisha, in the evening of May 11.

Authored by renowned journalist Pallavi Rebbapragada and published by Simon & Schuster, the book tells Nandini's magnificent life including her friendship with Indira Gandhi, proximity to the PMO and all the privileges that came with it, chief-ministerial tenure in Odisha, opposition to Emergency and subsequent loss of her political career and many more.

This probably is the only biography of an Odia published by a leading international publishing house. This has also been written by a person who has no personal connection with Odisha or Nandini Satpathy or her family.

Talking about the event, author Pallavi, who has worked with a number of national and international media houses, will have con-



versation with Bakul Library founder Sujit Mahapatra about several facets of the book. She will share what made her feel that it was a story every Indian needed to know. She will also read out excerpts from the book and interact with the audience.

Event's organiser Mahapatra said, "I am very happy that we finally have a wonderful biography on the icon, Nandini Satpathy, who is so little known.

Personally for me also, it was a shocking revelation to know so many unknown facets about this towering personality."

He went on to add, "We have a rich collection of political biographies at the Bakul Library. But this will definitely stand out for possibly being the best biography of a political leader from Odisha published by a leading publishing house in the world."

BHUMI BASKS IN GLOBAL GLORY

Mumbai: Actor and climate warrior Bhumi Pednekar is one of the five Indians who have been chosen by the World Economic Forum to be a part of its Young Global Leaders (YGL) Community: The Class of 2024. Bhumi is currently in Geneva to be inducted as a Young Global Leader of the world.

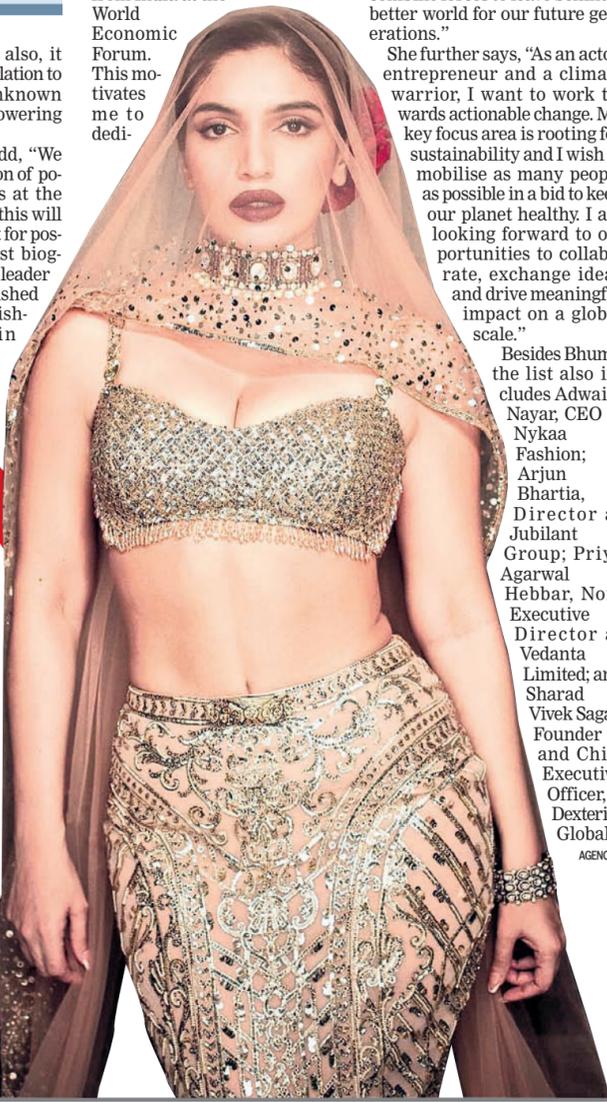
Reacting to her selection, the *Badhaai Do* actress says, "I'm proud to be a Young Global Leader from India at the World Economic Forum. This motivates me to dedi-

cate every minute of my life for social good. This recognition is even more special because it comes on the eve of my 10th year in cinema next year!"

She adds, "I'm constantly inspired by interacting with changemakers from various parts of the world who are walking the talk to make a difference. This incredibly prestigious platform gives me the opportunity to connect to such brilliant minds and combine forces to leave behind a better world for our future generations."

She further says, "As an actor, entrepreneur and a climate warrior, I want to work towards actionable change. My key focus area is rooting for sustainability and I wish to mobilise as many people as possible in a bid to keep our planet healthy. I am looking forward to opportunities to collaborate, exchange ideas and drive meaningful impact on a global scale."

Besides Bhumi, the list also includes Adwaita Nayar, CEO of Nykaa Fashion; Arjun Bhartia, Director at Jubilant Group; Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Non-Executive Director at Vedanta Limited; and Sharad Vivek Sagar, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global.



Amyra's mantra to deal with trolls



Mumbai: Trolling celebs has become the new online fad. Many stars suffer from poor mental health due to bullying and hateful words. However, actress Amyra Dastur is different. She has her own way to deal with the trolls.

She has a few fake social media handles to check the negativity in her life. Asked about it she responded, "Yes, I have fake Instagram handles through which I fight with all my trolls! They don't know it's me."

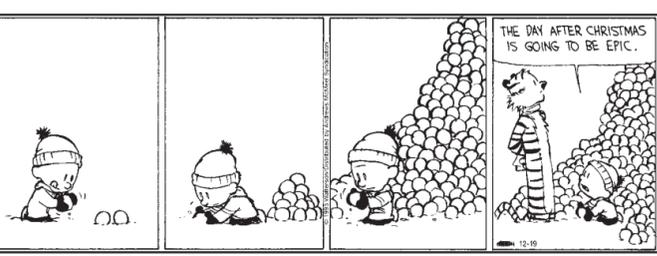
Furthermore, she was questioned about which specific handles these were, to which she replied, "Are, how can I say? The trolls will also know! Then I won't be able to hit back at them. So, you'll never know. No one will ever know, in fact!" she concluded.

Amyra began her career by modeling for advertisements. She entered the acting world with the film Issaq, where she starred alongside Prateik Babbar. Her first Tamil movie was *Anegan*, directed by KV Anand, featuring Dhanush as the main character. Additionally, she appeared in the Chinese film *Kung Fu Yoga* in 2017.

PEANUTS



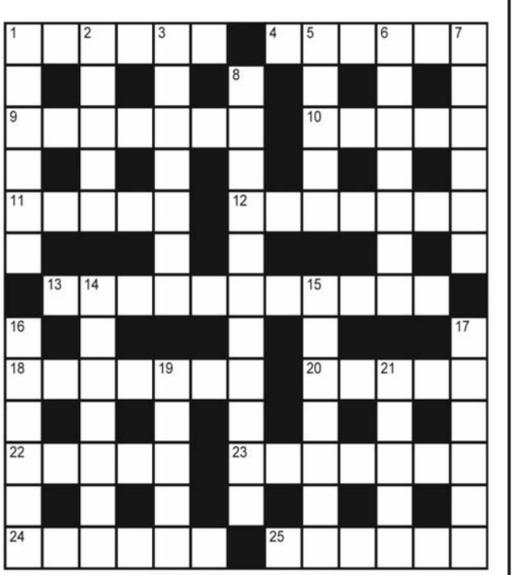
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



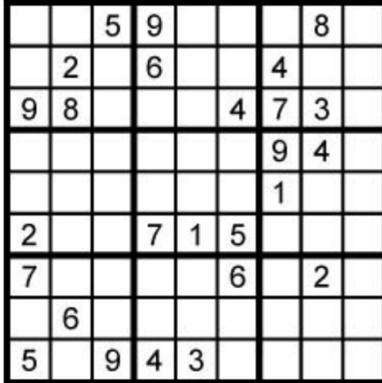
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Unfaltering
 - 4 Reddish brown
 - 9 Prohibited by law
 - 10 Bulgaria's capital
 - 11 Largish combo
 - 12 Smart aleck
 - 13 Food and drink, e.g.
 - 18 Outlay
 - 20 Race official
 - 22 Sandwich starter
 - 23 Pamper
 - 24 Followed
 - 25 Chic
 - 7 Simple shelter (4-2)
 - 8 Sword lilies (6-2-3)
 - 14 Fish hawks
 - 15 Ring participant
 - 16 Little rock
 - 17 Angioplasty target
 - 19 Elbow
 - 21 Cantaloupe
- Down**
- 1 Loafer, e.g. (4-2)
 - 2 Acclaim
 - 3 Sirius (3,4)
 - 5 Haven
 - 6 Desist

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

POLL PREP

Officials of the district administration brief media about the arrangements for the upcoming elections in Cuttack, Tuesday



4 held for online trading fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The Cyber Crime Unit of Odisha Crime Branch has arrested four members of a gang from Gujarat's Ahmedabad on charges of duping a resident of Capital city here to the tune of ₹60 lakh on the pretext of online trading of stocks.

The accused were identified as Fakir Alfazsha Bismillasha, 20, Shaikh Humaparvin Rafiq, 27, Rafiq Abdulmajeed Shaikh, 28, and Ahemadkhan Sardarkhan Baloch, 38, all residents of Fatewadi in Gujarat's Ahmedabad.

According to police sources, the victim had lodged a complaint with the Cyber Cell of the Crime Branch about the fraud May 4, 2023.

The Crime Branch registered a case (30/23) under Sections



419, 420, 465, 467, 471, 120B and 34 of the IPC apart from Sections 66C and 66D of the IT Act and launched a probe.

During the investigation, it was found that the gang had lured the complainant into investing ₹60 lakh in online trading with assurance of high returns. A team of cyber police, led by inspector Jibananda Jena, collected digital evidence against the accused and traced their location to Gujarat. The team went to Ahmedabad to apprehend the accused.

During investigation, it was found that the gang lured the complainant into investing ₹60 lakh in online trading with assurance of high returns

The team, with the help of the Crime Branch of Gujarat Police, raided various locations and arrested the four accused from Fatewadi.

The arrested were produced before a court in Ahmedabad and brought on transit remand to the City here. The Crime Branch Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Court here which sent them to judicial custody.

Notification out for June 1 polls

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The Election Commission of India (ECI) Tuesday issued notification for polls to six Lok Sabha and 42 Assembly seats in the state June 1.

As per the ECI notification, the last date for filing of nominations is May 14, while last date for withdrawal of the nominations is May 17.

The six Lok Sabha constituencies going to polls in the seventh and final phase of elections are Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur.

Along with these six parliamentary constituencies, elections will also be held for 42 Assembly segments in the state coming under these Lok Sabha seats.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



CBI seizes ₹1.42 crore in FSSAI bribery case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: The CBI Tuesday seized more than ₹1.42 crore cash during searches at the premises of a Thane-based company's manager who was arrested along with a Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) assistant director in a bribery case, officials said.

The searches started Monday at Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt Ltd's senior manager Harshal Chougule's residence following his arrest, they said.

Besides him, the agency Monday also arrested assistant director at the FSSAI's regional office in Mumbai, Amol Jagtap, and the company's director, Vikas Bhardwaj, and a representative of the company in the case from Mumbai, they said.

The officials said besides the cash, the Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) also seized two gold biscuits, a laptop and incriminating documents during further searches Tuesday at the premises of Chougule.

Chougule was arrested for allegedly paying a bribe ₹1.20 lakh to Jagtap for clearing pending bills of the company, they said.

The searches Monday conducted at the residence of the accused resulted in the seizure of ₹37.3 lakh cash, about 45 gram gold and documents pertaining to various immovable properties and other incriminating documents, the officials said.

"With today's operation, total cash recovered amounts to ₹1.8 crore (approx) along with gold/gold biscuits during various searches carried out by CBI after the trap," the CBI spokesperson said.

Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt Ltd runs a chain of chemical laboratories notified by the FSSAI and the company is engaged in analysis of samples forwarded to it by the authority.

The FSSAI is a statutory body of the Central government responsible for regulating the manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale and import of food articles, and monitoring of quality standards of food articles sold in the country.

BJP lines up Union ministers, CMs for poll campaign in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 7: As Odisha polling dates draw near and campaign efforts intensify, the BJP has lined up its star campaigners who will descend on the eastern state ruled by the BJD for over two decades.

While the BJD's campaign relies heavily on party president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, along with bureaucrat-turned-politician Kartik Pandian, the BJP's poll drive is spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

Modi, along with Union Ministers like Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, has been actively campaigning across various parts of the state for BJP candidates.

Modi recently held rallies in Berhampur and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seats and is scheduled for more campaigning before the first phase of polls in the state May 13.

According to BJP candidate Aparajita Sarangi, Modi is set to hold a roadshow in Bhubaneswar May 10 and possibly address an election rally in Bolangir May 11.

"The PM's programme for May 11 is yet to be confirmed. He is likely to address an election rally in Bolangir," a BJP spokesperson said.

Addressing a press conference here, state BJP vice president Golak Mohapatra informed that Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will arrive in the state May 8 on a two-day visit and address public meetings in Nabarangpur and Koraput.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma is also slated to address public meetings in different parts of the state.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari are also scheduled to address public meetings, highlighting issues such as highway projects and the need for a 'double-engine' gov-

ernment in Odisha.

"He is likely to speak about how BJD government's non-cooperation has affected highway projects in the state, and thus, justify the need for a double-engine government here," Mohapatra said. Furthermore, the BJP has enlisted actress-turned-politician Hema Malini as one of its star campaigners, expected to join the campaign trail in Berhampur.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has campaigned for his party candidates in Cuttack district.

While the BJP rallies its national leaders and ministers for campaigning in Odisha, the duo of Patnaik and Pandian from the BJD has been actively touring the state for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, set to be held in four rounds between May 13 and June 1, starting with the first round in Berhampur, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, and Koraput May 13.

2 PG courses at PGIMER get nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has approved the proposal to start post graduate (PG) courses in the departments of Anaesthesiology (three seats) and Ophthalmology (three seats) in Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) and the Capital Hospital here. The new courses will commence from 2024-25 academic year.

The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department Tuesday informed about this saying, "Happy to share that the National Medical Commission has approved the proposal to start post graduate courses in the Departments of Anaesthesiology (3 seats) and Ophthalmology (3 seats) in Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) and Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar. The new courses will start from the academic year 2024-25 & further strengthen the medical education in Odisha."

The PGIMER and Capital Hospital here had started in 1954 with only 60 beds on 20 acre of land.

WB man relieved of 7kg scalp tumour at AIIMS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here has successfully removed a seven kilogram tumour from the scalp of a 51-year-old West Bengal man in a rare procedure that lasted for around seven hours, marking a significant milestone in medical innovation and collaborative healthcare efforts.

AIIMS sources said it was an exceptionally rare tumour, synovial sarcoma, especially in the scalp, with only scant documented cases in the medical literature.

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas said the surgery, the second of its kind in the country, was a collaborative endeavour led by a dedicated team of medical professionals, giving a new lease of life to Rabindra Bishui.

Bishui had sought treatment from many healthcare institutions but was denied before ultimately reaching the Department of Plastic Surgery at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, Biswas said.

A multidisciplinary team of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar comprising experts in interventional radiology, surgical oncology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, anaesthesiology and pathology, meticulously crafted a treatment strategy under the guidance of Burns and Plastic Surgery head Sanjay Kumar Giri, the AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director said.

Bishui underwent the complex procedure last week to address a longstanding scalp swelling that had plagued him for over two decades, he pointed out.

"The growth — a 7 kg synovial sarcoma tumour — posed a formidable challenge to conventional treatment methods. The intricate procedure involved

precise embolization of blood vessels, targeting the bilateral superficial temporal arteries and the left occipital artery, by Manoj Kumar Nayak from the Radio Diagnosis Department, followed by surgical excision by other doctors of the institute," Biswas said.

The procedure was intricate, necessitating the ligation of the left external carotid artery and posterolateral neck dissection, culminating in the successful removal of the tumour.

Despite challenges posed by the surgery, including significant intraoperative blood loss requiring approximately six units of blood and other blood products, the dedicated anaesthesia team, led by Aparajita Panda, along with the vigilant nursing team, ensured the patient's safety and well-being throughout the procedure, which lasted about seven hours.

Following the successful surgery, the patient received intensive care for around 24 hours before being transitioned to the ward for further observation and recovery. The patient was discharged from the hospital Tuesday, AIIMS sources said.

AIIMS sources said Dr Pritinanda Mishra's timely pathological evaluation of the specimen played a crucial role in the treatment process.

The collaborative efforts of the surgical teams involved not only ensured the successful treatment of a rare scalp tumour but also underscored the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation in addressing complex medical cases.

Biswas congratulated the team of doctors for performing such a rare operation and reiterated the commitment of the national institute to provide modern and quality healthcare services to the people of Odisha as well as neighbouring states.



IN FULL SWING: A Chitrakar servitor gives finishing touches to the paintings on the wall of Chandan pond ahead of Chandan Jatra in Puri, Tuesday

Pension for journalists if voted to power: Pradhan

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 7: Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan Tuesday said the BJP will provide pension to journalists if the party is voted to power in Odisha.

"We believe in the motto of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikash'. In accordance with it, we will make a provision of pension for journalists," Pradhan told reporters at Sambalpur. The journalists' accreditation policy will be modified to expand its purview so that individual scribes, working at the subdivision level, are also included, he said.

Certain restrictions on the entry

of mediapersons in various government offices will be lifted, too, Pradhan, the Minister of Education, said. "A proper guideline will also be issued so that journalists can report on the performance of the government," he said.

Simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be held in Odisha in four phases, starting May 13.

Small shopping centres turning into ghost malls

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 7: Country's small malls are increasingly turning into ghost malls as consumers move towards online purchases and bigger shopping centres for a better experience, a consultancy report said, Tuesday.

Mall properties with a vacancy rate of more than 40 per cent have been termed ghost malls.

While there was a 238 per cent year-on-year increase in the Gross Leasable Area (GLA) of all shopping centres in prime Indian markets in 2023, the number of ghost malls rose to 64 from 57 in 2022, said real estate

consultancy Knight Frank India. Industry analysts said this reflected weak consumer demand and could lead to job losses and economic dislocation, particularly for small retailers and service providers.

Private consumption, accounting for 60 per cent of country's gross domestic product (GDP), has remained weak, rising 3.5 per cent year-on-year in the last quarter of 2023 while the economy grew 8.4 per cent.

"Many of the small shopping malls are on the verge of closure," said Gulam Zia, director of Knight Frank after the release of the 'Think India Think Retail 2024' report based on a survey of 29 top cities.



There has been a sharp rise in low-performing retail assets with 13.3 million square feet of shopping space remaining vacant, resulting in the loss of 67 billion rupees (\$802.5 million) of revenue for developers in 2023,

the report said. Unable to match the convenience and diversity of large shopping centres, many small mall owners are caught in a downward spiral of declining revenue, Zia said.

Among small shopping centres, with an average leasing area of 100,000 square feet, 132 are on the verge of turning into ghost malls - with the vacancy rate rising to 36.2 per cent in 2023 from 33.5 per cent in the previous year, the report said.

However, among bigger shopping malls, with an average leasing area of 500,000 square feet, the vacancy rate remained at 5 per cent, and at 15.5 per cent among middle-level shopping malls, it said.

In the top eight cities, including Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, the total number of shopping malls declined to 263 in 2023, with eight new retail centres added but 16 shut down.



FETED: Educationist Siba Sundar Mishra being felicitated by Samata Sahitya Samiti in Puri, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

No innocent should figure in history sheet, says SC

The top court says police authorities in states and UTs should ensure that no mechanical entries in a history sheet are made of innocent individuals belonging to socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds along with backward communities, SCs/STs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the police in states and Union Territories (UTs) to ensure that innocents and individuals from backward communities are not named in a history sheet.

Initiating suo motu action, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan said there are some studies available in the public domain that reveal a pattern of 'unfair, prejudicial and atrocious' mindset.

Police authorities in states and UTs should ensure that no mechanical entries in a history sheet are made of innocent individuals belonging to socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds along with backward communities, scheduled castes (SCs) or scheduled tribes (STs), the apex court said.

The top court said a history sheet is an internal public document and not a publicly ac-

cessible report. Extra care and precaution should be observed by police officers while ensuring that the identity of a minor is not disclosed as provided by law in a history sheet, it said.

"It is alleged that police diaries are maintained selectively of individuals belonging to Vimukta Jatis, based solely on caste bias, a somewhat similar manner as happened in colonial times," the court observed.

"All the state governments are therefore expected to take necessary preventive measures to safeguard such communities from being subjected to inexcusable targeting or prejudicial treatment. We must bear in mind that these pre-conceived notions often render them 'invisible victims' due to prevailing stereotypes associated with their communities, which may often impede their right to live a life with self-respect," the bench said.

The top court said a periodical audit mechanism will serve as a critical tool to review and scrutinise entries made in a history sheet.

"Through the effective implementation of audits, we can secure the elimination of such

deprecated practices and kindle the legitimate hope that the right to live with human dignity, as guaranteed under Article 21, is well protected," it said.

"We are conscious of the fact that states or UTs, other than the NCT of Delhi, are not before us. They have not been heard. No positive mandamus can thus be issued to them. Further, we are not aware of the existing rules/policies or standing orders in vogue in different states/UTs," the bench said.

"We, therefore, deem it appropriate, at this stage, to direct all the states/UTs to revisit their policy regime and consider whether suitable amendments on the pattern of the 'Delhi Model' are required to be made so that our observations made in paragraphs 14 to 16 of this order can be given effect in true letter and spirit," it said.

The apex court directed its registry to forward a copy of this judgement to the chief secretary and director general of police of all states and Union Territories to enable them to consider and comply with what has been held above, as early as possible but not later than six months.

Rain succour to state

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 7: Following torrential rains and thunderstorm activity Monday, the Capital city and other parts of the state witnessed a cool weather with the temperatures recording below 40 degrees Celsius Tuesday.

Malkangiri recorded the highest temperature at 39.3 degrees Celsius. The Capital city registered 32.5 degrees Celsius.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) regional centre said that maximum temperature (day temperature) is likely to fall by two to three degrees Celsius during the next two days.

Thunderstorm with lightning accompanied with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50kmph and heavy rainfall are likely to occur over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput and Nabarangpur.

UCCC serves energy drinks to traffic cops

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 7: In a gesture of appreciation, the Utkal Cine Chamber of Commerce (UCCC) offered electrolyte drinks to the traffic cops in the City Tuesday for sincerely discharging their duties in the scorching summer.

UCCC secretary N Gangadhar Reddy also sent a letter to Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda applauding traffic police department for their dedicated service.

"As the scorching summer sun beats down upon our City, we are acutely aware of the chal-



lenging conditions under which our traffic police officers diligently carry out their duties. With temperatures soaring up to 43 degrees Celsius, the task of regulating traffic and ensuring public safety becomes exceptionally demanding and physically taxing," the letter read.

"Despite these adverse con-

ditions, the unwavering commitment and professionalism exhibited by the traffic police force in managing the flow of vehicles, enforcing traffic regulations, and safeguarding the lives of citizens are truly commendable," it said.

"The Utkal Cine Chamber of Commerce would like to express our gratitude by offering electrolyte drinks to the cops who manage the traffic. We believe that staying hydrated is essential for maintaining their health and well-being, especially during these sweltering summer months," Reddy said in the letter.

WSC celebrates 3rd graduation ceremony

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 7: 'School of Services' (SoS) at World Skill Center (WSC) celebrated third graduation ceremony here Tuesday. The event awarded 'certificates of completion' to students from 2023-24 batch.

The SoS features modern industry-oriented courses in beauty, wellness and spa, hair fashion and design. During the event, top three trainees from each course were awarded medals and certificates.

Anjum Ara Parween was awarded gold, Susmita Nath bagged silver and S Goutami Rao received the bronze medal in beauty, wellness and spa. Similarly, Amrita Biswal bagged gold, CH Kirtaniya was awarded silver while Banajyotshna Aich received bronze medals in hair fashion and design. Dambarudhar Barik received



the best trainee award. Joining the event as chief guest, Odisha Skill Development Authority CEO Rashmita Panda said, "You are the bright future of the state capable of doing what you aspire, so set your goals and work hard to achieve them."

DTE&T director Reghu G said, "It is really important to update yourself with the skills to stay competitive in the industry. I congratulate all the bright minds who are graduating today."

Principal T Thambirajah delivered the welcome address while deputy principal Subhanga K Das proposed the vote of thanks.

Awareness campaign on sexual assault held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The state government has undertaken a campaign at hostels to make girls aware about ways to tackle possible sexual assault by relatives during summer vacation, a senior official said.

The drive, which started last week and ended Monday, was undertaken in around 5,800 hostels, targeting over 2.5 lakh girls, most of whom left for home Tuesday for summer vacation.

"The drive was aimed at educating girls to remain alert and be cautious while visiting their homes after it was noticed that many girls faced sexual assault by close family and relatives during summer vacations, resulting in teenage pregnancies," the official said.

"Such incidents happen when parents remain outside for livelihood and the girls are left alone at home in a vulnerable state," the official added. The awareness drive was con-



ducted by ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department in the hostels run by it.

Besides creating awareness among girls on how to protect themselves and understand the difference between 'good touch' and 'bad touch', the department

has also launched 'Mo Parikalpana' initiative, under which parents are informed what they should do to safeguard their daughters when they are alone at home, and also their issues are heard, the department's secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo said. Another official said that 'Mo

Parikalpana' is like a listening window to capture the voices from the ground so that the observations could lead to policy action.

The department has also asked the sexual harassment committees in the hostels to remain alert regarding such complaints and cross-verify those, the official said.

The department had earlier trained hostel matrons and assistant superintendents to conduct counseling sessions on issues such as sexual harassment, child marriage and teenage pregnancies, Sahoo said.

The department has also trained matrons to take stock of the wellness and mental health of girls over the phone and impart counseling and imbibe positive behaviour.

Summer vacation in the schools officially started April 25 but most of the hostel boarders left for their homes Tuesday after improvement in weather, another official said, adding the schools are likely to reopen in the second week of June.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of the affidavit in the Court of the Executive Magistrate, Talcher on Date 26.7.2023 the name of Sanjukta Samal, W/o- 765817-K Ex-Sgt Santosh Kumar Samal was changed to Sanjukta Bishi. Here after all the documents like Aadhaar Card, PAN Card her name will be reflected as Sanjukta Bishi.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Nayagarh, dated 26.04.2024 I, Pradeep Kumar Sengupta, Address- At/P.O.- Kendudhipi, Nayagarh-752079 declare that I have changed my daughter's name from SUMANA SENGUPTA to SSRIMITRA SENGUPTA. Henceforth, he/she shall be known as SSRIMITRA SENGUPTA for all purposes. Pradeep Kumar Sengupta

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Bargarh on the 7th May 2024, I Durlavi Deheri W/o- Madhei Deheri, At/P.O.- Kuruan, Dist.- Bargarh have changed my name from Durlavi Chhanda to Durlavi Deheri. Henceforth, I shall be known as Durlavi Deheri for all purposes.

Asthma can negatively affect brain functions: Experts

Asthma, a debilitating respiratory condition that claims 2,50,000 lives worldwide each year, can significantly disrupt brain functions, said health experts on World Asthma Day Tuesday.

World Asthma Day is observed every year May 7 to raise awareness about the condition. This year's theme is 'asthma education empowers'.

People suffering from asthma have thickened lung walls, clogged with mucus and hyper-reactive airways.

The presence of a trigger, such as pollen, dust mites, or a viral infection, causes the airways to narrow even further during an asthma attack. Asthma primarily affects the lungs; however, experts warn that it can also directly or indirectly disrupt brain function.

"An asthma attack can result in ischemic demyelination of white matter and damage to brain cells by depriving the brain of oxygen. Repeated asthma attacks and poor management of the condition might cause sleep disturbances and impair brain function,"

Praveen Gupta, Principal Director and Chief of Neurology, at Fortis Hospital Gurugram, told IANS. Research has shown that both adults and children with asthma experience cognitive impairment. Such cognitive impairment in asthmatic patients is thought to be caused by changes in the brain's architecture.

Asthma patients experience hippocampal volume loss, closely linked to cognitive impairment. "Asthma may also exert secondary effects on neurological function, particularly in children. Factors such as hypoxia, inflammation, and the chronic stress of illness could potentially influence neurocognitive function. There is a link between asthma and various neurological outcomes in children, including deficits in cognitive function, increased risk of behavioural problems, disrupted sleep patterns, and potential medication side effects," Aratrika Das, Consultant - Pulmonology at Narayana-RN Tagore Hospital, told IANS.

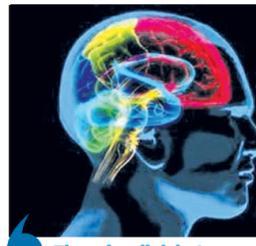
Further, people with asthma also have low levels of the chemical NAA which in turn impairs their memory. In addition, the lack of oxygen during asthma at-

secondary effects on neurological function, particularly in children. Factors such as hypoxia, inflammation, and the chronic stress of illness could potentially influence neurocognitive function. There is a link between asthma and various neurological outcomes in children, including deficits in cognitive function, increased risk of behavioural problems, disrupted sleep patterns, and potential medication side effects," Aratrika Das, Consultant - Pulmonology at Narayana-RN Tagore Hospital, told IANS.

Further, people with asthma also have low levels of the chemical NAA which in turn impairs their memory. In addition, the lack of oxygen during asthma at-

tacks can damage the hippocampus, making it tough for them to learn spatial tasks. "There is a cognitive burden associated with asthma, particularly among vulnerable groups -- both young and older patients

with severe asthma. This might be attributed to a higher likelihood of intermittent cerebral hypoxia in severe asthma cases. Cognitive deficits associated with asthma are global, with the strongest effects on



Asthma primarily affects the lungs; however, experts warn that it can also directly or indirectly disrupt brain function

An asthma attack can result in ischemic demyelination of white matter and damage to brain cells by depriving the brain of oxygen

There is a link between asthma and various neurological outcomes in children, including deficits in cognitive function, increased risk of behavioural problems and disrupted sleep patterns

ARATRIKA DAS | CONSULTANT - PULMONOLOGY AT NARAYANA - RN TAGORE HOSPITAL

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broader measures involving academic achievement and executive functioning. There may be associated changes in the structure of the brain," Neetu Jain, Senior Consultant, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, PSRI Hospital, told IANS.

The exact mechanism of cognitive dysfunction in patients with asthma is unknown. Patients with asthma are affected by stress and emotion. Any factor causing emotional distress can cause an asthma attack, she added.

The experts called for understanding the intricate interplay between asthma and neurological function. They called for addressing both respiratory and neurological aspects of asthma care to optimise treatment strategies and promote overall well-being. IANS

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Poverty haunts Nagada villages

Even minors are migrating to other places in Odisha and outside the state to eke out a living

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, May 7: Nagada villages in forested areas under Chingudipal panchayat in this district shot into limelight in 2016 after 19 children died due to malnutrition. Since then approximately eight years have elapsed, but the woes continue for the inhabitants of these villages including children. Sources said that due to scarcity of food many kids from these villages migrate to other cities to earn a living. The residents of Nagada villages are mostly tribals from the primitive Juang community.

The Odisha government had launched several schemes for development of infrastructure, poverty alleviation and health-care facilities for the villages after the tragedy. It had sanctioned ₹23 crore for construction of roads, setting up of drinking water facilities and power supply to the villages. However, poverty still continues to haunt the villagers.

Sources said that this year, 28 tribals, mostly minor boys and girls left for Balasore and Bhubaneswar to work as daily



LOWER NAGADA VILLAGE

wagers. They took the help of middlemen to get jobs. Bata Padhan, the father of one of the kids, confirmed the development. He said that the minor girls and boys migrated to other places after they were promised salaries of ₹7,000 per month. However, now they are being paid less than the amount agreed upon and are being forced to work for 12-14 hours a day.

A minor boy who managed to come back to his village narrated his ordeal. "We were forced to work for more than 12 hours a day without a break and at times sans food. When we asked for our wages, we were only paid ₹3,000 for two months. I had a chance to run away and came back to my village," he stated.

Despite Sukinda valley being rich in minerals, majority of the people living in the locality

lead a life of poverty. This is because the companies extracting minerals rarely employ locals and tribals. They deprive the natives of the area by bringing in people from outside, locals alleged. Hence the residents of Nagada villages languish in poverty, sources pointed out. "Every five years we vote for our representative to the state government, but nothing really changes for us," said a villager on condition of anonymity.

District officials said that the state government has spent close to ₹100 crore for various development works in the area. In reality however, no transformation has come in the life of the Juang community. To compound their troubles, they have lost their traditional occupation of collecting minor forest produce for a living as trees have been felled indiscriminately. Even though they get their monthly quota of free rice from the state government, it is of not much use to them.

Efforts to talk to Sukinda BDO Abhishek Swain proved unsuccessful as he did not respond to calls from this correspondent.



ENJOYING WORK: Two men get a chance to cool themselves from the sweltering heatwave while plucking lotus from a pond at Durgapali in Sambalpur, Tuesday

Miscreants assault independent nominee

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, May 7: Miscreants allegedly attacked independent nominee for the Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituency, Naresh Nihal while he was on his way to take part in a meeting here. Sources said that miscreants waylaid Nihal's car near Karlapada and the moment he got down from the vehicle, they severely assaulted him with sticks. Locals rescued the injured Nihal and rushed him to a hospital here. Even though he has suffered serious injuries, doctors said Nihal is stable.

Though the reason behind the assault on Nihal is yet to be ascertained, it is suspected that political rivalry led to the attack. A complaint in this regard was lodged at the Karlapada police outpost under Bhawanipatna Sadar police station limits. Even though officials have initiated an investigation into the incident, they are yet to identify the culprits. "I was attacked by hooligans when I was on my way to Bhawanipatna to attend a meeting. I don't know why I was attacked and I did not recognise any of the attackers. I trust police and I hope they will nab the miscreants soon and find out the reason behind the attack," Nihal said.



Dreaded Maoist lays down arms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, May 7: A dreaded member of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) surrendered Tuesday before the Odisha Police here, an officer said. Samaya Madkam, who was a commander of the Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division of the Maoist group, surrendered before Berhampur Southern Range IG, JN Pankaj and Kandhamal SP Suwendu Kumar Patra here. Madkam is a native of Sukma district in Chhattisgarh, police said in a statement.

Madkam became a Maoist in October 2005. He was involved in a series of offences in both Odisha and Chhattisgarh. At least 17 cases have been registered against him in Kandhamal, Boudh and Nuapada districts, police said. They added that several other cases have been lodged against Madkam in Chhattisgarh. "I left home at the age of 10. Later, I joined the Maoists. Due to harassment and exploitation by seniors, I left the organisation so that I could spend the rest of my life with my family members," Madkam told reporters.

3 get lifer for murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 7: The Additional District and Sessions Court here Tuesday convicted three persons for murder and sentenced them to life imprisonment. Judge Satyanarayan Patra also slapped a fine of ₹50,000 on each of the convicts. Failure to pay the fine will result in an additional six months in prison for each, the judge said.

The convicts, identified as Sobhakar Mohanta, 53, a resident of Mahulbani village, Jatindra Nath Mohanta, 45, and Kamal Lochan Mohanta, 43, inhabitants of Purnachandrapur village under Morada police station limits in Mayurbhanj district, were found guilty of murdering Harekrushna Mohanta in 2021.

As per the case diary, the incident took place June 10, 2021. An argument broke out between the three convicts and Raghunath Mohanta near a temple in Mahulbani. The three pushed Raghunath on the ground and started beating him. Raghunath's grandson Harekrushna, who was also present at the spot, intervened and tried to pacify the situation. He asked the three to



approach the village panchayat with their grievances. However, during the argument, one of the three attacked Harekrushna with an axe leaving him severely injured. The three then fled the spot.

Locals rescued the profusely bleeding Harekrushna and rushed him to a nearby hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Acting on the written complaint by Mantu Mohanta, a murder case (No 127/21) was registered at the Morada police station. After initiating a probe, police arrested the three convicts. Police later said that all the three had confessed to the crime during investigation.

The judge pronounced his judgment after examining 17 witnesses and studying the forensic and investigation reports provided by the police, public prosecutor Krushnachandra Das informed.

RSP workers' bodies gear up for elections

Rourkela: The process to elect the workers' union for the Rourkela Steel Plant has begun, sources informed here Tuesday. The state Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (DCLC) has issued a letter (No: 11(05)/2024, B. IV) to the various registered workers' unions of RSP in this regard. In the letter, the DCLC has sought information from the various unions regarding their activities and whether they are interested in contesting the elections. After receiving the letter, the unions have already started preparing for the polls. "All the unions must furnish the name of its president, general secretary, a copy of the rules and regulations, postal and email addresses, copies of annual return, registration number and other important details and sent it to the DCLC by May 15," said the letter signed by S Sampath Kumar. The last time the election was held was in November 15, 2021 and the 'Rourkela Shramik Sangha' (RSS), affiliated to INTUC, emerged victorious. Along with the RSS, the other body in contention is the 'Rourkela Ispat Karkhana Karmachari Sangha' (RIKKS), which is affiliated to the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. Senior official of RIKKS, Himansu Bala welcomed the decision of DCLC to conduct the elections. "We had written to the Labour Commissioner on this issue February 8," Bala said. RSS official Nihar Samal said that their tenure ended March 11 and they also want elections quickly.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. e-T-M-KUR-PRDP-FYS-253-24
NAME OF WORK : PROVIDING FLYING SQUAD GANG (MOBILE WORK STATION) TO ATTEND DOOR CHECKING AND MINOR REPAIRS AT LOADING/UNLOADING SIDINGS (RRS & JSW) OF PARADEEP AREA OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.
Advised Value : ₹2,62,46,286.46, EMD : ₹2,81,200/-, Tender Document Cost : ₹11,800/-, Period of Completion : 24 Months.
Bidding Start Date : 08.05.2024
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. of 22.05.2024.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website www.reps.gov.in
Sr. Divl. Mechanical Engineer/ PR-86/P/24-25
Khurda Road

DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES
(As per the Commission's directions issued in Pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Contempt Petitions(C) No. 2192 of 2018 in WP (C) No. 536 of 2011.
Name of the Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
Name of Election : GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2024
Name of State / UT : ODISHA
Name of Constituency : 39 - REMUNA (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of candidate : SUDARSHAN JENA
I, SRI SUDARSHAN JENA, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents :
(1) Criminal antecedents : (a) Name of the offences - 188,427 JPC. (b) Case no. : C.T. 830 /2009 (c) Name of the Court - JMFC (Rural), Balasore (d) Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes / No) : Yes (e) Date of conviction, if any : Not applicable (f) Date of punishment undergone, if any : Not applicable (g) Any other information required to be given : Not applicable
(2) The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the oils not more than 100 words : Long years in public life and public service. Known for his integrity and political probity
(3) Reason as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words) : There was not such a candidate.
* In this case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.
Sd/- Sudarshan Jena

BANK OF BARODA, POSSESSION NOTICE
REGIONAL OFFICE, SAMBALPUR, 1st Floor, At: Christianpada, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768001
[As per Appendix-IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the date mentioned below, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

JUNAGARH BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower(s)	Description of the immovable property/ies	Demand/Possession Notice Date	Amount Outstanding
Borrower: M/s Maa Samaleswari Jewellers, Prop.: Mr. Suresh Meher, S/o- Mr. Sadhu Meher, Khata No.: 184, Badapada, Junagarh, At: Plot No. 1184, Near IDBI Bank, At: Baldhiamal Chowk, Tahasil: Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766023	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land having Khata No.: 658/134, Plot No.: 683/2152/2200, Area: Ac.0.100dec., KISSAM: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Brahmaniguda, PS/ Tahasil: Junagarh, PS No. 88, Dist.: Kalahandi, Owner Name- Mr. Suresh Meher, S/o- Mr. Sadhu Meher. Bounded by- North: Plot No. 686, South: Canal, East: Canal, West: Plot No. 684 (Part).	02.02.2024 / 03.05.2024	₹ 26,52,841.48 as on 02.05.2024 plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges & expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Jagjeeban Majhi, S/o- Mr. Binayak Majhi, 37, Badapada, Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766014	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land & Building having Khata No.: 479/241, Plot No.: 1291 and 1292, having Area: Ac.0.259dec. and Ac.0.040dec. respectively, KISSAM: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Junagarh Najul, PS/Tahasil: Junagarh, PS No. 92/207, Dist.: Kalahandi, Owner Name- Mr. Jagjeeban Majhi, S/o- Mr. Binayak Majhi. Bounded by- North: Nagendra Naik, South: Banbihari Dhangadamajhi & Gajanan Majhi, East: Hari Sahu, West: Road.	21.02.2024 / 03.05.2024	₹ 9,72,988.18 as on 02.05.2024 plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges & expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Suresh Meher, S/o- Mr. Sadhu Meher, AT/PO: Baldhiamal, Tahasil: Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766014	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land having Khata No.: 379/94, Plot No.: 638/1473, Area: Ac.0.020dec., KISSAM: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Baladhiamal, PS/Tahasil: Junagarh, Tahasil No. 198, PS No. 143, Dist.: Kalahandi, Owner Name- Mr. Suresh Meher, S/o- Mr. Sadhu Meher. Bounded by- North: Jagamohan Meher, South: Kailash Meher, East: Road, West: Canal.	02.02.2024 / 03.05.2024	₹ 22,53,726.00 as on 02.05.2024 plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges & expenses till date of payment

Date: 07.05.2024
Place: Sambalpur
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

This may be published in Newspapers and TV from the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidature and upto two days before the date of Poll
Format C-I
(For candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)
Declaration about Criminal Cases
(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)
Name and address of Candidate: Shri Mukesh Mahaling
Name of Political Party: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)
Name of Election: General Election 2024
*Name of Constituency: 66 - Loisingha (SC) Assembly Constituency
I Shri Mukesh Mahaling (Name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:
(A) Pending Criminal Cases
Sl. No. Name of Court Case No. and Dated Status of Case(s) Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1 Sambalpur Town P.S. Sambalpur Town P.S. Case No. 29, Date: 21.01.2021 Pending for investigation U/S Disaster management Act, 2005- 56, Epidemic, Diseases Act, 1897-3, IPC 1860-143, IPC 1860-269, IPC 1860-270, IPC 1860-336, IPC 1860-353
(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences
Sl. No. Name of Court & date(s) of order(s) Description of Offence(s) & punishment imposed Maximum Punishment Imposed
NIL NIL NIL NIL
*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.
Sd.- Signature of Candidate

Name and address of candidate: Sri Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, S/o Late Nityananda Jena, Resident of At/PO/PS: Golanthara, Dist: Ganjam-761008, Odisha
Name of political party: Bharatiya Janata Party (B.J.P)
Name of Election: ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, 2024
Name of Constituency: 132 Gopalpur Assembly Constituency
I, Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, a candidate for the abovementioned election, declares for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:
Pending Criminal Cases
Sl. No. Name of Court Case No. and Dated Status of Case(s) Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1. SDJM, Berhampur G.R. 1435/2023 Out of P.S. Case No.418/dt.25.08.2023 Golanthara P.S, Dist: Ganjam Awaiting for final form 147-Punishment for rioting. 149-Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object. 283-obstruction or injury to any person in any public way or public line of navigation. 294- Obscene acts and songs. 241-Whoever delivers to any other person as genuine, or attempts to induce any other person to receive as genuine. 353-Whoever delivers to any other person as genuine, or attempts to induce any other person to receive as genuine. 506- Punishment for criminal intimidation. 3 of PDDP Act-Mischief causing damage to public property.
2. SDJM, Berhampur G.R.1434/2023 Out of P.S. Case No.417/dt.24.08.2023 Golanthara P.S, Dist: Ganjam Awaiting for final form 427- mischief causing loss. 506- Punishment for criminal intimidation. 34-When a criminal act is done by several persons. 3 of PDDP Act-Mischief causing damage to public property.
3. SDJM, Berhampur G.R. 1097/2023 Out of P.S. Case No.150/dt.29.05.2023 Gosaninuaogaon P.S, Dist: Ganjam Awaiting appearance after charge sheet 341-Punishment for wrongful restrain. 109-Punishment of abetment. 323- Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt. 506- Punishment for criminal intimidation. 34-When a criminal act is done by several persons .
4. JMFC, Berhampur G.R. 13/2022 Out of P.S. Case No.429/dt.24.11.2022 Golanthara P.S, Dist: Ganjam Awaiting appearance after charge sheet 342- wrongfully confines a person. 506- Punishment for criminal intimidation. 353-assaults or uses criminal force against a public servant while they are doing their duty. 34-When a criminal act is done by several persons
5. JMFC(R), Berhampur G.R. 365/2022 Out of P.S. Case No.58/dt.16.02.2022 of Golanthara P.S, Dist: Ganjam Awaiting appearance after charge sheet 188-Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant. 269-Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life. 270-Malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life. 271-Disobedience to quarantine rule. 171-C- Disobedience to quarantine rule. 171E- Disobedience to quarantine rule. 34-When a criminal act is done by several persons. 3 of PDDP Act-Mischief causing damage to public property .
6. SDJM, Berhampur G.R. 1910/2021 Out of P.S. Case No.298/2021 B.N.Pur P.S, Dist: Ganjam Awaiting appearance after charge sheet 147-Punishment for rioting. 148-Rioting, armed with deadly weapon. 152-assaulting or obstructing public servant while suppression of riot etc. 153-Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot-if rioting be committed-if not committed. 332-Voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty. 333- Voluntarily causing grievous hurt. 325-Punishment for causing grievous hurt. 431-Mischief by injury to public road, bridge, river, channel. 506- Punishment for criminal intimidation. 149- Common object' as if an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly. 3 of PDDP Act-Mischief causing damage to public property. 7-Molesting a person to prejudice of employment or business
7. JMFC (Smt. V.Nayak), Berhampur G.R. 659/2017 Out of P.S. Case No.75/2017 dt.03.04.2007 Golanthara P.S, Dist: Ganjam For trial 294- Obscene acts and songs. 323- Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt. 506- Punishment for criminal intimidation.
8. JMFC (Smt. V.Nayak), Berhampur G.R. 276/2007 Out of P.S. Case No.43(6)/2007 dt.03.04.2007 Golanthara P.S, Dist: Ganjam For trial 143-Unlawful assembly. 341-Punishment for wrongful restraint. 431-Mischief by injury to public road, bridge, river or channel. 283-Danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation
9. SDJM, Berhampur Dist:Ganjam G.R. 1076/2010 Arising out of ICC 240/2012 P.S. Case No.169/dt.09.10.2010 of Golanthara P.S. For further order 147-Punishment for rioting. 323- Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt. 379-Punishment for theft. 427- Mischief causing loss. 506- Punishment for criminal intimidation. 149- Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object.
10. SDJM, Berhampur G.R.156 /2008 Out of P.S. Case No.04/2008 dt.27.02.2008 Berhampur G.R.P.S, Dist: Ganjam Awaiting appearance after charge sheet 143-Unlawful assembly. 341-Punishment for wrongful restraint. 149- Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object. 147 Railway Act-Trespass and refusal to desist from trespass. 174 Railway Act-Obstructing running of train etc..

FOCUS NATION

APATHY OF YOUNG VOTERS



The guarantees or promises of political parties are not quite appealing to the young generation as they are not based on genuine intentions

India's foreign minister recently wrote in a national daily that "this is the first general election of the Amrit Kaal, (an empowered and inclusive economy) and our youth must recognise its significance." What this means may be clear to the present government but for youth it would remain a grey area as its impact is not sufficiently felt by either the educated or uneducated sections. The government nurturing human resources, enhancing ease of living and fostering entrepreneurship, are words unmatched by action for this generation.

Opinion amongst social analysts and youth leaders boils down to a concern that the government is unfortunately not aware of the dimension of the problem, even though the youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. It is distressing that the youth by and large are not much interested in the electoral process and do not see it as a tool to have their voice heard. Whatever may be projected by justifying high rates of GDP growth, the rural youth are increasingly finding agriculture unremunerative while small jobs are not quite available in rural areas. There is growing sense of frustration and disillusionment amongst GenNext, and though the ongoing election may be a talking point it doesn't inspire hope of a new government addressing their issues.

This is borne out by a recent report of International Labour Organisation on unemployment in India. It found that of the total unemployed, 83% are youth. The share of educated youth among the total unemployed population is 66%. In fact, India has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. The headline rate of 23% puts the country in the company of Yemen, Iran, Lebanon, Syria and other such nations which don't boast of being the fastest growing economy or fifth largest economy. For our small neigh-

bour, Bangladesh, the figure is just 12% - half of that of India's. Even scarier is that unemployment rate is 44% among those in age group of 20-24 years. It is thus not astonishing that those who have the highest stake in the future have shown the least inclination in voting. Around 38% of youth have registered to vote in the 2024 elections with some states such as Bihar, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh seeing less than a quarter enrolling. Anil Verma of Association for Democratic Reforms explains that there's cynicism amongst the youth about the electoral process. The apathy emanates from a feeling that major political parties which don't have enough youth leaders are not genuinely involved about the GenNext and its problems.

Moreover, political leadership is not showing concern about emerging social and economic problems. About Bihar's low young voter numbers, Rajiv Kumar of Action for Accountable Governance explains that though political awareness was there, a sense of hopelessness and frustration persists among the youth about commitment of political leadership. Therefore, the guarantees or promises of political parties are not quite appealing to the young generation as they are not based on genuine intentions. Prime Minister Modi has been accused by Opposition of being silent on creation of job opportunities for youth. There is no word on adequate financial allocation to states to ensure employment is guaranteed for 100 days in a year, as per MN-REGA. Besides, there's a demand for such a programme in urban areas to provide jobs the youth.

Moreover, many of the guarantees given by various political parties over the years have remained elusive, leading to disillusionment in elections. The future torchbearers of the country are also in a situation where there is intense competition and pressure, right from say Class X or XI, to rank and achieve high standards, which has resulted in increasing suicides, even among students who have entered IITs. According to a recent Lancet article, 75% of those who die by suicide are men, many economically precarious youths. The suicide rate in India increased from 6.3 per lakh in 1978 to a whopping 12.4 with 44% urban growth as recorded by the last Census, whereas suicides in remote areas largely go unrecorded.

Recently, the Prime Minister claimed that in past decade over ₹30 lakh crore was spent on various development policies with beneficiaries receiving money directly into their accounts. This, he recalled as being different to the Congress, which once had claimed, "if one rupee

was sent from Delhi, only 15 paise would reach its destination..." adding "imagine the consequences if they had control over ₹30 lakh crore." However, rural youth would be cynical about it as they see little difference in welfare projects meant for them or their families, whether by Centre or states. Corruption at grassroots remains unchanged, if not increased over the years.

Congress on other hand has been alleging a pro-rich nexus of the ruling party and has promised to conduct a financial and institutional survey to ascertain who's in possession of country's wealth and would then undertake to redistribute the same. Whether it would bring cheer to the young is uncertain as corporates are moving towards automation which would further cut down job opportunities.

It is imperative for political parties to ponder why the country's youth are shunning their right to vote. The only answer is a strategy or plan of action to influence and motivate them, as gainful engagement of GenNext is the key to harmonious socio-economic development. The government must ensure that apart from filling up vacancies in its sector, private sector too must recruit enough personnel, to be determined by a professional body, and not over-work their labour force, as is the case.

There is also a need to start an unemployment allowance as suggested by some economists. When massive projects, whose beneficiaries are the rich, are being undertaken, starting such an allowance for the poor and EWS should not pose a problem. If necessary, a cess of say 1% for those who are super rich could be imposed to start such an allowance.

In our march towards a developed nation, the interests of the youth can't be ignored as it's this generation which can shape the future of the country and contribute productively to nation-building.

---INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO PONDER WHY THE COUNTRY'S YOUTH ARE SHUNNING THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE

Muzzling Media

Vain indeed is all overweening pride in the conquest even of the entire universe if one has not conquered one's own passions.

SRI AUROBINDO



The Israeli government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Far-right allies has been growing authoritarian by the day, throwing to the winds that country's democratic credentials. But, two days after World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, it has shown its intolerance of free speech and expression by unanimously banning the Qatari news channel Al Jazeera. This is a major onslaught on one of the pillars of democracy that has been exposing the brutality being perpetrated by Israel government on thousands of Palestinians hounded out of their homes in the Gaza Strip since the attack on Israel by Hamas 7 October, 2023. The media outlet has been prevented from covering the horrors in the name of national security. The world is getting information on the massacres in Gaza thanks, among a few others, to the journalists of Al Jazeera stationed there as all other international media has been denied access to the scene of depredation. The unacceptable measure comes at a time when reports suggest Israel is planning strikes on Palestinians in Rafah. This only gives rise to suspicion and fear about the deadly attacks to come that Netanyahu's government does not want the world to see through Al Jazeera's coverage. It is in this manner that dissemination of information on government functioning and wrongdoing - a key element of democracy - can be stopped.

While saying this, we must also accept that a country at war, any country for that matter, has to have stringent control over all media. It does not matter if the media is domestic or international. In Israel's case, it is even more so since that nation has enemies or the ocean surrounding it. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) has a tough job cut out for it. The pressure on them to get all the hostages back alive may have subsided somewhat but then the future of that nation is at stake in a manner it never was before. Netanyahu has everything at stake now. Not just his own political survival but also that of the government he heads currently.

This may be the reason for Netanyahu's description of the media outlet as "terrorist," and the closure of its offices on Israeli territory. Its equipment was also confiscated. Such practices may brand a government authoritarian as it does not tolerate any voice that is not pro Israel. Such acts may now get Israel included in the list of countries where cases of attacks on freedom of information pile up. In the past, the Israeli authorities made no secret of their mistrust of Al Jazeera's openly pro-Palestinian editorial line, but they stopped short of shutting it out.

Releasing its World Press Freedom Index on 3 May, Reporters Without Borders noted that "more than half of the world's citizens live in extremely dangerous places for press freedom, places where working as a journalist means risking your life or your liberty." Five of the world's 10 most populous countries are subject to this situation, particularly during election periods.

Among such victims the most notable is the Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich held in Russia for over a year, awaiting trial on obviously trumped up charges of espionage. In Hong Kong, now under Chinese rule, Jimmy Lai, boss of former Opposition press group Next Media, is facing life imprisonment after a farcical judicial process. On 1 May, free speech advocacy organisation PEN America noted that the number of writers imprisoned in China exceeded 100 for the first time in 2023. This is only expected of an authoritarian system.

On 3 May, Subhash Chandra, the owner of Zee Television and the man who brought the first Indian satellite television channel to homes in this country, surprised many by releasing a video statement mentioning the dangers that lay for freedom of the press. What was surprising was that Chandra was known to be close to the powers that be and his channels always sang paeans to the current brand of politics in India. Yet the very mention of that issue by him seemed to have a deep meaning. Such events never go unnoticed, demonstrating that India too is going through a period where media is being gagged.

Blocking the flow of information on what is happening around the globe is a challenge to defenders of democracy and a danger to the survival of any open and modern society.

WISDOM CORNER

The earth is supported by the power of truth; it is the power of truth that makes the sun shine and the winds blow; indeed all things rest upon truth. CHANAKYA

A wise man should consider that health is the greatest of human blessings, and learn how by his own thought to derive benefit from his illnesses. HIPPOCRATES

Grief can be the garden of compassion. If you keep your heart open through everything, your pain can become your greatest ally in your life's search for love and wisdom. RUMI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1886: Coca-Cola is invented. According to legend, Dr. John Styth Pemberton, an Atlanta pharmacist, produced the syrup in a brass pot in his backyard. It was first intended as a patent medicine. Today, Coca-Cola is one of the world's most popular soft drinks and one of the most recognized trademarks.

1902: Mount Pelée on Martinique erupted, destroying the port of Saint-Pierre and killing approximately 30,000 people, 15 percent of the island's population.

1942: In the Battle of the Coral Sea, the USS Lexington became the first U.S. aircraft carrier to be sunk during World War II.

1970: A month after Paul McCartney announced that he had left the Beatles, the British rock group released Let It Be, their last original studio album to hit the record shops.

1980: Following a global vaccination program, the WHO officially declared that smallpox was eradicated. For centuries smallpox was one of the world's most-dreaded plagues, killing as many as 30 percent of its victims, most of them children. Those who survived were permanently immune to a second infection, but they faced a lifetime of disfigurement and in some cases blindness. But smallpox was also one of the first diseases to be controlled by a vaccine, particularly following the great experiments of English physician Edward Jenner in 1796.

IN JEST THIS

Celebrate motherly love on Mother's Day



Melvin Durai

YOU CAN'T COUNT ON A LOT OF THINGS IN LIFE - THE ELECTRICITY MAY GO OUT, THE INTERNET MAY FREEZE, THE STOCK MARKET MAY TUMBLE - BUT MAMA'S LOVE IS STEADFAST

Mother's Day is just around the corner, a day that reminds us to appreciate all the mothers in the world - not just biological mothers, but also physical mothers. No, I don't mean the mothers who, when you misbehave, get physical with you. I mean the mothers who are physically present in your life. Anyone who has been motherly for an extended period deserves to be appreciated.

I'd like to pay tribute to a special kind of mother. Let's call her "Mama." Perhaps you have a Mama in your life. If so, you have many reasons to appreciate her, including some of these:

1. Mama carried you. She didn't just carry you for nine months, she also carried you for many years after that. All you had to say was, "Carry me, Mama," and she carried you in her arms, carried you in her car or two-wheeler, carried you in her health insurance plan.

2. Mama pushed you. You probably don't remember it, but she did a lot of pushing just to get you out into the world. That was just the beginning of the pushing. When you were a toddler, she pushed you in a stroller (or pram) and pushed you on a swing. When you were school-age, she pushed you to study. In high school, she pushed you to get high grades, pushed you toward high achievement, pushed you from getting high. If you played sports, she pushed you to play harder. If you played video games, she pushed you to hardly play.

3. Mama taught you. She taught you numbers and letters. She taught you left from right, and right from wrong. She taught you how to say "please" and "thank you." She taught you to respect your elders and share with others. But don't share everything, she said, and taught you to cover your

mouth when you cough. 4. Mama saved you. She saved you in so many ways. When your shirt was too wrinkled or too transparent, Mama saved you from embarrassment. When the rest of your family was eating chocolate cake, Mama saved you a large slice. When you ran into a table and knocked a tooth out, Mama used super glue and saved you a trip to the dentist.

5. Mama fed you. She fed you thousands of meals, her menu wider than any restaurant's. She remembered your favourite dishes and treats, and fed you them whenever she could. She fed you hot soup when you were sick; warm porridge when you couldn't chew; ice cream when you felt blue. When your cousin eloped with the farmer's son, Mama fed you all the juicy details.

6. Mama advised you. She gave you advice whether you liked it or not, so much advice that you advised her to become

an advice columnist. But her advice, she said, was special advice for a special person. "I advise you to listen," she said. And then she gave you advice on boys, on girls, on marriage, on careers, on health, and even on politics. "Don't vote for liars," she said. "And don't lie for votes."

7. Mama endured you. You may not realise this, but you weren't the easiest child to raise. As a toddler, you threw so many tantrums, Mama wished you were a teenager. As a teen, you threw so many parties, Mama wished you were a toddler again.

8. Mama loved you. From the day she set eyes on you, she loved you. She loved you like Jimi Hendrix loved guitars, like Pablo Picasso loved paintbrushes, like Charlie Chaplin loved mustaches. You can't count on a lot of things in life - the electricity may go out, the internet may freeze, the stock market may tumble - but Mama's love is steadfast.

LOL

CHARGED FOR SPEEDING

A man was speeding down a highway, feeling secure in a gaggle of cars all travelling at the same speed. However, as they passed a speed trap, he got nailed with an infrared speed detector and was pulled over.



The officer handed him the citation, received his signature and was about to walk away when the man asked, "Officer, I know I was speeding, but I don't think it's fair - there were plenty of other cars around me who were going just as fast, so why did I get the ticket?" "Ever go fishin'?" the policeman suddenly asked the man. "Ummm, yeah..." the startled man replied. The officer grinned and added, "Did you ever catch 'em all?"

Letters

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Go slow on Maldives

Sir, After winning the presidential election in September, Maldivian President Mohammed Muizzu-led Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) in coalition with the People's National Congress (PNC) has swept the parliamentary elections late last month in what was considered a foregone conclusion. Muizzu's pro-China stance and anti-India rhetoric is here to stay but how long is the question. Indian troops withdrawal from the Maldivian shores is said to be reviewed on 10 May, and Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer is expected to come visiting India very soon. Maldives is a country that thrives on tourism. India was keen to use tourism as a handy tool to beat Maldives. For a giant nation like India, carrying small neighbours together can be a diplomatic victory; but that can be done with tact, and with New Delhi's de-hyphenation policy nothing is impossible.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Abolish NEET

Sir, Leakage of the question paper of NEET has become a regular feature, particularly in north India. Earlier the question paper was leaked out in Bihar and a few persons were arrested for selling the same for ₹20 lakh. One really wonders as to what has happened to those culprits who were behind the scandal as we have not heard anything further on this. This criminal act happens every year in states like Bihar and UP. This year it has leaked out in Rajasthan also. The news was on many channels but National Testing Agency (NTA) released a statement that no leakage happened, ostensibly due to the ongoing elections. What a farce and hypocrisy! The NTA needs to be strict in north where all irregularities happen. But they simply harass our students who believe in hard work to crack the examination. A girl with urinary incontinence had sought permission to have adult diaper while writing the examination but it was declined by the inhuman exam team. She finally got relief only after approaching the High Court. We are also witnessing many aspirants of medical seats committing suicide mainly out of fear whether they would be able to crack NEET or not. NEET deserves to be abolished for obvious reasons.

Tharcus S. Fernando, CHENNAI

WEST NILE FEVER IN KERALA

Districts asked to be vigilant

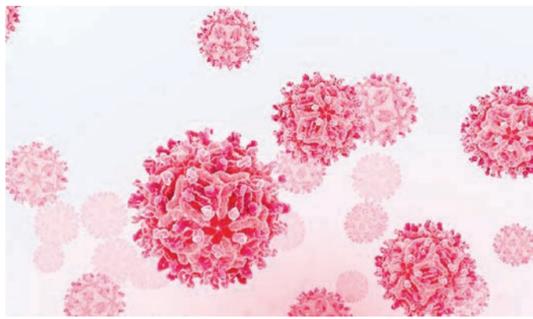
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 7: The Kerala government Tuesday said that West Nile fever cases have been reported from Thrissur, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts of the state. State Health Minister Veena George, in a statement, confirmed that cases of the viral infection have been reported in the state and that all the districts have been asked to be vigilant.

As part of the vigil against the viral fever, spread by the Culex species of mosquitoes, the minister has ordered that steps be taken for controlling mosquito by destroying their breeding grounds, the statement said.

The minister also informed that there was no need to be concerned, but requested anyone showing signs of fever or other symptoms of the West Nile infection to seek treatment immediately. "The main symptoms of West Nile infection are headache, fever, muscle aches, dizziness and loss of memory, but most patients do not experience these," she said. "Some people experience symptoms like fever, headache, vomiting and itching and in one per cent of the cases, it can lead to brain damage resulting in unconsciousness and sometimes death. But the death rate is relatively low compared to Japanese encephalitis which shows similar symptoms and is more dangerous," the minister's statement said.

It said that instructions to begin pre-monsoon cleaning activities were already given in a high-level meeting held last



West Nile fever is spread by the Culex mosquitoes. It was first detected in 1937 in Uganda and 2011 in Kerala

The West Nile virus can cause a fatal neurological disease in humans but most of those infected may not show any symptoms

week and now the District Medical Officers (DMOs) have been directed to further intensify the same.

As there is no medicine or vaccine available against West Nile virus, symptomatic treatment and prevention is the key, the minister said. As part of the preventive measures, she suggested wearing clothing that completely covers the body, use of mosquito nets and repellants and keeping one's home and surroundings clean.

Earlier in the day, Kozhikode district health officials confirmed reports of five cases of West Nile fever. The infected persons are all fine now and back at their homes with no new cases reported from the areas they live in, an official of the Kozhikode district surveillance team said.

He also said that presently

there was one person who is suspected of suffering from the vector-borne infection and is undergoing treatment.

The official said that the samples of those who exhibited symptoms of the disease and had undergone treatment were sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune as a routine exercise.

"The results came back now and indicated that they were suffering from West Nile fever. They are all better now," he said.

The West Nile fever is spread by the Culex species of mosquitoes. It was first detected in 1937 in Uganda.

The fever was first detected in Kerala in 2011 and a six-year-old boy from Malappuram died due to the fever in 2019.

Thereafter, in May 2022, a 47-year-old man died of the fever in Thrissur district.

Prisoner has right to treatment, dignity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 7: A prisoner also has the right to medical treatment and is entitled to dignity, the Bombay High Court observed while granting interim bail for two months on medical grounds to Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, arrested in a money laundering case.

A single bench of Justice NJ Jamadar said there was a difference between undergoing treatment as an undertrial prisoner and as a citizen with no restraint.

The bench had granted interim bail for two months to Goyal on medical grounds Monday.

Goyal (75) had sought interim bail on medical and humanitarian grounds as both he and his wife, Anita Goyal, are suffering from cancer.

A special court had denied bail to Goyal but permitted him to be admitted to a private hospital of his choice and seek medical treatment. Goyal then moved high court



BOMBAY HC ON NARESH GOYAL CASE

seeking bail to be released on medical grounds.

Justice Jamadar, in the order, perused the medical records and said, "It would be audacious to hold that the applicant (Goyal) is not sick."

A copy of the order was made available Tuesday.

The bench said a prisoner cannot be left in the lurch when suffering from a serious ailment only on the grounds of a strict provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), under which Goyal has been booked.

"A prisoner has the right to have treatment to preserve his health. It is the obligation of the State to provide requisite treatment to a prisoner to preserve and protect his health. A prisoner is entitled to the dignity he deserves," the bench observed.

There is a qualitative difference between the treatment a person gets as an undertrial prisoner and as a citizen under no restraint, it added.

The bench refused to accept the Enforcement Directorate's argument that Goyal was getting treatment in a private hospital of his own choice and was hence, not entitled to be released on bail.

"Such a broad submission loses sight of the precious value of personal liberty. To accept

such a broad proposition that once a person gets the requisite treatment, he does not deserve bail, however critical his health condition may be, would defeat the legislative intent of enacting the proviso and render the proviso otiose," the court said.

The bench added that Goyal has roots in society. Hence, the possibility of fleeing from justice and tampering with evidence seems remote.

The bench directed Goyal to pay a surety of ₹1 lakh and not to leave Mumbai without prior permission from the trial court. The ED arrested Goyal in September 2023 on allegations that he had laundered money and siphoned off loans to the tune of ₹538.62 crore given to Jet Airways by Canara Bank.

His wife, Anita Goyal, was arrested in November 2023 when the probe agency submitted its chargesheet in the case. She was granted bail by the special court on the same day, considering her age and medical condition.

Jumbo hit by train in Palakkad, dies; case against loco pilot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palakkad, May 7: An adult female wild elephant died late Monday night near Kanjikode here after being hit by a train making it the second such incident within a month in the district.

Kerala Forest Minister AK Saseendran Tuesday said that preliminary investigation suggests that the train exceeded the stipulated speed limit in that area and therefore, a case under relevant provisions of the Wildlife Act was lodged against the loco pilot.

"The speed in the area is regulated at 45 kmph in accordance with the orders of the High Court," a senior forest official said.

The incident occurred when the Thiruvananthapuram-Chennai Mail hit the jumbo which had come close to the tracks.

This being the second such incident in Palakkad district within a month, the forest department is going to hold a meeting with Southern Railway to discuss possible solutions, including putting up fencing in the area, the official said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Beware of fraudulent individuals claiming to represent late Sri Uppalapati Hari Krishna, S/o Narsimha Raju, Resident of Visakhapatnam was doing business agriculture allied activities in and around villages of kaduani, dalgaon, jalghati, Dhatika of Baripada, Dist. Mayurbhanj, Odisha. These impostors are unlawfully using his name and documents for personal gain and creating fake contracts. Any dealings with these matters are unauthorized and at one's own risk. We urge the public not to engage with such fraudsters and to report any suspicious activity to help us prevent further illegal activities.

ADVOCATE
RAM K.V
7815994558

Absconder held after 40 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 7: The Mumbai police have arrested a 70-year-old man, who had been absconding in a kidnapping and rape case for the last 40 years, from Agra in Uttar Pradesh, an official said Tuesday.

The accused was identified as Papa alias Dawood Bandu Khan, he said.

Based on specific information, a team of personnel from Dadabhai Bhadkamkar Marg (DBM) police station in south Mumbai apprehended Khan from Agra Monday, he said.

He was brought to Mumbai

on a transit remand and will be produced before the court here, he said.

"In 1984, a case of kidnapping and rape was registered against Khan based on a complaint filed by a woman," he said.

Khan had been arrested in the case and was out on bail.

"As the trial of the case started, he attended just a couple of hearings, and did not appear before the court after that. The court had declared him absconding in the case," the official said.

A team from DBM police station had launched a search and also visited his Falkland Road res-

idence, but it came to light that he had sold this property and left the city along with his family.

During the investigation, it was revealed that he was somewhere in the northern states, the official said.

All these years, various police teams tried to search him, but he remained untraced, he said.

"However, the police officials recently received specific information that he is staying with his family in Agra. Accordingly, a police team was sent to this Uttar Pradesh city, where Khan was apprehended," the official said.

Phthalic anhydride powder spills on road

Thane: A truck transporting 25 tonnes of chemical powder met with an accident in Maharashtra's Thane district, disrupting traffic briefly on the route, civic officials said Tuesday.

No person was injured in the incident which took place Monday night at Kalyan Phata, Thane Municipal Corporation's disaster management cell chief Yasin Tavdi said. The truck carrying phthalic anhydride was heading from Talaja in Navi Mumbai to Dahej in Gujarat when it hit another truck and tilted towards one side. Around three tonnes of the chemical then spilled on the road, the official said. Traffic movement on the road was affected for about half-an-hour, he said.

Local firemen and the regional disaster management cell team rushed to the spot. The road was later cleared of the spillage, the official said. Phthalic anhydride is used for a broad range of applications spanning from the plastics industry to the synthesis of resins, agricultural fungicides and amines.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER, KEONJHAR
No.1823 / Elec. Dated, the 07th May, 2024
PRESS RELEASE

GENERAL ELECTION OBSERVERS CONTACT DETAILS OF 4- KEONJHAR (ST) PC

No.D-30:Any complaints or grievances relating to Simultaneous General Election, 2024 pertaining to 20- Telkoi (ST) AC, 21-Ghasipura AC, 22-Anandapur (SC) AC, 23-Patna (ST) AC, 24-Keonjhar (ST) AC, 25-Champua AC of Keonjhar District & 30-Karanja (ST) AC of Mayurbhanj District may be lodged to the below mentioned Mobile No./Whatsapp No./Email ID.

Sl. No.	Name of the General Observer	Observer for PC/AC	Contact No./ Whatsapp No.	Email ID	Address
01	Mr. Minhaj Alam, IAS (G-13747)	23-Patna (ST) 24-Keonjhar (ST) 25- Champua	8249825221	minhaj@ias.nic.in	Circuit House, Keonjhar
02	Mr. Ashish Modi, IAS (G-29554)	20-Telkoi (ST) 21-Ghasipura 22-Anandapur (SC) 30-Karanja (ST) (Mayurbhanj District)	8249837671	ashish.modi@ias.nic.in	
03	Mr. Rupinder Singh IPS (P-22930)	20-Telkoi (ST) 21-Ghasipura 22-Anandapur (SC) 23- Patna (ST) 24-Keonjhar (ST) 25-Champua 30-Karanja (ST) (Mayurbhanj District)	8328895409	adgprisons-rj@nic.in	

Sd/- Dt.07.05.2024
District Election Officer & Collector, Keonjhar
OIPR-12062/11/0003/2425 Deputy Collector, Elections, Keonjhar

KERALA HEATWAVE

Congress demands aid to kin of deceased

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 7: The Congress party Tuesday urged the Kerala government to provide financial assistance to the families of those who lost their lives due to the heatwave in the state.

The state is facing the worst heatwave ever, and for the first time in its history, it has been included in the Meteorological Department's heatwave map, the Congress pointed out.

The opposition party also wanted the authorities to announce a special financial package for farmers whose crops have been destroyed due to the scorching heat and intense humidity.

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the State Assembly VD Satheesan sent a letter to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan requesting him to take urgent steps in this regard.

"Many people died in different parts of the state due to the summer heat. Considering the heatwave as a natural disaster, the government should take immediate steps to provide financial assistance to the families of those who have succumbed to the intense heat," he said in the letter.

Construction workers, agricultural labourers, street ven-



dors, fishermen, migrant workers and so on are forced to work under the scorching sun to make ends meet, he pointed out.

The LoP wanted the state government to reschedule the working hours in such a way that their livelihood is not affected.

Farmers in the state are in dire straits as their crops have been destroyed and production has drastically come down, he said.

Especially mentioning the plight in the plantation sector, he said the production there has decreased by 25 to 50 per cent.

"A special package should be announced for farmers to come out of this crisis," Satheesan said, adding that the drinking water shortage in the state is also acute.

The Congress party's demand came amidst heatwave conditions that continue to play havoc in several places in the state.

Authorities urged people not to venture out of the scorching heat and advised them to drink more water to keep hydrated.

BMC releases list of 188 dangerous, shabby buildings in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 7: In view of the upcoming monsoon season, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday released a list of 188 residential buildings that are in a 'very dangerous' and 'dilapidated' state.

The civic body has appealed to people living in such structures to move to safer places as a precautionary measure.

Of the 188 buildings on the list, the highest 114 structures are in the western suburbs, followed by the eastern suburbs with 47 and 27 in the island city, the release said.

The buildings have been declared 'very dangerous and dilapidated' under section 354 of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Act (BMCA), 1888, it said.

While appealing to people to vacate these dilapidated buildings, the civic body has also asked concerned authorities who own these buildings to take necessary steps before monsoon.

As per section 353B of the BMCA, 1888, the owner and occupier of every private building, existing and in use for more than 30 years should carry out a structural audit of their buildings and submit structural stability certificate to the civic body within 30 days, the release said.

The civic body has also warned of action if owners, occupiers and cooperative societies ignore its directives.



UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH
At/P.O.: Dhanupali, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768005

(For Immovable Property)
POSSESSION NOTICE
[See Rule-8-(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Utkal Grameen Bank for the amount stated below with plus interest and expenses thereon.

Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantors/Legal Heirs	Present Liabilities as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession
Borrowers: 1) Smt. Premashila Meher, W/o.: Late Laba Meher, 2) Hemsagar Meher, S/o.: Late Laba Meher, 3) Ukia Meher, D/o.: Late Laba Meher, 4) Kunjalata Meher, D/o.: Late Laba Meher, 5) Tarulata Meher, D/o.: Late Laba Meher, 6) Tulasi Meher, D/o.: Late Laba Meher, 7) Smt. Urkuli Meher, D/o.: Late Laba Meher, 8) Sukanti Meher, D/o.: Late Laba Meher / Guarantors: 1) Sri Krishna Chandra Pasayat, S/o.: Netrananda Pasayat, 2) Sri Nrupal Meher, S/o.: Sri Rupadhar Meher, All are At: Junadihi, PO.: Belpahar, Dist.: Jharsuguda, PIN-768217	₹30,08,049/- as on 03.05.2024 and further interest + other charges	31.01.2024 / 04.05.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building standing in the name of Late Laba Meher, S/o.: Nanu Meher, Mouza: Belpahar, P.S.: Brajrajnagar, Tahasil: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Khata No.: 938, Plot No.: 1079/6633, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari
Borrower: Mohamad Souf Sahazada, S/o.: Khalil Mohammad alies Mohammad Khalil, At/PO.: Remenda, Dist.: Jharsuguda-768234 / Guarantor: Mohammad Mehtab, S/o.: Md Khalil, all the Legal Heirs of Guarantor Late Khatun Bibi viz: 1) Mohamad Soaf Sahazada, S/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 2) Mohamad Rouf, S/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 3) Mohamad Jamiulha, s/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 4) Rehamatun Bibi, D/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 5) Samsad Bibi, D/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 6) Mantaz Begam, D/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 7) Zubin Tabum, D/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 8) Ashim Yasin, D/o.: Khalil Mohammad, 9) Sadhat Badsha, S/o.: Late Mohammad Jakirulla, 10) Benajir Arduh, D/o.: Late Mohammad Jakirulla, 11) Mohamad Mehboob Mehtab, S/o.: Khalil Mohammad, At/PO.: Remenda, Dist.: Jharsuguda-768234	₹27,51,678/- as on 03.05.2024 and further interest + other charges	25.09.2023 / 04.05.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building standing in the name of Late Khatun Bibi, W/o.: Khalil Mohammad alies Mohammad Khalil, Mouza: Remenda, P.S.: Lakhnampur-21, Tahasil: Lakhnampur, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Khata No.: 63, Plot No.: 2576, Area: Ac.0.21 Dec, Plot No.: 2577, Area: Ac.0.13 Dec, Plot No.: 2578, Area: Ac.0.15 Dec, Plot No.: 2579/4951, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec, total 4 nos of Plot, Total Area: Ac.0.59 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari
Borrower: Sri Goutam Beriha, S/o.: Santosh Beriha, At: Gumadera, PO.: Belpahar, Dist.: Jharsuguda-768217 / Guarantors: 1) Sri Santosh Beriha, S/o.: Late Chandramani Beriha, 2) Smt. Srmati Beriha, W/o.: Late Chandramani Beriha, 3) Gouri Barik, D/o.: Late Chandramani Beriha, All are At: Gumadera, PO.: Belpahar, Dist.: Jharsuguda-768217 4) Krishna Chandra Bisi, At: Bhutia, P.O.: Remenda, Dist.: Jharsugud	₹40,69,670/- as on 03.05.2024 and further interest + other charges	17.02.2024 / 04.05.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building standing in the name of Santosh Beriha, S/o.: Late Chandramani Beriha, Gouri Barik, D/o.: Late Chandramani Beriha, Srmati Beriha, W/o.: Late Chandramani Beriha, Mouza: Belpahar, P.S.: Brajrajnagar, Tahasil: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Khata No.: 258, Plot No.: 4525/7976, Area: Ac.0.090 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari,

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK
Regional Office: Cuttack Road, At/P.O.: Dhanupali, Dist.: Sambalpur

Borrower: Sri Tarak Ghosh, S/o.: Sri Bijaya Ghosh, At/PO.: Belpahar (Near Durga Mandap), Dist.: Jharsuguda, PIN-768218 / Guarantors: 1) Sri Balaram Prasad Sah, S/o.: Sri Keshab Prasad Sah, 2) Sri Manoj Shukla, S/o.: Sri Mamoo Prasad Shukla, Both are At: Samada, PO.: Belpahar, Dist.: Jharsuguda, PIN-768218	₹7,38,238/- as on 04.05.2024 and further interest + other charges	15.02.2016 / 04.05.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building standing in the name of Sri Tarak Ghosh, S/o.: Sri Bijaya Ghosh, Khata No.: 39/26, Plot No.: 165, Area: Ac.0.29 Dec, Mouza: Ulap, P.S.: Brajrajnagar, Thana No.: 06, Dist.: Jharsuguda.
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Place: Sambalpur
Date: 07.05.2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Utkal Grameen Bank



BJP's Berhampur Assembly nominee K Anil Kumar during a door-to-door campaign in the Silk city, Tuesday

BJD workers participate in a bike rally in support of party's Puri Lok Sabha nominee Arup Patnaik and party's Chilika Assembly nominee Raghunath Sahu at Balugaon in Khurda district, Tuesday

Bhub-North to see high-octane fight

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Bhubaneswar-North Assembly constituency here is bracing for a high-stakes electoral battle as the incumbent BJD MLA Susant Kumar Rout has vowed to trounce his BJP rival Priyadarshi Mishra, who had quit BJD and joined BJP recently, and Congress' Ashok Das in the upcoming polls scheduled for May 25.

The hustings in Bhubaneswar-North Assembly seat is going to be exciting as the BJP has fielded Priyadarshi, who had won the seat in 2014. In 2019, the BJD dropped Priyadarshi and chose a new face, Susant. Anticipating that Priyadarshi may quit the party, the BJD had appointed him the chairperson of Odisha State Housing Board (OSHB). However, he quit the BJD and joined BJP this year.

Priyadarshi has stayed connected with the public through outreach programmes during the last two years, and raised issues pertaining to drainage, infrastructure and public amenities. "At these meetings, the former MLA used to strike a chord with public about their issues and how he would strive to fix them after he wins the prestigious seat," said a source close to Priyadarshi.

Expressing his dismay over the implementation of piped water projects, Priyadarshi said the projects are yet to see the light of the day at many slums near Niladri Vihar and Lumbini Vihar areas, though funds have been sanctioned for the purpose.

"Once I get elected, I would leave no stone unturned to ensure that every house owner in slums



SUSANT KUMAR ROUT

ASHOK DAS

PRIYADARSHI MISHRA

gets patta of 650 sq ft land. I would also fix the dismal state of waste management in Bhubaneswar-North," the BJP nominee added.

On the other hand, Congress candidate Ashok Das told OrissaPOST that he would sway the voters' mood in his favour by highlighting the key issues like jobs and permanent houses for slum dwellers. The promotional build-up by BJD about Jaga mission is farce and misleading. Once voted to power, the Congress would grant land pattas to slum dwellers, Das added. "We are sure that voters want to see a change this time and vote for Congress again", he added.

Meanwhile, the incumbent MLA Susant Rout has been holding 'Jan Sampark' rallies regularly with the support of local BJD councillors. This has seen several workers from BJP and Congress switching over to BJD.

A source close to Susant said the MLA during his tenure ensured the smooth implementation of Jaga Mission and Awaas Yojana in the majority of slums in the Bhubaneswar-North constituency.

"Priyadarshi undertook the initiative of kick-starting de-

velopmental projects including the construction of Kalarahanga Railway over-bridge that would be built at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore. Over the past few years, the level crossing saw frequent mishaps due to absence of an over-bridge. The MLA, too, gave construction orders for drainage work in low-lying areas, which would alleviate the issues of water-logging," he added.

The Bhubaneswar-North Assembly constituency, formed in 2009, is a bustling part of the City which houses offices of major software companies and premiere educational institutions, along with prime residential areas like Lumbini Vihar, Neeladri Vihar and Patia. Issues are aplenty in these localities - ranging from waterlogging to drainage, from roads to sanitation and others.

On the other side, the constituency has the largest slum cluster in the City - Salia Sahi. Other such areas like Panda Basti, Hareskrushna Basti and others also exist here. Residents of these slums had levelled allegations of gross negligence of the part of the leaders in implementation of Jaga Mission during the previous term. For in-

stance, the district administration had planned to bulldoze hundreds of houses in Salia Sahi to pave way for construction of a road that would link a prominent public school to Ekamra Kanan Biological Park. As part of rehabilitation plan, the house owners were offered flats under Jaga Mission. However, they refused to move to the new flats. This led to the intervention of Orissa High Court which ordered the administration to stay the project.

Secretary of Salia Sahi union committee Jaydev Naik said the bonhomie between BJD and BJP is no longer a secret. "Whosoever wins, the situation won't change here. As majority of the population in Salia Sahi are underprivileged and poor, the local MLA never takes us into consideration," he added.

Furthermore, Nayak alleged that the MLA remained a mute spectator even as hundreds of slum dwellers requested him to intervene during the demolition. The upscale societies of Nandan Vihar and Patia area are grappling with cases of waterlogging, potholed roads and poor drainage.

Trinath Dey, a resident of Nandan Vihar, said even with the slightest of showers the road here gets filled with waist-deep water. The issue has exacerbated since last four years due to mindless digging of road. Monalisa Parida, another resident of Chandrasekharpur Housing Board area, said piles of garbage is being dumped near Durga Puja Mandap, leaving the residents in utter discomfort. Despite repeated complaints, there is no improvement in the situation, she added.

Cong claims voters threatened in Guj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palanpur (Gujarat), May 7: The Banaskantha district collector Tuesday ordered an inquiry after Congress Lok Sabha candidate Geniben Thakor alleged electors were threatened and asked to vote for the BJP by some youngsters posing as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel at a polling station.

Upon getting a complaint from the Congress, Banaskantha Collector Varunkumar Baranwal, who is also the returning officer, said he has asked the district superintendent of police and sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) to conduct an inquiry.

"I've forwarded her (Thakor's) complaint to the district SP and SDM for further inquiry. We will take action after getting their report," assured Baranwal. Thakor, a sitting MLA, is the Congress candidate from Banaskantha Lok Sabha seat, one of the 25 constituencies in Gujarat where voting took place May 7 in the third phase of elections. The BJP has fielded Rekhaben Chaudhary from the seat.

In a video she shared on her social media platform, Thakor can be seen holding a metal plate having the word 'CRPF' engraved on it. The video was shot outside a polling booth set up in Dhareda Primary School of Banaskantha district.

"During my visit at this booth in Dhareda, I noticed some youths from the Chaudhary community were roaming in their vehicles having CRPF plate. They were threatening and pressuring voters of the area to vote for the BJP by identifying themselves as security personnel. I urge the SP as well as the Election Commission to take steps and file an FIR against them," the sitting MLA demanded.

965 EVM components replaced in Assam

The highest 280 units of the three components combined together were replaced in Dhubri, followed by 265 units in Barpeta, 226 units in Guwahati and 194 units in Kokrajhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, May 7: A total of 965 Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) components - control units, VVPATs and ballot units - were replaced due to malfunctioning in the third and last phase of polling across the four Lok Sabha seats in Assam Tuesday, officials said.

In several cases, the components were replaced as the complete EVM set, while it was changed in parts in most of the cases after snags were detected, a senior official of the Election Department told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Several of these glitches were noticed during the mock polling, which started 90 minutes before the commencement of the actual voting, and those machines were replaced accordingly, he added.

An EVM has three components - Control Unit (CU), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and Ballot Unit (BU). "In the four constituencies, 259 CUs, 447 VVPATs and 259 BUs were replaced in total from different machines," the official said.

Out of these, 147 CUs, 210 VVPATs and 147 BUs were replaced during the mock poll after they malfunctioned, the official said.

"During the actual poll, 112 CUs, 237 VVPATs and 112 BUs

were changed. After replacing the machines, the polling continued smoothly," he added.

As per the data compiled from all the constituencies, the highest 280 units of the three components combined together were replaced in Dhubri, followed by 265 units in Barpeta, 226 units in Guwahati and 194 units in Kokrajhar.

There are a total of 9,516 polling stations, including 300 critical ones, in the third phase.



Of the total booths, 326 are managed by women and 14 by persons with disabilities (PwD). There are also 84 model polling stations.

A total of 81,49,091 electors, including 41,00,544 men, 40,48,436 women and 111 third gender are eligible to vote in the third phase of polling in Assam.

There are 1,529 centenarians, 40,705 voters above 85 years and 2,10,177 people are first time voters.

A total of 47 candidates, including six women, are in the fray in the four constituencies - Guwahati, Barpeta, Dhubri and Kokrajhar (ST).



Several workers of BJP and Congress from Korei Assembly segment join BJD at Sankha Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



Several BJD and BJP workers join Congress in the presence of party's Barabati-Cuttack candidate Sofia Firdous at the Town Hall in the Millennium city, Tuesday

JMM-Cong votes hold the key in Biramitrapur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 7: With the cancellation of the candidature of INDIA bloc candidate Nihar Surin, the Biramitrapur Assembly segment will see a straight fight between BJD's Rohit Joseph Tirkey and BJP's Shankar Oram. It is now clear that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress votes will play a decisive role in the upcoming polls.

During scrutiny May 6, it was found that Surin's nomination papers lacked the required number of proposers for him following which his candidature was disqualified. Surin's presence had made the fight more exciting while he had asserted, just before filing his papers, that he would win the polls even though there would be a triangular fight.

His optimism was based on the fact Surin had won the election defeating George Tirkey in 2004 when JMM and Congress fought the polls together.

Earlier, he had said, "The political equation now is the same as that of 2004 as Congress is backing us." In 2009, they parted ways and George Tirkey won seat as an independent candidate. George had resigned from



ROHIT JOSEPH TIRKEY



SHANKAR ORAM

BJD in protest against the infamous Kalinga Nagar incident. Incidentally, George had won twice on JMM ticket - in 1995 and 2000.

This time, George's son Rohit Joseph, who had lost the election here in 2019 on a Congress ticket, is up against BJP's Oram, the sitting MLA. Oram had then polled 60,397 votes, which is 34.66 per cent of the total votes - a whopping 13.61 per cent increase in the vote share for the saffron party as compared to the previous polls.

Maklu Ekka of BJD came second with 44,586 votes which is

25.36 per cent of the total votes polled. There was a 9.86 per cent increase in BJD's vote share in 2019.

Rohit came as a close third by securing 44,212 votes, which is 25.15 per cent of the total votes. The increase in the vote share for INC was 9.96 per cent.

Likewise, JMM's Sebeyan Aind got 14,374 votes while the tribal outfit's vote share fell by 8.98 per cent.

It is significant to note that BJP's vote share is increasing with each passing election while that of the Congress' is decreasing, barring that of 2019,

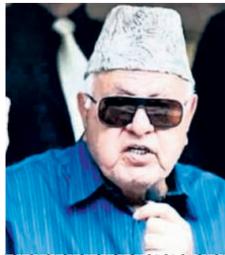
when George's son was in the fray. Now, BJD will try to wrest the seat this time, which it has never achieved. The only time Janata Dal won the seat was way back in 1990. Otherwise, it has been shared between Congress I, Congress, Janata Dal, JMM and BJP.

Now the question is who stands to get the 58,586 JMM and Congress combined votes. People in the know of Biramitrapur politics are divided in their opinions.

"Rohit's father George's argument that his son will score over 1 lakh votes is superfluous, because he is taking everything of last time into BJD's account," said a government official.

A school teacher, on condition of anonymity, said, "Besides his pocket votes, Rohit has some hold in other parties' too. Now, one has to see how much he will benefit out of this. Else, Oram is a formidable candidate and BJP's share is on the ascendance. The undercurrent is there in support of Oram."

Both agreed that JMM and Congress votes will be the deciding factor this time. Oram during an interaction had also mentioned about this.



When India got freedom, we joined Gandhi's India and not Modi's. We want to bring Gandhi's India back where we can walk and talk with dignity

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

FIFTH ACCUSED HELD IN SALMAN HOUSE FIRING CASE

The Mumbai crime branch has arrested a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang from Rajasthan for allegedly providing financial help to the shooters involved in firing outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's house, officials said Tuesday.



of the day quote

Supporters of the Samajwadi Party open fire on Lord Ram's devotees and perform 'aarti' for terrorists. They demand the withdrawal of cases against the perpetrators

The Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct has turned out to be a mockery and should be rechristened as Modi code of conduct. But we will continue to flag every incident of violation of rights of citizens of this country

Balasaheb was something else. He will say whatever he has to say and he will never go back on his words. Whatever he would say once, will become cast in iron. There can't be another Balasaheb Thackeray

SHORT TAKES

Maldives FM to visit India tomorrow

New Delhi: Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer will visit India May 9, in the first high-level trip from Male after the Maldives' pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu assumed office six months ago.

4 killed in road mishap

Ariyalur (Tamil Nadu): Four persons were killed when the car in which they were travelling rammed into a stationary lorry near Elakurichi in the district Tuesday evening, police said.

India, EU to boost ties

New Delhi: India and the European Union have vowed to expand cooperation in the Indo-Pacific with a resolve to address common security challenges and promote peace and stability in the region.

WB RECRUITMENT SCAM

SC stays Calcutta HC order

The top court, however, made it clear that the teachers and non-teaching staff of the state, whose appointments were cancelled by the high court, will have to refund the salaries and other emoluments if it reaches the conclusion that their recruitment was illegal



The apex court, permitted the central probe agency, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to continue with its investigation and said it may probe even the members of the state cabinet if needed

New Delhi, May 7: In a major relief to 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff of West Bengal, the Supreme Court Tuesday stayed the order of the Calcutta High Court order invalidating their appointment made by the state's School Service Commission (SSC) in the state-run and state-aided schools.

rest of any suspect during its ongoing investigation. The top court, however, made it clear that the teachers and non-teaching staff of the state, whose appointments were cancelled by the high court, will have to refund the salaries and other emoluments if it reaches the conclusion that their recruitment was illegal.

scam in West Bengal as "systemic fraud" and said the state authorities were duty-bound to maintain the digitised records pertaining to the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff.

Apex court issues directions against misleading ads case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: It is imperative for celebrities and public figures to act responsibly while endorsing a consumer product as advertisers and endorsers are equally responsible for issuing misleading advertisements, the Supreme Court said Tuesday.



Broadcasting. Regarding advertisements in the print media, the bench said the ministry shall create a portal within four weeks and advertisers shall file self-declaration before issuing any advertisements.

Mayawati drops nephew as 'successor'

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati Tuesday night said she is divesting her nephew Akash Anand of his responsibilities as the party's national co-ordinator and her "successor", barely five months after she had anointed him.

Kejriwal, Sisodia, Kavitha to stay in jail

New Delhi: A Delhi court Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his party colleague Manish Sisodia and BRS leader K Kavitha in cases related to the alleged excise scam.

Two terrorists killed in encounter

Srinagar: Two terrorists, including a top "commander" of Lashkar-e-Taiba offshoot TRF who was involved in several cases of killing of policemen and civilians, were eliminated by security forces in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district Tuesday, officials said.

India slams Canada on violent imagery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: India Tuesday accused the Canadian government of allowing "celebration and glorification" of violence and called on Ottawa to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements a safe haven in Canada after a parade in Ontario's Malton displayed pro-Khalistan sentiments.

Karan Brar, 22, Kamalpreet Singh, 22, and Karanpreet Singh, 28, all Indian nationals residing in Edmonton, were charged Friday with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Days after Trudeau's allegations in September, India asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity.

Subsequently, Canada withdrew 41 diplomats and their family members from India. India has been asserting that its "core issue" with Canada remained that of the space given to separatists, terrorists and anti-India elements in that country.



representatives in Canada and expect the government of Canada to ensure that they are able to carry out their responsibilities without fear.

In its reaction to the 'Nagar Kirtan' parade that featured a controversial "float", India called upon the Justin Trudeau government to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements a "safe haven" and political space in Canada

EC asks X to take down BJP's video targeting Muslims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Election Commission Tuesday directed social media platform 'X' to "immediately" take down an animated video shared by the Karnataka unit of the BJP related to the row over reservation for the Muslim community.

media platform for taking down the video. The panel said the animated video shared by the Karnataka unit of the BJP on its social media handle was violative of the extant legal framework.

"However, the post has not been taken down yet. Therefore, 'X' is directed to take down the post immediately," the EC said. The fresh directive to 'X' came on the day votes were being cast in the remaining 14 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka.

Bank of India E-Auction Sale Notice. Includes details about the sale of immovable assets, terms and conditions, and contact information for the Baripada Zonal Office.

international



All Indian military personnel in the country will be withdrawn from the Maldives by May 10. As of now, 51 soldiers stationed at two platforms have been repatriated

HEENA WALEED | CHIEF SPOKESPERSON OF MALDIVES PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

FREE TOURIST VISAS

Visitors from India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia will continue to receive tourist visas free of charge, the Sri Lankan government has said. This decision comes amidst a controversy surrounding increased fees for on-arrival visas, which were being handled by a foreign company



of the day quote

We still believe that reaching an agreement is the absolute best outcome not only for the hostages, but for the Palestinian people. And we're not going to stop working to that outcome

JOHN KIRBY | NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

There's no reason to be concerned. China is offering to assist with the hosting of the foreign leaders' meeting

SIAOSI SOVALENI | PRIME MINISTER OF TONGA

Information Support Force will be a strategic branch and a key pillar of the army

XI JINPING | CHINESE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

2 killed, 21 hurt in knife attack at hosp

Beijing/Kunming: At least two people were killed and 21 others injured in a knife attack at a hospital Tuesday in China's Yunnan Province, local authorities said, in the latest incident of mass stabbing in the country. The attack took place at around 11:30 am when a man assaulted people with a knife at a local hospital in Zhenxiang County, the county's public security bureau said. The injured are being treated in the hospital, and the case is under investigation, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The suspect, identified as a male local villager, was captured in the afternoon, Xinhua reported. No motive has been given for the attack.

Five killed in SA building collapse

Cape Town: Rescue teams worked through the night searching for dozens of construction workers buried for more than 12 hours under the rubble of concrete after a multi-story apartment complex that was being built collapsed in a coastal city in South Africa. Authorities said early Tuesday that the death toll had risen to five, while 49 workers remained unaccounted-for in the mangled wreckage of the building, which collapsed on Monday afternoon. Authorities said a further 21 workers had been rescued from the rubble and taken to various hospitals, with at least 11 of them suffering severe injuries.

Russia detains 2 US nationals

Moscow: Russian authorities said Tuesday they had detained two US nationals, including a serving US soldier, in separate criminal cases. The soldier, detained Monday on charges of criminal misconduct, was arrested on theft charges by a court in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East, the regional office of the Interior Ministry said in a statement Tuesday. The Russian Foreign Ministry said the case had no political element and there were no allegations of espionage.

TikTok sues US

New York: TikTok and its Chinese parent company ByteDance are suing the US federal government to challenge a law that would force the sale of ByteDance's stake or face a ban, saying that the law is unconstitutional. TikTok alleged the law, which President Joe Biden signed as part of a larger \$95 billion foreign aid package, is so "obviously unconstitutional" that the sponsors of The Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act are trying to portray the law not as a ban, but as a regulation of TikTok's ownership.

Israel seizes Rafah crossing

The UN warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say the northern part of the enclave is already experiencing 'full-blown famine'

AGENCIES

Cairo, May 7: Israeli tanks seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing Tuesday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as cease-fire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's edge.

The Israeli foray overnight came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands.

The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — if only barely — for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which as it marked its 7-month point Tuesday, has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip.

Cheers of joy overnight among Rafah's Palestinians over Hamas' acceptance of the cease-fire turned to fear Tuesday. Families fled in a steady stream out of



Rafah's eastern neighbourhoods on foot or in vehicles and donkey carts piled with mattresses and supplies.

Children watched as parents disassembled tents in the sprawling camps that have filled Rafah for months to move to their next destination — which for many remained uncertain.

The Israeli 401st Brigade entered the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing early Tuesday, the Israeli military said, taking "operational control" of it.

Footage released by the military showed Israeli flags flying from tanks that seized the area. It also said that ground troops and airstrikes targeted suspected Hamas positions in Rafah. The

military claimed it had intelligence the crossing was "being used for terrorist purposes," though it did not immediately provide evidence.

It said Hamas fighters near the crossing launched a mortar attack that killed four Israeli troops near Kerem Shalom Sunday and that more mortars and rockets were fired from the area Tuesday.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt and the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel are critical points of entry for food, medicine and other supplies keeping Gaza's population of 2.3 million alive.

They have been closed for at least the past two days, though the smaller Erez crossing between Israel and northern

Gaza continues to operate. Israeli authorities denied the UN humanitarian affairs office access to Rafah crossing Tuesday, its spokesman Jens Laerke said, warning that the disruption could break the fragile aid operation.

All fuel for aid trucks and generators comes through Rafah, and Laerke said they have a "very very short buffer of about one day of fuel."

Israeli strikes and bombardment across Rafah overnight killed at least 23 Palestinians, including at least six women and five children, according to hospital records.

Egypt has previously warned that any seizure of Rafah — which is supposed to be part of a demilitarised border zone — or an attack that forces Palestinians to flee over the border into Egypt would threaten the 1979 peace treaty with Israel that's been a linchpin for regional security.

Netanyahu has said an offensive to take Rafah — which Israel says is Hamas' last major stronghold in Gaza — is crucial to the goal of destroying Hamas after its October 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war.

Putin begins his 5th term as Prez



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, May 7: President Vladimir Putin began his fifth term at a glittering Kremlin inauguration Tuesday, embarking on another six years as leader of Russia after destroying his political opponents, launching a devastating war in Ukraine and concentrating all power in his hands.

At the ceremony in the gilded Grand Kremlin Palace, Putin placed his hand on the Russian Constitution and vowed to defend it as a crowd of hand-picked dignitaries looked on.

"We are a united and great people and together we will overcome all obstacles, realise all our plans, together we will win," Putin said after being sworn in.

Since succeeding President Boris Yeltsin in the waning hours of 1999, Putin has transformed Russia from a country emerging from economic collapse to a pariah state that threatens global security. Following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine that has become Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, Russia has been heavily sanctioned by the West and is turning to other regimes like China, Iran and North Korea for support.

Already in office for nearly a quarter-century and the longest-serving Kremlin leader since Josef Stalin, Putin's new term doesn't expire until 2030, when he will be constitutionally eligible to run again.

In a heavily choreographed performance, Putin was pictured in his office looking at his papers before walking along the Kremlin's long corridors, pausing

at one point to look at a painting, on the way to his inauguration.

His guard of honour waited in the sleet and rain for hours, in temperatures hovering just above freezing, while Putin made the brief journey to the Grand Kremlin Palace in his Aurus limousine.

Putin used the first moments of his fifth term to thank the "heroes" of his war in Ukraine and to rail against the West. Russia "does not refuse dialogue with Western states," he said. Rather, he said, "the choice is theirs: do they intend to continue trying to contain Russia, continue the policy of aggression, continuous pressure on our country for years, or look for a path to cooperation and peace."

He was greeted with applause when he entered the hall with more than 2,500 invited guests. They included senior members of the Russian government as well as celebrities including American actor Steven Seagal.

Neither the US, UK nor German ambassadors attended. The US Embassy said Ambassador Lynne Tracy was out of the country on "prescheduled, personal travel".

A handful of European Union envoys attended even though top EU diplomat Josep Borrell said he told them "the right thing to do is not to attend this inauguration," because Putin is the subject of an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

HUSH MONEY TRIAL

Stormy describes first meeting with Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, May 7: Stormy Daniels took the witness stand Tuesday in the hush money trial of former President Donald Trump, prepared to testify about a sexual encounter the porn actor says she had in 2006 that resulted in her being paid off to keep silent during the Presidential election 10 years later.

Daniels strode briskly into the courtroom before being sworn in, not pausing to look at Trump, who stared straight ahead as she entered the room.

Daniels' testimony, even if sanitised for a courtroom setting and stripped of tell-all details, is by far the most-awaited spectacle in a trial that has toggled between tabloid-esque elements and dry record-keeping details.

Courtroom testimony from an adult film performer who says she had an intimate encounter with a former American President, and the presumptive Republican nominee, adds to the long line of historic firsts in a case already laden with tawdry claims of sex, payoffs and cover-ups.

Trump denies having sex with Daniels and has pleaded not guilty. In the early moments of her testimony, Daniels told jurors under questioning from prosecutors that she met Trump because the adult film studio she worked for at the time was sponsoring one of the holes on the golf course.



Indian Naval ships INS Delhi, INS Shakti and INS Kiltan arrived in Singapore

UK court rejects Nirav's fresh bail plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 7: Fugitive businessman Nirav Modi, who has been in prison in London for over five years, Tuesday made a new bail application which was rejected by a UK judge who ruled that he continued to pose a "substantial risk" of absconding justice.

The 52-year-old diamond merchant, who lost his extradition battle to face fraud and money laundering charges in India, did not appear for the bail hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court in London but his son and two daughters were present in the gallery. District Judge John Zani accepted their legal

team's submission that the long passage of time since the last bail application three and a half years ago constituted a change in circumstances to allow the hearing to go ahead.

"However, I am satisfied that there remain substantial grounds against bail. There continues to be a real, substantial risk that the applicant [Nirav Modi] would fail to attend court or interfere with witnesses," concluded Judge Zani in his judgment after a short hearing.

"This case involves, by any footing, a very substantial fraud allegation... not one where bail can be granted and the application is refused," he said.

UKRAINE WAR: FEARS OF MOSCOW-PYONGYANG AXIS

REUTERS

Kyiv, May 7: Ukrainian state prosecutors say they have examined debris from 21 of around 50 North Korean ballistic missiles launched by Russia between late December and late February, as they seek to assess the threat from Moscow's cooperation with Pyongyang.

In previously unreported details of an investigation under way into the missiles, the office of Ukraine's top prosecutor, Andriy Kostin, also told Reuters that the failure rate of the North Korean weaponry appeared to be high.

"About half of the North Korean missiles lost their programmed trajectories and exploded in the air; in such cases the debris was not recovered," Kostin's office said in written answers to Reuters' questions.

North Korean missiles account for a tiny portion of Russia's strikes during its war on Ukraine, but their alleged use has caused alarm from Seoul

to Washington because it may herald the end of nearly two-decade consensus among permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on preventing Pyongyang expanding its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

In addition to providing North Korea with an opportunity to test missiles, Russia has taken steps that will make it harder for the United Nations to monitor sanctions imposed on Pyongyang in 2006.

Last month, Moscow vetoed the annual renewal of the UN sanctions monitors - known as a panel of experts - that has for 15 years monitored enforcement of the UN sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), North Korea's official name.

China, one of the five permanent members on the Security Council with Russia, the United States, Britain and France, abstained from the vote.

Days before its mandate expired, the panel submitted a re-



A representative from the prosecutor's office shows a part of an unidentified missile, which Ukrainian authorities believe to be made in North Korea and was used in a strike in Kharkiv earlier this week, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv

port confirming for the first time that, in a violation of UN sanctions, a North Korean-made ballistic missile known as Hwasong-11 had struck the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

This, and Moscow's veto, underscore how Russia and North

Korea have intensified their bilateral relations beyond largely transactional, barter agreements, said Edward Howell, an expert on North Korea at Oxford University.

"There is a lasting legacy that is being shaped now, which is

the fact that North Korea, through being assured of Russia's support, is really being able to undermine key international institutions like the UN Security Council," he said.

The Russian presidency referred questions on the North Korean missiles to the Russian Defence Ministry, which did not respond to emailed questions from Reuters. North Korea's mission to the United Nations in Geneva also did not respond.

DOZENS KILLED OR WOUNDED

Despite the setback at the United Nations, Kostin has said his office will carry on with the investigation.

The prosecutor's office said that when debris could not be collected at impact sites,

Hwasong-11 missiles, which are also called KN-23 in the West, were identified by looking at their flight trajectories, speed and launch sites.

The last recorded use of a KN-23 was February 27, the prosecutor's office said, adding that the total number of launches it has identified tallied with intelligence showing North Korea delivered about 50 ballistic missiles to Russia.

According to the United States, Russia received ballistic missiles and artillery rounds from North Korea after the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, met Russian President Vladimir Putin for a rare summit last September.

The 21 cases, in which debris was collected, include three that were fired at the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and its surrounding region, Kostin's office said.

The others struck the regions of Kharkiv, Poltava, Donetsk and Kirovohrad.

KYIV SAYS RUSSIA HAS USED 50 NKOREAN MISSILES IN UKRAINE

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SAYS MISSILE FAILURE RATE APPEARS HIGH

ALLEGED USE OF NORTH KOREAN MISSILES CAUSES ALARM ABROAD



The world doesn't need another capsule...What matters is fully reusable rockets and spacecraft
ELON MUSK | SPACEX CEO

TOY EXPORTS MARGINALLY DOWN

The country's toy exports declined marginally to USD 152.34 million in 2023-24 from USD 153.89 million in the previous financial year, according to a report by an economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). It said that India's toy exports did not benefit much from the mandatory quality control orders.



of the day quote

Our US sales remain healthy driven by inhalation products, and our India formulation business is delivering ahead of the market



NILESH GUPTA | LUPIN MANAGING DIRECTOR

Our products are now used in one-in-five surgeries globally and we have nearly doubled the markets we're present in



ANISH BAFNA | HEALTHIUM CEO

Given the nature of digital space, there is wide range of technologies... and based on the demand, we need to go and bring people on board



JOSEPH ANANTHARAJU | EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN, HAPPREST MINDS TECHNOLOGIES

Q4 RESULTS CORNER

JSW Energy profit rises 29%

New Delhi: Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Energy Tuesday posted a 29 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹351 crore in the March quarter compared to a year ago mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company had reported a consolidated net profit of ₹272 crore in the quarter ended on March 31, 2023, according to a BSE filing. "Profit after Tax (consolidated net profit) increased by a robust 29 per cent YoY (year on year) to ₹351 Crore," it stated. During the quarter, total revenue increased by 3 per cent YoY to ₹2,879 crore from ₹2,806 crore in Q4 FY23, it stated. The profit after tax increased by 17 per cent YoY to ₹1,723 crore in fiscal year 2023-24 crore compared to ₹1,478 crore in FY23. For FY24, total revenue increased 10 per cent YoY to ₹11,941 crore from ₹10,867 crore in FY23, it said.

Voltas net down 22.5%

New Delhi: Air conditioning and engineering services provider Voltas Ltd Tuesday reported a 22.75 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹110.64 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2024, impacted by higher expenses. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹143.23 crore in the same period previous fiscal, Voltas said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at ₹4,202.88 crore as against ₹2,956.8 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses in the fourth quarter were higher at ₹4,044.90 crore compared to ₹2,761.45 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

IGL net profit rises 16%

New Delhi: Indraprastha Gas Ltd, India's largest CNG retailer, Tuesday reported a 16 per cent rise in March quarter net profit as it sold more gas. The net profit of ₹382.80 crore in the latest January-March quarter was compared to ₹329.75 crore profit registered a year ago, the company said in a statement. For the full 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024), net profit soared 21 per cent to ₹1,748.08 crore as against ₹1,445.02 crore in the previous year. Turnover slipped marginally to ₹3,949.17 crore in January-March from ₹4,042.57 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2022-23. The gross turnover during the financial year 2023-24 was ₹15,403.13 crore as compared to ₹15,543.67 crore in the preceding financial year 2022-23 primarily due to cooling off of international gas prices.

Household savings dip over ₹9L cr in 3 years



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Net household savings declined sharply by ₹9 lakh crore to ₹14.16 lakh crore in three years to 2022-23, according to the latest National Account Statistics 2024 of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The net household savings peaked at ₹23.29 lakh crore in 2020-21. These have been on the decline since then, the data showed.

The net household savings declined to ₹17.12 lakh crore in 2021-22 and dipped further to a five-year low of ₹14.16 lakh crore in 2022-23.

The previous low of net household savings was ₹13.05 lakh crore in 2017-18 which increased to ₹14.92 lakh crore in 2018-19 and ₹15.49 lakh crore in 2019-20.

The data showed that the investment in mutual funds almost trebled to ₹1.79 lakh crore in 2022-23 in three years from ₹64,084 crore in 2020-21. It was ₹1.6 lakh crore in 2021-22.

The household investment in shares and debentures almost doubled to ₹2.06 lakh crore in 2022-23 from ₹1.07 lakh crore in three years from 2020-21. It was ₹2.14 lakh crore in 2021-22.

Bank advances (loans) to households have also doubled in three years to ₹11.88 lakh crore in 2022-23 from ₹6.05 lakh crore in 2020-21. It was ₹7.69 lakh crore in 2021-22.

Loans to households by financial corporations and non-banking financial corporations increased also fourfold to ₹3.33 lakh crore in 2022-23 from ₹93,723 crore in 2020-21. It was 1.92 lakh crore in 2021-22.

Significant divide in consumption

THE 'K-SHAPED' CONSUMPTION PATTERN CONTINUES POST PANDEMIC AS WELL, USB REPORT SAID, ADDING THAT THE URBAN ECONOMY CONTINUES TO OUTPERFORM RELATIVE TO THE RURAL ECONOMY RECOVERY POST-PANDEMIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 7: A Swiss brokerage Tuesday said there is a 'significant divide' in India's consumption story and that the K-shaped trend is likely to continue in the near future.

"India's consumption story reflects a significant divide, driven by a resilient economy but characterised by a stark contrast in spending patterns," UBS India economist Tanvee Gupta Jain said in a note.

"...the divergence between affluent and broad-based household demand persists, accentuated by factors such as income inequality, increased consumer credit access, and declining household savings," she added. The brokerage anticipates



household consumption growth in FY25 to "remain subdued" at 4-5 per cent, which is below the trend observed in previous years.

It can be noted that after the pandemic, concerns have been raised about a K-shaped growth representative of deepening inequalities in the country. Some economists have gone public with their disapproval and called the pandemic as a 'leveller' for reducing inequalities as well.

The UBS report said India's household consumption nearly doubled in the past decade to USD 2.1 trillion in 2023, with an annual compound growth rate of

7.2 per cent.

However, household consumption growth remained muted in the last two years, it said, adding that it is the affluent segment that witnessed a significant increase in demand.

The brokerage said the consumption growth recovery is 'uneven', and pointed out that there has been faster growth in premium car sales, residential units of over ₹1 crore, smartphones costing over USD 300, or ₹25,000, while entry-level and mass market goods have seen muted growth post-pandemic.

It attributed the divide in consumption to factors such as income continuity being enjoyed by those in the top of the pyramid versus the bottom, limited fiscal support for vulnerable sections and lower household savings due to weaker incomes.

The 'K-shaped' consumption pattern continues post pandemic as well, it said, adding that the urban economy continues to outperform relative to the rural economy recovery post-pandemic.

However, despite the divide, India is on track to become the world's third largest consumer market by 2026, it said.

Sebi rejects NSE's proposal to extend trading hours



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Capital markets regulator Sebi has rejected a proposal by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to extend the trading hours in the equity derivatives segment citing a lack of feedback from the stock brokers community.

"Currently, there is no plan to extend the timings as Sebi has returned our application as the stock brokers have not given the feedback that Sebi wanted. So, as of now, the extended time frame (plan) is shelved," NSE MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said in a post-earn-

ings analysts call.

This came after the NSE had urged Sebi to extend trading hours in the equity derivatives segment in a phased manner. This was aimed at potentially curtailing the overnight risk arising from global information flow.

Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer of NSE, had told PTI in September that the bourse was planning a session from 6 pm to 9 pm after a break from the closure of the regular session from 9.15 am to 3.30 pm. Based on the response, a gradual extension of the market timing till 11.55 pm was pro-

posed on the lines of commodity derivatives.

To begin with, only index derivatives in phase 1 were proposed to be available followed by single stock options and others.

In 2018, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) allowed stock exchanges to set their trading hours in the equity derivatives segment between 9 am and 11.50 pm. This was similar to the trading hours for the commodity derivatives segment, which are currently fixed between 10 am and 11.55 pm.

The move was part of Sebi's efforts to enable the integration of stocks and commodities trading on a single exchange.

With regard to NSE's IPO, Chauhan said that "situations remain as in". Last month, he said that NSE is awaiting approval from Sebi to kickstart the initial public offering process. The NSE's listing plans have been on the backburner amid a Sebi probe against the exchange and some of its top officials.

During the fourth quarter ended March 2024, NSE reported a 20 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit at ₹2,488 crore. Further, the consolidated operating revenues stood at ₹4,625 crore for the January-March quarter of the financial year 2023-24, marking a surge of 34 per cent year-on-year.

Apart from trading, the total revenue was also supported by other revenue lines, including listing, index services, data services and co-location facility.

Equity markets end lower dragged by heavyweights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 7: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined Tuesday dragged by HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank amid concerns over rich valuation of equities.

Paring all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 383.69 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 73,511.85. During the day, it tanked 636.28 points or 0.86 per cent to 73,259.26.

The NSE Nifty declined 140.20 points or 0.62 per cent to 22,302.50.

From the Sensex basket, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries were among the major laggards.

Among the gainers, Hindustan Unilever climbed over 5 per cent. Tech Mahindra, Nestle, ITC, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the other major gainers.

"Domestic benchmark indices

opened higher Tuesday, aided by favourable global clues. However, after some initial jitters, the market saw massive profit-taking," said Hrishikesh Yedve, AVP Technical and Derivatives Research, Asit C. Mehta Investment Intermediates Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 1.90 per cent and smallcap index dipped 1.65 per cent.

Among the indices, realty dropped 3.41 per cent, utilities (2.85 per cent), commodities (2.18 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.73 per cent) and telecommunication (1.43 per cent). IT and tech were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled with gains while Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading higher. Wall Street ended in the green Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.23 per cent to USD 83.51 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,668.84 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.



Rural FMCG demand outpaces urban areas: NielsenIQ

INDIA ANTICIPATES AN ABOVE-NORMAL MONSOON IN JUNE, WHICH COULD AID RURAL INCOME

REUTERS

Bangalore, May 7: Indian fast-moving consumer goods' sales rose in January-March, with rural growth outpacing that in urban areas for the first time in five quarters, market researcher NielsenIQ said Tuesday.

Consumer goods-makers in the world's fifth-largest economy have been struggling with sluggish demand, especially in

the hinterlands, as higher prices of essentials including milk and tomatoes have forced people to cut back spending on non-essentials.

Sales volumes for fast-moving consumer goods rose 6.5% in the March quarter from a year earlier, NielsenIQ said, quickening from a 6% growth in the previous quarter.

Sales rose 7.6% in rural India, boosted by the personal and home care categories, against a 5.8% growth in the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, urban sales growth slowed to 5.7% from 6.9% in the previous quarter, as consumer goods makers struggled with rising competition.

Sales in the non-food segment rose at double the pace com-



pared with the food segment, NielsenIQ said.

Consumer goods majors including Nestle India and Dabur

have posted strong results for the March quarter as demand for products such as biscuits buoyed their bottom-lines.

Indian consumer giant Hindustan Unilever said a rural recovery has started while Marico said a demand recovery is underway even as the companies missed fourth-quarter profit estimates.

"Post-election, post-monsoon, we would be aiming towards a double-digit volume growth for sure. I think the first quarter is flattish," Varun Berry, managing director of Britannia said in a post-earnings call.

The consumer goods maker expects the demand environment to be "slightly inflationary" after the national elections which end in early June.

India anticipates an above-normal monsoon in June, which could aid rural income.

April fuel demand edges up 6.1% y-o-y



REUTERS

Bangalore May 7: India's fuel consumption rose by 6.1% year-on-year in April, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the oil ministry showed Tuesday.

India is the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer. The data is a proxy for the country's oil demand.

"The rise in total fuel consumption in April can be attributed to the increased activity in the run up to elections across the country," said Prashant Vasishth, vice president and co-head, corporate ratings at ICRA.

"We expect Indian fuel demand to grow by 3%-4%, with the GDP set to grow. The bulk of the rise will be led by petrol and diesel demand. Air travel in India also has shown good growth."

Total consumption totalled 19.86 million metric tons (4.85 million barrels per day) in April, up from 18.71 million tons last year, data showed.

Demand was down 5.8% on a monthly basis from the 21.09 million metric tons consumed in March.

Sales of diesel, mainly used by trucks and commercially run passenger vehicles, rose by 1.4% year-on-year to 7.93 million tons in April.

Sales of gasoline in April rose 14% from the previous year to 3.28 million tons.

Demand for bitumen, used for making roads, fell by over 5% annually.

Cooking gas, or liquefied petroleum gas sales rose by nearly 10% to 2.36 million tons, while naphtha sales gained by 3.9% to about 1.16 million tons, compared with last April, the data showed.

Fuel oil use decreased by more than 16% year-on-year in April. Asia's third-largest economy is the fastest growing among major peers and its GDP is expected to expand 6.5% this fiscal year.

Growth in India's manufacturing sector slowed marginally in April but remained robust thanks to strong demand, prompting firms to ramp up purchases of raw materials at a near-record pace, a business survey showed last week.

DC keep playoff hopes alive

Inconsistent SRH face LSG in push for playoffs



Jake Fraser-McGurk raises his bat after reaching half century as Abishek Porel looks on during their opening stand against Rajasthan Royals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Delhi Capitals earned a hard-fought 20-run win over Rajasthan Royals to technically stay alive in the IPL playoff race as home spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav played a key role in the team's victory in the must-win contest here Tuesday.

Yet again, it was Jake Fraser-McGurk (50, 20b, 7x4, 3x6) and Abishek Porel's (65, 36b, 7x4, 3x6) coruscating display of power-hitting that took DC to a challenging 221/8. Chasing a stiff target to secure their place in the playoffs, the Royals were going strong but once skipper Sanju Samson (86, 46b, 8x4, 6x6) was dismissed in the 16th over,

their innings lost momentum. They ended up at 201/8.

Wrist-spinner Kuldeep (2/25) and left-arm spinner Axar (1/25) exhibited impressive control over line and length that did put brakes on Royals' scoring rate in the middle overs. The two bowlers gave away just 50 runs in their combined seven overs.

After Tuesday's win, DC moved to fifth place with 12 points – the same as three other teams – but even if they win their remaining two contests, it will be difficult for them to make the knockout stage as the teams placed above them have better chances of logging 18 points. DC can have a maximum of 16 points.

Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (3/24)



Kuldeep Yadav was pumped up after dismissing a Rajasthan Royals batter, Tuesday

had jolted the Capitals with wickets in his successive overs but pacer Avesh Khan bled runs.

Samson's stroke-making was a treat to watch, even as Jos Buttler could not make the most of a dropped chance. Buttler struggled to get going and was handed a chance when he was on 8 as Fraser-McGurk dropped a high catch off Mukesh Kumar. The England batter dragged one from left-arm spinner Axar.

Kuldeep too had the batters in a tight leash as the asking rate grew. Rasikh Dar cleaned up Riyan Parag (27) after getting hit out of the park. Samson completed his fifty with a six off Kuldeep and then launched a severe attack on Dar, who leaked 18 in runs in the 13th over.

Royals needed 91 runs from 42 balls. Debutant Shubham Dubey (25) supported his skipper

well. Left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed bowled four wides in a row before creating a chance to get rid of Samson. However, after the departure of Samson, Royals innings fell apart.

Earlier, had it not been some smart bowling by Ashwin and fellow off-spinner Parag in the middle overs, DC would have put more runs on the board. Young Australian batter Fraser-McGurk continued with his splendid form alongside Porel. Tristan Stubbs chipped in with a useful 20-ball 41 (3x4, 3x6) but skipper Rishabh Pant's (15) bat did not talk much.

Royals pacer Trent Boult and Sandeep Sharma came in with hit-the-deck approach and largely succeeded in not letting home openers swing freely. The initial boundaries were largely well-timed drives and lofted shots in the 'V' space.

Fraser-McGurk had a soft dismissal when he hit a full-toss from Ashwin straight to cover fielder Donovan Ferreira. Ashwin returned and got rid of Axar Patel, who had just hit Parag for a maximum. Porel though kept going strong and completed his fifty.

Samson handed the ball to Ashwin and he delivered yet again, this time sending back Porel. The home skipper didn't do much, throwing his wicket away. DC gathered 65 runs from the last five overs.

BRIEF SCORES

DC 221/8 (Abishek Porel 65, Jake Fraser-McGurk 50, Tristan Stubbs 41; Ravichandran Ashwin 3/24) beat RR 201/8 (Sanju Samson 86, Riyan Parag 27, Shubham Dubey 25; Kuldeep Yadav 2/25, Mukesh Kumar 2/30, Khaleel Ahmed 2/47) by 20 runs.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MATCHDAY

Hyderabad, May 7: Sunrisers Hyderabad will be eager to move on from their underwhelming batting display when they host Lucknow Super Giants in a crucial IPL match here Wednesday.

Both teams are locked in at 12 points from 11 games with SRH making the top four cut based on a slightly superior net run rate of -0.065 compared to LSG's -0.371.

The Sunrisers find themselves in a fierce competition for the top four spot with Kolkata Knight Riders (16), Rajasthan Royals (16) and Chennai Super Kings (12) stationed above them on the points table. The winner of the duel will take a leap in the playoff race.

The Pat Cummins-led side has ample talent but has been unable to hold on to a winning run recently. Sunrisers have lost three of their last four matches, mainly because their destructive batting line-up hasn't delivered.

In their last match against Mumbai Indians, which they lost by seven wickets, they failed to put up a good target on the board, which has been their strong suit this season.

Barring Travis Head, who has been their stand out performer, the other batters in the side have faced a recent slump. The bowlers have fared better compared to their batting counterparts.

T Natarajan has been consistent with the ball while seasoned

seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar also seems to have found his mojo after his incisive spell helped SRH eke out a one-run win against RR.

LSG, on the other hand, have to get over their overall lacklustre display against Kolkata Knight Riders, when they not only conceded the first-ever 200 plus score at the Ekana Stadium but also folded their innings at 137.

It was a day when skipper KL Rahul failed to anchor the innings while the likes of Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran were unable to get the big shots when needed. Ayush Badoni has had a subdued run in this IPL and the uncapped Indian player would be keen to shrug off the rustiness.

LSG's struggles with the ball have been majorly due to the lack of firepower in their pace-bowling department. With tear-away pacer Mayank Yadav ruled out of the IPL and left-arm pacer Mohsin Khan also picking up an injury, the onus will be on Afghan quick Naveen-ul-Haq, young Yash Thakur, Stoinis and spinners Krunal Pandya and Ravi Bishnoi to deliver.

KKR spend night at Varanasi due to flight diversions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Kolkata Knight Riders players had a harrowing experience as they were forced to spend a night at Varanasi after their flight from Lucknow to Kolkata was diverted multiple times due to bad weather.

Following their win over Lucknow Super Giants Sunday, the Shreyas Iyer-led side left Monday evening for Kolkata at 5:45 pm. They were scheduled to arrive at 7:25 pm. But the charter flight had to be diverted to Guwahati first and then to Varanasi after adverse weather conditions made it impossible to land the plane in Kolkata.

The KKR media team provided an update at 8:46 pm, saying, "Due to inclement weather over Kolkata, the KKR charter flight has been diverted to Guwahati. We've just landed here."

Palace rout Man Utd in debut of 'RefCam'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 7: A referee wore a camera for the first time in an English Premier League match as Crystal Palace beat up Manchester United 4-0.

Footage from the device worn by Jarrod Gillett, dubbed the RefCam, was not broadcast live but will be wound into a program made by the league to show the ups and downs of refereeing at the highest level. What it will also show is a closeup of United's woeful defending.

Defenders backed off Michael Olise and allowed him to stride forward unchallenged and score the opener after 13 minutes. Jean-Philippe Mateta made it 2-

0 five minutes before halftime when he skinned Jonny Evans and hammered the ball into the roof of the net.

The United defense failed to deal with a ball into the box and Tyrick Mitchell slid in to poke home a third nearly an hour in. The fourth came soon after when Casemiro was dispossessed by Daniel Muñoz, who cut the ball back for Olise to score his second.

The defeat was United's 13th in the league. It remained in eighth spot, outside the automatic European places. Erik ten Hag's men have three more league games to go before facing Manchester City in the FA Cup final May 25. The winner of the cup qualifies for the Europa League.

2ND PROBABLES LIST ANNOUNCED

WORLD CUP PRELIMINARY JOINT QUALIFICATION ROUND 2 MATCHES AGAINST KUWAIT, QATAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Injured central defender Sandesh Jhingan missed out as Indian senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac Tuesday announced his second list of 15 probables for their camp in Bhubaneswar ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 preliminary joint qualification round 2 matches against Kuwait and Qatar. The first list of probables was announced Saturday.

Key defender Jhingan, who sustained a right knee injury during India's Asian Cup group match against Syria in January, missed out of the list.

The 26 players from the first list will begin training in the Odisha capital May 10. The 15 players from the second list, comprising players from Mumbai City FC and Mohun Bagan SG, who contested the ISL Cup final, will join the camp May 15.

A total of 41 players will take part in the national camp. The Blue Tigers will face Kuwait in Kolkata June 6 before travelling away to take on Qatar June 11 in their last two matches of Group A.

India are currently placed sec-



ond in the group, with four points from four matches. The top two teams in the group will qualify for Round 3 of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and book their berth at the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027.

Players' list 2:
Goalkeepers: Purba Tempa Lachenpa, Vishal Kaith; Defenders: Akash Mishra, Anwar Ali, Mehtab Singh, Rahul Bheke, Subhasish Bose; Midfielders:

Anirudh Thapa, Deepak Tangri, Lalengmawia Ralte, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Sahal Abdul Samad; Forwards: Manvir Singh, Vikram Partap Singh

Players' list 1
Goalkeepers: Amrinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu; Defenders: Amey Ganesh Ranawade, Jay Gupta, Lalchungnunga, Muhammad Hammad, Narender, Nikhil Poojary, Roshan Singh Naorem;

Midfielders: Brandon Fernandes, Edmund Lalrindika, Imran Khan, Isak Vanlalruatfela, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Mohammad Yasin; Nandhakumar Sekar; Rahul Kannyol Praveen Suresh Singh Wangjam, Vibin Mohanan; Forwards: David Lalhlansanga, Jithin Madathil Subran, Lalrinzuala, Parthib Sundar Gogoi, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri.



Then another update at 9:43 pm said, "We've got clearance to fly back to Kolkata now, from Guwahati. Estimated arrival: 11 pm."

However, the ordeal was not over for the players and support staff as multiple attempts to land the flight failed, forcing the officials to divert the flight mid-air to Varanasi.

"Flight took off from Guwahati to Kolkata, was scheduled to land at 11 pm. Couldn't land once again due to bad weather, despite several attempts. Diverted mid-air to Varanasi now. Just landed here," said an update at 1:15 am.

The KKR team then spent the night at Varanasi and were scheduled to travel to Kolkata Tuesday afternoon. "The team would be checking into Varanasi hotel for overnight stay. Return flight to Kolkata TBD Tuesday (7 May) afternoon," the KKR media team said in the final update at 3:00 am.

From Marseille to Mont-Blanc: The journey of Olympic torch to Paris

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 7: The Olympic torch will finally enter France when it reaches the southern seaport of Marseille Wednesday. And it's already been quite a journey.

After being lit by the sun's rays April 16 in Ancient Olympia, the torch was carried around Greece before leaving Athens aboard a three-mast ship named Belem, headed for Marseille.

The Belem was first used in 1896, the same year the modern Olympics came back. It will be accompanied by more than 1,000 boats as it parades around the Bay of Marseille, before arriving at the Vieux-Port, or Old Port, and docking on a pontoon resembling an athletics tracks.

Torch bearers will carry the flame across Marseille the next day, the last stretch running on the roof of the famed Stade Velodrome, home to Marseille's passionate football fans. After leaving Marseille, a vast relay route will be undertaken before the torch odyssey ends July 27 in Paris.



A look at where the torch goes before reaching Paris...

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL
The torch is due to reach the famed and visually stunning site of Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy May 31. Located in an area of raised land surrounded by water, the island fortress looks like it was created for a Game of Thrones film set. But it's real, and very old. So old that it already existed during the Hundred Years' War between England and France, from 1337 to 1453. Later it became a



The torches have a lower environmental impact than those used at previous Games as they burn biogas instead of propane and are recharged when fuel runs out. Around 2,000 torches will be used compared to more than 10,000 before

prison, and in 1979 it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

ACROSS THE OCEANS
This route is even more unique considering it takes a detour through France's overseas territories called the Relais des Oceans, or Ocean Relay. Riding the waves of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean, it will be in

French Guiana June 9 before hitting New Caledonia June 11. Next is the island of Reunion at Saint-Denis — coincidentally the same name as the Paris suburb with the Olympic village — before reaching Papeete in the surfing realm of Tahiti, then Baie-Mahault in Gaudeloupe and finally Fort-de-France in Martinique. The torch comes

back to France June 18 in the southern city of Nice.

FROM SEA BREEZE TO HEAVY CHEESE
Just five days after landing on French shores, the torch heads up the Alpine mountain pass of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc for Olympic Day June 23. The Haute-Savoie region is known for its outstanding Chamonix ski resort, which hosts World Cup races, for sweeping views across glacier fields to nearby Italy, and — some would say more importantly — as a producer of fine cheese.

HEADING FOR FRANCE
After leaving fromage-friendly Savoie, torch bearers will digest in the Doubs region of eastern France, and then visit the Alsace city of Strasbourg in the northeast. Three days later the torch will reach Verdun, the site of one of the most horrific battles of World War I. In 1916, more than 700,000 French and German soldiers were killed or wounded at the Battle of Verdun.

BASTILLE DAY ARRIVAL
The torch is to arrive on the streets of Paris July 14 — hardly surprising, considering it's Bastille Day, France's national day. The torch will stay the following day in Paris, then exit again before snaking back to the French capital via Versailles — home to the resplendent Royal Palace — and the suburbs of Nanterre July 24 and Seine Saint-Denis July 25. From there, it's to travel a very short distance back to Paris July 26, the eve of the grandiose opening ceremony where athletes will parade on more than 80 boats at sunset on the Seine River.

FINAL DESTINATION
After the nearly four-hour ceremony ends shortly after 11 pm, the cauldron will be lit at a location that is being kept top-secret until the day itself. Among reported options are such iconic spots as the Eiffel Tower and the Tuileries Gardens outside the Louvre Museum.