



## Money matters

Actor Priyanka Chopra praises Hollywood for having pay parity which, she says, is not maintained in Indian film industry

LEISURE | P2



## Remittances feat

India received over \$111 billion in remittances in 2022, the largest in the world, becoming the first country to surpass the \$100bn mark

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## India pips Japan

Rapid solar energy deployment in India pushes the country past Japan to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023

BUSINESS | P11



## Dortmund in CL final

Borussia Dortmund beat Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League semifinal to march into the title round

SPORTS | P12

### BANKING SERVICES IN EVERY PANCHAYAT

## AMA BANK

### EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES

**Naveen's 5T Guarantee**  
Transformation Guarantee

**PRESS THE SANKHA BUTTON** ONE VOTE FOR MP ONE VOTE FOR MLA

## Turbulence in AI Exp; 100 flights cancelled

AGENCIES

**New Delhi/ Kochi, May 8:** Air India Express has cancelled more than 100 flights since Tuesday night as a section of cabin crew reported sick to protest against the alleged mismanagement at the Tata Group-owned airline, impacting around 15,000 passengers.

Faced with cabin crew shortage, the airline, which operates a significant number of flights to the Gulf, has decided to curtail flights till May 13. Air India Express is to operate around 360 flights daily to domestic and international destinations, sources said Wednesday.

The Civil Aviation ministry Wednesday sought a report from Air India Express on the flight cancellations and also asked the airline to resolve the issues promptly. Apart from cancellations, scores of flights were delayed and the airline's passengers, mostly scheduled to travel to the Gulf nations, protested at airports in Kerala against flight cancellations as many of them were informed only after the security checks.

Flight disruptions happened at various airports, including Kochi, Calicut, Delhi and Bangalore. Domestic as well as international services, including to various Gulf countries, have also been hit. At Delhi airport alone, 14 flights of the carrier were cancelled from 4am to 4pm Wednesday, they added.

Last month, the Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU), which claims to represent around 300 cabin crew members, mostly seniors, had also alleged that mismanagement of the affairs has affected the morale of the employees.



**COMBAT-READY:** Israeli soldiers work on an armoured military vehicle at a staging ground near Israel-Gaza border in southern Israel, Wednesday. PFI/PHOTO

## Pitroda lands Cong in new mess, quits post

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 8:** Congress leader Sam Pitroda Wednesday resigned as the chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress after his controversial remarks spurred the BJP to label the party "racist".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X that party chief Mallikarjun Kharge has accepted Pitroda's decision. "Mr Sam Pitroda has decided to step down as Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress of his own accord. The Congress President has accepted his decision," Ramesh said in his post.

The development came after Pitroda's choice of ethnic and racial identities like Chinese, Arabs, Whites and Africans at a podcast to describe how Indians from different parts of the country look triggered a political firestorm. The Congress swiftly distanced itself from his words, calling the remarks "most unfortunate and unacceptable".

## 3.77kg gold seized from City airport

**Bhubaneswar:** Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized smuggled gold worth ₹2.79 crore from four passengers at Biju Patnaik International Airport here, a statement said Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, DRI officers identified four passengers arriving from Dubai and on searching them, found 3.77 kg of smuggled gold from their possession May 6, it said. They were arrested and further investigation is underway, it added.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He's not concerned about voter turnout. He's fixated on voter turnout figures

# Modi's black money jibe

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday asking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who had been attacking the BJP-led Central government over 'Ambani-Adani' issue for years now, whether he has received 'tempo loads of black money' from these businessmen to stay mum is most likely to deal a blow to the reputation of the twin companies. Their shares may take a beating while employees may stare at uncertainty. Now, the billion dollar question is what the Central agencies like ED, CBI and Income Tax department were doing when these firms, which grew under the patronage of the Union government, were accumulating, what Modi termed, 'black money'? If Modi's statement is something to consider, his 'flagship' demonetisation move 'aimed at curbing black money' has turned out to be an utter failure*

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad/New Delhi, May 8:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday for the first time during the Lok Sabha elections accused the Congress of having a nexus with "Ambani and Adani", and asked if the party



has received "tempo loads of black money" from the two businessmen for its leader Rahul Gandhi to stop "abusing" them. In what appeared to be changing the narrative on the issue that was until now used by the Congress to attack Modi and his government at the Centre, the Prime Minister also demanded that the party should explain to people why it has stopped raising the 'Ambani-Adani' issue as its 'Shehzada' used to do for the past five years and asked if it has struck a deal.

"Since his Rafale issue got grounded, he started chanting about 'five industrialists'. Then he started saying Ambani-Adani. But ever since elections have been announced, these people

(Congress) have stopped abusing Ambani-Adani. I want to ask from Telangana soil, let the 'Shehzada' announce, how much has been lifted from Ambani-Adani. Has tempo loads of money reached the Congress? What deal has been arrived at, that abusing Ambani-Adani has stopped overnight," he said while addressing an election rally at Vemulawada in Telangana.

"Certainly something is fishy. For five years, (they) abused Adani-Ambani and it stopped overnight. It means you have received some tempo loads of 'chori ka maal' (loot)...Kaale dhan ki kitni boriya bharkar ke rupaye maare hai (how many sacks of black money you have taken) You have to answer the na-

tion," the Prime Minister said. Rahul dared Modi to hold a probe by the CBI or ED into whether businessmen Adani and Ambani sent black money to his party and taunted if Modi was speaking from his "personal experience" that they send their "money in a tempo". He also asked Modi if he was "scared". "Modi ji, are you a little scared? Normally you talk about Adani and Ambani behind closed doors, but for the first time you have talked about Adani and Ambani in public," Rahul said in the video message.

According to several economists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to scrap ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination notes November 8, 2016 to curb black money had brought loads of difficulties for the common man while it failed to deter accumulation of black money. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that Modi's chair is "shaking" after three phases of the Lok Sabha polls as he has started attacking his own 'friends' and this shows the "real trend" of the result. Congress leader Supriya Shrinete asked Modi "when would a CBI, ED or Income Tax raid happen against them?"

## 2 Rubella cases found in Nabarangpur district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nabarangpur, May 8:** Two children in Nabarangpur district have been found to be infected with Rubella virus, a Health department official said, Wednesday.

The cases have been detected at Panaspadarguda village under Padalguda panchayat of Nandahandi block of this tribal-dominated district, said Malaya Kumar Tripathy, chief district medical officer (CDMO) in-charge of Nabarangpur.

The affected children have been identified as seven-year-old Kapilas Majhi and 22-month-old baby boy Tripati Majhi, the CDMO said. The patients have been kept under isolation and are being given antibiotics and vitamins for recovery. A medical team will keep them under observation for 21 days.

Three others who were having similar symptoms are also being given medicines. Later, senior manager of WHO O Mausam Mona, CDMO Tripathy, microbiologist Raj Dutta, epidemiologist Irshad Ahmed Khan, medical officer of Nandahandi CHC Sibananda Bishoi, and a med-

ical team visited the village and interacted with the villagers.

The CDMO said that five persons displayed signs of Rubella virus. On being apprised, ANM Gunjan Pattnaik rushed to the village April 26 and interacted with the villagers. She informed, the medical officer of Nandahandi CHC after she found fever and measles type symptoms among the affected villagers. Five samples were collected and sent for tests to the (RMRC) ICMR laboratory in Bhubaneswar, of which two were found to be Rubella positive while another of measles April 29, he said.

Health Services Director Bijay Mohapatra said Nandahandi block of Nabarangpur district have been affected by Rubella.

"So far, 18 persons have been found with fever and rashes in the body, a symptom of Rubella virus. We've conducted tests for Scrub typhus, leptospirosis, but the results are negative. Now, we have sent the samples to ICMR for Rubella tests," the director said. However, there is no need to panic as the situation is under control, added the Health Services director.

## ASTRAZENECA STARTS WITHDRAWAL OF VAX

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London/New Delhi, May 8:** UK-based pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca has started global withdrawal of its Covid-19 vaccine, which was provided in India as 'Covishield' in partnership with Serum Institute of India, days after it admitted to rare side effects of blood clotting and low platelet counts.

The withdrawal has been initiated due to a surplus of available updated vaccines since the pandemic, the company said. AstraZeneca had partnered with Oxford University to develop the vaccine, which was sold in India as Covishield and Vaxzevria in Europe.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 8:** Nearly 1,25,000kg of carbon emission can be saved every Monday through the 'Wrinkles Acche Hain' drive under which Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) workforce can now wear un-ironed clothes on this day, Chetan Singh Solanki of IIT Bombay said.

"To put the record straight, during the Earth Day Celebrations April 23, 2024, Prof Chetan Solanki from IIT-Bombay, after installing the climate clock

at CSIR-HQ, had in his speech expressed his view on these lines," the CSIR said in a post.

The 'Wrinkles Acche Hai' initiative aims to remind everyone about saving energy, protecting the environment, and spreading awareness about climate change.

Chetan Singh Solanki, founder of the Energy Swaraj Movement, said, "We are saving nearly 1,25,000 kg of carbon emission every Monday. One of the simple solutions to climate change is 'Not-Doing-Something' (NDS)". "Our 'Wrinkles Achhe Hain'

## WRINKLES ACHE HAIN

# Unironed clothes can help fight climate change



(WAH) campaign is picking up. In this, we are asking people to wear non-ironed clothes on Mondays," he said.

By not ironing one pair of clothes, we can save up to 200

grams of carbon emission, he said. "When millions do the same, there is huge carbon emission saving and it becomes fashionable. Currently, 6,25,000 people are joining on every Monday. We are saving nearly 1,25,000 kg of carbon emission every Monday. I wish that by this year's end, over 1 crore people will join in this

**By not ironing one pair of clothes, one can save up to 200 grams of carbon emission per day, says Chetan Singh Solanki, founder of the Energy Swaraj Movement**

WAH Monday campaign," he said.

An official said the CSIR is also planning to reduce 10 per cent electricity consumption across all its labs.

Solanki recently installed India's largest Climate Clock atop the CSIR headquarters building to spread awareness about climate change and its ill effects.

However, the CSIR has clarified any circular or official order is yet to be issued to the labs asking the staffers to refrain from wearing ironed clothes.

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	36.7°C	37.5°C
Min Temp	25.0°C	25.0°C
Humidity	71%	74%
Rainfall	4.2mm	4.2mm
FORECAST	PARTLY CLOUDY SKY	

# leisure



## ISABELLE NAMED VENICE FILM FESTIVAL JURY HEAD

BAFTA-winning French actress Isabelle Huppert is set to head to Italy as she will preside over the main jury of the upcoming edition of the Venice Film Festival. The actress has a longstanding rapport with the festival as she has won Venice's Coppa Volpi for best actress twice.

## GOT STAR IAN GELDER PASSES AWAY AT 74

Renowned for his portrayal of Kevan Lannister in HBO's epic series *Game of Thrones*, actor Ian Gelder has passed away at the age of 74. The news of Gelder's demise was confirmed by his partner, Ben Daniels, who shared the heartbreaking announcement on social media.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
The stars urge you to focus on your finances and savings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesh, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

**TAURUS**  
Your think tank will be running on overdrive today. Your possessiveness might kick in to cause a conflict. Keep your anger under the carpet to avoid any unnecessary complications. Introspection will also play upon your thoughts, leading you to explore your problems and pry for solutions, predicts Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today may not be very meaningful and productive for you, though you will get to spend plenty of quality time with yourself in the afternoon, which may not necessarily be to your liking. By evening, you may feel a little extra sensitive. A lonely day, or as an optimist would put it, you've got the whole day to yourself; it could have been worse (For instance, a day alone with your nagging mother-in-law!).

**CANCER**  
You are likely to be at your inventive best today, feels Ganesh. You are likely to taste success, much to the delight of your colleagues at work and loved ones back home. However, experience counts, and if you are a beginner at something, you may face problems in your new venture.

**LEO**  
Chess is a good start, but it is nothing compared to the strategic intrigues of your day today. Arguments will lead to further arguments, and nowhere else, reminds Ganesh. So, it only makes sense to counter a disagreement with an agreement. But then again, total agreement is doubly secretive.

**VIRGO**  
You will shine exceedingly well in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of starting business operations on foreign shores will fructify today, says Ganesh. You may pay more attention to your personal appearance, which will boost your morale considerably.

**LIBRA**  
Call it your generous side, but today is the perfect day to give back to all those from whom you have received so far. With roots set firmly in community service, it might do you well to extend that helping hand and return something back to them, preferably in the double. Go along with the spirit of an early thanksgiving today. Ganesh reminds you that giving is always more fulfilling than receiving.

**SCORPIO**  
An upcoming project of a new joint venture will capsize your personal life and keep you on your toes today, says Ganesh. You may not find the results in proportion to the efforts that you put in, but be patient because everything will fall in place only in due time.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
To do or not to do? That will be the question for most of today as you find yourself pulling out of one dilemma only to trip into the next one. Controversy will surround you and you may find yourself at the crossroads, where you are unsure of which direction to take.

**CAPRICORN**  
There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesh. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future. The need of the hour is to stay calm and take criticisms in your stride.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are already overloaded with work. On the top of it, people around you will conveniently put their share of load on your back, and you will take it most of the times. You, however, will not get bogged down by the additional responsibilities. In fact, you will rise to the challenge and perform exceptionally well, leaving your rivals surprised.

**PISCES**  
Are you fretting over the obstacles you are facing on the business front? Ganesh tackles the root of your problem and advises you to be patient and have faith in your undertakings. Good things will come your way, in good time.

## Priyanka all praise for Hollywood's pay parity

**Mumbai:** Actress Priyanka Chopra made a successful switch from the Hindi film industry to Hollywood, and went on to star as a lead in shows like *Quantico* and *Citadel*. However, she says she did not know she had the 'power' to ask for pay parity in the first place. In an interview during the promotional rounds for *WOMB*, she shared how she was 'surprised' when her agents made the call around pay parity.

During the interview, the *Dostana* actress recalled the conversation and added, "When my agents told me that we were going to ask for pay parity, even I was like, 'What? No, that doesn't happen in our industry.' And they were like, 'Let's just ask the question.' So, I didn't even know that I had that power. I did not know I could aspire for

more, because I was desensitized. I was told this is normal."

Earlier, talking about the remuneration of female actors in India, she had said, "I've never had pay parity in Bollywood. I would get paid about 10% of the salary of my male co-actor. It's substantially large. And so many women still deal with that. I'm sure I will too if I worked with a male co-actor now in Bollywood."

On the work front, Priyanka will be seen next in *Heads of State*. AGENCIES



## 'I get shivers when see myself on screen'

**Mumbai:** Actor Ashutosh Rana, who has been in the industry for over three decades shared that he still gets the shivers when he sees himself on screen, calling it an extraordinary feeling.

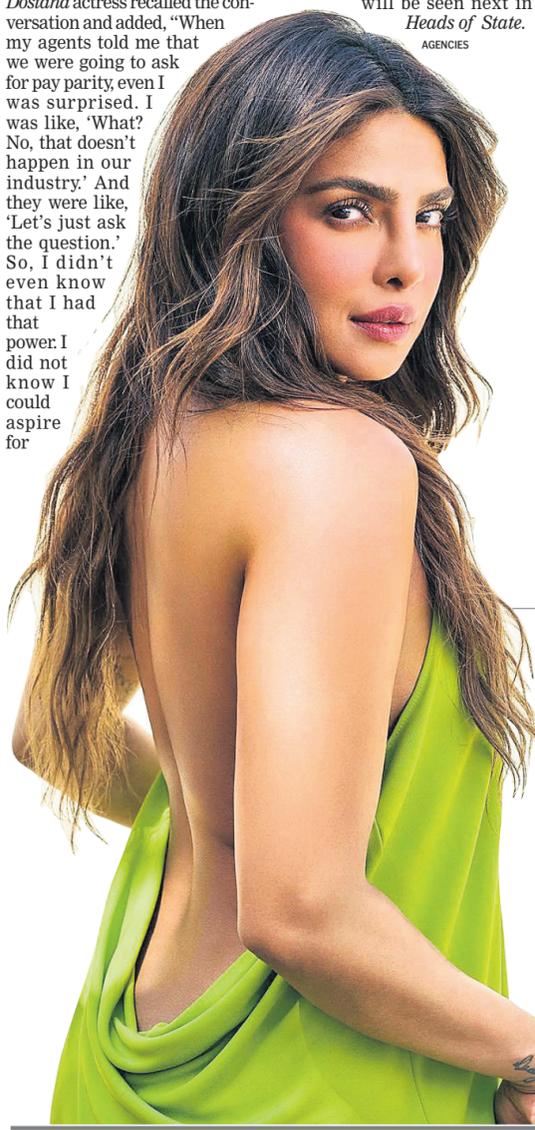
The actor, who is set to play Peter in the upcoming psychological thriller *Murder in Mahim*, shared, "I have always been passionate about acting and I strive to live up to my potential; and whenever I see myself on screen I still get shivers. It's an extraordinary feeling. It's a feeling that makes peace with my being."

Speaking on the content-driven projects, he said, "I feel that OTT platforms have changed the way of looking at content. I have been fortunate to play some compelling and hard-hitting characters."

The social commentary series explores the chilling murder mystery and the underbelly of Mumbai, highlighting the reconciliation of a lost friendship between Peter (Ashutosh) and Jende (Vijay Raaz).

Adapted from a critically acclaimed book by author Jerry Pinto, the gripping series is helmed by Raj Acharya, and created by Tipping Point Films and Jigsaw Pictures. It also stars talented actors Shivani Raghuvanshi and Shivaji Satam in pivotal roles.

*Murder in Mahim* is set to release May 10 on JioCinema Premium. IANS



**Mumbai:** Actress Diana Pentz, who keeps posting pictures of her favourite four-legged companion on social media, said that her pet, Victoria, is her happy place, and she looks forward to being back home to hug her at the end of the day.

The *Cocktail* actress made these comments while launching PETA India's 'Adopt, Don't Shop' campaign in Mumbai.

Diana said, "Victoria is my happy place. Whenever I am low or feel sad and it's been a long, tiring day, I just can't wait to be back home to give her a tight hug." The actress made it clear that Victoria hates being hugged. "But my way of expressing my love for her is by hugging her. She is so special and highly in-

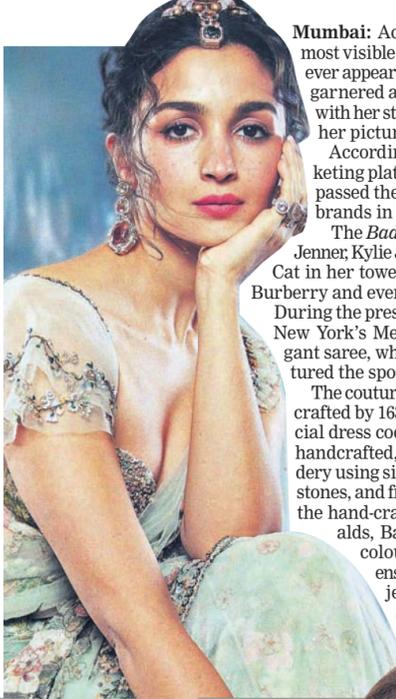
## Director Sangeeth Sivan dies at 65

**Mumbai:** Director Sangeeth Sivan, best known for Malayalam hit *Yodha* and Hindi films *Kya Kool Hain Hum* and *Apna Sapna Money Money*, died at a hospital here Wednesday after

a cardiac arrest. He was 65. His cinematographer-brother Santosh Sivan confirmed Sangeeth's death to this agency via a WhatsApp message. According to Santosh, Sangeeth was ad-

mitted to the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and died following a cardiac arrest. Last rites will be performed Thursday at the Oshiwara cemetery at 4 pm, he added. PTI

## ALIA MOST VISIBLE CELEB AT MET GALA



**Mumbai:** Actress Alia Bhatt has emerged as the most visible celebrity at the Met Gala. Her second-ever appearance at the event in New York evening garnered attention, setting social media on fire with her stunning saree and captivating fans with her pictures and videos.

According to a report on the influencer marketing platform Lefty, Alia and Sabyasachi surpassed the biggest celebrities, influencers, and brands in terms of visibility.

The *Badri Ki Dulhania* actress beat Kendall Jenner, Kylie Jenner, Kim Kardashian, and even Doja Cat in her towel. Meanwhile, Sabyasachi surpassed Burberry and even Oscar de la Renta.

During the prestigious fashion gala held annually at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, her elegant saree, which extended into a 30-foot trail, captured the spotlight.

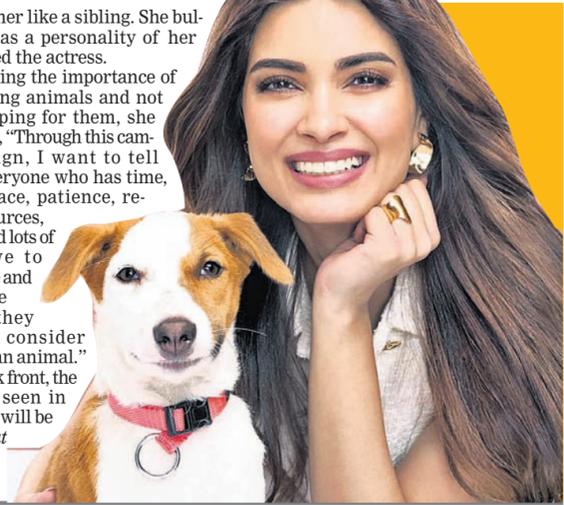
The couture saree worn by the *Raazi* actress, was crafted by 163 artisans, paying homage to the official dress code for the 2024 Met Gala. Extensively handcrafted, the saree featured intricate embroidery using silk floss, beads, sequins, semi-precious stones, and fringed with glass beads. Additionally, the hand-crafted blouse was adorned with emeralds, Basra pearls, tourmalines, and multi-coloured sapphires. To complement her ensemble, Bhatt adorned herself with high jewellery's Bengal royal collection, adorned with tourmalines, sapphires, emeralds, and diamonds. AGENCIES

## Diana professes her love for pet

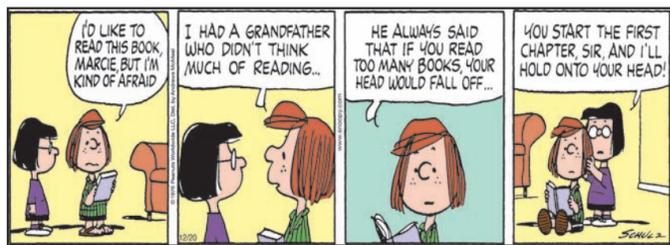
telligent. I talk to her like a sibling. She bullies me. She has a personality of her own," added the actress.

Stressing the importance of adopting animals and not shopping for them, she said, "Through this campaign, I want to tell everyone who has time, space, patience, resources, and lots of love to give and share that they should consider adopting an animal."

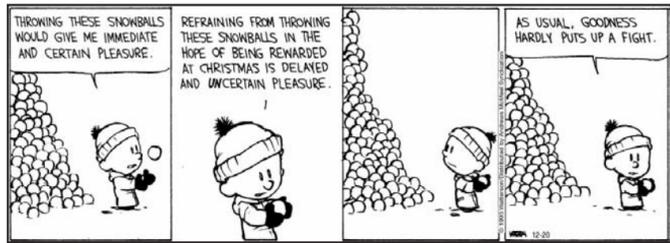
On the work front, the actress was last seen in *Bloody Daddy* and will be seen next in *Abhuth* and *Section 84*. IANS



### PEANUTS



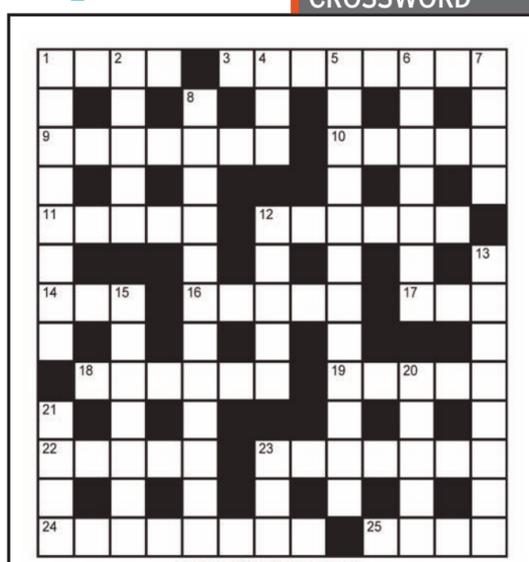
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Small salmon
  - 3 Chum
  - 9 Cut short
  - 10 Wedding member
  - 11 Indian grackle
  - 12 Gaudy
  - 14 Bird-to-be
  - 16 Sponge
  - 17 Stately tree
  - 18 Hummocks
  - 19 Prods
  - 22 Scouting group
  - 23 Sophocles
  - 24 Scholarly one
  - 25 Catch sight of
  - Down**
  - 1 Type of salad
  - 2 Graceful bird
  - 4 Mouse catcher
  - 5 Beer gardens (6,6)
  - 6 A little rain
  - 7 Utopia
  - 8 Have crow for dinner? (3,6,3)
  - 12 Blunders
  - 13 Go-between
  - 15 Venice
  - transport
  - 20 Airport features
  - 21 Greek portico
  - 23 Biblical high priest

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

S	T	E	A	D	Y	S	O	R	R	E	L
L	C	O	F	A	E	E					
I	L	L	E	G	A	L	S	O	F	I	A
P	A	S	E	I	T	R	N				
O	C	T	E	T	U	P	S	T	A	R	T
N		A	R								
N	O	U	R	I	S	H	M	E	N	T	
P	S										
E	X	P	E	N	S	E	T	I	M	E	R
B	R	E	A	D							
B	R	E	A	D							
L	Y	G	S	O	R						
E	N	S	U	E	D						

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

FOR A CAUSE

World Red Cross Day being observed in Puri, Wednesday



## PHASE 5 OF LS POLLS

### 695 candidates in fray for 49 seats

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 8: A total of 695 candidates are in the fray across 49 constituencies spread over eight states and Union Territories (UTs) in the upcoming fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls May 20, the Election Commission (EC) said Wednesday.

The figure emerged after the scrutiny of 1,586 nomination forms filed for the fifth phase of the ongoing polls. Of the nominations, 749 were found to be valid after the deadline for filing papers closed May 3, according to a statement issued by the EC.

**Each constituency is expected to witness an average of 14 contesting candidates, reflecting a diverse range of political options for the voters**

The statement said 695 candidates will contest the polls from eight states and UTs in the fifth phase May 20. Maharashtra topped the list with 512 nominations, resulting in 301 valid candidates contesting across 13 constituencies, while Uttar Pradesh followed closely with 466 nominations, leading to 147 valid candidates across 14 constituencies.

The highest number of nominations in a single constituency was seen in Maharashtra's Chitra, which received 69 candidates, followed by Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh with 67 nominations.

Each constituency in the fifth phase is expected to witness an average of 14 contesting candidates, reflecting a diverse range of political options for the voters.

The state-wise breakdown of the nominations and valid candidates after the scrutiny showcases the dynamic electoral landscape across the country. Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal together form the crux of the fifth phase, encompassing a significant portion of the country's electorate, the statement said.

Three phases of polling have so far been held in the seven-phase election.

## ECoR commissions 152.805km of Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has already commissioned 152.805 km rail line work out of total length of 301 km Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project, its General Manager (in-charge) Mohes Kumar Behera said.

Behera said this Wednesday during inspection of the Boudh-Champapur railway section of Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project.

The ECoR general manager took stock of the progress of the construction work.

Reviewing the progress, Behera advised railway officials to take necessary steps for timely completion of the project and passenger amenities at the proposed stations.

The Indian Railways has been constructing the line from both Khurda Road and Bolangir side for early completion of the project. ECoR sources said 105.8 km from Khurda Road to Daspalla and 47 km from Bolangir to Sonapur have already been commissioned.

The construction of a rail line in Khurda Road-Bolangir project is going on a war footing basis.

The railway line between Sonapur-Purunapani-Jharamunda, a stretch of 22 km in Boudh district has been laid.

Engine rolling and testing has also been done in the section successfully.

Apart from this, construction work between Jharamunda and Champapur is going in full-swing, he said.

## DO NOT USE COERCION FOR GST RECOVERY: SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 8: The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Centre to not use 'threat and coercion' during search and seizure operations against traders for recovery of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and instead persuade them to clear the dues voluntarily.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, MM Sundresh and Bela M Trivedi, which is examining various provisions of the GST Act, said there is no provision under the law which empowers the authorities to exert force for payment of outstanding dues.

"There is no power under the Act to compel any person to pay the tax liability during the search and seizures. Ask your department that the payment should be voluntarily and there should be use of any force. You have to give three-four days' time to the alleged offender to consult, think and clear the liability. It should be voluntary and there should not be use of any threat or coercion," the bench told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Centre.

Raju did not discount the possibility of use of force in the past but said mostly the payment during search and seizure is voluntary.

"Yes, there is possibility of both ways but mostly the payment is done voluntarily or after a few days as the alleged offender wanted to consult his advocate for payment of liability. Yes, there may have been some instances in the past but that is not the norm," he said during the day-long hearing.

The bench said several petitioners have alleged that the authorities exercised threat and

coercion during search and seizure operations.

It said, "We know what is on paper and what happens in reality when a person is subjected to search and seizure. If there is denial of payment, you can provisionally attach the properties but you have to give some time to consult, think and clear the liability. You can't put him under threat and coercion of arrest."

When Raju said many a time the alleged offenders adopt various methods to evade taxes, the bench told him, "Arrest him but it should be strictly under the procedure laid down under law." It said unlike the Income Tax Act, there is a provision for arrest under section 69 of the GST Act.

Senior advocate Sujit Ghosh, appearing for one of the petitioners, said safeguards provided under the law are not implemented and instead people are subjected to threat of arrest to pay up.

During the hearing on a batch of 281 petitions which have challenged various provisions of the GST Act, Customs Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the bench told Raju that the GST law provides for checks and balances.

"We agree there cannot be a broad-brush approach but we have to ensure that safeguards are there. There has to be a strict compliance of section 69 (power to arrest) and section 70 (power to summon). When the legislature has enacted safeguard provisions, then they need to be implemented strictly. You have to apply your mind at the time of summon or arrest," the bench told Raju. The law officer spoke of instances when goods are transported in oil tankers, autorickshaws and various methods are adopted to evade liability.



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Darzi servitors stitch an appliqué for the Chandan Jatra of the deities in Puri, Wednesday

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

## Crime Branch nabs 3 for ₹54.75L fraud

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The Cyber Crime Unit of state's Crime Branch (CB) Wednesday arrested three directors of two fintech companies on charges of duping a man of ₹54.75 lakh on the promise of providing high returns last year.

Crime Branch sources said Sumit Kumar Das and Amiya Ranjan Satpathy of Bargarh in Western Odisha and Sidharth Satpathy of Bhilai in Chhattisgarh, have identified themselves as directors of two fintech companies and committed the crime. Sumit and Amiya were directors of PayInc, while Sidharth was the director of Fynpe.

A victim of the cyber fraud May 5, 2023, reported that he had received a WhatsApp call from a stranger lady, engaged by the two firms, suggesting to subscribe to a YouTube channel for earning money.

The victim frequently received messages enticing to invest money for high returns. Lured by the scheme, he started paying the money believing that he was making investments and was trapped by the fraudsters.

The complainant deposited more than ₹54.75 lakh between May 6 and May 23 last year to get high returns.

When the fraudsters pursued

the victim for more and more money without any return, he reported the matter to the cyber police of Crime Branch.

On the complaint, cyber police registered a case under Sections 419, 419, 467, 468, 471, 120B and 34 of the IPC and Section 66C and 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and started an investigation.

"Online verification of the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal of Ministry of Home Affairs has revealed that apart from this case, 26 complaints from different parts of the country have also been registered against the registered bank ac-

count of Fynpe and 18 against the registered bank account of PayInc.

The Cyber Crime Unit of the CB has cautioned citizens to exercise necessary precautions while engaging in online investment activities and also to verify the authenticity of entities offering financial services.

The CB appealed to citizens that if they encounter any suspicious online activities or become victims of any kind of cyber fraud or crime, they should immediately report such incidents by dialling 1930 (Cyber Crime Helpline) or logging on to www.cybercrime.gov.in and registering their complaint without delay.



RICH TRIBUTES: Members of Utkal Sammilani pose for a photo after paying tributes to Ganakabi Baishnab Pani on his death anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## 55 PLATOON FORCE FOR PM'S ROADSHOW

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The Odisha Police decided to deploy 55 platoons of force (one platoon comprises 30 security force personnel) to provide security during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in the City here May 10, a senior police officer said Wednesday.

Briefing mediapersons here, Cuttack-Bhubaneswar police commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said the PM is arriving in Odisha on a two-day visit May 10.

He is scheduled to hold a roadshow in the Capital City May 10 evening.

"We are making foolproof security arrangements for the visit of the Prime Minister. The roadshow will be conducted from Ram Mandir Square to Vani Vihar in the City," Panda said.

Five DCP-rank officers, 10 additional DCP, 27 ACP-rank officers, 41 inspectors and 180 other officers along with 55 platoons

We are making foolproof security arrangements for the visit of the Prime Minister. The roadshow will be conducted from Ram Mandir Square to Vani Vihar in the City



SANJEEB PANDA | POLICE COMMISSIONER

of force will be deployed for the roadshow, he said.

Vehicular movement will be restricted in the entire route. The area will be sanitised by bomb disposal squad and dog squads, Panda said.

The police commissioner said that security personnel will also be deployed on rooftops of roadside buildings. Three special tactical units or anti-terrorism squads will also be there.

Earlier, the state government restricted the use of drones dur-

ing Modi's visit and asked district Collectors concerned to declare the venues as 'no drone zone' and 'no flying zone'.

During the visit of the PM to the state May 6, security personnel had observed that some media houses used drones to take visuals of Modi during public meetings, rallies, and roadshows which could have been detrimental to the security of the VVIP.

"Flying drones by media personnel, organisers, and event management teams should be strictly prohibited near the vicinity of the VVIP," said the order.

The DCP of Bhubaneswar, SPs of Kandhamal, Bargarh, and Bolangir to restrict the flying of drones near the vicinity of the Prime Minister's upcoming visit to the state and to take action against the defaulters, it said.

The PM is also likely to address public meetings at Kandhamal, Bargarh, and Bolangir May 11.

## April 2024 warmest ever, says C3S as temp records topple

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 8: The world experienced the warmest April ever, with record heat, rain, and flooding crippling normal life in many countries, according to new data released Wednesday.

It was also the 11th consecutive month of record-high temperatures, a result of the combined effect of now weakening El Nino and human-caused climate change, the European Union's climate agency Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said.

The average temperature of 15.03 degrees Celsius in April was 1.58 degrees Celsius higher than the month's average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

It was 0.67 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average for April and 0.14 degrees

Celsius above the previous high set in April 2016.

"El Nino peaked at the beginning of the year, and the sea surface temperatures in the eastern tropical Pacific are now going back towards neutral conditions. However, while temperature variations associated with natural cycles like El Nino come and go, the extra energy trapped in the ocean and the atmosphere by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases will keep pushing the global temperature towards new records," Carlo Buontempo, Director of C3S, said.

The global average temperature for the past 12 months (May 2023-April 2024) is the highest recorded, at 0.73 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average and 1.61 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average, the climate agency said.

According to C3S, the global



average temperature breached the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold for an entire year for the first time in January.

A permanent breach of the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit specified in the Paris Agreement, how-

ever, refers to long-term warming over many years. According to climate scientists, countries need to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial pe-

CARLO BUONTEMPO | DIRECTOR OF C3S

riod to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Earth's global surface temperature has already increased by around 1.15 degrees Celsius compared to the average in 1850-1900 due to the rapidly increasing concentration of greenhouse gases - primarily carbon dioxide and methane - in the atmosphere.

This warming is considered the reason behind record droughts, wildfires, and floods worldwide.

According to a recent study by scientists at Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the impact of climate events could cost the global economy around USD 38 trillion a year by 2049, with countries least responsible for the problem and having minimum resources to adapt to impacts suffering the most.

Globally, 2023 was the warmest year in the 174-year observational record, with the global average temperature at 1.45 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline (1850-1900).

The warming may set a new record in 2024 as scientists say El Nino - periodic warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean - typically has the greatest impact on global climate in the second year of its development.

El Nino continued to weaken towards neutral conditions, but marine air temperatures in general remained at an unusually high level in April, C3S scientists said.

The world is witnessing weather extremes under the combined effect of the 2023-24 El Nino and human-caused climate change.

# Demand for FOB as truck mows down 2 at Palasuni



AS PER REPORTS, THE ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE WHEN THE SPEEDING TRUCK MOWED DOWN THE TWO AS THEY WERE CROSSING THE ROAD

THE DECEASED WERE IDENTIFIED AS UMESH PRASAD PANIGRAHI AND NALINI PANIGRAHI OF GANDBAHAL ULLUNDA, SONEPUR

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 8:** The demand for a foot over bridge (FOB) rose again as two persons including a woman were killed by a speeding truck at Palasuni Square Wednesday.

As per reports, the accident took place when a truck hurtling towards Cuttack mowed down the two as they were crossing the road.

While the body of the woman

According to sources, the couple was crossing from one side to another, when a speeding truck coming from Vani Vihar knocked them down near Palasuni. The woman died instantaneously. As the man got trapped under the vehicle, the on-lookers desperately shouted at the driver to apply brake but in vain.

Later, the man's mutilated body was found near Satya Vihar. Speaking on the incident, Narayan Prusty, a social activist, said the residents of Palasuni area have been voicing for a FOB for several years but the authorities remained unresponsive.

Recently, several Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) corporators wrote to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for construction of a FOB at Palasuni at the earliest.

"Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi had also promised that a FOB over national highway 16 would come up at an estimated cost of ₹2 crore but so far no action has been taken in this regard," sources said.

was found on the spot, the vehicle dragged the man's body for around one kilometre. The deceased were identified as Umesh Prasad Panigrahi and Nalini Panigrahi of Gandabahal Ullunda, Sonepur.

## Summer camp at DAV Pokhariput

**Bhubaneswar:** In order to engage the students in fun, frolic and playful activities during summer vacation, DAV Pokhariput has taken up the initiative of a Summer Camp on various co-curricular learning activities. Started May 6, the camp will continue till May 11. The camp currently offers activities in music, sports, yoga, dance, art and craft, and computer innovation camp. Students have the option to join their choice of activity as per their interest. The classes follow a flexible time table starting from 6.30am till 9am. "The students now-a-days are equally interested in extracurricular activities besides studies. By these special sessions they would certainly learn a lot to excel in the field of their choice," informed the school authorities.

## 'BALLOT PAPERS CAN CHECK VOTE THEFT'



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 8:** Calling for transparency in voting, the Socialist Party (India), Right to Recall Party (RRP) and Lokshakti Abhiyan advocated for ballot paper system replacing the EVM machine during polls as it can check vote theft.

In a press meet at Lohia Academy here Wednesday, they gave a live demo of a working model similar to the EVM machine, showing how millions of paper votes can be stolen across India due to the black glass presence in the EVMs.

The demo was presented by Pawan Sharma of RRP where he showed that the first voter pressed the banana button and saw the banana slip in the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) when the light turned on. Similarly, next voter pressed the banana button and also saw the printed slip of banana in VVPAT.

But on opening the VVPAT, one banana and one apple slip came out. Terming it as vote theft, Sharma said neither the voter nor any official present will know about this.

Socialist Party (India) national secretary and Ramon Magsaysay Award winner Sandeep Pandey said that through this system, around two to three lakh votes can be stolen in one Lok Sabha constituency without anyone's notice.

Pandey, while answering the question of counting 100 per cent slips of VVPAT, said even if 100 per cent slips are counted, the theft will not be caught because the paper slips can be replaced by the presence of black glass in the EVM.

"At the time of counting, the electronic vote of the counting unit will be 100 per cent matched with the paper vote of the VVPAT and the vote which was stolen will not be caught," he said.



PROMOTING FLAVOUR: Guests at the launch of Ruchi Foodline's 'Tea' television commercial at a City hotel, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## BJD using tribals as vote bank: CM Sai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Koraput, May 8:** Intensifying the tribal-majority Koraput and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seats, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai attacked the ruling BJD, accusing it of exploiting tribal communities as a mere vote bank without genuine development efforts.

Speaking at a gathering in Kundra under the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha constituency Wednesday, Sai criticised the government for its alleged failure to implement key central government schemes, particularly the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, thereby depriving naive tribals of essential benefits.

"The pace of Odisha's development will accelerate under a 'double-engine' government, and this time it is evident that the BJD will form the government in the state," asserted Sai during his address.

## DRDO to collaborate with IIT Bhub for AI-driven surveillance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 8:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will collaborate with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar for artificial intelligence (AI) driven surveillance and other projects, officials said.

A meeting was held between DRDO and IIT Bhubaneswar officials here Tuesday. Binay Das, director general (DG) of Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS) cluster, DRDO, and many senior scientists and officials of both institutions were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, nine sanctioned projects of the ECS Cluster of DRDO were handed over to IIT Bhubaneswar while another

seven projects are in process to be sanctioned with ₹18 crore funding.

IIT Bhubaneswar will work on the sanctioned projects, which would be beneficial in electronics warfare, AI-driven surveillance, power systems, radar systems etc, officials said.

SR Samantaray, head of the School of Electrical sciences of IIT said the collaboration of IIT Bhubaneswar and DRDO will contribute to the emerging research and development need of defence applications, creating a platform for 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

This form of collaboration will enhance the sustainability of defence research programmes and will be part of the eco-system for nation building, he said.

Binay Das advised researchers and faculty members associated with various DRDO-sanctioned projects to work systematically with proper review and risk management systems to complete the projects in time and come up with unique solutions.

He said that DRDO is going through a transformation from technology chasers to become technology enablers and trend-setters.

"The goal is now to move beyond attaining self-reliance to setting standards for the Indian armed forces, for others across the globe, to emulate. In this context, this collaboration, and the further opportunity to set up a Centre of Excellence at IIT Bhubaneswar would prove crucial," he added.

## AMRI Hospitals launches liver clinic

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 8:** AMRI Hospitals, a renowned healthcare facility in Eastern India, launched its liver clinic Wednesday. As part of their commitment, the hospital also organised a free registration and consultation camp on this occasion.

The inaugural day witnessed an overwhelming turnout of individuals who benefited from complimentary consultations and screenings, availing themselves of the opportunity to ensure their liver's well-being under the guidance of expert medical team.

Sudhakar Kantipudi, cluster director for the South-East region, in his address, said,



"The prevalence of liver diseases is escalating in Bhubaneswar, underlining the importance of early diagnosis for effective treatment. The clinic will provide specialised care and advanced technology, offering a brighter future for liver patients in the City."

Saktimaya Mohapatra, director at AMRI Hospitals, said,

"We are thrilled to bring this comprehensive liver clinic to Bhubaneswar. By focusing on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment under one roof, we can significantly improve the quality of life for those living with liver conditions."

Rajasekhar K, consultant Liver Transplant Surgeon, while emphasising the significance of

liver health, said, "Understanding the critical role of liver transplantation in combating End Stage Liver Disease is paramount for effective treatment."

"Prioritising liver health through lifestyle adjustments is key to preventing liver diseases and ensuring overall well-being," remarked Pratap Behera, senior consultant in Medical Gastroenterology at AMRI Hospitals.

Emphasising the necessity for proactive healthcare interventions, Gyanranjan Rout, consultant in Medical Gastroenterology, said, "The silent prevalence of liver ailments underscores the importance of proactive measures and specialised care for optimal liver health."

### WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY

## WHY IS INDIA THE THALASSEMIA CAPITAL OF THE WORLD?

Lack of widespread awareness, genetic counselling and traditional belief systems are some of the major reasons why India has the highest number of thalassaemia major patients in the world, said experts on the occasion of World Thalassaemia Day (WTD) Wednesday.

WTD is observed every year May 8 to raise awareness about the disease. The theme this year is 'Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All'.

Every eighth thalassaemia patient in the world lives in India. And yearly about 10,000-20,000 new thalassaemia majors are born.

"India has the largest number of children with thalassaemia major in the world, with around 1-1.5 lakhs of children affected. India's status as the thalassaemia capital stems from a complex

interplay of factors. Genetic predisposition, consanguineous marriages, and lack of awareness contribute to its prevalence. The rise in India can be attributed to population growth, limited access to screening, and lack of awareness," Sunil Bhat, director and clinical lead - Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and BMT, Narayana Health Network Hospitals, told IANS.

Thalassaemia major is a severe inherited blood disorder, passed from parents to children. The disorder occurs when the body doesn't make enough of a protein called haemoglobin - an important part of red blood cells - forcing the need for blood transfusions every fortnight.

It is particularly prevalent in populations with a high incidence of cousin marriages and within certain ethnic and geographical groups.

"In India, certain communities such as Sindhis, Punjabis,



Bhanushali, Kutchi, Marwari, Maratha, Muslim and Bengalis have a higher prevalence of the gene, which increases the incidence of thalassaemia. The incidence of thalassaemia minor in this community varies from 8-14 per cent," Vijay Ramanan, senior consultant Clinical Haematologist, Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant, Ruby

Hall Clinic, Pune, told IANS. The large population and high birth rate in India also contribute to a greater number of individuals being affected by genetic disorders.

"Lack of widespread awareness and education about thalassaemia and genetic counselling among the general public leads to insufficient preventive meas-

ures. Prenatal and pre-marital screening for thalassaemia is not uniformly practised across the country," Vijay said.

"Ignorance and desire to believe that astrology is more important than science has contributed to an increase in number of cases where thalassaemia minors marrying another thalassaemia minor. Such marriages have a 25 per cent chance of getting a thalassaemia major child," he added.

The doctor lamented that while prenatal diagnosis exists in the country to prevent the birth of such children, "it is not availed by such couples due to religious beliefs or ignorance."

Moreover, the availability and accessibility of medical services, including blood transfusions and chelation therapy, can be uneven across urban and rural regions in the country.

Importantly, the doctor also pointed out a lack of data.

"The rough estimate is that about 4 lakh to 6 lakh children with thalassaemia major exist in India. However, the diseases needing transfusions are not usually collected in the data. Distribution of thalassaemia major patients across states has not been done due to lack of registry," Vijay said.

Comprehensive education on genetic risks, premarital counselling and widespread screening is essential to address the burden of thalassaemia in India, noted the experts.

"In addition, promoting voluntary genetic testing national policy from the government and fostering partnerships between doctors and communities can enhance prevention efforts. Ultimately, proactive measures, such as early diagnosis and timely management, hold the key to alleviating the impact of thalassaemia in India," Sunil said.

IANS

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# Illegal mining of quartz stones rampant in Subarnapur dist



Looters flourishing with help from political parties and apathy of dist administration

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, May 8:** With elections in Odisha on the threshold, all political parties are in need of funds. This has paved the way for rise in illegal mining and smuggling of quartz stones in localities under Birmaharajpur tehsil in Subarnapur district, sources informed here Wednesday. Money acquired from such nefarious deals is being used by leaders of a number of political parties to fund their campaigns, the sources alleged.

According to information available, the stones are being extracted from quarries belonging to the Odisha government. Then they are being smuggled outside the state at high rates. In the process, the government is losing

on huge amount of revenues, the sources said. A well-oiled influential racket is allegedly working behind the loot in connivance with the political leaders and officials of the district administration, the sources added. Locals also pointed out that the involvement of the officials of the Revenue department and the police in this illegal process cannot be ruled out. The absence of a proper office of the Mining department in the district is another cause behind the rampant increase in illegal mining. The nearest office of the department is in Bolangir, where a deputy director sits. If regular raids had been conducted in the various stockyards in Birmaharajpur tehsil, the rampant looting of quartz stones would have been exposed, they said.

Describing the modus operandi, a person on condition of anonymity said that quartz stones are lifted from the quar-

ries and stored in a number of stockyards. Then they are transported to various industries outside Odisha. The person pointed out that the transportation of quartz stones in trucks wouldn't have been possible without police help.

It should be stated here that quartz granules are used to develop slag in blast furnaces in steel-making units. They also act as a protective cover on steel gutters. Sources said the Mining department has leased out the quarries in Dadarpali and Bankia villages under Birmaharajpur tehsil. However, the leaseholders are not extracting quartz stones from these two quarries. Instead they are concentrating on extraction of the stones from the non-leased quarries at Telipali, Kardapal, Ludumunda, Barajhula and Pardiapali villages. This is because they are getting the stones free of cost. Local residents are shocked at the district administration's apathy in taking proper measures to prevent this rampant loot.

When contacted, Birmaharajpur sub-collector Lalatendu See informed that it is the duty of the Mining department to conduct raids as his office does not have the required authority. He however, assured that he would look into the matter and initiate a probe, if there is anything amiss.

# RGH stops payment of 'inflated' bills

5 committees formed to verify the authenticity of bills furnished

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, May 8:** Newly-appointed medical superintendent and acting director of Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) here, Dr Ganesh Das has stopped payment to various agencies smelting corruption. These companies are involved in cleaning and maintenance of the RGH premises, providing fresh bed-sheets and providing security. Sources said that bills for the months of March and April fur-



nished by these companies have been found 'inflated'. As a result the bills have been put on hold. Five committees have been formed by Dr Das to look into the irregularities in the bill. Only after the bills are cleared by the panels, the dues will be cleared, sources informed.

RGH is one of the premier government-run hospitals in Odisha. Not only are residents from the western part of Odisha dependent on it, the medical facility also caters to the needs of people from Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. In this situation, the hospital has turned into a breeding ground of rampant corruption, sources opined. They added that Dr Das is trying his best to control corruption, but they are doubtful how long he can wage the battle against people who are influential and have connections.

The committees formed March 28 have been asked to look into all aspects of the bills furnished by the companies including the use

of manpower and the rate of products. "It is a difficult task no doubt, but to eradicate corruption we have to do it," said a doctor in one of the committees. Dr Das meanwhile asserted that only after the approval of the committees, the pending bills will be cleared.

RGH in the recent past has been involved in a number of controversies. A company providing 'fake' nurses to the hospital was busted a few months back. Then there was the controversy over the buying of an expensive laparoscopic machine at ₹1.5 crore. Since its installation last year, the machine has rarely been used.

## Man gets lifer for murdering son

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh:** The Court of the Additional District Judge here sentenced a man to life imprisonment Wednesday for killing his son three years ago. The convict has been identified as Karmu Miri, 60, a resident of Badpada village under Bargaon police station limits in this district. The judge also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict. Failure to pay the fine will result in another six months in prison for the convict, the judge said. According to the police report, Karmu had attacked his son Shyamsundar with an axe January 1, 2021 when the latter was sleeping. Even though Shyamsundar was rushed to the hospital by locals he succumbed to his injuries. Police arrested Karmu after his wife Leelabati lodged a complaint.

## 5 held for gang-raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, May 8:** Five college students have been arrested for allegedly gang-raping a Plus II girl, police said Wednesday. The accused were forwarded to court later in the day which rejected their bail pleas.

The accused have been identified as Rutun Kumar Dash, 22, Akash Nayak, 26, Juman Gouda, 19, (all engineering students), Rudra Jena, 21, a pharmacy student and Abhilash Polai, 21, a BCA student. Berhampur SP Sarthak Sarangi stated that efforts are on to nab the others involved in the crime.

Police informed that Rutun is a classmate of the victim. He in-



visited the girl to his hostel, May 3. When she reached the hostel, she found others present as well. Rutun then offered the girl a cold drink allegedly laced with drugs. The victim fell unconscious after consuming the drink. Then 7-8 youths took turns in raping her. When the girl regained her senses, some of the accused threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone. Rutun then dropped the girl back to her home.

However, after reaching home, the victim narrated her ordeal to her parents. As her health deteriorated, the family members of the victim lodged a complaint at the Baidyanathpur police station May 5. Based on the complaint, police sent the girl for medical tests. Baidyanathpur police station IIC Suchitra Panda initiated a probe after registering a case (No-240/24). Initially the five accused were detained and interrogated following which they were arrested. Police informed that the victim is still undergoing treatment at a hospital here. They added that a letter has been sent to the district legal services authority (DLSA) to provide financial assistance to the victim and her family.

## Naxalite posters surface in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, May 8:** As the first phase of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha draw near, Maoists are trying to make their presence felt in the state, sources stated here Wednesday. This development has prompted security forces to remain on high alert. Even then, Maoists are putting up posters and banners in various parts of Sundargarh district warning people to refrain from voting.

Officials informed Wednesday that Maoists had put up posters and banners at Renjda, Bhalulata and Balijore villages under K Balang police station limits in the interiors of Sundargarh district, Tuesday night. On being informed police and security personnel visited the three villages and removed those Wednesday. Most of the posters warned people of serious consequences if they exercised their electoral



rights. The posters read 'oppressors of farmers, labourers and the working class should not be elected, but persecuted'.

Similar posters had been found at Goukera village in Jharkhand just across the border only a couple of days back. During a combing operation in and around the village, security personnel had discovered three bunkers, each big enough to accommodate 20 people. They also seized 350 detonators from the three bunkers, officials informed. Among other materials seized were Maoist literatures, walkie-talkies, canned food and ammunition. "The bunkers had probably been built as hideouts for the cadres," an official stated.

## 9 Maoists surrender in Boudh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Boudh, May 8:** Nine Maoists have laid down arms in presence of IG (Southern Range), Jai Narayan Pankaj, officials at the district police headquarters here informed Wednesday. Among the nine are two women. Ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state, this development has come as a huge relief to the administration and the police.

The two women Maoists who surrendered have been identified as Jogi Madvi 20, and Poji Madvi, 22. All the nine are from Muler village in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh, police informed. All were cadres of the Kandhamal-Kalahandi-



Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division, police added.

The Maoists who surrendered said that they wanted to return to the mainstream. They said that they took the decision to surrender as they got disillusioned with the unethical activities of their seniors. They also informed that seniors behaved with them in a rude manner and the women members were harassed sexually on a regular basis. They stated that cadres of their division were involved in extortion, and other illegal activities.

## Man drags son to cops for marrying 2nd time

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Basudevpur, May 8:** An elderly man has garnered much appreciation after he dragged his son holding the latter by the collar to the Basudevpur police station in Bhadrak district Tuesday. It has been alleged that the man, identified as Ajay Jena, was marrying for the second time despite having tied the nuptial knot before. He also has an eight-year-old son.

Locals informed that Ajay's dad, Bishnu Mohan, a resident of Edtal village in this block, got information that his son was getting married for the second time to a woman of Chandimal locality. Hearing this, Bishnu Mohan and Ajay's first wife Tulasi rushed to the marriage venue at Jadava ground here and interrupted proceedings. Bishnu Mohan then forcibly pulled Ajay to the police station holding the latter by his collar. Tulasi accompanied the two to the Basudevpur police station. Police informed that



Ajay and Tulasi had tied the nuptial knot 10 years back. However, he developed a relationship with the other woman he was about to marry. Both Bishnu Mohan and Tulasi filed a complaint in this regard at the Basudevpur police station.

Police initially tried to settle the dispute amicably Tuesday. However, Ajay was adamant that he would marry the second woman. The three again met at the police station Wednesday. Ajay then gave in writing that he will not step into Bishnu Mohan's house in future and that he did not want any property from his dad. Finally both Bishnu Mohan, his daughter-in-law Tulasi and Ajay signed an agreement in this regard. After that Ajay left the police station with the second woman, while Bishnu Mohan and Tulasi went back to their house in Edtal village.

रजिस्ट्री सं: डी. एल-33004/99 REGD. NO. D. L-33004/99

**भारत का राजपत्र**  
**The Gazette of India**

सं. डी. एल. - अ. - 30042024-253953  
CG-DL-E-30042024-253953

असाधारण  
**EXTRAORDINARY**  
भाग II - खण्ड 3 - उप-खण्ड (II)  
**PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (II)**  
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित  
**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

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**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 26th April, 2024

S.O. 1860(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building, maintenance, management and operation of Newly proposed Six Lane Raipur-Visakhapatnam NH130CD economic corridor in the stretch of land from Km 239.650 to Km 366.500 (o/o Tahasilidar , Koraput , Dist - Koraput) in the district of KORAPUT in the state of ODISHA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Tahasilidar cum Land Acquisition Officer , Koraput in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

**SCHEDULE**  
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within Newly proposed Six Lane Raipur-Visakhapatnam NH130CD economic corridor in the stretch of land from Km 239.650 to Km 366.500 (o/o Tahasilidar , Koraput , Dist - Koraput) in the district of KORAPUT in the state of ODISHA

File No. NHA/11013/LA/PIU-Sambalpur, Odisha/Newly Proposed/Notif. (3a)/Koraput/3A3  
District: Koraput  
https://egazette.gov.in  
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https://bhoomirashi.gov.in/auth/revamp/showFileCA.cshtml?notification\_id=67751&file\_id=45135

FORMAT C-1/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 and Anr.)							
Name and Address of Candidate :		LAXMAN MUNDA AT-Sarasposh, Po-Gopana, PS-K.Balang, Dist-Sundargarh, Odisha, Pin-770040					
Name of Political Party :		COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (Marxist)					
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)							
Name of Election :		GENERAL ELECTION-2024					
Name of Constituency :		14-BONAI (S.T) CONSTITUENCY, SUNDARGARH, ODISHA					
I LAXMAN MUNDA (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election; declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:							
Sl No	FIR No. with name & address of Police station concerned	Case No. with name of the Court	Section(s) of concerned Acts/ Codes involved (give no. of the Section, e.g. Section..... of IPC, etc.)	Brief description of offence	Whether charges have been named (mention Yes or NO)	If answer against (e) above is YES, then give the date on which charges were framed	Whether any Appeal/ Application for revision has been filed against the proceedings (mention YES or NO)
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
1	PS Case No. 10 of 2018, Koida PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 49 of 2018, SDJM, Bonai	U/s, 143, 448, 341, 294, 427, 186, 353, 506, 149 of IPC, 3 P.D.P.P, Act. 7 Cr.L.A. Act.	Demonstration at DDM, Koida for opening of Closed Mines.	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
2	PS Case No. 11 of 2018, Koida PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 50 of 2018, Sri.U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s, 143, 448, 341, 294, 427, 186, 353, 506 & 34 of IPC	Demonstration at DDM, Koida for opening of Closed Mines.	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
3	PS Case No. 135 of 2017, Lahunipara PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 560 of 2017, SDJM, Bonai	U/s 143, 149, 186, 283, 294 & 34 of IPC	Demonstration in front of Bhaskar Steel, Tumkela against pollution and local employment	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
4	PS Case No. 68 of 2021, Koida PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 488 of 2021, SDJM, Bonai	U/s 188, 269 & 34 of IPC	Demonstration in front of DDM Office, Koida	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
5	PS Case No. 69 of 2021, Koida PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 489 of 2021, SDJM, Bonai	U/s 147, 448, 341, 353, 149 of IPC	Demonstration in front of DDM Office, Koida for worker issue & employment	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
6	PS Case No. 124 of 2017, Lahunipara PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 522 of 2017, SDJM, Bonai	U/s 143, 149, 283, 341 of IPC	Demonstration at Bhaskar Steel, Tumkela against Pollution & for employment for local youth	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
7	PS Case No. 117 of 2018, Lahunipara PS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 454 of 2018, SDJM, Bonai	U/s 143, 149, 186, 283, 341 of IPC	Demonstration on Pulic Issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
8	PS Case No. 3 of 2017, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	G.R. No 91 of 2017, J.M.F.C.(R), Rourkela	U/s 147, 148, 149, 294, 307, 341, 323, 324, 325, 427, 506, & 120-B of IPC	Demonstration at Bimlagarh Rly Siding for demanding employment for local youth	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
9	PS Case No. 11 of 2016, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	PS Case No. 11 of 2016, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	U/s 143, 149 & 34 of IPC, and 174 of I.R. Act	Demonstration for Talcher Bimlagarh Rail Line	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
10	PS Case No. 21 of 2014, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	PS Case No. 21 of 2014, BNDM GRPS, District Sundargarh	U/s 143, 341, 283, 149, 146, 147 of IPC, and 174 of Rly. Act	Demonstration for Talcher Bimlagarh Rail Line	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
11	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 456 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 3/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 174-A, 147, 145 of Railway Act.	Agitation at P.S.J. Railway Station for repairing of NH-215/520	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
12	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 457 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 4/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 174-A, 147, 145 of Railway Act.	Agitation at P.S.J. Railway Station for repairing of NH-215/520	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
13	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 458 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 5/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 174-A, 147, 145 of Railway Act.	Agitation at Roxy Railway Station for repairing of NH-215/520	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
14	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 484 of 2017, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 8/2017 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145, 147, 174-A of Railway Act.	Agitation at BUF Railway Station against loading of intend No. 154 by Rashi Steel & Power	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
15	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 283 of 2018, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 3/2018 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145-A, 147, 174-A of Railway Act.	Agitation regarding public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
16	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 450 of 2018, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 9/2018 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145-B, 147, 147-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
17	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 4 of 2019, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 1/2019 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145, 147, 174-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
18	RMCC Case No. 2/2019 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	RMCC Case No. 2/2019 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145-B, 147 of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
19	RMCC Case No. 1/2020 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	RMCC Case No. 1/2020 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 145, 147, 174-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
20	RPF/Post/BNDM Case No 176 of 2019, District Sundargarh.	RMCC Case No. 8/2013 of U.K.Behera, JMFC, RKL	U/s 174-A of Railway Act.	Demonstration on public Railway issue	Under Trial	Under Trial	NO
*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, Mention the election concerned In the place of name of constituency.							
<b>Sd/(Laxman Munda)</b>							

FOCUS SOCIETY

# LAND AS PRIVATE PROPERTY



It was the Norman Conquest of 1066 that initiated a more pronounced shift towards private ownership of land

ture of European colonialism. European colonial powers embarked on vast imperial projects aimed at expanding their territorial control and extracting resources from colonised lands. This process involved the imposition of Western legal and administrative frameworks on indigenous societies, often resulting in the dispossession of traditional landowners and the establishment of colonial land tenure systems. Colonialism thus globalised the project of territorialisation of land, as European powers sought to assert control over vast territories in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Oceania. The primary objectives of colonial territorialisation were twofold: to facilitate revenue accumulation through the exploitation of natural resources and labour; and to extend political and economic dominance over colonised people.

The territorialisation of private property has historically accelerated the emergence of individualist and exclusionary societies. Within these societies, the ownership of landed properties has served as a crucial determinant of power and social status for individuals and families. Through their control over these properties, they have exerted influence over both people and natural resources. This phenomenon has laid the groundwork for the feudal system of governance, which has persisted in various iterations worldwide. Consequently, the legacy of private property rights continues to shape social structures and power dynamics in contemporary societies. In the age of techno-feudalism, major private and public corporations continue to control vast amount of land in the world today.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University, UK.

profound social and cultural implications, fundamentally reshaping the way people interacted with and perceived their environment.

The process of land privatisation in England did not begin solely in the early seventh century but rather unfolded over several centuries, with significant milestones marking its progression. While territorialisation laid the groundwork for the emergence of private property, it was the Norman Conquest of 1066 that initiated a more pronounced shift towards private ownership of land. The Norman Conquest brought about a restructuring of land ownership, as William the Conqueror redistributed vast tracts of land among his supporters, consolidating power and establishing a feudal system. This redistribution fundamentally altered the landscape of land tenure, with large estates granted to Norman nobles in exchange for military service, effectively privatising formerly communal land.

However, it was not until the period of the enclosures during the 16th century that land privatisation reached its zenith. Enclosure Acts were passed by the English Parliament, allowing landowners to convert common lands into private property by enclosing them with fences or hedges. This

process, driven by economic and social factors, led to the displacement of rural communities and the concentration of land ownership in the hands of a wealthy elite. The Enclosure Acts not only solidified the concept of land as private property but also catalysed the transition to more intensive agricultural practices, contributing to the growth of capitalism and the emergence of a modern agricultural economy. Therefore, while territorialisation laid the foundation for land privatisation, it was the Norman Conquest and the Enclosure Acts that played pivotal roles in cementing the transformation of land into private property in England.

The process of territorialisation of land indeed played a crucial role in shaping the emergence of Westphalian nation-states in Europe. The Peace of Westphalia, signed in 1648, marked a significant turning point in European history, establishing the principles of state sovereignty and territorial integrity. Central to these principles was the idea of clearly defined borders and exclusive control over a defined territory, laying the groundwork for the modern nation-state system with feudal and rent-seeking characteristics.

However, the territorialisation of land did not remain confined to Europe; it was also a central fea-

In the early seventh century in rural England, the process of territorialisation has played a major role in the transformation of land into private property in its institutionalised form. This transformation was facilitated through implementation of various practices such as surveying, husbandry, and legal frameworks. Rise of territorialisation marked a profound shift in the relationship between communities and the land they inhabited. The transition from communal ownership, often associated with divine commons, to private property rights reshaped the dynamics of land usage and stewardship. Previously, land had been held collectively, with communities sharing rights and responsibilities for its collective usage and communitarian management.

However, as territorialisation advanced, individual ownership emerged as the predominant form of land tenure. Surveying techniques allowed for the precise delineation of property boundaries, facilitating the demarcation of individual land parcels. Concurrently, advancements in agricultural husbandry practices improved land productivity, incentivising individuals to assert control over specific tracts of land for personal gain. Moreover, legal systems began to recognise and enforce individual property rights, granting landowners exclusive authority over their holdings. This legal framework provided the foundation for the establishment of private property norms, further solidifying the concept of individual land ownership. As a result, the once-shared relationship between communities and the land gradually shifted towards one characterised by private individual rights. This transformation not only altered the economic landscape but also had



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

THE TERRITORIALISATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY HAS HISTORICALLY ACCELERATED THE EMERGENCE OF INDIVIDUALIST AND EXCLUSIONARY SOCIETIES



Ian Buruma

A certain degree of class guilt about attending the most expensive universities could be contributing to the swell of campus activism, especially in a society where the gap between rich and poor is growing

Nothing, not even the darkest falsehood can stop the ultimate triumph of Truth.

THE MOTHER



## Privileged Protesters

It is easy to ridicule the college protesters in the United States calling for a free Palestine "from the river to the sea." Students at some of the country's most expensive and prestigious universities don Palestinian keffiyehs, "liberate" campus buildings, as though they were freedom fighters, and, in the case of at least one young protester, demand food and water from the college authorities as "basic humanitarian aid."

To be sure, all political demonstrations are a kind of theatre. Certainly not everyone protesting against the killing of large numbers of innocent civilians in Gaza is worthy of derision. Using violence against them, whether by the police, or, as happened at UCLA, by mobs, is unconscionable.

The problem is that the "anti-Zionist" cause gaining ground on college campuses is often incoherent. Its ideological underpinnings tend to see everything as interconnected: police brutality against African-Americans, global warming, US imperialism, white supremacy, the history of American slavery, European colonialism, trans- and homophobia ("Queers for Palestine"), and now the Israel-Hamas war. In the words of a Cornell University student, interviewed by the New York Times, "climate justice" is "rooted in the same struggles of imperialism, capitalism - things like that. I think that's very true of this conflict, of the genocide in Palestine."

Zionism, a disparate nineteenth-century Jewish nationalist movement that contained religious, secular, left-wing, and right-wing elements, has now become synonymous with colonialism, imperialism, and racism. To be a good, humane, and moral person, the thinking goes, one must be an "anti-Zionist."

Whether this is also anti-Semitic, as some people claim, is not always clear. Opposition to Zionism, or criticism of Israeli policies, is not necessarily anti-Semitic. Denying the right of Israel to exist is certainly hostile, as is the assumption that all Jews are Zionists.

Connecting all forms of oppression has its own academic jargon: "intersectionality." Many students currently demonstrating for Palestine have adopted this line of thinking because they have been taught to do so, mostly by professors at the same institutions against which the protesters are now revolting.

In a sea of competing identity politics, there is one marker on which all well-educated members of the liberal left, especially in the US, agree: to be a right-thinking citizen of the post-slavery, post-colonial West, one must be actively anti-racist, anti-imperialist, and anti-colonialist. That means applying such a lens to all global events, past and present, including complex conflicts from the US to the Middle East.

This worldview might explain why the pro-Palestine protests started at some of the most exclusive American universities: Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Stanford. Intersectionality is not the main preoccupation of working-class people, but instead a mark of the educated elite, whose members are used to thinking of themselves as the collective moral conscience of the Western world.

A certain degree of class guilt about attending the most expensive universities could be contributing to the swell of campus activism, especially in a society where the gap between rich and poor is growing. It is easier to live with privilege when class struggle is replaced by protests against colonialism and racism.

Class does, however, play its part. Rebellions often stem from a fear of privileges slipping. Former US President Donald Trump's demagoguery appeals to relatively uneducated white people who resent that immigrants might be doing better than they are. Something similar is occurring in elite American institutions and other parts of the Western world.

Until recently, being a white man from a well-educated family was usually a ticket into the upper echelons of society. But now there is more competition from highly educated non-whites and women for the most sought-after jobs in academia, publishing, museums, journalism, and other fields that require a higher education. This is an entirely positive development. Anyone who believes in inclusivity, diversity, not to mention intersectionality, should applaud it.

But the liberal-left ideology that insists on active "decolonization" and ritual confessions of racial privilege can lead to defensive reactions. An increasing number of young white men in Europe and the US are drawn to far-right political parties and slick guru-like figures who promise to teach them how to reassert their masculinity and put women back in their place. That this can also play on prejudices against people of color is obvious.

The elite's anxiety about maintaining its privilege can also go the other way, however. Students at the most expensive private universities may see it as being in their interest to demonstrate their intersectional bona fides as anti-racists, anti-imperialists, and anti-colonialists by outdoing minorities in their zeal. It is one way of clinging to leading positions in the intellectual and cultural spheres.

Perhaps that is why students and faculty at Columbia University showed the way in protesting Israel's war in Gaza, and were swiftly followed by activists at other Ivy League schools. Whether this will really help Palestinians gain their own state, where they can lead better and more dignified lives under a freely chosen government, is unclear. But that may never have been the main point. As is often the case with protest movements in America, this one is really all about the US.

The writer is the author, most recently, of *Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah* (Yale University Press, 2024). @PROJECTSYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

The more you like yourself, the less you are like anyone else, which makes you unique. WALT DISNEY

Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old. FRANZ KAFKA

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything. MARK TWAIN

### LOL

#### DEALING WITH CRIMINALS

A local policeman had just finished his shift one cold November evening and was at home with his wife. "You just won't believe what happened this evening, in all my years on the force I've never seen anything like it." "Oh yes dear, what happened?" "I came across two guys down by the



canal, one of them was drinking battery acid and the other was eating fireworks." "Drinking battery acid and eating fireworks!! What did you do with them?" "Oh that was easy, I charged one and let the other off."

### SPECTRUM CANINE BEHAVIOUR

## Addressing aggression: Beyond breed bans



Dr Parag Acharya

RECENT STUDIES INDICATE THAT WHILE GENES INFLUENCE PHYSICAL TRAITS, BEHAVIOUR IS MORE INFLUENCED BY THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY HOW OWNERS INTERACT WITH THEIR PETS

The Central government has recently taken action to address the growing issue of dog attacks by urging state governments to ban the import, sale, and breeding of specific dog breeds deemed unsafe in India. These breeds include Rottweiler, Pit Bull, Terrier, Wolf dogs, and Mastiffs which are considered dangerous for humans. The list of identified breeds also includes mixed and crossbreeds of 21 dog breeds which are commonly known as bandogs. Let's delve deeper into this matter to gain a comprehensive understanding.

Dogs around the world come in different breeds, categorised by the American Kennel Club into groups like sporting, hound, working, terrier, toy, non-sporting, and herding breeds. Pit Bull is a term that covers several types of dogs thought to be descended from bull and terriers. In the US, this includes breeds like American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Bully, Staffordshire Bull Terrier and sometimes the American Bulldog, as well as mixed breeds with similar physical traits.

Dog was the earliest species domesticated by humans during the late glacial period dating back approximately 14,000 years. Over the past century, the selection and purpose of dogs in modern Western societies have undergone significant changes compared to their ancestral origins.

Practical functions traditionally associated with dogs have waned, giving way to their roles as cherished companions and objects of affection. Moreover, breeding priorities have shifted from functional traits to prioritising physical appearance, indicating a prevailing trend in contemporary dog breeding practices.

Animal behaviour, shaped by survival instincts, evolves in response to the environment. Dogs, uniquely adaptable, have diverged from their wolf ancestors in behaviour, fostering closer bonds with humans during domestication. Despite this behavioural shift, biological adaptation to the new environment remains incomplete in dogs, leading to internal discord between their inherent traits and the demands of domestic life. Consequently, manifestations of stress, aggression, anxiety, and behaviours akin to depression emerge as poignant indicators of this incongruity.

Aggression in dogs stands as a prevalent and concerning behavioural issue, posing substantial risks to both human safety and canine welfare. Individual differences, including breed-specific tendencies and inherent temperament, contribute significantly to the development of aggression in dogs. The classification of canine aggression spans various types, including fear-based aggression, territorial aggression, hereditary

factors, aggression during socialisation, and dominance aggression. The study of aggressive behaviour in dogs remains paramount. Neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine, oxytocin and nescfatin-1 have been implicated in aggression among Pit Bulls, a breed renowned for pre-disposition to aggression.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India witnessed a staggering 26.5% increase in dog bite incidents from 2022 to 2023, totalling 2.75 million cases. With over 36% of global rabies-related deaths occurring in India, the situation is dire. Tragic reports of fatal stray dog attacks have surfaced across regions, amplifying the urgency to address this issue comprehensively.

However, amidst these alarming statistics, it's crucial to consider the multifaceted factors influencing canine behaviour. Various environmental factors, including owners' demographics, experience with dogs, personality traits, and living circumstances, have been linked to a dog's aggression. Studies indicate that modifying these environmental factors could potentially reduce aggression in household dogs, complementing the influence of intrinsic traits like breed, age, and sex. Young male dogs and intact females are prone to dominant aggression, but neutering can help reduce aggression in both sexes. Older dogs are more prone to aggression, sug-

gesting age as a contributing factor. Regular health checks, particularly for older dogs, can address aggression triggered by pain. Selecting suitable breeds for one's lifestyle and maintaining multiple dogs may also mitigate aggression. Additionally, owners with prior dog-owning experience tend to have dogs with lower aggression levels than first-time owners. Recent studies indicate that while genes influence physical traits, behaviour is more influenced by the environment, especially how owners interact with their pets.

When discussing the management of dog breeds, it's crucial to consider the multifaceted factors that contribute to a dog's behaviour, including genetics, upbringing, and environmental influences. Proponents of animal welfare emphasise the importance of addressing these factors comprehensively rather than resorting to blanket breed bans. By implementing responsible ownership practices, promoting education on dog behaviour and training, and enacting effective legislation targeting irresponsible ownership, we can work towards fostering safer communities for both humans and animals alike while preserving the rights of responsible pet owners and their companion animals.

The writer is a scientist, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar.

### Systemic fraud

Sir, This refers to "SC stays Calcutta HC order" (Orissa POST, May 8). I would like to comment that the TMC government may have got a temporary relief from the apex court, but the ignominy suffered by the West Bengal government following the observation of the top court that "systemic fraud" has been committed during the recruitment of teachers and non-teaching staff cannot be overlooked. The SC bench regretted having not found any data yet to have been submitted by the government to prove the sanctity of the impugned recruitment tests, which has made the public faith topsy-turvy. This sort of reckless act of the state government can seldom be tolerated as public job is so scarce. The Opposition leaders may reap political benefits out of this observation of the top court, but how Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will respond is more important.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

### Humanitarian unity

Sir, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, observed annually on 8 May, serves as a poignant reminder of the vital role played by millions of volunteers, members, and staff within the movement. Their unwavering commitment to humanity, impartiality, and unity resonates globally, providing essential aid in times of emergencies, conflicts, and disasters, often at great personal risk. This occasion not only commemorates the birth of Henry Dunant but also underscores the enduring principles that drive the movement's tireless efforts to alleviate human suffering and promote compassion and solidarity worldwide. On World Red Cross Day, communities worldwide engage in various activities to celebrate and raise awareness about the movement's mission. From donating blood and raising funds to participating in community projects, people come together to honor the selfless dedication of volunteers and inspire others to join in the noble cause. Let us express gratitude to Henry Dunant and all the volunteers who exemplify kindness and care, demonstrating that collective action driven by compassion and unity can indeed make the world a better place for all.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

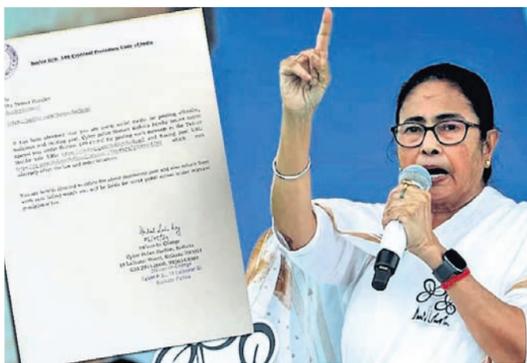
## Letters

### 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

Orissa POST  
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# X users get police notice for posting meme on Mamata



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 8:** The Kolkata Police warned of legal action against two users of micro-blogging site X for allegedly posting an "offensive, hateful and inflammatory meme" of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a senior officer said. Two X handles - @SoldierSaffron7 and @Shalendervoice - allegedly shared the 'offensive' meme of Mamata Banerjee, he said. The Kolkata Police wrote in the 'reply' box of the posts, "You are directed to disclose your full

identity including name and address immediately". The police have warned that legal action will be taken against them. "It has been observed that you are using social media for posting offensive, malicious and inciting post. Cyber Police Station Kolkata hereby issues notice against you under section 149 of the CrPC" for posting such a message which can affect the law and order situation, the police said in a notice to the X handlers. "You are hereby directed to delete the above-mentioned post

and also refrain from such acts failing which you will be liable for strict penal action under the relevant provision of law," it added. Though the post has been removed by @Shalendervoice, @SoldierSaffron7 retained the meme - a video of Banerjee made using artificial intelligence technology. Condemning the police move, SoldierSaffron7 said in another post, "Those who say there is no democracy under BJP government in India should sometimes visit West Bengal. So much Freedom of Speech in Bengal!"

## WEST BENGAL'S LAWSUIT

# Will not permit parties to raise political issue in court, says top court



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 8:** The Supreme Court Wednesday said it will not allow either the Centre or the West Bengal government to raise any political issue during the arguments on the state's lawsuit which alleged that the CBI is going ahead with its investigations despite withdrawal of general consent by the state. A bench of Justices B R Gawai and Sandeep Mehta said it was only deciding a legal issue and the court will not permit either of the parties to make political arguments. The bench reserved its verdict on the maintainability of the suit filed by the state government. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for West Bengal, argued that once the state had withdrawn its consent November 16, 2018, the Centre can't allow the probe agency to enter the state for investigation. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the Union government or its departments don't exercise any supervisory control over CBI investigations. Mehta said while advancing his submissions in the matter May 2, he never went into the political part of it. "We are only on a technical issue, why should

we go into political part," the bench said. The top law officer said this was a suit and arguments can't go beyond the pleadings. He said Sibal, while arguing the matter May 2, had said once the CBI goes to a state, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) enters, too. Mehta said ED goes for "counting cash" recovered during a probe. "We are only deciding a legal issue," the bench observed, adding, "We will not permit either of the parties to raise any political issue". During the arguments, Sibal referred to the provisions of the Delhi Police Special Establishment (DPSE) Act, 1946 and said, "We (state) have informed your lordships of the cause of action. You can't enter my state without my consent and you can't do it suo motu (on your own)". He said consent of the state government must be obtained for the exercise of power by the CBI. "Once I have withdrawn consent, the Union can't allow its investigating agency to come to my state without my consent," Sibal argued. He said granting consent was a privilege and the power to allow that privilege was vested in the state. In his rejoinder, Mehta said there was no cause of action against the Centre in this matter.

# Raj records maximum temperature at 46 °C

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, May 8:** Most areas of Rajasthan are experiencing scorching heat where the day's maximum temperature was recorded at 46 degrees Celsius in Barmer Wednesday. The Meteorological Department has warned of heat waves in many areas of the state in the next few days. According to the Meteorological Center in Jaipur, the maximum temperature was recorded above 40 degrees Celsius at many places during the day. Barmer recorded 46 degrees Celsius, 45.5 degrees in Jalore, 45.4 degrees in Phalodi, 45.2 degrees in Jaisalmer and Ganganagar each, 45.0 degrees in Jodhpur, 44.6 degrees in Kota and Bikaner, 44.1 degrees in Banasthali, 44.0 degrees Celsius in Sangaria. During this period, the lowest temperature in the state was recorded in the hilly area of Mount Abu at 34 degrees Celsius.



The Meteorological Department has warned of heatwaves in many areas of the state in the next few days. According to the Meteorological Center in Jaipur, the maximum temperature was recorded above 40 degrees Celsius at many places during the day. Barmer recorded 46 degrees Celsius, 45.5 degrees in Jalore, 45.4 degrees in Phalodi, 45.2 degrees in Jaisalmer and Ganganagar each, 45.0 degrees in Jodhpur, 44.6 degrees in Kota and Bikaner, 44.1 degrees in Banasthali, 44.0 degrees Celsius in Sangaria.

and Kota divisions and is likely to continue in Bikaner, Jaipur, and Bharatpur divisions May 10. Due to a new western disturbance becoming active from May 10-11, there is a possibility of thunderstorms and light rain in some parts of the state. Thunderstorm activities are likely to continue in some parts May 11 and 13 at some places along with storms with a speed of 40 to 50 kilometres per hour. With this, the maximum temperature is likely to drop by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius.

# 90 per cent students clear Class XII Board exam in WB

Announcing the results 68 days after the conclusion of exams, the West Bengal Council of Higher Education authorities confirmed that 89.98 per cent of the students have cleared the test this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 8:** Boys outshone girls in this year's Higher Secondary Examination in West Bengal, the results of which were declared Wednesday. That, despite the number of female examinees far outweighing the number of their male counterparts, which is a commendable feat in itself, at the state's school leaving exams which began February 16 this year and concluded 13 days later. Announcing the results 68 days after the conclusion of exams, the West Bengal Council of Higher Education authorities confirmed that 89.98 per cent of the students have cleared the test this year. The performance is a marginal jump over last year's pass percentage which stood at 89. Addressing a press conference, Council President Chiranjib Bhattacharya said that while 88.18 per cent of girls passed the exams, the corresponding figure for boys stood at 92.12 per cent. This year 7,55,324 students appeared for the Class XII exams. He said that the Council will look into the reasons behind the success rate of girls dipping by almost four percentage points compared to the boys. Bhattacharya said that 56 per



The performance is a marginal jump over last year's pass percentage which stood at 89. This year 7,55,324 students appeared for the Class XII exams. Addressing a press conference, Council President Chiranjib Bhattacharya said that while 88.18 per cent of girls passed the exams, the corresponding figure for boys stood at 92.12 per cent.

cent of girls and 44 per cent of boys wrote the papers this year which was a noteworthy change in comparison to the gender ratio a decade ago where 55 per cent boys and 45 per cent girls had appeared for the HS exams. Of the 58 students who featured in the top 10 ranks, 23 were girls, he said, adding that 42.9 per cent of students secured 60 per cent marks or above while 1.23 per cent examinees shone with 90 per cent marks or more in the top bracket. Bhattacharya stated that Purba Medinipur topped the chart among all districts of Bengal in terms of the number of successful candidates

with 95.77 per cent passouts. Avik Das from McWilliam Higher Secondary School in north Bengal's Alipurduar district emerged as this year's HS topper, Bhattacharya declared. Das, an aspiring astrophysicist, obtained 496 marks out of the maximum 500 which translates to 99.2 per cent. Soumyadip Saha of Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya in South 24 Parganas secured the second rank with 495 marks while Abhishek Gupta of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Vidyamandir of Malda clinched third rank with 494 marks, the Council president said.

# 'New health system to be online in Raj'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, May 8:** The medical system in Rajasthan will be made completely online with the introduction of a new health management system, a senior official said Wednesday. This is an ambitious and visionary project to provide easy access to health services to the common people, Additional Chief Secretary of the Medical and Health Department Shubhra Singh said. Singh reviewed the development of the health management system in a high-level meeting here Wednesday. She said that it will be a state-of-the-art health man-



agement system, which will bring positive revolutionary changes in the medical system of the state. It will be extremely beneficial for the general public, doctors and administration and will remove the challenges faced by medical facilities. According to the official statement, the ad-

ditional chief secretary directed that the project be completed as soon as possible and that concerned departments and agencies should work with full co-ordination. The project will be reviewed weekly, she said. Under the health management system, electronic health records, DIGI health locker, freedom from queues for patients, unified digital survey, KPI-based dashboard, single window system for health-related license and NOC etc., tele ICU, geo-tagging based hospital etc. will be made available, the statement said. With this, most of the health services will be online and it will be easier for the patients to get treatment, it said.



Artists perform a song of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore on a boat to celebrate his birth anniversary, on the banks of river Hooghly in Kolkata, West Bengal

# Dum Dum's poll fate hinges on anti-TMC vote swing arithmetic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 8:** Sharp shifts in electoral mathematics in West Bengal's Dum Dum Lok Sabha seat compared to what poll equations looked like five years ago may just provide incumbent TMC MP Saugata Roy the necessary thrust to get past the safe challenge that seems to have become steeper than before. While a straight-forward one-on-one contest between the TMC and BJP could have left Roy, a veteran parliamentarian, frowning, poll experts believe that the CPI(M)'s decision to field its central committee member and a well-known face in state politics, Sujan Chakraborty, from here and set the stage for a triangular contest may allow the incumbent to have his last laugh



with a lesser vote share in the saffron camp kitty. Some pollsters, though, attribute Congress-backed Chakraborty with the tag of 'dark horse' having "reasonable potential" to wrest this prestigious seat in the northern fringes of Kolkata from the Trinamool if anti-Mamata Banerjee voters chose to tilt towards the Left in larger numbers than expected.

Roy is seeking a fourth term from Dum Dum on a TMC ticket and is acutely aware that his victory margin, after anti-TMC voters turned to the BJP, suffered a drop in 2019 by almost one lakh votes compared to the previous edition in 2014 despite his vote percentage staying nearly the same on both occasions. "Dum Dum is among 20 Lok Sabha seats where the Left-Congress combine is likely to show its mettle in West Bengal. It's also a test for the BJP to hold on to its support base it managed to consolidate in 2019," political scientist Maidul Islam of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, told PTI while suggesting that a notable chunk of anti-TMC, Left sympathisers had voted for the BJP last time for want of a strong alternative.

# Use of mobile phones banned for staff during school hours in Kota

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, May 8:** The teachers, students and other staff in all government and private schools in Rajasthan's Kota have been barred from using mobile phones during the school hours, an official said. A notification issued in this regard by Tej Kanwar, Joint Director, School Education Department, Kota division, mentioned that teachers will have to submit their mobile phones to the principal after reaching school. Notably, the order came after a recent video of the state Education Minister Madan Dilawar went viral in the video, he can be heard saying that there will be a ban on teachers using smartphones in government schools. According to the Joint Director, these orders were issued around one and a half months ago. The notification has been sent to all education department officials in Kota division. Notably, the order came after a recent video of the state



Education Minister Madan Dilawar went viral. In the video, he can be heard saying that there will be a ban on teachers using smartphones in government schools.

According to the Joint Director, these orders were issued around one and a half months ago. Following the instructions of the state Education Minister, a reminder letter has been issued for its strict implementation. It has also been mentioned in the notification that during the inspection of schools, it has been found that teachers and employees use mobile phones during the school hours. The principals have also been directed to keep the mobile phones of the employees in safe custody. The order mentioned that if anyone is seen using mobile phone in the school, action will be taken against the Chief Block Education Officer, Principal and other officials.



## CHHATRAPUR ASSEMBLY SEGMENT

# BJP, BJD in neck and neck fight amid party hopping



Krushna Chandra Nayak | Subhash Chandra Behera | Bhagirathi Behera

**Chhatrapur, May 8:** BJD and BJP are locked in a close fight for the Chhatrapur Assembly seat in Ganjam district with over 10 candidates in the fray from the constituency even as party hopping seems no let-up.

The Chhatrapur Assembly constituency comprises Chhatrapur and Ganjam blocks as well as the areas under Chhatrapur, Ganjam and Rambha NACs in Ganjam district. The election will be held in this constituency May 13.

BJD's Priyanshu Pradhan won in 2014 election while party nominee Subhash Chandra Behera won in 2019 election from here.

BJD nominee Subhash received 74,594 votes while BJP nominee Prasant Kar garnered 53,543 votes in the 2019 election. CPI nominee Pradip Sethy received 12,766 votes. Subhas was declared the winner with a margin of 21,051 votes.

A total of 1,48,633 voters cast their votes in the 2019 elections out of which 50 per cent went to BJD, 36 per cent to BJP and 8.59 per cent to CPI.

In the 2014 election, a total of 1,38,855 voters cast their votes out

of which BJD's Priyanshu Pradhan received 38.33 per cent of votes, while CPI's Krushna Chandra Nayak and BJP's Dharanidhar Behera received 22.47 and 19.81 per cent votes respectively.

The BJD received a jolt in the NAC election after BJP candidates won the posts of chairperson in Chhatrapur and Rambha NACs. An independent candidate then, who has now joined the BJP, won the post of chairperson in the Ganjam NAC election.

It is evident that the two rivals from BJD and BJP are locked in a close fight. While the BJD aims to score a hat-trick by winning from this seat again, the BJP is pulling out all stops to win this seat after a long gap of 24 years.

The saffron party had last won from this seat in 2000. Long back, the Chhatrapur Assembly constituency was a citadel of leftist Communist Party of India (CPI). However, the Left party slipped to third position in 2019 elections while BJP improved its performance and moved to second spot.

This time BJD has re-nominated its sitting MLA Subhash Chandra Behera. In a surprise

turn of events, BJP has fielded Krushna Chandra Nayak, who was defeated in the 2014 election as a CPI candidate. Prasant Kar defected to BJP from BJD and was fielded as the saffron party nominee in the 2019 elections.

BJP nominated Krushna Chandra Nayak as its candidate after he joined BJP leaving CPI in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. In this election, Congress has fielded Bhagirathi Behera while Gurunath Pradhan is the nominee of CPI. Lesser known parties like Aam Admi Party (AAP), Kalinga Sena and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have fielded one candidate each while three are contesting as independents from this seat.

However, the political climate here is different from other parts of Ganjam district. Meanwhile, former deputy speaker Rama Chandra Panda has defected from BJD to BJP while the Ganjam NAC chairperson who won as an independent is also now in BJP.

On the other hand, Prasant Kar who defected from BJD and contested as a BJP candidate from this seat in the 2019 election is now back in BJD. He returned to BJD after his hope for a ticket from BJP was shattered with the saffron party nominating Nayak.

The BJD leaders claimed to have placated an opposite faction in the party in support of the party nominee Subhash Chandra Behera. This group is now campaigning for the party nominee.

However, the BJD and BJP are holding merger meetings everyday with several political leaders joining both the parties.



Tripura's former chief minister and BJP leader Bipul Deb visiting the house of a poor woman Sobharani Sardar at MV-66 village in Malkangiri Assembly segment for lunch while campaigning for the saffron party in the district, Wednesday

# 'BJP has plans to break BJD after polls'

**Bhubaneswar, May 8:** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's close aide VK Pandian Wednesday alleged that the opposition BJP is not fighting elections in Odisha to win polls but to increase its seat number with an intention to break the BJD after elections.

This was stated by the bureaucrat turned politician while meeting a group of television channel journalists at Gopalpur in Ganjam district Wednesday.

"They (BJP) had a slogan of securing 120 Assembly seats in 2014 but failed. I do not know their target for 2019. But, for 2024, they have been fighting elections to win 50-60 seats and aim to break BJD after the elections. This is their poll strategy," Pandian told journalists.

Claiming that the BJP was not fighting elections to form gov-



ernment in Odisha, Pandian said, "I openly say that this (breaking BJD) is their internal strategy as they have done in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh."

Asserting that the BJP's plan will not succeed, Pandian said many people from the national level are coming for campaigning in the state, but the people of Odisha have no trust on them. Naveen Babu is the trust of the people, he said.

"You have seen in 2014, 2019 and also in 2024, entire army of leaders from across the country come for campaigning. But, the people will not trust them. The people will bless Naveen

babu in a big way," Pandian said replying to a question on the BJP national leaders making queue for campaigning in the state during the twin polls for the Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly.

Asked whether he was confident of Patnaik becoming the chief minister of Odisha for the sixth consecutive time, Pandian said, "I have a strong conviction that Naveen babu will win the elections with flying colours. Had I not such conviction, I would not have said that Naveen babu will be sworn in as CM June 9 with blessings of Maha Prabhru Jagannath," he said.

Pandian said that they (BJP) have no candidates in 60 of the 147 Assembly segments in Odisha. They waited for the release of BJD's candidate list so that they could pick up candidates from among the leaders dropped or rejected by the regional party. This is the reality

of BJP in Odisha," he said.

Pandian also came down heavily on Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and accused them of attempting to stop the Three Mandir Parikrama Project (Jagannath temple heritage corridor project).

Replying to a question on BJP raising the Odia Asmita (pride) issue during elections, Pandian said, the central government has not given a single rupee for the promotion of Odia language. Though the BJP has eight MPs from Odisha in Lok Sabha, all of them remained completely silent while the Centre was providing money for the promotion of other languages and not for Odia language.

Only during election time, the union minister (Dharmendra Pradhan) shows his love for Odia language and talks about Asmita, the BJD leader said.

# Poverty to be uprooted in coming 10-15 years: Rajnath

**Bhawanipatna/Rayagada, May 8:** Asserting that the BJP will win all the 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Wednesday claimed that poverty would be completely eradicated from India in the next 10-15 years and this is "Modi's guarantee".

Singh addressed two election rallies in Bhawanipatna, the district headquarters of Kalahandi, and Rayagada.

"Though all Congress leaders from Jawaharlal Nehru to Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh promised to end poverty, they failed. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started the process to end poverty," he claimed.

Noting that about 25 crore people have been lifted from below the poverty line under the Modi regime, the defence minister said that this is not the BJP's claim but as per the Niti Aayog's data.

No previous government had done what PM Modi did during his rule, he claimed.



"No family in India will be without a pucca house, piped drinking water and LPG connection in the next five years," he asserted.

Singh said that earlier, articles were written on "poverty tourism" in Kalahandi as the district was known for hunger, starvation deaths and poverty but things have undergone a massive change under the Modi government.

Lauding the oratory skills of BJP's Kalahandi Lok Sabha seat candidate Malavika Devi, Singh

appealed to the people of Kalahandi to cast their votes on the 'lotus' symbol of the BJP for "highlighting local issues at the national level".

Quoting former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on expenditure of public money, Singh said, "If the Centre sent ₹1, only 15 paise reached the poor. However, direct bank transfers under the Modi regime ended corruption and people get full amount sent by the Union government."

Appealing to people to install

a BJP government in Odisha, he said that Ayushman Bharat health scheme would be implemented in the state if the party was voted to power.

The defence minister claimed that terrorism has almost come to an end under the BJP government due to stern action against terrorists and sporadic cases will "completely vanish from Indian soil" under the leadership of PM Modi.

Singh attacked the Congress for "utterly failing" to curb corruption despite remaining in power for decades.

Referring to Congress's allegation that the BJP would change the Constitution of India, Singh said, "They (Congress) have changed the Constitution 80 times... they had even changed the Preamble during the Emergency."

On alleged misuse of CBI and ED against opposition leaders, Singh said everybody is free to challenge the work of investigating agencies in the court of law if there is any violation. Lok Sabha and Assembly elections would be held simultaneously in Odisha.

# PM using 'imagination' in his speeches, not facts: Priyanka

**Rae Bareilly, May 8:** Asserting that people of the country want change and are fed up of being lied to, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been using his imagination a lot in his speeches of late and not speaking on the basis of facts.

Her remarks came a day after Prime Minister Modi claimed the Congress will reverse the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram temple if voted to power just like its landmark 1985 ruling in the Shah Bano case was overturned by the Rajiv Gandhi government as part of the party's appeasement politics.

In an exclusive interview with PTI while on the campaign trail in Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly from where her brother Rahul Gandhi is contesting the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress general secretary challenged the prime

minister to speak on issues of unemployment, price rise and farmers' plight.

Asked about her assessment of the ground situation after three rounds of the seven-phase polls, Priyanka Gandhi said, "My assessment is that people want change. Everywhere I go I get the sense that people are fed up now of being lied to, they are fed up with the level of discussion that is taking place in the media and on political stages."

They want their problems to be discussed, they want solutions, they want to know what the government done for unemployment, what has it done to reduce prices which are so high, what is it doing to actually help the farmer, help the labourer, help the people with their problems, she said.

Priyanka Gandhi also said she gets the impression that winds of change are blowing in the country.



## Poonch attack: Rajnath slams Channi

**Bhubaneswar:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Wednesday took a dig at former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi over his controversial remarks on the recent terrorist attack on Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy at Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir leading to the death of one IAF soldier. Addressing a public gathering at Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi Wednesday, Singh said, "Congress has always been involved in negative politics. Recently, some terrorists launched an attack on our defence forces convoy in Jammu & Kashmir. Congress leader Charanjit Singhji Channi said that it (the terrorist act) was an election stunt. Will we get our army soldiers attacked? What are these people trying to do with the security and self-esteem of the nation?"

Notably, Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi had earlier remarked that the terrorist attack on the Indian Air Force was a BJP-operated pre-poll stunt. He alleged that BJP is playing with people's lives and bodies.



BJD's Bhadrak Assembly nominee Prafulla Samal filing his nomination papers to Sub-Collector Manoj Patra in Bhadrak, Wednesday



Congress's Bolangir Assembly nominee Samarendra Mishra speaking at an election meeting in the presence of his father and sitting MLA Narasingha Mishra and other party leaders at Udar village under Deogaon block in Bolangir district, Wednesday

# national

## of the day quote

It is now in public domain that Naveen Gowda April 21 night at 8 pm announced releasing explicit videos on WhatsApp in the next few seconds. I want to ask Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara. What is the role of SIT (Special Investigation Team)?

H D KUMARASWAMY | JD(S) SECOND-IN-COMMAND

The day Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi said, with Mamata Banerjee sitting by their side, that we will fight together to defeat BJP, Adhir Chowdhury held hands of (Bengal CPI(M) secretary) Mohammad Salim and called for defeating the Trinamool Congress

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC NATIONAL GENERAL SECY

The BJP government should now come out of the holiday mode and focus on law and order. The government should take this matter on priority and ensure that the culprit is punished as soon as possible

ASHOK GEHLOT | FORMER RAJASTHAN CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Sisodia's judicial custody extended

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday extended till May 21 the judicial custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam. Special Judge Kavari Baweja extended Sisodia's custody after he was produced before the court through video conference on the expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had March 9 last year arrested the former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi in the liquor policy case.

### FIR against Congress MLA

Idukki (Kerala): An FIR has been lodged by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau against Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalmadan and 20 others in connection with alleged illegal conversion and registration of land in Chinnakanal area of this hilly Kerala district. A senior VACB officer said Wednesday that a preliminary enquiry by the agency found that the Muvattupuzha MLA's resort was located on surplus land which could not have been converted or registered.

### Terrorist killed in fresh gunfight

Srinagar: A terrorist was killed in a fresh gunfight with security forces Wednesday near the site of an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district where two ultras were killed a day earlier. During search of houses near the encounter site in the Redwani area of the district, the fresh exchange of fire took place with a terrorist hiding there. One terrorist was killed today, the officials said and added that the identity of the deceased was being ascertained. Two ultras, including wanted terrorist of Lashkar-e-Toiba Basit Dar, were killed in the encounter with security forces Tuesday.

### 3 Naxalites surrender

Dantewada: Three Naxalites surrendered before the security forces in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district Wednesday, a senior police official said. Nande Madkam (24), Malle Muchaki (25) and Kesha Gonche (22) turned themselves in, citing disappointment with the "hollow" and "inhuman" Maoist ideology, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said.



People are very angry with the arrest of Kejriwal. They know he has been arrested under a conspiracy. In this Lok Sabha elections, people will vote for AAP and make it win

ATISHI MARLENA | MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF DELHI

### MAN DIES AFTER EATING SHAWARMA

Police have arrested two vendors following the death of a 19-year-old man after eating 'chicken shawarma' bought from their stall in Mumbai, an official said



## FOREST FIRES

# Apex court pitches for preventive steps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: The Supreme Court Wednesday said cloud seeding or "depending on rain god" is not the answer to the raging forest fires in Uttarakhand and that authorities will have to take preventive measures to tackle the problem.

Deputy Advocate General of Uttarakhand Jatinder Kumar Sethi told the court that all the fires were man-made.

A total of 388 criminal cases have been lodged in connection with the forest fires, he said, adding that 60 people have been named in those.

"People say that 40 per cent of Uttarakhand is on fire, whereas 0.1 per cent of the wildlife cover was on fire. And all this was man-made. From November till today, we have 398 fires, all man-made," the counsel said.

The court was hearing an application that has raised the issue of raging forest fires in Uttarakhand. During the hearing, the bench told the state's counsel, "Cloud seeding or depending on the rain god is not the answer. He (applicant) is right in saying that you have to take preventive measures."

The state government placed before the bench an interim status report containing details of the various steps taken by authorities to deal with forest fires. Sethi said helicopters of the Indian Air Force were also pressed into service to extinguish the fires.

"What is the number of human lives lost?" the bench asked. The counsel said five people were killed due to the



forest fires. The bench sought to know how many animals were killed in such incidents. The counsel said he will get the information and apprise the court.

A lawyer, who has filed an application for implementation in the matter, told the bench that the state is painting a "very rosy picture" but media reports claim that the entire machinery involved in tackling forest fires is busy in election-related work.

"The state of affairs is pathetic. People who go to douse the fires do not even have proper equipment," he said.

Another counsel appearing in the matter said entire forests are covered with pine trees and that is the reason behind forest fires. "The British may have introduced them but now their produce is being used by the country. We cannot eliminate

those trees. And they cannot grow in the lower reaches," the bench observed, adding that no one is disputing that forest fires are a "serious problem".

It also referred to a recent news report on the possibility of rains in Uttarakhand.

The state's counsel said forest fires are not just peculiar to Uttarakhand but are reported from across the world.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing May 15.

While hearing a petition on forest fires in 2019, the apex court had observed that such incidents pose a serious problem in hill states, especially during summer, and the reason is the presence of a large number of pine trees, which are highly flammable. It was hearing a plea moved by advocate Rituparn Uniyal seeking urgent steps to protect forests, wildlife and birds from wild fires in Uttarakhand, saying the number of such blazes has increased over the years and these incidents cause massive damage to the environment.

THE UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT APPRISED THE APEX COURT ABOUT THE STEPS TAKEN TO CONTROL THE FOREST FIRES AND SAID 0.1 PER CENT OF THE WILDLIFE COVER IN THE STATE WAS ON FIRE DUE TO SUCH INCIDENTS

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TOLD A BENCH OF JUSTICES B R GAVAI AND SANDEEP MEHTA THAT SINCE NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 398 FOREST FIRES IN UTTARAKHAND AND FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN SUCH INCIDENTS

## HD Revanna remanded to judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 8: Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara Wednesday ruled out a CBI probe into the sexual abuse case against the JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is the NDA candidate from Hassan.

This was after JD(S) second-in-command HD Kumaraswamy mounted an attack on the government expressing doubts over the manner the investigation was carried out. Alliance partners JD(S) and BJP demanded that the case, which is being investigated by the state government-constituted SIT, be handed over to the CBI.

Kumaraswamy intensified his attack on the government even as his elder brother and Holenarasipura MLA HD Revanna, who is facing charges of kidnapping a woman, was remanded to judicial custody till May 14 by a Magisterial court here Wednesday.

Revanna, son of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, was produced before the court after the completion of four days' police custody.

Also, his bail petition before a sessions court has been posted for Thursday.

Revanna was arrested in the alleged case of kidnapping a woman, based on a complaint by her son, who alleged that the MLA's son and MP Prajwal Revanna had sexually assaulted her. The woman was subsequently rescued, according to police.

The alleged sexual abuse of several women by Prajwal has raised a political storm with the ruling Congress and BJP-JD(S) engaged in a slugfest.

Alleged explicit videos involving Prajwal started making the rounds ahead of the first phase of Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka April 26.

## SC to hear Kejriwal bail plea tomorrow



THE AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP) LEADER WAS ARRESTED MARCH 21 AND IS CURRENTLY LODGED IN TIHAR JAIL UNDER JUDICIAL CUSTODY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: The Supreme Court will deliver its order on granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam May 10.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who headed the bench which heard Kejriwal's petition against his arrest in the case, said, "We will pronounce the interim order (on interim bail) Friday. The main matter related to the challenge to arrest will also be taken on the same day." Justice Khanna, who was sitting in a different combination with Justices MM Sundresh and Bela M Trivedi, made the remark after Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, who was appearing for the Centre in a matter related to Goods and Services Tax, sought clarification on the listing of Kejriwal's plea.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader was arrested March 21 and is currently lodged in Tihar Jail under judicial custody. The bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, had reserved its verdict on interim bail to Kejriwal. The two-judge bench had risen without pronouncing order on granting Kejriwal interim bail to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections.

The bench had reserved its decision after hearing the arguments put forth by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi and Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, who appeared for Kejriwal and the Enforcement Directorate, respectively. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who also appeared for the probe agency, had staunchly opposed showing any leniency to Kejriwal on account of the Lok Sabha polls and said granting interim bail to the AAP national convenor would amount to creating a separate class for politicians.

His main petition challenges his arrest by the ED and seeks it to be declared as illegal, while the second aspect pertains to grant of interim bail keeping in mind the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

The court reserved the order on the issue of grant of interim bail. A Delhi court Tuesday has extended Kejriwal's judicial custody in the money laundering case till May 20.

The Delhi High Court had April 9 upheld Kejriwal's arrest, saying there was no illegality and the ED was left with "little option" after he skipped repeated summonses and refused to join the investigation.

## SNIPPETS

### Bangalore Police summons JP Nadda, Amit Malviya

Bangalore: Bangalore Police has summoned BJP President JP Nadda and the party's IT cell head Amit Malviya in connection with a social media post allegedly intimidating members of SC and ST community not to vote for a particular candidate, officials said Wednesday. They have been asked to join the probe at the High grounds police station here. "For the purpose of investigation of the said case, you are hereby directed to appear before the undersigned investigation officer at 11 am at High grounds police station within seven days of receipt of this notice," the summons read. The move comes after an FIR was registered against Nadda, Malviya and BJP's Karnataka unit chief B Y Vijayendra in connection with a social media following a complaint filed by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) with the Election Commission and police May 5 alleging violation of model code of conduct.

### CBI busts bribery racket at RML Hospital

New Delhi: A cardiologist's hurry to collect bribes from middlemen and medical suppliers before going on a trip to Europe gave the CBI a whiff of a bribery racket at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, leading to the arrest of nine people, including two doctors, Wednesday. The CBI arrested nine people, including cardiology Professor Ajay Raj and Assistant Professor Parvatagouda Channappagouda, clerks Bhuval Jaiswal and Sanjay Kumar, the hospital's Cath Lab in charge Rajnish Kumar, middleman Vikas Kumar, and medical equipment suppliers Naresh Nagpal of Nagpal Technologies, Bharat Singh Dalal of Bharti Medical Technologies, and Abrar Ahmed of Scienmed, officials said.



NO RESPIRE: A zookeeper sprays water on caged bears on a hot summer day, at the Jambu Zoo in Jammu

## 9 killed after wall collapses in Hyderabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 8: As many as nine persons, including a four-year old child, were killed in two rain-related incidents here, police said.

Seven persons, including the child, were killed when a retaining wall at an under-construction apartment came crashing down due to heavy rains in Bachupally area here, police said Wednesday.

According to Bachupally police, the deceased were migrant workers who belonged to Odisha and Chhattisgarh and the incident happened Tuesday evening.

Their bodies were recovered early Wednesday from under the debris using an excavator, police said.

In another incident, Begumpet police said they fished out bodies of two men aged between 35 and 40 from a drain this morning.

C Ramaiah, the Begumpet police inspector, said the deceased were natives of Odisha and were suspected to have fallen in the drain in SR Nagar.

He said the bodies were shifted to a government hospital for autopsy.

Heavy rain lashed Hyderabad and several parts of Telangana Tuesday throwing life out of gear in some parts of the state. Many places in the city witnessed waterlogging which lead to traffic blocks.

The DRF (Disaster Relief Force) teams were deployed and were clearing water stagnation and fallen trees in various places in the city, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials said in a statement.

Principal Secretary (Municipal Administration and Urban Development) Danakishore along with GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose visited various waterlogging points areas and gave instructions to DRF teams on ground in the city.

## RENAMING OF AURANGABAD, OSMANABAD

# WHAT'S IN A NAME? ASKS BOMBAY HC

The bench said that Shakespeare made a profound observation on the nature of names, and that a name does not change anything and calling a rose something different would not change the essence of the flower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 8: "What's in a name", the Bombay High Court Wednesday said dismissing a bunch of petitions challenging the Maharashtra government's decision to rename Aurangabad district as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv.

A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor said the petitions were bereft of merits and the notification issued by the state government (for renaming) does not warrant any interference.

"We have no hesitation to hold that the notification issued by the state government renaming Aurangabad and Osmanabad does not suffer from any illegality or any legal vice," the bench said.



Quoting William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet, the bench in its judgement said, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."



The bench said Shakespeare made a profound observation on the nature of names, and that a name does not change anything and calling a rose something different would not change the essence of the flower.

The bench in its judgement said the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code permits the state government to abolish any revenue area and to name/rename and alter the name of the area.

The court said it has no hesitation to conclude that the government followed the statutory provisions before taking the decision to rename the two districts and cities.

The HC said it was of the opinion that the issue of alteration of name of a revenue area or even a city or town is not justiciable as courts lack the requisite tool to adjudicate such an issue.

"As to by what name a particular object or place is to be known cannot be judicially reviewed unless the name so proposed is atrocious," the high court said.

to the central government.

In February 2023, the Union Home Ministry gave a no objection letter for changing the names of the cities and districts and thereafter, a gazette notification was issued by the state government changing the names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad.

Several petitions were then filed by Aurangabad residents challenging the government's decision to rename the place as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

Another PIL was filed by 17 residents of Osmanabad against the government's decision to rename it as Dharashiv. Both the petitions termed the government's decision as "politically motivated".

The Maharashtra government had opposed the pleas, claiming the two places were renamed due to their history and not for any political reasons.

# international

## of the day quote

Standing at a new historical starting point, China will work with Serbia to jointly stay committed to the original aspiration and forge ahead together to open up a new vista in China-Serbia cooperation with stronger momentum, greater scope, and higher quality



XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

No state, no matter how powerful or how equipped it is with a menacing nuclear arsenal can think of violating principles, including the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of another country without facing sanctions



SERGIO MATTARELLA | PRESIDENT, ITALY

I want the health ministry to amend the rules and re-list cannabis as a narcotic. Drugs is a problem that destroys the future of the country, many young people are addicted



SRETTHA THAVASIN | PM, THAILAND

## SHORT TAKES

### Blow to PM Sunak

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was accused Wednesday of leading a "chaotic" government as another one of his Conservative lawmakers defected to the main opposition Labour Party ahead of a looming general election. In a stunning move just ahead of weekly prime minister's questions, Natalie Elphicke crossed the floor of the House of Commons to join the ranks of Keir Starmer's Labour Party, which appears to be heading for power after 14 years. "We need to move on from the broken promises of Rishi Sunak's tired and chaotic government," said Elphicke, who represents the constituency of Dover, which is at the front-line of migrant crossings from France.

### Flood toll surges

Eldorado Do Sul: Rescuers rushed to evacuate people stranded by devastating floods across the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul Tuesday, with at least 90 dead, 155,000 left homeless, and desperate survivors seeking food and basic supplies. The heavy rains that began last week have caused rivers to flood, inundating whole towns and destroying roads and bridges.

### Politician attacked

Berlin: A prominent Berlin politician was violently assaulted and suffered injuries to her head and neck, police said Wednesday, in the latest attack on elected officials that raises concern over rising political violence in Germany. Frankziska Giffey, the city's top economic official was attacked at an event in a Berlin library Tuesday by a man who approached her from behind and hit her with a bag containing a hard device, police said.

## CHINESE CRACKDOWN

# Hong Kong court bans protest anthem

The ruling comes amid what critics say is an erosion in Hong Kong's rule of law and individual rights in the middle of a sweeping national security crackdown by Beijing that has jailed scores of opposition democrats and shut down liberal media outlets

Hong Kong, May 8: Hong Kong's Court of Appeal Wednesday granted an application by the government to ban a protest anthem called "Glory to Hong Kong", overturning a lower court judgment that had rejected such a ban because of its possible "chilling effects" on free speech. The case has implications for internet freedoms and the operations of firms including internet

# India gets record remittances

The country received over \$111bn in remittances in 2022, first country to ever reach that figure, says UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 8: India received over \$111 billion in remittances in 2022, the largest in the world, becoming the first country to reach and even surpass the \$100 billion mark, the United Nations migration agency has said.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in its World Migration Report 2024 launched Tuesday, said that in 2022, India, Mexico, China, the Philippines and France were the top five remittance recipient countries.

"India was well above the rest, receiving more than \$111 billion, the first country to reach and even surpass the \$100 billion mark. Mexico was the second-largest remittance recipient in 2022, a position it also held in 2021 after overtaking China, which historically had been the second-biggest recipient after India," the report said.

According to the report's data, India was the top country receiving remittances in 2010 (\$53.48 billion), 2015 (\$68.91 billion), and 2020 (\$83.15 billion), with the remittances crossing the \$100 billion mark to reach \$111.22 billion in 2022.

It noted that with a very large number of migrant workers from the subregion, Southern Asia receives some of the largest inflows of remittances globally. Three countries in Southern



Asia - India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, rank among the top ten recipients of international remittances in the world, underscoring the significance of labour migration from the subregion.

"With India estimated to have received more than \$111 billion in 2022, it is by far the largest recipient of international remittances in the world and the first country to ever reach that figure," the report said.

Pakistan and Bangladesh were the sixth and eighth largest international remittance recipients in 2022, receiving nearly \$30 billion and \$21.5 billion respectively.

The report however noted that while remittances remain a lifeline for many people in the subregion, migrant workers from these countries continue to face a myriad of risks, including financial exploitation, excessive

## RISE IN REMITTANCES

2022	\$111.2bn
2020	\$83.15bn
2015	\$68.91bn
2010	\$53.48bn

financial debt due to migration costs, xenophobia and workplace abuses.

The Gulf States remain significant destinations for migrant workers from around the world, and the 2022 football World Cup further underscored the importance of migrant labour to the subregion as well as rights violations.

Migrants continue to comprise high proportions of the total populations in many Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States. In the United Arab Emirates,

The report added that nearly 18 million or 1.3% of the total population, India is also the origin of the largest number of international migrants in the world, with large diasporas living in countries such as the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Saudi Arabia

Kuwait and Qatar, migrants made up 88 per cent, nearly 73 and 77 per cent of the national populations, respectively.

Most migrants - many of whom come from countries such as India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Kenya - work in sectors such as construction, hospitality, security, domestic work and retail. India came in 13th as the destination country for immigrants, with 4.48 million.

India - United Arab Emirates, India - US, India - Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh - India were among the top 10 international country-to-country migration corridors, the report said.

The report further said that countries in Asia are the origins of the largest number of internationally mobile students

## MOURNING FLOOD VICTIMS

Kenya's President William Ruto has declared Friday a public holiday to mourn the 238 people who have died due to ongoing flooding. The president Wednesday said the day will be observed by national tree planting activities to help mitigate the effects of climate change



## India donates \$500K to combat terrorism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 8: India has contributed \$500,000 to the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its unwavering commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj Tuesday handed over to Under Secretary General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov the country's voluntary financial contribution of half a million dollars towards the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF).

"India places great significance on the mandate and the work undertaken by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in building the capacity of member states to effectively deal with the threat of terrorism. The latest contribution reaffirms India's unwavering commitment to supporting multilateral efforts led by the United Nations in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism," a statement by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN said.

The contribution is a testament to commitment to international cooperation on countering terrorism and continued implementation of the announcement made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to contribute to the trust fund during the special meeting of the counter-terrorism committee held in New Delhi in October 2022 under India's presidency of the body.



Haitian migrants waded through water as they cross the Darien Gap from Colombia to Panama in hopes of reaching the US, May 9, 2023. The image was part of a series by Associated Press photographers Ivan Valencia, Eduardo Verdugo, Felix Marquez, Marco Ugarte Fernando Llano, Eric Gay, Gregory Bull and Christian Chavez that won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography

## Khan's wife moved to jail from house arrest

Islamabad: A court in Pakistan granted a request Wednesday by the wife of former Prime Minister Imran Khan to be moved to jail, her lawyer said, instead of the house arrest ordered by the government. In her petition to the Islamabad High Court, Bushra Bibi had accused authorities of violating her privacy and serving contaminated food in her home cell, which she and her lawyers said was dominated by men, a charge the prison staff has denied. The court ordered authorities to shift her to Adyala jail in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, where Khan, 70, a former cricket superstar, is serving his 14-year sentence, his party said in a statement. Khan was ousted from power in 2022, which he blamed on a conspiracy backed by the military after he had fallen out with powerful army generals.

## Battles rage around Rafah

# US HALTS SOME ARMS TO ISRAEL



Facing heat over its military support for Israel's war, the Biden administration is due to deliver a first-of-its-kind formal verdict this week on whether the airstrikes on Gaza and restrictions on delivery of aid have violated international and US laws designed to spare civilians from the worst horrors of war

REUTERS

Cairo, May 8: Hamas said it was battling Israeli troops on the outskirts of the Gaza Strip's crowded southern city of Rafah Wednesday after a US official said Washington had halted a shipment of powerful bombs that Israel could use in a full-scale assault.

The United States, which is seeking to stave off an Israeli invasion of Rafah, said it believes a revised Hamas ceasefire proposal may lead to a breakthrough in an impasse in negotiations, with talks resuming in Cairo Wednesday.

Israel has threatened a major assault on Rafah to defeat thousands of Hamas fighters it says are holed up there, but Western nations and the United Nations have warned a full-scale attack on the city would be a humanitarian catastrophe.

Hamas said its fighters were battling Israeli forces in the east of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have sought refuge from combat further north in the enclave. Residents said the fighting was still on the outskirts.

A senior US official said President Joe Biden's administration paused a shipment of weapons to Israel last week in an apparent response to the expected Rafah offensive. The

White House and Pentagon declined to comment.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Washington had carefully reviewed the delivery of weapons that might be used in Rafah, and as a result paused a shipment consisting of 1,800 2,000-lb bombs and 1,700 500-lb bombs.

This would be the first such delay since the Biden administration offered its "ironclad" support to Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack. Washington is Israel's closest ally and main weapons supplier.

Israeli forces seized the main border crossing between Gaza and Egypt in Rafah Tuesday, cutting off a vital aid route.

Israel's offensive has killed 34,789 Palestinians, most of them civilians, the Gaza Health Ministry said.

The war began when Hamas militants attacked Israel October 7, killing about 1,200 people and abducting 252 others, of whom 128 remain hostage in Gaza and 36 have been declared dead, according to the latest Israeli figures.

# 3 accused in Nijjar's death appear in court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ottawa, May 8: Three Indian nationals accused of killing Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year have appeared before a Canadian court through video for the first time to face homicide charges in a case that has soured Canada-India relations.

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

They appeared separately by video in front of a packed Surrey provincial courtroom Tuesday



to acknowledge the charges of first-degree murder and conspiring to commit murder and to agree to have their cases adjourned to May 21 to give them time to consult with their lawyers, the Vancouver Sun newspaper reported.

The three - believed to be connected to the Lawrence Bishnoi

gang - appeared before the Surrey Provincial Court in British Columbia province, the report said.

Two of the accused appeared in the morning while Kamalpreet Singh's appearance was delayed until after lunch to give him time to consult with a lawyer.

Their next step would be to have their lawyers apply for bail,

said Surrey criminal and immigration lawyer Affan Bajwa, who has no connection to the case.

Bajwa said their chances of being released on bail would depend on whether their lawyers could make a strong case to the judge. "I think it may be difficult for them to be released on bail because of a possible flight risk and risk to public safety," he said.

Bajwa also said if the case goes ahead, the men would be tried in Canada and if found guilty of first-degree murder would have no chance of parole for at least 25 years.

Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey June 18, 2023.

platform operators (IPOs) and technology firms such as Google. Court of Appeal judges Jeremy Poon, Carlye Chu and Anthea Pang wrote that the composer of the protest song had intended it to be used as a weapon.

"In the hands of those with the intention to incite secession and sedition, the song can be deployed to arouse anti-establishment sentiments," the judges wrote.

The judges added that "an injunction is necessary to persuade



the IPOs to remove the problematic videos in connection with the song" from their platforms. Freewheeling Hong Kong returned from British to Chinese

Preventing anyone from using or disseminating the relevant song is a legitimate and necessary measure by (Hong Kong) to fulfill its responsibility of safeguarding national security

LIN JIAN | SPOKESMAN, CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

rule in 1997, with the guarantee its freedoms should be preserved under a "one country, two systems" formula. Hong Kong does not have its

own anthem. "Glory to Hong Kong" was written in 2019 amid mass pro-democracy protests that year and was considered an unofficial national anthem, rather than China's "March of the Volunteers".

The court ruling targets those who broadcast or distribute the song with the intention of inciting others to commit secession, or those who suggest Hong Kong is an independent state, or who insult the national anthem.

## Pro-Palestinian arrests: 33 held

Police began to clear a pro-Palestinian tent encampment at George Washington University early Wednesday and arrested 33 protesters, hours after dozens left the site and marched to President Ellen Granberg's home. Officials at the university in Washington, DC, had warned of possible suspensions for students engaging in protest activities on University Yard. "While the university is committed to protecting students' rights to free expression, the encampment had evolved into an unlawful activity, with participants in direct violation of multiple university policies and city regulations," the university said in a statement.

## of the day quote

The government is likely to soon finalise a framework for a state mining index which would serve as a tool for stakeholders and ensure ease of doing mining business. A state mining index would boost cooperative federalism as well as competition among states

**VL KANTHA RAO** | MINES SECRETARY

The demand has grown by 13-14 per cent year-on-year in the financial year 2023-24. It will continue to grow by 10 per cent in the future

**NAGENDRA NATH SINHA** | STEEL SECRETARY

Asia is a critical market for the EV industry, and India in particular benefits from a leading manufacturing platform that will allow us to deploy our products at top speed and competitive costs

**PETER BARDENFLETH-HANSEN** | CEO, DG INNOVATE

## Q4 RESULTS

### Bharat Forge shines

**New Delhi:** Auto components major Bharat Forge Ltd Wednesday reported a 77.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹227.12 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2024, riding on higher sales. The company had posted a profit of ₹127.74 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Bharat Forge said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at ₹4,164.21 crore as against ₹3,629.05 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

### Canara profit jumps

**New Delhi:** State-owned Canara Bank Wednesday reported an 18 per cent rise in its net profit of ₹3,757 crore during the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The Bangalore-based lender had earned a net profit of ₹3,175 crore in the year-ago period. During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to ₹34,025 crore as against ₹28,685 crore a year ago, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing.

### Hero MotoCorp up

**New Delhi:** Two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp Ltd Wednesday reported a 16.3 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax to ₹943.46 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2024, riding on higher sales. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax of ₹810.8 crore in the same period a year ago, Hero MotoCorp said.

### Tata Power surges

**New Delhi:** Tata Power Wednesday posted an 11 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,046 crore in the March quarter compared to the year-ago period mainly on the back of higher revenues. The consolidated profit stood at ₹939 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2023, a BSE filing showed. Total income of the company rose to ₹16,463.94 crore in the quarter from ₹13,325.30 crore in the same period a year ago.

### TVS Motor net rises

**New Delhi:** TVS Motor Company Wednesday said its consolidated net profit increased 15 per cent to ₹387 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024, riding on robust sales. The company had reported a net profit of ₹336 crore in the January-March period of the previous fiscal. Revenue from operations rose to ₹10,042 crore in the period under review compared with ₹8,031 crore in the fourth quarter of FY23.



The IMF has projected a growth rate of 7.8 per cent for FY24. But if you look at the trajectory of growth in the first three quarters, obviously, the possibility that the growth rate touches 8 per cent is quite high

**V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN** | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

## GOLD FUTURES TRADING ON INDIA INX

BSE's arm India International Exchange (India INX) Wednesday said India's leading gold refiner, which brings in up to 20 per cent of the country's gold, has started trading gold futures on its platform. This suggests that India INX, set up at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), is becoming the main place for Indian jewellers and gold importers to hedge against the risk in gold prices



# Google Wallet goes live for Android users

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 8:** Tech titan Google Wednesday launched the Google Wallet app for Android users in India, allowing them to securely store essentials like boarding passes, loyalty cards, event tickets, and public transport passes.

The digital wallet, which becomes operational in India from Wednesday, comes as a complementary service to existing payment app Google Pay, a top official said. "Google Pay is not going any

where, it will remain our primary payment app, Google Wallet is specifically tailored for non-payment use cases," Ram Papatla, GM and India Engineering Lead, Android at Google, said.

He said the idea behind the service was "to create an open software where carriers, OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), and developers can build amazing products".

For the new service, Google has partnered with 20 Indian brands in the likes of Air India, IndiGo, Flipkart, Pine Labs, Kochi Metro, PVR and INOX, and said more



**Google Pay is not going anywhere, it will remain our primary payment app, Google Wallet is specifically tailored for non-payment use cases**

**RAM PAPTALA** | GM AND INDIA ENGINEERING LEAD, ANDROID AT GOOGLE

partners would be onboarded in the months to come.

Google Wallet will allow users to save movie/event tickets, access boarding passes, store metro tickets, store office/corporate badges, and digitise physical

documents. "Google Wallet offers users a single, organised location for fast, secure access to everyday essentials like boarding passes, loyalty cards, event tickets, public transport passes, gift cards, and more," Google said in a statement.

## REGULATORY SCRUTINY Banks to step up IT spends

**BANKS WERE EARLIER SPENDING BETWEEN 6%-8% OF TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE ON TECHNOLOGY, SHARPLY BELOW THE GLOBAL AVERAGE OF 10%-12%**

REUTERS

**Mumbai, May 8:** Indian banks' plan to increase their technology spending to around 10% of their operating expenses to keep up with the surge in digital transactions as the central bank intensifies scrutiny on frequent outages, more than half a dozen bankers said.

Banks were earlier spending between 6%-8% of total operating expenditure on technology, sharply below the global average of 10%-12%.

However, increased scrutiny of banks' IT systems by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) over the past year and the recent sanctions imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank due to technology-related deficiencies are forcing lenders to take the regulator's concerns more seriously.

The RBI has frequently directed banks to reduce tech-related glitches that disrupt customers' ability to transact, five bankers said, declining to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

As operating expenses have grown over the years, Kotak Mahindra Bank spent "significantly" more on technology, Ashok Vaswani, MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said in a post-earnings press conference.

However, "what is evident, is that our efforts have fallen short of what the regulator expects," Vaswani said.



**Over 40% of all payments done in India are now digital but outages have become more frequent**

India's banking and investment services firms were estimated to have spent \$11.3 billion on technology in 2023, according to latest available data from Gartner.

"We believe in today's world, systems cannot be down and you have to create online, real-time systems to match the capabilities," said Sumant Kathpalia, CEO at private lender IndusInd Bank, which currently spends about 8%-10% of cost-to-income on IT-related expenses.

"We have invested and will continue to invest in these," he said.

The increased investment will go towards upgrading core systems which form the backbone of all banking operations, and on

**Most banks' core banking systems are quite dated now so they are now assessing whether the systems can handle the rise in digital activity**

**ROHAN LAKHYAR** | PARTNER, GRANT THORNTON BHARAT

better monitoring of digital frauds, protecting customer data and tech-driven processes for customer verification, the bankers said.

Other private lenders like ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Yes Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, at post-earnings events recently said they will increase IT spending to deal with rising digital activity, including transactions via India's home-grown payments system Unified Payments Interface.

More than 40% of all payments done in India are now digital but outages have become more frequent.

In discussions with lenders, RBI has noted that the banking system is not adequately prepared to handle the growth in digital banking transactions, one of these bankers said.

"Banks' plans to increase their IT spends seem to be on the back of RBI's more stringent approach to tech issues and the need to upgrade backend systems as banks increasingly source customers digitally," Amit Khurana, head of equities at Dolat Capital said.

## Benchmarks end flat on weak global cues



**Stock markets edge lower on selling in banking, IT shares**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 8:** Benchmark

Sensex slipped by 45 points in highly volatile trade Wednesday due to selling in private bank and IT shares amid weak Asian markets and continuous foreign fund outflows.

Declining for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 45.46 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at 73,466.39. During the day, it declined by 437.93 points or 0.59 per cent to 73,073.92.

The NSE Nifty remained unchanged at 22,302.50. From the Sensex basket, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement,

Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and ICICI Bank were the major laggards.

On the other hand, Tata Motors, Power Grid, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro and Maruti were among the gainers.

"The Indian market echoed subdued investor sentiments akin to those of its Asian peers, and on worries about declining voter turnout. Despite domestic Q4 earnings largely meeting estimates, the earnings landscape appears to be moderating," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

The BSE benchmark went lower by 383.69 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 73,511.85 Tuesday. The NSE Nifty declined 140.20 points or 0.62 per cent to 22,302.50.

**Investors traded with caution due to lack of fresh positive triggers and ended on a flat note with a slightly negative bias amid selective profit-taking in banking and IT stocks**

**PRASHANTH TAPSE** | SENIOR VP (RESEARCH), MEHTA EQUITIES

# Automobile retail sales surge 27% in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 8:** Total vehicle retail sales in India rose 27 per cent year-on-year to 22,06,070 units in April as all segments, including passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, witnessed growth, industry body FADA said Wednesday.

The overall vehicle registrations stood at 17,40,649 units in April 2023. Passenger vehicle retail sales rose 16 per cent to 3,35,123 units last month as compared to 2,89,056 units in the same month last year.

Similarly, two-wheeler registrations increased 33 per cent to 16,43,510 units in April against 12,33,763 units in the same month



Commercial vehicle retail witnessed a 2 per cent year-on-year jump to 90,707 units in April. Three-wheeler sales rose 9 per cent year-on-year to 80,105 units while tractors witnessed growth of 1 per cent at 56,625 units in April.

"While some attribute this growth to the shift in Navratri to April instead of March last year, the overall increase was significant," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj

**Positive market sentiments, bolstered by stable fuel prices, a favourable monsoon outlook, festive demand and the marriage season, contributed to the increase in sales**

**MANISH RAJ SINGHANIA** | PRESIDENT, FADA

growth to the shift in Navratri to April instead of March last year, the overall increase was significant," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj

## Union Bank inaugurates renovated premises of Cescopower house branch

**Bhubaneswar:** Union Bank of India renovated premises of Cescopower house branch was inaugurated May 8 by Arvind Singh, Chief Executive Officer, TDCODL in the presence of Sarvesh Ranjan, general manager and zonal head, Bhubaneswar zone, Niranjana Barik, deputy general manager and regional head, Bhubaneswar region, Ashok Mishra, assistant general manager and deputy regional head, Bhubaneswar region and Jeetendra Kumar Samal, assistant general manager and deputy regional head, Bhubaneswar region. On this occasion, staffs and officials from TDCODL, branch head of Cescopower house branch Bishnupriya Nayak, officials from regional office, local branch heads along with valuable customers were present to grace the event. The branch also opened 50 new accounts.



# India now world's 3rd largest solar power generator

**INDIA RANKED NINTH IN SOLAR ENERGY DEPLOYMENT IN 2015**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 8:** Rapid solar energy deployment in India pushed the country past Japan to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023, according to a new report.

The report by global energy think tank Ember said India ranked ninth in solar energy deployment in 2015.

Solar produced a record 5.5 per cent of global electricity in

2023. In line with the global trend, India generated 5.8 per cent of its electricity from solar last year, as reported in Ember's "Global Electricity Review".

India saw the world's fourth-largest increase in solar generation in 2023 (+18 terawatt hour or TWh), behind China (+156 TWh), the United States (+33 TWh) and Brazil (+22 TWh). Together, the top four solar growth countries accounted for 75 per cent of growth in 2023.

Ember said the global solar generation in 2023 was more than six times larger than in 2015.

Solar's contribution to electricity generation in India increased from 0.5 per cent in 2015 to 5.8 per cent in 2023.

According to the International



**Increasing clean electricity is not just for reducing carbon emissions in the power sector. It is also needed to meet the rising electricity demand in an increasingly-electrified economy and to decouple economic growth from emissions, which is crucial for tackling climate change**

**ADITYA LOLLA** | ASIA PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, EMBER

**Solar produced a record 5.5% of global electricity in 2023**

Energy Agency's (IEA) "Net Zero Emissions" scenario, solar would increase to 22 per cent of global electricity generation by 2030.

With electricity generation accounting for nearly half of India's annual carbon dioxide emissions (1.18 gigatonne in 2023), accelerating the transition to cleaner generation sources is imperative for the country to meet both its developmental and climate goals.

As part of its national plan to fight climate change, India has committed to achieving 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fos-

sil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

At the United Nations' COP28 climate change conference in December last year, world leaders arrived at a historic agreement to triple the global renewable energy capacity by 2030.

The IEA says tripling the global RE capacity and doubling energy efficiency are crucial to limiting the average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a political target set in 2015 to prevent further worsening of climate impacts.

India is one of the few countries planning to triple renewable capacity by 2030. According to Ember's analysis, annual capacity additions need to significantly increase for India to meet this capacity target.

# DORTMUND END PARISIANS' LONDON DREAMS

## Mbappe trudges off after aspirations of CL title with PSG ends

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 8: Kylian Mbappe leaned forward with his head bowed and hands on his thighs. Another Champions League dream with Paris Saint-Germain was over, ruined by the ruthless efficiency of a Borussia Dortmund team that stopped him scoring in both legs of their Champions League semifinal and recorded a 1-0 win in each. PSG coach Luis Enrique consoled Mbappe, and then his star striker trudged off the field and toward a new destination next season.

PSG didn't address questions about his future. Most observers expect his next club to be Real Madrid, which leads PSG 14-0 in European Cup trophies and could add a 15th should it get past Bayern Munich Wednesday in the other semifinal.

Madrid has tried to lure Mbappe before. In 2021, PSG turned down a bid of 180 million euros (USD 194 million) from Madrid for the 2018 World Cup-winning forward, who went on to sign a new contract with PSG — on which he didn't take up the option for an extra year. Earlier this year he told PSG he's leaving at the end of the season.

Seven years ago, he joined amid huge hype as the best young player in France and maybe the world. PSG paid a fee of 170 million euros (USD 183 million) when Mbappe joined from Monaco in the summer of 2017 along with Neymar, who cost a world record 222 million (USD 239 million).

Others once on the list of PSG stars included Zlatan Ibrahimovic (156 goals for the club), Edinson Cavani (200 goals for PSG) and Lionel Messi (the men's record eighth-time Ballon d'Or winner). None could win the Champions League with PSG, despite huge investment and massive wages.

**“We always want to win at PSG, we feel sad. I tried to help my team the best I could. It wasn't enough. When you're talking about efficiency at both ends, I think I'm the first in question. I'm the one who should score the goals and make the difference. I have no problem with that, the first person who should have scored tonight is me”**

KYLIAN MBAPPE



**NIGHT TO REMEMBER:** Mats Hummels (C) roars in delight after scoring the goal against PSG in Paris, Tuesday

Dortmund are on course for their second Champions League trophy after winning in 1997 and a third European trophy, having won the now defunct UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1966. Dortmund also reached the CL final in 2013, losing to Bayern.

For PSG, it's another season ending without raising the trophy its owners have chased after by spending huge amounts on players like Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Neymar, Lionel Messi and Mbappe. PSG lost its only CL

final in 2020 to Bayern. As Dortmund's players celebrated, Mbappe looked dejected as he trudged for the last time in a CL game wearing a PSG jersey. He is widely expected to join Real Madrid.

Moments before Dortmund's goal, Zaire-Emery somehow hit the post from two meters out after Goncalo Ramos flicked on Mbappe's cross from the left.

On Hummels' goal, PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma again did not move off his line

to claim the ball, having not done so when Barcelona scored on a corner from the left.

Coach Luis Enrique's players seemed nervous, playing cautiously and defending too deeply in the first half, allowing Dortmund to settle into a comfortable rhythm. Mbappe was ineffective in attack when PSG lost the first leg and, despite their speed, Mbappe and Ousmane Dembele struggled to find space behind a well-organised Dortmund defence.

PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi pointed to the amount of times PSG hit the post or crossbar over both legs. But in reality PSG again fell short, despite boasting one of the world's best players in Mbappe.

**“Efficiency, that's what we were missing. We should have defended better. They scored from a corner and a counter-attack (in the first leg). We created more chances but they won both games”**

MARQUINHOS / CAPTAIN, PSG



**EXPRESSION SAYS IT ALL:** PSG players wear dejected looks after their loss

## 'Tweet' revenge exacted

Borussia Dortmund have used PSG's social media post from four years ago to mock the French club after knocking them out of the Champions League at the semifinals stage. After confirming their place in the final, Dortmund evidently hadn't forgotten PSG's tweet after the round of 16 clash between the two sides in 2020. In that tie Dortmund won 2-1 in the first leg but PSG won 2-0 in the second leg in Paris to prevail with a 3-2 aggregate victory. Following PSG's win in 2020 they posted a tweet which included the caption 'and breathe' accompanied by a picture of the PSG squad including Kylian Mbappe mimicking Erling Haaland's famous meditation celebration. After their win Tuesday night, Dortmund had the last laugh as they quoted the tweet and posted: 'Tastes like fine wine'.



German club march into Champions League title clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 8: London's calling, but not for Kylian Mbappe. When Borussia Dortmund's players rushed over to their fans wearing yellow "London 24" T-shirts and joined in the celebrations after knocking out Paris Saint-Germain to reach the Champions League final Tuesday, Mbappe had long left the field.

Wembley Stadium June 1 is the final stop on Dortmund's quest for the Champions League trophy, by which time Mbappe will have played his last game for PSG having failed to win the trophy the club's cash-rich Qatari owners so crave.

Central defender Mats Hummels headed Dortmund into the final as the German team won 1-0 at PSG. Moments after Warren Zaire-Emery missed an open goal for the Parisians, Hummels rose unchallenged to head in Julian Brandt's corner from the left in the 50th minute.

Dortmund advanced 2-0 on aggregate and largely contained Mbappe, who is leaving at the end of the season. PSG exerted late pressure. Goalkeeper Gregor Kobel palmed away Mbappe's low shot, then pushed Mbappe's deflected close-range effort onto the crossbar with a superb one-handed save. The Parc des Princes crowd groaned when midfielder Vitinha's thumping 25-meter strike rattled the woodwork.

Coach Edin Terzic's team will play either record 14-time champions Real Madrid or six-time winners Bayern Munich June 1 at Wembley Stadium.

**“Indescribable. After more than 10 years, I am in the final with Borussia again. How we won the game, no one will ask tomorrow. Shots against the post won't matter tomorrow”**

MARCO REUS / MIDFIELDER, DORTMUND

## Neeraj to compete in India for first time in three years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: Olympic and World Champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will compete at home for the first time in three years after confirming participation in the National Federation Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from May 12 to 15.

The 26-year-old superstar is expected to travel to India from Doha after opening his season in the first leg of the prestigious Diamond League series May 10. "As per entries @Neeraj\_chopra and Kishore Kumar Jena will compete in domestic competition starting May 12 in Bhubaneswar," the Athletics Federation of India tweeted.

Chopra's coach Klaus Bartonietz also confirmed to PTI that his ward is taking part in the Bhubaneswar event. As per the schedule that came out Wednesday, the men's javelin qualifying round will be held May 14 and the final will take



place May 15.

The 28-year-old Kishore Jena, who won a silver in the Hangzhou Asian Games where Chopra won gold, will also be competing in the Doha Diamond League May 10. Chopra last took part in a domestic competition at the same event March 17, 2021, when he won a gold with a throw of 87.80m.

Since then, Chopra has won a historic gold in the Tokyo Olympics, became Diamond League champion in 2022, World Champion in 2023 and defended Asian Games gold in China. He also won three individual legs of Diamond League and claimed a silver in the 2022 World Championships.

## Head, Abhishek power SRH to commanding win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 8: The remorseless domination of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, who carved lightning fast fifties, helped Sunrisers Hyderabad mount the fastest chase of a 160-plus target en route their convincing 10-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL match here Wednesday.

Chasing a modest target of 166, Head (89 n o, 30b, 8x4, 8x6) and Sharma (75 n o, 28b, 8x4, 6x6) toyed with LSG bowlers, finding boundaries and sixes at will to canter home in just 9.4 overs.

The win propelled SRH to the third position in the standings with 14 points from 12 games, while LSG are struggling at the sixth spot with 12 points from the same number of matches.

The result also meant that five-time champions Mumbai Indians, currently ninth with eight points from 12 matches, are out of the playoff race. The Head and Sharma show came after SRH bowlers started bril-



Travis Head (L) & Abhishek Sharma

liantly before losing the plot a bit.

Ayush Badoni (55 n o, 30b, 9x4) and Nicholas Pooran (48 n o, 26b, 6x4, 1x6) stitched crucial 95-runs off 55 balls for the unbeaten fifth-wicket stand to guide LSG to a competitive 165/4 on a sluggish pitch.

But the Head and Sharma took any hint of competition out of the match once they bludgeoned 107 runs in the powerplay. It was an awesome hitting display from the Indo-

young Sanvir Singh, who took a stunning diving catch just inches from the ground at mid-on.

The pitch also didn't help LSG's cause as the ball was coming on to the bat a bit slow, as their batters found it difficult to find the timing. Skipper KL Rahul (29) struggle came to an end in the 10th over off Pat Cummins. Then Cummins' direct throw from mid-on sent Krunal Pandya (24) packing soon before Badoni and Pooran stitched together 99 runs taking LSG to what looked like a competitive total.

**BRIEF SCORES:** LSG 165/4 (Ayush Badoni 55 n o, Nicholas Pooran 48 n o; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2/12) lost to SRH 167/0 (Travis Head 89 n o, Abhishek Sharma 75 n o) by 10 wickets.

### MATCHDAY

Indian Premier League

PBKS vs RCB

Time: 07:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network

Stream: Jio Cinema

## MARADONA'S WC '86 GOLDEN BALL TROPHY TO BE AUCTIONED



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 8: Diego Maradona's Golden Ball trophy from the 1986 World Cup has resurfaced. The award, which had been missing for decades, will be auctioned in Paris next month, the Aguttes house said.

Maradona, who died in 2020 at age 60, was awarded the trophy for his scintillating play at the tournament, where he captained Argentina in their 3-2 win over West Germany in the final in Mexico City. The auction house said it expects the trophy "to fetch millions due to its uniqueness.

Maradona received the award — given to the tournament's best player — at a ceremony at the Lido cabaret on the Champs-Élysées in 1986. It subsequently disappeared, giving rise to rumors.

Some say it was lost during a wild poker game, or sold to pay off debts, Aguttes said. Others said Maradona had stored it in a safe in a Naples bank that was robbed by local gangsters in 1989, when he played in the Italian league. According to the story told by a reformed member of the mafia, the trophy was then melted down into gold pieces.

"A far-fetched theory, given that it was made of a gold-copper alloy," Aguttes said in its auction catalogue. Aguttes said the trophy reappeared in 2016 among other lots that were acquired from a private collection at auction in Paris. "It was thoroughly investigated and authenticated as Diego Maradona's Adidas Golden Ball trophy," Aguttes said. Bidders will be asked to make a deposit of 150,000 euros to participate in the June 6 auction.

## Fans now have a day to celebrate world's most popular sport, May 25

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations, May 8: Football fans around the world will now have a day to celebrate the world's most popular sport every year — May 25. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution Tuesday proclaiming May 25 as 'World Football Day'.

The day marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions which took place May 25, 1924 during the summer Olympic Games held in Paris, according to the resolution.

The 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus with a bang of the gavel by its president, Dennis Francis, to applause from diplomats in the assembly chamber. It was co-sponsored by more than 160 countries.

Libya's UN Ambassador Taher El-Sonni, who introduced the resolution, told the assembly, "Football or football as others call it is the number one game played and followed around the globe." But he stressed that football is more than just a game played by all ages on streets, in villages, schools and courtyards for fun and in competitions.

Because of its "unparalleled position" in the world of sports, El-Sonni said, "football serves as a universal language spoken across the globe, cutting across national, cultural and socio-economic barriers."



Libya's UN Ambassador Taher El-Sonni introduces the draft resolution on 'World Football Day' during the plenary meeting of the General Assembly

He said the game has become "a pivotal platform" championing gender equality and social inclusion, "a common ground where individuals from varying backgrounds converge, promoting mutual understanding, tolerance, respect and solidarity."

The resolution acknowledges "the global reach of football and its impact in various spheres, including commerce, peace and diplomacy, and recognizing that football creates a space for cooperation."

It also recognizes "the fundamental role" of football's international governing body, FIFA, and the important role of regional and national football federations, as well as relevant associations, in promoting the game.

The resolution encourages all countries to support football and other sports as a tool to promote peace, development and the empowerment of women and girls. And it also encourages countries to adopt policies and programs to promote football and other sports and physical activities.

The resolution, May 25, "invites" all nations, UN bodies, international organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector to observe World Football Day in line with national priorities "and to disseminate the advantages of football for all, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities.