



POOJA'S FLOPS

Pooja Hegde appears to be in a bad spot with *Radhe Shyam* in March and *Beast & Acharya* in April labeled as utter flops

LEISURE P2



MP QUILTS OVER PORN SAGA

UK MP Neil Parish resigns after admitting that he twice viewed pornography on his phone in the Parliament

INTERNATIONAL P10



SINDHU BAGS BRONZE

PV Sindhu ends her BAC campaign with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi

SPORTS P12

Xiaomi India's ₹5,551cr seized for FEMA violation

New Delhi: Funds worth over ₹5,551 crore of Chinese mobile manufacturing company Xiaomi India have been 'seized' for violating the Indian foreign exchange law, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Saturday. The action has been taken against Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited. The company (also called Xiaomi India) is a trader and distributor of mobile phones in the country under the brand name of MI. "Xiaomi India is wholly owned subsidiary of China-based Xiaomi group. This amount of ₹5,551.27 crore lying in the bank accounts of the company has been seized by the Enforcement Directorate," the agency said in a statement. **More P11**

No coal crisis at power plants: Chief Secy

Bhubaneswar: Amid energy crisis in several states due to coal shortage, the Odisha government Saturday clarified there is no shortage of coal at any power plant in state. Speaking to reporters here, state Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said there is no coal crisis in Odisha unlike other states where power supply is being cut down for 10 to 12 hours per day due to its shortage. "We have coal mines in state. I have instructed Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) to ensure supply of adequate quantity of coal to all power plants in state," he said. **MORE P4**

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GOVT BIGGEST LITIGANT: CJI

CJI NV Ramana dubs the judge-to-population ratio of 20:10 lakh 'very alarming' while highlighting pendency of cases



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana Saturday termed governments as the "biggest litigants", accounting for nearly 50 per cent of pending cases, and said the "docket explosion" is due to non-performance of various wings of the executive and the legislature not realising its full potential. While dealing with the reasons for docket explosion, the CJI referred to growing number of con-

Classes from 6 to 9am

Bhubaneswar, April 30: In view of the prevailing heatwave conditions, the state government has curtailed the teaching hours which will come into effect from May 2, when the schools will reopen after a five-day suspension of classes. Notably, the state government had suspended classes of all schools including the private schools from April 26 to April 30, 2022. As May 1 is Sunday, the schools will reopen May 2. However, the government has rescheduled the teaching timings in schools. School and Mass Education

SCHOOLS TO REOPEN MONDAY

(S&ME) department additional secretary Pratap Kumar Mishra has written to Odisha School Education Programme Authority, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, directorate of higher secondary education, secondary education & elementary education, Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) and Board of Secondary Education (BSE) to this effect, Saturday. "Government, after careful consideration, has been pleased to reschedule the timing of teaching hours in all schools from 6am to 9am w.e.f. May 2, 2022," Mishra said. However, the examinations al-

lack of infrastructure in courts. Reminding the State's three organs - executive, legislature and judiciary - to be "mindful of the 'Lakshman Rekha' while discharging their duties", he assured governments that "the judiciary would never come in the way of governance, if it is in accordance with law". Dwelling further, he said all constitutional functionaries abide by the constitutional mandate as the Constitution provides for separation of powers between the three organs. "It is a well acknowledged fact that governments are the biggest litigants, accounting for nearly 50 per cent of the cases," the CJI said. He said that as on today, out of 1,104 sanctioned posts of high court judges, there are 388 vacancies. He said in 2016, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers in the country was 20,811 and now, it is 24,112, which is an increase of 16% in six years. "In the corresponding period, pendency in district courts has gone up from 2.65 crore to 4.11 crore. This data shows how inadequate the increase in the sanctioned strength is," he said and termed the judge-to-population ratio of 20 judges per 10 lakh as "very alarming".

FITNESS TEST



WOMAN POWER: Women participate in a tug of war competition during Spring Festival at Dhalpur Gindia, Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Man kills wife over family feud

Bhubaneswar, April 30: With the state witnessing rising incidents of murders recently, the Capital city Saturday woke up to brutal killing of a woman by her husband over family dispute at Basuaghai village under Sahid Nagar police limits. The accused, identified as Soubhagya Ranjan Das, has been arrested. Soubhagya, who hails from Banki area in Cuttack, had tied knot with Lili Das of Dasapalla in Nayagarh district in 2017 after his first wife left him. The couple has a 4-year-old daughter out of the wedlock. Soubhagya works for a non-government organisation. Police sources claimed that a mentally unstable Soubhagya used to engage in fights with his family members. He used to beat up his father, younger brother and his wife. Soubhagya's first wife has allegedly left him as she failed to reconcile with the eccentric and violent behaviour of the accused. The accused's younger brother has also been staying apart in a nearby



Police and scientific team personnel at the spot for investigation. OP PHOTO

house in Tankapani Road area here. On Friday evening, the accused allegedly started quarrelling with his father and wife. He also allegedly beat up his father, who later left for his younger son's house. "My son, who is suffering from mental illness, used to get violent and beat the family members including me and my wife. He would behave normally for some days after we pacify him but would again turn violent. On Friday evening, I escaped from him after some locals' intervention," said his father. "I came to know about the death of my daughter-in-law Saturday morning," he further said. Police reached the spot and sent the body to Capital Hospital for an autopsy. A case (191/22) has been registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Lili's parents. The accused is likely to be produced before the court Sunday after medical examination. Sources revealed that Lili has no external injuries barring one on the neck.

HOLIDAY NOTICE
The offices of **Orissa POST** will remain closed May 1 (Sunday) on account of 'May Day'. Thus, there will be no edition of the paper May 2 (Monday)
—EDITOR

DEOGARH MLA ATTACKS BDO

Deogarh, April 30: Local MLA Subash Chandra Panigrahi of BJP along with his supporters allegedly attacked Tileibani BDO Krushna Chandra Dalapati, Saturday. It was also alleged that the lawmaker attempted to murder Dalapati. The BDO lodged a police complaint against Panigrahi following which an investigation began. On the other hand, the MLA also accused the BDO of threatening him with life and abusing him. Dalapati said he along with officials had gone to Chhelipali panchayat in connection with a field enquiry when the MLA along with his 10 supporters attacked and abused him. **P5**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Sound is well within the limit but remove it immediately. It is making noise about rising prices

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	37.8°C	36.8°C
	MIN	27.4°C	26.8°C
Humidity		77%	77%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
	Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

Hottest April for NW, central India in 122 yrs

SCORCHING SUMMER

- The average temperatures observed pan-India for April was 35.05 degrees, which was the fourth highest in 122 years
- Nights would be warmer in May in most parts of the country, except some regions of south peninsular India
- Parts of northwest and northeast India as well as the extreme southeast Peninsula are expected to get below normal rainfall in May

New Delhi, April 30: Northwest and central India experienced their hottest April in 122 years with average maximum temperatures reaching 35.9 and 37.78 degrees Celsius respectively, the weather office said Saturday. Addressing a press conference, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said northwest and west central parts of the country - Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana - will continue to experience above normal temperatures in May as well. Nights would be warmer in May in most parts of the country, except some regions of south peninsular India, Mohapatra said. The average temperatures observed pan-India for April was 35.05 degrees, which was the fourth highest in 122 years, he said. "The average rainfall in May 2022 over the country is most likely to be above normal," Mohapatra said.



However, parts of northwest and northeast India as well as the extreme southeast Peninsula are expected to get below normal rainfall in May, he said. "The normal to above normal rainfall

is likely over most parts of India, except some parts of northwest India and some parts of northeast India as well as extreme southeast Peninsula where it is likely to be below normal," Mohapatra added. The high temperatures in March and April were attributed to 'continuously scanty rainfall activity', he said. In March, northwest India recorded a deficit in rainfall of around 89 per cent, while the deficit was nearly 83 per cent in April, mainly on account of feeble and dry western disturbances, Mohapatra said. North India witnessed six western disturbances but they were mostly feeble and moved across the higher parts of the Himalayas, he said, adding the last three western disturbances caused strong winds in parts of Delhi and dust storms over Rajasthan in April. India, particularly northwest and western parts of the country, has been reeling under intense heatwave conditions for the past few weeks.

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BATWOMAN WON'T BE RENEWED FOR FOURTH SEASON

The fourth season of the American superhero series *Batwoman* developed by Caroline Dries will not see the light of day as the production of the series has been called off after three seasons, reports *Variety*.

DIRECTOR JON WATTS EXITS FANTASTIC FOUR REBOOT, STEPS AWAY FROM SUPERHERO FILMS

Director Jon Watts, who has directed all three of Marvel Studios' *Spider-Man* movies with Tom Holland and Zendaya, including the \$1.9 billion dollar-grossing *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, is no longer associated with the reboot of *Fantastic Four* as he wanted to step away from superhero filmmaking.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you will show every one what you're capable of. You are likely to come up with great ideas and work strategies, which will prove productive. However, if appreciation doesn't come your way, Ganesh says you must learn to take disappointment in your stride.

TAURUS
You will be feeling listless, lazy and out of sorts today, and will tend to ignore and neglect important tasks scheduled for the day. Ganesh urges you to guard against this tendency as you could miss out on opportunities that others could then benefit from.

GEMINI
A crucial social event at home is on the anvil, and it will demand most of your attention. Intense business negotiations, which were going on for a long time, will come to a logical conclusion. The results are likely to be stacked in your favour.

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

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

VIRGO
Expenses will mount uncontrollably today, and they will be mostly wasteful in nature. However, positive energies are gathering momentum, and Ganesh says you would do well in making full use of them, both in your personal and professional spheres.

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

SCORPIO
The day does not begin on a very good note as you seem to be in a belligerent mood. Be calm and patient as your hot temper may spoil a good deal. Limit your conversations and discussions with colleagues and friends, advises Ganesh. Practising meditation and yoga will bring you some respite towards the end of the day.

SAGITTARIUS
No pains, no gains. So, when you go through a lot of turmoil and toil hard for your work, the rewards are definitely going to be fruitful, says Ganesh. Time for get together and soiree with family and friends! In a nutshell, a day with lot of fun activities.

CAPRICORN
Your hands are full with plenty of projects and assignments. Finish them off as soon as you can and spend rest of the day refreshing your mind. Communicating with people of all walks of life will make you enhance your horizon of knowledge, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Be sure of your strengths and decisions, and Ganesh guarantees you success. You don't care what others think about you, but don't be so indifferent that you ignore their choices, preferences and comforts completely.

PISCES
Ganesh warns that your expenses could be twice as much as your income or profit. You need to be more careful in money matters. It is not an auspicious day for any new work, new deal or any new beginnings. Ganesh indicates that things will look up after two days or so.

A hat-trick of flops for Pooja

Hyderabad: Pooja Hegde, one of the most popular heroines in the south, had a string of hits just a year ago, but now finds herself in the opposite situation.

Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava, *Maharshi*, *Ala Vaikunthapuramulo*, and *Most Eligible Bachelor* were all considered hits for actress Pooja Hegde prior to a string of flops.

Pooja appears to be in a bad spot all of a sudden, with *Radhe Shyam* in March and *Beast and Acharya* in April labeled as utter flops. Three bad films in less than three months for a star actress indicates an impending downfall that must be addressed as soon as possible.

Pooja Hegde will be seen in a special dance number in Anil Ravipudi's next film, *F3*, starring

Venkatesh, Varun Tej, Tamannah, Mehreen, and others.

Pooja Hegde has a couple of biggies in her possession, which may help her get out of these sticky situations as well.

After a hat-trick of flops, Mahesh Babu will star in *SSMB28*, directed by Trivikram Srinivas, alongside Pooja. She will also appear in *Bhavadeyudu Bhagat Singh* alongside Pawan Kalyan, under Harish Shankar's direction.

The actress is also a part of several big-budget films in Hindi and she is keen on a strong comeback soon. IANS



Fatima thrilled with response to Modern Love

Mumbai: Ajeeb Daastaans' actress Fatima Sana Shaikh has portrayed a very cool and funky girl in the anthology *Modern Love*. The actress is happy with the responses she is getting post the release of the trailers of the anthology and upcoming movie, *Thar*.

She says: "The response that has been coming my way after the trailer release of both *Modern Love* and *Thar* is sweet and encouraging."

"My character in *Modern Love* is something I have attempted for the very first time and this anthology is very close to my heart. Had a lot of fun shooting for both and can't wait to see the response from the audience now," she adds.

Other than *Modern Love*, Fatima Sana Shaikh will be seen in *Thar* and *Sam Bahadur*. IANS



Priyanka calls Vir Das brave, inspiring

Los Angeles: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas and her friends attended Vir Das' stand up show in Los Angeles Friday. The *Bajirao Mastani* actress took to her Instagram handle to share a series of pictures from the show.

Sharing the pictures, Priyanka wrote "What a day! With Awesome friends watching an awesome friend do what he does best! @virdas you r so brave and so inspiring to me! Not to mention had me in tears laughing!! Thx for having us! Also love having u in La @pearlthusi come back soon! @cavanaughjames r u finally moving too? Love u too

@divya_jyoti." Vir replied to her post and wrote, "Thank you for coming! Thank you for opening all the doors for the rest of us. And thank you for always being awesome and cool and funny! I admire you so much."

Meanwhile, Vir will be performing at the 40th anniversary of the *Just For Laughs* festival in Montreal July 28.

On work front, Priyanka Chopra will be soon be seen alongside Sam Heughan in *It's All Coming Back To Me*. The film has been slated for release February 10, 2023. agencies



Singer Tarsame Singh Saini aka Taz of Stereo Nation passes away



Mumbai: Playback singer Tarsame Singh Saini, known by his professional name Taz passed away due to liver failure at the age of 54.

He is known to be the voice behind churbuster tracks like *Nachenge Saari Raat*, *Daroo Vich Pyar*, *Pyar Ho Gaya* and *Gallan Gorian* when indie pop was at its prime.

The singer was earlier in a coma due to liver complications; the official page of his band Stereo Nation shared an update about improvement in his health last month. They had tweeted, "Dear All, Taz Sir is no longer in a coma, He's showing improvements

every day. The family has thanked everyone for their support and prayers during this difficult time. When there is more positive news, the family will let us all know. Thanks again for your positive thoughts."

Taz shot to fame with the 1989 album, *Hit The Deck* and was known for creating the Asian fusion music. Several prominent music personalities took to their social media to share condolences for the departed soul.

Composer Amaal Mallik shared his condolences on Twitter: "RIP you legend #TazStereoNation." IANS

PEANUTS



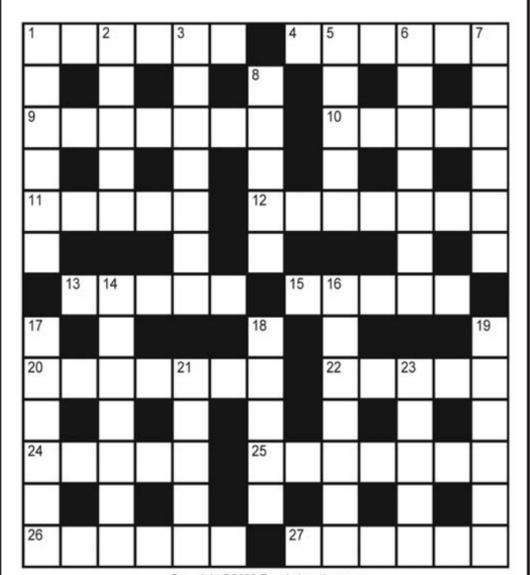
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



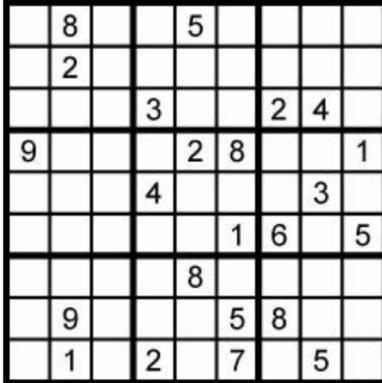
FUN post CROSSWORD



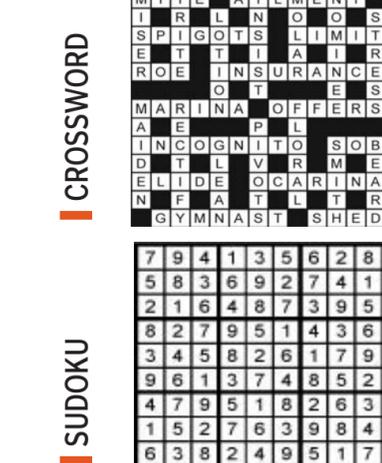
- Across**
- 1 Make clean
 - 4 Clippers
 - 9 Cooking utensil
 - 10 Concur
 - 11 Restaurant patron
 - 12 Slender
 - 13 Monster
 - 15 Work, as dough
 - 20 Olympic event (3,4)
 - 22 Release
 - 24 Battery part
 - 25 Aboveboard
 - 26 Fears
 - 27 Phrase structure
 - 6 Sainly glow
 - 7 Sound system
 - 8 Water sources
 - 14 TV installment
 - 16 Risqué
 - 17 Crete, e.g.
 - 18 Ski starter
 - 19 Type of action
 - 21 Turn topsy-turvy
 - 23 Unspoken

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



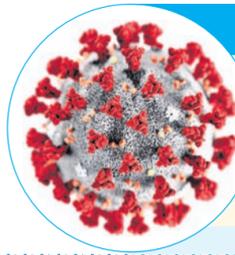
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



MOCK DRILL

Singhadwar police in Puri Saturday conducted a mock drill to rescue devotees during any untoward incident near Srimandir



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	51,29,89,831	46,68,68,247	62,59,720
India	4,30,75,864	4,25,33,377	5,23,803
Odisha	12,88,046	12,78,789	9,124

Send proposal for HC benches after consulting the court: Centre to state



The state government will have to submit a proposal after obtaining the consent of the High Court which has the responsibility of the day-to-day administration of the principal seat of the HC and its benches

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The Centre has apparently lobbied the ball into the state government's court for the establishment of benches of Orissa High Court in western and southern Odisha. Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju has recently replied to a letter of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, written in September, 2018 to then Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar

Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju has recently replied to a letter of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, written in September, 2018 to then Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, on the issue of setting up of Orissa HC benches in western and southern parts of the state

In his letter, Rijiju urged Naveen to have necessary consultations with the Chief Justice of Orissa HC and work out the details including provision of land, building for court, and residential accommodation for judges and staff of the proposed benches

Prasad, on the issue of setting up of Orissa HC benches in western and southern parts of the state.

In his letter, Rijiju urged Naveen to have necessary consultations with the Chief Justice of Orissa HC and work out the details including provision of land, building for court, and residential accommodation for judges and staff of the proposed benches.

"Once the state government communicates the proposal along with the consent of the High Court, the Union government would take further necessary action," Rijiju said in his letter.

The Union Law Minister said that proposals for setting up of a bench of a High Court is to be made in line with recommendations given by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Supreme Court on WPC) No. 379 of 2000.

The state government will have to submit the proposal after obtaining the consent of the concerned High Court which has the responsibility of the day-to-day

administration of the principal seat of the High Court and its benches, he pointed out.

Further, Rijiju made it clear that the state government will have to provide infrastructure and meet other expenditure for establishment of the benches.

In his letter to the Union Law Minister in 2018, Patnaik had assured that his government would provide adequate resources for the establishment of the HC benches.

The Parliament has the prerogative to establish such benches in exercise of its power under Entry-78 of the Union List. So, the final call will be taken by the Centre.

Earlier, the Union Law Minister had stated in the Parliament that the state government is yet to submit a complete proposal for setting up of benches of Orissa HC in western and southern Odisha.

CONVOCATION CEREMONY



Orissa High Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo, Vice Chancellor Sabita Acharya and recipients of degrees at the 51st convocation ceremony of Utkal University in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Srimandir admin all set to hold Chandan Yatra State records season's highest temperature of 45.5° Celsius

THE SUMMER FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE ON THE OCCASION OF AKSHAYA TRITIYA MAY 3

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, April 30: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the Puri district administration are all set to organise the Chandan Yatra of Srimandir presiding deities at Narendra pond here.

The summer festival is scheduled to commence on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya May 3.

The SJTA and the district administration are leaving no stone unturned for the smooth organisation of the 21-day boat festival. The temple administration Saturday held a meeting to take stock of the preparation for this year's Chandan Yatra.

The summer festival of Lord Jagannath and his siblings would be organised smoothly with the cooperation of Srimandir servants and temple officials, said Puri Collector Samarth Verma after chairing the preparatory meeting.

The Chandan Yatra also marks the beginning of construction of



Preparations for the Chandan Yatra festival at Narendra pond in Puri

As per the tradition, the idols of Madan Mohan, Ramakrushna, Bhudevi and Shree Devi are taken to Narendra pond from Srimandir in a grand procession every day for performance of the rituals of Chandan Yatra. The deities are placed on well-decorated rafts for a ride in the pond as part of the festival

Raths (Chariots) for the annual Rath Yatra, scheduled to take place

The Chandan Yatra also marks the beginning of construction of Raths (Chariots) for the annual Rath Yatra, scheduled to take place July 1 this year. For the last two years, no devotees were allowed to attend the festival in view of the Covid-19 pandemic

July 1 this year. For the last two years, no devotees were allowed

to attend the festival in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. Only a limited number of servitors were allowed to conduct the festival at Narendra pond during the second wave of the pandemic last year.

In normal times, thousands of devotees usually gather at Narendra pond to witness the summer festival of Srimandir deities. Now after a gap of two years, the district administration has decided to allow the devotees to witness the Chandan Yatra.

As per the tradition, the idols of Madan Mohan, Ramakrushna, Bhudevi and Shree Devi are taken to Narendra pond from Srimandir in a grand procession every day for performance of the rituals of Chandan Yatra. The deities are placed on well-decorated rafts for a ride in the pond as part of the festival.

The temple administration, meanwhile, has made all arrangements to start the construction of chariots for the annual Rath Yatra.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The mercury touched the highest of the season in Odisha for the third successive day Saturday, breaching 45 degrees Celsius in three towns amid a searing heatwave and fierce humidity that rippled across the state, the Met office said.

However, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty surface winds that can reach 40-50 kmph are expected in many districts across the state over the next four days, the Met said. The temperature can decrease by around 2-3 degrees Celsius during the subsequent three days.

Twenty-one weather stations saw the maximum temperature crossing 40 degrees Celsius, and the mercury rose by 1-3 degrees Celsius in interior Odisha. People sweltered in the hot weather as the humidity levels were above 75 per cent in many places, it said.



The heatwave scorched Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Boudh, Bolangir, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Deogarh and Angul districts, according to the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre. Bolangir boiled in the scorching sun as the mercury soared to 45 degrees Celsius in the district headquarters town and 45.5 at Titilagarh, the highest in the state.

Nine weather stations recorded 44 degrees Celsius or more, with Boudh town also logging 45 degrees Celsius. The temperature shot up to four notches above average to settle at 44.9 degrees Celsius in Jharsuguda. The mercury dropped

Cyclonic storm can't be ruled out: IMD

Bhubaneswar: A low pressure area is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and its neighbourhood around May 6 and it is likely to become more marked during subsequent 24 hours. It cannot be ruled out that the system will not convert into a cyclonic storm, said Director General of IMD Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Saturday. However, we will get the clear picture after the formation of the low pressure area, he added. The system may convert into a cyclone. In extreme cases, it may become a severe cyclone and its wind speed will remain below 100 kmph, said former director of Bhubaneswar Met Centre, Sarat Sahu. The probability is high that the cyclone may hit the coast somewhere in Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara district of Odisha, he added.

to 37.8 in the capital and 36.8 in Cuttack, the weather office said.

Cleanliness brand ambassadors feted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday felicitated celebrities from cinema, art and sports for raising awareness and civic engagement for 360 degree sanitation services in the city.

Padma Vibhushan sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo, Olympian sprinter Anuradha Biswal, and Odia film actors Sabyasachi Mishra and Archita Sahu were felicitated for their contribution in creating awareness on proper sanitation.

These personalities acted as the brand ambassadors for raising sanitation awareness among the residents of the capital city, said Mayor Sulochana Das.

"We give utmost importance to sanitation in the city here. The 'Mu Safaiwala' campaign is gaining popularity. Several initiatives have been introduced under the Swachh Bharat Mission to keep the city clean," she added.

The civic body also handed over cesspool vehicle to Bulu Kumar Diggel, an urban poor, as part of the central scheme of Swachhata Udyami Yojna.

World Veterinary Day-2022

Threefold rise in milk output in last 2 decades: Sahoo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The state government has introduced several measures for the development of livestock and animal husbandry sector which has been identified as one of the growth engines for farmers, women self-help groups and entrepreneurs in Odisha, said Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo here Saturday.

Sahoo was speaking at the state-level celebration of World Veterinary Day-2022. Every year, the World Veterinary Day is observed on the last Saturday of April and this year it has been observed with the theme 'Strengthening Veterinary Resilience'.

The state-level celebration was organised at Krushi Bhawan here and the officials and participants from various districts attended the event through virtual mode.

As many as 541 veterinary hospitals/dispensaries and 3,239 livestock aid centres are providing animal healthcare, breeding and

Milk production in Odisha has gone up from 8.75 lakh tonnes in 2000 to over 23.73 lakh tonnes in 2021

Meat production has increased around six-fold during the last 20 years from 38.38 thousand tonnes in 2000 to 213.09 thousand tonnes in 2021

Egg production during this period has increased around threefold from 7301.04 lakh eggs in 2000 to 24242.67 lakh eggs in 2021

advisory services to livestock farmers, entrepreneurs and pet owners of the state, Sahoo said.

"Doorstep livestock healthcare services are being provided by 314 mobile veterinary units across the state. In order to undertake testing of blood, urine and other samples for diagnosis of animal diseases, laboratories are set up at state, regional and district levels," he added.

Milk production in Odisha has gone up around threefold during the



last two decades from 8.75 lakh tonnes in 2000 to over 23.73 lakh tonnes in 2021.

Similarly, meat production has increased around six-fold during the last 20 years from 38.38 thousand tonnes in 2000 to 213.09 thousand

tonnes in 2021, claimed Sahoo.

"Egg production during this period has increased around threefold from 7301.04 lakh eggs in 2000 to 24242.67 lakh eggs in 2021," he added. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra

highlighted the contributions of hundreds of veterinarians, para vets and support staff in the development of animal healthcare, animal welfare and animal husbandry activities in the state.

"The state government has

launched numerous entrepreneurial schemes in the allied sector wherein subsidies are being provided for setting up of new commercial and semi commercial broiler, layer and goat rearing units," he said.

Fisheries & Animal Resources Development department Principal Secretary R Raghu Prasad emphasised that genetic improvement of cattle breeds through artificial insemination and vaccination programmes are being taken up in a mission mode in the state. "Sex sorted semen has been made available at livestock aid centres for artificial insemination of cows wherein up to 90 per cent female calves will be born. This which would enhance milk production in state," he said.

On the occasion, progressive farmers and women self-help groups were felicitated for their achievement in animal husbandry activities. Similarly, the best performing veterinarians and para veterinarians were felicitated for their achievement in veterinary service delivery.

STF nabs brothers with 107kg ganja

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Two brothers were arrested with 107 kg ganja in Ganjam district, police said Saturday. The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police arrested the duo from Raghunathshahi village in Buguda police station area, sources said.

The arrested have been identified as Banamali Pradhan and Arun Pradhan, who happen to be brothers.

Ganja weighing 107 kg, 517 gm opium, 607 gm gold, 196 gm silver, an SUV and 29 parcels of land were seized from their possession, police said. A case was filed and further investigation is underway, an official said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the STF raided the village late Friday night leading to the huge seizure and arrest.

"As the accused brother duo could not produce any valid document in support of possessing the cannabis and opium, they were arrested and forwarded to a local court earlier Saturday," the official added. A case under the NDPS Act, 1985 has been registered in this connection and police have launched a detailed probe.

STF has seized more than 50 kilograms of brown sugar and heroin, 202 grams of cocaine, over 93 quintals of cannabis, 750 grams of opium, and arrested 141 drug peddlers since 2020.

SOA, AICTE hold meet on 'Universal Human Values'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: A three-day regional conference on 'Universal Human Values', organised in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), began at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here, Friday.

More than sixty participants from different Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of the eastern region are attending the conference.

SOA VC Ashok Kumar Mahapatra presided over the inaugural function held at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) - the university's faculty of engineering and technology. He said the life of a person devoid of human value was of little consequence. The New Education Policy (NEP) was focused on inculcating moral values in students, he added.

The AICTE is attaching a lot of importance to inculcation of moral values in students pursuing technical courses, for which such conferences are being held to train around 10,000 teachers of technical institutions, AICTE Regional Officer of Eastern Region B Goshwami said in his virtual address.

Workshop by SLBC on water and sanitation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: For the first time in Odisha, a state level workshop for banks was organised by the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) along with Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM), UNICEF and Water.org here, Friday.

The workshop was held with an objective to motivate banks operating in state to extend values towards households struggling for water and sanitation. The event also gave details on present status of water and sanitation in Odisha by UNICEF.

UCO Bank GM and SLBC convener Aruppananda Jena welcomed the participants representing public sector banks, private sector banks, RRB, SFB, cooperative banks, lead district managers and OLM staff.

NABARD CGM C Uday Bhaskar said that banks can explore alternate models like using their BC channel, loan to MFIs for further deployment of WASH. There is also a dedicated refinancing schemes for WASH to banks, NBFCs from NABARD.

No coal crunch at state power plants: CS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Amid power supply crisis in several states due to coal shortage, the Odisha government Saturday said there is no shortage of coal at any power plant in state.

Speaking to reporters here, state Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said there is no coal crisis in Odisha unlike other states where power supply is being cut down for 10 to 12 hours per day due to its shortage.

"We have coal mines in state. I have instructed Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) to ensure supply of adequate quantity of coal to all power plants in state," he said.

Though there is no coal crisis in state, Odisha is facing a power crisis due to an outage of an NTPC unit and increase in demand in view of

severe heat wave conditions, official sources said.

The sudden outage in an 800-megawatt (MW) capacity unit at NTPC's Darlipali plant in Sundargarh district has led to the power crisis in the state as it used to get 400MW from the unit



The energy department has requested the power consumers to regulate their AC load, flexible industrial load and agricultural load during the peak hours for next few days to maintain stable power supply

Besides, the peak power demand has gone up by almost 10 per cent due to the hot weather conditions

Now, the state's peak hour power demand (from 7pm till 11pm) has been estimated at 4,000 to 4,400MW and there is a shortfall of 450MW

severe heat wave conditions, official sources said.

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BJEM launches its 1st Atal Lab

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: In order to inculcate scientific temperament in young learners, the BJEM School here opened its first Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL), Saturday.



Minister for Science and Technology for Odisha Ashok Chandra Panda, the Chief Guest for the event, inaugurated the lab in presence of other dignitaries. Welcoming the guests, BJEM Vice-Principal Pallabi Mohapatra said that the initiative aims at encouraging students to inculcate an experiential learning environment and empowering the educators to design creative ways to nurture the budding scientists.

"The school is truly making all sincere efforts to create and push innovators towards a skilled nation. The lab will facilitate students harness scientific knowledge and skills with hands-on activities," said Pratap Kumar Jena, Manager, SMC.

A science exhibition project competition was held in which students from six different schools displayed their models. All the models were innovative and futuristic in nature. In the valedictory function, prizes were given away to the winners from BJEMS-II, DAV Unit-8 & BJEM School in the presence of guests and dignitaries.

Stand depends on candidate: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday hinted that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) would clear its stand on presidential election after the announcement of nominees looking at the candidate.

Speaking to national media on the sidelines of the joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices here, the Odisha Chief Minister said that his party's stand would be based on who the candidate is. "Let's see who the candidate is, that is more important," Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister also remained guarded on the possibil-

PRESIDENTIAL POLL



ity of a third front and said that his party prefers its independence over any political formation.

"We have always preferred our independence and the matter of the presidential candidate hasn't

come up for discussion," he said to national media.

In 2017 presidential polls, the BJD had supported NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind.

Significantly, the President of India is elected by an electoral college comprising members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. While the value of the vote of MPs from both houses remains uniform - 708 a seat, the value of votes of MLAs depends on the population of the state.

According to the Presidential Electoral College, the value of each Odisha MLA is 149. The BJD has 113 MLAs out of 147 in Odisha Assembly and 21 MPs - 12 in Lok Sabha and eight in Rajya Sabha.

No Cov death in last 10 days

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Odisha did not record any coronavirus fatality for the last 10 days, while 12 more people tested positive for the disease taking the tally to 12,88,046 Saturday, the state Health department said in a bulletin. The state had logged 10 cases and zero deaths Friday.

Of the new cases, three are in the age group of newborn to 18 years. Seven fresh cases were reported from quarantine centres while five individuals contracted the virus locally. Cuttack district registered the highest number of new cases at three, followed by Khurda with two new infections. Other districts that reported new Covid-19 cases



are Bolangir, Jajpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh (one each).

Odisha's coronavirus death toll remained unchanged at 9,124. The state now has 80 active cases, while 12,78,789 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 10 Friday, it said. Besides, 53 other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities to date.

'India going global through skill integrated education'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The Centurion University of Technology and Management (enacted in Odisha and AP), organised an event at New Delhi April 28 titled "Future Nexus - Developing Skills for Industry 4.0". The event was graced by Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.

This event was organised keeping the objectives of India's recently announced New Education Policy (NEP) in mind. The NEP emphasises on continuous lifelong learning, multiple entries/exits and vocationalising higher education with skill integration.

With such an educational model, and armed with its cost effective degrees and focus on skill integration, India is reaching out internationally - specifically to its African

friends. Similarities in their economic development backgrounds makes the Indian education environment socially and contextually more relevant to Africa.

The minister in his speech touched upon the NEP which is expected to spur innovative out-of-the-box thinking, thereby generating successful startups and economic nation building. He spoke about innovation startups, research orientation and India being a cost effective educational destination for students from the developed and underdeveloped countries, especially from the African continent.

He praised the Centurion University for its attempt to promote skill-based education, production and innovation, and appreciated the efforts of the university to remain responsible towards society.

FOOD, FRIENDSHIP, FAITH



An Iftar get-together was organised by the Chandni Chowk Durga Puja Committee in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

ALL HAT AND NO CATTLE

Cyclone resilient infra on hold; nothing from Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Despite the fact that Odisha has faced seven severe cyclonic storms in the past 10 years and incurred a loss of around ₹35,000 crore, a proposal given by the state government to the Centre two years ago for cyclone resilient infrastructure hangs in balance.

According to an official source, primarily the agriculture, housing and electricity sectors in the coastal districts get damaged in cyclone, which require years to be revived.

Keeping this in mind, the proposal for a cyclone resilient infrastructure in state was put up by the Odisha government June 22, 2020 seeking Central assistance of ₹11,114 crore. Allegedly, neither the Centre

has provided any assistance nor the state government has taken any step forward, the official source further said.

After the devastating Super Cyclone of 1999, the state faced Phailin in October 2013, which ravaged the southern Odisha districts. As many as 8 million people belonging to 13 districts were affected and the total loss was estimated to be more than ₹2,300 crore.

Similarly, another cyclone Hudhud damaged the southern Odisha districts of about ₹1,000 crore in October 2014. Again, after a gap of four years, the very severe cyclonic storm Titli caused massive damages in the coastal districts in October 2018. As per an official estimate, over 60 lakh people belonging to 8,125 villages under 128 blocks of 17 districts



were severely affected in the cyclone and the loss was estimated to be ₹2,765 crore.

In less than a year, the extremely severe cyclonic storm Fani wrecked 14 districts in May 2019,

including Puri. The total loss caused due to Fani was estimated at ₹12,000 crore. Sixty-three individuals lost their lives and the infrastructure in electricity, drinking water and housing sectors had crumbled. It had damaged 34km of 33kv line, 453km of 11kv line, 680km of LT line and 2,439 electric transformers.

Again, after nearly a year, cyclonic storm Amphan tormented Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur in May 2020 and affected 44,44,896 people belonging to 272 wards under 22 civic limits and 9,833 villages of 1,558 panchayats under 92 blocks. The total Amphan-induced loss was estimated at ₹5,000 crore.

Likewise, cyclonic storms Yaas and Gulab too made their appearance before the regularly

battered coastal state of Odisha and dented its infrastructure yet again.

A senior official in the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Office informed that four letters have been written to the Centre so far, but to no avail.

Notably, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday said a low pressure area is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal around May 5 and may further intensify.

A cyclonic circulation is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and neighbouring areas around May 4. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region during next 24 hours. It is likely to become more marked during the subsequent 24 hours.

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Centre's shot in the arm for Paradip fishing jetty



Union Secy of Fisheries dept visits the fishing harbour and takes stock of the infrastructural availability for renovation and new constructions under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, April 30: The Centre will spend over ₹100 crore for the development of the Paradip fishing jetty for the benefit of over 50,000 fishermen dependent on the jetty for their livelihood. Funds worth ₹99.64 crore will be spent under the Centre-sponsored Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana on construction of various new projects and renovation of the existing fishing jetty.

The matter came to the fore during the visit of Secretary of Fisheries, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Jatindra Nath Swain to Paradip fishing jetty, Friday. Earlier, Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways had hinted at Centre's plan for development of the fishing jetty during his visit to Paradip Port, four days back. During his visit, Swain went around the fishing jetty and Mahanadi river mouth and took stock of the infrastructural availability for construction of the new projects. He also held discussions with the department officials and people involved in fishing activities in the jetty. Meanwhile, a delegation of Odisha Marine Fish Producers Association (OMFPA) submitted a memorandum to Swain demanding grant of special subsidy on fuel prices for scores of fisher-

men dependent solely on fishing for their livelihood.

OMFPA president Srikant Parida claimed that over 50,000 fishermen go into the sea to net their livelihood. He said there are over 630 fishing trawlers and over 400 motor boats in this fishing jetty, the largest in the state. However, sharp rise in fuel prices has dealt a heavy blow to the fisherfolk.

They are suffering heavy loss in their business and many trawler and boat owners have stopped venturing into the sea. Their association has been making this demand both before the state government and Centre for special subsidy in fuel prices for the last five years. The governments have assured to consider their demands but nothing has been done yet, he rued.

Among others, Parida demanded for dredging of Mahanadi river mouth which has become shallow due to deposition of sediments. He alleged that trawlers and boats are meeting with accidents leading to loss of lives and property at different points of time as the river mouth has got buried with sand. It has been creating serious hurdles in entering and departing the fishing harbour in Paradip, he added demanding the river mouth be dredged for 50 metre in width and 10 metre in depth every year. Moreover, he called for stone packing of the 200 metre berth adjacent to the fishing jetty on priority basis which has been washed away with the river water entering the sea constantly eroding the site.

Deogarh MLA attacks BDO; complaints filed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, April 30: MLA Subash Chandra Panigrahi along with his supporters allegedly made an organised and murderous attack on Tileibani Block Development Officer (BDO) Krushna Chandra Dalapati.

Following a complaint by the BDO, police registered a case against Deogarh MLA Subash Chandra Panigrahi. On the other hand, the MLA also accused the BDO of threatening him with life and abusing him. The MLA has also filed a complaint against the BDO for abusing him.

In the FIR, the BDO said he along with Deogarh tehsildar Pallabi Nayak and other officials had gone to Bhaliagudi under Chheliapali panchayat in connection with an inquiry. Dalapati alleged that he had received several calls on his cell phone to meet the MLA at the block office. The BDO had assured to meet the MLA at the block office. Sometime later, the Deogarh MLA

Both the BDO and the MLA have filed separate FIRs against each other. Police have launched an investigation into the incident

along with his 10 supporters abused and attacked him. They had also tried to take him away in a vehicle, apart from snatching official documents, cell phone, diary and other things from him. He was kicked and punched and casteist remarks were hurled at him. The BDO was unconscious after the attack and rescued by other officials. The BDO has intimidated the Collector and the OAS Association in this regard.

The MLA alleged that the BDO was infuriated and abused him as soon as he reached the place, apart from giving him life threat. Police have launched an investigation into the allegations.

Man, sorcerer held for human sacrifice bid on elderly father

POST NEWS NETWORK

Junagarh, April 30: A day after, a man tried to kill his father as part of human sacrifice in Belpada village under Jaypatna police limits in quest for hidden treasure, police arrested the accused son and the sorcerer, Saturday.

The accused was identified as Lingaraj Bhoi, 40, son of Baladev Bhoi, 70 and the sorcerer Chitrasen Rana of Rajpur village. They had been detained, Friday after police picked them up when they were conducting some sacrificial rituals to kill the elderly man.

Police took them to police station and interrogated them in this connection. The accused Lingaraj and the sorcerer were produced in the JMFC court after their arrest. They were remanded to judicial custody after the court rejected their bail pleas. The accused's father Baladev was also taken to Kalampur community health centre where the doctors conducted his health check-up.

The matter came to the fore after a group of local villagers tipped off police officials at the Kalampur police outpost after they saw Majhi forcing his father to wear a white cloth and had garlanded him with garlic and some flowers.

The accused was also found to have kept several digging articles ready for the puja.

SHORT TAKES

Man dies of sunstroke

Nayagarh: An elderly person died of sunstroke at Lekhapada under Ranpur block in Nayagarh district, Saturday. The deceased was identified as 64-year-old Gobinda Jena. Jena was collecting firewood in a nearby forest April 25 when he felt uneasy and was taken ill. He was admitted to Ranpur community health centre where doctor declared him brought dead. The post mortem report has confirmed that Jena died of sunstroke. His family members and locals have demanded government assistance to the family.

Two brothers murder sibling

Rairakhol: In a shocking incident, two brothers killed their sibling at Sanarengali village under Rairakhol police limits Saturday. The deceased was identified as Sanjay Munda. Police have arrested the accused duo, Siyu Munda and Anand Munda. The brothers have been staying in a forest near Sanarengali village for the last 20 years. About a month ago, power supply to their house was snatched by the distribution company. Sanjay used to quarrel with his brothers over the issue and it took an ugly turn Friday, leading to murder.

Man gets life for triple murder

Baripada: A court in Mayurbhanj district sentenced a man to life imprisonment after convicting him for murdering three persons including a two-year-old boy. Additional District Judge, Karanjia, Prasanta Kumar Mishra Friday convicted 40-year-old man Ratan Munda in the triple murder case and sentenced him to life imprisonment. While three persons - two women and a boy - were hacked to death, four others including a woman were injured in the incident March 31, 2013, in Bhagbandh village under Josphur Police Station. The court also imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on Ratan Munda, said Additional Public Prosecutor Santosh Kumar Sahu.

Dwarasuni ghat accident kills 1

Bangiriposhi: A 47-year-old man died and four others were injured after a passenger bus they were travelling in hit an iron laden truck from rear at the hilly Dwarasuni ghat of National Highway-49 under this block in Mayurbhanj district, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Serajuddin of Chakasahipur village in Murshidabad district of neighbouring West Bengal. Locals, Bangiriposhi police and Fire personnel rescued them and admitted the injured passengers to Bangiriposhi CHC.

Man gets 10-yr prison for rape

Phulbani: A Kandhamal district court Saturday sentenced a 23-year-old man to 10 years in jail for raping a 15-year-old four years ago. Phulbani special POCSO judge Bhaskar Chandra Sahu also slapped a penalty of ₹55,000 on the convicted. The incident occurred in 2018 after the accused established a relationship with the teenager.

Public hearing for Netrabandha Mines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koira, April 30: The public hearing for Netrabandha Iron Ore Mines of Bhushan Steel & Power Limited, a JSW subsidiary, saw locals in favour of continuation of the project as the meeting was conducted smoothly in the presence of many public representatives.

As part of statutory compliance, the public hearing was organised April 27 at Baladihi village under Koira Tahsil of Sundargarh district in a peaceful manner for the requisite Environment Clearance. Over 500 villagers from the periphery areas gathered at the event while 50 residents expressed their opinion in favour of the project. Residents from periphery villages—Khajuridihi, Sonua, Boldihi and Patamunda of Netrabandha Iron Ore Mines participated in large numbers.

Notably, the Netrabandha Pahar block located in Sundargarh's Koira sector has geological iron ore reserves of 77.25 million tonne of which 61.9 million tonne are high grade deposits.

MAN TRAMPLED TO DEATH BY JUMBOS

Baripada: A man was trampled to death by a herd of stray elephants from Jharkhand at Chhachinapada area under Betanoti forest range in Mayurbhanj district, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Singaray Majhi, 50, of Nuagaon village. Forest officials rushed to the spot and recovered the body for post-mortem after waiting for long hours as the herd refused to leave the place even after trampling Majhi to death. The mishap sparked tension in the area as residents demanded compensation for the bereaved family and to alert the locals by keeping a track on the movement of elephant herds. The incident occurred when a herd of 11 elephants were on their way to Chhachinapada village in search of food.

Indian Bank
ALLAHABAD

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property/ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)

Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession/Outstanding dues (As per 13/2) notice)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction
1.	BOLANGIR-2 BRANCH / Ph.: 8292090227 / Borrower, Gurantor & Mortgagor: SRI SATYA SUNDAR BHANJA, S/o: Late Krishna Chandra Bhanja, bearing Khata No.: 1157/1564, Plot No.: 1679/3408 (Ac.0.036 dec.) & 1683/3409 (Ac.0.017 dec.), KISSAM: Gharabari, Total Area: Ac.0.053 Dec. at Mouza: Salepali, Tahasil: Bolangir No.: 318, DSRO: Bolangir, Dist.: Bolangir, Bounded by North: Road, South: Sibrum Mishr, East: Sharat Chandra Purohit, West: Purna Majhi	All that piece and parcel of Vacant Land recorded in the name of Sri Satya Sundar Bhanja, S/o: Late Krishna Chandra Bhanja, bearing Khata No.: 1157/1564, Plot No.: 1679/3408 (Ac.0.036 dec.) & 1683/3409 (Ac.0.017 dec.), KISSAM: Gharabari, Total Area: Ac.0.053 Dec. at Mouza: Salepali, Tahasil: Bolangir No.: 318, DSRO: Bolangir, Dist.: Bolangir, Bounded by North: Road, South: Sibrum Mishr, East: Sharat Chandra Purohit, West: Purna Majhi	19.06.2021 / 29.11.2021	₹23.08 Lakhs / ₹14.82,812/- as on 19.06.2021 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	31.05.2022 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM
DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 31.05.2022 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration					
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 30.05.2022 upto 05.30 PM by online					
Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 25.05.2022 between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses					
TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp and https://ibapi.in ; prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch no. as mentioned in above list. 2) This is a 30 days' notice to the borrowers / guarantors / mortgagors of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date. 3) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 4) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 5) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.					
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**APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE**
(for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon.

BRANCH Name & Address of Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
SAMBALPUR BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Seven Hills Educational & Healthcare Society, At: Jharsuguda, Highway, PO: Sankarma, Pardihiapali, Sambalpur / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Sukanta Kumar Bisi, 2) Mr. N Srinivasa Rao, 3) Mrs. Rinki Babu, 4) Mrs. N V Lalithamba, 5) Mr. Kusha Kumar Bisi, 6) Mr. N Prasad Rao, 7) Mr. Santosh Babu, 8) Mrs. Valluri Bhulaxmi	₹20,81,93,408.53 as on 14.02.2022 + interest and other expenses thereon	14.02.2022 / 26.04.2022	1) All that piece and parcel of Land at Mouza : Pardihiapali, PS/Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 228/308, Plot No.: 875 & 876, Area : Ac.1.12 dec., Bounded by North: SHEHCS, South: Plot No.: 893, East: SHEHCS, West: Plot No.: 366 & 367 in the name of Sukanta Kumar Bisi & N Srinivasa Rao, 2) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, Plot No.: 874(P), Area Ac.0.14 Dec., Bounded by North Plot No.: 879, South: Plot No.: 1369, East: Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.: 875 in the name of M/s. Seven Hills Residential School, 3) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, Plot No.: 879(P), Area: Ac.1.85dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879(P), South: Plot No.: 879(P), East: Plot No.: 884, West: Plot No.: 874,1369, in the name of M/s. Seven Hills Residential School, 4) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.: 873, in the name of M/s. Seven Hills Residential School, 5) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, Plot No.: 879(P), Area: Ac.2.10dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879(P), South: Plot No.: 869, 880, 881, East: Plot No.: 881, West: Plot No.: 873, in the name of M/s. Seven Hills Residential School, 6) Property situated at Khata No.: 192, Chaka No.: 56, Plot No.: 330, Area: Ac.0.67dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 328, South: Plot No.: 328,331, East: Plot No.: 878, West: Plot No.: 329 in the name of M/s. Seven Hills Residential School, 7) Property situated at Khata No.: 56, Plot No.: 331, Area: Ac. 0.01 dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 330, South: Plot No.: 333, East: Plot No.: 330, West: Plot No.: 328, in the name of M/s. Seven Hills Residential School, 8) Property situated at Khata No.: 192, Chaka No.: 56, Plot No.: 329 Area: Ac. 0.07 dec Bounded by North: Plot No.:328, South: Plot No.: 330, West: Plot No.: 328, in the name of M/s. Seven Hills Residential School, 9) Property situated at Khata No.:13, Chaka No.:224, out of Plot No.:879(P), Area: Ac.0.21Dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879(P), South: Plot No.: 879(P), East: Plot No.: 892 & 879(P), West: Plot No.: 879(P) in the name of Rinki Babu, 10) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 892(P), Area: Ac.0.01dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879, East: Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.: 879 in the name of Rinki Babu, 11) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 877(P), Area: Ac.0.48 dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 877(P), South: Plot No.: 879 & 877(P), East: Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.: 879, in the name of Sukanta Kumar Bisi, 12) Property situated at Khata No.:13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 879(P), Area: Ac.1.40dec., being bounded by North: Plot No.: 879(P), South: Plot No.: 876 & 879(P), East: Plot No.: 879(P), West: Plot No.: 874(P), Area: Ac.0.05 dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879, South: Plot No.: 874(P), East: Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.: 875 in the name of N.V.Lalithamba, 14) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 877(P) Area: Ac.0.24dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879, South: Plot No.: 879, East: Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.:876, in the name of N.V.Lalithamba, 15) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 879(P), Area: Ac.1.81dec., Bounded by North: 879(P), South: Plot No.: 879(P), East: Plot No.: 884, West: Plot No.: 876 & 875, in the name of N.V.Lalithamba, 16) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 142, out of Plot No.: 878(P), Area: Ac.0.39dec., Bounded by: North: Plot No.: 1385, South: Plot No.: 879, East:Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.: 331 in the name of N.Srinivasa Rao, 17) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 879(P), Area: Ac.1.51dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1385 & 892, South: Plot No.: 879(P), East: Plot No.: 892, West: Plot No.: 878 in the name of N.Srinivasa Rao, 18) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 892(P), Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1385, South: Plot No.: 879, East: Plot No.: 879(P), West: Plot No.: 879 in the name of N.Srinivasa Rao, 19) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 879(P), Area: Ac.0.22dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879(P), South: Plot No.: 879(P), East: Plot No.: 892(P), West: Plot No.: 879, in the name of Rinki Babu, 20) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 892(P), Area: Ac.0.01dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879, South: Plot No.: 892(P), East: Plot No.: 892(P), West: Plot No.: 879, in the name of Rinki Babu, 21) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 878(P), Area: Ac.0.20dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 878(P), South: Plot No.: 879, East: Plot No.: 879, West: Plot No.: 334 in the name of Sukant Kumar Bisi, 22) Property situated at Khata No.: 13, Chaka No.: 224, out of Plot No.: 879(P), Area: Ac.1.67dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 879(P), South: Plot No.: 879(P), East: Plot No.: 878 & 335 in the name of Sukant Kumar Bisi
SAMBALPUR-2 BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Bisi Advertising, Prop.: Sri Ranjit Kumar Bisi, At: Mahanadi Vihar, Dhama Road, Bhatra, Ward No.: 1, PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur, PIN-768005 / Mortgagor & Guarantor: Sri Ranjit Kumar Bisi & Sri Satyajit Bisi, At: Mahanadi Vihar, Dhama Road, Bhatra, Ward No.: 1, PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur, PIN-768005	₹30,48,522/- as on 28.05.2021+ interest and other expenses thereon	21.02.2022 / 30.04.2022	1) All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Sri Ranjit Bisi, Khata No.: 351/1050, Plot No.: 1995/3721, KISSAM: Malpani, Area: Ac.0.060 Dec., situated at Sambalpur Unit No.: 1, Bhatra, 2) All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Sri Satyajit Bisi, Khata No.: 351/1158, Plot No.: 1995/3841, KISSAM: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.060 Dec., situated at Sambalpur Unit No.: 1, Bhatra, both are Bounded by North: Nimai Behera, Plot No.: 1995(P), South: Sanu Behera, Plot No.: 1995(P), East: Uday Behera, (Plot No.: 1996), West: Road (S.H.: 15)
DHENKANAL-1 BRANCH / Borrower: M/s Balaji Agencies, Proprietor: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Das, S/o: Sri Gopal Kumar Das, Dakhinakali Road, Shanti Bhavan Lane, Dhenkanal-759001 / Mortgagor: 1) Sri Gopal Kumar Das, S/o: Sri Mani Patra Jagannath Das, Dakhinakali Road, Shanti Bhavan Lane Dhenkanal-759001	₹7,97,192.61 as on 30.04.2021+ interest and other expenses thereon	09.12.2021 / 30.04.2022	1) All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Sri Gopal Kumar Das, S/o.: Sri Mani Patra Jagannath Das, At-Mouza: Dhenkanal Town, Nizigarh having Khata No.: 681 under Plot No.: 2581, Area: Ac.0.060 dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, PS.: Jatani, Tehasil/Dist.: Dhenkanal, Bounded by North: Chakradhar Das, South: Prabhallad Tripathy, East: Jaladhar Rout, West: Road
ROURKELA-1 BRANCH / Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr.Debasis Mohanta, S/o.: Mr. Shishudev Mohanta, Panda Colony, Birsah Dahar Road, Off Power House Road, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha-769012 / Co-Borrower & Guarantor: Mrs.Sanjana Mohanta, W/o.: Mr.Debasis Mohanta, Panda Colony, Birsah Dahar Road, Off Power House Road, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha-769012	₹5,31,044.07 as on 31.05.2021+ interest and other expenses thereon	11.02.2022 / 27.04.2022	All that piece and parcel of property recorded in the name of Mr. Debasis Mohanta, S/o.: Mr. Shishudev Mohanta, Mouza: Uditnagar Rourkela, TU No.43, having Plot No. 899/2152, Khata No.: 365/410 with Ac.0.04 dec., (04 decimals), KISSAM: Gharabari-I, PS.: Plant Site, Tahasil: Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha-769012, Bounded by North: B.C.Satapathy, South:Owner's Plot & 8ft Road, East: Sasank Sekhar Das, West: Gunduram & Drain
ROURKELA-1 BRANCH / Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr.Viresh Sanghawi & Prasanta Sanghawi, S/o.: Late Chandrakant Sanghawi, At: Dinanath lane, Daily Market, Rourkela-1, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha-769001 / Co-Borrower & Mortgagor: Mrs.C.kumudi Sanghawi, W/o.: Late Chandulal Sanghawi, At: Dinanath lane, Daily Market, Rourkela-1, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha-769001	₹5,71,437/- as on 25.08.2021+ interest and other expenses thereon	25.08.2021 / 27.04.2022	All that piece and parcel of land & Building recorded in the name of Sri Viresh Sanghawi, Sri Prasanta Sanghawi & Smt. C.Kumudi Sanghawi, under Khata No.61, Plot No.5774/1220, Corresponding to Plot No.: 255/1, under Khata No.: 90 an measuring Area: Ac.0.02 dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Village RTU No.: 36, Mahupali, PS.: Plant Site, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha, Bounded by North: Plot of Mahes Kumar Sanghawi, South: Police outpost area, East: Plot No.: 255/1 Common Drain 3' Wide, West: Plot No.: 255/1 Common Road
BASUDEVPUR BRANCH / Borrower/ Mortgagor: Mr.Suresh Kumar Pani & Mr.Santosh Kumar Pani, S/o.: Late Surendra Pani, At.: Bada Anandapur, PO.: Bachhipur, PS.: Basudevpur, District: Bhadrak-756165 / Guarantor: Mrs. Rangalata Dhupal, W/o.: Late Surendra Pani, At.: Bada Anandapur, PO.: Bachhipur, PS-Basudevpur, Dist: Bhadrak-756165	₹9,95,281.92 as on 07.01.2022+ interest and other expenses thereon	02.02.2022 / 30.04.2022	All that piece and parcel of Property Land & Building recorded in the name of Sri Suresh Kumar Pani and Sri Santosh Kumar Pani, both S/o.: Late Surendra Pani, Mouza: Bada Anandpur, Khata No.: 237/140, under Plot No.226/787, Area: Ac.0.13dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, PS/Tehasil: Basudevpur, Dist: Bhadrak, Bounded by North: Shankarsan Pani, South: Gohar (Road), East: Purchaser, West: Ashok Jena.
BOLANGIR (e-AB) BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Maa Steel Industries, Prop.: Sri Sanjay Kumar Rath, At.: Tikrapara, Bolangir, Dist: Bolangir-767002	₹19,05,395/- as on 29.10.2021+ interest and other expenses thereon	29.10.2021 / 27.04.2022	All the Land and building in the name of Sri. Sanjay Kumar Rath, S/o.: Sri Harishchandra Rath situated at Khata No.: 649/1731, Plot No.: 1461/4670 and 1462/4669/4075, measuring total Area: Ac.0.076 dec., KISSAM: Gharabari Eka, at Mouza: Bijkhama, Tahasil: Bolangir, Dist: Bolangir, (SRO: Bolangir, Bounded by East: Proposed Road, West: Jor River, North: Plot No.: 1461, South: Anadini Rath)
Place: Sambalpur, Date: 30.04.2022			Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God.



SRI AUROBINDO

Misplaced Priorities

The two separate terms of the National Democratic Alliance government can also be seen as separate in another way. In the first, there was a desire for economic reform. In the second that desire appears to have gone in favour of something else. Let's look at the 2014-19 period first. This is the time in which the Prime Minister attempted to improve India's share of manufacturing in Gross Domestic Product. He did it through a programme called Make in India (launched September 25, 2014).

Make in India had three objectives. These were to increase manufacturing's share in GDP from 16% to 25%; secondly, to achieve this by increasing manufacturing growth at 12% per year (compared to GDP growing at 8%); and thirdly to create 10 crore jobs in manufacturing. The next reform was Demonetisation, aimed at eradicating black money from the economy, with side benefits being an end to counterfeiting and to terrorism. This was announced November 8, 2016. The Goods and Services Tax came the following year, July 1, 2017. It was intended to unify India as a market and to bring the states and Union closer together ('co-operative federalism' in the words of the Prime Minister).

The government said it would also improve its standing on global rankings of various sorts, because it was encouraged by India's shooting up in the World Bank's Doing Business Index. Niti Aayog would monitor 32 indices and figure out how to make India's ranking improve. What happened on this front has been widely reported but we can summarise it because much of it is data from the government itself. Manufacturing's share of GDP fell instead of rising, and has gone from 16% to 13% today. Its rate of growth was negative after 2014. Jobs in manufacturing halved, according to one study by Ashoka University's Centre for Economic Data and Analysis from 5 crore to 2.7 crore in 2021. For the first time in Independent India, more people went to work in agriculture, where from 14 crore people in 2016, the number went to 15 crore in 2021 and then went up another 1.5 crore by March 2022. Meaning manufacturing jobs went down by 2.3 crore and agricultural jobs went up by 2.5 crore. Agricultural jobs are often disguised unemployment.

The effects of Demonetisation and GST on the economy and on the MSME sector have been written about by me before and there is a chapter on the economy in my last book. The point to note is that GDP growth began to implode sequentially from January 2018, according to government data and by the time the pandemic arrived it was close to zero. In the last two years, India's economy has grown by about 1.5%.

My sense is that the government and the Prime Minister particularly lost interest in this after the results became clear. We have seen no big bang announcements or 'masterstrokes' on the economy after the election of 2019. The government has taken another track which can be seen from its actions.

Kashmir lost its constitutional 'autonomy' (which it never actually had) August 5, 2019. The previous month, July 30, 2019, triple talaq, which had already been declared invalid by the Supreme Court in August 2017, was criminalised. The Citizenship Amendment Act was passed December 9, 2019. August 2, 2019, the UAPA law was amended to allow the government designate any individual it wanted as a 'terrorist', even if that person was not a member of a designated terror group. November 9, 2019, the Ayodhya verdict was delivered in favour of the Hindus. In the same period, Uttar Pradesh became the first BJP state, joined this year by Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and Delhi (whose police force is run by the BJP) to bulldoze homes, mostly Muslim-owned without charge or trial or due process.

Haryana withdrew permission it had given migrant workers to congregate in a public space for Friday prayers in December 2021. The ban on hijab was added to a list of bans including on beef, then on selling eggs, on selling meat during Navratri, on Muslim vendors operating near temples or during Hindu festivals.

Attacks on Christians by Hindu mobs led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and other groups associated with the BJP went up in this period, from 127 in 2014 to 486 in 2021. The attacks were usually in BJP states, including Karnataka.

Seven BJP states in this period criminalised marriage between Muslims and Hindus. These states are Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat. This was not the sort of thing that the BJP government was pushing in the first 2014 term.

It appears to be the case that the BJP has shifted its focus from the economy to its primary social agenda. We do not hear the Prime Minister speak of improving manufacturing's share of GDP and we hear nothing about why our labour force participation rate has collapsed and why unemployment has remained at record highs of over 6% since 2019.

The last thing is that while we can conclude that the BJP failed on the side of what it sought to achieve in the economy, it has been quite successful at achieving what it wants on the issue of the social fabric and harmony.



Aakar Patel

It appears to be the case that the BJP has shifted its focus from the economy to its primary social agenda

RELAPSING LABOUR RIGHTS

FOCUS LABOUR DAY

Labour is an important factor in production. If there is no labour, all other factors, be it land or capital, will remain idle. It is labourers that constitute the workforce that creates capital. Hence, Karl Marx termed labour as the "creator of all value." However, since India embraced neo-liberalism, its workers are the worst affected. Their rights are curtailed and privileges squeezed with profit maximisation becoming the sole objective of corporates today with the government abdicating its social responsibilities.



The fleetness with which the government is annihilating the protection afforded to workers under various labour laws in the name of reforms to suit the interests of capitalists is perturbing

After the decline of their real wages by 3.5% each in 2018-20, agricultural and non-agricultural rural wages grew only 0.5% each in 2020-21.

According to Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) reports, the share of wages in the total yearly input costs has been visibly low (2-3%). This reveals how the bargaining strength of workers has been weakened. Moreover, the labour market in India is already characterised by low wages and is considerably less protected compared to its peers in the region. Labour rights are both legal rights and human rights. These rights are codified in national and international labour and employment laws. Many labour laws provide many of the basic guarantees to workers - decent wages on time, reasonable working hours, and work as bulwarks against exploitation. But the fleetness with which the government is annihilating the protection afforded to workers under various labour laws in the name of reforms to suit the interests of capitalists is perturbing.

These insidious labour law reforms can squash the organised sector and will increase the size of the already large informal sector. Reforms leading to a reduction in workers' income and social security affect their productivity, and ability to purchase goods and services, which squashes demand, investment and growth.

In a 2011 paper, Simon Deakin and Prabirjit Sarkar contended that contrary to the belief that pro-worker labour regulations lead to a shrinkage in output, the empirical results have shown that stronger pro-worker regulations boost employment and increase industrial output. The need of the hour is formulating labour policies that are more inclusive, pro-working class and bringing informal workers into their ambit.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

THE SITUATION IS SO DISCOURAGING THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER EVEN LOOKING FOR WORK

Capitalists are employing more capital and technology, squeezing the labour force, enhancing working hours, retrenching labourers, and curtailing real wages to maximise profits and minimise cost. The power to hire and fire at will, and privatisation of public sectors have enabled capitalists to amass wealth while leading to impoverishment of the workforce. The deliberate reduction in jobs especially in the organised sectors both by governments and capitalists has worsened the plights of working-class people.

Out of 50 crore workers in India, around 10% are employed in organised sectors and the remaining 90% in unorganised sectors. While there is some sense of job security and facilities in organised sectors, the informal sectors are bereft of these facilities.

The informal sector, which was devastated by the draconian demonetisation and flawed GST, was further decimated by the pandemic, rendering many workers jobless. During the first wave of the pandemic, 12.2 crore lost their jobs, 9.2 crore of them in the informal sector. In the second wave, one crore people lost jobs. Though the formal sector is back to its pre-pandemic level, the informal sector continues to bear the brunt.

What is distressing is that according to a study by SBI Research (November 2021), the share of the informal sector in India's economy fell drastically to 15-20% in

2020-21 from 52.4% in 2017-18 due to digitisation and fast-escalating gig economy. India's job creation problem in the organised sector has morphed into a greater threat. It was found that at least 30 lakh sanctioned posts under the central government (including those under various bodies and institutions run by the Centre) and an estimated 30 lakh posts under various state governments are lying vacant. The situation is so discouraging that a growing number of people are no longer even looking for work. According to the CMIE report, in India, more than half of the 90-crore workforce of legal working age stopped looking for jobs. Between 2017 and 2022, the overall labour participation rate dropped from 46% to 40%. Among women, the data is even starker. About 2.1 crore women disappeared from the workforce.

The legal process of working hours is not fully followed in many countries. India is no exception. According to Time Use Survey (2019) conducted by the NSO, Indians spend less than a tenth of their day on leisure activities, with women getting even less time than men to spend on leisure.

According to ILO data, Indian workers are overworked, underpaid, and have very little leisure.

The very first ILO Convention adopted in 1919 fixes working time in the industry to a maximum of eight hours per day and 48 hours per week, with certain clearly defined exceptions. But workers in India clock longer working hours than in other countries. It ranks fifth among all countries in terms of mean weekly hours actually worked per employed person.

The NSSO's first periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data also show that the people of India work 56 to 54 hours a week in cities and 46 to 47 hours in villages, the highest number of hours as compared to employees in other countries.

The Modi government is looking to implement the revised Labour laws from July 1. According to the draft labour code, companies that choose a four-day week will have to provide 12-hour shifts and three consecutive days of holiday. But actually, companies will not choose a four-day week but will implement 12-hour shifts. Indians don't enjoy good wages commensurate to their long hours of work. According to the ILO Global Wage Report (2020-22), India's minimum wage is one of the lowest in the world. High inflation is eroding the real wages. More than 70% of India's workforce is involved in the rural economy.

SPECTRUM SOCIAL MEDIA

Elon Musk's Twitter test

With Elon Musk set to buy Twitter for \$44 billion, commentators are scrambling to understand what the "free speech absolutism" espoused by the world's richest person will mean for the platform. But the principle could also create headaches for Musk himself.

With the European Union and the United Kingdom about to enact laws aimed at making social media safer and more accountable, Musk has seemingly chosen a bad time to roll back content moderation on Twitter. In fact, despite officials' threats, Musk will be able to emasculate the platform's content restrictions in the name of free speech if that is what he wishes to do. But he may reconsider once he realises that this freedom will soon mean greater accountability.

Today, Twitter prohibits a wide range of legal but objectionable content, including posts expressing the hope that someone comes to harm, or which contain "excessively" violent images, and content that "disrupts people's experience." And, of course, Twitter has banned controversial high-profile users like former US President Donald Trump. Musk wants to change this, with Twitter banning only illegal content.

UK and EU policymakers will not admit it openly, but their online safety laws will leave Musk free to reverse Twitter's user bans and

loosen its content rules so that they ban only illegal content. When the legislation was being drafted, some lawmakers pushed hard to regulate platforms' handling of so-called "lawful but awful" material. But, in the face of heavy resistance from civil society, they generally acknowledged that censoring legal content was a bridge too far.

For example, the EU's Digital Services Act will require large platforms like Twitter to assess the risks - such as causing discrimination or undermining democracy - created by the posting of legal but objectionable content. But platforms would generally be free to decide how they want to mitigate those risks. Banning content would not be the only option.

The EU and the UK will therefore not be in a position to complain if Twitter permits much more objectionable material on its platform - so long as it has other mitigating measures in place. These could be more protective of freedom of speech, for example by asking users to confirm if they really want to post or retweet questionable content.

But even if online safety laws cannot force Musk to abandon his plans, they will affect his commercial incentives. Musk is reportedly buying Twitter not because he sees it as a money-making machine but because he loves the service. But, having put \$21 billion of his own equity on the line and

pledged a third of his Tesla shares as collateral for his debt financing of the bid, he obviously is not providing a public good.

Reducing content moderation to the bare minimum is unlikely to help Musk turn around Twitter's struggling business. Advertisers hate the public-relations risk of having their ads displayed near objectionable content. If Twitter became too toxic, they might leave the platform altogether, jeopardising the vast majority of its revenue.

Musk may abandon the advertising-driven business model and turn Twitter into a subscription service. But lax content moderation will make this option tougher, too. Many users will be turned off by perceptions that Musk is trying to entrench Twitter further in the culture wars that preoccupy its most avid users. And few users - even libertarians - want to wade through a mass of disinformation, snarky memes, cruel pile-ons, and low-quality content to find engaging material.

If Musk stops banning users and removing legal content, he will have to employ other tools to keep Twitter usable. That means relying even more heavily on algorithms to amplify high-quality content and make problematic material more difficult to find.

Musk recently suggested that he believes allowing all legal content will reduce his accountability and responsibility, tweeting that, "If

people want less free speech, they will ask government to pass laws." But governments are pushing responsibility back onto platforms. Their laws will force platforms to be more transparent - not just about which content they ban, but also about how their algorithms promote and demote content.

Regulators, researchers, and the public will be able to look under the hood at how large platforms operate - and will carefully scrutinise whether they favor one side of a political debate over another. Musk has even said that he wants to make Twitter's algorithms open source, which will intensify this scrutiny. If Musk thinks that a commitment to free speech will make Twitter "politically neutral," and that users will ignore how its algorithms influence public debate, he is seriously mistaken.

Advocating free speech is easy. But, as Twitter's current management knows well, the reality of operating a social media platform is more difficult. EU and UK laws will give Musk a free hand to loosen content moderation on the platform, but they will also create far more public scrutiny of his strategic and operational decisions. He may initially enjoy the legal freedom. He will not enjoy the accountability.

The writer is a research fellow at the Centre for European Reform. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- A thing of beauty is a joy forever: its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness. JOHN KEATS
- Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive. DALAI LAMA
- There is no greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth. LEO TOLSTOY

WORDSWORTH

Staycation

A staycation is a stay-at-home vacation. It has been said that it was invented by the writers of the Canadian TV comedy show Corner Gas in an episode broadcast in October 2005. However, the word appeared in print a little earlier, in an article in the Washington Post 4 August 2005: "The city empties out. The commute becomes bearable. It's the perfect time for a 'staycation,' to dig in those heels and enjoy the comforts of home: 300-thread-count sheets, stainless outdoor fire pit, well-stocked fridge." Staycation is a blend of stay-at-home and vacation. It was probably generated from the rather older daycation for a one-day vacation, a day-trip, which is recorded in that sense from 1986; that word has also appeared, usually as day-cation, in the sense of a one-day special educational event (in which the second element is instead a truncation of education). After a couple of appearances in 2007, the word became significantly more visible from March 2008 onwards, largely because of financial concerns as the economy weakened and fuel prices increased. Other reasons were given in the Washington Times on 23 March: "Increasing concerns over the environment as well as the desire for more family time add to the staycation's popularity." The word has since become established enough to be added to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary in July 2009. It has become known in other countries, too, including the UK. This is mildly surprising, because vacation in British English is a formal term used mainly for institutional breaks between terms by universities and the legal profession. People take holidays. However, the term is understood and exposure to the American sense through films and television has clearly helped staycation to be accepted. In the UK, the sense has evolved to refer to a holiday taken within the country rather than travelling abroad.



Zach Meyers

REDUCING CONTENT MODERATION TO THE BARE MINIMUM IS UNLIKELY TO HELP MUSK TURN AROUND TWITTER'S STRUGGLING BUSINESS

Boost your happiness

Sir, World Laughter Day is celebrated around the globe every year on the first Sunday of May. Hundreds of people assemble from all around the world to share a laugh. The goal of the day is to increase awareness about the benefits of laughter, as well as to promote world peace via laughter. Laughter provides a plethora of health benefits. Laughing has so many amazing health benefits. Laughter, which is sometimes referred to as "the finest medicine," has a great impact on our health. It helps to calm the entire body, ease physical tension, and strengthen the immune system. Laughter is a natural activity that helps to relieve pain and tension. Everyone understands how nice it feels to laugh, but few realise how important it is to use this simple tool to improve our health and well-being. Laughter by itself is insufficient to solve or heal any problem, but it can aid in the healing and dissolution of any problem. It is an important aspect of self-care and maintaining one's happiness and health. Laughter is linked to the release of stress in yoga, resulting in happiness. Laughter also assists us in viewing life in a more relaxed, cheerful, and positive manner. A good laugh has great short-term mental and physical benefits. People who laugh frequently have a lower risk of getting depression and have lower levels of anxiety and other unpleasant feelings, according to studies. Laughter also helps to bring people together in difficult situations and generates a nice atmosphere. Laughter is a great stress reliever, and it can help you forget about your worries. Laughter, according to scientists, reduces the stress hormone levels, lessening the risk of heart attack and stroke through boosting blood flow to the brain. Laughter is a universal language brings people from all walks of life together.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Coal crisis

Sir, Coal stocks reaching critical levels at most thermal plants in the country threaten to worsen the on-going heatwave. In addition, transportation issues because of a shortage of rakes with the Railways have also compounded the problem. As against a requirement of 453 rakes per day, only 380 are available with the Railways. As a result, the number of thermal plants with critical coal stock has shot up in the past week, forcing the Power Ministry to cancel over 700 passenger train trips to expedite the movement of coal wagons to thermal power plants.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

of the day quote

Our neighbouring country (Pakistan) was destroyed by misusing religion at that time (Independence). To date, they are bearing its brunt. They armed people with guns in the name of religion. The same is happening in our country, in the name of religion today

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

Gujarat is a laboratory of governance and party organisation (for the BJP). We will implement this model across the country. As a party chief, it is also my responsibility to take ahead this model

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

We need to collect taxes and increase revenue but must do it in a manner that is not arbitrary and unjust. It should be transparent and user-friendly

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT



On April 20, 2022, I told the Modi government to stop running the bulldozer of hatred and start power plants of the country. Today the coal and electricity crisis has created havoc. I am saying again - This crisis will destroy small industries, due to which unemployment will increase further. Small children cannot stand this scorching heat. The lives of patients in hospitals are at stake

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF

POWER CRISIS IN RAJ

Reeling under an acute power crisis, the Rajasthan government has announced scheduled power cuts each day across the state as there has been a wide gap between power demand and supply



Patiala clashes: 3 cops shunted, internet shut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patiala, April 30: The Punjab government on Saturday shunted out three senior police officials, including an inspector general, and suspended mobile internet and SMS services in Patiala district, a day after clashes between two groups over an anti-Khalistan march left four people injured.

The AAP government in the state transferred the inspector general of police (IG) Patiala Range, the Patiala senior superintendent of police and the Patiala superintendent of police with immediate effect.

A spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said Mukhwinder Singh Chinna has been appointed as the new IG-Patiala while Deepak Parik will be the new Patiala SSP. Wazir Singh has been appointed as the new superintendent of police of Patiala.

Chinna replaces Rakesh Agrawal as IG (Patiala Range) while Parik takes over the post of SSP-Patiala from Nanak Singh. Police and district administration authorities on Saturday claimed that the situation is under control and peaceful in the city.



Heavy police security has been deployed at the site of the clashes outside the Kali Mata temple here. Various Hindu outfits had given a call for a bandh in protest against the Friday incident. Several markets in Patiala city remained shut Saturday.

Representatives of some Hindu outfits lifted their 'dharna' outside the temple and deferred their pro-

posed protest march after police and district administration assured them of action within two days against those who were behind the disturbance and violence on Friday.

The groups had clashed over the anti-Khalistan march, hurling stones at each other and brandishing swords. Police had to fire in the air to bring the situation under control. This is the first

THE AAP GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE TRANSFERRED THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (IG) PATIALA RANGE, THE PATIALA SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND THE PATIALA SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

VARIOUS HINDU OUTFITS HAD GIVEN A CALL FOR A BANDH IN PROTEST AGAINST THE FRIDAY INCIDENT. SEVERAL MARKETS IN PATIALA CITY REMAINED SHUT SATURDAY

major law and order incident in the state under the Bhagwant Manned state government. Opposition parties had attacked the AAP-led regime, alleging that the law and order in the state had collapsed.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had ordered a probe into the clashes and had said that not a single culprit will be spared. The order to suspend mobile internet and SMS services, except voice calls, was issued by the state's home affairs and justice department.

"In exercise of power conferred upon me by virtue of temporary suspension of telecom services (public emergency or public safety) rules, 2017, I Anurag Verma, prin-

cipal secretary home affairs and justice, do hereby by order suspension of the mobile internet services (2G/3G/4G/5G/CDMA), all SMS services and all dongle services etc provided on mobile networks except voice calls in the territorial jurisdiction of the district of Patiala from 9:30 am to 6 pm on April 30," said the government order.

"And, where there is an imminent danger of loss of life and or damage to public/ private property and widespread disturbances of public tranquility and communal harmony as a result of inflammatory material and false rumours which are being/could be transmitted/ circulated to the public through social media/ messaging services on mobile internet services, all SMS services and dongle services," it said.

To thwart designs and activities of "anti-national and anti-social groups or elements", maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent loss of life or damage to public or private property, the order said, it has become necessary to take necessary steps and measures to maintain law and order due to "unavoidable circumstances" in Patiala district in public interest.

Man hung from tree, beaten mercilessly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur, April 30: A man was allegedly hung upside down from a tree and brutally thrashed with sticks by five people, including a minor, at a village in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, police said Saturday.

After the video of the incident that took place in Uchhbhatti village under Sipat police station limits went viral on social media on Friday, and the five persons involved in the attack have been apprehended, an official said.

"While three of the attackers identified as Manish Khare, Shivraj Khare and Janu Bhargav were taken into custody late on Friday evening, Bhim Kesarwani and a 15-year-old boy, were nabbed this morning," a senior police official said.

The victim, Mahaveer Suryawanshi, a native of Ratanpur area of the district, has been living in Uchhbhatti and working as labourer and watchman. On the intervening night of April 25 and 26, Manish allegedly spotted Suryawanshi trying to sneak into his house. Suryawanshi managed to escape, but the next day, Manish caught him and handed him over to the police, claiming that he was trying to commit theft, the official said.

SHORT TAKES

Woman thrown out of moving train

Chhatrapur/Jabalpur (MP): A 25-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh was allegedly thrown out of a running train by a man after she resisted his molestation attempt near Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatrapur district, an official said Saturday. After the incident, which took place on Wednesday night, the woman was admitted to the District Hospital in Chhatrapur, where she is undergoing treatment, he said. "The woman was allegedly pushed out of the running train after she opposed a molestation attempt by a male co-passenger," Jabalpur's Government Railway Police (GRP) Superintendent of Police (SP) Vinayak Verma said.

New Army chief takes charge

New Delhi: General Manoj Pande Saturday took over as the new Indian Army chief following the retirement of General Manoj Mukund Naravane after 42 years in service. Gen Pande had serving as the Vice Chief before being appointed as Army Chief. He became the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to helm the force.

Three injured

Ashok Nagar (MP): A group of people involved in illegal sand mining allegedly attacked a forest department team when it went to seize their tractor-trolleys in Chanderi area of Madhya Pradesh's Ashok Nagar district, in which three personnel were injured, police said Saturday. During the incident, which occurred on Thursday, the illegal miners also snatched a range officer's personal rifle before escaping from the spot with their tractor-trolley, they said.

Jacqueline's assets worth ₹7cr frozen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Assets worth ₹7.27 crore of Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez have been attached under the anti-money laundering law in connection with a criminal probe against alleged con-man Sukesh Chandrashekhar and others, the Enforcement Directorate said Saturday.

The federal agency has issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for attaching fixed deposits worth ₹7.12 crore and ₹15 lakh cash of the 36-year-old actor as it called these funds as "proceeds of crime".

"Sukesh Chandrashekhar had given various gifts worth ₹5.71 crore to Jacqueline Fernandez from the proceeds of crime generated by criminal activities including extortion," Chandrashekhar had put Pinky Irani, his long time associate and co-accused in this case to deliver the said gifts to her," the ED said in a statement.

In addition to these gifts, it said, Chandrashekhar also gave "funds to the tune of USD 1,72,913 (about ₹1.3 crore as per current exchange rate) and AUD 26740 (approx. ₹14 lakh) to the close family members of Fernandez out of the proceeds of crime through co-accused Avtar

Jacqueline Fernandez is a Sri Lankan national and she has been questioned in this case by the Enforcement Directorate a number of times

Singh Kochhar, an established and well known international hawala operator."

The agency said its probe found that Chandrashekhar had "delivered cash to the tune of ₹15 lakh to a script writer on behalf of Fernandez as advance for writing a script of her web series project."

"This cash amount has also been attached," it said. Investigation with regards to tracing the remaining proceeds of crime is in progress, the ED added.

Fernandez is a Sri Lankan national and she has been questioned in this case by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) a number of times. She was also stopped by the ED from flying abroad and was directed to join the probe, after she was intercepted at the Mumbai airport in December last year before she could take an international flight. The actor made her debut in the Hindi film industry in 2009.



KEEP SMILING



Students wearing smiley masks pose for photos on the eve of World Laughter Day, at a school in Moradabad

PM bats for local languages in courts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday made a strong pitch for use of local languages in courts, contending that it will increase the confidence of common citizens in the justice system and they will feel more connected to it.

He also appealed to chief ministers and chief justices of high courts to give priority to cases related to undertrial prisoners languishing in jails and release them, as per law, based on human sensitivities, and asserted that judicial reform is not merely a policy matter.

Human sensitivities are involved and they should be kept in the centre of all deliberations, Modi said. In

every district there is a committee headed by the district judge, so that these cases can be reviewed and wherever possible, such prisoners may be released on bail, the prime minister said.

"I would appeal to all CMs and CJs of high courts to give priority to these matters on the basis of humanitarian sensibility and the law," he said.

Addressing the inaugural session of the joint conference of chief ministers and chief justices of high courts, being held after a gap of six years, the prime minister said a group is looking into making legislations in two formats - one in typical legal language and the other in simple language which can be understood by ordinary people.

Another e-scooter goes up in flames

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, April 30: An electric scooter caught fire in Hosur, an industrial hub in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district, on Saturday causing panic in the area.

The owner, a supervisor at a private firm in Bengaluru, however had a providential escape. Hosur resident Satish Kumar noticed his scooter suddenly catching fire from under the seat and jumped to safety. As the vehicle went up in flames, passersby rushed to his help in dousing the blaze. But the vehicle got gutted, police said.

Satish had bought the electric two-wheeler last year. Electric scooters suddenly catching fire has become a cause for concern of late. In a string of such incidents recently, a father and his daughter died due to suffocation in Vellore district in March due to the smoke caused by the explosion of the electric bike while being charged. An electric two-wheeler caught fire in Manapparai in Tiruchirappalli district, later.

Earlier this month, a man died when the detachable battery of the electric scooter kept for charging exploded in his house in Telangana.

IMD to start Urban Meteorological Services for 50 cities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 30: On the lines of Urban Meteorological Services for Delhi-NCR, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday announced to start similar services for 50 cities in a year's time.

Speaking about the urban heat island effect and how advance warnings about the local area weather conditions vis-A-vis urban landscape can help people be better prepared in their own areas, IMD director general (Meteorology) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, "IMD had started Urban Meteorological Services for Delhi that gives localised readings. We plan to start

similar service for 50 more stations in one year."

This will help the authorities concerned and the general public to take informed decisions and suitable measures for weather and air quality related events.

The IMD plans to start these services first for metro cities Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bengaluru in the first phase and then the remaining capital cities. "We hope we are able to launch these all in this coming year," he said.

For now, like Delhi, it would be available only as a web portal and only later, there would be an App for it as part of the modified Mausam App that the IMD cur-



rently has. On July 30, 2021, the Urban Meteorological Services for

Delhi-NCR was launched to provide an integrated Early Warning

System through a web portal and an App.

It provides current weather observations, current air quality observations, weather forecast, air quality forecast, district-wise weather warnings and a Nowcast (forecast applicable for next three hours) too.

The real time weather (Temperature, Relative Humidity, Rainfall, Wind Speed and Wind Direction) and air quality information (PM10, PM2.5, Ozone and Air Quality Index) are collected from monitoring stations of different institutions in Delhi and NCR and presented in a graphical form in the webpage so that hotspots can be identified easily.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
No. B-120/-
Bid Identification No. S.E. CBT (R&B) 02/2022-23
charbatiaidivision1@gmail.com

- Name of the work: Culvert- 1 No.
Estimated cost : Rs.57,61,524/-
- Period of completion : 06 months (180 days)
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal: From 10.00 A.M. of 02.05.2022 to 5.00 P.M. of 09.05.2022 for 'online' bidding.
- Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal: 5.00 P.M. of 09.05.2022.
- Name and address of the officer inviting bid: Superintending Engineer, Charbatia (R&B) Division, Choudwar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Charbatia (R&B) Division, Choudwar
OIPR-34092/11/0002/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BOUDH (R&B) DIVISION, BOUDH
E-mail- eeboudhrb@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
"e" procurement Notice
No. B-117/-
Letter No. 1350 dtd.25.04.2022
Bid Identification No. SE (R&B)- BDH 03/2022-23

1) Name of the work	: 01 (One) No. of External Electrification work (Single cover)
2) Estimated cost	: 15.10 lakhs
3) Period of completion	: 3 (Three) calendar months
4) Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: From 02.05.2022, 10.00 A.M. to 11.05.2022, 5.00 P.M.
5) Last date / time for seeking of tender clarification	: 11.05.2022 upto 1.00 P.M.
6) Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 11.05.2022
7) Date & time of opening of tender / bid	: 12.05.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
8) Name and address of the O.I.T.	: Superintending Engineer, Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh

Further details corrigendum (s) if any issued can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh
OIPR-34134/11/0004/2223

Parties play blame game over reports of Red resurgence

Indigenous outfits oppose mandatory Hindi move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 30: Amid reports that Maoists were trying to regroup in Junglemahal area of West Bengal, their former stronghold, with posters having resurfaced in some pockets, political parties in the state have taken to blame game, maintaining that fears were being unnecessarily fuelled by rival camps for individual gains.

The Centre had warned of Maoist activities in Bengal earlier in the week, with the state police having tightened its vigil in Junglemahal – comprising parts of East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia districts.

"Security forces have been put on high alert. We are keeping a close watch on the situation," a senior police officer said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, however, alleged earlier in the week that the posters were put up by BJP workers, and that a few television channels were creating "an atmosphere of fear" by giving the matter "unnecessary" coverage.

In the same breath, she also said that at least five Maoists had entered the state from neighbouring Jharkhand in the recent past.

Echoing her, TMC West Midnapore district president and MLA Ajit Maity said that it was a



Bloodbath and killings became a regular affair in the area shortly after, with over 350 deaths recorded between 2009 and 2011.

play by opposition parties to create a "fear psychosis".

"The situation in Junglemahal is no longer conducive for Maoist activities as underdevelopment, which was the real issue of concern, has been resolved," he told PTI.

Maoist activities ebbed in the state after 'Operation Green Hunt' was launched in 2009 with central and state forces jointly mounting attacks on the Left-wing rebels.

Kishenji, a CPI (Maoist) politico-buro member leading the rebel ac-

tivities, was killed during a gun fire exchange with security personnel November 24, 2011.

Rebuffing his allegation, BJP's West Midnapore district president Tapas Mishra said it was a hoax generated on purpose to stop the opposition from carrying out work there.

He also said that there was no such concrete information that pointed towards the resurgence of ultra-wing extremism in the area. "We think this entire episode is

BLOODY HISTORY

The state, which was the cradle of the Naxalite movement in the late sixties, had witnessed a spurt in Maoist violence towards the end of 2008, following an attack on the then Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's convoy in Salboni area of West Midnapore district

It prompted a police crackdown, following which Maoist-backed People's Committee against Police Atrocities (PCAPA) was formed in the area

The TMC government's ability to reign in Maoist movement post 2011 is mostly credited to its developmental schemes for the people of the poverty-stricken region, including the availability of rice at Rs 2 per kg for every household

a hoax to stop the opposition from carrying out their activities in the area. This could also be the fallout of infighting in the local TMC camp," he said.

CPI(M) West Midnapore district secretary Sushanta Ghosh, who had been at the forefront of tackling ultra-left terror in Junglemahal from 2008-2011, too, dismissed the speculation as a "cleverly crafted" tactic to stop democratic activities in the area.

"We have seen how the state ad-

ministration was sitting idle to ensure that this Maoist strike call is a success. Usually, the administration goes overboard to foil a strike call by opposition parties. I have no information about any Maoist activity. Those who were then Maoists or members of PCAPA have either joined the TMC or are supporters of the ruling party," he told PTI.

According to sources in the three parties, mass outreach initiatives were being scaled up in the zone to foil attempts to breed insurgency, if any.

Prasun Chatterjee, a Kolkata-based political activist who was arrested for alleged links with the CPI(Maoist) in 2009 and later acquitted, also said that it was best not speculate.

"Is there anyone left to lead such a movement? I don't think so as most of them have joined mainstream political parties. It isn't wise to speculate," Prasun Chatterjee said.

Former West Bengal DGP Bhupinder Singh, who was the state police chief at the height of Maoist movement, issued a word of caution, underscoring that insurgent movements go through a cycle. "All insurgent movements, including ultra-left extremism, go through highs and lows. It is better to remain vigilant than getting caught off guard," he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, April 30: The Roman Script for Kokborok-Choba (RSKC), a conglomeration of 56 indigenous socio-cultural organisations of Tripura have opposed the move to make Hindi a compulsory subject till Class 10 in the northeastern states.

RSKC president Bikash Roy Debarma told reporters Friday that "RSKC is neither against Hindi or Devanagari, but it strongly opposes the forceful imposition of Hindi language and Devanagari script in NE states in general and Tripura in particular."

He said, "Language is a state subject and RSKC is of the opinion that making Hindi compulsory in Northeast is nothing but blatant deviation from constitutional provision."

As far as the script is concerned, RSKC is opposed to the proposal of the Central government to impose Devanagari on languages not having their own scripts.

"The Union government can't dictate or impose Devanagari to any linguistic group against their will or choice. Right to choose is a constitutional guarantee which can't be snatched away," he said.



Debarma said the people of Northeast are peace loving but making Hindi compulsory for NE people will be an "ill-move", which RSKC feels will be counter-productive.

He further urged the Central government not to make Hindi compulsory in NE states and leave it to the people.

"The Indigenous people including Kokborok speaking people should be given the right to choose their script for their own mother tongue," he said.

Responding to a question on what will be the script for Kokborok, Debarma said "over 90 per cent of indigenous people prefer the Roman script for Kokborok."

In Tripura, the script for Kokborok, the mother tongue of around 80 per cent of 19 indigenous tribes, could not be finalised yet even after the constitution of two language commissions earlier.

NAGA CM PREPARES TO TAKE ON 'MIGHTY BJP'

As many as 21 Naga People's Front (NPF) legislators Friday quit the party and decided to merge with another regional outfit Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) led by Rio



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 30: The single biggest takeaway is back to basics. Regionalism is the new flavour in northeast politics. And importantly, NDPP leader and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio is willing to take on the mighty BJP.

But has Rio in the process given armour to his detractors to demand President's Rule? The merger of as many as 21 MLAs led by former Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang, onetime Neiphiu Rio's acolyte-turned-foe-now-turned-friend, came within hours Naga People's Front chief Shurhozelie announced that there will not be any merger between NPF and NDPP at the organisational level.

Well, Nagaland is back with its well-known political head hunting or head counting games. As many as 21 Naga People's Front (NPF) legislators Friday quit the party and decided to merge with an-

other regional outfit Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) led by Rio.

The issue is not how much big the setback is for Shurhozelie, the veteran regionalist, or even the NPF; the real issue is the NDPP and especially Chief Minister Rio's relationship with the BJP.

Now about 45-48 MLAs are with Rio in the 60-member Assembly and so will he continue to need support of 12 BJP legislators? Or why should he entertain the tantrums of BJP leaders?

Earlier this year, the NPF had formally requested NDPP to merge with the party and even asked Chief Minister Rio to 'lead' the new party.

"We are extending invitation to the CM Neiphiu Rio and his MLAs to come together, as there is a desire by one and all among the Naga family that regional party of NPF and NDPP should come to an understanding together," a spokesman

of NPF had said in January. It was understood that Rio was given for such a game only if he is given organisational leadership that is presidency of the new regional party. Veteran regionalist and traditionally a non-Congress leader Shurhozelie was disinclined to give up the organisational leadership of the new regional force to Rio, who was once a prominent Congress face in the state politics.

For all practical purposes, both the parties NDPP and NPF were already working with a unity of purpose. The NPF legislators gave up their opposition cloak recently and extended support to the NDPP-BJP government.

While Nagaland had an opposition-less government, NPF leader Zeliang was designated as the chairman of UDA, comprising NDPP, BJP and NPF.

But Rio still has multiple challenges at hands. Firstly, perhaps the centre considers he failed or was not much inclined to convince NSCN (IM) leader Thuingaleng Muivah to give up the twin demands of Naga Flag and a separate Naga Constitution.

These issues are stalling the peace process in Nagaland and the final peace pact would be a major milestone for the Narendra Modi government.

There are central BJP leaders who suggest Rio's alleged nexus with NSCN (IM) is "not just an allegation" as the influence of gun and money have been critical instruments during elections in Nagaland way back starting from 2003.

a question on whether the farmers are getting a platform to showcase and market their produce.

The state government, through this survey, also wants to have a clear idea about the number of families living in the panchayat areas who have been left out of the food security scheme. It also wants to know who are yet to receive job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and whether they are getting the wages under this same act on a regular basis or not.

In the housing sector, the survey will try to find out whether any beneficiary enlisted for state government-provided housing schemes has been left out. In the education sector, the survey will try to find out the number of school dropouts in the recent past and more importantly whether there has been any increase in the number of girl student dropouts.

FRUITS OF LABOUR



Workers leave after collecting tea leaves from a plantation on the eve of International Labour Day, at Gandhigram near Agartala, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

Dhankhar in war of words with VCs over functioning of varsities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 30: The general secretary of the West Bengal Vice-Chancellors' Council Saturday said no convocation was held on the campuses of the state universities in the last two years due to the pandemic, as Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar lamented that he was not being invited to the ceremonies though he was the chancellor.

Alleging that the state of universities in West Bengal was worrisome, Dhankhar at a programme Friday said he was unable to "sleep at night" because of the situation.

"What the governor has said does not reflect the real situation. How many convocations were held on campuses in the last two years? Please remember how the pandemic affected everything," Subiresh Bhattacharya, the general secretary of Upacharjya Parishad or VC Council, told PTI.

Addressing the National Students' Convocation of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Dhankhar also raised con-

cern over "unionism of the VCs" against him, referring to the meetings that he had called, which were ducked by the vice-chancellors. Bhattacharya, who is the vice-chancellor of the University of North Bengal, said, "There is a mechanism for calling such meetings."

"If the mechanism is followed, the VCs will go as per the rules. The governor is our chancellor," he said.

The vice-chancellor of another state university, who refused to be identified, said the governor was invited to the convocations of Jadavpur University and Calcutta University in December 2019 and January 2020, respectively, but faced protests by students. "After that, the pandemic happened."

The issue escalated to a political fist-fight between the opposition BJP and the ruling TMC.

"What the governor said is very



Centre's new scheme to minimise migration from border areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, April 30: Union minister Nisith Pramanik Saturday said the migration of people from border areas in search of better facilities will be minimised in the next two years with the effective implementation of a new Central scheme.

Pramanik was speaking to journalists after a programme in which Arunachal Pradesh Home minister Bamong Felix sought the Centre's intervention for the infrastructural and economic development of border areas of the north-eastern state.

Arunachal Pradesh shares a 1,080-km border with China, 440 km with Myanmar, and 160 km with Bhutan.

The Union Minister of State for Home emphasised that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is planning to rehabilitate people living along the international borders by providing them with all basic facilities through the new Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) as announced in the Union Budget for the 2022-23 fiscal. VVP aims at enhancing infrastructure in villages along India's border with China, in states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Activities under the VVP include building infrastructures such as housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, providing decentralised renewable energy, direct-to-home access for Doodarshan and educational channels, and support for livelihood generation.

WB starts survey to track villagers' grievances about state services

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, April 30: The three-tier panchayat polls in West Bengal are scheduled for next year. Understanding that local issues will be the key factors that will determine the mood of the voters, the West Bengal government, from Saturday, has started a detailed survey to feel the pulse of the rural population in the state residing in the panchayat areas.

The idea behind conducting the survey is to have a clear idea about the grievances of the people related to different services provided by the state government in the panchayat areas. The survey will be conducted for a period of one month, where a team of surveyors composed of state government employees will move door to door with a set of 72 questions.

This is for the first time in the last 11 years that the Trinamool Congress government is conduct-



ing such a survey for the panchayat polls in the state.

Before 2021, a somewhat similar survey was conducted. But that survey was conducted by poll strategist Prashant Kishor-founded Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC). But this time the survey is being conducted by the state government through its own team of officers and staff.

In the set of 72 questions in the survey, the focus is on the farming sector. There are questions on whether the farmers are receiving the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the state government for their produce. There is also



The meteorological department scientists had already warned that temperature in May can soar up to 48 degrees Celsius, but despite the warning the ruling BJP government did not take any step to provide relief to the people

WELCOME MOVE

An ambulance service for sick and injured cows was inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh district. The service, to be run by Gopal Gaushala, was inaugurated by Dibrugarh Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu



of the day quote

The state will form a committee to control hate speeches in accordance with instructions of the Supreme Court



BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

The way we achieved Telangana statehood and took the state towards the destination of progress, we will, in a similar way, look at India (to address the situation



K CHANDRABABTU NAIDU | TELANGANA CM

I was just telling chamber of commerce people, who met me, that green hydrogen is the future. Now, you can make green hydrogen not only from water, but you can make green hydrogen from organic waste



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

Heat in India unlikely due to climate change alone: WMO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 30: After multiple scientists claimed that the current spell of heatwaves in India and Pakistan are due to climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said it would be premature to attribute it solely to climate change.

The WMO also appreciated warning systems and heat action plans that helped save lives.

In a statement issued on Friday night, the WMO said: "It is premature to attribute the extreme heat in India and Pakistan solely to climate change. However, it is consistent with what we expect in a changing climate. Heatwaves are more frequent and more intense and now start earlier than it did in the past.

"India, especially the northwest, has been witnessing a third heatwave since March with the current, third spell sending mercury soaring to more than 45 degrees Celsius across dozens of states of India, including the northwestern Himalayan states too.

"Similar temperatures have been seen in Pakistan. The Pakistan Meteorological Department said that daytime temperatures are likely to be between 5 degrees Celsius and 8 degrees Celsius above normal in large swathes of the country.

The agency warned that in the mountainous regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkwa, the unusual heat would enhance the melting of snow and ice and might trigger glacial lake outburst floods or flash floods in vulnerable areas. "Air quality has deteriorated, and large swathes of land are at risk



India recorded its warmest March on record while Pakistan recorded its highest March temperature in the past 60 years, with a number of stations breaking March records, the WMO said

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) has said that heat waves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent in South Asia in this century

of extreme fire danger."

India recorded its warmest March on record while Pakistan recorded its highest March temperature in the past 60 years, with a number of stations breaking March records, the WMO said.

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The WMO, endorsing India's Ministry of Earth Sciences' publication on climate change in India that has a whole chapter on temperature change, said: "The frequency of warm extremes over India has increased during 1951-2015, with accelerated warming

trends during the recent 30 year period 1986-2015. Significant warming is observed for the warmest day, warmest night and coldest night since 1986."

Through its statement, the WMO also reminded the need for a multi-hazard early warning system that it has promised to ensure for all in the next five years.

"Heatwaves have multiple and cascading impacts not just on human health, but also on ecosystems, agriculture, water and energy supplies and key sectors of the economy. The risks to society underline why the WMO is committed to ensuring that multi-hazard early warning services reach the most vulnerable," it said.

SHORT TAKES

Woman gangraped

Hyderabad: A woman was allegedly gangraped by four men in Dundigal in the outskirts of Hyderabad, police said Saturday. The victim, who had come from Sholapur, was sexually assaulted in Medchal district late Friday night. All the accused, identified as Narasimha (23), Imam (20), Abdul Quddus (21) and Umrudhin (21), are said to be auto-rickshaw drivers. They allegedly took the victim to an isolated place and committed the crime.

Soldier killed

Srinagar: A soldier was killed and two others were injured on Saturday in a road accident in Kashmir's Ganderbal district, police sources said. "The vehicle, which was part of an army convoy, turned turtle near Masjid Morh in Sumbal Bala area. The soldier came under the ill-fated vehicle which killed him on the spot," the sources said. "Two other soldiers sustained injuries in this accident. They have been shifted to hospital".

39 injured

Srinagar: Thirty-nine people, including 17 tourists, were injured in an alleged attack by stray dogs in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city. Locals said 39 persons were injured when a pack of stray dogs attacked them in Dalgate area of Srinagar city on Friday evening. "The injured included 17 tourists and 22 locals. All the injured were shifted to hospital," local eye witnesses said.

AP MLA attacked

Amaravati: Tension prevailed at a village in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru district on Saturday when an MLA of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) was attacked by a rival group within the ruling party following murder of a local sarpanch. The incident occurred in G. Kothapalli village of Dwaraka Tirumala mandal. The fighting in the ruling party came to the fore when MLA Talari Venkata Rao was attacked by rival group when he went to the village following murder of G. Kothapalli sarpanch Ganji Prasad.

Six injured

New Delhi: At least six people were severely injured after a DTC bus rammed into shops in the national capital's Jangpura area Saturday, police said. A senior police official said the victims were rushed to a nearby government hospital where they were undergoing treatment and were said to be out of danger by the doctors.

WATER WOES



People stand in queues to collect water, at Jogeshwari in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

Smriti to take on Rahul in Wayanad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, April 30: After bringing down Rahul Gandhi at Amethi, Smriti Irani is all set to land in Wayanad next week, the constituency that the Congress leader had won in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

According to sources in the know of things, Irani, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, is coming with a

mission to take on Rahul Gandhi, especially with the Wayanad district having the largest population of tribals in the state and their condition continues to rot, despite the numerous schemes that the Centre has for their upliftment.

According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribe population in Kerala is 4,84,839 (1.5 per cent of the total population). And Wayanad district has the highest number

of tribals at 1,51,443.

Incidentally, it was actor-politician Suresh Gopi, a nominated member of the Upper House whose term ended this month, who in his last few speeches in the Parliament raised the issue of how centrally sponsored schemes for the upliftment of the poor and down-trodden and for the SC/ST communities in Kerala are not getting due attention, giving the impetus to Irani to make a visit to Wayanad.

BJP trying to divide Hindus, says Uddhav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray Saturday accused the BJP of conspiring to divide Hindus in the state.

Thackeray made the comments during his online address to Shiv Sena's district chiefs from Konkan region, and from western and north Maharashtra, according to the points shared by the party from his speech.

Without naming the BJP, Thackeray alleged that it was trying to paint Maharashtra as "anti-Hindu" as it allegedly did in the cases of West Bengal and Kerala - both non-BJP ruled states.

The BJP has been targeting its erstwhile ally, the Shiv Sena, over the issue of Hindutva ever since the Thackeray-led party formed government in Maharashtra by joining hands with the NCP and the Congress.

"We always say Maharashtra shows the direction. Now, Maharashtra should show the direction again... It is the BJP's conspiracy to divide Hindus and Marathis and non-Marathis in Maharashtra," Thackeray alleged.

Interacting with media persons after Thackeray's address to the party leaders, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut told reporters here that the former laid em-

Packed itinerary for PM

The Prime Minister will hold meetings, bilateral as well as multilateral, with eight world leaders from seven countries besides having an interaction with 50 global business leaders



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: In his first visit abroad this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have 25 hectic engagements in his three-day travel to as many countries where he will be spending around 65 hours, government sources said on Saturday.

He will hold meetings, bilateral as well as multilateral, with eight world leaders from seven countries besides having an interaction with 50 global business leaders, they said. He will also interact with thousands of members of the Indian diaspora.

Modi will embark on a three-day visit to Germany, Denmark and France from May 2 amid the Ukraine crisis, which has united much of Europe against Russia. He will first travel to Germany, then visit Denmark and will have a brief stop over in Paris on his return journey on May 4.

Prime Minister Modi will be spending one night each in Germany and Denmark while two nights in flight.

Modi will embark on a three-day visit to Germany, Denmark and France from May 2 amid the Ukraine crisis, which has united much of Europe against Russia

In Paris, Modi will hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, who was re-elected to the top post in a fiercely-fought presidential election.

In Berlin, the prime minister will hold bilateral talks with Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellor of Germany, and the two leaders will co-chair the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC), the MEA had said in a statement.

It will be Modi's first meeting with Chancellor Scholz who took charge of the top office from his predecessor Angela Merkel in December last year.

Many vials of Covid vaccine found in garbage dump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kannauj (UP), April 30: A probe has been ordered after several vials of Covishield vaccine were found in a garbage dump at a community health centre here, officials said on Saturday.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the district, Dr Vinod Kumar termed the "wastage of vaccine" a "serious matter". "An investigation will be ordered and action will be taken against those found guilty," said Kumar.

CHC superintendent Dr. Mahendra Bhan Singh said a single vial of Covishield contains 10 doses. According to the rule, a vial of Covishield is opened only when 10 patients are available to take the dose.

"Sometimes if the vial has been opened, and fewer people are present as others didn't turn up within a few hours, that vial is kept aside."

Meanwhile some local residents alleged that despite not taking the second dose of the vaccine, they have been receiving messages on their mobile phone that the second jab has been administered to them. Nirmal Yadav and Vimal Kumar of Tilpai village said they have received messages on their mobile phones that they have taken their second dose. "But in reality we are yet to receive the second dose of the Covishield vaccine," they said.



UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

We always say Maharashtra shows the direction. Now, Maharashtra should show the direction again... It is the BJP's conspiracy to divide Hindus and Marathis and non-Marathis in Maharashtra

Over 2,300 people, 490 jumbos killed in man-elephant conflicts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 30: As many as 2,381 people and 490 elephants have died in India from 2015 to 2018, according to a compendium published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

"Similarly, between 2000 and 2010, 0.5 million households have suffered annual losses due to crop raiding by elephants," according to the compendium titled 'Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) in select states of India', released in Dehradun Friday.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav was in Dehradun to chair the 16th steering committee meeting of Project Elephant

at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) where various aspects related to elephant conservation were discussed.

Yadav also released the preliminary report on 'Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)', and a booklet titled 'Trumpet', a quarterly publication of Project Elephant division of the Environment Ministry.

The compendium stated that in spite of multi-pronged efforts, conflicts between elephants and people seem to be intensifying.

"(However), there is now an increased recognition that conflict resolution cannot be a one-off effort, but a continuous and sustained endeavor of learning and implementing different strategies over longer period of time. Although



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE: PTI

human-elephant conflict is one of the most well researched topics in both conservation biology and management in India; many questions beg satisfactory answers so as to devise lasting solutions to

the problem," it said. With an objective of making the HEC database readily assessable for policymakers and field managers, Project Elephant Division along with the Elephant Cell of Wildlife

Institute of India (WII) embarked on the task of mapping HEC across the country.

In this report, preliminary details on HEC pertaining to seven elephant range states of India have been pictorially depicted and broad trends presented. The report also identified new challenges such as elephant dispersal into human-dominated areas, rapid landuse transformation around elephant habitats, and sustained economic and infrastructure development related pressures that fragment, isolate and degrade elephant habitats, consequently resulting in human-elephant conflicts.

"The spatial relationship between elephants, people and associated socio-economic factors in-

fluences the occurrence and severity of human-elephant conflict," it observed.

The field manual is developed by WWF India, which is a handbook for forest staff working in key elephant landscapes across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Bengal, Assam and Uttarakhand.

"Human-elephant conflict is an area where we need to collaborate with all the stakeholders to save the lives of both humans and elephants. The efforts to bring out the field manual with WWF India and WII is such an endeavour, which I am sure will be a good tool for field officials to use in mitigating different HEC situations," said Ramesh Pandey, IG, Project Elephant.

international

of the day quote

I want to give a message to all of Pakistan to start preparing from now. The start of our preparation will be chaand raat (eve of Eid) and I want to say specifically to the youth that you have to come out with flags and tell the whole world that the Pakistani nation is alive

IMRAN KHAN | EX-PM, PAKISTAN

We continue to urge Americans not to go to Ukraine... this is an active war zone, this is not the place to be traveling to

JOHN KIRBY | SPOKESMAN, PENTAGON

We expect the Greek side to put an end to its provocative rhetoric and actions and to sincerely support the confidence building measures process initiated both bilaterally and within the NATO, so that such incidents do not recur

TANJU BILGIC | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, TURKEY

SHORT TAKES

Pak sees 2nd polio case within a week

Islamabad: A two-year-old girl in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has been tested positive for polio, the second such case in the country in a week, triggering panic among health officials as the virus causing the crippling disease can travel along with people in the massive movement during Eid holidays. "Today, the Pakistan National Polio Laboratory at the NIH, Islamabad, has confirmed the detection of Type-1 Wild Poliovirus from the stool specimen from a 24-month-old girl from district North Waziristan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The girl had an onset of paralysis on 14 April 2022," an official statement said.

Serbia shows off Chinese missiles

Belgrade: Serbia Saturday publicly displayed a recently delivered Chinese anti-aircraft missile system, raising concerns in the West and among some of Serbia's neighbours that an arms buildup in the Balkans could threaten fragile peace in the region. The sophisticated HQ-22 surface-to-air system was delivered last month by a dozen Chinese Air Force Y-20 transport planes in what was believed to be the largest-ever airlift delivery of Chinese arms to Europe.

Omicron sub-variant detected in Oz state

Canberra: Health authorities of Australia's Victoria state confirmed that the Omicron sub-variant BA.2.12.1 has been traced in wastewater in Melbourne. The Victoria Health Department said authorities would now prioritize the sequencing of PCR samples from Covid-19 cases in the water catchment area to get a better understanding of the spread of the BA.2.12.1, reports Xinhua news agency. Victoria reported 19 Covid deaths Saturday along with 9,064 new cases, bringing the state's overall active cases to 54,992.

8 children killed in accident in Egypt

Cairo: At least eight children died Saturday when a passenger tricycle overturned and sank in an irrigation channel in Egypt's Nile Delta, authorities said. The accident took place in the city of Itay el-Baroud in the Mediterranean province of Beheira. The children were workers at a factory in the city, around 140 km (87 miles) north of the capital of Cairo, a police statement said.



Everyone will be able to see that we command a majority next week. President should resign from his post and then constitutional reforms should follow to ensure checks and balances among the pillars of the government

LAKSHMAN KIRIELLA | OPPOSITION LEADER, SL

LONGEST GLASS-BOTTOMED BRIDGE

Vietnam launched a new attraction for tourists with a head for heights, with the opening of a glass-bottomed bridge suspended 150 metres above a lush jungle. The Bach Long pedestrian bridge -- whose name translates to "white dragon" -- snakes around dizzying cliff faces hitting a total length of 632 metres



Russia pounding Donbas: Ukraine

REUTERS

Kyiv, April 30: Russian forces pounded Ukraine's eastern Donbas region Saturday but failed to capture three target areas, Ukraine's military said, while Moscow said Western sanctions on Russia and arms shipments to Ukraine were impeding peace negotiations.

The Russians were trying to capture the areas of Lyman in Donetsk and Sievierodonetsk and Popsna in Luhansk, the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said in a daily update. "Not succeeding - the fighting continues," it said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has insisted since the Russian invasion began Feb 24 that sanctions needed to be strengthened and could not be part of negotiations. He said Friday there was a high risk the talks would end because of what he called Russia's "playbook on murdering people".

Ukraine accuses Russian troops of atrocities in areas near the capital, Kyiv, that they previously oc-



RUSSIA CONTINUES ASSAULT ON EASTERN UKRAINE
UKRAINE SAYS RUSSIANS 'NOT SUCCEEDING' IN TAKING TARGETS
US TO PASS UKRAINE AID AND WEAPONS PACKAGE SOON
ANOTHER MASS GRAVE WITH 900 BODIES FOUND IN KYIV REGION

cupied. Moscow denies the claims. In Washington, US President Joe Biden's proposed \$33 billion aid package for Ukraine, including \$20 billion for weapons, has received bipartisan support. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday she hoped Congress would pass the package as soon as possible.

Russia calls its actions in Ukraine

'Lifting sanctions part of peace talks'

Lifting sanctions imposed on Russia is part of peace negotiations between Moscow and Ukraine, which are "difficult" but continue daily, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in remarks published early Saturday. Kyiv warned Friday that talks on ending Russia's invasion, now in its third month, were in danger of collapse. "At present, the Russian and Ukrainian delegations are actually discussing on a daily basis via video-conferencing a draft of a possible treaty," Lavrov said. "We are in favour of continuing the negotiations, although they are difficult," he added. More than 1 million people have been evacuated from Ukraine into Russia since Feb 24, Lavrov said Saturday. The 1.02 million includes 120,000 foreigners and people evacuated from Russian-backed breakaway regions of Ukraine, the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's republics, which Russia recognised as independent just before launching its invasion. According to UN, more than 5.4 million people have fled Ukraine.

The talks' agenda also includes, among others, the issues of denazification, the recognition of new geopolitical realities, the lifting of sanctions, the status of the Russian language

SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

a "special operation" to disarm Ukraine and protect it from fascists. Ukraine and the West say the fascist allegation is baseless and the war is an unprovoked act of aggression.

The war has turned cities to rubble, killed thousands and forced 5 million Ukrainians to flee abroad. After failing to capture the capital, Russia is now focusing on the east and south of Ukraine.

Moscow hopes to take full control of the eastern Donbas region made up of Luhansk and Donetsk, parts of which were already controlled by Russian-backed separatists before the invasion.

Britain's defence ministry said Saturday that Russia had been forced to merge and redeploy depleted and disparate units from failed advances in northeastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's deputy agriculture minister Taras Vysotskiy accused Russian forces of stealing hundreds of thousands of tonne of grain in the areas they occupy, and said he feared an additional 1.5 million tonne were at risk of being stolen.

Zelenskyy on Time Magazine's cover

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is featured on the cover of Time Magazine's latest issue. The cover story, by reporter Simon Schuster, promises to take readers inside the world of the Ukrainian President and how he has led the country during its toughest times. The text on the magazine's cover reads, "How Zelenskyy leads: Inside the compound with the president and his team".

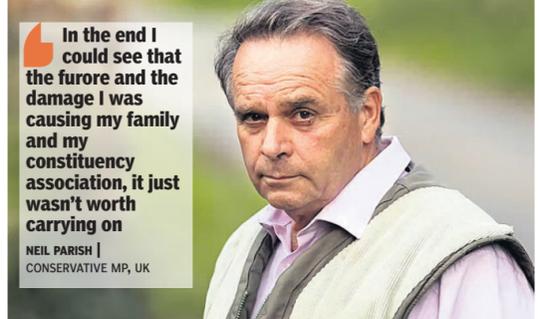


While the US and some European countries have rushed to Ukraine's help, Zelenskyy told the magazine that the flagging attention of the world bothers him nearly as much as the raining Russian bombs. "People see this war on Instagram, on social media. When they get sick of it, they will scroll away," he said. "It's a lot of blood."

The story mentions that Zelenskyy once drove outside the presidential house compound in secret to see the devastation of Kyiv. The reporter, who met and interviewed him, stated that two months of war have made the Ukrainian President "harder, quicker to anger, and a lot more comfortable with risk."

PORN IN PARLIAMENT

UK MP resigns after admitting allegations



In the end I could see that the furore and the damage I was causing my family and my constituency association, it just wasn't worth carrying on

NEIL PARISH | CONSERVATIVE MP, UK

Earlier this week British media had reported that a female minister said she had seen a male colleague viewing pornographic material while sitting beside her in the Commons chamber and the same lawmaker watching pornography during a committee hearing

REUTERS

London, April 30: A British lawmaker who had been suspended from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party said Saturday he had resigned after admitting he twice viewed pornography on his phone in the House of Commons "in a moment of madness."

The Conservatives suspended Neil Parish Friday after he reported himself to parliament's standards commissioner. Parish resigned Saturday, having previously said he would continue as a member of parliament while an

investigation was carried out. Parish, a farmer, said the first time he had viewed the explicit material he had stumbled across it by accident when looking for tractors on a website with a similar name, and had then "watched it for a bit which I shouldn't have done. But my crime, most biggest crime is that on another occasion I went in a second time and that was deliberate. That was sitting waiting to vote on the side of the chamber."

Asked what had been going through his mind, he described it as "a moment of madness". "I was not proud of what I was doing," Parish said, adding that he had not intended those around him would see it. "I am not going to defend what I did. What I did was absolutely, totally wrong ... I think I must have taken complete leave of my senses."

In an interview with The Times newspaper published before his resignation, Parish's wife said she was not aware of her husband having done anything similar before and that her husband was "a lovely person". "It was all very embarrassing. My breath was taken away, frankly," said Parish.

Shanghai marks Covid feat

OVERALL, MAINLAND CHINA REPORTED 10,793 DAILY COVID-19 CASES, DOWN FROM 15,688 NEW CASES A DAY EARLIER

REUTERS

Shanghai, April 30: Shanghai said Saturday it had detected no new daily Covid-19 cases outside quarantine areas, marking a milestone in its battle to contain the virus, which has paralysed the city of 25 million and put residents in the capital Beijing on edge.

Streets in Beijing were eerily quiet at the start of a five-day Labour Day break, with residents anxious that authorities would impose further restrictions during a holiday when many typically travel or socialise.

In the eastern commercial capital of Shanghai, scenes of houses and buildings ringed with fences to prevent residents from leaving have grabbed headlines at a time when most other countries in the world are learning to live with Covid.

Shanghai officials did not discuss the break in Covid transmission at their daily news conference, but social media cheered the news.

"Shanghai has finally reached zero at the community level!!! May Shanghai wake up as soon as pos-



Shanghai records no Covid cases outside quarantine areas
Beijing on tenterhooks, bracing for more restrictions
Breakthrough would mark victory for Xi in crucial year
Infections ease as China starts Labour Day holiday

sible!," said one post on the Weibo platform. Friday's zero cases outside quarantine areas in Shanghai compared to 108 for Thursday. Some, however, played down the milestone, noting that most of the city's residents were locked in some form of quarantine.

Saturday, health authorities said there were close to 16,000 sealed-off areas in Shanghai, with more than 4 million people prevented from leaving their homes. A further 5.4 million people were blocked from

NAZI COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Germany takes Italy to UN court again

REUTERS

The Hague, April 30: Germany has filed a case against Italy at the highest UN court because Rome continues to allow victims of Nazi war crimes to claim compensation from the German state even after an earlier ruling that such claims violated international law.

Germany's application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), published on the court website late Friday, says Italy continues to allow compensation claims to be brought in domestic courts despite the ICJ's 2012 ruling that this violated Berlin's right to immunity under international law.

Berlin says that since the 2012 ruling, there have been more than 25 new compensation claims filed in Italy against the German state for damages arising from Nazi crimes during World War Two. In many of these cases, courts have ordered Germany to pay compensation.

Germany says it has filed the case at the ICJ now because an

Over 20 trapped, 39 missing in China building collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Beijing, April 30: At least 39 people were missing and 23 trapped in a six-storey residential building collapse in China's central Hunan province, authorities said Saturday. Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out efforts to rescue the trapped and injured people. Five people have been rescued and admitted to nearby hospitals.

The six-storey building, which has a floor area of about 700 square meters, toppled at noon Friday in Changsha city's Wangcheng district, state-run China Global Television Network reported. The owner of the building has been detained.

Huang Ming, minister of emergency management, in a video conference Saturday called for an inspection of work safety to prevent further accidents. "Related departments should launch a crackdown on illegal and irregular building activities such as unauthorised construction and unauthorised alteration of the main structure to prevent collapses and other similar accidents," Huang said.

Italian court has said it will decide by May 25 whether to force a sale of the buildings, some of which house German cultural, archaeological, historical and educational institutions.

Nepal seeks to end marijuana ban after half a century

WASHINGTON'S GLOBAL WAR ON DRUGS, AND ITS ACCOMPANYING PRESSURE ON FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, PROMPTED THE CLOSURE OF THE CAPITAL'S DISPENSARIES IN 1973, ALONG WITH A CULTIVATION BAN THAT FORCED FARMERS TO RIP UP THEIR CANNABIS PLANTS

AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE

Kathmandu, April 30: Nepal's marijuana ban could soon be up in smoke, as lawmakers mull a return to the liberal drug policies that once made the Himalayan republic a popular pit stop on the overland hippie trail.

Half a century ago, thousands of fun-seeking backpackers from around the world made their way to Kathmandu to buy potent hash strains from government-licensed stores on Freak Street -- a lane named for long-haired and unkempt foreign visitors.

Now, with Western countries easing their own prohibitions on marijuana, the government and legal reform campaigners say it is

time to stop criminalising a potent cash crop with centuries-old ties to the country's culture and religious practices.

Health Minister Birodh Khatriwada sponsored Nepal's first parliamentary motion advocating an end to the ban in January 2020, and two months later a bill was put to lawmakers seeking partial legalisation.

Nepal's home ministry has launched a study into the medicinal properties and export potential of marijuana that is expected to support a revived parliamentary push to end the ban.

"It is a medicine," said prominent activist Rajiv Kafle, who lives with HIV and began campaigning for legalisation after using the



drug to treat his symptoms. Kafle said ending the ban would be an important booster to Nepal's tourism industry, which is still reeling from the Covid pandemic, and would also benefit Nepalis suffering from chronic illnesses.

While the current law allows for medicinal cannabis, there is no established framework for therapeutic use and the government still enforces a blanket ban on consumption and trafficking. Authorities also look the other

way during an annual festival held to honour Lord Shiva, the destroyer of evil, who is regularly depicted clasping a chillum pipe used to smoke cannabis.

Ganja smoke wafts around the grounds of Kathmandu's Pashupatinath Temple each year as holy men gather to celebrate and worshippers fill their own chillums with Shiva's gift. But elsewhere, penalties are harsh and regularly enforced. Marijuana dealers risk up to 10 years jail time and police seize and destroy thousands of cannabis plants across the country each year.

Several Western countries have ended their own bans on marijuana use in recent years, including parts of the United States, which once spearheaded the global campaign to criminalise the drug.

In California, dispensaries sell Himalayan Gold, a strain which originated from Nepal and calls to mind the country's historic associations with weed culture.



We have got 82 unicorns in the whole internet space, software space and it is time now to create unicorn in semiconductor design space
RAVEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

MUSK GAINS 6MN FOLLOWERS

Amid Twitter's \$44 billion deal saga, tech billionaire Elon Musk has gained approximately 6 million followers on the platform. The Tesla CEO likely had around 83 million followers before the Twitter deal. However, as of now, he has over 89 million followers on the microblogging site



of the day quote

We miss the fact that in a public auction-based resolution model, the extent of haircut represents a discount the market demands in continuing to invest in an insolvent borrower

M RAJESHWAR RAO | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

Within the MSME space, we largely cater to the trading community and they have rebounded with the pick-up in activity, thus spurring demand for MSME credit

YS CHAKRAVARTI | MD AND CEO, SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE

Our objective with project MadhuShakti is to transform the lives of rural families by empowering women in agriculture with sustainable business opportunities

RAVI ANNARAVU | PRESIDENT, FMC INDIA

Xiaomi's assets worth ₹5,551 crore seized over forex violations

THE SEIZURE OF FUNDS HAS BEEN DONE UNDER RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT ACT (FEMA) AFTER A PROBE WAS LAUNCHED BY THE FEDERAL AGENCY AGAINST THE FIRM IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED "ILLEGAL REMITTANCES" SENT ABROAD BY THE CHINESE FIRM IN FEB



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Funds worth over Rs 5,551 crore of Chinese mobile manufacturing company Xiaomi India have been "seized" for violating the Indian foreign exchange law, the Enforcement Directorate said Saturday. The action has been taken against Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited. The company (also called Xiaomi India) is a trader and distributor of mobile phones in the country under the brand name of MI. "Xiaomi India is wholly owned subsidiary of China-based Xiaomi group. This amount of Rs 5,551.27 crore lying in the bank accounts of the company has been seized by the Enforcement Directorate," the agency said in a statement. The seizure of funds has been done under relevant sections of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) after a probe was launched by the federal agency against the company in connection with alleged "illegal remittances" sent abroad by the Chinese firm in February.

Xiaomi started its operations in India in 2014 and started remitting the money from the next year, it said. "The company has remitted foreign currency equivalent to Rs 5,551.27 crore to three foreign based entities which include one Xiaomi group entity, in the guise of royalty," the ED said. Such huge amounts in the name of royalties were remitted on the instructions of their Chinese "parent group" entities, it alleged. "The amount remitted to other two US-based unrelated entities were also for the ultimate benefit of the Xiaomi group entities," the ED said. It said while Xiaomi India procures completely manufactured mobile sets and other products from the manufacturers in India it has not availed any service from these three foreign based

XIAOMI DENIES WRONGDOING

In a statement, a Xiaomi spokesperson said "as a brand committed to India, all our operations are firmly compliant with local laws and regulations". "We have studied the order from government authorities carefully. We believe our royalty payments and statements to the bank are all legit and truthful. These royalty payments that Xiaomi India made were for the in-licensed technologies and IPs used in our Indian version products," the spokesperson said. "It is a legitimate commercial arrangement for Xiaomi India to make such royalty payments. However, we are committed to working closely with government authorities to clarify any misunderstandings," the spokesperson added.

The said section of the civil law of FEMA talks about "holding of foreign exchange." The ED also accused the company of providing "misleading information" to the banks while remitting the money abroad. Earlier this month, the ED had also questioned the global vice president of the group, Manu Kumar Jain, at the agency's regional office in Bangalore, Karnataka.

entities to whom such amounts have been transferred. "Under the cover of various unrelated documentary facade created amongst the group entities, the company remitted this amount in guise of royalty abroad which constitute violation of section 4 of the FEMA," it said.

SHORT TAKES

KVIC logs ₹1.15trn turnover in FY22

New Delhi: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) achieved a whopping Rs 1.15 lakh crore turnover in 2021-22, growing at a rate of 20.54 per cent from the previous year, the government said Saturday. The MSME ministry stated that KVIC has achieved a height which remains a distant goal for all FMCG companies in India. Last fiscal year, the overall turnover of KVIC stood at Rs 1,15,415.22 crore as compared to Rs 95,741.74 crore in 2020-21. KVIC has thus registered a growth of 20.54 per cent from 2020-21. "Compared to the year 2014-15, the overall production in Khadi and Village Industries sectors in 2021-22 has registered a whopping growth of 172 per cent while the gross sales during this period increased by over 248 per cent," the ministry said.

Yes Bank Q4 net profit at ₹367cr

New Delhi: Yes Bank Saturday said it returned to full-year profitability in the fiscal ended March 2022, registering a profit of Rs 1,066 crore during the year. The private sector lender had posted a net loss of Rs 3,462 crore in the previous fiscal year ended March 2021 and a loss of Rs 22,715 crore in FY20. FY22 is the first full-year profit since FY19, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing. In the quarter ended March of the fiscal year 2021-22, the bank registered a net profit of Rs 367 crore. There was a net loss of Rs 3,788 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year 2020-21. Compared sequentially, the net profit in Q4 FY22 rose by 38 per cent from Rs 266 crore in the preceding quarter ended December 2021.

Astral to buy 51% stake in Gem Paints

New Delhi: PVC pipes and plastic products maker Astral said it will acquire a majority 51 per cent stake in Gem Paints for Rs 194 crore, a move which will allow the Ahmedabad-based firm to expand its product portfolio into the paints segment. Astral has entered into a definitive agreement with Gem Paints and its shareholders after the deal was approved by its board on Friday, it said in a regulatory filing. "Astral shall initially invest Rs. 194 Crores in Gem Paints Private Limited by subscribing to Optionally Convertible Debentures equivalent to the value of 51 per cent equity stake of Operating Paint business of Gem Paints," it said, adding it will be an all-cash deal.

PANDEMIC LOSSES

Economy may take 12 yrs to recoup: RBI

As per the report, the behavioural and technological changes brought about by the pandemic may usher in a new normal which would not necessarily ape the pre-pandemic trends but would be built on a more efficient, equitable, clean and green foundations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: The Indian economy may take more than a decade to overcome the losses emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic, said a report published by the Reserve Bank of India. The perturbations from repeated waves of Covid-19 have come in the way of sustained recovery and the quarterly trends in GDP essentially followed the ebbs and flows of the pandemic, said the chapter



In an analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, the report has estimated the output losses during the pandemic period at around Rs 16.4 lakh crore for 2020-21, Rs 52 lakh crore for 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively

'Scars of the Pandemic' in the Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2021-22.

Following a sharp contraction in the first quarter of 2020-21, the economic momentum progressively picked up till it was hit by the second wave in April-June period of 2021-22. Similarly, the impact of the third wave, concentrated in the month of January

2022, partially dented the recovery process.

With the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, the downward risks to global and domestic growth are getting accentuated through surge in commodity prices and global supply chain disruptions, it noted. "The pandemic is a watershed moment and the ongoing structural changes catalysed by the pan-

dem can potentially alter the growth trajectory in the medium-term," the report said.

The pre-Covid trend growth rate works out to 6.6 per cent (CAGR for 2012-13 to 2019-20) and excluding the slowdown years, it stands at 7.1 per cent (CAGR for 2012-13 to 2016-17). "Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6 per cent for 2020-21, 8.9 per cent for 2021-22 and assuming growth rate of 7.2 per cent for 2022-23, and 7.5 per cent beyond that, India is expected to overcome Covid-19 losses in 2034-35," the report said.

The report has been authored by officials in the RBI's Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR). The RBI, however, said the findings and conclusions expressed in the report are entirely those of the contributors and do not represent the views of the central bank.

The dividends of reforms initiated to counter the pre-COVID slowdown along with additional measures and initiatives during the pandemic will help launch the economy on a sustainable high growth path, it said.

Shell to buy Sprng Energy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Houston, April 30: Shell Overseas Investment BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), has signed an agreement with Actis Solenergi Limited (Actis) to acquire 100 per cent of Solenergi Power Private Limited for \$1.55 billion and with it, the Sprng Energy group of companies.

Sprng Energy, headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra, will retain its existing brand and operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Shell within Shell's Renewables and Energy Solutions Integrated Power business.

The transaction is subject to regulatory clearance and is ex-



pected to close later this year.

"This deal positions Shell as one of the first movers in building a truly integrated energy transition business in India," said Wael Sawan, Shell's Integrated Gas, Renewables and Energy Solutions Director in a press release Friday.

"I believe it will enable Shell to become a leader across the power value chain in a rapidly growing

market where electrification on a massive scale and strong demand for renewables are driving the energy transition."

"Sprng Energy generates cash, has an excellent team, strong and proven development track record and a healthy growth pipeline. Sprng Energy's strengths can combine with Shell India's thriving customer-facing gas and downstream businesses to create even more opportunities for growth," Sawan said.

According to the release, the solar and wind assets Shell acquires through the deal will triple Shell's present renewable capacity in operation and help deliver its 'Powering Progress' strategy.

IREDA profit rises to all-time high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has posted a historic all-time high profit of Rs 634 crore for 2021-22. This profit was 82.88 per cent higher as compared to the previous year's.

Profit Before Tax (PBT) in 2021-22 was Rs 834 crore, higher by 46.41 per cent from 2020-21, a company statement said.

The loan book of IREDA, an NBFC under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy grew from Rs 27,854 crore as March 31, 2021 to Rs 33,931 crore at March-end this year, registering a growth of 21.82 per cent.

BIZ BUZZ

Vedanta unveils Jal Seva Shibira in City

Bhubaneswar: In a time when Capital city is witnessing severe heatwave, Vedanta in association with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Saturday, flagged off 15 Jal Seva Shibira (Kiosks) at important locations of the City. The ceremonial opening of the kiosks was done by Mayor Sulochana Das, in the presence of President of Vedanta Tapan Chand. These kiosks will provide cool water, lemon water and butter milk from 9 am to 5 pm until mid June. The kiosks will be operated by two NGOs - Automahasang and Deesha Biogram, an all-women startup, which is leading the NGOs for the work. "It is indeed a welcoming initiative especially setting up such kiosks during this duration. However, we should also take care of birds and animals that are also facing the extreme weather. We should also look to plant trees to augment greenery and rain fall," Das said. Meanwhile, Rahul Sharma, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium and Power in his message said that Jal Seva Shivira is a need based beneficial program and that they will be introducing more such beneficial programs shortly. Many resident welfare associations, citizens' associations and groups have praised the initiative of Vedanta at State level providing relief in scorching summer as a welcome change and noble job.



GM Rath joins as new Sastra Head of PNB



Bhubaneswar: General Manager Jyoti Ranjan Rath has joined as the new Zonal head of Zonal Sastra of Punjab National Bank, Bhubaneswar. Prior to this he was serving the bank as the General Manager at Bank's Corporate office, New Delhi. Rath has also served the bank as Circle Head of PNB Circle office, Bhubaneswar. In order to accelerate recovery, the Bank has set up Circle Sastra Centers in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Berhampur and Sambalpur along with Zonal Sastra Center in Bhubaneswar.

MCL provides ambulance services for 3 western districts

Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) Friday commissioned five ambulances for strengthening healthcare facilities in Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Bargarh districts. Suresh Kumar Pujari, MP (LS) Bargarh flagged off a fleet of five Basic Life Support ambulances from the MCL headquarters here. Nitesh Ganga Deb, MP (LS), Sambalpur and Om Prakash Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MCL joined the flagging off ceremony through video-conferencing. KR Vasudevan, Director (Finance), Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), Jugal Kumar Borah, Director (Technical/Projects & Planning) and PK Patel, Chief Vigilance Officer were prominent among senior officers present on the occasion. Addressing on the occasion, OP Singh, CMD spoke about company's role in energy security of the nation while Kehav Rao, Director (P) briefed about CSR initiatives for development of rural areas and marginalised farmers in Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Angul districts in which MCL has operational mines.

TWO-DECADE HIGH

Dollar surge leaves a trail of destruction in its wake

REUTERS

London, April 30: The dollar's race to two-decade highs is leaving a trail of destruction in its wake, exacerbating inflation in other countries and tightening financial conditions just as the world economy confronts the prospect of a slowdown in growth.

This year's 8% gain against a basket of currencies is driven partly by bets that the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates faster and further than other developed countries, and partly by its status as a safe haven in times of turbulence.

It is also supported by Japan's reluctance to ditch its super-easy policies, and fears of recession in Europe.

Here are some areas affected by the dollar's muscle-flexing:

EXPORTS
Currency weakness normally benefits export-reliant Europe and

Japan, but the equation may not hold when inflation is high and rising. Euro zone inflation hit a record 7.5% this month, although so far European Central Bank policymakers blame it mainly on energy prices.

Bank of Japan boss Haruhiko Kuroda still views yen weakness as a positive for Japan, but lawmakers fret that the yen, at 20-year lows, will inflict damage via costlier food and fuel. Half of Japanese firms expect higher costs to hurt earnings, a survey found.

TIGHTENING BECOMING FRIGHTENING

A rising US dollar tends to tighten financial conditions, which reflect the availability of funding. Goldman Sachs estimates that a 100 bps tightening in its widely used proprietary Financial Conditions Index (FCI) crimps growth by one percentage point in the following year.

The FCI, which factors in the



impact of the trade-weighted dollar, shows global conditions at their tightest since 2009. The FCI has tightened by 120 basis points in April alone, as the dollar has strengthened 5%.

Emerging markets tend to have especially high levels of dollar debt. EM conditions have tightened 190 basis points this month, led by Russia,

Goldman's FCI shows. The US FCI is at its tightest since July 2020.

"It has got to be concerning, given everything else that's going on. This is just the time you don't want too much tightening of conditions," said Justin Onuekwusi, portfolio manager at Legal & General Investment Management.

THE EMERGING PROBLEM

Almost all past emerging market crises were linked to dollar strength. A 10.5% jump in 1993 followed by a 4.6% rise in 1994 for instance were blamed for triggering the "Tequila crisis" in Mexico, which was followed by meltdowns in emerging markets in Asia, as well as Brazil and Russia.

Dollar strength means higher revenues in local currencies for commodity-exporting developing countries. However, the flip side is higher debt servicing costs.

Median foreign-currency government debt stood at a third of GDP by end-2021, Fitch estimates, compared to 18% in 2013. Several developing countries are already seeking IMF/World Bank assistance, and further dollar strength could add to those numbers.

NO RELIEF ON COMMODITIES

The rule of thumb is that a firmer greenback makes dollar-denominated commodities cost-

lier for consumers who use other currencies, eventually subduing demand and prices.

This year, however, tight supplies of major commodities have prevented that equation from kicking in as the Ukraine-Russia war has hit exports of oil, grain, metals and fertiliser, keeping prices elevated.

"When you see what's happening in Eastern Europe, it swamps anything the dollar is doing," LGIM's Onuekwusi said.

GOOD FOR FED?

The Fed might welcome a rising greenback that calms imported inflation - Societe Generale estimates a 10% dollar appreciation causes US consumer inflation to decline by 0.5 percentage points over a year.

If dollar gains continue, the Fed won't need to tighten monetary policy as aggressively as anticipated; notably, the dollar surge of the past week has also seen money market bets on Fed rate hikes stabilise.

GT INCH CLOSER TO IPL PLAYOFFS MI end 8-game losing streak



DEADLY COMBO: David Miller (L) and Rahul Tewatia have something to discuss about during their match-winning partnership against RCB, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: Gujarat Titans extended their dominance at the top of the table with a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here Saturday and inched closer towards clinching a playoff spot in their inception year.

After failing multiple times, Virat Kohli finally came out of a prolonged slump in form by registering his first IPL fifty (58, 53b, 6x4, 1x6) in 14 matches, including nine this season, as RCB posted a challenging 170/6.

In reply, Rahul Tewatia (43 n o, 25b, 5x4, 2x6) and David Miller (39 n o, 24b, 4x4, 1x6) did the job for GT after the table toppers were struggling at 95/4 in the 13th over. With 16 points which has been the magic mark, Titans are well on course towards a top-two finish at the end of league stage.

On the day, Kohli struggled to get going before walking back to the dugout amid a standing ovation at the Wankhede Stadium. Rajat Patidar blasted a 32-ball 52 (5x4, 2x6) - his maiden IPL fifty - while Glenn Maxwell blazed away to 33 (18b, 3x4, 2x6) to prop up RCB.

The returning Pradeep Sangwan (2/19) was excellent with the ball, while Rashid Khan gave away just 29 runs in his four over to check the flow of runs in the middle overs.

GT were off to a sound start with Wriddhiman Saha (31) and Shubman Gill (29) putting on 51

BRIEF SCORES
RCB 170/6
(Virat Kohli 58, Rajat Patidar 52, Glenn Maxwell 33; Pradeep Sangwan 2/19, Rashid Khan 1/29)
lost to **GT 174/4**
(Rahul Tewatia 43 n o, David Miller 39 n o, Shubman Gill 31, Wriddhiman Saha 29; Shabaz Ahmed 2/26, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/28) **by 6 wickets.**

runs before Wanindu Hasaranga (2/28) effected the first breakthrough by removing the former.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed (2/26) had Gill trapped in front of the wicket. GT skipper Hardik Pandya (3) once again got out cheaply, falling to Shahbaz.

Sai Sudharsan chipped in with a 14-ball 20 before Hasaranga picked up his second wicket. Sudharsan's dismissal left RT at 95/4 with the innings entering the 14th over.

Needing 71 from six overs, Miller and Tewatia showcased their brilliance with the bat to help GT script a comfortable win.

Earlier, Mohammed Shami (1/39) pulled out twice in his run up, the false starts leaving the umpire annoyed, before the seasoned India seamer beat Kohli with his late movement.

Out in the middle was a batting maestro battling a lean patch but it didn't quite look like that really when the former India captain played Shami for two lovely boundaries.

RCB's top-order woes continued, though, as left-arm seamer Sangwan marked his return to the league with the wicket of rival skipper Faf du Plessis in his very first over. Alzarri Joseph was introduced, and he saw Kohli play a classic cover drive and then pull a short one over the mid-wicket region for a boundary. In came Lockie Ferguson and the Kiwi pacer's low full toss was smashed over long-on by Kohli, who followed that up with a four towards backyard point.

Even as Kohli was getting into the groove, Patidar was gaining in confidence, thanks to the flurry of confident strokes that flowed from his willow during their 99-run association.

Alzarri bowled one short and Patidar pulled him over deep mid-wicket for a six and found a four in the next ball to close in on his maiden IPL fifty. He got there soon, reaching the landmark in only 29 balls with a four off Ferguson.

There was a bigger roar at the ground just before that as Kohli reached his half-century in 45 balls. Patidar took the risks and largely succeeded, helping Kohli to settle down and get set runs under his belt.

Sangwan got his second of the match when Patidar top-edged the seamer, and Kohli too failed to convert his fifty into a bigger score as a Shami delivery made its way through, even as the batter tried to make room and play it through cover.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, April 30: Seasoned Suryakumar Yadav (51, 39b, 5x4, 2x6) and young Tilak Varma (35, 30b, 1x4, 2x6) gave the best 35th birthday present to their skipper Rohit Sharma as Mumbai Indians finally opened their account, beating Rajasthan Royals by five wickets in an IPL match here Saturday.

Chasing a victory target of 159, MI reached home in 19.2 overs, courtesy Surya and Tilak adding 81 for the third wicket.

It was MI's first win after eight successive defeats and even though the result bears little consequence but it is certainly going to keep the five-time champions in a good mind space.

Losing is also a kind of habit like winning, albeit a bad one, as with itself belief also goes out of the window. Rohit didn't look one bit of his cheery self when he was cutting his birthday cake and by the end of the day, a win must have felt like a healing balm.

Teams then manage to snatch defeat from jaws of victory and something of that order was happening Saturday night before Surya and Tilak sang the redemption song with Tim David (20 n o) providing the finishing touch. It was Daniel Sams who hit the winning six to send the spectators into a frenzy.

Rohit's run of poor scores continued as he tried a slog sweep off Ravichandran Ashwin (1/21) and offered an easy catch to Daryl Mitchell at square leg.

The price tag of Rs 15.25 crore is increasingly seeming like a noose around Ishan Kishan's (26) neck

BRIEF SCORES
RR 158/6
(Jos Buttler 67, R Ashwin 21; Riley Meredith 2/24, Hrithik Shokeen 2/47, Kumar Kartikeya 1/19)
lost to **MI 161/5**
(Suryakumar Yadav 51, Tilak Varma 35; R Ashwin 1/21, Trent Boult 1/26) **by 5 wickets.**

Suryakumar Yadav (L) & Tilak Varma

as he started well but in desperation to over-compensate mistimed a pull-shot.

Surya was once again smooth in his strokeplay and so was MI's most consistent player of the season Tilak. The duo took its own time to first settle down, taking the team's score to 75 in first 10 overs and set an ideal platform to knock off the remaining 82 off back-10. From 122/2, MI slumped to 122/4 with Pollard and David at the crease.

Earlier, Jos Buttler threatened to hit six sixes in an over but managed four on the bounce in his 52-ball-67 (5x4, 4x6) as Rajasthan Royals were

restricted to 158/6 by Mumbai.

Buttler wasn't in his element for the better part of the innings before launching into rookie off-spinner Hrithik Shokeen, hitting him for four consecutive sixes. He holed out in the deep in the final ball of the 16th over as MI prevented the England marauder to cause more damage at the death.

Shokeen looked like a lamb for slaughter conceding 47 in 3 overs which included half a dozen of sixes, forcing him to come round the wicket but that was of little benefit.

In nine games so far, Buttler has already amassed 566 runs at an av-

erage which is northwards of 70 and a strike-rate of 155 plus.

But on the day, MI attack performed way better than they have in the initial games with new inductee left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya being extremely impressive in his first outing on the big stage.

The best bowler on the day for MI was Aussie pacer Riley Meredith (2/24). He gave only three runs in the 20th over. Debutant Kartikeya (1/19) had nine dot balls and conceded only one boundary as well as bagging the prize wicket of rival skipper Sanju Samson.

Super Giants test awaits Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: Delhi Capitals would expect more from their batters after an underwhelming display in their previous win, while Lucknow Super Giants must be eager to shrug off overdependence on skipper KL Rahul when the two teams clash in the IPL here Sunday.

Delhi have endured a tough couple of weeks with a mini COVID outbreak in their camp and a no-ball controversy; however, Rishabh Pant and his troops came out from it to march to a four-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders.

While the win boosted the Capitals', who are sixth on the points table, playoff chances, the middle order collapse while chasing an easy total will be a cause of concern.

David Warner continued his sparkling form but his fellow opener Prithvi Shaw, who despite looking in good touch, hasn't been able to convert his starts.

The Capitals have tried various batters at number three, including skipper Rishabh Pant, but are yet to find a suitable candidate for



the job. Mitchell Marsh, who returned to the side after finishing his quarantine, is expected to make it his own but the Australian all-rounder must shake off the rust.

Pant himself has failed to play the explosive innings he is known for. He will need to take greater responsibility along with the likes of all-rounders Lalit Yadav, Shardul Thakur and Axar Patel. Delhi would breathe a sigh of relief that their faith in the Rovman Powell as a finisher is finally paying off.

Delhi's bowling department, on the other hand, has done well. The bowlers, after leaking runs against the Royals, came back strongly to lay the foundation for a comfortable win. Kuldeep Yadav is enjoying

his best IPL season, producing match-winning spells. The left-arm spinner has two four-wicket haul this edition, taking his tally to 17 wickets.

Khaleel Ahmed has been bowling economically snapping 11 wickets in six games at the economy of 7.91. He has been complemented well by Mustafizur Rahman, while spinners Axar and Lalit have also played their parts.

LSG, meanwhile, are on course to sealing a playoffs berth, sitting at number three on the points table with six wins from nine outings. However, LSG will hope they can breakaway from the overdependence on captain Rahul, who has been in sublime form.

Rahul has two centuries and a fifty under his belt this season and his innings have been the bedrock of LSG's wins. Such is the dependence on the skipper that all three of LSG's losses have come when Rahul has failed to get going.

LSG do have enough fire power in the form of Quinton de Kock, Ayush Badoni, Deepak Hooda and Krunal Pandya and they need to shoulder more responsibility. They also have the multi-talented duo of Jason Holder and Marcus Stoinis.

In the bowling department, Krunal and pacer Dushmantha Chameera did well to help defend a modest total against Punjab but Ravi Bishnoi has been on the expensive side.

TODAY'S MATCHES

DC vs LSG
Time: 03:30 pm

SRH vs CSK
Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

DELATED BY 2 DAYS RANJI TROPHY KNOCKOUT TIES RESCHEDULED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: The BCCI has delayed the knockout matches of the Ranji Trophy by two days and now the quarterfinals will begin from June 6 and the title clash of the premier domestic event will start from June 22.

According to an internal communication circulated by the BCCI to its state units, the two semifinals will now begin from June 14, instead of June 12. The final is slated to be played at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore.

THE SCHEDULE
(Quarterfinals: June 6-10)
1st QF: Bengal vs Jharkhand
2nd QF: Mumbai vs Uttarakhand
3rd QF: Karnataka vs Uttar Pradesh
4th QF: Punjab vs Madhya Pradesh

SEMIFINALS: JUNE 14-18
FINAL: JUNE 22-26

Bengal, Jharkhand, Mumbai, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh have qualified for the knockout stage of the first-class competition.

The league stage of the Ranji Trophy was played before the start of the ongoing IPL. The BCCI is yet to announce the reason behind change in schedule.

PSG blow 2-goal lead in draw



STUNNING COMEBACK: Strasbourg players celebrate the stoppage time equaliser, while PSG's Kylian Mbappe (inset) looks disappointed, Friday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strasbourg (France), April 30: Kylian Mbappe notched two goals and an assist but Paris Saint-Germain still felt the hangover from a record-tying 10th French league title as it blew a two-goal lead to draw with Strasbourg 3-3.

PSG won the league last weekend. "We are not relaxing, the season is not over," PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino said. "We have the desire to play until the end of the season."

Strasbourg, which last year finished two points above the relegation zone, moved into fifth place to provisionally take the Europa Conference League playoff spot.

"We first played to secure safety, then we played to finish in the top

10, and now we have the chance to maybe get a European spot," Strasbourg's Anthony Caci said.

Kevin Gameiro scored against his former team to put Strasbourg ahead in the third minute. The veteran forward outpaced Presnel Kimpembe to chase a long ball from Lucas Perrin before shooting past Gianluigi Donnarumma from a tight angle.

The hosts nearly doubled the lead in the 10th, but Adrien Thomasson's goal was disallowed for a marginal offside from Ludovic Ajorque in the buildup.

PSG capitalized on a fast break in the 23rd to level with its first chance. Neymar played Mbappe clean through on goal and the France striker slipped the ball between the legs of goal-

keeper Matz Sels.

Neymar was the architect of the second Parisian goal in the 64th, finding Mbappe, who notched his league-leading 15th assist by setting up Morocco international Achraf Hakimi for a tap-in.

Mbappe made it 3-1 in the 68th by pouncing on a sloppy back pass from Alexander Djiku to beat Sels for his league-leading 24th goal.

Strasbourg pulled one back in the 75th when Marco Verratti diverted into his own net a header from Habib Diallo off a corner. Sels kept Strasbourg in the game by parrying a powerful strike from Lionel Messi in the 89th.

Strasbourg substitute Caci equalised in the second minute of stoppage time by volleying home a cross from Dimitri Lienard.

Jadeja hands back reins of CSK to Dhoni

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: MS Dhoni was Saturday handed the reins of the Chennai Super Kings yet again after Ravindra Jadeja "relinquished" the captaincy to focus on his game, following team's miserable run in the ongoing edition of IPL.

CSK have lost six out of their eight matches so far and Jadeja wants to concentrate more on his game. The development shows that Indian team's most dependable all-format all-rounder struggled to come out of his illustrious predecessor's shadow after being asked to lead the 'Canary Yellow' brigade at the beginning of the league.

"Ravindra Jadeja has decided to relinquish captaincy to focus and concentrate more on his game & has requested MS Dhoni to lead CSK. Dhoni has accepted to lead CSK in the larger interest & to allow Jadeja to focus on his game," CSK said in a statement.

Jadeja's own game has also suffered due to the pressure that comes with leadership responsibility. He has scored only 112 runs and taken five wickets in the eight games so far.

While CSK won their fourth IPL title under Dhoni with a 'Dad's Army' last year, the legendary former India skipper wanted to prepare someone for this responsibility and thus, the second senior-most player Jadeja was thrust into the leadership role.

The official announcement came a day before CSK started their campaign.

SINDHU SETTLES FOR BRONZE AT BAC MEET



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manila (Philippines), April 30: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu ended her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in three games here Saturday.

The 26-year-old started the match on a positive note but couldn't keep the winning momentum going, losing 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 to the top seed and World No.2 Yamaguchi in the clash, which lasted one hour and six minutes.

This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament - she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition. The Hyderabad shuttler, who won two Super 300 titles at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open,

took the first game easily in 16 minutes.

In the second game, the fourth-seeded Sindhu was handed a point penalty for taking too much time between points, leading to an argument with the referee.

The argument between the two led to a momentum shift as Yamaguchi levelled the proceedings to force a decider. The Japanese shuttler found her rhythm and never let Sindhu regroup.

In the final game, Sindhu trailed from the beginning. In the end, Yamaguchi had five match points, which she duly converted.

The head-to-head between Sindhu and Yamaguchi is now 13-9 in the Indian's favour. With Sindhu's defeat, India's challenge at the individual continental championship has ended.