




**BEWITCHING LOOK**

Actor Deepika Padukone makes heads turn at Cannes as she walked the red carpet in a black feathery gown

LEISURE | P2



**IMRAN DEFIANT**

Imran Khan will carry on with 'Azadi March' despite the ban imposed on it by the Pakistan government

INTERNATIONAL | P10



**INDIA SUFFER DEFEAT**

India looking at an early exit at the men's Asia Cup hockey championship after suffering a 2-5 loss to Japan

SPORTS | P12

# RAIN PAIN



Villagers used a boat to move from a flood-affected area to safety after heavy rains in Morigaon district of Assam, Tuesday. The flood situation in the northeastern state has slightly abated even though the death toll rose to 25 as one more person died and over 6.5 lakh people remained affected by the deluge across 22 districts. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma visited areas of Dima Hasao ravaged by flood and landslides and said infrastructure developed in the last five to ten years in the hill district has been largely destroyed by the natural disasters. (Report P9)

PTI PHOTO

## STUDENT COLLAPSES DURING EXAM, DIES

**Bona:** A student collapsed while writing the ongoing Plus II examination at Bonaigarh College in Sundargarh and was later declared dead, an official said Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Md Arbaz, a resident of Juniani village under Lahuniara police limits. The incident occurred when Arbaz was about to complete his MIL paper at the college. "With just 15 minutes left for the examination to finish, Arbaz suddenly collapsed in the hall. Arbaz was rushed to Bona sub-divisional hospital where doctors declared him brought dead," said an official. While no exact reason for his death was immediately known, doctors suspect it could be due to cardiac arrest, added the official.





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# Loknath temple servitor shot dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, May 24:** A servitor of Loknath temple was shot dead over suspected previous enmity at Kakudikhai Square near Emar Mutt here Tuesday, an official said. The deceased was identified as Shivaram Patra, 27, of Harachandi Taluchha Sahi in the Holy City. According to eyewitnesses, Shivaram was on his way home on a motorcycle around 9pm when two bike-borne miscreants opened two rounds of fire on him, just 10 metres from the Srimandir's Lion Gate, leaving him critically wounded. A few officials of Town police rushed a profusely bleeding Shivaram to the district headquarters hospital where the servitor was declared 'dead on arrival'. Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh, who



File photo of Shivaram Patra

## MAN STABBED ON GRAND ROAD

**Puri:** A few hours after a servitor was shot dead here, a man was stabbed by miscreants near Mausai Maa temple on the Grand Road here. A critically-injured Suryanarayan Tripathy has been shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, it was learnt. Sources said past enmity is suspected to be the motive behind the attack. Police have launched a probe into the case.

Chandra Pratihari, a servitor of Srimandir, was shot dead outside a gym at Harachandi Sahi here over past rivalry. Following Pratihari's death, his brother had lodged a complaint against six persons. Pratihari was acquitted a few months ago in a 10-year-old case of a murder of another senior servitor of the 12th century shrine. Meanwhile, social activists have raised serious questions over the rise in cases of murders and other crimes especially due to poor gun controls. With just a few days left for the world famous Rath Yatra, the incident has triggered panic among the devotees and locals. Even as the district administration has stepped up security arrangements for the annual car festival, repeated incidents of violence have exposed the lacunae in law and order situation.

reached the spot along with a forensic team to assess the situation, said on the basis of a complaint filed by Shivaram's family with Singhadwar police, a case (43/2022) has been registered and a 21-year-old youth has been detained. "We've recovered the weapon

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



A delegation wants to meet you against the fuel price cut, sir... a delegation of TV news anchors!

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	54052.61	↓	236.00
NIFTY	16125.15	↓	89.55
DOLLAR	77.58	↑	₹0.07
EURO	83.16	↑	₹0.31
GOLD	₹51,225	↑	₹318
SILVER	₹62,050	↑	₹747

WEATHER			
		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	34.2°C	34.8°C
	MIN	21.0°C	21.8°C
Humidity		87%	84%
Rainfall		16.8mm	11.4mm
		Forecast Light rain very likely	

# Future Olympians to be groomed at schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday launched India's first Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP), with the integration of an Olympism-themed curriculum into the school education system in the state. The OVEP is a practical set of resources designed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to introduce young people to the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship. The programme aims to disseminate this values-based curriculum to help children become active, healthy and responsible citizens. In its first year, the programme aims to impact 32,000 children enrolled in 90 schools in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela and, once in full swing, it will reach around seven million children. Stating that it is the beginning of a new Olympic movement in the country, Naveen said, "Through this program, our children will experience and benefit from the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect."

Sports is an important part of the state government's vision for education and personality development of the school students in Odisha, he said. The CM added, "We have always strived to achieve excellence in the education sector as well as in sports."

While launching the programme virtually, Naveen underlined that Odisha is emerging as a major sports hub in India and will continue to lead in the sports



sector through its partnerships. He further said that it is a privilege to engage with the IOC to launch the programme. He also thanked the IOC for partnering with the state government in this endeavour to excel in sports. The CM also acknowledged the contributions of the state's close partners in sports - Indian Olympic Association chairperson Narendra Batra, IOC member Nita Ambani and Abhinav Bindra towards the development of sports in Odisha. He expressed confidence that these partnerships will make a significant contribution towards impactful holistic development of young school children. School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said that the programme will make a difference to the lives of students. He praised the vision and leadership of the CM for bringing transformative changes to every sector including education and sports. Joining the programme, IOC Education Commission chairperson Mikaela C Jaworski said that sport is a powerful tool of change that formal education may not necessarily bring about.

IN ITS FIRST YEAR, THE PROGRAMME AIMS TO TRAIN 32,000 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN 90 SCHOOLS IN BHUBANESWAR AND ROURKELA

Contd... P4

# OHRC for probe into youth tied to truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** Taking suo motu cognizance, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Tuesday directed the Jagatsinghpur Superintendent of Police (SP) to investigate the alleged inhuman treatment meted out to a youth after he was caught stealing a mobile phone in Bhutamundai area of the district a few days ago. The OHRC directed the SP to submit the enquiry report within 15 days while posting the next hearing for June 17. The incident came to the fore after a video purportedly featuring the inhuman treatment went viral on social media. According to sources, the incident



took place in Bhutamundai area along the Chandikhole-Paradip Road in Jagatsinghpur district. A truck driver caught the youth while he was trying to flee the spot after stealing his mobile phone from the vehicle. In an act of punishment, the truck driver with the help of a few others tied the youth in front of the truck and garlanded him with slippers. Later, he drove the truck for 15-20 minutes with the youth still tied to it," said a source. They also beat the accused before setting him free, it was learnt. Locals, meanwhile, filmed the entire episode that was found doing the rounds on social media.

## HORROR ON ROAD



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# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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### ARIES

Today you will go overboard trying to spruce up your looks. You attempt to imbibe new looks. A very desirable date will raise high expectations in you and will keep you on the edge of your seat. Ganesha advises you to take it easy as real relationships are not measured by outward expressions.

### TAURUS

Ganesha is happy to say that you will acquire yourself well in whatever you do or undertake today. You will show outstanding caliber in handling the responsibilities given to you. If you are participating in a competition, you are likely to be way ahead of others. Those engaged in business can look forward to an exceptionally profitable day.

### GEMINI

You will think about the issues faced by other people as well as about increasing your social standing and elevating your social esteem. It is an extremely profitable day for those in the retail business and hence make the most of it, says Ganesha.

### CANCER

There may not be many opportunities visible on the horizon today. And, chances are that you may end up getting embroiled in some complicated situations, without even a fault of yours. Relax! Given your people skills and lively spirits, you will be able to sail through.

### LEO

You have to let go of your stubborn and obstinate streak. You will need to compromise according to the situation. If you do not have such an attitude, arguments and confrontations with your business partners, friends and family members are possible. You do not like delays, however you will be forced to postpone important events, says Ganesha.

### VIRGO

The artist in you will set the floor ablaze today. You have the remarkable abilities of a showman and comedian, and people will feel thrilled at your treasure of jokes in the evening, says Ganesha. However, you will do well to conserve some energy for other urgent matters and duties as well.

### LIBRA

Ganesha says you will be able to show your love and appreciation for your beloved. Small issues will crop up and keep you tensed and uncomfortable today. Just remember good days and old memories and life will seem good again. It is essential to have confidence in yourself if you want to go ahead in life and be happy.

### SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, it's a good day for long term and real estate investments. It may lead to benefits and profits in long run. Sit back, relax and enjoy the pleasures of life before you miss out on them. Welcome all the opportunities with open arms.

### SAGITTARIUS

The wheel of fortune turns towards you today, says Ganesha. Make a wish and it's bound to come true. However don't be over-confident when it comes to decision-making. In case of disappointments, 'this too shall pass' would be the best remedy.

### CAPRICORN

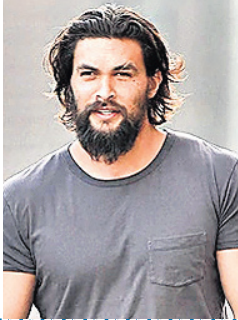
You comparatively less experienced than others in the office, but the boss will choose you with a hope to get the company out of the existing troubles. Trusting your intelligence, skills, and potential, you will assigned some crucial matters. It is a great deal to live up to such high expectations, but you will be able to do so and win the hearts of many, predicts Ganesha.

### AQUARIUS

You will be on a spending spree today. But, make sure that your desire to enjoy life doesn't burn a hole in your pocket. Watch your words and steps, as people are observing your every move. You have put all of your eggs in one basket, so make sure that you don't mess up and lose everything that you have, advises Ganesha.

### PISCES

You will feel very emotional about those who are close to your heart. Those people who know you will endear you because of this quality of yours. But Ganesha adds a word of caution; take care of those people whom you hold close to your heart because in your sentiments for them you might not notice their bad qualities or forgive their mistakes.



## MOMOA DOING OKAY FOLLOWING HOSP VISIT

Hollywood star Jason Momoa is reportedly doing okay after undergoing an MRI scan. Prior to this, the *Aquaman* actor sparked concern among his fans and fellow stars as he shared a shirtless photograph of himself on Instagram during a recent hospital visit. The actor recently had a hernia surgery.

## DEPP-HEARD DEFAMATION CASE: KATE MOSS TO TESTIFY

Model and Hollywood star Johnny Depp's ex Kate Moss is set to testify in the ongoing defamation case between the actor and his former wife Amber Heard. Heard had referenced the model, when she discussed an alleged altercation between Depp and Whitney Henriquez, Heard's sister.



## Ananya's mantra to deal with rumours

**Mumbai:** Actress Ananya Panday, who is all set to be seen in her pan-India film, *Liger* with Vijay Deverakonda, recently spoke about dealing with rumours. She was recently hitting the headlines for her alleged breakup with Ishaan Khatter. Reportedly, the duo started dating during *Khaali Peeli*. They also went for secret holidays to the Maldives and celebrated the New Year in Ranthambore.

Ananya is often trolled on social media for her actions or statements. On being asked if these things bother her, Ananya said she thinks she has got better at handling such things. She added that there are days when she feels a little upset or bogged down by certain things but she tries to switch off. Ananya said that she tries to spend time with her friends and family. She tries to remember that it is just the digital world and there's a whole actual world out there with people who she loves and who love her back. She concluded by saying that she usually deals with it quite humorously.

On the work front, Ananya also has *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan* with Siddhant Chaturvedi and Adarsh Gourav. AGENCIES

## Alia's debut as producer *Darlings* set for OTT release

**Mumbai:** The much-awaited multi-starrer film *Darlings* that features Alia Bhatt, Shefali Shah, Vijay Varma among others and is also the debut production of Alia is all set to be released on Netflix.

The film is directed by Jasmeet K Reen and brings together noted music composer and director Vishal Bharadwaj and famed lyricist Gulzar. Talking about her first film coming from her production house Eternal Sunshine, Alia said, "Darlings holds a very special place in my heart, it's my first film as a producer that too with Red Chillies. We are very proud and happy how the film has shaped up and we hope it will entertain and engage audiences the world over."

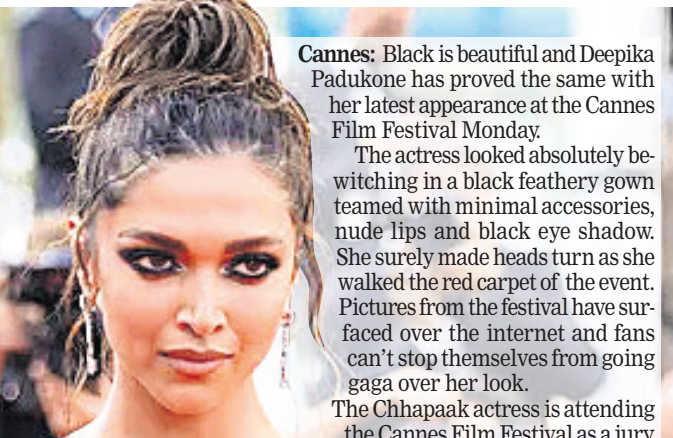
Director Jasmeet said, "I couldn't have asked for a better feature film debut, working with a pool of versatile and talented actors has been an absolute pleasure. I am delighted that Red Chillies and Eternal Sunshine are taking the film across the globe with Netflix."

The film is produced by Gauri Khan, Alia Bhatt and Gaurav Verma.

Darlings's release date will soon be announced. IANS



## DEEPIKA casts her spell at Cannes



**Cannes:** Black is beautiful and Deepika Padukone has proved the same with her latest appearance at the Cannes Film Festival Monday.

The actress looked absolutely bewitching in a black feathery gown teamed with minimal accessories, nude lips and black eye shadow. She surely made heads turn as she walked the red carpet of the event. Pictures from the festival have surfaced over the internet and fans can't stop themselves from going gaga over her look.

The Chhapaak actress is attending the Cannes Film Festival as a jury member. Earlier, during the inauguration of the India pavilion at Cannes 2022

Wednesday, she spoke about how Indian cinema has come a long way. "I feel we have a long way to go as a country. I feel really proud to be here as an Indian and to be representing the country. But when we look back at 75 Years of Cannes, I have said earlier also that there have been only a handful of Indian films, and Indian talent that has been able to make it and I feel like collectively as a nation today we have it," she said.

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress will next feature in Siddharth Anand's *Pathaan* starring Shah Rukh Khan and John Abraham. The film has been slated to hit the theatres in January next year. AGENCIES

## TALK ON NEPOTISM

## Raj Kapoor's son had no work for 30 yrs: Dalip

**Mumbai:** While the talk on nepotism is refusing to die down after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, senior actor Dalip Tahil has offered a new prospective to the debate.

"People talk about nepotism but here is legendary Raj Kapoor's youngest son Rajiv (Kapoor) who had no work for 30 years," said the *Baazigar* actor.

The late Rajiv Kapoor faced the camera for *Toolsidas Junior* after a gap of nearly three decades. The film, which also features Dalip Tahil in a prominent role, recently hit a streaming platform. From being shaky to battling nervousness and finally gaining some confidence – it was a tough ride for Rajiv.

"When I met him for the first time, he told me, 'Dalip, my hands are shaky. I am facing the camera after 30 years. I don't know what to do. I am Raj Kapoor's

son, I have everything and yet I have nothing. Everybody has forgotten me, I don't have work as a director, or as an actor.' I gave



Dalip Tahil.

Making a case against nepotism, he added, "To all those who say there is nepotism in the film industry, here's legendary Raj Kapoor's son, who gave a hit like *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* and still had no work for 30 years. I keep reading about nepotism everywhere, this should be a good example to those who think that there is only nepotism that can make your career in this film industry. I feel that this whole thing about being Raj Kapoor's son was a double edged sword which could destroy you."

IANS

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

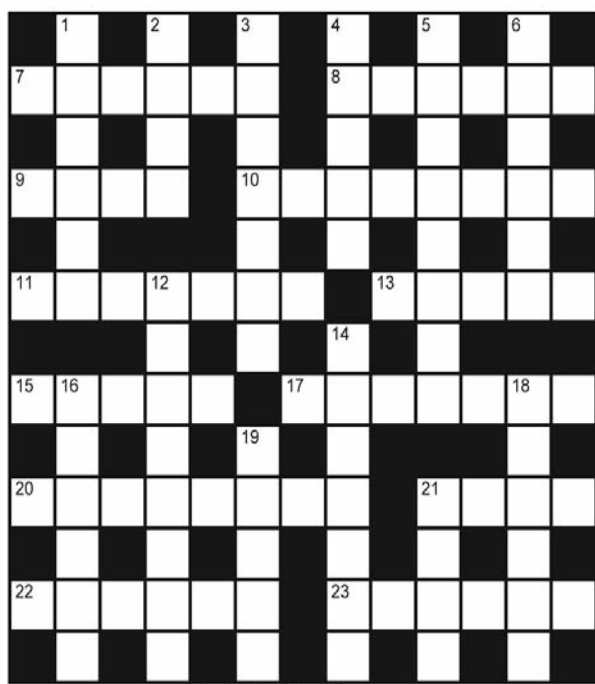


## BREVITY



## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 7 Smiled radiantly
- 8 Vipers
- 9 canal
- 10 Some young actresses
- 11 Lures
- 13 Fancy tie
- 15 Hibachi residue
- 17 Napoleon's birthplace

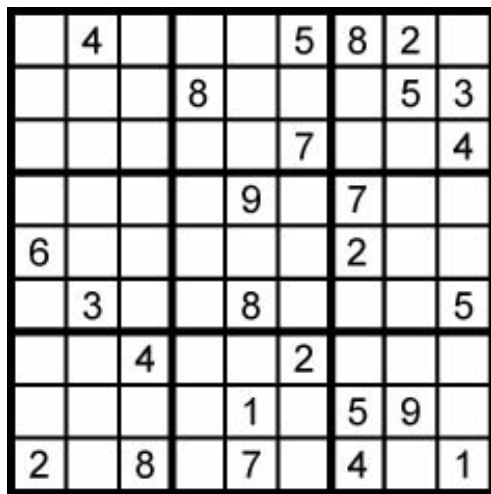
### Down

- 20 Peevish
- 21 Wild plum
- 22 Military wear
- 23 Succulent
- 1 Fame
- 2 Exclude
- 3 Amazing adventure
- 4 Hawaiian veranda

- 5 Places on a pedestal
- 6 Small cave
- 12 Bartender's stock (3,5)
- 14 Reach by phone
- 16 Play units
- 18 Appear suddenly (4,2)
- 19 Model wood
- 21 Fire

## SUDOKU

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

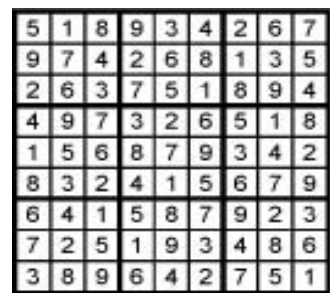


## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU

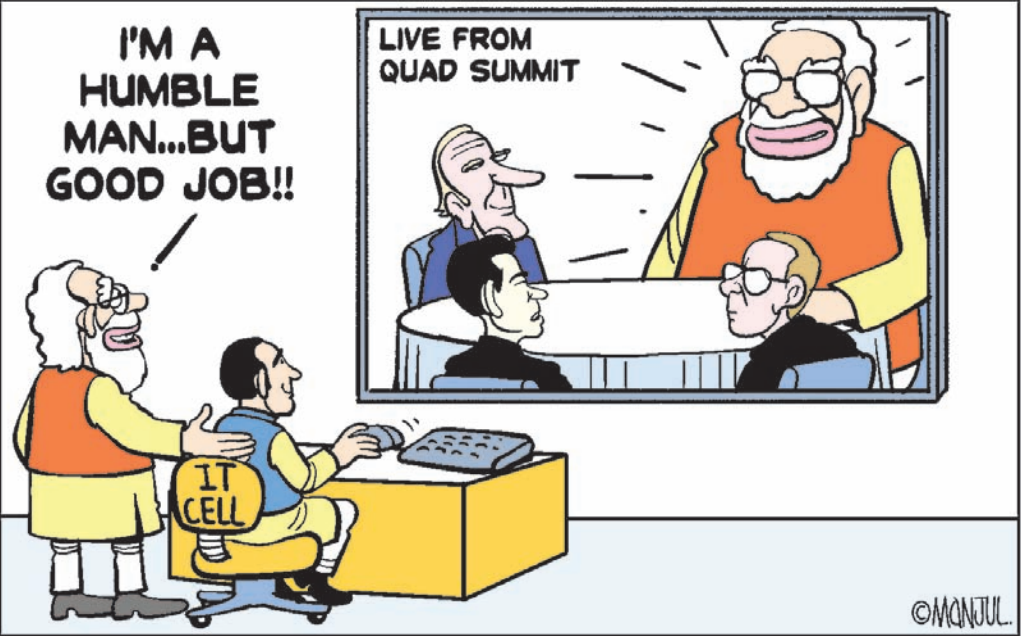


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# 26 kids diagnosed with HFMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** Altogether 26 children have been diagnosed with the hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) in Odisha and their condition is stable, a health official said Tuesday.

Commonly known as 'tomato flu', the infectious disease is caused by intestinal viruses and occurs mostly in children. The illness is rare in adults as they usually have immune systems strong enough to defend them from the virus.

In most cases, the viral illness has symptoms like fever, painful sores in the mouth and rash with blisters on hands, feet and buttocks, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Out of the 36 samples that were collected and tested in the Regional Medical Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, 26 were found to be



positive, Health Services director Bijay Mohapatra told reporters.

According to sources, 19 HFMD cases are reported from Bhubaneswar, three from Puri and two from Cuttack.

"Those infected are in the age group of 1-9 and have been asked to remain in isolation for five-seven days," the official said.

The condition of the patients is

■ The hand, foot and mouth disease is caused by intestinal viruses and occurs mostly in children

■ The illness is rare in adults as they usually have immune systems strong enough to defend them from the virus

■ In most cases, the viral illness has symptoms like fever, painful sores in the mouth and rash with blisters on hands, feet and buttocks

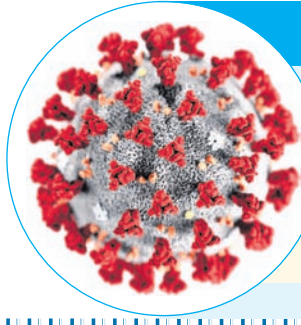
not serious and surveillance is being maintained, he added.

Earlier this month, over 80 cases of the HFMD were reported from Kerala's Kollam district, prompting the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to increase their vigilance in the border districts.



## SQUATTERS REMOVED

The civic authorities in Cuttack removed illegal structures in Nua Bazar area of the city, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	52,84,61,636	49,88,38,441	63,02,244
India	4,31,40,068	4,26,00,737	5,24,490
Odisha	12,88,387	12,79,118	9,126

# Khao Gali vendors get nod to reopen stalls with riders

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has allowed the vendors of Khao Gali, a popular street food court near the Ram Mandir in the capital city here, to reopen their stalls from 5:30 pm to 10 pm.

The BMC has set 22 conditions for the vendors to run their business from Khao Gali, including a security deposit Rs 25,000 and a monthly rent of Rs 6,000 from each one of them.

The street food court was shut down by the BMC May 11 over lack of cleanliness and violation of other norms. Mayor Sulochana Das, during a surprise visit, had found gross violation of norms by the vendors at the Khao Gali.

The Mayor found that some vendors at the food court had rented



out the commercial spaces allotted to them to others. Besides, the vendors were not maintaining proper hygiene and cleanliness at Khao Gali. Soon, she ordered for the closure of all shops at the food court till the submission of written undertakings by the vendors to abide by the rules, sources said.

Notably, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had declared Khao Gali as the 'Clean Street Food Hub' in 2021. The food court has around 30 stalls and the place has drinking

The street food court was shut down by the BMC May 11 over lack of cleanliness and violation of other norms. Mayor Sulochana Das, during a surprise visit, had found gross violation of norms by the vendors at the Khao Gali

The BMC has set 22 conditions for the vendors to run their business from Khao Gali, including a security deposit ₹25,000 and a monthly rent of ₹6,000 from each one of them

water and toilet facilities.

Hundreds of people, including students and youngsters, vary often visit Khao Gali to relish varieties of street foods. The food court was shut down for several months due to the outbreak of Covid-19. The vendors were allowed to reopen their stalls only after the improvement in the pandemic situation.

## SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

### OSCPCR directs cops to arrest ex-corporator

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OS-CPCR) has directed the Commissioner of Police and the IIC of Bharatpur police station to arrest BJP leader and former corporator, Kartika Sundar Ray, who was accused of sexually abusing a minor girl in Bharatpur area.

OSCPCR Chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said a case has been filed by the commission on the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim's family May 21.

She also stated that the police officials have been asked to arrest the accused following all the guidelines under the POCSO Act.

The commission has instructed the investigating officials to follow POCSO guidelines while recording the statements of the victim and the witnesses under Sections 164 and 161 of the CrPc.

Kartika allegedly sexually abused the minor girl on the pretext of helping her to go abroad for higher studies and providing her with costly mobile sets.

## Brajarajnagar: Pradhan hits campaign trail

POST NEWS NETWORK, AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Tuesday attacked the BJD government holding it responsible for alleged lack of development of the Brajarajnagar Assembly seat which is going to polls May 31.

People of the area have all along been ignored during the 22 years of rule of the Biju Janata Dal, Pradhan alleged while addressing a series of rallies and roadshows in the constituency.

"The District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds meant for development of the people of Jharsuguda, including Brajarajnagar, are being misappropriated by the ruling party leaders," Pradhan said.

The Union Minister claimed that people here do not get benefits from various central schemes unless commissions are paid to BJD agents. People will elect BJP candidate Radharani Panda from Brajarajnagar and lay the foundation of the party's government in the state, Pradhan said. Brajarajnagar is likely to witness a triangular fight among the BJD, BJP and the Congress, though there are 11 candidates including five independents.

# Nor'wester pummels several dists



A tree lying uprooted following rain and gusty winds in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** Nor'wester with gusty wind and moderate to heavy rain battered Odisha in the early hours of Tuesday, the Met office said.

The maximum temperature fell by around 2-5 degree Celsius at some places and was significantly below normal in many areas in wake of the squall, which also led to power cuts in several regions.

Only four weather stations, as compared to 10 the previous day, recorded a temperature of over 40 degrees Celsius, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

Dhenkanal town received 67.6 mm of precipitation, the highest in the state, followed by 59 at Karanjia in Mayurbhanj, according to a bulletin.

Kalbaisakhi (nor'wester), along with moderate rain, lashed Jajpur, Deogarh,

Angul, Gajapati, Sambalpur and many other districts in coastal and western Odisha.

Boudh recorded 43 degree Celsius, followed by 42.2 in Bolangir. The mercury dropped by three notches below average each to settle at 34.2 degrees in capital Bhubaneswar and 34.8 in Cuttack, it said.

The Met issued an orange alert of heavy rain and thunderstorm with gusty wind for Dhenkanal, Jajpur,

Nor'wester, along with moderate rain, lashed Jajpur, Deogarh, Angul, Gajapati, Sambalpur and many other districts in coastal and western Odisha

The Met issued an orange alert of heavy rain and thunderstorm with gusty wind for Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Khurda till Wednesday morning

Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Khurda till Wednesday morning.

There will be no large change in the maximum temperature in interior Odisha during the next three days. It will rise subsequently by 2-3 degrees at a few places, the weather office said.

Light to moderate rain is likely in Odisha over the next three days under the influence of a western disturbance, it added.

# Nomination filing begins for 3 RS seats

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** The process for filing nominations for three Rajya Sabha seats in Odisha began Tuesday with the state Assembly secretariat issuing the notification for the poll to be held June 10.

The tenure of three Rajya Sabha MPs from Odisha - Nekkanti Bhaskar Rao, Prasanna Acharya and Sasmit Patra will end July 1 and arrangements have been made to conduct the polling before the expiry of their tenures. As per the notification, polling will be held from 9 am to 4 pm June 10 and counting of votes will take place at 5 pm the same day. The last date of filing nomination is May 31 and June 3 is the date for the withdrawal. The election process will be completed June 13, 2022.

According to the notification, the by-election to the Rajya Sabha seat in the state which fell vacant due to the resignation of BJD's Subhas Singh after he becoming mayor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation will be held on June 13. The process of nomination will start from May 26 and continue till June 2.

Singh was elected to the RS in 2020



and quit in April.

The ruling BJD, which has 113 MLAs in the 147-member House, is likely to capture all the four seats. The opposition BJP and Congress have 22 and nine MLAs respectively and may not contest.

The BJD is, however, yet to name its candidates for the RS poll.

"Our party president, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will take the final decision as to who will be the candidates. It will be done at the appropriate time," BJD spokesman and MLA P K Deb said.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by BJD vice-president Usha Devi has sparked

AS PER THE NOTIFICATION, POLLING WILL BE HELD FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM JUNE 10 AND COUNTING OF VOTES WILL TAKE PLACE AT 5 PM THE SAME DAY

THE LAST DATE OF FILING NOMINATION IS MAY 31 AND JUNE 3 IS THE DATE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL

THE ELECTION PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETED JUNE 13

speculation that the regional party may filed women candidates for all the three RS seats going to the poll on June 10. Usha Devi said in her statement on Monday, "The party had fielded woman candidates in large numbers in panchayat and urban local body elections and it won't be surprising if the BJD president selects women for three vacant seats."

The political circle here is abuzz with the names of OTDC chairperson Srimayee Mishra and 'Mo School' project chairperson Susmita Bagchi. However, a section of the BJD leaders feel that Patnaik may nominate Sasmit Patra, who was quite active during his stint in the RS.

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Schoolkids to be groomed for Olympics

**Continued from P1**  
IOC Culture and Heritage Committee Director Angelita Teo said Olympics education would enhance the philosophy of life. It will help students to lead a peaceful and better life. Olympism will focus on value-based learning, she added.  
IOC Member Nita Ambani said that though every child cannot be an Olympian, all can learn, powered by Olympism. Odisha has been a hub of sport in recent times. She is happy to be associated with this movement in the country, she added.  
Olympian Abhinav Bindra said that core values of life are learned outside the classrooms. The Olympic movement has the potential for social change.  
President of Odisha Hockey Promotion Council Dilip Tirkey said that he has learnt the values of self-discipline, respect and confidence by playing in Olympics.  
Batra said this movement will instil the values of sports in education and will create respect for cultural diversity. With this unique movement, Odisha will create example for other states, he added.  
Among others, Sports Minister Tushar Kanti Behera, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, S&ME Secretary Bishnupada Sethi and Sports Secretary Vineel Krishna attended the event.

CLASSIFIED  
AFFIDAVIT

I, No. 6376365M Hav. Rabinadra Nath Nayak, R/o. Vill: Basupur, P.O.: Karilopatana, Dist.-Kendrapara, Odisha, PIN - 754223. In my Army documents Pension Payment Orders, my wife's name wrongly recorded as Renubala. Her correct name is Renubala Nayak vide affidavit dated 23rd May 2022 before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar.

I, Sasmita Asish Mahapatra, aged about 36 years, wife of Asish Mahapatra, resident of At: Bahelipada, P.O.-Harirajpur, P.S.- Pipili, Dist.- Puri, Odisha - 752050 do hereby solemnly affirmed as follows. That I am the deponent of this that prior to my marriage I was Sasmita Patasahani, daughter of Pradeep Kumar Patasahani, but after my marriage to Asish Mahapatra, I changed my name to "Sasmita Asish Mahapatra". That, I do hereby declare that Sasmita Asish Mahapatra and Sasmita Patasahani is one and same person. The produced affidavit is required to before the concerned authority for necessary action.

I, Syeda Hajra, W/o. Fazlur Rehman Khan, residing at Arya Colony, Balagoda, Keonjhar, declared by affidavit through the Executive Magistrate, Barbil, vide No. 3563 Date: 21.05.2022, that my actual name is Syeda Hajra as per my Aadhaar Card and declare that both "Syeda Hajra and Syeda Hajera" belongs to one and same person and that I swear this affidavit to produce before the competent authority as and when require. Syeda Hajra

ROBBERS' GANG BUSTED  
Cops nab 7 including a woman

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** The Commissionerate police Tuesday arrested seven members of a robbers' gang including a woman. The gang has been involved in several cases of robbery and street crimes in different areas of the City during the last few months.  
The accused were identified as Robin Satpathy, 22, alias Jagan of Pichu Basti, Surya Nagar; Papun Majhi, 27, of Jagannathaprasad area in Ganjam; Pabitra Charchi, 23, alias Krushna, Santosh Parida, 29, and Bharat Khuntia, 27, of Banpur in Khurda; and Amir Bhoi, 25, of Bhoi Sahi in Nayapalli in Bhubaneswar.  
Police also arrested the woman member of the group who used to receive the booty and help the accused in disposing of the same. The lady was identified as Jyotshna Rani Mohapatra, 40, of Unit-VI area under Capital police limits.



Following a series of robbery and snatching incidents in City, the special squad of the Commissionerate police was engaged in a manhunt to arrest the gang involved in these incidents. The special squad managed to arrest dreaded criminal Chakara Barik, who was also a prime member of the group, after a shoot-out at Baramunda May 11.  
Subsequently, the cops came to know that a single gang is behind the robberies in Nayagarh, Khurda and Bhubaneswar. The gang was allegedly led by a notorious criminal who has been released on bail recently.  
The gang used stolen bikes to commit the crimes. Its members laced with sharp weapons would rob lone commuters of their valuables. They also robbed many jewelry shop owners at different places in the City recently.  
The cops carried out several raids at different places and arrested the accused individuals.

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Gold ornaments weighing 126 gram, silver ornaments weighing 2.3kg and two motor cycles have been seized. The accused were Tuesday produced before court that later sent them to judicial custody. The gang is involved in more than 20 cases registered at different police stations in Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Nayagarh.

Pact for Gopalpur port facelift inked



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** An agreement was signed between the state Commerce and Transport department and Gopalpur Ports Limited (GPL) for the development and expansion of Gopalpur Port, Tuesday.  
The agreement was signed in the presence of state Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanava Behera, department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi and Gopalpur Port CEO Captain Sandeep Agarwal at the department conference room in Kharavela Nagar here.  
Located at Argipalli in Ganjam district, the Gopalpur Port used to be managed by the state Commerce and Transport department. The state government signed an agreement with Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) September 14, 2006, for developing and expanding the port through public private partnership (PPP) mode.  
"On January 16, 2017, the modified pact approved the change in shareholding structure of the GPL. The M/S Shapoorji Pallonji Port

Situated between Paradip and Visakhapatnam port, Gopalpur offers excellent rail and road connectivity.  
The broad gauge Howrah-Visakhapatnam-Chennai east coast trunk route which runs parallel to the east coastline is just 6 km away from Gopalpur port site.  
Close proximity to NH5 (Kolkata-Chennai) and State Highway No 7 and 17 provide excellent road connectivity to and from Gopalpur port.

Maintenance Private Limited (SPPMPL) Group then acquired the controlling stakes in GPL. Due to this change, the port management shifted from OSL to SPPMPL, to acknowledge which a revised agreement with the Gopalpur Port is being signed," Minister Padmanava Behera said. Earlier, the agreement was approved by the Cabinet December 07, 2021.  
The strategic location, state of the art facilities, low tariffs and huge potential for future development is what best describes the deep sea port of Gopalpur. Located along the east coast of India in the state of Odisha, Gopalpur is the key port for handling the growing marine traffic.  
Situated between Paradip and Visakhapatnam port, Gopalpur offers excellent rail and road connectivity. The broad gauge Howrah-Visakhapatnam-Chennai east coast trunk route which runs parallel to the east coastline is just 6 km away from Gopalpur port site. Close proximity to NH5 (Kolkata-Chennai) and State Highway No 7 and 17 provide excellent road connectivity to and from Gopalpur.

23rd OBPC session to be held at Sambalpur varsity

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** The Odisha Bigyan 'O' Paribesh Congress (OBPC) has been bringing together scientists, academics, researchers and students working in the fields of science and technology annually to discuss about the progress made in various frontiers of science and present their achievements.  
The 23rd session of the Congress

is scheduled to be held at Sambalpur University this year. The two-day conference, jointly organised by the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and Sambalpur University, is scheduled to begin November 26. The theme of the session is 'science and technology in combating climate change', sources said.  
There will be in-depth discussion on global warming, climate change and natural disasters.

Besides, the session will focus on the role of science and technology in combating these issues. The theme bears greater significance for Odisha as it is a coastal state and is experiencing more natural disasters at present.  
The first preparatory meeting for the session was held on virtual mode under the chairmanship of OES president Sundar Narayan Patro Tuesday. OES secretary

Jayakrushna Panigrahi explained the programme details of the two-day event.  
On behalf of the Sambalpur University, Chemistry department chief Amaresh Mishra and Biotechnology department faculty member Smaranika Patnaik presented their views on various issues.  
Panigrahi stated that more than five hundred delegates are scheduled to participate in the event.

AIIMS Bhub celebrates Forensic Medicine Day



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** Forensic medicine plays a crucial role in delivering justice in various important cases, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Medical Superintendent Sachidananda Mohanty while inaugurating the commemoration of the "Forensic Medicine Day" at the institution.  
In the special programme, organised by the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Mohanty encouraged the budding police surgeons and shared his experience and wisdom. Mohanty is a reputed forensic expert with vast experience in the field.  
Head of the department Manoj Kumar Mohanty presided over the academic activities such as Post

Graduate quiz competition and Post Graduate seminar presentation. Congratulating the trainees for their interest in the field of Forensic Medicine, he asked the young minds to uplift the ethos of fraternity; honesty, truth and integrity, which are the basic essence of the field of Forensic.  
The celebration was wrapped up with prize distribution to the winner of the Post Graduate quiz competition and the vote of thanks by Sudipta Ranjan Singh, Additional Professor of Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology.  
Forensic Medicine mainly deals with examination and assessment of individuals who have been - or are suspected to have been - injured or killed by external influences such as trauma or intoxication, and also of individuals who are suspected of having injured another person.  
It may be noted that the Indian Academy of Forensic Medicine (IAFM) was born May 12, 1972, with a vision to establish a unique identity for the subject. IAFM is the largest conglomeration of experts in this field in India.



Chandan Yatra of Lord Lingaraj concluded Tuesday at Bindu Sagar in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

Phase-out of coal plants can avoid 14.5mn premature deaths

**INDIA HAS THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST COAL FLEET AND A HIGH POPULATION DENSITY, WHICH TYPICALLY MEANS A MORE SIZEABLE POPULATION IS EXPOSED TO THE LOCAL AIR POLLUTANTS FROM THE PLANTS**

An early phase out of coal plants around the world could help avoid over 14.5 million premature deaths from air pollution over the next three decades delivering an economic benefit of \$16.3 trillion, a new analysis published Tuesday said.  
This equates to saving around 425 million years of life, or gaining an additional 20 days for each of today's 7.9 billion global population.  
The assessment, set out in a blog post and accompanying interactive webtool by researchers in Germany at NewClimate Institute, shows the enormous scale of public health benefits of urgently phasing out operating and planned coal

plants in 24 countries, covering over 90 per cent of the global fleet.  
The researchers show that existing coal plants around the world are contributing to more than 900 thousand premature deaths per year. One of the study's authors, Harry Fearnough, stresses the critical importance of the synergies between taking action to combat climate change and driving major improvements in health around the world.  
"We're all aware how damaging coal-fired generation is for the climate and that as a global community we need to rapidly wean ourselves off this dependence on coal to meet our energy needs. The tool we're publishing today offers in numbers



a global overview of the health benefits we can realise by delivering an urgent energy transition, showcasing impacts from the national level, right down to the detail of individual coal units," Harry said.  
The study and online tool show how global adverse health impacts from coal-fired electricity generation are dominated by China.  
China accounts for over half of

the global coal fleet today. Operating coal plants in China alone are causing over 7,20,000 premature deaths per year and the researchers estimate that the operation of existing and planned coal plants in China could cause in the order of 21 million premature deaths over the coming three decades without

measures to curtail their construction and use.  
Other major coal powerhouses in Asia would also be responsible for significant premature loss of life if they continue to build and operate coal plants over the

means a more sizeable population is exposed to the local air pollutants from the plants. Reena Skribbe, a co-author of the study, noted that it is not just India and China that need to take action to reduce their coal generation.  
"Whilst China and India are clearly the biggest players, our research shows that there is still significant potential to prevent premature deaths in all of the 24 countries we have analysed and feature in the AIRPOLIM webtool. As a starting point, around 3.2 million premature deaths could be avoided across all the countries we cover, simply by stopping building any new coal plants today."  
The researchers invite others, including policy makers, as well as investors and civil society organisations to use the AIRPOLIM tool as a starting point to inform their decisions and ensure the critical health co-benefit' to decarbonising power sectors is used to mobilise action.

**Whilst China and India are clearly the biggest players, our research shows that there is still significant potential to prevent premature deaths in all of the 24 countries we have analysed and feature in the AIRPOLIM webtool. As a starting point, around 3.2 million premature deaths could be avoided across all the countries we cover, simply by stopping building any new coal plants today**  
REENA SKRIBBE | CO-AUTHOR OF THE STUDY

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Lovebirds end lives in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, May 24:** In an unfortunate incident, a young couple reportedly committed suicide over an alleged failure in love at Samantarapur village under Jarada police limits in Ganjam district.

The young boy and a girl were found hanging from two trees Tuesday morning. The deceased have been identified as Sonu Behera and Sunita Pradhan.

Sonu took extreme step after his family did not accede to his marriage with Sunita. Learning about the incident, Sunita rushed to the spot and was found crying near Sonu's body. Meanwhile, Sonu's family members reached the spot and accused Sunita of killing their son.

Unable to bear the pain of losing her lover, the girl also ended her life by hanging herself with her dupatta (scarf) from another tree after some time. Alerted, police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. Later, the bodies were sent to a nearby hospital for post-mortem. Further investigation into the matter is underway, said a police official.

Blazing lights bane of jumbo safety

Concern regarding the safety of the pachyderms comes close on the heels of the death of a pregnant elephant and two calves in a train accident at Behera hutting under Champua forest range in Keonjhar district May 19

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, May 24:** Elephants are losing sight of their tracks and straying into human habitats due to installation of blazing lights near the elephant corridors of the state and national highways passing through forested areas of this district, a report said.

The concern regarding the safety of the pachyderms comes close on the heels of the death of a pregnant elephant and two calves in a train accident at Behera hutting under Champua forest range in the district May 19, 2022.

Reports said the Forest department is taking a slew of measures for protection and security of the jumbos. It has put up signage to alert commuters on the highways about the presence of an elephant corridor there. One of the information boards can be found at the elephant corridor Belda ghat road of National Highway-49.

The pachyderms regularly move



on these corridors for their destinations. Of late, there has been a sharp rise in number of vehicles on these roads. As a result, the animals often get confused and lose sight of their tracks while crossing the highway. They then stray into nearby villages and destroy

lives and properties.

Forest officials have constructed an underpass on the highway for safe movement of the animals. Locals alleged that the animals hardly use the underpass as it is far away from the nearby elephant corridor. The animals have to climb the hilly roads

to get closer to the corridor.

Moreover, installation of high illuminating lights on the highway also hinders the safe movement of elephants. Environmentalists Bimbadhar Behera said that this could have been avoided had the authorities paid adequate attention to these factors during the expansion and construction of the highway.

Notably, two major highways, NH-49 and NH-215 pass through the forests and hilly terrains of Keonjhar district. The road expansion work has destroyed the elephant corridors on the highways causing serious problems to the animals.

Environmentalists have alleged that construction of roads and underpasses without adequate consideration and consultation has posed serious threats to the elephants. They said that the Forest department should not rest only on putting up signage but take concrete measures for the protection of the elephants.

Rlys, Forest dept gear up to tackle elephant deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, May 24:** In the wake of the death of a pregnant elephant and two calves in a train accident in this district, Forest and Railways officials Monday held a joint coordination meeting to address the issue of jumbo deaths due to mishaps.

It is alleged that the May 19 incident occurred due to absence of proper coordination between the Railways and Forest department officials. Keonjhar divisional forest officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD presided over the meeting held at his office.

Senior officials of East Coast Railway (ECoR) and South Eastern Railway (SER) attended the meeting and discussed the modalities on protection of the animals.

The Forest officials battled for use of red flags and red spot lights during emergency. The district has nine railway stations under ECoR



and five under SER. A proposal was mooted for establishment of a control room at Danguapasi railway station. Similarly, Forest officials insisted on construction of barricades, underpasses and overpasses at strategic points and to put up signage on movement of elephants.

The SER will identify sites for construction of underpasses and overpasses and barricades at strategic points. The loco pilots and station masters have been sensitised about the behaviour of pachyderms and their movements.



Students performed pranayam at a block-level Yogasan competition held at Sri Biranchinarayan Girls' High School at Buguda in Ganjam district

Woman spends 5 days with mother's corpse

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, May 24:** Police rescued a mentally-challenged woman from a closed room where she spent five days with her mother's body. The body was found in a decomposed state.

It was learnt that her mother had died five days ago. The incident has taken place at Basanti Colony in Steel City, Monday night.

The rescued woman was admitted to RG Hospital, Tuesday.

According to police, the deceased was identified as Manju Puri, 70, wife of late Narottam Puri. She was staying with her daughter Priyanka at house no. FL-223 in Basanti Colony.

Locals were shocked to notice

the foul smell coming out of the closed house and informed Uditnagar police, suspecting foul play.

Police reached the spot, broke open the door and recovered the body. The police also found the deceased woman's daughter, who was mentally-challenged, lying on a cot in the house. She was admitted to the Rourkela Government Hospital. The body has been sent for post-mortem while the cause of her death would be ascertained after submission of the autopsy report, said the police who registered a case of unnatural death.

Police have informed two other daughters of the deceased woman who are residing outside the state about the incident.

Masked miscreants loot ₹4L at gunpoint

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barbil, May 24:** A gang of five miscreants, late Monday night, looted ₹4 lakh in cash at gunpoint from the staffer of a transport agency office at Bhadrasahi under Barbil police limits in Keonjhar.

Before decamping with the cash, the culprits had damaged two CCTVs installed in the office. They also shot at the staffer, but the latter managed to escape unhurt as the bullet hit the wall.

As per a complaint lodged with the police,

five persons, all masked and armed with weapons, barged into the office at 11pm. They put the gun at the head of a staffer and took away the cash and damaged the CCTVs.

Iswar Jhaharia, owner of the transport agency, had immediately

Youth, widow beaten up over extramarital affair

**Jaleshwar:** A married youth and a widow were beaten up black and blue at a 'kangaroo court' after some villagers found the two engaged in extramarital affair at Kusumsahi under this block in Balasore district Tuesday. The village court also slapped penalty on the two and paraded them on the village road. The kangaroo court's decision came after some villagers caught the duo in a compromising position, Tuesday. After reports about the 'kangaroo court' spread, police rushed to the village but returned empty-handed. Tension was palpable in the area after the incident, said sources. Locals alleged inaction by the police and demanded action against the perpetrators of the crime.

2 kg pangolin scales seized



**Malkangiri:** Forest officials and police jointly conducted raids in Balimela area of this district and seized around 2 kg pangolin scales, late Monday night. Two people involved in the smuggling of the wildlife parts were also arrested. Reports said police officials and forest officials of Balimela got intelligence inputs about smuggling of pangolins. A team comprising sub-inspector of Arkel police station Rajesh Kumar Sethi and Balimela forester Sibananda Lenka started patrolling in the area between Chitapari and Uskapalli villages. They then saw the two persons coming on bike on that way. On enquiry, the team found 1.9 kg of pangolin scales from their possession. The duo identified as Irma Sodhi, 33, and Ganga Madkami, 24, of Uskapalli was arrested and their bike seized. In another incident, a pangolin was found moving around in Mathihli forest range late Monday night. On a tip-off from one Prana Krushna Panda, Mathihli ranger Basudev Nayak rescued the mammal weighing 5 kg.

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2.	कनिष्ठ अधीक्षक / Junior Superintendent	-	1	-	1	1	03	Level-6 of Pay Matrix ₹ 35,400 - 1,12,400/-
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4.	फिजियोथेरेपिस्ट / Physiotherapist	1	-	-	-	-	01	Level-6 of Pay Matrix ₹ 35,400 - 1,12,400/-
5.	कनिष्ठ तकनीकी अधीक्षक / Junior Technical Superintendent	3	1	1	2	1	09	Level-6 of Pay Matrix ₹ 35,400 - 1,12,400/- (SC)
6.	कनिष्ठ सहायक / Junior Assistant	8	2	5	2	3	21	Level-4 of Pay Matrix ₹ 25,500 - 81,100/- (UR)
7.	कनिष्ठ लेखाकार / Junior Accountant	5	-	1	-	-	06	Level-4 of Pay Matrix ₹ 25,500 - 81,100/-
8.	कनिष्ठ पैथोलॉजिस्ट / Junior Pathologist	1	-	-	-	-	01	Level-4 of Pay Matrix ₹ 25,500 - 81,100/-
9.	कनिष्ठ तकनीशियन / Junior Technician	4	3	5	4	3	20	Level-4 of Pay Matrix ₹ 25,500 - 81,100/- (ST)
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<b>Total :</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>83</b>	

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Rayagada roads fast turning into deathtraps



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, May 24:** Death of more than 47 persons in 106 road mishaps during the last four months in this district has emerged as a big concern for the administrators as well as residents, a report said.

The sharp spike in road accidents has baffled the district administration, police and health officials as they are pondering over the ways and means to contain the menace. The matter came to the fore at a recent meeting of the district road safety committee held at the conference hall at the Collectorate.

Rayagada Collector Saroj Kumar Mishra presided over the meeting attended by SP Vivekanand Sharma and chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Lalmohan

Routray and other senior officials.

In the meeting, the officials presented the details of the road accidents and the subsequent death tolls of the last two years. The data revealed that more than 110 persons died in 271 road accidents in 2020 while 133 persons died in 297 road accidents in 2021. The mishaps have refused to abate despite the district administration and police personnel adopting a host of measures.

What is alarming is that at least 47 persons have died in 106 mishaps within just four months of this year. The report said that most of the accidents are occurring in Rayagada, Sheshkhali, Chandili, Ambadala areas and particularly during December, January, February, June and September. The Collector directed NHAI officials, Works and Rural Works departments to take steps to rectify the errors and asked the police to intensify helmet checking and drunk driving.

**Central Bank of India**  
Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notices. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India** for an amount stated and interest thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	Name and Address of Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagors	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice/ Possession Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
<b>DHENKANAL BRANCH/ Sri Benudhar Biswal, S/o: Late Uchhab Biswal, At: Haladibari, PO.: Gengutia, Dist.: Dhenkanal, PIN- 759013</b>	1) Sri Benudhar Biswal, 2) Smt. Mamata Biswal, W/o.: Benudhar Biswal, Both are At: Haladibari, Dist.: Gengutia, Dist.: Dhenkanal, PIN- 759013	₹10,24,135/- as on 09.05.2021 / ₹10,12,700/- as on 17.05.2022 plus interest thereon & other expenses etc. Biswal, South: Govt	10.05.2021 / 19.05.2022	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Haladibari, P.S.: Dhenkanal Sadar No.: 57, Tehsil: Dhenkanal Sadar No.: 133, District: Dhenkanal, Khata No.: 62/45, Plot No.: 272/407, Area: Ac.0.047.5 Dec., Standing in the name of <b>Sri Benudhar Biswal</b> , Bounded by East: Uchhab Biswal, West: Uchhab Biswal, North: Nala
<b>DHENKANAL BRANCH/ Trilochan Bhuyan, Baram Bihar, Jubuli Town, Dhenkanal, PIN- 759001</b>	1) Smt. Nayana Bhuyan, 2) Satya Ranjan Bhuyan, Baram Bihar, Jubuli Town, Dhenkanal, PIN-759001	₹15,35,486/- as on 02.11.2021 / ₹16,36,517/- as on 22.05.2022 plus interest thereon & other expenses etc.	03.11.2021 / 19.05.2022	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Banamali Prasad, P.S.: Dhenkanal Sadar -2, Tehsil: Dhenkanal Sadar-2, District: Dhenkanal, Khata No.: 535/197, Plot No.: 2042/2680, Area: Ac.0.120Dec., Standing in the name of <b>Smt. Nayana Bhuyan</b> , Bounded by East:
<b>ANJALI SAMAL, West: Plot No.: 2681, South: Road, North: Sarat Tung</b>	1) Chandan Jena, S/o.: Maheswar Jena, 2) Bighneswar Jena, S/o.: Late Banchanidhi Jena, At: Bahadalpur, PO.: Sarakantara, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751019	₹14,04,596/- as on 24.08.2021 / ₹13,59,672/- as on 22.05.2022 plus interest thereon & other expenses etc.	24.08.2021 / 23.05.2022	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Bahadalpur, PS.: Bhubaneswar, Tehsil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.:158, Settlement Plot No.: 119, Area: Ac.0.035 Dec., Standing in the name of <b>Chandan Jena &amp; Bighneswar Jena</b> , Bounded by East: Govt. Road, West: Plot No.: 120, South: Plot No.:117, North: Govt. Road.

**Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 24.05.2022**

**Authorised Officer Central Bank of India**

**Government of Odisha** No. O-316  
“e” Procurement Notice  
Bid Identification No. 03 of 2022-23

1	Number of Works	35 Nos. of Road Works
2	Estimated Cost (Approx.)	Rs.6.19 lakh to Rs.49.56 lakh
3	Period of Completion	Mentioned against NIT - Table Col. 06
4	Date & time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	27.05.2022 at 11.00 hrs.
5	Last date & time for receipt of Bids in the portal	08.06.2022 at 17.00 hrs.
6	Date of Opening of Tender	09.06.2022 at 11.00 hrs.
7	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jagatsinghpur

Further details can be seen from the Government website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).

Sd./- Executive Engineer  
Rural Works Division, Jagatsinghpur  
OIPR-25056/11/0004/2223

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank**  
(Together for the better)

**HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT**  
CIRCLE OFFICE: BALESWAR-756001

**Notice For Recruitment of Peon in the Subordinate Cadre**

Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens who are domicile of the following Districts, for recruitment of **Peon in the Subordinate Cadre** for our Bank in **Baleswar Circle**.

**1. District Wise Vacancies:**

Sl No.	DISTRICT	District Wise Vacancies	Reservation Percentage
1.	BALESWAR	3	UR-01, SC-01, ST-01
2.	BHADRAK	1	UR-01
3.	JAJPUR	1	ST-01
4.	KEONJHAR	2	OBC-01, ST-01
5.	MAYURBHANJ	3	UR-01, ST-02
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	UR-03, OBC-01, SC-01, ST-5

**Horizontal Reservation:-** Out of the above, 2 vacancies for Ex-service men.

**2. Pay Scale: (Rs.14500 - Rs.28145) + other allowances.**

**3. Eligibility Criteria**

**a. Qualification :** Minimum and Maximum pass in 12<sup>th</sup> standard or its equivalent with basic reading / writing knowledge of English (Candidates Possessing Graduation Degree or Higher Qualification are not eligible.)

**b. Age as on 01-01-2022:** Minimum -18 years and Maximum-24 years

**Relaxation of upper age limit:** SC/ST candidates by 05 years, SC/ST - Physically/Orthopedically Handicap candidates by 15 years, OBC candidates by 03 years, OBC - Physically/Orthopedically handicap candidates by 13 years, Physically/Orthopedically handicap candidates by 10 years, Ex-servicemen candidates by 03 years in addition to the length of military service and for children/ family members of those who died in the 1984 riots by 03 years. The maximum age limit of all relaxations combined not to exceed 45 years unless it is so provided in Govt. Directives.

**c. Domicile:** The eligible candidates should be the **domicile of that district** for which vacancies have been notified/published.

**4. Documents to be enclosed - Self Attested Copies as under:**

1. Certificate in support of DOB, 2. Qualification Certificate/ School Leaving Certificate 3. Caste Certificate and latest OBC Certificate with non-creamy layer clause for OBC candidates, 4. Address Proof & ID Proof and any other relevant documents 5. Residence Certificate 6. Aadhar Card, 7. PAN Card, 8. Passport Size Photo (1 Copy) 9. Employment Exchange registration card (if registered)

The Application is to be submitted along with self-attested photocopies of supporting documents and to be sent through Registered Post/ Speed Post only to **The Chief Manager, HRD Department, Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bharat Timber Complex, Vivekananda Marg, Near SBI, Baleswar, Odisha-756001** in a closed enveloped superscribing in bold letter as: **Application for the Post of Peon for District:.....**

The last date of receipt of application is **04.06.2022 at (5 PM)**.

**Please note:** Applications received after due date/incomplete/ without required documents will not be considered. No communication will be sent to those candidates whose applications are not being considered. Further, the Bank reserves the right to cancel/postpone/increase/decrease of number of vacancies without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B.: No interview will be conducted. The selection of Peon will be made on the basis of percentage of marks obtained by the candidates in 10<sup>th</sup> standard (Weightage 40%) and 12<sup>th</sup> standard (Weightage 60%). The list of selected candidates will be published on the Notice Board of Circle Office, Baleswar.

**Place: Baleswar, Date: 25.05.2022** **CIRCLE HEAD**

**"Application for the post of Peon in the Subordinate Cadre" (In A4 Paper)**

1. Name:- .....	<b>Passport Size Photo</b>
2. Father/Husband's Name:- .....	
3. Permanent Address and Dist:- .....	
4. Present Address:- .....	
5. Date of Birth:- .....	
6. Max- Qualification as on .....	
7. Name of School last attended:- .....	
8. Category (SC/ST/OBC/GEN):- .....	
9. Whether Ex-Servicemen:- Yes/ No	
10. Whether PWD - Yes/ No	
11. Mob No:- .....	
12. Employment Exchange No (if any) :- .....	
13. PAN No :- .....	
14. Aadhar Card No:- .....	

I hereby declare that the above furnished information is true to the best of my knowledge and If the above information found false in future, my candidature may be cancelled at any time without any information.

Place: ..... Signature: .....  
Date: ..... Name: .....



“

Change yourself if you wish to change the world.

THE MOTHER



# Ping-Pong in Tokyo

US President Joe Biden set the tone and tenor of the Quad summit meeting in Tokyo 24 May a day before the top leaders of the four countries of the grouping– US, Japan, Australia and India – could meet. In an apparent change of position on the US’ stance over open China-Taiwan conflict, Biden announced the US would intervene militarily should China invade the island country the way Russia has invaded Ukraine. He deliberately drew the parallel to send the message across to China that it would be a mistake for the latter if it gets encouraged by Russian invasion and tries to take over Taiwan by force. The US President warned China not to “flirt with Taiwan” and China countered him by asking the US “not to play with fire.”

The host of the summit, Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida said what remained unstated by Biden. He said, “Attempts to change the status quo by force, like Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, should never be tolerated in the Indo-Pacific, above all, in East Asia.” He even spelt out the rationale of the Quad grouping by asserting that with the regional security environment becoming “increasingly severe,” he concurred with President Biden that they need to speedily strengthen the deterrence and response of the alliance. The American official position on Taiwan is that it has never recognised Beijing’s claim to the self-governing island of 23 million. The US provides Taiwan defensive weapons, but had, till Biden’s statement, remained intentionally ambiguous on whether it would intervene militarily in the event of a Chinese attack. Biden has, during the past few months, iterated that the US was “committed” to militarily defending Taiwan. But, no sooner had he said so, the US administration rushed to walk back the President’s words and insisted there had been no change in the American position on providing support to Taiwan by way of supplying military hardware. But, this time Biden’s categorical statement that the US would defend Taiwan has ruffled China’s feathers as the assertion is made on its doorstep. It is not difficult to understand Biden’s belligerence towards China, apparently reversing America’s China-Taiwan policy. His administration has drawn flak from his own countrymen following the hurried pullout from Afghanistan, leaving the population, especially Afghan women, at the mercy of the Taliban with a medieval mindset. His ratings as President among the American public has gone down quite alarmingly. Close on the heels of the Afghan crisis came Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. There too, the US and the West cut a rather sorry figure as Russian President Vladimir Putin pulverised parts of Ukraine and NATO watched the mayhem like a mute spectator. In time however, more international sanctions and military assistance in the way of equipment and other hardware was extended to Ukraine. Added to that, the spirited resistance by the people of Ukraine has greatly checked Russian forces as the war enters its third month. This could have given confidence to Biden to take on China through a sort of diplomatic sabre-rattling to salvage some of his lost position. This is why he deviated for the fourth time in the recent past from America’s official position vis-a-vis China-Taiwan confrontation. He lapped up the opportunity when a reporter asked him in Tokyo whether he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if it came to that especially since the US under him did not want to get involved in the Ukraine conflict militarily “for obvious reasons.” He nodded and asserted, “Yes. That is the commitment we made.” Doing a fine balancing act and diplomatic wordplay, he said the US has agreed with the “One China” policy and signed several agreements on it, but the idea that China can take Taiwan by force is “just not appropriate.” Within hours, China expressed its “strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition” to Biden’s comments, saying it will not allow any external force to interfere in its “internal affairs.” Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, sought to warn the US by reminding the latter that on the issues concerning China’s “sovereignty and territorial integrity and other core interests” there is no room for compromise. China urged America not to deviate from the “One China” policy and cautioned it against using indiscreet words and sending “any wrong signal to pro-Taiwan independence and separatist forces.” The spokesperson also asked the US not to cause “serious damage to the situation across the Taiwan Strait and China-US relations.” What has happened is a sort of ping-pong game between Biden’s US and Xi Jinping’s China. Biden has apparently sought to assure the Quad allies that America is ready to play hard ball against China at least in words. Xi’s officials, in turn, wasted no time to tell the world China would not be cowed down by the US. One positive element of this engagement is that China has been told, in no uncertain terms, that it must think twice before following in Putin’s footsteps. If China heeds it, which is in the realm of possibility, Biden will score brownie points in US domestic politics.

## WISDOM CORNER

- “

A ship is always safe at the shore, but that is not what it is built for.

ALBERT EINSTEIN
- “

The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.

STEVE JOBS
- “

Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one.

BRUCE LEE

## WORDSWORTH

### ■ Synaesthete

This word is moderately common in the psychological and artistic fields. It refers to a person who has some kind of cross-wiring in the brain, so that things which ought to be perceived by one sense are instead felt in another. The most common form is for language, sounds and tastes to be sensed as colours. For a synaesthete, the words on this page might have colour associations; many musicians say that different keys evoke characteristic colours; or those affected may experience the sense of taste as hues. For any one individual, the transfer between senses is always the same, but there seems to be no accord between affected individuals about what sensation evokes what effect. The science writer Alison Motluk, a synaesthete, has remarked that “The astonishing realisation is not that these characters are imbued with colours but rather a world could exist in which they were colour-free, neutral, characterless. It would be like finding out one day that, while you have been savouring the smells of freshly baked bread, of brandy, of chocolate, all your life, your friends have only been able to taste them”. The term synaesthesia was coined at the end of the nineteenth century by Sir Francis Galton for what had been and sometimes is still called coloured hearing. He derived it on the model of anaesthesia from the Greek prefix syn-, for things that are like one another, plus aisthesis, meaning sensation.

## LOL

### Installing a carpet

A carpet layer had just finished installing carpet for a lady. He stepped out for a smoke, only to realize he’d lost his cigarettes. In the middle of the room, under the carpet, was a bump. “No sense pulling up the entire floor for one pack of smokes,” he said to himself. He proceeded to get out his



As he was cleaning up, the lady came in. “Here,” she said, handing him his pack of cigarettes. “I found them in the hallway.” “Now,” she said, “if only I could find my parakeet.”



**TO BE CLEAR, THERE IS LITTLE CHANGE IN OUR UNDERLYING EXPECTATION ABOUT THE LIKELY RATE HIKE TRAJECTORY AHEAD**

## IN JEST THIS

# Don’t be an idiot with dangerous animals



Melvin Durai

**A LION’S JAWS ARE VERY POWERFUL AND PULLING YOUR FINGER OUT OF THEM IS LIKE PULLING A CELLPHONE FROM A TEENAGER**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

## FOCUS MONETARY POLICY

# A BOND & MACRO UPDATE



**A government unwilling to expand fiscal deficit through resisting subsidising parts of the consumer basket should ordinarily be seen as complementing monetary policy action in curbing inflation**

The government announced a series of steps aimed at providing some relief against the unprecedented commodity price shocks being felt post the geopolitical escalations. Chief amongst these was a ₹8 and ₹6 cut, respectively in excise duties on petrol and diesel prices per litre. Apart from these, a ₹200 subsidy on LPG cylinders has been provided under the Ujjwala scheme. Additionally, customs duties are being cut on some inputs for plastic and steel. Finally, export duties are being hiked on items like pellets, iron ore, and some steel products. All told, these constitute a substantial set of measures and come at just the time when monetary policy was turning quite wary of the developing supply side inflation dynamics. Importantly, this also constitutes a signal that the government is equally committed to the battle against inflation (media reports suggest more measures may be taken later if required).

A government unwilling to expand fiscal deficit through resisting subsidising parts of the consumer basket should ordinarily be seen as complementing monetary policy action in curbing inflation. This is because monetary policy acts to curb aggregate demand by weighing down on parts of its components (private consumption, investments, government consumption, net exports). As can be seen, an expansion in government spending works at cross-currents to this. Thus by extension, a government unwilling to expand deficit is working in tandem with monetary policy. However, a different approach may have been required in case of fuel items and some other essential inputs owing to the risk of cascade of these prices through the entire manufacturing value chain. It is for this reason, presumably, that RBI/MPC members seem to have been encouraging the government to act. If media reports are to be believed, it is disappointment on this front that may have led monetary policy to come on the front foot on rate adjustments. A theoretical question may be asked to clarify the point: Would the inter-meeting hike have occurred if the government had announced these steps ahead of that meeting?

We don’t really know the answer to the above question. Notwithstanding that, with a government now seemingly also focussed on bearing the burden (and after having made a hefty ‘down-payment’ on the same with these latest measures) the pressure on monetary policy should lessen, ceteris paribus. Now this statement needs to be interpreted carefully. After the April policy and before the May inter-meeting hike, the market as per the swap curves was pricing in 275 bps hikes over two years from the overnight rate of 3.75 per cent then. Around 75-100 bps of these were expected in year two. Post the inter-meeting hike, however, the market started discounting all these hikes (and a bit more) in year one itself. It is possible, though not immediately observable, that the market unwinds part of the frenzied pace of hikes in year one that has been priced in post the inter-meeting hike.

On the bond curve, post the inter-meeting hike there was flattening between 1 and 4 years and between 4 and 10 years. While this makes sense, the residual spread left between 1 and 4 years was still quite large given that the spread between 4 and 10 years had reduced materially. If market was bringing forward all its tightening expectation to the next 1 year, then the maximum flattening pressure should have been felt on the spread between 1 and 4 years. Instead it is 4 to 10 year spread that reduced aggressively while leaving 1 to 4 years reasonably positive sloping. This implied two things: Market

was still pricing in higher forward rates (2 years and 3 years rates 1 year from now versus where they were currently), thereby still expecting year 2 rate hikes unlike the swap curve; If the reason for this steepness was just bond supply premium on yields, then the 10 year and beyond was heavily ignoring this supply premium.

If some of market’s upfronted rate hike expectations were to unwind going forward, then it is logical to expect some giving away also on the 4-10 year flattening that has occurred just over the past month. In fact, the market will likely have to price in a larger bond supply premium as well given the new fiscal uncertainties down the line post these (and later may be more) fiscal measures. This will likely put more pressure for this spread to expand. It is to be noted that basis recent action, this spread is now largely in line with the pre-COVID era and is almost completely ignoring the additional bond supply premium that needs to be built in for the new regime of higher government deficit over multiple years.

Our long standing overweight 4-5 year strategy has been stressed heavily over the past month owing to the market dynamics as discussed above. However, basis our view going forward we think this segment should now start to enjoy a relative tailwind as market partly unwinds rate hike fears and builds back bond supply premium. To be clear, there is little change in our underlying expectation about the likely rate hike trajectory ahead.

We continue to think that monetary policymakers want to achieve a position of relative neutrality soon enough. This they seem to have defined around the pre-COVID repo rate of 5.15%. However, unlike the market consensus, we continue to think that the pace of hikes thereafter will be much more measured with the repo rate probably peaking out under the 6% mark. The premise of this expectation, as discussed many times before comes from our assessment of India’s total fiscal and monetary policy response post COVID and the normalisation already underway for monetary policy; Our underlying growth trajectory and the characterisation of most of the inflation currently in play; Central banks’ having to hike in what is a clearly slowing global cycle and the related point that most of them are unlikely to have a multi-year adjustment runway.

Another observation is noteworthy basis the above. We find a lot of favour in the market today for strategies anchored around the 1 year point. While these may sound ‘surer’ in an otherwise volatile environment, there are nevertheless 2 deficiencies in the argument here in our view: As noted above, 1 to 4 years spread is still very large thus implying quite steep forward curves (3 years 1 year from now, or 2 years 2 years from now if one were to consider 2 years to 4 years spread currently). By focussing on just 1 year (or 2 years) investors are effectively not choosing to ‘own’ these steep forward curves.

Investors are potentially court-juging re-investment risks 1-2 years down the line by ignoring 4-5 years in favour of 1-2 years. Even if one were to consider swap pricing (which is excessive in our view) the rate hike cycle will probably be done by year 1. Most likely, given what we think and what we are observing of the global macro cycle, by then the narrative on many central banks would have materially changed. The point about reinvestment risk is especially applicable since, as noted above, the forward curves are so steep. On a related note, tactical products like floating rate bonds may have limited shelf life as well given the nature of this cycle as analysed above.

**The writer is Head, Fixed Income, IDFC AMC.**

©IANS

the transplant department at your local hospital.”

Unfortunately, some people are driven to be “extraordinarily idiotic,” even climbing over safety fences, as a 27-year-old man did last December at Naples Zoo in Florida. Upon reaching the enclosure of a Malayan tiger, the man stuck his arm through the fence. I don’t know what he was thinking, but this seems like a good time for me to make another public service announcement: “Please do not put your arm into the enclosure of a tiger, even if your mother brought you up to be polite and shake everyone’s hand. If you want to be polite to a tiger, try to be quiet when he’s about to hit a golf ball. Oh sorry, wrong Tiger.”

The 8-year-old male tiger, as you can imagine, treated the man’s arm like a hunk of meat thrown into his cage. He grabbed the arm in his jaws and tried to pull it through the fence. Police were called to the scene, fired a shot and the poor tiger was a victim of human idiocy. The man survived,

but I don’t know how much of his arm he retained.

It’s worth noting that the tiger’s enclosure had an 8-foot-high fence, topped with three strands of barbed wire. On the outside of the fence was a sign that said: “DANGER AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY.”

It is hard to find fault with the zoo, which took many precautions to prevent such a tragedy, but perhaps the sign could have been worded differently: “KEEP OUT! ANYONE WHO GOES BEYOND THIS POINT WILL BE CONSIDERED LUNCH!”

Lions, tigers and other big cats have been involved in more than 300 incidents in America since 1990, according to the Humane Society. Dozens of people have lost their limbs and several have lost their lives. Needless to say, Americans, despite their best efforts, do not have a monopoly on “extraordinarily idiotic.”

Visitors to zoos in India and many other countries have also tried hard to win Darwin Awards. Please try not to emulate them.

### Save elephants

Sir, Elephants are majestic animals. They are mentioned in our scriptures and mythology. Their presence enriches and beautifies nature. They love travelling from one place to another in a short span of time. They are a rare gift of nature. But, sadly, their population is decreasing day by day. It is due to loss of habitat, poaching, global warming and accidents in railway lines. Similarly, many elephants are losing their lives by coming in contact with dangling high voltage electric wires in agricultural fields. This is painful. Recently, the death of three elephants after being hit by a train in our state has exposed the lackadaisical attitude of various government departments in protecting elephants from accidents. There is a clear lack of coordination between the railways and the forest department. Passing the buck is not a good thing. Forest, railways and electricity departments should take a pledge and joint responsibility to protect elephants from danger. Solar walls should be constructed in those areas where elephants are moving in large numbers. Construction of elephant corridors is the need of the hour. Let elephants flourish and strengthen our biodiversity.

**Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR**

### Matter of concern

Sir, It is a matter of great concern that precious time of the courts, including the Supreme Court, is wasted in adjudication of cases pertaining to disputes over places of worship. It is worrisome that the courts are forced to deal with such cases when they have to deal with a huge backlog of cases related to the lives of the common people. The Places of Worship Act was legislated by the Parliament to prevent religious organisations from making claims on places of worship of other religions. Religious organisations like the VHP believe that many mosques were built by demolishing Hindu temples. For a long time the courts refused to hear cases questioning the legality of mosques. However, when the courts showed willingness to hear such cases, many litigants started filing petitions on flimsy grounds. In fact, the courts need to reject such cases as they violate the Places of Worship Act. It was unfortunate that a local court in Varanasi accepted a petition claiming that a temple had existed in the place where the mosque stands now. The local court not only accepted the petition but also ordered a videographic survey of the mosque. To make matters worse, the Allahabad High Court supported the local court’s order.

**Venu GS, KOLLAM**



**of the day quote**

The Congress party has more than enough majority to comfortably win three out of four Rajya Sabha seats

**SACHIN PILOT** | FORMER RAJASTHAN DEPUTY CM

Goa is the hub of tourism. Goan villages are more beautiful than towns according to me

**PS SREEDHARAN PILLAI** | GOVERNOR OF GOA

Akhilesh should come out of the comfort of air-conditioners and move out amidst the party workers if he wants to improve his party's performance in 2024

**PRAKASH RAJBHAR** | SBSP CHIEF OM

**SHORT TAKES**

**Yedi's son denied ticket for MLC polls**

**Bangalore:** In what is being seen in some political quarters as a setback to former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, the BJP central leadership Tuesday denied MLC tickets to his son B Y Vijayendra and a loyalist. Ignoring the recommendation of the state unit to field Vijayendra for the June 3 biennial election to seven seats of Karnataka Legislative Council, the party central leadership on Tuesday announced names four candidates, hours before the deadline for filing of nominations ended today.

**Suspected hooch claims eight lives**

**Patna:** Eight people have died after consuming suspected spurious liquor in Bihar's Gaya and Aurangabad districts in the past four days. While three people lost their lives and eight others fell ill after having hooch in Gaya Tuesday, five others in Aurangabad died of it in the past three days. The family of the deceased in Gaya claimed that they had consumed liquor during a wedding function Monday.

**5 of family killed in road accident**

**Bulandshahr (UP):** Five members of a family, including two children, died and six others were injured after their speeding car rrammed into a stationary truck on the Bulandshahr-Meerut highway Tuesday morning, officials said. The family was en route to the Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand when the accident took place in Gulawathi area of Bulandshahr around 4.30 am, the officials said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the loss of lives in the accident and directed officials to ensure the best treatment for the injured.

**IN A FIRST, ARMY PLANS MINI DEFENCE EXPO IN KOLKATA**

*The event will give opportunity to start ups and MSMEs to showcase their products*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 24:** A mini defence expo will be held for the first time in Kolkata from July 6 to July 9, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, Lt Gen R P Kalita said here Tuesday.

Kalita who was speaking at a conclave on 'Atmanirbhar Defence - Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward' organised by a chamber of commerce, asked members of the industry to join the expo.

He said the Armed Forces are in touch with premier educational institutions for research and development of new products and he had recently visited IIT Guwahati for the purpose.



The nature of warfare is constantly changing and militaries across the world have to evolve and keep pace with technological developments and "Unless we try and infuse the technology into the method of war fighting, we will be left fighting tomorrow's war with yesterday's weapons," the Eastern Army commander said. India's national security paradigm, he said, is based on strategic autonomy and it can only be ensured with a strong military possessing adequate hard power. "For this we need to constantly strengthen our military capabilities while at the



The BJP has only exploited Kashmiri pandits. If anything was done for the Kashmiri pandits, like their shifting from tents to flats, it was done in Manmohan Singh's tenure, and when Mufti (Mohammad Sayeed) sahib and (Ghulam Nabi) Azad sahib or Omar (Abdullah) sahib were here (as CMs)

**MEHBOOBA MUFTI** | PDP PRESIDENT

**TEMPLE ROW**

**Qutub Minar not place of worship: ASI**

*The ASI, in the submission, said that there is no denial of the fact about the deities presence. It stated that the architectural materials and images of Hindu and Jain deities were reused in the construction of the Qutub Minar Complex*



struction of the Qutab complex. Additional District Judge Nikhil Chopra reserved the order on the plea for June 9.

"Fundamental right cannot be availed in violation of any status of the land. The basic principle of protection conservation is not to allow starting of any new practice in a monument declared and notified as a protected one under the Act," the ASI said.

It said that revival of worship was not allowed wherever it was not practiced at the time of protection of a monument. "Qutab Minar is not a place of worship and since the time of its protection by the central government, Qutab Minar or any part of Qutab Minar was not under worship by any community," it said.

The counsel for the ASI fur-

ther said that it was very clear from the Persian inscription at the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque, that the cloisters were erected with carved columns and other architectural members from 27 temples.

"Inscription is clear that the mosque was built with the remains of these temples. But nowhere it is mentioned that the materials were retrieved by demolishing temples. Also, it is not clear if they were retrieved from the site or brought from outside. Not demolished but remains of temples used for construction," the counsel said.

He added that there was no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act under which worship could be started at any living monument.

**JOVIAL MOOD**



Youngsters play in water as dark monsoon clouds hover in the sky at Badhwar park, Colaba in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

**Kejri flags off 150 electric buses**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 24:** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off 150 electric buses Tuesday and announced that the national capital will boast of 2,000 more such buses by next year.

The Chief Minister said the Delhi government is planning to spend ₹1,862 crores on procuring electric buses over the next 10 years.

Kejriwal also thanked the Centre for providing ₹150 crore for the e-bus project. Three new EV charging depots built at a cost of around ₹150 crores were also inaugurated. This launch has marked the beginning of a new era in the transport sector, ushering in the age of more and more electric buses on Delhi's roads and curb pol-

lution on a large scale, the chief minister said. "One hundred fifty new buses have been launched today, and next month another 150 will be added to the fleet. "It is our target to have 2,000 electric buses running on the roads in Delhi within the next one year, and our government is dedicating itself to work in this direction," he said.

The induction of 150 electric buses equipped with state-of-art features, including CCTV cameras, panic button and GPS, into the DTC's fleet Tuesday has come after almost 11 years when the public transporter procured buses on such a large number.

In addition, the government also plans to procure 600-700 CNG buses. The DTC board had approved the induction of 785 buses recently.

**DGCA warns airlines**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 24:** The aviation regulator DGCA Tuesday warned airlines against offering unserviceable seats to passengers on their domestic and international flights.

Earlier this year, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation had conducted an audit of seats and other cabin fittings in aircraft of airlines, and found that many had broken or unserviceable seats.

In a communique sent to all Indian carriers Tuesday, the DGCA said that some of the carriers are offering unserviceable seats to passengers on their scheduled international and domestic operations.

"This practice is not only causing inconvenience to the travellers but also inviting a serious safety concern as well," the regulator mentioned.

As per Rule 53 of The Aircraft Rule, 1937, all materials including the aircraft seat shall conform to approved design specifications, the DGCA noted.

**MONKEYPOX SCARE**

After monkeypox disease was reported in non-endemic countries like Germany, the US, the UK, France, and Australia, the Tamil Nadu government has put all the district collectors and the district medical officers on a high alert



**Arson in AP town over renaming of district**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Amaravati, May 24:** Arson broke out in Amalapuram town in Andhra Pradesh Tuesday when police resorted to lathi-charge at people who staged a protest against the proposed renaming of the newly-created Konaseema district as B R Ambedkar Konaseema district, with a number of police personnel left injured and the protestors opposed to the name change allegedly setting the houses of state minister P Viswarupu and a ruling YSR Congress MLA P Satish on fire.

While the ruling party blamed unnamed forces behind the arson, all opposition parties hit out at the Jagan Mohan Reddy government over its "gross failure" in controlling the situation. The opposition parties appealed to people to observe restraint and ensure peace returned to Konaseema.

State Home Minister Taneti Vanitha said some 20 police personnel were injured in stone pelting by the mob while the protestors torched a school bus.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC were clamped in Amalapuram even as additional police forces were rushed in to bring the situation under control.

Eluru Range Deputy Inspector General of Police G Pala Raju, who rushed to Amalapuram, said they were observing restraint and trying to bring the situation under control. He said the injured police per-

**The protesters set fire to the house of ruling YSRCP MLA from Mummidivaram, P Satish, and also burnt furniture kept outside Transport Minister P Viswarup's home**

sonnel were "not in danger."

Trouble started when the police allegedly prevented leaders of the Konaseema Sadhana Samiti from going into the district Collector's office for submitting a memorandum against renaming the district and resorted to a lathi-charge. The Samiti was opposed to the proposed renaming of the newly-created Konaseema district as B R Ambedkar Konaseema district.

As police tried to chase the Samiti leaders and workers away, stone pelting ensued. As trouble broke out, shops in the town downed their shutters even as the protestors allegedly went berserk and first set a school bus on fire. They later went to the house of Transport Minister Viswarupu and torched it.

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, B-2, West, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

**CORRIGENDUM**

The Mega E-Auction Sale Notice published on Dt.21.05.2022 in Orissa Post shall be read as date & time of EMD and E-Auction of Borrower - (SI No.3)Mr. Santosh Kumar Panda & (SI No.21)M/s Trimurti Pharmaceutical is Dt.27.06.2022 upto 5pm, and Dt. 28.06.2022 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM. (SI No.22)The Reserve Price & EMD of M/s. Angul Poultry of Jarapada Branch for property (A) to be read as Rs.38,13,000/- & Rs.3,81,300/- and for property(B) Rs. 35,27,000/- & Rs.3,52,700/- All other terms and conditions are remain same.

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

**CORRIGENDUM-1 to**  
Tender Notice No.-: EPC-CECONIBBS2022032, Dt. 22.03.2022

Necessary changes have been made against above Tender.

1. Tender Closing Date & Time: AS PUBLISHED-23.05.2022, at 1200 hrs. **TO BE READ AS 06.06.2022 at 1200 hrs.**

2. Physical submission of all documents as listed in RFP document: AS PUBLISHED-30.05.2022 upto 1200 hrs. **TO BE READ AS 13.06.2022 upto 1200 hrs.**

3. Opening of Technical Bid: AS PUBLISHED-01.06.2022 after 1200 hrs. **TO BE READ AS 14.06.2022 after 1200 hrs.**

For detailed corrigendum please visit website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/  
Bhubaneswar

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
Chatrapur Branch, NH-5, Patnaik Colony, Chatrapur, Ganjam

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Appendix-IV) [Rule-8(1)]  
(For Immovable Property)

(Under Section13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 with Rule 8 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor in the loan account mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice.The Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules . The Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Overseas Bank** for an amount with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of as mentioned below and interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed charges its till date of payment .

**The borrower'S attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets .**

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgager	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the ImmovableProperty
<b>Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr Lakhia Sabar, S/o: Late Mr Gurubaria Sabar, Guarantor: Mrs Nila Sabar, W/o: Mr Lakhia Sabar, both are residing at Vill/PO.: Badapalli, PS.: Khalikote, Dist: Ganjam, and Present Address: At- Raja Nagar, Putigopalpur, PO/ PS.: Chatrapur, Dist: Ganjam, Odisha- 761020 .</b>	<b>Rs.2,67,408/-</b> as on 03.03.2022 + further Interest, at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment	<b>03.03.2022</b> / <b>20.05.2022</b>	All that part and parcel of land and residential building situated at Plot No.20/1820, Khata No.283/1285, an extent of area measuring Ac0.030 dec., Village/Mouza: Putigopalpur,Tahasil: Chatrapur, Dist: Ganjam recorded in the name of <b>Mr Lakhia Sabar</b> , Bounded by: North-Road, South- Drain/Canal, East- Vacant land of Mr Bijaya Chandra Sahu, West- House of Mr Prasanta Kumar Tripathy .

Place : Chatrapur, Date : 24.05.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
Berhampur Main Branch, Giri Road, Gurudwara Singh Sabha Berhampur, Ganjam

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Appendix-IV) [Rule-8(1)]  
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**The borrower'S attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets .**

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgager	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the ImmovableProperty
<b>Borrower/Mortgagor : Smt Gedulu Damayanti Reddy, D/o:D Chinaya Reddy, Khandia Street, Ambapua, Berhampur-760010, Guarantor: Mr Satish Kumar, Desi Behera Street, Badabazar, Berhampur-760009 .</b>	<b>Rs.3,57,278/-</b> as on 30.11.2021 + further Interest, at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment	<b>06.12.2021</b> / <b>20.05.2022</b>	All that part and parcel of land and building situated at Rev. Plot No.793/7489, Khata No.442/5561, an extent of area measuring in 0.020 decimal, At: Raja Street, under Mouza: Ambapua, Berhampur, Pin- 760010, recorded in the name of <b>Smt Gedulu Damayanti Reddy</b> Bounded by: East- Own site, West- Site of Prabin Satapathy, South- Site of Seller, North- Road .

Place : Berhampur, Date : 24.05.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank



AHEAD OF AMARNATH YATRA

# ISI pushing terrorists into Valley: Intel

The Yatra, which was suspended in 2020 and 2021 owing to the pandemic, will begin June 30 and conclude August 11

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 24:** Ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been pushing terrorists into the Kashmir Valley from terror launch pads in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), intelligence agencies have warned security forces.

The sources in the security grid, quoting intelligence inputs, said that ISI has asked the commanders of the terror outfits located in PoK to get their ultras to sneak into the Kashmir Valley before the security is tightened at the international border.

The sources also said that the commanders have been directed to send their cadres via unconventional routes, especially through the riverside areas where manning the borders is a little tough.

The security agencies have intercepted some chats from across the border, which suggest that the ISI has been pressurising the terror outfits to infiltrate a large number of terrorists in the Valley before the Amarnath Yatra.



for the Amarnath Yatra.

The officials in the security network in J&K said that there are around six major terrorist camps and 29 minor ones operative in the PoK. Also, there are many temporary launch pads which are generally co-located with the Pakistan Army, which supply arms and ammunition and other necessary equipment.

The sources also said that as per the intercepted chats, a Lieutenant Colonel rank officer has been deployed to coordinate with the terror outfits in PoK and to militants into the Kashmir Valley.

However, the officials in the security set up in J&K said that they are well-prepared and are manning the international borders to thwart any infiltration bid and full-proof security layers have been put in place to deal with any threats on the Amarnath Yatra.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a proscribed terror outfit, reportedly issued a statement recently, warning people not to participate in the Amarnath Yatra.

## JeM terror module busted

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir police along with security forces have busted a terror module of proscribed terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) at Awantipora in Jammu and Kashmir by arresting eight terrorist associates. Police said that based on specific input, several suspects were arrested and further leads were developed that lead police and security forces to bust a terror module of proscribed terror outfit JeM operating in Awantipora. Incriminating materials including ammunition were also recovered from their possession. Besides, vehicle used in the commission of the crime has also been seized, police said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested terrorist associates were involved in providing shelter, logistics and transportation of arms ammunition to two active terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM namely Asif Sheikh resident of Monghama and Ajaz Bhat resident of Syedabad Pastuna Tral. Police have registered an FIR and further investigation is in progress.

SYLLABUS 'SAFFRONISATION'

# Kumaraswamy warns BJP of losing its base in K'taka



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, May 24:** The textbooks revision row is taking new twists and turns every day. Referring to the distorted regional anthem allegedly written by Text Book Revision Committee Chairman Rohith Chakrathirtha earlier and questioning the decision of the ruling BJP to put him in charge of textbooks' revision, former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy demanded that he be sent to prison.

He warned that the BJP will lose its base in Karnataka if it plays with the feelings of the people. The gateway to south India will permanently close for the BJP, he said.

The regional anthem Bharata

Jananiya Tanujate jaya he Karnataka maate (Oh great daughter of India, hail thee Karnataka) was penned by legendary writer Kuvempu. The posts of the distorted version of the regional anthem have gone viral in Karnataka. The distorted version is allegedly written by Rohith Chakrathirtha.

"Regional anthem of the state has been insulted. Those who had insulted it should have been booted into prison," Kumaraswamy stated without taking the name of Chakrathirtha.

"I am waiting for the release of the textbooks. There is a reference in a lesson that Kuvempu was able to be a poet by the support of others. Who is that fellow in the committee? What is his background?"

## Organisations to protest May 31

**BANGALORE:** Several organisations, including political parties, writers, women's and NGOs have decided to stage a state-level protest against the 'saffronisation' of school and college syllabus by the ruling BJP government in Karnataka May 31. The protest would be staged at the Freedom Park of Bengaluru. There has been stiff opposition for alleged dropping lessons on freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Tipu Sultan, social reformers Narayana Guru and Periyar from the textbooks of Class 10 Kannada subject. The government is maintaining that even before the publication and distribution of textbooks, the opposition is being made without any reason. However, experts warn that the development is likely to disturb the academic environment in the coming days.

Rashtra Kavi Kuvempu has been insulted. When Kuvempu lived, this fellow was not even born," Kumaraswamy stated.

POLICE MEDAL ROW

# Sheikh Abdullah will continue to rule hearts of people in J&K: NC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, May 24:** National Conference (NC) Tuesday termed the removal of the party founder Sheikh Abdullah's picture from Jammu and Kashmir Police medal as a nefarious attempt to erase history, saying 'Sher-i-Kashmir' will continue to rule the hearts of the people.

"With due respect to National Emblem, these attempts to erase our history, identity and icons show nefariousness of those running the show," NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said here.

Dar said replacing names will not change anything and the NC founder and former chief minister will continue to rule the hearts of the people of J&K.

"People of J&K have struggled on many fronts to be where they are now. They fought oppression, autocracy. No one can change that. Not by replacing or changing names. Sheikh Sahib will continue to rule the hearts of people of J&K, no matter what they or their masters do," the spokesperson said.



The Jammu and Kashmir government Monday announced that the image of the NC founder popularly known as 'Sher-i-Kashmir' embossed on the J&K Police medals for gallantry and meritorious service will be replaced with the national emblem.

The home department issued an order to this effect. The government had earlier renamed Sher-i-Kashmir Police Medals' as Jammu and Kashmir Police Medals'.

Meanwhile, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said Abdullah was a tall personality and replacing his name will make no difference.

"It will make no difference to his personality, but I have doubts over the mental balance of the people who did this, because he is such a personality who has played an important role in J&K's history," Mehbooba told reporters here.

The former chief minister said Abdullah gave so many years of his life in serving the people of J&K, brought good laws and played a very important role in joining J&K with India.

"If they want to erase the identity of such a leader after 70 years, then what can we say to them other than that it is their mental bankruptcy. When the two-nation theory was being discussed, Sheikh Sahib took such a bold decision to join India, a secular country, rather than Pakistan," she said.

CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami said the BJP's "panglossian" view of "rewriting" the history by name changing may favour their "narrow communal agenda", but it cannot absolve its complicity from annals.

CADETS' TRAINING



NCC cadets perform a routine drill during their annual Army Training Camp, at Nagrota on the outskirts of Jammu, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

# Nomads fear losses as cold wave grips Chenab Valley

**Cold wave conditions have engulfed the upper reaches of Chenab Valley triggering panic among the nomads who have started their bi-annual migration from the plains**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhaderwah(Jammu), May 24:** Unseasonal snowfall in the higher reaches of Chenab Valley has left hundreds of nomadic families in distress as they are compelled to halt their onward journey along with their livestock.

Cold wave conditions have engulfed the upper reaches of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts, triggering panic among the nomads who have started their bi-annual migration from the plains in the union territory and Punjab.

Officials said fresh snowfall was reported in Kailash Mountain Range, Kainthi, Padri Gali, Bhaal Padri, Seoj, Shankh Padar, Rishi Dal, Gau-Peeda, Gan-Thak, Khanni-top, Guldanda, Chattar Galla and Asha Pati Glacier surrounding Bhaderwah Valley since Monday night.

The unseasonal snowfall was

also reported from Braid Bal, Nehyed Chilly, Sharonth Dhar, Katardhar, Kainthi, Laloo Paani, Kaljugasar, Duggan Top, Goha and Sinthan Top besides the high altitude meadows of Gandoh.

These high altitude and vast grazing meadows remain inhabited by the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes during summers.

Due to unseasonal snowfall and severe cold conditions, hundreds of tribal families have been stuck either on the roadsides or on the lower reaches at different parts of Chenab Valley, an official said.

"We are stuck with our sheep

and goats in the open on the road sides without food and fodder and are compelled to survive under open sky," Bashir Bau (69), who belongs to the nomadic Gujjar community, said at Guldanda on Bhaderwah-Pathankot highway.

Hailing from Lakhampur in Kathua district, Bau claimed that he lost nearly 15 lambs and goats over the past few days due to intense cold.

"We are in a fix and unable to decide whether to stay back or go ahead," he said.

Sain Mohammad of Kathua's Basholi said they were heading to-

wards Padri meadow with their cattle when they were caught in the inclement weather and forced to stay back at Sarthal.

"We are finding it extremely difficult to arrange fodder for our animals. If the weather shows no improvement, we will have to face huge losses," he said.

According to the 2011 census, high altitude meadows of Chenab Valley, which spread from Bhaderwah to Jawahar tunnel (Banihal) and Marmat (Doda) to Paddar and Marwah (Kishtwar), house 30,000 nomads and lakhs of their cattle, sheep, goats, buffaloes, horses and mules during summer months.

However, some tribal organisations claim that the number of the nomadic population has increased to more than one lakh.

"We are heading for a major crisis and the government agencies need to come forward for our rescue, General Secretary, Anjuman-e-Taraqqi Gojri Adab," Jan Mohd Hakeem said.

Hakeem said over one lakh Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes move towards the high-altitude meadows and vast grazing fields of Chenab Valley every year during summers from the plains of Jammu, Kathua, Samba in Jammu and Kashmir, and Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts in Punjab.

The meteorological department has predicted improvement in the overall weather conditions from Wednesday morning.

# After Srirangapatna, row brewing over Malali Masjid

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Dakshina Kannada, May 24:** After the Srirangapatna Jamia Masjid row, yet another controversy seems to be surfacing in Karnataka over the Malali mosque in communally-sensitive Dakshina Kannada district.

Activists from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal have decided to take up the issue.

Recently, a 'temple structure' was found while the renovation of the Assaiyedd Abdullahil Madani mosque at Malali was on, stirring a controversy. The row seemed have settled as Hindu activists did not raise the issue in the recent past after the court order to stop the work.

However, VHP and Bajrang Dal activists have now decided to ascertain the truth in the form of traditional way by posing Tambula Prashne before the priests.

In coastal Karnataka, people approach priests to know about the history of previous generations. It is widely practiced custom which people believe.

If the priest says that the Malali mosque was a temple once, the issue is likely to flare up as, Hindu activists will proceed further legally and otherwise to claim their rights over the mosque.

Hindu activists will also put



**Recently, a 'temple structure' was found while the renovation of the mosque at Malali was on stirring a controversy**

Astamangala Prashne, after Tambula Prashne as the next step to ascertain the history of mosque. This is a more traditional Hindu astrology method which has more standing than Tambula Prashne. They have decided to go ahead

in seeking guidance regarding the history May 25.

When the front portion of the mosque at Malali was brought down for renovation, the temple structure had surfaced, and the court had issued an order not to carry out the repair work.

The experts say that unlike Srirangapatna, if the row erupts in Malali mosque, it is going to be challenge for the administration.

Malali is located close to Mangaluru, which is regarded as the communally sensitive region. Any disturbance here will affect all three coastal districts. The region is considered as the bastion of BJP.



Almost all developmental work that was done in the district in last five to 10 years has been damaged

**HIMANTA BISWA SARMA** | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

Young India is taking the world's largest vaccination drive to new heights! Over 80 per cent of youngsters between the 15-18 age group have received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine

**MANSUKH MANDAVIYA** | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

We will not spare even our own leaders if they are found to be involved in corruption. We are proud of Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann who immediately removed his minister found involved in corruption

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL** | DELHI CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Cop shot dead by terrorists

**Srinagar:** A police constable was shot dead and his seven-year-old daughter injured when terrorists fired indiscriminately at them outside their home in Soura on the outskirts of the city, officials said here. Constable Saifullah Qadri, the third policeman to be killed in Kashmir this month, was leaving home to drop his daughter for tuition when the attack took place, they said. "Terrorists fired at Constable Qadri outside his house at Ganaie Mohalla in Anchar area of Srinagar district," an official said.

### UP Assembly: Azam skips session again

**Lucknow:** Senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan skipped Uttar Pradesh assembly proceedings for a second day in a row Tuesday amid speculation of a rift between him and party president Akhilesh Yadav. Khan, who had taken oath in Speaker Satish Mahana's chamber Monday, had not attended the proceedings of the house and had left after being sworn in as member of the house even then. He later clarified that he could not attend the house proceedings as he was not keeping well. Khan was recently released on bail from Sitapur Jail where he was lodged on various charges, including that of land grabbing.

### Woman trampled to death by elephants

**Dindori (MP):** A 45-year-old woman was trampled to death when a herd of wild elephants attacked some houses at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district, an official said Tuesday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday in Basi Deori village under the Shahpura police station limits, sub-divisional officer (SDO) of forest AK Sharma said. The victim Kamlavati was sleeping in her hut, when the tuskers trampled her to death, while her husband managed to escape the attack, the official said.

### 2 tourists dead as boat capsizes

**Mumbai:** Two people died after a boat carrying tourists capsized in the Arabian Sea off the Malvan coast in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district Tuesday, police said. The boat was carrying nearly 20 tourists, who were returning after scuba-diving, a police official said. The boat capsized mid-sea off the Malvan coast at Tarkarli, a popular beach destination, and the tourists fell into the waters, he said. After being alerted, police and rescue teams rushed to the spot and pulled out the tourists from the waters.



Roads constructed under the PMGSY are lifeline of villages. Road and digital connectivity will definitely play a key role in the progress of the country

**GIRIRAJ SINGH** | UNION RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

## FLOOD FURY IN ASSAM

# 25 dead, thousands displaced

AGENCIES

**Guwahati, May 24:** The flood situation in Assam has slightly abated even though the death toll rose to 25 as one more person died and over 6.5 lakh people remained affected by the deluge across 22 districts, an official bulletin said.

According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person in Silchar of Cachar district was lost to floodwaters.

With this, the total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood and landslides has gone up to 25 across the state, it said Monday.

ASDMA said more than 6,50,400 people are hit due to floods in Barpeta, Cachar, Darrang, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karbi Anglong West, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Udalguri districts.

Nagaon is the worst hit district with over 3.51 lakh people in distress, followed by Cachar (nearly two lakh people) and Hojai (more than 44,500 people).

Till Saturday, over 7.2 lakh people were affected by the deluge across 22 districts in the state.

At present, 1,709 villages are under water and 82,503 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, ASDMA said.

It further said authorities are



A villager uses a boat to move from a flood-affected village after heavy rainfall, in Morigaon district

PTI PHOTO

▶ Nagaon is the worst hit district with over 3.51 lakh people in distress, followed by Cachar (nearly two lakh people) and Hojai (more than 44,500 people)

▶ At present, 1,709 villages are under water and 82,503 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam

running 656 relief camps and distribution centres in eight districts, where 90,597 people, including 19,555 children, have taken shelter.

The bulletin said the Army paramilitary force, National Disaster Response Force, SDRF, civil administration, trained volunteers, and fire & emergency services personnel have evacuated 110 people from various flood-hit areas.

The authorities have distributed 4,278.45 quintals of rice, dal and salt, 2,555.97 litres of mustard oil, 1,232.41 quintals of cattle feed and other flood relief items.

Massive erosions have been witnessed in Barpeta, Biswanath,

Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by floodwaters in Nagaon, Barpeta, Cachar, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Karimganj, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Hojai and Udalguri, ASDMA said.

A total of 2,27,529 domestic animals and poultry have been affected in the deluge across nine districts, ASDMA said.

Brahmaputra's tributary Kopili at Dharamtulp and Kampur are flowing above the danger marks, the bulletin said.

# Cong forms 3 groups to chart road ahead

SONIA GANDHI, IN HER CONCLUDING REMARKS AT UDAIPUR, HAD MENTIONED SETTING UP THESE GROUPS TO ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE CHINTAN SHIVIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 24:** To chart the Congress' future course, its chief Sonia Gandhi Tuesday formed three groups -- on political affairs for guidance on key issues, Task Force-2024 to implement the Udaipur 'Nav Sankalp' declaration and another to coordinate the October 2 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

While Rahul Gandhi and two prominent members of the G23 -- Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand



Sharma -- are part of the political affairs group, senior leaders P Chidambaram and Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra are members of the Task Force-2024. Sonia Gandhi has also set up a group to coordinate the Bharat Jodo Yatra planned from Kanyakumari to Kashmir from Gandhi Jayanti.

The Political Affairs Group, headed by Sonia Gandhi, comprises Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ambika Soni, Digvijaya Singh, Anand Sharma, K C Venugopal and Jitendra Singh. The members of the Task Force-2024 are P

## RAJ CM APPROVES E-VEHICLE POLICY

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Tuesday approved the Rajasthan Electric Vehicle Policy (REVP). To incentivise the purchase of such vehicles, an additional budget provision of ₹40 crore has been approved for the proposed lumpsum contribution and SGST recharge



## VISMAYA DOWRY DEATH CASE

### Kerala court sentences hubby to 10 yrs in jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kollam (Ker), May 24:** A Kerala court Tuesday sentenced to 10 years in jail the husband of Vismaya, an Ayurveda medical student who hanged herself in her marital home in June last year, for dowry death.

Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 Sujith K N also sentenced S Kiran Kumar to six years and two years imprisonment for the offences of abetment to suicide and dowry harassment under the IPC, Special Public Prosecutor G Mohanraj told reporters.

Kumar was also sentenced to six years for the offence of taking dowry and one year for demanding dowry under the Dowry Prohibition Act. The court said the sentences would run concurrently, the SPP told reporters after the sentence was pronounced.

A total fine of ₹12,55,000 was also imposed on Kumar, he said adding that out of that ₹2 lakh has been directed to be paid to the parents of the victim.

The SPP said he was satisfied with the sentence awarded to the convict. However, the victim's mother, who appeared disheartened, said she was not happy with the outcome as she had expected the convict would get life term.

Addressing media at her residence, she said the family would appeal against the sentencing and that she does not believe her daughter got justice.

# Pb minister sacked on corruption charges, held



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, May 24:** Punjab Health Minister Vijay Singla was sacked from the Cabinet of the two-month old Bhagwant Mann government Tuesday and arrested shortly afterwards on corruption charges.

The Chief Minister said the minister was involved in corruption cases and he had proof of that.

Reiterating his government's firm commitment to make Punjab a corruption-free state, he said Singla was dismissed for seeking one per cent commission in department headed by him.

The Chief Minister categorically said he had dismissed Singla from his Cabinet and asked the police to register case against him. He said since the case was only in his knowledge, so he could have easily buried it or ignored it.

However, Mann said after taking oath at sacred soil of Khathkar Kalan, he had vowed to make Punjab corruption-free and this is a historic step towards this cause.

He said people had chosen them for transparent and corruption-free system and he is duty-bound to fulfill the aspirations of every Punjabi.

He said since 75 years of Indian Independence there is no such parallel in the state whereas Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had taken such a bold step in 2015 when he had dismissed his Food and Supply Minister on charges of corruption.

Mann said the message is loud and clear that corrupt practices will not be allowed in the state.

He unequivocally said his predecessors had been shielding the corrupt and then saying that they knew about corruption being done by their ministers.

However, Mann said such practices would not be tolerated in

Singla, a dental surgeon, was elected to the assembly from the Mansa seat, defeating Punjabi singer and Congress candidate Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, also known as Sidhu Moosewala

Punjab now. He said that Singla has admitted his crime and now the law will take its own course.

Taking a dig at the opposition, the Chief Minister said that they will fire political salvos regarding corruption on his government. But, he has taken action against the corrupt whereas the Opposition had always sheltered and promoted the corrupt leaders.

He said the intention and vision of his government is clear that corrupt practices will not be allowed and anyone indulging in this will have to face serious repercussions. Appreciating his government for the prompt action, AAP national convener

Kejriwal tweeted: "Proud of you Bhagwant. Ur action has brought tears to my eyes. The whole nation today feels proud of AAP." First-time legislator Singla, 52, a dentist by profession, won from Mansa.

He defeated popular Punjabi singer and Congress candidate Shubhdeep Singh, also called Sidhu Moosewala, by a margin of 63,323 votes, the highest winning margin in the election. Singla did Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Punjabi University, Patiala. As per the affidavit submitted by him at the time of filing his nomination, Singla has ₹6.48 crore of assets and ₹27 lakh as liabilities. His wife is an Ayurveda practitioner.



JS Kashima & JS Shimakaze ships of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force during a bilateral exercise with Indian Navy Ship (INS) Aditya in the Arabian Sea PTI PHOTO

# AI to make roads in India safer to drive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Nagpur, May 24:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered solutions, such as collision alert system, may soon make roads in India safer to drive.

A unique AI approach that uses the predictive power of AI to identify risks on the road, and a collision alert system to communicate timely alerts to drivers, is being implemented here with an objective of resulting in a significant reduction of accidents.

The project, 'Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering' (IRASTE), will identify potential accident-causing scenarios while driving a vehicle and alert drivers about the same

with the help of the Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS).

It will also identify 'grey spots', i.e., by data analysis and mobility analysis by continuously monitoring dynamic risks on the entire road network. Grey spots are locations on roads, which left unaddressed, could become black spots (locations with fatal accidents). The system also conducts continuous monitoring of roads and designs engineering fixes to correct existing road black spots for preventive maintenance and improved road infrastructure.

The IRASTE project is under the I-Hub Foundation, IIIT Hyderabad, and a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) set up in the technology vertical - Data Banks &



Data Services - supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) along with

INAI (Applied AI Research Institute).

The project consortium includes CSIR-CRRI, and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), with Mahindra and Intel as the industry partners.

The Hub is working to coordinate, integrate, and amplify basic and applied research in broad data-driven technologies as well as its dissemination and translation across the country.

Currently, talks are on with the Telangana government to adopt the technology in a fleet of buses that ply on highways. There are further plans to extend the scope of IRASTE to Goa and Gujarat as well.

I-Hub Foundation has also used techniques ranging from machine learning, computer vision and

computational sensing for several other data-driven technological solutions in the mobility sector.

"One such solution is the India Driving Dataset (IDD), a dataset for road scene understanding in unstructured environments captured from Indian roads, which stands out by deviating from the worldwide assumptions of well-delineated infrastructure such as lanes, limited traffic participants, low variation in object," the official said.

The predictive power of AI identifies risks on the road, and a collision alert system communicates timely alerts to drivers



of the day quote

This is not a matter of Ukraine's survival. It is not about Europe. It is about the entire global community. Ukraine must win this war and Putin's aggression must be countered and we will do everything to ensure that

**URSULA VON DER LEYEN** | EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Turkey is preparing for a new military operation in northern Syria to establish a 30-km deep safe zone along its southern border

**RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN** | TURKISH PRESIDENT

The sound and stable development of the Sino-Australian relationship conforms to the fundamental interests and common aspirations of the two peoples and is also conducive to peace, stability, development and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region

**LI KEQIANG** | CHINESE PREMIER

SHORT TAKES

Tedros re-elected as WHO head

**London:** WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was reappointed to a second five-year term Tuesday by the U.N. Health agency's member countries. No other candidate challenged Tedros for the post amid the ongoing difficulties of responding to the devastating coronavirus pandemic. "This is overwhelming," Tedros said, after another World Health Organisation official asked everyone in the room to stand and applaud him. Fighting back tears, Tedros described himself as "a child of war" after signing the contract for his extension.

Partygate: More trouble for Boris

**London:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is facing fresh allegations around the partygate scandal of illegal gatherings at Downing Street in breach of coronavirus lockdown rules after new images surfaced of him with a drink in hand. The pictures, released by ITV News channel, reportedly show Johnson at a farewell drinks party on November 13, 2020, for which at least one person is believed to have been fined by Scotland Yard. London Mayor Sadiq Khan is among Opposition Labour leaders calling for an explanation from the Metropolitan Police why the UK Prime Minister was not handed a second fine for that particular party and only for a previous birthday party in June 2020.

2 dead, 120 hurt

**Abu Dhabi:** Two people were killed and 120 injured in a gas cylinder explosion in a restaurant in the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi, police said. Initial reports "showed that 64 people sustained minor injuries, 56 others were moderately wounded, and two people died", police tweeted. The blast set off a fire that damaged the facades of six buildings before being brought under control, they added.

11 killed in Mexico

**Mexico City:** Eleven people, eight of them women, were killed in simultaneous shooting attacks on two bars in north-central Mexico, authorities said Tuesday. Handwritten signs left at the scenes of the killings suggested the attacks were part of a rivalry between two drug cartels that have been battling for control of Guanajuato state for several years.

We have provided our support to Ukraine since 2014, which has been stepped up now. We will continue to support, but we will not be directly involved in the war by sending NATO troops there. This is not to provoke, but to ensure that every ally is protected

**JENS STOLTENBERG** | NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

STUDY DISCLOSURE

Common air pollutants, such as small particulate matter and ground-level ozone, are associated with more severe outcomes after Covid-19 infection, including admission to the intensive care unit, according to a study



Quad leaders roll out new initiative for Indo-Pacific

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tokyo, May 24:** The Quad leaders Tuesday launched a new initiative for the Indo-Pacific that allows the partner countries to fully monitor the regional waters and announced over USD 50 billion of infrastructure assistance for the region over the next five years even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the grouping is carrying a constructive agenda and providing new energy to democratic forces.

The announcement on the roll-out of the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) and the funding assistance came at the second in-person Quad summit in Tokyo amid rising global concerns over China's increasingly intimidating behaviour in the region.

The key issues discussed at the summit included the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific, the crisis in Ukraine and its impact on food security, energy prices and how the Quad can navigate the pressing challenges in the region. In his televised opening remarks at the summit, Modi said the Quad is carrying a constructive agenda for the Indo-Pacific and it will further strengthen the image of the four-nation grouping as a "force for good".

In the deliberations, the leaders of the Quad, comprising India, Australia, the US and Japan, discussed their respective responses to the conflict in Ukraine and the ongoing tragic humanitarian crisis and assessed its implications for the Indo-Pacific.

"In such a short time, Quad has assumed an important place on the world stage. Today the scope of Quad has become broader and the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, US President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) leaders summit meeting at Kantei Palace, in Tokyo

PTI PHOTO

format has become effective," Modi said in presence of US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese. "Our mutual trust, our determination, is giving new energy and enthusiasm to the democratic forces. Our mutual cooperation at the Quad level is giving a boost to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region," he said.

Though Biden and Kishida spoke strongly against the Russian attack on Ukraine, Modi did not touch upon the issue. At a media briefing hours later, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said that there was a "general and good appreciation" of India's position on Ukraine and the leaders also focused on problems that the crisis has triggered in the areas of food, energy and fertiliser.

On the situation in Ukraine, Modi highlighted India's consis-

tent and principled position on the need for cessation of hostilities and resumption of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis.

A joint statement by the four Quad leaders said the IPMDA will support and work in consultation with Indo-Pacific nations and regional information fusion centres in the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands by providing technology and training to support shared maritime domain awareness to promote stability and prosperity.

"The IPMDA embodies what the Quad stands for catalyzing our joint efforts towards concrete results that help to make the region more stable and prosperous," it said. According to a White House fact sheet, the IPMDA will offer a "near-real-time, integrated, and cost-effective" maritime domain awareness picture and it will transform the ability of partners in the Pacific

Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean region to fully monitor the waters on their shores, and, in turn, "uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific."

The joint statement said the Quad leaders expressed their commitment to working closely with partners and the region to drive public and private investment to bridge the gaps. "To achieve this, Quad will seek to extend more than 50 billion USD of infrastructure assistance and investment in the Indo-Pacific, over the next five years," it said.

The Quad also vowed to expand cooperation in areas of climate change, cyber security, critical and emerging technologies and the space sector and announced a number of new initiatives for the areas. As part of ongoing work related to critical and emerging technologies, the grouping also launched the Quad's 'Common Statement of Principles on Critical Technology Supply Chains'.

The leaders also announced the establishment of the 'Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific' that is aimed at further strengthening collaboration to effectively respond to disasters in the region.

Modi also referred to increasing cooperation among the Quad nations, notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic. "Despite the adverse conditions of COVID-19, we have increased mutual coordination in many areas like vaccine delivery, climate action, supply chain resilience, disaster response and economic cooperation. This is ensuring peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific," he said.

Iran building collapse kills 11

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tehran, May 24:** Rescuers dug through debris on Tuesday of a building collapse in southwestern Iran that killed at least 11 people, fearful that many more could still be trapped beneath the rubble as authorities arrested the city's mayor in a widening probe of the disaster.

The collapse on Monday of an under-construction 10-story tower at the Metropolis Building exposed its cement blocks and steel beams while also underscoring an ongoing crisis in Iranian construction projects that has seen other disasters in this earthquake-prone nation.

Video from the initial collapse showed thick dust rise over Abadan, a crucial oil-producing city in Khuzestan province, near Iran's border with Iraq.

The Metropolis Building included two towers, one already built and the other under construction, though its bottom commercial floors had finished and already had tenants.

On Tuesday, an emergency official interviewed on state television suggested that some 50 people may have been inside of the building at the time of the collapse, including people moving into its basement floors.

However, it wasn't clear if that figure included those already pulled from the rubble. At least 39 people were injured, most of them lightly, officials earlier said.



A woman looks through a barricaded gate of a residential area under lockdown in Beijing

REUTERS

200 BODIES FOUND IN MARIUPOL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kyiv, May 24:** Workers digging through rubble found 200 bodies in Mariupol, Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday, another grim discovery in the ruined port city that has seen some of the worst suffering of the 3-month-old war.

The bodies found in the basement of a collapsed apartment building were in a state of decomposition and a stench permeated the neighbourhood, said Petro Andriyushchenko, an adviser to

the city's mayor.

Mariupol, which the Russians recently claimed full control over, has endured some of the worst suffering of the war and became a worldwide symbol of defiance for the diehard defense put up for months by fighters at a steelworks.

The announcement of the discovery of the bodies came shortly after Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of waging "total war," seeking to inflict as much death and destruction as possible on his country.

Imran vows to defy ban on rally

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Peshawar, May 24:** The Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, plans to carry on with the party's "Azadi March" despite the Pakistan government's decision earlier on Tuesday to stop the long march towards Islamabad, Geo News reported.

Khan, while addressing a press conference in Peshawar, said he will lead the "biggest procession in Pakistan's history" on Wednesday.



The PTI chairman's speech comes after a countrywide police crackdown against members and leaders of the PTI. A policeman also lost his life in one of the raids

after which the government said it would not allow the PTI to go ahead with its long march scheduled for Wednesday.

Criticising the PML-N-led government, Khan said that he has been seeing the Sharif family adopting the same tactics that military dictators did since 1985. "They only remember democracy as soon as they leave power," he said, asking how many times these parties have taken to the streets throughout the PTI government's term.

TOUGH TASK

Growing grapes in the world's driest desert

ESPINDOLA, 71, FARMS IN AN OASIS IN THE TOCONAO REGION IN CHILE'S EXTREME NORTH -- SOME 1,500 KILOMETRES (932 MILES) FROM THE VINEYARDS AT THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST COUNTRY THAT HAVE MADE IT ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP 10 WINE EXPORTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**San Pedro de Atacama, May 24:** In the middle of Chile's Atacama desert, the driest in the world, Hector Espindola has an unexpected job: he runs a vineyard.

Nearly 2,500 meters (8,000 feet) above sea level, his small Bosque Viejo farm produces muscat grapes -- and another of a unique "criollo," or local, variety -- in the shadow of quince, pear and fig trees irrigated by a stream fed by melting Andean snow.

Espindola, 71, farms in an oasis in the Toconao region in Chile's extreme north -- some 1,500 kilometers (932 miles) from the vineyards

at the center of the world's longest country that have made it one of the world's top 10 wine exporters.

But growing grapes in the desert is no easy task. Espindola contends with extreme day-night temperature fluctuations and extreme solar radiation on top of wind and frost. "You have to be dedicated. I water here at night... at three in the morning, eleven at night," he said while caressing his vines, dry and brown two months after the harvest. "You have to be careful because here the heat, the climate is no joke," he said. "Sometimes it is windy and production is lost, sometimes the frost comes early. It is kind of complicated."



Espindola sends his crop to the Ayllu cooperative which since 2017 has received grapes from 18 small vineyards around Toconao.

In 2021, the cooperative received 16 tons of grapes for a yield of 12,000 bottles. The harvest was better in 2022 with more than 20 tons of

grapes -- enough for 15,000 bottles but still just a drop, at about one percent, of Chile's annual production. Most contributors to the cooperative are members of indigenous communities who were previously individual, small-scale producers.

One of them, 67-year-old Cecilia Cruz, grows syrah and pinot noir grapes at an altitude of about 3,600 meters outside the village of Socaire -- Chile's highest vineyard. "I feel special... to have this vineyard here and to produce wine at this altitude," she said amid the vines that still sport a few bunches of wrinkled, dried grapes. But she has a bigger goal: "a future" for her three sons.

For Ayllu oenologist Fabian Munoz, 24, the mission is to create

a unique wine that captures the characteristics of the volcanic rock in which the grapes grow. "When the consumer tastes an Ayllu wine (they should) think: 'Wow! I'm tasting the Atacama desert'," he said.

Carolina Vicencio, an expert in wine chemistry, said the altitude, low atmospheric pressure and extreme temperature fluctuations make for a thicker-skinned grape. "This generates more tannin molecules in the skin of the grape which gives a certain bitterness in the wine," she said. "There is also higher salinity of the soil... which makes for a touch of mineralization in the mouth" that makes the Atacama desert wine one of a kind.



of the day quote

We believe that the proposed Trai development can even be a driving catalyst for our continued growth in India, as more people discover our offerings

**ALAN MAMEDJI** | TRUECALLER CEO AND CO-FOUNDER

We have organised the Agarbathi market. Now we will organise the spiritual products market which has a host of small products used in puja. The market is estimated to be ₹30,000 crore and remains unorganised

**ARJUN RANGA** | CYCLE PURE AGARBATHI MANAGING DIRECTOR

There is no doubt that e-procurement has potential to eliminate avenues for corruption and rent-seeking in public procurement. E-procurement with its promise of transparency, is also a deterrent to collusion between officials and the suppliers as a digital trail for every transaction is recorded

**GIRISH CHANDRA MURMU** | CAG

SHORT TAKES

SAIL Q4 net profit falls 28%

**New Delhi:** Steel giant SAIL has reported a 28 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit to ₹2,478.82 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022, mainly on account of higher expenses. The company had clocked ₹3,469.88 crore net profit during the January-March quarter of 2020-21, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) said in a regulatory filing Monday. During the quarter under review, the company's total income rose to ₹31,175.25 crore from ₹23,533.19 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses were at ₹28,005.28 crore against ₹18,829.26 crore a year ago. The company's board has also recommended a final dividend of ₹2.25 per share for FY22. In a separate statement, SAIL said its "borrowings stood below ₹13,400 crore as on March 31, 2022".

Grasim Industries Q4 net profit up 55%

**New Delhi:** Aditya Birla Group firm Grasim Industries Ltd Tuesday reported a 55.56 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at ₹4,070.46 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022. The company had posted a net profit of ₹2,616.64 crore during the January-March quarter of 2020-21, Grasim Industries said in a regulatory filing. Grasim Industries' revenue from operations was up 18.07 per cent at ₹28,811.39 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹24,401.45 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Its total expenses were at ₹25,786.54 crore, up 23.45 per cent in Q4/FY 2021-22, as against ₹20,887.16 crore, a year ago. In Q4/FY2021-22 Grasim Industries' revenue from viscose-pulp, viscose staple fibre and filament yarn segment was up 45.79 per cent to ₹3,766.49 crore, as against ₹2,583.40 crore a year ago.

Zee Media Q4 net loss at ₹51.45 cr

**New Delhi:** Zee Media Corporation Ltd Tuesday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹51.45 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022. The company had posted a net profit of ₹10.50 crore during the January-March quarter of the previous fiscal, Zee Media Corporation Ltd (ZMCL) said in a regulatory filing. However, revenue from operations increased 37.78 per cent to ₹247.73 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹182.93 crore in the year-ago period.



Though the cause of inflation is beyond India, what worries me is we are not doing enough to protect the poor and the middle classes

**KAUSHIK BASU** | FORMER WORLD BANK CHIEF ECONOMIST

Govt caps sugar exports

MOVE MADE FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ENOUGH DOMESTIC SUPPLY AND PREVENT RISE IN PRICES

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 24:** The government Tuesday announced it would restrict sugar exports to 10 million tonnes from June 1 for the first time in six years in order to maintain enough domestic supply and prevent rise in prices. According to reports, the govt has told traders to secure permission for overseas sale of sugar from June 1 to October 31. The government will allow sugar exports up to 100 LMT, a notification by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said. Mills have contracted for export of 9 million tonnes of sugar so far in the 2021-22 marketing year (October-September). Out of which, 7.5 million tonnes of the sweetener has been exported. India is the world's second largest producer and exporter after Brazil. A closing stock of 6



million tonnes is required at the end of September 2022, to meet the domestic demand in the first two months of the new 2022-23 marketing year. Also, the country's priority is first to meet the domestic requirement, keep prices under check and allow export only if there is surplus quantity. The Indian Sugar Mills Association, a producers' body, revised its output forecast to 35.5 million tonnes, up from its previous estimate of 31 million tonnes. Indian mills have so far signed contracts to export 8.5 million tonnes of sugar in the current 2021/22 marketing year without government subsidies. Out of the

contracted 8.5 million tonnes, mills have already dispatched around 7.1 million tonnes of the sweetener. Shares in leading sugar mills such as Balrampur Chini, Dalmia Bharat Sugar, Dhanpur Sugar Mills, Dwarkesh Sugar Industries and Shree Renuka Sugars fell as much as 8% Tuesday. Traders, however, said the decision to allow mills to export 10 million tonnes would help the country sell a reasonably big quantity of sugar on the world market. In 2020-21, the country exported 7 million tonnes of sugar. The major importing countries are Indonesia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia and African countries.

OYO PLANS IPO AFTER SEPTEMBER

Hospitality and travel-tech firm OYO is looking to launch its initial public offer after September and has written to stock market regulator Sebi, seeking to file updated and restated consolidated financial information. The company is now prepared to settle for a lower valuation of around USD 7-8 billion against the USD 11 billion it was targeting initially, according to people in the know of the development.



Centre allows duty-free crude edible oil import

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 24:** The government Tuesday scrapped customs duty and agriculture infrastructure development cess on the import of crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil for 20 lakh metric tonnes each per year to ease local prices. The duty-free import of 20 lakh MT per year will be applicable for two fiscals, 2022-23 and 2023-24, for crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil, according to a notification by the Finance Ministry. This would mean till March 31, 2024, a total of 80 lakh MT on crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil could be imported duty free. The exemption will help cool domestic prices and control inflation. "This will provide significant relief to the consumers," the CBIC tweeted. Solvent extractors of India (SEA) Executive Director B V Mehta said the prices of soyabean oil are expected to come down by ₹3 per litre. The government issued notification regarding tariff rate quota of 20 lakh tonnes each for crude soyabean and sunflower oils. Under the TRQ a customs duty and agri infra development cess of 5.5 per cent



would be removed, Mehta said. Last week to control spiralling prices, the government had cut excise duty on petrol and diesel and also waived import duty on some raw materials used in steel and plastic industry. Besides, export duty was hiked on iron ore and iron pellets. A rise in price across all items from fuel to vegetables and cooking oil pushed WPI or wholesale price inflation to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April and retail inflation to a near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent. High inflation prompted the Reserve Bank to hold an unscheduled meeting to raise the benchmark interest rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent earlier this month. When asked about the likely impact on retail prices, Mehta told PTI that the prices of soyabean oil are expected to come down by ₹3 per litre.

Sebi issues ₹3.12-cr demand notice to Chitra Ramkrishna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 24:** Capital markets regulator Sebi Tuesday sent a notice to NSE's former chief Chitra Ramkrishna asking her to pay ₹3.12 crore in a case related to governance lapses at the stock exchange, and warned of arrest and attachment of assets and bank accounts if she fails to make the payment within 15 days. The notice came after Ramkrishna failed to pay the fine imposed on her by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

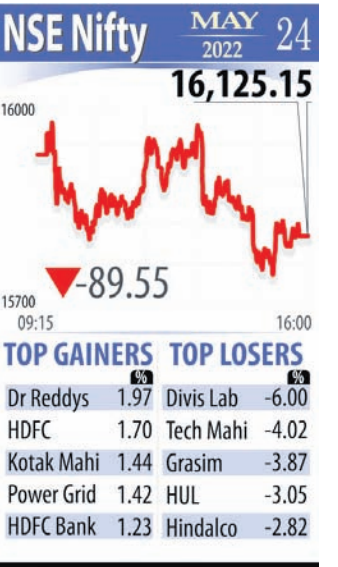


In an order dated February 11, Sebi had slapped a penalty of ₹3 crore on Ramkrishna for alleged governance lapses in a case related to the appointment of Anand Subramanian as the Group Operating Officer and Advisor when she was at the helm of NSE as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, as well as for sharing confidential information of the company with an unidentified person. Apart from penalising Ramkrishna, Sebi had imposed a penalty on Ravi Narain, who was the predecessor of Ramkrishna, and Subramanian and others. In its fresh notice, Sebi directed Ramkrishna to pay ₹3.12 crore, which includes interest and recovery cost, within 15 days. In the event of non-payment of dues, the markets regulator will recover the amount by attaching and selling her moveable and immoveable property. Besides, Ramkrishna faces attachment of her bank accounts and arrest. Ramkrishna is currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail after she was arrested by the CBI on March 6 in the NSE co-location scam case and investigation linked to other governance lapses at the bourse.

Equities extend losses amid global headwinds



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 24:** The power ministry has urged the ministry of coal to take steps for increasing output by 10 to 12 per cent from Coal India Ltd and its arm Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) this fiscal year as electricity outages are hurting economic revival. "Power ministry has asked the coal ministry to raise CIL's and SCCL's output for the power sector by at least 10-12 per cent in the current financial year to ensure uninterrupted power supply and prevent any outages that could hurt country's economic revival," a source said. The source also informed that



power ministry has informally taken this matter up with coal ministry and a formal communication in this regard will be made soon. Coal stocks at 155 non-pit head thermal plants with total capacity of 164GW were 25 per cent of the normative level on May 23, 2022. The stock is being monitored by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

6th Bhubaneswar International Trade

**BHUBANESWAR:** Gupta Event Management Pvt. Ltd is organizing the 6th Bhubaneswar International Trade at Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar, from May 20 to May 30. Timing of the event is 02:30 pm to 10:00 pm. In the said event, there are participants from 20 states and seven countries. The product ranges displayed are furniture, interior, home decor, electronics, antique products, kitchen appliances, automobiles, carpet, paintings, crockery, boutique & beauty, health products, fashionable jewellery, Thailand flowers & dress, Pakistani & Rajasthani marbles, Afghanistan dry fruits, Bangladesh products, all India handicraft & handloom products and many more. Approximately 3 lakh consumers will visit this 11-day event. The organizer of the event is Gupta Event Management Pvt. Ltd, a professionally managed event management company for the last decade under the leadership of Sujeet Gupta and Payal Acharya Gupta with a motto to provide a unique platform to both traders and consumers around the globe.



Patola Saree expo in City

**BHUBANESWAR:** An exhibition of the world famous Gujarati Patola Sarees of Vijaybhai Patolawala was held at Hotel Pal Heights, Jaydev Vihar. The main attractions at the exhibition are the Bandhani Patola Sarees, besides stunning bridal collections. In this exhibition women will find a complete collection of wedding dresses. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see and buy a wide range of garments made by artisans from Rajkot and Kutch. The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 8 pm. There are some summery discounts available too!

Bank of India Q4 net jumps 142 pc at ₹606cr

**MUMBAI/BHUBANESWAR:** State-run Bank of India Tuesday reported a 142.31 per cent rise in standalone profit after tax (PAT) at ₹606 crore in the quarter ended March 2022 on higher net interest income (NII) and improvement in asset quality. This compares with a PAT of ₹250 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal. For the full year 2021-22, the lender reported a 57.60 per cent jump in net profit at ₹3,405 crore from ₹2,160 crore in FY21. Speaking to reporters, the bank's Managing Director and CEO AK Das said, "Asset quality further improved with reduction in gross NPAs both amount wise and percentage wise." Net Interest Income (NII) increased by 35.77 per cent to

₹3,986 crore in Q4 FY22, from ₹2,936 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal. Net Interest Margin (NIM) improved to 2.58 per cent from 2.01 per cent. Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) declined

by 19.33 per cent to ₹45,605 crore in March 2022 from ₹56,535 crore in March 2021. GNPA ratio declined to 9.98 per cent from 13.77 per cent. Net NPA ratio stood at 2.34 per cent as against 3.35 per cent.



India drops to 54th place on travel & tourism index

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Davos, May 24:** India was Tuesday ranked at the 54th place in a global travel and tourism development index, down from 46th in 2019, but still remained on the top within South Asia. Japan has topped the global charts, followed by the US, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, UK, Singapore and Italy in the top ten. The World Economic Forum's biennial travel and tourism study also showed a recovering sector

following pandemic lows, though the recovery has been uneven and challenges remain. The Travel and Tourism Development Index assesses 117 economies, identifying key factors in enabling the sustainable and resilient growth of travel and tourism economies. "COVID-19 shutdowns have re-emphasised the important contribution travel and tourism makes to many economies around the world," Lauren Uppink, Head of Aviation, Travel and Tourism at the World Economic Forum, said.



"As the world emerges from the pandemic, economies must invest in building a strong and resilient environment to deliver the travel and tourism experience and services for many decades to come," Uppink added. While overall international tourism and business travel is still below pre-pandemic levels, the sector recovery has been bolstered by greater vaccination rates, return to more open travel, and growing demand for domestic and nature-based tourism. Many businesses and destina-

tions have adapted to these shifting demand dynamics. According to estimates, the difference in international tourist arrivals between January 2021 and January 2022 is greater than arrivals growth in all of 2021. Other than the US, the top-10 scoring economies are high-income economies in Europe or Asia-Pacific. The Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021 is a direct evolution of the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index, which has been published biennially for the past 15 years, WEF said.



# Titans sail into final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 24:** David Miller (68 n o, 38b, 3x4, 5x6) hit three effortless sixes which looked like action replays as Gujarat Titans, under their inspirational skipper Hardik Pandya (40 n o, 27b, 5x4), made a mockery of all the odds to reach the final of IPL 15 with a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals Tuesday.

On a track that was two-paced, Royals rode on Jos Buttler's 56-ball-89 (12x4, 2x6) to post 188/6 in 20 overs, which seemed like a winning total considering the pressure of the occasion. But Pandya and Miller added 101 runs in exactly 10 overs to seal the deal with three balls to spare.

For a team which many tipped to finish last because of some out-of-the-box picks, turned out to be the most consistent and will now play the final in front of its home crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium, with more than 1,00,000 people cheering them on.

No praise is enough for Pandya, who always looked in control even when things didn't seem to go his team's way.

One of the cleanest hitters, Pandya took the game deep with some well-placed boundaries which allowed Miller to take his time before unleashing five huge sixes – three off the last over from Prasadh



David Miller (L) & Hardik Pandya

Krishna, when the bowler completely lost his nerve.

The best part about Pandya's captaincy was not taking any risks against the opposition's best bowler Yuzvendra Chahal (0/32) but left it to his partner, who hit two huge sixes to ease the pressure.

Once Trent Boult (1/38) and Chahal were done, it was left to the day's worst performer, Obed McCoy (1/40), to bowl a good 19th over with Titans requiring 23 off 12 balls.

McCoy used his back of the hand slower balls to perfection as only seven came off the over, leaving Krishna with 16 runs to defend

but it took Miller three balls to nail it, all in the length slots.

At the start of chase, Wriddhiman Saha (0) was all at sea against Boult and edged one that moved in and then straightened after pitching. Matthew Wade (35) and Shubman Gill (35) didn't let it affect their batting as they added 72 for the second wicket to keep the chase on course.

Earlier, Buttler enjoyed copious amount of luck and displayed a fair bit of pluck during an innings of 89, which took Royals to a challenging total after being put into bat. The Orange Cap-holder Buttler got

off to a slow start but made full use of a couple of dropped catches during his knock, which was studded with 12 fours and two sixes.

Buttler, who now has 718 runs in 15 games, scored 39 off his first 38 balls and then smashed another 50 off his next 18 deliveries. Buttler was also fortunate to get two reprieves – first on 43 – when Pandya slipped to miss a sitter, and then Rashid Khan grassed him on 69.

He then took on Alzarri Joseph, smashing three boundaries in an over to accelerate his scoring before getting run-out in the final over.

First up, it was Sanju Samson's swagger that was on full display as the Royals skipper, seemingly hurt by the latest India selection snub, responded in style with a 26-ball 47 (5x4, 3x6).

At a time when Buttler struggled to get going, the wicketkeeper-batter dealt in boundaries in his entertaining powerplay display. Samson shared 68-run stand with Buttler, of which 47 came off the former's blade that summed up the domination from the Royals skipper after they were put in.

## BRIEF SCORES

RR 188/6 (Jos Buttler 89, Sanju Samson 47, Devdutt Padikkal 28; Hardik Pandya 1/14) lost to GT 191/3 (David Miller 68 n o, Hardik Pandya 40 n o, Shubman Gill 35, Matthew Wade 35) by 7 wickets.

# Shafali, Wolvaardt lift Velocity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, May 24:** The swashbuckling Shafali Verma (51, 33b, 9x4, 1x6) blazed away at the top before Laura Wolvaardt's unbeaten half century (51 n o, 35b, 7x4, 1x6) as Velocity overhauled a stiff target to get the better of Supernovas by seven wickets in the Women's T20 Challenge here Tuesday.

Set a target of 151 after opting to field, Velocity completed the chase with 10 balls to spare. After Shafali's breezy knock, Wolvaardt and Deepti Sharma (24 not out) saw their side home comfortably.

Chasing a challenging target, Velocity lost Natthakan Chantham (1) early but the big-hitting Shafali decided to go all guns blazing as the team raced to 60/1 by the time the six powerplay overs came to an end.

Shafali reached her half century in quick time, needing only 28 runs to get to the landmark. She did so in style, pulling Deandra Dottin for a boundary over midwicket.

Though she managed to score only 17 off 13 balls, Yastika Bhatia gave Shafali company when the team needed it the most, having suffered an early blow. Shafali got out, but the experienced duo of Wolvaardt and Sharma ensured the Velocity were home without much difficulty.

Earlier, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur top-scored with a blistering 51-ball 71 (7x4, 3x6) as Supernovas posted 150/5. The Velocity opted



Velocity captain Deepti Sharma shakes hand with opposition skipper Harmanpreet Kaur after the match, Tuesday

to bowl after winning the toss and their bowlers appeared to have done a decent job before Harmanpreet's onslaught. Taniya Bhatia chipped in with a useful knock of 36 off 32 balls.

The duo of Harmanpreet and Bhatia added invaluable 82 runs for the fourth wicket after their team was reeling at 18 for three in the fourth over. Down the order, Sune Luss contributed an unbeaten 20 in 14 balls, hitting three fours in her breezy knock.

Among the Velocity bowlers, Kate Cross was the most successful with impressive figures of 2/24 in her quota of four overs, while

Deepti and Radha Yadav picked up a wicket apiece, the latter accounting for the important scalp of Harmanpreet.

However, Supernovas still managed to score a decent total in the end and Velocity will have to bat extremely well to reach the target at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

## BRIEF SCORES

Supernovas 150/5 (Harmanpreet Kaur 71, Taniya Bhatia 36, Sune Luus 20 n o; Kate Cross 2/24) lost to Velocity 151/3 (Laura Wolvaardt 51 n o, Shafali Verma 51, Deepti Sharma 24 n o; Deandra Dottin 2/21) by 7 wickets.

# Srabani, Amiya seal 100m golds at IGP4



Amiya K Mallick (R) & Aryan Ekka



Srabani Nanda

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 24:** Odisha athletes had wonderful outings at the Indian Grand Prix 4 (IGP4) Tuesday as Srabani Nanda and Amiya Kumar Mallick secured gold medals in 100m race of women's and men's categories respectively.

It was a pleasing day for the home fans, considering Amiya and Aryan Ekka – another Odisha athlete – got 1-2 finish in the men's 100m event. Amiya bagged the yellow metal with a timing of 10.74 seconds, while Aryan clocked 10.86 seconds. Maharashtra's Karan Vivek Hagiste (10.95 seconds) completed the podium.

Srabani, meanwhile, bagged her second yellow metal after her gold-winning effort in the 200m event earlier in the competition. Srabani set a timing of 11.87 seconds, while West Bengal's Rajashree Prasad (12.18) and Tamil Nadu's Angel Silvia (12.39) settled for silver and bronze, respectively.

Two young Javelin Throwers, Yashvir Singh (Rajasthan) and Rohit Yadav (Uttar Pradesh) de-

livered a splendid performance by going past the 80m mark.

On a night when Nayana James produced two efforts over 6.37m to win the high-profile women's Long Jump title from Ancy Sojan (6.35m) and World U20 Silver Medalist Shailli Singh (6.27m), Yashvir Singh wrested the spotlight with a winning effort of 82.13m. The 20-year-old thus became only the 12th Indian to send the spear over 80m.

The Rajasthan thrower became the third javelin thrower from the country after DP Manu (Karnataka) and Rohit Yadav (Uttar Pradesh) to join the 80m Club this year. Yashvir, who missed the mark by a whisker in Patiala March 17 last year, got his ahead of Rohit and Manu to win gold.

The men's Long Jump did not have as much drama as the women's event since each of Muhammed Anees Yahiya's four legal jumps was good enough to fetch him gold. The Kerala jumper peaked with his two of his last three tries, crossing the 8.00m mark. The 8.15m effort on his fifth attempt was the best of the night.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 24:** Virat Kohli's return to form and a rather dramatic entry into the IPL playoffs will make Royal Challengers Bangalore a more confident unit when they meet a top-heavy Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator here Wednesday.

After a string of low scores, Kohli found his rhythm in their last match against Gujarat Titans. This was a visual treat for the eyes which encapsulated all the Kohli-esque shots as RCB kept their hopes alive with a fine win.

But their fate was not in their own hands as they anxiously waited for a Mumbai Indians win in their game against Delhi Capitals to secure an entry into the play-offs. Kohli's return to form will be a big plus to their top-order which often has struggled to get going in the power-play.



Add Dinesh Karthik's new-found finishing exploits, a quality pace trio in Josh Hazlewood, Wanindu Hasaranga and Harshal Patel who would look to embrace the seam-friendly Eden conditions, and Faf du Plessis's calm and astute captaincy, RCB will be upbeat in their quest of an elusive IPL title.

Having featured in three IPL finals, RCB are one star-studded outfit which has failed to live up to its



fans' expectations time and again. But this time under a three-time IPL winner in Du Plessis, RCB look more balanced especially on the pace bowling front.

Even as India speedster Mohammed Siraj (eight wickets from 13 matches) has failed to impress, the trio of Hazlewood, Hasaranga and Harshal with 57 wickets in between, have been their backbone.

# PRAGGNANANDHAA ENTERS CHESSABLE MASTERS SEMIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, May 24:** Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated China's Wei Yi 2.5-1.5 to book a spot in the semifinals of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Chessable Masters 2022 online tournament.

The 16-year-old Praggnanandhaa will take on Anish Giri (the Netherlands) in the semifinals. World No.1 Magnus Carlsen will take on China's Ding Liren in the other semifinal clash.

Giri and Carlsen scored comfortable 2.5-0.5 wins over Aryan Tori (Norway) and David Anton Gujjarro (Spain), while Liren defeated Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar

Mamedyarov 2.5-1.5 in the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals against Yi late Monday, the teenaged Indian star opened with a win with black pieces in 90 moves. He built on that fine start to take the second game of the four-game match to go 2-0 up.

The Chinese star bounced back to claim the third game of the series to reduce the margin. A draw in the fourth was enough for the Indian GM to seal a spot in the semifinals.

Praggnanandhaa had created a stir earlier in the preliminary phase by beating Carlsen in the sixth round. He finished fourth behind Anish, Carlsen and Ding Liren.

side the striking circle melee and Pawan Rajbhar was in the right place to lay his stick for a perfect deflection that found the top corner of the net.

The final quarter once again saw the Indians going all out and conceding a goal against the run of play in the 49th minute, courtesy Ryomo Ooka. However, India hit back with the very next move when Rajbhar sent a cross from right and forward Uttam Singh tapped it in from close range to make it 2-3.

But there was more bad luck for India as they suddenly lost the numerical advantage with temporary suspensions of Rajbhar and Karthi.

The nine versus eleven became a lopsided contest. Koji Yamasaki got his goal in the 54th minute with a touch-in. The Indian resistance had ended and the fifth goal was the final nail in the coffin – Kawabe slotting home in the 56th minute after his first shot rebounded off the goalkeeper.

lar goal with Kawabi having his back towards the Indian goal. With a body feint, Kawabi wrong-footed goalkeeper Suraj and then smashed it home from an acute angle.

India found something going their way in the dying moments of the third quarter when veteran Lakra kept a powerful assist in-



corner, which was well-saved by a diving Indian custodian Suraj Karkera.

In the 24th minute, Nagayoshi converted the penalty corner with a powerful angular drive that beat a diving Suraj all ends up. In the 40th minute Japan made it 2-0 in a counter-attack. It was a spectacu-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, May 24:** Real Madrid wants to quickly forget about Kylian Mbappe and turn its focus back on the Champions League final against Liverpool.

Four days before the final in suburban Paris, Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti and his players tried their best to avoid talking about the France forward and his decision to stay with Paris Saint-Germain.

Mbappe made the surprising announcement on Saturday, dealing a major blow to Madrid and its fans, who were certain he would be playing in the Spanish capital next season.

"It's very clear for us that we have to think about our own things," Ancelotti said Tuesday. "We've never talked about players from other squads. We respect everyone, every decision, every club. We have to do our own job. It's very clear and obvious what we have to think about, which is to prepare for the final."

Madrid as a club had not made

any comments about Mbappe's decision, although some players were quick to post messages praising the club and saying it was a honor to wear its jersey.

Mbappe had said last year he wanted to join Madrid but PSG turned down offers of nearly 200 million euros (USD 214 million) for the player. The France forward was widely expected to complete a move to Madrid after becoming a free agent at the end of this season, but instead opted to sign a three-year contract with PSG.

Mbappe's decision to reject Madrid was the most talked-about subject in Spain in recent days, leaving the Champions League final to the side.

Madrid will be trying to win a record-extending 14th European title Saturday at Stade de France in its fifth Champions League final in eight seasons.

Madrid won its 10th European Cup eight years ago with Ancelotti as coach, then clinched three straight titles from 2016-18 with Zinedine

Zidane at the helm. Madrid defeated Liverpool in the 2018 final in Kyiv.

"There was a lot more pressure then (in 2014). It had been several years since Madrid had won the Champions League. It was almost an obsession for everyone," Ancelotti said. "Now Madrid fans are motivated, but not so much obsessed about it, and I think that can give us an advantage."

Ancelotti, who can become the first coach to win four Champions League titles, will have Madrid at full strength on Saturday. He said veteran left back Marcelo has a small issue but should recover in time for the final. Central defender David Alaba, who missed several matches because of a muscle injury, is ready to play in the final.

Madrid reached the final after comebacks against PSG in the round of 16, Chelsea in the quarterfinals and Manchester City in the semifinals. "I hope this time it's Liverpool trying to rally against us," Ancelotti said. "It will be an entertaining final, very even."