



## FILTHY RICH

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas sports a diamond necklace worth ₹204cr at Met Gala carpet

LEISURE P2



## UKRAINE MINISTER'S APOLOGY

Ukraine minister Emine Dzhaparova 'regrets' the depiction of Goddess Kali in a 'distorted manner'

INTERNATIONAL P10



## LSG TAKE ON CSK

Lucknow Super Giants would be wary of Chennai Super Kings' ability to bounce back when they face each other today

SPORTS P12

## Stay prepared: Naveen to officials amid cyclone fear

Collectors of 18 coastal and adjoining districts are on alert, says SRC Satyabrata Sahu

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Amid India Meteorological Department's (IMD) prediction of a possible cyclonic circulation over southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday asked officials to stay prepared for any eventuality.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the state's preparedness to deal with a cyclone, Patnaik recalled cyclone Fani, which hit the Odisha coast May 2, 2019, and said determination of the path of cyclones during summer is difficult. He asked the officials to be prepared for any eventuality.

He advised officials to shift people who live in low-lying areas to cyclone shelters, if necessary, and formulate plans for relief and restoration works in the aftermath of a cyclone. Patnaik asked Chief Secretary PK Jena to review the sit-

uation regularly, and Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu to work in coordination with all departments and districts.

An official of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar said the IMD has not yet predicted any cyclone.

The likely cyclonic circulation May 6 will lead to a low-pressure area in the next 48 hours. The low-pressure area has to further develop into a depression and then deep depression, before it can become a cyclone, he said. Jena said the government will work to ensure 'zero casualty' if a cyclone hits the state.

"All Collectors have been alerted in this regard. The cyclone shelters are in readiness while more safe places, including school buildings, have been identified," he added.

Sahu said 24x7 control rooms have already been made operational in all districts.

"The Collectors of 18 coastal and adjoining districts have been told to remain prepared," he said. At least 17 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 20 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) teams have been kept on standby, he said.

Contd...P4



COOLING OFF: 'Anarkali', an elephant, cools off in a pond inside an enclosure at Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan, also known as Byculla Zoo, in Mumbai, Tuesday PFI PHOTO

## SIMILIPAL SHUT FOR PREZ VISIT

AGENCIES

**Baripada, May 2:** The Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district will remain closed for tourists May 4 and 5 in view of President Droupadi Murmu's visit, officials said Tuesday.

Murmu, who will be on a three-day visit to Mayurbhanj, is scheduled to spend the entire day at the national park May 5, they said.

"This is to inform all the visitors/tourists that entry into Similipal Tiger Reserve will be

**Murmu, who will be on a three-day visit to Mayurbhanj, is scheduled to spend the entire day at the national park May 5**

closed for two days on May 4 and May 5 for visitors/ tourists vehicles due to visit of Hon'ble President of India. There will be no entry or exit from the Tiger Reserve for visitors/ tourists vehicles during the period," said a notification.

This will be the first visit by a president to the park, which is spread over an area of 2,750 km.

A maximum of 60 vehicles with tourists are allowed every day to the park through its two gates, officials said. Murmu will reach here May 4, and visit her in-laws' village Pahadpur in Rairangpur sub-division.

MORE P4

## DGP to ensure arrest of drunk drivers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** In a bid to curb road mishaps and fatalities, the state government has asked Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal to ensure that drunken driving vehicles under the influence of alcohol or drugs are arrested.

In a letter to the DGP, Transport and Commerce Secretary Usha Padhee said that drunken driving is one of the reasons for occurrence of accidents in the state.

During the Zero Fatality Week observed in April first week, 1,257 cases of drunken driving have been detected by the RTOs and 133 such cases have been detected by the police. But such offenders have not been arrested, she said.

Padhee said the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety has directed the Odisha government to prosecute the offender (on drunken driving case) and seek imprisonment as prescribed under MV Act, 1988 even for the first offence. The committee has also directed for suspension of driving licence for a period of not less than three months. For detection of drunken driving, she said, adequate number of breath analysers have been provided to police stations and RTOs.

The DGP was instructed to issue necessary instructions to all police stations of the state not to compound the drunken driving cases and arrest the drunken drivers.

## No multiple plot allotments: HC

The court observes that as the petitioner is already in possession of a plot, allotting another one in his favour will 'jeopardise the interest of persons who are yet to get a single plot'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 2:** In a significant ruling, the Orissa High Court has asked the state government to ensure that the development authorities do not allot multiple plots to individuals, said officials Tuesday.

The HC's direction came while hearing a petition filed by an employee of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) challenging the development authority's decision to reject allotment of a second plot in his favour.

According to sources, the petitioner, a junior assistant with BDA, had availed a plot in Kalinga Nagar area of the City under discretionary quota. Later, he transferred the plot to Farhat Nizami on the consent of the development authority.

The petitioner was also in possession of a commercial plot at Chandrasekharpur allotted by the BDA September 15, 2001 under the District Centre Commercial Plotted Development Scheme. He had again approached the BDA for a plot which the latter rejected.

Challenging BDA's move, the pe-

The court asked the AG and H&UD dept to remain careful while issuing future brochures by any development authority and ensure multiple allotments are not made



itioner moved the High Court. While rejecting his plea, a single-judge Bench of Justice Biswanath Rath observed that as the petitioner is already in possession of a plot, allotting another plot in his favour will 'jeopardise the interest of persons who are yet to get a single plot'.

"At least put a 'cap' or 'restriction' on applicant by the party already in the receipt of land from the Development Authority under any of its Development Scheme operated in city or under any other development scheme in the city and even in any other development

scheme of any other district at least to make it available to all bona fide citizen instead of allotting multiple land in favour of particular individuals, who are already in entitlement of a land by such agencies in any of the district," the court pointed out.

The court asked the Advocate General (AG) and Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department to remain careful while issuing future brochures by any development authority in Odisha and ensure multiple allotments are not made in favour of individuals.

## PAWAR TO QUIT AS NCP CHIEF

Nephew Ajit says the 4-time Maharashtra CM needs two to three days to revisit decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 2:** Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar Tuesday announced he has decided to step down as chief of the party he founded and helmed since 1999, in a dramatic move that could have a bearing on national and Maharashtra politics ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The announcement by Pawar at an event in Mumbai to release the updated version of his Marathi autobiography stunned leaders and workers of his party, and many were seen crying and pleading with the 82-year-old wily Maratha strongman to reconsider the surprise decision.

A meeting of a committee of party leaders - which Pawar said should decide on the election for his successor - was held at his residence later, after which his nephew Ajit Pawar announced that his uncle will need two to three days to 'think over' his decision.

The decision by one of the tallest Opposition leaders in the country who could bring their parties together against the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections also comes amid intense speculation over Ajit Pawar's next political move.



"I am with you, but not as NCP chief," Pawar, the master of twists and turns known for his deft political manoeuvring, told the emotional party workers. He had formed the NCP after he was expelled by the Congress for raising the issue of Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin.

The announcement by the NCP president, a key Congress ally, came less than a fortnight after his daughter and Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule indicated there will be two political 'blasts' in 15 days, one in Delhi and another in Maharashtra.

Many NCP workers refused to leave the venue of the book launch event even after Sharad Pawar left for his residence. They also threatened to go on a hunger strike. One even threatened to kill himself if Pawar did not relent.

Contd...P4

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thanks to the new regime, we've utmost freedom...to spread fake news, hate speeches, propaganda...

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	61354.71	↑ 242.27
NIFTY	18147.65	↑ 82.65
DOLLAR	81.74	↓ ₹0.09
EURO	89.86	↑ ₹0.12
GOLD	₹760,568	↑ ₹804
SILVER	₹74,725	↑ ₹482

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	37.0°C	35.5°C
MIN	21.9°C	22.5°C
Humidity	66%	67%
Rainfall	0.4mm	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

## Ananya, Chanchal begin 2nd innings

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Sambalpur Collector Ananya Das and her Bolangir counterpart Chanchal Rana tied the nuptial knot in the presence of family members and close friends at a hotel in Assam's Guwahati, sources said Tuesday.

Ananya, who hails from Assam, was earlier married to IAS officer Abdaal Akhtar. Similarly, Chanchal had earlier married IAS officer Swadha Dev Singh. However, after separation from their respective partners, both Ananya and Chanchal decided to marry again.

Ananya, a 2015 batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, had previously held the position of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) commissioner. On the other hand, Chanchal, an alumnus of NIT



Silchar, is a 2014 batch IAS officer and bagged seventh rank at the all-India level.

## 'Hungry' South Korean student eats \$120,000 artwork

AGENCIES

**Seoul, May 2:** Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan's \$120,000 signature piece 'Comedian', a banana duct-taped to a wall, is in the headlines again after a South Korean student ate away the artwork's 'pricy fruit' at a museum in Seoul, saying he was hungry after skipping breakfast.

Noh Huyn-soo was filmed brazenly removing the banana, which was duct-taped on to a wall at the Leeum Museum of Art in Seoul, unpeeling it and eating it in front of stunned onlookers before reattaching the banana skin to the wall using the same tape and walking off with a satisfied grin, The Guardian reported.

The incident was recorded by a friend of Noh, a student at Seoul National University, and lasted for over a minute.

When the museum asked Noh why he ate the banana, he replied



that he was hungry after skipping breakfast, according to the Korea Herald. He later told the broadcaster KBS that he thought 'damaging a work of modern art could also be interpreted as artwork' and that he came up with the idea to reattach the peel as 'a joke'.

He added, "I thought it would be interesting... isn't it taped there to be eaten?"

The banana, part of Cattelan's 'Comedian' installation, gets replaced every two or three days.

Cattelan, a sculptor and performance artist based in New York, was reportedly informed about the incident and simply replied, "No problem."

This was not the first time someone thought the artwork was ripe for picking.

During the work's debut exhibit at Miami Art Basel in 2019 a banana was removed and eaten by the performance artist David Datuna. The

Guardian reported. The first and second editions on display at Miami Art Basel both sold for \$120,000 and another was put up for sale for \$150,000 before Datuna showed up to eat the 'pricy fruit'.

"I have travelled in 67 countries around the world in the last three years, and I see how people live," Datuna said, adding, "Millions are dying without food. Then he puts three bananas on the wall for half a million dollars?"

Another one of Cattelan's viral artworks was a solid 18-carat-gold toilet 'entitled' America, valued at around \$6 million. It had been first installed at New York's Guggenheim in 2016 and was open to use by visitors. Later in 2019, it was stolen from the birthplace of Winston Churchill at Bleinheim Palace in England where it was being exhibited. It has never been found, the CNN reported.

# leisure



## HUGH GRANT FEELS NEGATIVE CHARACTERS ARE MORE FUN

Actor Hugh Grant, who is gearing up for his upcoming spy-thriller *Operation Fortune: Rise De Guerre*, has shared that all actors secretly want to dig their claws into negative parts as it's creatively fulfilling and more fun for them.

## BRIDE AND PREJUDICE ACTRESS DANNII ERSKINE DIES AT 28

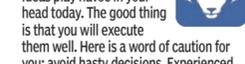
Reality show *Bride and Prejudice* actress Dannii Erskine has died in a fatal car accident at the age of 28. Erskine was driving back from the shops Friday when a 'drunk' driver hit her car, her sister Dee told So Dramatic!, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.



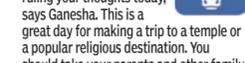
### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

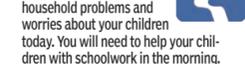
**ARIES**  
Ideas play havoc in your head today. The good thing is that you will execute them well. Here is a word of caution for you: avoid hasty decisions. Experienced people will help you find a firm footing. Ganesh advises you to pay heed to elders' counselling.



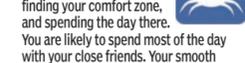
**TAURUS**  
Religious sentiments will be ruling your thoughts today, says Ganesh. This is a great day for making a trip to a temple or a popular religious destination. You should take your parents and other family members along on this auspicious journey. Your parents are sure to pray shower their love and blessings upon you and pray for your well being.



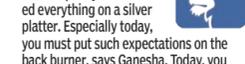
**GEMINI**  
You will be faced with household problems and worries about your children today. You will need to help your children with schoolwork in the morning. In the evening you will likely head out to dinner with family and friends and relax, says Ganesh.



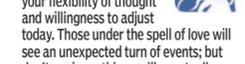
**CANCER**  
Today, it will be all about finding your comfort zone, and spending the day there. You are likely to spend most of the day with your close friends. Your smooth demeanour will help you breeze through all business deals. The opposite sex may find you irresistible.



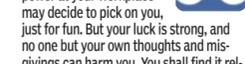
**LEO**  
Don't expect you'll be handed everything on a silver platter. Especially today, you must put such expectations on the back burner, says Ganesh. Today, you would do better to dig deep into your resources of persistence, as a somewhat less productive day awaits you.



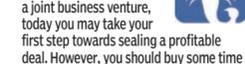
**VIRGO**  
You will charm people with your flexibility of thought and willingness to adjust today. Those under the spell of love will see an unexpected turn of events; but don't panic, as things will eventually work out in your favour. Some quality family time is also on the cards.



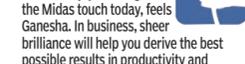
**LIBRA**  
Somebody in a position of power at your workplace may decide to pick on you, just for fun. But your luck is strong, and no one but your own thoughts and misgivings can harm you. You shall find it relatively easy to come out of these troubles; much to the chagrin of those who wish otherwise, predicts Ganesh.



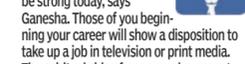
**SCORPIO**  
If you have recently started a joint business venture, today you may take your first step towards sealing a profitable deal. However, you should buy some time before signing any contract today; also, be cautious that you do not get the short end of the stick. The best thing is to go through the finer prints of the deal in order to avoid any misgivings in the future, suggests Ganesh.



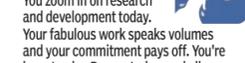
**SAGITTARIUS**  
You will enjoy the magic of the Midas touch today, feels Ganesh. In business, sheer brilliance will help you derive the best possible results in productivity and clinching new contracts. Your approach, in general, will be methodical, disciplined and systematic for most part of the day.



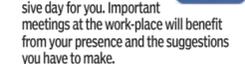
**CAPRICORN**  
Your power of reasoning will be strong today, says Ganesh. Those of you beginning your career will show a disposition to take up a job in television or print media. The spiritual side of you may also come to the fore and make you feel at peace, especially when visiting a holy place.



**AQUARIUS**  
You zoom in on research and development today. Your fabulous work speaks volumes and your commitment pays off. You're keen to play Romeo today, and all your gimmicks and surprises will work wonders! Love on, says Ganesh.



**PISCES**  
For those who are salaried, today should be a progressive day for you. Important meetings at the work-place will benefit from your presence and the suggestions you have to make.



## Manisha is against remakes

**Mumbai:** Manisha Koirala shared that she didn't think remakes could capture the magic and energy of the original film.

The *Saudagar* actress will be part of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Netflix period drama *Heeramandi* later this year. Recently, in an interview, the actor came out against remakes, saying it would be best to leave films as they were. She felt that many remakes fall apart as it is difficult to recreate the same energy and magic.

Incidentally, Manisha was last seen in the Hindi film *Shehzada* which is a remake of the Allu Arjun-starrer *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* (2020). *Shehzada*, which starred Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon, could not match up to the success of the Telugu original which was a blockbuster hit. Manisha played Kartik's mother in the Hindi film, which was directed by Rohit Dhawan.

Speaking to The Free Press Journal, Manisha shared, "The films I had loved working, I would leave them as it is. It is difficult to recreate that same energy and magic which is why so many remakes have fallen apart."



## Priyanka's ₹204cr necklace at Met Gala

**Mumbai:** Actress Priyanka Chopra, who walked the Met Gala carpet with her husband Nick Jonas, sported a diamond necklace worth Rs 204 crore.

The 11.6-carat diamond statement piece from Bulgari has a Laguna Blu diamond - the largest in Bulgari - perfectly complementing her sexy black gown with a thigh-high slit from fashion designer, Valentino.

Priyanka and Nick Jonas opted for the colour black for their appearance.

The theme was *Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty*, and the dress code was in honour of the late fashion designer, who was the creative mind behind Chanel from 1983 till his death in 2019. The statement piece is said to go to auction at

Sotheby's Luxury Week in Geneva May 12.

Interestingly, Priyanka's entry in the bold gown received the loudest cheers at the Met gala.

The couple chose the theme of black and white to pay tribute to the late fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld, on whom this year's Met Gala theme is based on. Nick sported a white shirt paired with a black leather blazer.

It may be recalled that Priyanka and Nick's love story started on the Met Gala carpet back in 2017 when the two were seen in Ralph Lauren couture.

On the work front, Priyanka has been garnering a lot of accolades for her recently released streaming series *Citadel* in which she stars opposite Richard Madden.



## Padma Lakshmi claps back at body-shamers

**Los Angeles:** Indian American model, TV host, author and activist Padma Lakshmi didn't mince her words when addressing people who criticised her body online.

While attending the Time 100 Gala, the *Top Chef* star blasted trolls who criticise her anatomy while she was cooking up a storm in kitchen tutorial videos, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

"I have boobs, I have nipples!" Padma, who looked stunning in a

flowy dress featuring a high slit, told Page Six. "So does every woman and man on the planet."

The 52-year-old culinary maverick went on to note, "I think we should just be a little more grown-up about it, and also just accept that a woman's body is beautiful and not totally perfect and stuff and filtered and everything."

Padma has been facing heavy backlash on social media for her kitchen attire. Earlier

this year, she slammed a fan who took offence when she joked around with her daughter Krishna about her own breasts.

In response to that, Padma said, "First if (sic) all it's a JOKE. And my daughter isn't uncomfortable with me or my boobs or my posts, nor does she read these comments unless I show her because she isn't on social media."



## When Ray called Indian audience 'backward, unsophisticated'

**Mumbai:** May 2 marked the 102nd birth anniversary of legendary filmmaker-writer-sketch artist Satyajit Ray. He is renowned for classic films such as *Pather Panchali* (1955), *Charulata* (1964), and *Ghare Baire* (1984) among many others. The filmmaker is also known to speak his mind. On his birth anniversary, here's a look at his statements regarding the audience. This was at a time when he recalled facing backlash for the *Sharmila* Tagore-starrer *Devi*.

Satyajit talked about the film in his 1960 film to French journalist

Pierre Andre Boutang in 1989. *Sharmila* played the role of a young woman who is seen as an avatar of the goddess Kali in the film that also featured Soumitra Chatterjee and Chhabi Biswas.

Satyajit said in the old interview, "I once made a film called the goddess *Devi*, it dealt with religious dogmatism, it didn't attack religion as such, it attacked dogmatism, the extreme form of religion... But people (are) writing in the papers that 'Oh! Mr Ray is not a Hindu, he is making such films against Hinduism'. But they



are stupid people you can't take them into account. This happens in India all the time. We have a fairly backward audience here, in

spite of the film society movement and all that, if you consider the audience at large, it is a backward audience."

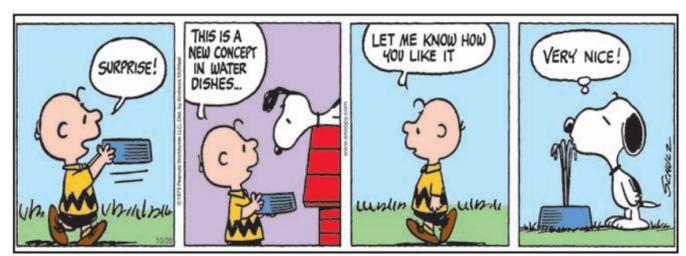
He added, "An unsophisticated audience, exposed to the commercial Hindi cinema more than anything else. And so you face this problem, but you make the kind of films (you want to) and I make the kind of films that I want to make. I make the kind of films that I enjoy making... that engages my attention, my creativity, that is all I can do."

He also said that many ideas in

his story *Alien* "are in *ET*" (*E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, the 1989 film). He also said that he worked in Hollywood for five weeks and there were many copies of his screenplay (at Columbia Pictures) on the story, making it accessible for many people to read it.

A middleman's "peculiar behaviour" made Satyajit "drop the idea" of working with Hollywood. Someone then alleged that Steven Spielberg stole the story of *ET* from Satyajit Ray's *Alien*, but "Spielberg, of course, denied it", the filmmaker said.

### PEANUTS



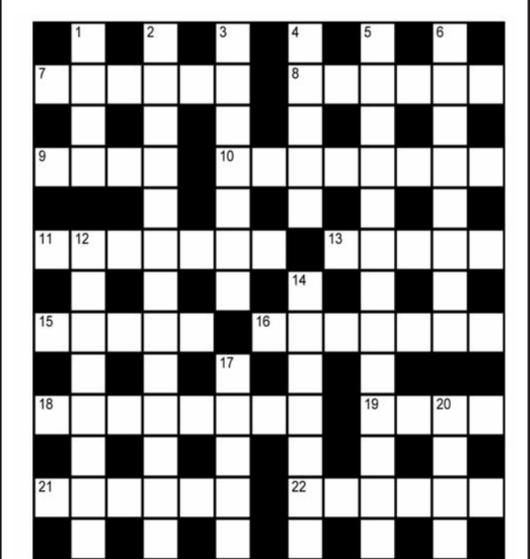
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



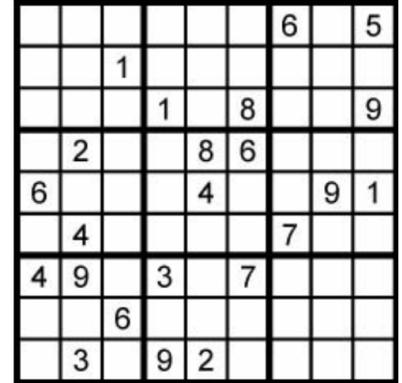
### FUN post CROSSWORD



**Across**  
7 Extreme difficulty  
8 Ottoman  
9 Dyke  
10 Reprimand  
11 Abbreviate  
13 Stiff-upper-lip type  
15 Ensigns  
16 Wander aimlessly  
18 Train, to a child (4-4)  
19 Slothful  
21 Twitches  
22 Dismiss  
**Down**  
1 Fired clay used for roofing  
2 Bed and breakfast (8,5)  
3 Alphabetise  
4 Conditions (5-8)  
5 Electrifying  
6 Free from contamination  
12 Hotel employees  
14 Colourful flower with glossy leaves  
17 Trick-taking game  
20 Zilch

### 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**  
C A R D I F F G L A S S  
A U M M R I T U  
M A R T I N I A S H E N  
P A T D N L R  
S A L S A A R T D E C O  
T Y T O  
E M B L E M S T R E A M  
Y R L S H  
E R O S I O N I N L E T  
B A V E N O I  
R A D I O A N N O Y E D  
O E R K E A P L E  
W I N D Y S U R P L U S

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

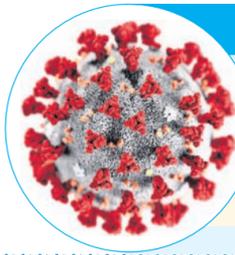
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## DEFT HANDS

Chariot work in full swing at Rath Yard in Puri, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,41,04,579	65,70,70,487	68,32,414
India	4,47,18,781	4,41,71,551	5,30,876
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

# State sees record GST mop-up in April

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Odisha has registered the highest-ever gross goods and services tax (GST) collection of ₹5,035.74 crore during April 2023, official sources said Tuesday.

The collection to be retained by the state, consisting of Odisha GST (OGST) and integrated goods and services tax (IGST) settlement, has recorded a growth of 40.43 per cent during April 2023 with collection of ₹2,359.17 crore, as against collection of ₹1,680.00 crore during April last year.

This growth has primarily been due to buoyancy in the services sector as well as growth in the trading sector.

The total collection from goods that are not subsumed under GST, i.e. petroleum products and liquor



- This growth in the collected amount has primarily been attributed to buoyancy in the services sector as well as growth in the trading sector

- The amount to be retained by the state, consisting of OGST and IGST, has recorded a growth of 40.43 per cent during April with collection of ₹2,359.17 crore

- The total collection from goods not subsumed under GST, namely petroleum products and liquor for human consumption, stands at ₹264.42 crore with a growth of 13.52 per cent

for human consumption, stands at ₹264.42 crore during April 2023 as against ₹232.92 crore from those goods during April last year, with a growth of 13.52 per cent.

Similarly, during April this year, the collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of

CT & GST, Odisha, including GST/VAT/Entry Tax/Profession Tax is ₹2,661.92 crore, in contrast to that of ₹1,947.21 crore last year, with a stunning growth rate of 36.70 per cent.

Waybills worth ₹20.23 lakh were generated during April 2023 vis-à-

vis 17.57 lakh in April 2022, recording a growth of 15.12 per cent, reflecting the buoyancy in the economy overall, official sources said.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## SRIMANDIR AFFAIRS

# SC miffed over delay in SJTA chief taking charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, May 2:** The Supreme Court has expressed its displeasure over the Odisha government's submission before it that the newly-appointed full-time chief administrator to Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) would take charge after completion of the chariot festival scheduled for June this year.

During the hearing Monday, Odisha advocate general Ashok Parija submitted in the Supreme Court that the order has been passed for the appointment of permanent chief administrator. However, the full-time chief administrator would take charge after the chariot festival is over, the state government submitted.

The apex court, though, informed the state government to let the permanent chief administrator take the charge.

"No... Let him take the charge. If Works department secretary as in-charge CAO is doing good. You get the assistance of that CAO also. But let him (permanent chief administrator) take the charge," Justice MR Shah said.

Significantly, senior advocate Ranjeet Kumar, amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter, submitted that he received the status report filed by the Srimandir Managing Committee Monday morning and sought time to go through the report.

It's a comprehensive affidavit of 30 pages. I need time to go through it," Kumar submitted.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice MR Shah granted a week's time to Kumar and adjourned the



**Odisha advocate general Ashok Parija submitted to the SC that the full-time chief administrator would take charge after the chariot festival is over**

matter to Monday. The apex court also observed that it would pass further orders for compliance of the 2019 directions if required.

Earlier, the state government and Srimandir Managing Committee had filed separate action-taken reports with respect to the apex court's directions dated 2019. The managing committee had informed the SC regarding the steps it has taken in compliance with each direction issued by the court.

The Supreme Court had March 29 asked the Odisha government and the temple managing committee to file a status report on compliance or non-compliance of various directions issued by the apex court with respect to better management of affairs at Puri Srimandir in November 2019.

# ₹10cr corpus fund for industries in jails

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** In a major boost to prisoners' rehabilitation, the state government has constituted a corpus fund of ₹10 crore for the strengthening of industries in the prisons across the state. The Home department in a notice has also specified the rules and guidelines regarding the administration and functioning of the corpus fund.

The fund will be managed by an entity called 'Corpus Fund Management Committee' comprising various officials like Director General of Prisons, additional director general (ADG) or inspector general (IG), deputy inspector general (DIG), representatives of Finance and Home departments and senior superintendents of jails. The DG, Prisons will head the committee as the president.

Experts having domain expertise in various industries will be included in the committee too. The committee headquartered at the office of Prisons DG will meet once in every quarter.

Similarly, an executive committee set up at the prison level



will administer the amount received from the corpus fund for functioning of jail industries. The committees will consist of superintendents, jailors and other staffers of local prisons.

The jail authorities have been asked to open a zero balance subsidiary account in the name of Odisha Prisons Corpus Fund.

"The respective superintendent/jailor-cum-superintendent of Prison Industry shall furnish a detailed proposal through the senior superintendent addressed to the President, Odisha Prisons Corpus Fund duly justifying the requirement of the funds on ad-

valance (interest free) basis for existing or newly proposed Prison Industries," the Home department notification reads.

Following the receipt of the proposal, the Corpus Fund Management Committee, will examine the proposal and sanction the amount if it feels satisfied with the same. The officials have been strictly instructed to not utilise the money sanctioned from the corpus fund for any other purpose other than setting up of or strengthening of existing industries.

Notably, industries have been functioning at different jails to impart vocational training in vari-

- The fund will be managed by an entity called 'Corpus Fund Management Committee' comprising various officials like DG Prisons, ADG or IG, DIG, representatives of Finance and Home departments and senior superintendents of jails

- Experts having domain expertise in various industries will be included in the committee too

- The committee headquartered at the office of Prisons DG will meet once in every quarter

- The officials have been instructed to not utilise the money sanctioned from the corpus fund for any other purpose other than setting up of or strengthening of existing industries

## Bodoland CEM lauds Mo School Abhiyan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Chief executive member (CEM) of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Pramod Boro visited the state office of Mo School Abhiyan and appreciated the state government's unique initiative for its transformative impact on education.

He lauded the efforts of the alumni and community members and other stakeholders for their commitment to improving quality of education in the state.

Boro interacted with the senior officials of Mo School and discussed the about the community-led initiative and other educational reforms undertaken by the state Education department. He also paid a short visit to Budharaja Government Vidyapitha, Danagadi in Jajpur district and interacted with students and teachers to understand the impact of the initiative.

The CEM visited smart classrooms, e-library, science laboratory and admired the digital transformation of the institution under High School Transformation Programme. The smart infrastructure will help the students realise their potential and explore their dreams, he said.

Praising the initiative for bringing revolutionary changes in the education sector, Boro said, "Mo School Abhiyan is a remarkable initiative that has transformed the education landscape in Odisha. It is heartening to see the government and various stakeholders working together to create a better learning environment for children in the state. The initiative has shown its impact at grassroots level.

A discourse was also held on the implementation of School Adoption Programme in Odisha. He expressed his commitment to working towards improving the quality of education in Bodoland Territorial Region and promoting greater access to education for children through community led initiatives. The delegates from Bodoland also discussed about developing e-content, providing quality textbooks to students and organising career counselling sessions to help students choose right career path.

On this occasion, Mo School OSD Mani Prasad Mishra presented the Coffee Table Book and a newsletter of Mo School Abhiyan to Boro.



**WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS:** Additional Director General of Police, Operations Amitabh Thakur (Left) after inaugurating a state-level photo exhibition on the eve of World Press Freedom Day organised by Utkal Sambadika Sangha at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

# Utkal's NAAC grade down

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading for Utkal University has dropped from A+ to A in the freshly released list of grading.

The university's NAAC grade has dropped to A as it scored 3.16 CGPA in the 3rd cycle of accreditation. It had secured A+

with 3.53 CGPA in 2016. Academicians said it reflects the teaching-learning standard of the varsity. The varsity was last accredited as A+ in an assessment by NAAC in 2016.

The NAAC has been set up to facilitate volunteering institutions to assess their performance vis-à-vis set parameters and a process that provides space for participation of the institution.

# CM greets Odisha FC on Super Cup win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday congratulated the Odisha FC Football Team on winning the Super Cup trophy.

The Odisha FC team met the Chief Minister along with the Super Cup trophy, which they won for the first time. Raj Athwal, President, Clifford Miranda, Head Coach, Amrinder Singh, Player, Shubham Sarangi, Player, Abhik Chatterjee, Club General Manager and Dr. Amrit Pattojoshi, Club Psychiatrist met the chief minister.

"I would like to congratulate everyone associated with Odisha FC for their remarkable performance. The coach and players have made us proud and I hope Odisha FC will continue their winning form and inspire a new generation of footballers from



Odisha," Patnaik said. The Chief Minister emphasised that their success is a testimony to their commitment and their deter-

mination to achieve their goals. He praised each player for their outstanding performances and contributions to the team.

**THE CHIEF MINISTER EMPHASISED THAT ODISHA FC'S SUCCESS IS A TESTIMONY TO THEIR COMMITMENT AND DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS**

Athwal thanked Patnaik for creating the best football facilities in India and for his support to the team over the years. The club president also thanked the Chief Minister for supporting Odisha FC and making a holistic sports ecosystem for proper development of football.

**On the Occasion of Sabitri Brata**

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Ekamra Haat, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar  
From : 02.05.2023 to 21.05.2023, Timing : 11.00 AM to 9.00 PM

Inauguration by  
**Sj. Shovan Krishna Sahu, IRS**  
Special Secretary (Industries Deptt.)  
Director of Textiles & Handloom, Odisha

on  
**03rd May, 2023 at 6.30 PM**

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Sponsored by :  
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All are Cordially invited to the Inaugural Function

Sri Sisir Kumar Nag  
Managing Director

Sri Sambit Kumar Acharya  
President

# State to develop agri marketing network



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** The Odisha State Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAM) under the cooperation department of Odisha government Tuesday signed an agreement with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, to facilitate the development of agri marketing network in the state.

The agri marketing network will link all the 66 regulated market committees (RMCs) of the state, 43 krushak bazars, 76 municipal markets, including 800 farmers produce organisations (FPOs) and women SHGs.

The MoU was signed between the two organisations in the presence of Cooperation Secretary Sanjeeb Kumar Chadha.

Chadha said that the fruits and vegetables sector in Odisha encounters many challenges which impact almost all the stakehold-

**The agri marketing network will link all the 66 regulated market committees (RMCs) of the state, 43 krushak bazars, 76 municipal markets, including 800 farmers produce organisations (FPOs) and women SHGs**

ers linked to the value chain from production at the level of farmers to marketing at the level of end consumers.

High variation in quality of products, lack of structured and scientific processing infrastructure, lack of systematic and updated supply chain infrastructure and exploitative role by middlemen are some of the major challenges which need immediate

intervention, he said. "So, a sustainable solution is needed to bring the critical value chain players to a single platform addressing the major issues at each level through technological interventions to benefit the small farmers. To address these issues, the agreement was signed," Chadha said.

He also informed that the project aims at transforming agri-marketing through operationalising RMCs, developing market linkages and empowering farmers through supply chain management in Odisha.

The objectives of the MoA include study for developing entity level integration and development of implementation plan, hand-holding and mentoring for effectively operationalising primary processing centres/pack houses in RMC areas, establishing market linkages for women led SHGs and development of market information system/MIS dashboard platform, he added.

The agreement will remain in force for three years. On successful completion of the project, the board has aimed to bring in transformative changes in the sector of fruits and vegetables, ultimately empowering the primary producers especially, small and marginal farmers which in turn will serve the target of doubling farmers income in a foreseeable future, the secretary informed.



**SOCIAL SECURITY:** Members attending a workshop to deliberate newspapers distributors' issues organised by Rourkela Hawkers' Association at The Institute of Engineers in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## SAMBALPUR VIOLENCE BJP 'central team' demands CBI probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Holding the state government responsible for the violence that erupted between two communities during Hanuman Jayanti procession in Sambalpur city last month, the BJP central team Tuesday demanded CBI probe into the incident.

The BJP team, comprising four MPs—Brij Lal from Uttar Pradesh, Samir Oraon from Jharkhand and Aditya Sahu & Jyotirmay Singh Mahato from West Bengal, visited Sambalpur city and held discussions with several stakeholders including some victims.

The team will submit its report to BJP president JP Nadra.

Addressing the media in Sambalpur, Brij Lal alleged that law and order has completely collapsed in the state and the violence is a blatant example of this phenomenon. The untoward incident took place due to the state government's failure, he alleged.

Besides, the special branch or intelligence wing of the Odisha



government had informed the Sambalpur administration about the possibility of such communal tension in the city. Still, the administration failed to act properly and provide adequate security measures during Hanuman Jayanti processions, the BJP leader alleged.

On his visit to the deceased Miridha's residence, Lal said "The dead youth's family was not present in the house. It is suspected that the family has been kept outside the village forcibly by the ruling BJP. Neither SP or no one has any information about his mother

and sister."

The MP further said that cases registered by police in the incident shows that the investigation is not conducted in a free and fair manner. So, the case should be handed over to the CBI,

he demanded. "I appeal to the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to personally recommend for CBI investigation into the incident," Brij Lal said.

Reacting to the visit of the BJP team, BJD leader Snehangini Chhuria slammed the BJP for playing politics over the unfortunate and sensitive incident.

"With the effort of all, peace returned to Sambalpur city. However, the BJP has become intolerant and unhappy. They want that violence activities to continue in the town so that they can play cheap politics over the issue," said Chhuria.

## 'Parichaya' organised by Odisha Tourism

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Parichaya, an appreciation day for Odisha's content creators in the field of food, travel, art, and culture was organized recently by Odisha Tourism in association with Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) and Chalo Odisha at Panthamivas Bhubaneswar.

Inaugurated by OTDC Chairman Lenin Mohanty, the event had eminent personalities including Odia film actor Sabyasachi Mishra and Odia rapper Big Deal along with senior officials of Odisha Tourism and OTDC. Around 100 content creators across Odisha from the field of travel, comedy, art, culture and cuisine were felicitated on this occasion. Highlighting the role content creators play as influencers, Mohanty said, "The role of today's generation is as much important for promotion of Odisha as a hub of tourism and culture as that of the government. Digital content creators not only entertains but spreads awareness on the various offerings Odisha has-be it scenic destination, food or culture."

## Narayan takes charge as CSIR-IMMT director

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Ramanuj Narayan, has taken over the charge as the Director of CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar. Narayan took over the charge from G Narahari Sastry, who was in additional charge of the institute besides being the director of CSIR-NEIST Jorhat. Speaking on this occasion, Sastry said, "It was my pleasure to be a part of this institute. This is indeed a great time for CSIR IMMT as it is celebrating its diamond jubilee and also hosted the prestigious G20



summit recently. I am happy to hand over the responsibility to a young and energetic researcher like Dr. Ramanuj. He is a well accomplished scientist balancing both academic and translational

work. With his vast experience, he will take the name of CSIR-IMMT to a great height."

Taking the charge of director of CSIR-IMMT, Narayan said, "I am very fortunate to be a part of such great institute which has provided the mentorship of many great stalwarts. I am very happy to take the charge from Dr. Sastry." More than 100 scientists along with technical, administration and support staff are putting their committed efforts towards serving the industrial and academic services for sustainable solutions, he added.

## KIIT DU inks MoU with GWU for higher studies

**Bhubaneswar:** The KIIT-DU signed an MoU with George Washington University (GWU), US for students and faculty exchange programmes. The MoU was signed recently between KIIT VC Sasmita Samanta and Christopher Bracey, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs, GWU. As per the MoU, both institutes will join efforts to educate highly qualified individuals to prepare them in the field of business analytics, information systems and project management. The programmes will be offered both at KIIT and at GWU campus through credit transfers. Students who complete the requirements of the programme will receive the degrees of Master's of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA), Master's of Science in Project Management (MSPM) and Master's of Science in Information Systems Technology (MSIT) from GWU. The programmes are divided into credits which will be taught both at KIIT and GWU.

## Naveen inaugurates 449 transformed high schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Continuing the third phase of High School Transformation Programme, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday inaugurated 449 transformed high schools in five districts.

It includes 233 high schools of Balasore district, 64 high schools in Nayagarh, 58 schools in Nuapada, 49 school in Sundargarh and 45 schools in Rayagada district.

A total of 2151 transformed high schools will be inaugurated in the third phase.

It is worth noting that 3981 high

schools were transformed in the state in the last two phases. After the completion of the third phases, the total number of transformed schools will reach 6132.

Addressing the students through video conferencing, the Chief Minister said that the success of the students is the success of Odisha. Efforts have been made to provide all modern facilities to the children in 5T schools.

He said that the children could take this opportunity to showcase their talent and to bring glory to themselves and their families as well for the entire Odisha.

## SOA holds industrial interactive workshop

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** The need for preparing graduates in the field of science and technology by inculcating various skills was stressed at a day-long industrial interactive workshop on 'Recent Developments and Challenges in Core Industries' held recently at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA).

Around 130 participants attended the workshop which focused primarily on subjects like emerging areas of renewable energy, future challenges of work, workforce and workplace in manufacturing industries, challenges which obstruct the improvement of core industries, opportunities of smart manufacturing and application of data science, Artificial Intelligence (AI)



and Machine Learning (ML) in industries.

The workshop was organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), SOA's faculty of engineering and technology.

The resource persons present in the workshop included Priya Ranjan Prasad, Managing Director, Brahmani River Pellets Limited, Kalinga Nagar, Sachikanta Kar, Head of Department, Quality and Consultancy, CTTC, Bhubaneswar

and Sanat Kumar Mishra, Director and CEO, Sunstone Solar Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Bhubaneswar, Rajiv Sharma, General Manager, HR and Administration, Sree Metaliks and Navraj Singh, Training Head, GMR Power Plant, Dhenkanal.

PK Sahoo, Dean, ITER welcomed the participants and JK Nath, SOA's Dean (Research and Development) spoke about the opportunities in core industries. Training and Placement head Sujit Kumar Dash stressed on multi-disciplinary learning of the students.

## Continued from P1

### Stay prepared...

Rural Development, Housing and Urban Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water departments have been asked to ensure the availability of adequate drinking water, he said.

The Energy Department told the chief minister that it was ready

with men and machines for restoration works if a cyclone hits the state, Sahu said.

The Forest Department has also been told to be prepared for the clearing of roads, he said.

The state government's preparedness stems from a series of summer cyclones that hit the state over the years - 2019 (Fani), 2020

(Amphan) and 2021 (Yaas).

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said in its forecast that a cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over south-east Bay of Bengal around May 6, and under its influence, a low-pressure area may form over the same region during the subsequent 48 hours.

### Pawar to quit...

District unit office bearers in some places in Maharashtra said they were quitting their posts to demand that he reconsider his decision.

Conveying his message to the protesting party workers, Ajit Pawar requested NCP functionaries not to resign from their posts.

"He (Sharad Pawar) has said he has made his decision, but he will need two-three days to think it over on account of your insistence. But he will think it over only when all workers go home," Ajit Pawar told party workers outside the Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan where the book release event was held.

NCP leader Jayant Patil and many party leaders broke down at the event venue after Pawar's announcement.

Another NCP leader Praful Patel said Pawar did not take anyone into confidence before announcing his resignation.

A four-time Maharashtra chief minister who also served as Union Defence and Agriculture minister, Pawar was instrumental in forging the unlikely coalition of the NCP, Congress and their ideological foe Shiv Sena to form the MVA government in Maharashtra with Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray as the chief minister after the 2019 Assembly elections.

Speaking at the book launch, Pawar said his political journey

began on May 1, 1960, and has continued without a break for the past 63 years with him serving Maharashtra and India in various capacities.

"I have three years of Rajya Sabha membership left, during which I will focus on the issues related to Maharashtra and India, with a caveat of not accepting any responsibility (party post). After a long period of public life from May 1, 1960, to May 1, 2023, it is necessary to take a step back. Hence, I have decided to step down as NCP president."

Sharad Pawar said he intended to do more in the fields of education, agriculture, cooperation and sports and culture among others and also pay attention to issues related to the youth, students, workers, Dalits, tribals and other weaker sections of society.

Leaders of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance expressed shock over Pawar's decision and said his guidance was needed at this juncture.

"Sharad Pawar's presence has extraordinary importance when a new battle for freedom is going on in the country to save the Constitution and democracy, and in such a situation, Pawar should not step aside," senior state Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat said.

Sharad Pawar recommended that a committee of NCP leaders be formed to decide on the election of the party president.

The committee should have Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, K K Sharma, P C Chacko, Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil, Supriya Sule, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dilip Walse Patil, Anil Deshmukh, Rajesh Tope, Jitendra Awhad, Hasan Mushrif, Dhananjay Munde and Jaydev Gaikwad, Pawar said.

It should also have, as ex-officio members, Fauzia Khan, president of the Nationalist Mahila Congress; Dheeraj Sharma, president, Nationalist Youth Congress; and Sonia Duhan, president, Nationalist Students' Congress, he added.

After announcing his decision, Pawar barely spoke in the two hours he was at the venue. He sat quietly, next to his wife Pratibha, surrounded by NCP leaders and workers.

Ajit Pawar said Sharad Pawar had taken the decision to step down on May 1 which is the foundation day of Maharashtra, but deferred it as a rally of the MVA alliance was scheduled on that day.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said Pawar's decision to step down was NCP's internal matter.

"It is his personal decision...NCP's internal matter. I do not think it will be appropriate to talk about it at this stage. Sharad Pawar is a senior leader and deliberations are going on in his party. It will be appropriate to comment only after the situation gets clear," the BJP leader said.

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# Raw deal for Berhampur MLAs

Even though winning BJD candidates from other constituencies in Ganjam district have been made ministers, Berhampur lawmakers have been left in the lurch



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, May 2:** The Berhampur Assembly constituency is a politically significant one among the 13 in Ganjam district as per analysts. The constituency comprises 36 of the 42 wards under the Berhampur Municipal Corporation. However, candidates winning the Berhampur seat have always got a raw deal in the race for the ministerial chair. This has happened more so during the tenure of the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government. It should also be stated here that none of the BJD candidates who won in the 2019 Assembly elections from Ganjam district got ministerial berths. Among those were BJD MLAs from Chhatrapur, Khallikote, Kabisuryanagar, Aska, Sorada and also this constituency. Now with the Assembly elections looming large speculation is rife as to who will be re-nominated and who won't be. The Berhampur Assembly constituency has witnessed seven elections from 1990 to 2019. The BJD has

been winning this seat since 2000 till date. BJD's Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik won the seat four times in succession from 2000 to 2014. Then in 2019 BJD's Bikram Kumar Panda emerged victorious. However, despite holding supremacy, BJD winning candidates have never been given ministerial berths in the state Cabinet. This has raised questions in the minds of political analysts.

Late Lingaraj Panigrahi, former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, was elected as an MLA in the 1957 elections during Congress rule in the state. He was appointed as a Cabinet Minister in Housing, Education and other departments. Similarly, Krishna Charan Patnaik who won on a Congress ticket in 1980 from Berhampur was appointed as a minister for two years during the first term of the Janaki Ballav Patnaik-led government.

The last time Congress won in the Berhampur Assembly constituency was in 1985 when Youth Congress leader Shiba Shankar Sahani emerged victorious. Since

then the fortunes of Congress has only gone downhill in the Berhampur seat. Retired police officer Binayak Mohapatra won on a Janata Dal ticket from this seat and also became a minister in the government headed by Biju Patnaik. That was probably the last time that a Berhampur lawmaker was appointed minister.

The most unlucky winner from this constituency must be Ramesh Chandra. Despite winning four successive times on a BJD ticket, he was never made a minister. To add to his miseries, his one time political rival Panda was nominated on a BJD ticket from the Berhampur constituency. Panda won, but even he was not given a ministerial berth.

It should be stated here that former Kodala MLA Ramakrushna Patnaik was made a minister twice - once during Biju Patnaik's tenure as Chief Minister and then once in the Naveen-led government. However, he fell out of BJD's favour. Similarly, Digapahandi MLA Surya Narayan Patra got ministerial berths four times and was also appointed Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly after BJD emerged victorious in the 2019 elections. Currently Bhanjanagar MLA Bikram Keshari Arukh is the Speaker of state Assembly. Chikiti MLA Usha Devi has got a Cabinet berth a number of times and is now the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development department.

Many have been left wondering as to why Berhampur lawmakers are being deprived of a ministerial berth for quite a substantial period of time when others from the same district have made it big.



MOBILE LIBRARY: Kids along with seniors from Nadikhandi slum reading books as part of a programme organised by Sishushree Mobile Library in Bargarh, Tuesday

# Melanistic tiger found dead in Similipal

### INJURIES SUGGEST IT WAS ATTACKED BY ANOTHER BIG CAT OVER TERRITORY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, May 2:** A rare melanistic tiger was found dead Monday in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district, an official said Tuesday. On being directed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Sushil Kumar Popli, a team has reached Similipal and launched an investigation.

Preliminary reports indicate that the dead tiger suffered injuries while fighting with another big cat and that led to its death, said Prakash Chand Gogeni, field director of Similipal Tiger Reserve. However, only after the post-mortem report is available, one can ascertain the reasons behind the death of the melanistic tiger. "Injuries suggest that the deceased animal was bitten by another tiger," Gogeni said. "Prima facie, it appears to be the result of infighting between two male tigers over territory," he added.

Popli told the media that the carcass of the tiger was found Monday morning at Naana range, under south division in the core area of



Similipal. The tiger was aged around 3-3.5 years, he added.

On being informed, members of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), joint taskforce members, Gogeni, deputy director Samrat Gouda, three ACFs, veterinarians Dr Piyush Soren and Dr Bibhu Prasad Das rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. The samples of the dead tiger

were collected and sent to the OUAU laboratory in Bhubaneswar for examination. Later, the carcass was cremated at the spot.

Notably, black or pseudo-melanistic tigers, with a distinctive dark stripe pattern, are very rare. They have only been found in Similipal till date.

In a separate development, Forest department officials of south division reported about a tusker carcass lying at Dhuduchampa area under Naana range. They said that the tusks of the elephant were missing which indicates that the animal was killed by poachers. However, there was no official confirmation about the incident.

# 40 medical students charged with assault

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, May 2:** Baidyanathpur police in Ganjam district Tuesday registered a case against 40 medical students on charges of kidnapping a youth from his residence and assaulting him inside their hostel premises. The victim has been identified as Suraj Kumar Padhi, a resident of Chandimandir Sahi in Lanjipalli area of the city. On being informed, police reached the spot and rescued Padhi from the captivity of the accused medical students.



Padhi underwent treatment at the hospital following which he lodged a complaint at the police station. Police have registered a

case (No 182/23) and have launched an investigation as to why the students left the college campus and kidnapped Padhi from his residence before assaulting him in their hostel premises, late April 29 night.

The accused students were also called to the police station and questioned, Tuesday.

# Rairangpur gears up for Prez visit

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** President Droupadi Murmu will make her maiden visit to Rairangpur, her native place in Mayurbhanj district this week, since assuming office. She will also go on a tour of Similipal National Park later this week, officials said. Her visit to the national park, a tiger reserve that covers an area of 2,750km, will be the first by a President of the India, the officials said.

Murmu will pay the three-day visit to her home district from May 4 and visit her in-law's village Pahadpur in Rairangpur subdivision. The President will reach Kalaikunda Air Force station in West Bengal, May 4, and from there travel by helicopter to Badampahar helipad and reach Pahadpur the same day, an official informed.



Murmu had visited the state twice earlier since assuming office in July 2022. However, this time her visit will be confined to Mayurbhanj district only.

According to the schedule made available to the media, the President will visit the memorial of her husband Shyamcharan Murmu and her two sons and attend various programmes at Rairangpur. She is also slated to lay the foundation stones of two projects at Pahadpur

and spend the night at Rairangpur Inspection Bungalow, the officials said. She will visit Similipal National Park May 5 and spend the entire day there.

Murmu will visit Baripada, the Mayurbhanj district headquarters town and attend the convocation of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University the next day (May 6) before winding up her visit and returning to Delhi.

Meanwhile, the president's proposed visit has created a flutter among the people of the locality. The entire Pahadpur village is undergoing a complete makeover with kutcha roads leading to it being concretised and her in-law's house renovated. The local residents are looking forward to the President's visit and to accord a grand welcome to the daughter of the soil, an official said.

# Contractor shot dead in Barbil



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, May 2:** A contractor was shot dead in Ward-VI of Barbil municipality in this district Monday, police informed Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Sunil Sinha, who was an influential businessman and local BJD leader in Barbil locality.

Eye-witnesses said Bhola was returning home on his two-wheeler when some miscreants shot him from close range. They informed the police who reached the spot and

found Bhola lying in a pool of blood. He was immediately rushed to the Barbil community health centre (CHC) where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Police have begun a probe into the incident and have also pressed a forensic team into service. A couple of used cartridges have been recovered from the spot.

Police are yet to ascertain the motive behind the killing. However, sources said that it could be due to past enmity in business dealings. A manhunt has been launched to nab the miscreants.

# Survival battle for Pattamundai blacksmiths

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pattamundai, May 2:** Blacksmiths of Pattamundai are struggling to keep their age-old trade alive amidst rapid industrialisation and the changing lifestyle of people. The once-thriving blacksmith community is now struggling to make ends meet, with many in search of alternative livelihoods. An age-old professional skill passed down for generations is now on the verge of extinction.



The blacksmiths, who were once known for their skillful metal works including farming tools, weapons and household items, have now been relegated to obscurity. According to local sources, the number of blacksmiths has declined drastically over the years in the area with most youngsters opting for other professions.

Dinabandhu Ojha, a local blacksmith, said decline of the community is due to various reasons. Among them are the unavailability of cheap, mass-produced items, lack of government support and inability to compete with modern machinery. He also pointed out that the younger generation is not interested in learning the trade, as they see it as a low-paying job with little scope for growth.

Speaking about the challenges they are facing, another blacksmith Sushant Kumar Ojha from Nilakanthapur said, "We are struggling to make ends meet. Our products are not in demand and we are facing severe financial constraints due to the skyrocketing prices of raw materials like wood and coal used in

this craft. We need government support to revive the industry and preserve our traditional skill and knowledge. High prices of raw material are not only affecting the blacksmiths but also other traditional industries in the region. Many craftsmen are finding it challenging to sustain their businesses due to the high cost of materials."

Local intellectual Bidyadhar Das pointed out the blacksmith industry is dying due to the increased use of modern agricultural equipment such as tractors and power tillers. These machines have replaced many traditional tools that were once crafted by blacksmiths, such as ploughs, hoes and other farming equipment. As a result, demand for blacksmiths has decreased a lot.

Overall, the increased use of modern equipment has had a significant impact on this cottage industry as it struggles to survive in the face of changing market dynamics.

Another blacksmith said, "Our trade has been passed down from generation to generation and it is disheartening to see it dying. Also, we need to promote the use of traditional equipment and create markets for our products."

The decline of the blacksmith industry has raised concerns about the loss of traditional knowledge and skills. It has also affected the village economy, as the blacksmiths were an integral part of the community, providing employment and contributing to the overall development of the locality.

People from the community who are still holding on to their traditional craft share their struggles and plead for government support

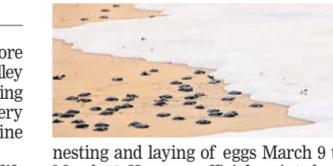
**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. ST-OT-SIG-ZONAL-KUR-315, Dt. 25.04.2023  
NAME OF WORKS: SIGNALLING ZONAL WORK EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER SIGNAL, SOUTH / KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ONE YEAR.  
Tender Value in (₹) : 49,88,157.60, EMD (₹) : 99,800/-  
Bidding Start Date : 03.05.2023, Date and Time of Closing of Tender : At 11:00 Hrs. of 17.05.2023.  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.  
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) / PR-112/O/23-24 / Khurda Road

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**HARABHANGI IRRIGATION DIVISION,**  
**ADAVA, Dist: GAJAPATI, ODISHA.**  
e mail - eeharabhang@gmail.com  
**e-Procurement Notice No.- SE- HID-ADV-01 /2023-24**  
No.A-90: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>  
1. Type of the work : System Improvement Works.  
2. No. of work : 30 Nos.  
3. Class of contractor : " D ", " C " and " B " Class  
4. Bid identification No. : HID-01/2023-24 to HID-30/2023-24  
5. Estimated cost : Rs. 4.98 Lakh to 21.05 Lakh.  
6. Period of completion : 45 days to 90 days.  
7. Date & time of availability : From 03.05.2023, 10.00AM to 12.05.2023 up to 5.30 P.M. in the portal.  
8. Last date / time for receipt : 12.05.2023 up to 5.30 P.M. of bids in the portal.  
9. Name of the officer inviting Bid. : Superintending Engineer, Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Dist.-Gajapati, Odisha.  
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.  
**Date of opening of the Bid:- 15.05.2023 at 11.00 A.M**  
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
**Sd/- Superintending Engineer**  
**Harabhangi Irrigation Division,**  
**Adava, Dist.Gajapati**  
OIPR-32474/11/0001/2324

# Over 2 crore Olive Ridley hatchlings born at 'Nasi-2'

PNN & AGENCIES

**Kendrapara, May 2:** Over two crore hatchlings of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles have emerged at the mass nesting site 'Nasi-2', the world's largest rookery of the species in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, officials said Tuesday.



Rajnagar Mangrove (Forest) and Wildlife Division DFO Sudarshan Gopinath Jadhav said Tuesday that within a span of four days from April 29 to May 2, the hatchlings emerged, marking the culmination of the annual rendezvous of the marine species. The hatchlings after a brief period on the beach entered the sea.

This year a total of 5,12,175 Olive Ridley turtles came on shore at 'Nasi-2' for mass nesting and laying of eggs March 9 to March 13. However, officials pointed out that 20 per cent of the eggs were destroyed as many turtles laid eggs at the same spot, in the process breaking those that had been laid earlier. Also crows and seagulls gobbled up a large number of eggs.

Female Ridley turtles generally lay 100-120 eggs in one go and then they return to the sea. They lay the eggs in a haphazard manner so as to confuse predators about the location of the eggs. The hatchlings emerge after a period of 45-55 days.

Officials said Forest department personnel are deployed on the beach to protect the eggs and the newborn hatchlings. Once hatched, the turtles dig their way to the surface and enter the ocean. Many experts believe that once the hatchlings emerge from the sand, some form of imprinting on the earth's magnetic field occurs inside them. This guides the hatchlings back to the same breeding areas when they become adults. It is one of Nature's rare phenomena where the hatchlings grow without their mother. Hence their mortality rate is very high. Out of every 1,000 hatchlings only one manage to attain adulthood, officials informed.

**UCO BANK**  
C-2, Ashok Nagar, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751009, Ph.: 0674-2620423  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned below. The borrowers & guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for the amount plus interest plus expenses thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.  
**SAHID NAGAR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)**  
**Borrower: Mr. Sukanta Behera, S/o- Mr. Bhagirathi Behera / Guarantor: Mrs. Sasmita Behera, W/o- Mr. Sukanta Behera, Both are At: Seikhatpna, PO: Majjihara, Banamalipur, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752103**  
**Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date**  
**₹ 2,60,570.35 as on 28.10.2022 + further interest & other charges thereon from 28.10.2022**  
**Demand / Possession Notice Date**  
**16.12.2022 / 02.05.2023**  
**Description of the Immovable Property/ies**  
**All the part and parcels of land and building standing in the name of Mrs. Sasmita Behera, W/o- Mr. Sukanta Behera, situated in Mouza: Majjihara, SRO: Balipatna, D.30: Khurda, Khata No.: 927/242, Plot No.: 1382/2510 measuring Area: A.Cha. 10dec., Bounded by- North: Kasi Dalai, East: Village Road, South: Narahari Behera, West: Gopinath Deb.**  
**Date: 02.05.2023, Place: Bhubaneswar**  
**Sd/- Authorised Officer, UCO Bank**

FOCUS KARNATAKA POLLS

# SCRAMBLE FOR THRONE



Even in the past, the BJP's dependence on PM Modi's blitzkrieg campaigning has not helped the party to win elections of its own, and the majority of the BJP 'achievements' highlighted by Modi in the state are funded by the federal government

two-thirds of Karnataka's social pyramid. Given the presence of JDS, the possibility of vote splitting by AIMIM and SDPI, and the unease in the Muslim community over how elected Congress MLAs joined the BJP last time, it cannot take Muslims for granted. Nevertheless, Congress leaders' frequent interpersonal meetings with the local populace, including housewives, students, and farmers, are proving crucial in winning over the greatest number of voters in the state who cross the sect and caste lines. A choice between a BJP government with a 40% commission and a Congress government with five guarantees has been made available by Congress.

### Way Forward

In the lead-up to the Lok Sabha elections, some experts have hailed the upcoming state Assembly elections as the proverbial "semifinal." While acknowledging that Karnataka cannot decide the Lok Sabha election or serve as a gauge of public sentiment in the north and west of India, where the BJP sweeps the Lok Sabha elections, these experts believe that what happens in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh in December of this year will have a greater impact on the parliamentary elections. However, Karnataka is the pivotal battle that will determine the political course of the following year. The defeat of the BJP in Karnataka could symbolise the rejection of its divisive and hateful policies and put pressure on the Modi administration regarding the Adani issue.

On the other hand, a Congress victory in Karnataka will expand democratic space, and additional victories for the party in Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, and MP will make it difficult for the BJP to win elections. Congress will then be able to carve out its own political space for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by leading a broad coalition of non-BJP parties.

The writer is Executive Editor, India Ahead News Channel

Following the Election Commission's (EC) announcement that voting for 224 Assembly seats in Karnataka will take place on May 10 and the vote counting will take place on May 13, a flurry of hectic electoral activity is apparent among the state's major and minor political parties which have been girding up their loins to leave nothing to chance to get another crack at power. Undoubtedly, the results of the upcoming elections remain a mystery until May 13; however, there are many factors that may help to shed light on these hopes. Many political commentators believe that the two main issues in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections will be religion and caste, along with two other issues, such as alleged corruption in government projects and the administrative and civic problems in Bangalore.

The majority of pre-election polls in February and March predicted a close race between the BJP and the Congress, with neither party winning a majority by a significant margin, while in the second half of April, the majority of these pre-election polls indicated that Congress has a significant lead over the BJP and had chances of forming its own government.

### BJP's Dilemma

A number of issues, including an anti-incumbency wave, serious corruption allegations, the disillusionment of senior BJP state leadership with the central leadership, and fierce party infighting, particularly over the distribution of tickets, face the BJP-led government in Karnataka. The so-called bitcoin scandal, 40% commission fees on government tenders, and alleged misappropriation of funds during the COVID-19 pandemic have all put the Karnataka government in the crosshairs of Congress and JD(S). In addition to Congress' "PayCM" campaign, chief minister Bommai is blamed for subpar leadership and deteriorating infrastructure.

The incumbent BJP is blamed for bad governance, and crumbling infrastructure in addition

to Congress' "PayCM" campaign in the wake of some significant Lingayat leaders defecting to the Congress after growing disenchanted with the BJP, along with growing disenchantment of the Vokkaligas and Lingayats and other minorities with the BJP. The BJP is heavily reliant on PM Modi to win over voters, but Karnataka has previously supported different governments at the national and state governments.

Even in the past, the BJP's dependence on PM Modi's blitzkrieg campaigning has not helped the party to win elections of its own, and the majority of the BJP "achievements" highlighted by Modi in the state are funded by the federal government. The perception that Modi has "tolerated" corruption by Karnataka's own chief minister and other leaders is also problematic. Additionally, the whirlwind campaigning style of Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress president Kharge and other state Congress leaders with their primary focus on basic local issues, has not only dashed the hopes of the BJP of turning the campaign into a contest between Rahul

Gandhi versus PM Modi but has also taken the wind out of the BJP's sail and keeping PM Modi out of campaigning for most of April and only enabling him to campaign just a week before the state goes to polls on May 10.

### Congress Strategem

The forthcoming election in Karnataka is more prestigious for Congress because Mallikarjun Kharge, the new party president, is a native of the state. Congress is making a strong push because it cannot take anything for granted. The four carefully chosen electoral promises made by the Congress—Gruha Jyoti (200 units of free electricity); Gruha Lakshmi (Rs 2,000 per month for women who are the head of household); Anna Bhagya (10 kg of rice per month for BPL cardholders); and Yuva Nidhi (Rs 3,000 per month for unemployed young people with graduate degrees)—have already had a positive impact.

According to some experts, Congress could make a change to benefit the farmers by granting their long-standing request for an MSP guarantee, successfully mobilizing the OBCs, SC, ST, and minorities who make up the bottom



Anil Singh

**A CONGRESS VICTORY IN KARNATAKA WILL EXPAND DEMOCRATIC SPACE, AND ADDITIONAL VICTORIES FOR THE PARTY IN RAJASTHAN, MP, CHHATTISGARH, AND MP WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE BJP TO WIN ELECTIONS**

## Religious Shield

By our stumbling the world is perfected

SRI AUROBINDO



Not much is known about the religious aspect of Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the focus has, so far, been on military prowess of the warring nations and tactical advantages gained or lost on the soil of Ukraine. That it has also been turned into a religious war came to the fore when the religious head of the Russian Orthodox church, Patriarch Kirill recently exhorted the church's followers fighting in the frontlines to care for "God's truth". He sermonised that the church must play its part in the battle against the secularising forces of the liberal West so as to preserve "Holy Rus(sia) and our people, living by God's law". President Vladimir Putin's Russia is now relying on religion to tip the balance in its favour. This is the tactic that Putin has been using for years to wean away Ukraine's population who follow the Orthodox church in Russia's favour.

Patriarch Kirill has understandably become a religious pariah in the global Orthodox church for taking sides with Putin in the war in Ukraine. This has caused a setback to Kirill's goal of turning the war into a struggle on behalf of "Holy Rus", which is an imaginary spiritually unified territory that includes Ukraine and Belarus.

The development has not gone down well with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyyi and the majority of Ukraine population. This is evident from the fact that a Bill has been placed in the Ukrainian parliament that aims at closing down Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) which is under the jurisdiction of the Moscow patriarchate. There have been reports that the UOC harbours some pro-Putin sympathisers. They are being purged. Churches and monasteries associated with the UOC across Ukraine are being transferred to the smaller independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU). Priests and monks known to be owing allegiance to Moscow have been served with an eviction notice. Interestingly, around three-quarters of Ukrainians follow the Orthodox Church, but a recent poll has revealed only 4% of them formally identified with the UOC. Far more believers now follow the independent church, OCU.

The development could worry Putin as it comes in the wake of Finland having been inducted into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Putin used the alibi of Ukraine's move to become a NATO member for declaring war against Ukraine. But, as the war progressed without any sign of decisive victory for Russia, more countries close to Russia have started lobbying for NATO membership. Finland became the 31st member of NATO prompting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to say at the ceremony in Brussels that both Finland and the NATO alliance were "stronger and safer" with the inclusion of the new member. The decision was taken, in a clear snub to Putin, to strengthen the alliance's collective defence and enhance its ability to respond to security challenges in the Euro-Atlantic area. Russia's further invasion into Ukraine last year precipitated the very thing President Putin wanted to avoid - a stronger and more unified Transatlantic Alliance.

Similarly, Putin's strategy to use the Orthodox Church to influence Ukraine's majority population subscribing to that denomination of Christianity has seemingly backfired. Putin and Patriarch Kirill hoped that a pro-Moscow version of conservative Christianity could serve as the spiritual anchor of a forcibly reconstituted "Russian" world incorporating Kyiv.

The UOC has been acting as an instrument of Russian soft power and influence in Ukraine. It has formed an important link of a common religious heritage in the region going back to a thousand years. But, Putin's keenness to use it to advance his agenda on Ukraine has resulted in weakening its appeal. It now stands hugely diminished and discredited.

### WISDOM CORNER

- If you cry because the sun has gone out of your life, your tears will prevent you from seeing the stars. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**
- When everything is easy one quickly gets stupid. **MAXIM GORKY**
- A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed. **HENRIK IBSEN**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Auxetic

Common sense says that when you stretch a substance, say a piece of rubber, it becomes longer in the direction of the pull but thinner in the transverse directions. But there are a very few substances such that when you pull on them they actually increase in cross-section. These oddities are said to be auxetic. The word in this sense is believed to have been coined by Professor Ken Evans of Exeter University in an article in Nature in 1991. Such auxetic substances, which now include certain ceramics and polymers, have potential as molecular sieves and filters, as cushioning (for example, inside crash helmets), and possibly other uses still being investigated. The word itself is far from new. It has been used since medieval times as a term in rhetoric in which repetitive language is used to amplify or magnify a statement. In plant physiology, auxetic substances tend to increase cell growth without cell division; the related term auxin refers to a substance that does this, also called a plant hormone. All these terms stem from the Greek word meaning "increase; grow". The noun is auxesis.

#### Wisecre

A reader queried this odd-looking word, meaning a pretender to wisdom. A friend had suggested to him that the link with a measurement of land was that it alluded to a person having broad expanses of sagacity. Ho, ho. Although some experts do profess themselves baffled by the acre part of this word, we know where it comes from — the Middle Dutch wissegher, a soothsayer, a wise sayer. The first part is from the same source as our wit. It first appeared in English in a scurrilous ballad of 1595 that had the catchy title A Quest of Enquire, by women to know, Whether the Tripe-Wife were trimmed by Doll. A tripe-wife was a tripe dresser, in this case a well-to-do London widow who sold her wares from a stall; the trimming referred to the cheating of her by one Doll Phillips, who pretended to be a fortune teller who could tell her which of her suitors she was to marry. The story was based on real events, though embroidered. We know that the Dutch pronunciation had already changed, since in the ballad it's given as wise-aker. The shift from Dutch to English is a good example of a common form of folk etymology, in which an odd or foreign word is changed until it looks familiar, even if its parts make no real sense. The word seems never to have been used in English in the literal sense of a wise person that it had in Dutch, perhaps because of the traditional enmity between the two nations that led to a series of disparaging terms such as Dutch courage. It has always meant a person projecting an unjustified appearance of wisdom or specialist knowledge — a wisecreer pontificates on a subject despite being ignorant about it. In the US it can also mean someone regarded with irritation because he's a know-all or makes sarcastic comments, a smart alec or wise guy. At one time the home of the Royal Society in London, Gresham College, was called Wisecreer Hall by those sneering at its intellectuality.

### IN JEST THIS

# Simple rules to stay off the no-fly list



Melvin Durai

**DEPENDING ON THE SEVERITY OF THEIR OFFENCES, PASSENGERS ARE PLACED ON THE NO-FLY LIST FOR AS LITTLE AS THREE MONTHS OR AS LONG AS A LIFETIME**

The United States has a no-fly list, but is considering a second no-fly list that's similar to India's no-fly list.

The current list, administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is for anyone connected to terrorism or suspected of such ties. As reported by the Associated Press, Congress is considering a proposal to create a no-fly list for unruly passengers, particularly those who've been violent on a plane.

"Strong penalties are needed to curb violent and unacceptable behavior," said Cher Taylor, a Frontier Airlines flight attendant who witnessed one passenger assaulting another in 2021. "Bad behavior should not fly."

Yes, bad behavior should be grounded. Too many people just don't know how to behave on a plane. The media has informed us about the most flagrant cases, but did you know that 149 passengers have been placed on India's no-fly list in the last three years? These people are not allowed to board a plane. Is this fair? Perhaps so, but I think we should give them a chance to fly again, as long as they all take a flight together. Let them see what it's like to share a flight with jackasses. We could also put cameras everywhere and create a reality TV show called "Imbecile Airlines." Of course, many of the 149 pas-



**Too many people just don't know how to behave on a plane as nearly 150 passengers have been placed on India's no-fly list in the last three years**

sengers are no longer on the no-fly list. Depending on the severity of their offences, passengers are placed on the no-fly list for as little as three months or as long as a lifetime. Threatening to hijack a plane gets you a lifetime ban; threatening to hijack the liquor cart gets you three months.

Nobody wants to be on a no-fly list, but people often don't think about the consequences of their actions. That's why I'd like to offer some simple rules that will help you stay off the list:

1. Do not urinate on your fellow passengers. This may seem like an obvious thing, but there have been at least four instances in the

last six months of Indian men relieving themselves on fellow passengers. As far as I'm concerned, the perpetrators deserve to be banned from flying for at least 10 years. I consider myself a peaceful man, but if someone urinated on me or a family member during a flight, the newspaper headline would say: "Urination on Plane Results in Ruination of Face."

2. Keep it in your pants. This rule is connected to the previous offence, but also to another offence: exposing yourself to fellow passengers. Whether this happens accidentally or deliberately, it's something you want to avoid. Trust me, people don't want to see it, at least

not on a flight. On a related note, if a passenger says to you, "I've got something to show you," the correct response is, "Only if you want to be sued."

3. Do not do any pinching. No matter how attractive the flight attendants might be, do not try to pinch them. This also applies to your fellow passengers, as well as their belongings. Keep your hands and other body parts to yourself. Resist the temptation to flirt with anyone on the flight. Remember: they can't easily walk away. But they can easily slap you.

4. Do not make any threats. This includes bomb threats or threatening the life of any passengers. Occupying a cramped plane with hundreds of strangers can be stressful, but you need to be patient and considerate. Don't pull someone's hair over a reclined chair. Don't practice "tit for tat" or even "spit for spat."

5. Do not fly drunk. Drinking in excess before flying (or during a flight) is never a good idea. The more you drink, the less you think. Being under the influence of alcohol or even drugs can lead to many other problems. You might as well call the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and put yourself on the no-fly list. Why wait until you've done something stupid, like sleeping on the floor in the aisle?

### Mindless decision

Sir, It is really disturbing to note that the NITI Aayog, through its myopic vision, has decided to shut Vigyan Prasar, set up by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in 1989 to promote scientific temper in the country. For over three decades, the organisation has played a stellar role in taking initiatives to widen scientific literacy in India. Vigyan Prasar has acted as an interface between society, scientists, media and policymakers. The expertise, capability and skills that VP has nurtured and grown over the years will be lost if it is closed. The decision to shut down Vigyan Prasar is short-sighted, ill-considered and contrary to the national interest and objectives. Needless to say, scientific literacy is indispensable as we seek to go forward to becoming a modern, technologically and scientifically advanced nation. Erasing the Nehruvian legacy is equal to undermining India. Even if the BJP rewrites India's past, there are international records and histories that it cannot easily touch. Nevertheless, India's first Prime Minister's legacy isn't easy to wipe out by any means.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

### Kohli falling from grace

Sir, Virat Kohli is one of the most successful cricketers in the world. These days, he's definitely not at his best. Coming from a lean patch spanning over three years, his recent success seems to have got to his head. On Monday, during the IPL match against LSG, he celebrated the wicket of Krunal Pandya by putting his finger over his mouth, shushing the crowd which was a response to Gautam Gambhir's similar act after the victory of LSG in the previous match between the two teams. Kohli went on to compare Naveen Ul Haq with the dirt of his shoes which is unacceptable. His bad attitude and misbehaviour is often labelled as aggression. His announcement of giving up T20 captaincy just before the T20 world cup and complaining about BCCI president Sourav Ganguly having not requested him to continue as the captain of the ODI side created a lot of drama which eventually affected the performance of the team in the world cup. The funny part is he doesn't want to move on. He recently talked about that captaincy incident on RCB's YouTube channel. His desperation to share his side of the story & attempts justifying his decisions and misbehaviour on the field have brought BCCI and the game of cricket into disrepute.

Dr Nabin Kumar Parida, BHUBANESWAR

## 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**  
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# national

## of the day quote

The Indian Ocean is our shared space. The primary responsibility for peace, stability and prosperity in the region rests with those who live in the region

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

After Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's poisonous snake remark, son Priyank outdoing father in 'abuse politics' has insulted our PM as Malayak Beta

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

When I go with Congress and NCP, they (BJP) claim that I have forsaken Hindutva. If that is the case, then what about Mohan Bhagwat's visit to a mosque

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### NIA raids 14 locations in Bihar, Jharkhand

New Delhi: In a major crackdown on supporters and associates of the CPI(Maoist), the NIA Tuesday conducted searches at 14 locations across Bihar and Jharkhand in a case of conspiracy to revive and expand the terrorist organisation and propagate its ideology, an official said.

### 59% voter turnout in Shimla civic polls

Shimla: Intermittent rains failed to dampen the voters' spirit as about 59 per cent polling was recorded in the 34-ward Shimla Municipal Corporation elections on Tuesday, officials said. Workers of both the Congress and BJP started mobilizing their voters early in the morning to reach the booths but rain played a spoilsport and polling picked up as the day progressed and the weather improved, they said.

### Uproar in MCD House

New Delhi: Amid protests by BJP councillors over the alleged spending of Rs 45 crore on "beautification" of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence, the municipal House Tuesday passed several proposals, including one linked with transfer of services related to cleaning, sweeping and desilting along 60-foot roads from MCD to PWD.

### BJP leader found dead

Tamluk (WB): The death of a BJP booth-level leader in West Bengal's Purbia Medinipur district kept the political cauldron on the boil in the state as the saffron camp alleged that he was murdered by the Trinamool Congress, drawing a riposte from the ruling TMC which dubbed the allegations as "baseless".



The Prime Minister is insulting our faith in Lord Hanuman. He should apologise to the country as he has hurt our religious sentiments as well as of crores of devotees of Bajrang Bali. No one has given the prime minister the right to insult Bajrang Bali

PAWAN KHERA | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

## NEW UIDAI FEATURE

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Tuesday announced the addition of new facility on its website and mobile app to allow residents to verify their mobile numbers and email IDs seeded with their Aadhaar



# Dengue virus 'evolved dramatically' in India: Study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 2: Dengue virus has evolved to be more severe in India, said a team of scientists led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), stressing the need for developing a vaccine against the strains found in the country. In a multi-institutional study on dengue, published in the journal PLoS Pathogens, the scientists showed how the virus causing the disease has evolved dramatically over the last few decades in the Indian subcontinent. Cases of dengue - a mosquito-borne viral disease - have steadily increased in the last 50 years, pre-

dominantly in the South-East Asian countries. And yet, there are no approved vaccines against dengue in India, although some vaccines have been developed in other countries. "We were trying to understand how different the Indian variants are, and we found that they are very different from the original strains used to develop the vaccines," said Rahul Roy, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering (CE), IISc. The team examined all available (408) genetic sequences of Indian dengue strains from infected patients collected between the years 1956 and 2018 by others as well as



the team themselves. There are four broad categories - serotypes - of the dengue virus

(Dengue 1, 2, 3 and 4). Using computational analysis, the team examined how much each of these serotypes deviated from their ancestral sequence, from each other, and from other global sequences. "We found that the sequences are changing in a very complex fashion," Roy said. Until 2012, the dominant strains in India were Dengue 1 and 3. But in recent years, Dengue 2 has become more dominant across the country, while Dengue 4 - once considered the least infectious - is now making a niche for itself in South India, the researchers found. The team sought to investigate what factors decide which

strain is the dominant one at any given time. One possible factor could be Antibody Dependent Enhancement (ADE), said Suraj Jagtap, doctoral student at CE. Jagtap explained that sometimes, people might be infected first with one serotype and then develop a secondary infection with a different serotype, leading to more severe symptoms. Scientists believe that if the second serotype is similar to the first, the antibodies in the host's blood generated after the first infection bind to the new serotype and bind to immune cells called macrophages.

# Centre, Gujarat agree to produce papers on release of Bilkis' convicts

The top court recorded Mehta's statement that Centre and Gujarat government are not seeking review of the order regarding the direction of production of records



ON APRIL 18, THE CENTRE AND THE GUJARAT GOVERNMENT, BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, CLAIMED PRIVILEGE OVER FILES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT OF REMISSION TO 11 CONVICTS IN THE BILKIS BANO CASE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 2: The Centre and the Gujarat government Tuesday told the Supreme Court that they would not claim privilege over the documents in connection with the remission of sentence of convicts in Bilkis Bano gang-rape and murder of her family members case during the Gujarat riots, and agreed to share the documents with the apex court for its perusal. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre and Gujarat government, submitted before a bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph and comprising justice B.V. Nagarathna that they do not claim privilege over files in connection with grant of remission to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case. Mehta submitted that the Centre and the state government will also not seek review of the apex court's earlier order directing them to bring on record documents in connection with the remission of the convicts. Raising objection to the petitions filed in the matter other than by Bano, Mehta said it will have wide ramifications and third parties will come to the courts in criminal cases. The Centre's counsel had said the government is likely to seek review of the court's March 27 order, asking them to be ready with the original files on remission granted to the convicts. During the hearing Tuesday, Justice Joseph said the court is only fixing timelines, so that the new bench which hears the matter should not have to waste time on these procedural issues.

Advocate Shobha Gupta, representing Bano, submitted that only the question of law needs to be decided and the matter will not take a long time and counsel for other petitioners also requested the court to take up the matter before vacation. Advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for a convict, said what was the "tearing hurry" in hearing the case, as the respondents have been released and are out for around one year. Mehta contended that the bench may list the matter for hearing before court's summer vacation. Justice Joseph told Gupta: "It is apparent from the way counsel appearing for convicts that they do not want this hearing to take place. It is more than obvious". Justice Joseph said every time when the matter is listed for hearing, someone would come saying that he needed time to file a reply. After hearing submissions, the top court said a new bench would take up the matter for a hearing in the second week of July. In the previous hearing, the top court had noted that a pregnant woman, Bilkis Bano, was gang-raped and several people were killed and the case cannot be compared with a standard Section 302 (murder) cases, and while stressing on the gravity of the offence and on the remission granted to 11 convicts, said: "Unequals cannot be treated equally". The 11 men convicted in the case were released August 15 last year, after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy. The convicts had completed 15 years in jail.

# EC ask parties to exercise restraint

The EC advisory came amid the use of barbs such as 'poisonous snake', 'vishkanya' and 'nalayak' by leaders of Congress and BJP against each other in the run-up to the Karnataka assembly elections May 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: Taking serious note of the "plummeting level of campaign discourse" during electioneering in Karnataka, the Election Commission Tuesday asked political parties and their star campaigners to exercise caution and restraint in their utterances and not to vitiate the election atmosphere. The poll panel also referred to the instances of "inappropriate vocabulary and language" used during the ongoing campaign by persons, "in particular by those invested with the statutory status of star campaigner". "Such instances have occasioned various complaints, cross complaints and have also attracted negative media attention," the EC said in a statement.

Campaigning for the May 10 polls is hotting up with the Congress and the BJP being engaged in a war of words. Both Congress and BJP have moved the poll panel seeking action against each other. The Commission pointed out that recognised national parties and star campaigners enjoy "extra enablings" within the



Representation of the People Act. "It is imperative for all parties and stakeholders to remain within the confines of the Model Code of Conduct and the legal framework in their utterances while campaigning so as to maintain the dignity of the political discourse and not to vitiate the campaign and the election atmosphere," the advisory read. It said the parties are expected to contribute in maintaining and raising the level of discourse to "issue-based debate, provide pan-India perspective, depth to the local discourse and to reassure all sections of electors to participate fully and fearlessly in a free and fair election." The commission noted that as per the provisions of the

model code, the use of provocative and inflammatory statements, the use of intemperate and abusive language transgressing the limits of decency and attacks on the personal character and conduct of political rivals vitiate level-playing field.

## Cong seeks EC ban on campaigning by Shah, Nadda, Yogi

The Congress Tuesday accused Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief J.P. Nadda and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of making "hate speeches" in poll-bound Karnataka and urged the Election Commission to put a ban on campaigning by them in the wake of Supreme Court orders on such speeches. A delegation of Congress leaders comprising Ajay Maken, Vivek Tankha, Salman Khurshid and Pawan Kherra met the Election Commission and gave them a memorandum demanding immediate action against such "hate speeches".

## Rafale jets of India, France carry out mega air exercise

New Delhi: Rafale jets of India and France have been jointly carrying out aerial drills as part of a multinational air exercise at the French airbase of Mont-de-Marsan, officials said Tuesday. Shivangi Singh, the Indian Air Force's first woman Rafale pilot is part of the Indian team that is participating in the Exercise Orion, they said. In January, Squadron Leader Avani Chaturvedi scripted history by becoming the first IAF woman fighter pilot to take part in an aerial warfare abroad. Chaturvedi, a Su-30MKI pilot, was part of the IAF's contingent that participated in the 16-day mega air combat exercise with Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) at the Japanese airbase of Hyakuri from January 12 to 26. India deployed four Rafale jets, two C-17 aircraft and two IL-78 mid-air refuellers for the three-week multinational exercise in France that began April 17.

# Centre calls for curb on outdoor ads of betting, gambling platforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: The Centre on Tuesday asked state governments to crack down on outdoor advertisements of gambling and betting platforms which have started appearing on hoardings and auto-rickshaws across the country. In a letter to chief secretaries of states and Union territories, Information and Broadcasting secretary Apurva Chandra asked them to take "appropriate action" to curb outdoor advertisements of gambling and betting platforms. "Advertisements of online betting are misleading, and do not appear to be in strict conformity with the Consumer Protection Act 2019, Advertising Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995, and advertisement norms under the Norms of Journalistic



Conduct laid down by the Press Council of India under the Press Council Act, 1978. "Since betting and gambling are illegal in most parts of the country, they pose financial and social economic risk for consumers, especially the youth and children," Chandra said. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had issued advisories to private television channels, digital news publishers and

OTT platforms to refrain from publishing and broadcasting advertisements of such platforms. Advertisements of gambling and betting platforms had appeared in a section of the media - print, digital and television - which prompted the government to issue advisories. "While such advertisements have been largely curbed in mainstream print, electronic and digital media it has now come to the notice that some betting and gambling platforms have started using outdoor media such as hoardings, posters, banners, auto-rickshaw branding to promote their websites/apps in India," the advisory stated. "Accordingly, it is requested that appropriate action may be taken to curb outdoor advertisements of betting and gambling platforms," it said.

# SC removes 6-month waiting period for divorce

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: The Supreme Court held Monday it has the discretion of exercising the plenary power it commands under Article 142 of the Constitution to dissolve a marriage on the ground of "irretrievable breakdown", and the authority to dispense with the 6-month waiting period mandated under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 while granting divorce with mutual consent. The apex court made it clear that contesting parties cannot directly approach it and seek dissolution of marriage on the ground of irretrievable breakdown by filing a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. Article 32 gives Indian citizens the right to seek constitutional remedy from the Supreme Court if they have been deprived of their funda-

mental rights. Article 142 of the Constitution deals with enforcement of decrees and orders of the apex court to do "complete justice" in any matter pending before it. As per Article 142(1), a decree passed or an order made by the apex court is executable throughout the territory of India. Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act deals with divorce by mutual consent and sub-section (2) to this provision provides, after the first motion has been passed, the parties would have to move the court with the second motion, if the petition is not withdrawn in the meanwhile, after six months and not later than 18 months of the first motion. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S K Kaul said Article 142(1) of the Constitution, which gives "wide and capacious power" to the apex court to do complete justice should be exercised in



a legitimate manner and with caution, as its verdict ends the litigation between parties. It said grant of divorce by the apex court on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage is not a matter of right, but a discretion which is to be exercised with great care and caution, keeping in mind several factors ensuring that

'complete justice' is done to both parties. The bench was dealing with questions, including whether the top court can grant divorce in exercise of power under Article 142(1) of the Constitution when there is complete and ir- retrievable breakdown of marriage in spite of the other spouse opposing the prayer. "This question is also answered in the affirmative, inter alia, holding that this court, in exercise of power under Article 142(1) of the Constitution of India, has the discretion to dissolve the marriage on the ground of its irretrievable break-

down," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, A S Oka, Vikram Nath and J K Maheshwari. "This discretionary power is to be exercised to do 'complete justice' to the parties, wherein this court is satisfied that the facts established show that the marriage has completely failed and there is no possibility that the parties will co-habit together, and continuation of the formal legal relationship is unjustified," it said. Commenting on the verdict, senior advocate and Supreme Court Bar Association President Vikas Singh said he is against the judgement and the reason is that perhaps twice the Bills were moved in Parliament to amend the Hindu Marriage Act to include the aspect of 'irretrievable background' of marriage as a ground of divorce and Parliament rejected it twice.

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## SP, BJP face dissent in municipal polls in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 2:** The Samajwadi Party (SP) and the BJP are facing dissent in party cadres over ticket distribution in the ongoing municipal elections.

The BJP has already expelled 300 rebel candidates who refused to withdraw their candidate despite persuasion by party leaders. Party leaders have been expelled in Mirzapur, Lakhimpur, Gona, Unnao, Fatehpur and Varanasi.

In the SP, six-time MLA from Amritpur in Farrukhabad, Narendra Singh Yadav, joined the BJP on Monday along with his daughter Mona Yadav, who is the zila panchayat chairperson, and son Sachin Yadav.

SP MP from Sambhal, Shafiqur Rahman Barq, has been publicly voicing his growing disenchantment with the party leadership with the choice of candidate for the post of Sambhal municipal council chairperson. Rukhsana Mehmood, wife of local MLA Iqbal Mehmood Barq, has also announced that she would support independent candidate Farhan Saifi instead.

Recently, the veteran politician had made headlines for showering praises on Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supreme Mayawati. Describing Mayawati as a political personality, Barq went on to say the country needs a leader like her. He said as a Muslim, he supports her.

Four-term MLA and five times MP Barq had defected from the SP ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, joined the BSP and went on to win



The BJP has already expelled 300 rebel candidates who refused to withdraw their candidate despite persuasion by party leaders

SP MP from Sambhal, Shafiqur Rahman Barq, has been publicly voicing his growing disenchantment with the party leadership with the choice of candidate for the post of Sambhal municipal council chairperson

the elections. However, in the run-up to the 2019 polls, he returned to the SP fold and is presently the party's sitting MP from Sambhal.

Similarly, in Ballia, party MLA Mohammed Ziauddin Rizvi has announced his support for independent candidate Bhisma Yadav after the party declared Dinesh Chaudhary as official SP candidate for the post of chairman of Sikandarpur Nagar panchayat.

In another part of Ballia, the party leadership had to expel four leaders for not accepting the party's choice of candidate for municipal council chairperson. Taking serious note of party leader Sanjay Upadhyay filing his candidature for the post despite the party nom-

inating Laxman Gupta, the SP leadership sacked him for a period of six years. Three of his supporters were also sacked from the party for a year.

The party is finding itself in a tight spot after it named Parasnath as the candidate for the Rae Bareilly municipality. Soon after this, the second contender, SP leader Mohammed Ilyas, sided with the Congress along with his supporters.

In Shahjahanpur, the SP faced major embarrassment when Archana Verma, daughter-in-law of four-time MLA and two-time MP late Ram Murti Singh Verma, despite being declared official party candidate for the post of Shahjahanpur municipal corporation may, defected to the BJP and filed her nomination papers for the mayor's post as the saffron party candidate.

A senior SP leader said, "Parties that have a strong presence in the political arena, often face such situations because there are multiple candidates for a seat in elections. You will never see any such problem in parties that have no ground left in UP."

## DMK to conduct rallies across TN

**DMK ORGANISING SENIOR LEADER AND MINISTER, S. DURAIMURUGAN WILL BE IN-CHARGE OF THE CAMPAIGN ACROSS THE STATE**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, May 2:** The ruling DMK will conduct rallies across Tamil Nadu from May 7 as part of the state government's second anniversary celebrations.

The party leadership has decided to conduct the rallies to highlight the achievements of the government as well as to counter recent controversies over the Factories Amendment Act, the corruption charges raised by BJP state president K. Annamalai, the announcement of liquor licence at convention halls where parties are to be conducted and incom-



plete of some ministers. The rallies would be held in all the 72 party districts for three days from May 7 onwards, the second anniversary of the state government.

It may be noted that even the allies of the DMK government came out against the government on the Factories Act amendment leading

to 12 working hours in select industries. Chief Minister Stalin on May 1 (International Labour Day) cancelled the amendment and retained the old system of eight working hours.

However, the DMK has realised that the amendment in the Bill has led to severe backlash from the public, including its allies. The

prominent Dalit political party, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), CPI(M) and the CPI had come out against the amendment. The Congress, which is also an ally of the DMK in Tamil Nadu had walked out of the legislative Assembly when the Bill was moved.

The order announcing liquor to be served in convention halls during functions taking temporary licenses has also led to a major opposition to the move. Several political parties and social organisations have come out against the government decision leading to its hastily retreating.

DMK organising secretary and senior leader and minister, S. Duraimurugan will be in-charge of the campaign across the state. Party leaders said that the speakers and district-level coordinators will be announced in a couple of days' time. The DMK is gearing up for this massive exercise to boost the morale of the party rank and file and to enthuse its hardcore cadres during the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

## International airports on high alert



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, May 2:** The authorities at the international airports in Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchu and Coimbatore are on alert after the seizure of exotic animals including 22 snakes and a chameleon from a woman passenger who arrived from Kuala Lumpur.

Customs and DRI officials have deployed special squads at all four airports and extra vigil is in place after the seizure of the exotic animals at the Chennai airport. Green Cornsnakes, Mexican black

kingsnakes, green anacondas and chameleons were also seized from the woman's checked-in bag and separate suitcases. Customs officials intercepted the woman after specific inputs on her arrival that she was carrying the exotic animals with her.

After a long time, pet traders sent contraband from Malaysia rather than from Thailand which was earlier the hot spot for smuggling of exotic animals.

Sources in the airport said that the snakes are being smuggled as they don't need food and even ventilation for survival and there are

tips that more such smuggling of exotic species would take place through Tamil Nadu airports.

Customs officials said that airports in Tamil Nadu are targeted by smugglers as passengers from far eastern countries like Malaysia and Thailand to India are mostly from Tamil Nadu. The smugglers, according to the customs officials have tried a different airport to mislead the officials at Chennai.

According to officials, five seizures of exotic species have been made since January 1, 2023, from Chennai airport.

## TN to set up ATS



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, May 2:** The Tamil Nadu Home Department is in the process of constituting an Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in the state and an amount of Rs 57.51 crore has been earmarked for it.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had announced that an ATS would be constituted in Tamil Nadu immediately after the October 2022 car blast in which a person was charred to death. The killed man, Jameesha Mubin, 28, was a lone wolf and had planned a major terror attack on Deepavali eve in Coimbatore but his lack of knowledge in handling explosives led to the blast taking place before the designated time, causing minimal damage.

The Tamil Nadu Home Department is sourcing personnel for the force from the state police force and efficient officers who are interested to work in ATS have been short-listed.

into account the inputs of the state and central intelligence departments.

Sources in the police said that Madurai, Coimbatore, and Chennai will be given importance in setting up the ATS units. The ATS will be constituted on the lines of Thunderbolt force in Kerala, OCTOPUS (Organisation for Counter Terrorism Operations) in Andhra Pradesh, and other similar ATS organisations. The Tamil Nadu Home Department will also take a cue from the National Security Guard (NSG) before constituting the ATS.

## UPPSC to give second chance to failed candidates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj (UP), May 2:** The Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) is working to secure the future of candidates who qualify for the interview stage of Combined State/Upper Subordinate Services Examination, commonly known as UPPSC, but fail to clear it.

The commission has decided to secure jobs for such candidates in the private sector, said a senior official of the commission. It will now prepare certified data of all such candidates after taking their consent. It will upload their names, phone numbers and other details on its website so that private firms and agencies can invite such meritorious candidates for jobs, he added.

Every year, lakhs of candidates apply for the coveted PCS exams. It is after clearing preliminary and mains exams, that they are selected for the interview round, but very few of them finally get selected against posts on offer. However, clearing the mains and qualifying for interview is also considered exceptional achievement in terms of potential of the candidates.

According to official sources, the data would mention the name and phone number of the candidate along with their academic details and the same would be available on the commission's website, so that private firms and agencies can invite such



meritorious people for jobs.

UPPSC officials said that work has been started to implement this system and candidates are being contacted. Since private agencies are in need of hiring capable candidates, the step would prove a milestone in bridging the gap between demand and supply.

The commission will even contact the agencies to fulfil the task. Along with this, cooperation will also be taken from the state government to prepare private agencies to hire the potential candidates as per the requirement of the respective industry or agency, said a senior UPPSC official.

He further said, "The commission believes that the candidates who are completing the journey till the in-

terview, are quite capable. Since only a few meritorious come out successful in this tough three-layered selection process, this initiative will serve two purposes- one this will prevent students going into depression by giving them job and will also serve the requirement of the industry."

The commission is preparing to include a column related to obtaining consent from the candidates in the application for the main examination in the upcoming PCS recruitment itself.

If a candidate, going to appear in the Main Examination wants his/her name and roll number to be included in the authenticated data, he/she will have to fill the consent column in the application.

## LU to offer course in artificial intelligence

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 2:** The Lucknow University (LU) will be offering part time Master's degree in technology (M.Tech) in artificial intelligence and cyber security courses from the new academic session 2023-24 for working professionals who do not have the time to pursue a full-time course.

"There is a great demand for artificial intelligence and cyber security at the postgraduate level, hence we have decided to offer M.Tech in the two subjects. Its classes will be conducted between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Apart from running classes three days a week, classes will also be conducted on Sundays," said Prof. A.K. Singh, engineering faculty dean. LU has also implemented New

Education Policy in its BCA courses offered by the engineering faculty. After NEP implementation, the students will have the option of multiple entry and exit. If a student wants to leave the course after completing the first year of the BCA course, then he or she will be awarded a certificate. On leaving the course after completion of the second year he/she will get a diploma and on successful completion of three years of the course, a student will be awarded a BCA degree.

Students with CGPA (calculation of grade point average) 7.5 in the third year will be admitted to the fourth year for BCA (with research) degree and on its successful completion, a BCA with a research degree will be awarded.



## BULLDOZERS TO ROAR AGAIN IN UP

ACCORDING TO A STATE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO IDENTIFY ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS AND ENCROACHMENTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 2:** Bulldozers will roll and rumble once again in Uttar Pradesh but this time the "action" will be against encroachments on government lands, parks and ponds in areas under the jurisdiction of urban local bodies.

According to a state government spokesman, necessary instructions have been given to the authorities concerned to identify illegal constructions and encroachments.

Information regarding the encroachments must be updated on the 'Anti Land Mafia' (IGRS) web portal with the help of the revenue department, the instructions



said. A government order issued to this effect made it clear that it will be the responsibility of every civic

body to provide the information to the director, Directorate of Local Bodies.

"All encroachments on government lands will be removed," a senior government official said when asked if bulldozers would be used. So far, bulldozers were largely used in the state to raze properties of criminals.

The campaign against land mafia has been underway since 2017, when the BJP government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was formed for the first time.

The Revenue Department, which has been undertaking the anti-land mafia campaign since 2017, has constituted a four-level task force to review the drive at the state, divisional, district and tehsil levels. Chief Secretary Durga Shankar

Mishra is chairman of the state level 'Anti Land Mafia Task Force', while principal secretaries of urban development and other departments are its 'state-level' members.

In a recent review meeting of the task force, it was found that information on the portal about illegal encroachments on public lands in cities and towns was negligible. This was the reason, perhaps, why fresh instructions were issued in this regard.

Some BJP leaders feel that the government's decision to remove all illegal encroachments, in spite of the upcoming civic polls, only showcases its resolve to act against all those who violate the law.

## Good news for asthma patients



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 2:** There is good news for asthma patients who will now get better treatment at King George's Medical University (KGMU) as its pulmonary and critical care department will soon get fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FENO) testing machine used for early and easy diagnosis of the disease.

At present, spirometry, an effort-based procedure, is used to diagnose asthma and other respiratory disorders. Dr Ved Prakash,

head of pulmonary and critical care department, KGMU, said, "Asthma deaths are preventable with early diagnosis and proper treatment. India shares 20 per cent of average 2.5 lakh asthma-related deaths reported globally in a year."

He further said, "Due to lack of equipment and awareness, almost 70 per cent of patients remain untreated. FENO testing machine will not only help in diagnosis but will also give accurate results in one attempt as it is a handheld device used to measure nitric oxide in patients."

"In spirometry, patients have to consider many points to get accurate results, like wearing loose clothes, avoid eating and drinking for at least two hours before the test, and stop medicines and use of inhaler before the test," he added.

# national

## of the day quote

People do not have to stand in queues to get benefits of any scheme, the delivery of benefits to the beneficiaries have been made available online

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

All educational institutions in India should make their campuses carbon neutral by 2030 to help the country achieve the target of net-zero emissions by 2070

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR | SENIOR BJP LEADER

A nationwide NRC is just the need of the hour. Our country has completed 75 years of independence, and we are moving towards Amrit Kaal. However, until today, we do not know who the actual citizens of this country are. This has created a confusion whether government schemes are reaching the right people or not

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

### SHORT TAKES

#### BJP leader held in ashram arson case

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A BJP ward councillor has been arrested by the Crime Branch wing of Kerala police in connection with the attack on an ashram owned by spiritual leader Sandeepananda Giri five years ago. The Salagramam ashram of Giri, located at nearby Kundamankadavu, was attacked and two cars and a scooter parked in front of the building were burnt in the small hours of October 27, 2018 by some unidentified miscreants.

#### Car crashes into e-rickshaw, 4 killed

**Pratapgarh (UP):** Four people, including two women, were killed and three injured when a car hit their e-rickshaw in the Raniganj area of this Uttar Pradesh district, police here said Tuesday. The accident occurred late Monday. The victims were returning from a wedding in the e-rickshaw when the car crashed into it on the Lucknow-Varanasi National Highway near Rajapur Manapatti village, injuring seven persons, the police said.

#### BRO rescues 40 tourists

**Gangtok:** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) rescued 40 tourists who were stranded near Nathula in Sikkim due to heavy rainfall in the region, a BRO release said. The rescued tourists were taken to BRO detachments Monday where they were served hot meals, it added. The 40 tourists were brought back to the state capital Gangtok after the weather conditions improved and the Jawahar Lal Nehru road was cleared by the BRO, it added.

#### Four minors charred

**Muzaffarpur:** Four minor girls of a family were charred to death when a fire broke out in a slum near Ramdayalu railway station in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, an official said Tuesday. Seven other persons sustained burn injuries in the fire that broke out Monday night, he said. The four girls who died in the fire are aged between three and 12 years and have been identified to be daughters of a person named Naresh Ram, the official said. The exact cause of the fire could not be ascertained so far.

#### Building collapses

**Chennai:** A portion of an old building collapsed at the Perambur Barracks Road, Purasawalkam which is a busy and congested area in Chennai. However, no casualties were reported in the collapse.



**I urge all opposition parties to unite. When all opposition parties come together, BJP will lose the battle & India will win the war against divisive forces**

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

### PANIC IN JAMMU

Panic gripped the Narwal area in J&K's Jammu city after people heard a loud sound fearing it to be a blast. Police said there was no blast, but a short circuit near the petrol pump in the Narwal area which resulted in momentary panic among the bystanders



BRAVING THE ODDS: A tourist boat caught high waves at Eedakkal in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

PTI PHOTO

## Centre may form panel to probe 'execution by hanging'

The top court March 21 had said it may consider setting up of a committee of experts to examine whether execution of death row convicts by hanging was proportionate and less painful and had sought "better data" from the Centre on issues pertaining to the mode of execution

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 2:** The Centre Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that the government is considering appointing an expert committee to examine whether a less painful method of execution than hanging by the neck, for prisoners on death row, can be found. Attorney General (AG) R. Venkataramani, representing the Centre, submitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala that deliberations are going on and if



the court would take up the matter after a week, then he can return with a response.

"I have suggested (forming a committee) and we are working towards that and gathering some names," he said. The Chief Justice, recording Venkataramani's statement, said that "the AG states that the government is considering the appointment of committee", and scheduled the matter for further hearing in July.

On March 21, the Supreme Court said it was open to set up a panel of experts, while asking the Centre to initiate a discussion and collect relevant information to examine if there is a less painful method alternative to hanging by neck to execute the death penalty.

A bench headed by the Chief Justice had said one of the as-

pects could be to look at the matter from the point of view of science and technology. He further added that is there a method which is consistent with human dignity and socially acceptable, based on today's knowledge of technology and science? "Do we have any data either in India or overseas relating to the circumstances as they transpired in the execution of sentence of death with alternate methods?" the bench queried.

The apex court was hearing a writ petition by advocate Rishi Malhotra seeking a direction for quashing of the provision contained under Section 354(5) of the Criminal Procedure Code as ultra vires the Constitution and especially Article 21 being discriminatory and also in contravention of the constitution bench judgment in Gian Kaur's case.

The plea, citing Kaur's judgment, said: "the Right to Life including the Right to Live with human dignity would mean the existence of such a right up to the end of natural life.

This also includes the right to a dignified life up to the point of death including a dignified procedure of death.

## No relief for Rahul in 'Modi surname' case

AGENCIES

**Ahmedabad, May 2:** The Gujarat High Court Tuesday refused to grant interim relief to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his plea for stay of conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark, saying it will pass its final order post-summer vacation.

Counsel for Gandhi (52), Abhishek Manu Singhvi, cited "extreme urgency" to request from the court for an interim or a final order after arguments from both sides in the matter concluded during the day.

The court of Justice Hemant Prachchhak, however, said no interim protection can be granted at this stage.

Justice Prachchhak said he will pass a final order only after going through the records and proceedings, and posted the matter for verdict after reopening of the HC post-summer vacation, which will be from May 8 to June 3. Advocate Nirupam Nanavati, who appeared for Gujarat Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Purnesh Modi, the original complainant in the case, also opposed Singhvi's prayer for interim relief to the disqualified Lok Sabha MP. The Surat trial court had March 23 sentenced the former

## Muslim body moves SC seeking stay on release of 'The Kerala Story'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 2:** A Muslim body Tuesday moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to not allow the screening and release of the movie "The Kerala Story" at theatres and on OTT platforms.

The Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind said the film, which is slated to be released May 5, is likely to cause "hatred" and "enmity between different sections of society" in the country.

Earlier in the day, a bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna refused to entertain a plea filed in the hate speeches case that sought a stay on the release of the movie, saying the petitioner can approach the high court or appropriate forum as the film has been certified.

The Jamiat in its writ petition filed through advocate Ejaz Maqbool said, "The movie demeans the entire Muslim community and it will result in endangering the life and livelihood of the petitioners and the entire Muslim community in our



country and this is a direct infringement under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India."

It said the movie demeans the entire Muslim community, particularly the Muslim youth, and it will result in endangering the life and livelihood of the entire community in the country. This also is a direct infringement under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India, the Jamiat said in its petition.

The plea said the crux of the movie's trailer is that Hindu and Christian girls in Kerala are being converted to Islam by extremist clerics and trafficked to Afghanistan to ISIS while outwardly friendly Muslim youths classmate abet the same by luring them.

## Two Pak intruders shot dead by BSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Barmer, May 2:** Two Pakistani intruders, suspected to be engaged in narcotics trafficking, were killed by the Border Security Force along the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan, officials said Tuesday.

The incident took place around 9 PM Monday along the Barmer front, ten km north of Munabao, a BSF spokesperson said.

About three kg of suspected drugs (heroin) was seized following the killing of the intruders, they added.

The spokesperson said a BSF patrol party from the 13th battalion was on "domination" duty when they observed some suspicious movement near the border fence around 9 PM.

"The operational party immediately took their positions and challenged the intruders but they did not pay any heed and moved close to border security fence to negotiate it."

"In order to prevent them from crossing fence and in self-defense, BSF party fired upon the intruders," the spokesperson said.

Two bodies of Pakistani intruders and three packets of suspected heroin was seized from their possession, he said.

Rajasthan shares a nearly 1,037-km-long boundary with Pakistan on India's western flank.



### SUDAN CRISIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## 231 Indians reach Ahmedabad



from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on a special flight, said the official.

Talking to reporters at the airport, Sanghavi said these 231 Indians

**Ahmedabad, May 2:** As many as 231 Indians, including 208 Gujarat residents, who were evacuated from strife-torn African nation Sudan under the Centre's 'Operation Kaveri', landed at Ahmedabad airport Tuesday, said a state government official.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, who handles Non-Resident Gujarati (NRG) division of the state government, welcomed these Indians at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport upon their arrival here

included 208 Gujarat residents, 13 from Punjab and 10 from Rajasthan. He said the state government has made transport arrangements to send the citizens to their respective destinations from the airport.

Nearly 360 Gujarat residents, who have settled in Sudan, have so far returned under 'Operation Kaveri', said Sanghavi.

"Rajkot residents will be taken to their destination in five Volvo buses from the airport. Medical teams were also deployed at the airport for 10 sick elderly citizens arriving today from Sudan. To speed up the immigration process,

authorities had opened 15 counters at the airport," said Sanghavi.

After landing here, Gujarat residents thanked the state as well as the central government for bringing them back. Under 'Operation Kaveri', India has been taking its citizens on buses from the conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah on Indian Air Force's heavy-lift transport aircraft and Indian Navy's ships. From Jeddah, the Indians are being brought back home on either commercial flights or IAF's aircraft.

## A FAKER CAN TURN POLITICAL SHAKER

Fakes, phonies and frauds are like delayed action fuses flaunting access to rake-in a mountain of moolah. They swish - simmer for long and go-off when least expected spilling political gut and governance-gore all across the ground.

Gujarat, is experiencing its second slow blow burn, within two months in Sanjay Prakash Rai 'Sherpuria' after his predecessor Kiran Patel made a mockery of the country's much vaunted security apparatus managing Z-plus security in the eagle-eyed environment of Jammu and Kashmir.

If Patel faces at least five cases of cheating and fraud including impersonating as an officer of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and defrauding the brother of a

former Gujarat BJP minister of his posh Ahmedabad bungalow, Sanjay Sherpuria seems to have taken con to quite a different level altogether. Patel was arrested in the first week of March from Srinagar and Sherpuria from Lucknow April 26.

A businessman who created numerous fake companies and defaulted on loans, Sherpuria was arrested by the Special Task force (STF) following allegations that he and his team were conniving individuals and corporates of hefty sums by claiming links to the PMO. Hailing from Gazipur in Uttar Pradesh, he has extensive business and political links in Gujarat though he mainly resides in Delhi.

Like Kiran Patel, Sanjay was also projecting his proximity with

RSS and BJP big-wigs including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, BJP national president JP Nadda and a host of others to create a network



of contacts that siphoned of large sums of money from gullible but cash rich individuals. There are photographs on twitter wherein Sanjay is seen in the company of Union Minister Purshottam Rupala engrossed in listening to

the Prime Minister's "Mann Ki Baat" programme. Sherpuria's presence was also noticed at the Prime Minister's programme at ISRO in Ahmedabad, wherein he is reported to have expressed his willingness to manufacture 75 nano satellites, say published reports which also point to the presence of ruling party leaders at his residence to offer condolences when his father passed away. Another report has it that he had lent Rs 25 lakh as 'unsecured loan' to Manoj Sinha, before the 2019 elections which he had contested from Gazipur: He has half a dozen books to his credit including one on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In summation, he thus successfully managed to create a façade of a doo-gooder-phi-

lanthropist who actually seemed to be a self-proclaimed fixer but was in actual fact a conman. The FIR mentions his involvement in money laundering, bank loan defaults by his companies.

The philanthropic face of this alleged con-kin was reflected through the establishment of Sanjay For Youth, an organisation that ran campaigns for unemployed youth, green environment and even for freedom fighters. He is reported to have used this organizational structure for money laundering and even for siphoning money from corporates. A network of shell companies aided the cash conversion.

Gullible individuals or even troubled corporates capitulating to such characters is under-

standable. What is not, however is that Sanjay was felicitated with an award presented to him at the hands of industrialist Ratan Tata at the 2012 Vibrant Gujarat Summit, which is an official event of the Government of Gujarat, according to published reports.

Interestingly, Sanjay had established a firm, Kandla Energy and Chemicals Ltd (KECL) March 7, 2005. The State Bank of India (SBI) had granted financial assistance of Rs 171.85 crores to it in January 2013. It was classified as a NPA for non-payment of debt in July 2014. The matter figured before the National Company Law tribunal (NCLT) wherein the SBI had put the firm's dues owed to it at Rs 349.12 crores as December 31, 2022.

# international



The world needs to sharply cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius  
ANNALENA BAERBOCK | GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER

## NEW SYSTEM

Australians in disaster zones will receive instant phone warnings from a new National Messaging System (NMS). Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management, and Communications Minister Michelle Rowland announced the rollout of the NMS Tuesday



## of the day quote

Taiwan, with a population of 23 million compared to China's 1.4 billion, has to defend itself and is not asking other countries to fight for it



JOSEPH WU | MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The opposition Republican party is not interested in resolving the issue of immigration and has not actually come to the table to have a conversation on how to protect Dreamers and farmworkers



KARINE JEAN-PIERRE | WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

Local Communist Party and government departments, the People's Liberation Army, police and civilian bodies should join in strengthening the border defence system



QIN GANG | FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

## Sudanese flood port city, borders with Egypt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, May 2: Sudanese fleeing the fighting between rival generals in their capital flooded an already overwhelmed city on the Red Sea and Sudan's northern borders with Egypt, as explosions and gunfire echoed Tuesday in Khartoum.

Many exhausted Sudanese and foreigners arrived in Port Sudan, the country's main seaport, joining thousands who have waited for days to be evacuated out of the chaos-stricken nation. Others have been driven in packed buses and trucks, seeking shelter in Egypt, Sudan's northern neighbour.

"Much of the capital has become empty," said Abdalla al-Fatih, a Khartoum resident, "all (residents of) our street fled the war." The fighting, now in its third week, has turned Khartoum and its neighbouring city of Omdurman into a battlefield. Fierce clashes taking place inside residential neighbourhoods that have become "ghost areas", residents say.

The conflict, which capped months of worsening tensions, pits the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, against a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

Al-Fatih's family managed to get out of Khartoum over the weekend after they spent the past two weeks trapped in their home in Khartoum's neighbourhood of Kafouri, a major flashpoint since the fighting broke out on April 15.

They arrived in Port Sudan late on Monday, after an exhausting 20-hour trip, he said.

There, they found thousands, including many women and children, camping outside the port area. Many had been there for more than a week, with no food and other services, he said.

At the congested crossing points

AT THE CONGESTED CROSSING POINTS WITH EGYPT, THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES HAVE WAITED FOR DAYS INSIDE BUSES OR SOUGHT TEMPORARY SHELTER IN THE BORDER CITY OF WADI HALFA TO FINALISE THEIR PAPERWORK TO BE ALLOWED INTO EGYPT

MANY EXHAUSTED SUDANESE AND FOREIGNERS ARRIVED IN PORT SUDAN, THE COUNTRY'S MAIN SEAPORT, JOINING THOUSANDS WHO HAVE WAITED FOR DAYS TO BE EVACUATED OUT OF THE CHAOS-STRICKEN NATION

with Egypt, thousands of families have waited for days inside buses or sought temporary shelter in the border city of Wadi Halfa to finalise their paperwork to be allowed into Egypt. Yusuf Abdel-Rahman is a Sudanese university student who crossed into Egypt along his family, through the Ashkit crossing point late on Monday. They spent their night at a community hostel in Egypt's southern city of Aswan, and plan to board a train to Cairo later on Tuesday, he said.

Abdel-Rahman's family went first to the Arqin crossing point over the weekend. It was overcrowded and they couldn't reach the customs area. They then decided to move to the Ashkit crossing after they heard from people there that the crossing would be easier, he said. "It's a chaotic situation (in Arqin)," he said over the phone. "Women, children and patients are stranded in the desert with no food, no water."

Abdel-Rahman reported widespread destruction and looting particularly in upscale neighbourhood in the capital. He said a neighbour told them by phone said armed men in RSF uniform stormed their home in Khartoum's Amarat neighbourhood on Friday, a day after they fled the capital.



## IAF chief meets Lanka's top leaders

Colombo: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari Tuesday met Sri Lanka's top military leaders and exchanged views on several matters of bilateral importance, while recalling the longstanding friendship between the two countries, amid China's growing influence in the island nation.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari, who arrived here on Monday on a four-day official visit to Sri Lanka, called on the Commander of the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF), Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana at Air Force Headquarters here. As part of India's commitment towards capacity building of Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Chief of Air Staff of the Indian Air Force presented AN-32 propellers to ensure high operational readiness of the aircraft held with Sri Lanka Air Force.

## Palestinian hunger striker dies in Israel prison

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, May 2: A high-profile Palestinian prisoner died in Israeli custody Tuesday after a hunger strike of nearly three months. Israel's prison service announced. His death set off a rocket barrage from the Gaza Strip and raised fears of a further escalation.

Khader Adnan, a leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group, helped introduce the practice of protracted hunger strikes by individual prisoners as a form of protest against Israel's mass detention of Palestinians without charge. On Tuesday, the 45-year-old became the first long-term hunger striker to die in Israeli custody.

In response to his death, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired



Iniochos 2023, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force, underway in Athens, Greece

PTI PHOTO

## Ukraine apologises for Kali tweet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 2: Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova, who recently visited India, on Tuesday expressed "regrets" over the depiction of Goddess Kali in a "distorted manner" by the defence ministry and apologised for the act, saying her country and its people respect "unique Indian culture".

Dzhaparova visited India on April 9, the first official visit from the eastern European country since the Russian invasion began in February last year. "We regret @DefenceU depicting Hindu goddess Kali in a distorted manner. Ukraine & its people respect unique Indian culture & highly appreciate (India's) support. The depiction has already been removed. (Ukraine) is determined to further increase cooperation in spirit of mutual respect & friendship," she tweeted following a massive outrage among netizens over the incident. The Ukraine defence ministry's tweet, which has now been deleted, was captioned "Work of art" with an image of Goddess



Kali superimposed over a blast fume. The image, which was tweeted on April 30, triggered outrage on the social media platform pointing out the resemblance of the image with Goddess Kali.

The Ukraine defence ministry's tweet, which has now been deleted, was captioned "Work of art" with an image of Goddess Kali superimposed over a blast fume

Ministry of Defence.

Gupta also said Ukraine has mocked "Goddess Kali in a manner no foreign government or country has ever done". He also branded the Ukraine ministry's actions as "brazen hate speech". Some Twitter users even sought External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's intervention.

"Please take note of this defamatory post that shows Maa Kali in a bad light," a user said tagging Jaishankar. "Absolutely disgraceful behaviour from @DefenceU (Defense of Ukraine) with their distasteful depiction mocking Maa Kali. India has given aid to Ukraine and this is how they repay them. Hindus demand an apology NOW," another Twitter user wrote.

"Shocking! The official handle of the Ukraine Defence Ministry portrays Maa Kali in a demeaning pose. This is not a work of art. Our faith is not a matter of joke. Take it down and apologise @DefenceU," another user tweeted.

Since the Ukraine conflict began in February last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy several times. In a phone conversation with Zelenskyy on October 4 last year, Modi said that there can be "no military solution" and that India is ready to contribute to any peace efforts.

## 7 bodies found in US search for missing teens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Henryetta (US), May 2: Authorities searching a rural Oklahoma property for two missing teenagers discovered the bodies of seven people on Monday, including the suspected remains of the teens and a convicted sex offender who was sought along with them, the local sheriff said.

Oklmulgee County Sheriff Eddy Rice said the state medical examiner will have to confirm the identities of the victims, but "we believe that we have found the persons". He said the bodies were believed to include those of 14-year-old Ivy Webster and 16-year-old Brittany Brewer; along with Jesse McFadden, the felon authorities had said the teens were travelling with.

"We are no longer looking," Rice said. "We believe to have found everything that we were seeking this morning. Our hearts go out to the families and friends, schoolmates and everyone else." He declined to



provide details of how they died or other details.

The bodies were found during a search near the town of Henryetta, a town of about 6,000 located about 90 miles (145 kilometres) east of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation spokesman Gerald Davidson said.

A missing endangered person advisory had been issued earlier in the day for the two teenagers before it was cancelled on Monday afternoon by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The advisory for Webster and Brewer had said they were reportedly seen travelling with McFadden, who was on the state's sex offender registry. Oklahoma Department of Corrections prison records show McFadden was convicted of first-degree rape in 2003 and released in October 2020.

## SHORT TAKES

### Thao convicted of aiding Floyd's death

Minneapolis: A former Minneapolis police officer who held back bystanders while his colleagues restrained a dying George Floyd has been convicted of aiding and abetting manslaughter. Tou Thao, who already had been convicted in federal court of violating Floyd's civil rights, was last of the four former officers facing judgment in state court in Floyd's killing. He rejected a plea agreement and, instead of going to trial, let Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill decide the verdict based on written filings by each side and evidence presented in previous cases. His 177-page ruling, filed Monday night, was released Tuesday.

### Chinese FM to visit India

Beijing: Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang will travel to India to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting being held in Goa on May 4 and 5, the foreign ministry here announced Tuesday. Qin will attend the upcoming SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Panaji, the announcement said. The SCO consists of China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India holds the presidency of the grouping for this year.

### Kishida to travel to South Korea

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday he is arranging a trip to South Korea for talks with President Yoon Suk Yeol in return for his March visit to Tokyo, aiming to further strengthen their ties before the upcoming Group of Seven summit. Tokyo and Seoul have been working to repair relations that were strained over wartime history disputes as they deepen three-way security cooperation with Washington in response to growing regional threats from North Korea and China.

### Ugandan minister killed by bodyguard

Kampala: A bodyguard shot and killed a government minister in Uganda early Tuesday in an apparent private dispute, according to the army and local media. The attacker, who has not been publicly identified, then turned the gun on himself, according to state broadcaster UBC and others.

## Ukrainian farmer comes up with novel way to demine his fields

REUTERS

Hrakove, Ukraine, May 2: A Ukrainian farmer has come up with a novel way to remove mines left in his fields after Russia's invasion - he's kitted out his tractor with protective panels stripped from Russian tanks and operates it by remote control.

After Russian forces were driven back from parts of eastern Ukraine by a Ukrainian counteroffensive last year, mines remained in many fields, making it perilous for farmers to sow grain for the next harvest.

Fields around the village of

Hrakove are no exception. Oleksandr Kryvtsov, a general manager at his agricultural company, decided he couldn't wait for help from overworked official deminers to clear his field.

Instead, he designed a remote-controlled tractor that could withstand blasts. Using armour from damaged Russian military vehicles to protect the body of his tractor, he bought a system that would enable one of his team to operate the tractor remotely from a digger's bucket suspended in the air nearby.

"We started doing this just because the crop-sowing time has



22 rockets toward populated areas in southern Israel, seriously wounding a 25-year-old man and moderately wounding two others at a construction site in the city of Sderot. Israel's rescue service said, identifying all three as foreigners. Their nationalities were not immediately clear.

Air raid sirens sounded and Israeli municipal councils opened public



A remote controlled demining machine, created by local farmer Oleksandr Kryvtsov with his tractor and armoured plates from destroyed Russian military vehicles, is seen during demining of an agricultural field, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near the village of Hrakove, in Kharkiv region

come and we can't do anything because the rescue services are very busy," Kryvtsov said.

"We ran over an anti-tank mine. The protection got blown out (but) the tractor is safe," he said. "Everyone's alive and safe. The equipment was restored and repaired."

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal

said last week about 30% of Ukrainian territory had been mined by Russians and that the government was focused on demining agricultural land as quickly as possible.

"We have no time to demine the fields. The amount of work is enormous," said Serhii Dudak, head of the demining unit now overseeing the tractor's work. "It would take years to demine this particular field by hand and to guarantee that there are no mines here."

## of the day quote

We will explore the option of raising resources via rupee denominated bonds. Raising funds in local currency reduces forex volatility

MASATSUGU ASAKAWA | PRESIDENT, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

We are delighted to announce our first order with Juniper Green Energy Private Limited and our second order for the 3 MW series

JP CHALASANI | CEO, SUZLON GROUP

We are looking into every possible aspect that will help us digitally transform not just DICV and BharatBenz but also those who are contributing towards our endeavour to make our customers successful

SATYAKAM ARYA | MD AND CEO, DAIMLER INDIA COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

## SHORT TAKES

### Google pays entire penalty to CCI

**New Delhi:** In probably the first case of a Big Tech giant paying a penalty to the Indian regulators as the government aims to bring a new Digital India Act, Google has paid the entire penalty amount of ₹1,337.76 crore imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in the Android case. Reliable sources said Tuesday that the entire penalty amount has been deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India, within the 30-day deadline given by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in its order. The Indian market regulator had imposed the penalty on Google in October 2022 for allegedly exploiting its dominant position in the Android market. Earlier this year, Google announced to comply with the CCI's directives for Android. "The CCI's recent directives for Android and Play require us to make significant changes for India, and we've informed the CCI of how we will be complying with their directives," Google had said in a statement.

### Coal India output rises 7.7% in April

**New Delhi:** CIL, the world's largest coal miner, Tuesday said coal production rose 7.7 per cent in April and supplies to users shot up just as summer began. In a statement, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said it logged an impressive 31 per cent growth in overburden removal (OBR) in April compared to the same month a year ago. "This helps in stepping up production in the upcoming monsoon months," it said. The company logged a whopping 44 per cent year-on-year growth in supplies to non-regulated sector (NRS).

### Tata Steel profit falls 84% in Q4

**New Delhi:** Tata Steel Tuesday posted a steep fall of 84 per cent in its consolidated net profit at ₹1,566.24 crore during the quarter ended March 2023, dragged by lower income. The steel major had reported a net profit of ₹9,835.12 crore in the year-ago quarter, it said in a BSE filing. Tata Steel's total income trimmed to ₹63,131.08 crore from ₹69,615.70 crore in January-March period of the financial year 2022-23. The company's total expenses rose to ₹59,918.15 crore from ₹75,635.79 crore a year ago. The board of the company also recommended a dividend of ₹3.60 per equity share of Re 1 each to the shareholders for FY23, the filing said.



So far 165 incubators have been selected under the scheme (Startup India Seed Fund Scheme) and ₹611 crore has been approved for them. Over 1,000 startups are benefitted from the scheme so far

MANMEET NANDA | JOINT SECRETARY, DPIIT

### DUCATI DRIVES IN MONSTER SP

Italian superbike maker Ducati Tuesday said it has launched Monster SP in India priced at ₹15.95 lakh (ex-showroom). The bookings are open for the 937-cc bike across all the company dealerships in the country with deliveries starting immediately, Ducati said



# First Republic: 3rd US bank collapse since '08

The banking turmoil erupted from the closure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in March, causing depositors to flee regional lenders and fueling fears that the crisis could engulf other midsized banks

AGENCIES

**Washington, May 2:** Shares of several regional lenders fell Monday after the collapse of First Republic Bank, the third major casualty of the biggest crisis to hit the US banking sector since 2008.

A deal was announced earlier Monday that allows for an orderly failure of First Republic. Under the terms, JPMorgan Chase & Co will pay \$10.6 billion to the US Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC), which took FRC into receivership, for most of the failed bank's assets.

JPMorgan acquired about \$173 billion of First Republic's loans, \$30

billion of securities and \$92 billion in deposits. Shares of JPMorgan Chase rose 2.14%, making the largest US bank the top gainer on the Dow Jones Monday.

Mid-cap banks, which have client deposits parked in interest rate-sensitive investment portfolios such as mortgage bonds, are also facing a massive challenge due to aggressive monetary policy tightening by the US Federal Reserve. Their portfolios are now worth far less than what they valued them at in their books.

**WHY DID FIRST REPUBLIC FAIL?** First Republic grew rapidly through deposits from wealthy individuals and companies. It used



those deposits to make large loans, including jumbo mortgages, when interest rates were at historically low levels in hopes of then convincing customers to expand into more profitable products like wealth management.

Many of the bank's accounts had deposits well north of the federally-insured \$250,000. Once Silicon Valley Bank went under, clients pulled their money, fearful their deposits were in danger. First Republic said last week that depositors had withdrawn more than \$100 billion, most of it during a

few days in mid-March.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO STOCKHOLDERS?

First Republic's stock traded at \$115 March 8, then plummeted in the following days and weeks and closed Friday at \$3.15. About \$20 billion in market value has been wiped out. Trading in the stock was halted before US markets opened Monday. JPMorgan Chase, which has agreed to buy the deposits and most of the assets of First Republic, stressed that it is not assuming any of First Republic's corporate debt or preferred stocks.

After a bank's failure, bond-

JPMORGAN TO PAY FDIC \$10.6BN FOR FIRST REPUBLIC BANK

ABOUT \$20BN IN MARKET VALUE WIPED OUT FROM THE BANK

This deal does not change the rates, recession, and regulatory headwinds that regional banks are facing

ERIKA NAJARIAN | ANALYST, UBS

holders are among the last to get paid — stockholders are at the very end of the line. FDIC said that its deposit insurance fund, which banks pay into, could take a \$13 billion estimated loss as a result of First Republic's failure.

While conditions could change over time, that likely leaves nothing left over for investors to recoup. Stockholders at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature were wiped out.

# Sensex, Nifty log 8th day of rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 2:** Equity benchmarks ended higher Tuesday mainly due to buying in index heavyweights Infosys and Reliance Industries amid foreign fund inflows.

Also, firm trend in Asian gauges and record GST collection in April added to the optimism.

Rallying for the eighth straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 242.27 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 61,354.71. During the day, it jumped 373.8 points or 0.61 per cent to 61,486.24. The broader NSE Nifty went up 82.65 points or 0.46 per cent to finish at 18,147.65.

From the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Tata Steel, Maruti, Infosys, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Titan, Reliance Industries, Wipro and Mahindra & Mahindra were the biggest gainers. Sun Pharma, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India and Nestle were among the laggards.

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 5 paise lower at 81.87 against the American currency. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital market Friday as they purchased shares worth ₹3,304.32 crore.

## FAULTY ENGINES HIT FLEET

# Go First goes broke

The move marks the first major airline collapse in India since Jet Airways filed for bankruptcy in 2019, and underscores the fierce competition in a sector dominated by IndiGo and the entry of newer operators such as Akasa Air



REUTERS

**Bangalore, May 2:** Cash-strapped Indian airline Go First filed for bankruptcy proceedings Tuesday, blaming "faulty" Pratt & Whitney engines for the grounding of about half its fleet.

The filing with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLAT) in its order. The Indian market regulator had imposed the penalty on Google in October 2022 for allegedly exploiting its dominant position in the Android market. Earlier this year, Google announced to comply with the CCI's directives for Android. "The CCI's recent directives for Android and Play require us to make significant changes for India, and we've informed the CCI of how we will be complying with their directives," Google had said in a statement.

Go First commanded a market share of 8.9% in 2022 and the sudden disruption in operations is likely to benefit other players and increase airfares due to supply constraint

JINESH JOSHI | RESEARCH ANALYST, PRABHUDAS LILLADHER

GoAir and owned by the Wadia Group, also said on its website that it had cancelled flights scheduled for May 3-May 5 due to "operational reasons".

The collapse could benefit rival airlines as the industry tries to meet a surge in domestic air travel in the aftermath of the Covid-19.

**GO FIRST'S WOES** The airline has not communicated anything about its future to its employees, according to two pilots, who wished not to be named. It has been paying pilots their

salaries with a delay for some time now

The number of grounded aircraft "due to Pratt & Whitney's faulty engines" increased from 7% of its fleet in December 2019 to 31% in December 2020 and 50% in December 2022, the airline said.

The groundings cost Go First ₹10,800 crore in lost revenues and additional expenses, it said. They also resulted in an erosion in Go First's market share to 6.9% in March from 8.4% in January, latest data from the Indian aviation regulator showed.

The airline was seeking to raise funds and Indian conglomerate Wadia Group was reported to be in talks to either sell a majority stake or completely exit its shareholding.

"The airline said the groundings had also driven some lessors to repossess aircraft, draw down letters of credit and notify further withdrawal of aircraft," the airline said. Go First, however, said the filing does not mark the end of the airline.

### SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Aviation regulator DGCA Tuesday issued a show cause notice to Go First after the airline decided to cancel flights for two days amid a severe financial crunch. The crisis-hit airline has cancelled all their scheduled flights for May 3 and 4 without any prior intimation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

Since Go First has failed to adhere to the approved schedule leading to passenger inconvenience, this is non-compliance with the condition for approval of the schedule. Go First has been asked to submit its response to the DGCA within 24 hours.

# GST mop-up rises to all-time high in April

GST COLLECTION AT ₹1.87 LAKH CRORE IN APRIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 2:** GST collection in April rose by 12 per cent annually to over ₹1.87 lakh crore, touching an all-time monthly high, showed finance ministry data released Monday.

The previous monthly high Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection was in April 2022 at about ₹1.68 lakh crore.

Hailing the record GST collection, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet said, "Great news for the Indian economy! Rising tax collection despite lower tax rates shows the success of how GST has increased integration and compliance."

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of April 2023 is ₹1,87,035 crore of which CGST is ₹38,440 crore, SGST is ₹47,412 crore, IGST is ₹89,158 crore (including ₹34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹12,025 crore (including ₹901 crore collected on import of goods), the finance ministry said in a statement.

The revenues for April 2023 are 12 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 16 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year, it said.

April 2023 saw the highest-ever tax collection on a single day on April 20. A sum of ₹68,228 crore was paid through 9.8 lakh transactions on that day. The highest



single-day payment last year (on the same date) was ₹57,846 crore through 9.6 lakh transactions.

The ministry also said the number of e-way bills generated in March 2023 was 9 crore, which is 11 per cent higher than 8.1 crore e-way bills generated in February 2023.

During April, the government settled ₹45,864 crore to CGST and ₹37,959 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of the Centre and the States in April 2023 after regular settlement is ₹84,304 crore for CGST and ₹85,371 crore for the SGST.

Commenting on the GST numbers, Assocham President Ajay Singh said that the highest ever collection in April marks an excellent beginning of fiscal 2023-24. "The GST numbers are indicative of robust growth of the Indian economy, on the back of a strong pick-up in consumer demand," he said.

The total gross collection for the 2022-23 fiscal stood at ₹18.10 lakh crore, 22 per cent higher than the previous year. GST came into force July 1, 2017, subsuming a plethora of indirect taxes.

## ROBUST DEMAND

# Factory activity hits 4-month high in Apr

REUTERS

**Bangalore, May 2:** India's factory activity expanded at its quickest pace in four months in April, driven by solid growth in new orders and output, a private survey showed Monday, signaling resilient demand and an encouraging outlook.

The survey results suggest India will continue to be one of the fastest-growing major economies despite slowing global growth that has undermined momentum across several other countries.

The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index compiled by S&P Global increased to 57.2 last month from March's 56.4, remaining above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction for a 22nd month and confounding expectations in a Reuters poll for a fall to 55.8.

Both new orders and output grew at their fastest pace since December, and that helped firms resume hiring during April, following the first decline in 13 months in March. Foreign demand also expanded at the fastest pace in four months in April and optimism improved.

The survey showed input costs rose at a faster pace in April, although improving demand meant firms were able to pass on some of that burden to customers.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Chander new head of Canara Bank Bhubaneswar Circle

**Bhubaneswar:** General Manager Jagdish Chander has joined as the new Circle Head of Canara Bank, Bhubaneswar Circle. Prior to this, he was working as "Chief Group Risk Officer" of the bank at Head Office as General Manager. He also has experience in large Corporate Credit Wing (LCCW) at Head Office for two years. Chander joined the bank in 1988 and gained vast experience and expertise in Risk Management, HR, Forex, MSME and Corporate Credit. He headed two Regional offices Delhi-West and Raipur and four Branches including two exceptionally large branches. Canara Bank Bhubaneswar Circle is the main office of the state with 5 regional offices having 278 branch network covering all the districts with a business mix of 31,000 crore. Under his leadership, bank will make all efforts to provide banking facility with customer delight by digital penetration and will give thrust to improve banks exposure in MSME, Retail and Agriculture Sector.

### Outstanding performers in MCL awarded on Miners' Day

**Sambalpur:** Coal miners were awarded for their outstanding performance as Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) celebrated Miners' day May 1 with much fervor and zeal. The celebration was hosted by Jagannath Area, Talcher Coalfields. JK Borah, Director (Technical) chief guest of the function lighted the lamp. AK Behura, Director (Finance) and other senior officers of MCL, representatives of Trade Unions and Officers' Association & employees attended the celebration. More than 150 coal miners of MCL were honoured for their outstanding performance in different categories. While addressing the gathering, Borah expressed his gratitude to the miners for their hard work & sincerity which has elevated MCL to top position in coal production & despatch, meeting to the growing demand of coal to the power sector in our country.



### Stalwart unveils new project

**Bhubaneswar:** Stalwart Projects Pvt Ltd (SPPL) one of the leading real estate company of Odisha has started the construction of tallest apartment (36 storied) in the state namely "Stalwart Skycity" at Patia near Nandankanan road, Bhubaneswar. Sharat Kumar Sahu the Managing Director of the SPPL was in profession of Banking. He as MD has redefined the market dynamics by building a brand based trust. He has also successfully completed more than 17 projects in a short span of 12 years. The flats of Skycity project are equipped with modern amenities that are sure to make your life comfortable and convenient. All flats are designed based on vastu, with a refreshing swim in its rooftop infinity pool, workout in its fully-equipped gymnasium, or unwind with a book in its library. Its complex also features a clubhouse, children's play area, landscaped gardens, and much more. Total numbers of tower are four out of two residential towers having 410 dwelling units of 3BHK, 4BHK & penthouse, 56 commercial space in one tower and all amenities in one tower.



### UCO Bank logs highest ever net profit

**Bhubaneswar:** UCO Bank MD and CEO, Soma Shankar Prasad, declared Bank's Financial Performance, for Financial Year 2022-2023, in a virtual press meet today. Prasad informed the press that UCO Bank is one of fastest growing bank and has achieved many records in current financial year. Bank has posted highest annual net profit ever in its history at ₹1,862.34 crore, against last year's net profit of ₹929.76 crore registering a 100% jump. Also the bank has crossed 4 lakh crore business first time ever and touched total business of ₹4,10,967.19 crore against total business of ₹3,53,850.24 crore last year. The bank's loan business has also grown by 24.54% to ₹1,61,629.45 crore against previous year's ₹1,29,777.34 crore. Corporate loan has grown by 32%. The NPA slippage remained around ₹2000 crore. Bank's Net Interest Income has increased by 13.44% and Net Interest Margin has increased from 2.81% last year to 2.87% in 2022-2023. Prasad interacting with press expressed that bank would focus on keeping the growth trend with special focus on CASA growth and ROR increase to 1 which is at present 0.6.



# DELHI PREVAIL OVER TITANS

# LSG GET READY FOR CSK TEST



IMPRESSIVE OUTING: Ishant Sharma reacts after dismissing Vijay Shankar



AMAN KHAN

**Ahmedabad, May 2:** Aman Khan's maiden T20 fifty (51, 44b, 3x4, 3x6) was beautifully complemented by the pacers as Delhi Capitals kept their playoff hopes alive with a tense five-run win over Gujarat Titans in the IPL here Tuesday.

Bowling impeccable lengths, Mohammed Shami (4/11) was lethal with the new ball as he knocked the wind out of the Capitals' top order, as Gujarat Titans restricted DC to 130/8 after being asked to bowl. Aman waged a lone battle, putting some much-needed runs on the board. He added 50 off 54 balls with Axar Patel (27) and 53 off 27 balls with

Ripal Patel (23). In reply, Hardik Pandya's (59 n o, 53b, 7x4) sedate fifty and Rahul Tewatia's (20) hat-trick of sixes were not enough as Delhi bowlers held their nerves to stop the defending champions at 125/6.

It was the third win of the season for Delhi, who are still at the bottom of the table, while Gujarat continued to remain on the top spot.

Defending a modest target, Delhi quicks were able to make an early breakthrough, as Gujarat lost three wickets inside the powerplay.

If 'Impact Player' Khaleel Ahmed (2/24) bowled a beautiful first over which was a wicket- maiden, pace

spearhead Anrich Nortje (1/39) got rid of the dangerous Shubman Gill (6).

Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma (2/23) too joined the party as he outfoxed Vijay Shankar (6) with a perfectly executed knuckle ball. Wickets continued to tumble with the introduction of the slow bowlers, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav (1/15) bamboozled David Miller (0) in the seventh over.

Pandya and Abhinav Manohar (26) steadied the Gujarat ship with 62-run stand for the fifth wicket. Pandya anchored the innings with

Tewatia hitting three back-to-back sixes off the penultimate over. But with 12 needed off the final over, Ishant gave away just six runs while taking the vital wicket of Tewatia.

Earlier, Delhi once again suffered a dramatic collapse, losing five wickets for 23 runs inside five overs and at the centre of it all was Shami. The veteran Indian pacer set the tone of the match as he struck off the first ball of the game to get Phil Salt for a golden duck.

A horrible mix up between young Priyam Garg (10) and skipper David

Warner (2) cost Delhi the wicket of the Australian in the second over. Rilee Rossouw (8) was next to depart as Shami struck once again. The veteran Indian induced slight movement away from Rossouw. An outside edge led the ball to straight into the hands of wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha's gloves as Delhi fell to 16/3.

With Shami bowling a tight opening spell, captain Hardik decided to continue bowling the pacer and the move paid dividends. Shami continued his wicket-taking streak in his third over, snaring two in his final over.

The Indian bowled a wobble seam delivery, tempting Manish Pandey (1) to drive it but the late movement meant the ball found the edge of the bat and Saha completing a stunning one handed catch diving to his right. Shami's final victim of the night was Garg with Saha yet again completing another catch behind the stumps.

With half the side back in the dugout, the Capitals were tottering at 28/5 at the end of the Powerplay. Axar (27), who was promoted up the order, and Aman did stem the rot with some much-needed runs but pacer Mohit Sharma (2/33) broke the 50-run partnership as he snared the wicket of the Delhi vice-captain. The uncapped Aman brought up a much-needed half century in 41 balls.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Lucknow, May 2:** Hit by injuries to skipper KL Rahul and seamer Jaydev Unadkat, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) would be wary of Chennai Super Kings' ability to bounce back when the two sides face each other in an IPL match here Wednesday. LSG would also be facing the heat after failing to chase down a meagre total of 126 in their own den, getting bundled out for just 108 in 19.5 overs by Royal Challengers Bangalore Monday.

Rahul sustained injury on his right thigh during the match against RCB here on Monday, while Unadkat slipped badly while bowling at the nets, resulting to a nasty fall Sunday.

Their weakness of succumbing to pressure, especially when their skipper Rahul might not be able to play Wednesday due to a likely pulled hip flexor muscle, could give the MS Dhoni-led CSK enough confidence to go all out on the offensive.

LSG may be placed third on the IPL standings with 10 points from nine games but the shattering blow to their morale following the loss to RCB could be exploited by CSK, who too are on 10 points from nine matches but placed fourth due to an inferior net run rate (NRR).

Though CSK are coming off consecutive losses to Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings, their ability to bounce back can never be underestimated.

DC 130/8 (Aman Khan 51, Axar Patel 27, Ripal Patel 23; Mohammed Shami 4/11, Mohit Sharma 2/33) beat CT 125/6 (Hardik Pandya 59 n o, Abhinav Manohar 26, Rahul Tewatia 20; Ishant Sharma 2/23, Khaleel Ahmed 2/24, Kuldeep Yadav 1/15) by 5 runs.

With the tactical acumen of Dhoni playing a vital role in most of their victories this season, the former India captain could exploit the situation, especially if Rahul does not play Wednesday.

CSK will once again lean heavily on their New Zealand opener Devon Conway, who has been in the form of his life. It was bad luck that CSK lost to Punjab despite Conway smashing an unbeaten 92 at Chepauk to guide his team to 200/4, only to see the total being overhauled off the last ball.

## Archers confirm four medals in Asia Cup Stage 2

**Tashkent, May 2:** Indian archers made a flying start to their campaign in the Asia Cup Stage 2 World Ranking Tournament, advancing to the finals of all four team events in the recurve and compound sections, here Tuesday.

The men's recurve team of Mrinal Chauhan, Tushar Shelke and Jayanta Talukdar eliminated hosts' Uzbekistan's Chen Yao Yuy, Mirjalol Karorov and Amir Khan Sadikov 6-0 (56-54, 57-54, 56-53) in the semifinal. They will take on their rivals from China in the gold medal clash Friday.

Recurve women's team of Sangeeta, Prachi Singh and Tanisha Verma overcame Uzbekistan in a nail-biting tiebreaker finish to emerge 5-4 (53-54, 56-49, 52-50, 52-54, 26\*-26) winners.

In the semifinal, the Indian women's recurve team defeated Saudi Arabia 6-0 (50-40, 54-47, 49-45) in the quarters. India will face China in the women's recurve team final too.

Having got a bye into semifinal, the top-seeded compound men's team of Abhishek Verma, Kushal Dalal and Amit got the better of Saudi Arabia 236-221 to make the final. They will take on Hong Kong in the gold medal clash Friday.

The compound women's team of Parneet Kaur, Pragati and Raginee Markoo are already in the final after topping the qualification round and they will also take on Hong Kong in the gold medal clash.

# Repeat act between Kohli, Gambhir

**Lucknow, May 2:** Star India batter Virat Kohli and former opener Gautam Gambhir added another chapter to their bitter rivalry as they got involved in an ugly face-off after the IPL match between RCB and LSG here.

Kohli and Gambhir, the LSG mentor, were seen having a heated argument after the Bangalore-based side won the match by 18 runs Monday night.

Both were Tuesday fined 100 per cent of their match fees for breaching Article 2.21 of IPL code of conduct, which relates to public acts of misconduct, unruly public behaviour and inappropriate comments detrimental to the interest of the game.

Kohli seemed to be referring to the spat with his former India and Delhi state teammate when he said "you got to take it, otherwise don't give it", after the match.

"That's a sweet win boys. A sweet win. Let's go. If you can give it, you got to take it. Otherwise don't give it," Kohli said in a video published by his team on YouTube, where he was seen celebrating with the rest of the RCB players.

The trigger was probably the interaction between Kohli, who seemed animated throughout the fielding innings of RCB, and LSG opener Kyle Mayers.

While the players were shaking hands after the match, LSG bowler Naveen-ul-Haq - who was also fined 50 per cent of his match fee - and Kohli were seen exchanging words



and RCB's Glenn Maxwell separated them. This was followed by Gambhir pulling away Mayers while the latter was speaking with Kohli.

Just after that, Gambhir was seen charging towards Kohli even as LSG players, including the injured captain KL Rahul, tried to restrain him. Eventually, Kohli and Gambhir got involved in a heated argument with players from both sides surrounding them.

Gambhir looked the more animated of the two and was repeatedly held back from charging towards Kohli by the LSG players and support staff. This was after the two had shaken hands.

Initially, Kohli was seen holding Gambhir's shoulder, but as the exchange continued, veteran spinner Amit Mishra, RCB captain Faf

du Plessis and LSG assistant coach Vijay Dahiya stepped in to separate the duo.

After the altercation, Kohli was also seen talking to LSG skipper Rahul. Kohli and Gambhir have had a history of face-offs. They were also involved in a face-off 10 years ago in the IPL during RCB's match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Bangalore.

The last time when LSG and RCB clashed in Bangalore in this edition, Gambhir had gestured towards the Bangalore crowd with a 'shut up' sign.

RCB director of operations Mike Hesson said the ugly incident could have something to do with that match at Chinnaswamy Stadium April 10, when LSG won by one wicket off the last ball.

"I guess after the last match at

Chinnaswamy, where we lost off the last ball, it always felt like we were really desperate to get this one. So I think you probably saw a little bit of that boil over tonight," Hesson said in the video posted on RCB Twitter handle.

Du Plessis, on his part, said he has no problems with a pumped-up Kohli. "That's the best version of Virat, isn't it?" Du Plessis said in the video. "To see him pumped up like that. That's when he's at his best. It's really awesome to be a part of it. My job is to keep things calm on the field, which I thought we did really well."

Former India captain Anil Kumble was, however, not impressed with the behaviour of Kohli and Gambhir, saying showing emotions in the way it happened on Monday was "unacceptable".

## MI challenge awaits PBKS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Mohali, May 2:** Five-time champions Mumbai Indians' class and pedigree will once again be tested when they take on an unpredictable Punjab Kings in a crucial Indian Premier League match here Wednesday.

A win will give MI the much-needed push on the points table, while a loss will see them slip further and chart a familiar course like the previous edition. MI had finished 10th and last in the previous edition. The Mumbai team is currently placed seventh with eight points from eight matches and things are not looking great for Rohit Sharma's side.

The win against Rajasthan Royals at the Wankhede Stadium on April 30, though, would have instilled a fair bit of confidence in the MI team after it chased down a massive 212 with three balls to spare to earn two valuable points.

The win was crafted by Singapore-born Australian cricketer Tim David, who smashed three sixes on the trot in the final over during his 14-ball unbeaten 45 to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

While there were vital contributions from India's T20 specialist batter Suryakumar Yadav (55), tall Australian all-rounder Cameron Green (44), Ishan Kishan (28) and Tilak Varma (29 not out), none could match the ferocity of David's strokes.

The 27-year-old middle-order batter smashed five sixes and two boundaries at a strike rate in excess of 300 as Mumbai Indians won on home turf.

A similar commitment would be required against Punjab Kings,

who are known to play aggressive cricket, though their biggest drawback is an unreliable top order.

Barring Shikhar Dhawan and to an extent his opening partner Prabhsimran Singh, very few PBKS batters have contributed enough to their overall totals, though all that changed in their previous game against Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk on April 30.

Set a stiff 200-run target by MS Dhoni's side, the entire top and middle-order came to the party to win a last-ball thriller by four wickets. With Prabhsimran and Dhawan laying a good foundation in powerplay, England all-rounder Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran and wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma all chipped in to make it a memorable chase.

The team, though, will likely have to face the fiery pace of Mumbai Indians' Jofra Archer, who was back in the game against Rajasthan Royals, bowling his quota of overs and taking a wicket as well.

MI skipper Rohit's form, though, is the biggest concern for the five-time IPL champions and much would depend on the India captain on Wednesday to shore up his side, after contributing just three runs in the match against the Royals.

# Kandhamal, Khurda script big wins

**Bhubaneswar, May 2:** Kandhamal and Khurda register big wins against their respective opponents in two different matches of the Senior Men Inter-District Championship for Sahani Cup football tournament, Tuesday.

Kandhamal blanked Kendrapara 5-0 at the Bidanasi Ground in Cuttack. Rahul Mukhi (65th & 71st minutes), Manas Ranjan Pradhan (75th & 90+3) & Ramesh Oram (56th) scored for the winners.

The other match in Cuttack - at the OTM Ground - saw Biju Oram scored in the second half added-on time to salvage a draw against Kalahandi. Bhawani Sankar Bernal had put Kalahandi in front in the 66th minute.

Khurda, on the other hand, thrashed Nuapada 5-1 at the Capital Ground in Bhubaneswar. Ashim Dung Dung (55th & 57th) struck a brace for Khurda, while Gajasuddin Khan (30th), Ajay Naik (72nd) and Manoj Swain (49th) scored once



Kandhamal (in white) and Kendrapara players in action, Tuesday

each to complete the scoresheet. Dinesh Kumar (33rd) scored the lone goal for the losing side.

At the 7th Battalion Ground in Bhubaneswar, Dhenkanal prevailed over Bhadrak 2-0. Ashish Majhi

(54th & 58th) scored both the goals in five minutes in the second half.

**ODISHA POSTAL TRIUMPH**

Odisha Postal won the E-League Cricket Tournament at the IDCO Cricket Ground in Mancheswar after beating East Coast Railways Sports Association (ECORSA) by five wickets.

In the final, ECORSA won the toss and opted to bat first. However, their batters failed to justify the decision and they were bundled out for 83 runs in 26.1 overs. Sameer Mohanty and Sushil Barik were the top scorers for ECORSA contributing 22 runs each. Subham Nayak (4/27) and Sai Prasad Acharya (3/8) shared seven wickets between them.

In response, Odisha Postal found themselves in a spot of bother, losing 5 wickets for 50 runs. However, Subham (28 n o) and Debasish Samantaray (18 n o) ensured victory with an unbeaten 38 run partnership. For ECORSA, Jayant Behera (4/23) was excellent with the ball.

## INDIA OVERTAKE OZ TO BECOME NO.1 TEST SIDE

**Dubai, May 2:** India have overtaken Australia to regain the number one position in the ICC men's Test team rankings following the annual update that drops results from the 2019-20 season and reflects all series completed since May 2020.

India's rating points have moved up from 119 to 121 as their 2-0 defeat to New Zealand in March 2020 no longer figures in the rankings, which assesses series completed prior to May 2022 at 50 per cent and subsequent series at 100 per cent.

Australia have slipped from 122 to 116 rating points. The other rankings too remain unchanged.

In the men's T20I team rankings, India have consolidated their position at the top, increasing their lead over second-placed England from six to eight points. New Zealand have overtaken Pakistan and South Africa to third position.

03:30 pm LSG VS CSK  
07:30 pm PBKS VS MI

Telecast: Star Sports channels