



Kat's preference

Katrina Kaif explains her criteria for film choices, emphasising a balance between audience appeal and personal fulfilment

LEISURE | P2



Pannun murder plot

Reports point to the involvement of RAW official Vikram Yadav in the assassination plot of Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

INTERNATIONAL | P10



New RBI directive

RBI expresses concern and directs some banks and lenders resorting to unfair practices to take corrective measures

BUSINESS | P11



India in quarterfinals

HS Prannoy returns to winning ways as India qualify for Thomas Cup quarterfinals defeating England 5-0

SPORTS | P12



IN SEARCH OF GLORY: Participants push their bulls to run harder Monday in a bullock cart race at Thegur in Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka

Indore clones Surat

Much on the lines of BJP's Surat candidate getting elected unopposed, a similar development has taken place in Indore. Congress candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination Monday, leaving the path clear for BJP's sitting MP, Shankar Lalwani. After withdrawing his nomination, Bam accompanied by MP Cabinet Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, reached the BJP office. The entire development left the Congress red-faced and it termed the development as 'threat to democracy'.



MP Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya with Akshay Kanti Bam (back seat left)

MP Cabinet Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya posted a picture on his 'X' account in which Bam was seen sitting in a car with him along with Mendola. "Congress Lok Sabha candidate from Indore Akshay Kanti Bam is welcome to the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party national president JP Nadda," Vijayvargiya said in a tweet in Hindi. In Delhi, the Congress said there is a 'threat to democracy' and wondered if a free and fair

poll is possible when the Election Commission 'looks the other way' while candidate after candidate is being 'intimidated'. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete asserted that Bam has been 'forced' to withdraw his nomination. Sources in the Congress informed that an attempt to murder case had been slapped on Bam and his father Kantilal Bam in a land-grabbing case only five days before he withdrew his nomination. This is a clear case of intimidation," Shrinete stated.

rejected over discrepancies last week, paving the way for the BJP nominee Mukesh Dalal to get elected unopposed. Witnesses said Bam (45), accompanied by local BJP MLA Ramesh Mendola, reached the district collector's office and withdrew his papers. On his way back, he left in a car with Mendola. District Magistrate and Returning Officer Ashish Singh confirmed Bam has withdrawn his papers. "Three candidates, including Congress candidate Bam, withdrew their nominations today (April 29) as per due procedure. The process has been videographed," Singh informed. He added that nine candidates out of the 14 in fray have withdrawn their nominations.

Bam was accompanied by a BJP MLA when he went to withdraw his nomination
2nd case where before the polls a Congress candidate has been ousted from fray
Congress cries foul over 'intimidation' of its candidates

AGENCIES

Indore, April 29: In a major blow to the Congress in Madhya Pradesh, its Indore Lok Sabha seat candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination Monday, a fortnight before polling in the key constituency. Later on he visited the BJP office here and joined the saffron party. This development will certainly help the BJP's sitting MP Shankar Lalwani (62), who will now have to contest against four independent candidates. After Bam opted out of the race, the Congress in Delhi said there is a 'threat to democracy' as the opposition party faced another crisis after its Surat candidate's nomination form was

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Odisha requests for 1.5cr mosquito nets

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has requested the Centre to provide 1.56 crore Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) to curb malaria cases in the state. Odisha Health and Family Welfare Minister Niranjan Pujari wrote Monday a letter to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in this regard. Pujari highlighted that the Centre had provided 1.56 crore LLINs to Odisha in 2020-21, effectively preventing malaria infections. According to the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC), Odisha recorded the highest number of malaria patients in 2023 among all states with 41,971 cases.

Delhi cops summon Revanth

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 29: Delhi Police have asked Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to join their probe May 1 in connection with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video being circulated on social media, official sources said here Monday. They added that the police have issued notices to five members of Telangana Congress, including its chief Reddy, who

posted the video on 'X'. Reddy has been asked to appear with his mobile phone allegedly used for posting the fake video. The Special Cell of Delhi Police had Sunday registered an FIR after the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (4C), which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, filed a complaint about the 'doctored' video of Shah where his statements indicate a commitment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious grounds.

12 kids hurt in bee attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanager, April 29: Twelve students suffered injuries, some of them seriously when they were attacked by a swarm of bees at Sapua dam near Baligorada in Dhenkanal district Monday morning. The conditions of two of the students are stated to be serious, officials of the Kamakhyanager police station said. Officials stated 90 students belonging to 'Sanskar Public School' had gone to the Sapua dam to participate in a summer camp. However, the moment activities started, a swarm of bees attacked them leaving some of them injured. Principal of the school, Shantanu

Chatterjee informed that all the injured students were taken to the sub-divisional hospital here for treatment by the locals. He added that while some of the students have been discharged, others are still undergoing treatment. Cases of bee attacks are not new in Odisha. In fact the state registers a large number of bee attacks every year. In December 2023, two persons were killed after being attacked by bees in Kadua village in Dhenkanal district. Earlier in March the same year, nine students of Class X were attacked by bees as they reached their school to appear for the Matric exams. In May, 2023, a sarpanch was stung to death by bees in Ganjam district.

Nomination process for 3rd phase begins

Bhubaneswar: The ECI published Monday the notification for the third phase of elections in Odisha. In this phase, polls will be held in Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Puri and Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha constituencies and 42 Assembly seats under them May 25. Filing of nominations which began Monday will continue till May 6, nomination paper verification will take place May 7 and the last date for withdrawal is May 9, the ECI said in the notification.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We took more time to select the candidate than he took to switch sides!

2ND SUNSTROKE DEATH IN STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 29: Odisha registered its second heat-related death Monday in Dhenkanal district as per information available from the Health department. Earlier this month, a person had suffered sunstroke and had breathed his last in Balasore. Officials informed that currently 257 persons are undergoing treatment at various hospitals due to heat-related ailments or after suffering sunstroke. Meanwhile, the regional office of the IMD said that the ongoing heatwave will

continue till May 2. Baripada registering a temperature of 44.8 degrees Celsius emerged the hottest in the state. Thirty two places in Odisha registered temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius or more, the IMD informed. Angul continued to boil at 44.3 degrees Celsius followed by Boudh (44.1°C), Talcher (44.0), Titilagarh, Bolangir and Malkangiri (all 43.5°C) and Dhenkanal (43.2°C). Bhubaneswar recorded the maximum day temperature of 41.3 degrees Celsius, while in Cuttack it was 42.5 degrees Celsius.

Rolling Stones gather no moss

Frontman Mick Jagger and lead guitarist Keith Richards at 80 still performing like youngsters

AGENCIES

Houston, April 29: Time marches on and all good things must come to an end. But don't tell that to *The Rolling Stones*. What many believe to be the greatest rock 'n' roll band in the world showed no signs of slowing down anytime soon as they kicked off their latest tour Sunday night at the NRG Stadium here. *The Rolling Stones* have been touring for more than 60 years now. Frontman Mick Jagger and lead guitarist Keith Richards are both 80, with guitarist Ronnie Wood not far behind at 76. Their tour is being sponsored in part by 'AARP'. But during a vibrant two-hour show, *The Rolling*

Stones played with the energy of a band that was on tour for the first time. "It's great to be back in the Lone Star State," Jagger told the packed stadium, filled with long-time fans, many wearing faded concert shirts from previous tours. Jagger often strutted up and down the stage with seemingly boundless energy while Richards and Wood played many familiar guitar riffs beloved by fans. Jagger often led the audience in sing-alongs. "The energy

level is up and it's always up with them. The age doesn't show," Dale Skjerseth, the *Stones*' production director, said before the concert. *The Rolling Stones* have hit the road to support the release of their latest album, 'Hackney Diamonds', the band's first record of original music since 2005. Houston was the first stop on the band's 16-city tour across the US and Canada. Other cities on the tour include New Orleans, Philadelphia, Vancouver and British Columbia. The tour ends July 17 in Santa Clara, California.

While the stage was surrounded by a large collection of video screens projecting images throughout the show, the main focus of the concert was the band and their songs. When asked if the band might be thinking about retiring, Skjerseth said he doubts that will happen.



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ARIES
Today, you are raring to go. It's best you put that adrenaline to good use. This is the time to WORK and not plan. It's a day you can lift mountains and cross the seas. You can party hard later, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Spontaneity, predicts Ganesh, is the need of the hour. Ignore the negative aspects and focus on the positive side. Your action rather than thoughts will yield results today. Listen to some light music to soothe your soul, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
God helps those who help themselves. Maybe. But He definitely helps those who help others. Support your colleagues and they will be grateful to you. This way, even your bosses will notice your talents, if they haven't already. They will shower praise on you, and favours too. An entirely enjoyable evening with your loved ones will serve as the icing on the cake, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You are likely to be in good spirits throughout the day. With you brimming with confidence and positive energy, others around you will also feel upbeat. The entire day, you will be looking forward to the evening, so that you could spend some quality time with your loved ones. It will be worth the wait.

LEO
With Lady Luck smiling down on you, today promises to be rather special, forecasts Ganesh. Expect to find favourable conditions and come out with flying colours in whatever task you undertake, especially if it happens to be something like an interview. Bask in the kudos and appreciation at work, as your performance far exceeds the expectations of the management.

VIRGO
There is an indication that you may assume a leadership role and dictate the agenda at work today, predicts Ganesh. You may spend your afternoon window-shopping, looking for a gift that you feel like giving to a loved one. You will spend the evening planning your long-term goals with a close friend or family.

LIBRA
Ganesh predicts that today you will receive that much-awaited good news from abroad. At the workplace, you will remain completely focused. You may devise and come up with some innovative method to speed up work, much to your relief.

SCORPIO
It is quite likely that you will have an outstanding field day today, predicts Ganesh. At the workplace, you will possibly feel that you are stuck in the rut doing regular activities day after day. In relationship matters, evening will be full of surprises and excitement for you, expects Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Handicraft business is likely to draw your attention. People around you will marvel at your commitment and dedication to work and family alike. Ganesh advises you to bite the apple of love and share some romantic moments with your spouse.

CAPRICORN
Not many know how stupendous is your wealth of wisdom; today will be a good day to make a display of it, says Ganesh. You will have your wits about you and will impress many with your show of intellect. In the social circuit, you will indulge in spreading the message of love while at work, your excellent managerial skills will ensure that everything is under control.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will speak and everyone else will listen! Your eloquence will bring you recognition. But you must take it a step further. You will also manage to impress someone, and Ganesh sees the beginning of a new relationship. But don't forget to listen sometimes.

PISCES
Good times are coming your way, and this could be in the form of a promotion or a pay hike, says Ganesh. You will devote time equally between your work and family, taking a little time off to take them out on a leisure trip. Enjoy!



MEG RYAN FEELS LIBERATED SINCE REACHING HER 60s

When *Harry Met Sally...* star Meg Ryan has felt totally liberated since she reached her 60s. The 62-year-old actress says with age comes maturity and wisdom and she now feels confident enough to speak her mind and share her opinions on love, life and relationships.

BEYONCE TO PERFORM AT MTV VMAS AFTER 8 YEARS

Singer-songwriter Beyonce is set to perform at the upcoming edition of the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) to mark its 40th anniversary this September. This is the first time since 2016 that the *Cowboy Carter* hitmaker will grace its stage.



Samantha shares her special calling

Hyderabad: Samantha Ruth Prabhu is not just known for her on-screen performances but also for her commitment to physical and mental well-being.

"This is the cause that is closest to my heart, a special calling," Samantha admitted, expressing her unwavering commitment to advocating for mental health despite initial resistance. Thus, she affirmed her readiness to invest time and effort in the cause. She finds fulfillment in the prospect of making a positive impact, even if it's with a limited audience, underscoring her belief that following one's heart leads to the right path.

The actress, however, addressed the complexities of transitioning her fans' focus from entertainment to matters of health and mental wellness. Samantha said, "I have many fans who are more interested in entertainment, fashion and make-up." Meanwhile, Samantha's dedication to mental health advocacy starts with her own battle with myositis, an autoimmune condition that affects muscle tissues, causing weakness, pain, and fatigue.

On the work front, Samantha will be seen next in *Citadel: Honey Bunny* with Varun Dhawan.

Kat's evolving criteria for film choices

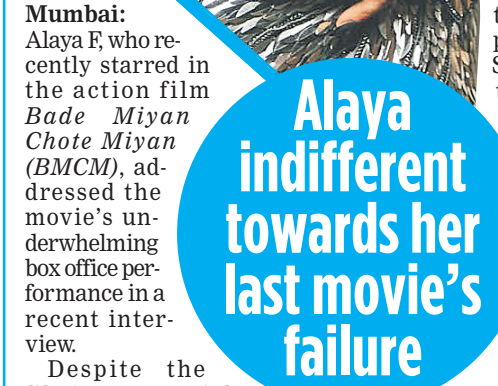


Mumbai: Katrina Kaif, hailed as one of the most hardworking actresses, delved into her

approach to selecting roles in the wake of her recent film, *Merry Christmas*. Despite the disappointment at the box office, the movie showcased an evolved portrayal of Katrina as an actress, notably opposite South Indian star Vijay Sethupathi.

In an interview with a foreign journal, Katrina articulated her evolving criteria for film choices, emphasising a balance between audience appeal and personal fulfilment. She asserted, "I've always put the audience first... It's about finding a balance, what story do I feel is going to connect with the audience? And who do I connect with personally and as an actor right now? What's going to give me growth? What's going to give me satisfaction? This is just exactly what I want to be doing right now."

Her candid revelations offer a glimpse into the inner workings of an actress navigating the complexities of fame and artistic fulfilment. As she continues to evolve her craft, Katrina's journey serves as an inspiration for aspiring actors and industry veterans alike. Through her introspective approach to film selection, she not only aims to entertain but also to grow personally and artistically, ensuring her continued relevance in the ever-changing landscape of Indian cinema, asserted the *Boom* actress.



Alaya indifferent towards her last movie's failure

Mumbai: Alaya F, who recently starred in the action film *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan (BMCM)*, addressed the movie's underwhelming box office performance in a recent interview.

Despite the film's commercial struggle, Alaya revealed a positive outlook on the experience. Speaking to a news portal, Alaya stated, "It didn't bother me because I feel that I got a lot from the film. I managed to reach a new audience who perhaps didn't know of me."

The actress acknowledged that a big, action-packed movie like *BMCM* often focuses more on entertainment than on critical acclaim. "When you're making a film of that scale and an action masala one at that, the reviews aren't going to be all about critical acclaim," Alaya remarked. Regarding her character in the film, she said, "I chose to do the char-

acter in a certain way. I was well aware of the fact that she wouldn't be everyone's cup of tea."

Reflecting her commitment and emotional investment in the role, the *Freddy* actress explained, "Sometimes, certain scenes after editing end up looking differently onscreen, and that's something out of my control. I gave my heart, and I did what I thought was the best."

Aamir reflects on 'power of namaste'

Mumbai: Aamir Khan recently appeared on Kapil Sharma's show for the first time. In the latest episode of Netflix's *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, the actor shared several anecdotes from his acting career. Aamir shared that he learnt the power of 'namaste' during the shooting of *Dangal* in 2015.

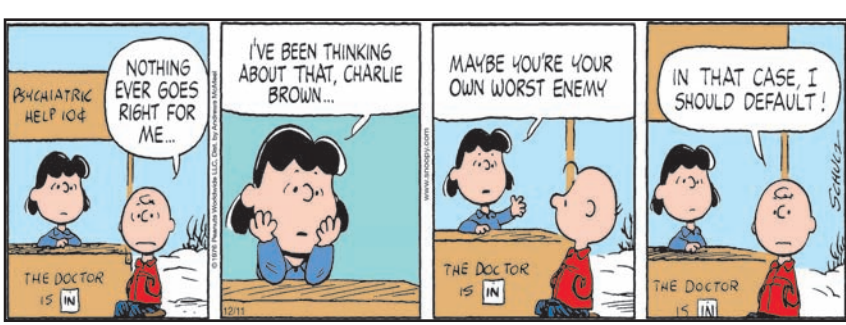
The *Dil* actor recalled, "We shot *Dangal* for more than two months in a small village in Punjab. You won't believe it, but when I used to reach there at around 5 or 6 in the morning, as my car entered, people would stand outside their homes just to welcome me with folded hands and 'Sat Sri Akaal.' They used to just wait to welcome me. They never disturbed me, never stopped my car, nothing. After my pack-up, when I would return, they would again be standing outside their homes and would greet me Good

Night." The *Ghajini* actor said, being a Muslim, he was not used to folding his hands and greeting people with 'namaste.'

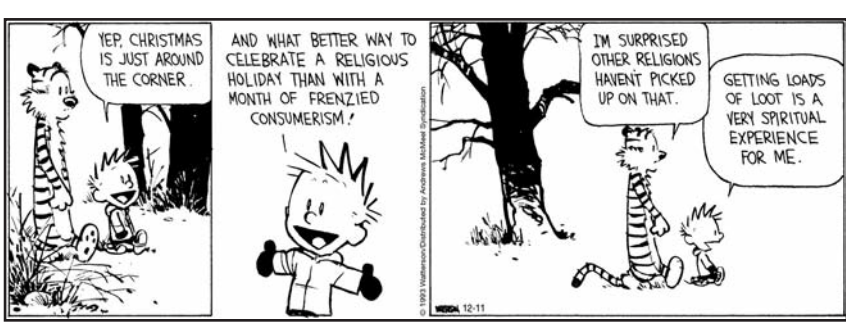
He went on to add, "I'm used to raising my hand (gesturing aadaab, the way Muslims greet each other) and bowing my head. After spending those two and a half months in Punjab, I understood the power of 'namaste.' It's such a wonderful emotion. People in Punjab have so much respect for everyone and do not discriminate based on stature."



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

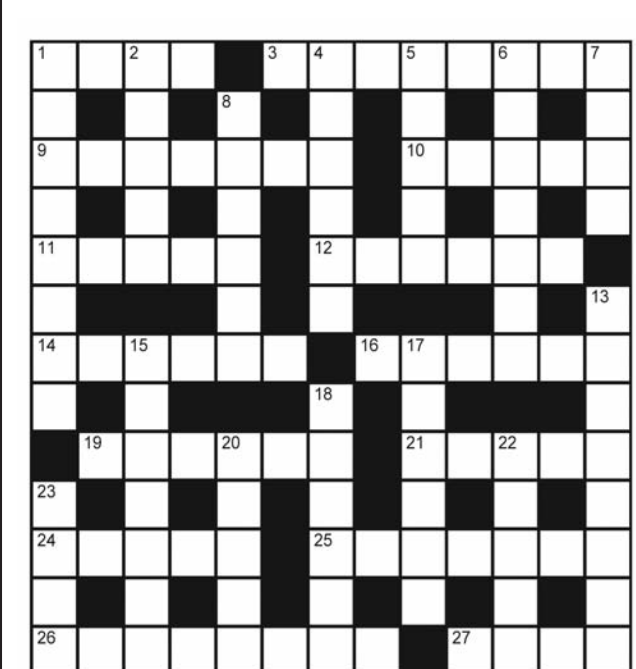


BREVITY



FUN post

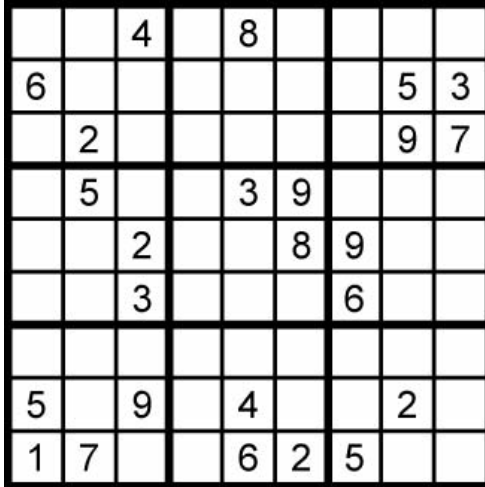
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Speaker's platform
 - 3 Disaster
 - 9 Thief, for one
 - 10 Hamlet's father, e.g.
 - 11 Holiday resort
 - 12 Sheep dog
 - 14 Family member
 - 16 Cold symptom
 - 19 Capital of Mali
 - 21 Postpone
 - 24 Excuse
 - 25 Finding, legally
 - 26 Trespasser
 - 27 Scorch
 - Down**
 - 1 Ship's crew member
 - 2 Bristol Channel, e.g.
 - 4 Secure
 - 5 Spiritual being
 - 6 Worship
 - 7 Himalayan legend
 - 8 Ultimatum words (2,4)
 - 13 Military defector
 - 15 Tickler of the ivories
 - 17 Inherent character
 - 18 Famous museum
 - 20 French farewell
 - 22 Pickling liquid
 - 23 Metered vehicle

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Odisha Association for the Blind founding member Gyana Ranjan Mohanty being felicitated with 'Bhima Bhoi Award of Excellence for 2024' during the 50th foundation day celebration of the association in Bhubaneswar, Monday



downtown

MP scammer who stole ₹9cr DMF funds held



- The savings account of Zilla Parishad, Mayurbhanj is being maintained with BoI Baripada branch in the name of District Mineral Foundation Trust
- The fraudsters managed to transfer ₹9,56,76,600 to 2 different accounts in the name of PT Constructions & Suppliers maintained with Bank of Maharashtra and SK Enterprises maintained with Punjab & Sind Bank
- The money was further diverted to many other accounts from the accounts of PT Constructions & Suppliers and SK Enterprises

OUT OF THE ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRED AMOUNT, ₹5,04,06,900 HAS BEEN BLOCKED, WHILE ₹13,56,948 LYING IN 33 ACCOUNTS HAS BEEN FROZEN

Bhubaneswar, April 29: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested a man from Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh on charges of swindling ₹9.6 crore from Mayurbhanj District Mineral Foundation (DMF) using clone cheques, of official sources said, Monday.

The accused, identified as Pomesha Tembhare, was arrested April 26 under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the IPC and produced before the Court of CJM, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh, an EOW official said.

"He was then brought to Bhubaneswar on the strength of a transit remand and was produced before the Court of PO, Designated Court under OPID Act, Balasore, Monday," added the official.

The case was registered on the basis of the allegation of Sujata Kanungo, chief manager of Bank of India (BoI),

Baripada, that illegal transactions of ₹9,56,76,600 were made from the account of District Mineral Foundation Trust of Zilla Parishad, Mayurbhanj, maintained with BoI, Baripada branch, by producing four cheques, which were later found to be cloned, April 10 and 18.

During the investigation, it was found that the savings account of Zilla Parishad, Mayurbhanj, is being maintained with BoI Baripada branch, in the name of District Mineral Foundation Trust. The fraudsters managed to transfer ₹9,56,76,600 to two different accounts in the name of PT Constructions & Suppliers maintained with Bank of Maharashtra and SK Enterprises maintained with Punjab & Sind Bank, said the official.

"The money was further diverted to many other accounts from the accounts of PT Constructions & Suppliers and

SK Enterprises. Out of the illegally transferred amount, ₹5,04,06,900 has been blocked, while ₹13,56,948 lying in 33 accounts has been frozen," he said.

Pomesha was found to be the owner/signatory authority of PT Constructions & Suppliers, to which more than ₹2.68 crore was illegally transferred. After the incident, Pomesha was hiding himself, keeping his mobile phone switched off in a Naxal-infested village in the MP.

The EOW team, with the help of local police and CAPF, arrested the accused, whose firm PT Constructions & Suppliers is functioning in Raipur.

"The firm is a sham and was created only for fraud. The accused is a member of a larger gang with a complex network in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha," he said.

The EOW has obtained important clues about the entire gang, which has been operating for at least four years.

They have been using well-planned and meticulous methods, from cheque cloning to multi-layering of money transfers, creation and operation of multiple mule bank accounts, withdrawal of money, information network, and local outs.

During the investigation, many incriminating clues have been seized, and they are under investigation to reach out to the other fraudsters, including the boss of this gang, EOW sources said.



LIVING ON THE EDGE: A group of boys dangerously pulling a trolley containing packets of potable water bottles on the tracks at Bhubaneswar railway station as temperatures climbed to 41.3 degrees Celsius in the Capital City, Monday
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

BJP responsible for Revanna's escape: Cong

Bhubaneswar, April 29: The Congress Monday alleged that the BJP was responsible for the 'escape' of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna against whom a 'sexual harassment' case has been registered.

Revanna is the BJP-JD(S) alliance candidate from the Hassan Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka, where voting was held in the second phase of elections April 26.

Senior Congress leader Ajoy Kumar claimed, "Revanna left India shortly after several sex scandal videos recorded by him surfaced."

"He has recorded obscene videos. Such an accused has been allowed to leave the country freely. The BJP is responsible for it. The prime minister is also responsible for the escape of Revanna," the Congress leader in-charge of Odisha alleged.

He mocked the BJP, stating that it should be called 'Balatkari Janata Party' as the saffron camp

was supporting a rapist.

The JD(S) has decided to suspend Revanna over sexual abuse allegations, party chief HD Kumaraswamy said Monday as the Congress and others tore into the BJP over the issue and its alliance with the southern party.

Police Sunday booked Prajwal and his father - JD(S) MLA and former minister HD Revanna - for sexual harassment and criminal intimidation based on a complaint from a woman, who worked in their household.

As per official data, crimes against women have increased by 50 per cent during the NDA regime, Kumar claimed, adding that the number of such cases has 'risen from 3 lakh to 4.45 lakh'.

"For the first time, the country has been witnessing a prime minister, who is looking at all crimes from the party angle. The PM has a soft corner towards BJP leaders, irrespective of the accusation of heinous crimes against them," the Congress leader claimed.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	74668.04 ↑ 937.88
NIFTY	22643.40 ↑ 223.45
DOLLAR	83.47 ↑ ₹0.13
EURO	89.39 ↑ ₹0.21
GOLD	₹71,570 ↑ ₹70
SILVER	₹80,771 ↑ ₹91

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	41.3°C	42.5°C
Min Temp	27.9°C	27.0°C
Humidity	69%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Heatwave to severe heatwave condition

NOTIFICATION OUT FOR 3RD PHASE OF ELECTIONS MAY 25

Bhubaneswar, April 29: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued a notification for the third phase elections in the state, where six Lok Sabha and 42 Assembly seats will go to polls May 25, official sources said, Monday.

According to the notification, the last date for filing nominations is May 6, and scrutiny of the nominations will be conducted May 7. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is slated for May 9.

The six Lok Sabha seats going to polls in the third phase in the state are Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Puri, and Bhubaneswar. Alongside, 42

The CEO has received 2,143 cases of violation of model code of conduct from the 6 Lok Sabha and 42 Assembly constituencies, out of which 2,128 have been disposed off

Assembly seats spread over 13 districts in the state will also go to polls May 25.

According to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) here, a total of 94,41,797 electorates, comprising 48,26,375 male voters, 46,14,134 female

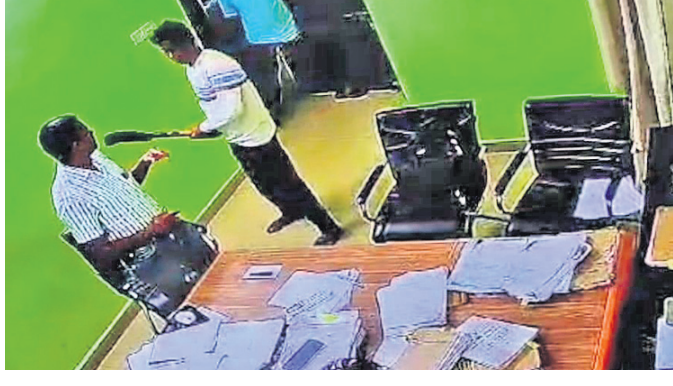
voters, and 1,288 transgenders, will exercise their franchise in the third phase polling (which coincides with the sixth phase at the national level).

Among the voters, 2,35,764 are in the age group of 18 to 19, while 18,42,816 are in the age group of 20 to 29, who will exercise their franchise.

The polling will be held in 10,515 booths, of which 36 are described as 'auxiliary booths' where the voters are more than 1,500.

The CEO office sources said it has received 2,143 cases of violation of model code of conduct from the six Lok Sabha and 42 Assembly constituencies, out of which 2,128 have been disposed off.

Armed man terrorises NZP officials



Barang, April 29: An unidentified armed miscreant unleashed terror for over 30 minutes at the office of the Deputy Director of Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here, Monday.

Though no one was injured in

the incident, the miscreant fled after causing extensive damage to furniture and computers in the office.

According to sources, at around 4pm, the unidentified man, said to be from a nearby village, barged into the Deputy Director's office. He allegedly roughed up two assistant di-

rectors after threatening them with a sharp weapon.

Sources said the terrified staff at the office locked themselves in their chambers as the miscreant hurled abuses and went on a rampage.

On being informed, Nandankanan police reached the place. However, by that time the miscreant had made good his escape. The police collected CCTV footage and are making efforts to identify the miscreant.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the hoodlum is well known to some staff and rangers of NZP.

Sources claimed that the incident could be the fallout of the favouritism practiced by some officials in the posting of employees to appease local heavyweights in the transformation work of NZP into a world-class zoo.

Dinosaurs not as intelligent as monkeys

New Delhi, April 29: Dinosaurs were 'more like smart giant crocodiles' but not as intelligent as monkeys as an earlier study had found, according to new research.

In a study published in January 2023, neuroscientist and author Suzanaerculano-Houzel of Vanderbilt University, US, had said that brains of theropod dinosaurs, a species of which is T. rex, had neurons comparable to those in the brains of monkeys and baboons.

Dinosaurs like T. rex, or Tyrannosaurus rex, had an exceptionally high number of neurons, "which would make these animals not only giant but also long-lived and endowed with flexible cognition, and thus even more magnificent predators than previously thought," the author

Findings contradict earlier study which claimed theropod dinosaurs, a species of which is T. rex, had neurons comparable to those in the brains of monkeys and baboons

wrote in the study published in the Journal of Comparative Neurology.

In the latest research, an international team of palaeontologists, behavioural scientists and neurologists re-examined the brains of dinosaurs, including T. rex, and found them to behave more like reptiles.

They were more like 'smart giant crocodiles,' according to study author Darren Naish from the School of Biological Sciences, University of Southampton, UK.

The team found that the size of the dinosaur brains had been overestimated, along with neu-

ron counts, and showed that gauging the intelligence of a species based on neuron count estimates is not reliable. The findings are published in The Anatomical Record journal.

"Neuron counts are not good predictors of cognitive performance, and using them to predict intelligence in long-extinct species can lead to highly misleading interpretations," said study author Ornella Bertrand from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.

The research follows along the lines of decades of analysis in which palaeontologists and biologists have examined dinosaur brain size and anatomy, and used these data to infer behaviour and lifestyle, the authors said.

Information on dinosaur brains comes from mineral fillings of the brain cavity, termed endocasts, as well as the shapes of the cavities themselves, they said.

"We argue that it's not good practice to predict intelligence in extinct species when neuron counts reconstructed from endocasts are all we have to go on," said lead researcher Kai Caspar from Heinrich Heine University, Germany.

They said that to reliably reconstruct the biology of long-extinct species, researchers should look at multiple lines of evidence, including skeletal anatomy, bone histology (study of the microscopic structure of tissues) and the behaviour of living relatives and trace fossils.

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SENSITISATION DRIVE: Government officials take part in a voter awareness rally organised by Rasulpur block office at Kuakhia Bazaar in Jajpur district, Monday

Fire breaks out at BOI zonal office in Baripada; 3 injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, April 29: Three persons were injured after a fire broke out at the zonal office building of a public sector bank in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Monday, an official said.

They were rescued from the smoke-filled three-storey office building in Baripada, but they were in unconscious condition at that time, he said.

The injured were admitted to PRM Medical College and Hospital here and their condition is stated to be stable, the official said, adding that others who were in the office came out safely.

Two fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the blaze, first spotted around 1 pm, assistant fire and emergency serv-



ices officer Bhabendra Nath Dey said. It was suspected that the fire broke out at the Bank of India's zonal office canteen, located on the third floor of the building, he said. It took almost three hours to douse the blaze, the official said, adding that an investigation has been initiated and the exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Firefighters faced difficulties in conducting the operation as thick smoke engulfed the office building, he added.

Poultry biz goes haywire in Kendrapara

BIG COMPANIES CALL THE SHOTS IN POULTRY BUSINESS AS FARMERS EARN PEANUTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, April 29: With the lone chick producing farm located inside the veterinary hospital here lying closed for the last 12 years, poultry business in the district has slipped into the hands of big companies.

These big companies, who own or control everything except the farms, call the shots in the poultry business. Poultry meat is sold around ₹220-350 per kg in hundreds of shops spread across the district. However, poultry farmers have failed to make any gain as they earn only peanuts from the business due to large scale interference of big companies. Despite the demand for poultry meat witnessing a sharp rise in the state, the farmers here have failed to reap any benefit.

In the absence of administrative control, the farmers have no way other than depending



on these big companies for their survival. Owing to administrative apathy and lack of foresight, an incubator purchased at a cost of ₹11 lakh and a generator to maintain uninterrupted power supply have been gathering dust with no effort being made for revival of the defunct chick producing centre established at an investment over ₹1 crore.

As much as 97 per cent of the poultry meat consumed by people is produced by a farmer under contract with a big company. These poultry farmers are the last independent link in the company-owned supply chain. In this scenario, the company owns

every link of a product's supply chain from start to finish. This has happened as the state government has failed to regulate the big companies.

Sources said the state government is providing loans to women self-help groups (WSHGs) and youths to run poultry farms. Loans are provided through banks under its ambitious Mission Shakti scheme. This has encouraged women and youths to start poultry businesses.

However, poultry farmers have been trapped by these big companies who are supplying them poultry feeds, chicks and medicines. As a result the farmers, instead of making profits, are facing losses. The situation has remained unchanged despite a rise in price of poultry meat all over the state. This has disappointed those who have started poultry farms to earn a livelihood.

Poultry farmers Kalia Samantaray of Indupur, Subhasis Jena of Kansar village, Ramakant Mallick of Pakhar village and Sheik Hassan of Barimula village alleged that the state government has no role in regulating the market price of poultry products leaving the rein in the hands of the big companies.

It is alleged that big traders from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and only a couple of local firms have monopolized the poultry trade in the state. The companies sign a contract with the independent farmers while the latter spend only

on construction of farms, houses, water and power supply and manpower required to run a farm. In exchange they supply farmers with poultry feeds, chicks and medicines on time. After raising the chicks, the farmers get only ₹3-5 per kg of poultry meat irrespective of the market price at that time as they cannot sell their products in the market directly.

Company employees collect the fully-grown chicken and sell them both outside and inside the state. These companies charge exorbitant prices for their products if the farmers are unwilling to sign an agreement with them. In such a scenario, poultry farmers have asked the state government to intervene and bail them out of this situation.

When contacted, Chief District Veterinary Officer (CDVO) Deepti Mohapatra said that the state government has launched various schemes providing subsidy for the benefit of the poultry farmers. They can enroll in these schemes and reap the benefit. However, no legal action can be taken as the farmers are entering into contracts with these big companies. However, efforts are on to revive the chick producing centre, she added.

No effort being made for revival of the lone chick producing centre in the district lying defunct for the last 12 years

NIT R felicitates alumni who cracked UPSC-CSE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, April 29: NIT Rourkela Monday felicitated five of its illustrious alumni who made it to the UPSC Civil Services Examination merit list in a packed Bhubaneswar Behera Auditorium on its campus here.

Five former students of the premier institute have succeeded in the UPSC CSE for 2023, the result of which was declared April 16. The alumni who have qualified the prestigious exam are Animesh Pradhan (AIR 2), Computer Science and Engineering, 2021; Padmanav Mishra (AIR 176), Electrical Engineering, 2018; Biswajit Panda (AIR 343), Electrical Engineering, 2016; Anushka Sarkar, (AIR 426), MA in Development Studies, 2019 at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Kallul Hazarika (AIR 992), Mechanical Engineering, 2016 batch.

The event commenced with Dean Himanshu Bhushan Sahu ex-



tending a warm welcome to all the successful candidates. On this occasion, K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela said, "These outstanding individuals have not only made their alma mater proud but also set a shining example for current and future students of NIT Rourkela to aspire for greatness and make meaningful contributions in any field they want to work. I thank all of them for making all of us elevated by their achievements."

Thanking NIT Rourkela, second topper Animesh said, "I am extremely thankful to the NIT Rourkela fraternity for giving me

the opportunity to share my happiness and gratitude. I owe a lot of my success to NIT Rourkela for the kind of ecosystem it has. And to the budding aspirants, I would like to emphasise that this won't be an easy ride."

Padmanav Mishra, a local youth from Chhend Colony, said, "The diversity of this service is unparalleled and it gives the ability to touch the lives of thousands of people. I feel honoured for all the wishes and blessings from my alma mater. Holding high the name of NITR brings me great happiness and I believe that in the coming years, our institute will ascend to the highest

echelons in the nation." "NIT Rourkela is the place where my childhood dream concretised as the place shaped my personality to a great extent with its supportive teachers, inspiring friends, and conducive atmosphere serving as constant motivators. Engaging in co-curricular and extracurricular activities further enriched my journey. To the younger students at NIT Rourkela, I offer this advice: clarity of purpose is essential," said Biswajit Panda.

Anushka Sarkar, remembering her days here, said she remained in touch with her department. "It was in NIT Rourkela that I stayed away from home for the first time. The first step of my UPSC journey took shape here when my classmate first told me about the exam," she added. Kasturi Panda, IAS (Alumni, B.Tech 2019) who got AIR-67 in UPSC CSE (2022) also shared a message to the aspirants of NITR as she could not attend the programme due to an urgent assignment.

One killed in dynamite blast

Keonjhar: A youth was killed in explosion after he accidentally touched a dynamite set up by miscreants to catch fish from Karo river under Joda block in this district, late Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Mangua Duta (24), son of Mohana Duta from Dubulita village under Bolani police limits in the district. According to the sources, Mohana went to the Karo river Sunday noon for a bath where he unknowingly touched a dynamite set up by some miscreants to catch fish. The dynamite suddenly exploded injuring him critically. In the impact of the blast, his left hand was severed entirely off his body. Family members immediately rushed him to the district headquarters hospital where he succumbed during treatment, late Sunday night. Bolani police arrived at the hospital, launched an investigation after registration of a case.

YOUTH SENT TO JAIL FOR RAPING MINOR

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, April 29: Kendrapara Town police arrested a 24-year-old youth on charge of raping an eight-year-old fellow village girl studying in Class III at a local primary school.

The accused, identified as Laxman Bhoi, was produced before the Additional Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge, POCSO Court Monday, which remanded him into jail custody.

Kendrapara Town police station IIC Dillip Sahu said while the victim was playing near her house, the accused, finding her alone, raped the minor girl.

As the girl screamed and cried, the accused fled the spot but threatened the minor victim not to disclose the matter to anybody. The victim's mother later lodged an FIR with Kendrapara Town police station.

Acting on the FIR, the police registered a case under Section 376(AB) of the IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act and arrested the accused. The police recorded the victim's statement under Section 161 of CrPC and sent both the accused and victim for medical examination.

Body found on railway track

Berhampur: The Government Railway Police (GRP) here recovered the body of a 34-year-old man from the railway tracks adjacent to the jail near Berhampur Railway Station Sunday night. Police found an Aadhaar card and a Voter ID from the body belonging to the deceased identified as Rabindra Daku, a resident of Lanjia village under Sadar police limits. Police registered a case (35/24) of unnatural death and after post-mortem handed over the body to Tarini Dakua, the deceased's brother, Monday. Rabindra had left home without informing anybody Sunday morning. However, when he did not return home till evening, his brother launched a frantic search but was unable to find him. After preliminary investigation, police suspect that Rabindra, who was reportedly suffering from depression, might have died after jumping in front of the train.



Ganja worth ₹3 crore seized; 2 arrested

Malkangiri: Kalimela police seized 350 kg ganja worth ₹3 crore and arrested two persons Sunday night while patrolling near Kenguduga village under Kurmanur panchayat in this district. Acting on a tip-off about ganja smuggling in the forest, Kalimela police conducted a raid and arrested two smugglers while they were preparing to smuggle the contraband hidden in sacks outside the state. The approximate cost of the seized contraband would be over ₹3 crore, said the police. However, identity of the accused duo has not yet been ascertained. Kalimela police after registering a case started an investigation in this regard. Police are currently interrogating the accused and after completion of investigation, the names and addresses of the accused will be shared, police informed.

PRESS RELEASE

ELECTION OBSERVERS CONTACT DETAILS OF KEONJHAR DISTRICT

No.D-18: Any complaints or grievances relating to Simultaneous General Election, 2024 pertaining to 04-Keonjhar(ST) and 20-Telkoi(ST) AC,21-Ghasipura AC, 22-Anandapur(SC) AC, 23-Patna (ST) AC,24-Keonjhar (ST) AC, 25-Champua AC 30-Karanjia(ST) AC, Mayurbhanj may be lodged to the below mentioned Mobile No./ Whatsapp No./ Email ID

Sl. No.	Name of the Observer	Observer for PC/AC	Contact No./ Whatsapp No.	Email ID	Address
1	Rakesh Kumar Das, IRS(R-19246)	04-Keonjhar(ST) PC	7008257215	rakesh.k.das@income tax.gov.in	Room No. 01, Circuit house, Keonjhar
2	Raj Kamal Ranjan, IA & AS (O-35171)	20-Telkoi(ST) AC, 21-Ghasipura AC, 22-Anandapur(SC) AC 30-Karanjia(ST) AC Mayurbhanj	7978352192	ranjanrk@cag.gov.in	Room No. 07, Circuit house, Keonjhar
3	Indana Ashok Kumar, IRS(C&CE) (R-35580)	23-Patna(ST) AC, 24-Keonjhar (ST) AC, 25-Champua AC	7978090413	ashok.indana@gov.in	Room No. 06, Circuit house, Keonjhar

Sd./Dt.29.04.2024
OIPR-12062/11/0001/2425 District Election Officer & Collector, Keonjhar

Bank of India
Zonal Office: Baripada
Bank Of India Building, Lal Bazaar, In front of MKC School, PIN-757001

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

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

UDALIA BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Mortgagor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Bikartan Behera, S/o.: Ram Chandra Behera, A/P PO.: Radho, Udala, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757041	₹17,85,890.68 + interest & expenses thereon	09.02.2024 / 26.04.2024	Equitable Mortgage of Land situated at Mouza: Radho, Tahasil: Udala, Khata No.: 1093/168 bearing Plot No.: 1512/3855, Area: Ac. 0.07 Dec., Kissan: Gharabari, standing in the name of Mr. Bikartan Behera.
Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Ghana Shaym Sethi, S/o.: Late Dayanidhi Sethy, At: Mathiabhangga, PO.: Tikarapada, P.S.: Khunta, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757019	₹2,51,553.81 + interest & expenses thereon	30.11.2023 / 26.04.2024	Equitable Mortgage of Land situated at Mouza: Udala Town Unit No.: 11, Tahasil/P.S.: Udala, Khata No.: 92/324 bearing Plot No.: 134/774, Area: Ac. 0.02 Dec., Plot No.: 135/775, Area: Ac. 0.04 Dec., Total 1 Khata & 2 nos of Plot with
Borrower/Mortgagor: Mrs. Sunita Panda, W/o.: Ashit Kumar Behera, At: Udala, Ward No.: 6, PO./P.S.: Udala, Tahasil: Udala No.: 295, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757041	₹25,93,183.71 + interest & expenses thereon	18.12.2023 / 26.04.2024	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building situated over Khata No.: 65, Plot No.: 2608/2704, Area: Ac.0.20 Dec., Kissan: Gharabari, Mouza: Nijkainsari, P.S.: Udala No.: 96, Tahasil: Udala No.: 295, standing in the name of Mrs. Sunita Panda

Place: Baripada, Date: 29.04.2024
Authorised Officer, Bank of India



“
This operation is the ICG's 12th apprehension in the last three years and a testimony of coordination and success of joint efforts of ICG and ATS Gujarat for appropriate response to drug trafficking through seas
AN ICG RELEASE

According to official sources, a total of 173 kg of Hashish (extracted from cannabis) along with two Indians have been caught as part of a joint operation. “Based on specific and credible intelligence inputs from the ATS, the ICG strategically deployed its ships and aircraft, ensuring that the boat does not evade the sea-air coordinated surveillance,” the release said. The boat was intercepted after its proper identification, and investigations confirmed that the two accused persons were involved in smuggling around 173 kg of drugs, it said.

Mayawati urges voters not to be misguided by BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budaun (UP), April 29: BSP chief Mayawati Monday asked poor people not to feel obliged to vote for the BJP because of the free rations they get from the central government.



Since some time, the BJP-led centre has been providing small amounts of ration to the poor families and during elections, the BJP and RSS people go to villages and ask them to repay the debt by giving their votes to the BJP

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

nents, the BSP president alleged that like the Congress, the BJP too has politicised the investigating agencies. She said in the last few years, the development and progress of Muslims and religious minorities has stopped and atrocities and oppression under the guise of Hindutva is at its extreme.

Calling the voters to stop supporting the Congress, BJP and their allies, she said that these parties will try every means to come to power. She alleged that opponents are using media, opinion polls and surveys for it and said the same is the case of election manifesto with hollow promises which are mostly not implemented by these parties after polls.

SP gives tickets to Hindu and where Hindus are more in number, they field a Muslim candidate. “This is the character of the Samajwadi Party,” she said.

In Budaun, which has a sizable Muslim population, the SP decided that the candidate will be that of “their own family of their own caste”, she alleged and stressed that there is no discrimination in her party over ticket allocation and proper representation is given to everyone.

Attacking her political oppo-

ADR reveals wealth difference among Guj LS polls candidates

BJP's Jamnagar candidate Poonam richest in Gujarat Lok Sabha poll fray, while BSP contestant poorest with ₹2k

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 29: Bharatiya Janata Party's Jamnagar Lok Sabha candidate Poonam Maadam is the richest in the poll fray in Gujarat with assets of Rs 147 crore, as per the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

At the other end of the list is Bahujan Samaj Party's Rekha Chaudhari, contesting from Bardoli (Scheduled Tribe) seat, who has declared assets of just Rs 2,000.

Of the 266 candidates fighting on 26 Lok Sabha seats in the state, ‘crorepatris’ (a crore is Rs 10 million) stand at 68, or 26 per cent of the total, the ADR said Monday.

Mukesh Dalal, the BJP candidate who won unopposed from Surat, has assets of more than Rs 17 crore, said ADR, an apolitical and nonprofit organisation working on electoral and political reforms.

Maadam, who is seeking re-election from Navsari, has declared assets rise from Rs 42.7 crore in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to Rs 147 crore in 2024, comprising movable assets of Rs 60 crore and immovable properties of Rs 87 crore. These include assets of her own, her spouse and those of Hindu



Poonam Maadam during a rally

- Among the Union ministers contesting the elections from Gujarat, Parshottam Rupala is the richest having declared assets of more than ₹17 crore
- Bharat Makwana from Ahmedabad (West), a seat reserved for Scheduled Castes, is the richest among the Congress candidates with assets of over ₹25 crore
- The BJP leads with 24 ‘crorepati’ candidates, followed by 21 from the Congress, and four belonging to the Bahujan Samaj Party

Undivided Family (HUF).

Among the Union ministers contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Gujarat, Parshottam Rupala has declared assets of more than Rs 17 crore, of which Rs 11.5 crore is movable and Rs 5.9 crore immovable, as per ADR.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has declared total assets of more than Rs 7 crore, including Rs 3 crore movable and Rs 4.95 crore immovable ones. Gujarat BJP president CR Paatil, who is seeking re-election from Navsari, has declared assets of over Rs 39 crore.

Among Congress candidates, Bharat Makwana from Ahmedabad (West), a seat reserved for Scheduled Castes, is the richest with assets of over Rs 25 crore.

The BJP leads with 24

‘crorepati’ candidates, followed by 21 from the Congress, and four belonging to the Bahujan Samaj Party.

“The average assets of BJP candidates stands at over Rs 15 crore, while the figure is Rs 6 crore for the Congress. Of the 15 richest candidates in Gujarat, eight are from BJP and seven from Congress,” said.

As per details shared by ADR, 19 out of 266 candidates are women. Out of 266 candidates, 16 are in the age group of 25-30, while 61 are in the 31-40 segment, 88 between 41-50 years, 60 in the 51-60 bracket, 35 are between 61 and 70, and six are above 70.

“Five out of 266 candidates have doctorates, seven are illiterates, 14 are literates, 32 graduates, 24 graduate professionals, 18 postgraduates and 14 diploma holders,” as per ADR.

SP eyes non-Yadav OBC nominees in eastern UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, April 29: The Samajwadi Party (SP) is apparently making a conscious effort to downplay its pro-Yadav image and has focused on non-Yadav OBCs in candidate selection in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The SP has chosen candidates belonging to OBC caste groups like Kurmi, Nishad, Rajbhar, Bind and Kushwaha on prominent seats. The idea is obviously to bring the other backward castes closer to Yadavs and form a consolidated vote base.

The Samajwadi Party, for instance, has fielded Pappu Nishad from Sant Kabir Nagar. He is challenging BJP candidate Parveen Nishad, son of Nishad Party President Sanjay Nishad in this seat.

In Basti, SP has chosen veteran Ram Prasad Chaudhary, a Kurmi, to challenge BJP sitting MP Harish Dwivedi. Dwivedi had defeated Chaudhary in the 2019 elections. The BSP, this time has nominated Daya Shankar Mishra as its candidate.

In Jaunpur, former BSP minister Babu Singh Kushwaha is the SP candidate. He is pitted against Kripa Shankar Singh of the BJP. Singh is the former minister of the Maharashtra government. The BSP has fielded Sreekala Reddy Singh, wife of mafia don and former MP Dhananjay Singh.

In Salempur, the Samajwadi Party has fielded Rama Shankar Rajbhar, who wields influence among his Rajbhar community, while the BJP has repeated its

Yes, we have made a conscious effort this time to give greater representation to non-Yadav OBCs and this is a part of our PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpasankhyak) formula

A SAMAJWADI PARTY SPOKESMAN

sitting MP Ravindra Kushwaha. In Mirzapur, the Samajwadi candidate is Rajendra Bind who also belongs to the riverine community. The Mirzapur seat is held by BJP ally - Apna Dal (S) - and its leader Anupriya Patel will be seeking her third term from here.

In Maharajanji, the Samajwadi Party candidate is Narendra Chaudhary who belongs to the Kurmi community. The SP has fielded Pintu Sainthwar, another OBC, from Kushinagar while it has named Lalji Varma, a Kurmi leader, from Ambedkar Nagar. The SP has also named a Kurmi candidate from Pratapgarh - SP Singh Patel.

“Yes, we have made a conscious effort this time to give greater representation to non-Yadav OBCs and this is a part of our PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpasankhyak) formula,” said a party spokesman.

The SP, this time, has only five Yadavs in its list - Akhilesh Yadav from Kannauj, Dharmendra Yadav, from Azamgarh, Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri, Akshay Yadav from Firozabad and Aditya Yadav from Budaun. It is another matter that all of them belong to the same family.



GUJARAT LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 36 NOMINEES FACE CRIMINAL CASES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 29: Thirty six out of the 266 candidates for the Lok Sabha polls in Gujarat have criminal cases against them, with some also facing attempt to murder and dacoity charges, as per an analysis of their affidavits by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Elections to 25 out of the 26 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat will be held May 7. The BJP candidate from Surat has already been declared elected unopposed.

“Out of the 266 candidates, 36, or 14 per cent, have criminal charges against them, as per details provided by them in

Out of the 25 BJP candidates, four have criminal cases against them, with two facing serious charges

Out of the 23 Congress candidates, six are named in criminal cases, with three facing serious charges

Aam Aadmi Party candidate Chahtar Vasava and independent nominee Ismail Patel, both contesting from Bharuch seat, have the highest number of 13 criminal cases each against them

Out of the total 118 independent candidates, 18 have criminal cases against them, with 11 facing serious charges

the affidavits. Out of them, 21, or 8 per cent, have serious criminal cases against them,” ADR's Gujarat coordinator Pankti Jog told reporters here on Monday.

Serious criminal cases are those which attract a maximum

punishment of 5 years or more, are non-bailable, related to murder, rape, kidnapping, bribery, assault, causing loss to the exchequer, crimes against women, hate speech, and offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, she said.



Polls prep: An electoral officer demonstrates the functioning of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) during a training programme for polling officials for Lok Sabha elections in Lucknow, Monday

This party wants to be voice of 'mard' in LS polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 29: Unlike other political parties, winning or losing elections does not matter to the Mera Adhikaar Rashtriya Dal (MARD), which has jumped into the electoral battle to be the voice of the 'mard' and to defend men's honour.

MARD has lost deposits on all seats it has contested so far since it was formed in 2018 but its leaders say they are undeterred by elections losses.

The party has released its 'MANifesto' for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls with the slogan "Beton ke samman me, 'mard' utre maidan me" (In honour of sons, men have stepped on to the battleground).

The party has so far announced candidates for three seats - Lucknow, Ranchi and



Goalkhpur. The MARD party has previously contested in seven different elections - Lok Sabha polls in Varanasi and Lucknow in 2019, bypoll in Bangarmanu assembly seat in 2020, assembly polls in Bareilly, Lucknow North, Bakshi Ka Talab (Lucknow) and Chauri Chaura seats in 2022.

When asked about the fate of his party candidates contesting polls this time, he candidly accepts, “This time too, they can lose their deposits.”

“We don't have a lot of resources and we also do not take donations. Our candidates contest on their own expenses. The benefit of contesting the polls is that now more parties are coming to raise the issues of men,” Pandey said.

Kapil Mohan, the party's national president, said men are “suppressed” in a bid to “empower half the population”. The party wants to highlight this issue so that people pay attention to it, he said.

In the party 'MANifesto', the party has promised that a separate Men's Welfare Ministry and National Men's Commission will be created so that before any policy or law is formulated, the point of view of men is taken into account.

“It will help in formulating schemes keeping in mind the health, security and honour of men,” Pandey added. The party has also promised a Men's Security Bill to save men from exploitation by “laws made for women”.

The party has also promised to promote self-reliance of women so that men are not “harassed in the name of alimony”, Pandey said.



Mahesh vs Simarani in Hindol prestige battle



Mahesh Sahu



Simarani Nayak



Gobardhan Sekhar Nayak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, April 29: The battle for Hindol Assembly constituency under Dhenkanal Lok Sabha segment might take an interesting turn with the ruling BJD nominee pitted against his former party colleague and the incumbent MLA, a report said.

The Hindol Assembly constituency (SC) comprises Hindol and Odapada blocks in Dhenkanal district. Political temperature in Hindol Assembly constituency is soaring high after the three major parties - BJD, BJP and Congress - announced the names of their candidates. Sitting MLA Simarani Nayak after being deprived of a BJD ticket joined BJP and was fielded by the saffron party as its candidate from the constituency.

On the other hand, BJD dropped Simarani from the party ticket and fielded sitting Dhenkanal MP Mahesh Sahu as its nominee from Hindol Assembly constituency. This

has generated enormous heat in the constituency as two former colleagues are pitted against each other.

Reports said that Hindol Assembly constituency has remained a citadel of the erstwhile Janata Dal in past and of the ruling BJD since 2000. BJD's Anjali Behera had won the elections twice between 2000 and 2009 and became a minister in the state government.

Similarly, Simarani remained an MLA of the ruling party from this constituency from 2014 to 2019. She was expecting to get the BJD ticket again in 2024 election. However, the ruling party chose to drop her and fielded the sitting Dhenkanal MP as the party nominee. Later, she joined BJP and got a ticket from the saffron party.

The ruling BJD is trying to protect its citadel which it has built since 2000 while BJP has called for a change and fighting the election.

Similarly, all eyes are on the Congress nominee Gobardhan Sekhar Nayak as he is an engi-

neer by profession and a resident of Hindol. Sources said the locals are sympathetic to him. He is also learnt to be trying to spring up a surprise by winning the votes of the dissidents of both BJD and BJP.

Sahu said his party will fight the polls on the development works being undertaken in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. He will make the developmental initiatives being taken up in Hindol as his major poll plank and will give priority to development of the remote regions of the constituency.

BJP's Simarani said that she will fight the polls on the basis of developmental works and public welfare schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Likewise, Congress nominee Gobardhan said he will make doctors' crunch, employment of local youths in various industries, establishment of cold storages, blood banks and death of around 40 persons in a year due to elephant attack as the major poll issues.



Several BJP leaders and workers of Chhatrapur Assembly constituency joined BJD at Sankha Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Fight is between '2 flowers' & '2 conches': Pradhan

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 29: Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the context for the upcoming elections, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Monday coined a new slogan 'Duiti Phoola' (two flowers) to counter the ruling BJD's 'Jodi Sankha' (two conches) campaign.

While BJD's poll symbol is conch (sankha), it is lotus flower for BJP. The "Duiti Phoola Bahut Bhala" (two flowers mean greater good) slogan was given by Pradhan, the BJP candidate in the Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat, at an election rally at Athamallik.

Last week, BJD released a video in which Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked people to vote for the party and displayed



two conch symbols - one for Lok Sabha and another for Assembly polls. At the election rally Monday, Pradhan too showed two lotuses and appealed to people to cast their votes for the symbol.

Initially, BJD had coined "Jodi Sankha" slogan to counter BJP leaders' call for the "double engine sarkar". While speaking to reporters after the meeting, Pradhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview has made the party's stand clear

that BJP will fight the polls in the state over the issue of "Odia Asmita" (Odisha pride). "The PM has set the context for the polls by rightly pointing out that Odisha's identity and language is under threat," Pradhan said.

This election rally was not only about change but also about pride and development of the state, he said.

Reiterating Modi's statement, Pradhan said Odisha is rich in mineral and water resources,

besides having fertile land and forest resources.

Despite this, the state is lagging behind other states in almost all sectors, he claimed. "Corruption is at its zenith and everything is in a mess in the state," he alleged. Pradhan also came down heavily on BJD government alleging that there is no proper system of governance in Odisha.

"Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is on a video and the remote of the video is in the hands of another man... Officers, drawing salaries from people's hard-earned money, are now at the helm. They need to be ousted," the Union minister said.

Pradhan claimed that the wind of change is clearly visible across the state. "Sankha has been damaged and it can no longer be blown," he said.

Rahul to campaign in Rayagada May 3

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 29: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will visit the tribal-majority Rayagada district May 3 to address his second public meeting in the state ahead of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Odisha Congress campaign committee chairman Bhakta Charan Das said that Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to address a "Nyay" rally in Rayagada May 3, where he would speak on tribal and OBC-related issues.

After visiting Rayagada, Gandhi would also address another public rally in Bolangir district, where he is likely to



raise the issues of unemployment and migration, he said.

As Nabarangpur district was once the favourite place of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, the party has planned to bring Priyanka Gandhi for campaigning, Das said.

Notably, Rahul Gandhi addressed his first public meeting at Salipur Assembly constituency in Cuttack district.

BJD, BJP, Cong claim credit for Kalahandi transformation

While BJD, BJP and Congress promise further development in the area if voters elect their candidates, all the three parties have fielded fresh faces for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in consideration of the fact that Kalahandi chose a new MP in each of the last three parliamentary polls

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, April 29: Once infamous for drought and starvation deaths during 1980s, the Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituency in western Odisha seems to have undergone a remarkable transformation, with political parties across the board claiming credit for its development.

It appears that operationalisation of Indravati Irrigation project and schemes like the Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RLTAP) worked wonders for the region.

While BJD, BJP and Congress promise further development in the area if voters elect their candidates, all the three parties have fielded fresh faces for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in consideration of the fact that Kalahandi chose a new MP in each of the last three parliamentary polls.

In the 2009 general elections, Bhakta Charan Das of Congress

had won the Kalahandi seat, while Arka Keshari Deo of BJD and Basanta Kumar Panda of BJP won the subsequent elections in 2014 and 2019 respectively.

The BJD has chosen Lambodar Nial, the BJP named Malavika Keshari Deo, a member of the Kalahandi royal family, replacing sitting MP Basanta Kumar Panda, and Congress has put up tribal community member Droupadi Majhi as a candidate for the seat.

Kalahandi now has an airstrip, a medical college, a university and many other projects worth indicating its real transformation. The erstwhile hunger zone of Kalahandi is now a major rice bowl of the state. The region is the second highest contributor to the state's food security basket after Bargarh, claimed BJD leader Sujeet Kumar.

He attributed all credit to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's efforts that changed the face of Kalahandi.



Malavika Keshari Deo

Lambodar Nial

Droupadi Majhi

While campaigning for BJD's Kalahandi Lok Sabha candidate Lambodar Nial, senior party leader Kartik Pandian said, "As head of the family, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has taken care of all of you. He has provided Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, school transformation, improvement of hospitals and other works in Kalahandi."

Pandian said adivasis occupied a special place in Patnaik's heart and claimed the Chief Minister withdrew 50,000 cases against tribals, improved their places of worship and carried out other development projects in tribal areas.

"I appeal to you on behalf of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to vote for the conch symbol," Pandian said, referring to the poll symbol of the Biju Janata Dal.

Nial, who hails from the OBC community, is optimistic about

his victory. "The developmental achievements of the Chief Minister and the BJD government would certainly help me win the seat. The state's health scheme is extremely popular among the poor people of Kalahandi," Nial said.

The BJP, too, claimed credit for the transformation of Kalahandi. Sitting MP Panda claimed that important projects worth ₹3,000 crore have been completed during his tenure. National Highways and railway projects, including the Junagarh-Nabarangpur railway line, were taken up under Junagarh-Bhadrachalam new line project, he said.

The NDA government has also improved tele connectivity in the region for which people are very happy, claimed Panda.

The BJP has fielded Malavika Keshari Deo since the Kalahandi

royal family is believed to have special influence among Kalahandi voters. Members of the royal family have been elected to the Lok Sabha nine times since 1952.

Malavika's grandfather-in-law Pratap Keshari Deo was elected to the Lok Sabha five times in a row from 1957 to 1977. While he was elected on the Swatantra Party ticket four times in 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1971, he won as an Independent in 1952.

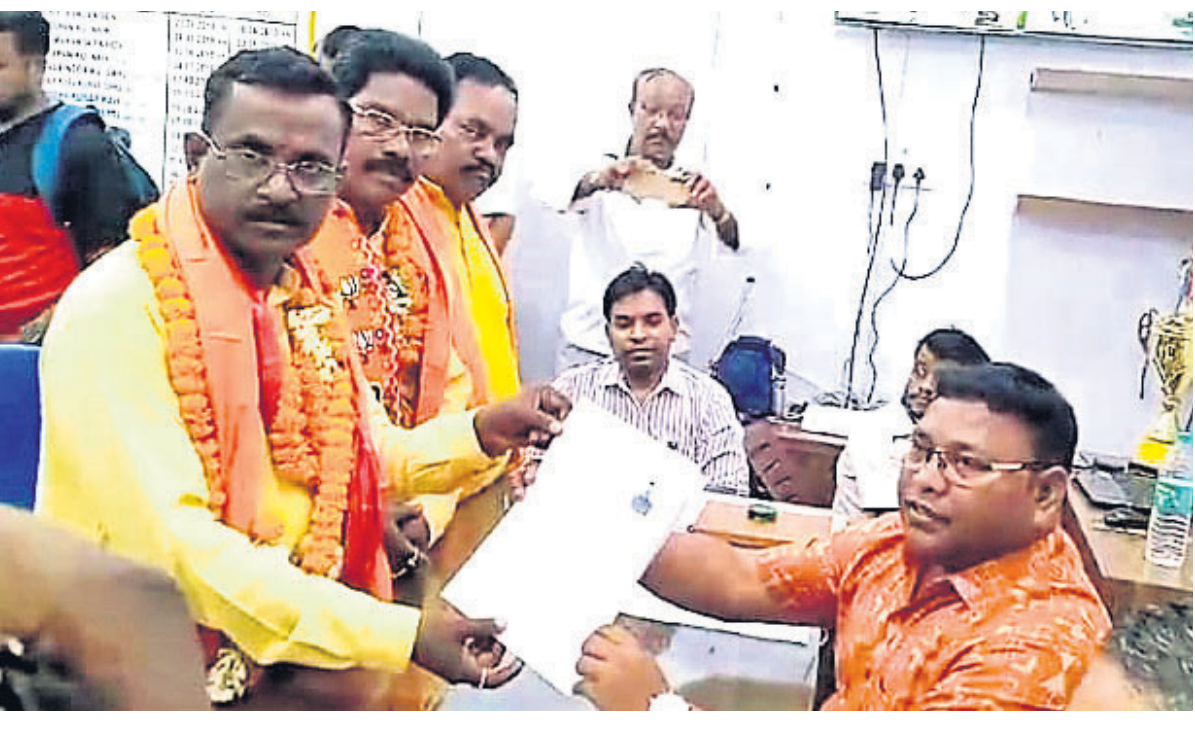
Her father-in-law BK Deo was elected from this Lok Sabha seat thrice as a BJP candidate while her husband Arka Keshari Deo also won the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 as a BJD candidate.

Malavika expressed confidence that she would retain her family seat this time as well for her connection with the poor people. "People accept me and shower blessings. This indicates my clear victory in Kalahandi," Malavika claimed. Malavika may be new to the electoral battle, but her family is a force in Kalahandi politics, said political analyst Ajay Mishra.

Tribal leader and Congress candidate Droupadi Majhi started her political journey as a village sarpanch and went on to become a Zilla Parishad member of her party. She too is confident of winning the polls.

Dulal Pradhan quits Cong

Sambalpur: A day after he was replaced as Congress' Lok Sabha candidate for Sambalpur, senior leader of the party Dulal Chandra Pradhan Monday resigned from the primary membership of the grand old party. In his letter to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Pradhan said, "I can never compromise on Sambalpur's future and the agenda for the welfare of Sambalpur." Pradhan was named the Congress' candidate for Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat. However, when the party released its fresh list April 28, he was found to have been replaced by former MP Nagendra Pradhan for the prestigious western Odisha seat. Nagendra Pradhan, a former minister in Naveen Patnaik government, had won Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat on a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) ticket in 2014.



BJP's Anandapur Assembly nominee Alok Sethi filing his nomination before the sub-collector-cum-returning officer of Anandapur in Keonjhar district, Monday



BJD workers join Congress in the presence of Jeypore's sitting MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati at his Laxminagar residence in Jeypore, Monday

international



We expect the International Criminal Court to prevent the issuance of arrest warrants against senior Israeli officials

HEATWAVE SHUTS SCHOOLS Southeast Asia was coping with a severe heatwave Monday as record-high temperatures led to school closings in several countries and urgent health warnings throughout the region.



of the day quote

The fact that... a woman dies every four days on average at the hand of a partner is just a national crisis

Today, I think the first and foremost problem is global inequity. The Covid-19 pandemic had exposed these imbalances and gaps

The people want President Yoon Suk Yeol to make a grand change in the basics of his policies. He must boldly accept special counsel probes to resolve diverse suspicions surrounding the Yoon Suk Yeol government

SHORT TAKES

Abducted judge released in Pak

Peshawar: A district and sessions judge kidnapped by armed men in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has been released from captivity, said Barrister Saif, the spokesperson of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), early Monday.

Spain PM decides to stay in office

Madrid: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Monday he will continue in office "even with more strength" after days of reflection. Sanchez shocked the country Wednesday, announcing he was taking five days off to think about his future after a court opened preliminary proceedings against his wife on corruption allegations.

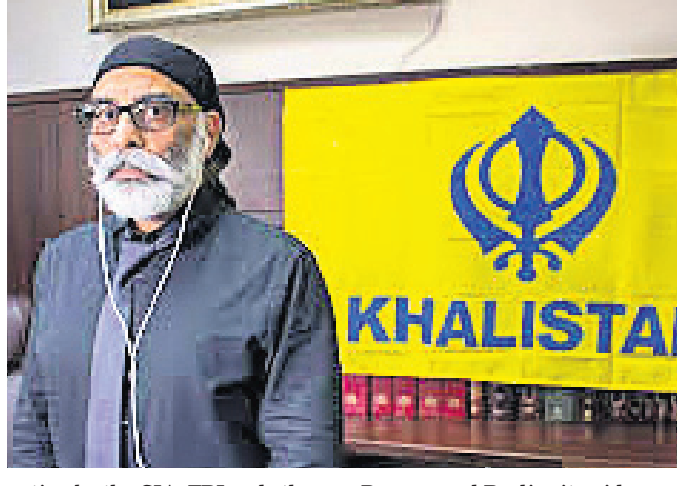
PANNUN MURDER BID

A report in The Washington Post claims that a RAW official was involved in assassination plot of Sikh separatist leader Pannun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, April 29: A RAW official identified as Vikram Yadav was involved in the assassination plot of Sikh separatist leader Gurbhag Singh Pannun in the US and the move was approved by the then Indian spy agency chief Samant Goel, according to an investigative media report published Monday.

RAW official involved: Report



The top American daily -- which is now owned by American billionaire Jeff Bezos, founder and head of Amazon -- said it is investigating a global surge in such campaigns of cross-border repression, as well as the global forces leading India and other nations to employ tactics normally associated with the world's most repressive governments.

Prague and Berlin, it said. "In reports that have been closely held within the American government, US intelligence agencies have assessed that the operation targeting Pannun was approved by the RAW chief at the time, Samant Goel," the daily claimed.

by the American side with us, because they also equally impact our national security." The high-level committee is looking into those aspects and that is where it is right now, Jaiswal said in New Delhi April 25.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar April 1 had said that India's national security interests are involved in its investigation into the alleged involvement of a government official in the assassination plot aimed at Khalistani extremist Pannun.

Scotland's first minister quits



London, April 29: Scotland's leader Humza Yousaf resigned Monday, further opening the door to the UK opposition Labour Party regarding ground in its former Scottish heartlands in a national election expected to be held later this year.

At least 45 people die in Kenya after dam collapses

The East African country has postponed the reopening of its schools by one week due to ongoing flooding caused by heavy rains since mid-March



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nairobi, April 29: A dam collapsed in western Kenya early Monday, killing at least 45 people and leaving dozens missing after a wall of water swept through houses and cut off a major road, the Interior Ministry said.

submerged large areas. William Lokai told Citizen TV that he was woken up by a loud bang and shortly after, water filled his house. He escaped through the roof together with his brother and children.

Israel kills 25 Palestinians in Rafah

REUTERS

Cairo, April 29: Israeli airstrikes on three houses in the southern Gaza city of Rafah killed at least 25 Palestinians and wounded many others, medics said Monday, as leaders of Hamas arrived in Cairo for a new round of talks with Egyptian and Qatari mediators.

NEW GAZA CEASEFIRE TALKS EXPECTED IN CAIRO



We are hopeful the proposal has taken into account the positions of both sides, has tried to extract moderation from both sides, and we are waiting to have a final decision

SAMEH SHOUKRY | FOREIGN MINISTER, EGYPT

Palestinians, 34 of them in the past 24 hours, and wounded 77,643, according to Gaza's health authorities. The war has displaced most of the 2.3 million population and laid much of the enclave to waste.

FIRST WAR, NOW DEPORTATION

Afghans in Pakistan face uncertain future

MILLIONS OF AFGHANS MADE PAKISTAN HOME TO ESCAPE WAR. NOW MANY ARE HIDING TO ESCAPE DEPORTATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, April 29: Born and raised in Pakistan to parents who fled neighbouring Afghanistan half a century ago, an 18-year-old found himself at the mercy of police in Karachi who took his cash, phone and motorbike, and sent him to a deportation centre.

Pakistan says must leave. Some 600,000 Afghans have returned home since last October, when the crackdown began, meaning at least a million remain in Pakistan in hiding.



he won't get it. Pakistan isn't issuing paperwork for Afghan refugees or their children. "My life is here. I have no friends or family in Afghanistan, nothing," the young man told The Associated Press.

life. They dispatched him to north-eastern Takhar province, where he slept in mosques and religious schools because he knew nobody to stay with. He passed his time playing cricket and football, and borrowed other people's phones to call his family.

Their job was to get him to Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, for the price of \$70. He is relieved to be reunited with his family. But he is vulnerable. Police have daubed numbers on homes in his neighbourhood to show how many people live there and how many have documentation.

Putin likely didn't order death of Navalny, says US official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, April 29: US intelligence officials have determined that Russian President Vladimir Putin likely didn't order the death of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny in February, according to an official familiar with the determination.



happened to Navalny but that "there is no doubt" that his death "was the consequence of something that Putin and his thugs did."

