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leisure



BRITNEY SPARKS FEARS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION

Pop princess Britney Spears has sparked fears for her mental health condition after being photographed barefoot, topless and wrapped in a blanket. The *Toxic* singer, 42, was snapped being escorted out of a Los Angeles hotel looking distraught and bleary eyed, and wearing only white underwear Thursday morning.

DORFMAN CONFIRMS SECRET MARRIAGE

13 Reasons Why star Tommy Dorfman, who came out as trans three years ago, revealed that she married her partner Elise a few months ago. "We decided that, at some point down the line, we would just elope. Elise never aspired to be a bride in the traditional sense," Tommy told *Vogue*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Something unexpected may happen. Though you may not comprehend all that takes place, Ganesh says it is fine. Stay away from stressful activity, as you may need to go out in the evening. Put on the glitter and gloss, as some good music and dance are expected to come your way.

TAURUS

Today, you are likely to face it difficult to impress or influence others. If you have set your mind on acquiring something, you may face initial setbacks but eventually you will succeed in getting hold of it. Everything you engage in will work out fine. Be friendly and outgoing to all, more so during the latter half of the day. That will make your fortune smile even more.

GEMINI

Religious pursuits will take up a large chunk of your time today. You will incur expenses on religious rituals and charity work. You will find yourself going to a place of worship in search of peace and solitude, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Ganesh says you will win over people with your oratory. So it will speed up your work. In the afternoon, you will get news of monetary gain in the office. Be on the guard, minor ailments may bother you, warns Ganesh.

LEO

Ganesh foresees today as a day full of duplicities, as you foster amazing feelings and astonishing fears. It's like you don't know whether to be happy or scared. At work, you may do well to anticipate a sudden turn of events as hectic business activities take their toll on you.

VIRGO

You will be smitten by the love bug today. And Ganesh says make the most of it. In matters regarding your career, you will soon sight your destination, and make renewed efforts to reach it as fast as you possibly can. A candle-light dinner will put you in high spirits.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will find happiness and enhanced vigor today. You will make plans to go with your friends or family members for a short trip or excursion. You will be confused about something in the day which will drive you to seek answers in religious or philosophical discourses.

SCORPIO

You may come across unexpected monetary gains today, says Ganesh. You are likely to be tagged as a 'reliable' employee of the company and you may be entitled for many other benefits that your company has to offer. This may increase your energy and enthusiasm towards work.

SAGITTARIUS

Time and tide waits for none, they say. To make the most of the present times, you need to pull up your socks. You will soon take up the challenging task of getting organised in your ways and focusing on the goals of life. At work, you leave no stone unturned to achieve your goals, but may fail to fulfil your superiors' expectations.

CAPRICORN

All the factors responsible for a successful life, be it positive attitude, perseverance, time management or strong and supportive well-wishers, are favouring you. But, do not take it very easy, advises Ganesh. You understand the importance and seriousness of the situations, and try to take your colleagues along with you to accomplish your goals. Spending more time with family will make you realise that how important you are for your loved ones.

AQUARIUS

You need a break! Plan a trip, go for a movie, join a weekend meditation retreat. You may be burning yourself out. A little holiday will get you going once again. If nothing else, a game of tennis, or a brisk walk in the evening should do the trick.

PISCES

Frustration born out of a sense of stagnation will make you aggressive today. And while you are not likely to be able to meet all your deadlines, you will still make enough of an impact for people to realise the importance of your presence.

Mumbai: Yami Gautam's career is a masterclass in adaptability. With a string of successful projects on both the big screen and OTT platforms, she's carved a unique path in the dynamic world of entertainment.

In a recent interview, the *Article 370* actress talked about the formula to her success. Unlike some actors who have a preference for one medium, Yami's priority has always been the roles she takes on. She shared, "I never chose any of my films thinking this was great for OTT or for the theatrical. I chose them for what they were and the roles I wanted to portray."

She expressed her affection for the magic of the big screen, despite the convenience of OTT platforms. She admitted that seeing herself in theatres will always hold a special place in her heart. There's something special about the moment when the lights dim, the projector starts, and the audience gets engrossed in the movie, added the actress.

Yami is also open to trying out new ways of storytelling. With the entertainment industry changing rapidly, she's willing to explore different paths. Whether it's acting in a thrilling show on Netflix or starring in a big movie at the theatre, the actress is eager to take on new challenges.

On the work front, Yami is looking forward to her next release *Dhoom Dhaam*.



I live to make music: Neha

Mumbai: Singer Neha Bhasin has talked about her latest song, *Furqat*, expressing her passion for creating poetic music videos.

She shared that she lives to create music, and creating poetic music videos is a passion for her.

Neha said, "I live to make music, and creating iconic, poetic, and breathtaking music videos is a passion. Music for me is visual too."

Furqat, shot at the picturesque locales of Wai in Maharashtra, is a neo-style power ballad with a strong dubstep backbeat mixed with ethereal ethnic elements like *Dilruba* (esraj).

The lyrics, written by Juno, explore themes of separation and unrequited love. The location plays an important role, with barren mountains depicting feelings of desolation and separation poetically. The sun-kissed lake and vast landscape convey their own heartache, with Neha emoting the song in her trademark high-fashion ensembles.

The singer added: "It was a great experience to perform under Sameer Uddin's direction. For me, fashion is art, and the beautiful composition of *Furqat* is awe-inspiring, and all the hard work is paying off."

Yami reveals her success formula

I'm always a work in progress: Alaya

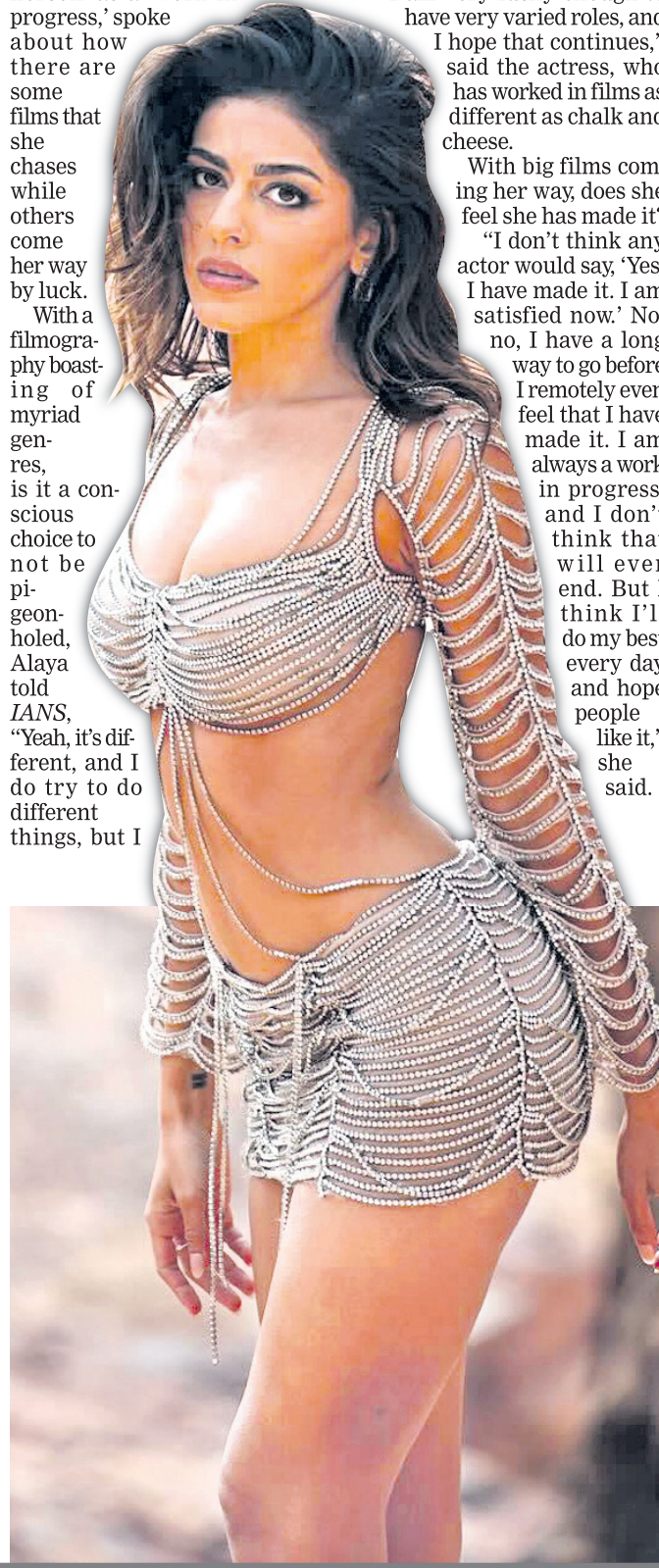
Mumbai: Since her debut in 2020, Alaya F has portrayed diverse characters in several big-budget films.

The actress, who describes herself as a 'work in progress,' spoke about how there are some films that she chases while others come her way by luck.

With a filmography boasting of myriad genres, is it a conscious choice to not be pigeon-holed, Alaya told *JANS*, "Yeah, it's different, and I do try to do different things, but I think I just get offered all types of films. Then there are some films that I chase, and some films are completely by luck. It's a mixture of everything."

"I am very lucky enough to have very varied roles, and I hope that continues," said the actress, who has worked in films as different as chalk and cheese.

With big films coming her way, does she feel she has made it? "I don't think any actor would say, 'Yes, I have made it. I am satisfied now.' No, I have a long way to go before I remotely even feel that I have made it. I am always a work in progress, and I don't think that will ever end. But I think I'll do my best every day and hope people like it," she said.



Film fest in honour of Guru Dutt

Bangalore: In a tribute to Bangalore-born legendary actor-director Guru Dutt, the city will host a two-day film festival and a musical evening featuring his hit songs this weekend.

The event is being organised by Rotary Needy Heart Foundation, said Rotarian Rajendra Rai, former district governor of District 3190.

"The proceeds from ticket sales will go towards RNHF's efforts in providing life-saving heart surgeries for underprivileged children across the country," Rai added.

According to him, the foundation came about at the insistence of Rotarian OP Khanna, who himself underwent heart surgery, realised that the underprivileged could not afford one.

The foundation was established in 2001 to facilitate heart surgeries for patients from below poverty line families, with a substantial donation from Khanna.



"So far we have helped over 15,000 people,"

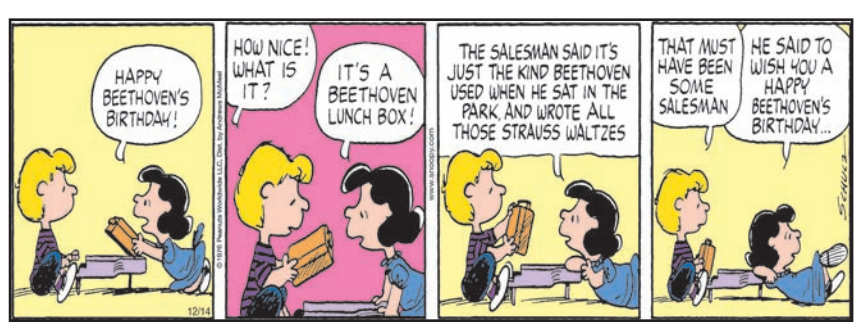
including children, in collaboration with Jayadeva Hospital, Narayana Hrudayalaya, Manipal Hospital and Columbia Asia," added Rai.

"Guru Dutt would have turned 100 this year. Also, many from his core team, like cinematographer VK Murthy, were from Bangalore. So, we thought it was the right time to organise a tribute festival for him here," Rotarian Sanjay Koppikar, a techpreneur, said about the icon.

According to Rai, the film festival will celebrate the life and work of the legendary actor, director and producer.

"A selection of his iconic films like *Pyaasa*, *Kaagaz Ke Phool*, *Mr and Mrs 55* and *Aar Paar* will be screened May 4 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bangalore and on May 5 at the auditorium of Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy in Banashankari here," added Rai.

PEANUTS



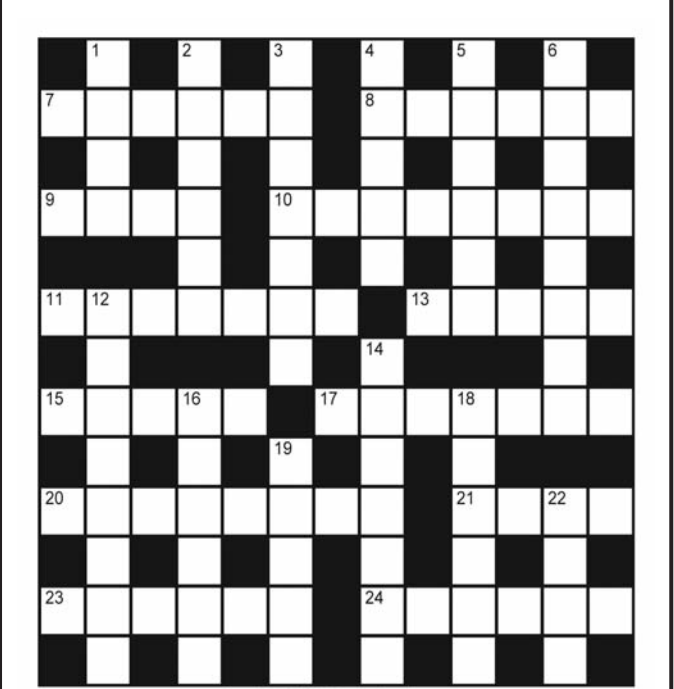
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Crushed rock
 - 8 They're history
 - 9 Sluggish
 - 10 Saltwater fish
 - 11 Pinch
 - 13 Kind of ink
 - 15 Swollen
 - 17 Hamlet's cousin
 - 20 Follow the boat? (5,3)
 - 21 ___ reflection
 - 23 Like some property
 - 24 Type of monkey
 - 3 Spinster (3,4)
 - 4 Mend
 - 5 Apprentice
 - 6 Momentary
 - 12 Howled
 - 14 La Spezia locale
 - 16 Dressing type
 - 18 Flowering tree
 - 19 Actor's line
 - 22 Musical composition
- Down**
- 1 Kind of hygiene
 - 2 Statement of belief

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

L	S	H	I	O	A
C	A	T	T	L	E
A	V	I	D	R	I
B	A	L	C	O	N
R	A	B	B	I	N
V	L	L	E	D	A
B	E	V	E	R	A
N	C	P	A	T	I
I	G	U	A	N	A
E	R	Z	M	A	R

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Down to earth
 Actor Alaya F says she has a long way to go before even feeling remotely that her goal has been achieved

LEISURE PAGE

India's sharp retort
 India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj slams Pakistan's 'destructive and pernicious' remarks

INTERNATIONAL | P8

Adani group in soup
 Seven out of 10 listed firms of Adani group receive show-cause notices from SEBI for alleged violation of related party transactions

BUSINESS | P9

Chelsea beat Tottenham
 Chelsea dent Tottenham's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League further after beating them 2-0 in the Premier League

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

Exchange offer: BJP fields Khatua from Nilagiri seat

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The BJP Friday named Santosh Khatua as its candidate for Nilagiri Assembly seat in Balasore district, thus completing the process of announcing nominees for the simultaneous elections in the state. Khatua had Thursday resigned from the BJD after being denied a party ticket for Nilagiri seat. He joined the BJP and was nominated by the saffron party. In the 2019 polls, Khatua had contested from the seat as a BJD candidate but lost to BJP's Sukant Nayak. On the other hand, Nayak joined the BJD March 31 and has been nominated by the party for the Nilagiri seat. Nayak had won the Nilagiri seat twice, in 2014 and 2019. In 2014, he had contested as a BJD candidate and in 2019, he fought on the BJP's symbol and defeated Khatua by a margin of 1,577 votes. In this election, they will face each other again, albeit as candidates of different parties.



MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE	PERCENTAGE
SENSEX	73878.15	↓ 732.96	-0.99%
NIFTY	22475.85	↓ 172.35	-0.77%
DOLLAR	83.00	↓ ₹0.77	-0.92%
EURO	89.78	↑ ₹0.34	0.38%
GOLD	₹70,432	↑ ₹304	0.43%
SILVER	₹80,816	↓ ₹547	-0.68%

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	41.6°C	40.5°C
Min Temp	27.6°C	27.0°C
Humidity	64%	61%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
 Light to moderate rain very likely

Rape case filed against Revanna

Bagalkote, May 3: A rape case has been filed against the JD(S)-BJP alliance candidate for Hassan Lok Sabha seat Prajwal Revanna, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Friday. The case was filed based on a complaint by the 20-year-old son of the victim, who also alleged that his mother was abducted by Prajwal's father and JD(S) MLA HD Revanna and his confidant Satish Babanna, police said, adding that they have filed two separate cases. The victim is a mother of three children and was allegedly abducted from her home in Krishnaraja nagar town in Mysore district, police said. P7



PARCHED PLANET: A boy pushes a bicycle across the dry bed of a lake on a hot summer day at Boklung village in Nagaon district, Assam, Friday. PTI PHOTO

Dismal press freedom

India now ranks below Pakistan when it comes to press freedom, as revealed by the latest World Press Freedom Index released by the French non-profit Reporters Without Borders. With an average of three or four journalists killed in connection with their work every year, India is one of the world's most dangerous countries for the press, where journalists critical of the government are routinely subjected to online harassment, intimidation, threats and even physical attacks, criminal prosecutions and arbitrary arrests. While Norway retained the top position as in 2023, Afghanistan, Syria and Eritrea were at the bottom of the index.

media ownership, and political alignment, press freedom is in crisis in 'the world's largest democracy,' ruled since 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," it said. Three Scandinavian countries - Norway, Denmark and Sweden - are ranked in the top three in that order. Pakistan (152), Sri Lanka (15), Nepal (74) and Maldives (106) are ranked above India, while Afghanistan ranks at 178, Bangladesh at 165 and Myanmar at 171. The analysis further says that India's media has fallen into an 'unofficial state of emergency' since Modi came to power and engineered a spectacular rapprochement between his party, the BJP, and the big families dominating the media. As per the report, through pressure and influence, the old Indian model of a pluralist press is being called into question. The analysis went to say that while the government has tightened its grip on both state and privately owned media, press ownership has become heavily concentrated in the hands of a few conglomerates that are mostly allied with the government.

In its analysis on the trend across the world, 'Reporters Without Borders' says: "A growing number of governments and political authorities are not fulfilling their role as guarantors of the best possible environment for journalism and for the public's right to reliable, independent, and diverse news and information." Against an election backdrop, violence against journalists increased in several countries with an almost total impunity. Three journalists were murdered in Bangladesh. The number of arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances of journalists increased in Pakistan, while journalists were subjected to physical and online attacks in Indonesia. With three journalists killed and at least 25 cases of journalists detained, Afghanistan dropped 26 places in the index. North Korea (177) and China (172), with their all-out persecution of the media, have stagnated in the depths of the index, while Vietnam (174) and Myanmar have pursued a policy of mass imprisonment of media personnel.

Rahul files papers from Rae Bareilly

Rae Bareilly/New Delhi, May 3: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi filed his papers from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly constituency Friday, barely an hour before nominations closed for the Lok Sabha seat. Earlier, in the morning, the Congress ended the suspense over Amethi and Rae Bareilly, announcing his candidature from the seat held by his mother Sonia Gandhi for the last two decades. She recently moved to the Rajya Sabha. Gandhi had lost from the adjoining Amethi constituency to BJP's Smriti Irani in 2019, but won from Wayanad in Kerala - a seat he is contesting this time as well. The former Congress president was accompanied by party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as he handed over his papers to district election officer Harshita Mathur around 2 pm on the last day for filing nominations. Kishori Lal Sharma, a close aide of the Gandhi family, filed his papers from the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency. Polling in

Cancels Rayagada visit, sends video message
Bhubaneswar: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who cancelled his visit to Rayagada district Friday to address an election rally at the last moment for filing nomination papers for Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat, sent a video message in which he attacked the Sangh Parivar and the Prime Minister. In the message, Gandhi said continuous attacks were made on democracy and the Constitution. "The Congress party and INDIA bloc are trying to protect democracy and Constitution while Modi, BJP and RSS want to destroy it," Gandhi said. "These people are trying to finish the book (Constitution) which has given you all these rights," he said adding that without the Constitution, there would be nothing. both parliamentary constituencies will be held May 20. The BJP mocked the Congress decision to field Gandhi from Rae Bareilly rather than Amethi. At a rally in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Congress 'shehzada' (prince) who went to Wayanad after losing Amethi is contesting from Rae Bareilly. P7

May consider interim bail to Kejriwal in view of polls: SC to ED

New Delhi, May 3: The Supreme Court Friday said it may consider granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, in a ray of hope to the AAP chief arrested in the excise policy-linked money laundering case. Kejriwal was arrested March 21 and is currently lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told the Enforcement Directorate (ED) that arguments on Kejriwal's plea against his arrest are likely to take time and therefore it was considering hearing the probe agency on the issue of interim bail to him on account of Lok Sabha elections in Delhi. Delhi goes to polls May 25. It then told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, to be ready with the case May 7. "It appears we can't complete today. We will post it on Tuesday morning itself. Mr Raju, one more thing. If it is going to take time and it does appear to us that it may take some time, we will then consider the question of interim bail because of the elections," the bench told Raju, who was wrapping up his arguments for the day.

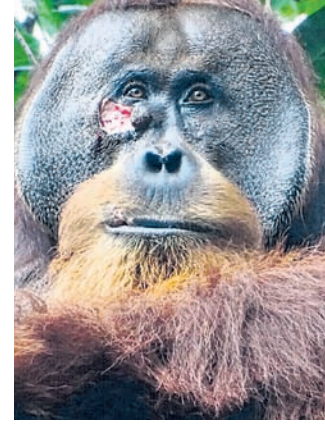
Canada makes arrests linked to Nijjar's murder

Ottawa, May 3: Canadian police Friday made arrests linked to the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in the province of British Columbia in June 2023, a source directly familiar with the matter said. The source, who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the case, said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would brief media later. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in September that Canadian authorities were pursuing allegations linking Indian government agents to the fatal shooting of Nijjar, a Canadian citizen. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's claim as 'absurd.' The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation earlier said the RCMP had arrested members of an alleged hit squad. It cited a source saying investigators had identified the suspects in Canada some months ago and had been keeping them under tight surveillance.

Orangutan's use of herb to heal wound amazes scientists

New Delhi, May 3: In June 2022, a male Sumatran orangutan named Rakus sustained a facial wound below the right eye, apparently during a fight with another male orangutan at the Suaq Balimbing research site, a protected rainforest area in Indonesia. What Rakus did three days later really caught the attention of scientists. Researchers have described observing how Rakus appeared to treat the wound using a plant known for its pain-relieving properties and for supporting wound healing due to its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anti-fungal and antioxidant qualities. The orangutan chewed the plant's leaves to produce a liquid

that he repeatedly smeared on the wound and then applied the chewed-up plant material directly to the injury, much like a wound plaster administered by doctors, according to primatologist and cognitive biologist Isabelle Laumer of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour in Germany. Rakus also ate the plant, an evergreen vine commonly called Akar Kuning - scientific name Fibraura tinctoria, added Laumer, lead author of the study published in the journal 'Scientific Reports'. This plant is rarely eaten by orangutans in this peat swamp forest area, home to about 150 critically endangered Sumatran orangutans. "To our knowledge, this is the first documented case of active



wound treatment with a plant species with medical properties by a wild animal," said study senior author Caroline Schuppli, an evolutionary biologist at the institute.



Rakus, believed to have been born in 1989, is a flanged male, with large cheek pads on both sides of the face - secondary male sexual characteristics. Rakus was one of the area's

dominant males. The researchers said the orangutan's wound self-treatment did not appear to be happenstance. "His behaviour appeared to be intentional. He selectively treated his facial wound on his right flange with the plant juice, and no other body parts. The behaviour was repeated several times, not only plant juice but later also more-solid plant material was applied until the wound was fully covered. The entire process took a considerable amount of time," Laumer said. The wound never showed signs of infection and closed within five days, the researchers said. "The observation suggests that the cognitive capacities that are needed for the behaviour - ac-

tive wound treatment with plants - may be as old as the last common ancestor of orangutans and humans," Schuppli said. "However, what these cognitive capacities exactly are remains to be investigated. Whereas this observation shows that orangutans are capable of treating their wounds with plants, we don't know to what extent they understand the process." The last common ancestor of orangutans and humans lived about 13 million years ago. Orangutans are one of the world's great apes - the closest living relatives of humans - alongside chimpanzees, bonobos and gorillas. Orangutans are the least closely related to humans of them but still share approximately 97 per cent of our DNA.

Mercury to drop by 3-4°C in next 48 hrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: In a welcome respite from the blistering heatwave conditions prevailing in the state, the weather bureau predicted a significant drop of up to 3-4 degrees Celsius in the next 48 hours.

Weather scientist at the regional centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here told Orissa POST Friday that the sea wind from the Bay of Bengal will bring about the succor from the heatwave conditions, hastening drastic reduction in temperature across the state.

air has been accentuated by the western disturbance prevailing in north-east India which has sucked the moisture, reducing humidity.

He said rain and thunder-shower activities are expected in the state between May 7 and 11 which will also help bringing down the heat.

Meanwhile, the IMD predicted thunderstorm with lightning in south Odisha districts Saturday.

As per the IMD forecast, thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada and Koraput May 4.

However, heatwave condition is very likely to prevail over Angul, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Boudh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda Saturday, the weatherman predicted while issuing a yellow warning in this regard.

According to the IMD, heat-wave conditions prevailed at one or two places over the districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Nuapada, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Keonjhar and Nayagarh during the last 24 hours.

On the other hand, light to moderate rainfall occurred at one or two places over the districts of Ganjam, Malkangiri, Rayagada and Khurda during the period, it said.

"There will be no large change in the maximum temperature (day) during the next three days. However, the maximum temperature may fall by three to four degrees Celsius at many places in the state thereafter," the weatherman said.

"We can expect normal to below normal temperatures at various parts of the state from May 5," he added.

Das said the dryness in the

Sujata Karthikeyan shifted to Fin dept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The state government Friday transferred and posted senior bureaucrat Sujata R Karthikeyan as special secretary in the Finance department following an order of the Election Commission (EC).

Karthikeyan, wife of BJD leader Kartik Pandian, was earlier holding the post of commissioner-cum-secretary in the Mission Shakti department, with additional charge of Odia Language, Literature and Culture (OLL&C) department.

As per a notification by the GA department, Health and Family Welfare department secretary Shalini Pandit has been given additional charge of Mission Shakti department & OLL&C department.

Karthikeyan's transfer was prompted by allegations of misuse of public office, leading the EC to relocate her to a non-public dealing department.

'Committed to provide turnout figures timely'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Amid Opposition's allegations of delay by the Election Commission (EC) in sharing voter turnout data, the poll body Friday asserted that booth-wise data of 'actual number of votes polled' is available with the candidates soon after the voting ends.

The EC also said it attaches 'due importance' to timely release of voter turnout figures after each phase of poll. The Opposition parties have claimed that EC is deliberately not sharing the turnout statistics and that there were discrepancies in the data shared days after the first phase of poll April 19.



TAKEN FOR A RIDE: Massive traffic chaos was seen on the arterial Lewis Road in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar during rallies taken out by various political parties on the second day of filing of nominations for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, leaving commuters boil under blazing sun, Friday

BIPF honours state's unsung heroes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) conferred the 11th Shambhavi Puraskar on Ranjit Majhi for his exceptional contribution towards implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA), while Sasmita Mangaraj was honoured with the Jury Commendation Certification 2024 for her outstanding work in empowering women at the grassroots towards livelihood and self-reliance.

Mann Deshi Bank and Mann Deshi Foundation, Maharashtra founder and chairperson Chetna Sinha graced the event as the chief guest, while 42nd Vice Chief of Army Staff and Member of the Armed Forces

Tribunal, Delhi Lt. General CP Mohanty attended the event as guest of honour.

Speaking at the event, Sinha said, "True change begins with a single act of courage, and a small act of courage by silent heroes can become a capital for the poor. As we gather to honour the silent heroes of Odisha, let us remember that every small step towards social change creates ripples of hope and empowerment."

Elaborating on the initiative, BIPF Trustee & Founder CEO and IMFA's Chief of CSR (Special Initiatives) Shaifalika Panda said, "It is our responsibility to be of service to the underserved and to create a ripple effect of change towards social transformation. The

Shambhavi Purasakar has given these grassroots leaders of Odisha a platform to further their vision and ambition towards collective growth."

Lt. General CP Mohanty said, "As we recognise the exceptional efforts of social changemakers in Odisha, let us salute the resilience and commitment of those who work tirelessly to uplift communities and inspire positive change. The qualities embodied by the Shambhavi Puraskar - courage, discipline, and integrity - are essential for shaping the future generation."

Majhi has empowered the forest-dwelling communities in 112 villages of Sundargarh to claim their rights over forest land and resources while also promoting the conservation and regenera-

tion of the forest ecosystem. Along with the award, Majhi also received a cash prize of Rs 2,50,000.

Despite her humble means, Mangaraj has formed four federations, 40 self-help groups (SHGs), and engaged 400 beneficiaries in livelihood activities, laying a solid foundation for women's financial independence and improved living. Mangaraj was presented the Jury Commendation Certification 2024 and a cash prize of ₹50,000.

Instituted by the BIPF in 2014, Shambhavi Puraskar aims at encouraging and inspiring development by celebrating the achievements of silent pioneers who tirelessly work toward developing the community.

Pact for green hydrogen, ammonia plant

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited (TSSEZL) and HHP Five Private Limited (Hygenco) have inked a pact to establish a green hydrogen and green ammonia plant at TSSEZL's Gopalpur Industrial Park (GIP), an official said Friday.

Under the agreement, Hygenco will acquire land in GIP, located in Ganjam district, to set up its green hydrogen, green ammonia, and derivatives unit.

Hygenco, a pioneer in producing low-cost green hydrogen, aims to produce 1 MTPA from this plant in phases.

The company aims to commission the initial phase of the project by December 2026.

According to TSSEZL managing director Manikanta Naik, the total committed capacity of green hydrogen and green ammonia manufacturing at the industrial park is now around 2.6 MTPA.

"This solidifies our industrial park as a green hydrogen and ammonia hub in India. We have endeavoured to create a conducive environment where our customers find the necessary infrastructure to conduct their business," Naik said.

The augmentation of the power and water infrastructure which is critical to the green hydrogen and ammonia industries will further facilitate the green fuel sector, Naik said.

Hygenco founder and CEO Amit Bansal said, "We have commissioned India's first green hy-

drogen project earlier this year. Now, we will extend the application of our superior technology to this project, producing the lowest-cost green ammonia for our clients."

"In line with our strategic vision of being a dominant player in this sector worldwide, the produce from this plant in the initial phase will be exported, for which advanced discussions with various clients are already taking place," he said.

The green ammonia produced at this facility will be exported through the existing Gopalpur Port facility located close to GIP.

The Utility Corridor, which is under development, between GIP and Gopalpur Port will provide a boost to the logistics and pipeline connectivity for the project.



MENACE: Vehicles parked illegally near Lalbag police station in Cuttack, Friday

PIC: RAIKISHORE MOHANTY

Fashion show on Lakmé Academy 2nd anniversary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: A fashion show was organised by the Lakmé Academy to mark the second annual day celebrations of the premier institution, here.

Odia cine actor Sheetal Patra graced the event as the chief guest and lauded the initiative taken by institution. The fashion show saw many renowned models dressed up by the students of the academy walking the ramp. Actors Poonima Barala and Anwesha Biswal, Lakmé zonal head Subhashis Mohapatra, regional academic head Ananya Barua, area sales manager Linkon Tarei, and directors Renuprabha Pradhan as well as Pradeep Pradhan were present at the event.

Located at Bhawani Mall here, Lakmé Academy is a reliable institution for the youth who want to make a career in beauty industry. It offers beauty courses including fashion trends, skin and hair care, corporate makeup, personal grooming, bridal makeup, classic cut, creative cut and hair colour.

TOLERANCE FOUNDATION OF SOUND MARRIAGE: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The Supreme Court gave counsellor-like tips on Friday, saying tolerance and respect are the foundation of a sound marriage and petty quibbles should not be blown out of proportion.

The court's observations came while quashing a dowry-harassment case filed by a woman against her husband.

"The foundation of a sound marriage is tolerance, adjustment and respecting one another. Tolerance to each other's fault to a certain bearable extent has to be inherent in every marriage. Petty quibbles, trifling differences are mundane matters and should not be exaggerated and blown out of proportion to destroy what is said to have been made in heaven," the apex court said.

Its observation came in a judgment that set aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court order, which dismissed a husband's plea seeking the quashing of a criminal case lodged against him.

The court said many times, the

parents and close relatives of a married woman make a mountain out of a mole and instead of salvaging the situation and saving the marriage, their action brings about complete destruction of the marital bonds on trivial issues.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the first thing that comes to the mind of the woman, her parents and relatives is police, as if police are the panacea of all evil.

No sooner the matter reaches police, even if there are fair chances of reconciliation between the spouses, they would get destroyed, the bench said.

"The court must appreciate that all quarrels must be weighed from that point of view in determining what constitutes cruelty in each particular case, always keeping in view the physical and mental conditions of the parties, their character and social status. A very technical and hyper-sensitive approach would prove to be disastrous for the very institution of marriage," the bench said.

The court said the main sufferers in matrimonial disputes



are children. "The spouses fight with such venom in their heart that they do not think even for a second that if the marriage would come to an end, what will be the effect on their children. Divorce plays a very dubious role so far as the upbringing of the children is concerned."

"The only reason why we are saying so is that instead of handling the whole issue delicately, the initiation of criminal pro-

ceedings would bring about nothing but hatred for each other. There may be cases of genuine ill-treatment and harassment by the husband and his family members towards the wife. The degree of such ill-treatment or harassment may vary," the bench said.

Observing that the police machinery should be resorted to as a measure of last resort in matrimonial disputes, the court said

the police machinery cannot be utilised for holding the husband at ransom so that he could be squeezed by the wife at the instigation of her parents or relatives or friends. "In all cases, where the wife complains of harassment or ill-treatment, section 498A of the IPC cannot be applied mechanically. No FIR is complete without sections 506(2) and 323 of the IPC. Every matrimonial conduct, which may cause annoyance to the other, may not amount to cruelty. Mere trivial irritations, quarrels between spouses, which happen in day-to-day married life, may also not amount to cruelty," it said.

According to the FIR lodged by his wife, the man and his family members allegedly demanded dowry and caused mental and physical trauma to her.

The FIR said the woman's family had spent a large sum at the time of her wedding and also handed over her "stridhan" to the husband and his family. However, shortly after the wedding, the husband and his family allegedly started harassing her on the false pretext that she had failed to discharge her duties as a wife and daughter-in-law and pressuring her for more dowry.

The bench said a plain reading of the FIR and the chargesheet indicates that the allegations levelled by the woman are quite vague, general and sweeping, specifying no instances of criminal conduct.

"It is also pertinent to note that in the FIR, no specific date or time of the alleged offence or offences has been disclosed. Even the police thought fit to drop the proceedings against the other members of the appellant's (husband) family. Thus, we are of the view that the FIR lodged by the respondent no. 2 (woman) was nothing but a counterblast to the divorce petition and also, the domestic violence case," the bench said.

"For the foregoing reasons, we have reached the conclusion that if the criminal proceedings are allowed to continue against the appellant, the same will be nothing short of an abuse of the process of law and travesty of justice," it added.

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Acharya Vihar-Dayal/Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai/Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Babuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemna-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Kotia at electoral crossroads



People of these villages enjoy dual voting status, granting them the unique privilege of casting their vote in both states

The upcoming challenge lies in the fact that the polling date falls May 13 in both states, compelling voters to decide where to exercise their franchise

Pottangi/Visakhapatnam, May 3: The decades-long territorial dispute over Kotia villages, nestled in the picturesque hills of Eastern Ghats along the border of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, has once again come to the fore during the ongoing general elections across the nation.

With territorial rights being claimed by both the states, the matter is currently in the Supreme Court.

People of these villages enjoy dual voting status, granting them the unique privilege of casting their vote in both states.

Geographically situated between the Koraput Lok Sabha constituency on the Odisha side and Araku on the Andhra Pradesh side, the Kotia villages have become the focal point of competition between the two states.

Both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh vie to extend various welfare measures to these 21 villages, each seeking to demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of the residents.

However, the upcoming challenge lies in the fact that the polling date falls May 13 in both states, compelling voters to decide where to exercise their franchise.

Odisha and AP Assembly elections are held simultaneously with Lok Sabha polls May 13.

Underscoring the pressing need for a resolution to this impending crisis, the district officials of Koraput on the Odisha side and Parvathipuram Manyam from the Andhra side have initiated talks for smooth conduct of polls.

According to C Vishnu Charan, Project Officer of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) of Parvathipuram, who is also the Returning Officer for Saluru Assembly segment under Araku Lok Sabha seat, there are about 2,700 voters in all those 21 habitations which come under nine panchayats.

During the 2019 polls, the authorities had set up polling stations outside the Kotia region due to absence of pucca government building.

“Basically, these people have voter ID cards from both the

states. The Odisha government has issued the epic cards. AP government has also issued those. So as long as the voting dates are on different dates, then it is not an issue. These people can go to Koraput side and also our side, and they can vote twice,” he explained.

Most of the villagers have cast their ballots on both sides during local body elections since 1974. A visit to any village gives a glimpse of signboards in Odia as well as Telugu. While the AP Girijan Cooperative Society office has Telugu signage, the Odisha counterpart has its language.

Thondangi Lakshmi, a resident of Doorbhadra said she was allotted a house by the Odisha government while the power line and free electricity was offered by AP.

Doorbhadra also has two schools, one in Odia medium and the other in Telugu. Two water tanks have been constructed by both states.

The villagers are free to collect free rice from both the governments and when it comes to old age pensions, the Andhra government provides ₹3,000 while the other offers ₹1,000, the villagers said.

According to the villagers, the Andhra government has played a major role in alleviating their woes by providing assistance. Similarly Odisha government has also done many developmental works in their villages. Therefore, border residents said they have decided to go to Andhra in the morning and return from there to vote in the Odisha booth in the evening or vice versa.



MATTER OF LIVELIHOOD: A man stops to take rest under the shade of a tree while pulling his loaded trolley rickshaw in Rourkela amid the scorching heatwave, Friday
OP PHOTO

Doc beaten up after patient death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, May 3: Tension prevailed Friday on the premises of GK Bhattar Hospital here in Balasore district following the demise of a patient. Family members blamed the hospital for medical negligence which led to the death of the youth. They allegedly manhandled a doctor who was on duty and closed the main gate of the hospital for some time.

The deceased has been identified as Umesh Ojha, 16, son of Gourishankar Ojha, a resident of Chakahari village under this block. According to information available, Umesh had allegedly consumed poison following an argument with other family members. He was rushed to the hospital, but he breathed his last while undergoing treatment.

Family members of Umesh alleged that the doctor was not present at the emergency department when they arrived. They added that the delay in starting the treatment of the patient by Dr Dilip Patra led to



Umesh's death. Anupama Ojha, the mother of the deceased also lodged a complaint at the police station here in this regard.

After getting information police rushed to the GK Bhattar Hospital and tried to pacify the irate relatives of Umesh. However, the family members of Umesh went berserk and beat up Dr Patra.

The doctor, who suffered injuries, is currently undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital in Balasore. Police have initiated a probe

Irate relatives allegedly manhandled a doctor on duty and closed the main gate of the hospital for a brief period

to find out the cause behind Umesh's death and whether the doctor was at fault.

A senior policeman said that action will be taken against all who are at fault.

₹20L cash seized from vehicle; two detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, May 3: Police here in Keonjhar district seized a bag containing ₹20 lakh cash from a vehicle during line checking Friday afternoon.

According to reports, while the cops from Barbil police station were conducting line checking at Bhadrassahi Friday afternoon, a car (OD 02 BF 7778) was stopped. While checking police found a bag containing ₹20 lakh cash from the car and seized it.

Police also detained two persons identified as Abinash Kumar Mishra and the car driver Hemant Singh Rathore for questioning in this regard. On being informed, a Static Surveillance Team (SST) reached the police station for investigation. Later police also informed the Income Tax department to launch an investigation into it. During interrogation, Abhinash said he was heading towards Koida after withdrawing the amount from the ICICI bank at Joda. The cash was meant for payment to Pawan Transport situated at Hanuman temple lane in Koida.

Workers, villagers stage protest, restrict official's entry into plant premises



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 3: Irate workers and local residents of Banua and nearby villages under Sadar police station area staged a protest Friday morning in front of MSP factory's main gate and restricted the Executive Director (ED) of the company to enter into the premises.

This situation has reportedly arisen after a few months of resentment among local people and workers over the company's arbitrary management. Denied entry by the demonstrators, the ED had to return from the gate of the factory.

Sources said the sponge iron unit, established in the year 2000, has turned into a steel factory with the help of locals and the efforts of the employees. The steel project includes a sponge iron factory, a rolling mill, and a pellet factory.

Notably, the local residents account for about 80 per cent of a total of around 3,500 workers in this factory. However, during the past several months there have been problems in the management of this factory creating dissatisfaction among the workers and locals.

In particular, the dissatisfaction arises from the company's negligence in pollution control, development of the surround-

ing area, and social work in the locality with the participation of the people. It is alleged that the company, instead of providing ORS water during the scorching summer heat, gave water mixed with salt and sugar.

It has been alleged that no water kiosks has been opened unlike earlier years. The company is also reportedly preparing a list to lay off the workers. Even the afforestation done earlier by the company has been destroyed due to improper irrigation. Roads go dark after sunset due to non-payment of electricity bills for street lights.

Locals alleged that many developmental works taken up in the surrounding areas and districts during the time of the company's president Debabrat Swain have been stopped. Therefore, it seems that workers and local people protested at the gate in the morning and made him return.

Sanjay Munda, a local sarpanch, said, "Developmental works are not being implemented. Even the plantation has been destroyed owing to lack of irrigation and proper upkeep. Due to non-payment of electricity bills, the street lights have stopped working. Roads are not being repaired. Air pollution has increased. So the unhappy people have staged such protests twice or thrice in the past."

Rourkela Police launch social media help desk

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 3: The Rourkela Police have started a help desk to prevent the misuse of social media and also to take action against offenders who violate rules. The desk has been set up at the police headquarters here. The decision to set up the social media help desk was taken after a directive in this regard was issued by the Election Commission of India. Inspector Khitish Chandra Mohapatra has been appointed in-charge of the cyber and social media help desk while inspector Padmabati Mirdha has been appointed the district nodal officer.

Police have also provided phone numbers and mail ids to lodge complaints. In case of cyber crimes, people will have to call up 917868767 and for offensive posts on social media platforms, the number is 8328892274. Grievances and complaints can also be sent to cyberhelpdesk.rkl@odishapolice.gov.in and socialmedia.rkl@odishapolice.gov.in. The initiative has been taken to maintain peace and harmony in the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state.

Vig apprehends engineer for accepting ₹50k bribe

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance sleuths Friday apprehended an assistant executive engineer (AEE) for accepting a bribe of ₹50,000 from a contractor. Vigilance sources said Rabintra Patra, the Assistant Executive Engineer of RWS & S, Jharsuguda, was caught while accepting a bribe of ₹50,000 from a contractor for facilitating the release of his pending bills related to works executed by him. The entire bribe money has been recovered from the accused engineer and seized. Following the successful trap, simultaneous searches were being carried out by the Vigilance at four locations of Patra, from a disproportionate assets (DA) angle. A case under section 7 PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered against the engineer and the investigation is in progress against accused Patra, Vigilance sources said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. MCSW-ShopClean-24-25-03
NAME OF WORK : CLEANING OF ALL SHOP FLOOR & ADJACENT AREA, PITS, PIT ADJACENT AREA, ROADS AND SHIFTING OF COLLECTED GARBAGE TO THE NOMINATED PLACES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.
Advertised Value ₹ 2,35,99,099.80,
EMD : ₹ 2,68,000/-, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 10,000/-, Period of Completion : 24 Months.
Bidding Start Date: 04.05.2024.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 11:00 Hrs. of 18.05.2024.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website www.reps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (P),
PR-79/P/24-25 CRW/Mancheswar

FORM NO. URC-2
[Pursuant to Section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]
1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar of Companies, Odisha that M/s Odisha Testing Laboratory (OTL) Consultancy Service a partnership firm may be register under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013 as a Private Company Limited by Shares.
2. The principal objects of the company are as follows:-
1. (a) To take over the existing business along with the assets and liabilities of M/s Odisha Testing Laboratory (OTL) Consultancy Service, a partnership concern. (b) To carry on the business of providing various kind of Civil Engineering Consultancy services.
3. A copy of the draft Memorandum & Articles of Association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at Plot no-822, B-3, Kalinga Nagar, Ghatikia, Ps-Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751003.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application write to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC, Plot No-6, 7, 8, Sector 5, Manesar, Dist-Gurgaon-122050) within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office. Date: 03.05.2024
Name(s) of Applicant:
1. Ashok Kumar Behera 2. Silba Prasad Sethi

RSP initiative to help poor students

Rourkela: Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has sponsored 30 poor and underprivileged local youths drawn from villages to undergo skill development training at the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) in Bhubaneswar. This is a CSR initiative by the steel major. In a function organised at the Institute of Peripheral Development, CSR Department, Tarun Misra, ED (P&A) with additional charge of Projects interacted with the selected students. Other senior officials of RSP were also present during the interaction. Misra urged the students to take full advantage of the opportunity. He also flagged off the bus carrying the 30 students who have been selected for the course. RSP has taken up this project at an estimated cost of ₹63.80 lakh during 2023-24 for a total of 60 students. The scheme was launched in 2021-22. Till now 130 students have been sponsored under the scheme and 70 per cent of them have got placements in various companies.

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, Ganeswarpur (Januganj) 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 Notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors 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 Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Ganeswarpur (Januganj) 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.**

GANESWARPUR (JANUGANJ) BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors : 1) Pradipta Kumar Panigrahi, S/o.: Jadunath Panigrahi, 2) Prasanta Panigrahi, S/o.: Jadunath Panigrahi, Both are At.: Deuli, P.O.: Achyutpur, Khaira, Dist.: Balasore, PIN-756047	₹ 5,76,049/- + interest & expenses thereon	08.01.2024 / 02.05.2024	Equitable Mortgage of Land situated over Khata No.: 56/93, Phot No.: 4/352, KISSAM: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.08 Dec. in Mouza: Deuli, Tahasil/ P.S: Khaira standing in the name of Pradipta Kumar Panigrahi & Prasanta Panigrahi

Place: Baripada
Date: 03.05.2024
Authorised Officer
Bank of India

Format C-1
Declaration About Criminal Cases
As per the judgement dated 25th September 2018 of Hon' ble Supreme court of India in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 in the matter of public interest foundation and ors. Vs. Union of India and Anr.
Name and Address of the candidate: **Prasanta Kumar Mallik**
At: Sanakhani, PO: Badakhani, Via/PS: Mohana District Gajapati, Pin 761015, Odisha
Name of the Political party: **Bhartiya Janata Party**
Name of the Election: **Assembly General Election 2024**
Name of the Constituency: **Mohana (ST) - 136 Assembly Constituency**

The following criminal cases are pending against me:

Sl. NO.	Pending criminal cases			Detail about cases of conviction for criminal cases	
	Name of the Court	Case no. and status of case	Sections of the act with brief description of offences	Name of the Court & Date of Orders	Description of offences & punishment imposed
1	In the Court of JMFC Court Mohana	G.R. 204 /2023	Section -304, Punishment for Culpable homicide not Amounting to Murder, Section-286 Negligent Conduct with Respect to Explosive Substance. Section -3 of EX. S ACT Punishment for Causing Explosion Likely to Endanger to life. Section- 4 of EX. S ACT Punishment for attempt to cause explosion or for making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property Section-5 of EX. S ACT Punishment for making or possessing explosives under suspicious circumstances	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
2	In the Court of JMFC Court Mohana	G.R. 78/2024	Section- 143 whoever is a member of an unlawful assembly shall be punished with imprisonment or either description for at od which may be extend to 6 month or with fine or whit both Section-283, Whoever by doing any act or by omitting to make order with any property in his possession or under his charge causes danger obstruction or injury to any person in any public way or public line of navigation, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees Section-294, sings, recites or utters any obscene song, ballad or words, in or near any public place, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both. Section-506, punishment for criminal intimidation. Section- 149, common object of person	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

In the case of election to council of states or election to legislative council by MLCs mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency: **Not Applicable**
Sd/
Prasanta Kumar Mallik

FOCUS ELECTIONS

A TIDE OF UNCERTAINTY



The story of how the BJP collected ₹8,000 crores via the electoral bonds, revealed by the force of the Supreme Court, has led to the widespread view that the party is at its core corrupt

There is little doubt in the minds of many today that this election is turning. It will not be the cakewalk that the BJP imagined it would be for the party. Seeking a third straight term, which was only recently seen as a given, is no more an easy task. There are many numbers being tossed, but almost all of them bring the BJP to and below the magic figure of 272. The only question that is being asked is how much can the party go down from that half-way mark required to form a government. All indicators point to the ruling party taking heavy losses this time. What looked like rock-solid confidence has evaporated almost overnight. One clear indicator is that there is no talk anywhere in the BJP circles of a 'char sau paar' (past the 400-mark) that was the hallmark of the BJP campaign as it began this run. Yet, it is good to add a cautionary note. There are still five phases of voting left and a month to counting-day itself. Anything can happen. The election will need careful monitoring and is all set to becoming a thriller.



Lekha Rattananai

THE FINALS COULD GO DOWN TO THE WIRE AND THERE WILL BE MANY LESSONS LEARNED ONCE THE VOTES ARE COUNTED AND THE RESULTS ARE DECLARED

Voter turnout in the first two phases of the election has been lower than expected. There are many ways to read this. One is the view that since the BJP put in so much effort in declaring right at the beginning that there is virtually no contest, and the message was sent out with the full force of its rather rich, well-funded campaign and machinery, the BJP voters were less than enthused and decided — what is the point in working since the end result is given? The other is the weather — the summer has been unusually hot this time. The third is that the BJP itself has not been able to move its cadres, one reason being that the election was declared as won before the first vote was cast, and the second and more important one being the influx of all kinds and varieties of non-BJP workers who have joined the ranks on their own accord or have been lured/forced to move to the BJP. The odd mix of 'intruders' versus cadres is

in part causing a mismatch of chemistry, and so building a sense of despondency within the committed workers who now feel excluded from the party they have worked in and for over a number of years. The last reason could be despondency among a broader section of the electorate, and if this is the cause, then the lower turnout could go any way in terms of influencing the results.

But as the week drew to a close, there was more bad news for the BJP. On one hand, Rahul Gandhi was virtually on fire, demanding that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologise to every girl and woman in the country for seeking votes for Prajwal Revanna, a 'mass rapist', and further saying that votes for Revanna would strengthen Modi. That was at an election rally in support of the BJP's new ally, the JD(S), where the Prime Minister made as clear an appeal as he could in support of JD(S) candidates, including Revanna, who is the grandson of the former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda. Revanna fled to Germany the day after polling ended in his constituency of Hassan in Karnataka on April 26, just as tapes of his advances and assaults against women were leaked. The BJP has not been

able to respond to the questions on support for Revanna, which particularly exposed the Prime minister himself, given that it has emerged that the party was warned well in advance of Revanna's conduct and the allegations against him, and went ahead with endorsing his candidature.

On the other hand, bad news for the BJP also came from the failed attempt to stir up a controversy over allegations that the Congress wanted to re-distribute wealth, or take it from the middle class and give it, as the BJP alleged, to minorities. This blatant and desperate attempt to bring in religion into an issue that has more to do with rising inequality, which has been highlighted by Rahul Gandhi, backfired with a laughable protest march by a section of students from Galgotias University, which claims to be NAAC Grade A+ with more than 300 national and international awards. Students in the protest march could barely read the placards against the Congress and knew nothing about the issues they said they had gathered to protest against! This deplorable display has only highlighted the state of education in Uttar Pradesh, where Galgotias is situated, and the wages of a system under which fake news is

fed and spread right from the very top of the political order, with students asking no questions and learning with no interest or curiosity. The University website begins with this headline: "Excellence is what we strive to achieve".

In many ways, the BJP is suffering from the impact of its own over confidence, and its liberal use of communalism to get over the slide that it appears to be facing now. As the Prime Minister himself goes to the extreme in his attacks on the Congress (he claimed that the Congress manifesto 'has the stamp of the Muslim League'), the party seems not to have calculated that there will be some price to pay for its role in the electoral bonds, the arrest of opposition leaders like Arvind Kejriwal and its attempt to get power at any cost, like it did in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is one state where the Opposition is getting huge traction. The story of how the BJP collected Rs.8,000 crores via the electoral bonds, revealed by the force of the Supreme Court, has led to the widespread view that the party is at its core corrupt. The 'BJP washing machine' that cleans up the corrupt the moment they shift sides and join the BJP has also cost the party in terms of its image and standing, even among loyalists. The claim that it will get more than 400 seats has backfired because it has led to fears that this mandate would endanger the Constitution, with the BJP then in a position to trifle with some of the basic guarantees, like reservations. Further, there is also the huge fear of an impending dictatorial style being embedded into the nation's democratic fabric, should Modi get a third straight term.

All in all, the issues on the agenda are very different from the issues that the BJP thought would be on the agenda. The finals could go down to the wire and there will be many lessons learned once the votes are counted and the results are declared.

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press

Art of Neglecting

That which we call the Hindu religion is really the Eternal religion because it embraces all others.

SRI AUROBINDO



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has mastered the art of prioritization, or should we say, the art of neglecting what he considers irrelevant.

Take, for instance, the MP State Information Commission (SIC), which now stands as a monument to emptiness, with not a single commissioner in sight. Normally boasting 11 commissioners, this panel now resembles more of a ghost town than a hub of transparency. But, fear not, for the government has a handle on things — who needs information when you have the power of intuition, right?

And let's not forget about human rights, those pesky things that tend to get in the way of 'development.' The State Human Rights Commission finds itself in a similar predicament, with the chairman's and one member's chairs left conspicuously vacant. Who has time for human rights when there are more pressing matters at hand, like which colour pen to use for signing documents?

And there's more. The Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, tasked with resolving consumer grievances, is also feeling the effects of Yadav's minimalist approach to governance. With both the chairman's and a member's positions vacant, one can only imagine the backlog of complaints stacking up faster than a Jenga tower on a shaky table. We suppose that there is some satisfaction in knowing that you've saved a few bucks by cutting down on administrative costs. Some media reports suggest a staggering 19,500 appeals are languishing in limbo across these three commissions.

Yadav's priorities may seem unconventional to some, but rest assured, there's a method to the madness — or at least, we hope there is.

Navigating the intersection of Government and business

Babu corridors are abuzz with reports that former Lt Governor of Ladakh and former Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) R.K. Mathur and former RA&W chief A.K. Dhasmana, both handpicked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for prestigious positions, are reported to have joined the TATA Sons Board. Mathur is a former 1977 batch IAS officer of the Manipur-Tripura cadre.

Retired babus joining senior positions in major corporations is not new, even though the debate still goes on whether it is beneficial to both the public and private sectors. Recall when the then-former Foreign Secretary, S. Jaishankar, briefly joined the Tatas as President of Global Corporate Affairs. But that was before Modi named him India's External Affairs Minister.

In the case of Mathur and Dhasmana, their backgrounds in public service could offer the Tatas valuable insights into government relations and strategic decision-making. Their understanding of regulatory frameworks can be invaluable for corporations, especially those operating in heavily regulated industries.

Of course, it is often said that one man's experience is another man's indiscretion!

There is a risk of perceived or actual conflicts of interest when retired babus transition to corporate roles, especially if they have previously dealt with issues or regulations directly impacting their new employer. The critical ethical issue here is a reasonable 'cooling-off' period, which in this instance, these babus are well clear of. As with any such appointment, transparency and accountability are crucial.

Debarment of IRS officer sends a strong message

The recent debarment of 2004-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Somanath Shivarudrappa Ukkali from central deputation and foreign assignments sends a clear message about the importance of accountability and adherence to duties within the administration. Ukkali's failure to assume responsibilities of his appointed role as Chief Vigilance Officer at HMT Ltd, Bengaluru, under the Ministry of Heavy Industries, has led to significant consequences, including a five-year debarment from Central deputation and foreign assignments. Oddly, despite his official assignment, Ukkali expressed his inability to assume the responsibilities of the post.

Subsequently, the Department of Revenue issued an order last month to ensure that the babu was duly informed of the repercussions of failing to join his designated role. Sources have informed DKB that this preemptive measure aimed to prevent any future claims of ignorance regarding the adverse outcomes of non-compliance.

This incident highlights the need for utmost commitment from officials occupying key positions within the government. It also underscores the gravity of failing to fulfil designated roles and the potential repercussions for the defaulter. Hopefully, Ukkali's example will serve as a stark reminder to all babus about the consequences of not playing by the book.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart. ANNE FRANK

There are so many figures in our history that did not believe they could make a change, and they did. MALALA YOUSAFZAI

We are living in the beginning of a mass extinction and our climate is breaking down. GRETA THUNBURG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1814: Napoleon landed at the island of Elba to serve the first of two exiles.

1863: The Battle of Chancellorsville in the American Civil War, a bloody assault by the Union army in Virginia that failed to disperse the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, continued.

1886: Violence between police and labour protesters erupted in the Haymarket Riot in Chicago, dramatizing the labour movement's struggle for recognition in the United States.

LOL

Is there a way to thank you?



"How can I ever thank you?" gushed a woman to Clarence Darrow, after he had solved her legal troubles. "My dear woman," Darrow replied,

"ever since the Phoenicians invented money there has been only one answer to that question."

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Don't count votes before EVMs are opened

Satyapal Kapoor

THERE ARE PLENTY OF SENSIBLE FOLK SENSING A CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF THE SUMMER WIND AND SALIVATING AT THE PROSPECT OF THE BJP FALLING SHORT OF ITS ADVERTISED GOAL OF 400

Don't count your chickens before they hatch, is an old jungle saying. (Or, don't count your dhoklas before they steam, if you are a pure vegetarian.) Still, after two phases of a seven-week election—189 of the 543 seats have voted so far—there are plenty of sensible folk sensing a change in direction of the summer wind (hawa) and salivating at the prospect of the BJP falling short of its advertised goal of 400. No one is saying aandhi (storm) as yet, but the words 'tectonic change' are forming on some lips.

With good reason. In mid-March, Narendra Modi mentioned '400 seats' in his speeches six times per week; by the last week of April, there were zero references to it. And, after tomtomming 'Modi Sarkar' from every ad and pulpit, as if government were his personal property, the pradhan mascot had started referring to 'NDA' even while campaigning for BJP candidates on BJP turf. Suddenly, the sentence no bhakt expected to hear from his mouth—"If Congress comes to power..."—is

being uttered as a warning.

Since EVMs are the known unknowns, it would be premature if not plain stupid to count the votes before the machines are opened. But when even the BJP's allies and talking heads begin to ask if the 400 target has backfired—and when the paid pipers of the media start fact-checking the PM's speeches—it is time to sit up and wonder if a faint pattern is beginning to emerge on the wall. In other words, if the trends hold for five more weeks, could Modi be staring at an 'India Shining' moment like Vajpayee did in 2004?

Yogendra Yadav, for one, thinks so, but 'don't know/ can't say' is the more appropriate answer. As of now there is no indication whatsoever in any credible opinion poll or analysis that Modi could be facing a worst-case scenario. Even the most critical guesstimates say he will be back even if with a reduced majority. Maybe not 303 like in 2019, but in the region of 250. But when a top bureaucrat says, "Tending to believe The Leader will get 240 and with allies will form the

government. That is, if the allies prefer him," it is useful to read the second sentence again.

Should the unthinkable happen, will there be a peaceful transition of power? A self-proclaimed "mother of democracy", now 77, is expected to have worked out a smooth succession plan, but as Donald Trump in America (2021) and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil (2022) showed, far-right populists ride a lion they aren't quite eager to tame when it is time to rein in the herd at day's end. And, when so much expectation of a third term has been built up on the street, it will be interesting to see which side our 'institutions' will stand when push comes to shove.

It can be argued that India has gone down this path before, after Indira Gandhi's Emergency, and come out of it unscathed. But then we are talking of a different India when its institutions were in some shape, not ideologically infiltrated or hollowed out of their core democratic impulses. Plus, back in the 1970s, the wall between church and state was somewhat more secure. Who is brave enough to say that when

a mutant form of a religion is coursing through the veins of the body politic to the bells of the pradhan pujari?

An equally enticing prospect is to visualise Narendra Modi should the script go awry. Thrice elected to head the state government in Gujarat, and twice to head the Union government in Delhi, he has not experienced failure in 23 years. (Another matter that in 62 state elections since 2014, the BJP has lost half of them.) Coming to terms with rejection after 8,200 days of untrammelled power is going to take some doing. Given his contempt for Parliament, can anybody even imagine Modi as the leader of the Opposition?

All of these suppositions could go wrong. The BJP might win decisively again and Modi 3.0 might happen. Or, conversely, they may bow to the mandate with all modesty. But as James Reston of The New York Times sagely said, an election is a secret communion between a voter and her democracy. It is sacrilege to pry in—especially on the eve of the RSS centenary.

NDA's Rasputins!

Sir, In a recent interview with a popular Tamil TV channel, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was posed with a pertinent question by the interviewer as to why her party was admitting into it, all and sundry, including history sheeters and criminals with many cases pending against them. To the grave shock of the interviewer, Sitharaman admitted with all honesty that it was true. She continued to say that her party welcomed anybody and everybody without any discrimination, irrespective of their past deeds. The bewildered interviewer took a few minutes to recover from her shock and remained stunned by her honest reply. In this context, it is not a surprise that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has selected Prajwal Revanna, an alleged rapist and one said to have sexually mauled a number of women victims, including his own housemaids, as their nominee to contest the Lok Sabha election from the Hassan constituency. Though his shady past must have been known to the top guns of the BJP, it is unfortunate that our PM Modi himself canvassed for the victory of this mass rapist, who has now fled the country and is said to be hiding in Germany! When he is arrested and interrogated, many skeletons will tumble down from the NDA cupboard. It is of grave concern that the saffron party has now allegedly become a real haven for rapists and sex offenders like Prajwal.

Freedom of press vital

Sir, Freedom of the press is a powerful weapon to express one's thoughts and views in a vivid way. Constructive criticism, if well taken, brings out the best results and paves the way for improvement in our work. After all, the people are given freedom of speech after independence, and it should be taken without any ill-feelings. India has been, since ancient times, a bastion of free thought, speech, and expression. The time has come for collective efforts to re-discover a sense of national spirit and patriotism. The golden words 'Unity in Diversity' will go a long way in helping out social causes and national unity. The press is able to reveal this moot point as a pointer to the nation.

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

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

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'Kallakkadal' alert in coastal Kerala, south Tamil Nadu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 3: Central agencies have issued a red alert for 'Kallakkadal', warning of sudden sea swells causing rough waves in coastal areas of Kerala and the south Tamil Nadu coast Saturday and Sunday.

This marks the first time a red alert has been issued for the phenomenon of 'Kallakkadal'—the sudden swell of the seas causing rough waves—by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in this part of the country, officials here said.

The officials have urged fishermen and coastal residents to take necessary precautions in response to the alert.

"Red alert for swell surge warning has been received from NDMA-INCOIS," a Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) official said.

The coastal areas of Kerala and southern Tamil Nadu are likely to experience the 'kallakkadal' phenomenon from 2.30 am Saturday to 11.30 pm Sunday, weather agencies said, while issuing the red alert.

There is possibility of extremely strong waves, rough seas and sea incursion during this period, they said. The offi-



cial, however, said it was not a tsunami-like phenomenon.

Earlier in the day, the INCOIS had said there is a possibility of rough seas due to high waves of 0.5 to 1.5 metres during this period.

INCOIS, the central agency that issues weather warnings for fishermen in the country, advised people to safely moor their fishing vessels in the harbour.

In a statement, KSDMA and other weather agencies advised people to stay away from danger zones as per the instructions

of the authorities, as the rough sea conditions are likely to intensify.

"Keeping a safe distance between boats can avoid the risk of collision. The safety of fishing equipment should be ensured," they said in a statement here.

The agencies also advised people to avoid trips to the beach and completely stay away from activities at sea.

INCOIS has said that the swells result from strong winds in the southern part of the Indian Ocean at certain times and that they occur suddenly without any particular indications or warning. Hence the name 'kallakkadal'.

The term 'Kallakkadal' literally means a sea that comes suddenly like a thief

SC stays opening of road outside Mann's residence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The Supreme Court Friday stayed the opening of a road outside Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's residence in Chandigarh on an experimental basis.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta noted that both the Centre and Punjab government have opposed the opening of the road, which has been closed since the 1980s, owing to a threat perception.

The bench issued notice on a plea filed by the Punjab government and sought response



of administration of Union Territory of Chandigarh by September 2.



The top court noted that the road was closed in the 1980s during the height of terror-

ism in Punjab.

On April 22, the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered opening of the 500-metre road, connecting Sukhna Lake to Nayagaon in Chandigarh, on a trial basis from May 1.

The high court had also directed the Chandigarh Police to engage traffic experts for preparing a traffic management plan for the road that was to be opened from 7 am to 7 pm on working days.

Since the closure of the road, people moving between Nayagaon and Sukhna Lake were forced to take long detours via adjacent sectors of the city.



Labourers load wheat sacks in a truck at a wholesale grain market on a hot summer day in Jalandhar Friday

PTI PHOTO

Heroin, crystal meth seized; drone used for cross border consignment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 3: The Punjab police arrested a man Friday for allegedly smuggling drugs and recovered 1 kg of heroin and 4 kg of ice drug (Methamphetamine), officials said.

Punjab's Director General of Police, Gaurav Yadav said drones were used to transport drugs from Pakistan-based smugglers.

Methamphetamine, also known as 'ice' or 'crystal meth' is a highly addictive psychos-

timulant drug.

The police identified the accused as Avtar Singh, a resident of Kakkar village in Amritsar.

Acting on a tip-off, the police team from the Counter Intelligence Wing conducted a raid and apprehended Singh who was to collect the consignment of the drugs from Ajnala and deliver it to a person in Chheharta, the DGP Yadav said.

In a post on X, the DGP said, "In an intelligence-led operation against trans-border narcotic smuggling networks,

Counter Intelligence Wing of Punjab police, Amritsar has apprehended one person and seized 4 kg Ice (Methamphetamine) and 1 kg Heroin."

During interrogation, Singh told the police that he was directly in contact with the Pakistan-based dealer and used a drone to deliver the consignment across the border, he said.

Singh will be produced in court and the police will seek his remand to get more information about the smuggling network, he added.

NIA chargesheets 4 CPI Maoist cadres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday filed charge-sheet against four cadres of CPI (Maoist) in a case related to firing at the commandos of the Special Operations Group (SOG) in Thalapuzha area of Wayanad district in Kerala last year, according to an official statement.

The incident occurred November 7, 2023, when the SOG team of Kerala Police was on a combing operation in Perya, Wayanad, to track and nab armed cadres of the banned naxal outfit, the CPI (Maoist).

The team came under attack as it zoomed in on the cadres present in a house, it said.

In the ensuing operation, two CPI (Maoist) members, identified as Thiruvenkiladam alias Chandru alias Chandu and Shreemathi alias Unnimaya alias Umni, were apprehended, said the statement issued by the probe agency.

Three others, including Latha alias Meera and Sundari alias Jenny, however, fled the scene of the encounter.

NIA, which took over the investigation from Kerala Police on February 10, 2024, Friday filed its charge-sheet against Thiruvenkiladam, Shreemathi, Latha and Sundari in the case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Arms Act in a designated court in Kerala.

Punjab police arrest man allegedly spying for Pak's ISI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hoshiarpur, May 3: A man from Punjab's Hoshiarpur district was arrested for allegedly spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and helping the agency in organising anti-India activities, police said Friday.

The man is accused of aiding anti-India activities by providing sensitive information about Indian Army deployments and transmitting documents and photos from his mobile phone, they said.

Acting on a tip-off, police apprehended Harpreet Singh near a railroad crossing on Phagwara road in Hoshiarpur Thursday night. The man, who hails from Tarn Taran district, was currently residing in Vijay Nagar area here.

According to police, Singh, who has been living in the city for the past four years, had allegedly travelled to Pakistan

twice on a visitor visa where he met ISI officials. He was allegedly in contact with these ISI officials via WhatsApp, they said.

Singh allegedly procured Indian SIM cards using false documents and helped ISI officials in using WhatsApp and other internet applications through these SIM cards to organise anti-India activities, police said.

Police said they recovered a bag containing an Aadhaar card, a passport, some Indian currency and a mobile phone from him.

Singh's interrogation is ongoing and further disclosures will be made by the police later on, a police official said.

Police said the man has been booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Information Technology Act and the Official Secrets Act, 1923 in an FIR registered at Model Town Police Station here Thursday night.

'Rape victim' dumps newborn on street

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, May 3: A 23-year-old woman, suspected to be a victim of sexual assault, concealed her pregnancy, delivered a baby in the early hours of Friday in her apartment bathroom and allegedly threw the newborn on the street in front of her flat complex situated in a posh residential area in this port city of Kerala.

Police said the woman has been taken into custody after being traced using the address on the Amazon delivery packet in which the child was wrapped and thrown.

The newborn was found dead in the abandoned parcel.

Conservancy workers of Kochi Corporation found the body of the child along a street in posh Panampilly Nagar here around 8 am and alerted the police.

According to City Police Commissioner S Syamsundar, the woman has confessed that she gave birth to the child in her bathroom at around 5-5.30 am Friday and later threw the baby as she panicked.

It is said that the parents of the woman, with whom she was staying, were unaware of her pregnancy. They were also not aware of the delivery, as it hap-

pened inside the bathroom, which was locked by the woman, he said.

"The parents did not know about the pregnancy until the police came to the flat and questioned them," the commissioner said after the police interrogated the parents and the woman in connection with the incident.

However, in this matter, the police suspect coercion or a rape element. "It is suspected that the girl was subjected to rape. In this matter also investigation will be done," Syamsundar said.

"We have shifted the survivor to the hospital to provide her

proper medical attention. The girl will be arrested on charges of murder," the police official said.

The commissioner said that whether the baby was stillborn or it was a live birth can only be ascertained after the post-mortem.

She allegedly threw the baby onto the street three hours after the delivery, he added.

The city police chief also stated that the woman is unmarried, and she is in a state of shock.

The entire matter can be clarified only after detailed interrogation, the official added.

TN native held in Kerala for killing Assam youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kottayam, May 3: The Kerala police has arrested a person from Tamil Nadu in connection with the murder of a youth from Assam, who was allegedly killed when he was cleaning a concrete mixer machine near Vakathanam here.

Pandi Durai (29) was arrested by the police Thursday.

The body of Laiman Kisk (19) was found in the waste dump pit of the concrete plant April 28.

According to the police, Durai, the plant operator at the company, switched on the mixer machine while Kisk was cleaning it April 26. Police said when Kisk fell down, Durai used an excavator to dump his body in the waste pit.

Later, he collected slurry waste from the plant and dumped it on top of Kisk's body in the pit, police said.

Metal contamination in fishes pose grave health risk in Kochi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 3: Heavy pollution from industries in Greater Kochi is getting into the water, which is then getting into fish and shellfish, making them dangerous to eat because they have harmful metals, according to a new study.

The study by the department of Marine Technology, Cochin University for Science and Technology (CUSAT) and the National Centre for Coastal Research, NIOT Campus, Chennai, revealed heavy metal contamination in various species of fish and shellfish in the Cochin Estuarine System (CES) in backwaters from Aror in Ernakulam-Alappuzha border to Eloor, the industrial belt of Kochi.

The report published in the international science journal Springer said that at least three metals, zinc, cadmium and chromium, exceeded the toxic threshold outlined in the sed-

iment quality guidelines and cadmium and lead exceeded the standards of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The presence of cadmium in the muscle tissues of fish and shellfish considerably increases the risk of cancer in humans.

"The carcinogenic risk index indicates that cadmium may lead consumers to a chronic cancer risk," the report said.

All the dissolved metals in the backwaters in Kochi showed higher concentrations compared to all other estuaries in the world, the report said.

However, the people of Ernakulam and Alappuzha districts, who are major consumers of the catch from the backwaters, can breathe easy now as the study revealed that the estimated daily intake is very low compared to the permissible intake limits and thus the potential health hazard from most of these



A report published in Springer said that cadmium and lead exceeded the standards of the FSSAI. The presence of cadmium in the muscle tissues of fish and shellfish considerably increases the risk of cancer in humans

metals were found to be low.

But the study, titled 'Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in seafood resources from the southwest coast of India:

human health risk assessment and importance of seafood security', pointed towards possible long-term risks, especially due to the intake of metals like cad-

mium and lead.

It also urges the administration to take immediate steps to prevent contamination of the water resources in the Cochin backwaters.

The water resources in Kochi, the commercial and industrial hub of Kerala, face increasing pressure from commercial and industrial activities, with approximately 95 per cent of red-category industries concentrated in Greater Kochi, located within the northern side of the estuary.

Furthermore, contaminants from the adjoining Periyar River exacerbate coastal water pollution, posing a threat to fishery resources and other marine life.

According to a study by the NGO Greenpeace in 2003, the lower Periyar has been described as a cesspool of toxins with alarming levels of heavy metal pollution. Various studies have underscored the severity of heavy metal pollution in the water and sediment of this area,

according to the report.

The Cochin Estuarine System stands out as one of the largest estuarine systems, which sustains exceptional biodiversity and functions as a crucial breeding and nursery habitat for diverse fish and shellfish species.

It constitutes the northern segment of the Vembanad estuary, designated as a Ramsar site in India, with an annual fish landing of 3906.33 tonne. Fishing has been a vital source of livelihood for the residents along the estuary.

But, the contamination of the water resources in the area is posing a greater health risk to the people, as the bioaccumulation of heavy metals in fish has almost reached its threshold level.

The study broadly indicated the need for urgent action to contain the pollution of the water resources in the Cochin Estuarine System and reduce heavy metal contamination of fish and shellfish.



'Cong may give your wealth to 'vote jihad' elements'

AGENCIES

Chaibasa, May 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday accused the Congress of planning to allocate property to those involved in "vote jihad" while affirming that no power on earth would be permitted to alter the Constitution.

"Congress wants to distribute your property to those indulging in 'vote jihad' but Modi will ensure that the poor, Dalit and tribals have the first right on the country's property. No force on earth would be allowed to change or alter our Constitution," the PM said while addressing the 'Maha Vijay Sankalp Sabha' at Tata College Ground, Chaibasa.

Taking a dig at the Congress' pledge to tackle wealth and income inequality in its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections, Modi remarked that the party had stated that Muslims hold the primary claim to the nation's resources, contrasting it with his government's focus on uplifting marginalised communities including the poor, Dalits, tribals, and other vulnerable sections.

Modi said the Congress had announced that it would conduct a survey to find out the property of individuals, gold owned by women, 'stridhan', silver, land and redistribute it to those indulging in 'vote jihad'.

"Can you tolerate the government snatching your hard-earned money and property?" he asked. Modi accused the Congress of aiming to take away SC/ST/OBC reservation and allocating them to Muslims, alleging the party's



intention to sow religious divisions in the country.

The PM emphatically said as long as he is alive, the Congress will not be allowed to exploit the quotas meant for tribal and OBC communities.

The Prime Minister said a "fatwa" was issued in Karnataka and overnight all Muslims there were converted into OBCs. Hitting out at the JMM-led coalition in the state, the PM said it was patronising infiltration in Santal Parganas and indulged in vote bank politics akin to neighbouring West Bengal.

"This has resulted in a decrease in tribal population there. Our women are not safe. The JMM and Congress are usurping tribal land. They have even not spared Army land. Their leaders are neck-deep in corruption be it liquor, mining or sand. They are looting Jharkhand's mineral resources," the PM said.

He said, "Congress and JMM have unleashed fear among tribals by patronising criminals, while extorting traders and murders have become rampant." He sought to know from the people whether they wanted to punish

those who snatched your rights. "If you want so...the country needs your blessing...vote for BJP," he said.

Modi added that it was the BJP which created a separate Jharkhand state whereas JMM has joined hands with such political leaders of INDIA bloc who used to say that a separate state can be created over their dead bodies, apparently referring to RJD supremo Lalu Prasad who had opposed statehood status to Jharkhand.

"Such forces were responsible for Jungle Raj in Bihar and are now active in Jharkhand," he added. He said Jharkhand is the land of Birsa Munda and revolutionaries, who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

"Your affection and blessings are Modi's strength. BJP and Jharkhand's relationship is of heart's bond. If anyone understands the sentiments of Jharkhand and solves its issues, it is the BJP. We know what is in your mind. What do you want? BJP and Atal Ji created Jharkhand. Congress opposed its creation. It put a brake on Jharkhand's development. It wants to give credit of Independence to only one family," Modi said.

BJP not only acknowledged the great contribution of tribals but ensured 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' to pay tribute to great tribal icon Birsa Munda.

The PM said the Centre is building tribal museums across the country whereas Congress and INDIA bloc opposed even making a tribal woman President of the country.

Modi desperate, nervous: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The Congress Friday hit back at PM Narendra Modi accusing him of being desperate and nervous after Modi, in a veiled dig at Sonia Gandhi, said when a Congress leader quit the Lok Sabha to enter Parliament via Rajya Sabha, he foresaw the party's imminent defeat.

Modi Friday asserted that the Congress' tally in the Lok Sabha polls will be an 'all-time low', as the grand old party will struggle to cross even the 'half-century' mark in the hustings.

He also mocked Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly seat, and said the Congress leader did so after "sensing defeat" in Wayanad.

"A desperate and nervous Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again attacked Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for becoming a member of the Rajya Sabha," AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"He seems to have forgotten that Atal Behari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Vijayaraje Scindia, Jaswant Singh, Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley were all members of Rajya Sabha. In more recent times, his own party president JP Nadda, who is from Himachal Pradesh, is also a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat. And of course Swayambhu Chankaya was also a Member of the Parliament in the Rajya Sabha. What does he have to say about them," Ramesh asked.

Modi Friday said, "There is no need for opinion polls or exit polls, as I had talked about their (Congress) defeat long back in Parliament. When their senior leader quit her Lok Sabha seat and entered Parliament through Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, it was evident they sensed defeat," he said, in an apparent dig at Sonia Gandhi.

BATTLE-READY



Congress' MLA candidate for Jatni Assembly seat Santosh Jena files his nomination papers at ADM office in Bhubaneswar, Friday



BJD's Cuttack Lok Sabha candidate Sanrupt Misra files nomination at Cuttack Collectorate, Friday



Barabati-Cuttack MLA candidate of Congress Sofia Firdous submits nomination papers to the returning officer at the sub-collector's office in Cuttack, Friday



Congress candidate for Anandapur Assembly seat Jayaved Jena files his paper before the sub-collector-cum-returning officer at Anandapur in Keonjhar district, Friday



BJP's Bhubaneswar-North Assembly nominee Priyadarshi Mishra files nomination at the sub-collector's office in Bhubaneswar, Friday



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: BJD's Padmapur Assembly nominee Barsha Singh Baraha accompanied by Odisha Mo Parivar district coordinator Gourahari Mishra - a look alike of PM Modi - during a campaign at Badikata village under Paikamal block in Bargarh district, Friday

Nomination filing ends in Sundargarh district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 3: The process of filing of nomination papers by desirous candidates for the upcoming general and state elections ended in Sundargarh district, Friday. The scrutiny of the papers will take place March 7.

The notable candidates who filed their nominations Friday include Archana Rekha Behera from BJD for Raghunathpalli constituency. She is the wife of sitting MLA Subrat Tarai. The INDI alliance has its only candidate from the Biramitrapur Assembly where Nihar Surin filed the nomination as a Jharkhan Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate. JMM and Congress are INDI alliance partners.

Nihar Ray filed his nomination as an Independent candidate for the Rourkela Assembly constituency after he was denied a ticket by BJP. The saffron party allotted the ticket to local heavy-weight Dilip Ray Nihar, who fought on a BJP ticket in 2019 and lost to Labour Minister Sarada Nayak, was very much hopeful that he would be repeated by the party this time.

After filing his nomination,

a visibly upset Nihar said, "I am not going to withdraw from the contest. I am here to win. Actually I am the official candidate of BJP, though I am fighting on a different symbol."

All the three contestants came with good number of their supporters to the Rourkela ADM and Sub-collector's offices for filing their nominations. Archana filed the papers at the ADM's office. Speaking to the media she said, "I am confident of my victory and I will carry on the developmental works which my husband had conceived." She also allayed talks of dissonance having potential to mar her electoral prospects. "I don't see any factor affecting my victory. I have the support of everyone," she said.

Nihar Surin too appeared confident of his victory. "We had the same combination (JMM and Congress) when I won in 2004. It is the same combination this time too," he said. However, when reminded that between 2004 and 2024 BJP has emerged a big player in the political arena, he said, "This time it will be a three-cornered contest. But I will change the result."

Outsiders' caucus trying to capture state: Pradhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, May 3: Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is facing public revolt for the first time and a caucus of "outsiders" in the Chief Minister's Office wants to capture the state, setting a dangerous trend, BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has claimed.

The education minister, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Sambalpur, also dismissed the speculation that there were any attempts from BJP to enter into an alliance with the BJD.

In an interview with PTI, Pradhan, who is returning to the electoral fray after 15 years, said, "The Odia identity is under threat and this election is all about that identity." "The BJD is being run by a group of bureaucrats... The caucus in the Chief Minister's Office, which has a few non-Odia officers, came together and thought let's exploit the inability of the chief minister and let's create a vacuum from the back door. Their intention is to capture the state," he added.

"This is a very dangerous trend and this is what the public is angry about besides their

inaction on the ground," Pradhan stated in a veiled jibe at Patnaik's close aide Kartik Pandian.

A former IAS officer, Pandian last served as a private secretary to the CM before quitting the service to join the BJD last year. Born in Tamil Nadu, Pandian studied in Delhi and started his career as a Punjab cadre IAS officer, but shifted to Odisha cadre after marrying an Odia.

Pradhan said this is the first time the so far popular Chief Minister is facing the heat from the public.

"The BJD is facing public revolt for the first time... We have been fighting with them for long. We fought elections together too in the past. But 2024 election is a new type of election for them... It is the most difficult election they would be facing," he said.

The Assembly and Lok Sabha elections are being simultaneously held in Odisha. Patnaik will become the longest serving CM of India if his party wins the upcoming Assembly polls. He is already the longest serving Chief Minister of Odisha.

Pradhan, however, said Patnaik's more than two-decade rule has brought little to the people of the state in way of solid



DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | BJP LEADER

The BJD is facing public revolt for the first time... We have been fighting with them for long. We fought elections together too in the past. But 2024 election is a new type of election for them

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | BJP LEADER

development. "For the last 24 years, Patnaik has been in-charge of the state as the Chief Minister but on all the fronts, be it social structure, infrastructure, economy, employment generation... This government has been an utter failure," he said.

The Union minister alleged that the lack of basic facilities is causing large scale migration from the state. "They do not have any vision or political will power... They do not have any commitment to the society. There is a huge anger among the youth, women, tribal people and different sections of

said. Asked if he would be the BJP's chief ministerial face if the party comes to power in Odisha, Pradhan said, "There has been no decision yet. It will be decided by the party later only.. But I am confident that the chief minister will be from the BJP."

The BJP leader filed his nomination from Sambalpur Thursday. The high-profile Sambalpur constituency, which is the epicentre of western Odisha, is gearing up for a heated contest between Congress's Nagendra Pradhan, Dharmendra Pradhan and BJD's Pranab Prakash Das.

Dharmendra Pradhan, who hails from Talcher in Odisha, is the son of Debendra Pradhan who was also a Union minister in the Vajpayee government between 1999 and 2004.

On the opposition's allegations that the BJP will change the Constitution if voted to power, Pradhan said, "The Congress is scared... Their leadership has been re-launched and repackaged several times and they have faced defeat only. They are making all attempts now like using deep fake videos and misutilising AI, but the public knows about their deeds. The Congress' existence is in danger," he said.

national

of the day quote

Today, the BJP is working like the British and is trying to destroy democracy. It is only Rahul Gandhi who is fighting against the BJP just like Mahatma Gandhi took on the British

INDRANIL RAJGURU | FORMER CONGRESS MLA, GUJARAT

The citizens across the nation must observe how Pakistan is endorsing Rahul Gandhi. A former minister of the Pakistani government, who shamelessly supported the Pulwama incident, is now openly backing Rahul Gandhi, expressing joy in his support

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER, UP

There are no Razakars here. Humans live here. Those who were Razakars fled to Pakistan. Those who are loyal to the country stayed back here and have been defeating RSS since 40 years and defeat you and Modi again this time

ASADUDDIN OWAISSI | PRESIDENT, AIMM

SHORT TAKES

Liquor scam: ED attaches assets

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it has attached assets worth over Rs 205 crore of retired Chhattisgarh IAS officer Anil Tuteja, the elder brother of the Raipur Mayor and some others in a money laundering probe linked to an alleged liquor scam in the state. The attached properties include 14 assets of Tuteja worth Rs 15.82 crore, 115 properties of Anwar Dhebar, the elder brother of Raipur Mayor and Congress leader Aijaz Dhebar, worth of Rs 116.16 crore, properties in respect of Vikash Agarwal alias Subbu worth Rs 1.54 crore and 33 properties in respect of Arvind Singh worth Rs 12.99 crore, the agency said in a statement.

Bomb threat to Delhi Police HQ

New Delhi: A teenage boy was caught for allegedly sending an email to the Delhi Police headquarters saying that a bomb was planted in the outer Delhi's Nangloi area, police said Friday. After a thorough checking in the area, the sender, who turned out to be a teenage boy, was caught. He was counselled by the police before being handed over to his parents. The Delhi Police Headquarters on Jai Singh Road in central Delhi is about 18 kilometers away from Nangloi.

WATER WOES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The Central Water Commission has underscored a notable deficit in reservoir storage nationwide, which has dipped to 28 per cent from 35 per cent of the capacity during the corresponding period last year.

The CWC, which monitors live water storage in 150 water reservoirs and releases a weekly status bulletin, found the southern region to be the most hit.

A total of 42 reservoirs are monitored by the commission in southern region, which includes Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

As per the CWC's latest Reservoir Storage bulletin, the total live storage available in these reservoirs is 8.353 BCM or 16 per cent of total capacity of 53.334 billion cubic metres (BCM).

The storage during the corresponding period of 2023 in the southern region was 28 per cent

DITCHING AMETHI

Amethi to not have contender from Gandhi family for first time in 25 years after Rahul leaves the seat to contest from Rae Bareilly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bardhaman, May 3: Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from Rae Bareilly and not Amethi drew a mix of mocking and denouncement from BJP leaders as Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed vindication, saying he had predicted that the Congress leader would look for a second seat fearing defeat from Wayanad. At his rallies in West Bengal, Modi recalled Rahul Gandhi's slogan of "daro mat (don't be afraid)" to turn the tables on him, saying he should not be afraid and not run away.

Several senior BJP leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, joined Modi in targeting the former Congress president, whose decision triggered a meme-fest among his critics on social media but was described by his party as an outcome of a lot of deliberation and strategy.

Addressing a rally in Rohtak, Singh asserted that India needs a leader with a 56-inch chest and not someone who flees from battle, as he mocked Rahul Gandhi for "running away" from Amethi and contesting from Rae Bareilly. People like Rahul Gandhi want to lead the country, the senior BJP

SC asks Centre to furnish data on notices, arrests done under GST Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to furnish details of issuance of notices and arrests done under the provisions of the Goods and Services Tax, saying it may interpret the law and lay down appropriate guidelines to avoid any harassment of citizens by depriving their liberty.

A special bench of Justices Sanjeev Khanna, MM Sundresh and Bela M Trivedi, which is hearing a batch of 281 petitions challenging various provisions of the GST Act, Customs Act and the provisions of PMLA, voiced concern over the ambiguity in section 69 of the GST Act that deals with the powers of arrest.

The bench said it would interpret the law to "strengthen" the liberty, if need be, but not allow citizens to be harassed.

"You furnish the data on notices issued and arrests made under the GST Act for alleged defaults of Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore respectively for the past three years. There can be harassment



Amit Shah himself said that the BJP-ruled central government and their ED had the intention from the very first day to arrest Arvind Kejriwal and put him in jail

ATISHI SINGH | AAP LEADER



Now, the 'shehzada' of the Congress, who went to Wayanad after losing the Amethi seat, is also contesting from Rae Bareilly. He knows he will lose Wayanad this time

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

leader said in a swipe at the former Congress president at a public meeting, and claimed that many party leaders wanted him to contest from Amethi but he could not gather the courage to do so.

In his rallies in Bardhaman and Krishnanagar, Modi said when Sonia Gandhi quit her Lok Sabha seat and entered Parliament through the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, it was evident the Congress had sensed defeat.

"I had said earlier that the 'prince', after polling in Wayanad, would look for another seat, due to fear of defeat in that constituency. Now, he had to run away from Amethi and choose the Rae Bareilly seat. They go around and ask people not to feel afraid. I would tell them the same thing: don't be afraid and don't run away," Modi said on Rahul Gandhi contesting from

Rae Bareilly. He also claimed that the Congress' tally will hit an all-time low this time.

The Congress Friday ended suspense over the Amethi and Rae Bareilly seats, announcing Rahul Gandhi's candidature from the constituency held by his mother Sonia Gandhi for the last two decades.

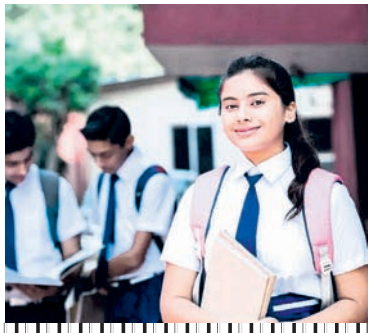
Rahul Gandhi had lost from adjoining Amethi in 2019 but won from Wayanad -- a seat he is contesting this time as well.

Strategic move The Congress said it took the decision to field Rahul Gandhi from Rae Bareilly after a lot of deliberation and strategy and that the constituency is not just a legacy but also a responsibility.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said it is a long election process and there are a few chess moves still left to play.

CBSE CLASS X, XII RESULTS SOON

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X and XII results are likely to be announced after May 20, officials said Friday. The clarification came amid speculation about announcement of the exam results. "CBSE Class X and XII results are likely to be announced after May 20," the board said in a note on its website



SEXUAL ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

More trouble brewing for Revanna, Prajwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 3: More trouble is brewing for NDA's Hassan Lok Sabha constituency candidate Prajwal Revanna and his father HD Revanna, facing sexual abuse allegations, after two more FIRs were registered against them.

So far, three FIRs have been registered against them in Hassan, Mysuru and Bangalore.

A rape case has been filed against Prajwal, the JD(S)-BJP alliance candidate for Hassan Lok Sabha, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Friday.

Meanwhile, Revanna Friday opted to withdraw his bail application in a Bangalore sessions court. He moved the court after a case of molestation was registered against him and his son Prajwal.

The grandson of former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda and the party MP from Hassan, 33-year-old Prajwal is facing allegations of sexually abusing women after scores of explicit video clips started making the rounds in recent days.

The Karnataka government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case following a complaint by the State Commission for Women chairperson Nagalakshmi Chowdhary. The JD(S) leadership has suspended Prajwal from the party.



The FIR by the CID in Bangalore Wednesday is based on a complaint by a JD(S) party worker, who alleged she was raped by Prajwal at gunpoint. He later made a video of her and blackmailed the woman saying he would make it viral if she did not fulfill his lust whenever he demanded.

The second FIR was registered in Mysuru Thursday night against Prajwal's father Revanna and his confidant Sathish Babanna for allegedly abducting a woman five days ago.

Earlier, a case of molestation was registered against Revanna and his son based on a complaint by their cook. She even complained that Prajwal made video calls to her daughter and tried to have a nasty chat with her.

In view of many women allegedly being tortured by Prajwal and his father based on the number of videos circulating in the social media, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Friday said he has directed police to identify, trace and secure all the victims.

SNIPPETS

Shah's morphed video: 'Spirit of Congress' admin arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Special Cell Friday arrested a national coordinator of the Congress' social media team for allegedly uploading and circulating online a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, an official said. This is the first arrest made by Delhi Police in the case. Arun Beereddy (37), a native of Telangana's Hyderabad, was arrested from Delhi. He handles the 'Spirit of Congress' account on X, the official said. Another police officer said Beereddy works as the national coordinator with the Congress' social media and digital platform cell at the party headquarters. "He is suspected to be among the ones who uploaded the doctored video on social media and also shared it with other Congress members. He will be interrogated to ascertain if he was also involved in making the video," the officer said.



Beereddy is among the prominent members of the social media team of the Congress, according to officials. Police said they will produce him before the Patiala House court and seek his custody for further interrogation. The Special Cell registered the FIR after the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (4C), which comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), filed a complaint about the doctored video of Shah where his statements indicating a commitment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious grounds in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

Manipur clashes anniv: 7 women shave head, take out cycle rally

Imphal: In a symbolic protest, seven women shaved their heads and staged a cycle rally to spread the message of peace and unity in the ethnic violence hit Manipur Friday. The women wearing black clothes rode from Sekmai, a fringe village to Kangla, at the heart of Imphal, covering a distance of at least 19 km. Kh Shanti, a middle-aged woman who accompanied the seven women said, "Shaving off hair is a symbolic gesture and to protest the government's inability to check on periodic gun attacks on fringe areas of Imphal valley by militants based in adjacent hill areas of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi. We all are tired. We want peace." May 3 marks the completion of one year of violence in the state. Today we once again remember the losses and atrocities committed on farmers, daily wage earners of Torbung and Phougakchao which was attacked by an armed mob from Churachandpur without provocation," M Sobita Devi, a Meira Paibi leader said at Kangla. More than 219 people were killed and thousands displaced from homes after ethnic clashes broke out May 3 last year, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.



Iran releases crew of vessel MSC Aries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Iran has said it released all the crew members of Portuguese-flagged cargo vessel MSC Aries that had 17 Indians among its 25 crews.

Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian mentioned the release of the crew of the ship during a phone conversation with his Estonian counterpart Margus Tsahkna Friday, according to an Iranian readout.

Ann Tessa Joseph, the sole woman cadet among the 17 Indian crew members of the Israeli-linked container vessel was released days after the tanker was seized by Iran's military April 13.

"In response to the request of the Estonian side regarding the Portuguese ship seized in the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the release of the Estonian crew, Amirabdollahian said the ship, which turned off its radar in the territorial waters of Iran and endangered the security of navigation, is detained under judicial rules," the Iranian foreign ministry said.

India's reservoirs report water shortage

SOUTHERN BELT WORST HIT AS LEVELS DIP TO 16%, SAYS CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION



of the total capacity of these reservoirs, while the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period was 22 per cent.

The bulletin also revealed concerning data on reservoir storage across India for the week ending May 2, 2024.

According to the report, the total live storage in 150 monitored reservoirs stood at 50.432 billion cubic metres (BCM), which is a mere 28 per cent of

their combined live storage capacity.

This figure represents a substantial decline compared to the storage levels recorded during the same period last year, amounting to only 81 per cent of last year's storage -- 62.212 BCM -- and significantly lower than the ten-year average, which was 96 per cent of the average storage capacity.

The bulletin underscored a notable deficit in reservoir stor-

age nationwide, highlighting potential implications for agriculture, hydroelectric power generation, and overall water resource management. Breaking down the data regionally, disparities in reservoir storage become apparent across different parts of the country. In the northern region, which includes states like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, the live storage available in monitored reservoirs was noted at

6.051 BCM, only 31 per cent of the total capacity.

This figure is below both last year's storage levels (37 per cent) and the ten-year average (34 per cent).

Conversely, in the eastern region comprising states like Assam, Jharkhand, and Odisha, the live storage of 7.45 BCM translates to 36% of the total capacity, surpassing last year's levels (33%) and the ten-year average (32%)

age nationwide, highlighting potential implications for agriculture, hydroelectric power generation, and overall water resource management.

Breaking down the data regionally, disparities in reservoir storage become apparent across different parts of the country.

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Patanjali, Chennai-based institution to jointly conduct clinical trials of Ayurvedic medicines



CHENNAI: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Patanjali Research Foundation (PRF) and SRM Center for Clinical Trials and Research (CCTR), Chennai for conducting clinical trial studies for Ayurvedic medicines. On this occasion, General Secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth Acharya Balkrishna and Dr Anurag Varshney, Chief Scientist of Patanjali Research Institute on behalf of Patanjali Research Foundation and Dr Nitin M Nagarkar, Dr Satyajit Mahapatra and Dr Saraswati Tripathi were present on behalf of SRM Center for Clinical Trials and Research, Chennai. On the occasion of signing of the MoU, Acharya Balkrishna said that this MoU will prove to be a milestone in the history of Ayurveda. He said that this joint effort will play an important role in the revival of Ayurveda. He added that this joint effort will play an important role in bringing evidence-based medicines made from Ayurveda based on Indian sanatan knowledge to the world stage through clinical trials. These two leading institutions of India will present the efficacy of Ayurvedic medicines to the world. Expressing his happiness, Dr Anurag Varshney, Head of Patanjali Research Foundation, said that with the help of this MoU, both the institutions will together present the effectiveness of Ayurvedic medicines to the world in an evidence-based manner and prove their usefulness in various diseases.

of the day quote

Lessons should be drawn from the collapse and more should be done to improve disaster prevention and response capabilities, ensuring the safety of people's lives and property and the overall social stability



ZHANG GUOQING | VICE PREMIER, CHINA

The meetings that we have held (Thursday) represent a very significant message to the region and to the world about four democracies (US, Australia, Japan and the Philippines) which are committed to the global rules-based order



RICHARD MARLES | DEFENSE MINISTER, AUSTRALIA

We haven't seen anything like this (Israel-Hamas war causes 37 tons of debris that need to be removed) since 1945, since the Second World War — that intensity in such a short time, and the massive scale of destruction



ABDALLAH AL DARDARI | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ARAB STATE, UNDP

SHORT TAKES

Indian dies in Maldives

Male: A 30-year-old Indian worker, injured during a dredging incident, died near here Friday, a local media report said. Identified by local police as an Indian man, the expat was injured while aboard a dredger at Hulhumale' lagoon at around 10:30 am local time, news portal 'sun.mv' reported. Quoting the police, the news portal said, The Hulhumale' Hospital declared the expatriate dead on arrival after he was brought in following the incident. The person was not identified by the police, except that he was 30 years old and from India. The incident is under further investigation by the police, the report said, highlighting the failure to adhere to proper safety standards.

20 killed in bus accident in Pak

Peshawar/Islamabad: At least 20 passengers were killed and 21 others injured when a bus skidded off the strategic Karakoram Highway in Pakistan and plunged into a ravine Friday, police said. The incident occurred in the mountainous terrain around 5:30 am in Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district when the bus was on its way from Rawalpindi to Gilgit, a police official said. The driver lost control of the vehicle which then overturned and landed near the banks of the Indus River which runs along the highway, the official said.

DY Chandrachud arrives in Nepal

Kathmandu: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud arrived here on a three-day official trip — a first for any sitting Chief Justice of India to visit Nepal — during which he will meet his Nepalese counterpart and address a symposium on child rights. "This is for the first time in history that any sitting Chief Justice of India paid an official visit to Nepal on record," according to Ved Prasad Upreti, spokesperson at the Supreme Court.

Lanka welcomes China participation

Colombo: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena has welcomed direct private investments from China and greater Chinese participation in sectors like agriculture, renewable energy, IT and education. The issue of direct private investment came during a meeting of Gunawardena and Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong Thursday.

India slams Pak in UNGA

Kamboj takes a dig at Islamabad's envoy after the latter's "destructive and pernicious" remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 3: In a sharp retort, India has said Pakistan harbours a "most dubious track record" on all aspects, as it slammed "destructive and pernicious" remarks made by Islamabad's envoy in the UN General Assembly here.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj's stern response came after Pakistan's UN envoy Munir Akram made lengthy remarks against India, including references to Kashmir, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, during his address to the UN General Assembly meeting on 'Culture of Peace.' "One final point...in this Assembly, as we endeavour to cultivate a culture of peace amid these challenging times, our focus remains steadfast on constructive dialogue. We thus choose to set aside the remarks from a certain delegation, which not only lack decorum but also



India is not only the birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, but also a stronghold for Islam, Judaism, Christianity and Zoroastrianism. It has historically been a refuge for persecuted faiths, illustrating its long-standing embrace of diversity

RUCHIRA KAMBOJ

detract from our collective efforts due to their destructive and pernicious nature," Kamboj said Thursday.

"We would strongly encourage that delegation to align with the central principles of respect and diplomacy that must always guide our discussions. Or is that too much to ask of a country that harbours a most dubious track record on all aspects in itself?" she said.

Kamboj asserted that terrorism stands in direct opposition to the culture of peace and the

core teachings of all religions, which advocate compassion, understanding and coexistence.

"It sows discord, breeds hostility and undermines the universal values of respect and harmony that underpin cultural and religious traditions worldwide. It is essential for Member States to work together actively to nurture a genuine culture of peace and to view the world as a united family, as my country strongly believes," she said.

Kamboj further said that the world faces significant chal-

lenges from geopolitical tensions and uneven development. "The growing intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief indeed demand our urgent attention," she said.

"We are particularly concerned by the escalating attacks on sacred sites, including churches, monasteries, gurudwaras, mosques, temples and synagogues," she said, adding that such acts require a swift and united response from the global community.

"It is crucial that our discussions therefore forthrightly address these issues, resisting political expediencies. We must tackle these challenges directly and ensure that they are central to our policy, dialogues and international engagements," she said.

Kamboj told the UNGA meeting that the doctrine of Ahimsa championed by Mahatma Gandhi continues to be a bedrock of India's commitment to peace.

"With its remarkable religious and linguistic diversity, India's cultural mosaic is a testament to tolerance and coexistence. Festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Christmas and Nowruz transcend religious boundaries, celebrating shared joys among diverse communities," Kamboj added.

China's lunar probe mission to far side of moon launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing/Wenchang, May 3: China Friday launched a 53-day-long lunar probe mission to collect samples for the first time from the far side of the moon and bring them for scientific studies.

The Chang'e-6 mission is tasked with collecting and then returning samples from the moon's far side to Earth — the first endeavour of its kind in the history of human lunar exploration, China National Space Administration (CNSA) said.

The entire mission would last for 53 days. The far side of the moon is not visible from Earth. An hour after the launch, an official announced that Chang'e-6's launch was "a complete success".

Scientific instruments from France, Italy and the European Space Agency/Sweden will be on board the lander of the Chang'e-6 mission and a Pakistani payload on the orbiter, says CNSA

This is the first time that China has included an orbiter from its all-weather ally Pakistan in its moon mission

The lunar probe was carried by a Long March-5 Y8 rocket blasted off smoothly from the Wenchang Space Launch Site on the coast of China's southern island province of Hainan. The launch was telecast live by state-run television.

After collecting dust and rocks on the moon, the ascender will transport the samples to the lunar orbiter for transfer to the re-entry module, which will carry them back to Earth.

HUNGARIAN FAMILIES BET ON SUSTAINABLE LIVING

KEEPING FAITH ON NATURE WITH A HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

REUTERS

Ladanybene (Hungary), May 3: What will happen when we keep our so called 'unlimited human needs' in check and go for the bare minimum? That's what Laszlo Kemencei is doing — relying on nature and keeping distance from external resources. Kemencei lives as sustainably as possible on his small farm in eastern Hungary. He believes the land is effectively borrowed from his young daughter, so he must do all he can to preserve it for the future.

The 28-year-old Kemencei, along with his wife Cintia and two-year-old daughter Boroka, moved to the farm outside Ladanybene three years ago. They keep horses,

pigs and chickens on an area of 4.5 hectares (11 acres), which they partly lease for grazing.

They do not use pesticides, keep their animals free range, and dig the land as little as possible to preserve the structure and moisture of the rich soil. They grow their own vegetables and slaughter or barter the meat they need, while trading the rest with families who choose a similar lifestyle.

Kemencei says while becoming fully self-sufficient seems an unrealistic goal, they rely minimally on external resources. "This land, we have not inherited from our fathers, but we have it on a lease from our children. So we try to live and farm the land in a sustainable way," he says.



Laszlo Kemencei plays with his daughter Boroka in the underground greenhouse at their farm near Ladanybene

While there are no statistics on how many families are following a similar lifestyle in Hungary — part of their choice is not necessarily to engage with central institutions — an-

ecdotal evidence suggests it is a growing trend.

Kemencei estimates there are around 1,000 families trying to embrace some form of sustainability, either alone or as part of

ABORTION LAW TO BE LIBERALISED

Denmark's government said Friday it is relaxing its restrictions on abortion for the first time in 50 years to make it legal for women to terminate pregnancies up to the 18th week from the previous 12th week. Officials said the law will also be changed to allow girls between 15 and 17 years old to have an abortion without parental consent



PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTS ON US COLLEGE CAMPUSES

More than 2,100 people arrested during protests



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, May 3: Police have arrested more than 2,100 people during pro-Palestinian protests at college campuses across the United States in recent weeks, sometimes using riot gear, tactical vehicles and flash-bang devices to clear tent encampments and occupied buildings.

More than 100 people were taken into custody during the Columbia crackdown, just a fraction of the total arrests stemming from recent campus protests over the Israel-Hamas war. A tally by The Associated Press Thursday found at least 50 incidents of arrests at 40 different US colleges or universities since April 18.

Early Thursday, officers surged against a crowd of demonstrators at University of California, Los Angeles, ultimately taking at least 200 protesters into custody after hundreds defied orders to leave, some forming human chains as police fired flash-bangs to break up the crowds.

Police tore apart a fortified encampment of plywood, pallets, metal fences and dumpsters, then pulled down canopies and tents.

Like at UCLA, tent encampments of protesters calling on universities to stop doing business with Israel or companies they say support the war in Gaza have spread across other campuses nationwide in a student movement unlike any other this century.

Israel has branded the protests antisemitic, while Israel's critics say it uses those allegations to silence opposition. Although some protesters have been caught on camera making antisemitic remarks or violent threats, protest organisers — some of whom are Jewish — call it a peaceful movement to defend Palestinian rights and protest the war.

President Joe Biden Thursday defended the right of students to peaceful protest but decried the disorder of recent days. The demonstrations began at Columbia April 17 with students calling for an end to the Israel-Hamas war, which has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to the Health Ministry there.

Israel launched its offensive in Gaza after Hamas militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, October 7 and took roughly 250 hostages in an attack on southern Israel.

SNIPPETS

China takes aim at Philippines

Taipei: For the first time, China has publicised what it claims is an unwritten 2016 agreement with the Philippines over access to South China Sea islands. The move threatens to further raise tensions in the disputed waterway, through which much of the world's trade passes and which China claims virtually in its entirety. A statement from the Chinese Embassy in Manila said the "temporary special arrangement" agreed during a visit to Beijing by former president Rodrigo Duterte allowed small scale fishing around the islands but restricted access by military, coast guard and other official planes and ships to the 12 nautical mile (22 km) limit of territorial waters. The Philippines respected the agreement over the past seven years but has since reneged on it to "fulfill its own political agenda", forcing China to take action, the statement said. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and Duterte have denied forging any agreements that would have supposedly surrendered Philippine sovereignty or sovereign rights to China.

4 killed in accident during police chase

Toronto: An Indian couple visiting Canada and their three-month-old grandchild were among four people killed on the spot in a multi-vehicle collision when Ontario police pursued a liquor store robbery suspect driving the wrong way. All four people were pronounced dead at the scene on Highway 401 in Whitby, about 50 kilometres east of Toronto, police said Thursday.

Heavy rains in Brazil: Death toll jumps to 29

Brasilia: The death toll from heavy rains in Brazil's southern Rio Grande do Sul state jumped to 29 as of Thursday night, with another 60 people missing, according to the state's civil defence agency. Operators reported electricity and water cuts across the state, and officials detailed numerous incidents of flooded roads, landslides and collapsed bridges as water levels of rivers and streams rose sharply.

Labour's win puts pressure on Sunak

REUTERS

London, May 3: Britain's opposition Labour Party won a parliamentary seat in northern England Friday and control of several councils, inflicting heavy losses on the governing Conservatives to pile more pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

The thumping victory set the tone for what will be a closely watched two days of local results before a national election this year, which polling shows could put Labour leader Keir Starmer in power and end 14 years of Conservative government.

While suffering what were expected losses, the Conservative Ben Houchen won re-election as the mayor of the northern region of Tees Valley, offering some comfort to Sunak. He is also hoping the party's mayoral candidate in the West Midlands will hold onto power to help silence calls for him to step down. Voters cast their ballots

Opposition Labour Party wins Blackpool South seat } Conservatives hold onto northern mayoralty } Labour says the polls show a desire for change

Based on results so far the Conservatives could be looking at their worst local election results for 40 years, said polling expert John Curtice

Sunak had hoped his announcement on increased defence spending and the passing of his divisive plan to send illegal asylum seekers to Rwanda might win over voters, but the losses could again fuel calls for him to step down

Thursday for more than 2,000 seats on local authorities across England and a handful of high-profile mayoral elections, including in the capital, London.

Blackpool South was the only parliamentary seat up for grabs after the Conservative lawmaker quit over a lobbying scandal, and Starmer was quick to say it was

Here in Blackpool, a message has been sent directly to the PM. This was directly to Rishi Sunak, to say we're fed up with your decline, your chaos, of your division, and we want change. We want to go forward with Labour

KEIR STARMER | LABOUR PARTY LEADER

the vote that mattered. Labour candidate Chris Webb won with 10,825 votes to the Conservative candidate's 3,218.

The right-wing Reform party narrowly missed out on beating the Conservatives, finishing third. The chairman of the Conservative Party, Richard Holden, said it had been "a tough night".

We should reduce our wants just a little, as now we live in a world where we sit on a galloping horse and when the horse dies, we just jump on another one. This is scary, but I think everyone should do their best within their limits

LASZLO KEMENCEI

informal barter arrangements, or as part of more structured eco-villages.

Reuters spoke to six other families, many of whom had left jobs in the formal economy, who were now growing much of their own food. Some had their own energy and water supplies.

BARTER TRADE

For Kemencei, the trusted networks matter too. A small pot-bellied pig traded with a friend is

eaten from nose to tail. A rooster is swapped with another friend who is a beekeeper.

"We sometimes slaughter chickens for barter trade...but only from a place where we know the farming is similar to ours," Kemencei said. "We don't want to change the world here...or become some kind of super-heroes, there are plenty of those out there, we would like to produce most of what we need."

Currently, they do not live off-grid. They have the internet, and buy electricity and gas for heating. But their water comes from a well and they hope to install solar panels and a wind turbine when they can afford it, Kemencei said.

They can get by on about 250,000 forints (USD 680) per month, outside of emergencies. They buy milk, sugar and other basics that they cannot grow themselves.

of the day **QUOTE**

With over 250 Swiss companies operating in India, hundreds of Indian companies in Switzerland, and a growing Indian diaspora of nearly 18,000, these flights will cater to a strong demand for business and leisure travel in both directions
CAMPBELL WILSON | CEO & MD, AIR INDIA

In all these years, I can say we have not been perfect all the time. But we always try to be transparent, honest, collaborative and be companies who are easier to do business with
N CHANDRASEKHARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS

Investors and stakeholders have adopted new perspectives on ESG-based reporting, and performance, both domestically and internationally
MEHUL PANDYA | MD AND GROUP CEO, CAREDGE

Q4 RESULTS

Godrej profit shines

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties Friday reported its highest-ever quarterly profit as earnings jumped 14 per cent annually to ₹471.26 crore in the March quarter, spurred by better income and strong housing sales. Its net profit stood at ₹412.14 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to ₹1,914.82 crore in the fourth quarter of last fiscal from ₹1,838.82 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, the company informed in a regulatory filing.

AGEL net declines

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Ltd Friday posted a 38.85 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹310 crore for the March quarter, mainly on account of increased expenses. Its net profit was ₹507 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 2022-23, the company said in an exchange filing. During the fourth quarter of FY24, the company's total income fell to ₹2,806 crore from ₹2,977 crore a year ago.

JSW Infra net jumps

New Delhi: JSW Infrastructure Friday reported a 9 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹329 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The company had clocked a profit of ₹302.26 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the company said in a BSE filing. Its consolidated total income increased to ₹1,200.30 crore for the fourth quarter against ₹973.20 crore in the year-ago period.

MRF profit surges

New Delhi: Tyre maker MRF Friday posted a 16 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at ₹396 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The company had reported a net profit of ₹341 crore for the January-March quarter of the preceding fiscal. Revenue from operations rose to ₹6,349 crore in the last fiscal as against ₹5,842 crore in 2022-23.

Raymond rises 18%

New Delhi: Raymond Ltd Friday reported an 18 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax at ₹229 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax of ₹194 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal, Raymond Ltd said in a statement. Consolidated net revenue in the quarter under review was ₹2,688 crore as against ₹2,192 crore in the year-ago period, up 23 per cent, it added.



"We did grow strong double-digit (in India). And so we were very, very pleased about it. It was a new March quarter revenue record for us. As you know, as I've said before, I see it as an incredibly exciting market and it's a major focus for us"
TIM COOK | CEO, APPLE

INDIA, NIGERIA TO BOOST TIES

India and Nigeria have identified areas such as crude oil, natural gas, pharmaceuticals, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), local currency settlement system, and power sector to increase cooperation for boosting economic ties



THIRD WEEK OF DIP

Forex kitty drops to \$637.9 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 3: India's forex reserves dropped \$2.412 billion to \$637.922 billion as April 26, in the third consecutive weekly decline in the reserves, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had declined \$2.28 billion to \$640.33 billion.

For the week ended April 5, the reserves had hit an all-time high of \$648.562 billion following multiple weeks of increases.

The earlier high of \$642.453 billion achieved in September 2021 got surpassed in March this year.

For the week ended April 26, the foreign currency assets -- a major component of the reserves -- decreased \$1.159 billion to \$559.701 billion, the data released Friday showed.

Gold reserves decreased \$1.275 billion to \$55.533 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up \$15 million to \$18.048 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was also up \$8 million to \$4.639 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Adani firms under SEBI scanner

Group's seven firms say received SEBI showcause notices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Seven out of the 10 listed firms of Adani group have received showcause notices from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for alleged violation of related party transactions and non-compliance with listing regulations, the companies said in their regulatory filings to the stock exchanges.

While group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd, renewable energy firm Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and city gas distributor Adani Total Gas Ltd said SEBI sent notices of their parent or holding company controlled by conglomerate's chairman Gautam Adani, ports company Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone, Adani Power, electricity transmission firm Adani Energy Solutions, and commodities firm Adani Wilmar said they have received SEBI notices.

Making the disclosure as part of notes to their respective January-March quarter and 2023-24 financial results statements, all the firms in almost identical statements said there are no material non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations and no material consequential effect.



However, auditors of the companies, except those for Adani Green Energy, Adani Total Gas Ltd and Adani Wilmar, issued a qualified opinion on the financial statements, implying that the outcome of the SEBI investigation may have a bearing on the financial statements in the future.

The conglomerate's cement companies ACC and Ambuja Cement said they have not received any notice from SEBI on the matter and there was no open matter relating to them and any non-compliance of applicable regulations. Its media unit NDTV did not say anything about receiving SEBI notices.

A show cause notice is not an indictment and seeks an explanation from entities as to why

legal action should not be taken against them.

AGEL in the filing Friday said a short-seller's report (SSR) made certain allegations against some of the Adani Group companies.

The matter went to the Supreme Court (SC), which observed that SEBI was investigating the matter while also constituting an Expert Committee to investigate as well as suggest measures to strengthen existing laws and regulations.

The Expert Committee in its May 6, 2023, report found "no regulatory failure in respect of applicable laws and regulations," AGEL said. "The SEBI also concluded its investigations in 22 of the 24 matters as per the status report dated August 25, 2023, to the SC."

Tesla vs Tesla: Carmaker sues India namesake for copying trademark

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 3: Elon Musk's carmaker Tesla has sued an Indian battery maker for infringing its trademark by using the brand name "Tesla Power" to promote its products, seeking damages and a permanent injunction against the company from a New Delhi judge.

Tesla in a hearing at the Delhi High Court this week said the Indian company had continued advertising its products with the "Tesla Power" brand despite a cease-and-desist notice sent in April 2022, according to details of the proceedings posted on the court website Friday.

During the hearing, the Indian company, Tesla Power India Pvt Ltd, argued its main business is to make "lead acid batteries" and it has no intention of making electric vehicles.

The judge allowed the Indian firm three weeks to submit written responses after it handed over a set of documents in support of its defence, the court record shows.

Musk's Tesla is incorporated in Delaware, and it has accused the Indian company of using trade names "Tesla Power" and "Tesla Power USA". The court record included screenshots of



a website that showed that Tesla Power USA LLC was also headquartered in Delaware and had been "acknowledged for being a pioneer and leader in introducing affordable batteries" with "a very strong presence in India".

A Tesla Power representative told Reuters it has been present in India much before Musk's Tesla and had all government approvals. "We have never claimed to be related to Elon Musk's Tesla," Tesla Power's Manoj Pahwa said.

Tesla told the judge it discovered the Indian company was using its brand name in 2022 and has unsuccessfully tried stop it from doing so, forcing it to file the lawsuit.

The case comes after Musk cancelled his planned visit to India April 21 to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Tesla India trademark case will next be heard May 22.

Fossil fuel capacity up 2.44% in FY24; non fossil-fuel rises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The country's fossil fuel-based power generation capacity increased 2.44 per cent to 243.22 GW in FY24 from 237.27 GW in March 2023, according to official figures.

There was a 10.79 per cent rise in non-fossil fuel based capacity (renewable energy sources) addition at 190.57 gigawatt (GW) in 2023-24 over 172.01 GW in 2022-23, the government data showed.

While the fossil fuel-based capacity includes power generation through coal, lignite, gas and diesel sources, the non-fossil fuel includes power generated from solar, wind and hydropower.

The nuclear power capacity addition rose to 8.18 GW from 6.78 GW in the last fiscal year, posting a year-on-year rise of 20.64 per cent.

In FY24, India's total power generation capacity rose 6.22 per cent to 441.97 GW over 416.06 GW, the data showed.

The coal-based capacity increased around 3 per cent to 210.97 GW from 205.24 GW in the last financial year, and gas capacity rose marginally to 25.04 GW from 24.82 GW in FY23. The lignite- and diesel-based capacity was at 6.62 GW and 0.59 GW, respectively, in FY24.

MARKETS CRASH Investors lose ₹2.25L-cr

Sensex tumbles 700 points amid broad-based selloff; Nifty slips from record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 2.25 lakh crore Friday, the day when the BSE Sensex tanked 733 points, amid profit-taking and worries over premium valuations of local stocks.

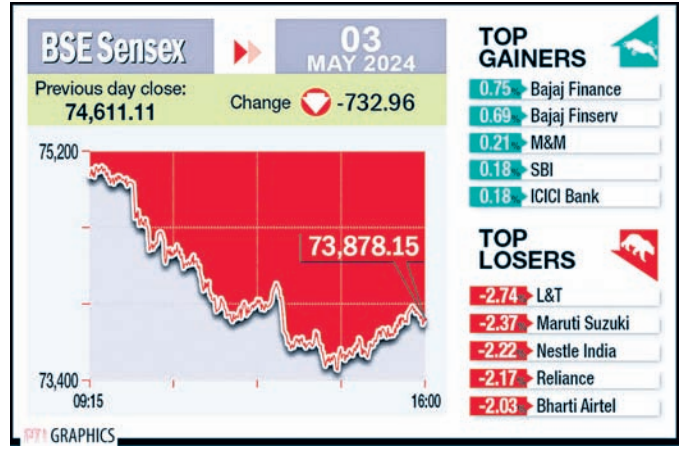
The 30-share BSE benchmark dropped 732.96 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 73,878.15 after soaring 484.07 points earlier in the day. From its intra-day high of 75,095.18, the benchmark tanked 1,627.45 points to the day's low of 73,467.73.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded by Rs 2,25,543.41 crore to Rs 4,06,24,224.49 crore (\$4.89 trillion).

The NSE Nifty also declined 172.35 points or 0.76 per cent to 22,475.85. The benchmark hit a record 22,794.70 in the early trade, up 146.5 points or 0.64 per cent.

From the Sensex basket, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, Reliance Industries, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards.

Bajaj Finance climbed nearly 1 per cent higher. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted



As valuation discomfort rises, investors are becoming choosy and taking select bets. Uncertainty over interest rate, gloomy geopolitical scenario and FI fund outflows have prompted investors to book profits at regular intervals

PRASHANTH TAPSE | SENIOR VP (RESEARCH), MEHTA EQUITIES

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 147.99 points or 0.20%. The NSE Nifty advanced 55.9 points or 0.24%

India's exchanges spar for dominance in hot derivatives mkt

THE MONTHLY NOTIONAL VALUE OF DERIVATIVES TRADED ON INDIAN EXCHANGES EXPLODED TO AN EYE-POPPING ₹8,737 TRILLION (\$104.65 TRILLION) IN MARCH 2024, MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT OF A YEAR EARLIER

REUTERS

Mumbai, May 3: India's top stock exchanges are luring investors with new products and lower fees as they battle for a share of the hot but fledgling derivatives market, in turn fuelling a surge in trading activity that is drawing regulatory scrutiny.

The larger National Stock Exchange of India and its older rival BSE are wrestling for dominance in derivatives, particularly the raging options market spurred by the introduction last year of short-term contracts that can be traded with borrowed funds.

The NSE plans to launch options contracts based on key sectoral indices, including the pharmaceutical and IT indices, if it gets the regulatory go-ahead, according to two exchange sources.

In April, it launched option contracts, opens new tab on a Nifty Next 50 index of the 50 largest stocks which are not in the benchmark Nifty index.

It has reduced transaction fees and a wider review to further reduce charges is underway, said the sources, declining to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Not to be left behind, the BSE plans to launch options contracts based on indices of the top 50 and top 100 companies by market value, a source familiar with the exchange's plans said, also declining to be identified.

The exchange will launch "complementary products" and "re-launch languishing products", Sundararaman Ramamurthy, chief executive of BSE told Reuters, without elaborating.

Details of the new products



planned by the two exchanges have not been previously reported.

BSE's aggressive strategy has pushed up its market share in derivatives trading from less than one percent to 17% in the twelve months ending March 2024, denting NSE's near monopoly on derivatives trading in India.

Options volumes have rocketed as well. Of the 108 billion options contracts traded worldwide in 2023, 78% were on Indian exchanges, according to data from the Futures Industry Association.

Both exchanges have seen revenues rise, with the BSE re-

porting a 55% increase in the nine months ending December 2023 and NSE a 21% increase.

For NSE, 80% of its revenue comes from transaction charges, for BSE it is 38% as per exchange disclosures.

The competition has caught the attention of market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Earlier this week, SEBI asked the exchanges to pay higher regulatory fees based on the notional value of derivatives traded,

after which BSE raised its transaction fees.

SEBI is also scrutinising the incentives given by exchanges to brokers, two regulatory sources told Reuters. The regulator is probing the practise of charging lower transaction fees for brokers with high turnover, the sources said.

DERIVATIVES BOOM, RISKS RISE

The value of derivatives traded in India in 2023 was 421 times traditional cash trading - the highest among major global markets, Axis Mutual Fund said in a report last year.

"An options contract expiring daily has definitely bumped up options trading in India," said Nithin Kamath, chief executive and co-founder, Zerodha, India's largest broking firm.

Retail investors now make up 35% of derivative trading in the country, prompting the regulator to issue repeated warnings on the risks of such trading. Indian regulators will form a panel to

study the risk posed by the derivative trading surge, Reuters reported last month.

Options expiring on the same day, known in technical parlance as 'zero day to expiry' options, are particularly popular among retail investors.

Siddharth Joshi, a 36-year old from Surat in western India, gets the opportunity to trade more because of the shorter term expiries, he said. "The multiple expiries have helped in making a neat profit," said Joshi whose average trade is around Rs 50,000.

According to a SEBI study of January 2023, nine out of ten investors made losses while trading in derivatives.

Nudged by SEBI, both BSE and NSE have launched investor awareness campaigns and issued warnings on risks associated with trading in options.

But BSE's Ramamurthy said exchanges cannot be held responsible.

"Exchanges do not decide the participants, it is the market which decides," Ramamurthy said. "We can only take steps to reduce risks posed by the rise of retail option traders."

KKR END 12-YR WAIT Chelsea further dent Tottenham's CL hopes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 3: Tottenham's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League are getting thinner by the day. By falling 0-2 at Chelsea Thursday, the Spurs slumped to a second loss to a London rival in the space of four days in the Premier League — after a 2-3 home defeat to Arsenal in the north London derby Sunday.

In between those losses came confirmation that England will have just four places in next season's expanded Champions League, and not five.

That's another blow to Spurs, who are fifth and stayed seven points behind fourth-place Aston Villa with one game in hand. They still have to play Liverpool and Manchester City in their remaining four games so it is looking increasingly unlikely they will close the gap to Villa.

Headed goals by Trevoh Chalobah in the 24th and Nicolas Jackson in the 72nd were enough



for Chelsea, who could yet salvage a place in one of the minor European competitions from what has been an underwhelming Premier League campaign for a squad assembled at a cost of more than USD 1 billion.

Chelsea climbed above West Ham and into eighth place, two

points behind Newcastle and three behind Manchester United in sixth. It's likely that two of those three teams will be playing in either the Europa League or Europa Conference League next season.

Tottenham have now won just one of their past 34 away league games against Chelsea, making

it one of the most lopsided top-flight fixtures. The sole victory came in 2018, when Pochettino was in charge of Spurs.

Chalobah got on the end of a free-kick by Conor Gallagher to loop a header over Spurs goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario and into the net to give Chelsea the lead. It was a 15th goal this season conceded from a set piece by Spurs and that is becoming a major issue under Postecoglou.

Jackson, who had a shot partially saved by Vicario and subsequently cleared off the line by Micky van de Ven in the first half, eventually got his goal when he was quickest to react after Cole Palmer's free-kick rebounded out off the crossbar. Jackson did well to head the ball over two Tottenham defenders who were retreating toward their own goal line.

Tottenham are six points clear of Man United and might have to settle for a fifth-place finish, which would earn a spot in next season's Europa League.



Manish Pandey and Venkatesh Iyer
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Mitchell Starc celebrates after dismissing a Mumbai Indians batter, Friday

Mumbai, May 3: Kolkata Knight Riders bowling unit performed in unison to win a battle of attrition against five-time champions Mumbai Indians by 24 runs in an IPL match here Friday.

If KKR batters were guilty of not working out their game plan on the go in the first half to be bowled out for just 169 with Venkatesh Iyer contributing 70 (52b, 6x4, 3x6), MI's underperforming batters stood no chance on a tricky wicket which demanded both application and patience. They were all out for 145 in 18.5 overs and are practically out of the competition which has been a nightmare for Hardik Pandya.

It was KKR's first away win in Mumbai after 12 years and last time they won here, their principal owner Shah Rukh Khan was embroiled in an argument with security staff which led to his ban from the venue for next three years. That year KKR won the trophy and this win took them to 14 points and kept them in contention for a finish among the first two teams.

Despite Suryakumar Yadav's brilliant fifty (56, 35b, 6x4, 2x6), MI were shot out for 145 in 18.5 overs, found wanting with the bat once again as Mitchell Starc (4/33) cleaned up the tail for KKR's seventh win in 10 matches.

Until he top edged one off a full toss from Andre Russell (2/30), Suryakumar appeared to be proving the difference between the two sides with a top quality knock which brought MI back from the brink.

Suryakumar also brought the equation down enough for his side to get over the line after they were reduced to 71/6 at one stage. But none of the MI batters showed their hand up as KKR ran away with the game with a flurry of wickets towards the end.

Also impressive were KKR's spin duo of Varun Chakravathy and Sunil Narine, producing identical figures of 2/22 to keep the MI batters under the pump.

Earlier, KKR's aggressive approach came a cropper on a sluggish surface as they were bowled out for a paltry 169 despite Venkatesh's half century. However, his selfish attitude of trying to preserve his own wicket by sacrificing enforcer Russell certainly cost the KKR 20 runs which didn't turn out to be costly in the end. Veteran Pandey scored 42 (31b, 2x4, 2x6) in a stand of 83 for the sixth wicket with Venkatesh.

Just like the top order was blown away before the total reached 60, the last five fell for just 29 runs as Jasprit Bumrah

(3/18) was too hot to handle with his toe-crushers at the death.

On a two-paced wicket which had the odd delivery coming on to the bat slower than expected, KKR batters were guilty of rushing into their shots and not reading the track well before formulating their plans.

As a result, half of their side was back in the hut in the powerplay without having anything significant on the board. After the explosive top order cut a sorry figure, Rinku Singh (9) too squandered an opportunity to bat big, forcing KKR to turn to the experienced Pandey as impact sub for rescue.

BRIEF SCORES: KKR 169 (Venkatesh Iyer 70, Manish Pandey 42, Jasprit Bumrah 3/18, Nuwan Thushara 3/42, Hardik Pandya 2/44) beat MI 145 (Suryakumar Yadav 56, Tim David 24; Mitchell Starc 4/33, Sunil Narine 2/22, Varun Chakravathy 2/22, Andre Russell 2/30) by 24 runs.

MATCHDAY

Indian Premier League

RCB vs GT

Time: 07:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network

Stream: Jio Cinema

Swiatek returns to Madrid Open final

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, May 3: Iga Swiatek cruised to a straight-set semifinal win over Madison Keys to reach the Madrid Open final and a rematch against No.2 Aryna Sabalenka. The Madrid Open is the only high-profile European clay-court title that Swiatek is yet to win.

Top-ranked Swiatek beat No.20 Keys 6-1, 6-3 and will next face the defending champion Sabalenka, who rallied to overcome No.4-ranked Elena Rybakina 1-6, 7-5, 7-6(7-5). It will be the third final of the year for Swiatek after titles in Indian Wells and Doha.

"It was a pretty clean performance and really solid game from myself," she said. "I'm happy with everything. I'm happy that we can play a final against the top players," Swiatek said.

"It shows consistency. For sure it's going to be a challenge, whoever it's going to be, and a tough match. I will be ready. I will focus



on myself."

Sabalenka, who needed three sets to defeat Swiatek in the Madrid final last year, is into her third Madrid final after ending Rybakina's 16-match clay-court winning streak.

"I was just trying to fight for every point," Sabalenka said. "I was hoping that I'll have opportunity to turn this match around, and yeah, super happy

that I was able to do that."

MEDVEDEV INJURED

Daniil Medvedev retired from his quarterfinal match after losing the first set 6-4, sending the 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka into a semifinal against 35th-ranked Felix Auger-Aliassime.

No.4-ranked Medvedev needed treatment on his upper right leg while leading 3-2, complaining about having trouble moving to his right. He also needed treatment at 4-3, and after Lehecka broke serve in the ninth game to win the set, Medvedev decided not to continue.

"It's never easy in a match like this," Lehecka said of Medvedev's retirement. "If I were to choose the way how to win this match, it wouldn't be like that. So of course, it's never easy to see your opponent struggling, but at that moment, you just need to focus on yourself, trying to get the maximum level out of yourself."

India No.1 in ODIs, T20Is; Oz reclaim top spot in Tests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, May 3: India have retained their top position in ODIs and T20Is but slipped to the second position in the men's Test Team Rankings in the latest ICC annual ranking update issued Friday.

India conceded the top spot in the five-day format to Australia following the annual update that drops results from the 2020-21 season and reflects all series completed since May 2021. India (120) are just four points behind Australia (124) and 15 points clear of third-placed England.

India, however, remain atop the ODI and T20I rankings. India have 122 points, six ahead of second-placed Australia in ODIs.

The T20I rankings see Australia move ahead of England to second place but they are seven points adrift of India, who lead with 264 rating points.

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