

Jethwani of Chhattisgarh. According to sources, Pooja, a graduate from Indian Institute of Technology Madras, was doing research for her PhD paper in Physics for last five years. The NISER staff Monday morning spotted Pooja lying dead near D-2 block of the girls' hostel. Police reached the spot and sent the body to AIIMS for post mortem. The autopsy is scheduled to be carried out Tuesday after her parents' arrival. MORE P3

WPI inflation up to 13.11%; retail 6.07%



New Delhi: The wholesale pricebased inflation in February rose to 13.11 per cent on hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items, even though food articles softened. After two months of mild easing, WPI inflation accelerated in February and remained in double digits for the 11th onsecutive month, beginn 2021. Similarly, retail inflation inched up to 6.07 per cent in February mainly due to an uptick in food prices. showed the government data. The Consumer Price Index based retail inflation was 5.03 per cent in February 2021 and 6.01 per cent in January this year. WPI inflation last month was 12.96 per cent

Vax for 12-14 yrs from March 16

Everyone aged 60 years and above, regardless of comorbidities, will now be able to get precaution doses

New Delhi, March 14: The COVID vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years will begin from Wednesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviva announced Monday. The COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to the 12-14 years age group would be Corbevax manufactured by Biological E Limited, Hyderabad, the Union health ministry said. Tweeting the announcement in Hindi, the minister said, "if the children are safe then the country is safe! I am happy to inform that the COVID vaccination of children in the age group of 12 to 13 and 13 to 14 is starting from March 16. Also, everyone aged 60 years and above will now be able to get precaution doses. Mandaviya also urged the families of children and people in the age group of 60 years and above that they must get the vaccination done. The Union government after due deliberations with scientific bodies has decided to start COVID-19 vaccination for 12-13 yr and 13-14 yr age groups (those born in 2008, 2009 and 2010 i.E those who are already above 12 years of age) of the population from March 16, 2022, the ministry said in a statement.

AGENCIES

Man ends life, wife hurt as winner hurls abuses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak/Padmapur, March 14: In a nerve-wracking incident, a man hanged himself to death while his wife, who had contested for samiti member's post, consumed poison after the couple was hurled

abuses by the winning candidate. The winner in the recently conducted panchayat polls allegedly hurled abuses and slurs on the couple, it was alleged. A case in this connection was registered with local police. The incident was reported

base critical to Ukraine's defense. Prospects for a speedy end to the fightng, however, appear dim.

of the expert committee, appropriate decision will be taken by the board within 24 hours. "A dispute has been received from a school regarding the answer key of Odia subject in Class X claiming that the answers given in report of the expert committee," it added. Odisha Parents Federation Monday submitted a memorandum to CBSE Regional Office here demanding 17 grace marks to students due to discrepancy in Odia subject term 1 paper where 17 questions and its answers were wrong.

Pistol found from school classroom



Sambalpur; March 14: In a bizarre incident Saturday, a country-made pistol was found in one of the_ classrooms of an upper primary (UP) school in Sambalpur. The incident has triggered strong resentment among parents who have been left in a state of panic, a source said Monday. The firearm was recovered

Saturday forenoon while a class-

room at Rengumunda UP school

under Jamankira police limits in

the district was being cleaned.

The weapon was kept in a shelf in-

side the classroom. However, the

room from which the firearm was

recovered had been under the pos-

Assistant teacher Gobinda Bhoi

occupied two classrooms of the

school. Although he was trans-

ferred March 4, his personal be-

longings were not shifted, the

"Bhoi lived in one of the class-

source said

session of a former teacher.

the answer key for some

Threatened by cops,

minor girl kills self

Jagatsinghpur: A minor girl commit-

threatened by police over the arrest

ted suicide after allegedly being

of her father at Haveli Nath Sahi

to reports, a police van was ran-

sacked while two constables sus-

tained injuries after a mob attacked

police personnel during panchayat

polls February 17. Since then, police

were on the lookout for the people



POST NEWS NETWORK

under Sadar police limits. According

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Such news could've given us a big shock. Thanks to this govt, we don't have jobs

	MARKET WATCH						
IN	DEX		VAR	ATION			
BOURSES	SENSEX	56486.02		935.72			
	NIFTY	16871.30		240.80			
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	77.02		₹0.12			
CURR	EURO	84.15	♥	₹0.31			
NOI	GOLD	₹52,415	♥	₹463			
BULLION	SILVER	₹69,188	₽	₹1182			

	W	EATI	IER		
			BHUB	СТК	
	ЧΡ	MAX	36.6°€	36.0°	
	Ē	MIN	22.3℃	21.5°	Forecast
)-	Hur	nidity	88%	87%	Clear sky
	Rair	nfall	Nil	Nil	mainly

According to official sources, around 7.11 crore children will be



vaccinated under the new age group. Biological E Ltd has supplied 5 crore doses of Corbevax to the Centre and the vaccine has been distributed to states, sources said.

The announcement comes at a time when schools across the country are opening up given the considerable decline in the COVID cases. The government has also decided that the condition of comorbidity for COVID19 precaution dose for population over 60 years of age will be removed forthwith, the ministry said.

"Hence, from 16th March 2022 onwards, the entire population above 60 years of age will be eligible for precautionary doses of COVID19 vaccine," the ministry said. The population above 14 years of age is already being inoculated under the ongoing COVID vaccination program

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers started February 2 last year. The next phase of vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions. The Centre then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be jabbed from May 1 last year. The next phase of vaccination commenced January 3 this year for adolescents aged 15-18.

from Bada Agapur village under Padmapur panchayat of Basudevpur block in Bhadrak district.According to sources, Sumati Parida, wife of Ramakant Parida, had contested for a samiti member's post as an independent candidate. Since then, the winner and his supporters were passing lewd comments on the couple.

This eventual $\bar{\mbox{l}} y$ led to verbal duel between the couple. Under mental stress, Ramakant set his household items on fire. Later. unable to bear the comments, Sumati consumed poison while Ramakant hanged himself from a ceiling fan. On being alerted, Basudevpur fire

department officials reached the village and doused the flames. Sumati



Protesters staging a road blockade against minor's suicide in Jagatsinghpur

nvolved in the attack. Sunday hight, the cops reached the victim's house to arrest her father Manas Nath. However, in the absence of Manas and his wife, the cops threatened his three minor daughters before leaving the village. Manas' elder daughter Smrutiprajnaa alias Barsha hanged herself to death while her two sisters were asleep.

was rescued in critical condition and rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. However, Ramakant had breathed his last by the time co-villagers reached the house. The incident sparked outrage in the village. Demanding action against the winning candidate, hundreds of villagers placed the body of Ramakant on Padmapur-Biras main road.

rooms and used another room as a kitchen. It is suspected that the former assistant teacher was in possession of the pistol," an employee said on the condition of anonymity

The matter has been duly communicated to local Cluster **Resource Center Coordinator** (CRCC) and other department higher-ups

On being informed, Jamankira police have launched an investigation into the matter.

Doc kicks patient; video goes viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, March 14: A video of a doctor kicking, slapping and punching a patient at Dharamgarh Sub Divisional Hospital in Kalahandi district has sparked outrage

The video of the assault, recorded on a mobile phone, has gone viral on social media. According to sources, a patient identified as Sukesh Naik, 35, was admitted to the hospital after he complained of stomach pain Sunday night. He was wreathing in pain when the onduty doctor Sailesh Kumar Dora, directed him to shut up. Later, the angry doctor attacked Naik and beat him up in front of other patients and attendants.

Sikhs can now carry kirpans inside airports

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 14: Aviation security regulator the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has permitted Sikh aviation sector employees to carry kirpan on person within the airport The premises, a document stated. Bureau of Civil The Bureau of Aviation Security Civil Aviation Security order (BCAS) order March 4 March 4, banbanned Sikh aviation sector

ning Sikh aviation sector *employees from carrying* employees kirpan on person within any from carrying kirpan on per *Indian airport premises* son within any

Indian airport premises, was criticised by leading Sikh body Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

Subsequently, March 12, the BCAS removed the ban. Kirpan, a curved dagger, has to be worn next to the body in Sikh reli-

gion In the March 4 order, the BCAS said. "Kirpan

may be carried only by a Sikh passenger, on his person, provided the length of the blade does not exceed six



inches and the total length does not exceed nine inches"

Kirpan is allowed while travelling by air on Indian aircraft within India, it noted. "This exception shall be for Sikh passengers only

holder or its employee at airport (interminal, domestic or international, shall be allowed to carry kirpan on person," it added

kirpan at any airport.

BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa tweeted a photo of the modified order and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Singh said airport Sikh employees and passengers can both carry kirpan at Indian airports now.







as stated above. And, no stakecluding Sikh) and working in any

On March 9, SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami wrote a letter to Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, stating that the March 4 order was an attack on Sikh rights. Therefore, March 12, the BCAS issued a corrigendum to the March 4 order. The corrigendum removed the paragraph that prohibited Sikh employees to bring



leisure



LAVERNE FIRST MET LEONARDO WHEN SHE WAS A WAITRESS

The Orange Is The New Black star Laverne Cox can recall first meeting Hollywood star Leonard DiCaprio when she was working as a waitress in a New York City club.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH HAS VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Actor Benedict Cumberbatch says it's impossible to ignore the war in Ukraine. He shared: "We have brothers and sisters who are suffering. It is a really shocking time to be a European, two-and-a-half hours' flight away from Ukraine. It's something that hangs over us."



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🖾 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

You've finally realised that diet and exercise are a must, and you especially need to take good care. Today, you may wish to eat something different. Tried Mongolian cuisine? Ganesha suggests that you go out with some friends who you've not been paying attention to.

TAURUS

You will spend your day in the company of near and dear ones, says Ganesha. Family and friends might gather at your place and you will leave no stone unturned in welcoming them to your nest In all probability, home makers will be able to shine in cooking as well as hosting, foresees Ganesha.

GEMINI

Emotional and material security will hold equal importance today. You want to be in love, but you know that love can't buy you dough. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problems you set your mind on. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods of making the best use of your knowledge.

CANCER

You are feeling lucky today. The problem is that your feelings have nothing to do with the ground reality. So, while you may get busy trying your luck at risky speculative markets. Ganesha may get increasingly worried about the losses you may incur because of your foolishness

LEO

Today, the force is with you. Well, at least part of the force that deals with being a smooth talker, says Ganesha. It is your power of expression that comes to the fore and stands you in good stead. Having mastered the art of communication, you now are a wizard of words who conjures showers of pearls with a mere twist of the tongue

VIRGO

There is a strong indication that you will dabble in writing or performing arts, and emerge with excellent results. Since these are your passions, you may cultivate hobbies in these fields, if they are not already your profession.



Katrina turns photographer for hubby Vicky

Mumbai: Actor Vicky Kaushal, who is quite active on social media, has shared a stylish picture of himself which is clicked by his gorgeous wife Katrina Kaif. He took to his Instagram story and showed off Katrina's photography skills

In the candid picture, Vicky is seen sporting a black suit paired with a white shirt. Along with the picture, the actor wrote, 'Mood shot by Mrs'. He shared two more pictures which were also clicked by Katrina.

Recently, Vicky shared a heartwarming picture of Katrina and his mother Veena Kaushal on the occasion of International Women's Day. He shared the picture with a caption that read, 'My strength.

My world'. Katrina and Vicky tied the knot December 9 last vear in

PEANUTS

PRETTY GOOD PATTY ... HOW

HAVE YOU BEEN

CALVIN AND HOBBES

NO, MOM! DON'T PUT

BREVITY

3ABU

SULLIES

DOING ?



Instagram official by sharing adorable pictures from their D-day. Along with the pictures, the couple wrote in our hearts for everything that brought us to this moment. Seeking all your love and blessings as we begin this new journey together."

"Only love and gratitude AGENCIES



Yami urges everyone to watch The Kashmir Files

March 11 and has

opened to a phe-

nomenal box of-

fice response.

At the end

of its first

weekend,

the film

raked in

Rs 26.50

crore.

Mumbai : Yami Gautam is the latest celebrity who has extended support to Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri's The Kashmir Files. The film narrates the story of the exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 and Yami urged everyone to watch the film to 'know the truth'. "Being married to a Kashmiri Pandit, I know firsthand accounts of the atrocities that this peace-loving community has gone through. But majority of the nation is still unaware. It took us 32 years and a film to get to know the truth. Please watch and support #TheKashmirFiles," tweeted

Previously, her husband, filmmaker Aditya Dhar had also extended support to The Kashmi *Files* in a series of tweets. He wrote, "You might have seen numerous videos of Kashmiri Pandits breaking down in the theatres after watching #TheKashmirFiles. The emotion is real. It shows how long we kept our pain and tragedy repressed as a community. We didn't have any shoulder to cry on and no ear to hear our pleas. This film is a brave attempt to show our TRUTH! We were forced to keep this tragedy a secret. The Kashmir Files

released on



Aamir praises ex-wife Kiran for being brutally honest

Mumbai: Actor Aamir Khan recently praised his ex-wife Kiran Rao for being brutally honest and making him stay grounded, a trait that has helped the Lagaan actor make improvements in his social and creative conduct.

Addressing the media on his birthday Monday, the actor said, "If there is anyone who has given me the best gift in my life, it has to be Kiran Rao because she is the one, who

has known me from close quarters and with her, it has been the most rewarding relation among all the relations that I share with my friends, family and the peers

Elaborating on the 'gift that Kiran has given to him, he mentioned how she gives him precise suggestions that work wonders when he sits down to analyze and follow them, "I was talking to her the other day. I asked her what are some of the things that I need to work on to improve myself as a human being. She made me understand in a very nice way, it was very important for me to listen to her and to follow her advice." The actor doesn't shy away

from exploring himself and look out for his weak areas. "I like the fact that I don't feel shy when I set out for myself as a human being, that's where the growth starts. I like to zero down on my shortcomings and work would improve in myself with each passing day", Aamir concluded



National Classical Dance and Musical Samaroha kicks off

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) and the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) under the Union Ministry of Culture collaboratively flagged off the five-day National Classical Dance and Musical Samaroha at the Eastern Railway Auditorium, Mancheswar

graced the occasion as chief guests.

Dhaneswar Swain, an exponent and Guru of a traditional percussion instrument of Odissi music 'Mardala', began the programme with soulful musical performance. Dhaneswar is the founder of Vadya Vani Gurukula,

ments of Odisha. The second performance of the inaugural evening came from Rama Vaidyanathan, ace Bharatanatyam artiste from Delhi. She is one of the directors of Ganesha Natyalaya, one of the best Bharatanatyam institutes of the country. Some of her famous

cluded with Odissi performance by Aloka Kanungo, one of the leading classical dancers of India. Aloka Kanungo is the culmination of a dancer, choreographer, teacher and scholar. She combines single-handed devotion and indefatigable industry with a keen and questioning mind. Her style has elegance and dignity, a combination powerful enough to captivate the audiences. PNN

dom mood swings that affect you today, it's in the best interest of others that you put up a 'Beware of me' sign. By being forewarned about it, you should be capable of handling your erratic behaviour.

SCORPIO

The day today is riddled with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a twopronged strategy, advises Ganesha. One

change your lifestyle, and two - visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best, Ganesha counsels to take care of your health.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, you will most certainly put your heart and soul into your work. But it is rather unlikely that you will get the returns in proportion to the efforts you put in. Yet, at the end of the day, you will be more than satisfied that you have got the chance to display your innate talents. says Ganesha

CAPRICORN

New projects and partnership will keep you busy today, says Ganesha. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time. You may also bag rewards for the commendable efforts you'd put in the past.

Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you leave your friends stumped. But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesha suggests you complete all pending projects, and bear in mind that it is only fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

PISCES

You probably jumped out of bed this morning itching to talk to someone. And why not, since all your latent power of expression will spring out like a jack-in-the-box today. The pearls of wisdom you shower on people who are down-in-the-dumps today will make them feel good about their bluesy, taciturn selves, says Ganesha



FRRIBLE CHUCK

JUST TERRIBLE

I INSTRUCTED HOBBES

IN BEFORE 9 P.M.!

ANYONE WHO BRINGS

here Monday. **OSNA** President Aruna Mohanty

YEAH ... ACCORDING

TO A RECENT POLL, MY STUPIDITY

IS ON THE RISE!

LISTEN, JUST BECAUSE YOU

NEVER TAKE

TO TAKE

SORRY, LITTLE FELLA, WE

DON'T ACCEPT CRIBTOCURRENCY

I'M SORRY TO

HEAR THAT ... IS IT

SCHOOL AGAIN ?

YOUR STUFFED TIGER IS

EZCC Director Gouri Basu and

13

22

24

Across

1 They were

5 Crystal clear

8 Cook's wear

9 Tie the knot

10 Hourglass fill

11 Environmental-

ist's concern

13 Monet subject

in winter

14 It hangs around

again

(4,4)

divine in Egypt

an institution for training and research in 'Mardala' and other traditional percussion instru-

choreographies are Vrikshanjali and Shivoham. The inaugural evening con-

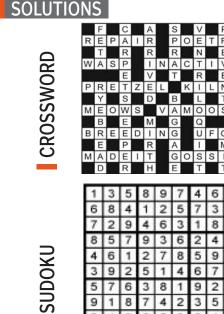


CROSSWORD

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.

SUDOKU

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



9

	R	н		E	1	a	1	
						_		
3	5	8	9	7	4	6	2	
8	4	1	2	5	7	3	9	1
2	9	4	6	3	1	8	5	1 -
5	7	9	3	6	2	4	1	
6	1	2	7	8	5	9	3	1 9
	2	5	1	4	6	7	8	
7	6	3	8	1	9	2	4	
1	8		4		3	5	6	[-(
4	3	6	5	9	8	1	7	1

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

3 Family member 20 Vogue

4 Coniferous tree 21 Malarial fever

23

5 Politician on the

way out (4,4)

6 Around that time

grasshoppers

15 Copra source

16 Travel fatigue

18 Like the Vikings

7 Matriarch

12 Throw out

(3,3,2)

13 Migratory

(3.3)

25

Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com

22 Baked dessert

23 Magical wish

granter

25 Said hello

Down

24 Book keeper

1 Blind parts

2 Kind of gland

17 Songbirds

19 Aberdeen

native







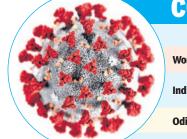


downtown



COURTESY CALL

British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata Nick Low paid a courtesy visit to Governor Ganeshi Lal at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
rld	45,88,54,635	39,22,71,397	60,67,529
ia	4,29,93,494	4,24,41,449	5,15,877
sha	12,86,694	12,76,782	9,115

reaches at least 40 degrees in the plains or 37 in the coastal weather

stations. Few other criteria can

A yellow warning denotes that

the heatwave conditions will con-

tinue for two days during which

people should avoid heat expo-

sure. It is tolerable, but there is

moderate health concern for vul-

nerable sections like the elderly

The state Health department

advised people to drink plenty of

fluids and fruits like grapes and wa-

termelon to stay hydrated and be

People should avoid going out-

side during the afternoon and wear

safe from heatstroke.

and infants.

also lead to its declaration.

Bolangir sizzles at 38.3° C

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 14: Odisha reeled in the scorching early summer sun Monday and the mercury shot up in many parts of the state, where the maximum temperature touched levels which are above normal, the Met office said.

The weather was dry in the districts and there will be no large change in the maximum in the next 48 hours. It will subsequently rise by 3-4 degrees celsius across the state, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

Bolangir was the hottest place in the state recording a maximum temperature of 38.3 degree cel sius, a shade less of 38.2 degree celsius in Jharsuguda, 38.1 in Angul and 38 in Titilagarh, a weather bulletin issued by the Centre stated

The mercury in Bhubaneswar, where the maximum was 36.6 degrees celsius, is expected to be around 38 Tuesday.

The Met office issued a yellow warning of heatwave at some places in Bolangir, Subarnapur and Boudh districts for two days from Wednesday

Similar conditions are likely in Angul, Nayagarh and Khurda on Thursday. The temperature in the capital and Cuttack may touch 40 and 39 degrees respectively during the period, it said.

The temperature can be fatal to

Submit status report on 'Mo Sarkar': HE dept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 14: The Higher Education (HE) department Monday directed the state public universities and colleges to furnish month-wise status on implementation of the 'Mo Sarkar' initiative.

Special Secretary of the depart ment Rajashree Mohanty said that the Mo Sarkar initiative has been adopted by this department since March 4, 2020. But due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, it could not be implemented properly as the pandemic situation had badly affected the functioning of the institutions.

"The situation has been improving since September 2021. You had been requested to resume Mo Sarkar from September, 2021 by entering the details of visitors in the Mo Sarkar login page available at SAMS portal. But sufficient data



the human body when exposed during a heat wave, the India Meteorological Department said.

A heatwave is declared if the departure from normal temperature is 4.5-6.4 degrees when the maximum

light clothes to stay safe, it added Transport dept issues SOP for heatwave

also be avoided during the sea-Bhubaneswar: As temperature starts soaring in the state, the son, it said.

'Jalachhatras' will be set up at transport department has issued an SOP to tackle the heatwave bus stands and bus stops for the passengers and water kiosks will As per the SOP, the public transbe set up on highways for the comport services will be rescheduled muters. Temporary passenger so that plying of buses during sheds will be set up near the bus peak heatwave hours-from 11am stops with provisions of drinking water. Provisions of safe drinking

The enforcement wing of the Transport department will check implementation of the SOP and penalty be imposed against the erring transporters/operators, it

Pooja was allegedly suffering from

some psychological disorder. The

staff in the hospital inside the

NISER campus informed the cops

that she was undergoing medica-

Pooja, who was with her fam-

ily for around five to six months,

allegedly received treatment for

the psychological ailment. She had

reportedly isolated herself after

However, her family members are

yet to make any allegations in this

regard. Police have started inves-

tigation into the case after regis-

tering an unnatural death case. A

diary, reportedly of the deceased,

has been seized by city police too.

Police are awaiting the autopsy

her return from Chhattisgarh.

tion for the disorder.

The department has asked concerned authorities to set up control rooms at district-level and make it functional round-the-clock during the period of heat wave.

The bus and truck associations of the district and the local NGOs will be involved in a public awareness campaign about heatwave. Regular meetings will be held to sort out any issue related to heatwave management, says the SOP. Additional commissioner (admin) Srinivas Behera has been appointed as the nodal officer for this purpose.

R&B techie under Vigilance scanner

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 14: Vigilance sleuths Monday carried out simultaneous raids at six places linked to an assistant executive engineer (AEE) of Roads and Buildings (R&B) division No-IV in Bhubaneswar.

The R&B engineer was identified as Ajaya Kumar Mishra. House searches were conducted based on the allegation that Mishra has amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Acting on a tip-off, the sleuths conducted raids at different places in Khurda. Dhenkanal and Angul districts on the strength of a search warrant issued by the Special Vigilance Judge in Dhenkanal, said an official.

Surgery on babies our forte: Dr Mohapatra

Jagannath Hospital needs no introduction. Established in 2012 the exclusive perinatal centre in Saheed Nagar area of Bhubaneswar has been the No. 1 paediatric hospital in the eastern zone of India for the 6th consecutive year. In an interview with Orissa POST, its managing director

Dr Arjit Mohapatra speaks about their journey, health care services and many more. Excerpts:

How has the journey been

We faced a host of challenges

while launching the hospital in

2012. However, things began

falling in place as time went by.

Ours is the biggest hospital in

eastern India which is pro-

viding round-the-clock serv-

What are the services your

We are among the select pri-

vate healthcare institutions

in Odisha to offer 24X7 peri-

natal care. Except for

the heart surgery, we

perform almost all

the surgeries on

babies. In fact,

none of the hos-

pitals in Odisha

perform heart sur-

gery on babies.

Apart from the

neonatal intensive

care unit for ill or

premature new-

borns, we have ven-

ices to patients.

hospital offer?

so far?

tilator and ICU facilities as well.

Your take on high treatment costs at private hospitals?

Prices of almost everything are on the rise. And so are the treatment costs. Here, health insurance comes to the rescue. Of late, there has been a big jump in demand for health insurance. Huge medical expenses are always expected, and hence having adequate health insurance cover is a must.

What are the facilities the state government is providing?

I believe Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana is helping us a lot as many families are covered under the state government's universal health insurance scheme. The Odisha State **Treatment Fund** has also been a boon for many requiring critical sur-

geries.

which are not available in Odisha. Those patients are being referred to hospitals outside the state under the ambitious scheme.

ଧରିତ୍ରୀ | OrissaPOs

BUSINESS

EMIN BNCE

AWARDS

- What are the steps your institution has taken to ensure treatment during Covid-19 pandemic?
- We undertook many initiatives during the lockdown while following Covid protocols, Fever clinic, isolation room and isolation ICU were to name a few. And, we also managed to beat the Covid.

What needs to be done to tackle **Covid-like challenges in future?**

Covid has taught us to face odds. We should look at the positive side. The pandemic has changed peoples' behaviour as they are now more health-conscious. Cleanliness and hygiene are very important.

Don't you think it's necessary to further boost the health infra?

There's no end to infrastructure development. A sizeable infrastructure has already been developed in the past 20 years. We have witnessed introduction of new technology in healthcare. Earlier, people hardly knew about public health. Now, the scenario is different. People are well aware of it. Hence, awareness about public health and development of facilities in the sector are needed.

About Dr Arjit Mohapatra: After completing MBBS from SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Mohapatra pursued MD in Paediatrics in 1998. Later, he did DM in Neonatology from Mumbai. In his 28-year long career, Mohapatra has won laurels from across the county for successfully performing many critical surgeries.

NISER scholar found dead, suicide suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

this year.

to 3pm-is restricted.

water, ice packs, ORS will be made

in buses and cool resting spaces

will be made at bus stops.

Overcrowding of passengers in

the public transport vehicles will

Bhubaneswar, March 14: A female PhD scholar allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the six-storied girls' hostel inside the campus of National Institute of Science Education and Research Bhubaneswar (NISER) in Jatni area here Monday.

The deceased was identified as Pooja Jethwani of Chhattisgarh. Pooja, a graduate from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, was doing research for her PhD paper in Physics for last five years.

The NISER staff Monday morning spotted Pooja lying dead near D-2 block of the girls' hostel. Police reached the spot and sent the body to AIIMS for post mortem. Sources in police claimed that

HOLI AHEAD

of visitors are not being received by the portal from your end," she said.

report to know the actual reason behind her death.

6,411 candidates left in fray for urban poll

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 14: With the deadline for withdrawal of nomination papers for the urban elections scheduled for March 24 having come to an end Monday, a total of 6.411 candidates have remained in the fray.

According to sources in the State Election Commission (SEC), 641 candidates have withdrawn their nomination papers. After that, 569 candidates have remained in the battle field for the post of chairperson and mayor while 5,842 candidates are there for the election to councilors and corporators. Monday was the last day for withdrawal of nomination papers.

A total of 102 candidates who had filed their nominations for the posts of chairperson and mayor

in different Urban Local Bodies urban polls in the state ends at 5 pm (ULBs) have withdrawn their pa-March 22. After receiving queries from difpers. Similarly, 539 councilor and ferent districts, SEC secretary RN corporator candidates took back their nominations, the officials

Sahu has clarified to the District Magistrates about this in a letter. Meanwhile, the commission has As per Odisha Municipal Rules asked District Collectors to ensure and Odisha Municipal Corporation Rules, "No person shall convene, that the ongoing campaigning for

hold or attend any public meeting in any polling area during the period of 48 hours preceding the hour fixed for the closure of the poll for any election in that polling area."

This being the provision, the commission directed that any public meetings and campaigning in any mode would be stopped at 5 pm, March 22, 2022 positively, Sahu said.

Urban elections will be held March 24 and the results will be declared March 26

Over 41 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes in the poll. About 27 lakh voters, 3,030 booths and 1,731 wards are there in 106 municipalities and NACs while there are 14.26 lakh voters, 168 wards and 1,407 booths in three corporations of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur.

ISRO to unveil 'RESPOND BASKE7

This is the flagship programme of ISRO through which necessary financial and technical support is provided to academia to promote the extramural research in emerging areas of space

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 14: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will unveil its latest sponsored research opportunities to

the academia Tuesday 2pm on its website.

People were seen buying coloured powder from a stall at Unit-I market in Bhubaneswar, Monday

'RESPOND BASKET 2022', the Bangalore-headquartered space agency's focused research topics for sponsored research, will be launched by ISRO Chairman and Secretary in the Department of Space S Somanath on account of ISRO Academia Day.

"Every year, we publish ISROfocused topics for research in the Respond Basket. Then, several universities and colleges apply to ISRO for joint collaboration. We will enter into MoUs with finalised academia," an ISRO official told PTI. RESPOND's objective is to en-

courage academia to participate and contribute in various space-related research activities. Under



OP PHOTO

RESPOND, projects are taken up by universities/academic institutions in the areas of relevance to space programme ISRO said it has evolved the RE-

SPOND programme through which necessary financial and technical support is provided to academia in India for conducting research and development activities related to

space science, space technology and space applications.

said

This is the flagship programme of ISRO to promote the extramural research in emerging areas of space for academia.

To enable the faculty of universities/institutes to prepare suitable proposals of relevance to the space programme, a detailed list of R&D areas/sub areas/topics are evolved as per major programmes of ISRO, by the various centres of ISRO and published annually.

"RESPOND programme is mutually beneficial to ISRO and academia, wherein the rich talent of academia/ faculty is being harnessed to support the nation's space programme," it was stated.

Bagchi-Sri Shankara Cancer Hosp to offer services by mid-2023

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 14: Bagchi-Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre at Info Valley II here is likely to start patient services by Rath Yatra of 2023, said Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra as he visited the institution site Monday.

Mahapatra along with Subrato Bagchi, the funding patron of the hospital, visited the campus and reviewed the progress of the work with the engineers and supervisors at the site. The construction is going on in full swing. Target was set to start treatment of patients after completion of the first phase of construction by car festival of 2023, it was learnt.

Being built with estimated cost of around Rs 220 crore, the hospital would sport 750 beds with latest equipment and world-class expertise in cancer treatment, sources said.

Later, Mahapatra and Bagchi visited the premises of Bagchi-Karunashraya Palliative Care Center being constructed over 20acre of land near the hospital. The centre would have a 150-bed unit with all palliative care and service facilities. It would also provide consultancy to the patients and their family members. The centre would have a 500 seat auditorium for education and research activities. An amount of Rs 210 crore would be invested for development of the cen-tre. Target was set to complete its construction by July 2023.











downtown

UNTIL NEXT TIME



Dignitaries at the concluding event of 14th Kalinga Herbal Fair 2022 at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Seonath water not leased out: Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 14: The Union Jal Shakti Ministry Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that the water of Seonath river, a tributary of Mahanadi, has not been leased out by the state of Chhattisgarh. Responding to a question asked

by Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Amar Patnaik, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu said that as per the information received from the state of Chhattisgarh, water of Seonath river has not been allotted on lease

The minister also informed that as many as nine projects are currently underway on the tributaries of Mahanadi river and these projects have got the approval from

Nine arrested for post-poll violence in Ganjam district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, March 14: A total of nine individuals have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the post-poll violence in Ganjam district, police said Monday

However, there has been no breakthrough yet into the violence at Kendupadar area in Gangapur Saturday night, in which an elected ward member was killed and four others were severely injured.

On Sunday night.



Technical Advisory Committee of the erstwhile Ministry of Water Resources. Government of India and erstwhile Planning Commission. The minister also said that pre-Feasibility Report of five projects

of Chhattisgarh on Mahanadi basin, namely Upper Sikasar Reservoir Project, Kharung-Ahiran Link Project, Dandpani Tank Project,

House pays homage to Hemananda Biswal

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha Monday mourned the passing away of former MP and former Chief Minister of Odisha Hemananda Biswal, who breathed last at a hospital in Bhubaneswar February 25 at the age of 82 years. Biswal was a Member of the Parliament during the 15th Lok Sabha from Sundargarh constituency. He was also a six-time MLA from Jharsuguda district, besides being the state's Chief Minister twice. He was elected Chief Minister for the first time for December 7, 1989 to March 5, 1990 and again for December 6, 1999 to March 5, 2000. He was the first tribal Chief Minister of Odisha.

Shekharpur Major Tank Project and Pairi High Dam Project were received in Central Water Commission for techno economic appraisal. The ministry further said that in case of basins where a Tribunal has been constituted for the first time, prior consent of the Tribunal concerned is necessary for techno-economic clearance of projects.

"Techno-economic clearance could be considered for those projects for which an agreement is reached among co-basin states under intimation to the Tribunal. As of now, there is no agreement between the two states. MWDT consent for these projects was also not available. Hence, these have not been concurred," the ministry said.

Naveen among PM-led panel for Netaji's 125th birth anniv

Earlier January 19, 2021, in order to honour and remember Netaii's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation, the Government of India had decided to

celebrate his birthday January 23 every year as 'Parakram Diwas' to inspire people, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did, and to infuse in them a spirit of patriotic fervour

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chairperson of the 82-member High Level Committee constituted by the Centre for the year-long celebration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Committee comprises Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik; Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla; former Prime Ministers HD Deve Gowda and Manmohan Singh; several cabinet ministers from the current government; Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister PK Mishra; Advisor to the Prime Minister Amit Khare; Governors of West Bengal and Manipur; Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram; Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and a number of MPs from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

NCP top leader Sharad Pawar and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad too are part of the 82-member committee notified March 11 for commemorating the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Bose.

Netaji's daughter Anita Bose, his nephew Ardhendu Bose, his grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose and grand niece Renuka Malakar too are part of the com-

mittee that also has INA freedom fighters and office bearers of Netaji Subhash Bose-INA Trust.

Also, a number of former Lok Sabha speakers, former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Dasgupta, former Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Arup Saha and former Chief of Army Staff Gen (Retd) Shankar Roy Chowdhury are part of the panel.

The Committee also has journalist Kanchan Gupta, author and academician Anirban Ganguly former Indian national football member Subrata team Bhattacharva, film maker Kaushik Ganguly, Ravi R Kasliwal Medanta Hospital and General Secretary



Apart from prominent political and cul-

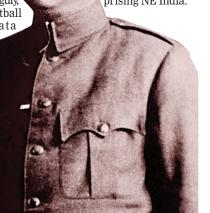
tural members, the Committee also has former India captain Sourav Ganguly, ac

tors Mithun Chakraborty and Kajol, and music director AR Rahman.

Earlier January 19, 2021, in order to honour and remember Netaii's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation, the Government of India had decided to celebrate his birthday January 23 every year as 'Parakram Diwas' to inspire people, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did, and to infuse in them a spirit of patriotic fervour.

Bose was born January 23, 1897 in Cuttack and had founded the Indian National Army (INA) that attacked the Britishers from the eastern side of the then undivided India, mostly com-

prising NE India.



CBSE Odia paper anomalies: **OPF** demands grace marks



should students and their parents suffer for CBSE's fault? We demand 17 grace marks in Odia.' The parents' federation also reatened to hit the streets if

IMPRESSIVE INAUGURATION



clash between the BJD and BJP supporters at Hinjalakuda in Ganjam district in which eight people were injured, and out of them five were critical.

The dispute was over bursting of crackers to celebrate the victory of a ruling BJD worker as the chairperson of Sorada block.

"We have arrested nine persons for their involvement in the clash," Badagada inspector Suraj Jhankar said. A search is on for more suspects, he added.

Bhanjanagar subdivisional po lice officer SS Mishra said a few suspects have been detained in the Kendupadar clash and an investigation is on to identify others who were involved in it.

Another clash had occurred in Aska block after a heated argument on casting of votes in the election for the panchayat samiti chairperson Saturday but none have vet been arrested in connection with the incident.

ASSIFIED

SALE

1800 sqft. Gharabari land for sale in Lingipur, Sisupalgarh, Bhubaneswar. Rate @ 3200 per sqft. Contact: 9437791962

mitted a memorandum to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) at its regional office here demanding 17 grace marks to students due to discrepancies in the question and answer key of Odia paper of Class X first term examinations.

Bhubaneswar, March 14:

Members of Odisha Parents'

Federation (OPF) Monday sub-

POST NEWS NETWORK

OPF co-chairman Prasanna Bisoi said, "We have noticed discrepancies in the question and answer key of Odia paper of Class X first term examinations. Why

the CBSE fails to address the issue, it was learnt.

On the other hand, the CBSE has set up an expert committee in order to investigate into the alleged discrepancies in the question and answer key of Odia paper of Class X first term examinations.

On the basis of the report of the expert committee, appropriate decision will be taken by the board within 24 hours.

Guides performed at the inaugural occasion of Pratikshya camp at Bharat Scouts and Guides office in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

UN gathering gears up for push to save planet's biodiversity

rearly all the world's countries kicked off a UNbacked meeting Monday aimed at preventing the loss of biodiversity, which is critical to avoid the extinction of many vulnerable species, the emergence of pathogens like the coronavirus. and the damage to both lives and livelihoods of people around the world, indigenous people in particular.

The two-week meeting of over 190 countries on the Convention on Biological Diversity, after a two-year delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will be the last gathering of its kind before a major conference in the coming months in Kunming, China, that will try to adopt an international agreement on protecting biodiversity.

'We have this one goal, which is

to bend the curve on biodiversity loss and to really build that shared future, in order to live in harmony with the nature in the long run,' the convention's executive secretary Elizabeth Maruma Mrema told reporters Monday

Possible diplomatic fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine lurked in the background - potentially denting any prospects of global unity on the issue. Russian delegates scheduled to

attend the meeting had their travel plans cancelled amid the closure of much of Europe's airspace to flights from Russia after the invasion, organisers said expressing hopes that Russian diplomats based in Geneva would nevertheless participate.

An inter-governmental, sciencebased assessment of biodiversity



worldwide, conducted three years ago, had pointed out the decline of nature at unprecedented rates and an acceleration of the extinction of species - with up to a million species facing possible disappearance in the coming decades. The US-based Campaign For

Nature says that the major theme in Geneva will be a target to protect and conserve at least 30 percent of the world's lands, inland waters and oceans to help stanch habitat loss, the overexploitation of nature by people and businesses, and the emergence of pathogens

We have this one goal, which is to bend the curve on biodiversity loss and to really build that shared future, in order to live in harmony with the nature in the long run ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA | EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

that thrive off upheaval in the environment.

Convention managers point to five drivers of biodiversity loss: Changes to the use of land and sea; unsustainable exploitation through activities like agriculture; climate change; pollution; and the spread of invasive alien species into new habitats. Indirectly. it says, unsustainable production and consumption also play a role.

Mrema said that one key issue will be efforts toward repurposing and redirecting harmful subsidies to the tune of some USD 500 billion per vear currently and how these financial flows can move away from nature-negative to biodiversity-positive outcomes. A draft proposal for the framework to be adopted in China would aim at requiring that USD 700 billion to be put into sustaining or improving biodiversity. The issue of reducing pollution from plastics is also part of the draft, she said.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STAT FOR

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, Bapuji 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-Cookieman-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.









state

SHORT TAKES

BJP satyagraha against Jagadev

Bhubaneswar: Opposition BJP Monday hit the streets with its workers, supporters and leaders staging a satyagraha (sit-in) in all towns, block and district headquarters demanding stern action against the suspended BID MLA Prasanta Jagadev, whose car ploughed into a crowd leaving at least 22 people injured at Banapur in Khurda district Saturday. Beginning from the state capital of Bhubaneswar to the remote block headquarter towns of the state, the saffron party workers sat on dharna with covering their mouths with black badges as a mark of protest to the Chilika lawmaker's actions. They demanded stringent legal action against the MLA, who of late, has been accused of being a "habitual offender". allegedly involved in a series of violent acts. Holding party flags and posters, they asked the BJD president and chief minister Naveen Patnaik to expel Jagadev from the party.

daughter ran over

education officer (ABEO) and

speeding truck ran over them

Monday morning. The bone-

chilling mishap occurred near

Kalanda under Khamar police

limits here in the district. The

According to sources, Sangita

was working as an Anganwadi

working as ABEO. The incident

daughter duo was on the way

motorcycle and the truck hit their bike. Locals detained the

truck and thrashed the driver,

who has been hospitalised. On

being informed, Khamar police

reached the spot and started an

investigation into the incident.

Gangrape: Two

get 20-year jail

Keonjhar: A court here Monday

convicting them of gangrape of

sentenced two persons to 20 years of imprisonment after

a minor girl in 2018. The

convicts were identified as

Kalia Lohar, 25, and Abinash

Laguri, 23. The additional

district-cum-special judge

also slapped a penalty of

Sushree Subhashree Tripathy

₹55,000 each on the convicts, in

addition to the punishment. The

supervisor while Sunil was

occurred when the father-

to their workplaces on a

deceased were identified as

Sunil Kumar Sahoo and his

daughter Sangita Sahoo.

his daughter, an Anganwadi

Angul: An assistant block

supervisor, died after a

Man attempts to kill wife, bury her alive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal. March 14: In a shocking incident, a man attempted to kill his 23-year-old wife and subsequently tried to bury her alive in a pit in the backyard of his house, Monday. Fortunately, the victim was rescued and hospitalised in a

critical condition. The incident was reported from Sitalabasa village under Kamakhyanagar police limits in Dhenkanal district.

According to a source, the accused identified as Ranjan Kumar Sahu had married Sukanti of the same village about two years ago. The couple was not in good terms over various family issues. They had been indulging in ver-

bal duel over dowry demand since their marriage. The husband-wife duo had an altercation once again. Things took an ugly turn earlier in the day when Ranjan, in a fit of rage, severely thrashed his wife leaving her grievously injured. Sukanti sustained injuries on her head and chest. Later, the woman fell unconscious.

Taking advantage of the situation, Ranjan then buried her in a pit at the backyard of his house. On being informed, the victim's paternal family members rushed to the site and rescued her.

After being rescued, Sukanti was initially admitted to nearby hospital at Kamakhyanagar for treatment. She was later shifted to Dhenkanal district headquarters hospital as her condition deteriorated. The victim was further shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Police have launched a detailed probe into the incident.



Students and staffers of DAV Autonomous College at Titlagarh in Bolangir district walk to the college, Monday as part of 'No fuel consumption' campaign launched in the college. The campaign aims at imbibing healthy habits and environment protection OP PHOTO

7 polluting mills warned of closure

Education officer, POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, March 14: The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has warned to close down seven mills including six rice mills in the state over violation of Supreme Court order on pollution management.

The matter came to the fore after SPCB issued show-cause notice to the errant mills in the first and second weeks of March. Furthermore, it has warned to initiate legal action against the concerned firms if they fail to reply to its notice satisfactorily within 15 days.

Notably, 'Paryavaran Surakshva Samiti', a green outfit, had filed a public interest litigation (Case no-375/2012) in the Supreme Court over discharge of toxic water and effluents from the rice mills which were affecting the lives and livelihoods of the residents living in the vicinities.

The rice mills are: Maa Samalei Agro Products and Shanti Rice Mills at Bargaon, Sri Radhakeshav Rice Mill at Nua Larpanka, Preeti Oil Ltd at Rampela, Sri Durga Rice Mills at Nua Rampela in Sambalpur district, Minerva Paddy Processing Pvt

SPCB SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE



Ltd at Bhadrapalli in Bolangir district. Sri Lakshmi Rice Mill at Brahmatukura in Bargarh district.

The apex court had February 22, 2017 heard the matter and ordered that the rice mills can be allowed to operate if they install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) on their premises and make them fully functional.

Accordingly, the apex court directed the SPCB authorities to oversee installation of ETPs in all rice mills

However, most of the rice mills in the state are yet to install and operate ETPs even though five years have passed since the SC passed the order which is blatant violation of Section 33 (A) of Water Pollution Act-1974

Notably, rice mills boil the paddy in eight to 20 tanks at a temperature of 70 degrees Celsius. Each tank has the capacity to boil around 35 quintal of paddy. The boiling tanks discharge over 50,000 litres of liquid effluents which is highly toxic in nature and harmful for humans as well as the environment

The toxic effluents, when released on ground, destroy the soil fertility. The effluents when mixed with water lead to spread of skin diseases, cold, cough, respiratory diseases, tuberculosis and if left unattended to might result in death of the patients. The SPCB has formulated guidelines for proper management of these toxic effluents but the errant mills are violating the order.

The SPCB authorities had visited some rice mills in February when they found the latter are not operating the ETPs on their premises and discharging the effluents to their surroundings. It is alleged that some rice mills have installed substandard ETPs to hoodwink the SPCB authorities.

5-yr-old dies as slab falls on her POST NEWS NETWORK body for post-mortem and reg-

istered a case of unnatural Berhampur, March 14: A 5death. The incident occurred year-old girl died after a cement when Prabhati was playing outslab fell on her at Balarampalli side her house Sunday evening village under Sadar police limwhen the cement slab kept its here. Sunday evening. nearby fell on her. Locals rescued her in a critical condition and admitted her to MKCG Medical

The deceased was identified as Prabhati Naik, daughter of Mohan Naik in the village. On

EAST COAST RAILWAY

'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The following tenders have been upload

Tender No.: 92225092, Description : 1)

SET OF ITEMS FOR U-PVC TRUNKIN

80X50 MM AS PER ANNEXURE-ATTACHED OF MAKE LEGRANDS OF

SCHNEIDER OR SIEMENS OR SIMILAR

2) SET OF ITEMS FOR U-PVC TRUNKING

195X50 MM AS PER ANNEXURE-E

ATTACHED OF MAKE LEGRAND OF

SCHNEIDER OR SIEMENS OR SIMILAR

3) SET OF U-PVC TRUCKING BODY

WITH COVER AS BELOW- (i) U-PVC

TRUNKING BODY WITH COVER

32X12.5 MM WITH CAT. NO. 030015 OI

LEGRAND OR SCHNEIDER OF SIEMENS OR SIMILAR - 15674 MTR. (ii

U-PVC TRUCKING BODY - 80X50 MM OF

CAT. NO. 010412 OF MAKE LEGRAND

OR SCHNEIDER OR SIEMENS OF

Date and time of closing of tender :

EMD (₹): 88,630/- (For all Items)

SIMILAR - 3200MTR. QUANTITY: 1 Set (For all Items)

PR-889/M/21-22

on website www.ireps.gov.in

Cybercrimes zoom in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, March 14: Malkangiri district has witnessed a rise in cybercrime cases as it has reported 2,068 such cases during last year, said sources.

The fraudsters are duping gullible people on the pretext lucrative returns on their deposits and investments.

The digital fraud is increasing in the southern district where the majority of the population is tribal. Fraudsters find it easy to trick the tribal peopolice stations in the district. Reports said over 1,599 cybercrime related cases were registered in various police stations of the district in 2020. Among these cases, police have filed chargesheets in 1,522

cases while investigation in 77

ple and siphon off their money

saved in their bank accounts

or other forms of deposits. These

incidents of have sparked con-

fice data, cybercrimes have been

reported from almost from all

As per the district cyber of-

cern among the residents.

ind	it easy to trick the triba	al peo-	cases is underway.	_
				٦
	At: Ichhapur Email: eerws)IVISI(, Post: :	XECUTIVE ENGINEER DN, KENDRAPARA Shree Baladevjew, apara@gmail.com	
	Bid Identificati	ion No.	(IFB) [e-Procurement] RWS/108 /2021-2022 Dated. 10.03.2022	ŀ
			er, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara	L
			es lump sum bid in DOUBLE cover	
			gible contractors for Rural Piped	L
	ter Supply Schemes in I			L
2.	Name of the work	Schen	tion of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS nes to Ramachandrapur under aghai Block in Kendrapara District	
3.	No. of Work	: 01 (Or	ne) No.	L
4.	Value of the Work	: Rs.59	03 Lakhs	L
5.	Concerned tender	: Execu	tive Engineer, RWS&S Division,	L
	inviting authority	Kendr		L
6.	Security amount (Rs.) (Online)	: Rs.59	500/-	
7.	Cost of Bid documents (Rs.) (Online)	: Rs.10	000/-	
8.	Class of Bidder	: "B" & '	'A" Class	L
9.	Period of Completion	: 180 da	ays	L
10.	Availability of bid	: From	date. 29.03.2022 at 10.00 A.M.	L
	documents in the website in the portal	to date	e 12.04.2022 till 5.30 P.M.	ŀ
11.	Last Date & Time of	: Upto 3	31.03.2022 till 5.30 P.M	L
	seeking tender clarification			1
12.	Date of Opening of Bid	: On da	ate. 13.04.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	L
			e tender through ONLINE bidding	1
			the website i.e http://tendersorissa.	
gov	.in. Subsequent corrige	ndum / a	ddendum if required shall only be	

Admin apathy: O₂ plant at Keonjhar DHH dysfunctional

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonihar, March 14: Much to the apathy of the district administration, an oxygen plant set up at the district headquarters

ernment nor the medical authorities have concern for the defunct plant. Most of the time, patients have to return frustrated without getting facilities. For the last couple of months, oxygen cylinders have not been available to cater to the needs of the patients, it is alleged. Worth mentioning, an oxygen plant with 960 litre/minute capacity was installed at Keonjhar DHH six months back. A private company had been given the tender. But, thanks to the attitude of the negligent authorities, the plant has remained non-operational till now. "Oxygen given to a patient was exhausted, but no staff came to supply fresh oxygen. The patient and his relatives had a tough time then," another patient said while narrating the ordeal of an elderly person admitted to the hospital.

within a period of three months.

judge also directed the state government to pay ₹5 lakh as compensation to the survivor. The judge passed the order on the basis of statements recorded by 10 witnesses and the police chargesheet filed in the court, government counsel Ganesh Prasad Mohapatra said. According to the case diary, the minor survivor was waiting for her friend at

Khandabandha Square under Bamebari police limits August 25, 2018 when the youths lured her to drop her at home. However, they took her to a jungle and forced upon her.

hospital here has been lying defunct since its inauguration.

Surprisingly, the medical authorities have allegedly been sitting pretty and attributed it to technical glitch. There is a leakage in the plant and it cannot be made operational until the repair work is done, a medical staffer said.

Now, lakhs of rupees spent on the installation of the plant has gone down the drain. Patients have to go through unwanted problems every day while the staffers engaged in the plant have been drawing their salary without doing any work. Inadequate oxygen supply has been a major issue for patients here.

Locals alleged that neither the state gov-

Hospital manager admitted that the oxygen plant was out of order.

College and Hospital where she being informed, police sent the

succumbed during treatment

appeared in the above website

Sd./- (Er. B.K.Nayak) Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara OIPR-25004/11/0061/2122



No.1764/R&DM(DM) RDM-RLF-ACCT-0009-2022 Date:11.03.2022

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.F-332: Tenders are invited form interested SERVICE PROVIDERS for providing two (2) hiring vehicles (Tiago/ Bolt/ or equivalent class) having sitting capacity of 5 (Five) including driver, which shall conform to the Terms and Conditions mentioned in office Memorandum No.34085 dated.29.09.2012 of Finance Department, Odisha and service provider agreement referred in office Memorandum No.30464 dated 06.09.2019 of Finance Department, Government of Odisha

The Tender document completed in all respect should reach to the Office of the Special Relief Commissioner, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Rajiv Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001 on or before 30.03.2022 by 3.00 PM and shall be opened on the same day at 5.00 PM in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives. In case, bidders/ authorised representatives do not remain present by 5.15 PM of the same day, committee shall open the bidding document.

The Application form of quotation containing General Bid Information & Terms and Conditions for hiring of vehicles, etc will be available in the Office of the Special Relief Commissioner, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Rajiv Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001 on payment of Rs.100/- from 15.03.2022 to 30.03.2022 by 3.00 PM or can be downloaded from Government website www.odisha. qov.in (link:-http://odisha.gov.in/tender & http://srcodisha.nic.in) (http://srcodisha.nic.in/tender.php) from 15.03.2022 to 30.03.2022 by 3.00 PM. In case, application form in downloaded from Government Website the applicant shall furnish a Demand Draft for an amount Rs.100/- (Rupees One Hundred) only towards the cost of application along with the application

Sd./- Joint Special Relief Commissioner OIPR-24003/11/0022/2122



Dy. Chief Materials Manager Carriage Repair Workshop (M/21-22 Mancheswa

Bank of India Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments and general public that inspite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs charges /expenses) by Dt.29.03.2022, then from 11.00 AM of Dt.30.03.2022 their pledged gold ornaments will be sold in public auction at Respective Branch Premises given below and/or Sriram Automall India Ltd. (SAMIL), Cuttack, At: Sriram Automall Yard. Nuapatana, NH-42, Choudwar-Angul Road, Cuttack-754007, Contact Person: Mr. Prabhat Kumar (Mob-8658738320), Mr. Debasish Subudhi (Mob-9861342494). For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time and place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. The purity & net weight & the reserve price of the gold ornaments / coins etc. will be made available to the intending bidders on the date and at the site of auction / auction portal.

SI. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers	Gross Wt. In Gms.	Net Wt. In Gms.	Balance O/s as on specified date	Total Dues (Excluding Unapplied Charges)	
JA	JAYADEV VIHAR BRANCH, 1/1D, STAR HOUSE, JAYADEV VIHAR, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-751015						
1.	556477610000086	Tukuna Pradhan, Nilachakra Nagar, RRL, Salia Sahi, Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751013	12.03	10.13	₹ 29,716/-	₹ 29,716/-	
2.	556477610000133	Ganeswar Muduli, Plot No.: 311, Behera Sahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012	50.91			₹1,59,079/-	
3.	556477610000117	Bimbadhar Sahoo, Plot No.: 2630, Jharpada, Bajrang Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751006	251.67	217.61	₹7,39,520.20	₹7,39,520.20	
PI	ace: Bhubaneswar		Zonal	Manager, B	ank of India		

Dialysis centre at Nayagarh DHH comes a cropper

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, March 14: The dialysis centre at district headquarters hospital (DHH) here is struggling to stay afloat due to administrative bottlenecks and lack of coordination between the authorities of the hospital and the dialysis centre, a report said.

The dialysis unit is being run on public-private partnership (PPP) mode. Reports said the state government had recently provided 11 dialysis machines to the unit out of which the authorities of the dialysis centre returned back two machines. The development is a case in this point.

It is alleged that the RO (reverse osmosis) water purifiers at the centre often develop snags as the water supplied to the hospital contains harmful minerals. As a result, the dialysis centre often remains closed much to the sufferings of the patients. However, the authorities are not making any effort to resolve the problems.

Reports said the centre provides free dialysis facilities to kidney and cancer patients for which the concerned firm running the centre gets ₹7 to ₹8 lakh



per month from the state government. The centre needs more water to perform dialysis for which it draws water from two bore wells on the hospital premises. Since the bore well water contains harmful minerals, it is purified by RO purifiers, which often develop snags and become defunct due to presence of excessive minerals in the water. The centre remains closed when the RO purifiers develop snags.

The private firm regularly complains of water shortage. The hospital authorities rubbished the charges stating that the firm is neglecting on purifying the water despite drawing huge sum from the government. The firm instead of rectifying its mistakes is trying to put the blame on the hospital authorities. Currently, the public health engi-

neering organisation (PHEO) is supplying water to the dialysis centre after the district Collector intervened. Efforts are also on to supply water to the hospital from Mahanadi river. Ranjit Dash, Congress district president, termed the return of the two dialysis machine as unfortunate and demanded to bring back the two machines.

he state government had recently

provided 11 dialysis machines to

t is alleged that the RO water

When contacted, CDMO Makarand Behura rejected the charges stating that earlier the hospital had seven dialysis machines and the number rose to 11 after the state government supplied four machines. Currently, nine machines are working while two have been installed but yet to become functional. The two machines will become functional after the new building starts functioning.









FOCUS UKRAINE WAR

A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away. THE MOTHER



Perils of Sanctions

The suspension of McDonald's operations in Russia, along with Starbucks, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, Chase and Uniqio is the latest of a string of multinational companies withdrawing their business from Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. These companies join the sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union in a dramatic exodus by international brands including Netflix, Apple, PwC, American Express and many other companies. Petroleum giants Shell and BP have also started selling their Russian assets, while Britain and the US are banning Russian oil. The EU is slowly phasing out gas imports, on which it is heavily dependent. US President Joe Biden announced late last week the USA and its allies were revoking Russia's "most favoured nation" status so as to damage the country's economy further as a retaliatory measure. These moves are intended to cripple the Russian economy, but they will also have cascading effects on global business and commerce. The impact, which has already started to be felt, will be severe if the confrontation continues longer for the simple reason that the world has embraced globalisation since long.

India has to brace for difficult times as it has not joined the sanctions and abstained from voting for resolutions against Russia in the UN. This foreign policy adopted by the Modi government contravenes the earlier Indian policy of non-alignment. It is well known that India's defence sector is highly dependent on Russian weaponry. However, Russia has to undergo terrible economic times in the future because it's commercial connections with most of the world is being cut and will take a long time to be restored, if at all. In this situation, India has been clubbed by the rest of the world as being pro-Russia in the same bracket as North Korea. Interestingly, while everyone believed China will stand rock solid behind Russia and its invasion, Xi Jinping has played out a very smart foreign policy that is pleading for conciliation and immediate cessation of hostilities. The recent request for arms by Russia to China has not, yet, evoked any response from Beijing.

In the midst of a barrage of Western sanctions against Russia, a top interministerial committee in India is examining measures to be taken to offset the negative impact on the country's economy. It is in the process of setting up an alternative payments system by identifying a potential bank to keep its trade relations with Russia intact. Maximum priority is being given to edible oil and fertilizer imports from Russia. The country imports around 11-11.5 per cent of edible oil from the Russia-Ukraine region. Earlier, India used to import palm oil from Malaysia. Due to a diplomatic gaffe committed by India, Malaysia has stopped exporting palm oil to India. This obviously makes import of edible sunflower oil from Ukraine more important for India. Now, the position becomes even more precarious after the Ukraine crisis.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the US was the first to announce a slew of measures from asset freezes, ban on banks and individuals, and then deeper financial sanctions. The European Union followed with similar actions, more targeted bans on hundreds of individuals, including freezing all European assets of President Putin and some oligarchs and snapping travel ties. Singapore and Switzerland have also joined the sanctions. Even Taiwan, though not recognised as a country, put out a list of sanctions joining the US and others. All these sanctions are in addition to several others slapped on Russia since 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea. The ban on use of airspace by many countries against Russia is one of the most visible weapons in this current battle.

This is not enough. The USA and Europe have also started ostracising Russia socially and culturally, though they have clarified they are not opposed to Russians. The Munich Philharmonic fired chief conductor Valery Gergiev and New York's Metropolitan Opera let Russian Soprano Anna Netrebko go because they wouldn't criticise the war, while the Bolshoi Ballet's performances in London and Madrid were cancelled. This means Russia is now the world's most sanctioned country with more than 5,300 different types of sanctions. It is now ahead of Iran, Syria and North Korea in the list of countries facing sanctions. The economic impact of this scale of segregating Russia from the comity of nations will be long lasting.

The immediate impact on Russian economy is that the ruble has dropped 30 per cent to dollar, inflation is rising from 9 per cent. Oil and gas prices in the international oil market have been thrown into a tizzy. Oil has now hit a high of \$139 a barrel, while overall prices have jumped more than 30 per cent since February 24. In 2020, Russia produced about 12 per cent of the world's oil and about 16 per cent of the world's natural gas. Russia is the world's largest oil exporter - about 7 million barrels of crude and petroleum products a day - a majority of which now goes to countries that are supporting sanctions. Russia is a major exporter, while Ukraine supplies about 12 per cent of global wheat exports and 13 per cent of global corn exports. The flow of these commodities to world markets has now stopped. Russia is the world's second-largest defence hardware exporter accounting for 20 per cent of global weapons sales. Its clients are spread over 30 countries. Amidst the uncertainties, the rupee has crashed to its lowest ever - more than Rs 77 to the dollar, and this is going to make imports more expensive. India needs to be circumspect as the West is increasingly coming to a position of treating countries, which join the sanction regime, favourably and those, that directly or indirectly side with Russia, with suspicion. India's abstentions from voting on resolutions against Russia in the UN are being viewed as a tacit support to Russia. India needs to balance its dependence on Russia with the prospect of being isolated and punished by the West. India can ill afford it.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

he invasion of Ukraine by Russia may not end abruptly though diplomatic and economic sanctions are being strongly applied. The sanctions are working as major Russian business sectors find themselves severely affected. The sanctions have been applied with a great deal of precision and sophistication, much more than those that were applied on Iraq, Afghanistan or Iran earlier. For instance, the airline industry in Russia will have to remain largely grounded, since the aircraft are in lease arrangements which can be suspended, or insurance cover be stopped. Besides a bulk of the commercial aircraft are from Boeing and Airbus, whose home countries are bent on making the sanctions hurt. Inbound tourism is bound to take a dip. A large part of the foreign assets of Moscow's elite billionaires are being frozen (such as those in the UK or Germany). That is sure to hurt. All dollar clearing transactions based on SWIFT will face a hurdle. Commodities being exported out of Russia will face some backlash or boycott. Energy exports (oil and gas) might continue especially to Europe, but that too will be brought under sanctions as the war drags on. American companies are closing operations. MacDonald's has decided to shut down, and so will Starbucks and Disney. Apart from sanctions, the resistance from Ukraine is unexpectedly stiff. How long that will last is an open question. The Russians seem to be keen to lay siege to the cities of Ukraine and are not using their air power to bomb the cities

Ajit Ranade

INDIA HAS A

VERY LARGE

OIL DEFICIT

AND ALSO A

CURRENT

ACCOUNT

DEFICIT. THE

CONTINUOUS

SUPPLY OF

FOREIGN

INVESTOR

DOLLARS TO

PLUG THAT

DEFICIT

LATTER NEEDS A

The US has managed to get most countries on its side, and the United Nations resolution condemning the Russian invasion has been supported by many countries. Countries like India chose to abstain from the vote due to a strong and continuing linkage with Russia, and due to considerations of what such a vote will imply to the geopolitics of the region. India cannot choose its neighbours but



It can be argued that India is well positioned to play the role of a pivotal swing State. It is left to India to choose its strategies and actions carefully

can choose to abstain from a UN vote especially with a country with which it has historic, diplomatic and military ties. China too has not only abstained but used language of sovereignty and territorial integrity to indirectly support Russia. The two countries have very strong mutual agreements on energy sales, as well as trade and investment connectivity. But China is in an awkward position since it would not like to have the global image of supporting an invasion. It may be difficult for the Russians to justify their actions or make it sound like a case of victims defending their rights. This places China in a difficult situation, as the country may not like to be on the side of action which is facing an outcry by America-led Western powers.

This brings us to what could be India's likely geopolitical positioning in the years to come. The immediate impact is of course adverse due to high oil prices and investor nervousness. India has a very large oil deficit and also a current account deficit. The latter needs a continuous supply of foreign investor dollars to plug that deficit. This has happened for the past three decades, thanks mostly to investors from the West (not from China). On food security, India is on a strong footing. Its military

capabilities are significantly inferior to China, mainly due to a resource constraint. But the level of preparedness and the advantage of terrain mean that the asymmetry is considerably reduced.

The US courted China as a foil against the Soviet Union during the cold war. The historic visit of Nixon to meet Mao was a major paradigm shift, initiated by a conventionally hawkish, Republican president. The Sino-US embrace (if one can call it that) not only helped the Americans against the Soviets but led to a very strong trade and investment linkage be tween the two. Even after President Trump's high tariffs against Chinese imports, the bilateral Sino-US trade is nearly 800 billion dollars, and shows no sign of abatement. The decade of the 1990's that followed the breakup of the Soviet Union was a golden period for the US, since it experienced disinflation thanks to cheap imports from China, and high profitability as US corporations reaped profits by relocating manufacturing operations into the special economic zones of China. This was roughly the Deng era and lasted till the Lehman crash and the global financial crisis. The Xi Jinping era is quite different from the Deng era. There is much more centralisation, global aggression and as-

sertion, and a conscious consoli-

dation of the power of the Communist Party. So much so that even Chinese tech giants like Alibaba, Tencent and Didi have not been spared and have learnt where the power centre lies. China of course is a formidable economic power, and any hegemonic tendencies will not be acceptable to the US.

Russia is a declining great power, with its population shrinking, and economic size too going down in relative size. It might continue to challenge the NATO and even succeed in a complete takeover of Ukraine (although that is unlikely) The most likely outcome is an unconditional assurance of the neutrality of Ukraine (like Austria or Finland) and its non-NATO membership which is what the Russians have been vocal about.

But the US will soon have to think about the more important geopolitical alignment and strat egy around its bigger rival China. So far, the Quad formation has not delivered any tangible benefits to India. But the strategic importance of India could grow. It is conceivable that in a new configuration, the Americans will value an alignment with India more than the reverse. India too has a strong trade and investment relationship already. If its domestic economy shows steady and consistent high growth, it can become important to the US when dealing with a strong China.

Fifty years after Nixon met Mao we could have America look at greater levels of cooperation with India. Regardless of how that plays out, India will need to deal with the situation from a position of economic strength, which is possible with the right kind of policies, reforms and institutional strengthening. It can be argued that India is well positioned to play the role of a pivotal swing State. It is left to India to choose its strategies and actions carefully.

> The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM GREEN ECONOMY

The anatomy of the net-zero transition

ow that addressing climate tems, coordination will be essential. change has become a top priority worldwide, economic policymakers and corporate strategists alike are embracing sustainability goals - most notably, "net-zero" greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. But what will it take to get there? In a new McKinsev Global Institute report, my co-authors and I aim to answer this question. Using the Network for Greening the Financial System's Net-Zero 2050 scenario, we simulated a relatively orderly transition that would limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5° Celsius, relative to preindustrial levels. While this is not a prediction or a projection, our scenario-based analysis provides an understanding of the nature and the magnitude of the changes the net-zero transition would entail, and the scale of the response needed to manage it. We find that achieving this target would involve profound economic and societal shifts -affecting countries, companies, and communities. Ultimately, we found that a successful transition would have six key characteristics. First, the transition would be universal. Every country and economic sector contributes to GHG emissions, directly or indirectly. Getting to net zero thus means that transformation has to happen everywhere. And, given the interdependence of energy and land-use sys-

Second, a successful net-zero transition would entail significant economic shifts. We estimate that getting to net zero would require

larger share of GDP than rich countries – almost 11 per cent in India, compared to 4-5 per cent in the European Union and the United services, such as forest manage-States - to support economic development and build low-emissions assets. Deploying this capital could prove challenging for many developing countries. Their economies also tend to be more concentrated in the most exposed sectors, subjecting them to greater economic shifts. The net-zero transition's fifth characteristic is that it is exposed to short-term risks, including worker dislocation and stranded assets. We estimate that, in the power sector, \$2.1 trillion worth of assets could be retired or underutilised between now and 2050. And if the deployment of low-emissions technologies does not keep pace with the decommissioning of high-emission technologies, there could be shortages and price spikes, potentially eroding support for the transition. At the same time, the net-zero transition holds major opportunities the sixth key characteristic. For companies, decarbonisation could make existing processes and products more cost-effective, and new markets for low-emissions goods will become increasingly lucrative. Companies can also gain by supporting the production of these lower-emissions products - for example, by providing mineral inputs (such as lithium for batteries), phys-

ical capital (including solar panels), or infrastructure (like EV charging stations). Support and technical ment, engineering and design, financing, risk management, and emissions measurement and tracking solutions, would also be needed. Countries can benefit, too. To strengthen their positions in the netzero economy, they can leverage their natural capital (like sunshine, wind, and land that can be reforested) and invest in technological, human, and physical capital. And we cannot forget the most important benefit of all: preventing the further buildup of physical risks that could trigger the most catastrophic effects of climate change. Policymakers and business leaders should be integrating these insights into all their decisions as they seek to pursue an orderly timely and smooth net-zero transition. This includes a recognition that abrupt, poorly planned changes would increase risks as surely as delays would. Given the universal nature of the transition, it must be tackled in a newfound spirit of cooperation. Many questions remain unanswered, including who pays, and how much, for what. But, with proliferation of net-zero pledges, search for solutions has more momentum than ever.

WISDOM CORNER

66	Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth.
	THE BUDDHA
66	Truth can be stated in a thousand different ways, yet each one can be true.
	SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
44	Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is the truth.

MAHATMA GANDHI

WORDS**WORTH**

Serendipity

his word — meaning the ability to make unexpected and fortunate discoveries - has been around for more than two centuries, but only really began to be used much in the twentieth century, to the extent that the adjective serendipitous is not recorded before about a century ago: I felt quite "serendipitous" the other day, as in toiling over the moor in search of a lead mine, I ran into a wonderful machine, in which 10,400 eggs were hatching into chickens - at different points in that 21 days process. -Yorkshire Evening Post, 9 Apr. 1923. Horace Walpole coined it in a letter he wrote to his long-time diplomat friend Horace Mann in 1754. He told him that he invented it in reference to the title of an old Persian fairy story The Three Princes of Serendip, whose heroes regularly discovered pleasant things that they weren't searching for. If you read the story you will find that the princes were well educated and intelligent men and their good fortune (which was a bit slap-dash: they got thrown in jail as suspected camel thieves at one point) was based on careful deduction and sagacity, not chance. As the saying has it, "fortune favours the prepared mind", just as discoveries today that are said to be serendipitous are so often the result of experience and good observation. The three princes came from a country the Persians called Sarandib but which we now know as Sri Lanka, or in earlier times Ceylon. The Persian is a corruption of the Sanskrit Sinhaladvipa, "the island where lions dwell", hence the name Sinhala or Sinhalese for the most commonly spoken Sri Lankan language.



Mekala Krishnan

A DEVELOPING **ECONOMY LIKE INDIA WOULD HAVE TO DEVOTE ALMOST 11 PER CENT OF ITS GDP TO SUPPORT** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **AND BUILD** LOW-EMISSIONS ASSETS

\$275 trillion in capital spending on physical assets by 2050 – an average of \$9.2 trillion per year. That is \$3.5 trillion per year more than is currently being invested today. Expected increases in spending as incomes and populations grow, and transition policies that are already legislated, narrows the gap, but the required rise in annual spending would still be about \$1 trillion.

The third key characteristic of the net-zero transition is that policies - and the associated investments must be front-loaded. Under the NGFS scenario, spending would increase from 6.8 per cent of GDP today to about 9 per cent of GDP between 2026 and 2030, and then decline. Fourth, the effects of the net-

zero transition will be felt unevenly. The sectors with the highest degree of exposure - because they emit significant quantities of GHGs (for example, coal and gas power) or sell products that do (such as petroleum products)account for about 20 per cent of global GDP. Sectors with highemissions supply chains, such as construction, account for a further 10 per cent of GDP

At the country level, developing economies would have to devote a

The writer is a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are (0) 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

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

Welcome move

Sir, For the first time the Rashtriya Indian Armed College (RIMC), Dehradun will admit girls who wish to serve in the Indian armed forces. This decision has come after the government has opened its doors for female candidates to the National Defence Academy RIMC was established in March 1922 under the British government for the training of Indian youths who can serve as Indian military officers. This has been a training center for boys since its formation. This year five girls will be admitted to RIMC among 568 applicants from all over India. Including girls in both the NDA and RIMC will boost a lot of confidence among girls who aspire to serve the country in military forces. This will also help to break the gender barrier in the armed forces

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Time for introspection

Sir, If voices of dissatisfaction start rising within the Congress after the results of the Assembly elections, then it cannot be called unnatural. The Congress barely won 55 seats in the elections held for a total of 690 Assembly seats across five states. Speaking on the debacle, a prominent member of 'G-23' group of Congress Ghulam Nabi Azad said that he cannot see the party dying like this. Even Shashi Tharoor, another member of 'G-23', said that if the party wants to be successful, then changes are inevitable. It is a fact that the party lost its ground long back. Earlier it had its workers at the block, village, panchayat level, who were always ready to help local people. Now they are nowhere to be seen. Hardly a few people are seen even at district headquarters. Despite these odds, the central leadership still works out an in-principle strategy by sitting in air-conditioned rooms in Delhi. They hardly bother to come down to work at the grassroots. Making someone outside the Gandhi family as the national president of the party does not guarantee that the influence of the Gandhi family in the party will end. The leadership of the party has gone into the hands of persons outside the Gandhi family many times in the past, but the party could not get out of the aura of this family. If the oldest party by making itself relevant in today's politics.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR





national



COV SURGE IN EUROPE, ASIA

India shouldn't be complacent: Experts

The maximum number of passengers in India per day in pre Covid times were close to about 4 lakh. We reached a level of 3.83 lakh per day in the month of December. So we are very well on our way back to recovery, roughly about 5 to 6 per cent off from pre pandemic level JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

COPS TO GET LEAVE TO WATCH 'THE KASHMIR FILES'

The Madhya Pradesh government Monday said policemen in the state will be provided leave to watch the recently-released film "The Kashmir Files". Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had Sunday decided to exempt the film from entertainment tax in the state



"There is no doubt that Covid

can happen again in India and the

spike can reappear in the next cou-

ple of months. We really cannot

be complacent in whatever we are

doing." said Dr Suraniit Chatteriee.

Senior Consultant Internal

Medicine, Indraprastha Apollo

India

A non peer-reviewed

research by IIT

Kanpur, had

earlier, using

a statistical

model pre-

dicted that

India will

wave of the

that may start

around mid

June and peak from

mid to late August

"A majority of the surges across

the world at present are being caused

by the BA.2 variant of Omicron.

and most of the infections caused

still appear to be of a mild nature.

As long as this continues to be true,

we need to learn to live with SARS

pandemic

this year.

see

fourth

Hospitals.



I am not scared of jail. I will continue to expose the corruption DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

LEADER OF OPPN IN MAHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

I feel honoured by Mamata Baneriee herself announcing my name as the TMC candidate from

Asansol in the Lok Sabha by-poll. She is a tried, tested and successful politician who holds the nation's future hope against 'divisive politics' pursued by the government of the day

SHATRUGHAN SINHA ACTOR-TURNED POLITICIAN

There has been a rapid increase in Covid cases in China. When Covid cases worldwide have decreased, a rise in cases in China is worrying as the virus

emerged from there two years ago ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Ker CPI-M all set for a minor re-jig

Thiruvananthapuram: Ahead of the CPI-M Party Congress to be held at Kannur in April where the party's national policies and outlook will be decided for the next three years, a major re-shuffle in its Kerala unit is on the anvil. Sources in the CPI-M reveal that two Rajya Sabha seats will be vacant and if needed, an election will be held March 31. **Chief Minister Pinarayi** Vijayan's office is also witnessing major changes. His political secretary Puthelethu Dineshan has been promoted and is now among the powerful 17 member CPI-M secretariat.

Ch'garh: ED raids eight locations

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is conducting raids at multiple locations in Chhattisgarh in connection

AGENCIES New Delhi, March 14: Even as India Monday reported the lowest single-day Covid tally in 680 days, with only 2.503 new cases in the last

24 hours, doctors caution against being complacent as the virus is seeing a resurgence in many countries in Europe and Asia Although many countries across the globe have relaxed Covid-re-

lated norms, including the use of masks and Covid surveillance, scientists, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) have been warning of the possibility of another global surge.

"It is prudent to not pursue a zero Covid policy, and therefore accept that there will be surges periodically, especially with the onset of newer variants." Dr. Lancelot Pinto, Consultant Pulmonologist, P.D Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mahim, Mumbai, told IANS.

Data from Johns Hopkins University has shown that the UK the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy have seen an upswing in cases this past week, USA Today reported. China is also

'SKIN-TO-SKIN' VERDICT Centre accepts Justice Pushpa's resignation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 14: The Centre on Monday issued a notification confirming the resignation of Bombay High Court's Additional Judge. Justice Pushpa V Ganediwala, who quit her post last month after some controversial judgements delivered last year.

The Ministry of Law & Justice said that Justice Ganediwala's resignation has been accepted with effect from February 11, 2022 - a day before her tenure was due to expire - as the Supreme Court collegium did not recommend extending her term or elevating her.

> Justice Ganediwala, of the Nagpur Bench of Bombay HC. shot to headlines for two erdicts in child sex abuses cases delivered in January February 2021 that generated immense controversy, and



facing its severest domestic Covid-19 outbreaks in two years, the Global Times reported.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of asymptomatic patients, forcing several major cities to go into lockdowns.

Further, South Korea. Vietnam. Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand are also seeing a record surge in Covid cases. So can this wave spread to India, leading to a fourth wave?

LET'S PLAY HOLI



School teachers pose for photos, after playing with colours ahead of the

upcoming festival of Holi at a school in Moradabad. Uttar Pradesh

CoV-2," Pinto said.

However, it is very difficult to predict the severity of a new wave "because right now, most of the people in the world have gained their antibodies and immunity against this virus", Dr. Avi Kumar, Consultant - Pulmonology, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, told IANS Kumar noted that since the

pandemic is continuously changing its size and has also relaxed severity, it is very difseveral norms including ficult to predict the fourth wave "but opening up of schools, yes we have to

workplaces, airports, etc. keep 8ourselves Government guidelines on guarded".

the use of masks continue. The experts urged the governbut it is hardly followed ment to try and limit on the ground economic disruptions as much as possible in the

wake of a new wave, while also ensuring that the vulnerable and the old are protected by measures such as vaccinations and boost ers, based on sound scientific evidence. "More attention to ventilation of indoor spaces, as this is going to be a critical determinant of spread in the future," Pinto said.

died in Guj in 2 yrs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, March 14: The Gujarat government Monday informed the state Assembly that a little less than 300 lions, lionesses and cubs have died in the last two vears of natural and unnatural causes in and around the Gir sanctuary

Replying to questions of various Congress MLAs, Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Kiritsinh Rana, informed the House that a total of 283 lions in Gir. which is the only abode for Asiatic lions in the world, died till December 2021. During the same period, more than 300 leopards have also died in the state. Rana said. The minister further informed that 63 lions died of natural causes while five died unnaturally, 57 lionesses died natural deaths while 16 died unnaturally.

Out of the 142 lion cubs which died, 134 died naturally while eight died of unnatural causes. Replying to a question on what steps have

been taken by the government to

curb the unnatural deaths of the

big cats, the minister said that pa-

trolling is being carried out day

and night by the forest department

officials. Joint patrolling is also

being carried out in collaboration

with the Paschim Gujarat Vij

Court refuses VIP treatment to Chitra

Company Limited (PGVCL).

COVID-19 DEATHS Order regarding ex-gratia payment 'very clear': Top court

In an effort to provide some help to over 10,000 children who have lost both their parents to Covid-19, the apex court had January 19 directed all the state governments to reach out to those kids and pay them compensation



ceased father and another for the

the counsel appearing for Assam

said they have filed an application

seeking clarification on the issue

as there are such families in the

state where there are more than one

give it to both the children or should

it be one ex-gratia payment made

to the family," the counsel said.

The bench observed that its order

said, while disposing of the appli-

cation. The issue had cropped up

when the top court was hearing

pleas filed by advocate Gaurav

Bansal and some intervenors who

have sought ex-gratia assistance

to family members of Covid-19 vic-

While hearing the matter in

January, the top court had taken

note of the submissions that over

"It is per death Rs 50.000." it

"Whether we are supposed to

During the hearing on Monday,

deceased mother.

children.

is very clear.

tims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: The Supreme Court Monday said its earlier order regarding ex-gratia of Rs 50.000 to the family members of those who lost their lives due to Covid-19 is "very clear" and the payment is to be made for each death.

The apex court said this while dealing with an application filed by the Assam which had sought a clarification whether each of the children of the deceased parents would be provided ex-gratia payment of Rs 50,000, in case there is more than one child. "In fact, our earlier order is very clear and the ex-gratia payment of Rs 50,000 shall be qua each death," a bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said.

Therefore, it is observed and clarified that if there is more than one child, only one child/family member, as the case may be, shall get ex-gratia payment of Rs 50.000," it said.

10.000 children have been orphaned The top court observed that in due to Covid-19 and other reasons since the start of the pandemic case both the parents have died, the child shall get Rs 50,000 qua and they be compensated.

SC hints at CAG probe in fake Cov death claims

that inquiry into alleged fake death claims could be entrusted to the

Nagarathna said: "We never visualised that this kind of fake claims could

come. It's a pious world. We never thought this scheme could be misused.'

The bench added that if some officers are also involved in it, then it is "very

serious". As advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal pointed out at the Section 52 in the

Disaster Management Act, which addresses such concerns, Justice Shah said:

examination of the compensation claims by the state legal services authorities.

"We need somebody to file a complaint." Counsel suggested a random

government auditor's office. A bench of Justices M.R. Shah and B.V.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday reiterated its concern regarding fake claims for Covid death compensation and that it may direct a probe by the ptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in this matter it sugge

Close to 300 lions

with Rs 54 crore Prevention of Money Laundering case lodged against businessman Subhash Sharma. A source close to the development said that the ED is rading eight places in Chhattisgarh. The officials are looking for incriminating documents related to the case. Sharma was arrested on March 6 from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport when he was about to board a flight. He is currently in ED's custody till March 15.

New-born kidnapped

Hassan, (Karnataka): Posing as nurses, child lifters have kidnapped a new-born baby boy from the government hospital in Hassan district of Karnataka. The incident took place Sunday midnight in the Arakalagudu Government hospital. According to police. a complaint has been lodged in this regard and the statement of the baby's mother, who is a labourer from Assam, recorded. The police said that the child lifters gained entry from the back door of the hospital dressed as nurses.

were later overruled by the Supreme Court. One pertained to the proposition that direct 'skin-to-skin' contact was necessary for constituting an offence of sexual assault under the POCSO Act. and another of holding a minor girl's hand to open the zip of the man's pant did not constitute an office under POCSO but under the IPC.

New Delhi, March 14: A CBI Following widespread reactions court here Monday refused to give VIP treatment to Chitra to the verdict, the apex court collegium revoked its recommendation Ramkrishna, the ex MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange of January 20 to make her a permanent judge of Bombay HC, and (NSE), who was arrested by the in February 2021, it recommended Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in connection with the NSE extending her term as an Additional co-location case Judge by one year. Appointed as "Every Person is the same. She Bombay HC Additional Judge on February 13, 2019, after there was can't be a VIP prisoner because of no further extension or elevation

what she had been. Rules cannot as a permanent judge, Justice be changed", observed Judge Ganediwala resigned from her post Sanjeev Aggarwal. However, the last month and her resignation court permitted her to carry four has now been officially accepted by books including a copy of Hanuman Chalisa and Bhagwad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gita for prayers

Ramkrishna was produced before the special court after the expiry of her custodial remand. The court remanded her to 14-day judicial custody. She will be lodged at Tihar Jail.

PTI PHOTO

The CBI had March 6 arrested Chitra Ramkrishna, accused of grave lapses at India's largest stock market including sharing confidential information with an individual. She was produced before the court March 7 after her anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the court a day earlier. Anand Subramanian, the ex Group Operating Officer, was also arrested by the CBI. He was inter-

rogated at length during the custodial period. He is also currently in judicial custody.

The federal probe agency is probing the matter since May 2018 but they haven't found any concrete ev-

Delhi court Monday sent to 14-day judicial custody the former managing director and chief executive officer of National Stock **Exchange (NSE)** Chitra Ramkrishna in connection with the co-location scam case

Himalayan Yogi with whom the classified information was shared

by Ramkrishna. Recently, the SEBI had imposed a fine of Rs 3 crore on her, following the market regulator finding that she allegedly shared vital inputs about the NSE with the yogi. "Information regarding organisational structure, dividend scenario, financial results, human resource policies and related issues, response to regulator, etc, were shared by her with the yogi," said the source

Between 2014 and 2016 she sent emails at rigyajursama@outlook.com. On April 1, 2013, Ramkrishna became the CEO and MD of NSE. She brought Subramanian to NSE as her advisor in 2013.

The dissolved Oxygen level of Ganga, which is a parameter to assess the health of the water body, has been found to be within acceptable limits of the bathing criteria

viz., DO, BOD and Faecal coliforms (FC) of year 2014 and 2021 shows that DO (Median) has improved at 31 locations; BOD at 46 locations and FC at 23 locations, respectively,' he said in a written response.

Under the Namami Gange Programme, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out water quality assessment of the River Ganga at 97 locations in five states through respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

A total of 364 projects have been sanctioned under the programme at an estimated cost of Rs 30,853 crore and 183 projects have been completed and made operational.

"Out of these 364 projects, 160 projects belonging to sewerage infrastructure projects have been taken up for creation and rehabilitation of 5024 Million Litres per Dav(MLD) of Sewage Treatment Plant capacity and laying of 5,227 km of sewerage network, out of which 76 projects have been completed resulting in creation and rehabilitation of 1.079 MLD of STP capacity and laying of 3,860 km sewerage network," he said.

3 charred to death

Aizawl: At least three people including a 14-year-old girl were charred to death after a major fire broke out in a farmhouse in Mizoram's Suangpuilawn village, the police said Monday. As per the officials, the fire broke out late Sunday night in Aizawl district, killing the three on the spot and damaging the entire farmhouse and a vehicle that was parked nearby. The victims included the farm's caretaker Vanlalmawia, 58, his 14-year-old daughter Zorinmawii and the farm owner Lalmuankima, 51.

Ganga water fit for bathing: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the President.

New Delhi, March 14: The dissolved oxygen level of River Ganga, which is a parameter to assess the health of the water body, has been found to be within acceptable limits of the bathing criteria, the government said Monday. Minister of State for Jal Shakti

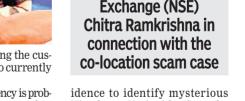
Bishweswar Tudu said none of the Ganga stretches are in priority category I to IV and only two stretches are in category V with Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) ranging between 3 and 6 mg/l as per

CPCB categorisation of polluted stretch. Category I is considered to be the most polluted with high amount of BOD while category V is considered to be the least polluted. According to the CPCB data for

2021, the observed water quality of River Ganga indicates that dissolved oxygen (DO) has been found to be within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and is satisfactory to support the ecosystem of the river for almost its entire stretch

"The comparison of median data of water quality parameters







Delimitation panel makes its proposals public UP: 11 Yogi ministers lose

THE COMMISSION HAS INVITED OBJECTIONS TILL MARCH 21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, March 14: The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir has made its proposals public and invited ob jections and suggestions till March 21 before visiting the Union Territory later this month for pub lic sittings.

The commission published its final proposal, maintaining the number of Lok Sabha constituencies at five but increasing the Assembly seats from present 83 to 90 (adding six in Jammu and one in Kashmir), in the gazettes of India and Jammu and Kashmir.

The detailed proposal, published in leading newspapers Monday, also carried two dissenting notes signed by four of the five associate members - three National Conference Lok Sabha MPs (Farooo Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone) and BJP MP Jugal Kishore.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh is the fifth associate member of the commission.

Set up May 6, 2020 with a one-year term to redraw Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies, the commission headed by former supreme court judge Ranjana Prakash Desaj has given two extensions of one year and two months, respectively, to complete its task

However, its draft proposals had evoked a strong reaction, espe-

Delimitation

New Delhi mail : delimit gov.i in/deli

MAJOR PROPOSALS

The Commission said the number of The Commission said no Parliamentary seats in Jammu & Kashmir will Parliamentary constituency remain five. Kashmir and Jammu divisions has been reserved for now have two Lok Sabha seats each while Scheduled Castes and one seat is spread over both the divisions Scheduled Tribes

The Commission said Jammu and Kashmir will have a 90-seat Assembly and, of them, seven segments will be reserved for SCs and nine for STs

cially from the opposition parties occupied Jammu and Kashmir including the National Conference (POJK) while the election will be whose dissent note pertained to held for 90 seats. The erstwhile state of Jammu different assembly constituencies and Kashmir had 111 seats inbesides challenging the very con-

cluding 24 reserved for PoJK while stitution of the panel pending the Supreme Court verdict on the elections were held for 87 seats. Kashmir With the creation of Ladakh as Union Territory, four seats of the While splitting Jammu and region were reduced and the Kashmir into two Union Territories Assembly was left with 83 seats. through the Reorganization Act However, with an increase of seven seats, J&K UT will have an in August 2019, the Union Home Ministry had increased Assembly Assembly of 90 seats - Kashmir seats of Jammu and Kashmir by will have 47 seats and the Jammu seven taking total seats to 114, 24

region 43 seats. Two women MLAs will be nominated to the House, which was the position earlier also. In the previous Assembly, Kashmir had 46

seats, Jammu 37 and Ladakh four. Delimitation of the Assembly constituencies was last held in 1994-95 during the President's Rule when seats of the erstwhile State Assembly were raised from 76 to 87.

Jammu region's seats were increased from 32 to 37, Kashmir's from 42 to 46 and Ladakh's two to four. However, the delimitation was freezed in 2002 by the then National Conference Government headed by Abdullah in line with the decision taken by the then central government led by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

... the Delimitation Commission hereby publishes its proposals for the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, together with the dissenting proposals of the Associate Members, and specifies 21st March 2022 (Monday) as the date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it," the advertisement signed by Secretary K N Bhar read

He said any objections or suggestions in regard to these proposals should reach the Secretary. Delimitation Commission, New Delhi, on or before March 21. The Commission said that it will

visit Jammu and Kashmir March 28 and 29 for public sittings.

despite party's historic win

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 14: Despite the BJP's historic victory in Uttar Pradesh, the drubbing faced by 11 ministers of the Yogi Adityanath government, including Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya, who was credited with the party's win in 2017, and Sugarcane Minister Suresh Rana, has raised many questions within the party.

The defeat of Rana from Shamli district, Rajendra Pratap Singh alias Moti Singh from Pratapgarh, Chandrika Prasad Upadhyay from Chitrakoot, Anand Swarup Shukla from Ballia, Upendra Tiwari, Satish Dwivedi from Siddharthnagar district, Lakhan Singh Rajput from Auraiva, Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar from Bareilly, Ranvendra Singh from Fatehpur, Sangeeta Balwant from Ghazipur and the controversial MLA Sangeet Som, has raised several questions about the party's prospects in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

While the BJP broke the trend in Uttarakhand by returning to power for the second time. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami lost the election from Khatima. which has made it difficult for the party to elect a new Chief Minister. Uttar Pradesh polls have proved that the Modi-Yogi bond is stronger



than the combined popularity of Samajwadi party's Akhilesh Yadav, and the Congress's Rahul-Priyanka pair. For the first time in 37 years, Uttar Pradesh has returned a party to power, that too, with a thumping majority of 273 seats. In a state where the government is usually formed with 30 per cent votes, the BJP is set to form the government for the second time in a row, by securing over 40 per cent votes.

While Priavanka Gandhi's failure in resurrecting the Congress in Uttar Pradesh called for revamp in the party. Modi held a massive roadshow in Gujarat, the very next day after poll results, to kickstart his party's campaign for the Assembly elections in the state scheduled this year.

Assembly elections are due in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, which is the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he has been the Chief Minister for over 12 years.

The BJP has been winning the Assembly elections in Gujarat since 1995. However, since 1993, no party has been been voted to power twice in a row in Himachal Pradesh.

Even though the Congress is the main opposition party in both the states, the BJP, which is determined to win both the elections, has already fielded its most popular faces for the post of Chief Minister. However, unlike the Congress, the

BJP constantly analyses its election results and accordingly keeps on altering its future strategies.

2019 and came out with a set a rec ommendations to prevent harass-

ment of journalists and also advised

the Jammu and Kashmir Police

to not become representatives of

While drawing a distinction be

tween a journalist and a terrorist

the FFC said those indulging in

any criminal acts are not journal-

or carrying grenades and other

ammunition, he is not a journalist:

he is a militant, and should be

treated as such," the FFC said after

meeting all stakeholders in its vis-

its to twin capital cities of Jammu

However, the security estab-

lishment cannot label writing

and Srinagar.

"If a journalist is bearing arms

ists pursuing their profession.

other departments 'by default'.

Oppn seeks restoration J&K media 'choked' by local admin curbs, says PCI panel of J&K's statehood in LS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: The Congress, TMC and other parties Monday alleged in Lok Sabha that

ment between Russia and China February 4. All this impacts the border areas of India," he said. Tewari also flagged concerns of

political parties over the delimi-

and

of which are reserved for Pakistan-

Jammu

Reorganization Act.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: A threemember Fact Finding Committee (FFC) of the Press Council of India (PCI) has said that news media in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the valley, is 'slowly being choked' due to extensive curbs imposed by the local administration.

The FFC, in its report submitted last week, has also advised the Union Territory administration to immediately stop the 'tendency' to see all critical reporting and opinions as 'anti-national'.

"A conflict zone has many players and many aspects of events that unfold. A journalist cannot and should not ignore the government version; at the same time, he is not the spokesperson of the

government," it said. Headed by Prakash Dubey (convenor) with members Suman Gupta and Gurbir Singh, the FFC was set up by the PCI -- a statutory

quasi-judicial body which acts as

dent Mehbooba Mufti in September last year. The report submitted to the council is vet to be considered and adopted.

While advocating restoration of lines of communication with the



a press watchdog -- six months local press, the FFC said the administration was suspecting that after a complaint by PDP presia large number of local journalists were sympathisers of the militants' cause.

"This was admitted by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who frankly told the FFC that many journalists were of 'anti-national' per-

suasion. He conceded that when he was first appointed, he used to encourage open press conferences, but now had gone back to a 'selective engagement' with preferred journalists." the report said. The FFC took a holistic view of

press freedom especially after the

abrogation of Article 370 in August

against government policies, or quoting a family or civilian sources in a story about excesses of the armed forces, or tweeting a point of view as fake news or anti-national activity and then arrest the journalist for sedition, it said

the government has not been able to achieve the objectives it set out while abrogating Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded the early restoration of statehood

Speaking during the discussion on the budget for the Union Territory, members of the BJP, JD(U) and others, however, supported the Centre's efforts in accelerating development in the Union Territory.

Opposition parties also accused the government of not doing enough for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

Congress leader Manish Tewari, who initiated the discussion, said that the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir was a cause of concern.

He said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated

'extremely noble sentiments' in her budget speech for Jammu and Kashmir but 'ground realities are different'

The Congress MP

said that when the

government abrogated Article 370 and divided Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, it put forward two arguments - that Kashmir's

merging with India will be strengthened as the state will be emotionally integrated, and the development there would be speeded up.

"Today 33 months have passed. Has the government been successful in achieving those objectives? I would like to state that the answer is no," he said, arguing that the situation is more sensitive than it was in 2019 while citing figures of ceasefire violations.

"Since April 2020, the situation in eastern Ladakh is extremely sensitive. The Chinese army is occupying those lands which India considers its own. The situation has become more complex now since 2020 because of factors such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Imran Khan's visit to Moscow, the agree-

tation in Jammu and Kashmir. Underlining that the interest of the Sikh community should be safeguarded, Tewari said they should be given representation in the legislature.

The BJP Monday dared the Congress to announce in Lok Sabha that it would restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir if it comes to power.

Intervening in the debate, Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh dared the Congress to announce in Lok Sabha that it would restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir if it comes to power.

"Does the Congress party have the courage to say that it will restore Article 370 after coming to power...You don't say that. You want

The

to beat about the bush and want to have it both vays," he said. government

Trinamool talks a lot about Congress member Kashmiri Pandits, but in Saugata Roy said its Budget document. that Jammu and there is no mention about Kashmir budget them... if you feel for them, was about buplease include them...Let's reaucratic exnot live only in a bubble, penditure and not please deliver about the develop-SUPRIYA SULE ment of the Union

NCP LEADER Territory He asserted that it was wrong to abrogate Article 370 and his party continues to oppose the decision "which was in pursuance of a slogan of 'one nation, one sym-

bol and one constitution' given by Jan Sangh leader Syama Prasad Mukherjee". Roy demanded that elections should be held at the earliest in Jammu and Kashmir so that a popular and representative government could assume office.

Supriya Sule (NCP) alleged that the government has not done anything for the displaced Kashmiris in the Budget.

"The government talks a lot about Kashmiri Pandits, but in its Budget document, there is no mention about them," she said adding "if you feel for them, please include them...Let's not live only in a bubble, please deliver.'

Smaller local parties rise and shine in UP elections

THE RLD AND APNA DAL HAD AN IMPACT ON THE POLITICS OF THE STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, March 14: Smaller local parties have emerged strong in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls this time, bolstering the BJP and the SP, and leaving behind the Congress and the BSP.

The BJP's ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) has won 12 of the 17 seats it had contested and emerged as the third largest party after the BJP and the SP. In Mauranipur, Apna Dal (Sonelal) candidate Rashmi Arya won by 58,595 votes.

The Nishad Party, which had entered into an alliance with the BJP for the polls, has also fared well. Ten candidates of the Nishad party contested on the party symbol while six from the party contested on BJP tickets. Of the total 16 candidates, six emerged victo-

rious. The son of Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad reached the Assembly after securing a win on a BJP ticket. The Nishad Party had fought the 2017 Assembly polls in alliance with local parties and fielded candidates on 72 seats, but due to the BJP wave, only one candidate Vijay Mishra could make it to the Assembly. Seventy of the party candidates lost their security deposit.

The SP may not have emerged successful but smaller parties supported it a lot. The RLD played a major role in campaigning for the SP in western Uttar Pradesh to improve its poll prospects. It has secured eight seats. The SP-RLD alliance grabbed three seats in



The BJP's ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) has won 12 of the 17 seats it had contested and emerged as the third largest party after the BJP and the SP

Shamli and four each in Meerut and Muzaffarnagar. In the 2017 polls, the SP had won only one seat in these places

The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) also boosted the SP's prospects as their alliance won three seats in Mau and seven in Ghazipur. The SBSP has won six seats in Purvanchal.

The SBSP had fought the 2017 polls in alliance with the BJP and won four of the eight seats it contested

The Apna Dal (Kamerawadi)

fought in alliance with the SP and lost all the three seats on which it contested but the party's working president fought on the SP's symbol and won, defeating Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Political analyst Amodkant Mishra said that local parties have emerged stronger in the assembly polls and the general elections.

The RLD and Apna Dal had an impact on the politics of the state. The BJP and the SP had formed alliances with the parties of the heavyweights of the regions.

Bulldozer tattoos a rage in UP

During the recent elections, Yogi Adityanath came to be called 'bulldozer baba' due to frequent references of his government deploying bulldozers to demolish ill-gotten property of criminals and mafia in the state

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, March 14: After the popularity of the bulldozer in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, it has turned into the most happening thing.

While Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been named as 'bulldozer baba' after he exten-

sively used the machine to demolish the properties of criminals and mafia, the vouths are trying to immortalise its memory by getting a tattoo on their arms.

Tattoo artists in Lucknow claim that young boys, in particular, are demanding bulldozer tattoos on their arms. Some have even got 'Bulldozer Baba' written alongside.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during a speech had said, "Till now we were calling him 'Baba Chief Minister' but today one of the reputed English newspapers called him 'Baba Bulldozer'. I have not kept this name, this name was kept by a reputed English newspaper.

Suresh Khatri a tattoo artist in a shopping mall said that ever since the results came out last Thursday, he has inked the bulldozer on about 28 customers.



RLD dissolves all party units

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, March 14: Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Chaudhary has dissolved all the units and fronts of the party in Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect.

"As per the orders passed by RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary, party's state, regional, and district units and fronts in Uttar Pradesh have been dissolved effective immediately," the RLD tweeted.

The RLD will also hold its first meeting of its UP legislators in Lucknow March 21. The RLD had contested the recently-concluded Uttar Pradesh assembly elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP). The party, which was reduced to a single seat in the 2017 state elections, fought on 33 seats this time and won eight of them, while the SP bagged 111 seats, asignificant improvement from 2017 polls when it won only 47 seats.









national



The Congress has not only lost in Punjab but also in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and **Manipur and the Gandhis** are entirely to blame for the party's shameful defeat CAPT AMARINDER SINGH FORMER PUNJAB CM

RELAXATION ON AGE LIMIT

The Supreme Court said that prescribing a minimum age limit for the selection of district judges is not contrary to the Constitution, as it relaxed the upper-age limit of 32 years for the Delhi Judicial Service Examination (DJSE) and 45 years for the Delhi Higher Judicial Service Examination (DHJSE) for candidates who were eligible in 2020 and 2021



uote

People will see this experience (AAP government) too but we will continue to fight for the interests of Punjab and the country

PARKASH SINGH BADAL SHIROMANI AKALI DAL PATRON

In the last seven years, peace has returned to the region, which has led to the increase in economic activity Modi and (Amit) Shah have taken

strong steps to bring peace in the region. Due to that, investors are now looking to invest in the region SARBANANDA SONOWAL UNION MINISTER

This country cannot have two symbols, two Prime Ministers or two Constitutions. We have a Constitution which

we respect... And every time we discuss the people who gave us the Constitution, we all respectfully raise the name of Ambedkar

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN FINANCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Fire breaks out in building, 4 killed

Jammu: Four people, including a child, were killed and 15 others injured after a massive fire broke out in a building here Monday, police said. The death toll may increase further as the rescue operation is still underway, officials said. The fire broke out in the evening in a scrap shop on the ground floor of the building in Residency Road area apparently due to a short circuit.

Sex workers stage protest

Bangalore: Thousands of Devdasis (sex workers) staged a massive protest in Bangalore Monday demanding acceptance of their demands. The protest is being staged in Freedom Park.

SKM to launch nationwide protest on MSP March 21

New Delhi, March 14: The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) will hold a nationwide protest March 21 to protest against the Centre for not fulfilling its promises, including setting up of a panel on MSP and withdrawal of cases against farmers, its functionaries said Monday.

It was decided after a day-long closed door meeting was held at the Gandhi Peace Foundation at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg here. SKM leaders and members reviewed the progress made so far by the Centre on the promises made to farmers, including setting up a panel on MSP.

"There has been no progress in fulfilling the promises made by the Centre to farmers on the issue of forming a panel on MSP to make legislation on it, withdrawal of cases against farmers and expulsion of Union minister Ajay Mishra Teni from the Cabinet.

'So the SKM has decided to hold a nationwide protest at district and block level March 21 against the central government for non fulfilling promises," senior SKM member Abhimanyu Kohar told PTI.

The SKM, an umbrella body of 40 farm unions, had spearheaded a vear-long agitation against the Centre's three farm laws. It had suspended the stir

December 9 last year after the government revoked the contentious laws and agreed to consider its six other demands, including withdrawal of cases registered against farmers during the agitation, a legal guarantee on MSP and compensation for kin of farmers who



SKM will observe April 11- April 17 as **MSP** Legal Guarantee Week

died during the protest. Later in a statement, the SKM

said farmers will observe 'MSP guarantee week' from April 11 to 17 under its next phase of nationwide campaign. The non-implementation of the

assurances given by the government to the farmers' movement. even after three months, exposes its anti-farmer intentions, the statement said.

"It was unanimously decided that between April 11 and 17, a nationwide campaign would be launched by observing MSP Legal Guarantee Week. During this week, all the constituent organizations associated with the SKM will organise demonstrations and seminars. demanding legal guarantee of MSP as recommended by the Swaminathan Commission," the statement said.

The Morcha reviewed the written assurances given by the government to the Samvukta Kisan Morcha December 9 and found that even after three months the government had not acted upon its key assurances, it said.

"There is no trace of the assurance of forming a committee on MSP. Except Haryana, the police cases registered against the farmers during the agitation in other states have not been withdrawn. Delhi Police has spoken of partial withdrawal of some cases but there is no concrete information about that as well.

"The SKM has decided to or ganise a nationwide protest March 21, regarding the role of the government in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, and the betrayal of the assurances given to the farmers' movement," the SKM statement said

Pb Cong leader blasts **Channi over poll results**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 14: Former Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar slammed outgoing Punjab Chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi and senior party leader Ambika Soni over the drubbing the party got in the assembly polls, referring to the CM as "liability"

In an apparent reference to reports that Channi was praised at the Congress Working Committee meeting on Sunday, Jakhar tweeted, "An asset - r u joking?"

'Thank God he wasn't declared 'National Treasure' at CWC by the 'Pbi' lady who proposed him as CM in first place. Maybe an asset for her but for the party he has been only a liability," he said. "Not the top brass, but his own greed pulled him and the party down," Jakhar said, targeting Channi in the tweet that underscored the persisting infighting in the Punjab unit of the Congress

The tweet also included a picture of Channi and a headline, "ED seizes Rs 10 crore from Channi's nephew; CM cries foul". He did not mention Soni by name in the tweet or while talking later to PTI, but appeared to be referring to her.

Jakhar was a frontrunner for the CM post after the Congress unseated Amarinder Singh last year. But Ambika Soni told the party leadership that a Sikh should be made Punjab chief minister, possibly scuttling Jakhar's chances. Channi then became the first Dalit CM of the state, just months ahead of the assembly polls.

The Congress, however, faced a rout, winning just 18 seats. The Aam Aadmi Party won 92 of the 117 seats.

Jakhar told PTI that the perception that Channi was trying to create about his "humble background" was shattered after the alleged recovery of cash from his nephew's premises in an Enforcement Department raid.

HIJAB ROW K'taka HC decision today

As the issue of Hijab versus saffron scarves spread to several educational institutions in many parts of

Karnataka, the state government announced holiday from February 9 to February 15 in all the pre-university colleges and from February 9 to February 16 in degree and diploma colleges



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 14: The full bench of the Karnataka High Court, which concluded its hearing in the Hijab case, is likely to pronounce its verdict Tuesday.

The case seeking permission to allow Muslim girls to attend classes in schools and pre-university colleges where there is a prescribed school uniform had led to tension on the campuses of educational institutions in the state.

According to the lawyers appearing for the petitioner girls from Udupi district, the matter pertaining to Hijab case has been listed for Tuesday as serial No. 1 and the court may spell out the operative part of the verdict from 10.30 am onwards. The full bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice J M Khazi was constituted February 9 on a petition filed by girls from Udupi who prayed that they should be allowed to wear Hijab even inside the classroom along with the school uniform as it was part of their faith. On January 1, six girl

students of a college in Udupi attended a press conference held by the Campus Front of India (CFI) in the coastal town protesting against the college authorities denying them entry into classrooms wearing headscarves.

This was four days after they requested the principal permission to wear hijab in classes which was not allowed. Till then, students used to wear the headscarf to the campus, but entered the classroom after removing it, college principal Rudre Gowda had said.

The girls approached the Karnataka High Court seeking relief and quashing the government order February 5 restraining students from wearing any cloth that could disturb, peace, harmony and public order. The full bench of the High Court has been hearing the case on a day-to-day basis since February 10. In its interim order, the bench asked the state government to reopen the educational institutions, which were hit by the agitation, and restrained students from wearing Hijab and saffron scarves in the class-room till the final order is delivered.

MVA govt asks CID to probe Fadnavis' new 'pen-drive'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 14: Maharashtra's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Monday announced a probe by the state CID into a pen drive submitted by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party alleging conspiracies and mafia links. Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis, who handed over the pen-drive - his second in the past 6 days - to the Speaker, along with other BJP members, also demanded that the matter be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Later, Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil announced that the state CID would probe the 'pen-drive' bomb in which, among the allegations, are irregularities by Special Public Prosecutor Pravin Chavan. Walse-Patil further announced that Chavan had tendered his res ignation and the government had accepted it, but the Opposition was not satisfied and threatened to move the court for a CBI probe, sparking a fresh tiff between the MVA-BJP. Fadnavis further accused the MVA government of allegedly appointing persons with links to absconding mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar to the State Waqf Board, overseen by Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik currently under arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and in judicial custody till March 21.

Paytm Bank denies China data leak report

The RBI barred Paytm Payments Bank from taking on new customers and ordered a comprehensive audit of its IT systems Friday, citing 'material' supervisory concerns

observed in the bank, without elaborating further

to be a completely homegrown



overnight. U. Basavaraju, the honorary president of the Karnataka Rajya Devdasi Mahileyara Vimochana Sangha, stated that the Sangha along with the Karnataka State Devdasi Women's Children's Struggle Committee has submitted memorandums many times but their demands have been totally ignored till date. The pension of Devdasis should be increased from a minimum of Rs 3,000 to Rs 15,000, he said.

Ishrat Jahan gets bail

New Delhi: A court here Monday granted bail to former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan in a case related to the alleged larger conspiracy in the 2022 Delhi riots. Ishrat Jahan was allowed bail by Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, who have reserved his order last month after hearing the submissions.

Woman shot dead

New Delhi: A 38-year-old woman was shot dead Monday in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar area, police said. According to police, the incident took place around 10 am when the woman was lying outside her rented accommodation. The woman suffered bullet injury on her chin, they said.

Boosting ties

New Delhi: India and Canada held Foreign Office Consultations in Delhi Monday to discuss progress in a wide range of bilateral matters. The Indian delegation was led by Ministry of External Affairs's Secretary, East. Saurabh Kumar, while the Canadian delegation was led by Deputy Minister of Foreign and Global Affairs Marta Morgan.



REUTERS

Bangalore, March 14: India's Paytm Payments Bank, which facilitates transactions on mobile commerce platform Paytm, said on Monday all its data is stored in the country, denying a report that a ban on the firm taking on new customers was due to data being leaked to Chinese firms.

Paytm is backed by China's Alibaba Group Holding (9988.HK) and its affiliate Ant Group (688688.SS)

Annual inspections by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) found that Paytm Payments Bank's servers were sharing information with China-based entities that indirectly own a stake in the firm, Bloomberg News had reported on Monday, citing a person familiar with the matter. "Paytm Payments Bank is proud

bank, fully compliant with RBI's directions on data localisation. All of the Bank's data resides within India," the company said on Twitter.

The payments bank is taking immediate steps regarding the RBI's decision and is committed to working with the regulator to address its concerns, it said in a statement.

Paytm shares slumped 13% Monday after RBI's move, with Macquarie Research analysts saying they expect a significant impact on Pavtm's brand and customer loyalty and that the developments would substantially lower the chance of Paytm Payments Bank upgrading to a small finance bank. read more

Billionaire Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder of Paytm, said in an interview with television channel CNBC-TV18 Monday, that no government body had raised any concerns on data sharing or access issues with the payments bank. Paytm Payments Bank has over 300 million wallets and 60 million bank accounts, according to its website.

Complete trial by Nov 30: SC to TADA court PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, March 14: The Supreme Court Monday asked the TADA court in Ajmer, Rajasthan to

complete a trial in a case related to serial blasts in multiple Rajdhani Express and other trains in 1993.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant was told by advocate Shoeb Alam that trial against accused Hameer Ui Uddin, as directed by the court last year has commenced and the process of recording of evidence

is underway.

Children swim in the Arabian Sea on a hot summer day at Badhwar Park in Mumbai

The lawyer said that his only request is that facilities that are available under the jail manual be given to him, especially meet-

1993 TRAINS BLAST CASE

ing with the family members.

The bench ordered, "In pursuance of previous orders dated...the trial has commenced and process of recording of evidence is underway. We direct the trial judge to continue the process of expeditious disposal of the trial

by November 30, 2022. Any requests for facilities as per the jail manual be duly considered".

The top court had in December last year directed the trial court to expedite the trial and to report the progress by March 2022

Earlier, on September 27, the top court had directed a special TADA court in Ajmer, Rajasthan to frame charges within three months against an accused jailed for 11 years for serial blasts in multiple Rajdhani Express and other trains in 1993.

No rule for airlines, airports to play Indian music: Govt

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) had December 27 asked all airlines and airports to consider playing Indian music in their flights and terminals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: The Centre is not planning to make it mandatory for airlines and airports to play Indian music in their flights and terminal premises, Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh said Monday.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) had December 27 asked all airlines and airports to consider playing Indian music in their flights and terminals.

The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) had December 23 requested Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to promote Indian music in flights operated by Indian carriers. During the current Parliament

session, when Congress Rajya Sabha MP Ambika Soni asked "whether government proposes to make it mandatory for Indian airlines and airports to play Indian classical or light vocal and instrumental music". Mr Singh replied in the negative in his written reply.



On December 27, the MoCA wrote a letter to all airlines and airports stating that music played by most of the airlines across the globe was in quintessential of the country to which the airline belongs, for example, Jazz in an American airline or Mozart in an Austrian airline and Arab music in an airline from the Middle East.

"But, Indian Airlines seldom play Indian music in the flight, whereas, our music has a rich heritage and culture and it has one

of the many things every Indian has a reason for truly proud of it," the ministry noted.

India has a rich diversity of traditional music, it noted.

'Owing to India's vastness and diversity. Indian music encompasses numerous genres in multiple varieties and forms, which include classical music, folk, light vocal, instrumental music, etc," it mentioned. India has a history spanning several millennia and developed over several geo-locations spanning the sub-continent, it said. Music in India began as an integral part of the socio-religious life, it noted.

The ministry said it is in receipt of request from ICCR for playing Indian music in the aircraft being operated in India and also at airports.

Mr Scindia had on December 23 visited the headquarters of the ICCR here and met its president Vinay Sahasrabuddhe.

The ICCR, which works under the Ministry of External Affairs, had said on Twitter that various suggestions were made during the meeting, "including promotion of Indian music in flights operated by the Indian air companies".

Eminent artists and musicians, including Malini Awasthi, Anu Malik, Kaushal S Inamdar, Shounak Abhisheki, Manjusha Patil K, Sanjeev Abhyankar, Rita Ganguly and Wasifuddin Dagarwere also present during the meeting, it added.

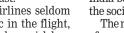














international

OBAMA TESTS COVID POSITIVE

Former US President Barack Obama has said that he tested positive for COVID-19 and urged fellow Americans to get vaccinated though the deadly disease is on the wane in the country



Missile barrage: Iran claims responsibility

THE ATTACK DREW HARSH CONDEMNATION **FROM THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT, WHICH CALLED IT A "VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND NORMS**"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad, March 14: Iran claimed responsibility Sunday for a missile barrage that struck near a sprawling US consulate complex in northern Iraq, saying it was retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed two members of its Revolutionary Guard earlier this week.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry Sunday summoned Iran's ambassador to protest the attack, calling it a flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty. No injuries were reported in Sunday's attack on the city of Irbil, which marked a significant escalation between the US and Iran. Hostility between the longtime

foes has often played out in Iraq, whose government is allied with both countries. The attack drew harsh condemnation from the Iraqi government, which called it a "violation of international law and norms" and demanded an explanation from the Iranian leadership. Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad al-Sahhaf said that the ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador, Iraj Masjedi, to deliver the diplomatic protest. The United States strongly condemned the strike and said it was an unjustified attack on a civilian residence.

'We will support the Government of Iraq in holding Iran accountable, and we will support our part ners

We will support the Government of Iraq in holding Iran accountable, and we will support our partners throughout the Middle East in confronting similar threats from Iran AKE SULLIVAN

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

Iraq's Foreign The United Ministry Sunday States summoned Iran's strongly condemned the ambassador to protest the strike and said attack, calling it was an it a flagrant uniustified violation of the attack on a country's civilian sovereignty residence

throughout the Middle East in confronting similar threats from Iran,' the White House national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said in a statement. "The United States of America stands behind the full sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Iraq."

No US facilities were damaged or personnel injured, State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters in Washington. The US had no indication the attack was directed at the US he said. Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said on its website that it attacked what it described as an Israeli spy center in Irbil.

It did not elaborate, but in a statement said Israel had been on the offensive, citing the recent strike that killed two members of the Revolutionary Guard. The semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted an unnamed source as saying Iran fired 10 Fateh missiles. including several Fateh-110 missiles, which have a range of about 300 kilometers (186 miles).

The source claimed the attack resulted in multiple casualties. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the allegations or the Iranian missile barrage. An Iraqi official in Baghdad initially said several missiles had hit the US consulate in Irbil, which is new and unoccupied, adding that it

had been the intended target of the attack. Later, Lawk Ghafari, the head of Kurdistan's foreign media office, said none of the missiles had struck the US facility but that residential areas around the compound had been hit.

The grim reality

Warsaw, March 14: As Russia's war in Ukraine becomes a grim new reality for millions of Ukrainians, the tens of thousands who make the increasingly treacherous journey toward safety in the European Union each day are left with no sense of when, or if, they'll ever return home.

More than 2.8 million people have fled Ukraine in the wake of Russia's invasion, according to the UN refugee agency, the vast majority seeking refuge in Poland which has taken in more than 1.7 refugees in the last 19 days.

In the Polish border town of Przemysl, some of those who are fleeing, mostly women and children, are exhausted and express a simple wish that the war and violence would stop. "All day crying from the pain of having to part with loved ones, with my husband, my parents," said Alexandra Beltuygova, 33, who fled from Dnipro, a city between the embattled metropolises of Kyiv and Mariupol.

"I understand that we may not see them. I wish this war would end," she said. At a refugee center in Suceava in northern Romania. 28-year-old Lesia Ostrovska watched over her 1-year-old son as her daughter, who is 8, played nearby with other children displaced by the war. "I left my husband, my father,

my mother, my grandparents,' said Ostrovska, who is from Chernivtsi in western Ukraine. "It's hard with kids, in the bus,



was driving from a simple wish that the (viv. I know that war and violence a house near us would stop as completely

destroyed this country's most populous cities, the number of morning those crossing into countries on the eastern edge of the EU has begun to slowly wane in recent days

MORE THAN 2.8 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE FLED UKRAINE

In Hungary, where around 255,000 refugees have entered so far, only 9,000 people crossed the border with Ukraine on Sunday compared to more than twice that on March 1, according to police.

In Slovakia, where more than 200.000 people have fled, fewer than 9,000 crossed the border on Sunday, down from more than 12,000 four days earlier. And in Poland on Sunday, about 82,000 refugees were admitted, down from an earlier daily peak of around 129,000. Still, those who managed to flee the vionly 9,000 people Ukraine Sunday

Ukraine's western bor-

Russia may face deep recession: IMF chief

Washington/Moscow: Russia may face a "deep recession," IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has said, as she warned that the impact of the "unprecedented" Western sanctions on Moscow for its military aggression against Ukraine will be "quite severe" for the Russian economy, IMF's

Musk challenges Putin

Washington: Elon Musk, the world's richest man, Monday challenged Russian President Vladimir Putin to a fight, with nothing less than the fate of Ukraine, the scene of Moscow's brutal invasion, at stake. The eccentric billionaire and founder of aerospace company SpaceX took to Twitter, where his messages are notoriously erratic, to see whether the Russian leader would test his mettle in person rather than through his country's forces fighting across the border. "I hereby challenge Vladimir Putin to single combat. Stakes are Ukraine," said Musk. "Do you accept this fight?" he added in Russian, directly addressing the official English-language Twitter account of the 69-year-old President. When one of Musk's 77 million followers wrote that the Tesla founder might not have thought his challenge through, Musk said he was "absolutely serious." "If Putin could so easily humiliate the west, then he would accept the challenge. But he will not," he added.

Ukraine President to address US Congress

Washington: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will deliver a virtual address to the US Congress as the Russian war on his country intensifies. Zelenskyy will speak Wednesday to members of the House and Senate. the Democratic leaders announced. The event will be livestreamed for the nublic. "The Congress, our country and the world are in awe of the people of Ukraine," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority

by launching airstrikes close to around 255,000 refugees the Polish border, raising fears in have entered so far, the West that the fight was edging closer to the EU and members of the crossed the border with NATO military alliance. Those strikes, which involved compared to more than waves of deadly Russian missiles hittwice that on March 1, ting a military training base less than according to police 25 kilometers (15 miles) from

olence continued to ar-Ukraine's border with NATO memrive in countries on ber Poland on Sunday, killed at least 35 people.

forces toward Kyiv comes a day after Russia escalated its offensive In Hungary, where



here in this situation ... We hope that the war is finished soon and we can go back home.'

As the fighting, now in its third week, continues to exact a grievous human toll in Ukraine with Russian troops bombarding many of the Managing Director Georgieva also said that a Russian sovereign default is no longer an "improbable event" because 🛒 the economic sanctions on Russia will

prevent it from accessing foreign reserves and paying down the outstanding debt. Half of the gold and foreign exchange reserves of the Bank of Russia have been frozen due to sanctions. Russia's Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said Sundav

Leader Chuck Schumer Monday, They said all lawmakers are invited to the talk that will be delivered via video at the U.S. Capitol. It comes as Congress recently approved \$13.6 billion in emergency military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

SHORT TAKES

Top nuke envoys hold talks 5 Indians dead in Canada accident

Rawat takes charge

Beijing: India's new ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat assumed charge Monday. Rawat arrived in China March 4 and underwent mandatory quarantine as per China's COVID-19 protocols.

Chinese envoy summoned

Manila: The Philippine government Mondav summoned the Chinese ambassador to protest what it said was the "illegal incursion' of a Chinese navy ship into the country's waters and to demand that Beijing order its ships to respect the country's territory and follow international law, officials said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Seoul, March 14: The top nuclear envoys of South Korea, the US and Japan Monday denounced North Korea's recent missile tests and called on Pyongyang to cease acts that could escalate tensions, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said.

Noh Kyu-duk, special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, his US counterpart Sung Kim and Japan's Takehiro Funakoshi spoke on the phone amid rising tension on the Korean Peninsula over the possibility of Pyongyang's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system test, reports Yonhap News Agency.



The trio denounced the North's recent spate of ballistic missile launches as violations of UN Security Council resolutions and urged it to return to dialogue at an early date, the ministry said in a release.

They also agreed to closely monitor Pyongyang's moves and remain in close cooperation to respond to its acts, it added. South Korea and the US accused Pyongyang on March 11 of having tested a new ICBM system on February 27 and March 5 ahead of a full-range missile test.

Seoul and Washington have detected signs that North Korea is preparing to conduct another ICBM firing as early as this week, according to informed sources. Concerns have persisted that the North could engage in more provocative acts as it made a veiled threat in January to lift its years-long self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and ICBM tests.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Toronto, March 14: Five Indian students have been killed here in a horrific road accident in Canada's Ontario province, the second major tragedy involving Indians in this country since January.

The accident between a passenger van and a tractor-trailer took place on Saturday on Highway 401 in the Quinte West city in Southern Ontario, The Canadian Press reported.

Harpreet Singh, 24, Jaspinder Singh, 21, Karanpal Singh, 21, Mohit Chouhan, 23 and Pawan Kumar, 23 were pronounced dead at the scene. Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in Quinte West said in a statement. The police said that they were all students in the Greater Toronto and Montreal areas

der. In Przemysl, some recounted

being witnesses to military attacks

on civilians, something Russia con-

fighting. I saw a lot of tanks when

I was driving from Kyiv. I know

that a house near us was com-

pletely destroyed this morning,"

said Inessa Armashova, 40, a res-

ident of the Ukrainian capital.

"Many people fled. But many can-

The continued push by Russian

PTI/REUTERS PHOTOS

not leave, sick children or sick eld-

'I saw destroyed houses and

tinues to deny.

erly people."

High Commissioner of India to Canada Ajay Bisaria termed the incident a "heart-breaking tragedy" and said the Indian mission in Toronto is in touch with friends of the victims for required assistance.

"Heart-breaking tragedy in Canada: 5 Indians students passed away in an auto accident near Toronto on Saturday. Two others in hospital. Deepest condolences to the families of the victims. @IndiainToronto team in touch with friends of the victims for assistance." he said on Twitter.

According to the report, the students were travelling west in the passenger van on Highway 401 on Saturday morning when they collided with a tractor trailer at around 3:45 AM (local time).

Two other passengers were taken to a nearby hospital with serious injuries following the crash, the police said, adding that an investigation into the accident was underway even though no charges have been laid

The driver of the tractor-trailer was not hurt, CTV News reported. "It's a tragedy. Nobody wants to respond to that call for service, but we're there, we're working," said OPP Constable Maggie Pickett on Saturday.

Putin signs law to allow online voting

Moscow: An online voting system that was criticised by some defeated candidates at parliamentary elections last year will be rolled out for use across Russia after President Vladimir Putin signed electronic voting procedures into law Monday. A coalition of defeated parliamentary candidates in Moscow claimed they were cheated of victory in a parliamentary election last September by the system and sought to try to overturn the results via lawsuits and public pressure.

China battles multiple outbreaks, driven by stealth Omicron

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei, March 14: China banned most people from leaving a coronavirus-hit northeastern province and mobilised military reservists Monday as the fast-spreading "stealth omicron" variant fuels the country's biggest outbreak since the start of the pandemic two years ago.

The National Health Commission

reported 1,337 locally transmitted

cases in the latest 24-hour period,

including 895 in the industrial

province of Jilin. A government no-

tice said that police permission

would be required for people to

leave the area or travel from one city

to another. The hard-hit province sent 7,000 reservists to help with the response, from keeping order and registering people at testing centers to using drones to carry out aerial spraying and disinfection, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Hundreds of cases were reported in other provinces and cities along China's east coast and inland as well. Beijing, which had six news cases, and Shanghai, with 41, locked down residential and office buildings where infected people had been found.

"Every day when I go to work, I worry that if our office building will suddenly be locked down then I won't be able to get home, so I



have bought a sleeping bag and stored some fast food in the office in advance, just in case," said Yimeng Li, a Shanghai resident. While mainland China's numbers

are small compared to many other countries, and even the semi-autonomous city of Hong Kong, they are the highest since COVID-19 killed thousands in the central city

Every day when I go to work, I worry that if our office building will suddenly be locked down then I won't be able to get home, so I have bought a sleeping bag and stored sleeping bag and stored some fast food in the office in advance, just in case

YIMENG LI I SHANGHAI RESIDENT

of Wuhan in early 2020. No deaths have been reported in the latest outbreaks. Hong Kong Monday reported 26,908 new cases and 249 deaths in its latest 24-hour period. The city counts its cases differ-

ently than the mainland, combining both rapid antigen tests and PCR test results. The city's leader, Carrie Lam, said authorities would not tighten pandemic restrictions for now. "I have to consider whether the public, whether the people would accept further measures," she said at a press briefing.

Mainland China has seen relatively few infections since the initial Wuhan outbreak as the government has held fast to its zero-tolerance strategy, which is focused on stopping transmission of the coronavirus by relying on strict lockdowns and mandatory quar-antines for anyone who has come into contact with a positive case.









business



SPICEJET TO LAUNCH 60 NEW DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Retail inflation

hits 8-month high

 ${
m R}^{
m etail}$ inflation hit an eight-month high of 6.07 per cent

in February, remaining above

the RBI's comfort level for the

second month in a row, gov-

ernment data showed. The pre-

vious high for retail inflation

was 6.26 per cent in June 2021.

The Consumer Price Index

In this food basket, inflation

in cereals moved up to 3.95 per

cent; 'meat and fish' to 7.45 per

cent, while for eggs, the rate of

price rise was 4.15 per cent

during the month. Among oth-

ers, vegetables turned dearer

with an inflation print of 6.13

per cent, and for spices it rose

to 6.09 per cent. In fruits, the in-

flation remained static at 2.26

SpiceJet Monday said it will launch 60 new domestic flights this summer. In a statement, the airline said it will launch eight industry-first flights, which will operate on the Gorakhpur-Kanpur, Gorakhpur Varanasi, Jaipur-Dharamshala and Tirupati-Shirdi sectors, in the summer schedule





Multiple expressions of interest received for privatization of HLL Lifecare Limited (HLL). The transaction moves ahead to the next stage

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY DIPAM SECRETARY

I am pleased to report to the house that pre-Covid our maximum number of passengers in India per day was about

four lakh and we reached a level of 3.83 lakh per day in the month of December

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

While the data shows that retail businesses are inching towards normalcy, we need to consider that the

growth shown is not adjusted to inflation and the possibility is that some categories are yet to get back quantitative growth

KUMAR RAJAGOPALAN CEO, RAI

SHORT TAKES

Chandrasekaran named AI chief

Mumbai: Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has been appointed as Air India Chairman, a group spokesperson said. The development comes as the Tata Group scouts for a new Air India CEO-MD. Earlier this month, ex-Turkish Airlines head Mehmet Ilker Ayci, who was named as the new Air India CEO-MD, declined the position. No reason was given for Ayci's decision. Last month, the Tata Group-led Air India announced the appointment of Ayci as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the airline.

Kotak hit by highest frauds

New Delhi: Kotak Mahindra Bank has been hit by the highest number of frauds at 642, involving ₹1 lakh and

COSTLIER CRUDE **Feb WPI inflation spikes to 13.11%**

The rise in crude oil and natural gas prices after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, beginning February 24, has put pressure on the wholesale price index, even though food articles saw softening across categories of vegetables to pulses to protein-rich items

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: The wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) in February rose to 13.11 per cent on hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items, even though food articles softened. After two months of mild easing,

WPI inflation accelerated in February and remained in double digits for the 11th consecutive month, beginning April 2021. Inflation in crude petroleum

spiked to 55.17 per cent during February, against 39.41 per cent in the previous month on rising prices of crude oil globally.

Inflation in food articles, however, eased to 8.19 per cent in February from 10.33 per cent. The rate of price rise in vegetables was lower at 26.93 per cent in February, against 38.45 per cent in the previous month.

In egg, meat and fish, inflation was 8.14 per cent, while in onion, it was (-) 26.37 per cent. Inflation in potatoes saw a sudden spike at 14.78 per cent in February, against (-)14.45 per cent in January.

Inflation in manufactured items was 9.84 per cent in February against 9.42 per cent in January. In the fuel and power basket, the rate of price rise was 31.50 per cent during the month.

"The high rate of inflation in February 2022, is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemicals and chemical



cent, while in February last year, it was 4.83 per cent The Reserve Bank last month kept its key

repo rate unchanged for the 10th time in a row at 4 per cent to support growth and manage inflationary pressures

Last month, the RBI had said headline inflation is expected to peak in the March quarter, within the tolerance band, and then moderate closer to target in the September-March period of 2022-23

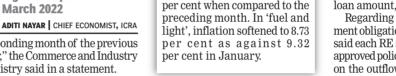
products, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles and non-food articles etc as compared to the cor-

₹15K CR TOWARDS FERTILISER SUBSIDY

The global surge in commodity prices, including crude and edible oils, poses the main risk to the WPI inflation trajectory. We

now expect the WPI inflation to print at a high 13-14 per cent in **March 2022**

responding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.



RBI approves MFIs to fix interest rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 14: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday allowed microfinance institutions (MFIs) to fix interest rates on loans with a rider that those should not be usurious for the borrowers.

Each regulated entity (RE) should put in place a board-approved policy regarding pricing of microfinance loans, said the 'Master Direction -Reserve Bank of India (Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans) Directions, 2022'. In the past, the central bank used to announce the rates on quarterly basis.

"Interest rates and other charges/ fees on microfinance loans should not be usurious. These shall be subjected to supervisory scrutiny by the Reserve Bank," it said. Also, each RE has to disclose

pricing-related information to a prospective borrower in a standardised simplified factsheet.

"Any fees to be charged to the microfinance borrower by the RE and/ or its partner/agent shall be explicitly disclosed in the factsheet. The borrower shall not be charged any amount which is not explicitly mentioned in the factsheet," it added.

The directions will come into force from April 1. Further, there should be no pre-payment penalty on microfinance loans.

"Penalty, if any, for delayed payment shall be applied on the overdue amount and not on the entire loan amount," the RBI said.

Regarding limit on loan repayment obligations of a household, it said each RE should have a boardapproved policy regarding the limit on the outflows on account of re-

A microfinance loan is defined as a collateral-free loan given to a household having an

annual income of up to ₹3 lakh

payment of monthly loan obligations of a household as a percentage of the monthly household income.

"This shall be subject to a limit of maximum 50 per cent of the monthly household income," it said. There should also be a standard form of loan agreement for microfinance loans in a language un derstood by the borrower.

Under the earlier guidelines, an NBFC that does not qualify as a nonbanking financial company - microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI), cannot extend microfinance loans exceeding 10 per cent of its total assets.

The maximum limit on microfinance loans for such NBFCs (NBFCs other than NBFC-MFIs) now stands revised at 25 per cent of the total assets. In December 2021, RBI had fixed the applicable average base rate to be charged by NBFC-MFIs to their borrowers for the quarter beginning January 1, 2022 at 7.89 per cent.

India eyes oil from Iran, Venezuela

India will also consider the Russian offer to sell crude oil at discounted prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: India, the world's third-largest energy-consuming and importing nation, is pinning hope on resumption of crude oil supplies from Venezuela and Iran as well as higher production from OPEC+ nations to help cool international oil prices that have hit multi-year highs.

Replying to supplementaries during question hour in the Rajya Sabha, Oil Minister Hardeep



Centre seeks Parl nod for additional ₹1.07trn in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: The government Monday sought Parliament nod for net additional spending of over ₹1.07 lakh crore, including about ₹15,000 crore towards fertiliser subsidy in the third batch of supplementary demands for current fiscal year. As per the third batch of supplementary demands for grants tabled in the Lok Sabha, approval is being sought for gross additional expenditure of over ₹1.58 lakh crore. Of this, proposals involving net cash outgo aggregate to over ₹1.07 lakh crore and gross additional expenditure, matched by savings of ministries/departments or by enhanced receipts aggregates to over ₹50,946 crore. For payment towards fertiliser subsidy, the government has sought additional fund to the tune of ₹14,902 crore and ₹13,049 crore for capital infusion in National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development. This also includes ₹5,000 crore as



The total expenditure of the central government for 2021-22 is estimated

(CPI) based retail inflation was 5.03 per cent in February 2021. It stood at 6.01 per cent in January this year. On the CPI front, the rate of price rise in the food basket was 5.89 per cent in February, up from 5.43per in the preceding month.

above, in first nine months of 2021-22, Parliament was informed Monday. It was followed by ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank at 518 and 377, respectively. Directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India to banks, and the government instituted wide-ranging structural and procedural reforms have helped check frauds in banks over the last five years and the amount involved has come down sharply, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

HAL signs pact with SASMOS

New Delhi: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an MoU with Bangalorebased company SASMOS to work together on advanced electronics, electrical and fibre optic interconnections in the aerospace domain. The memorandum of understanding was signed between the two companies March 11. HAL's subsidiary Naini Aerospace Limited (NAeL) was also a signatory to the MoU. SASMOS statement noted.

Paytm shares tank over 13%

New Delhi: Shares of One97 Communications Ltd, the parent firm of Paytm, Monday tumbled nearly 13 per cent after the RBI asked Vijay Shekhar Sharma-promoted Paytm Payments Bank to stop opening new accounts amid "material supervisory concerns" observed in the bank. The stock tanked 14.52 per cent to ₹662.25 -- the lowest since its listing during the day on BSE. It finally settled at ₹675.35, lower by 12.84 per cent.

grant in aid.

In addition, the government also sought ₹5,000 crore for recapitalisation of public sector general insurance companies, according to the document.

There are four public sector general insurance companies--New India Assurance Company, National Insurance Company Ltd (NICL), United India Insurance Company Ltd (UIICL) and Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL). The government has also sought

funds for recapitalisation of Regional Rural Banks, the third

(Revised Estimate), which is higher than the Budget Estimate of ₹34.83 lakh crore

at ₹37.70 lakh crore

and final batch of supplementary demands for grants said.

In the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State For Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled the supplementary demands for grants, 2021-22, and also Budget 2022-23 for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. For 2022-23, the total expenditure of the central government has been estimated at ₹39.45 lakh crore in Budget 2022-23, representing an increase of 13.3 per cent and 4.6 per cent over Budget Estimate and Revised Estimate of 2021-22, respectively.

Singh Puri said oil export from Venezuela and Iran had been hit due to sanctions.

The two nations are among those with the highest oil reserves in the world and were significant suppliers to India before US sanctions halted purchases.

"It is our hope and expectation that oil, not only from Venezuela, but other countries under sanction, will become available," he said. "I am hopeful that we will all use collectively, our margin of persuasion... To request the international community to make more oil available including from Venezuela".

Indian oil companies will enter into agreements with Venezuela and "equally (with) Iran" no sooner their oil comes into the market.

Bhubaneswar: Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director (Projects) - NTPC Limited, inaugurated the weeklong

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration at NTPC Darlipali along with Amita Bhattacharya, Senior Member

(Sanyukta Mahila Samiti) in the august presence of AK Samaiyar, CGM (NTPC Darlipali) and other senior

The Indian basket of crude oil had jumped to \$112.59/barrel by March 11, after averaging \$84.67/barrel in January and \$94.07 in February

he said. Stating that there are re-

had led to sanctions on Iran, is

likely to be resolved, the minister

said "that will also bring more oil

He hoped that "apart from oil

which will become available by

countries who, hitherto, were not

supplying on account of sanction,

existing OPEC plus will increase

their production" to cool oil prices.

a 14-year high of \$130 per barrel ear-

lier this month before retracting.

It was trading at over \$108 Monday.

International oil prices had hit

into the market."

India buys only a fraction of its oil from Russia but has been hit hard by a spike in global oil prices due to Western sanctions against Moscow, the world's second largest crude exporter

But retail petrol and diesel prices ports that the nuclear issue, which have remained unchanged for a record 130 days in a row.

Asked about the reported Russian offer to sell its crude oil and other raw materials at discounted prices with payment through a rupeesrubles transaction, Puri said the government will explore all options which are available.

He promised to report any arrangement that is worked out between Indian oil companies and their counterparts in the Russian Federation or with Iran or any other countries where more oil is coming up.

TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS TO \$20.88BN Feb exports up 25%, imports plunge 36%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: India's exports rose 25.1 per cent to \$34.57 billion in February on account of healthy growth in sectors like engineering, petroleum and chemicals, even as the trade deficit widened to \$20.88 billion, according to data by the commerce ministry.

Imports during the month too

jumped 36 per cent to \$55.45 billion, with

inbound shipments of petroleum and

crude oil surging 69 per cent to \$15.28

billion. Trade deficit - the difference

between imports and exports - stood

period April-February 2021-22 was

\$374.81 billion as against \$256.55

billion during the period April-

February 2020-21, registering a pos-

itive growth of 46.09 per cent," the

ministry said. Imports during the

11-month period rose 59.33 per cent

'Merchandise exports for the

at \$13.12 billion in February 2021.



Gold imports dipped by 9.65 per cent to \$4.8 billion. Imports of electronic goods rose about 29.53 per cent to \$6.27 billion. Exports of engineering goods, petroleum and chemicals in February increased by 32 per cent, 88.14 per cent and 25.38 per cent to \$9.32 billion, \$4.64 billion and \$2.4 billion, respectively.

ever, slipped by 1.78 per cent to \$1.96 billion. The country's edible oil imports rose 23 per cent to 9,83,608 tonne in February.

to \$550.56 billion. Trade deficit during this period widened to \$175.75 billion as against \$88.99 billion

during April-February 2020-21.

Pharmaceutical exports, how-

Tapan Singhel gets 5-year extension as Bajaj Allianz General's MD & CEO New Delhi: Bajaj Allianz General

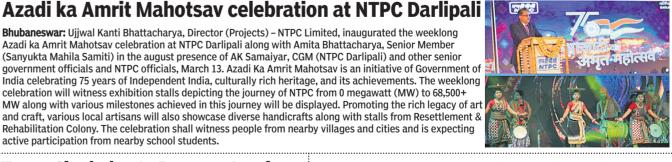
Insurance Monday announced a fiveyear tenure extension of its managing director and CEO Tapan Singhel. The new term will be effective from April 1, 2022, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance said in a statement. Under Singhel's leadership, the company has emerged as one of the largest and most profitable private general insurers in the country ensuring growth, profitability and customercentricity. In his decade-long stint as the

active participation from nearby school students.

MD and CEO, the company has achieved a cumulative underwriting profit of more than ₹350 crore, grew its revenue at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 16 per cent, grew its net profit (PAT) at a CAGR of over 30 per cent with a double growth in solvency ratio from 156 per cent to about 350 per cent.

energy security to the nation," said the CMD in his congratulatory message to all the employees. Surpassing all previous records, MCL has despatched over 166 MT dry fuel to the consumers, registering 22 per cent growth over a previous financial year while it has also removed 195 MCuM (million cubic meters) of





MCL becomes largest coal producing firm

Bhubaneswar: The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a unit of the CIL. has crossed 157 million tonne (MT) in coal production in the financial year of 2021-22, to become the leading coal producing company in the country, a release said. March 12, 2022, the company produced 7.62 lakh tonne of dry fuel which is the highest in a day during the current financial year reaching 157.7 MT with a growth of around 16 per cent over the last financial year, the company release said. Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the company, OP Singh congratulated all officers, staff, employees of contracted companies and other stakeholders for their contribution in making MCL the leading coal producing company in the country. "MCL has to play a bigger role in ensuring

over burden registering 19 per cent growth over the last financial year, the release added.











Rohit & co complete Sri Lankan series-whitewash with massive 238-run win in second Test as Karunaratne's fighting century goes in vain in Lakmal's farewell Test

INDIA WRAP UP SERIES

an improbable 447-run target, the Sri Lankan batters, led by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (107, 174b, 15x4), resisted the Indian attack for some time before folding for 208 in the post-tea session.

Left-handed Karunaratne, one of the most consistent performers for Sri Lanka in recent times, raised his 14th Test century with a boundary off Jasprit Bumrah (3/23). He took some time to settle but worked the ball around swiftly, consistently placing them in the gaps.

Bumrah eventually sent him back with slightly seaming ball that beat his bat to shatter the stumps. The lethal Indian fast bowler, who consistently made life tough for the Lankans, returned with match figures of 8/47, having taken a fifer at home for the first time in the first innings.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4/55), Axar Patel (2/37) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/48) did their bit in wrapping up the Lankan innings.

India now have won all three pink-ball Tests at home, having beaten beating Bangladesh (in Kolkata, 2019) and England (in Ahmedabad, 2021) before.

Two wins against Sri Lanka fetched India 24 points but Rohit Sharma's men remain in fifth position in World Championship table due to 'low percentage points' (54.16).

the Indian spinners.

Mendis was impressive on both front and back foot as he pulled and cut the short-pitched stuff and used his feet to cut down the spin. Karunaratne too charged down the wicket, following a similar plan

a single off Jadeja but was beaten by flight on an Ashwin delivery and was stumped by Rishabh Pant. That brought about the end of their fighting 96-run stand for the second wicket.

ward slide for the visitors. Jadeja cleaned up Angelo Mathews (1) and Ashwin had Dhananjaya de Silva (4) caught at forward shortleg.

Karunaratne was ruled caught

A small partnership began to develop between Karunaratne and Dickwella (12) even as Mohammed Shami troubled the batters with stumped and also sent back Charith Asalanka (5) by having him caught



Jasprit Bumrah congratulates Suranga Lakmal following his dismissal on his farewell Test

Dickwella did not build on a start. **BRIEF SCORES: India 252 &** 303/9d beat Sri Lanka 109 & 208 (Dimuth Karunaratne 107, Kusal Mendis 54; Ravichandran Ashwin 4/55, Jasprit Bumrah 3/23, Axar Patel 2/37, Ravindra Jadeja 1/48) by 238 runs.

He's got a lot of years left in him. We have lots of occasions to look forward to. I have

ball Tests are challenging **DIMUTH KARUNARATNE** Team's performance: I would have been happier if we had won the match. Once I got in, I knew I could get a big one. As a team, we know we are a decent team. We didn't get enough good starts to capitalise. And as a bowling unit, we gave too many loose balls On Lakmal: One of the best I have seen in my career. I am very happy for him

that he's going to county cricket and I

As a cricketer you want to evolve. In the past, I have made a few mistakes, but want to keep improving. It was a difficult pitch and I decided I had to attack the bowling early on. I think it's more about confidence. I used to ink too much about what I might miss Now I am focusing on my process

		FECT	CLIARADI	ANCLI	о стакі	DING	
	WORLD	LJI	CHAINFI	UNSIII	JIAN		
Team	PCT (%)	PTS	W	L	D	Series	
AUS	77.77	56	4	0	2	2*	
PAK	66.66	40	3	1	1	3*	
SA	60.00	36	3	2	0	2	
IND	58.33	77	6	3	2	4	
SL	50.00	24	2	2	0	2	
NZ	38.88	28	2	3	1	3	
BAN	25.00	12	1	3	0	2	
WI	23.33	14	1	3	1	3*	
ENG	11.67	14	1	6	3	3*	
		(*) st	ands for con	tinuing se	ries		

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 14: India extinguished whatever little spark Sri Lanka showed and wrapped up the second Test inside three days for a comprehensive 238-run win, completing a 2-0 whitewash of the Islanders, here Monday.

A herculean task at hand, Sri Lanka took the field on the third day with a lot of determination but it was always going to be tough to negotiate the Indian attack on a track that has been offering turn and uneven bounce from day one. Resuming at 28/1 in pursuit of

ROHIT MATCH-WINNING SPELL: R Ashwin is mobbed by his teammates after getting a wicket, Monday



They have 77 points in their kitty. 123 runs for loss of three wickets. Visitors' early positive intent, Adopting a positive yet cautious

something which has not been witnessed much in this series, resulted in a rare productive batting session for the Lankans who collected

STANDING TALL: Sri

Lankan skipper Dimuth

Karunaratne walks off

the field disappointed

as his century couldn't

avoid the team's

Monday

defeat in Bangalore,

approach, both Kusal Mendis (54, 60b, 8x4) and Karunaratne used their feet with confidence to counter

but Mendis was more expressive.

Mendis completed his fifty with

From there on, it was a down-

behind by umpire off Jadeja but the Lankan skipper survived, using DRS with replay showing that the ball had kissed the thigh pad and the bat before reaching Pant's gloves. He completed his fifty with a single off Axar, who replaced Ashwin from the pavilion end.

his pace. Axar broke the 55-run stand when he had Dickwella in backward short leg, where skip-

to ensure he's in a good mind space. Pink-



PLAYERS' TAKES ON SERIES TRIUMPH know he will do very well there as well

ROHIT SHARMA

On team's performance: It's been a good

run, and I have enjoyed it personally and

as a team. We wanted to achieve a few

things as a team, and we have done that

batter, and he seems to get better and

also improving as a bowler. And he's a

On Shreyas: Shreyas just carried on

gun fielder, so he is a complete package.

from where he left off in the T20 series

against Sri Lanka. He seemed to carry

that form into the Test series. He knew

guys like Rahane and Pujara, but he has

everything that he requires. He will be

better now when he starts travelling.

On Pant: Rishabh seems to get better

Especially in these conditions. We saw

it in the England series (last year) and

now. A couple of catches and stump-

On Ashwin: (On Ashwin) It was personally

my feeling (that he is an all-time great).

ings showed how confident he is

with each game that he plays.

he was stepping into the big shoes of

On Jadeja: We have seen Jadeja grow as a

better. He strengthens the team, and he's



Joshi, Bhagat shine as Evolving Barca rout Osasuna India secure 21 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 14: Manshi Joshi and Nithya Sre claimed a gold each, while Tokyo Paralympics champion Pramod Bhagat secured two silver and a bronze as India bagged as many as 21 medals at the Spanish Para Badminton International in Cartagena, Spain.

World No.1 Joshi (SL3) and Sre (SH6) were among the six gold medallists, while India also secured seven silvers and eight bronze medals in the level I tournament. which concluded Sunday.

Raja/Krishna (men's doubles SH6), Raj/Parul (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Chirag/Raj (men's doubles SU5) and Nitesh/Tarun (men's doubles SL3-SL4) also bagged the vellow metal

World No.1 Bhagat (SL3) secured two silver and a bronze, while World No.2 Sukant Kadam (SL4) ended up with a bronze medal at the event.

Tarun Dhillon (men's singles SL4), Krishna Nagar (men's singles SH6), Mandeep Kaur (women's singles SL3), Manasi/Ruthick (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Hardik/Ruthik (men's doubles SU5) and Manoj/Bhagat (men's doubles SL3-SL4) also won silver medals

The bronze medal winners were Nitesh Kumar (men's singles SL3). Manoj (men's singles SL3), Nilesh Gaikwad (men's singles SL4), Parul Parmar (women's singles SL3), Bhagat/Kohli (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Arwaz/Deep (men's doubles SL3-SL4), and Prem Ale/Abu Hubaida (men's doubles WH1-WH2).

1





It was a tough week and I couldn't

execute what I had planned for. I have identified my mistakes and will start working on them immediately. I am going to head straight back in to training and focus on my upcoming tournaments

PRAMOD BHAGAT

Kadam lost to World No.1 Lucas Mazur from France 21-19, 19-21, 12-21 in the semifinal to settle for a bronze. Mazur went ahead to secure gold medal defeating India's Tarun 21-7, 21-9 in the summit clash.

India had claimed 34 medals, including 11 gold, seven silver and 16 bronze, from the Spanish Para badminton International II event recently

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, March 14: It didn't take long for Barcelona's offense to regain their scoring touch. After being held to a disappointing scoreless draw with Galatasaray in the first leg of the round of 16 of the Europa League, Barcelona scored three goals in less than 30 minutes Sunday en route to a comfortable 40 win over Osasuna in the Spanish league.

Ferran Torres found the net twice and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Riqui Puig added a goal each to keep the Catalan club in third place. It has the same 51 points as Atlético Madrid but leads on the head-to-head tiebreaker. Barcelona also has a game in hand compared to the defending champions.

Barcelona and Atlético trail second-placed Sevilla by five points. League leaders Real Madrid, who will visit relegation-threatened Mallorca, are 12 points ahead of Barcelona and Atlético. Madrid host Barcelona next Sunday at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Barcelona had scored 14 goals in its last four matches in all competitions before the 0-0 home draw against Galatasaray Thursday. Torres opened the scoring

Sunday by converting a 14th-minute penalty kick and added to the lead seven minutes later from inside the area after a nice through ball by Ousmane Dembélé.

Dembélé also set up the third goal by Aubameyang in the 27th, making a well-placed cross into the box from the right flank, and the fourth by Puig in the 75th.

Barcelona defender Gerard Piqué, making his 600th appearance with the club, had a goal dis-



skipper Sergio Busquets at Camp Nou, Sunday

allowed for offside in the 55th.

Xavi Hernández's team is unbeaten in 10 straight games, since a loss at Athletic Bilbao in the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey in January.

Barcelona women's team, who clinched their third straight league title earlier in the day, was honoured before the match at the Camp Nou Stadium.

Sevilla were held again in their pursuit of Madrid with a 1-1 draw at Rayo Vallecano Sunday, and is seven points off the lead. It was the second consecutive

league draw for Sevilla, and sixth in its last eight matches in the competition. Julen Lopetegui's team extended its unbeaten streak in the league to 14 matches, since a loss at Madrid in November. It hasn't won in four straight away games, drawing all of them.

Bebé put the hosts ahead early in the second half and Thomas Delaney equalized for Sevilla in the 63rd. Sevilla had a penalty awarded in the second half but it was reversed by video review. It also had a goal disallowed by VAR early in the first half.

per Rohit Sharma took simple catch. Like the first innings,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five boxers clinch gold at Asian youth meet

NEW DELHI: Previous edition's medal winners Tamanna (50kg) and Nivedita Karki (48kg) were among five Indian women boxers who grabbed gold medals in the youth competition of the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan Monday. Shaheen (60kg), Ravina (63kg) and Muskan (75kg) were the other three boxers who also registered victories in the finals and bagged gold medals. Nivedita clinched a sensational 3-2 win over Uzbekistan's Saidakhon Rakhmonova. Tamanna defeated another Uzbek boxer Robiyankhon Bakhtiyorova by a similar margin. Shaheen (60kg) outperformed Mukhlisa Tokhirova, while Ravina thrashed UzbekSitora Bahodirova. Muskan also produced an aggressive show against Kazakhstan's Aidasaribarov before referee stopped the contest in the first round.

Shreyas named ICC **Player of the Month**

DUBAI: Fast-rising India batter Shreyas Iyer was on Monday voted the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for February, while New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr bagged the honour among women. Iyer earned the award on the back of his brilliant white-ball exploits during the home series against the West Indies and Sri Lanka respectively last month. He pipped UAE's Vriitya Aravind and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee to claim the honour. Kerr, the 21-year-old New Zealand allrounder, was named the Women's POTM, following her supreme consistency with both bat and ball during the home white-ball series against India. Kerr was chosen ahead of fellow nominees, India captain Mithali Raj and all-rounder Deepti Sharma for the award.

Junior eves' handball team create history

NEW DELHI: Indian women's handball team Monday scripted history by clinching the country's maiden gold medal in the Asian junior championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan and qualifying for the world championships later this year. The Indian team beat Thailand 41-18 in its fourth and final match on Monday to top the fiveteam tournament. India finished on top of standings with six points - from three wins and one loss. The team beat Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, besides Thailand and lost to Iran. By virtue of the top-place finish, India qualified for the 23rd IHF Women's Junior World Championships to be held in Slovenia from June 22 to July 3.

Barca USD 157 million over spending limit

MADRID: Barcelona's spending power has been reduced again, with the club heading into the next transfer window more than 144 million euros (USD 157 million) over its limit, the Spanish league said Monday. Barcelona is the only club in the first and second divisions of Spain with a negative spending limit after the league updated its figures following the winter transfer window. Real Madrid is at the top of the list with a cap of 739 million euros (USD 809 million). The Catalan club will still be able to sign new players if it wants, but it will be tied to further spending restrictions. Its ability to add players will depend on how much the club will be able to save and earn in general.



Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159







