

WE WANT TO BECOME ODISHA'S MOST RELIABLE NAME IN REAL ESTATE SECTOR



Images are for referral graphical representation only

Searoses, Sipasarubali, Puri

Established in December 2005, EVOS takes pride in its uncompromising integrity in customer engagement and quality assurance and has been driven by a visionary leader Kalinga Keshari Rath, who has committed to re-defining living in the housing real estate sector.

An alumnus of IIM Bangalore, Rath completed his Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering from OEC. He then completed his MBA in Entrepreneurship from Gurukul. With about nine years of experience in the real estate sector, Rath started with urban houses in Odisha and has now become a stalwart in the housing real-estate sector.

How has your journey been as an entrepreneur in the housing real-estate sector?

I became an entrepreneur after completing my BTech. However, I had an inkling of entrepreneurship since childhood. In school, I had an active interest in debate competitions. I would

often become friends with people who were my seniors, and we would have some of the greatest conversations. When I was finishing my graduation, my professor wanted to talk to me. He told me to fulfill my dreams, I needed to be an entrepreneur. He said that not only do you want to dedicate your life to a greater cause, but you also want to earn big and become a well-known name in society, which is only possible through entrepreneurship. He also gave me a mathematical break up of how being an entrepreneur would help me earn enough money and help people within a span of time. This motivated me a lot.

Secondly, when I ventured into this uncertain and unpredictable world of business, I decided to dedicate my life to society and mankind. I am a devotee of Shri Shri Thakur Anukulchandra Satsang, one of the largest spiritual organizations in the globe. Many leading names such as Mahatma Gandhi would often come and

meet him. He has been a huge source of inspiration and motivation for me. He taught me to have an ideal-centric life, which would focus on society. If you have dedication towards a guru, it can be anyone, it keeps your life in balance. This is the only way you can bring transformation into your own life.

What kind of challenges did you face, and what hurdles did you overcome when you started EVOS initially?

The first challenge was that I was a first-generation entrepreneur. So, I did not possess any qualities of an entrepreneur; like financial discipline. Financial discipline is an essential and important characteristic of an entrepreneur. We must be rigid in following financial discipline as it is essential to run a successful business. Moreover, because I didn't have any experience, I did not get any bank loans. This is usually the biggest challenge of an entrepreneur.



Nirvana, Vivekananda Marg, Bhubaneswar



Galaxy, Near Ram Mandir, Bhubaneswar

As a businessman, you need finances to start an organization. If you have a firm intent, then you can easily get finances. Today, the State Bank of India is one of our biggest supporters. It depends on how badly you want something. If you want it enough, then you need to work hard on it and you will get your desired results.

How did you introduce innovation to redefine the housing real-estate sector?

I believe that it's not money that builds your money. It's creativity that helps your money grow. In our company, we have been constantly conducting research and dedicatedly working for R&D. I struggled a lot initially to get the appropriate talent in our organization. Then I went around the country and found the best architects from Bengaluru, Delhi NCR, Kolkata and Bhubaneswar. Ultimately, I found an architect who was well-known in the field and had also worked for Lodha. After I got him on our team, he helped us design two of our apartment complexes, which are the first of their kind in Eastern India. I have hired great landscaping architects as well. Overall, a good team makes for a good business and also contributes to the creative process of things.

How did the people of Bhubaneswar accept the culture of apartment complexes?

Our current projects are the talk of the town right now. The people of Bhubaneswar have become really used to the culture of lifestyle projects and apartment complexes. Most of these people are staying abroad, some stay in other metropolitan cities of the country. So, these people were anyway looking for high-rise apartments, but they could not find anything in Bhubaneswar. When they found it in EVOS, they got really excited about it.

What are the unique qualities that EVOS offers its consumers?

We have our four core values such as reliability, quality, customer-centric, and continuous upgradation. So, our interactions with our customers, colleagues, channel-partners, vendors, and society at large are defined and enriched by these values. We always give handovers on time and have never given customers any space to complain about our services. We have the approvals from RERA. Our biggest flex is that we have zero complaints against ourselves in RERA.

What is the company doing for people in the healthcare sector?

Doctors are next to God. So, we provide them and other healthcare professionals with certain discounts. They have done a fabulous job in society during the pandemic. My Thakur was also an MMBS doctor. We have made an entire society dedicated to healthcare professionals.

What is the vision of the company?

Our vision is to become one of the most reliable companies in Odisha by March 31, 2027. We also want to become one of the most reliable company in the world by making 500 million happy customers and thereby making a \$100 billion net worth company by September 2050. We are doing a lot of CSR activities in education and health, so we want to make an impact in these sectors too.

What is your message to young and budding entrepreneurs?

I want to tell them that they must have a strong intent to give back to society. If you have a strong intent then you can make changes in society. So, financial discipline and intent will take young people on a good path of entrepreneurship.



Kalinga Keshari Rath, MD, EVOS Buildcon hands over a 'Token of Love' to Anupam Kher



COME HOME TO A LOVEMARK.

As one of the most progressive and pioneering real estate brands of Odisha, we at EVOS have resolved to create Lovemarks. A home that is a creation from the heart, an outpouring of passion for the finest that life has to ever offer. A life space that brings together the best of the best, curated by the celebrated. At EVOS a home is where the heart is. And the heart is where a lovemark is. So if you're thinking of a home in your homeland, think no further than an EVOS Lovemark.



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ASGHARI DISMISSES RUMOURS OF SPLIT FROM BRITNEY SPEARS

Britney Spears's husband, Sam Asghari, has hit back at the speculation about their marriage being on the rocks. The 29-year-old model has been married to 41-year-old Britney last year - but lately, they have both been spotted out and about without their wedding rings on.

RATAJKOWSKI PLANS TO BECOME A SCREENWRITER AND NOVELIST

Actress Emily Ratajkowski said that her next career move could be as a screenwriter and novelist, after her book *My Body* became a bestseller. Ratajkowski said: "I would love to try my hand at screenwriting and build out a media company."



Samantha teaches how to multitask

Hyderabad: Samantha Ruth Prabhu is always known to steal the limelight with her sense of style, her lifestyle choice, and not to mention, her acting skills. The actress is gearing up for the release of her highly anticipated mythological film *Shaakuntalam*. She has been rigorously promoting the film by attending interviews in Hyderabad and Mumbai. Amidst all this hustle, the actress shared on her social media how she relaxes.

In a picture on her Instagram story, *The Family Man* actress can be seen meditating inside the car wearing a white cotton loose kurta and pants. Holding mala beads in her hand and her fingers in a mudra, the actress seems to be in a zen state of mind. What catches the attention is the actress is also focusing on her skincare game as she has put on a silver sheet mask on her face. With unkempt hair and shades on,

Samantha surely cuts a cool picture. In case, fans get confused, she wrote in the caption of the photo, "Me."

On the work front Samantha's *Shaakuntalam* is based on a popular Indian play *Shakuntala* by Kalidasa and will see actor Dev Mohan as Dushyanta, the king of the Puru Dynasty.

AGENCIES



Priyanka's 'victim of politics' comment gets validated

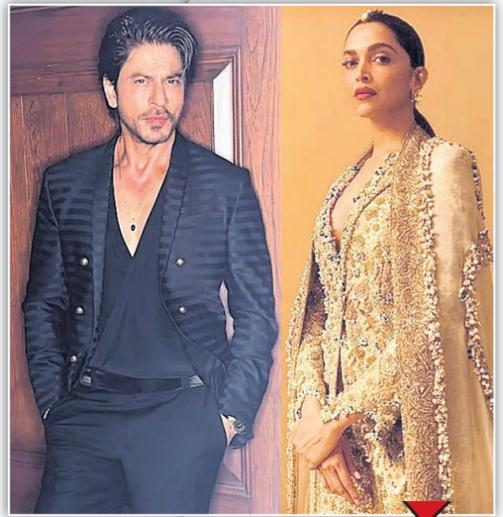
Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra sent the industry in a tizzy when she announced in a podcast last week that she was forced to move abroad since the Hindi film industry had 'cornered' her and she became a victim of politics. Soon after, actors like Shekhar Suman and Kangana Ranaut came out in her support.

At a recent event, actor Neetu Chandra was quizzed on the same and she said that this is not something new. Answering a pap, she said, "It happens with everyone, not any one person." She further added, "If

you don't come from a film family, you have to fight for opportunities in this industry. Priyanka has felt it, I have felt it. A lot of other people have felt it."

Earlier the *Aitraaz* star said, "I was not happy with the work I was getting in Bollywood. I am going to talk about this for the first time because I feel insecure to talk about it. Anjali Acharya of *Desi Hits* once saw me in a music video and asked me if I would like to make my music career in America? I was looking for an escape from Bollywood at that time. I was being pushed into a corner in the industry. People were not casting me. I was tired of politics and I needed a break."

AGENCIES



Deepika is 'dead' over SRK's black suit look

Mumbai: Actress Deepika Padukone had an epic reaction on seeing superstar Shah Rukh Khan's look from the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre event. Shah Rukh suited up in a black V-neck t-shirt, black pants and a black blazer, paired with a diamond pendant for the event. He was joined by wife Gauri Khan, daughter Suhana Khan and son Aryan Khan at the event.

Stylist Shaleena Nathani shared a picture of SRK's look for the event. She wrote: "DEADDDDD !!! @iamsrk today for the opening of @nmacc.india."

Soon after, Deepika Padukone commented on the post: "Me Too!"

SRK and Deepika were seen sharing screen space in this year's blockbuster *Pathaan*, which also stars John Abraham, Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana.

On the work front, SRK has *Jawan* and *Dunki*. Deepika will next be seen in *Fighter* starring Hrithik Roshan.

AGENCIES

'Support my cinema, I will not enter politics'

Bangalore: *Kantara* fame Rishab Shetty has clarified his stand on joining politics on social media and said that he is not joining politics. He also appealed to fans to support his cinema.

Rishab Shetty, reacting to a tweet by a journalist that he is joining politics, stated: please state that it is a false news. Say clearly that today is April 1. "Few people have already projected me as a supporter of a certain party: I will never go into politics," he underlined.

One of his fans had reacted that he should join politics and he will support him. Rishab Shetty asked him that he does not need his support in politics. "Please support my cinemas, that is more than enough," he stated.

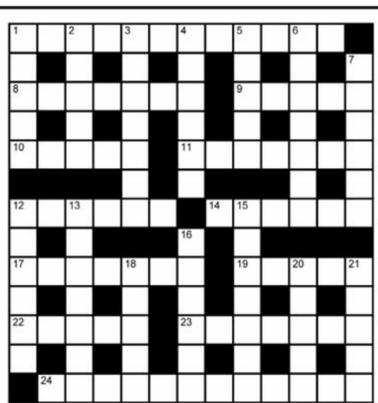
Rumours spread following the release of the *Kantara* movie that he will join a certain political party. His appeal to movie goers to not mock the screams of God shown in *Kantara* movie and his temple visits also indicated that he would support and come to politics.

However, Rishab Shetty has pulled curtains on all rumours and categorically stated that he would not enter politics.

IANIS



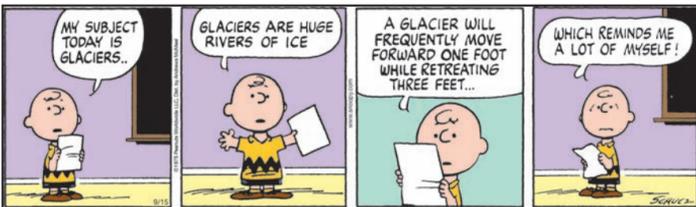
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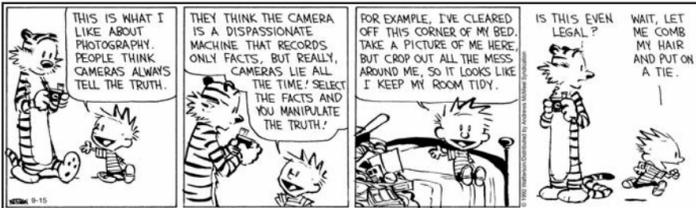
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- Across**
- 1 Hotel amenity, at times (8,4)
 - 8 Median
 - 9 Expression
 - 10 Item for 14
 - 11 Backache
 - 12 Brie or limburger
 - 14 Painter
 - 17 Provide food
 - 19 Bleeper
 - 22 Flower part
 - 23 Large spotted cat
 - 24 Bank delivery vans (8,4)
 - 6 Japanese craft
 - 7 Bring in from abroad
 - 12 Awning
 - 13 The Great Circle
 - 15 Parachute necessity
 - 16 Certain ship for hunting
 - 18 Arctic hut
 - 20 Gold Coast
 - 21 Carnival attractions
- Down**
- 1 Frighten
 - 2 Concepts
 - 3 Child's disease, usually
 - 4 Tailor's tool
 - 5 Optical device

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BREVITY



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SUDOKU

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

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PRADHAN VISITS KOTIA

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visits Kotia, incidentally meets an AP official and tells him to 'go back'

STATE P3



BEASLEY'S WARNING

WFP head David Beasley warns the world will see mass migration, destabilised countries & starvation in next 12 to 18 months

INTERNATIONAL P6



SINDHU ENTERS FINAL

PV Sindhu reaches her first final of the year as she battles past Singapore's Yeo Jia Min at Madrid Masters badminton

SPORTS P8



ROAD OR RIVER: A stretch near Bomikhal in Bhubaneswar got inundated following torrential rain, Saturday, much to the inconvenience of commuters, Saturday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

State-funded metro rail soon

THE MEGA PROJECT WILL CONNECT CUTTACK AND BHUBANESWAR IN THE FIRST PHASE AND LATER EXTEND TO PURI AND KHURDA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: On the occasion of Utkal Divas, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday announced the much-awaited metro train project on the about 100-km Cuttack-Bhubaneswar-Khurda-Puri route in order to ease heavy traffic congestions.

The project has been studied by various stakeholders and feasibility reports have been prepared. It will be predominantly based on elevated corridors and will be entirely funded by the state government, Patnaik said.

In the first phase, the government will create the metro trunk route from Trisulia near Cuttack to Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar. The route will tentatively touch major landmarks like Nandankanan, Patia, Vani Vihar, Railway station and other key points, Patnaik said.

As the project is starting from near Subhas Bose Setu, it will enable the commuters from Cuttack to access important locations in Bhubaneswar. In later phases, the

Bhub-Dubai direct flight from May 15

BHUBANESWAR: Direct flight from Bhubaneswar to Dubai will take off from Biju Patnaik International Airport here May 15. Ahead of the flight operation, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the ticket sales Saturday, on the day of Utkal Divas. Patnaik said, "Connectivity is key to development and it has been a focus area of our government. Direct connectivity with Dubai which is one of the biggest aviation hubs will open up a direct gateway to the world." Not only will it provide seamless connectivity but will also have a huge multiplier effect on investment in Odisha in sectors like IT, manufacturing and tourism, he said, adding, "This is the aspiration of New Odisha and I am very happy to open ticket sales for the Dubai Flight."



P2

The metro project will be predominantly based on elevated corridors and entirely funded by the state government

metro project will expand to Khurda and Puri, he said. The Chief Minister has asked the Housing and Urban Development department to complete the detailed project report (DPR) on a war footing.

"We have always strived to push boundaries and improve the lives of our people. And today, with the announcement of this new project, we are taking another step towards a 'New Odisha' to provide best in class metro services for the people of the state," Patnaik said.

"Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, the metro rail project will not only offer world-class, environment-friendly urban transport for an emerging and aspirational Odisha but also spur economic activities and accelerate expansion of our urban city cluster covering Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and Khurda," he pointed out.

The Chief Minister further said the emergence of a modern and planned city cluster will attract people, investments, trade, and tourism like never before. This will be a truly a transformational project implemented using the principles of 5T.

Contd...P4

Morning classes from April 11

Bhubaneswar: The state government has directed all the schools to conduct morning classes as a preventive measure against possible heatwave situation, an official said Saturday. According to sources, the 2023-24 academic year will begin April 3. "Keeping in view the possible heatwave condition, Classes I to XII will function between 7am and 11:30am starting April 11," said the official, quoting the government directive. District Collectors can, however, decide on the timings of the schools under their jurisdiction in accordance with the ground situation.

Sidhu walks free, says democracy in chains

PATIALA: Soon after walking out of the Patiala Central Jail Saturday, Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu slammed the Centre, alleging that democracy is in chains and institutions have turned slaves in the country. He also claimed that a conspiracy is being hatched to impose the President's Rule in Punjab. Sidhu described Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann as "akhabri mukhmantri" and criticised his government.

Man arrested for stealing, selling data of 67cr people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, April 1: Cyberabad Police Saturday said they arrested a person who was allegedly involved in stealing, holding and selling of personal and confidential data of 66.9 crore individuals and organisations maintained in 104 categories," it said.

Some of the important data held by the accused includes the data of defence personnel, government employees, PAN card holders, data of 9th, 10th, 11 & 12th standard students, senior citizens, Delhi electricity consumers, D-MAT account holders, mobile numbers, NEET aspirants, HNIs, insurance holders, credit card and debit card holders among others, the release said.

portals, social media platforms and fintech companies.

"The accused who was arrested Friday was found selling personal and confidential data of about 66.9 crore individuals and organisations maintained in 104 categories," it said.

Some of the important data held by the accused includes the data of defence personnel, government employees, PAN card holders, data of 9th, 10th, 11 & 12th standard students, senior citizens, Delhi electricity consumers, D-MAT account holders, mobile numbers, NEET aspirants, HNIs, insurance holders, credit card and debit card holders among others, the release said.

Govt nod to ₹35,760cr investment projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA), led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Saturday, approved five mega industrial projects worth ₹35,760 crore that would generate over 38,100 employment opportunities in the state, an official said.

The approved projects, which are from diverse sectors like IT and ESDM/green energy equipment, steel, chemicals and textile, will be set up in Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur and Keonjhar districts.

The HLCA has given a go-ahead to two projects in the steel sector, one project each in green energy equipment, chemicals and textile sectors.

The CM-led panel has approved the proposal of WAREE Energies Limited to set up an integrated solar equipment manufacturing complex at Neulapoi in Dhenkanal with an investment of ₹25,000 crore.

The project, which is expected to generate 14,000 employment opportunities, would be the largest of its kind manufacturing facility, and will develop the ecosystem for further investment in the sector, said the official.

The committee approved the proposal of

Super Smelters Limited to set up a 1.8 MTPA integrated steel plant in Keonjhar with an investment of ₹5,436.10 crore. The plant is expected to provide jobs for about 19,000 people in the state.

The HLCA also approved Kashvi Power and Steel Private Limited's proposal to set up an integrated steel plant at Kalpal in Keonjhar with an investment of ₹1,600 crore. The 0.55 MTPA plant will create over 3,500 jobs in Odisha.

Two projects in steel sector, and one each in green energy equipment, chemicals & textile sectors got HLCA approval

MCPI Private Limited's proposal to set up manufacturing unit for HMLS polyester-based tyre cord fabrics, HTLE yarns, High IV and CP chips at Bhadrak Technical Textile Park with an investment of ₹2,223.25 crore also got approval. The unit will provide employment opportunities to over 1,150 people.

The authority also approved a project by IVL Dhunseri Petrochem Industries Limited to set up a 60,000 MTPA bottle grade PET resin facility at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur. With an investment of ₹1,500 crore, the facility will create employment opportunities for at least 450 people of the state.

On Friday, the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) approved six industrial projects worth ₹854.17 crore that aimed at generating at least 2,167 employment opportunities, it was learnt.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



India's poor ranking in happiness index can be a great excuse to put all those stand-up comics behind bars

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 29.1°C	33.0°C
	MIN 19.4°C	19.5°C
Humidity	82%	91%
Rainfall	10.6mm	12.4mm
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

106-yr-old tattoo artist becomes Vogue's oldest-ever cover star

Apo Whang-Od mostly works with international visitors, who make the long pilgrimage to Kalinga for her famous geometric designs



With muted silver hair, the heavily tattooed artist cuts a striking figure with soft eyes and weathered hands that carried local traditions safely into the 21st century

Whang-Od started learning the indigenous tradition of hand-tapping tattoos when she was a teenager. A cultural icon in her own right, she is considered to be the oldest, and perhaps the last, mambabatok (traditional Kalinga tattoo artist).

The tattoos that were once reserved for warriors from the Butbut tribe held high cultural significance and had to be earned. Now, Whang-Od mostly works with international visitors, who make the long pilgrimage to Kalinga for her famous geometric designs. She believes the tradition will continue as long as people have a flair for the tattoos and keep visiting her.

On safeguarding the processes of Kalinga tattoo artistry, Whang-Od told CNN Travel, "I'm the only one left alive that's still giving tattoos. But I'm not afraid that the tradition will end because I'm training the next tattoo masters." Contd...P2

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ARIES
 You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, you may want to mix business with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
 Light bulbs will flash relentlessly today, as you ideate in the fervour of a creative mood. Your business acumen will help you negotiate problems with ease. The reticent Taurus charm will ring out loud in your laughter, as you deal with your bosses and colleagues at the workplace, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
 Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

CANCER
 You may feel like flaunting your so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked.

LEO
 If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesh. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some.

VIRGO
 Today, your power and finance will be greater than ever before, says Ganesh. You will also be inclined to make monetary provisions for any future economic instability that may arise.

LIBRA
 Today promises to be a busy day that will keep you occupied. You may also engage in written correspondence to re-establish some old contacts. Ganesh doesn't rule out optimum use of the phone for this purpose. When it comes to the work front, Ganesh predicts you will be asked to bring order to the workplace.

SCORPIO
 You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter.

SAGITTARIUS
 Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesh. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided.

CAPRICORN
 You may be attentive, as much as an eagle is while chasing its prey, but you still need to be careful when signing any important legal documents, advises Ganesh. Brokers and dealers, especially, are likely to incur heavy losses unless they take necessary precautions to avert misfortune.

AQUARIUS
 Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesh says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess.

PISCES
 Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesh.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

Gangadhar Mohanty, S/o. Late Lokanath Mohanty, At: Sasanipada, Manikpur, Patkura, Dist.: Kendrapada vide Sale Deed No. 976 Dtd.02.02.1991 and ROR Khata No. 257/96, Plot No. 755/932/988 has been lost in BJB College, Campus Road on Dtd.24.03.2023. Please Contact No. 9938069067/9777107268.

Ticket sale begins for direct flight to Dubai



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: The much awaited direct international flight from Bhubaneswar to Dubai will take off from Biju Patnaik International Airport here May 15.

Ahead of the flight operation, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday launched ticket sales on the occasion of Utkal Divas.

Patnaik said, "Connectivity is key to development and it has been a focus area of our government. Direct connectivity with Dubai which is one of the biggest aviation hubs will open up a direct gateway to the world."

Not only it will provide seamless connectivity but also it will have a huge multiplier effect on investment in Odisha in sectors like IT, manufacturing and tourism, he said, adding, "This is the aspiration of New Odisha and I am very happy

Connectivity is key to development and it has been a focus area of our government. Direct connectivity with Dubai will open up a direct gateway to the world

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

to open ticket sales for the Dubai Flight."

The CM handed over the first eight tickets to Mission Shakti women, sportspersons, tribal leaders, skilled in Odisha students and artists.

While attending Make In Odisha Conclave in Dubai, the Chief Minister had assured the investor community and Odia diaspora that direct flight will commence to ease travel from the Middle East. Naveen had also given approval to completely fund the flight operations.

Dubai being one of the biggest travel hubs, commencement of direct flight connectivity will open up new avenues for investment, trade and tourism.

It will also offer a convenient option for leisure travellers from across the world, looking to visit Odisha.

Further, within 2 weeks of the launch of direct flight to Dubai, international flight operations will commence to Singapore and Bangkok realizing Odisha's vision to become the gateway to the East, he said.

Direct connectivity to aviation hubs like Dubai, Singapore and Bangkok will give a huge boost to connectivity facilitating travel for investor communities, tourists as well as seamless and economic travel options to Odia people working in these regions.

Indigo Airlines has recently won the bid to operate direct flights to these three important gateways. As per the agreement, Indigo Airlines will operate direct flights from Biju Patnaik International Airport thrice a week.

Inaugural ticket prices have been set to begin at Rs 10,000 per single side journey and Rs 20,000 for round trip. Each flight will have the subsidised tickets on a first come first serve basis.



Novelist Bibhuti Patnaik being felicitated in presence of dignitaries including MP Manas Mangaraj, Chief Secretary PK Jena, journalist Sumit Awasthi and Nandighosha TV editor Sisir Bhattamishra during 'Jati Nandighosha Conclave 2023' at a City hotel, Saturday

Prez, PM, CM greet people on 'Utkal Divas'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 1: President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday greeted the people of Odisha on the occasion of 'Utkal Divas'.

Murmu, who hails from Odisha, in a Twitter post in Odia language said: "My greetings to fellow citizens, especially to the people of the state, on Odisha Day. With abundant natural resources, skilled and industrious people, Odisha has the potential to be the growth engine of our economy. My best wishes for a bright future of the people of Odisha." Modi also Tweeted in Odia saying: "Best wishes on Utkala Dibasa. This is a day to acknowledge the role of Odisha, Odia people,



Utkal Divas celebration by Swapna Pati Foundation in City

ple, and culture in the progress of our nation. May the people of Odisha be blessed with good health and prosperity in the times to come."

Shah also extended his greetings to the people of Odisha.

The Chief Minister in a Tweet in Odia said: "Heartiest greetings and congratulations to all on the occasion of Odisha Day. I pay my respects to the leaders who worked

selflessly for the creation of a separate Odisha state. Let's maintain the pride and dignity of the Odisha community and continue with determination to build a new Odisha, an ambitious Odisha."

Odisha's ancient name was Utkal. Utkal Dibasa is celebrated across the state to mark the formation of separate Odisha state April 1, 1936. The state was spelt as 'Orissa' till 2011 and later changed to Odisha.

Study leave duration for doctors extended

The state government, modifying its rules, also approved the proposal for allowing doctors to avail study leave within the first 5 years of their service

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: In a move towards facilitating specialisation among doctors working in government hospitals and medical colleges in Odisha, the state government has enhanced the study leave available to them from 3 years to 6 years.

The state government, modifying its rules, also approved the proposal for allowing study leave to doctors within the first 5 years of their service.

Further, extra-ordinary leave (EOL) taken for higher study is allowed to be counted towards Dynamic Assured Career Progression (DACP).

"Rule 181 of the Odisha Service Code stipulates that study leave can be granted to doctors working under the Health & FW department up to a maximum of three years in their service career, subject to the condition that total period of study leave, in combination with other kinds of leave

except for leave on medical certificate or extraordinary leave, does not involve an absence from duty for more than 36 months," the memorandum reads.

"The above provision has been reviewed for doctors undergoing higher study and after careful consideration, government is pleased to decide that study leave may be granted to doctors working under the Health & family Welfare Department upto a maximum period of 6 years for pursuing PG and post-PG higher studies, subject to the conditions," it stated.

Further, as per Rule-180 of Odisha Service Code, study leave would not be granted to government ser-

vants before 5 years of service or within three years from the date of retirement. Accordingly, doctors aren't entitled for study leave unless they have completed 5 years of regular service.

"The above provision has been reviewed in case of doctors pursuing higher study and after careful consideration government has decided that study leave may be granted to doctors working under the H&FW department within the first 5 years of service," it explained.

These changes will benefit many doctors who often have to take a break from practice, hampering the progress of their careers, in order to pursue higher studies.

SBI donates ambulance to Konark Cancer Foundation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle recently donated an ambulance (Force Trax Cruiser) to Konark Cancer Foundation. Konark Cancer Foundation is a pioneer organization providing all types of support to cancer patients of Odisha. In a function held at SBI Bhubaneswar Administrative Office, SBI Bhubaneswar Circle CGM Chander Shekhar Sharma handed over vehicle keys to Arup Mohan Pattnaik, Managing Trustee of Konark Cancer



Foundation. GM-1 P Murugan, CDO Manoj Kumar Singh, DGM (B&O) Bhubaneswar Zone Sanjay Kumar Jha, AGM (Marketing & Communication) Amaresh Das, other officials and staff members of SBI Administrative office Bhubaneswar and Konark Cancer Foundation were also present in the event.

Continued from P1

State-funded metro rail soon

"This is the New Odisha we are aspiring to create as our humble tribute to the people and the creators of our beloved state of Odisha," he added.

Stating that Odisha people have also excelled in multiple fields and made their mark across the world, Patnaik said, "Odisha synonymous with a rich cultural heritage is today also known for good governance, people centric administration, inclusivity, disaster management women empowerment, sporting excellence, world-class skilling programmes, high socioeconomic indicators, great infrastructure, and so on, Odisha is on cusp of deep transformative change."

State's journey forward is guided by the great leaders who aspired and gave us the 1st linguistic state in 1936, he said.

"With the blessings of visionary forefathers like Biju Patnaik, we need to dream big and work hard to become one of the most progressive States of the country," he added.

Earlier, the then Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena had informed the Assembly that Hyderabad-based Balaji Railroad Systems Limited (BARSYL) was asked in August 2014 to prepare a feasibility report for a mass rapid transit system. BARSYL, in its pre-feasibility report, found that a full-scale metro was not feasible in Bhubaneswar citing low population and huge project cost.

"We had asked the company to re-conduct the study by extending the project limits up to Khurda-Jatni. In its report, the company had stated 'a full-scale metro rail project is not feasible till 2041'. In view of the report, we had not proposed the Centre for the project," Jena had informed the House in March 2021.

Welcoming the move, Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra raised questions about the project. "It is not clear as to how much money is required for the project. Whether the state discussed the project with the Centre or not? Is it not an April fool idea," he asked.

106-yr-old tattoo artist becomes...

For several years now, she has been teaching her grandnieces Elyang Wigan and Grace Palicas how to create tattoos using only bamboo sticks, thorns from pomelo trees, water, and coal. The art can only be passed down to blood relatives, and Whang-Od is training the next generation, just as her father once trained her.

Vogue Philippines editor-in-chief Bea Valdes said staff at the publication decided unanimously that Whang-Od should go on the cover: "We felt she represented our ideals of what is beautiful about our Filipino culture. We believe that the concept of beauty needs to evolve, and include diverse and inclusive faces and forms. What we hope to speak about is the beauty of humanity."

Prior to Whang-Od's appearance in Vogue Philippines, the record for oldest Vogue cover model was held by actress Judi Dench, who appeared on the front of British Vogue in 2020, at the age of 85.

MCL sets records in coal production

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: Scaling new heights, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) registered a record 193.3 million tonne coal production with highest ever 192.7 million tonne coal dispatch to consumers during the financial year 2022-23.

Chairman-cum-Managing Director Om Prakash Singh, while addressing at the Annual Media Conference here Saturday expressed



his gratitude to the state and Central government for extending all necessary support to the company.

"MCL registered a growth of 15 per cent for the financial year 2022-23, while coal dispatch also showed

nine per cent growth over previous financial year 2021-22," Singh informed, expressing his gratitude to all the stakeholders and employees of the company.

Functional directors of MCL, including Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), Jugal Kumar Borah, Director (Technical) and Ajit Kumar Behura, Director (Finance) and PK Patel, Chief Vigilance Officer were present on this occasion.

"We are happy to share that MCL has achieved all its targets

much ahead of schedule and have contributed to Coal India surpasses its target of 700 million tonne set for financial year 2022-23," the CMD added, while informing that the 97 per cent of total production of MCL was through eco-friendly equipment surface miners.

Shri Singh said that the coal despatch to power sector also increased from 127.12 million tonne in FY 2022 to 148.8 million tonne in FY 2023 with a growth of 17 per cent.

'Light at the end of tunnel'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 1: Sanjeev Kumar Sahu's happiness knew no bounds when he joined the JMFC (City) Court in Cuttack as an Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) March 29 this year after running from pillar to post for months over single subject Odia test certificate.

A resident of Madhusudan Nagar under Jatni police limits in Khurda, Sahu qualified the written examination for APP (Group-B) in Odisha State Prosecution Service under the Home department of 2021-22.

The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC), which conducts the examination, however, did not allow Sahu to appear in the interview on the ground of not having a 'valid' Odia certificate, which is a must for the examination.

Sahu, who had his schooling from CBSE and LLB from Delhi



University, had furnished the single subject Odia examination certificate of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), it was learnt.

Aggrieved by the rejection of NIOS certificate, Sahu moved the Orissa High Court.

Taking up the case, a single judge HC Bench of Justice Biraja Prasanna Satpathy November 1, 2022 ruled that the single subject

Odia examination conducted by NIOS is on par with the one conducted by the state government's Board of Secondary Education (BSE). The court asked the OPSC to reserve a post till the disposal of the case, Sahu's lawyer Ashutosh Mishra said.

Orissa POST had reported the issue in its November 6, 2022 edition as 'HC validates NIOS single Odia subject certificate for govt jobs'.

Following the HC directive, OPSC conducted Sahu's interview January 3 this year, and upon finding him suitable for the APP post, recommended his name to the Home department.

Subsequently, the Home department issued a notification about Sahu's recruitment March 28, 2023.

An elated Sahu said, "I'm very happy. At last, I got recruited as an APP at the JMFC (City) Court in Cuttack."

Odia girls send good wishes from Dubai



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: Three Odia girls in Dubai wished the people of Odisha on Utkal Divas, Saturday.

Captain Madhusmita Patnaik is an Odia Lady Pilot who commands Airbus A320s and was instrumental in flying back stranded Odias from UAE to Bhubaneswar in 2020. Mona Biswarupa Mohanty is an acclaimed artist and was recipient of the coveted Golden Visa under the Artistes Category and Tisya is one of India's youngest scuba divers (Odisha's youngest advanced diver). They ganged up and sent out a unique message from the foot of Burj Khalifa Saturday morning.

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Odia language fading into oblivion in border villages

No signboard in Odia language can be found in Fatusineri and Neredibalsa areas of Kotia panchayat, allege observers blaming the lackadaisical attitude of the administration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, April 1: Use of Odia language has gone for a toss in the border villages of the state as Odisha celebrates its 88th formation day on Utkal Divas, Saturday.

Ours is the first state formed on the basis of language in the country. But what ails the Odias is that the language is struggling for survival in the fringe villages bordering other states. Unless the tide turns the day is not far when dwellers of the border areas will completely forget their mother tongue pushing it into oblivion.

Reports said the state government has made use of Odia language mandatory in government offices and in every field. The rule mandates that all government and private establishments should issue letters in Odia and ensure the use of the language from writing nameplates to signboards.

However, due to lack of will and sincerity of the block and district administrations, the language is on the verge of extinction in these border villages. The fast disappearance of the language in villages under panchayats like Kotia, Sunki, Ampabali, Talagolur



in Koraput district are some cases in this point.

Observers said that Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are caught in a bitter dispute over border issues in Kotia panchayat. The panchayat is under Pottangi block of Koraput district but neighbouring Andhra Pradesh is staking its claim over the region and frequently infiltrating into the area. They alleged that no signboard in Odia language can be found in Fatusineri and Neredibalsa areas of Kotia panchayat. This has happened because neither the district administration nor the block administration is making any serious effort to make Odia language flourish in the villages.

There are several Odia schools in Tadibalsa, Neredibalsa,

Uparsembi, Dhulipadar, Dholiamba, Fagunsineri, Fatusineri villages of the panchayat. However, most students do not attend school regularly and many of them even do not know how to speak Odia.

In these villages, the Andhra government has established its own schools and is enrolling the wards of the locals. The schools are Telugu medium schools where students are being encouraged to learn and speak Telugu language.

There are some schools established by the Odisha government where students are being taught Odia. However, the schools established by the Andhra Pradesh government have overshadowed the Odia medium schools leaving the Odia language struggling for survival.

Pradhan in Kotia says 'Andhra go back'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, April 1: Asserting that the Kotia cluster of villages under Pottangi block of Koraput district is an integral part of Odisha, Union minister and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday gave "Andhra Pradesh go back" slogan.

Pradhan, who visited the disputed Kotia area to observe 'Utkal Divas', incidentally met an official of Andhra Pradesh at Phatu Senari village and enquired about the purpose of his visit.

The official claimed that 21 villages of Kotia cluster come under the jurisdiction of AP and therefore, he was meeting people. In reply, Pradhan who hails from Odisha told him to "go back".

During the Union education minister's visit to Phatu Senari, a few policemen of the neighbouring state in civil dress were recording the event to which Pradhan



raised objection and also asked them to "go back".

Stating that Kotia belongs to Odisha and no intrusion there will be tolerated, he raised the slogan "Bande Utkal Janani" (Mother Odisha, I bow to thee).

"Kotia is an integral part of Odisha and Andhra officials are illegally intruding inside our territory which is not acceptable in a federal structure. Earlier, I had written to the chief minister of Andhra in this regard and will again raise

the matter," said Pradhan.

Following Pradhan's outburst on AP officials, BJP supporters accompanying the minister also raised "Andhra go back" slogans.

Later, the minister interacted with students and residents of Phatu Senari who raised the problems of non-availability of mobile networks and banks in the area and the problems they are facing in availing houses under rural housing schemes of the government.

While attending the Utkal Divas

celebration programme at Kotia panchayat headquarters organised by the Kotia Gramya Samiti, the minister said Odisha was the first in the country to be formed a separate state on basis of language.

During his visit, Pradhan visited strawberry fields, tasted the fruit and assured the farmers to set up juice processing units at the panchayat to enhance their economy. He also visited the Central University of Odisha (CUO) situated at Sunabeda and said that over 100 teaching faculties will be appointed in the varsity in the next six to seven months.

The minister laid the foundation stone for a sports complex and inaugurated a workstation and language laboratory in the varsity.

The ruling BJD too organised another Utkal Divas function at Ganjeipadar, about three kilometres away from Pradhan's meeting venue. In both places, people took a pledge to protect Odisha's boundary.

Tension, road blockade as woman electrocuted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, April 1: Tension ran high after a woman was electrocuted after coming in contact with an 11-kv live wire lying suspended on a tree at a slum under ward no-8 of Joda Municipality in Keonjhar district, Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Gouri Nayak, 30, a resident of the slum. The mishap sparked tension in the area with people alleging that the mishap occurred due to negligence of electricity officials. A road blockade was staged at Dharanidhar Square in the mining town demanding compensation for the bereaved family. As per reports, Gouri was plucking drumsticks from the tree Saturday morning when she accidentally came in contact with the 11-kv live wire lying suspended on the tree. She collapsed after coming in contact with the live wire.

She was rushed to the Tata Steel Hospital where doctors pronounced her brought dead. Family members lodged a complaint at Joda PS as police conducted a post-mortem and handed the body over to the family.

SMC converts waste into wealth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, April 1: The Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) has been earning revenue from the garbage collected from door-to-door, an official said.

The civic body is earning around ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh every month by selling the recyclable waste generated from households and commercial establishments. The recyclable waste is purchased by an agency which has been selected by a tender process, said SMC Deputy Commissioner, Subhankar Mohanty.

All the households under the SMC area have been covered under the door-to-door garbage collection facility. More than 130 vehicles including 80 battery-operated vehicles of the SMC are collecting the garbage from door to door.

The garbage collected from households and commercial establishments is brought to wealth centres, which comprise a micro composting centre (MCC) besides a material recovery facility (MRF).



The biodegradable waste generated in the city is converted into compost at the MCC.

Similarly, the non-degradable waste is brought to the MRF and segregated there. After segregation, while the non-recyclable waste is sent to cement factory to be used as fuel, the recyclable waste is sold to the selected agency.

The city generates around 110 metric tonne of waste, including around 55 metric tonnes of non-degradable or dry waste daily. Currently, nine wealth centres are operational in the city and the SMC is also developing two more

wealth centres.

There are 16 types of recyclable waste, including glass, paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, tires and textiles, which are sold to the selected agency. Different items are sold at different prices.

"The SMC has been selling the recyclable waste, generated during door-to-door garbage collection, since August 2021. The money generated from each centre is utilised for the staff members engaged there. So far, the civic body has already earned more than ₹25 lakh from the recyclable waste," said the SMC deputy commissioner.

Spectators' gallery of Banki College stadium caves in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Banki, April 1: Torrential rains battered most parts of Cuttack district Saturday morning as a newly built spectators' gallery at Banki College mini-stadium caved in under its impact hardly 10 days after its inauguration. However, no casualty was reported. This has sparked resentment and anger among the local residents.

Sources said that the University

Grants Commission (UGC) had sanctioned ₹40 lakh in 2011 for construction of the mini-stadium at Banki College. Authorities had handed over ₹20 lakh of the sanctioned funds to the Works department for construction of the mini-stadium.

The funds lied idle for a long period and later construction was started after the Works department engaged a contractor. Work on the stadium was yet to be com-

plete but authorities invited the higher education minister and inaugurated it in haste, March 23.

Locals alleged that the use of substandard construction materials resulted in the collapse. When contacted, Banki College Principal Bhabani Prasad Hota said the work was done by a contractor of the Works department and the project is yet to be handed over to the college authorities for use.

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Our End-state

Ideologies usually have an end-state or a desired place they want to arrive at. Marxists think the State will vanish and the community will replace it. In South Asia, an attempt was made to make mankind spiritually aligned to modernity through the State. This is what Liaquat Ali Khan, the first Prime Minister of Pakistan, said was the purpose of introducing religion into the constitution and making god sovereign instead of parliament. This experiment did not succeed because there was no obvious path to arriving at the final destination, which was a Pakistani who had been made spiritually superior but also scientifically modern through laws.

In Europe, the focus of government is on welfare States where the population is given access to quality health, education and pensions and the poor and unemployed are taken care of. This in itself is the end-state these nations seek to achieve. Many of them have given up the idea of military greatness and they do not chase after the dominance of their religion. Often large numbers of their voters are inclined towards diversity and we can see that in the Europe of our time.

Today the elected leaders of the United Kingdom (a Hindu of Indian origin), Scotland (a Muslim of Pakistani origin), Ireland (a Christian of Indian origin) and Portugal (a Christian of Indian origin) show us that. We take pride in this but if we looked at it from the perspective of the European voters we would be baffled. It is unthinkable to us in the India of 2023 that the majority of us would elect an ethnic Indian minority as our popular leader. But much of the rest of the world is modern in the real sense and does not vote on confessional lines alone. To repeat, these desi leaders in Europe are in place because they are popular with voters despite, and to some extent perhaps even because of, the fact that they are from another community and another race. Perhaps it is this very religious and ethnic difference that is key because for many voters there diversity is not only important but attractive and aspired to.

Let us turn to the mother of democracy. To the outsider, India's politics is vibrant but tribal in nature. There is strong group loyalty and a suspicion and often outright hatred of the other community. This instinct is visceral and primitive and exists in all cultures and nations but the modern ones are able to mature out of it. In primitive societies it remains. In some of the more backward ones, this instinct is often quickened.

Tribalism has always defined Indian democracy through caste or jati, which is the way in which ticket distribution was done and continues to be done. The creation of linguistic states, which was a wise move, meant that linguistic group loyalty became neutralised as a political tool, except when conflict was deliberately created, through imposition. The rise and dominance of Hindutva has reintroduced to Indian democracy religious tribalism. Reintroduced because it existed before Partition and was at the root of division. Jinnah's complaint against Gandhi was that he only had one vote for every three of Gandhi's and the assumption, which was correct, was that all votes would be cast for religion and not policy. Post-Partition politics in India remained communal and the marginalisation and exclusion of minorities was as real as it is today, but the language of the State, meaning the Congress governments under Nehru and Indira, was inclusive. Because of this, social divisions were not exacerbated though they existed.

Hindutva has changed that and Indians have been divided along religious lines by the State and its policies, its language and its behaviour. We have to consider what that means for India. Our end-state is different from that of Nepal, which was the only Hindu Rashtra of modern times. Nepal was ruled by a Kshatriya king as prescribed by the Manusmriti but in other ways it was not especially different. Hindu Nepal did not have a focus on minorities and on persecution as New India has. The end-state of Hindutva is not concerned with either nation or Hindus as such, it is occupied by what can be done to minorities. The Hindutva State has introduced discriminatory and exclusionary laws and policies on citizenship, food, divorce, marriage, segregation, prayer and clothing. Existing laws already targeting minorities have been tightened. Indians are doing in India the opposite of what voters in those European nations have done with Indian-origin leaders. This persecution of other Indians has some utility because otherwise it would not be popular and these benefits are likely satisfaction and contentment at putting others through misery. However, it is hard to understand how this benefits the nation and particularly how it improves India's future. It is a question that his supporters must ask of the Prime Minister. It may be enjoyable for them to pass through this phase of going after other Indians. But once this has been achieved to satisfaction, then what?

The answer is known to those who oppose persecution, because it is clear to them that after this will be more of the same. But it would be apposite to hear it from the mouths of those who are driving New India further into Amrit Kaal.

WISDOM CORNER

- Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. **BOB MARLEY**
- The two most powerful warriors are patience and time. **LEO TOLSTOY**
- Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

WORDSWORTH

Guiser

It's obvious enough that a guiser is somebody who adopts a guise, thereby taking on a different form or appearance (disguise comes from the same root). It's the usual name for the participants in local customs in Britain that involve dressing up and performing an entertainment, such as a mummies' play. One description of guisers appears in Yorkshire Folk-Talk, by the Rev M C F Morris in 1892. He said this about the mell supper (from a dialect word meaning "meal"), a traditional harvest-home supper in Yorkshire: *No mell supper can take place without dancing, and formerly the advent of "guisers" formed one of the great features of the entertainment. These "guisers" were men with masks or blackened faces, and they were decked out in all sorts of fantastic costumes. The starting of the dancing was not always an easy matter, but by degrees, as the dancers warmed to the work and as the ale horns came to be passed round, the excitement began to grow; this was increased by the arrival of the "guisers," and then the clatter of the dancers' boots doing double-shuffle and various comical figures, set the entertainment going at full swing. It has survived most actively in Scotland.* Reader Jane Brown wrote: "I lived in an Aberdeenshire village some 20 years ago and I remember the guisers who came round on Halloween night. They were the local youngsters, dressed up in ghoulish attire, who performed a song, dance or told a joke in exchange for sweets or a small amount of money. Before I left the area, the custom had begun to be taken over by the American Trick or Treat, which was not as popular with the residents". And Chris Smith wrote: "In Shetland it's always guiser. Children go guising at Hallowe'en, but the most important guising takes place at Up-Helly-A' in late January. The torch-lit parade is led by the Guizer Jarl's squad (who get to grow enormous beards and dress up as Vikings), followed by other squads of just plain guisers".

TAX THE RICH, SAVE THE PLANET

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY



Owen Gaffney

THE 10% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA EMISSIONS - THAT IS, THE WEALTHIEST HOUSEHOLDS - CONTRIBUTE UP TO 45% OF CONSUMPTION-BASED HOUSEHOLD GHG EMISSIONS

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has issued a final warning to humanity: unless we halve greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, we will have no chance of capping global temperatures at 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Achieving that target will be extremely challenging, but it is both possible and affordable - if we ensure that the world's wealthiest pay their fair share.

Inequality has skyrocketed in recent years. During the pandemic, as more than 160 million people were pushed into poverty, the world's ten richest people doubled their fortunes. The wealthiest 10% of the global population now rake in 52% of global income and hold 77% of global wealth, while the poorest 50% claim just 8% and 2%, respectively.

The gap continues to widen. Billions of people are suffering from rising living costs and stagnant wages, and with recession looming, prospects for achieving greater prosperity appear bleak. The world has never been so wealthy, yet most people endure chronic economic insecurity. This is a recipe for deeply polarised, dysfunctional societies, democratic decay, and a dangerously unstable world.

Economic inequality is reflected in climate inequality. As the IPCC notes, the 10% of households with the highest per capita emissions - that is, the wealthiest households globally - contribute up to 45% of consumption-based household GHG emissions. The bottom 50% - four billion people, many of whom face severe energy insecurity - contribute just 13-15%.

Here, too, the gap is continuing to widen: the richest 1% - 63 million people earning at least \$109,000 per year - are the fastest-growing source of carbon emissions by far. And this is happening at a time when, every month, the world is burning through more than 1% of its remaining carbon



Averting the worst effects of climate change demands a profound economic transformation in the next decade

budget for limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

But the discrepancy in emissions is only part of the story. As the IPCC's new report highlights, there is overwhelming scientific evidence showing that an equitable approach to climate action, in which the benefits and burdens of the needed transformation are distributed fairly, is vital to build social trust, without which the 2030 target will be all but impossible to meet.

This aligns with our assessment at Earth4All. We predict that, unless concerted action is taken, inequality will continue to grow throughout this century, leading to rising social tensions and unrest - and making it far more difficult to tackle existential crises like climate change.

Concentration of wealth leads to concentration of power, with the wealthiest actors enjoying disproportionate influence over elections and public policy. This undermines trust in democracy, making it more difficult for governments to make long-term decisions that serve the common good. More egalitarian countries tend to have higher levels of trust in government, in addition to better outcomes when it comes to ed-

ucation, health and longevity, obesity, child mortality, crime, and the environment.

As the IPCC report makes clear, averting the worst effects of climate change demands a profound economic transformation in the next decade. But that transformation can succeed only with broad public support, based on a new social contract that ensures a fairer distribution of wealth and income.

Specifically, by 2030, Earth4All proposes that the wealthiest 10% in all countries should be claiming less than 40% of national incomes, with their share remaining on a downward trajectory thereafter. Past experience shows that progressive taxation on both income and wealth for individuals and corporations would be an effective means of achieving this.

This means targeting the assets of the extremely wealthy wherever they are held, including in tax havens, and developing and sharing national registries of assets held in different forms. Governments should also hike taxes on luxury-related consumption that drives GHG emissions, such as the use of private jets.

In addition, we recommend implementing a universal minimum corporate-tax rate that is close to

the global average of 25% - far higher than the 15% rate agreed by the G20 in 2021. Multinational corporations should be subject to the same tax rates as domestic companies, with unitary taxation of global profits based on the share of sales, employment, and assets in each country.

We also propose taxing windfall profits in sectors like energy. While the world has confronted an energy crisis driven by the war in Ukraine, fossil-fuel companies should not have been able to pocket hundreds of billions of dollars in profits. Likewise, governments must close international tax loopholes and eliminate outside subsidies on fossil fuels - now topping one trillion dollars annually - once and for all. The IPCC estimates that removing subsidies could lower GHG emissions by up to 10% by 2030.

More broadly, governments should use progressive taxation to discourage share-buyback schemes. At a time when the world needs innovation to facilitate economic transformation, inflating shareholders' gains must not come before investment in research and development.

Crucially, whatever additional revenues are generated by progressive wealth and income taxes must be used to protect the most vulnerable groups, support those who are displaced by the green transformation, advance gender equality, and overhaul energy and food systems.

By easing social tensions and improving well-being, progress on inequality would make democracies more stable and resilient, enabling them to respond to shocks more effectively and make rational long-term decisions for the common good, not least with regard to climate change. But, as the IPCC has made clear, time is running out.

The writer, Project Lead of Earth4All, is Chief Impact Officer at Nobel Prize Outreach.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Idealism & pragmatism



DK Giri

RICH COUNTRIES BELIEVE IN MAINTAINING THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER DISREGARDING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES ABROAD

A diplomat from a middle-sized European country ruefully said to me, "how do we raise human rights issues with your government? It is a big country and a huge market. We are not talking to some small country in Africa or Latin America." That is a dilemma posed by India to other countries, especially democracies. The other one was manifested in the practice of realpolitik by a rich and progressive European country. When civil societies in that particular country raised the issue of human rights in India, their government cautioned and counselled that in the national interest of the country, trade and commerce had to be privileged over human rights. Such tension between idealism and pragmatism is felt across the world. Rich industrialised countries believe in maintaining their political and economic power disregarding democratic principles abroad. That approach has been evident in the Western countries' massive trade and commerce with China in the face of ruthless suppression of human rights.

Many a country in the world, including India, is diffidently conscious of the dichotomy between growth and human rights. That is why, perhaps, the Indian government appears indifferent to alle-

gations to violations of human rights. At the same time, New Delhi believes that Western perception of human rights does not converge with that of Global South, and Western countries could be guilty of maintaining double standards.

At any rate, why is New Delhi using both dare and diplomacy in its foreign policy? Although, evidently New Delhi has not arrived yet as a world power, it believes and is perceived to be at the threshold of the top. Secondly, New Delhi's current foreign policy is driven by a muscular nationalism, a 'dare you' approach. While it is certainly good for a self-confident and an aspiring power, India should adhere to realism as well as norm-setting.

Also, there are credible research and prognoses that India will be the number one or two economy in the world and will overtake China. A short analysis by the noted American geopolitical expert, Peter Zeilan, makes such prediction. China's economy is a 'bubble' created by the US after the summit between Nixon and Mao to isolate Soviet Union and secondly, as a part of American globalisation push during the Cold War era. Whenever America wants to pull the rug, Chinese economy is bound to collapse.

On the other hand, India has not been internationalised. It did

not grow much, nor did it suffer like others. It does not get growth, but it also does not get instability. India is slowly transitioning, lot slower than those in her peer group, yet the growth is steady.

The other part of our concern which is intrinsic to India's soil is democracy and everything that goes with it - human rights, gender equality, pluralism, liberty, choice, justice and so on. Note that democracy for various evident reasons has become a universal aspiration. India is a home of democracy as Prime Minister Modi suggested on 29 March 2023, to a Summit for Democracy, co-hosted by USA, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, South Korea and Zambia. He said, "The idea of elected leaders was a common feature in ancient India, long before the rest of the world." Furthermore, Modi had claimed before that India preceded the Greek city-state in 6 Century BC that gave rise to Damos and Kratos (people's rule). He cited the statecraft of Mahabharata, practiced over 5000 years ago where citizens were enjoined the responsibility of "choosing their leaders as their first duty; and the Vedas which dated much earlier than the Greek principles spoke of political power being exercised by broad-based consultative bodies."

So far so good. But sadly, what is experienced on the ground is far from desirable. Like others, we tend to follow a double standard by undermining those we claim to be our heritage. Our democratic institutions are undermined. No democracy can function effectively and healthily without robust institutions and in some cases autonomous ones. Second, human rights are flouted with impunity. The attacks on minorities, vandalism of churches and other religious institutions are absolutely out of order. Going after the journalists critical of viewpoints or actions are out of democratic line. If BBC brings out a documentary that could be engaged and proved to be malicious, Income Tax raids on their offices is not the right reaction. If Hindenburg brings out 'discrepancy or unethicality' in a business house that must be addressed, not trashed.

All in all, admittedly, the present dare is a sign of a country in resurgence. But on democracy, the 'glorious past' and the 'present predicament' do not go together. Will the honorable Prime Minister address these distortions?

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

Trump in the dock

Sir, This refers to "Trump faces hush money indictment," **Orissa POST**, April 1. In a dubious distinction, Donald Trump has become the first US President, sitting or former, to face criminal charges after a Manhattan grand jury indicted him over hush money payment to a porn star during his 2016 presidential campaign. The development comes five years after it was reported that Trump had arranged a \$130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in October 2016 to buy her silence about a sexual encounter she claimed to have had with him in 2006. The latest reversal has cast a cloud over Trump's 2024 presidential prospects. He is already facing multiple investigations into allegations that he tried to overturn his 2020 election defeat in Georgia. The 2020 electoral outcome had revealed Trump as a sore loser who had no qualms about inciting his loyalists to indulge in seditious activities. A month ago, he called for nationwide protests in anticipation of the Manhattan grand jury's adverse decision. With the mercurial ex-President playing the victim card, it will be a challenge for the US authorities to ensure that the legal proceedings are conducted peacefully. There is a high likelihood of a violent backlash. The world will get to know soon whether the US has learnt a lesson from the Capitol mayhem, which remains a hard-to-erase blot on American democracy.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Kudos to Israelis!

Sir, The democratic minded people of Israel deserve all praise and accolades for coming together to the streets to protest against the contentious judicial overhaul plan which their Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was planning to implement by which he wanted to empower his ruling dispensation to have the final say over all judicial appointments. Realising that Netanyahu was trying to become a dictator by implementing the above and also by trying to enact a law which would grant the parliament the authority to overturn supreme court decisions and limit judicial review of laws, the whole country rose in clamour against his autocratic manoeuvres which made him come to his senses. It is laudable that with a call for strike from the National Union, the entire country came to a standstill and even diplomatic staff walked off jobs resulting in the embassies of Israel around the world including India remaining closed. What has happened to Netanyahu should serve as an eye opener to some of the global leaders who have a tendency to turn a dictator taking the people who have elected them to power for granted.

Thacius S Fernando, CHENNAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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national

of the day quote

There will never be a time in a dynamic democracy when there will be no issues between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. There are bound to be issues. These are required to be resolved taking recourse to collaborative stance

'Radio Sangwari' will play an important role in taking Chhattisgarhi folk art, culture and music to the common people. Certainly it is a very commendable effort

Twenty thousand job opportunities will be created in the private sector in Goa in the next two years

SHORT TAKES

Cargo plane suffers bird hit

New Delhi: A Dubai-bound cargo plane suffered a bird hit soon after takeoff on Saturday morning and returned to the Delhi airport, according to an official. A full emergency was declared at the airport for the landing of the aircraft and there was apparently a crack in the windshield due to the bird hit, the official said. The official also said the aircraft, operated by FedEx, returned to the airport at around 10.50 am. After safety checks, the aircraft took off for Dubai at around 1.40 pm. A FedEx spokesperson confirmed the incident.

Navy Chief tests positive for Covid

New Delhi: Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar Saturday tested positive for COVID-19 that forced him to skip the valedictory session of the three-day Combined Commanders' Conference in Bhopal, people familiar with the matter said. The valedictory session of the conference was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

NIA arrests two

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two alleged suppliers of explosives and detonators in West Bengal, an official said Saturday. Merazuddin Ali Khan of Bokaro and Mir Mohd Nuruzzaman of Birbhum were arrested from Raniganj and Kolkata during raids on Friday as part of the agency's investigation into a case registered last year, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

States responsible for implementing schemes, SC told

New Delhi, April 1: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it is dedicated to improve access to menstrual hygiene for young and adolescent girls but the responsibility of providing healthcare services lies with the respective state governments as public health is a state subject. In an affidavit filed before the top court, the Health ministry said it has undertaken awareness and training programmes and made necessary resources available to girls across the country. "It is submitted that public health is a state subject and the responsibility of providing healthcare services is that of respective state governments. The Central government and its agencies are not the implementing bodies for schemes relating to menstrual health; and it is in fact the states and their agencies which



Tourists visit Taj Mahal in Agra

PM Modi flags off Bhopal-Delhi Vande Bharat train

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, April 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday flagged off the Bhopal-Delhi Vande Bharat Express train. The semi-high speed train was flagged off from Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal city in the afternoon in the presence of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangu Bhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Modi, while addressing the gathering after flagging off the premium service, said the aim of his government was to transform the railway sector and make travel convenient for citizens.

Onboard the train, the PM interacted with more than 300 schoolchildren who were selected through a drawing and essay competition on the theme 'Bharatiya Rail', officials said. Modi also spoke to staff onboard the train, the officials said.

A huge crowd had assembled on platform number two of the sprawling station to witness the Vande Bharat Express flagging off ceremony, which took place on the adjoining platform number one. This is the 11th Vande Bharat Express service on the Indian Railway network and will run on all days except Saturday.

It will depart from Rani Kamalapati station at 5:40am and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin station at 1:10pm. The Delhi-Bhopal leg of the train will start at 2:40pm, officials said. The train is scheduled to halt at Gwalior and Agra enroute, they added.

The state-of-the-art semi-high speed train has an intelligent regenerative braking mechanism that would save up to 30 per cent electricity, fully sealed gangways and interconnecting doors for dust-free environment as well as an improved air-conditioning system.

Modi had arrived in the state capital on the morning, after which he attended the Combined Commanders' Conference before flagging off the Vande Bharat Express in the afternoon. Assembly polls are scheduled to be held in MP at the end of the year.

are at the forefront of enforcement of the policies," the ministry said.

It submitted that the Central government is committed to improving menstrual hygiene for young and adolescent girls and to make necessary resources accessible to them. The affidavit was filed in response to a PIL by Congress leader Jaya Thakur seeking issuance of directions for providing free sanitary pads to girls studying in classes 6 to 12 in government schools across the country.

The ministry stated that menstruation and menstrual practices are clouded by taboos and socio-cultural restrictions for women as well as adolescent girls in India which is combined with limited access to products of sanitary hygiene and lack of safe sanitary facilities.

"Moreover, traditionally, there have been practices of using old clothes as pads by recycling them,

Sidhu freed from jail



The former Punjab Congress president was sent to prison in May 2022 after being sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court over the death of Gurnam Singh

Patiala, April 1: Soon after walking out of the Patiala Central Jail Saturday, Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu slammed the Centre, alleging that democracy is in chains and institutions have turned slaves in the country. He also claimed that a conspiracy is being hatched to impose the President's Rule in Punjab. Sidhu described Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann as "akhbari mukhmantri" and criticised his government over law and order and debt issues.

Sidhu, who spent about 10 months in jail in connection with a 1988 road rage death case, walked out free on Saturday. The former Punjab Congress president was sent to prison in May 2022 after being sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court over the death of Gurnam Singh, 65. His lawyer previously said Sidhu was being released earlier because of his good conduct in prison.

"Whenever dictatorship came in the country, a revolution came and today, I say the revolution's name is Rahul Gandhi," Sidhu said who had been waiting outside the jail since morning. "Debate and dissent are essences of this democracy but at-

tempts are being made to suppress opposition voice," he added. He said the Congress is fighting against oppression. "Today democracy is in chains, there is nothing like democracy today," he alleged. He claimed that a conspiracy was being hatched to impose President's rule in Punjab. "Punjab is the shield of this country, attempts are being made to break this shield. A conspiracy is going on to impose President's Rule in Punjab," he claimed.

In an apparent reference to Sikhs, who are a minority community in the country, Sidhu said, "There is a minority rule in Punjab. Wherever the minority is in majority... the Centre hatches conspiracy (against it)." He alleged first a law and order problem is created. "After that, there is an attempt to control it and then they say, we have brought peace," he said. "If you weaken Punjab, then you will become weak yourself. No government can become strong by weakening Punjab," he said. Sidhu was wearing a sky-blue jacket when he came out of jail.

There were expectations that he would be released by afternoon but he came out of jail at 5:53 pm. The 59-year-old's supporters had assembled since morning outside the prison to accord him a grand welcome upon his release and they could be heard chanting 'Navjot Sidhu zindabad'.

Several Congress leaders including Amritsar MP Gurjit Aujla, former Punjab Congress chiefs Shamsheer Singh Dullu, Mohinder Singh Kaypee and Lal Singh, former MLA Navtej Singh Cheema, other leaders Ashwani Sekhri, Sukhwinder Singh Danny and worker accorded a warm welcome to Sidhu.

use of ash or straw, which not affect menstrual hygiene but also have long term implications for reproductive health. "The government is dedicated to increase awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, build self-esteem and empower girls for better socialisation. The government is also working towards in-

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE



creasing access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins for girls in rural areas," the ministry said. Thakur in her plea said serious difficulties are faced by adolescent females between the ages of 11 and 18, years who come from poor backgrounds, in receiving education on account of lack of access to education, a constitutional right

India to witness hotter than usual summer: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 1: Most of India, barring parts of northwest and peninsular region, is expected to experience above-normal maximum temperatures from April to June, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Saturday.

It said above-normal heatwave days are predicted in most parts of central, east and northwest India during this period. "During the 2023 hot weather season (April to June), most parts of the country are expected to experience above-normal maximum temperatures, except for south peninsular India and some parts of northwest India where normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely," the IMD said.

"A significantly higher number of heatwave days are predicted over parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mahapatra said in a virtual press conference.

A heatwave is declared if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas and at least 30 degrees Celsius in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius.

India logged its hottest February this year since record-keeping began in 1901, according to the IMD. However, above-normal rainfall (37.6 mm against a normal of

Swedish national held for molestation



Mumbai, April 1: A 63-year-old Swedish national was arrested for allegedly molesting a crew member onboard an IndiGo flight, a Mumbai police official said Saturday.

Accused Klas Erik Harald Jonas Westberg was allegedly in an inebriated state when the incident took place on Thursday onboard the IndiGo 6E-1052 Bangkok-Mumbai flight, the Sahar police station official said. He is accused of touching a crew member inappropriately while making an in-flight food purchase and also assaulted a co-passenger who intervened, the official said.

Westberg was handed over to Mumbai police when the flight landed in the metropolis and was booked under Indian Penal Code section 354 (molestation) and other provisions of Aircraft Act, the police official said.

He was released on bail by the Andheri metropolitan magistrate court on Friday, the official added. Westberg is the eighth airline passenger arrested in India in the past three months for alleged unruly behaviour.



Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck will pay a three-day visit to India beginning Monday to expand the already close bilateral ties especially in the sphere of economic and development cooperation. The King will hold talks with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi

29.9 mm) due to seven western disturbances, including five strong ones, kept temperatures in check in March.

March 2022 was the warmest and the third driest in 121 years. The year also saw the country's third-warmest April, eleventh-warmest August and eighth-warmest September since 1901. The IMD said normal to above-normal minimum temperatures are very likely over most parts of the country, barring some areas in northeast and northwest India and isolated pockets of the peninsular region.

Last month, the Centre For Policy Research (CPR) said a review of 37 heat action plans in India shows most of them do not explicitly carry out vulnerability assessments, leaving the authorities with little data on where to direct their scarce resources. Heat action plans (HAPs) are the primary policy response to economically damaging and life-threatening heatwaves. They prescribe a number of activities, disaster responses and post-heatwave response measures to reduce the impact of heatwaves. The weather bureau said India is expected to see normal rainfall in April. Based on data collected from 1971 to 2020, the country on an average receives 39.2 mm of rainfall in April. Normal to above-normal precipitation is expected over most parts of northwest, central and peninsular region, while below-normal rain is predicted in east and northeast India. La Nina conditions, cooling of the waters in the Pacific Ocean near South America that favours the Indian monsoon, have weakened, according to the IMD.

Raut threatened, accused arrested



Mumbai, April 1: Mumbai police have arrested a 23-year-old man from Pune for allegedly sending a message to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut threatening to eliminate him like Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, who was shot dead last year, a police official said on Saturday.

Accused Rahul Talekar has no criminal background and claims to have sent the message when he was drunk, the official said. Citing preliminary investigations, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had earlier said that he had issued the threat under the influence of alcohol. However, a detailed probe will be carried out and action will be taken, Fadnavis had assured.

Talekar was apprehended from the Kharadi area late on Friday night in an operation by Mumbai and Pune police, hours after Raut's brother and MLA Sunil Raut filed a complaint at the Kanjurmarg police station here, the official said. Calling Raut "Hindu virodhi", the message read, "Delhi me mil tu ak 47 se uda dunga. Moosewala tyep. Lawrence ke or se msg he soch ke... Salman aur tu Fix. Tyatil karke rakha (sic)." Police suspect the "Lawrence" in the message refers to gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

Originally from Jalna, Talekar runs an eatery in Pune. He sent the abusive threat message to Raut over WhatsApp on Friday after failing to reach the MP over the

phone, said the official. Shubdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, 2022, following which police booked gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Goldy Brar, a member of the Bishnoi gang, had claimed responsibility for the killing.

A few days later, three members of the Bishnoi gang delivered a letter threatening Bollywood actor Salman Khan and his father Salim Khan, police had said. Police said Talekar had learnt about Bishnoi from social media and thought he could his name to send the threat message to Raut, the official said.

He has been booked under Indian Penal Code sections, including 506-II (criminal intimidation), and an investigation is underway. The city police are already probing the Salman Khan threat case and this man will be questioned in connection with that too, the official added.

Earlier, Fadnavis had said that the man who allegedly sent the threat message has been identified. "Prima facie, it appears that the man gave threats when he was under the influence of alcohol. However, this is just preliminary information and a detailed probe will be carried out and action will be taken," Fadnavis said. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Supriya Sule said Raut is a lawmaker and such a threat to him was a serious issue and that the Centre and the Maharashtra government should take cognisance of it.

international

of the day quote

External pressure will not obstruct our resolution to go on the world stage. We will be calm, self-confident, we will not submit but also not provoke

TSAI ING-WEN | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

Relations between China and Singapore have set a benchmark for countries in the region

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINESE

We call for the abolition of the nuclear-sharing arrangements and advocate no deployment of nuclear weapons abroad by all nuclear weapons states, and the withdrawal of nuclear weapons deployed abroad

GENG SHUANG | CHINESE DEPUTY AMBASSADOR, UN

SHORT TAKES

US to return 15 stolen sculptures

New York: The prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art will return 15 sculptures to India after it was learnt that the antiquities were illegally removed from the country and sold by disgraced dealer Subhash Kapoor. In a statement Thursday, the Met said it will transfer the 15 sculptures for return to the government of India. The works range in date from the 1st century BCE to the 11th century CE, and include terracotta, copper and stone. All of the works were sold at one point by Kapoor, who is currently serving a prison sentence in India.

Italy blocks chatbot ChatGPT

Rome: Authorities in Italy have blocked chatbot ChatGPT with immediate effect in the country. With this, Italy becomes the first European country to block the advanced Artificial Intelligence software, which is capable of emulating and elaborate human conversations among other actions. Italian data protection authority on Friday (local time) has said that it is blocking the Microsoft backed chatbot developed by US start up OpenAI and will investigate whether it complied with the country's General Data Protection Regulation. Since its launch in November last year, ChatGPT has become a sensation due to its ability to produce believable-sounding answers to queries as well as a variety of content, including poetry, academic essays, and summaries of lengthy documents when requested by users.



An aerial view of the damage following a tornado in Wynne, Arkansas

We all know that the existing gaps (military) cannot be completely closed by 2030... It will take years. Everyone is aware of that

BORIS PISTORIUS | DEFENCE MINISTER, GERMANY

EU PREZ MAY LEAD NATO

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is in the running to be the new head of NATO, a report said. NATO's current Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg is expected to end his term as planned in October, after his mandate has been extended three times and having served for a total of almost nine years



Twisters wreak havoc in US

TORNADOES KILL AT LEAST 18 ACROSS US MIDWEST AND SOUTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wynne (US), April 1: Storms that dropped possibly dozens of tornadoes killed at least 18 people in small towns and big cities across the South and Midwest, tearing a path through the Arkansas capital, collapsing the roof of a packed concert venue in Illinois, and leaving people throughout the region bewildered Saturday by the damage.

Confirmed or suspected tornadoes in at least seven states destroyed homes and businesses, splintered trees, and lay waste to neighborhoods across a swath of the country home to some 85 million people. The dead included seven in Tennessee's McNairy

County, four in the small town of Wynne, Arkansas, and three in Sullivan, Indiana.

Other deaths were reported in Alabama, Illinois and Mississippi, along with one near Little Rock, where the mayor said more than 2,000 buildings were in a tornado's path.

Stunned residents of Wynne, a community of about 8,000 people 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Memphis, Tennessee, woke Saturday to find the high school's roof shredded and its windows blown out. Huge trees lay on the ground, their stumps reduced to nubs. Broken walls, windows and roofs pocked homes and businesses.

Debris and memories of regular life lay scattered inside the damaged shells of homes and strewn on lawns: clothing, insulation, roofing paper, toys, splintered furniture, a pickup truck with its windows shattered.

"I'm sad that my town has been hit so hard," said Heidi Jenkins, a salon owner. "Our school is gone, my church is gone. I'm sad for all the people who lost their homes."

Recovery was already underway, with workers using chain saws to cut fallen trees and bulldozers moving material from shattered structures. Utility trucks worked to restore power. Groups of volunteers gathered to plan their day.

INFLATION HITS ALL-TIME HIGH

Pakistanis drown under cost of living



Analysts believe Pakistan is now heading towards hyperinflation a situation when prices are out of control and in the territory of a 50% surge

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, April 1: Pakistan's monthly inflation blew past forecasts in March and soared to a nearly all-time high level - 35.4 per cent - from a year earlier, with people feeling more pain from some of the fastest rising consumer prices amid straining budgets as cost of living continues to outstrip average incomes, according to a media report.

The fresh inflation reading issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) Saturday also multiplied the prospects of a further rise in interest rates in the upcoming monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting scheduled for April 4, Geo News reported.

The pace of increase in the prices endorsed the expectations of the Finance Ministry that said inflation was expected to stay at an elevated level owing to market frictions caused by relative demand and supply gap of essential items, exchange rate depreciation, and recent upward adjustment of administered prices of petrol and diesel, the report said.

The monthly inflation rate, however, declined to 3.7 per cent in

Border trade between Pak, China to resume next week after 3 yrs

After a three-year hiatus, Pakistan and China are set to resume trade from Monday through the Khunjerab Pass - the only land route between the two weather allies, a media report said Saturday. The Khunjerab Pass was closed in November 2019 to contain the transmission of the Covid-19 virus between the two countries. The arrangements to reopen the border point for bilateral trade and other activities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been finalised by both sides, the Dawn newspaper reported. The \$60 billion CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The CPEC is a network of roads, railways, pipelines, and ports in Pakistan connecting China to the Arabian Sea.

March over February.

The inflation situation has worsened to its worst, steeping the masses, whose purchasing power has eroded by leaps and bounds, into misery, as the price of almost every edible item has gone through the roof over a period of months.

Core inflation, which was calculated after excluding the volatile energy and food prices, increased in March to 18.6 per cent in urban areas and 23.1 per cent in rural areas.

CATASTROPHIC CONDITION

350mn on brink of starvation

Billions needed to avert unrest and starvation, says head of the Nobel prize-winning UN World Food Program

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, April 1: Without billions of dollars more to feed millions of hungry people, the world will see mass migration, destabilized countries, and starving children and adults in the next 12 to 18 months, David Beasley the head of the Nobel prize-winning UN World Food Program warned Friday.

In an interview before he hands the reins of the world's largest humanitarian organization to US Ambassador Cindy McCain next week, the former South Carolina governor said he's "extremely worried" that WFP won't raise about \$23 billion it needs this year to help an estimated 350 million people in 49 countries who desperately need food.

"Right at this stage, I'll be surprised if we get 40% of it, quite frankly," he said. WFP was in a similar crisis last year, he said, but fortunately he was able to convince the United States to increase its funding from about \$3.5 billion to \$7.4 billion and Germany to raise its contribution from \$350 million a few years ago to \$1.7 billion, but he doesn't think they'll do it again this year.

Other countries need to step up now, he said, starting with China, the world's second-largest economy which gave WFP just \$11 million last year.

Beasley applauded China for its success in substantially reducing hunger and poverty at home, but said it gave less than one cent per person last year compared to the United States, the world's leading economy, which gave about \$22 per person. China needs "to engage in the



WFP unable to raise about \$23 billion to help estimated 350mn people in 49 nations in desperate need of food

Funding from the US, Germany increased last year

China, Gulf nations, billionaires and other countries urged to step up big time

multilateral world" and be willing to provide help that is critical, he said. "They have a moral obligation to do so."

Beasley said they've done "an incredible job of feeding their people," and "now we need their help in other parts of the world" on how they did it, particularly in poorer countries including in Africa.

With high oil prices Gulf countries can also do more, especially Muslim nations that have relations with countries in east Africa, the Sahara and elsewhere in the Middle East, he said, expressing hope they will increase contributions.

Beasley said the wealthiest billionaires made unprecedented profits during the Covid-19 pandemic, and "it's not too much to

The world has to understand that the next 12 to 18 months is critical, and if we back off the funding, you will have mass migration, and you will have destabilization nations and that will all be on top of starvation among children and people around the world. With \$400 trillion worth of wealth on the planet, there's no reason for any child to die of starvation

DAVID BEASLEY | HEAD, UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

ask some of the multibillionaires to step up and help us in the short-term crisis," even though charity isn't a long-term solution to the food crisis.

In the long-term, he said what he'd really like to see is billionaires using their experience and success to engage "in the world's greatest need - and that is food on the planet to feed 8 billion people."

Beasley said WFP was just forced to cut rations by 50% to 4 million people in Afghanistan, and "these are people who are knocking on

famine's door now." "We don't have enough money just to reach the most vulnerable people now," he said. "So we are in a crisis over the cliff stage right now, where we literally could have hell on earth if we're not very careful."

Beasley said he's been telling leaders in the West and Europe that while they're focusing everything on Ukraine and Russia, "you better well not forget about what's south and southeast of you because I can assure you it is coming your way if you don't pay attention and get on top of it."

The WFP executive director said leaders have to prioritize the humanitarian needs that are going to have the greatest impact on stability in societies around the world.

He singled out several priority places - Africa's Sahel region as well as the east including Somalia, northern Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia; Syria which is having an impact on Jordan and Lebanon; and Central and South America where the number of people migrating to the United States is now five times what it was a year-and-a-half ago.

FIRST US STATE

Georgia passes resolution condemning Hinduphobia

Condemning Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry, the resolution said Hinduism is one of the world's largest and oldest religions with over 1.2 billion adherents in over 100 countries and encompasses an array of diverse traditions and belief systems with values of acceptance, mutual respect and peace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, April 1: US' Georgia Assembly has passed a resolution condemning Hinduphobia, making it the first American state to take such a legislative measure.

The resolution was introduced by Representatives Lauren McDonald and Todd Jones from Forsyth County in the suburbs of Atlanta, home to one of the largest Hindu and Indian-American communities in Georgia.

The resolution observed that the American-Hindu community has been a major contributor to

diverse sectors such as medicine, science and engineering, information technology, hospitality, finance, academia, manufacturing, energy, retail trade, among others.

It also noted that the community's contributions of Yoga, ayurveda, meditation, food, music, arts have enriched the cultural fabric and have been widely adopted in American society and enhanced the lives of millions.

Stating that there have been documented instances of hate crimes against Hindu-Americans over the last few decades in many parts of the country, the resolution said



Hinduphobia is exacerbated and institutionalised by some in academia who support the dismantling of Hinduism and accuse its sacred texts and cultural practices of violence and oppression.

A move in this regard was spearheaded by the Atlanta chapter of the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA), which organised the first-ever Hindu Advocacy Day held on March 22 at the Georgia State Capitol. It was

attended by around 25 lawmakers - both Republicans and Democrats - who joined the Hindu community to understand its concerns, pledge to create ways to protect the community against discrimination and facilitate the inclusion of Hindu voices in important decision-making processes in the state.

"It was a true honor to work with Rep McDonald and Rep Jones as well as other lawmakers who

The issues faced by Hindu Americans in Georgia and the rest of the country via false, Hinduphobic narratives are negatively impacting a community that has been hardworking, law-abiding and enriching the fabric of America

SHOBHA SWAMY | GENERAL SECRETARY, COHNA

guided us through the whole process of getting this County Resolution passed," said Rajeev Menon, CoHNA vice president.

"We also heard that all the lawmakers had been working really long hours given the amount of legislative items on the agenda, but still decided to join us at the Advocacy Day to show how much they value the Hindu community," he said.

'India-China border situation stable'

The ties between India and China nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two neighbours in decades

AGENCIES

Kolkata, April 1: The earlier situation of "emergency control" at the India-China border is a matter of the past, and overall it is stable at present, a senior Chinese diplomat said here.

Interacting with journalists Friday evening, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in India, Chen Jianjun, said the two Asian giants continue to maintain communication via diplomatic and military channels, promoting the transition of the border situation to "normalised management and control".

"The current border situation is

stable," he said. Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh December 9, resulting in minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides. The clash near Yangtse in the sensitive sector took place amid the border standoff between the two sides in eastern Ladakh.

"The Chinese side has always viewed and handled China-India relations from a strategic and long-term perspective. Although the relationship faces some difficulties, China's position has never wavered and we have been committed to pushing it back on the track of healthy and steady development," Jianjun said.

He said the two countries could draw strength from their ancient civilisations, and share oriental wisdom with the world, so as to jointly maintain the stability of the international order.



business



Pretty soon, we will be upgrading Bard to some of our more capable Pathways Language Model models, which will bring more capabilities; be it in reasoning, coding, it can answer maths questions better
SUNDAR PICHAI | CEO, GOOGLE

INDIA, MALAYSIA TO TRADE IN RUPEE

India and Malaysia can now use the Indian rupee to settle trade in addition to other currencies, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Saturday. The move follows the decision by the Reserve Bank of India in July last year to allow settlement of international trade in Indian currency in an attempt to lower country's dependency on US dollar



of the day quote

The age of AI has begun and technologies like ChatGPT can definitively solve most of the challenges that their customers are facing today

XAVIER GARCIA | GLOBAL HEAD (OFFICE PRINT HARDWARE), HP

The ₹2 lakh crore procurement by the government within 12 months through GeM truly reflects the thinking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is very demanding that the government should run with the highest level of integrity and transparency

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

Although office absorption is currently facing temporary downward pressures, leasing activity will likely pick up especially towards the latter part of the year, driven strong growth fundamentals

VIMAL NADAR | SENIOR DIRECTOR, COLLIERIES INDIA

Unemployment rate rises to 3-month high in March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 1: India's unemployment rose to a three-month high in March to 7.8 per cent as the country's labour markets deteriorated, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

Unemployment rate in the country surged in December 2022 to 8.30 per cent but declined in January to 7.14 per cent. It edged up again in February to 7.45 per cent, the CMIE data released Saturday showed.

Among states unemployment was the highest in Haryana at 26.8% followed by Rajasthan at 26.4%, J&K at 23.1%, Sikkim 20.7%, Bihar 17.6% and Jharkhand 17.5%.

Unemployment was the lowest in Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh at 0.8% each followed by Puducherry at 1.5%, Gujarat 1.8%, Karnataka 2.3% and Meghalaya and Odisha at 2.6%.



During March, the unemployment rate in urban areas was at 8.4 per cent while in the rural areas it was at 7.5 per cent.

"India's labour markets deteriorated in March 2023. The unemployment rate increased from 7.5 per cent in February to 7.8 per cent in March. The effect of this is compounded by the simultaneous fall in the labour force participation rate, which fell from 39.9 per cent to 39.8 per cent," CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas told PTL.

This led to a fall in the employment rate from 36.9 per cent in February to 36.7 per cent in March, Vyas said, adding that employment fell from 409.9 million to 407.6 million.

TeamLease Services co-founder Rituparna Chakraborty said the unemployment data is reflective of a pensive mood noticed in the current economic environment.

"India Inc is being thoughtful and weighing each step with caution and hence has momentarily tempered down hiring as what is happening globally at some point can affect India too. However, for India it could only be a passing shower as we are far more resilient to external forces," she added.

RECORD DESPATCHES

Car majors end FY23 on a high

MARUTI SUZUKI, HYUNDAI, TATA MOTORS HAVE REPORTED THEIR BEST-EVER WHOLESALE FIGURES IN FY23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 1: Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Tata Motors reported their highest-ever despatches to dealers last fiscal, enabling the domestic passenger vehicle industry to log in best-ever performance to date.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India reported its highest wholesales to date at 19,66,164 units, up 19 per cent from 16,52,653 units in 2021-22. Its domestic despatches rose to 17,06,831 units in 2022-23, up 21 per cent from 14,14,277 units in 2021-22 fiscal.

Hyundai Motor India said its overall wholesales last fiscal were the highest ever since commencing operations in the country. The automaker despatched 7,20,565 units to dealers last fiscal, up 18 per cent from 6,10,760 units in 2021-22. Its domestic despatches rose to 5,67,546 units last fiscal, up 18 per cent from 4,81,500 units in the 2021-22 financial year. The country's second-largest carmaker said it was its best performance to date in terms of sales volume in the domestic market in a financial year.

Tata Motors also reported the best-ever passenger vehicle despatches in the domestic market last fiscal at 5,38,640 units, up 45 per cent from 3,70,372 units FY22.

Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing and Sales, Shashank Srivastava said the company reported its highest-



ever sales in a financial year despite chip shortage continuing to impact the production activity. He noted that the overall industry sales last fiscal rose to 38.89 lakh units, an increase of 27 per cent from 30.69 lakh units in 2021-22. "Both wholesales and retail were the highest for the industry last fiscal," Srivastava said.

The industry sales were expected to rise to 4.05-4.10 million in the current fiscal, he added. "We expect the industry growth to be in the range of 5-7 per cent this fiscal and the company would like to perform better than the industry," Srivastava said.

The company has also increased prices of its vehicles with effect from April 1, 2023. An estimated weighted average of increase across models stands at around 0.8 per

cent and is calculated using ex-showroom prices of models in Delhi, the auto major said in a regulatory filing.

Hyundai reported domestic despatches of 5,67,546 units last fiscal, up 18 per cent from 4,81,500 units in the 2021-22 financial year. Exports rose 18 per cent year on year to 1,53,019 units.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra stated noted that the steep growth witnessed by the industry was driven by post-COVID pent-up demand in the early part of the year, the launch of several new vehicles and easing of the semiconductor shortage.

Tata Motors scaled a new sales peak by posting its highest-ever annual domestic sales of 5,38,640 units, achieving a robust 46 per cent sales growth over FY22 and registering its third successive year of industry-beating growth, Chandra said.

March sees second highest GST mop-up

GST collection in March rises 13% to ₹1.60 lakh cr second highest ever; FY23 gross collection up 22%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 1: GST collections in March grew 13 per cent to the second highest ever at ₹1.60 lakh crore, taking the growth rate of revenue mop-up for full 2022-23 fiscal to 22 per cent.

March also saw over 91 per cent of the GST registered businesses filing returns and paying taxes — reflecting greater compliance and improving economic activity.

Gross GST revenue collected in March 2023 is ₹1,60,122 crore, of which Central GST is ₹29,546 crore, State GST is ₹37,314 crore, Integrated GST is ₹82,907 crore (including ₹42,503 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹10,355 crore, the finance ministry said in a statement.

In April 2022, GST collection had touched a record high of close to ₹1.68 lakh crore. The second highest mop-up was recorded in March 2023, at a little over ₹1.60 lakh crore.

For full 2022-23 fiscal year, gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop-up grew 22 per cent to ₹18.10 lakh crore. The average gross monthly collection for the full year is ₹1.51 lakh crore.

Revenue for the month of March 2023 is 13 per cent higher than the GST revenue in the same month last year, the ministry said. Revenue for the month of March 2023 is 13 per cent higher than the GST revenue in the same month last year, the ministry said.

During the month, revenue from



March is the fourth time in the just gone by financial year that the monthly gross GST collection has crossed ₹1.5 lakh crore-mark

import of goods was 8 per cent higher and revenue from domestic transaction (including import of services) is 14 per cent higher than the revenue from these sources during the same month last year.

The ministry said return filing during March 2023 has been the highest ever. 93.2 per cent of statement of invoices (in GSTR-1) and 91.4 per cent of returns (in GSTR-3B) of February were filed till March 2023 as compared to 83.1 per cent and 84.7 per cent, respectively a year ago.

KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said the monthly and yearly GST collection point towards the growing trajectory of the Indian economy.

"Another cheer point is the highest ever compliance rate with 91.4 per cent of returns being filed in the month of March, indicating success of revenue authorities and businesses in ensuring tax compliance and preventing tax evasion," Jain said.

SHORT TAKES

Historic growth in coal output: Min

New Delhi: India has recorded historic growth in its coal output at 892.21 million tonnes (MT) in 2022-23, Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said Saturday. At 892 MT, the country's total coal production is 14.65 per cent higher from 778.21 MT produced in the 2021-22 fiscal, the minister said in a statement. "This is a historic moment for the coal sector. I congratulate all the coal warriors and stakeholders for the record growth. Despite the stiff targets, CIL, SCCL, along with captive & commercial mines have produced more than 892 MT of coal in FY23," Joshi said. He said Coal India Ltd (CIL) has done a tremendous job by surpassing its FY23 fiscal's target and produced 703.20 MT of coal, which is 12.94 per cent up from 622.63 MT in 2021-22. Recently the minister said that India has adequate coal reserves and the country aims to begin exporting the dry fuel by 2024-25. From a net importer of coal, India is moving towards becoming a net exporter of non-coking coal, he said.

Twitter bans record accounts in India

New Delhi: Struggling to become profitable under Elon Musk as it takes drastic decisions which have infuriated users, Twitter banned a record 682,420 accounts promoting child sexual exploitation and non-consensual nudity in India between January 26 and February 25. The micro-blogging platform, going through a churning under Musk, also took down 1,548 accounts for promoting terrorism on its platform in the country. Twitter, in its monthly report in compliance with the new IT Rules, 2021, said that it received just 73 complaints from users in India in the same time-frame through its grievance redressal mechanisms. In addition, Twitter processed 27 grievances which were appealing account suspensions.

UltraTech Cement sales rise in FY23

New Delhi: Leading cement maker UltraTech's consolidated sales rose by 12.4 per cent to 105.7 million tonnes (MT) in FY2022-23, Aditya Birla group firm said in a regulatory filing Saturday. The company produced 94 MT of cement in FY22. Its total sales volume in the domestic market also crossed 100 MT for the financial year that ended March 31, 2023.

Nexus Esplanade celebrates Utkal Divas



BHUBANESWAR: Nexus Esplanade celebrates Utkal Divas by promoting Odisha's handloom and culture through different activities at the mall April 1. A momentum showing the state's transition was witnessed at the mall. The two-day programme includes Odissi dance, along with cultural programmes and activities. The main attraction of the event was a fashion show on Odisha's handloom. The purpose was to reach to the mass and show them our heritage.

POSSIBLE RULE VIOLATIONS

Market regulator investigating Adani Group's offshore deals

SEBI's investigation into Adani's possible 'related party' transactions with offshore entities with links to Vinod Adani is likely to bring more storm for the already embattled conglomerate

REUTERS

Mumbai, April 1: India's market regulator is investigating possible violation of 'related party' transaction rules in the Adani Group's dealings with at least three offshore entities that have links to the brother of the conglomerate's founder, two people said.

The three entities allegedly entered into several investment transactions with unlisted units of the ports-to-power conglomerate founded by billionaire Gautam Adani over the last 13 years, said the sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

Vinod Adani, Gautam Adani's brother, is either a beneficial owner, director or has links with those three offshore entities, said the two sources, adding the regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is probing if lack of that disclosure violated 'related party transaction' rules.

Under Indian laws, direct relatives, promoter groups and subsidiaries of listed companies are considered related parties.

A promoter group is defined as an entity that has a large shareholding in a listed company and can influence company policy.



Transactions between such entities have to be disclosed in regulatory and public filings and require shareholder approval above a specified threshold. Violations typically attract monetary fines.

An Adani Group spokesperson said Vinod Adani is a member of the Adani family and is part of the promoter group, but he does not hold any managerial position in any of the listed Adani entities or their subsidiaries.

"This fact, like all other material information required to be reported, has been disclosed to the regulatory authorities in the past and also as and when required," the spokesperson added, without commenting on the regulatory probe into offshore entities.

The probe comes after US short-

seller Hindenburg Research's January 24 report alleging improper use of tax havens and stock manipulation by Adani Group, among other things - charges it has denied.

Hindenburg's report eroded more than \$100 billion in the value of shares in Adani group of companies.

India's Supreme Court asked SEBI in March to investigate the Adani Group for any lapses related to public shareholding, related party rules or regulatory disclosures.

While SEBI investigations are continuing, top regulatory officials are due to give a status report to a court-appointed panel Sunday, the two sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity as investigations are private.

'DISCLOSURE VIOLATIONS'

Hindenburg in its January report alleged that Vinod Adani entities have collectively moved "billions of dollars" into Adani's publicly listed and private entities, often without required disclosure of the related party nature of the deals.

SEBI suspects there were "disclosure violations" on some of those transactions, said one of the two sources.

If proven, it could lead to monetary penalties and the matter may be referred to India's Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) for transactions that are beyond SEBI jurisdiction, the source said.

Lawrence & Mayo opens 2nd store in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 1: Lawrence & Mayo, one of India's leading optician since 1877, is spearheading as a retailer of spectacles, sunglasses and contact lenses with an unparalleled standard in precision eye testing.

The company has opened its second store in Metro House, Vani Vihar, Janpath. The showroom is the ultimate branded destination featuring over 20 brands like Carrera, RayBan, Tommy Hilfinger, Silhouette, Vogue, Emporio Armani, Oakley, Elle, Burberry, Mont Blanc etc. It showcases an appealing mix of collections ranging from budget to premium sunglasses.

The Precision Eye Test facility by qualified optometrists in state



of the art technology make the store one stop solution provider for eye care & eye wear seekers. Besides all these products and

services in the store, L&M extends its services to people of Bhubaneswar with Home Eye Test in which they will provide eye tests at home along with a personal showcase, LM Connect that will provide eye testing camps at corporations, offices and residences and Spectacle Servicing in which all glasses will be serviced for free, regardless of where it was purchased. There is up to 20% off on sunglasses and powered sunglasses as part of annual event Sunglass Mela to avail it across all national and international brands.

Govt's total debts inch higher

CENTRE'S TOTAL LIABILITIES RISE 2.6% TO ₹150.95 LAKH CRORE IN Q3 FY23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 1: The government's total liabilities rose to ₹150.95 lakh crore in December quarter from ₹147.19 lakh crore in the three months ended September 2022, according to the latest public debt management report.

The increase reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 2.6 per cent in October-December 2022-23.

In absolute terms, the total liabilities, including liabilities under the 'Public Account' of the government, jumped to ₹1,50,95,970.8 crore at the end of December 2022.

As of September 30, the total liabilities stood at ₹1,47,19,572.2 crore. The report released by the finance ministry Saturday said public debt accounted for 89 per cent of the total outstanding liabilities in December quarter, compared to 89.1 per cent at the end of September.

Nearly 28.29 per cent of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years.



During Q3 of FY23, it said, the Centre raised an amount worth ₹3,51,000 crore through dated securities, as against notified amount of ₹3,51,000 3,18,000 crore in the borrowing calendar.

During the quarter an amount of ₹3,51,000 85,377.9 crore due for redemption was repaid on maturity date, it said.

Weighted average yield of primary issuances hardened to 7.38 per cent in Q3 FY23, from 7.33 per cent in Q2 of FY23, it added.

The weighted average maturity of new issuances of dated securities elongated to 16.56 years in Q3 of FY23, as compared to 15.62 years in Q2 of FY23.

During October-December 2022, it said, the government did not raise any amount through the Cash Management Bills.

The Reserve Bank did not conduct Open Market operations for government securities during the quarter.

The net daily average liquidity absorption by RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) including Marginal Standing Facility and Special Liquidity Facility was at ₹39,604 crore during the quarter, the report said.

With regard to the yield, the report said, interest rate on 10-year benchmark security softened from 7.40 per cent at the close of the quarter on September 30, 2022 to 7.33 per cent at the close on December 30, 2022, thus softening by 7 bps during the quarter.

On December 7, 2022 the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to hike the policy repo rate by 35 bps, from 5.90 per cent to 6.25 per cent largely with an intention to contain inflation. On February 8, the Reserve Bank hiked the key benchmark policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent, citing sticky core inflation.

Kings reign over Knights

Wood, Mayers script LSG win



PBKS' Arshdeep Singh (C) celebrates after dismissing a KKR batter during their match, Saturday

Mohali, April 1: Punjab Kings' (PBKS) costliest recruit Sam Curran dismissed the dangerous Andre Russell at the nick of time to ensure a seven-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) via Duckworth-Lewis method in a rain-hit afternoon encounter of Indian Premier League, here Saturday.

Chasing a target of 192, KKR were left stranded at 146/7 after 16 overs when heavy downpour put spanner on their hardwork. The DLS par score at that time was 153. Had KKR not lost Andre Russell (35, 19b, 3x4, 2x6), who was looking to walk away with the game and then Venkatesh Iyer (34, 28b, 3x4, 1x6) to Arshdeep Singh (3/19) in the next over, the par score would have been lower before heavens opened up.

The two wickets in the 15th and 16th over proved to be decisive as KKR needed 46 off 24 balls at that stage with Shardul Thakur (8 n o) and Sunil Narine (7 n o) were at the crease. Kolkata needed 62 from 32 balls when Curran dismissed an on-song Russell and Arshdeep removed the 'Impact Player' Iyer which proved to be turning point. KKR had a poor start as they were reduced to 29/3 inside the first five overs but a 46-run stand for the fourth wicket between Iyer and skipper Nitish Rana (24)

brought them back in contest. Then a 50-run partnership between Iyer and Russell put them on course for a possible chase. But KKR just did not have enough firepower in them on the day.

Arshdeep bowled an eventful second over, striking on the first ball to have Mandeep Singh (2) caught at deep mid-wicket by Curran. After Anukul Roy hit him for a four, the India pacer had the left-handed batter caught at short mid-wicket.

Earlier in the first half, Bhanuka

Rajapaksa slammed a quickfire 50 (32b, 5x4, 2x6) to guide Kings to a challenging 191/5 against the Knights.

Rajapaksa added 86 runs for the second wicket with captain Shikhar Dhawan (40, 29b, 6x4) to lay a strong platform, with Sam Curran (26 n o, 17b, 2x6) providing late flurry on a batting friendly wicket.

Punjab dominated the first half of the innings with aggressive batting and looked primed to cross 200, but KKR managed to pull things

back in control with regular wickets after a sturdy 86-run association between Rajapaksa and Dhawan.

Riding on the momentum provided by Prabhsimran Singh (23) at the top, Rajapaksa ensured Punjab maintained the domination while Dhawan played the second fiddle throughout his stay.

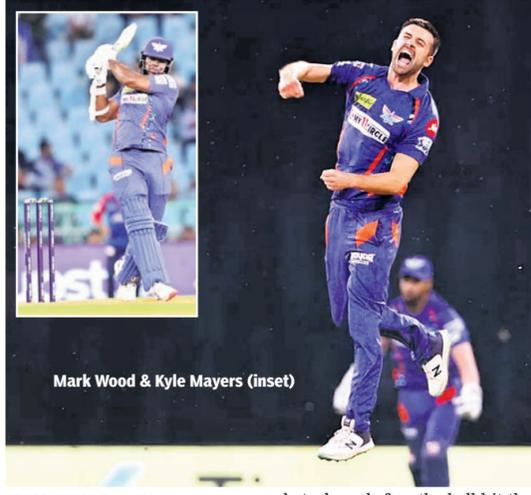
They went about their job with precision to score nearly 10 runs an over, adding 86 runs from just 55 balls for the second wicket. After the Sri Lankan batter's departure, Jitesh Sharma joined Dhawan for a quickfire 11-ball 21 while playing his first IPL match before Sikandar Raza scored 16 after Jitesh's dismissal.

The start of the second innings was delayed by about 30 minutes owing to the malfunctioning of the six floodlights installed here at the PCA Stadium.

BRIEF SCORES
PBKS 191/5 (Bhanuka Rajapaksa 50, Shikhar Dhawan 40; Tim Southee 2/54) beat KKR 146/7 in 16 overs (Andre Russell 35, Venkatesh Iyer 34; Arshdeep Singh 3/19) by 7 runs via DLS method.



Telecast: Star Sports channels



Mark Wood & Kyle Mayers (inset)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 1: Mark Wood (5/14) scarred the Delhi Capitals top-order with scorching pace as his five-wicket haul beautifully complemented debutant Kyle Mayers' superb 73 (38b, 2x4, 7x6) in Lucknow Super Giants' comfortable 50-run win in their IPL opener, here Saturday.

Mayers, who got a chance to showcase his exploits because of Quinton de Kock's absence, was largely responsible for solid 193/6 in 20 overs. In reply, Delhi Capitals managed only 143/9 with David Warner (56, 48b, 7x4) fight hardly being any sort of consolation.

Wood bowled back-to-back lethal in-cutters at 147 clicks which Prithvi Shaw (12) and Mitchell Marsh (0) failed to even bring their respective

bats down before the ball hit the 'wood' work.

In case of Sarfaraz Khan (4), his weakness against pacy short-pitched stuff is well documented and Wood directed one at his body, which could have blown his head off and he tried a non-existent ramp shot getting himself into a tangle and the easiest of catches was taken at fine-leg boundary.

From 41 for no loss to 48/3, it happened in a space of couple of overs DC weren't able to make a comeback after Wood had destroyed their confidence with raw pace.

Skipper Warner and Rilee Rossouw (30) did add 40 runs before a freak dismissal off Ravindra Bishnoi's (2/31) delivery raved about his downfall.

Bishnoi and 'Impact Substitute' Krishnappa Gowtham (0/19) bowled ad-

mirably well in dew-laden conditions and the later in fact showed his multi-skill worth with a last ball six during LSG's batting innings.

DC, on the day didn't look the part as the momentum slipped out of their grasp, way too many times. The 16 sixes conceded by DC bowlers was a testimony to their inconsistency.

They did enjoy a good bowling Powerplay, Mayers announced his grand entry on IPL stage with a scintillating knock.

Deepak Hooda (17) at the other end was a mere spectator to Mayers'



fury as they stitched 79 runs in 42 balls to accelerate the run-rate in the middle overs. The duo departed in the space of one ball, while Marcus Stoinis (12) got out cheaply in the middle overs.

But LSG maintained the momentum with Nicholas Pooran (36) and Krupal Pandya (15 n o) taking the charge, before Ayush Badoni's mini assault (18) and a last ball six from Gowtham yielded 22 runs from the 20th over bowled by Chetan Sakariya (2/53). The last five overs produced 66 runs, primarily due to Pooran and Badoni using long handles to good effect.

Playing their first-ever home game since joining IPL last year, LSG were in a spot of bother with DC bowlers making full use of the two-paced tricky Ekana wicket after opting to bowl. It took LSG openers, KL Rahul and Mayers, 16 balls to get going and hit their first boundary.

They were reduced to 19/1 inside four overs when left-arm pacer Sakariya prolonged Rahul's lean patch by dismissing the Indian opener with a slower one. It was Sakariya's third dismissal of Rahul in four IPL match-ups.

BRIEF SCORES: LSG 193/6 (Kyle Mayers 73, Nicolas Pooran 36; Khaleel Ahmed 2/30, Chetan Sakariya 2/53) beat DC 143/9 (David Warner 56, Rilee Rossouw 30; Mark Wood 5/14, Avesh Khan 2/29) by 50 runs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A new milestone

New Delhi: Legends League Cricket (LLC) has announced that the recently concluded second edition of the LLC Masters held in Doha, Qatar witnessed a new milestone in its journey by registering a global digital footprint of 1.48 billion. The league which was bringing cricket back to Qatar after three decades saw an overall jump of 50% in fan reach as compared to the previous edition in Oman wherein the tournament had registered a footprint of 703 million. Further, more than 75% of the footprint is from South Asia including India. As per the BARC data, the average TV rating (TVR) for the matches has seen at least 15% higher ratings and viewership than any other T20 league (other than IPL) being watched in India throughout the year.

Sasi-Vishnu duo wins



Mysuru: India's Mukund Sasikumar and Vishnu Vardhan bagged the doubles title at the ITF Mysuru Open as the duo showed admirable endurance against compatriots B Ritvick Choudary and Nikki Poonacha here Saturday. The two defeated top seeds Choudary and Poonacha 6-3, 6-4 in 1 hour and 10 minutes. Mukund and Vishnu warded off seven break points in the match while they converted two opportunities to break their opponents to ease their way to the title. In fact, it was the second match of the day for Mukund and Vishnu and they showed great powers of concentration to stay focused on the task. Earlier in the day, Mukund and Vishnu romped into the doubles final upsetting second seeded Australia-Ukraine pair of Blake Ellis and Vladyslav Orlov 6-4, 7-5.

Sindhu marches into her first final of 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madrid, April 1: Double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu reached her first final of the year as she eked out a straight-game victory over Singapore's Yeo Jia Min at Madrid Masters Super 300 tournament here Saturday.

The second seed Sindhu toiled hard for 48 minutes to pull off a 24-22, 22-20 win over the lowly-ranked Singaporean shuttler in an intensely fought women's singles semifinals. Sindhu came to the match with a 40-head-to-head record against Min.

Trailing 15-20, Sindhu, showed immense fighting spirit as she saved seven game points to take the first game 24-22. She used the body smash to great effect and converted the only game point opportunity she had.

In the second game, Sindhu trailed 1-4, before opening a five point lead at 11-6. World No.33 Min however, played a gorgeous drop shot to level the scores at 17-17. Sindhu then had two match points but Min manage to save both of them before driving one wide, giving the Indian her third match point.



This time Sindhu made no errors as Min found the net. It is Sindhu's first final since winning the gold and the Commonwealth Games last year. She will face the winner of the second semifinal clash between local favourite and top seed Carolina Marin and Indonesia's Gregoria Tunjung.

The win will come as a huge morale boost for Sindhu who has been struggling for form this season since returning to action following a long injury lay off. Sindhu has dropped out of the top 10 for the first time since November 2016.

Sinner stuns Alcaraz in Miami

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Gardens, April 1: Tenth-seeded Jannick Sinner of Italy stunned top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz in the Miami Open semifinals, rallying from a set down to beat the defending champion, 6-7(5-7), 6-4, 6-2 in a three-hour thriller.

Sinner ended Alcaraz's winning streak at 10 matches on Friday night. Sinner's powerfully steady baseline game wore down Alcaraz, who appeared to be cramping early in the decisive third set while he also dealt with an apparent finger injury. He will lose the No.1 ranking to Novak Djokovic.

Sinner, the 21-year-old who made the Miami Open final last year but hasn't been past the quarterfinals of a major, will face fourth-seeded Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the championship match Sunday. Medvedev has beaten Sinner in all five meetings.

Alcaraz had been so dominant recently, he hadn't lost a set since February before Sinner's rally in the Miami humidity. The Alcaraz hype train has been so breakaway NBA stars Luka Doncic and Jimmy Butler showed up to watch the Spanish star from the teal seats.

Alcaraz also fought Sinner in



Indian Wells in the semifinals, and it was a taut match but not quite like this. These two young guns are poised for a long and spectacular rivalry. Sinner's victory ended Alcaraz's hope of becoming the first man since Roger Federer in 2017 to win the Sunshine Double of Indian Wells and Miami.

Medvedev beat fellow Russian Karen Khachanov 7-6(7-5), 3-6, 6-

3 on the same day Wimbledon announced Russians will be allowed back. Medvedev has won 23 of 24 matches — the lone loss to Alcaraz — and is in his fifth straight final.

Also Friday, No.15 seed Petra Kvitova beat unseeded Sorana Cirstea 7-5, 6-3 in the second women's semifinal. Kvitova will face Elena Rybakina in the final.

Verstappen takes pole at Australian GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, April 1: Max Verstappen will have his best chance of claiming an inaugural Australian Grand Prix title after taking pole position in his Red Bull for Sunday's third race of the Formula One (F1) season on the Albert Park circuit.

Seven-time World Champion Lewis Hamilton is among rivals sharing renewed hope after the dominance Red Bull has had over its rivals was diminished during Saturday's qualifying session.

After setting a lap record during practice earlier Saturday, the drivers' championship leader set a benchmark of 1 minute, 16.732 seconds in the final session of qualifying. His teammate Sergio Perez, who sits just one point behind the Dutch driver in the championship, will start from the back of the grid.

Mercedes driver George Russell shared the front row of the starting grid after recording a time 0.236 seconds slower than Verstappen. Hamilton will start in third position on what was an encouraging day for Mercedes.

HAALAND-LESS MANCHESTER CITY THRASH LIVERPOOL 4-1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, April 1: No Erling Haaland, no problem for Manchester City. Even without the Premier League's leading scorer, Pep Guardiola's team came from behind to rout Liverpool 4-1 Saturday and stay in pursuit of first-place Arsenal.

Haaland, who has scored 42 goals in all competitions this season, was ruled out of the game at Etihad Stadium after failing to recover from a groin injury.

But even after falling behind to a 20th-minute strike from Mohamed Salah, City powered back with goals from Julian Alvarez, Kevin

de Bruyne, Ilkay Gundogan and Jack Grealish to keep the pressure on Arsenal and deliver another blow to Liverpool's Champions League qualification hopes.

City's dominance was so complete that by the end Jurgen Klopp said the result could have been even worse for his team.

The game represented one of the biggest remaining tests in City's league campaign and defeat would have given Arsenal the chance to extend its lead at the top to 11 points.

That looked like a real possibility when Liverpool scored against the run of play early on, with Diogo Jota bursting past City's high defensive line and laying off to Salah



Man City players celebrate after a goal against Liverpool, Saturday

to sweep a shot into the corner. But City evened the score when Alvarez, Argentina's World Cup winning striker, converted Grealish's cross in the 27th.

Liverpool had no answer to City's attacking quality in the second half, with De Bruyne poking home a cross from Riyad Mahrez less than a minute after the restart.

Gundogan added a third from close range in the 54th, and Grealish got a deserved goal to round off the scoring in the 74th.

It was Guardiola's 100th home win in the league with City in 128 games at Etihad Stadium. He is the quickest manager to achieve that feat, beating Arsene Wenger's record of

reaching that total in 139 games. The win moved City to within five points of Arsenal before the Londoners' game against Leeds later in the day. Liverpool remain seven points off fourth-place Tottenham and still hasn't won a league match at Etihad Stadium since 2015.

Klopp's team has now lost three straight games since routing Manchester United 7-0 last month. "In the end, we had moments, but in general how we lost everything, unacceptable," Klopp said.

The Liverpool manager said "four-ish" of his players "had an OK game, and the rest were somewhere I don't know."

INDIA'S TRYST WITH CRICKET

A COUNTRY'S LOVE STORY WITH CRICKET AND ITS EVOLUTION.

India's tryst with cricket dates back to the British Era. Since then, the fandom for the sport has grown multifold. Today, cricket is among the top five most watched and most loved sports in the world and it's safe to say that India has played a key role in the rising popularity of the game. In India, the game is widely referred to as a religion, and the players are worshiped to a God-like stature. Sachin Tendulkar - a cricketer who has long retired finds himself on a pedestal in the hearts of cricket lovers across the country. The Board of Control for Cricket in India i.e. the BCCI is the strongest and also the richest cricket board in the world with its net worth valued at an

estimated \$2.25 billion as of 2022. India's love for cricket can be witnessed in the smallest of alleys to the biggest gaming exchanges in staggering numbers. In fact, approximately 75% of the entire world's cricket gaming volume can be traced back to India.

In 2020, when wave after wave of COVID plagued the nation and brought humanity to a standstill, inevitably the sports industry came to a grinding halt. As the world collectively began to recover from this virus, certain entities came forward to rekindle the spirit of cricket. FairPlay has been one such driving force that played a key role in encouraging and rebuilding the cricket fraternity- one league at a time. Having backed numerous

leagues such as the ILT20, Abu Dhabi T10 League, the CPL, the bilateral series in India; FairPlay also extended its support to national teams such as the Sri Lanka team that went on to win the Asia Cup in 2022. The Sri Lanka Women's cricket team too was exclusively sponsored by FairPlay. "India as a nation is united by the spirit of sports. It's what breaks the barriers of religion and brings the country together to celebrate their undying love for cricket. It's this spirit that keeps us motivated."

The Indian Premier League which happens to be the most popular T20 cricket league has taken the country and thus the world by storm. It is notably the most watched and highly awaited cricket event. For the cricket fans in

India it is no less than a carnival, a festival if you may. A rollercoaster of thrill, excitement and an adrenaline rush like no other, the IPL is watched and loved by all. With the perfect blend of fun and responsible gaming, FairPlay is the unarguably the best platform to enjoy this two month long festive season! A plethora of options await FairPlay Club members that will most definitely be astonished with just how many ways there are to enjoy the IPL on FairPlay. Right from watching the matches streaming live absolutely free to having the opportunity to play along and win along with their home teams. After all, the only thing that's better than your home team's victory is your own!

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF FAIRPLAY'S GROWTH ALL OVER INDIA FROM THE FY19-22

TOP 4 STATES	GROWTH IN % (2019-2022)
MAHARASHTRA	94
TAMIL NADU	79
GUJARAT	63
WEST BENGAL	57

LEADERS IN THE ONLINE GAMING MARKET



"Seeing the growth every year, we have benchmarked in the online gaming market, and we still have more to do to take the user experience to the next level."

- FairPlay's Spokesperson

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Fairplay is truly revolutionizing the world of sports entertainment. We strive to offer our users the most engaging and immersive experience possible, with cutting-edge features and functionalities that keep them coming back for more.

We understand that every sports enthusiast has their unique preferences and interests, which is why we provide a diverse range of content and interactive games that cater to all kinds of fans. From football and basketball to cricket and rugby, Fairplay has something for everyone.



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INDIA'S BIGGEST AND MOST TRUSTED PLATFORM

Untold story of Odias who conquered Land of Gold

Even before the birth of Christ, traders from the land of Kalinga had been venturing far and wide and have left their footprints on the global map

PATIT MANDAL, OP

It's a foggy morning with hazy visibility. Thousands of traders prepare to board their massive ships. With moist eyes, their loved ones are there to wish them luck so the sailors can navigate the unexpectedness of the sea. The sails of pot-bellied ships are heaved upwards. They flap, signalling that time has come to bid adieu. Amid the teary eyes, there is celebration also at the port as the ships lift their anchors to begin their journey to faraway lands.

This might have been the scene at a typical harbour in ancient Odisha on the full moon day in the month of 'Kartik'. It is reasonable to believe that the 'Sadhavas' (Odia marine traders) took advantage of the outgoing north-east monsoon between October and November to set their sails from ports in Kalinga to Suvarnabhumi (the Land of Gold) which is the present-day parts of south-east Asia. Modern-day festivals such as 'Bali Yatra' and 'Khudurukumi' corroborate this fact. While 'Bali Yatra' marks the beginning of a new voyage, 'Khudurukumi' is celebrated as a mark of the return of traders. One should remember the fact that 'Bali' is an important part of Indonesia.

It is a well-known fact that Odia traders had commercial relationships with south-east Asian countries over the centuries.

Many, however, would be surprised to know about the historical records of Odia maritime conquests that predate Chola empire under Rajendra Chola (conquest of Pegu 1023-1025 CE, conquest of the Srivijaya Empire 1025 CE) - which is often attributed as the first Indian empire outside the country.

If one looks at the history of maritime conquests through ages, a distinct pattern emerges. New territories were often discovered through military expeditions which later gave way to trade relationships and later culminated in cultural links.

Modern-day Odisha's links have already been referred to with China, south-east Asia and Sri Lanka. Cultural links with these regions are also well-known as can be referred from King Ashoka's daughter Sanghamitra's voyage to Sri Lanka in third century BCE to modern architectural and naming references across south-east Asia that showcases their links with Odisha.

The question however, remains as to whether there was any military conquest by Odias that established the trade and cultural linkage?

Historian RK Kanchan writes about the colonisation of Pegu in Burma (Myanmar) by the royal family of Kalinga



in third century BCE. After the invasion of Ashoka, there might have been a mass migration from the coastal belt of Kalinga to Burma through the sea route.

Many scholars mention that the kingdom of 'Funan' (Cambodia) was raised by the people of Kalinga. According to Chinese sources, a Kaundinya Brahmana established the 'Funan' kingdom in the

first century CE. Kaundinya Brahmanas are considered to have emerged from the Mahendra mountain region in Odisha.

Historian HB Sarkar has written about the probability of Java's colonisation by Kalinga.

There is a place called Holing in Java, which is assumed to be a Chinese transcription (during the Tang dynasty 618 to 907 CE) of Kalinga. A mass migration from Kalinga to Java is also reported in many such folklore and tales.

Historian Sunil Kumar Patnaik, in his book Studies in Maritime Heritage of Odisha, mentions a king called Jayabhaya who claimed to be a descendant of a Kalinga family. Additionally, Javanese records also mention Aji Saka, who hailed from Kalinga and was one of the most prominent colonisers of Java.

Historian Sarat Chandra Behera, in his book Rise and Fall of the Shailodvabas, has mentioned the relationship between the ruling 'Sailodvabas' of Kongoda and the 'Shailendra' dynasty of the Srivijaya kingdom in Sumatra.

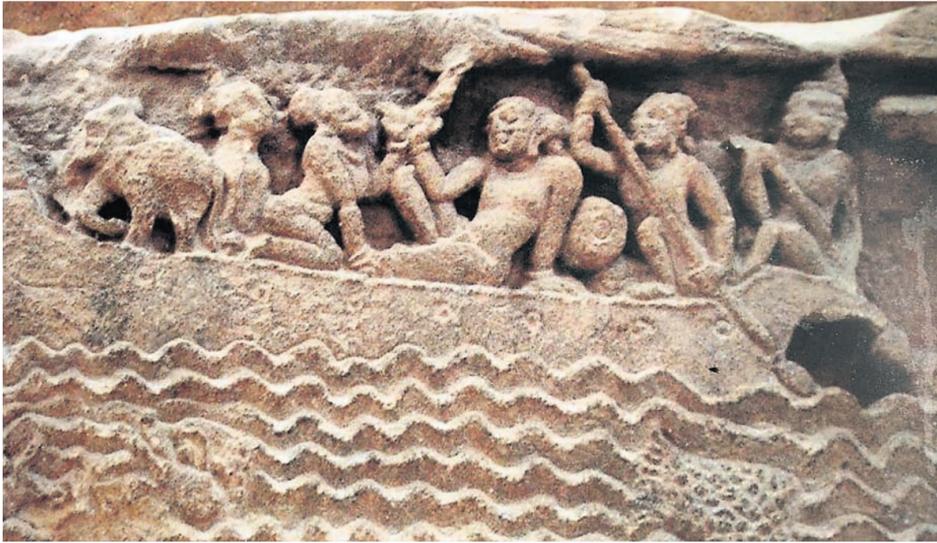
According to historical records of 'Shailodvaba' dynasty, which ruled Kongoda (the region between Mahanadi and Rushikulya River) from sixth century CE to eighth century CE, King Madhavaraja was expelled to Bali with

20,000 soldiers. This incident is reported in the eighth century CE. Later, he raised his kingdom in Bali through multiple conquests.

From historical documents one can assume that due to the invasion of Bhaumakars from the northern part of Odisha and the hostile relations with the South Koshala kingdom in the west, the 'Shailodvabas' were banished and they escaped eastwards through a sea route. Many scholars opine that this migration might have led to the formation of 'Shailendra' dynasty in Sumatra.

From all these accounts, it can be deduced that the mariners of Kalinga played a major role in colonising south-east Asian countries much before the Cholas. However, more research is needed to establish Odisha's rich tradition of maritime heritage.

Meticulous micro research and publicity of cultural resources are needed for several ancient ports in Odisha, such as Manikapatna, Palur and Bramhavana to get global recognition and acceptance. Otherwise, as Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe once said, "Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."



For the love of space & beyond



Original palmleaf manuscript of Siddhanta Darpan at Odisha State Museum, PIC-WIKIMEDIA

HARIHARA KAR, OP

After all the cacophony of the day, the night brings us calmness with its peaceful silence and a picture of meditating sky where stars from distant galaxies twinkle light years away. On these tranquil nights, one of the greatest astronomers was observing the distant stars and planets with his creative yet genius astronomical instrument known as 'Mana Yantra' made using pieces of bamboo and wood. He was Pathani Samanta - an astronomer, whose fascination with the infinite expanse of the cosmos earned him reverence in Odisha as well as throughout the world.

It was December 13, 1835, and in the picturesque village of Khandapada a child was born to Bishnumali Devi and Samanta Syamabandhu Singha. Little did the royal couple know that this child was destined for greatness. However, Pathani Samanta, as we know him now, was not his actual name. Rather, it was a moniker that he acquired as a result of a series of events that shaped his early life. His full name with honours is: Mahamahopadhyaya Chandrasekhar Singha Harichandan Mohapatra Samanta.

As the wall murals of the Pathani Samanta Planetarium in Bhubaneswar reveal, Pathani Samanta's parents had suffered the loss of two daughters and one son in infancy. To protect their newborn son from what they perceived as the evil eye seeming to follow them, the couple sought the help of a Muslim fakir. The fakir adopted the child. To ward off any remaining traces of the evil eye, and in memory of the fakir who had saved their son's life, the couple named him 'Pathani'.

Deputy Director of Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Subhendu Pattnaik shared some intriguing insights about the life of Pathani, an underrated genius whose remarkable story deserves wider recognition.

From a very young age, Pathani developed a love for

stargazing, which was his first love. Ample reading was the second. From 11 years of age, he used to study lots of 'granthas' (treatise) written in Sanskrit - which described how one can predict the position and movement of stars.

"Pathani was home-schooled by his father and his 'guru', who helped him learn Sanskrit and Mathematics. He was a heedful observer, who from the age of 11 to 23 - without using any western or modern instruments - used to measure the position and speed of the celestial objects with his naked eye and using a self-made instrument called 'Mana Yantra'," said Pattnaik.

Afterward, he realised that the position of the star he observed did not match the prediction recorded in the 'granthas'. As a result, he meticulously reviewed his own observations and calculations, uncovering a discrepancy that piqued his curiosity and prompted him to delve deeper.

"Over the course of approximately eight years, he spent his nights observing the stars and planets, diligently recording their positions. Eventually, he devised his own method, building upon older methods, that enabled him to determine the precise locations of celestial bodies," Pattnaik said.

Despite his uncle being a king at the time, Pathani Samanta's family frequently faced financial difficulties as they were living separately. While conducting his night-time observations for years, he also experienced some health problems. Nevertheless, he persisted with his observations and meticulously documented his discoveries. When he was 34, he completed the compilation of his observations, calculations, and findings, which later got published in a book called 'Siddhanta Darpana'. The book got mentioned in foreign journals like 'Nature' and 'Knowledge'.

Samanta was one of the greatest Odias to have ever lived on the land of the Lord Jagannath. Though best known for his contributions to astronomy, his impact on the people of Odisha is immeasurable, as he inspired Odias to look up and contemplate the vast and beautiful universe.

In his memory, a number of initiatives have been launched, from the Pathani Samanta Scholarship for students excelling in Mathematics to the Pathani Samanta Planetarium, which showcases both the wonders of astronomy and the inspiring story of Pathani's life. Through these efforts, his message and his inspiration continue to reach new heights, encouraging all to look towards the stars and find their own path toward greatness.

stars and find their own path toward greatness.

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