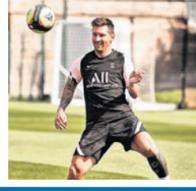




**HARD TALK**  
Actor Alia Bhatt says Hindi film industry is the most brutal place where it's difficult to survive even for a year **LEISURE P2**



**KYIV HINTS AT TRADE-OFF**  
Ukraine envoy to UK backtracked on remarks suggesting that Kyiv would reconsider its attempt to join NATO **INTERNATIONAL P10**



**PSG HOST REAL MADRID**  
Eyes will be on Lionel Messi as PSG host Real Madrid in the first leg of the Champions League's Round of 16 tie **SPORTS P12**

**ODM GLOBAL SCHOOL**  
Unlock your potential  
**ADMISSIONS OPEN**  
I - XI (Day Boarding)  
VI - XI (Residential)  
www.odmglobalschool.org  
1800-120-2316

**Maha woman killed over daughter's post**  
**Palghar:** A 48-year-old woman died after the family members of her daughter's friend allegedly beat her up over a petty dispute here in Maharashtra, police said Monday. The woman's 20-year-old daughter had posted a message on her WhatsApp status, which her friend thought was directed towards her and took offence to it, Boisar police station's senior inspector Suresh Kadam said without divulging contents of the post. On February 10, the other girl's mother and siblings went to victim Lilavati Devi Prasad's house in Shivaji Nagar and allegedly thrashed her and other members of her family, he said. Prasad suffered serious injuries and was rushed to a hospital where she died the next day while undergoing treatment, the official said.

**Sensex tanks 1,747 pts over Ukraine**  
**Mumbai:** The BSE Sensex crashed over 1,747 points while the NSE Nifty ended below the 17,000-level Monday amid escalating Russia-Ukraine tensions. The 30-share Sensex nosedived 1,747.08 points or 3 per cent to settle at 56,405.84 and the broader Nifty plummeted 531.95 points or 3.06 per cent to 16,842.80. On the Sensex chart, barring TCS, all shares closed with steep to moderate losses. Elsewhere in Asia also, bourses closed in deep red after concerns that Russia may soon invade Ukraine, which sent oil prices soaring. Domestic markets opened sharply lower in line with negative Asian bourses as also sharply lower US equities. **MORE P11**

**JSW Cement**  
The Leaders' Choice  
1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

**LAXMIPUR KHERI CASE**  
**HC corrects 'typo' to ease release of Union Min's son**  
AGENCIES

**Lucknow, Feb 14:** The Allahabad High Court Monday corrected its order granting bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister of state for Home minister Ajay Mishra, in connection with the death of four farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri. Ashish Mishra had moved the Lucknow bench of the High Court Friday seeking insertion of Sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC that were "inadvertently" not mentioned in the high court order as the jail authorities would not release him due to the omission. "It is a mere typographical error, while the court already considered the bail under these sections too and, as such, the same may be allowed making the addition of these sections in the order," said the application. A bench of Justice Rajeev Singh on Monday passed the order on the correction application. In the bail order passed Thursday, Sections 147, 148, 149, 307, 326, 427 read with Section 34 of IPC, Section 30 of the Arms Act and Section 177 of the Motor Vehicle Act were mentioned, but Section 302 and Section 120 (B) were left out. Eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri October 3 in violence that erupted during a farmers' protest.



FILE PHOTO

## CELEBRATING THE DAY OF LOVE



Students of Government Law College dance as they celebrate Valentine's Day in Kochi, Monday **PTI PHOTO**

## From Feb 21, no vax proof needed for temple entry

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** From February 21 onwards, the double dose vaccination certificate or Covid negative certificate is no longer required to enter Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri. Keeping in mind the improved Covid-19 situation in the state and a majority of population having taken double doses of the vaccine, the above decision was taken at the Chhatisa Nijog meeting, chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Krishan Kumar said Monday. However, he advised devotees seeking visits to the temple to be inoculated with two doses of Covid-19 vaccine. Other Covid-19 restrictions like use of sanitizer and masks, social distance will be mandatory for the devotees. The temple will continue to remain closed Sunday for devotees for sanitization of the premises, he said.



Informing about the upcoming visit of President Ram Nath Kovind to the shrine, the chief administrator said the temple will remain closed for the public during the President's visit to the temple February 19 from 4 pm to 6 pm. Other details like who will remain present during his visit have been decided at the meeting. Apart from Jagannath darshan, Kovind will inaugurate the celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Srimad Bhakti Sidhant Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada, the founder of Goudiya Mission February 20. Later, he will visit Sri Chaitanya Goudiya Mutt before returning to Delhi. Around 40 platoons of police force will be deployed in the pilgrim town for President's security.

## Govt blocks 54 more Chinese applications

■ Centre has already banned 267 Chinese apps, including hugely popular TikTok, UC Browser and PUBG, among others for security reasons

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** India Monday blocked 54 more apps with Chinese links including Tencent Xrivr, Nice Video Baidu and Viva Video Editor, over security and privacy concerns. According to sources, these 54 apps allegedly obtain various critical permissions and collect sensitive user data. The collected real-time data are being misused and transmitted to servers located in a hostile country, they added. The banned apps were allegedly engaged in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of the country, also posing serious threat to security of the state and defence of India, the sources said. IT ministry has issued interim directions for the blocking of 54 apps,



PIC FOR REPRESENTATIONAL USE ONLY

the sources said. The list of banned mobile apps include Beauty Camera: Sweet Selfie HD, Beauty Camera - Selfie Camera, Rise of Kingdoms: Lost Crusade, Viva Video Editor, Tencent Xrivr amongst others. Other apps that have been banned, as per fresh orders, include Garena Free Fire - Illuminate, Astracraft, FancyU pro, MoonChat, Barcode Scanner - QR Code Scan, and Lica Cam. In June 2020, the government had banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including hugely popular TikTok and UC Browser, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country. The 2020 ban - that had come in the backdrop of stand-off along the Line of Actual control in Ladakh with Chinese troops - was also applicable for WeChat and Bigo Live, besides Helo, Likee, CamScanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call - Xiaomi, Clash of Kings as well as e-commerce platforms Club Factory and Shein. Thereafter, the government banned 47 more Chinese apps that were clones and variants of the apps blocked earlier. In September the same year, the government blocked 118 more mobile applications.

## Schools reopen in K'taka amid curfew

■ Muslim girls wearing hijab or burqa were not allowed entry into the school even as the girls feigned ignorance about the court order

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Feb 14:** After a near week-long hijab row forced holiday, high schools in Karnataka reopened Monday, amid prohibitory orders in Udupi, which witnessed violence and tension last week, and sensitive areas of Dakshina Kannada and Bangalore. Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code has been imposed in sensitive areas in the said districts. In Udupi district, all the schools that reopened witnessed normal attendance, education department sources said. Muslim girls who reached the school campuses wearing hijabs removed them before entering classes. Examinations scheduled for the day are also going on in the institutions. The district administration has imposed Section 144 of CrPC around 200-metre radius of all high schools in the district from

### HEARING ADJOURNED

**Bangalore:** Challenging the government order restricting the use of any cloth that can disturb peace, harmony and, law and order, the girls who petitioned in favour of hijab requested the Karnataka High Court on Monday to allow them to wear Islamic headscarves of the colour of the school uniform. The girls made the plea to the full bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice J M Khazi and Justice Krishna M Dixit. Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court adjourned further hearing of the case to Tuesday.

Monday till February 19 to maintain peace.

Udupi tehsildar Pradeep Kurudekar, who visited a few schools, said Muslim students were abiding by the High Court's interim order by removing hijabs before entering classes. There were no reports of Hindu students turning up in saffron shawls. Police have been posted in Udupi town to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, Udupi Pejawar mutt chief Swami Vishwaprassanna Teertha appealed to all sections to avoid chaos and maintain peace.

### HIJAB ROW

Monday till February 19 to maintain peace. Udupi tehsildar Pradeep Kurudekar, who visited a few schools, said Muslim students were abiding by the High Court's interim order by removing hijabs before entering classes. There were no reports of Hindu students turning up in saffron shawls. Police have been posted in Udupi town to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, Udupi Pejawar mutt chief Swami Vishwaprassanna Teertha appealed to all sections to avoid chaos and maintain peace.

## PANCHAYAT POLL CAMPAIGNING FOR FIRST PHASE ENDS

About 200 ZP zones to go to polls February 16

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** Campaigning for the first phase of the panchayat election ended Monday evening with polling parties having started departing for their respective booths. After a marathon campaigning for party candidates, leaders of all three major political parties, BJD, BJP and Congress hoped their candidates would get votes. In the first phase, 200 Zilla Parishad zones in 71 blocks in all 30 districts will go to vote. Voting will be carried out at 22,379 wards and 1,669 panchayats across the state. As many as 67.51 lakh voters will exercise their franchise in this phase.

Polling officials have been sent to 11 districts Monday while officials will move to other 19 districts Tuesday, said State Election Commission (SEC) secretary RN Sahu. Meanwhile, the SEC has issued a clarification for the validation of votes polled during the upcoming panchayat elections. The SEC's clarification comes in the wake of several queries received by the commission regarding the validity of a ballot paper when a voter records his vote for a candidate in the pre-fold portion and again gives a vote on a symbol not allotted to any contesting candidate, the first vote will not be rejected. Panchayat Election Rules say a ballot paper is liable for rejection if votes are recorded in favour of more than one candidate in the fray for the election. "In the instant case, even if the voter has recorded his vote against one contesting candidate and another against a symbol which was not allotted to any candidate, the intention of the voter is clear and it will not be rejected," said Sahu. The collectors have been asked to implement the above instructions while counting of votes during in the panchayat election, 2022.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Do not say there is no scam under your regime. Say no scam has been reported under your regime!

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	56405.84 ↓ 1747.08
NIFTY	16842.80 ↓ 532.00
DOLLAR	75.91 ↑ ₹0.30
EURO	85.46 ↓ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹49,836 ↑ ₹722
SILVER	₹64,366 ↑ ₹1378

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.6°C	28.6°C
TEMP MIN	13.0°C	13.0°C
Humidity	71%	87%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Clear sky mainly	

## Man from Kendrapara arrested for having 14 wives

■ The only intention of Swain, a father of five children, was to mop up money and acquire properties of the women after marrying them

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** A 54-year-old man in Odisha was arrested Monday for duping several women across the country after marrying them, the police said. The individual has been identified as Ramesh Chandra Swain a.k.a Bidhu Prakash Swain a.k.a Raman Ranjan Swain, a resident of Kendrapara district. Briefing the media persons about the case, Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash said the man has been arrested from a rented ac-

commodation in Bhubaneswar based on a complaint filed by a woman school teacher of New Delhi at Mahila Thana here in July last year. Swain, posing as a 'deputy director general' rank official in the Union Health Ministry had married the woman in 2018 in Delhi Arya Samaj. Later, the teacher came to know that the accused had cheated her; and filed the complaint, Dash said. During investigation, the police found that Swain had married at least 14 women by giving fake identity as a 'deputy director general'. He used to establish contact with the victims through matrimonial websites. Swain used to target middle-aged single women who were looking for companionship, after acquiring their money used to abandon them. Lawyers, teachers, doctors and highly-educated women, most of



them outside Odisha, are among the victims, the police officer said. "His only intention was to mop up money and acquire properties of the women after marrying them,"

Dash said. Swain is a father of five children. He married first in 1982, and the 'second marriage' took place in 2002. During the probe, the police also found that Swain had married a woman official of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in Punjab and collected ₹10 lakh from her. He also cheated ₹11 lakh from the Gurdwara where the marriage ceremony with the CAPF official was held by prompting the authority to set up a hospital there, the DCP said. Earlier, Swain was arrested by Kerala police in 2006 for cheating 13 banks of around ₹1 crore. He was also arrested by a task force of Hyderabad police after cheating many students by promising them to provide admission in medical colleges. He had collected

about ₹2 crore from the students including an owner of a nursing home in Hyderabad. The police have already contacted nine out of 14 victims cheated by Swain and suspect that many other women might be his victim, and they may not come out due to fear of hampering their social prestige and status. A case has been registered against him at the Mahila police station under Sections 498 (A), 419, 468, 471 and 494 of the IPC. The police will also investigate the transaction of the fraud money by bringing him on remand, he added. During a search operation in Swain's rented house, police have seized 11 ATM cards, 4 Aadhar cards having different identities and a Bihar school certificate of different identity.

# leisure



## SPECTACULAR FEATURES OF ADELE'S LONDON HOME

Singer Adele's three-bedroom flat in London boasts some amazing traits. The modern development boasts a 24-hour concierge team, as well as an energy centre, a swimming pool, a sauna and a gym and of course a McDonald's, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

## INT'L SERIES MODERN LOVE TO BE ADAPTED IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

On the occasion of Valentine's Day, the adaptations of Anne Hathaway-starrer international hit series, *Modern Love* launching in three Indian languages - Hindi, Tamil and Telugu, was announced Monday.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

#### ARIES

You have to take care of your health, and at last you realise the importance of diet and exercise. However, today you may wish to eat something new, or try some different cuisine. Ganesh says go out with some old friends whom you have been neglecting of late.

#### TAURUS

You will find comfort, perched on a branch in the family tree, today. Your maturity will help you deal with emotional issues with ease. Energy and exuberance will be an investment you make today, the results of which you will reap in the days to come, hopes Ganesh.

#### GEMINI

You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

When the going gets tough, it's better to go with the flow. But you belong to a school of thought that believes that in such troubled times, it's better to stay out of water altogether. Since it is not your day today, you are likely to postpone all important decisions and work. Ganesh approves.

#### LEO

The trader in you comes to the fore today. With an impeccable eye for recognising profitable avenues, you will quickly spot opportunities that arise from buying goods at cheaper prices, and selling them off at a rate that leaves you with a lump sum profit. Start with small transactions, and treat each transaction with care before you plunge into bigger ventures, like the Bull-n-Bear tussle of the stock markets. Ganesh wishes you all the success today.

#### VIRGO

Ganesh foretells that your writing abilities will help you give vent to your emotions without hurting others. You will finish all your incomplete tasks successfully. Ganesh says that you will experience success in everything that you choose to do today.

#### LIBRA

Your family is the cornerstone of your success. And today is no different. Your auspicious day starts from your home, and you manage to carry this luck everywhere you go with the same tempo and gusto, predicts Ganesh. Your smile enables you to keep winning people to your side.

#### SCORPIO

You will spend most of the day in self-introspection and in testing your capabilities. You will take all the needed steps to improve your professional proficiency. Your rare insight and gifted understanding of human nature will prepare you for leadership in the near future, hopes Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

For you, appreciation and recognition for the efforts you put in may be delayed, but it's not denied. There's no point losing heart and getting disappointed. This may only affect your work, instead, wait for a better tomorrow, Ganesh says giving you hope.

#### CAPRICORN

The achievements of the day may make you feel like you were born to succeed in life. Yes, you will be successful in whatever you do today, even if you don't try too hard for it, says Ganesh. But it's important that you at least take an initiative and not expect rewards to come for no reason. Make the most of the day for fortune may not be as favourable tomorrow. Your friends and those you socialise with will praise you for your sterling quality and powerful personality.

#### AQUARIUS

You plot and plan well today! A lot of your time, energy and money may go into less productive activities. But the quality of your work will near perfection. Keep it up, says Ganesh, it is this creativity which gives you an edge over others.

#### PISCES

You can probably count your chickens before they hatch today, for it is likely that every nest-egg you expect to mint money will. A good day to trade in the stock markets as well, as long as you keep in mind that the horns of a rambling Bull market can be every bit as deadly as the paws of a lumbering Bear market, says Ganesh.



## Showbiz is the most brutal industry: Alia

MUMBAI: Actress Alia Bhatt will be finishing off a decade of her career, and has worked with celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan and Sanjay Dutt in movies like *Dear Zindagi* and *Sadak 2*, respectively. Currently the actress is all set to share the screen space with Ajay Devgn in her upcoming film *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. During a recent interview, Alia spoke about the film industry and the longevity of these actors.

The film industry is the 'most brutal industry' and it's difficult to survive more than six months or a year until one gives his/her 100 per cent to it, said the *Raazi* actress. She also said that be it Ajay or Shah Rukh, they do not come with the baggage of being a superstar to the set. They come, they do their job and go home, and return the next day to repeat the same. "When I see superstars, they are very normal, not really creating a big fuss or whatever. They are stars for the audience but at the end of the day, when they come on the sets, they are working," added Alia.

AGENCIES

## Tanya glad her Tamil film being remade in Hindi

CHENNAI: Actress Tanya Hope played the female lead in Magizh Thirumeni's Tamil film *Thadam* alongside Arun Vijay and Vidya Pradeep. Now that the film is being remade in Hindi with Aditya Roy Kapur and Mrunal Thakur, Tanya is happy with it.

"I think *Thadam* was one of the best movies I've seen as an audience. So, I'm glad it's being remade. It's such a mind-boggling story. I'm so glad I was a part of the original film," she says.

The actor is okay with remakes. "There are some fantastic stories being made and I'm happy they're being made in different languages and reaching out to a larger audience. I have done a remake of

a Bollywood movie *Vicky Donor* in Tamil too. That film also did quite well. I played the role that Yami Gautam played in the original. So, if the movie is good, why not make it to expand the exposure," she says.

Tanya, who debuted in 2016 with the Telugu film *Appatto Okadundevalu* was keen on working in Hindi film industry. She is looking forward to her debut but things are yet to fall into place. But, the actor is not losing hope. IANS



## 'Love remains timeless'

THE ROMANTIC SHORT STORIES OF RUSKIN BOND WILL TAKE THE FORM OF AN ANTHOLOGY SERIES TITLED *FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN*



Ruskin Bond

MUMBAI: The anthology series *Falling in Love Again* based on Ruskin Bond's romantic short stories was announced Monday. The project is currently in pre-production with casting and the director yet to be locked.

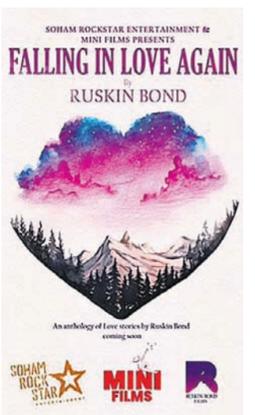
Commenting on the development, the celebrated author said, "Love is that one emotion that remains timeless. Everything can change around us and yet our desire to be loved remains. Over the years, I have written a lot about love, for every age group. These are stories of deep friendship, companionship and every-

thing in between." He added, "When the opportunity of these stories being adapted for screen came by way, I had to say yes. It is a good reminder that all we need from life are the simple things and I want the generations to come to know a bit of it before the fast paced world we live in depletes it."

Producers Deepak Mukut and Mansi Bagla have joined the forces to bring the stories to the fore under their banners of Soham Rockstar Entertainment Pvt Ltd and Mini Films.

Talking about 'love' - the theme of the anthology, Deepak Mukut said, "The last two years have left a deep void in our hearts. I think it's the perfect time to explore stories of love, of sweet bygone times."

He further said, "These stories are packed in nostalgia and charm which will be such a delight to watch on



Poster of the anthology series

screen. I am so excited that Ruskin Bond has trusted us with his precious works and we will do our best to live up to the expectations of his fans." IANS

## 'Romantic drama demands one be more empathetic'

MUMBAI: The makers of pan-India film *Gurthunda Seethakalam* released the trailer Monday, on the occasion of Valentine's Day. The film's actress Tamannaah Bhatia says a romantic drama demands one be more empathetic and soft.

Starring alongside Satyadev, the film will narrate the story of finding true love in today's age and era.

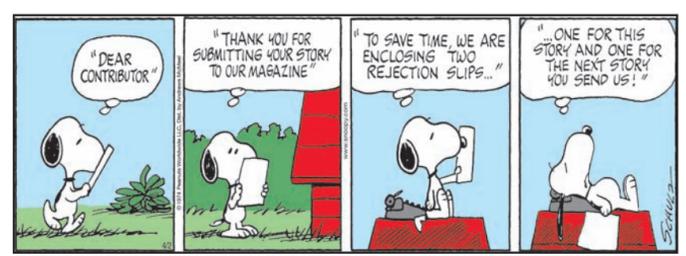
While sharing her excitement, Tamannaah said: "There is a certain charm in the love story, *Gurthunda Seethakalam*. "A romantic drama demands you to be more empathetic and soft, and I had the best time exploring the same nuances as an actor."

She added: "I am really looking forward to the film's release because I am sure it will resonate with the audience."

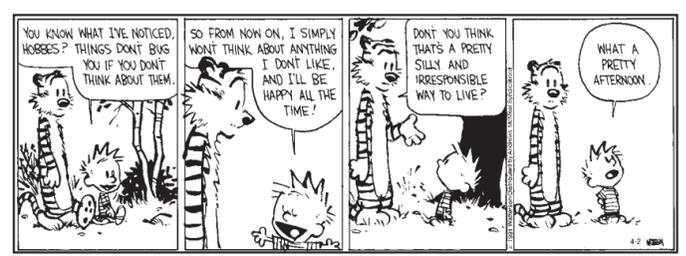
Tamannaah has Hindi films *Plan A Plan B* and *Yaar Dost* to release in a few days. IANS



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

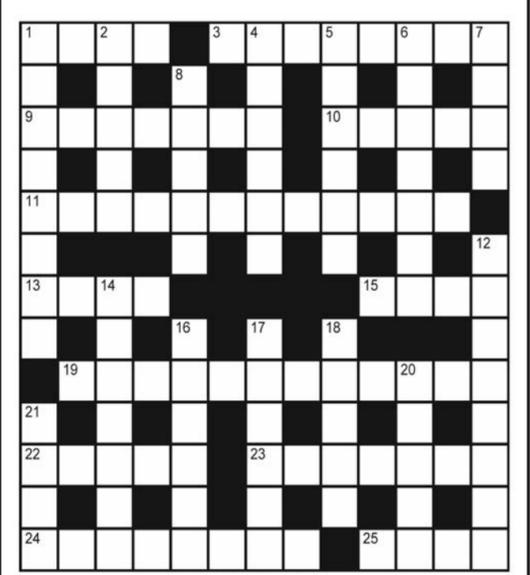


### BREVITY



### FUN post

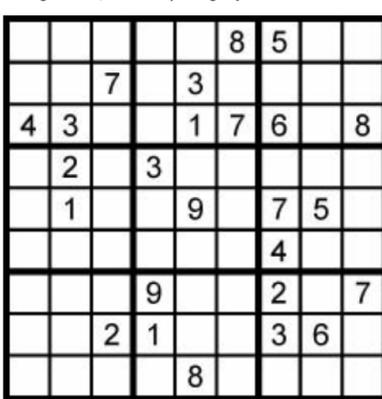
### CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Rooster topper
  - 3 Table game (4-4)
  - 9 Big mouthed bird
  - 10 Flower feature
  - 11 Veggie choice (4,2,3,3)
  - 13 Mountain pool
  - 15 Oracle
  - 19 Grampuses (6,6)
  - 22 Twinkle-toed
  - 23 Kick upstairs
  - 24 Junktets and flans, e.g.
  - 25 Malt kiln
  - 7 Kittiwake
  - 8 Thespian
  - 12 Look for gold
  - 14 Cereal fruit
  - 16 Garment part
  - 17 Pressing
  - 18 Woolly farm animals
  - 20 Guanaco's cousin
  - 21 Motel employee
- Down**
- 1 Parrots, maybe
  - 2 Back tooth
  - 4 Set aflame
  - 5 Pouched rat
  - 6 Result

### SUDOKU

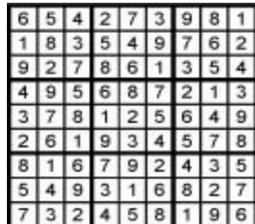
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD



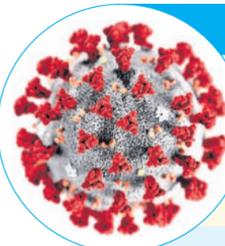
SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



**IN MEMORIAM**  
Youths take out a candle march, organised by Choudwar-Cuttack BJD, at College Square in the Silver City to pay homage to Pulwama martyrs, Monday



	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	41,29,56,290	33,35,30,200	58,37,065
India	4,26,65,534	4,16,77,641	5,09,011
Odisha	12,78,121	12,59,796	8,904

## State allows paid holiday for employees on poll day 3 new Orissa High Court judges take oath

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The state government Monday directed the authorities to ensure that paid holiday is granted to employees engaged in various public sector undertakings, corporations, establishments, business, trade and industrial units to exercise their franchise in the upcoming panchayat polls.

The Labour and ESI department has asked the Revenue Divisional Commissioners (RDCs), PSUs, establishments, business, trade and industrial undertakings to ensure enforcement of the order of the State Election Commission (SEC) on panchayat elections, scheduled to be held in five phases—February 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24.

"The SEC has directed that every person employed in any business,

The State Election Commission has directed that every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and desiring to vote in the said election shall be granted paid holiday on the date of poll

Any violation of the above instruction will be treated as an offence

The written application by the employees will be sufficient to show their enrolment in a particular gram panchayat

trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and desiring to vote in the said election shall be granted paid holiday on the date of poll. Any violation of the above instruction will be treated as an offence. The written application by the employees will be sufficient to show their enrolment in a particular

gram panchayat," the Labour and ESI department's order said.

Notably, the state government had earlier directed all Principal Secretaries, Heads of Departments, District Collectors, the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water department to grant special casual leave to employees who desire to vote at places away from their headquarters on the date of the poll.

The special casual leave will be granted for a maximum of three days—one day preceding the poll, the poll day and one day after the poll. "The leave to be granted may be treated as special casual leave in addition to normal casual leave admissible to them during the calendar year 2022. The written application by the employees will be sufficient to show their enrolment in a particular gram panchayat," the state government had said.



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar administers the oath of office to Justices V Narasingh, Biraja Prasanna Satapathy and Murahari Sri Raman at the new conference hall of HC's old building in Cuttack, Monday

**Cuttack, Feb 14:** Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar Monday administered the oath of office to three new judges.

The strength of the court has gone up to 21 against the sanc-

tioned number of 33, which was recently enhanced by the state government from 27.

Justices V Narasingh, Biraja Prasanna Satapathy and Murahari Sri Raman were sworn-in at a simple ceremony inside the court premises in Cuttack.

Last month, proposals of their names were accepted by the Supreme Court collegiums along with that of Sanjay Kumar Mishra. But the President gave appointments to only three of them February 10.

The three judges were earlier

practicing law for the past several years and they were elevated to the bench against the vacancies reserved for members of the bar.

Last year, the bench of the High Court was strengthened by appointment of three new judges and transfer of two judges.

## GST ENFORCEMENT SQUAD BUSTS TAX FRAUD RACKET

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The state CT & GST enforcement squad Monday busted a racket claiming erroneous refund of Rs 4.38 crore by Maa Salara Fly Ash Bricks in Cuttack.

The squad raided the fly ash manufacturing unit and the residence of its proprietor in Cuttack, and detected a fraud involving claiming of the erroneous GST refund. "Huge amounts of ITC have remained unutilised as the main raw material—cement is taxable at 28%, whereas the finished product—fly ash bricks

is taxable at 12%. But during verification, it was learnt that the taxpayer has shown fictitious purchases of cement from places like Jagatsinghpur and Sukinda despite being located at Cuttack. Bricks were also found manufactured disproportionate to the consumption of cement," an official said.

It is suspected that the mastermind arranged fake purchase invoices without receipt of cement and utilised the ITC to discharge tax and claimed refund of balance ITC. The accused has not utilised any e-way bill for purchase of the goods, said the official.

## Study links long Cov with nerve responsible for heart rate, speech

**L**ong Covid symptoms could be linked to the effect of the virus on the vagus nerve—one of the most important multi-functional nerves in the body, according to a study.

The vagus nerve is responsible for a wide variety of bodily functions, including controlling heart rate, speech, the gag reflex, transferring food from the mouth to the stomach, moving food through the intestines, sweating, and many others.

The study led by researchers

from University Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol in Spain, said that SARS-CoV-2-mediated vagus nerve dysfunction (VND) could explain some long Covid symptoms, including dysphonia (persistent voice problems), dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing), dizziness, tachycardia (abnormally high heart rate), orthostatic hypotension (low blood pressure) and diarrhoea.

"Our findings so far point at vagus nerve dysfunction as a central pathophysiological feature of

long Covid," said Dr Gemma Lladós from the University hospital.

The team performed a pilot, extensive morphological and functional evaluation of the vagus nerve, using imaging and functional tests in a prospective observational cohort of 348 long Covid subjects with symptoms suggestive of VND.

About 66 per cent showed at least one symptom suggestive of VND, up to 14 months. Further tests were carried out in the first 22 subjects with VND symptoms.

## 2 cybercrooks nabbed from J'khand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The Commissionerate Police has arrested two cybercriminals from Jharkhand for duping an Odisha engineer of Rs 30,000 in January this year.

The accused were identified as Kamal Jaiswal, 21, and Ananda Kumar Bhagat, 28, of Hutty area in Giridih district of Jharkhand.

Police said the victim, Rahul Gupta, who has been working as a civil engineer at Paradip was on a trip to the City here January 31 when he received a text message from a mobile number (77820063690) with a link for updating Know Your

Customer (KYC) with his bank. "Gupta clicked on it and filled the details. Within minutes, the criminals siphoned off Rs 30,064.89 from his account," said an official.

The victim approached the Cyber Crime police that registered a case (4/22) and started a probe. The accused duo was arrested from Jharkhand. They were produced before a court here that sent them to 14 days judicial custody.

Five mobile phones, three SIM cards and two bank passbooks were recovered from them. The police also found nearly 55 cyber fraud cases were pending against the duo at several police stations.

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

**GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs charges /expenses) by **Dt. 03.03.2022**, then from **11.00 AM of Dt. 04.03.2022** their pledged gold ornaments will be sold in public auction at **Respective Branch Premises given below and/or Sriram Automall India Ltd. (SAMIL), Cuttack, At: Sriram Automall Yard, Nuapatana, NH-42, Choudwar-Angul Road, Cuttack-754007, Contact Person: Mr. Prabhakar Kumar (Mob-8658738320), Mr. Debashish Subudhi (Mob-9861342494).** For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, the Bank reserves the right to change the date, time and place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. The purity & net weight & the reserve price of the gold ornaments / coins etc. will be made available to the intending bidders on the date and at the site of auction / auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers	Gross Wt. In Gms.	Net Wt. In Gms.	Balance O/s as on specified date	Total Dues (Excluding Unapplied Charges) as on specified date
<b>BIJUPATTNAIK PARK BRANCH, Plot No.: 10 - 2 CM - 819/D, Sec-10 Colony, Sector - 10, CDA, Bidanasi, Cuttack - 753014</b>						
1.	512377610000131	Bikash Kumar Patra, Plot No.: 10-1C/70, D, Junction-753014	14.8	14	₹ 46,970/-	₹ 49,505.90
<b>DHENKANAL BRANCH, Jawahar Chowk, PO./Dist.: Dhenkanal - 759001</b>						
1.	559077610000044	Suchismita Mohapatra, W/o: Sanjay Kumar Mohapatra, At: Jubuli Town (Near Balaram Temple), Dhenkanal	134.06	99.97	₹ 3,61,871.06	₹ 5,35,570/-
<b>DASPALLA BRANCH, Main Road, Daspalla, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN - 752084</b>						
1.	555777610000117	Lilabati Patra, Mahitama, Daspalla, Nayagarh	19.92	18	₹ 54,314/-	₹ 54,959/-
<b>HARIPUR BRANCH, AT/PO.: Haripur Sasan, Via: Gangadharpur, Dist.: Khurda - 752034</b>						
1.	555477610000560	Prabhasini Swain, W/o: Dillip Kumar Swain, At/P.O.: Haripur Sasan, Dist.: Khurda	85.1	71.5	₹ 1,14,335.51	₹ 1,48,354.51
2.	555477610000135	Laxman Maharana, S/o: Ainthi Maharana, At/P.O.: Nachuni, Dist.: Khurda	69.7	56	₹ 1,13,523.25	₹ 1,84,973.25
3.	555477610000038	Prabhasa Kumar Barik, S/o: Somanath Barik, At/P.O.: Haripur Sasan, Dist.: Khordha	31.12	25.66	₹ 99,297.13	₹ 1,26,601/-
4.	5554776100001019	Sk. Jamil Ahemad, S/o: Sekh Ahemad, At: Salapadihi, P.O.: Nachuni, P.S.: Banpur, Dist.: Khurda	73.9	15.00	₹ 52,398/-	₹ 54,225/-
5.	555477610000934	Bismita Kumar Sahoo, S/o: Chaitanya Sahoo, At/P.O.: Nairi, Dist.: Khurda	15.98	14	₹ 47,993.38	₹ 48,563.40
6.	555477610000561	Prabhasini Swain, W/o: Dillip Kumar Swain, At/P.O.: Haripur Sasan, Dist.: Khurda	26.9	24	₹ 44,148/-	₹ 57,559/-
7.	555477610000562	Dillip Kumar Swain & Radhamani Swain, At/P.O.: Haripur Sasan, Dist.: Khurda	56.1	41	₹ 37,729.77	₹ 1,89,445.15
8.	5554776100001047	Rakesh Kumar Sethi, S/o: Ajaya Kumar Sethi, At/P.O.: Haripur Sasan, Dist.: Khurda	10.67	10	₹ 35,170/-	₹ 37,487/-
9.	5554776100001229	Charulata Sahoo, W/o: Bismita Kumar Sahoo, At/P.O.: Nairi, Dist.: Khurda	8.5	8	₹ 27,000/-	₹ 27,813.10
10.	555477610000856	Rakesh Kumar Sethi, S/o: Ajaya Kumar Sethi, At/P.O.: Haripur Sasan, Dist.: Khordha	5.85	5	₹ 13,586/-	₹ 14,761/-
11.	5554776100001034	Rakesh Kumar Sethi, S/o: Ajaya Kumar Sethi, At/P.O.: Haripur Sasan, Dist.: Khordha	5.1	4	₹ 11,800/-	₹ 12,610/-
<b>NABAKALEBARA ROAD BRANCH, Nabakalebara Road Area, Grand Road, Puri, Odisha-752001</b>						
1.	555877610000202	Bikash Ranjan Pattanaik, At: Maitri Vihar, Puri	201.20	182.10	₹ 4,23,560/-	₹ 8,22,812/-
2.	555877610000228	Mihir Kanta Biswal, At: Matiapada, Puri	60.00	52.70	₹ 1,46,435.56	₹ 2,92,443.56
3.	555877610000154	Pravat Kumar Sahoo, At: Haragouri Sahi, Puri	11.50	10.30	₹ 23,161.38	₹ 45,706.38
4.	555877610000213	Bibhuti Bhusan Palei, C/o: Damodar Palei, At: Talamalisahi, Puri	89.50	77.70	₹ 2,73,368.18	₹ 4,83,870.18
5.	555877610000318	Pratap Singh, C/o: Jagannath Singh, At: Darjipokhari Chhik, Puri	41.80	38.20	₹ 1,20,997.15	₹ 2,10,946.15
6.	555877610000219	Mirza Khursid Alam Baig, At: Mahamadina Pada, Near Amala Club, Puri	27.20	25.00	₹ 87,149.49	₹ 1,34,791.49
7.	555877610000226	Rajalaxmi Nanda, W/o: Sarat Ch. Nanda, At: Patana Lane, Matimandap Sahi, Puri	22.00	21.10	₹ 71,751.15	₹ 1,26,195.15
8.	555877610000236	Kartik Sarkar, At: Gajapati Nagar, Kumbharpada, Puri	35.50	29.40	₹ 95,565.50	₹ 1,66,622.50
9.	555877610000326	Shantilata Pradhan, C/o: Jalandhar Pradhan, Charinala Kona Patna, Gopinathpur, Puri	21.40	18.80	₹ 46,536/-	₹ 80,720/-
10.	555877610000270	Pravakar Das, At: Hadagadia Sahi, Jamuna Lane, Puri	29.20	25.00	₹ 87,496.88	₹ 1,40,103.88
11.	555877610000381	Lingaraj Sahoo, At: Matiapada, Puri	17.30	17.00	₹ 47,630.38	₹ 76,779.38
12.	555877610000439	Suranjan Padhi, At: Badasahi, Kumbharpada, Puri	29.20	23.70	₹ 45,231.38	₹ 69,916.38
13.	555877610000343	Bikash Kumar Mallik, At: Bentapur, Bramhagiri, Puri	56.00	30.00	₹ 84,115.75	₹ 1,10,529.75
14.	5558776100001097	Shantilata Subudhi, W/o: Pravat Ku. Subudhi, Near Gundicha Mandir, Puri	46.31	23.50	₹ 62,361.42	₹ 62,610.42
15.	5558776100001041	Arnapurna Mahapatra, C/o: Balaram Mahapatra, Goudabada Sahi, Puri	68.98	57.00	₹ 1,44,791.53	₹ 1,52,669.53
16.	5558776100001040	Arnapurna Mahapatra, C/o: Balaram Mahapatra, Goudabada Sahi, Puri	77.01	43.00	₹ 1,00,000/-	₹ 1,05,932/-
<b>PURI BRANCH, Old Sadar Thana Road, Puri Town, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752001</b>						
1.	555277610000207	Rajalaxmi Nanda, W/o: Sarat Ch. Nanda, At: Patana Lane, Matimandap Sahi, PO.: Puri, Dist.: Puri	20.800	15.700	₹ 58,365.22	₹ 1,00,616.29
2.	555277610000247	Padmanav Samantray, S/o: Laxmidhar Samantray, At/PO.: Garh Balabhadrapur, PS.: Kanas, Puri	23.100	20.500	₹ 79,534.60	₹ 1,27,122.46
3.	555277610000566	Rubirekha Biswaprakashini Dalua, C/o: Debasish Mohanty, At: Dakhineswari Lane, Tutatola, Puri	29.500	29.500	₹ 57,774.35	₹ 76,860.48
4.	555277610000860	Basanti Behera, At: Jitakar Muduli Patana, Atharnala, Gopinathpur, Puri	21.720	20.000	₹ 51,944.04	₹ 52,249.96
5.	5552776100001280	Harapriya Mishra, C/o: Srinibas Pradhan, At: Ghanashyam Villa, Mochi Sahi, Near Godi Khana, Puri	24.000	4.000	₹ 7,593.87	₹ 7,609.96
6.	5552776100001461	Nihal Kumar Das, S/o: Narayan Das, At: Nuapatna Lane, Dolabedi Kona, Markandeswar Sahi, Puri	26.700	24.000	₹ 93,805.35	₹ 93,993.23
<b>RAGHUNATHPUR BRANCH, Plot No.: 1317, 2939, Near Mausima Mandir, At/PO.: Raghunathpur, Dist.: Khurda</b>						
1.	557777610000011	Diptimayee Samantray, At/PO.: Raghunathpur, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda	33.695	32.5	₹ 78,527.25	₹ 88,745/-
<b>RAJKANIKA BRANCH, Main Road, At/PO.: Rajkanika, Dist.: Kendrapara, Odisha - 754220</b>						
1.	557577610000026	Birendra Kumar Rout, S/o: Gayadhar Rout, At: Panki (Gopalpur), PO.: Nuagaon, Rajkanika, Kendrapara	8.245	6.595	₹ 13,928/-	₹ 14,324/-
2.	557577610000052	Birendra Kumar Rout, S/o: Gayadhar Rout, At: Panki (Gopalpur), PO.: Nuagaon, Rajkanika, Kendrapara	4.645	3.716	₹ 12,284/-	₹ 13,271/-
<b>SINGHIPUR BRANCH, At/PO.: Singhipur, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha - 752021</b>						
1.	555677610000078	Manas Ranjan Dalai, S/o: Pramod Dalai, At/PO.: Bhusandapur, Dist.: Khordha	37.200	31	₹ 1,02,469.13	₹ 1,32,321.32
2.	555677610000584	Meetanjali Chhotaray, D/o: Srinibas Chhotaray, At: Batisbatia, PO.: Kusumi, Dist.: Khordha	39.840	12.500	₹ 39,578.08	₹ 41,082.38
<b>TANGI BRANCH, Plot No.: 844, 846, Main Road, NH - 5, Bus Stop, Tangi, Dist.: Cuttack - 754022</b>						
1.	511677610000210	Chakradhar Dash, S/o: Lingaraj Dash, At: Chintamanipur, PO.: Bhagatpur, Dist.-Cuttack-754022	13.00	12.50	₹ 40,000/-	₹ 42,105/-
2.	511677610000164	Sumant Pradhan, S/o: Prabhakar Pradhan, At: Tikira, PO.: Bhatimunda, Dist.: Cuttack	19.06	18.00	₹ 50,000/-	₹ 52,230/-
3.	511677610000125	Dambarudhar Sahu, At: Ramagada, P.O.: Kotasahi, Dist.: Cuttack	15.20	15.00	₹ 33,286.23	₹ 35,111/-
4.	511677610000202	Purnamita Das, At: Kandarakana, PO.: Kotasahi, Dist.: Cuttack	10.37	10.00	₹ 30,000/-	₹ 31,761/-
5.	511677610000140	Shyam Sundar Sahoo, S/o: Alekha Chandra Sahoo, At: Ramagada, PO.: Kotasahi, Dist.: Cuttack	16.36	16.00	₹ 46,029/-	₹ 48,501/-
<b>TANKAPANI ROAD BRANCH, Plot No.: 1298 (P), Brahmeswar Patna, Tankapani Road, Bhubaneswar - 751018</b>						
1.	557177610000192	Aruna Kumar Swain, At: Ghasiandhoti, PO.: Dalakasoti, PS.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda - 752102	68	54	₹ 2,13,744/-	₹ 2,19,657/-
2.	557177610000193	Aruna Kumar Swain, At: Ghasiandhoti, PO.: Dalakasoti, PS.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda - 752102	72.97	56.2	₹ 2,22,466/-	₹ 2,28,620/-
3.	557177610000196	Aruna Kumar Swain, At: Ghasiandhoti, PO.: Dalakasoti, PS.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda - 752102	109.05	97.5	₹ 3,99,499/-	₹ 4,07,330/-
4.	557177610000197	Aruna Kumar Swain, At: Ghasiandhoti, PO.: Dalakasoti, PS.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda - 752102	71	61.77	₹ 2,53,490/-	₹ 2,58,458/-
5.	557177610000271	Aruna Kumar Swain, At: Ghasiandhoti, PO.: Dalakasoti, PS.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda - 752102	74.14	63	₹ 2,28,370/-	₹ 2,46,446/-
6.	557177610000409	Aruna Kumar Swain, At: Ghasiandhoti, PO.: Dalakasoti, PS.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda - 752102	21.7	19	₹ 69,676/-	₹ 71,222/-
<b>JAJPUR TOWN BRANCH, Main Road, Near Jajati Nagar, PS.: Jajpur, PO.: Jajpur Town, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha - 755001</b>						
1.	512077610000069	Ashok Jena, At: Korkora, PO.: Lalbag, Dist.: Jajpur	10.2	8.16	₹ 21,508/-	₹ 23,973/-
<b>KENDRAPARA BRANCH, College Road, Tinimuhani, At/PO./Dist.: Kendrapara</b>						
1.	557677610000035	Rajendra Prasad Bhagat, At: Santasahi, PO./Dist.: Kendrapara, Odisha - 754211	21.67	14.5	₹ 38,005.38	₹ 38,342.38
<b>Godipada Branch, Panchayat Office Building, Main Road, At/P.O.: Godipada, Dist.: Nayagarh-752092</b>						
1.	557977610000677	Soudamini Nahak, At: Todibari, P.O.: Bhaliadihi, Dist.: Nayagarh	5.7	5.50	₹ 9,425.38	₹ 10,060.14

Place: Bhubaneswar  
Date: 15.02.2022

Zonal Manager  
Bank of India

## Maxillofacial Surgeons' Day observed in City

# State records below 1,000 new Cov cases



AGENCIES

### IN A NUTSHELL

Out of the 859 new Covid-19 cases, 172 were from the 0-18 age group, 503 cases were detected among people under quarantine and 356 are the local contact cases

The daily test positivity rate has also decreased to 1.45 per cent from 1.82 per cent recorded Sunday. The active case load in Odisha stood at 11,324

The fatalities continued to remain high in Odisha with the health department confirming the death of another 20 persons due to Covid-19 following due audit

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The daily Covid-19 cases in Odisha have come down below 1000-mark with 859 persons testing positive for the viral infection during the last 24 hours, Health department officials said Monday.

According to the state Information and Public Relation department, out of the 859 new Covid-19 cases, 172 were from the 0-18 age group, 503 cases were detected among people under quarantine and 356 are the local contact cases.

This is the lowest daily case the state has recorded since January 4. Khurda district continued to remain in top of the daily infection list with 105 fresh cases, followed by Koraput (71), Cuttack (65) and Sundargarh (62). All remaining districts of Odisha recorded below 50 cases.

The daily test positivity rate has also decreased to 1.45 per cent from 1.82 per cent recorded Sunday. The active case load in Odisha stood at 11,324. However, the fatalities continued to remain high in Odisha with the health

department confirming the death of another 20 persons due to Covid-19 following due audit.

Six death cases were reported from Balasore district, while four persons died due to the virus in Jajpur district, two each in Puri and Cuttack and one each in Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal and Bhubaneswar, the Health department said. With this, the Covid-19 death toll in the state now has increased to 8,904. Odisha had registered 1,148 Covid-19 cases and 22 deaths Sunday.

Meanwhile, schools for Class I to VII students have been reopened in the state Monday for sanitization and cleanliness of the campus. However, physical classes for the primary students will resume February 28.

## VALENTINE'S DAY



Girls pose for a photo at Esplanade One mall in Bhubaneswar on Valentine's Day, Monday

OP PHOTO

## Lovestruck 2022 winners rewarded

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** Khimji Jewellers announced the winners of its 'Lovestruck 2022' contest which was held to add sparkle to the Valentine's week.

The winners were awarded with gold coins as promised. The winners of the 'Selfie Contest' were Sunita Patel from Jharsuguda, Resma Jena from Berhampur, Shilpa Jena from Rourkela, Aera from Chandrasekharpur, Swati Patnaik from the Flagship store. Winner of the 'Lucky Draw' was Sunita Rout.

To celebrate the festival of love, Khimji had launched its Valentine's collection 'Lovestruck 2022', an exclusive collection of affordable diamond studded gold pendants, rings, bracelets and ear-studs available in all the six Khimji stores in state.

## Naveen pat for Bagchi couple's philanthropy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appreciated Susmita Bagchi and Subroto Bagchi for joining hands with IISc Bangalore to set up a PG Medical School along with a multi-specialty hospital in its campus in Bangalore.

He wrote in his twitter handle, "Appreciate Mrs @Susmita4Odisha, Shri @skilledinodisha, Mrs Radha Parthasarathy and Shri @nspartha for joining hands with @iiscbangalore to set up a PG Medical School along with a multi-specialty hospital. May the magnanimous ges-

ture inspire many others towards philanthropy."

Appreciating the couple's contribution to the state in the past, the CM wrote further, "Mrs & Mr Bagchi have already announced generous contributions to set up a state-of-the-art cancer hospital and a palliative care centre in Bhubaneswar. Their generosity and voluntary contribution through @MoSchoolOdisha & @skilled\_odisha will continue to inspire others."

Last year on the auspicious occasion of Rath Yatra, Naveen had laid foundation stone for the Bagchi-

Karunashraya Palliative Care & Bagchi-Shri Shankara Cancer Centre near Info valley on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has received its single largest private donation of ₹425 crore to help build an 800-bed multi-specialty hospital in Bangalore. In line with global examples of integrating science, engineering and medicine under a single institution, IISc will be setting up a Postgraduate Medical School along with a multi-specialty hospital in its Bangalore campus.

The academic centre piece of

this initiative will be an integrated dual degree MD-PhD programme aimed at creating a new breed of physician-scientists, who will pursue careers in clinical research to develop new treatments and health-care solutions, driven by a bench-to-bedside philosophy. They will be trained simultaneously in the hospital as well as in the science and engineering laboratories at IISc.

The couples will collectively donate ₹425 crore (USD 60 million) for the project. This is the largest single private donation received by IISc. The hospital will be named as the Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital.

## BGU WEBINAR ON BUDGET '22

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The Birla School of Commerce (BGU) here recently organised a webinar on 'Union Budget 2022 - Implications on Indian Financial Sector'.

Certified Financial Planner and Managing Director of Walleto4wealth Trimath Lenka joined the session as a resource person and addressed students, faculty members of BGU and other participants. He gave a detailed view of the Budget by giving a glance at the actual and budgeted figures of the Union government.

Lenka also elaborated on the current Budget being another step towards self-reliant India with focus on four pillars of development—inclusive development, productivity enhancement, energy transition and climate action, making it an investment based Budget. He also updated the attendees with new concepts of digital rupee and tax on cryptocurrencies.

The session was chaired by Samson Moharana, Dean of Birla School of Commerce, and moderated and coordinated by Lopamudra Nayak, Assistant Professor at the school. BP Bijay Sankar proposed the vote of thanks.

## DEMO FOR ONLINE EXAM



Plus III final year students stage a demonstration near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, demanding online examination

OP PHOTO

## NCC Cuttack HQ unveils .22 mm Simulator room

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Feb 14:** The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Group Head Quarters here established a .22mm Indoor Simulator Room in Old Sectt complex, in a bid to provide quality training to the budding cadets.

The simulator was inaugurated by Commodore Somen Banerjee, Deputy Director General of NCC Odisha Dte, in presence of NCC Cuttack Group Commander Colonel Rajinish Kapoor, Lt Col Umesh Marwaha, OC 4 O CTC, PI Staff, CTO and NCC Cadets of St Xavier's School.

The indoor Simulator will train the cadets on various aspects of holding, aiming and trigger oper-



at Military College of EME, Secunderabad.

A total of six simulators have been established by NCC Directorate Odisha at various locations across the state.

## INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY DAY

# EMPATHY TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY CRUCIAL

*Doctors say with awareness, most persons with epilepsy who take medical treatment can lead normal lives, remain employed, get married, have children and be productive members of the society*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, Feb 14:** People with epilepsy can lead a normal life, but it is the attitude of the society towards them that impacts the quality of their life, according to doctors.

With recurrent seizures, people with epilepsy are at risk of frequent injuries, burns and even loss of life. They are stigmatised in the society and discriminated against, while also struggling to establish relationships, get educated and being employed.

However, an empathetic approach towards them will help them stay strong and lead a normal life. On the International Epilepsy Day

commemorated February 14, doctors provide answers to certain misconers.

Healthcare in India has advanced to a great extent and now it is medically possible to evaluate and map the possibility of future seizures and prescribe required solutions. Hence tackling such problems has become easy now.

"Medication is needed to control seizures and treat epilepsy and anti-seizure medications help to control seizures in nearly seven out of every 10 persons with epilepsy. Persons with epilepsy must strictly avoid self-medication and seek right medical advice to ensure that epilepsy is well controlled," said Sita Jayalakshmi, Senior Consultant Neurologist at KIMS Hospitals.

On additional causes that result in epilepsy, Neurology Consultant at Wockhardt Hospital (Nagpur) Amit Bhatti observed that even stress could sometimes cause epilepsy among people with weak nervous systems, and more stress could increase severity of the problem.

"It is important to note that stress affects brain development among children, which could have complications in the latter



stages of life. In fact, the most common causes of onset seizures are the structural changes that occur to the brain."

Abhinay M Huchche, Consultant Neurologist at SLG Hospitals, said, "Epilepsy can be treated and there is surgery route too. While the all-pervading myth has been that there is no treatment to epilepsy, historically patients have been put to various rustic, non-medical and unproven methods believed to tame epilepsy. This includes shaking patients and making them hold metal. On the positive side, the

fact is that epilepsy has inexpensive yet effective medical solutions and around 70 per cent of those treated lead normal lives."

Commenting on understanding the problem, Neuro Physician at Aware Gleneagles Global Hospitals Suresh Reddy said anyone can develop epilepsy, and it affects both males and females of all races, ethnic backgrounds and ages. "Seizure symptoms can vary widely from some simply turning blank for a few seconds during a seizure, while others repeatedly twitching their arms or legs. Having a single seizure

Besides conventional treatment, epilepsy awareness assumes vital importance as most of the cases become complex only because treatment was never received or began very late in adolescence or adulthood

doesn't mean you have epilepsy. At least two unprovoked seizures without a known trigger that happen at least 24 hours apart are generally required for an epilepsy diagnosis."

According to Karthik Y, Consultant Neuro Surgeon of Century Hospital, one of the major challenges epilepsy patients encounter is low confidence level and uncertain fear of its occurrence.

"The families of epileptic patients, especially the elders and parents who are dealing with seizures in children, need to understand the disease and know more from doctors. Usually it's important to find the underlying cause

of seizures and treat it accordingly. In most of the cases, medical treatment is sufficient. But in few refractory cases, surgical treatment is an emerging victor. Most importantly, it needs to be treated at any cost without ignoring. In fact, epilepsy stands next only to stroke in neuro related deaths," he said.

Besides conventional treatment, epilepsy awareness assumes vital importance as most of the cases become complex only because treatment was never received or began very late in adolescence or adulthood.

The role of doctors cannot be restricted to treatment but transcends to creating awareness and taking message to patients, families and the society in particular.

Many training facilities and physicians need to upgrade themselves with the knowledge and facilities to treat persons with complex epilepsies. Ongoing research and legislations are much needed in guiding the fight against epilepsy.

Doctors say with awareness, most persons with epilepsy who take medical treatment can lead normal lives, remain employed, get married, have children and be productive members of the society. Also, if attention is paid, a lot of epilepsies can be prevented.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

No. FE-DIV-FLD-0088-2021-1708/FE&CC, Bhubaneswar, dated the 29.01.202210F (Cons) 172/2018

Sub: Diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of 16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land falling inside two mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines.

WHEREAS, M/S Tata Steel Limited, Joda Central Organization, Po/P.S.-Joda, Dist-Keonjhar had applied for diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of 16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land falling inside two mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines.

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar had accorded 'Stage-I/in-principle' approval for diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of

16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land falling inside two mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines vide its letter No.5-ORB368/2018-BHU dtd.28.01.2019 (Annexure-I).

And whereas, the MoEF&CC, Government of India, Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar in consideration of the compliance of the conditions of the "in-principle" approval, has accorded Stage-II/ final approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of 16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land falling inside two mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines vide its letter No.5-ORB368/2018-BHU dtd.13.01.2022 (Annexure-II) subject to fulfillment of conditions as stipulated therein in.

Now therefore, the Government of Odisha, do hereby allow diversion of above mentioned 3.665 ha of forest land in favour of user agency as per approved land use pattern subject to fulfillment of the conditions of final forest clearance order as stipulated by the MoEF&CC, Government of India, Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The details land schedule of forest land as received from PCCF, Odisha along with diversion

proposal vide his letter No.23292 dtd.17.11.2018 are appended herewith as Annexure-III.

The Collector, Keonjhar and Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division, as the case may be are hereby authorized to handover the diverted forest land coming within their jurisdiction, after necessary compliance following due procedure of law. Before handing over the diverted forest land to the user agency, it shall be ensured that Net Present Value of the forest land for this project for which approval has been obtained shall be deposited in full, at applicable rates.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division is also directed to monitor compliance to the conditions stipulated for such diversion in the respective forest/wildlife clearance order and to report violations, if any, to the Nodal Officer, O/o PCCF, Odisha and to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department.

Execution of project activities will be subject to availability of all other statutory clearances required under relevant Acts/Rules for this project, deposit of requisite funds and compliance of Court's order, if any.

By order of Governor Sd/- (Lingaraj Otta) OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE A/3, CHANDRASEKHARPUR BHUBANESWAR-751023

No. 5-ORB368/2018-BHU Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

To

The Addl.Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Deptt., Government of Odisha Bhubaneswar-751001

Sub: Diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of 16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land falling inside two mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines.

Sir

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)172/2018-25705/F&E, dated

29.11.2018 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under section 2 or Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After due consideration of the proposal of the State

Government, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change hereby conveys 'Stage-I/in-principle' approval for diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of 16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land falling inside two mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar district, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

- i) Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.
ii) The State Govt. shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest area proposed to be diverted under this proposal from the user agency as per the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in write Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 in this regard. While conveying the compliance of this condition, mention be made of the Eco-class and density of forest for which NPV has been charged.
iii) At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
iv) Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 3.70 ha of non-forest land identified in Plot No.30 (P). Khata No.23, Kسام Parbat of village Rangamatia under Telkoi Tehsil of Keonjhar district against the area of forest land proposed to be diverted at the cost of the user agency.

- v) Additional compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 11.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Baitarani East-B PRF under Champua Range of Keonjhar Forest Division as proposed by State Govt. as per MoEF&CC guidelines letter No. 11-423/2011-FC dated 08.11.2017. The GPS readings/map of proposed degraded forest land shall be submitted before Stage-II approval.
vi) The Non forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of Stage-II approval.
vii) The non-forest land over which compensatory afforestation will be taken up shall be notified as PF/RF and shall remain under the administrative control of the State Forest Department.
viii) The compensatory afforestation scheme may also include activities like soil & moisture conservation, regeneration cleaning, silvicultural activities and ensure maintenance of these plantation for a period of seven to ten years as per requirement.
ix) The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the State CAF, Odisha through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
x) The user agency should ensure that the compensatory levies (C.A. cost, NPV etc.) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank online only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
xi) The State Govt./user agency shall take all necessary precautionary to prevent any hazard of electrocution of wild elephant as it falls in Elephant habitat Zone-2 of ORSAC.

- xii) The user agency shall comply the applicable recommendations of the State Government.
xiii) The user agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05.05.2014 and 19.11.2014.
xiv) The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably Zyziphus (Ber) & Annona (Sita phal)) species in right of way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme by the State Forest Department.
xv) The boundary of the forest land proposed to be diverted shall be demarcated on the ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, distance from adjoining pillars etc.
xvi) The State Forest Department/UA shall submit the surveyed sketch map with location and natural reference point of non-forest/degraded forest land identified for CA, giving the DGPS readings giving the latitude and longitude and distance between them.
xvii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
xviii) The user agency shall provide LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas and ensure no fuelwood use.
xix) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work
xx) Earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.

- xxi) The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
xxii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
xxiii) The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No.11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with letter No.11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 05.02.2013 and 05.07.2013, in support thereof.
xxiv) Any other conditions that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife shall be complied by the user agency.
xxv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
3. After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated above, from the State Government of Odisha, final/Stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest land under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued by this Ministry. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government of Odisha till final/Stage-II approval for its diversion is issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
4. However, the operationalization of transmission line

project shall be carried out only after obtaining approval for diversion of 3.919 ha of forest land located inside Joda West Mining lease and O. 163 ha of Sabik kسام forest land in Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Mining lease of M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from MoEF&CC under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as proposed by State Govt. with an intimation to this office and respective controlling offices.

Yours faithfully Sd/- R.K.Samal Conservator of Forests (Central)

- Copy to:
1.The Director, ROHQ, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Agni Block, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi— 1 10 003.
2.The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur. Bhubaneswar-751023.
3.The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
4.M/S Tata Steel Ltd, Joda Central Organization, P.O./P. S: Joda, Dist:-Keonjhar — 758034, Odisha.
5. Guard file.

Sd/- R.K.Samal Conservator of Forests (Central)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE A/3, CHANDRASEKHARPUR BHUBANESWAR-751023

No. 5-ORB368/2018-BHU Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

To

The Addl.Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Deptt., Government of Odisha Bhubaneswar-751001

Sub: Diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of 16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land falling inside two mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines.

Madam

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)172/2018-25705/F&E dated 29.11.2018 wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of 16.801 ha (including 10.880 ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha

existing outside mining leases i.e. Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of M/S Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar district, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (MRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Ore Mines. was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this Office letter of even number dated 28.01.2019, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the CF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.22339 OF (NIG)/2017 dated 24.12.2021, Stage-II/final approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 3.665 ha of forest land falling outside the Mining leases within total land requirement of ha (including 10.880ha of forest land comprising of 3.665 ha existing outside mining leases and 7.215 ha of forest land killing inside two mining leases i.e.Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ML and Joda West Iron & Manganese ML of Mts Tata Steel Ltd.) under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar district, Odisha for laying of 33 KV/DC transmission line by M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from their proposed Main Receiving Sub-Station (NIRSS) at Joda East Mines to their Khandbandh Iron & Manganese ore Mines. subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land.

- i) The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA2006.
ii) The State Govt. shall ensure that (Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land the project is handed over by the user agency.
iii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA & Addl. CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted land to the user agency.
v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the operationalization of transmission line project shall be carried out only after obtaining approval for diversion of 3.919 ha of forest land located inside Joda West Mining lease and 0.163 ha of Sabik kسام forest land in Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Mining lease of M/S Tata Steel Ltd. from MoEF&CC under Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 as proposed by State Govt.
vi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency.

- i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
ii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise the Compensatory afforestation over 3.70 ha non-forest land identified in village identified in Plot No.30 (P). Khata No.23, Kسام Parbat of village Rangamatia under Telkoi Tehsil of Keonjhar district within three years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account.
iii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise the Addl. Compensatory afforestation over 11.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Baitarani East-B PRF under Champua Range of Keonjhar Forest Division within three years the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account.
iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the species to be planted under the CA & Addl. CA schemes shall be of native species or the area avoiding Teak and exotic species. At least 18-months-old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall carry out plantation of dwarf species like Ber (Zyziphus), Custard Apple (Sita phal) etc, in right of way under the transmission line, within three years from the issue of approval as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account.

- vi) The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
vii) State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department/User agency shall take all necessary precautionary 10 prevent any hazard of electrocution of wild elephant as it falls in Elephant Habitat Zone-2 of ORSAC.
viii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
ix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No. 7-25/2012-FC dated 05.05.2014 and 19.11.2014.
x) The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease granted in favour of user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
xi) The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
xii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
xiii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.

- xiv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
xv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
xvi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
xvii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the DFO concerned will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests insurrounding area.
xviii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self-monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) the State and Integrated Regional office this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
xx) The State Govt. shall ensure that any Other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of

- afforestation conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
xxi) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts. Rules. Regulations. Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project. It' any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
xxii) Non-compliance of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 and action would be taken as per Para 1.21 of Chapter-I of Handbook or (guidelines issued under F.C. Act, 1980 vide Ministry's letter No.52/201 7-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Yours faithfully Sd/- (Padma Mahanti) Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: - 1. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar. 2. M/S Tata Steel Ltd., Mines Division, Joda, Keonjhar-751 34, Odisha.

YS/d- (Padma Mahanti) Dy. Inspector General of Forests

FOCUS UNION BUDGET

# IT'S ALL YOURS...AFTER 25 YRS



The Budget has made no attempt to tax the super-rich and has squeezed the poor on the expenditure side and this is surely going to further widen the obscene level to which inequality has widened during the neoliberal years

The allocation for agriculture and allied sectors has increased by merely by 2%. The related major schemes for farmers have seen a budget cut. Allocation of funds for fertiliser subsidy has been reduced by 25%. The allocation for procurement to FCI and the decentralised procurement scheme has been reduced by about 28% at a time when farmers are struggling for a legally guaranteed MSP. The transfers to the states have come down from 6.91% of GDP in revised estimates 2021-22 to 6.25% in 2022-23. Plans are afoot to bypass the states in the implementation of 100% Centre schemes by directly transferring money to the beneficiaries.

The Budget has made no attempt to tax the super-rich and has squeezed the poor on the expenditure side and this is surely going to further widen the obscene level to which inequality has widened during the neoliberal years. In 1991, the share of top 1% of the households in the national wealth was 16%. By 2020, it had increased to 42.5%. In sharp contrast, the share of the bottom 50% of the households in the national wealth declined from 8.8% to 2.8% during the same period. Similarly, there has been a dramatic widening of inequality in the distribution of national income also. Given the 'K' shaped recovery from the pandemic, inequality has widened to an unbearable level. The recent Oxfam report has sharply highlighted the differential impact of COVID on the rich and poor. The Budget has added to the increasing gap between the rich and poor by ignoring inequality and poverty.

The Budget has been described as a vision for the next 25 years. A cartoon captured the tragic-comic situation: The FM and the PM are holding a picture of sweets and goodies before a poor family sitting down to dine. The PM says "It's all yours...after 25 years."

The writer is a former Finance Minister of Kerala. ©THE BILLION PRESS

India's economic performance has been among the worst in the world. According to the IMF in 2020, India's growth was (-) 7.96, placing the country at the 150th rank, nearly at the bottom of the line-up of countries. This position reflects the mismanagement of COVID - India's stimulus package was the weakest among developed and similarly placed countries. Further, even before COVID, the economy was sliding down from around 8.2% growth in 2016-17 to 4% in 2019-20. And even before that in 2016, demonetisation was akin to shooting at the tyres of a speeding car.

The COVID crash was so severe that the recovery in 2020 may appear one of the highest in the world. Data shows that the economy would be barely climbing back to the pre-COVID level of 2019-20. Even this achievement would depend upon the severity of the economic impact of the Omicron wave. Therefore, undoubtedly, the key macro-economic feature is that of stagnation. Of the key variables of aggregate demand exports and domestic investments seem to have climbed back to the 2019-20 level but this does not include private consumption demand. Many who expected the Union Budget would at least try to fill this demand gap have been deeply disappointed.

The budget estimate of overall expenditure is ₹39.45 lakh crore, which is only 4.6% higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. If one were to consider inflation, there would be a real drop in the government expenditure. The economy is expected to grow 8%-8.5% in real terms during 2022-23, which implies that government expenditure-GDP ratio would take a dip during the current year. This is a perverse response to the current economic stagnation and would weaken recovery.

An explanation is that the government has been forced to be prudent because of inflation considerations. This is totally misplaced reasoning as the simple fact is that the present inflation is not because

of high demand but on account of cost-push factors. The biggest culprit in pushing up the cost and prices is the increase in prices of petroleum products. A key premise of the budget calculations is that the international price of crude oil would remain at \$70-75 per barrel. But it has already breached \$93 per barrel. The increase in retail prices in India is held in check because of the state elections. The budget should have rolled back in entirety the additional taxes and cess imposed on petrol and diesel since 2014, when international crude oil prices saw a sharp fall and the argument was that the new taxes would therefore not get reflected in domestic retail prices. The Union finance minister does not want to adhere to the same logic when the crude oil price trend has reversed and has now moved up sharply. Therefore, the Budget is a recipe for stagflation.

The great expectations of the Budget are on capital expenditure and the focus on digital technology. The 'Effective Capital Expenditure' is ₹10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23 or about 4.1% of GDP and 27% more than the revised estimate of ₹8.4 lakh crore for the current year, which in turn is nearly 28% higher than 2020-21 allocations. But these are long gestation projects and

would take time before their beneficial impact is felt. Nevertheless, the effort to increase capital expenditure is a welcome turn. China has been a forerunner in infrastructure creation, sustaining higher than 5% investment to GDP ratio for nearly three decades. This has been the main contributor to its international competitive strength.

But the key question is how this capital investment is being financed? In the 2022-23 Budget, it has been achieved by squeezing social expenditure. With the overall expenditure remaining virtually the same and escalation in non-developmental revenue expenditure, the development revenue expenditure had to be cut. This total neglect of the poor and ordinary people is best exemplified by the reduction in the outlay of MGNREGS from the actual expenditure exceeding ₹1 lakh crore in the past two years to ₹73,000 crore. For core schemes for the poor, allocation has been reduced to ₹99,000 crore from the previous year's revised estimate of ₹1.21 lakh crore. This includes the allocations for SC/ST. The finance minister talked about Narishakti upgrading two lakh anganwadis but the allocation is frozen at the revised estimates at ₹20,000 crore.



TM Thomas Isaac

THE BUDGET IS A PERVERSE RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC STAGNATION AND WOULD WEAKEN RECOVERY

Jealousy is a dead poison that is fatal to the soul.

THE MOTHER



## Indo-Lankan Tangle

It is an irony that when Sri Lanka's foreign minister GL Peiris spoke highly of improved Sri Lanka-India relations, Sri Lankan Tamil MP CV Wigneswaran asked India, hours before Peiris' arrival in Delhi last week, to be wary of the understanding between Sri Lanka and China. According to Wigneswaran, Sri Lanka's closeness to China could possibly pose a threat to India. He also charged the Sri Lankan government with trying to drive a wedge between the Tamil population in the north and east of Sri Lanka by settling ethnic Sinhalese group in the Tamil-dominated parts of the country. China is implementing several projects, including electricity generation in three islands just about 50 km away from India. This, the MP said, would harm India's interests. In addition, the lease of 15,000 acres of land in southern Sri Lanka for 99 years given to China should not be music to India's ears, he warned.

True, tensions in the Indo-Sri Lankan relationship have considerably eased and Colombo appears to be ready more than ever before to hail collaborations with India, but it could be the economic crisis the island country is facing that is prompting it to make friendly overtures to India. It is now confronted with dire shortages of essential commodities, fuel and medicines for which it has appealed to several friendly countries, including India, for help. To win India's confidence, it has finally cleared the Trincomalee storage tanks deal shelved for nearly two decades.

Before the Sri Lankan foreign minister's visit to India, another development took place. Tamil legislators of the country had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi a few weeks back seeking New Delhi's intervention to push the Rajapaksa government to find a lasting solution to the problem of implementing all the provisions laid out in the 13th Amendment, also known as 13A. This is a thorny issue still causing strain in the bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka. The 13th Amendment became part of Sri Lanka's Constitution as an offshoot of the India-Sri Lanka Peace Accord. The amendment led to the creation of Provincial Councils. Under this, the Sri Lankan government had pledged a power-sharing arrangement to enable all nine provinces in the country including Sinhala-majority areas, the right to self-govern. However, successive governments in Colombo have not fully implemented the amendment, despite New Delhi's repeated pleadings. This explains why External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his Sri Lankan counterpart to ensure "equality, justice, peace, and respect for the Tamil people within a united Sri Lanka" by implementing the long-pending 13th Amendment. He cautioned this would best serve Sri Lanka's own interests. It is understandable Jaishankar has to be tactful while nudging Colombo to decentralise its powers so that the Sri Lankan Tamils are not marginalised and federal governance is assured. Bilateral ties had hit rough waters last year when the Rajapaksa regime cancelled the \$500-million East Container Terminal project - a tripartite agreement among Sri Lanka, India, and Japan - in February 2021 and instead handed over the West Container Terminal (WCT) development plan to the Adani Group, seeking private investment. However, Sri Lanka's current economic crisis has opened up new opportunities for India to strengthen its relationship with Sri Lanka and check China's overreaching influence on the country. Last week, New Delhi extended a \$500 million line of credit to Sri Lanka to enable it to purchase petroleum products as the country continues to face a severe foreign exchange and energy crisis.

It is only natural that the Sri Lankan Tamils in order to protect their own interests will try to play on India's fears about China's stratagems to keep Sri Lanka within its orbit of influence and encircle India from all sides. But, in a strange way, a friendly neighbourhood in north and east Sri Lanka in the form of Sri Lankan Tamils enjoying the fruits of decentralised power will be to India's advantage as well. What remains a matter of concern, however, is the continued reluctance of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to engage with the Sri Lankan Tamils. He has not met Tamil parliamentarians even once since he was voted to office in November 2019. On the other hand, the government says a new draft Constitution written by a "committee of experts" could be submitted to Parliament soon. It is this move that has caused anxiety in the Tamil political leadership which fears the government will negate the promise of decentralisation and help a centralised power structure get entrenched.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations Human Rights Council's debate February 28 on alleged human rights abuses by the Sri Lankan Army at the end of the civil war in 2009 offers an opportunity to India to use the occasion to make Sri Lanka address the concerns of its Tamil population. India is in a tricky position. Reports suggest the UNHRC may indict Sri Lanka and if India becomes a party to it, that may affect the ties between the two countries. A middle path could benefit all the stakeholders in which case India may extract concessions from the Sri Lankan government for the Tamils in lieu of India's backing at the session.

### WISDOM CORNER

I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet, strange, I am ungrateful to those teachers. **KAHLIL GIBRAN**

We all want to be famous people, and the moment we want to be something we are no longer free. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**

Whether one believes in a religion or not, and whether one believes in rebirth or not, there isn't anyone who doesn't appreciate kindness and compassion. **DALAI LAMA**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Salt of the earth

The expression is Biblical and comes from Matthew, 5:13. From the King James Bible of 1611: "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Salt has always been one of the most prized commodities, essential both for life and for preserving food. Roman soldiers were paid an allowance to buy salt, the origin of our salary. A man worth his salt is efficient or capable. To eat salt with someone was to accept his hospitality and a person who did so was bound to look after his host's interests. The Bible also speaks of a covenant of salt, one of holy and perpetual obligation. Newborn children were anciently rubbed with salt to protect them against evil forces. To Jesus, therefore, salt of the earth was a great compliment. To understand his comment fully, though, you have to know a bit about where Jews of his time got their salt. Some came from salt pans on the margins of the Dead Sea, but much was obtained from Mount Sodom (Jebel Usdum in Arabic), a ridge of limestone and rock salt at the south-west corner of the Dead Sea (a pillar of salt here is said to have given rise to the legend of Lot's wife). This rock salt was the literal salt of the earth. Because the deposit's outer layer was exposed to the elements, it became contaminated and its salt content depleted by weathering, losing its taste and value, so becoming good for nothing. The use of salt to poison the ground is entirely separate.

### LOL

#### I must be drunk

A man walks into a bar and orders one shot. Then he looks into his shirt pocket and orders another shot. After he finishes, he looks into his shirt pocket again and orders another shot. The bartender is curious and



asks him "every time you order a shot, you look in your shirt pocket. Why?" The man replies, "I have a picture of my wife in my pocket and when she starts to look good, I go home."

### SPECTRUM CLIMATE ACTION

## 2022 must be the turning point



Mary Robinson

IN A WORLD ALREADY PLAGUED BY ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE, COVID-19 HAS EXPOSED AND EXACERBATED THE POLICY FAILURES OF THE PAST THREE DECADES

It has been 30 years since world leaders gathered in Rio de Janeiro and agreed on a set of measures to start the global mobilisation against human-caused climate change and to meet the imperative of a more sustainable development model. Their Rio Declaration affirmed that "human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature."

Today, tens of millions of people who were not even born in 1992 are suffering the worst of the climate crisis. In a world already plagued by economic inequality and social injustice, COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated the policy failures of the past three decades. Political leaders have not lived up to their previous commitments.

One of Rio's strongest legacies is the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UNFCCC has been the key multilateral body in the international community's effort to strengthen the political consensus on climate action through annual Conference of the Parties (COP) summits.

At COP26 in Glasgow last November, there was some progress toward strengthening the 2015 Paris climate agreement's nationally determined contributions to emis-

sions reduction, closing the gap in financing for climate adaptation, and ending the use of coal. But these advances were nowhere close to sufficient, given the existential threat posed by rising emissions and temperatures.

That is why 2022 must be the year of accountability, with all major emitters delivering on the promises of the so-called Glasgow Climate Pact. That declaration maintained a lifeline for limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels, as agreed in the Paris accord. All countries at COP26 promised to step up their ambitions and revisit their emissions-reduction targets as soon as this year. In concrete terms, those who still have not set Paris-aligned 2030 targets should do so by COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh this November. While all countries must fast-track implementation of their new commitments, it is particularly important that wealthy G20 economies do so, because they are responsible for most global emissions.

Climate finance remains another critical part of the puzzle. It has been over a decade since rich countries pledged, at COP15 in Copenhagen, to provide \$100 billion annually to support developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts. That target has never been met. In the interests of

global trust and goodwill, rich countries must follow through on this commitment this year.

COP27 will be held by an African country, on the shores of the Red Sea. Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change, despite African countries' negligible contribution to the problem. In the interest of justice and solidarity, I hope to see Africa speak with one voice to ensure that COP27 advances the region's concerns on adaptation, finance, and loss and damage (L&D) - the acknowledgement that countries are suffering climate effects beyond their ability to adapt.

COP26 left unfinished business on L&D, because the United States, backed by the European Union, postponed the creation of a new financial mechanism to rebuild communities in the aftermath of climate-related disasters. Country representatives nonetheless have committed to holding further discussions on the issue, which means that COP27 represents a major opportunity to achieve a breakthrough.

An effective L&D fund is increasingly important for climate-vulnerable states. At COP26, the Scottish government and the Belgian region of Wallonia took the first step by pledging \$2.7 million and \$1 million, respectively, for L&D (with

matching funds from philanthropic organisations). But this money currently has nowhere to go.

Another encouraging development is the deal concluded by South Africa, the EU, the United Kingdom, the US, France, and Germany to support South Africa's "just transition" away from coal. This now needs to be built upon - and emulated elsewhere.

The spirit of multilateralism that animated the Rio summit and its outcome remains indispensable today, even though the geopolitical climate is fraught with tensions, mutual suspicion, and weak institutions. As my fellow Elder Ben Ki-moon told the 'Generation Green' audience, "We all have a part to play in addressing the climate crisis - especially those with the power needed to bring about change."

To honour the legacy of the Rio summit, to meet the needs of those already living with the consequences of the climate crisis, and to limit the repercussions for future generations, we all must strive to go further and faster to protect our shared home. And 2022 must be the turning point.

The writer, a former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, is Chair of The Elders. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### Acid test for BJP

Sir, This refers to the editorial 'Northern Voters', Orissa POST, Feb 14. Uttar Pradesh in the Hindi heartland is the most important of the five states going to the polls in February-March. In fact, the Uttar Pradesh election is not just about one state. It actually holds the key to the power at the Centre. The road to power in New Delhi starts from Lucknow. That is why these elections are a big challenge indeed for the BJP's 'double engine' government in the state. A victory in the state polls will be viewed by the BJP as approval of their heavy-handed tactics. Looking to the future, the ruling party may then see Adityanath's approach as "the successful prototype for a chief minister." Add to this, the BJP's goal will be to use a victory in Uttar Pradesh to create an aura of invincibility about the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well as to spark tumult among Opposition parties, which may look to shuffle their leaders. Defeat for the BJP could prompt the party to reevaluate its strategy and whether Adityanath is the right choice for chief minister. Furthermore, even if the opposition fares well in Uttar Pradesh, it's no guarantee that Modi's personal appeal will be significantly affected in 2024. Even when the BJP does poorly in Indian state polls, it often performs well in those same areas when it comes to a national vote.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### A fascinating history

Sir, World Radio Day was observed February 13. The day was decided by UNESCO following a request from the Spanish Radio Academy. Many may know, Radio Ceylon, known as the 'king of the airwaves', was the oldest radio station in Asia, dating back to 1925. More than an entertainer, radio constituted a platform for democratic discourse and paved the way to shape the society. Kutcherys, film songs, and cricket commentaries would be sheer fun on AIR. Some exceptional commentators like Alan McGilvray, John Arlott, Suresh Saraiya, and in later years Harsha Bhogle, had enthralled the listeners with their brilliant running commentary. And news through the timeless voices of Lotika Ratnam, Melville de Mellow and Vijay Daniels, to name a few, would be vibrant, capturing the mood of the nation. Can we ever forget programmes on Hindi film songs like, 'Mancha Geet', 'Binaca Geet Mala', and 'Aap ki Farmaish'? The history of radio is a fascinating one.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Sasubagar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# CM's chopper grounded due to PM's visit



**I am a Chief Minister, not a terrorist**  
CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI | PUNJAB CM

**Chandigarh, Feb 14:** In the run-up to the February 20 Assembly elections in Punjab, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's chopper was not allowed to take off from Chandigarh on Monday owing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's movement in the state.

Channi was to join his party leader Rahul Gandhi's rally in Hoshiarpur. Modi was scheduled to campaign in Jalandhar, his first visit to the state after a major breach in his security in Punjab last month.

Officials said Channi's chopper was not permitted to take off from Chandigarh owing to imposition of a 'no-fly zone'.

Reacting to the development, Channi said, "I am a Chief Minister, not a terrorist." Punjab will go to the polls in a single phase February 20. The counting of votes will take place March 10. Channi was to fly to Hoshiarpur in a chopper shortly after addressing a press conference in Chandigarh to attend a poll rally there with Rahul Gandhi.

"I had to fly at 11 am and I sat in the chopper. Suddenly I was told that the permission (for flying) has been cancelled and I could not go there," the chief minister told reporters here.

"My four hours got wasted. I could not attend Rahul Gandhi's rally because the clearance was not given," he said. Replying to a question, Channi claimed he had permission for flying and landing at Hoshiarpur which was later withdrawn.

"People know everything about what politics they are playing with me," he said.

# My chopper held up by Yuvraj in 2014: Modi



**They said you leave by helicopter, such is the situation of the government here**  
NARENDRA MODI | PM

**Jalandhar:** A month after he cut short his Punjab visit due to a security breach in Ferozpur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said he was unable to pay a visit to a temple here as local authorities could not make necessary arrangements.

Such is the situation of the government in Punjab, the prime minister said while hitting out at the Congress, and asserted that he will come to Jalandhar again and pay obeisance at the Devi Talab Mandir.

The prime minister said it was his desire to pay obeisance at the Devi Talab Mandir, but the police and the administration here said they will not be able to make

arrangements". "They said you leave by helicopter, such is the situation of the government here... But I will come here again and pay obeisance at the temple," said Modi as he addressed a gathering.

Recalling his 2014 Lok Sabha poll campaign as the BJP's PM candidate, he said his plane was not allowed to fly as "the Congress' nandar and its yuvraj (prince), who was just an MP," had a programme near Amritsar.

"I got delayed by more than an hour in reaching Pathankot. When I reached Pathankot, my helicopter was not allowed to fly. Why? Because their yuvraj was visiting some other place in Punjab," Modi said in an apparent reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

# KCR hints at change in stance towards Cong

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, Feb 14:** Hinting a major shift in his stance towards Congress, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao Sunday said all forces have to unite to shunt out the BJP as its continuation in the country will ruin the country.

He also revealed that he will soon have meetings with his Maharashtra and West Bengal counterparts Uddhav Thackeray and Mamata Banerjee, as part of efforts to unite various political parties.



**All forces have to unite and shunt out BJP. First we have to do this, later whatever is to happen will happen**  
K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) President said Banerjee called him and they had a discussion over phone. "She may come anytime. We are discussing," he told reporters.

KCR, as Rao is popularly known, said Thackeray was also waiting for him and he may go to Mumbai anytime. The TRS chief said he was sharing views with all the leaders and ultimately all together will decide whether it should be the national party or front. "I promise you one thing. I will play a major role in that," he said.

Asked if he will work with the

Congress, KCR said he cannot predict anything. "I cannot predict anything like that. All forces have to unite and shunt out BJP. First we have to do this, later whatever is to happen will happen," he said.

Before the 2019 elections, the TRS chief had met leaders of various

parties to cobble together a front as an alternative to both the BJP and the Congress.

"Being a political leader before the 2019 elections I made my efforts. I met several political leaders and shared my views with them. I gave them a lot of literature. We mooted our ideas. We tried our best but things went in a different way and ultimately, the BJP came back in power. Situation is now proving disastrous for the nation. Day by day situation is worsening," he said.

For a second consecutive day KCR condemned Assam Chief Minister Hemant Biswas Sharma's offensive comments on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He also slammed BJP for toppling Congress governments in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh to capture power despite not getting the public mandate.

Lashing out at the Modi government, KCR said people, especially youth should rise to save the country.

He voiced concern over the attempts being made to create trouble in the name of religion and warned that this could lead to a civil war-like situation.

# It's battle among Sikhs to choose 'Sardar' of Punjab

**EXCEPT CHANNI, WHO IS A DALIT, ALL OTHERS -- AMARINDER SINGH, SUKHBIR BADAL AND BHAGWANT MANN -- ARE JAT SIKHS WHO OVERWHELMINGLY RULED THE STATE POLITICS**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, Feb 14:** It's the battle among Sikhs to choose the 'Sardar' of Punjab, the state with a debt burden of at least Rs 2.82 lakh crore at the end of the current government's tenure. Based on caste considerations, all four major political parties in the state vying for the February 20 polls for the 117-member Assembly have fielded Sikh gentlemen -- right from the 'maharaja' to the billionaire businessman with interests in hotels, resorts, media, agriculture and to the 'entertainer' to the common man, a former handball player who is commonly seen on cricket pitch and hockey turf during campaigning.

Sukhbir Singh Badal, 59, the man known for micro poll management for his now own controlled century old party, SAD. A billionaire businessman himself with interests in hotels, resorts, media, agriculture and other investments and known for corporate style functioning, Sukhbir Badal, whose party is in alliance with Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), surely knows how to set the ball rolling and hit back the political rivals with surprises. Having led the party to an unprecedented second consecutive term in Punjab in 2012, Sukhbir Badal, whose father Parkash Singh Badal, 94, the country's oldest candidate in the fray for the sixth consecutive term, is trying hard to save the 'sinking ship' after party's humiliating defeat in the 2017 Assembly polls.

Ending months of suspense and leaving belligerent Navjot Singh Sidhu sulking, party leader Rahul Gandhi February 6 announced incumbent Charanjit Singh Channi as the party's chief ministerial face.

Political observers believe the decision of the Congress to go to the polls in the state, which is witnessing a five-cornered contest, under the leadership of three-time legislator Channi, the state's first Dalit Chief Minister, is to woo the Dalit Sikh votes that constitutes 32 per cent Scheduled Caste population in the state, the country's largest.

Former handball player, Channi is leading the party and fielded him from two seats -- his bastion Chamkaur Sahib that he won three times and his new battlefield Bhadaur. For AAP that is banking on 'Hun ek mauka Kejriwal nu' (now one chance to Kejriwal) -- arguably one of the biggest advertisement blitz campaigns -- comedian-turned-politician and two-time MP, Bhagwant Mann, is the newly anointed chief minister's face of AAP.

In the 2017 Assembly elections, AAP had made inroads among Jat Sikhs by emerging as the second largest party with 20 seats, 18 of them in the Malwa region. However, it failed to make a mark in Majha and Doaba regions. Mann held his fort despite Modi wave across the country in 2019 by retaining the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat for the second time in a row.



# POLL FRENZY



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal holds a roadshow, ahead of Punjab Assembly elections, in Phagwara, Monday. PTI PHOTO

# Huge deployment of central forces for Punjab polls amid Khalistani threats

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** Amid threats from Khalistani and Pakistan supported terror outfits, the Centre has decided to deploy a large number of security forces in Punjab for the forthcoming Assembly elections scheduled February 20.

According to sources in the security set up, around 455 companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) will be deployed in the border state, and the process of deployment has already begun.

This would be in addition to Punjab police personnel who will be responsible for managing the law and order situation in the state.

The sources also said that over 200 companies have already reached Punjab for election duty, while the rest of the forces will be deployed in the state latest by February 16.

The 455 companies of paramilitary forces include 150 companies of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 162 companies of



**Over 200 companies have already reached Punjab for election duty, while the rest of the forces will be deployed in the state latest by February 16**

Border Security Force (BSF), 80 companies of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and companies from other paramilitary forces such as Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

The sources also said that the paramilitary forces deployed in Uttarakhand for the Assembly polls there will be diverted to Punjab. The single-phase polling in Uttarakhand was held on Monday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the DGs of CAPFs to appoint a nodal officer in each force who will be coordinating with the state authorities for force deployment.

Meanwhile, the BSF has stepped up security on the western border and the frequency of border patrolling has been increased.

The MHA has also asked the security forces to keep 50 companies of CRPF, BSF and ITBP on standby, which may be deployed in Punjab if needed.

# 1.25 crore to throng Asia's biggest tribal fair

**THE FOUR-DAY BIENNIAL EVENT WILL KICK-OFF FEBRUARY 16 AT MEDARAM VILLAGE, ABOUT 240 KM FROM HYDERABAD**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, Feb 14:** Thousands of devotees have started descending on Medaram in Telangana's Mulugu district for Sannamakka Sarakka Jatara, billed as the largest tribal fair in Asia.

The stage is set for the four-day biennial event, which will kick-off February 16 at the village, about 240 km from Hyderabad.

Authorities expect 1.25 crore devotees for the event, often described as Telangana's Kumbh Mela. Tribals and non-tribals from various parts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and other states will converge for the fair, which marks celebration of tribal traditions.

An estimated four lakh devotees have already visited Medaram during the last few days ahead of the Jatara also called as Sannamakka Saralamma Jatara.

Adivasis living in forest fringe habitations in several states along the river Godavari congregate once in two years to celebrate the valour of legendary warriors Sannamakka and Sarakka. The tribals treat them as goddesses and hail their bravery in trying to protect them. Belonging to koya tribe, the mother-daughter duo died while fighting against Kakatiya empire about eight centuries ago. The legend is that Sannamakka, who was fatigued, went above the Chilukalagutta hillocks and disappeared. The Adivasis who reportedly went in search of her only found a casket of vermilion under a bamboo tree.

According to local lore, Sannamakka, who was fatigued, went above the Chilukalagutta hillocks and disappeared. The Adivasis who reportedly went in search of her only found a casket of vermilion under a bamboo tree.

Once every two years, the tribal priests offer prayers at the bamboo grove and bring a casket of vermilion and bamboo stick wrapped in red cloth symbolising Sannamakka, whom they consider their deity. A day before, the priests



do similar ritual at Kampepalli village, four kilometers from Medaram and bring the deity Sarakka. Both are installed under the Indian Elm tree at Medaram village and thus begin the Jatara. After three days, they take back the deities and leave them in the forest until the next Jatara.

The poor tribals offer jaggery of their weight considering it to be gold. They also offer red blouse pieces, vermilion, and turmeric to the deities in large quantities. They take a little part of the same as prasadam from the altar back to their homes.

Devotees also take holy dip in Jampanna Vagu, a tributary of Godavari river. Jampanna was the tribal warrior and the son of tribal goddess Sannamakka who was killed in a war with Kakatiya Army. The tribals believe that a dip in the stream washes off their sins.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar

and Director General of Police Mahender Reddy already visited Medaram to review the arrangements for the fair. Somesh Kumar directed all government departments to work with coordination to ensure smooth conduct of darshan and other rituals.

About 10,000 policemen will be deployed as part of the massive security arrangements for the fair. Police have also set up 382 CCTV cameras and two drone cameras. Senior officers will monitor the massive gathering round the clock on 20 display screens at the command control room in Medaram.

Thousands of vehicles carrying devotees have made a beeline to Medaram. The DGP said they were leaving no stone unturned to ensure peaceful and smooth conduct of the Jatara.

Traffic police expect movement of 3.5 lakh private vehicles and 4,000 buses of Telangana Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC). The police chief said this poses a great challenge to the police to regulate vehicular traffic and parking. As many as 33 parking places and 37 vehicle holding points were earmarked to regulate the flow of vehicles. For every four kilometres, one police outpost was set up.

The event is being held with Covid-19 protocol. The police department will also be distributing face masks and sanitiser kits to all policemen on duty. The police have also set up 50 public information centres to guide the devotees. Various departments have undertaken different works to provide all the necessary facilities for the devotees.



BJP is expert in spreading communalism and time has come for PM Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to go

BACK TO SCHOOL

Schools in the national capital welcomed students of primary and junior classes Monday after prolonged closure in view of the pandemic



of the day quote

Bank frauds of ₹5,35,000 crore have happened so far during the Modi era -- in 75 years there has never been such a fraud with the money of people of India

The militant outfits are not intimidating the people to vote for the ruling BJP

The State Election Commission is working as per the wishes of the Trinamool Congress... They are toothless

SHORT TAKES

4 killed, 9 hurt

Itanagar: Four women were killed and 15 others injured, nine of them critically, after a pickup van ferrying them skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Arunachal Pradesh's Kra Daadi district, police said Monday.

Two arrested

Jammu: Two persons have been detained by the security staff when they tried to enter the technical area of Indian Air Force station in Jammu and Kashmir's Jammu city.

Bizman ends life

Meerut (Uttar Pradesh): A businessman, Yogendra Chaudhary, 60, died after shooting himself in the head inside his car near the SSP office in Meerut.

Woman rescued

Lucknow: The Lucknow police have rescued a 22-year-old woman who was held captive for the past six years and raped repeatedly.

Goa reports 77% voting, UP 61%, Uttarakhand 59%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 14: The final voting percentage for the second phase of Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh Monday was 61.06 per cent, while Uttarakhand and Goa, which had single-phase polling, recorded 59.51 per cent and 77.94 per cent, respectively.



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and his supporters show their inked fingers, after casting votes during the first phase of Uttarakhand Assembly polls, in Dehradun

Amroha district registered 66.15 per cent, Bareilly 58.82 per cent, Bijnor 62.11 per cent, Badaun 56.83 per cent, Moradabad 64.56 per cent, Dehradun 52.93 per cent, Nainital 63.12 per cent, Pauri Garhwal 51.93 per cent, Pithoragarh 57.49 per cent, Rudrapur 60.36 per cent, Tehri Garhwal 52.66 per cent, Udham

Singh Nagar 65.13 per cent and Uttarkashi district 65.55 per cent.

Uttarakhand is holding single phase polling for all its 70 Assembly seats, with a total of 82,66,644 voters deciding the fate of 632 candidates. In Goa, as many as 11,56,464 voters decided the fate of 301 candidates for its 40 seats.

In Uttar Pradesh, nearly 2.02 crore voters will decide the fate of 586 contestants in 55 Assembly constituencies across the nine districts are: Saharanpur, Bijnor, Moradabad, Sambhal, Rampur, Amroha, Badaun, Bareilly, and Shahjahanpur.



Farmers pose in a mustard field as they show their inked fingers after casting their vote, during the second phase of UP Assembly polls, in Moradabad

New twist to hijab row

THE COURT ADJOURNED FURTHER HEARING OF THE CASE TO TUESDAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 14: Challenging the government order restricting the use of any cloth that can disturb peace, harmony and, law and order, the girls who petitioned in favour of hijab requested the Karnataka High Court Monday to allow them to wear Islamic headscarves of the colour of the school uniform.

The girls made the plea to the full bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice J M Khazi and Justice Krishna M Dixit.

"I am not only challenging the GO but also asking for a positive mandate for allowing me to wear a headscarf of the same colour of the uniform," advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing on behalf of the girls of the government pre-university college in Udipi, told the bench.

Kamat also claimed that the cen-

tral schools permit Muslim girls to wear headscarves of the school uniform colour and the same could be done here. According to him, headscarves are an essential religious practice, and restricting its use was violating Article 25 of the Indian Constitution.

Article 25 reads: "Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion."

The article also says that nothing in it should affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the state from making any law regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice and regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice.

Kamat argued where was the law as mandated under Article 25 regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity.



A student wearing a headscarf arrives to attend a school that re-opened for 9th-10th standard, after Karnataka High Court's interim order restrained students from wearing religious symbols inside the classroom, in Bangalore

TAKING TO STREETS



Security personnel stand guard as farmers raise slogans during a protest rally to demand withdrawal of the anti-farmer bills in the state, in Bangalore

Cong slams party MLA's 'hijab protection against rape' remark

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Feb 14: Karnataka Congress president D.K. Shivakumar Monday criticised his party MLA B.Z. Zameer Khan for his "hijab will protect women from getting raped" remark, saying the party neither endorses nor agrees with the views expressed by the legislator.

Khan has stirred a controversy

by stating that incidents of rape are on high in India and wearing hijab will protect women from getting raped. He made the remarks on Sunday night at Dharwad in Karnataka.

Defending his statement, Khan stated that he has expressed his personal opinion on the issue. "The beauty of women is not supposed to be exposed. No one should set their eyes upon them. Muslim

women have been wearing hijab since long ago," he said. Shivakumar, however, said: "We will ask him not to issue any statements in this regard in future. We condemn those statements."

Zameer, however, said he has not said anything for which he has to apologize. "I have stated that hijab should be allowed. I have also said how a helmet (headgear) protects mo-

torists, hijab keeps women safe," he retorted.

"I have not made any comments on women getting raped without hijab in the country. If the media is reporting something which I have not said, how can I be responsible?"

He said that according to Islam, everyone should perform namaz five times a day but many don't do that.

2022'S MAIDEN MISSION

ISRO PUTS 3 SATELLITES INTO ORBIT SUCCESSFULLY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sriharikota, Feb 14: India Monday morning successfully placed into orbit its radar imaging satellite EOS-04 in a text book style.

With this the Indian space agency began its 2022 romance with space missions. At 5.59 a.m. Indian rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C52 (PSLV-C52) blasted off from the first launch pad carrying three satellites including the earth observation satellite-04 (EOS-04) earlier named as RISAT-1A.

The multiple satellite launch space mission lasted just over 18 minutes. Congratulating Team ISRO for the successful mission, S.Somanath, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said: "The mission was successfully accomplished. The primary satellite and the co-passenger satel-

lites were put into orbit."

On his part the Satellite (EOS-04) Director C.V.Sreekantha said the satellite health is good and the solar panels got deployed.

In couple of days, the EOS-04 will be ready to send its images, Sreekantha added. The 44.4 metre tall PSLV-C52 weighing 321 ton slowly rose-up towards the skies with thick orange flame at its tail.

The rocket gradually gained speed as it went up while emitting a rolling thunder sound. Just over 17 minutes into its flight the rocket slung its primary passenger the 1,710 kg EOS-04 into sun synchronous polar orbit of 529 km and soon after INSPIRESat-1 (17.5 kg) and INS-2TD (8.1 kg) were put into orbit.

India's radar imaging satellite EOS-04 is designed to provide high quality images under all weather conditions for applications such



as agriculture, forestry & plantations, soil moisture & hydrology and flood mapping.

The EOS-04 with a mission life of 10 years is a repeat of Risat-1 launched in 2012 and is configured

to ensure continuity of SAR in C-Band providing microwave data to the user community for operational services.

The satellite will play a strategic

role in the nation's defence with its capability to operate in day, night and in all weather conditions. The satellite has high data handling systems and high storage devices among other things.

The INSPIRESat-1 is a student satellite from Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST) in association with Laboratory of Atmospheric & Space Physics at University of Colorado, USA. The other contributors are NTU, Singapore and NCU, Taiwan. The satellite carries two scientific payloads to improve the understanding of ionosphere dynamics and the sun's coronal

heating process.

The technology demonstrator satellite (INS-2TD) from ISRO, which is a precursor to India-Bhutan Joint Satellite (INS-2B) carries a thermal imaging camera to assess land/water surface temperature of wetlands/lakes, delineation of vegetation (crops/forests) and day/night thermal inertia.

The RISAT-1A flight will be followed by the launch of three satellites - OCEANSAT-3, INS-2B, ANAND - by PSLV-C53 in March and Micro SAT by the newly developed small rocket Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in April.

Further, the launch of four ton communication satellite GSAT-24 is also scheduled during the first quarter of this year using Ariane 5 rocket owned by Arianespace.

The mission was successfully accomplished. The primary satellite and the co-passenger satellites were put into orbit

S.SOMANATH CHAIRMAN | ISRO

# international



It feels like an imported protest to me. I've seen Trump flags on the forecourt; I've seen Canadian flags on the forecourt

JACINDA ARDERN | PRIME MINISTER, NEW ZEALAND

## PRAISEWORTHY GESTURE

North Macedonian President Stevo Pendarovski walked Embla Ademi, an 11-year-old girl with Down syndrome to school after he heard she was being bullied. This humble gesture of the President has been earning praise online



## of the day quote

On the border issue, China always maintains that we should follow through on treaties and agreements we signed and we jointly uphold peace and tranquility at the border region

WANG WENBIN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, CHINA

The 11-day Gaza war last May allowed Egypt to once again market itself as an indispensable security partner for Israel in the region — which it is — which in turn makes it an indispensable security partner for the US

HAFSA HALAWA | EXPERT ON EGYPT, MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

The Japanese government will fully cooperate with the IAEA to ensure that Japan's efforts over the safety of releasing contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea are properly evaluated

HIROKAZU MATSUNO | CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY, JAPAN

# How do Russian, Ukrainian militaries stack up?

## RUSSIA'S EXTRAORDINARY SHOW OF FORCE IN AND AROUND UKRAINE UNDERSCORES THE MILITARY IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

### How big is Russia's military buildup?

Russia is mobilising a massive combat force near its border with Ukraine including tanks, artillery, rockets, and other heavy weaponry. Reports say they are moving naval ships into the region to strengthen their fleet in the Black Sea. Even though the exact number and locations of Russian units are unclear given open source data collection drawbacks, experts opine that these deployments are uncommon and signify a worrying escalation of the nation's continuing conflict with Ukraine.

### Russian Forces Deployed Near Ukraine

There are an estimated 59,750 troops near Ukraine. There are possibly additional troops in Belarus. According to data from Rochan Consulting, there are about sixty thousand Russian military personnel positioned in Russia-annexed Crimea, along the border with Ukraine, and in Belarus, where they ostensibly entered for joint military exercises set for mid-February.

However, various Western media sources have said Russia has marshaled between 100,000 and 130,000 forces, likely including additional air, naval, and paratrooper personnel. It is unclear whether and how many Russian regular forces are in Ukraine's disputed Donbas region



aiding the tens of thousands of separatists. Russia continues to deny any involvement there.

### How does Russian military compare to Ukraine's?

Russian military is far superior. Defense analysts say this gives Russia a range of options if it decides to escalate further, such as bolstering separatists fighting in the Donbas to a full-fledged assault aimed at seizing all of Ukraine.

The countries' success or failure on the battlefield would be influenced by many factors. These include but are not limited to the quality of the militaries' training and leadership, their logistical and technical support, international aid, their morale, the level of civilian resistance, weather, and terrain. Moreover, many of these el-

ements would likely change throughout the conflict. For instance, experts say that Russia's military advantage would diminish if its offensive were to drag on for an extended period and develop into a grinding insurgency with Ukrainian forces.

### Russia's Military Advantage

Notes Tanks include only main battle tanks and infantry fighting vehicles. Combat aircraft include only combat-capable fixed-wing aircraft and attack helicopters. Combat vessels include only principal surface combatants and submarines in the Black Sea. Graphic excludes space and cyber forces, as well as most nuclear forces.

Many defense experts note that Russia has undertaken a remarkable modernisation effort since its

war with Georgia in 2008, one that has transformed its Soviet-era force into an increasingly well-equipped and well-organized military. Additionally, its members have gained considerable combat experience in the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine.

### How much do Russia and Ukraine spend on their militaries?

Ukraine has increased its military budget significantly since 2014. But even with that boost and the significant financial support of the United States and other allies, Ukraine is still vastly outspent by Russia. The great financial resources required to sustain Russia's recent mobilisation around Ukraine is illustrative of the wide disparity between the two countries' military capabilities.

## Ukraine hints at concessions to Russia

REUTERS

Moscow/Kyiv, Feb 14: Ukraine's ambassador to Britain Monday backtracked on remarks suggesting that Kyiv would reconsider its attempt to join NATO as Russia masses a huge force within striking distance of its neighbour, but said other concessions could be on offer.

A day after Washington said Russia could now invade Ukraine at any time on a surprise pretext, the Group of Seven large Western economies (G7) warned Russia of "massive" economic consequences if it did so, and promised Ukraine swift support.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz flew to Kyiv for talks, to be followed Tuesday by a meeting with Putin in Moscow, but a German official said Berlin did not expect concrete results. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the situation "very, very dangerous".

A senior Russian military officer was quoted by the news agency Interfax as saying Russia was ready to fire on foreign vessels that entered its waters illegally, though such a decision would have to be approved at the "highest level".

Despite having positioned more than 100,000 troops near to Ukraine's borders, Moscow denies planning

### Envoy says concessions available, but not on NATO membership bid

Major share markets rattled, oil surges to new nine-year high

G7 says invasion will trigger 'massive' economic reprisals

Germany's Scholz due in Kyiv, then Moscow Tuesday

Putin tells Biden US response does not meet Russian demands

to invade and has accused the West of hysteria. But it has made clear it sees the former Soviet republic's quest for closer ties with the West, notably through NATO, as a threat.

The Kremlin said that if Ukraine renounced its aspiration to join the western military alliance, it would significantly help address Russia's concerns, and that President Vladimir Putin would meet his foreign and defence ministers Monday.

Ukrainian Ambassador Vadym Prystaiko was initially quoted by the BBC as saying Ukraine might be "flexible" over this aim, "especially being threatened like that, blackmailed by that."

Later, he said he had been misunderstood on NATO - although Ukraine was prepared to make other concessions.



## SHORT TAKES

### UK makes first seizure of NFTs

London: British tax authorities said Monday they had made their first seizure of non-fungible tokens in a crackdown on suspected criminal activity to hide money. Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs seized three NFTs after investigating an attempt to defraud the public coffers of 1.4 million pounds. Around 5,000 pounds worth of other crypto assets were also seized. The probe also led to the arrest of three people for alleged value added tax repayment fraud involving 250 fake companies.

### Prince Charles' wife tests Cov+

London: Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall has tested positive for COVID-19 four days after her husband Prince Charles was confirmed to be infected with the coronavirus, the couple's office said Monday. Clarence House said Camilla was self-isolating. Charles has been isolating since he tested positive on Thursday, but Camilla had continued with public engagements while taking daily tests. Both Charles, 73, and 74-year-old Camilla are triple-vaccinated. Charles, who is heir to the British throne, previously contracted the coronavirus in March 2020, during the first wave of the pandemic.

### Scholar attacked over blasphemy

Lahore: An enraged mob attacked and injured a Shia scholar for allegedly burning the pages of a religious book in Pakistan's Punjab province, where a middle-aged mentally challenged man was stoned to death a day earlier over charges of blasphemy. Dozens of people carrying clubs, bricks and other objects surrounded the house of the scholar in Tandlianwala, Faisalabad district, some 180 kms from Lahore, over blasphemy allegations.

### French cops shoot knife-wielding man

Paris: French police shot dead a man who lunged at them early on Monday with a long-blade knife at Paris's busy Gare du Nord train station, police sources said. The man attacked two police officers on patrol at the station, the terminus for trains from London, with a 30-centimetre (12-inch) knife with ACAB (All Cops Are Bastards) written on the blade, said a police source, who asked not be named.

## Chinese rocket to crash into Moon, not SpaceX

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 14: An old Chinese rocket, and not the one from the Elon Musk-owned SpaceX company, is set to crash into the lunar surface March 4. Bill Gray, an astronomer running Project Pluto, has predicted.

Gray earlier said that the Moon will get a fresh crater thanks to a chunk of a SpaceX rocket that blasted off seven years ago and was abandoned in space after completing its mission and is on a collision course with the lunar surface.

Now, he has changed his prediction in a big way, saying the old rocket is not an old Falcon 9 part but an old Chinese rocket instead.

The preceding candidate launch was the Chang'e 5-T1 mission, launched at 18.00 UTC October 23, 2014. Its booster was (we thought) never seen, he added.

Gray admitted that identifying objects like this isn't always as solid as we'd want it to be.

"I had pretty good circumstantial evidence for the identification, but nothing conclusive," Gray said.

Gray is now convinced that this object is a leftover piece of a Chinese rocket, specifically a Long March 3C that launched China's Chang'e



We now have good evidence that it is actually 2014-065B, the booster for the Chang'e 5-T1 lunar mission. It will, however, still hit the moon within a few kilometers of the predicted spot March 4, 2022 at 12.25 UTC, within a few seconds of the predicted time

BILL GRAY | ASTRONOMER, PROJECT PLUTO

5-T1 mission to the Moon. "In a sense, this remains circumstantial evidence. But I would regard it as fairly convincing evidence. So I am persuaded that the object about to hit the moon March 4, 2022 at 12.25 UTC is actually the Chang'e 5-T1 rocket stage," he added.

## Canada cops' response to protests in spotlight as bridge to US cleared

REUTERS

Ottawa/Windsor, Feb 14: As a six-day old blockade of North America's busiest trade corridor ended Sunday, Canadians voiced questions on policing tactics used to quell the demonstrations in the border city of Windsor and in Ottawa where protests entered a third week.

The Freedom Convoy protests, started by Canadian truckers opposing a vaccine-or-quarantine mandate for cross-border drivers, have turned into a rallying point for people opposing the policies of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government, covering everything from pandemic restrictions to a carbon tax.

Meanwhile a social media outcry has been triggered by images of police mingling with a sea of protesters in Ottawa, helping some put a fallen tent back up, and one video showing an Ontario Provincial Police officer telling demonstrators I support you guys 100%.

The police department said the officer's comments were not in line with the OPP's values and they were investigating.



### A social media outcry has been triggered by images of police mingling with a sea of protesters in Ottawa

At least two members of Canada's Special Operations Forces are also under investigation for allegedly supporting the protests, the military said.

Hundreds of counter-protesters Sunday blocked vehicles trying to join the protest in downtown Ottawa, frustrated by what they said was police inaction.

"We need to come together as people and say this will not stand," said one demonstrator in front of the city's police headquarters who said he was an Ottawa resident, but declined to give his name, fearing reprisals. "We need the police to actually support the oath that they took to support this community and if they can't do that, then they should resign."

Police in Windsor cleared the Ambassador Bridge, a vital trade route to Detroit, peacefully two days after the province of Ontario declared a state of emergency and the city got a court injunction to end the protest.

## S KOREA TO ALLOW SPECIAL VOTING FOR COVID-19 INFECTED

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Feb 14: South Korea's parliament Monday approved plans to provide a special time for COVID-19 patients to vote during the March 9 presidential election as the country grapples with a record-breaking Omicron surge.

The proposed revision of an election-related law will take effect if it is endorsed by the Cabinet Council and signed by the president — steps widely considered a formality since the governing and opposition parties have already agreed on the measure.

Voters diagnosed with highly infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and others placed in quarantine would be allowed to visit polling stations and cast ballots after regular voting closes at 6 pm, according to a copy of the legislation on the website of the National Assembly. The special voting time would close at 7.30 pm.

Virus patients who have already applied for postal ballots in a now-ended registration period can still vote by mail, according to the National Election Commission.

On Monday, new virus cases surpassed 50,000 for a fifth consecutive day, taking the country's confirmed total to 1,405,246 with 7,102 deaths.

## Chinese fans angry as 'Friends' re-released with censorship

IN RECENT YEARS, CHINA HAS SHUT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS THAT CONTAINED WHAT IT SAID WAS ILLEGAL CONTENT AS WELL AS VULGAR AND PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

REUTERS

Beijing, Feb 14: Chinese fans of US sitcom 'Friends' have expressed dismay online after noticing censorship in recently released episodes of the beloved show, including of LGBT issues.

Several major Chinese streaming sites, including Tencent, Baidu's IQiyi Inc, Alibaba's Youku, and Bilibili, started showing a version of the first season of the show Friday, its first re-release in China for several years.

But fans soon noticed parts of the long-running show were different to what they had seen before and complained of censorship which included the removal of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-related content, as well as mistranslations.



In one example, a conversation where a main character, Ross, explained his wife was a lesbian was deleted.

Another scene where another character, Joey, suggested going

### 'Friends' has a vast fan base in China. Many watched it on pirated DVDs or downloads after the hit 10-season show first aired in the 1990s

In recent years, China has shut tens of thousands of websites and social media accounts that contained what it said was illegal content as well as vulgar and pornographic material.

"I resolutely boycott the censored version of Friends," said one user on China's Twitter-like Weibo. "This is defiling a classic," said

another. A third user said if you can't show the complete version under the current atmosphere, then don't import it.

The discussion was a hot search topic on Weibo Sunday.

But in a sign the discussion itself may have caught the attention of censors, searches on Weibo Sunday for several variations on the hashtag or search term #Friendshasbeen censored produced either zero or limited recent results.

'Friends' has a vast fan base in China. Many watched it on pirated DVDs or downloads after the hit 10-season show first aired in the 1990s.

Chinese streaming site SOHU TV bought the broadcasting rights to the show but this ended in 2018, the company said.

# business

## of the day quote

Amazon and MSME will tread together. We both will move towards progress, enhance our production, and supply good products to the people

**NARAYAN RANE** | MSME MINISTER

The CY 2021 was more of a recovery year for business from the ongoing impact of COVID, and the same was reflected in our annual automobile trend report 2021. The trends show an overall healthy growth for the automobile market, with more buyers and sellers opting to go online

**SANDEEP AGGARWAL** | CHAIRMAN AND CEO, DROOM

"Bengaluru is the biggest exporter of roses in India. Our cargo infrastructure, powered by technology, provides rapid distribution of perishable cargo, making BLR Airport the preferred cargo airport in South India

**SATYAKI RAGHUNATHI** | CHIEF STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BIAL

## SHORT TAKES

### Palm oil imports down 29% in Jan

**New Delhi:** India's palm oil imports declined by 29.15 per cent to 5,53,084 tonne during January this year, but there was a sharp rise in shipments of RBD palmolein affecting domestic refineries, industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said Monday. India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, imported 7,80,741 tonne of palm oils in January 2021. The country's total vegetable oil imports rose 16 per cent to 12.70 lakh tonne, compared to 10.96 lakh tonne YoY.

### CIL net profit rises 48% in Q3

**New Delhi:** State-owned Coal India Ltd Monday reported a 47.7 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹4,558.39 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2021, on the back of higher revenue from operations. The PSU's consolidated net profit was at ₹3,085.39 crore in the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said. The consolidated revenue from operations of the company during October-December period increased to ₹28,433.50 crore from ₹23,686.03 crore YoY.

### Jio arm to invest \$200mn in Glance

**New Delhi:** Jio Platforms will invest \$200 million, about ₹1,500 crore, in SoftBank-backed Inmobi's Glance platform, which provides mobile lock screen content including videos and advertisement on it. Glance will use the funds raised to double down on growth in Asia as well as launch in key global markets including the US, Brazil, Mexico and Russia. "With the help of this investment, Glance expects to launch in several key markets globally as well as extend the experience to millions of Jio users," Jio Platforms Director Akash Ambani said.

### PE/VC money rises to \$4.5bn

**New Delhi:** Thirteen large deals of over \$100 million each and heightened focus on startups helped the Indian venture investing ecosystem post a 180 per cent increase in the overall activity in January to \$4.5 billion across 117 transactions. The private equity and venture capital (PE/VC) funds had invested \$4.4 billion across 102 deals in December. E-commerce was the most active sector when it comes to inflows, accounting for \$1.7 billion of investments in 20 deals.



With RBI & Ministry, not just on crypto but on every other thing as well, I think there's complete harmony with which we're working, respecting each other's domain and also knowing what we've to do with each other's priorities & in the interest of the nation. There's no turfing here

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | FINANCE MINISTER

## NEW CEO&MD OF AIR INDIA

Tata Sons Monday announced the appointment of former chairman of Turkish Airlines Ilker Ayci as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India. The Air India board met this afternoon to consider the candidature of Ilker Ayci and after due deliberations approved the appointment of Ayci as the CEO & MD of Air India, Tata Sons said in a statement



## MARKET MAYHEM

# Bloodbath at D-Street; Sensex sinks 3%

Increased tension between the US and Russia over Ukraine sent oil prices rising and forced investors to dump risky assets. Risk sentiment was further dampened ahead of the Fed's emergency meeting which heightened fears of aggressive monetary tightening

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Feb 14:** The BSE benchmark Sensex plunged 1,747 points while the Nifty crashed below the 17,000-level Monday as escalating Russia-Ukraine tensions sparked a retreat from riskier assets globally. A depreciating rupee and foreign fund outflows added to the gloom, traders said. Plunging for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex nosedived 1,747.08 points or 3 per cent to settle at 56,405.84. This was its biggest single-day drop since February 26, 2021.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty plummeted 531.95 points or 3.06 per cent to 16,842.80 - closing below the key 17,000-level for the first time this year. The Sensex has now lost 2,520.19



Investors are advised to keep strict stop loss considering the volatility in the markets. Also, buy on dips is suggested, but investors should plan their position keeping adequate liquidity

**RAHUL SHARMA** | EQUITY 99

points in just two sessions. Investors have lost more than ₹12.38 lakh crore in two days, with the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed firms standing at ₹2,55,42,725.42 crore. On the Sensex chart, barring

TCS, all shares closed with steep to moderate losses Monday. Tata Steel was the biggest laggard, tumbling 5.49 per cent, followed by HDFC, SBI, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank and Maruti. "On the domestic front, the annual WPI inflation eased marginally to 12.96 per cent in January from 13.56 per cent in December, but still high, amid moderation in the fuel and power prices," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses closed deep in the red after concerns that Russia may soon invade Ukraine,

## MARKETS IN A BEAR TRAP AS INVESTORS LOSE ₹10L CR IN TWO DAYS

Plunging for the second straight session, the BSE Sensex nosedived 1,747.08 points

NSE Nifty plummeted 531.95 points or 3.06 per cent to 16,842.80

All 19 BSE sectoral indices suffered losses, with realty, metal and banking plummeting over 5 per cent

Global crude oil benchmark Brent futures spiked over 1 per cent to \$95.44 per barrel

The rupee plunged by 24 paise to close at 75.60 against the US currency

The two indices witnessed their sharpest percentage fall in 10 months

## TOP REASONS FOR TODAY'S CRASH

**RISING GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS:** The market crash was mainly induced by heavy global sell off fuelled by escalating tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine. Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 index lost 1.9 per cent Friday after the White House told Americans to leave Ukraine within 48 hours.

**CRUDE OIL ON BOIL:** Russia is one of the biggest oil producers. Any military action that disrupts supplies could send shockwaves through energy markets and global industry. It hit a peak of \$96.16, the highest since October 2014. Besides, OPEC and its allies, struggle to ramp up output despite monthly pledges to increase production by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) until March.

**BANK STOCKS UNDER LENS:** The bank index continued to be under pressure on both sensex and Nifty after CBI filed an official complaint against ABG Shipyard for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks of over ₹22,842 crore and its promoters accused it of defrauding banks. The PSU Bank index crashed nearly 6 per cent, while private bank and bank index finished over 4 per cent lower.

**US FED RATE HIKE FEARS:** Investors are continuously eyeing rate cuts to be done by the US Federal Reserve to curb inflation which is at a four-decade high and about how quickly Europe and other central banks would follow.

which also sent oil prices soaring. Markets in Europe too were trad-

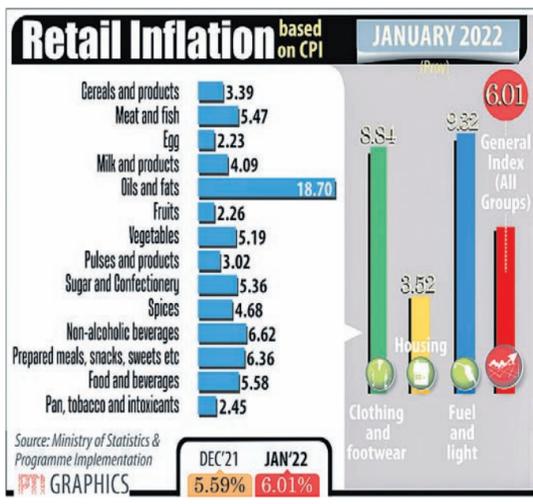
ing with heavy losses in the afternoon session.

## 7-MONTH HIGH Retail inflation spurts to 6.01% in Jan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** Driven by rising prices certain food items, retail inflation soared to a seven-month high of 6.01 per cent in January, breaching the upper tolerance level of the Reserve Bank. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the government Monday, the retail inflation in 'oils and fats' category stood at 18.7 per cent. Several other segments, including fuel and light, clothing and footwear and transport and communication witnessed over 9 per cent price rise on an annual basis. The CPI inflation in December 2021 has been revised upwards to 5.66 per cent from 5.59 per cent. In the year-ago month of January 2021, the retail inflation stood at 4.06 per cent. The previous high was 6.26 per cent in June 2021.

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the inflation in the food basket was 5.43 per cent in January 2022 as against 4.05 per cent in the preceding month. The rate of price rise in 'cereals and products' quickened to 3.39



per cent during the month as against 2.62 per cent in December. Likewise, the retail inflation in 'meat and fish' category accelerated to 5.47 per cent from 4.58 per cent. In vegetables, the inflation moved up to 5.19 per cent against a deceleration of (-)2.99 per cent in

December. However, price rise of 'oil and fats' softened during the month with an inflation print at 18.70 per cent. Fuel and light segment too witnessed a softening of inflation at 9.32 per cent against 10.95 per cent. The Reserve Bank, which mainly factors in the CPI-based in-

## WPI inflation eases to 12.96%

**New Delhi:** India's wholesale price index stayed in the double digits in January, for the 10th month in a row, as firms grapple with rising input costs and more pass on higher prices to consumers. Wholesale prices in January rose 12.96% from a year earlier, less than the previous month's 13.56%, government data showed Monday. It was higher than the 12.70% forecast in a Reuters poll of analysts, in part due to higher food prices - up 9.55% on the year, versus 9.24% in December. Consumer price-based inflation, the main gauge monitored by the monetary policy committee of the RBI, was at a five-month high of 5.59% in December. Wholesale fuel and power prices in January rose 32.27% on year versus 32.30% in December, while manufactured product prices rose 9.55%, against 10.62% in the prior month. Wholesale prices of food accelerated at a 9.55% pace, versus 9.24% the previous month.

flation, has been tasked by the government to keep the inflation at 4 per cent, with margin of 2 per cent on either side.

## Himalaya yogi ran former-NSE MD as puppet master: SEBI

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Feb 14:** The former head of India's largest stock exchange, Chitra Ramkrishna, shared confidential information with a yogi and sought his advice on crucial decisions, a probe by the market regulator has found, ahead of the bourse's much-awaited public listing. In a case of "bizarre misconduct" that was a "glaring breach" of regulations, Chitra Ramkrishna, the former CEO of NSE, shared information including the bourse's financial projections, business plans and board agenda with a purported spiritual guru in the Himalayas, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said.

"The sharing of financial and business plans of NSE ... is a glaring, if not unimaginable, act that could shake the very foundations of the stock exchange," SEBI said, imposing penalties on Ramkrishna, the bourse and other top former executives for the lapses. The guru was running the exchange, and Ramkrishna was "merely a puppet in his hands", SEBI said. After a three-year investigation, SEBI fined the exchange over \$90 million and barred it from raising money on securities markets for six months. NSE challenged the order in court and has sought SEBI's approval to file for a new IPO. However, during that investigation, SEBI found documents showing Ramkrishna's emails to an



NSE and its board was aware of the exchange of confidential information but had chosen to "keep the matter under wraps"

SEBI fined NSE ₹20 million and has barred the exchange from launching any new products for six months

SEBI also imposed a penalty of ₹30 million on Ramkrishna and barred her from any bourse and SEBI-registered intermediary for three years

unknown person, who she said during questioning was a "spiritual force" she had sought guidance from for 20 years.

Ramkrishna, in her defence, told SEBI that sharing of information with the person who was "spiritual in nature" did not compromise confidentiality or integrity.

The SEBI probe also found the purported guru had substantial influence over the appointment of a mid-level executive, without any capital market experience, directly as an adviser to Ramkrishna with inadequate documentation and a salary higher than most senior NSE officials.

## Bol to re-launch "Branch Adalat" campaign

**Bhubaneswar:** Bank of India (BoI) had launched "Branch Adalat" Pan India campaign from January 31, 2022 to February 5, 2022 with the objective of providing relief to the borrowers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, especially small borrowers with outstanding loans below ₹25 lakh. It covered loans under agriculture, MSME, retail and personal loans. A total of 6,84,000 NPA borrowers were eligible under this campaign and availed its benefits. Banks were able to settle NPA loans amounting to ₹407 crore during this campaign. In view of the good response, Bank of India has decided to re-launch the campaign again during February 28, 2022 to March 5, 2022, for the borrowers who were unable to avail the benefits last time.

## Mega recovery camp organised by PNB

**Sambalpur:** A mega recovery camp was organised by Punjab National Bank, Sambalpur Circle February 12, 2022 at Sambalpur. The camp was organised under the chairmanship of Sanjeev Bhardwaj, Zonal Manager of Bhubaneswar, in presence of Arabinda Panda, Circle Head of Sambalpur. Bhardwaj has deliberated upon many One Time Settlement schemes of the bank, emphasising upon the Special OTS Scheme. The camp was successful and 50 customers attended the recovery camp for availing the Special OTS Scheme of the Bank.

# KEY FACTS ABOUT LIC AS \$8 BILLION MEGA-IPO NEARS

Very little was previously known about finances at the 65-year-old firm, which declared its embedded value for the first time pegging it at ₹5.39 trillion. Embedded value is a measure of future cash flows in life insurance companies, a key gauge

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The Indian government has set the ball rolling for the country's biggest initial public offering (IPO) by March-end, filing draft papers for a share sale by state-owned insurance giant Life Insurance Corp of India (LIC) with regulators Sunday. Here are some four key facts to consider ahead of the IPO: **ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT** LIC's assets under management (AUM) stood at ₹39.56 trillion as of September 30, 2021 - more than three times the total AUM of all private life insurers in Asia's third largest economy. LIC, the biggest domestic institutional investor, has



pared to some other players. In the year ended March, 2021, gross written premiums for LIC increased by 6.30%, compared with 24% for SBI Life and 18% for HDFC Life. LIC's new business margin was 9.90%, compared with 20% for SBI Life and 26.10% for HDFC Life. **POLICYHOLDERS AND AGENTS** LIC has 283 million policyholders and the largest agent network in the country with 1.35 million registered agents. In the IPO, the firm will also earmark a certain percentage of shares for policyholders, not exceeding 10% of the offer size, while the portion reserved for employees will not be more than 5% of post-offer equity share cap-

ital, according to the filing. LIC employed 114,498 people as of end-March, 2021. In order to encourage policyholders to invest in the IPO, the firm has deployed sales agents to persuade policyholders - many of them first-time investors in equities - to open trading accounts. **RISKS FLAGGED** In the draft prospectus the insurance behemoth has flagged certain risks, such as that it may need additional capital in the future and that it cannot guarantee that it will be able to amass that capital "on acceptable terms or at all". LIC may also need to pump in additional capital in IDBI Bank, according to the filing, which could also further strain its balance sheet.

# De Jong saves Barca's day

Dutch striker comes off the bench to score the equaliser in the stoppage time sealing a 2-2 draw for the Blaugrana in the Catalan Derby against Espanyol

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Feb 14: One more minute and Espanyol's 13-year winless streak against crosstown rival Barcelona in the Spanish league would finally be over. Sixty more seconds and its 23-match winless run against the Spanish powerhouse would finally come to an end.

But Espanyol couldn't stop a goal by Luuk de Jong in the sixth minute of second-half stoppage time, and had to settle for a 2-2 draw Sunday that extended its unsuccessful run in the Catalan derby.

The draw came as a relief for Barcelona but halted its good run after consecutive league victories against Alavés and defending champion Atlético Madrid.

The result was enough to move the Catalan club past Atlético and back into fourth place in the final Champions League spot. It is 15 points behind league leader Real Madrid with a game in hand following Madrid's 0-0 draw at Villarreal Saturday.

Espanyol, sitting in 13th place, hasn't beaten Barcelona in the league since February 2009. Its last home victory against its rival was in 2007, though it beat Barcelona in a Copa del Rey match in 2018. Espanyol is winless in its last five league games.

De Jong netted the equaliser with a header from the middle of the area after a long cross by Adama Traoré as the game neared its end.

Barcelona had taken an early lead with Pedri scoring from close range after a cross by Jordi Alba two minutes into the match at RCDE Stadium. The hosts equalized in the 40th with a shot from outside the area by Sergi Darder.

Barcelona thought it had gone ahead when Gavi found the net early in the second half, but the goal was disallowed for offside. It was Espanyol that took the lead about 10 minutes later, with Raúl



de Tomás netting the go-ahead goal after a nice long pass by Darder.

**It was a step backward in the fight for the league. It's going to be hard, but we have to keep fighting until the end**

XAVI HERNANDEZ

Barcelona defender Gerard Piqué and Espanyol midfielder Nico Melamed were sent off in stoppage time after getting into an altercation.

Barcelona was without Dani Alves, who served the first of his two-game suspension for a red card in the win against Atlético. He was replaced by American Sergiño Dest. Xavi also couldn't count on forward Memphis Depay because of an injury.

Ousmane Dembélé came off the bench in the second half for his first appearance since not accepting a new deal with the club and reject-

ing offers to leave in the winter transfer window.

Barcelona were trying to win three consecutive league games for the first time since April 2021, when it won six in a row.

Real Betis strengthened its hold on third place in the Spanish league with a 4-2 win at last-place Levante, with Nabil Fekir scoring twice and Edgar González and William

Carvalho adding a goal each to secure Manuel Pellegrini's team its seventh win in its last nine matches in all competitions.

The win left Betis seven points behind city rival Sevilla, which defeated Elche 2-0 on Friday, and 11 behind Madrid. Betis has a four-point gap to fourth-place Atlético, which beat Getafe 4-3 on Saturday. Atlético has a game in hand.

Betis is one of the hottest teams in Spain under Pellegrini and is still in the Europa League and the Copa del Rey. It won 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano in the first leg of the Copa semifinals on Wednesday.

Daniël Gómez scored both goals for Levante, which had

striker Roberto Soldado sent off in the 74th. The club from Valencia has lost six of its last seven league matches, including three in a row.

Valencia's winless streak in the league reached six matches after a 1-2 loss at relegation-threatened Alavés. Joselu's 76th-minute penalty kick gave the hosts their second win in three matches and left the club three points from safety.

Mamadou Loum N'Diaye had opened the scoring for Alavés in the 14th before Gonçalo Guedes equalized in the 62nd. Valencia has lost four of its last six league matches and dropped to 12th in the 20-team standings.

# Leao leads AC Milan to the top of Serie A

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, Feb 14: AC Milan surged to the top of Serie A with a 1-0 win over Sampdoria. After beating city rival Inter Milan 2-1 in the previous round, Milan was third in the standings going into its game against Sampdoria and trailed leader Inter — which was held 1-1 at Napoli Saturday — by two points.

That all changed when Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan set up the winning goal for Rafael Leao in the eighth minute. The France international sent a long kick from outside his penalty area to feed Leao who controlled the ball on the left flank before moving past defender Bartosz Bereszynski to beat Sampdoria goalkeeper Wladimiro Facone.

It was the 10th goal of the season for the Portugal forward in his 100th appearance for the Rossoneri. Striker Olivier Giroud, who scored both goals in the game against Inter, had his second-half header from close range fingertipped over by Facone.

Milan tops the table with 55 points, one clear of Inter in second with Napoli another point back. Inter has a game in hand on both teams. Milan's three wins in a week, including a 4-0 rout of Lazio in the Coppa Italia, pleased coach Stefano Pioli.

Daniolo scored a stoppage-time equalizer for Juventus to draw 1-1 at Atalanta and retain fourth place. The Brazilian headed in off a corner from Paulo Dybala.

Fifth-place Atalanta was close to bouncing back from a home loss to Cagliari with a victory at the expense of Juventus. Substitute Ruslan Malinovskyi gave the hosts a late lead in Bergamo. Malinovskyi fired a long-distance shot into the top corner in the 76th minute after receiving a backheel pass from a free-kick, giving goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny no chance to prevent the goal.

In an entertaining game, Juventus' newly signed striker Dusan Vlahovic had several chances saved by goalkeeper Marco Sportiello. Juventus is on 46 points, two more than Atalanta.

Bryan Cristante headed in an injury-time equalizer to salvage a 2-2 draw for Roma at 10-man Sassuolo. Tammy Abraham converted from the penalty spot to put Roma ahead in first-half stoppage time. Sassuolo turned things around after half-time due to an own-goal by Chris Smalling and Hamed Junior Traore put the hosts ahead in the 73rd.

Five minutes later, Sassuolo was reduced to 10 men after Gian Marco Ferrari received his second yellow card. Roma remains seventh, Sassuolo is 12th.



Rafael Leao (C) reacts after scoring

# PSG-REAL MADRID FACE-OFF HIGHLIGHTS CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST 16 Time for Messi to step up against Real

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Feb 14: Following its repeated failures to win Europe's most coveted trophy, Paris Saint-Germain perfectly knows that adding up individual talents is not enough to make a team successful on the biggest stage.

Since its wealthy Qatari owners took control of the French side more than 10 years ago, PSG has grown into a global brand with strong commercial revenues. Year after year its roster has become more and more formidable, with the addition of superstars like David Beckham, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe.

And year after year the title it craves so much, the Champions League, has remained unreachable despite coming close in 2020 with a runner-up finish.

Taking example from the "Galáticos" policy in place during Florentino Pérez's presidency at Real Madrid, PSG has however not given up on its strategy. Having secured the services of a four-time Champions League and seven-time Ballon d'Or winner this season in Lionel Messi, the club hopes it will be a game-changer.

And the former Barcelona great



Lionel Messi (R) would be eager to find his best form against his old rival side Real Madrid, while his Argentina and PSG teammate Angel di Maria would be hoping to perform well against his former club

is now under pressure to deliver against Madrid in a clash between a club that likes to brand itself the Kings of Europe and soccer's "nouveau riches".

PSG host the 13-time winners in the first leg of a round of 16 match Tuesday at the Parc des Princes. Messi has adapted slowly to his new club since he signed a

two-year deal with PSG last summer, scoring just seven goals in 20 appearances.

PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino keeps repeating the 34-year-old Argentine great needs time to find the right balance in his new surroundings, but all eyes will be on Messi against Madrid, a club he toured during his long spell in Spain

**TONIGHT'S MATCHES**  
PSG v REAL MADRID  
SPORTING CP v MAN CITY  
TIME: 01:30 am (Wednesday)  
Telecast: Sony Ten channels

with Barcelona, scoring 26 goals and delivering 14 assists in 45 games.

With Neymar just back from injury and unlikely to start, PSG will also be counting on Mbappe to make an impact. The France forward, who has long been courted by Madrid, has been in superb form recently and scored an injury-time winner Friday in the French league.

A mouth-watering duel between Mbappe and France teammate Karim Benzema seems unlikely to unfold. Benzema has been included in the Madrid squad but is doubtful as he works his way back from a hamstring injury that has kept him out since last month.

Madrid hasn't reached the final since completing a straight hat-trick of European Cups in 2018. Now coach Carlo Ancelotti travels to face the side he once coached with only one win in the past four matches in all competitions, but confidence remains high.

# Smith likely to be fit for Pak tour



Steve Smith is getting medical attention after suffering concussion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Feb 14: Senior Australia batter Steve Smith is expected to make a full recovery within a week from his latest concussion episode and be available for the tour of Pakistan next month.

Smith, who has a history of concussions, hit his head hard on the SCG turf in an audacious leaping attempt to stop a six near boundary rope in the second T20I against Sri Lanka which Australia won in Super Over Sunday.

His concussion diagnosis was confirmed late Sunday and Cricket Australia (CA) said the 32-year-old will be subject to "low level protocols" over the coming days before an anticipated recovery within the

week. "(Smith) will be subject to low level protocols for the next few days and full recovery in 6-7 days," the CA said in a statement.

The star right-handed batter has already been ruled out of the remaining three matches of the on-going T20I series against Sri Lanka. CA has not named any replacement for Smith in the Australian squad. There is enough time for Smith to recover for the Pakistan tour which begins with a Test March 4.

There was considerable concern when Smith fell near the boundary line after his spectacular but unsuccessful fielding effort as Pat Cummins and Glenn Maxwell urgently gestured for medical attention. Smith was back on his feet not long after and enquired as to whether

umpires had called for a six or not. He was seen walking around the dressing and talking with teammates after Australia held on for victory following a dramatic Super Over finish. "Thanks everyone for reaching out. My head has felt better but I will be ok," Smith tweeted later.

The latest scare is not the first time Smith has been concussed. It was his third concussion in two-and-a-half years. He was famously subbed out of an Ashes Test at Lord's against England in 2019 — the first ever such case — after being felled by a Jofra Archer delivery.

Smith also sat out a white ball series in England in 2020 after being struck while batting in the Old Trafford practice nets. He also revealed last summer that he nearly missed an ODI against India after suffering from vertigo and vomiting due to the formation of small crystals known as 'ear rocks'.

"It didn't look great," Smith's team-mate Matthew Wade told 'cricket.com.au'. "I think he hit the ground pretty hard. Whether he went lights out or not, I'm not 100 per cent sure. That's something only he can answer."

Pacer Josh Hazlewood said: "When anyone dives and doesn't get up straight away, there's always a bit of concern. It's good to see him walking around now and make his way off the field."

# Harmanpreet hits 4 in India's rout of SA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Potchefstroom (South Africa), Feb 14: Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh scored four goals to help India demolish South Africa 10-2 and bounce back from their last outing defeat in style in the men's FIH Pro League hockey here Sunday.

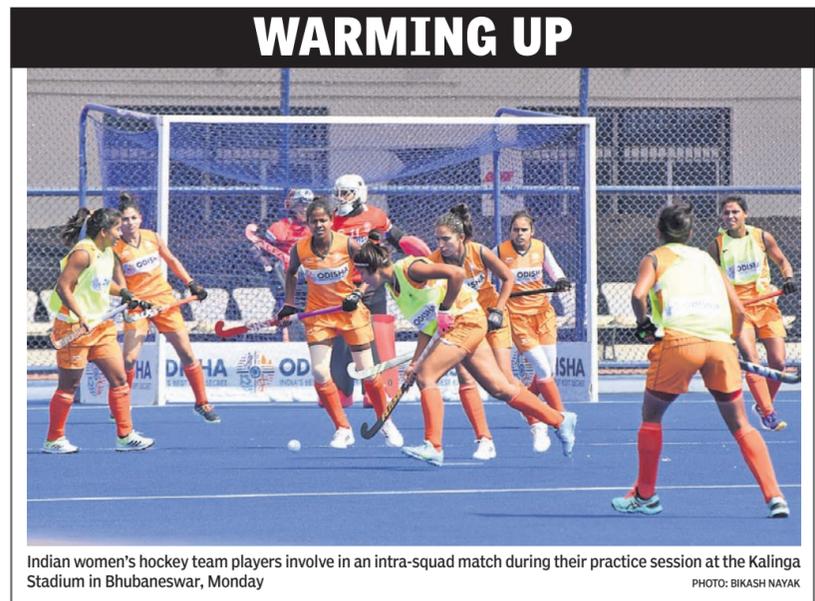
After an evenly contested first quarter when the scores were tied 1-1, India completely dominated in the remaining three periods, pumping in nine goals against the

hapless South Africans to notch up their third win in four matches.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist India, who were stunned by lower-ranked France Saturday, won by the same margin in their first-leg match against South Africa.

Harmanpreet scored in the 36th, 52nd, 60th and 60th minute while Shilpananda Lakra (27th and 48th minute) struck a brace. Surender Kumar (15th), Mandeep Singh (28th), Sumit (45th) and Shamsher Singh (56th) were the other goal scorers for India. Daniel Bell (12th) and Connor Beauchamp (53rd) scored for South Africa.

India thus ended their South African leg of the FIH Pro League on a high note a day after the 2-5 defeat by France. They will face Spain in their next match in Bhubaneswar.



Indian women's hockey team players involve in an intra-squad match during their practice session at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

# ODISHA POLICE, SPORTS ODISHA WIN BIG IN OWL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: Odisha Police and Sports Odisha register victories with big margins over their respective opponents in the Odisha Women's League football tournament here, Monday.

Odisha Police humbled SAI-STC 8-0 in their match at the Capital Ground. Satyabati Khadia and

Jabamani Tudu scored a brace each, while Jasoda Munda, Pyari Xaxa, Monica Minz and Jasmani Samad found the target once each to complete the rout.

Subhasmita Subhadarshini Das' hat-trick helped Sports Odisha thrash Rising Student Club 4-1. Manisa Naik completed the score-sheet. Amrita Naik found the consolation goal for RSC.



Players of Sports Odisha and Rising Student Club in action during their game