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India's Q3 growth 5.4% against China's 4%

New Delhi: Indian economy grew by 5.4 per cent in the October-December quarter of 2021-22, official data released Monday showed. The gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 0.7 per cent in the corresponding period of 2020-21, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). In its second advance estimates of national accounts, the NSO has projected 8.9 per cent growth in 2021-22. In its first advance estimates released in January, it had projected 9.2 per cent growth for 2021-22 as against a contraction of 6.6 per cent in 2020-21. The economy had grown by 20.3 per cent in the first quarter of this fiscal due to lower base effect. In the second quarter, the GDP grew by 8.5 per cent. China's economy grew by 4 per cent in October-December 2021. MORE P11

No changing Prithviraj title: Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking to modify the name of Akshay Kumar and Manushi Chillar starrer 'Prithviraj', produced by Yash Raj Films. A bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Neena Bansal Krishna said it was inclined to dismiss the Public Interest Litigation with costs after which the petitioner's counsel sought permission to withdraw the plea. The court allowed the petitioner to withdraw the plea unconditionally. The counsel for petitioner Rashtriya Pravasi Parishad submitted that Samrath Prithviraj was a great emperor and putting movie title only as 'Prithviraj' hurts the sentiments.



War & talks in Ukraine **D SCRIPTS HISTORY** B

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: With the counting of votes for the panchayat election entering the final day Monday, the ruling BJD won 552 Zilla Parishad seats putting the opposition BJP and Congress much behind in the race.

Out of a total of 853 Zilla Parishad zones in the state, elections were held for 851 seats while results of 620 seats have been declared so far (till 8 pm). The BJP and the Congress got 31 and 30 seats respectively while others including independent candidates bagged only seven, the State Election Commission (SEC) said in its latest report.

Counting for the remaining 231 Zilla Parishad seats is underway. As per latest trend, the ruling party candidates are leading in 211 seats while the BJP id leading in just 13 seats and the Congress in seven seats. Going by the trends, the BJD led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is set to create a record in the rural elections by surpassing its previous best of 651 in 2012.

The BJD has wrested several Zilla Parishad seats from the BJP in Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts where the saffron party had performed exceedingly well in the previous rural polls and 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP had emerged as the state's main opposition party when it bagged 297 ZP seats in 2017. It had secured just 36 in 2012. Union



TOTAL 853 SEATS, ELECTIONS HELD-851 (2022) TOTAL 853 SEATS, ELECTIONS HELD-849 (2017) WIN



election results. It is hard to believe that the polls were conducted in a free and fair manner," Tudu said. BJP MP from Balasore Pratap Sarangi, however, described the election results as the reflection of money power. The trend also indicates that the Congress, which had won 60 ZP seats in 2017, has failed to retrain at least that many seats in this poll

WIN+ LEAD

B.

CONG

Russian advance, the military confirms that Russia's nuclear forces are on high alert AGENCIES Kyiv, Feb 28: The first round of

As outgunned but determined

Ukrainian forces slow down

Ukraine-Russia talks aimed at ending the fighting between Moscow and its smaller neighbour concluded with no immediate agreements. An aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin says talks with Ukrainian officials lasted nearly five hours.

Vladimir Medinsky headed the Russian delegation in Belarus. He said the two sides "found certain points on which common positions could be foreseen." Another round of talks was agreed to, Medinsky said. Mykhailo Podolyak, a top adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, gave few details except to say that the talks, held near the Ukraine-Belarus border, were focused on a possible ceasefire and that a second round could take place "in the near future."

"The next meeting will take place in the coming days on the Polish-Belarusian border, there is an agreement to that effect," Medinsky said. Earlier, the two delegations met amid high hopes but low expecta-

11

Vladimir Medinsky, head of the Russian delegation, (second left) and Davyd Arakhamia, faction leader of the Servant of the People party in Ukrainian Parliament, (third right), attend the peace talks in Belarus, Monday

tions for any diplomatic breakthrough, after Moscow unleashed the biggest land war in Europe since World War II but met unexpectedly stiff resistance.

As outgunned but determined Ukrainian forces slowed the Russian advance and sanctions crippled the Russian economy, the military confirmed that its nuclear forces were on high alert, following President Vladimir Putin's order. While that raised the unimaginable specter of nuclear conflict, it was unclear what practical effect it had.

A tense calm reigned Monday in Kyiv, explosions and gunfire were heard in embattled cities in east-

RUBLE PLUMMETS AS SANCTIONS BITE

Moscow: Ordinary Russians faced the prospect of higher prices and crimped foreign travel as Western sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine sent the ruble plumern Ukraine, and terrified Ukrainian families huddled overnight in shelters, basements or corridors. Exact death tolls are unclear, but the UN human rights chief said 102 civilians have been killed and hundreds wounded in five days of fighting --- warning that fig-

ure was likely a vast undercount. Still, a tiny sliver of hope emerged as the first face-to-face talks between Ukrainian and Russian officials since the war began opened Monday. The delegations met at a long table with the blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag on one side and

the Russian tricolor on the other. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said it would demand an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of Russian troops. But while Ukraine sent its defense

4 MINISTERS TO OVERSEE EVACUATION OF INDIANS

New Delhi: The government Monday decided to send four Union ministers to the neighbouring countries of Ukraine to coordinate the evacuation process of Indians, including students, still stuck in the war-torn country. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union ministers Hardeep Puri, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiren Rijiju and V K Singh will be going as "special envoys" of India, government sources said.

INDIA ABSTAINS ON UKRAINE VOTE AGAIN

United Nations: For the second time in as many days, India abstained on a UN Security Council resolution to convene a rare emergency special session of the UN General Assembly on Russia's aggression against Ukraine, even as New Delhi asserted that there is no other choice but to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue to settle the Ukraine crisis.

No Holi at public

places this year too

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: The state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Minister Bisheswar Tudu, who had extensively campaigned for the BJP in Mayurbhanj, blamed the state's ruling party for "influencing voters by using government machinery.

"I am surprised by the panchayat

Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka said, "It is a very disappointing result for us. We had expected to win at least 100 ZP seats in this poll. When the BJP has remained on the back foot, it has become a direct fight between the

Altogether 2.2 lakh candidates were in the fray and the State Election Commission (SEC) has already declared 36,523 ward members, 126 sarpanchs, 326 samiti members and one Zilla Parishad nominee elected uncontested.

his vear's panchavat polls.

However, the state Congress will

definitely introspect the results

and make necessary corrections

for the next fight in 2024, he said.

distribution of smart health cards

under the Biju Swasthva Kalvan

Yojana by the BJD government

proved to be a game-changer in

According to political analysts,

-6

meting, leading uneasy people to line up at banks and ATMs Monday in a country that has seen more than one currency disaster in the post-Soviet era. The Russian currency plunged about 30% against the US dollar Monday after Western nations announced moves to block some Russian banks from the SWIFT international payment system and to restrict Russia's use of its massive foreign currency reserves. The exchange rate later recovered ground after swift action by Russia's central bank. People wary that sanctions would deal a crippling blow to the economy.

the Russian delegation was led by Putin's adviser on culture — an unlikely envoy for ending the war and a sign of how Moscow views the talks. It wasn't immediately clear what Putin is seeking in the talks, or from the war itself.

minister and other top officials.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I am seriously concerned about Indian students in Ukraine. Once they return, they might ask for jobs

M	MARKET WATCH						
INDEX VARIATION							
RSES	SENSEX	56247.28		388.76			
BOU	NIFTY	16793.90		135.50			
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	75.34		₹0.05			
CURR	EURO	84.67		₹0.11			
NOI	GOLD	₹50,955		₹734			
BULLION	SILVER	₹ 64,987		₹964			

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ſ			BHUB	СТК	Carl
	ЧΡ	MAX	34.5℃	34.5°	C
	Ē	MIN	19.1℃	19.5°	C Forecast
ŀ	Humidity		79%	86%	Partly
R	Rainfall		Nil	Nil	cloudy sky

HORROR STORIES Minors sacrifice puppy, drink blood in Bolangir

■ *The incident reflects impact of animal sacrifice on the impressionable minds of* innocent kids. All kids are aged between five and seven POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir; Feb 28: In a shocking incident, as many as five kids allegedly sacrificed a puppy and drank its blood as part of fun while playing animal sacrifice rituals at Pandarapita village under Barkani panchayat of Sadar block in Bolangir district, a report said Monday.

The incident occurred a few days back in Pandrapita village where the children tried to enact animal sacrifice during play. The incident is indicative of the cruel impact of animal sacrifice carried out in the name of tradition on the impressionable minds of innocent kids. All the children are aged between five and seven. The children highly influenced by the animal sacrifice made to deities in their village sacrificed a puppy and drank its blood.

Sources said while playing a ritual-like game, the children picked up a puppy moving nearby. They burnt incense sticks and applied vermillion on its head. Later, one of the



boys beat up plastic container as a dholak while another performed the role of a priest and slit the throat of the puppy with a sharpedged weapon. Later, all the children consumed its raw blood. The children fell sick after consuming the raw blood and narrated the details when confronted by their parents and family members. Shocked family members and

villagers admitted the children to the Bhim Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) in Bolangir. The condition of the boys was stated to be stable after they were administered with treatment.

Notably animal sacrifice to deities is organised every year in the village during Dusshera festival in Patakhanda Yatra.

The annual Sulia Yatra is also held every year in the month of Pousha-Magha in January in Bolangir where thousands of animals and birds are sacrificed to propitiate the deity. The annual Chhatar Yatra held in neighbouring Kalahandi district also witnesses sacrifice of thousands of animals and birds for which the roads of Bhawanipatna are stained in blood.

6-year-old girl beaten to death by dad, stepmom

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Feb 28: A six-yearold girl late Sunday night was allegedly beaten to death by her father and stepmother at Tentuliasahi locality of ward no-5 under Digapahandi NAC limits in Ganjam district

The deceased was identified as A Tapasya. The accused was identified as A Dibakar and stepmother as A Mamini. The incident came to the fore Monday morning after which the victim's maternal grandfather lodged an FIR with Digapahandi police.

Dibakar had initially married K Sashi and they had a daughter six



Villagers have gathered in front of the house where the crime took place OP PHOTO

years ago. The woman had died of a disease over a year ago. Following this, Dibakar married A Mamini and was staying with her in a rented house. However, the minor girl was residing with her maternal grandfather. Three days ago, Dibakar brought his daughter to the house where the incident occurred.

On the intervening night, Dibakar, his second wife and the minor went to sleep after dinner. Around 11.30pm, Mamini awoke the girl to urinate, but the latter did not listen. However, the stepmother pushed Tapasya's head hard against a wall. Dibakar also beat the girl with a baton leading to her untimely death.

government Monday imposed restrictions on celebration of Holi at public places. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena, while issuing the Covid-19 guidelines for March, said the restrictions will remain in force from March 1 to March 31

"Holi and its related rituals shall not be observed in public places throughout the state. People may celebrate Holi with family members in their houses only and not in public places including on public roads," Jena said.

The Mahashivaratri will be observed as per the order issued by the SRC February 25. During celebration of Dola Punima, people will have to follow Covid appropriate behavior. All religious rituals are allowed with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols

There will be no night curfew across the state. The government has allowed all social, religious, political and sports gatherings along with exhibitions, trade fairs, expo and melas with strict adherence to Covid -19 protocols.

As urban elections are scheduled to be held March 24, the government has allowed political gatherings, meetings, rallies, door to door campaigns as per the instructions/guidelines issued by the appropriate election commission from time to time. Maximum 500 persons will be allowed for marriages, thread ceremony and otherrelated gatherings with approval from local authorities.



eisure

ANDREW GARFIELD NOT TO DON SPIDERMAN COSTUME AGAIN

American Actor Andrew Garfield won't slip into the Spiderman costume again in the near future. Garfield told Variety, "No plans, that's the truth. No plan to appear in a Spiderman movie anytime soon."

NICOLA COUGHLAN SAYS TWITTER LACKS 'NUANCE'

Irish actress Nicola Coughlan, best known for playing Penelope Featherington in Bridgerton, has stepped back from the micro-blogging platform Twitter in a bid to protect her mental health. She was bored by the lack of nuance on Twitter, the 35-year-old reportedly said.



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

You delight in meeting new people, and today you will find yourself mingling with a lot of intelligent people. Ganesha says you will continue to be a perfectionist. Besides this, you will end up spending a huge sum of money on a gift for you beloved today.

TAURUS

This day, your expenses are likely to outrun your budget your earnings. So says Ganesha. In terms of expenditure, the situation can very well get out of hand, causing you a lot of monetary anxieties. Think twice before spending even a penny. If you have surplus funds in your hand, it is advisable to invest them sensibly instead of frittering them away uselessly

GEMINI

Today, resolving issues will be a tough task, but you will be able to accomplish it nonetheless. It may take time, but don't lose hope. Persistence and hard work will be rewarding. The grind will increase your understanding of the things happening around you. You will be able to understand those around you better.

CANCER Today, in all likelihood. is

going to be a challenging and complicated day for you, says Ganesha. You are likely to be a little short on confidence: either that, or you may be feeling a little subdued. You may not be as assertive as required on certain issues. On the personal front, you may spend a lot of time reflecting upon the ways of finding happiness in your relationships.

LEO

You may want to carry some aspirin with you today, suggests Ganesha. For, there are strong indications that you shall be up against a lot of stress and tension at work This headache-inducing factor aside, you have the uncanny knack of beating your opponents at their own game

VIRGO

Settling and resolving issues will be a long-drawn process today, says Ganesha. However, keep at it because the results will be well worth the efforts you put into it. You will feel more capable to look at things from others' perspective today. Loosen your grip on your wallet, as you may end up taking your sweetheart on a shopping spree.



New Delhi: Actress Alia Bhatt, who is currently riding high on the success of her latest release Gangubai Kathiawadi, agrees that being a public figure is not easy. Constant vigi-

lance and talks about her private life does get stifling at times. says the

ac-

tress.

Talking about people wanting to know more on her life. Alia shared: "Scrutiny of

private life does get stifling: But then I am like 'why am I an actor?' If you want to be a public figure then your life will get public. That's why one tries to protect his/her personal life." The actress, who is

reportedly in a relationship with actor Ranbir Kapoor, says she likes to keep her private life guarded.

"Like I don't want to give out details of when I am getting married because it is nobody's business or where I am going for lunch as it is nobody's business. But people are speculating and talking about it, now that there is something I can't do much about," said the Raazi actress. IANS



THE SERIES EARLIER HAD SET A RECORD AS THE FIRST KOREAN TV SHOW AND FIRST FOREIGN LANGUAGE **SERIAL TO BE NOMINATED FOR A SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD**

Los Angeles: Popular Korean survival television show Sauid Game won Outstanding Action Performance as a Stunt Ensemble at the 2022 Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards.

They are also nominated for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series for Lee Jung-Jae and Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series for Jung Ho-Yeon, reports eonline.com.

Squid Game has already made history as the first Korean TV show and first foreign language series to be nominated for a SAG award.

In a statement, show creator Hwang Dong-hyuk said, "As the director of Squid Game, today has to be the happiest moment. I am reminded of all the days spent on first meetings with the cast, the auditions, visiting theatres to see their performances, the script readings, rehearsals and the days on set.'

The cast, which includes Lee Jung-jae, Park Hae-soo, Jung Ho-yeon, O Yeong-su, Heo Sungtae and others, has since made the rounds on the award show circuit.

SAG Awards 2022 Squid Game makes history a selfless actor

Mumbai: Actress Vaani Kapoor, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film Shamshera, has talked about her pairing with actor Ranbir Kapoor in the film. She says that the two actors have been told that they share a great on-screen chemistry.

Vaani said: "Ranbir Kapoor is a pleasure to work with because he brings so much work ethic to the table. He is also a selfless actor who wants to creatively collaborate in a way that each scene turns out to be the best.

"I had so much fun working and exchanging notes with him. I think Ranbir and I have given our best for Shamshera. We are definitely a fresh pairing on screen and I hope people love watching us together.'

Vaani hopes that her chemistry with Ranbir will be talked about.

The film also stars Sanjay Dutt as Ranbir's arch enemy. Saniav will play the ruthless, merciless villain and his showdown. Vaani essays the role of a gorgeous, most sought after traveling performer of the country.

Masoom, Vaishali shine at Milan Fashion Week

Vaishali's showcase marked the very first time an Indian woman designer presented at the prestigious event

New Delhi: Designer Vaishali S and fashion icon Masoom Minawala together create history at Milan Fashion Week in Italy. Vaishali S is the first female Indian designer to showcase a collection at Paris haute couture week; and Masoom, is the first-ever Indian creator to walk the runway as a showstopper at Milan Fashion Week.

On the heels of her tremendously successful show at Paris Haute Couture Week (PHCW) in 2021, Vaishali S. showcased her A/W22 collection, 'Srauta', at Milan Fashion Week. This showcase marked the very first time an Indian



CROSSWORD

Showstopper Masoom(L) and Vaishali at the show

ternational stage

ceptual design language to an in- creative, but it is also essential to

manship and handlooms, Masoom is the first Indian personality ever, to walk the runway at Milan Fashion Week to support Vaishali and her ethereal pret-a-porter collection. She said, "Vaishali is one of my favourite designers and to be a showstopper for her at a global stage like Milan Fashion Week. was an absolute dream come true.

walked the runway for the event,

global fashion icon who is also

known as the Face of Indian

Fashion, Masoom Minawala, turned

showstopper for Vaishali S. An ar-

dent admirer of Indian crafts-

dren, no pain is too much. Today seems to justify that statement as you may indeed take pains to improve your children's welfare. But it's all worth the effort in the end. Afternoon brings with it the possibility of happiness and success. You may make worthwhile material progress today.

SCORPIO

1 You will understand the importance of creating a divide between your person al and professional life, feels Ganesha. On the professional front, your diligence and commitment to work will bring praise and benefits. Later in the evening, you will celebrate your success with your sweetheart.

The fountain of creativity will be gushing within you today. You may strive to take on new challenges later in the day. Workplace may offer economic gains later in the evening. But do not neglect your health, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Power is a privilege of a few. It's a day for those of you in power, of governance and the national purse, says Ganesha. A marvellous day awaits all civil servants and government employees. The dealings you will undertake will materialise and earn you distinction; rewards for the commendable efforts you have put in the past may also come.

AQUARIUS

A sunny day and a starry night! Today is for friends, says Ganesha. You chat, sing, yell, and even talk philosophy, values and politics with your pals. You may indulge in a romantic evening with your partner, either in a restaurant or at the beach, or simply on the sofa watching Clark Gable woo Scarlet O' Hara.

PISCES Honesty, sincerity and integrity both in your dedica tion to work and in your devotion to your family, is your hallmark. On the strength of this foundation, you will reach an important milestone today.



woman designer presented at the prestigious event. With this showcase, the designer presented India's rich heritage coupled with her con-

STUPID

MANAGER !!!

"Showing in Milan takes a designer's journey to another level of maturity and self-awareness. Not only do you need to be extremely

FUN

ing attention to the final customer's needs and being able to express your creativity," said Vaishali. In addition to the models who

strike a perfect balance between pav-

I have been attending fashion week in Milan since 2019 and every year, it's a truly sublime experience seeing all the emerging designers and trends showcasing their talent.



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.

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9	5	7	3	8	2	1	6	





CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

22 Jewels

3 Flags

17 Streetcar





downtown



MAHASHIVRATRI TODAY

Girls draw rangoli in front of Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, Monday, for Mahashivratri



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	43,64,00,525	36,70,91,218	59,70,27 0
dia	4,29,24,130	4,23,07,686	5,13,843
disha	12,85,038	12,73,734	9,071

ZILLA PARISHAD POLL RESULTS

District	Total Zones	BJD Win/Lead	BJP Win/Lead	INC Win/Lead	OTH Win/Lead
Angul	28	15/12	1/0	0/0	0/0
Balasore	45	22/17	4/1	1/0	0/0
Bargarh	34	18/8	5/2	0/0	0/0
Bhadrak	28	16/12	0/0	0/0	0/0
Bolangir	34	23/05	3/1	2/2	0/0
Boudh	09	4/3	2/0	0/0	0/0
Cuttack	46	28/17	1/0	0/0	0/0
Deogarh	07	6/1	0/0	0/0	0/0
Dhenkanal	27	15/09	1/2	0/0	0/0
Gajapati	14	10/01	1/0	2/0	0/0
Ganjam	69	43/25	1/0	0/0	0/0
Jagatsinghpur	26	16/09	0/0	0/1	0/0
Jajpur	39	22/17	0/0	0/0	0/0
Jharsuguda	09	8/1	0/0	0/0	0/0
Kalahandi	36	23/10	2/0	1/0	0/0
Kandhamal	18	13/0	2/0	3/0	0/0
Kendrapara	32	19/12	0/1	0/0	0/0
Keonjhar	37	24/9	1/2	0/0	0/0
Khurda	30	18/9	2/1	0/0	0/0
Koraput	29	15/1	0/0	11/1	1/0
Malkangiri	15	10/2	0/0	2/1	0/0
Mayurbhanj	56	49/4	0/0	0/0	3/0
Nabarangpur	26	18/6	0/0	1/0	1/0
Nayagarh	24	14/8	0/1	0/0	1/0
Nuapada	14	10/2	0/1	0/1	0/0
Puri	33	21/8	1/3	0/0	0/0
Rayagada	22	14/4	0/0	6/0	0/0
Sambalpur	18	16/0	2/0	0/0	0/0
Subarnapur	13	10/1	1/0	1/0	0/0
Sundargarh	35	32/1	1/0	0/0	1/0
TOTAL	853	552/211	31/0	30/0	7/0

763 46 36

the classrooms.

reporters here.

the children

stood in queue before entering

time for the schools to reopen.

The kids were getting bored at

home. The children were ex-

cited to come to school as they

have no interest in attending

online classes," a guardian told

The government has drawn

guidelines, including a week-long

rapport building exercise, aimed

at creating a stress-free and fun-

filled learning environment for

"We were waiting for a long

Classes I-VII reopen after 2 yrs

Odisha teacher feted with Nat'l ICT award

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 28: Union Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi presented the prestigious National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Award to Omprakash Mishra of Odisha along with 49 teachers across the country.

A teacher at the Government High School of Jeypore, Mishra was conferred with the National ICT award for the year 2018-19.

Speaking on the occasion. Annapurna Devi said that the National Education Policy-2020 emphasises on extensive use of technology in teaching and learning processes, removing language barriers, and increasing access for divyang students along with educational planning and management.

She said the ICT intervention under Samagra Shiksha has a component to provide IT infrastructure to schools and Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to facilitate innovative use of the technology in school and teacher education.



Tech goes bold: Narayani Motors Private Limited CEO Purshotam Budhraja, Maruti Suzuki-NEXA Regional Manager (RM) Karthik Raja, State Bank of India RMs Srikant Jena and Ramesh Chandra Nag and Maruti Suzuki-NEXA Territory Sales Manager Anubhav Behera at the unveiling of the New Age Baleno at NEXA Raj Bhavan Road (Narayani Motors) in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Working on evacuation of Odias stuck in Ukraine: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Welcoming seven returnees from Ukraine, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday said all efforts are being made to bring back those from Odisha trapped in the war-hit nation.

The students attended a video call with the Chief Minister from New Delhi.

"Hearty welcome to the Odia students who are back to India. I am so relieved that you have returned safely from the war-torn #Ukraine. We are working on the safe return of other students and workers from #Odisha, stranded in Ukraine (sic)." Naveen tweeted.

The Chief Minister also said that he has discussed the issue of bringing back the students stranded in Ukraine with the Union Home Minister and External Affairs Minister

Patnaik gave an assurance that he will speak to the ministers concerned again.

The chief minister has also ordered officials to open a help desk at the Mumbai airport for the convenience of people returning from Ukraine.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik interacts with seven returnees from Ukraine on virtual mode as 5T Secretary VK Pandian looks on, Monday

He directed OTDC to drop Ukraine returned students, who arrived in Bhubaneswar, in their native areas. The returnees requested the chief minister to take steps re-

garding other students in other parts of Ukraine, especially in the eastern city of Kharkiv, which has been facing the onslaught of the Russian military offensive.

One of them said, "The students trapped in a bunker in the Kharkiv region are facing difficulties in arranging food, water. Some of them have fallen sick in freezing temperatures, few blankets, and dipping oxygen. There are also no transportation facilities available for them.

The students said that after getting information from the Odisha government February 25, they had contacted the New Delhi-based resident commissioner on WhatsApp and apprised him of their situation. The officer was always in touch

with them online.

They said most of the students are being evacuated from the bor-

der of Ukraine and Romania. The students said they were

taken to Bucharest by Indian Embassy officials. "We boarded the Air India flight at night and landed in New Delhi. We were then taken to Odisha Bhavan in the national capital," they said. Å fifth flight carrying 249 Indian

nationals from Ukraine, under

Operation Ganga, landed in New

A control room has been set up for reaching out to the students, the officer said

The returnees requested the Chief Minister to take steps regarding other students in other parts of Ukraine, especially in the eastern city of Kharkiv, which has been facing the onslaught of the Russian military offensive

Delhi Monday morning. A majority of the evacuated students are from medical universities in west Ukraine.

The resident commissioner, who was present during the video conferencing, told reporters that seven students from the state have reached New Delhi and another 500 are still stuck in the strife-torn country.

He said, "We are in touch with the students. Our teams are working in close coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Chief Secy unveils SPCB book

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

building exercise.

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Schools

in the state were abuzz again as of-

fline teaching for Class I to VII re-

sumed Monday after nearly two

years with a week-long rapport-

The students wore masks, their

body temperatures were checked

with thermal scanners and sani-

tisers were applied on their hands

as they entered the schools. In

some institutions, flower petals

were showered and chocolates

were offered to children they

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: The State Chief Secretary and Chairman of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Monday released a book - A Pilot Study on Beach Litter Pollution: Paradeep 2019-20, a publication of the SPCB Launching the book, the CS said that it would pave way for covering other future potential beaches in the state aiming to protect the pristine coastline of Odisha from contamination with polyaromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals and micro plastic through beach litterarine floatables

The book speaks about the practical picture on marine litter generation from global scale to regional end, their potential transport, categorisation, influential climatic factors and ultimate fate in ecosystem, it was learnt.

We go extra mile to ensure you have a pleasant stay: Banka

Located at Sambalpur's Majhipali, The Welcome Resort offers best-in-class dining, banquet, swimming pool, boardroom, gym, spa, disco and garden facilities. In an interview to **Orissa POST**, the resort's MD Natwar Kumar Banka speaks about their tailor-made services & many more. Excerpts:

What are your major initiatives towards MICE services?

 MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) services play a key role in the hospitality industry as they offer a perfect opportunity to enhance a hotel's reputation and profile,

ଧରିତ୍ରୀ | OrissaPOS BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS

besides its profitability. The needs and demands of event planners are evolving rapidly. They want an enhanced, tailormade hospitality setting for clients, mostly top professionals from various sectors. We, at The Welcome Resort, create profiles based on the client's demand while promising regal
Airports are catalysts for tourism hospitality at its best.

- What makes you confident that Odisha can become a major tourist destination?
- Majestic mountains, serene beaches, spectacular wildlife, unique art and crafts, breathtaking waterfalls, vibrant culture and gorgeous landscapes are some of the attractions that would definitely make Odisha a major tourist destination.

How do you think the Jharsuguda airport will help boost tourism?

• What's your speciality? growth. People of the entire

Whether you are travelling western Odisha. neighbouring Raigarh, Saria for business or leisure, our carefully considered ameniand Basana areas of ties are designed to make Chhattisgarh and parts of Jharkhand depend your stay great. State-of-theart dining, banquet, swimupon the Veer Surendra Sai ming pool, board room, gym-Airport at nasium, spa, disco and Jharsuguda garden facilities with since the seamless WiFi connectivity under one roof help us stand place is centrally out. The 'Nature's Spa' offers massage and treatments located Hence, based on authentic natural healing methods the air found in traditional wellport being practices shared by plays a many Asian cultures. kev Moreover, our professional role in staffers go the extra mile to promot ensure guests have a ing tourism. pleasant stay.

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India RAL TO YOU SINCE 1911 **REGIONAL OFFICE:** 108 - B, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003 PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public and customers of the Bank that Bank has decided to discontinue the Central Mini Deposit Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2022. All existing customers and Authorised Collection Agents are hereby informed that they may contact the Branch concerned for detailed instructions. The public in general is also requested not to deal with any person claiming to be an authorized agent under the Central Mini Deposit Scheme of the Bank w.e.f. 01.04.2022 If anybody deals with any such agent, he / she will be doing so at his / her own risk and bank is not responsible for the same.

28.02.2022 Sd/-Senior Regional Manage Regional Office.

Physical fitness may lower risk of Alzheimer's disease, finds study

Deople who are more physically fit are less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than the ones who are less fit, suggests a study.

The study showed that increased fitness levels improved people's symptoms of the progressive brain disorder.

'One exciting finding of this study is that as people's fitness improved, their risk of Alzheimer's disease decreased it was not an all-or-nothing proposition,' said study author Edward Zamrini, from the Washington VA Medical Center. "So, people can work toward making incremental changes and improvements in their physical fitness and hopefully that will be associated with a related decrease

in their risk of Alzheimer's years later," he added.

The study involved 649,605 military veterans in the Veterans Health Administration database with an average age of 61 who were followed for an average of nine years. They did not have Alzheimer's disease at the start of the study.

Researchers determined participants' cardiorespiratory fitness. Cardiorespiratory fitness is a measure of how well your body transports oxygen to your muscles, and how well your muscles are able to absorb oxygen during exercise.

The group with the lowest level of fit-

ness developed Alzheimer's at a rate of 9.5 cases per 1,000 person-years, compared to 6.4 cases per 1,000 person-years for the most fit group.

When researchers adjusted for other factors that could affect risk of Alzheimer's disease, they found that the people in the most fit group were 33 per cent less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than those in the least fit group.

The second most fit group was 26 per cent less likely to develop the disease, while the middle group was 20 per cent less likely and those in the second least fit group were 13 per cent less likely to develop the disease than those in the least fit group.

इंडियन बेंक	🚯 🛛 Indian Bank	20NAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR 2nd Floor, Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur,	
🛕 इलाहाबाद	ALLAHABAD	Sambalpur-768003	NOTICE
		onstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Se ad with Rule 3 of Security interest (Enforcement) Rul	
Officer issued a Deman	d Notice calling upon the following	g borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) to repay the	
	0 days from the date of receipt of the	he said Notice.	

mortgagors and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the property of below mentioned account in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rules. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank, Parikhi Branch for an amount mentioned herein below

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

PARIKHI BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) & Mortgagor(s)	Description of the immovable property	Date of Demand Notice	Symbolic Possession Notice Date	
Borrower: Mr. Arabinda Sahu Prop. of Gajanan Medical Store, S/o- Shri Bhagabat Sahu, At: Talamerhi, G.P.: Kalyanpur, P.O.: Remuna, Dist.: Balasore. PIN-756019/Gurantor & Mortgagor: Mr.	recorded in the name of Sri Rama Chandra Rout, S/o- Shri Banamali Rout,	20.07.2021	24.02.2022	₹21,49,128/- as on 19.07.2021 + interest, costs & expenses thereon
Ram Chandra Rout, S/o- Shri Banamali Rout, At: Makanda, G.P.: Kalyanpur, P.O.: Remuna, Dist.: Balasore, PIN-756019 / Owners of the Property: Rama Chandra Rout / A/c. No.: CC-50283326266	situated at Mouza: Makanda, under Kalyar Dist.: Balasore. The Property is Bounded b	pur Village,	P.S.: Remun	na, Tehsil: Remuna,
Date: 28.02.2022, Place: Sambalpur		Sd/- A	Authorised C	officer, Indian Bank







OrissaPOST TUESDAY | MARCH 1 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown

Below 200 daily cases 1st time in '22, TPR dips to 0.32

Report of 171 fresh cases was the lowest since December 28, 2021, as 156 coronavirus cases were detected on that day

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Odisha Monday reported 171 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest single-day count in the last two months, with the tally rising to 12,85,038, a Health department bulletin said.

Out of the new cases, 34 are in the age group of 0 to 18 years. As many as 98 infections were reported from quarantine centres

Trisha & Shifa's sweat-free mask to represent state at Int'l stage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Two students brought laurels to the state by being the only winners form Odisha at the 29th National Children's Science Congress 2021, organised by the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science and Technology.

Shifa Prizm and Trisha Patro of Classes VII and VIII of the Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium (BJEM) School were selected at the science congress for their proj ect 'Sweatfree Mask'. They were selected among 32 participants from across India and will compete at the international level once the situation permits. Their project aims to lessen the sweats by absorption while the masks still on. Face tends to sweat if facemask is on for a long period of time. Also, the sweat adds more to the plights of people using glasses.

In a conversation with Orissa POST, Shifa said, "We along with our science department team and teachers prepared pencil mask that absorb the sweat quickly. We had to do a lot of research work for that, like data collection and experimentation, and finally prepared the mask using materials including cotton, Cellulose sponge, bamboo fabric and Silica gel." Trisha said. "Keeping in mind the aim of NCSTC that is collaboration and team work, we worked with our school science teachers and club members for this achievement. Sandhya Jena, Principal of BJEM

Schools, said that the project is the only one selected from the state and thus glory has come to the state after a gap of four years. The girls might get an opportunity to participate in the Intel IRIS science fair which is a dream for all science students. They will obviously get advantage during the admission ion IISER, NISER and IISC.

while 73 persons contracted the virus locally. The state had registered 251 cases of coronavirus infections Sunday.

Gajapati district registered the highest number of new cases at 24, followed by Khurda at 23.

Other districts that reported fresh Covid-19 cases are: Angul (5), Balasore (1), Bargarh (2), Bhadrak (3), Bolangir (2), Boudh (1), Cuttack (6), Deogarh (3), Dhenkanal (1), Ganjam (1), Jagatsinghpur (3), Jajpur (15), Jharsuguda (21), Kalahandi (3), Kandhamal (1), Kendrapara (1), Koraput (4), Mayurbhanj (8), Nabarangpur (3), Puri (1), Rayagada (5), Sambalpur (22) and Sundargarh (7).

The State Pool reported 5 new cases. These are persons who have



come from outside Odisha and have tested positive. A total of 2,92,63,056 swab samples have been cumulatively tested so far. The coastal state's daily test positivity rate

CLOSE SHAVE

(TPR) was 0.32 per cent as the fresh cases were detected from 53,332 sample tests since Sunday, the Health bulletin said. The number of new patients was the lowest since

December 28 as 156 coronavirus cases were detected on that day.

Odisha now has 2,610 active cases and 382 patients recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,73,304, the health bulletin added.

The death toll rose to 9,071 as seven more people succumbed to the disease in the last 24 hours. it said. The state had reported eight Covid-19 fatalities Sunday. Khurda district reported the highest Covid deaths at three. It was followed by Puri (two) and Cuttack and Kendrapara districts (one each). Fifty-three other Covid-19 patients in state have died due to comorbidities so far, according to data.

Sharad Srivastava joins as ECoR AGM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Senior Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE) officer Sharad Kumar Srivastava took over as the Additional General Manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR), an official said Monday.

Before this, Srivastava served as the Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer at Metro Railway, Kolkata. He also worked as the Divisional Railway Manager of Adra Division under the South Eastern Railway. "He has also worked in various capacities in Indian Railways, including in Research Design and Standard Organization and in RailTel Corporation of India Limited at Kolkata," said the official.

After completing engineering in Electronics and Telecommunication from Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College in Gorakhpur. he joined Railways in 1988. He has vast experience in maintenance and project implementation in the field of Signal & Telecommunication.

State science & edu institutes observe Nat'l Science Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Educational institutions and scientific bodies across the Capital city Monday celebrated the National Science Day by paying rich tributes to eminent scholars and scientists.

The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS). Bhubaneswar celebrated the day with participation from the Unit-8 Government Boys' High School and Unit-3 Capital High School from Bhubaneswar; Arjun Subudhi High School from Nuapatana, Cuttack; and Ganjam College.

The event organised at 4 locations had the participation of more than 1,500 school and college students. As a part of the program ILS scientists and students delivered talks focusing on advances made in the field of cancer biology, infectious diseases and plant biotechnology. In the interactive session with the students, several innovative and

relevant ideas were mooted. Addressing the students, ILS Director Ajay Parida mentioned that India has made significant progress in the field of agriculture, medicine, information and communication technology and the impact of science and technology in day to day life has been quite significant. The innovation ecosystem, where entrepreneurship has been the driving force. has made significant headways and many ideas are emerging to mitigate challenges. He also called for a scientific literate society where advances in all field could be achieved through appropriate use of science and technology.

Sanjib Rout, Founder of CV Raman Global University, called for participation of students in identifying innovative and scien-



tific areas to help in nation building. During the event, the students displayed exhibitions focusing in the area of renewable energy, medicine, agriculture, waste management and even space technology. Painting, essay and debate competitions were also organised during the event.

The Central University of Odisha (CUO) too celebrated the National Science Day by organising a distinguished lecture on 'Integrated Approach in Science & Technology for Sustainable Future' at its campus Monday. Padmashree Aditya Prasad Dash delivered the distinguished lecture on this occasion as the chief guest. An eminent scientist and academician of international repute, Dash is the Vice-Chancellor of the Asian Institute of Public Health University, Bhubaneswar. He has also served as the former VC of Central University of Tamil Nadu and former Advisor of the United Nations.

The Institute of Physics here also organised an open day to mark the National Science Day. The institute featured live demo experiments, laboratory visits, and scientific poster presentations. The whole day was celebrated from 10am to 5pm at the premises of the Institute. The students, teachers, parents and the public visited, explored and enjoyed the scientific activities.

'Odia scientists' contribution to freedom struggle praiseworthy'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: The contribution of Odia scientists to India's freedom struggle is praiseworthy, said Governor Ganeshi Lal as he attended a seminar to mark the 75 years of Independence.

The seminar was organised by Odisha Vigyan Mandal (affiliated with the largest science movement of India-Vijnana Bharati) recently, it was learnt. The Governor said, "Scientists and social reformers like Samanta Chandra Sekhar (popular as Pathani Samanta), Sarangadhar Das, Isaac Santra, Davanidhi Patnaik, Manmohan Choudhury and Biswanath Sahu contributed immensely to India's freedom struggle through their notable work. They never compromised with British.'



Fire Services personnel douse a blaze at Munda Sahi near Capital Law College in Bhubaneswar. Monday

Director General Mrutvuniav Mohapatra said India is now selfreliant in terms of weather forecast. "In 1968, we're dependent on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: With an objective to make roads in Odisha 100 per cent signage compliant, the State Transport Authority (STA) stated Monday that it would soon begin an audit of signage on roads all across the state.

Sources said that the move will play a crucial role in identifying engineering defects on the roads in order to tackle the rising road mishaps and corresponding increase in fatalities. Simple road engineering interventions like provision of appropriate road markings and traffic signs, and minor layout changes at the junctions are tested measures which significantly reduce road accidents. "Road signage help drivers by giving them advance warning in case of hazards. Faulty road signage and signals are often responsible for massive traffic jams, road accidents and pile-ups. Many a times



REDUCING RISKS

STA to make roads fully signage compliant

The department is scaling up the pilot initiative and will be conducting a state wide audit of road signage and markings for 3,000 km of roads in the first phase

types of road signs - regulatory,

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AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Dharamgarh, I, Satyapriya Naik (30 years), S/o. Dambarudhar Naik, R/o. At/PO/PS-Dharamgarh, Dist.-Kalahandi hereby affirm that my original RSD No. 1231/2007 of 19.06.2007 regarding purchase of Plot No. 47/1836, AV Khata No. 119/84 with an area of Ac.0.05 Dec. of Mouza Dharamgarh has been lost during bus journey from Dharamgarh to Bhawanipatna on 10.08.2017. This affidavit is sworn to be produced before the concerned authority.

Sd./-Satyapriya Naik

Emphasising on 'Indianness' and self-esteem, he said, "The freedom was not about political independence from British government. Rather it was about how the nation will get economic, social and cultural freedom and be self-reliant.

Delivering the key note address, India Meteorological Department

our own satellites and other instrument for weather forecast. It's a proud moment for scientists that we are now the fourth country in the world in weather forecast. This is just because of our forefathers as they took part in freedom struggle and worked hard in this key field of research." the IMD DG said. BPUT Vice Chancellor Chitta

merican satellites. But now we've

Ranjan Tripathy presided over the meeting. CSIR-IMMT Principal scientist Bikash Kumar Jena introduced guests, while Odisha Vigyan Mandal Secretary Soubhagya Swain gave vote of thanks.



road signs are wrongly placed or stay hidden," the Transport department observed based on the findings of a pilot project.

The pilot project which included sample audit of road signage and marking on SH-10 (Biju Expressway) from Deokaranpur to Keseibahal, a 50 km stretch in Sundargarh district, revealed that there was a need for more signs to warn, inform, guide,

warning and informative. The parameters include characteristics. installation, location and visibility control or delineate the road for correct application. users. The audit conducted with "Roads should speak and have the help of experts also observed better communication with the that at some places the paveusers. The Transport department markings were not conment has thus decided to scale up

spicuous and continuous and the pilot project initiative at state that the lack of signage may level. As per the decision, an cause confusion at intersections audit of road markings and sigand even accidents. nage for 3,000km of roads across It can be mentioned that the the state will be carried out as

part of the initiative," said an Indian Road Congress Code has STA official. set several parameters for three

Antibiotics doesn't prevent wheezing in babies, may cause harm

general have no benefit in prentibiotic azithromycin does not prevent recurrent wheezventing recurrent wheeze, and Ting among infants hospithere is a possibility they are harmtalised with Respiratory Syncytial ful," said first author Avraham Virus (RSV), rather may prove to Beigelman, Associate Professor of be harmful, researchers warned. paediatrics at Washington's School Azithromycin is known to have of Medicine anti-inflammatory properties

However, among infants hospi-

talised with RSV, there was no dif-

ference in the amount of wheezing

in babies treated with azithromycin

versus those who received a placebo.

according to researchers at

Universities of Washington and

"Azithromycin and antibiotics in

cvstic fibrosis.

Vanderbilt.

The findings were presented at that can be beneficial in some the annual meeting of the American chronic lung diseases, such as Academy of Allergy, Asthma &

Immunology in Phoenix and also published in The New England Journal of Medicine - Evidence. In infants and young children,

RSV can cause bronchiolitis, an infection of the small airways in the lungs

Nearly all children contract RSV at some point in early childhood, and a small percentage develop

Azithromycin is known to have anti-Ainflammatory properties that can be beneficial in some chronic lung diseases, such as cystic fibrosis Nearly all children contract Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) at some point in early childhood, and a small percentage develop bronchiolitis severe enough to be hospitalise hospitalise with RS\ bronchioliti are at an increase risk of developing asthma by age '

bronchiolitis severe enough to be hospitalised. Infants hospitalised with RSV bronchiolitis are at an increased risk of developing asthma by age 7. The trial confirmed, as anticipated, that azithromycin lowers a marker of airway inflammation called IL-8.

Infants treated with azithromycin had lower levels of IL-8 in their noses than infants who received a placebo, confirming anti-inflammatory effects of azithromycin.

But, azithromycin-treated patients did not have reduced risk of developing recurrent wheezing compared with the placebo group. While the difference did not

reach statistical significance, the data actually leaned toward azithromycin increasing risk of wheezing, with 47 per cent of patients who had received azithromycin experiencing recurrent wheezing versus 36 per cent of the placebo group. Recurrent wheezing was defined as three episodes of wheezing during the two to four years of follow up.

"There may be an increase in risk of recurrent wheezing with any antibiotic use," Beigelman said.

He added that the findings are important and must be communicated to pediatricians, "Since antibiotics are frequently given to patients with RSV bronchiolitis despite the fact that this practice is not supported by clinical guidelines.

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state

SHORT TAKES

Six held with brown sugar

Rourkela: Six suspected drug peddlers were arrested and brown sugar worth around ₹10 lakh were seized from their possession, police said Monday, Four people who were moving suspiciously were stopped by a police team Sunday evening, Additional Superintendent of Police Bikram Kishore Bhoi said. During search, police recovered narcotics, two country-made pistols and seven live cartridges from their possession. While three were arrested, one managed to escape. Bhoi said. Based on their inputs, three more suspects were arrested in the morning and some amount of brown sugar seized. Cash worth ₹1.67 lakh have also been seized. according to Bhoi. Initial investigation revealed that they used to procure contraband from Kolkata and sell those in small packets worth ₹300-400, the ASP said. Attempts are on to arrest the other suspects police added.

CBI nabs mine security in-charge

Talcher: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Monday arrested the security incharge of Talcher-based MCL's Balaram Coal Mines here in Angul district. The accused has been identified as Jayant Kumar Barik. The CBI arrested him red-handed for demanding a bribe of Rs 4,500 from an employee of the mines.

'Health inequality

waning in state'

In comparison to 2005-06, the

neonatal mortality rate has

decreased from 56 to 27 per 1,000

live births. Infant

mortality rate has decreased

from 65 to 36 per 1,000 live births

Sambalpur, Feb 28: Odisha has made significant

progress to address the health inequality in the state

due to the efforts of the state government. This has be-

come possible through various schemes launched by

the state government where doctors played a major role.

This was the essence of the 39th annual conference

organised by Indian Association of Preventive and

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara: Panchayat elections show sorry state of development

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Feb 28: The recently concluded three-tier panchayat elections have once again brought to the fore the sorry state of development in this coastal district

Over 52 makeshift polling booths had been established as many of the villages in the district lack communication facilities and one has to toil a lot to reach these villages.

Bridges have been constructed on the rivers to connect one place to another but construction of roads in 8,138 villages under poverty alleviation scheme Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-REGS) is yet to get completed.

The migrant workers who have migrated to other states and countries did not turn up this time to vote in the elections. This is indicative that they are more concerned for their livelihood than voting in the elections. Aul. Pattamundai, Rajkanika, Rajnagar and Mahakalapara blocks are known for rampant out-migration.

However, what is heartening is that the number of women voters has gone up this time in comparison to their male counterparts. The district has 11,48,046 voters out of which 70.95 per cent men and 78.69 per cent women have voted in the elections.

Over 3 to 4 per cent more women have voted in Kendrapara, Derabish, Marshaghai and Garadpur blocks. Even 7 to 16 per cent more women have voted in the elections than their male counterparts in migration-prone blocks like Aul, Pattamundai, Rajkanika, Rajnagar and Mahakalapara. In this context, improving the socio-economic condition

Whereas



A temporary polling booth in Rainaga

of people will pose a serious challenge to the newly elected people's representatives, political observers said.

Social activist Banambar Sahu said that the economic condition of the district is quite weak and the district administration has no plan to make proper utilisation of the human resources. The male voters here prefer to migrate to other states for employment due to lack of livelihood opportunities, he said. The women empowerment schemes of the government have led to an increase in the number of women voters.

The funds allocated to women selfhelp groups are more responsible for an increase in the number of women exercising their franchise in the elections than their political consciousness, he added.

Political observer Bhuban Mohan Jena said that the problem of migration has been reflected in five blocks of the district in this election. He attributed the absence of migrants in the elections to Covid pandemic.

The eight per cent increase in women's votes has compensated the loss of male migrants' votes during

way to bank

KVB) Karur Vysya Bank

Only) and interest thereon, cost and expenses

time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Over 52 temporary booths had been established as makeshift polling booths as many of the villages in the district lack communication facilities

Bhadrak, Feb 28: The

Mahashivratri festival at

the famous Shiva shrine

of Aradi will be held ad-

hering Covid guidelines is-

sued by the special relief

commissioner as the dis-

trict administration

clamped prohibitory or

ders under Section-144 in

and around the temple

festival will be held at

the shrine, March 1. In

the festival. devotees

from Nandapur, Aradi,

Sundarpur and Olag

panchayats will be per-

mitted to visit the tem-

ple and have darshan of

the deity on the basis

The permission to

residents of four pan-

chayats has sparked a

row with people flay-

ing the decision. During

the festival only one

servitor will be allowed

to perform rituals in-

side the temple while

no public address sys

tems can be used.

of Covid guidelines.

The Mahashivratri

shrine, Monday.

Construction of roads in 8,138 villages under poverty alleviation scheme MGNREGS is yet to get completed

the polls. However, the time has come for the public representatives to become conscious as the economy of the district will become an issue in the next election, he added.

Utkal Keshari Parida, district pres ident, BJD said that the state government has fulfilled the dreams of late Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, Empowerment of women has turned into a movement in the state as women have become an example to emulate by participating more in numbers in the elections.

Kishore Kumar Panda, district president. BJP said that the participation of women has strengthened the democracy which has become possible only due to the policies of Union government and a public movement. He claimed that the votes of women have gone more towards the BJP and its supported candidates.

Senior Congress leader and former Aul MLA Debendra Sharma said that the Covid infection has cast its shadow on the elections. The BJD had tried to lure the women into its fold while Congress will reap better results in the panchayat polls than the previous elections

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD.,

Berhampur Branch

H.No: 214-5, Beeraka Street, Near Venkateswara

Swamy Temple, Berhampur, Orissa, 760002

Odia girl stranded in Ukraine cries for help Mahashivratri at Aradi to be held amid curbs POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Feb 28: A medical student from Bhadrak has been stuck in war-hit Ukraine as Russia goes ahead with its invasion. Archana, a first year medical student at Keryliv National Medical University, is stranded in Ukraine's Kharkiv city.

The girl through video messages to her family has been pleading for her rescue ever since Russia invaded Ukraine. She had booked her return tickets, but the war started before she could come back home. Archana, daughter of Umakant Kar, left for Ukraine December 5

to study medicine. But, as bad luck would have it, she is now stranded in Ukraine. Unable to come out of the war

zone, Archana had video-called her parents. In one of her video calls, she said that she was living in a bunker with 200 other fellow Indians. Archana also unfolded horrors of the war. She had pointed out that she was taking shelter in a bunker along with fellow Indians. They were given food just twice a day and had to survive days and nights in the chilling sub-zero temperatures in Ukraine.



Archana's last call was at 11pm, Sunday. Now, her phone has been switched off. Her family is unable to contact her to know her whereabouts

She maintained that they had been regularly hearing loud sounds of bomb blasts and missiles amid the noises of artillery and fighter jets. Furthermore, they were running out of food as all the shops in the area had been shut down, she said. Her family has appealed the Central government and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik to rescue her.



The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of **Description of the Immovable Property**

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)

Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

2002 issued a demand notice dated 05.08.2021 calling upon 1) M/s. The Sai Mobile Point (Borrower), Proprietor: Mr. A Mahesh Kumar Sai Complex, Gandhi Nagar, Berhampur, Orissa 760001 And At, Mr. A Mahesh Kumar Sastri Nagar 6th Lane, Berhampur, Orissa 760002 2). Mrs. Atmakuri Lavanya (Guarantor), Sastri Nagar 6th Lane, Near Ranguni Bhandho Street Berhampur, Orissa 760002 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being

Rs.33,99,677.70 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise Seventy Only) together with further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and

the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **24th day of February of the year 2022**. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property

and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of **Rs.33,99,677.70** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise Seventy

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED, under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,

1. All that Piece and parcel of Residential Plot, measuring Ac.0.041 Dec (approx. 1800 sq.ft.) situated at Old Plot Nos. 33 and 34 New Plot Nos. 33/4752, 34/4753, Old Khata No. 323, New Khata No. 703/951, Ankushpur Village, kukudakhandi, Ganjam, Orissa 761100. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh Kumar and is

Whereas

Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED, under the Securitisation

Social Medicine (IAPSM) at VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla. The role of doctors, healthcare professionals and volunteers during the Covid pandemic has been crucial.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sanjeev Kumar Mishra, secretary of IAPSM said that people have become conscious on taking Covid vaccines during the pandemic. The number of medical colleges has gone up in the state while shortage of doctors is declining. The rest of the problems will be removed in a few years.



In comparison to 2005-06, the neonatal mortality rate has dropped from 56 to 27 per 1,000 live births. Infant mortality rate has decreased from 65 to 36 per 1,000 live births. Institutional delivery has increased from 36 per cent to 92 per cent, which has helped control the infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the state.

More than 90 per cent of children bellow two years are fully vaccinated in comparison to 52 per cent in 2005. Coming to use of contraception, 74 per cent of couples are using it which is 20 per cent more than 2006.

Dr D Shobha Malini in her presentation on malaria elimination in Odisha discussed the improvement of malaria situation in Odisha in recent years in areas that are hard to reach.

Dr JS Kshatri presented a topic on multi-morbidity and how elderly people are affected by different diseases simultaneously.

State health minister Naba Kishore Das joined as chief guest while Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari was the guest of honour. Prof Durga Madhab Satapathy, HOD Department of Community Medicine, MKCG Medical College Berhampur, Dr Sanghamitra Pati Director RMRC and Dr Lalmohan Navak were felicitated for their role in management of Covid-19 pandemic in the function.

butted and bounded as follows	
On the North: Land of Jagabandhu Sabat	On the East: Land of Polaki Janardan Rao
On the South: Road	On the West: Plot No. 33 and 34 related land
2.All that Piece and parcel of residential P	lot, measuring Ac.0.044 Dec (1916.64 sg.ft.) situated at Old Plot
	d Khata No. 109 New Khata No. 410/1649, Kukudakhandi Block,
	Orissa 760001. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh
Kumar and is butted and bounded as follow	
On the North: Executants' Land	On the East: Land of Surjit Samal
On the South: Road	On the West: Executants' Land
Place: Berhampur	Authorized Office
Date: 24.02.2022	The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD., **Karur Vysya Bank** Aska Branch Binayak Bazar, Besides Sree Jewellers Smart way to bank Aska, Orissa, 761110 **POSSESSION NOTICE** (For Immovable Property Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas

KVB

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**, under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice diated **07.09.2021** calling upon **1)** M/s. **Bhaskar Stone Crusher** (**Borrower**), At Binayak Bazar, PO/PS-Aska Aska, Ganjam Orissa 761110 **2)** Mr. **Nilamadhab Achary K** (Partner cum Guarantor) At Binayak bazar, PO/PS-Aska, Sanjan Orissa 76110 Also At, At-Balipadar, PS-Gangapur, Ganjam Orissa 761001 **3) Mr. P Trimal Rao** (Partner cum Guarantor) At Binayak Bazar, PO/PS-Aska, Aska, Ganjam Orissa 761110 Also At, S/o. Late Patanala Bhaskar Rao, Sree Jewellers, Binayak Bazar, Aska, Orissa 761110 4) Mr. Manoj Kumar Achary (Guarantor) At Binayak Bazar, PO/PS-Aska, Aska, Ganjam Orissa 761110 And At, Ballipadar, Buguda, Ganjam Orissa 761001 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 81,09,558.50 (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight and Paise Fifty Only) together with further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Partners/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **24th day of February of the year 2022**. The Borrower/Partners/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of **Rs. 81,09,558.50 (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight and Paise** Fifty Only) and interest thereon, cost and expenses.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

		Desc	ription of the in	inovable Proper	Ly	
under SRO/T No.1074, Plo Achary and t North: Hous South: Hous South: Hous J. All that pi under SRO/T name of Mr. North: Dhar South: Hous J. All that pie Dist.Ganjam Ac.0.620dc c Area Ac.0.44 land is butte	Fahasil-Bugur to No.1624, K the land is bu se site of G.Ja se site of K.M lece and parce fahasil-Bugur K. Manoj Kur masala. se site of G.Ja covered unc covrespondin Odc, Plot No. d and bounc	da Dist. Ganjan isam-Gharabari utted and boun gnya Nayaran F anoj Kumar Pat cel of residentia da Dist. Ganjam mar Achary and ugnya Narayan F el of residential der khata No.72 g to old Khata 526, Kisam-Pad	n covered under Kh , standing in the na ded by:- 'atra and anr. ra and K.Nilamadha Il land and building covered under Kha Mr. K. Nilamadhab Patra and G.Kanhu C land and building si , Plot No.498 Area A No.99, Plot No.508	measuring Area Ac.1 ata No.418 Plot No.16 Achary and the land Charan Patra tuated in mouza Bana Ac.0.440dc, Plot No.5 Padar Ac.0.620dc, KH standing in the name	No.1624 correspond umar Achary and Mr East: P.W.D. Road. West: Hanuman Ma 0.035dc situated in n 27, Kisam-Gharabari, is butted and bounde East: P.W.D. Road. West: Hanuman Ma malipalli under SRO/ 26 Area Ac.0.440dc, P lata No.72, Plot No.43 of Mr. Nilamadhab A	ing to old khata . K. Nilamadhab ndir nouza Balipadar standing in the ed by:- ndir Tahasir-Polasara, Jot No.508 Area 28, Kisam-Padar
Khata No.	Plot No.	Area		Bound	ary	
72	498	Ac.0.440 Dec	East: Plot No. 511	West: Plot No. 497	North: Plot No. 508	South: Hill top
72	526	Ac.0.440 Dec	East: Plot No. 533	West: Plot No. 518	North: Plot No. 529	South: Road

Place: ASKA Date: 24.02					Th		horized Officer a Bank Limited
72	508	Ac.0.620 Dec	East: Plot No. 509 and 510	West: Plot No. 499 a	nd 507	North: Road	South: Plot No. 498
12	520	AC.0.440 Dec	Edst: PIOL NO. 555	rest. Plot No. 518	North:	PIOL NO. 529	South: Road

& Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 17.08.2021 calling upon 1).Mr. Manoj Choudhury (Borrower), S/o-Late Gopi Kishan Choudhury, Mahaveer Resort, Circular Road, Gopalpur, Berhampur, Ganjam-760002, Odisha 2).Mr. Ranjendra Choudhury (Guarantor), Hill Patna, Near Giri Road Girls High School, Berhampur, Orissa-760005, Odisha to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.10,44,627.05 (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Seven and Paise Five Only) together with further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 24th day of February of the year 2022.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of Rs.10,44,627.05 (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Seven and Paise Five Only) and interest thereon, cost and expenses.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

All that piece and parcel of Flat No.204 & 205 (with parking space) on the First Floor, measuring including super built-up area of 1210 Square Feet, all the ready built flat in the Apartment complex having the name and style "ROYAL PALMS, which is functional in all respect situate and lying at District: Ganjam, Mouza: Udayapur, PS: Gopalpur, Plot Nos.168/397,168/462,168/429 and 168/458, Khata Nos.23/242, 23/243 & 23/241 an area of Ac0.414 Dec. The flat is Standing in the name of Sri Manoj Choudhury and Butted and bounded as follows: On the North: Open to Sky On the South: Corridor On the East: Flat No.206 On the West: Open Sky On the North: Open to Sky

Authorized Officer Place: Berhampur Date: 24.02.2022 The Karur Vysya Bank Limited



THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD., **Berhampur Branch** H.No: 214-5, Beeraka Street, Near Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Berhampur, Orissa, 760002

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property) Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas,

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED, under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 04.10.2021 calling upon 1) Mrs. Manjula Bisoi (Borrower), W/o Simanchal Bisoi Suraj Bihar-I, Near Small Bridge, Berhampur, Ganjam-760001, Odisha **And At** 11258, Ward No15, Dalua Street, Berhampur, Ganjam-760001, Odisha **2) Mr. Simanchala Bisoi (Borrower)**, 11258, Ward No15, Dalua Street, Berhampur, Ganjam-760001, Odisha to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.15,54,826.86 (Rupees** Fifteen Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Six and Paise Eighty Six Only) together with further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 24th day of February of the year 2022.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of Rs.15,54,826.86 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Six and Paise Eighty Six Only) and interest thereon, cost and expenses.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of th	e Immovable Property
	Ac.0.030 Dec, situated at Plot No.263/5279, Khata No.230/2716, Vihar 1st Line), Berhampur, Dist- Ganjam, Odisha, standing in d and bounded as follows: On the South: Road On the West: Land of J Rabi Narayan Patro
Place: Berhampur Date: 24.02.2022	Authorized Officer The Karur Vysya Bank Limited



power post

The Russian invasion into

Ukraine's sovereign ter-

ritory is very bad news for

FOCUS UKRAINE IMPACT ON INDIA

Change yourself if you wish to change the world THE MOTHER



Markets, Not Tanks

ussia's Putin put his nuclear forces on alert when the war in Ukraine reached the fourth day surprising everyone who thought the outcome of the invasion was but obvious. The non capitulation of the Ukrainian leader and the common citizens would have stunned not only Putin and his commanders but also the world at large. This nuclear threat of Putin has been pooh poohed by all European leaders as everyone understands the ground realities. That is also the main reason for Moscow to be eager for talks with Ukraine. This war also proved another very important assumption that had been doing the rounds across the world. It has proven that the conventional wisdom supporting war as a means of subjugation and dominance is dying a natural death. The US administration has termed Russian President Vladimir Putin's order putting on alert the country's nuclear deterrence as a "rhetorical exercise intended to manufacture threats that don't exist in order to justify further aggression.

But, in a significant development an overwhelming majority of people in South Korea have expressed their desire for domestic nuclear weapons capability. A poll last week shows that 70 per cent of South Koreans want to go nuclear in the face of North Korea's nuclear ambitions and nuke-powered China's domination as a global player. The poll made by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs has found that South Koreans overwhelmingly want nuclear weapons even though they believe the country's alliance with the United States and their own military strength would help them face any crisis created by North Korea's acquisition of nuclear weapons. This view of the South Koreans may be relevant because of the recent events enacted by the US administration in Afghanistan and its initial hesitation in sending forces to Ukraine that emboldened the Russian military to invade. It is no doubt the South Korean reaction stems from the fact that North Korea has been unpredictable and a rogue nation for far too long. But clubbing China with North Korea may not be appropriate. For instance, the world observed how China abstained from the UN Security Council vote against Russia but has been dancing around with contradictory ever since. This is primarily because China has much too much global trade and commerce interests to be involved in a prolonged war and possibly face global economic isolation. It may sound hilarious that China has, a day earlier, not only invited the United States to participate in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) but also expressed its willingness to actively participate in the US led programme called B3W (Build Back Better World). This goes to show that the mighty economic empire held by China does not feel the need to be excessively military in its global outlook. The exclusion of Russia from global financial system SWIFT demonstrates the new power of economy that has the whole world held within limited but very strong economic bond. If a nation like Russia can be grievously wounded by means of economic sanctions, it is a lesson for all nations that tanks, missiles and warships will no more be decisive in future battles. The future wars will be fought through banks, markets and economic decisions. In this backdrop, India and its leadership have to, per force, rethink on the nation's future. A bulk of the national budget is being swallowed by defence spending over the past half a century while core matters concerning national economy have been sidelined. If there is a conventional war in the future, effective territorial defence can happen not by the armed forces alone but a united populace as demonstrated by Ukraine. What we see in India is worrisome because social systems have been very divided since ages. The divides are deepening even further because of current political leadership.

WISDOM CORNER

The essence of science is independent thinking, hard work, and not equipment. When I got my Nobel Prize. I had spent hardly 200 rupees on my equipment.

In such a situation, the armed forces are turning into ceremonial showpieces

while the economy is getting crippled. When nation's interests override po-

litical games, then only genuine decisions can be adopted.

- CV RAMAN We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them. AI REPT FINSTEIN
- Not only does God play dice, but... he sometimes throws them where they cannot be seen. STEPHEN HAWKING



Ajit Ranade

THE UKRAINE CONFLICT CAN UNDERMINE **INDIA'S ECONOMIC MOMENTUM**

tential of unravelling belief in what is known as the post - World War II 'Europe Project'. This project has been an experiment for more than 50 years, and a belief that dissimilar countries separated by language and ethnicity who have had bloody conflicts can live peacefully as neighbours. For over 60 years it seemed to be working. There have been occasional spurts of violence. The peace of six decades has been punctuated by the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, and subsequent intensive bombing of Kosovo by NATO forces, which was not approved by the United Nations. But until recently the belief was that the very existence of Europe, a salad mix of two dozen plus nations, was proof that peaceful coexistence was possible. The peaceful unification of East and West Germany in three decades after the Berlin Wall was built, the introduction of a common currency the Euro embraced by nineteen countries are testimony to the desire to live together in harmony. The Schengen treaty signed by twenty-six countries meant no border controls. Signed in Schengen, Luxembourg, the treaty too has survived, fostering the free movement of people. The Maastricht treaty introduced voluntary fiscal discipline and free movement of capital between member States and was signed by twelve major EU economies. The exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union was a severe jolt, an unthinkable act of a major nation breaking away. But even that did not shatter the belief in the endurance of the European project. War-weary Europe wanted no conflicts which could not be resolved by dialogue and diplomacy. The Europe project is also like a beacon of hope for troubled neighbourhoods around the world, showing them that peaceful coexistence

can be resolved without war. In 2014, Russia annexed the autonomous Republic of Crimea, situated along the Black Sea coast. While Russia and many UN member States recognise Crimea as

in Uttar Pradesh Assembly

elections is nobody's guess.

The sum is supposed to be whopping.

This election, campaigning is be-

is possible, and that disagreements

SPECTRUM UP POLLS

GRIN AND BEAR IT



crack in that belief structure. The crack may get repaired over time, but scars will remain and will show. Europe seems helpless and cannot stop Russia. It is bound by trade links, but cannot condone an attack on the sovereignty of Ukraine. And who knows how long drawn this violent conflict will be The Russians have indicated that they are ready for talks and negotiations just one day after the bombing. But they might change their stand. The United Nations is trying to get the world community to stand as one and impose sanctions against Russia, but the permanent members of the Security Council will use their veto power to scuttle any resolution. Obviously, Russia will not vote against itself, and China is likely to remain noncommittal about condemning the Russian action.

India faces a double challenge, one diplomatic and the other economic. Both challenges are formidable. On the diplomatic side, it is under pressure from the United States and allies, to strongly con-

American companies which are based in India, such as IBM, Ernst & Young, Accenture or Google. Indians of course have a cultural affinity with America, and now many Indian Americans are visible not just as corporate leaders but also as political leaders in that country. So, India will have to do a tightrope balancing act, in the way it deals with the Russian aggression in Ukraine. It cannot be prescriptive, nor can it condemn, but can articulate its principles of why such action is unacceptable. For the Americans it needs to show support but without being seen to tilt too much. Incidentally, the Americans and other allies have not exactly gone overboard in supporting India in the face of Chinese aggression at Galwan.

services. But bear in mind, that a

lot of that software export is from

The other formidable challenge for India is economic. If oil prices spike up and stay above 100 dollars a barrel, it would have four adverse effects. Firstly, the current account deficit will worsen, secondly the exchange rate will be under pressure, thirdly the domestic inflation might flare up and lastly the fiscal deficit will take a hit. since a lot of subsidies like fertiliser and cooking gas, depend on oil prices. To add to this, are investor anxiety and nervousness, the pullout by foreign portfolio investors, the consequent tremors in the stock market and overall business sentiment. Ukraine can indeed cast a long shadow on the economy and markets. The LIC IPO too looks vulnerable. All this cannot be countered easily by economic policy. As a developing country dependent on global oil prices and foreign inflows (to plug the trade deficit), India will have to grin and bear it (or rather the right metaphor may be that it will have to "clench its teeth"). There has been considerable domestic heft to the economic momentum, and the country's post pandemic recovery is well under way. The Union Budget gave a capex boost signal. However, the Ukraine conflict can undermine India's economic momentum

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

High costs, doubtful probity

WORDS**WORTH**

Scofflaw

here have been many competitions down the years encouraging people to coin new words. Few of these creations ever find a permanent place in the language, because they must meet an obvious need or catch the public's imagination to be successful. Scofflaw has achieved this difficult feat. The EU, for its part, must guickly comply with WTO rulings against it. Shedding its unenviable reputation as an international scofflaw is much more important than pursuing its quixotic efforts to launch a trade round this year, in the face of widespread indifference (Financial Times, 26 May 2000). A contest was held in Boston in 1923, during the Prohibition era, to find a descriptive word for "a lawless drinker of illegally made or illegally obtained liquor". A prize of \$200 was offered by Delcevare King of Quincy, a rich Prohibitionist, to find such a word in order to "stab awake the conscience" of those who drank alcohol. Since \$200 was a sum not to be sneezed at, more than 25,000 entries were received from all over America and beyond. The winner was announced on 15 January 1924; as scofflaw had been sent in by two contestants, the prize was divided equally between Mr Henry Irving Dale and Miss Kate L Butler. H L Mencken mentioned the competition in his work The American Language, and commented that "The word came into immediate currency, and survived until the collapse of Prohibition". As any modern dictionary will relate, it has survived rather longer than that, though these days it often refers to persistent offenders against parking laws and other minor regulations.

Scombroid

The scombroid fish are a group of about 100 species that include the mackerel, tuna, marlins and swordfish. The scombroid fishes are robust, torpedo-shaped, voracious fish. Some have small, inconspicuous scales; others are partly naked. The mouth is large and the color is usually blue or green on top and silvery-white underneath (Introduction to the Fishery Sciences, by William F Rovce, 1972). It's a moderately common technical term in zoology. deriving ultimately from the Greek scombros for the mackerel or tunny, which also led via Latin to scomber as an uncommon English word for the mackerel, which is now only used as the formal name for the genus. It has, extremely rarely (not to say uniquely), been used of somebody of piscine appearance, especially a person who suffers from protruding fishy eyes: "Here then," the kindly scombroid face scanning Eventyr, quick as a fire-control dish antenna and even less mercy (Gravity's Rainbow, by Thomas Pynchon, 1978). You are most likely to encounter the word in the phrase scombroid poisoning, which is caused by eating fish that contains histamines produced by bacterial activity as a result of poor storage. As you can get this through eating other spoiled foods such as cheese, perhaps the alternative name of histamine poisoning is more suitable.



Shivaji Sarkar

SINCE THE STAKES ARE HIGH IN UP, THE EXPENSES ARE TO BE MORE



ical parties open their coffers to net each vote. The note for vote itself has a huge cost. According to Carnegie Foundation, Indian elections in 2019 cost \$5 billion and the US presidential poll \$6.5 billion in 2016. Around ₹55,000 crore, or \$8 billion, was spent nationally during 2019 Lok Sabha elections, according to CMS. The report suggests that the maximum amount-roughly a third of the total expense—was spent towards campaigning and pub-

he extravaganza of expenses licity. The second largest was putting money directly in the hands of the voters. CMS estimates that roughly 25 per cent, about ₹15,000 crore, was distributed among voters. About 10 to 12% voters acknowledge receiving cash. In UP, many parties are reportedly laying special emphasis on poor minority votes, other deprived people and wherever possible helping enlist them for various official benefits like the PM Awas Yojana. The free food dole has cost the state ₹2 lakh crore. Though it is not linked to cash for vote, it is believed to swav psyche of some voters

> Almost all political parties started their campaigning about three months or more before EC announced dates. Most of these expenses such as at meetings, rallies. marches, road shows also have heavy costs and are not part of the expenditures filed with the EC. The Opposition complains that the ruling party has advantages of using official machinery, transportation and other paraphernalia to organise their poll-oriented meetings, inaugurations or launchings of programmes 'to woo the voters'. Surprisingly, no party after coming to power acts to prevent it and they also indulge in similar practices.

As far as political parties are concerned, in the 2017 UP elections the BJP showed an expenditure of ₹111 crore, Congress ₹18.47 crore, The individual candidates spent as per EC norms ₹28 lakh, which in 2022 has been increased to ₹40 lakh. A major chunk in UP is being spent on the TV news channels, supposedly about ₹3200 to ₹3600 crore.

demn the Russian action. But India

has historic, military and diplo-

matic ties with Russia, which to this

day provides reliable military sup-

port in terms of armament sup-

plies, maintenance, other hard-

ware and training. The S-400

missile system which India is

thinking of buying from the

Russians is state of the art. But this

too has displeased the United

States, which can threaten puni-

tive actions against India for pro-

When it comes to military sup-

plies and technology, what the US

offers India is not top-of-line, but

at least one or two generations

older, and runs the risk of obso-

lescence. So that is a sore point

for India. On the other hand, it

was the US which brought India

out of nuclear apartheid, by sign-

ing the Indo-US civil nuclear deal

in 2006. Since then, the India-US

bonhomie has blossomed into high

levels of strategic dialogue, and

more recently the formation of

QUAD or the Quadrilateral

Security Dialogue between the

United States, Japan, India and

Australia. Bilateral trade is also ro-

bust and rising. The US is one of

the very few countries with which

India enjoys a large trade surplus,

thanks to the export of software

ceeding with the purchase

This apart, parties are spending on targeted perky vitriolic campaign messages through various social media sites. The anonymous hate campaigns largely escape the watchful eyes of EC or other authorities. The 'personalised' messages have greater reach and have multiplier effect as viewers share with acquaintances.

There are also costs on party volunteers fanning out to remote areas for direct voter meets. The richer and more organised parties are apparently spending more through their campaign managers and small groups. Such campaigns establish dialogue as also give an assurance to the voters that they would have an access even after the polls with their 'bhaiyyas', 'bhaisahebs' and 'dadas' or 'taus'. The evolving poll method is more expensive than organised meets

but supposedly more effective.

These expenses neither go into the individual candidate expenses nor official party accounts. These individual meets, door-to-door interactions, special lunches, liquor and more 'touch' the hearts and give rich dividends. Yes, campaigning is becoming complex, personalised and expensive. Inflation at 6% retail and over 13% wholesale adds to the burden. Parties complain but each time they spend more. The Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) says the combined assets of 48 national and regional parties stand at ₹7372 crore. In 2019, it says, the BJP spent ₹763.31 crore and, the Congress ₹488.97 crore. The Congress spent more for publicity ₹402.91 crore followed by BJP ₹376.62 crore.

Since the stakes are high in UP, the expenses are to be more. The BJP spent ₹252 crore in five elections to West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The Trinamool Congress spent ₹154 crore in state polls. The total funds collected by 19 political parties for the polls in 2021 were ₹1,116.81 crore and total expenditure incurred was ₹514.30 crore. The rising campaign expenses, raising eyebrows on ethicality, pose a challenge to political probity. INFA

Far-reaching effects

Sir, Russia-Ukraine war has far-reaching consequences. It has both national and international and long-term and immediate implications. Given that the war directly or indirectly involves many countries, the implications develop from the international situation. The implications of the war for India need to be understood against this backdrop. India will have to deal with the volatile situation in the wake of the war. Inflation level in India is already very high with rise in fuel and food prices. The war will worsen the situation. Given that sanctions will adversely affect supply, prices of other commodities will also rise. The uncertain situation will badly affect investment. Both imports and exports will be hit. Weakening of rupee compared to dollar will aggravate inflation. All these factors will reduce growth of the already flagging economy. Expenditure will increase whereas revenues will be badly affected. In the defence sector. India may face difficulties. Since Russia is on the war front, it needs defence equipment. This will delay the delivery of defence equipment for India. As a consequence, India's preparations to face China and Pakistan will weaken. India's relations with both Russia and the US will be badly affected due to India's neutral stand on the war. India will have to change its international relations. In short, India will be burdened with the responsibility of boosting its economy already hit by the pandemic. Both the public sector and private sector need to be strengthened. The productivity of workers must increase and their living conditions must improve.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Sanctions on Russia

Sir, The West's harsh sanctions imposed against Russia have begun to have a crippling effect on the former. The Russian Central Bank doubled key interest rates from 9.5 per cent to 20 per cent, which could hit the average citizens hard. Besides, the rouble tumbled to a record low against the dollar - a steep drop of 30 per cent from Friday's close - as Russians rushed to draw cash at ATMs. The sanctions could also cause severe in- \rightarrow flation besides stifling growth. Meanwhile, Ukrainians continued to show extraordinary resilience in defending their country against extreme odds, even as both countries agreed for talks to deescalate tensions.

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are (0)requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com















The BJP is hatching a conspiracy to end reservation, and hence it is selling government organisations to the private sector

₹2.37LAKH CR BUDGET **PRESENTED IN BIHAR**

Amid uproar in the Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Deputy Chief Minister Tar Kishore Prasad, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented the annual state budget Monday afternoon. Prasad presented a ₹2,37,691 crore budget for the financial year 2022-23 in the Vidhan Sabha. He has also set a target to not let the fiscal deficit go beyond 3.5%



uote

While the Samajwadi Party's (SP) candidate list gives a clear message that the party is not ready

to leave criminals goons and rioters, the Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) list of candidates resembles a 'Muslim league'. This proves that they will

not give equal representation to all sections and regions

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER



contesting elections on 400 seats after many years. Our candidates are fighting well. They are fighting strongly at

AGENCIES

tarian aid (to Ukraine.

of Ukraine to help evacuate Indian

citizens stuck at various border

areas. Bagchi said: "Four Union

ministers are going to four coun-

tries near Ukraine to help in the

evacuation of the Indian students

who are stuck there." According to

the spokesperson, Union minister

Jyotiraditya Scindia will travel to

many seats PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY



NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

SHORT TAKES

Sanjay Pandey new Mumbai police chief

Mumbai: Sanjay Pandey, the former acting Director General of Police of Maharashtra, has been appointed as the new Mumbai Police commissioner replacing the incumbent Hemant Nagrale. An official order said Nagrale will take over as Managing Director of the Maharashtra State Security Corporation. This is the third time in less than a year that the Mumbai Police is witnessing a change of guard. Then city police chief Param Bir Singh was shunted out in March 2021 after Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze was arrested in the 'Antilia explosives case and was replaced by Nagrale.

India may see 4th Covid wave from June, peak in August: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: The fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India may start around June 22 and peak from mid to late August, a modelling study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur suggests.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study, recently posted on the preprint repository MedRxiv, used a statistical model to make the prediction, finding that the possible new wave will last for four months. The study led by Sabara Parshad Rajeshbhai, Subhra Sankar Dhar and Shalabh of IIT Kanpur's Department of Mathematics and Statistics shows that the severity of the fourth wave will depend on the emergence of a possible new coronavirus variant, and vaccination sta-



tus across the country. "The data in dicates that the fourth wave of Covid-19 in India will arrive after 936 days from the initial data availability date, which is January 30, 2020," the authors of the study said. "Therefore, the fourth wave starts from June 22, 2022. reaching its peak August 23, 2022, and ends October 24, 2022," they wrote in the research paper. However, the researchers noted that there is al-

ways a fair chance that a possible new variant of coronavirus may have an intense impact on the whole analysis. The impact will depend on the various factors like the variant's infectibility, fatality, etc, they said.

"Apart from this fact, the effect of vaccinations - first, second or booster dosage may also play a significant role on the possibility of infection, degree of infection and various issues related to the fourth wave." the authors said. Officials at the World Health Organisation recently warned that Omicron may not be the last Covid variant and the next strain could be more contagious.

"The next variant of concern will be more fit, and what we mean by that is it will be more transmissible because it will have to overtake what is currently circulating," said Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's Covid-19 technical lead. The same research team had previously predicted that the third wave of the pandemic in India would peak by February 3, 2022.

That research studied the trend of the Omicron-led surge in Covid-19 cases in other countries and predicted that India too will witness a similar trajectory.

In the current study, the researchers applied the statistical methodology to Covid-19 data from India to forecast the occurrence of the fourth wave in the country.

The researchers noted that many countries have already witnessed the third wave of Covid-19, and a few countries like South Africa and Zimbabwe have started to face the fourth and higher waves of the pandemic.

MEKEDATU PADAYATRA

INDIA SENDING AID TO UKRAINE: MEA FIR against K'taka **Congress** leaders



Romania and Moldova; Kiren Rijiju will be at the border with Slovakia; Hardeep Singh Puri will be at the Hungary border; while former Army chief General VK Singh will be in Poland.

They are going as special envoys of Indians to help evacuate those who are stuck on various bor-

Modi calls another high-level meeting

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday evening chaired a second high-level meeting on the Ukraine crisis after it was decided in an earlier meeting to send four Union ministers to the neighbouring countries of the war-hit nation to coordinate efforts to evacuate Indian students stranded there. Union ministers Hardeep Puri, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiren Rijiju and V K Singh, who will be flying as India's "special envoys" to spearhead evacuation efforts, were present in the evening meeting, besides External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and top bureaucrats.

Mamata offers unconditional support to PM

NEW DELHI: In a statesman-like gesture, West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday offered unconditional support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Ukraine crisis, even as she asked him to consider calling an all party meeting to take a united stand on the issue. The Chief Minister better known for her feisty battles against the BJP, in her letter to the Prime Minister also iterated that the country stands united on rescuing students in distress, "irrespective of party or politics." She also underlined that India, as the largest democracy must take the lead to offer a peaceful solution. "I would request you to accept my unconditional support during the ongoing international crisis and to consider whether you will like to have an all-party meeting now for consolidating our national resolve to come out of the crisis with our head held high." the letter said.

ders. Under 'Operation Ganga', India is bringing back students who are stuck in the conflict zones as well as in non-conflict zones in Ukraine. The decision to send four ministers to oversee smooth evacuation was taken at a highlevel meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narender Modi.

Replying to a query over students being asked to pay exorbitant amounts for evacuation, the spokesperson dismissed it as rumour and said: "No one is paying any money for these evacuation flights. The government is not changing any money to bring them back." He also stated that till now, six evacuation flights have landed in India with almost 1.386 Indian nationals. A flight from Budapest landed earlier Monday with 240 Indians. It is estimated that when Operation Ganga was launched. around 15,000 Indians were left in Ukraine. After Ukraine closed its airspace, India identified four land evacuation points through Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

evacuation like what happened in Afghanistan, Bagchi said the sit-India had sent military aircraft to evacuate Indians after Afghanistan was taken over by Taliban forces in August last year.

'We are evacuating through commercial flights and we are open to using military aircraft if the need arises. Sending military aircraft there involves more countries," he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bangalore, Feb 28: Karnataka Congress' 'padayatra' (foot march), demanding implementation of the Mekedatu project across the Cauvery river, continued Monday, even as an FIR was registered

against 38 party members, including state president D K Shivakumar and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah, for violation of Covid-19 rules. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai called the pa-

dayatra as "politically motivated" and questioned the opposition party's contribution to the project. An FIR that has been booked under various sections of Indian Penal Code and the Karnataka

The FIR has been filed under various sections of Indian Penal Code and the Karnataka Epidemic **Diseases Act, for** violation of Covid rules, which names Congress leaders like Shivakumar. Siddaramaiah, DK Suresh, Ravi S, Dhruva Narayan, Priyank Kharge, Eshwar Khandre, Saleem Ahmed, among others

cases were not booked against BJP leaders and other right-wing organisations, when they held gatherings or protests. He further said, Congress had informed the CM, DG, district administration and authorities about the padayatra. "As they (BJP govt) didn't want us to hold the padayatra, they extended Covid rules," he alleged. After temporarily halting it in January due to Covid-19 concerns, the Congress had resumed the padayatra Sunday, and had covered a distance of 15 km from Ramanagara to Bidadi. On Monday, the foot march covered a distance of 20.5 km to reach Kengeri from Bidadi. The 'padayatra 2.0' with the theme 'Namma Neeru, Namma Hakku' (Our water, Our right) will culminate at the National College Ground in Basavanagudi in Bengaluru on March 3, after covering a total distance of 79.8 kilometres. This is the second leg of the march that ended abruptly in Ramanagara January 13. when the third wave of the Covid-19 had peaked.



Railways resumes general class

Talking about military help in uation is different in Ukraine as compared to Afghanistan when

Boat tragedy: Six more bodies found

Ranchi: Days after a boat capsised in Barakar river in Jharkhand's Jamtara district, six more bodies were recovered by NDRF teams Monday, taking the toll in the accident to 14, an official said. Chief Minister Hemant Soren during the day announced an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the accident.

3 hacked to death

Gurugram: Three employees of a CNG pump in Sector-31 here were hacked to death using sharp weapons in the early hours of Monday, police said. The deceased are identified as pump manager Pushpendra and workers Bhupender and Naresh. They hailed from different districts of Uttar Pradesh, police said. "Pushpendra and Bhupendra had around 10 iniuries on their neck and chest while Naresh had over 12 injuries on his abdomen, chest and neck," Dr Deepak Mathur, who conducted the post-mortem, said, adding all three men were killed using different weapons. Considering the grievous nature of the wounds the trio sustained. police suspect it to be a case of personal enmity.

19 Naxals surrender

Sukma: Nineteen Naxals, including four women cadres surrendered in Chhattisgarh's worst insurgency-hit Sukma district, police said Monday. The ultras, three of them carrying cash rewards of ₹1 lakh each on their heads, turned themselves in before police and CRPF officials at Bhejji police station in the district Sunday evening, citing disappointment with the "inhuman" and "hollow" Maoist ideology, an official said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: The railways Monday announced the resumption of general class passenger services which were suspended due to the coronavirus crisis.

The railways had been running fully reserved 'special trains' during the pandemic to prevent crowding in trains so as to contain the spread of the disease. Even the general second class coaches, mostly used by people on short distances and from economically backward sections, were made reserved coaches. Apart from this, second class accommodation of special trains currently running as holiday special trains will also be earmarked and reserved or unreserved as per policy, it added. In regular trains, general coaches shall be earmarked as reserved or unreserved as these were prevailing during pre-pandemic period, a railway spokesperson said.

Police detain BJP activists during their call for a 12-hour bandh in West Bengal to protest against alleged rigging and violence during civic polls in Howrah district

lation of Covid-19 rules, which names Congress leaders like Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah, DK Suresh, Ravi S, Dhruva Narayan, Priyank Kharge, Eshwar Khandre, Saleem Ahmed, among others.

Epidemic Diseases Act, for vio-

The FIR has been registered at Ijoor police station in Ramanagara district, for the padayatra held Sunday, by gathering a large number of people, not wearing face masks or maintaining social distance, and violating Covid-19 guidelines.

The prevailing Covid norms carry a ban on rallies, dharnas and protests

The FIR also cites a letter by the Ramanagara Deputy Commissioner to Shivakumar February 24, denying permission for the padayatra. Reacting to the FIR, Shivakumar speaking to reporters said even 100 cases could be booked but the padayatra will continue. "Let them (BJP govt) give whatever trouble they want, we will continue," he said, as he questioned as to why

Rare disease policy does not give hope to patients: Experts

Rare diseases include genetic diseases, rare cancers, infectious tropical diseases, and degenerative diseases. About 80 per cent of rare diseases are genetic in origin and hence, disproportionately impact children

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 28: India is home to nearly 70 million rare disease patients, but the country lacks significantly in terms of research, treatment as well as government policies, experts said here Monday. "As per data that is available in

India, there are around 70 million rare disease patients. However, the number could be much higher than that and that is difficult to gauge," Prof Alok Bhattacharya, Professor of Biology and Head of Department at Ashoka University, told IANS. "It is because unfortunately neither the epidemiological studies have been done in India nor we have any idea about how many pa-

tients are there partly because there are only few centres where real diagnosis and management of these diseases happen," he



lamented. Further, Bhattacharya said that research on rare diseases has been "very rare" in India.

But there has been some improvement in the diagnosis of the disease due to private DNA sequencing sectors that are necessary for confirmative diagnosis of many of the diseases, he noted.

"But, there isn't much real research undergoing to understand therapy or the biology behind the rare diseases," he said.

In 2017, the government came up with a National Policy for Treatment of Rare diseases. It earmarked a financial allocation of ₹100 crore.

February 28 is globally observed as Rare Disease Day. It was set up by the European **Organisation for rare** diseases and was first observed in 2008

"It did not talk about rare diseases per say, and the allocation of ₹100 crore for a country like this where some of the treatments can be very very expensive can treat only a few," Bhattacharya said.

It was revised on the suggestions of the law courts, state governments and patient advocacy groups. A new policy was then formulated by January 2020 and was released by the government on March 31, 2021.

According to Dr. Anjali Taneja, there have been some positive and welcoming changes. Yet, the government could have considered more of a uniform financial allocation mechanism, she said.

It is because "for about 95 per cent of the rare diseases, there are no therapies and treatments in India," Taneja told IANS.

The new policy does not mention what should be done for those 95 per cent of the rare diseases, she added.

Taneja recommended a re-look of the policy more importantly in the implementation aspect of the policy and also the financial allocation, the accessibility especially to the rare disease patients who are staying in the remote areas.

Accessibility and affordability is a major issue because the cost of the treatment is exorbitantly high, she said.











K-Rail will take 127 years to complete: Economist

If completed, the pet project of Vijayan will see a 529.45 km corridor connecting Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod and a high speed train will run this distance in around four hours and it will cost ₹63,940 crore



nomic development.

per cent of high speed rail is in

China. Studies in China, Spain

and Japan which account for 75 per

cent of the HSR in the world have

shown that the end results was

disappointing, said Kannan.

Kannan pointed out that the time

overrun of projects which is nat-

in projects across the various sec-

tors in Kerala, the power projects

have the least and if that's taken as

the benchmark, if the Kerala gov-

ernment's total project cost of K-

Rail which is ₹63,940 crore is taken,

when completed it will cost ₹2.47

lakh crore and if the Niti Aayog fig-

ure of ₹1.24 lakh crore is taken, it

has planned a massive protest

against Vijayan's pet project and it

will begin from March 10 to April

4, while Vijayan is also getting

ready to reach out to the people

with booklets highlighting his

point of view on why K-Rail is

needed for Kerala's development.

The Congress led Opposition

will cost ₹4.79 lakh crore.

With regard to the cost overrun

ural, also is a dampener.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram. Feb 28: Noted economist KP Kannan while taking part in a discussion on the controversial K-Rail-Silverline, has come out with mind boggling figures.

He said if there is going to be a time and cost overrun and if the time taken to build Kochi Metro is an indicator, it will take a staggering 127 years to finish K-Rail project. However, if the time taken to build Delhi Metro is taken as indicator, then it would take 37 years to finish the project, Kannan asserted.

If completed, the pet project of Vijayan will see a 529.45 km corridor connecting Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod and a high speed train will run this distance in around four hours and it will cost ₹63,940 crore. NITI Aayog says it might cost ₹1.24 lakh crore and is expected to be completed in 2025. according to the detailed project report. At the moment, it's a spate of protest all across the state, as the survey procedures have begun only.

Kannan, a former professor at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), and presently a Honorary Fellow said this while taking part in a discussion on K-Rail asked his former student at CDS, a twotime former state Finance Minister, Thomas Isaac, who was batting

₹2.60 lakh crore, way more than the budget outlay, and the state

government is facing a daunting task to make the state 'Atmanirbhar'. The amount is excluding the debt of corporation boards in the state. In 2020-21, the state had presented the budget with an outlay

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Feb 28: Madhya Pradesh's

debt, which has been increasing

year-on-year, has mounted to over

of ₹2,41,000 crore. With the mounting debt, the per capita income is decreasing. In 2019-20, the per capita income was ₹62,233; in 2020-21, it decreased to ₹58,425 per annum while the country's per capita income stood at ₹86,456.

There is a possibility of further for the K-Rail project, that if there decline in the per capita income is any documented reference where in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Education and medical fait has been said that the speed of transport is a critical barrier for ecocilities are in a dismal state in the state. Madhya Pradesh ranks 17th China saw the maximum growth in India in terms of medical facilduring the period 1978-2007 and ities. The state houses 13 medical colleges and 11,500 primary health it was after that they went in for high speed rail (HSR) and today 40 centres where the posts of spe-



cialists are lying vacant. Most of the educational institutions in the state do not have teachers or have just one as faculty for the entire facility.

In 1.587 schools in the tribal dominated districts of Alirajpur, Jhabua, Barwani, Singrauli, Sidhi, Mandla and Dhar, teachers are unavailable. Employment is a major issue in the state. Every year, the government promises to provide jobs to one lakh people.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the first and foremost priority of his government is all-round development of the people. The government's aim

Justice For Hemocopaths

is to provide jobs to the unemployed and make people's life happy, he said.

On January 12 'Rozgaar Diwas' (Employment Day), as many as 5,26,000 people were provided jobs. "We have decided that every month, employment day will be observed during which job opportunities will be provided. On March 29, employment will be provided to lakhs of people," he said.

However, State Congress Chief Kamal Nath termed the government schemes and announcements as a farce. Talking on the issue of unemployment, Kamal Nath said

'ATMANIRBHARTA' IN A NUTSHEL

In 2020-21, the state In 2019-20, the per capita income was ₹62,233; in had presented the 2020-21, it decreased to ₹58,425 per annum while budget with an outlay the country's per capita income stood at ₹86,456 of ₹2,41,000 crore.

With the mounting The state houses 13 medical colleges and 11,500 debt, the per capita primary health centres where the posts of income is decreasing specialists are lying vacant

Most of the educational institutions in the state do not have teachers or have just one as faculty for the entire facility

In 1,587 schools in the tribal dominated districts of Alirajpur, Jhabua, Barwani, Singrauli, Sidhi, Mandla and Dhar, teachers are unavailable

the number of registered unemployed people has crossed 34 lakh and it is increasing day by day. More than 1.25 lakh posts are lying vacant in government departments. The number of unorganised workers has crossed 1.21 crore.

Besides the announcement of several welfare schemes for farmers, the state government has also announced concessions. It is aiming and making efforts to double the farmers' income. Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel stressed on natural farming, saying the state has immense poten-

tial in this field. However, Kamal Nath is of the view that farmers condition in the state is very bad The farmers are not getting seeds manure, electricity and water for irrigation, Kamal Nath claimed. Financial expert Kamal Rathi

said that everyone knows about the state's financial condition. He pitched for better implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ease of Doing Business. For attracting investment to the state, the state government needs to focus on an area -- either education or medical. he said.

MP govt says all open wells must be covered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Feb 28: Following the death of two boys after falling into open borewells in the past four days in Umaria and Damoh districts of Madhya Pradesh, the state government Monday directed officials to ensure all such sites are covered.

While a 3-year-old Prince Athya died after he fell into a 30-feet deep dry borewell in Barkera Bes village in Damoh Sunday noon, another 3-year-old boy died in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday after falling into a 200-feet deep borewell in Badarchad vil-

'The two deaths are extremely sad. Instructions have been issued to all Janpad Panchayat Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)



and Public Health Engineering (PHE) to cover open borewells to prevent such incidents," state Home Minister Narottam Mishra, who is also the state government's spokesperson, told reporters Monday.

While the futile rescue opera tion in Damoh took five hours, the one in Umaria went on for 16 hours officials had said.

Traditional Christians in Kerala begin Easter lent-

The most Orthodox among the Christians observe the generally accepted 50-day lent when they turn vegan and

Mahashivratri: Ujjain city to light up with 21 lakh diyas

officer in PSC exams, in Bhopal, Monday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Feb 28: On Mahashivratri, Ujjain city, which houses famous Mahakaleshwar temple, the abode of Lord Shiva, will be lit up with 21 lakh diyas (earthen lamps).

The city will be illuminated at



The Ujjain district administration is gearing up to script history by illuminating 21 lakh earthen lamps from Mata Mandir Ghat of the Shipra River to Ramghat.

The administration is planning to get the name of the city registered in the Guinness Book of

ent places, houses and establishments. It will take 12,000 volunteers to light up the diyas. For this, the responsibility has been given to the District Panchayat, Education Department. Municipal Corporation and Smart City.

Scholars of Government Homoeopathy College and Hospital took out a rally during their indefinite strike demanding

Ujjain District Collector Ashish Singh said that initially the plans

was done by putting 1,000 diyas on the banks of Shipra river. A person can light about a 100 diyas. Twelve lakh diyas will be lit at different ghats, 51,000 in Mahakal temple, one lakh at Freegani tower. other temples including Mangalnath, Chintaman, Kalbhairav, Bhukhi Mata,

a hike in their stipend, opening of homoeopathic colleges at division level, and a post for a homoeopathic medical lage in Umaria.

7 pm on Mahashivratri, which is falling March 1 this year.

All the diyas will be lit for about an hour. For this, training is also being given to the volunteers.

World Records and Limca Book of Records. As per the Ujjain district ad-

ministration, three lakh earthen lamps will be installed at differ-

were for illuminating 15 lakh diyas but considering the people's enthusiasm, the number was increased to 21 lakh. Singh claimed that a rehearsal

PROJECT IN INDIA' WAS CONCEIVED IN

CHEETAH BY NOVEMBER LAST YEAR IN

THE KUNO NATIONAL PARK, SPREAD

OVER 750 KM IN MADHYA PRADESH'S

in 1947 in the present day Korea dis-

trict of Chhattisgarh, which was

once a part of Madhya Pradesh. The

cheetah was declared extinct from

Introduction Project in India' was

conceived in 2009, but it failed to

take off for over a decade. The

plan to introduce the cheetah by

November last year in the Kuno National Park, spread over 750 km

in Madhya Pradesh's Chambal re-

gion, suffered a setback due to the

Covid-19 pandemic, officials said.

cated 340 km from the state capi-

tal Bhopal, has a good prey base for

Experts from the Dehradun-

based WII visited sites in Madhya

Pradesh in 2020 to look for the best

habitat for the introduction of the

African cheetah. The Supreme

Court had in January that year

The Kuno National Park, lo-

The 'African Cheetah

India in 1952.

cheetahs.

2009, BUT IT FAILED TO TAKE OFF FOR

THE PLAN TO INTRODUCE THE

CHAMBAL REGION, SUFFERED A

SETBACK DUE TO THE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE SUPREME COURT HAD IN JANUARY THAT YEAR APPROVED THE PLAN TO

INTRODUCE CHEETAHS IN A SUITABLE HABITAT ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS

THE 'AFRICAN CHEETAH INTRODUCTION | THE KUNO NATIONAL PARK.

OVER A DECADE

Harsiddhi temple, Singh said. An estimated ₹40 lakh will be spent on the entire exercise. About 1,500 oil canes are likely to be used.

the lent ends April 17, with the Easter celebrations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 28: Traditional Christians - the ones who belong to the yesteryears culture and tradition have begun to observe Easter lent, starting Sunday.

According to Census report, of the 33.4 million Kerala population, Christians number 61.41 lakh -29.94 lakh males and 31.47 lakh females.

around 50 per cent, followed by almost a dozen Churches practising various rights and for all the observing of the Easter lent is more or less the same. The most Orthodox among the Christians observe the generally accepted 50 day lent when they turn vegan and the lent ends April 17, with the Easter celebrations.

"Gone are the days when the lent was strictly observed when people used to even forego milk in their morning bed coffee/tea and even the humble curd was also not taken. In my younger days, meat, fish and egg never used to be there on the dining tables," said 85-year-old Annamma Mathew. Consequent to the arrival of the Covid pandemic since March 2020, the previous two years, Easter prayers were a low key affair.

"We all wish with the Covid numbers coming down and the Kerala government lifting the Covid protocols, all are waiting to return to the Churches as at some Churches there are prayers sessions -- everyday as part of observing the Easter lent," said retired teacher Susan Thomas.

Of this the Catholics constitute A 25 year old Christian youth

made no bones of his outlook towards rituals. "Personally, I feel and what I have been observing are those in my age group have a lot of questions to ask when it comes to observing the traditional rituals. It increased, especially in the past two years, when the pandemic ruled the roost, when even places of worship remained locked for months, reducing religion to be nothing but a myth. The world is changing, so I don't think anyone needs to be blamed as it's not an easy task to be chained to

have witnessed is while there may not be much enthusiasm to undertake the entire 50 day lent, the recent phenomenon is most of them makes sure that they observe the rituals during the Holy Week (which is believed to be Jesus Christ's last week and ends with his resurrection which is celebrated as Easter) which this year starts from April 10.



Gloriamma is not that pleased the way the new generations approach towards Easter. "The world has changed rapidly in all spheres and divinity has become a casualty I seriously doubt if the new generation is really serious in observing rituals. I feel, my generation will perhaps be the last where rituals are observed the way my parents and their generation observed rituals," said Gloriamma

But middle aged homemaker

and mother of 2 teenagers,

age old customs," said the youth.

However, what Kerala Christians

CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION PLAN Talks with Namibia fruitful; Kuno Nat'l Park ready

INDIA'S LAST CHEETAH DIED IN 1947 IN THE PRESENT DAY KOREA DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH. WHICH WAS ONCE A PART OF MADHYA PRADESH. LEADING TO THE CAT TAGGED EXTINCT IN THE COUNTRY IN 1952

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Feb 28: The discussions with officials in Namibia on the plan to reintroduce cheetah in India have been 'fruitful' and modalities are being worked out to bring the feline to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, said a member of the team which recently visited the African country.

Cheetah, the world's fastest land animal, became extinct in India about 70 years ago and the plans to reintroduce the big cat into the wild here again are being worked out.

A delegation, comprising officials of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Government of India and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, had left for Namibia February 17 to discuss various issues, including the relocation logistics.

The team recently returned after having the discussions. "Our talks with the Namibian counterparts were fruitful. It was a platform of discussion between the two governments. The modalities to bring the cheetah from Namibia are being worked out," the official told PTI Monday.

The Namibian government has some concerns. They had sent a Memorandum of Understanding



(MoU), he said, "First, there has to be a consensus. We have put forth our stand, that we can do this. Madhya Pradesh has a limited role - like are we ready to receive (cheetah) or not? The state has already made preparations in Kuno, the official said.

India has plans to introduce 50 cheetahs over the next five years, possibly 10 each year, with 10-12 big cats to be brought from Namibia and South Africa as 'founder stock' during the first year, officials earlier said.

The country's last cheetah died

approved the plan to introduce cheetahs in a suitable habitat on an experimental basis.

LOCATED 340 KM FROM THE

EXPERTS FROM THE DEHRADUN-

BASED WII VISITED SITES IN

MADHYA PRADESH IN 2020 TO

LOOK FOR THE BEST HABITAT

FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE

STATE CAPITAL BHOPAL.

HAS A GOOD PREY

AFRICAN CHEETAH

BASE FOR CHEETAHS

The SC had also set up a threemember committee to guide the NTCA on the cheetah introduction project. The WII team had visited the Kuno National Park in Sheopur, Nauradehi sanctuary in Sagar and Gandhi Sagar sanctuary on the northern boundary of Mandsaur.

MP was home to cheetahs in the past and it also has a successful animal translocation record, a reference to the reintroduction of tigers in the Panna Reserve in 2009, according to officials.

The cheetah is considered vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of threatened species, with a population of less than 7,000, found primarily in the African savannas









national



INDIA EXTENDS BAN ON INT'L COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

India's civil aviation regulator, the DGCA, Monday extended the ban on scheduled international commercial flights till 'further orders'. At present, the third Covid wave driven by the Omicron variant is receding in the country. In a notification, the DGCA extended the ban on scheduled international commercial flights till 'further orders'



Indian nationals

told to catch train

he Indian Embassy in Ukraine Monday informed the

stranded nationals that weekend

curfew has been lifted in Kiev,

towards railway stations. "All

students are advised to make

western parts," the Embassy

their way to the railway station

said in a statement, adding that

for students stranded on the left

side of Dnipro, there are metros

and buses functioning which can

be used to move towards the

movement. Ukraine Railways is

train station for onward

running special trains for

evacuation. "We sincerely

nationals/students to remain

request all Indian

and advised them to move

for onward journey to the



Problems and disagreements are best resolved through dialogue. Genuine peace comes about

through mutual understanding and respect for each other's wellbeing

THE DALAI LAMA TIBETAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

Game has just begun! Today submitted evidences to @PMOIndia of how **Central Agencies are** misusing powers selectively against a few SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA MP

I want to invite all the investors to come and see where the future Tata, Birla and Infosys-like company owners are

studying today. These students will one day provide jobs to many others

MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Dalit attacked for selling juice

Hassan (Karnataka): In a shocking incident, upper caste Hindus attacked a Dalit man and his son for selling sugarcane juice by the roadside at Arakalagudu in Karnataka's Hassan district. Konanur police have lodged a complaint in this regard and are investigating the matter. According to the police complaint, Chandru (50), a resident of Rudrapattana village, and his 22-year-old son Nitin sold sugarcane juice on a cart for the past six months. On Sunday morning, a person named Sunil from Gangoor village came and started abusing them, claiming that how can people drink sugarcane juice prepared by a Dalit.

Kerala: Man dies in police custody

Thiruvananthapuram: A 40vear-old man, who was taken into custody by the police

UKRAINE CRISISAnother NCP minister**PVT CARRIERS STEP IN EVACUATION**In Maha faces ED heat

Indians being evacuated from Ukraine have been exempted from pre-boarding RT-PCR test, providing Covid vaccination certificates and uploading those on the Air Suvidha portal, the Health Ministry said



New Delhi, Feb 28: Air India's two evacuation flights came from Bucharest with 249 Indian nationals Romanian capital Bucharest and while the sixth flight arrived from Hungarian capital Budapest to Budapest here with 240 Indian na-Delhi Monday with 489 Indian nationals, the officials said tionals who were stranded in

737 MAX aircraft for this special flight that will depart from Delhi on Monday evening.

SpiceJet said it is planning to operate more evacuation flights and is in discussion with the authorities concerned.

Govt urged to block Chinese app **BGMI-PUBG**

Ukraine after the Russian mili-

SpiceJet, IndiGo and Air India

Express have also sent their planes

to the two cities for evacuation of

Indians as the Ukraine airspace

India began the evacuation of

its citizens from Romania and

Hungary - western neighbours of

Ukraine - on Saturday and the Tata

Group-owned Air India has brought

back 1.396 Indian nationals in six

Other private carriers such as

tary offensive, officials said.

is closed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 28: PRAHAR, an NGO has urged the government to block the Chinese gaming app BGMI-PUBG and add it to the list of 54 Chinese apps banned February 14, 2022 saying its omission in the list is a "clear lapse in judgement on part of the Government".



"The aircraft will fly to Budapest

from Delhi and the return flight will operate via Kutaisi, Georgia," it mentioned.



Tata Group-owned Air India Express said it will operate a Bucharest-Mumbai flight on Friday night with 182 stranded passengers.

The flight will have a stopover in Kuwait for refuelling. It will land in Mumbai at 9:30 AM tomorrow (Tuesday)," it added

IndiGo said it is operating two evacuation flights using A321 aircraft to bring back Indian citizens safely, following the crisis in Ukraine.

Both the flights will land in Delhi

Tuesday, it noted.

"These flights are being operated from Delhi to Bucharest, Romania and to Budapest, Hungary via Istanbul, today, as part of the Indian government's Operation Ganga mission," it mentioned.

India's largest airline said it is closely liaising with the government to offer its support for more such evacuations flights.

The Indian Embassy in Ukraine stated on Monday that the weekend curfew has been lifted in Kyiv and all students are advised to make their way to the railway station for onward journey to the western parts of the country.

"Ukraine Railways putting special trains for evacuations. We sincerely request all Indian nationals/students to remain calm, peaceful and united," it mentioned.

A large crowd can be expected at the railway stations, therefore, it is advised that all Indian students remain patient, composed and not to exhibit aggressive behaviour while at the railway stations, it noted

'We expect delays in trains' schedule, even cancellation at times and long queues," it mentioned.

Indian students are requested to carry their passport, sufficient cash, ready-to-eat meals, easy ac cessible winter clothing and only essential items, to ensure easy mo bility, it stated.

Be mindful of your belongings at all times, it advised, "Ukrainians - both civilians and authorities - have been remarkably supportive in facilitating evacuation efforts of Indian citizens, especially considering these critical and dangerous times. You are all requested to respect this sentiment." it noted.

Another NCP minister



PRAJAKT TANPURE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: The ED Monday attached over 94 acres of land belonging to Maharashtra minister Prajakt Tanpure and others in connection with its money laundering probe into the alleged scam in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB). While Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik was arrested last week on money laundering charges, his former colleague Anil Deshmukh was held in a separate case and a sugar mill linked to state Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last year in the MSCB case

Tanpure, who was questioned in this case by the agency earlier, is the minister of state for urban development, energy, tribal development, higher and technical education and disaster management in the Maharashtra government. He is an NCP MLA from the Rahuri Assembly seat.

The case pertains to allegations that cooperative sugar factories were sold by the then officials and directors of the bank at throw-

away prices to their relatives and some people. The ED case is based an August 2019 FIR of the Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing.

The police complaint came after the Bombay High Court ordered August 22, 2019, a probe into the allegations of selling sugar factories in the Maharashtra cooperative sector allegedly through fraudulent means.

According to the Enforcement Directorate, 90 acres of land of erstwhile Ram Ganesh Gadkari Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana (SSK) held in the name of Takshshila Securities Pvt. Ltd, and two parcels of non-agricultural lands of 4.6 acres in Ahmednagar district belonging to Prajakt Tanpure worth Rs 7.6 crore have been attached. The total value of the attached lands is Rs 13.41 crore, it said.

"MSCB undertook auction of Ram Ganesh Gadkari SSK in 2007 at an undervalued price. Without following due process, the said SSK was sold to Prasad Sugar and Allied Agro Products Ltd., a firm of Prajakt Tanpure (son of Prasad Tanpure) for Rs 12.95 crore against the reserve price of Rs 26.32 crore.' the ED said in a statement

Manipur records 78.3pc voting

AGENCIES

Imphal, Feb 28: Despite heavy security arrangements and sporadic incidents of violence, Manipur in the first phase of elections to 38 of the 60 Assembly seats reported 78.03 per cent voter turnout, election officials said. Of the five districts, where the first phase of elections were held, highest percentage of 82.19 per cent voters cast their votes in Imphal West and Kangpokpi districts followed by 76.64 per cent in Imphal East, 74.45 per cent in Churachandpur and 73.44 per cent in Bishnupur district. Police officials in Imphal said that at least one person was injured in a clash between the workers of two rival political parties in Churachandpur district. An EVM was damaged by some people at Singhat and it was later replaced. Congress workers allegedly damaged a polling booth in Kakwa area in Langthabal constituency in Imphal West district, while a vehicle of a National People's **Clashes and attacks** were reported in different places of Imphal East, Imphal West and Kangpokpi districts



evacuation flights till now. On Monday, the fifth Air India flight landed in Delhi from

Around 14,000 Indians, mainly college students, are currently stranded in Ukraine.

near here for allegedly harassing a woman, died after suffering from chest pain Monday. The deceased has been identified as Suresh Kumar, a resident of Nelliyode, Judgikunnu near here, police said. Kumar and four others were taken into custody by the Thiruvallam police under the Thiruvananthapuram city police limit on the basis of a harassment complaint filed by a woman. Later, the accused were taken to the police station.

Three AP students drown in stream

.....

Amaravati: Three minor students drowned in a stream in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district, police said Monday. The bodies of the students aged between 12 and 15 years were recovered from Musi Vagu at Podavaripalem near Ponduru Monday morning. The boys were missing since Sunday evening and the search operations had not yielded any result. Rescue workers resumed the search Monday morning and found the bodies in the stream. They were identified as Vasu (15), Mahesh (13) and Jagan (12).

Landslide in U'khand

Rudraprayag (Uttarakhand): A

landslide here Monday razed

several cowsheds and toilets.

prompting the administration to shift close to a dozen

families to safer places. The

landslide occurred in the hilly

Rudraprayag in the Monday

slope beneath the village slid

several hundred metres down

Alaknanda, District Disaster

Management Officer Nandan

Singh said. The landslide was

not caused by rain as the day

was clear and sunny, he said.

morning as a chunk of the

Jhalimath village of

to the banks of River

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch has supported this initiative by Prahar and has called for an investigation into the antecedents and China influence of BGMI-PUBG. PUBG mobile was banned by the Government of India September 2, 2020. Within ten months, it was relaunched as Battlegrounds Mobile India (BGMI). BGMI is the biggest among the chinese apps that relaunched and rebranded with the same features and have managed to

circumvent scrutiny. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-Convener, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch said, "We congratulate the Government on their decision to ban another 54 Chinese apps in India re-

cently. This is in line with the ongoing demand from people of India to boycott all kinds of Chinese goods. Also, in today's data centric world, maintaining technology integrity is extremely important to protect the sovereignty of India, security of the state and defence of India. We urge the Government to thoroughly investigate the antecedents and China influence of the BGMI-PUBG app and take immediate action if found in violation".



Polling Station. However, details of the incident are still awaited. Election officials said that a

Manipur police Havildar Naorem Ibochouba Singh died due to suspected accidental firing from his service weapon in Kakching District.



FESTIVE FERVOR: Devotees dressed as Lord Shiva participate in a procession ahead of Shivratri in Jammu PTI PHOTO

Nepal, India sign agreement on fertiliser supplies

New Delhi/Kathmandu: India and Nepal Monday concluded an MoU for long-term supply of urea and DAP fertilisers from India to Nepal under a government to government arrangement. The MoU was signed by India's Secretary, Chemicals and Fertilisers, Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, and Nepal's Secretary, Agriculture and Livestock Development, Dr Govinda Prasad Sharma. The virtual ceremony to sign and exchange the MoU was held on Monday in presence of Nepal's Agriculture and Livestock Development Minister, Mahindra Ray Yadav, and India's Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra, and officials of the ministries and embassies of both India and Nepal. Nepal has been looking for supplies of chemical fertiliser from India since long but this could not materialise so far due to some technical reasons. The life of the agreement is five years, and under it, India will supply 150,00 metric tons of chemical fertiliser by the end of June, out of which 60 per cent would be urea and 40 per cent would be DAP.

Low MBBS fees attract Indian students to Ukraine

THE COST OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN A PRIVATE **MEDICAL COLLEGE IN UKRAINE IS HALF AS MUCH AS IN INDIA, AND THE PROCESS OF ADMISSION** IS ALSO MUCH SIMPLER THAN IN INDIA

the rest

medical colleges in Ukraine in

which more than 18,000 Indian

students are pursuing MBBS and

BDS courses. Out of these, about

1,000 have returned home while

efforts are on to bring back

one of the country's renowned med-

ical coaching institutes, says that

compared to the number of seats re-

served for medical course in Ukraine,

Sandeep Dhamija, director of

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 28: Every year thousands of students from India go to Ukraine for medical education. A big reason for this is the facilities and cheap medical courses offered to the students in Ukraine and the recognition given to Ukrainian universities across

the world. There are currently 14 major few locals apply. This is the reason why medical seats are easily available to foreign students and Indian students get the benefit.

Shirish Mehta, who did his MBBS from Ukraine, says that infrastructure in medical colleges of Ukraine is far better than in India, and also the cost of medical education in Ukraine is not even half of that of private colleges in India.

The cost of medical education in government colleges in India, is around Rs 3 lakh per annum for each student. On the other hand, in private medical colleges of India. this cost goes up to Rs 20 lakh and may increase to Rs 30 lakh annu-



ally. In government medical colleges of India, where the cost of medical education for 5 years comes around Rs 15 to Rs 20 lakh, in private colleges, a student has to shell out more than Rs 80 lakh for the same. In several Indian private

medical colleges, this cost goes over Rs 1 crore.

On the other hand in Ukraine, a student doing MBBS has to pay about Rs 5 lakh per year, which takes the overall cost in five years to Rs 25 lakh.

Indian educationist C.S. Kandpal says that one of the major reasons for the popularity of medical education in Ukraine is that students here do not have to take any separate examination to join these courses, whereas in India, NEET examinations are compulsory.

Lakhs of students appear in the NEET exam every year, out of which only about 40,000 get admission in government medical colleges.

In such a situation, a large number of NEET qualified Indian students turn to Ukraine.

In Ukraine, NEET qualified students get admission easily and their ranking does not matter.







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international

'EUROPEANS TO PAY A PRICE FOR RUSSIA SANCTIONS'

European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, has acknowledged that the sweeping sanctions the bloc has imposed on Russia in recent days over Moscow's military operation in Ukraine will have a negative impact on Europeans, too





People sit and lie on the floor in the improvised bomb shelter in a sports centre in Mariupol, Ukraine

THE GRIM REALITY



A pregnant woman and children sit on a bench in the improvised bomb shelter in a sports centre in Mariupol, Ukraine



An armed local resident carries a cat in a carrier and a fish in an aquarium, which he took out of an apartment building damaged by recent shelling in Kyiv, Ukraine

Europe welcomes Ukrainian refugees but others, less so

AGENCIES

Barcelona: They flee into neighbouring countries by the hundreds of thousands - refugees from Ukraine clutching children in one arm, belongings in the other. And they're being heartily welcomed, by leaders of countries like Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania.

But while the hospitality has been applauded, it has also highlighted stark differences in treatment given to migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa, particularly Syrians who came in 2015. Some of the language from these leaders has been disturbing to them, and deeply hurtful.

"These are not the refugees we are used to...These people are Europeans," Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov told journalists earlier this week, of the Ukrainians. "These people are intelligent, they are educated people...This is not the refugee wave we have been used to, people we were not sure about their identity, people with unclear pasts, who could

UKRATNE TNVA

close their respective airspaces to all Russian aircraft

have been even terrorists..."

"In other words," he added, "there is not a single European country now which is afraid of the current wave of refugees."Syrian journalist Okba Mohammad says that statement "mixes racism and Islamophobia'

Mohammad fled his hometown of Daraa in 2018. He now lives in Spain, and with other Syrian refugees founded the first bilingual magazine in Arabic and Spanish.

He said he wasn't surprised by

66 These are not the refugees we are used to...These people are Europeans," Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov told journalists

When it comes to Ukraine, the change in tone of some of Europe's most extreme anti-migration leaders has been striking - from "We aren't going to let anyone in" to

ers.

Mohammad described a sense of deja vu as he followed events in Ukraine. Like thousands of Ukrainians, he also had to shelter underground to protect himself

He also struggled to board an said

Those comments were made only three months apart by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. In the first, in December, he was addressing

"We're letting everyone in".

migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa seeking to enter Europe via Hungary. In the second, this week, he was addressing people from Ukraine.

When over a million people crossed into Europe in 2015, support for refugees fleeing wars in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan was much greater. Of course, there were also moments of hostility - such as when a Hungarian camerawoman was filmed kicking and possibly tripping migrants along the country's border with Serbia.

Still, back then, Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, famously said "Wir schaffen das" or "We can do it", and the Swedish prime minister urged citizens to "open your hearts" to refugees.

Volunteers gathered on Greek beaches to rescue exhausted families crossing on flimsy boats from Turkey. In Germany, they were greeted with applause at train and bus stations.

But the warm welcome soon ended after EU nations disagreed over how to share responsibility, with the main pushback coming from Central and Eastern European countries like Hungary and Poland. One by one, governments across Europe toughened migration and asylum policies, doubling down on border surveillance, earning the nickname of "Fortress Europe" Just last week, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees denounced the increasing "violence and serious human rights violations"

Putin to rope in his Belarusian ally

As Russia fails to inflict quick defeat upon Ukraine after four days of fierce hostilities. President Vladimir Putin is about to pull his Belarusian ally, dictator Aleksandr Lukashenko, into his war of occupation, The Kyiv Independent reported. Amid many speculations, multiple sources said the decision has been made, and as soon as on Monday, the first Ilyushin Il-76 transport aircraft is very likely to take off carrying Belarusian paratroopers to be deployed against Ukraine. Rumours regarding the official Belarusian involvement in the war started circulating on Sunday, the fourth day of Russia's all-out war on Ukraine, following a report presented to diplomatic circles by unnamed Belarusian opposition journalists, the report said. The message suggested that Belarusian troops might be deployed in Kyiv or the Zhytomyr areas in assistance to the Russian invading force.

across European borders, specifically pointing the finger at Greece.

And last year hundreds of people, mainly from Iraq and Syria but also from Africa. were left stranded in a no man's land between Poland and Belarus as the EU accused Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of luring thousands of foreigners to its bor-

Biggest cargo plane 'Mriya' destroyed

Russian forces have destroyed Ukraine's flagman aircraft An-225 Mriya, the world's biggest cargo plane, Ukraine's state defense conglomerate Ukroboronprom said on Telegram. The aircraft was destroyed in an attack by Russian troops on the Hostomel airport outside Kiev, Ukroboronprom added Sunday. The restoration of the plane will cost



more than \$3 billion and will take a long time, it said. The An-225 Mriya, designed in the 1980s, is the longest and the heaviest airplane ever built. It was capable of carrying up to 640 tons of cargo, Xinhua news agency reported.

From beer to Molotov cocktails

n an industrial part of western Ukraine's main city Lviv, employees at the Pravda brewery have responded to the Russian invasion by switching from producing beer to Molotov cocktails. Lviv -- a bastion of Ukrainian identity -- lies near the Polish border and fears Russian tanks will at some point roll into the historic city. "You have to wait for the cloth to be well



soaked. When it is, that means the Molotov cocktail is ready," said one smiling employee. With a cap on his head, he pushed the cloth deep into a beer bottle filled with a mixture of oil and petrol. Two other barmen next to him, all in good humour, do the same. They have a few dozen Molotov cocktails ready for use already, placed neatly on tables so as to protect them from the light snowfall. While these Molotov cocktails might seem ridiculous in the face of tanks and rockets, the switch could not be more serious for Yuriy Zastavny, the owner of the brewery. "We do this because someone has to. We have the skills, we went through a street revolution in 2014," said Zastavny, referring to Kyiv's pro-Western uprising that ousted a Kremlin-backed regime. "We had to make and use Molotov cocktails then," he said.

Denmark to allow citizens to figh

openhagen has revealed it will allow Danish nationals to join the international military force as Kiev plans to set up to aid its own military in the conflict with Russia, RT reported. "It's a choice that anyone can make. This goes for all Ukrainians who live here, but also for others who think they can contribute directly to the conflic ma Minista



earlier this week, of the Ukrainians

"We're letting everyone in" the remarks from Petkov and oth-

from Russian bombs. overcrowded bus to flee his town. He also was separated from his family at the border." A refugee is a refugee, whether European, African or Asian," Mohammad

he Russian army said that Ukrainian civilians could "freely" leave the country's capital Kyiv and claimed its airforce dominated Ukraine's skies as its invasion entered a fifth day

Dussia has closed its airspace to carriers from 36 nations, including

NEuropean countries and Canada, responding in kind to their move to

hina, a close ally of Russia, said that it was opposed to illegal unilateral

sanctions and will continue to carry out normal trade cooperation with

Moscow, as the US, EU and their allies stepped up punitive measures

against Russia, including the interbank messaging system SWIFT

Russian forces have taken over the area around the Zaporozhskaya Nuclear Power Plant, the Ministry of Defense announced Monday. Last week, Moscow took control of the Chernobyl facility

iev's defence ministry claims that more than 5,000 Russian soldiers have Neen killed in the first four days of fighting in Ukraine, BBC reported

Switzerland's President says country will join EU sanctions, including Sasset freezes, targeting Russia



When it comes to Ukraine, the change in tone of some of Europe's most extreme anti-migration leaders has been striking - from "We aren't going to let anyone in" to ders in retaliation for sanctions.

At the time, Poland blocked access to aid groups and journalists. More than 15 people died in the cold.

Frederiksen sasid. "There is nothing at first sight that would legally prevent someone from going to Ukraine to participate in the conflict, on the Ukrainian side, Frederiksen added. Earlier, the Danish PM took part in a massive protest against Moscow's operation in front of the Russian embassy in Copenhagen, telling the crowd that "it is all of you and all of Europe who are threatened by Russia." The Danish prime minister is not the first to support the idea. Earlier on Sunday, UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss also said she would "absolutely" support Brits who want to join the military action on the side of Ukraine, RT reported.

Germans swap Carnival parade for anti-war rally

REUTERS

Cologne: Germans in Cologne swapped their traditional Carnival festivities for an anti-war rally Monday that featured parade floats lampooning Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

The Cologne Carnival parade, at which clubs traditionally poke fun at Germany's politicians with colourful floats, was cancelled last week in favour of a peace demonstration after Russia invaded Ukraine in the biggest assault on a European country since World War Two.

Carnival is hugely popular in parts of western Germany, especially in Rhineland cities such as Cologne and Duesseldorf, where



Carnival revellers show signs for peace in Cologne, Germany, during a peace march of tens of thousands against the war in Ukraine, Monday

festivities peak on Shrove Monday - or Rose Monday - with tens of thousands attending street parades featuring comical or satirical floats. Thousands of people flocked to the

parade route Monday, many wearing costumes in blue and vellow. the colours of Ukraine's national flag, and carrying signs reading Peace and Stop Putin.

Boris offers UK visas to Ukrainian relatives

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has Bannounced that Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion can come to the UK if they already have members of their immediate family settled in the country. As part of a new GBP 40 million humanitarian package for the supply of basic necessities and medical supplies such as medicines, syringes, dressings and



wound care pack, Johnson confirmed that any person settled in the UK will be able to bring their Ukrainian immediate family members to join them here. Downing Street said this would benefit many thousands of people who at this moment are making desperate choices about their future."The UK will not turn our backs in Ukraine's hour of need. We are providing all the economic and military support we can to help those Ukrainians risking everything to protect their country," Johnson said. "In the last days the world has witnessed awe-inspiring displays of bravery and heroism from the Ukrainian people in response to those who seek to obliterate their freedom by force," he said. More details of the new Ukrainian visa policy is set to be announced in Parliament this week

Afghan who moved to Ukraine forced to flee again

After arriving at the Medyka on

the Polish side, the family waited

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Medvka. Poland: After leaving Afghanistan a year ago, Ajmal Rahmani believed he had found a haven of peace in Ukraine.

This week, he and his family had to flee again -- this time to Poland to the sounds of Russian bombs.

"I run from one war, come to another country and another war starts. Very bad luck," Rahmani said shortly after crossing into Poland.

His seven-year-old daughter Marwa clutched a beige-coloured soft toy dog as Rahmani spoke. Together with Marwa, his wife Mina and son Omar, 11, the family walked the last 30 kilometres (19 miles) to the crossing on foot be-



cause of the gridlock on the Ukrainian side of the border

with other refugees for a bus that will take them to the nearby city of Przemvsl. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled during the four days of conflict into neighbouring countries, mainly Poland, Hungary and Romania.

While most of the refugees are Ukrainian, among them are also students and migrant workers from further afield, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Nepal.

'I lost everything'

Rahmani, who is in his 40s, said he worked for NATO in Afghanistan for 18 years at Kabul airport. He decided to leave the country four months before the US withdrawal because he received threats and was so scared he kept his children out of school.

Before that "I had a good life in Afghanistan, I had a private house, I had a private car, I had a good salary," said Rahmani. "I sold my car, my house, my everything. I lost everything," he said. But he added: "nothing is better than my love, than my family life".

Rahmani said he struggled to get a visa to leave Afghanistan and decided to go to Ukraine because it was the only country that would take him in.

They set up home in Odessa -- a Black Sea port city. Four days ago, when Russia began its invasion of Ukraine, they had to leave everything again and travelled the 1,110 kilometres to the border. Polish authorities said nearly 213,000 people have crossed into Poland from Ukraine since Thursday.

400 mercenaries sent to assassinate Zelensky

ore than 400 Russian mercenaries have been flown in from Africa to assassinate Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, Daily Mail reported.

mission. A private militia known as the Wagner Group allegedly has or-

ders from Vladimir Putin to take out Zelensky and 23 other government figures - to

allow Moscow to take over its eastern European neighbour, the report said. According to the

Times, UK, the armyfor-hire, run by oligarch Yevgeny Prigozhin - a close

ally of the Russian president who is often dubbed 'Putin's chef' - was flown in five weeks ago and is being offered a huge sum for the The highly-trained operatives are

said to be waiting for the green light from the Kremlin to pounce, with their hit list also including Ukraine's prime minister, the entire cabinet, mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko and his brother Wladimir both boxing champions who have

become iconic figures on thefront lines of the capital.



business

REUTERS

The government is worried about the impact of war between Russia and Ukraine on India's exim trade NIRMALA SITHARAMAN UNION FINANCE MINISTER

SKODA DRIVES IN ALL NEW SLAVIA AT ₹10.69 LAKH

Skoda Auto India Monday said it has launched all-new Slavia with a price starting at ₹10.69 lakh (exshowroom), hotting up competition in the premium mid-size sedan segment. With Slavia, the company is aiming for a leadership position in the mid-size sedan segment which is currently dominated by the likes of Honda City, Hyundai Verna and Maruti Suzuki Ciaz.



uote 🦅

At Tech Mahindra, we have always been at the forefront of 5G and our entry into the Metaverse is yet another

milestone in our journey of catalysing future readiness and disrupting and transforming customer experiences

CP GURNANI TECH MAHINDRA MD & CEO

The PM Gati Shakti initiative will facilitate last mile connectivity and kick start a virtuous cycle of private and public investment which will have a

multiplier impact on the economy PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

As policymakers and as regulators, we need to take that extra care that regulation or regulatory framework should not inhibit innovation

ANNA ROY NITI AAYOG SENIOR ADVISER

SHORT TAKES

Dabur's open offer for Eveready takeover

Kolkata: In its bid to take full management control of citybased dry cell battery major Eveready Industries India Ltd, the Burmans of the Dabur family Monday made an open offer for an additional 26 per cent of shares at ₹320 per scrip. The mandatory open offer under the takeover regulations of SEBI was made as the Burmans acquired an additional 5.26 per cent stake of Eveready from the open market taking its total shareholding to 25.11 per cent. The Burmans were already the largest shareholder of the battery maker with a stake of 19.85 per cent.

Mahindra Logistics to acquire Whizzard

Mumbai: Mahindra Logistics Ltd (MLL) Monday said it will acquire up to 60 per cent stake in last-

Economy loses pace in Q3

INDIA WAS LIKELY TO FEEL THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF WIDENING SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: India's economy lost momentum in the final quarter of 2021, with growth slowing from previous two quarters, data showed Monday, as fears mount that soaring costs in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine will further sap growth.

Gross domestic product rose 5.4% year-on-year in October-December, official data showed, less than 6% forecast by economists in a Reuters poll, and below upwardly revised 8.5% growth in July-September and 20.3% April-June expansion.

"The growth number is really disappointing," said Sujan Hajra, chief economist at Mumbai-based Anand Rathi Securities, citing weakening rural consumer demand and investments.

India, which covers nearly 80%of its oil needs through imports, possibly faces a widening trade deficit, a weaker rupee and higher inflation



after crude prices spiked above \$100 a barrel, with a hit to growth

seen as the main concern. "Given the geopolitical instability and crude oil prices, we think the fiscal and monetary policy accommodation will continue," Hajra said.

A 10% rise in oil prices could shave 0.2 percentage points off India's GDP growth while adding 0.3 to 0.4 percentage points to retail

inflation, according to Nomura's estimates.

The Reserve Bank of India slashed its key repo rate by 115 basis points since March 2020 to soften the blow from the coronavirus pandemic and has kept rates low to support the economic recovery

However, that recovery, already sputtering amid weak consumer de

mand and private investment, slowed further when the third wave of coronavirus infections hit Asia's third-largest economy last month.

Growth in consumer spending, its main driver, slowed to 7.0% from a year earlier in October-December quarter from revised 10.2% in previous quarter; Monday's data showed.

Manufacturing slowed to 0.2% growth from revised expansion 5.6% expansion in the previous quarter while the construction sector contracted 2.8% after 8.2% growth in the previous quarter.

The government also cut its growth estimate for the 2021/22 fiscal year ending on March 31 to 8.9% from 9.2% seen in January as COVID-19 related curbs weighed on activity early this year.

Investment growth slowed to just 2.0% on year compared with revised 14.6% increase in the previous quarter, with state spending slowing to 3.4% growth after a 9.3% rise in July-September.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 5.84% in Jan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: Retail inflation for industrial workers rose to 5.84 per cent in January over the same month a year ago mainly due to higher prices of certain food items. the labour ministry said Monday.

"Year-on-year inflation for the month stood at 5.84 per cent compared to 5.56 per cent for the previous month and 3.15 per cent during the corresponding month a year before," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated food inflation stood at 6.22 per cent as against 5.93 per cent of the previous month and 2.38 per cent during the corresponding month a year ago.

According to the data, the All-India CPI-IW (consumer price index for industrial workers) for January 2022 decreased by 0.3 point and stood at 125.1 points. It was 125.4 points in December 2021.

On one-month percentage change, it decreased by 0.24 per cent with respect to previous month compared to decrease of 0.51 per



cent recorded between corre sponding months a year ago.

The maximum downward pressure in current index came from food & beverages group contributing 0.82 percentage point to the total change. At item level, fish fresh, mustard oil, apple, carrot, frenchbeen, garlic, brinjal, cauliflower, lady's finger, onion, peas, potato, radish, tomato, etc, are responsible for the fall in index.

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed first woman chairperson of Sebi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 28: Benchmark BSE Sensex recovered from early lows to close higher for the second straight session Monday, mirroring a rebound in Asian equities, even as the Ukraine crisis continued to roil western markets.

After a weak opening, the 30share BSE barometer plunged more than 1,025 points to the day's low of 54,833.50, before staging a recovery to close 388.76 pts or 0.70 per cent higher at 56,247.28, marking its second session of gains.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 135.50 points or 0.81 points to settle at 16,793.90.

Tata Steel emerged as the lead gainer among Sensex scrips, jumping by 6.61 per cent, followed by Power Grid, Reliance Industries, Titan, NTPC, L&T, Asian Paints and ICICI Bank.

On the other hand. Dr Reddy's. M&M, Axis Bank, HDFC twins and Kotak Bank were among the major laggards, shedding up to 2.81 per cent



of Research at Geojit Financial Sector-wise, BSE metal index

Services. soared 5.47 per cent, followed by energy, basic materials, oil and gas and

The 10 most active securities during February 2022 were Reliance Industries, HDFC, Cipla, Tata Power, 135.50 Adani Wilmar, Vodafone Idea Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Adani Power, Tata Motors and TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS Infosys. The share of Reliance 7.16 HDFC Life -2.95 Industries in the total market capitalisation during the month was 6.33 Dr Reddys -2.67 the highest at 6.11 per cent, fol-

lowed by TCS (5.15 per cent) and

Infosys (2.82 per cent). Equity market capitalisation in January was at ₹2,64,41,207.18 crore. The market valuation of BSE listed companies was on a consistent rise since November 2021, only

Reliance to take over ops of

250 more Future Retail stores



crore During the month under review, equity m-cap was at its lowest on February 24 at ₹2,42,24,179.79 crore, the day Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a military operation in Ukraine.

"The market-cap depends entirely on the market trend, which in turn, is entirely swayed by news from the Ukraine front now. If the Ukraine crisis ends soon, there will be a sharp uptrend in the market for a while. But this is unlikely to sustain since the Fed is expected to tighten monetary policy starting March. This monetary tightening by the Fed will be a major headwind for global equity markets in 2022," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services. The peak valuation this month was ₹2,70,64,905.75 crore February 2.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: Former banker Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - the first-ever woman to head the capital markets regulator.

Buch, 57, who was not only the first woman whole-time member of Sebi but also the first person working at the regulator from the private sector, has been appointed for a three-year term, finance ministry sources said.

She replaces bureaucrat Ajay Tyagi whose tenure as Sebi chairman ends Monday, A graduate from Delhi's prestigious St Stephen's College and an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, Buch has three decades of financial market experience. Starting her career with ICICI Bank, she went on to become the managing director and CEO at **ICICI Securities from February** 2009 to May 2011. In 2011, Buch left for Singapore to join private equity firm Greater Pacific Capital LLP. She later served as a consultant to the New Development Bank, set up by the BRICS bloc of nations, in Shanghai. She is the founder-director of Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd.

uity market capitalisation (m-cap) 16,793.90 has dropped to a six-month low of ₹2,52,39,045.09 crore in February 2022. However, the market valuation has jumped 25.68 per cent in comparison to February 2021, when it stood at ₹2.00.81.095.73 crore.

5.58 Axis Bank -2.16 -2.04 3.91 HDFC Bank -1.87

Seoul climbed 0.8 per cent. However, the Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped 0.2 per cent. Bourses in Europe were trading in the red in the afternoon session.

WEAKENING DEMAND





mile delivery services provider Whizzard for ₹71.73 crore. A decision in this regard was taken pursuant to approval by the Investment Committee of the company's board at a meeting held February 28, 2022. "The company has...Entered into share purchase agreement, share subscription agreement and shareholders' agreement for acquisition of up to 43,972 equity shares and for subscribing up to 63,200 Series A Compulsorily Convertible Cumulative Preference Shares of ZipZap Logistics Pvt Ltd. in tranches," MLL said in a BSE filing.

Adhia nominated **BoB chairman again**

New Delhi: Former Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has been nominated again as the chairman of state-owned Bank of Baroda, according to a government order. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for renomination of Adhia as nonexecutive chairman of the BoB, a government order said. His term has been extended by another two years as chairman with effect from March 1, 2022, it said.

Average borrowing cost for states up

Mumbai: Since the beginning of the current fiscal year, states' average cost of borrowings has risen by 54 basis points to 7.11 per cent, even as it fell from the peak of 7.26 per cent two weeks ago. At the weekly auctions of state debt conducted Monday, the weighted average cost of borrowings, across states and tenures, remained elevated but flat at 7.11 per cent. The yields on state development loans were 54 basis points higher since the start of the fiscal year, Care Ratings said.

'Aggravated Russia-Ukraine conflict along with fresh sanctions on Russia by global powers weighed on Western markets. Despite opening on a negative tone, domestic indices staged a strong recovery lifted by metal stocks and positive Asian markets. Metal stocks rallied on hopes that curtailing Russian exports would help Indian steelmakers to capture the export market share," said Vinod Nair, Head

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 28: Aggregate

sales of 1.701 listed manufactur-

ing companies recorded a growth

of 27.3 per cent in the third quar-

ter of 2021-22 on an annual basis,

aided by high sales growth in pe-

troleum, non-ferrous metals, iron

and steel, chemicals and textiles

industries, according to RBI data

RBI released the data on the

performance of the private cor-

porate sector during the third

quarter of 2021-22 drawn from

abridged quarterly financial re-

sults of 2,744 listed Non-

Government Non-Financial

financial companies increased

(y-o-y) by 25.3 per cent in the

"Sales of listed private non-

released Monday.

(NGNF) companies.

power. However, bankex, capital goods and finance closed lower.

Sales of mfg firms grow

27.3% pc in Q3: RBI data

year ago quarter.

December period of 2021-22.

RBI said telecommunication

companies, which account for

nearly a fourth of this broad cat-

egory, witnessed a marginal de-

cline in sales but non-telecom

companies recorded good growth.

bank said that in tandem with in-

crease in sales, manufacturing

companies' expenditure on raw

material increased year-on-year

by 37.1 per cent. Expenses on

raw material accounted for 63.3

per cent of their total expendi-

ture. "With rising expenditures,

operating profit growth decel-

erated across sectors in the third

quarter of 2021-22," RBI said.

On expenditure, the central

Global markets were mixed after western nations ramped up sanctions on Russia, while a Ukrainian delegation arrived for talks with Moscow on the border with Belarus.

Asian markets recovered from early losses to close higher. Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.2 per cent, the Shanghai Composite index rose by 0.3 per cent while the Kospi in

Oil prices firmed up Monday, with US benchmark crude rising 4.7 per cent to USD 95.92 per barrel and Brent crude gaining 4.5 per cent to USD 98.32 per barrel. The rupee closed flat at 75.33 against the US dollar Monday.

Spooked by the Ukraine crisis, foreign institutional investors further offloaded shares worth ₹4,470.70 crore in the Indian capital markets Friday, exchange data showed.



Amul hikes milk prices by ₹2/litre



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: Cooperative GCMMF, which markets milk and milk products under the Amul brand, has increased milk prices by ₹2 per litre with effect from Tuesday due to rise in input cost. In a statement. Gujarat

Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) said it has decided to increase milk prices by ₹2 per litre in all India markets where Amul is marketing its fresh milk, effective from March 1.

"The increase of ₹2 per litre translates into 4% increase in MRP which is much lower than average food inflation," it added.

'It is worthwhile to note that in the last 2 years Amul has made 🛁 only 4% increase per annum in prices of its fresh milk category," GCMMF said. This price hike is being done due to rise in costs of energy, packaging, logistics and crease in the overall cost of operation and milk production.

WITH THE LATEST MOVE, RELIANCE WILL EFFECTIVELY TAKE OVER In value terms, the sales of manufacturing companies stood **OPERATIONS OF ROUGHLY A THIRD OF FUTURE'S 1,500 OUTLETS IN INDIA** at ₹8,87,137 crore in the third quarter as against ₹6.79.462 crore



REUTERS

New Delhi, Feb 28: India's top retailer, Reliance, will add 250 more

will be executed within weeks come after Reliance took possession of and started rebranding about 200 of Future's Big Bazaar supermarkets over the weekend, and is set to further hollow out Future, which has been at the centre of a pitched battle between Reliance

tail assets of Future

Future's partner Amazon has blocked the transaction by citing violation of contracts. Future denies any wrongdoing, but a Singapore arbitrator and Indian courts have backed Amazon's stand so far. Amazon is likely to chal-

and Amazon.com Inc. The move over the weekend led to suspension in online and offline supermarket operations for Future, the country's second largest brick-andmortar retailer. Reliance's move assumes significance as it follows failed efforts since 2020 to close a \$3.4 billion deal to acquire the re-

lenge Future's move of store transfers in Indian courts, a third source

told Reuters. Future. Amazon and Reliance did not respond to requests for comment. Future told stock exchanges Saturday the company was "going through an acute financial crisis" and "scaling down its operations" to reduce losses.

Over the months, Reliance had transferred leases of some stores of the debt-laden Future to its name and sublet them to Future. It is now taking possession of the stores as Future did not make lease payments, sources have told Reuters.

After taking control of 200 of Future's flagship Big Bazaar stores, Reliance now has plans to take over another 250 stores in coming weeks and rebrand them as Reliance outlets, said the sources, who declined to be named as the plan is not public. One of the sources said this could include Future's apparel outlets "Central" and "Brand Factory".

With the latest move, Reliance will effectively take over operations of roughly a third of Future's 1,500 outlets in India. Despite the store transfers, Reliance has told Future, it will not change the terms of their 2020 proposed deal, said a source.







Future Retail stores to its portfolio after the company failed to make lease payments for the outlets to Reliance, two people with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters Monday. The plans - which sources said

third quarter of 2021-22 as compared with 31.8 per cent in the previous quarter and 4 per cent in the corresponding quarter a year

ago," the RBI said. As per the data, aggregate sales of 1,701 listed manufacturing companies recorded steady growth (y-o-y) of 27.3 per cent, aided by high sales growth in petroleum, non-ferrous metals,

iron and steel, chemicals and

textiles industries.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Ramadhin dead

Port of Spain: Legendary West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin, who was a part of the side that won their first away series in England in 1950, has died at the age of 92, the country's cricket board said. Ramadhin had made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950. He played 43 Tests taking 158 wickets at an average of 28.98. "Mr Ramadhin made an impact from the moment he first stepped onto the field of world cricket. He combined with Alf Valentine to form cricket's 'spin twins' as West Indies conquered England away from home for the first time," Cricket West Indies president Ricky Skerritt said Sunday

Mandhana cleared

Rangiora (New Zealand): In a relief for India, opener Smriti Mandhana has been cleared to continue playing at the ICC Women's World Cup after taking a blow to the head during the team's first warm-up fixture against South Africa. According to an ICC report, the 25-year-old Mandhana was assessed by the team doctor following the incident and was originally declared fit to continue, only to retire hurt an over and a half later after another consultation. The report also states that the lefthander felt no concussion symptoms, or experienced delayed effects from the incident.

SCEB held again

Vasco: RNorthEast United (NEUFC) played out a 1-1 draw in their final game of the ISL season against fellow strugglers SC East Bengal (SCEB) here Monday. While Marco Sahanek (45th+1) scored for NEUFC, it was Antonio Perosevic (55th) who restored parity for the Kolkata side. NEUFC thus ended the season with only three wins, while SCEB's winless run extended to seven matches. Both sides had a number of scoring opportunities in the first half but failed to utilise those. The second half was a drab affair.

Dipa 'suspended'

New Delhi: Gymnast Dipa Karmakar is currently identified as 'suspended' in the International Gymnastics Federation's (FiG) website, a development which has left the national body flummoxed. It said that there has been no official communication from the world body on the 28-year-old Dipa's suspension. All other Indian gymnasts registered with the website have been marked 'active'. Dipa came into limelight after her fourth-place finish in the vault event in the 2016 Rio Olympics. She has not been competing since 2019 due to injuries. "We have not received any communication from the FIG regarding Dipa's suspension," GFI president Sunil Mittal said Monday. "So we cannot comment," he added. AGENCIES

Liverpool lift League Cup



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Liverpool players celebrate with the trophy at the Wembley Stadium after their dramatic win over Chelsea, Saturday

Dramatic 11-10 shootout gives Reds victory over Chelsea after pulsating 120 minutes at Wembley

AGENCIES

London, Feb 28: Liverpool won the League Cup final in dramatic fashion as Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga missed the decisive penalty to give the Reds an 11-10 shoot-out victory after a pulsating 0-0 draw at the Wembley Stadium here Sunday night. Jurgen Klopp's side clinched their first domestic knockout prize since the 2012 League Cup when Kepa blazed his spot-kick high over the bar. It was the only miss in the nerve-jangling shoot-out, which saw Liverpool keeper Caoimhin Kelleher score his penalty just before Kepa failed.

Ironically, Kepa was sent on at the end of extra time to replace Edouard Mendy under the Chelsea bar given his reputation as a penalty saving specialist. However, the Spaniard was unable to repel any

WAR OF ONE REALLY BAD MAN

London: Liverpool manager, Jurgen Klopp, has said that he cannot understand 'how one adult person can put the whole world' at risk by allowing his army to invade Ukraine. "I am nearly 55 and I don't understand how one adult person can put the whole world in such a situation," Klopp was quoted as saying by 'Viaplay Fotball'. It was obvious he was referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I know so many Ukrainian people. It is the war of one really bad man. We have to show solidarity," he added.

of Liverpool's kicks.

While there were no goals in 120 minutes, it was a fascinating final which produced countless chances for both sides to win the game before the cruel denouement.

Liverpool saw Joel Matip's second half goal controversially disallowed for a marginal offside against Virgil van Dijk. Chelsea on the other hand, had three goals ruled out for offside later in the match.

The triumph meant that the Reds have lifted the League Cup a record nine times, moving ahead of Manchester City who have won it on eight occasions. Klopp is the first German manager to win the tournament after finally tasting Wembley success following two previous defeats as a boss there.

While the match was a memorable occasion, there was a sombre beginning as Liverpool and Chelsea

players united in a show of support for war-torn Ukraine. Amid the Russian invasion of its neighbour. Chelsea skipper Cesar Azpilicueta and Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson carried flowers in the country's yellow and blue colours onto the pitch. Both teams stood for a minute's applause, while a message on the stadium scoreboard in yellow and blue read 'Football Stands Together'.

There were chances galore for both sides. Chelsea's Christian Pulisic wastefully guided his closerange effort straight at Kelleher in the opening minutes. On the other hand Mendy sprawled to his right to repel Naby Keita's 20yard drive, then scrambled across to push Sadio Mane's close-range follow-up over the bar with one hand when it seemed certain he would score.

WOMAN WITH

Nitu beats all odds to achieve her dreams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: It was deeprooted patriarchy versus her father's resolve in Haryana's Dhanana village when Nitu picked up the gloves back in 2012. It was a huge decision as sports were never considered a 'good' thing for girls in her village. However, the rest as they say is history.

"It was not considered nice for girls to be very outgoing or ambitious in our village. So, yes there were a few things said when I started," the 48kg category boxer said Monday from Sofia, Bulgaria, recalling her journey after winning a gold on debut at the 73rd Strandja Memorial boxing tournament, one of Europe's most prestigious and oldest tournaments, Sunday.

The lanky pugilist said despite the many challenges, she could always count on her father to steer her boxing dreams since he was as convinced about them as she was. Nitu's father Jai Bhagwan was determined to make sure that his daughter became the outgoing and ambitious one that he put his

own career on hold. And the results have been, to put

it mildly, quite pleasing. The two-time former youth world champion talked about her problems and the inspiration she got from Olympic bronze-medallist Vijender Singh.

The gold proves that I

am on the right path.

"...There was societal pressure to be a home body at that time. I wanted to become a boxer after I saw Vijender bhaiya win a bronze in the Beijing Olympics in 2008," the 21-year-old said.

"It was in 2012 when I decided that this is what I wanted for myself and my father decided that he would do all he can to help me. So, for nearly four years he went on leave without pay from his Harvana government job and accompanied me to training every

day," recalled Nitu. Bhagwan did rejoin work after Nitu started showing promise with some excellent performances at the age group international tournaments, including the Asian Youth Championships gold.

"But when Covid-19 struck and national camps shut down, my dad was back accompanying me to the Bhiwani Boxing Club for training. He would do road running with me. He made things happen for me and kept my morale up," informed Nitu.

It's a family that has stuck together to support Nitu even if it meant cutting corners to ensure that the budget did not go completely haywire while running the household

"My mother was scared of me ruining my face with injuries. But she was still sup-

portive. My diet was priority for her and to this date. she does this even though we are three siblings,'

It gives me confidence that I can beat anyone in the world NITU she added.

NEW BATTING COMBINATION ON CARDS India ready for era sans Pujara, Rahane

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 28: Rohit Sharma's first Test as captain will also usher in a new era for India's middleorder with Shubman Gill and

AGENCIES

Dharamsala, Feb 28: Shreyas Iyer relishes finishing off games, but, on the back of his excellent run in the T20Is against Sri Lanka, he has expressed his desire to bat at No.3, the place which is normally reserved for Virat Kohli.



BATTER SAYS HE IS MOST COMFORTABLE BATTING EARLY ON AS HE CAN THEN PACE HIS INNINGS

Shreyas eyes Kohli's No. 3 position

EVERY PLAYER HAS HIS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES. I **WOULD RATHER FOCUS ON MY STRENGTHS THAN WEAKNESSES** SHREYAS IYER

4 FROM ODISHA IN PROBABLE LIST FOR JUNIOR WC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Hockey India (HI) named Monday a 28-member probables group for the final phase of preparations for the FIH Junior Women's World Cup (WC) to be played in South Africa starting April 1. The four-week preparatory camp began here Monday and will end March 26 before the team leave for South Africa. Salima Tete, Nikita Toppo, Beauty Dungdung and Deepika Soreng are the Odia players who have found a place in the list of probables.

Women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman talked Monday about the final stages of preparations. "The players have remained committed in their pursuit of leaving no stone unturned in their preparations for the FIH Junior Women's World Cup in South Africa," Schopman stated.

"The group underwent a camp in Bangalore over the past few weeks. In Bhubaneswar we will go through our final preparations. It is going to be exciting couple of weeks and I am sure watching the Pro League games their senior compatriots are playing, will also be a good learning experience for the juniors," the coach added. She also said that the juniors will interact with the seniors on a regular basis and it will be an opportunity for them to learn new things.

Hanuma Vihari all set to become long-term replacements of veterans Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane.

It is now clear that Rahane and Pujara won't be called for the three Tests this season (two against Sri Lanka and one away game against England) where Vihari and Gill, along with Shreyas Iyer as back-up,

will be the options. But the big question is who will be the one left out if all three are fit going into the first Test starting March 4?

Since Gill is raring to go, head coach Rahul Dravid will perhaps like to use him as a middle-order batter, who can also be an enforcer if the situation demands. There is a distinct possibility that Gill variation. might be used at No. 3 behind Rohit

and Mayank Agarwal. "I believe Shubman is India's best bet at No.3. Yes, he has opened but Mayank is there alongside Rohit and Shubman has the game to bat at that number," former national selector and Test opener Devang Gandhi said Monday.

DEVANG GANDHI | FORMER SELECTOR

No.6 for the games that we

will play on home soil

Vihari is a fantastic

player of spin, so he

is the ideal player for

"Why I feel the team management might be inclined to try him at No.3 is is because when we fasttracked him into India A, he had a double hundred in the middleorder against West Indies A in West Indies," Gandhi informed.

"Also having already opened in Tests, as No.3 he can also play the new ball well and start moving the game with his repertoire of strokes. You don't want to get bogged down and with Gill, he can start pushing the envelope," explained Gandhi. There is a possibility that Dravid

and Rohit might be inclined to use Vihari at No.6 and send the dangerous Rishabh Pant at No.5 for "If you see our batting-order,

Mayank, Rohit, Shubman and Kohli are all right handers. It's better if at No.5 we have a left-hander to get the left-right combination going followed by Vihari at No.6 and Ravindra Jadeja, again a left-hander at No.7. It could be the way forward," Gandhi pointed out.

Shrevas, who got a chance in the side after Kohli was given a bio-bubble rest following the second T20I against the West Indies, cracked three 50s against Sri Lanka to ensure a 3-0 sweep for the hosts.

"I'm not keeping any expectations from myself or from the team coaches because if you see the competition in our side, it's immense," Shreyas said in an interview for 'BCCI.tv'. "Every individual is capable of winning vou games. Personally I want to enjoy each and every moment and opportunity, which I've been provided with," he added.

Given a choice however, Shreyas said that he would prefer batting at No 3. "Obviously in this format, top-three is the only place where you can pace your innings pretty well. Otherwise if you bat down the order you can't give yourself time you need to start going from ball one. "So yeah, if I had to say the best number to bat for me personally, it's obviously No. 3," asserted the Mumbaikar.

Shreyas is not losing sleep over

BYJU 8

keeping his place in what is shaping up to be a formidable middle-order. He instead is 'cherishing' his good form in the run-up to the T20 World Cup. He is aware of the cut-throat competition in the team.

"Personally, I want to cherish this moment, I've achieved really good scores in the series," Shreyas, who scored 204 runs at a strike rate of 174 said. "I want to relax a bit, give myself time and not think much beyond because it's something that is not in my hand. If I start thinking about those things, I won't be able to focus on my game," he pointed out.

Shreyas now has four 50s in his last five matches that include an 80 against West Indies in an ODI earlier this month. However, he still doesn't feel he has cemented his place in the squad for the T20 World Cup in Australia. "I can't talk about cementing my place because as I mentioned earlier as well, the competition is so much," he pointed out.

MAN WITH NERVES OF

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 28: When the going gets tough, the tough gets going. First class Baroda cricketer Vishnu Solanki definitely falls into the 'tough' category.

In the last two weeks, the 29vear-old has shown that when it comes to showing nerves of steel in times of tragedy, he is one in a million. Not many people have the courage to turn up in a first class game after losing his newborn and then score a hundred only to get the news of his father's death and watch the funeral on a video call.

This Vishnu isn't God, he is a mere human, who is dealing with Herculean tragedy.

Vishnu was blessed with a daughter February 10 and with the bliss



of fatherhood, he was ready to turn a chapter in his life. But a day later, the infant died in hospi-

wanted was to hold his bundle of iov in his arms. Instead, he was performing the last rites.

No one would have thought anything if Vishnu would have stayed back to be by his wife's side. However, he was back in Cuttack for his side's game against Chandigarh. He smashed a hundred, perhaps reminded of a Sachin Tendulkar, who was back in Bristol days after his father's death.

But it seemed that the tragedy wasn't enough. On the final day of the match Sunday, Vishnu got a call from the manager. He was given the news that his ailing father, who has been battling severe illness, has passed away at a hospital in his home town. Vishnu however, did not leave the team... he stayed back. Committment to core.

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Geneva, Feb 28: In a sweeping move to isolate and condemn Russia after invading Ukraine, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) urged sports bodies Monday to exclude the country's athletes and officials from international events. The IOC said it was needed to 'protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants'.

The decision opened the way for FIFA to exclude Russia from a World Cup qualifying playoff match March 24. Poland has refused to play the scheduled game against Russia. The IOC's call also applied to athletes and official from Belarus, which has abetted Russia's invasion

by allowing its territory to be used

to station troops and launch mili-

tary attacks.

IOC appeals for Russia's ouster

The IOC said it acted 'with a heavy heart' but the impact of war on Ukrainian sports outweighed the potential damage done to athletes from Russia and Belarus.

It was not a total blanket ban by the IOC. Where exclusion was 'not possible on short notice for organisational or legal reasons'. then teams from Russia and Belarus would compete as neutral athletes with no national flag, anthem or symbols, the IOC said.

The IOC also withdrew the ২ Olympic Order it gave Vladimir Putin in 2001, and other Russian officials since.

Sports bodies across Europe had already moved Monday against Russia by refusing to -(host or play against teams from the country.



bubble, left for his hometown to

attend the funeral when all he



