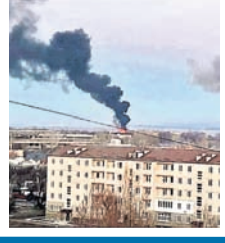




ACTING LESSON
Actor Kriti Sanon has opened up about her approach to play a complex character in *Bachchan Pandey*

LEISURE P2



IK STILL IN WARZONES
At least 1,000 Indians - 700 in Sumy and 300 in Kharkiv - are still stranded in conflict zones in eastern Ukraine

NATIONAL P7



INDIA REACH 357/6
Rishabh Pant misses out on a century as India reach 357/6 at stumps on Day 1 of the first Test against Sri Lanka

SPORTS P12

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Russia hits Ukraine N-plant



FIRE BALL: Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine up in flames, Friday

Facing worldwide indignation over the attack, Russia seeks to deflect blame

Kyiv, March 4: Russian invasion forces seized Europe's biggest nuclear power plant Friday in heavy fighting in south-eastern Ukraine, triggering global alarm, but a huge blaze in a training building has been extinguished and officials said the facility was now safe. Combat raged elsewhere in Ukraine as Russian forces surrounded several cities in the second week of the assault launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A presidential advisor said an advance had been halted on the southern city of Mykolayiv after local authorities said Russian troops had entered it. If captured, the city of 500,000 people would be the biggest yet to fall.

The capital Kyiv, in the path of a huge Russian armoured column that has been stalled on a road for days, came under renewed attack, with air raid sirens blaring in the morning and explosions audible from the city centre.

The fire at a training building at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant sent global stock markets plunging.

Although the plant was now said to be safe and the fire out, officials remained worried about the precarious circumstances, with Ukrainian staff operating under Russian control in

battlefield conditions beyond the reach of administrators.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi described the situation as "normal operations, but in fact there is nothing normal about this."

Grossi said the plant was undamaged from what he believed was a Russian projectile. Only one reactor was working, at around 60 per cent of capacity. He was trying to contact Russian and Ukrainian officials to sort out political responsibility. An official at Energoatom, the Ukrainian state nuclear plant operator, said there was no further fighting and radiation was normal, but his organisation no longer had contact with the plant's management or control over potentially dangerous nuclear material.

Indian shot at in Kyiv, stable

New Delhi: Indian national Harjot Singh received bullet injuries while he was attempting to escape from the Ukrainian capital, and is currently in a Kyiv hospital, where he is said to be "out of danger."

Harjot's brother Prabhjot Singh, who resides in Delhi's Chhattarpur, told IANS: "The last conversation I had with Harjot was February 26 at 9 pm. I haven't spoken to him since then. March 2, at night, he contacted the family and informed them about his injuries. He informed that he was hit by three to four bullets while he was trying to leave Kyiv. Local people took

him to the hospital via ambulance and after four days, when he regained consciousness, he contacted the family with a doctor's cellphone."

Harjot's family urged the government to evacuate him to Delhi as fast as possible for further treatment. According to information, Harjot was trying to reach the border with his friends and was expected to catch a train from Kyiv and reach Lviv somehow. However, he and his companions were not 'allowed' to sit in the train. He was shot at when he and his friends were coming out of the station. Harjot could not identify who fired the shots.



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STATE STARES AT EDIBLE OIL CRISIS

Government asks district collectors to check illegal hoarding of edible oil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: As the Russia-Ukraine war has affected smooth supply of edible oil, the state government has asked the district collectors to check illegal hoarding and artificial crisis of the oil in the state.

Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain informed this through a series of tweets, Friday. He said many countries are directly or indirectly affected by the prevailing war situation and it will continue in the coming days too.

The price of edible oil, especially sunflower oil, is likely to rise unreasonably in the country. The price has already started impacting the market, Swain said.

The minister further informed that the concerned departmental officials and district collectors have been instructed to take appropriate measures to prevent the artificial crisis and stop black marketing of the commodity in order to ensure an uninterrupted supply of sunflower oil.

He urged the Union government to reduce the import duty and other surcharges on edible oils for a temporary period.

Otherwise, the rise in the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas, and the increase in the price of edible oils will make the life of poor people, farmers and even the middle class miserable, the minister said.

Meanwhile, representatives of India's edible oil industry met Union Commerce and Food Minister Piyush Goyal Friday to discuss ways to check the galloping prices of the cooking medium as disruption of supplies of sunflower oil due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict threatens to make the situation worse.



CRICKET LEGEND WARNE NO MORE

SAKYASEN MITTRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Cricket legend Shane Warne died of a heart attack in Thailand, Friday. He was 52.

A maverick in the true sense of the word, a magician on the field and equally colourful off the field! Shane Warne should not simply be judged



by his 708 Test wickets and 293 in ODIs. He was far greater than what the figures suggest. He revived the dying art of leg-spin and prompted youngsters to emulate him and that made him truly an iconic player in the cricketing fraternity.

What else can you say of a man who 'bowed the ball of the century' (when he bowled Mike Gatting in June 1993). It is still called the same in the 21st century. At times cricket took a backseat in Warne's career. His doping suspensions, scandals kept him in the news always, but Warne always emerged unscathed. He made the ball do all the talking and the 'Magician of Oz' will always be remembered for his deeds on the field than off it.

In the end, his heart at the young age of 52 just stopped beating. Warne always had this art of coming up with the unexpected and his demise is equally shocking. Imagine only a few hours back he had tweeted his condolences for Rodney Marsh. Little did he know then that his time had come!

MORE P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



What kind of nonsensical poll speech you have written for me! It talks only about VIKAS!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	54333.81	↓ 768.87
NIFTY	16245.40	↓ 252.60
DOLLAR	76.95	↑ ₹0.25
EURO	83.99	↓ ₹0.50
GOLD	₹52,283	↑ ₹513
SILVER	₹69,232	↑ ₹1328

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX TEMP	34.0°C	33.8°C
MIN TEMP	20.6°C	20.5°C
Humidity	84%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

199 Odia students return from Ukraine

New Delhi, March 4: The state government Friday informed that as many as 199 Odia students, who were stranded in war-hit Ukraine, have returned safely to India.

While talking to media here, Resident Commissioner of Odisha Ravi Kant said that no Odia student is stranded in war-torn Ukraine's Kharkiv as per state government's records. He, however, said that if anyone has any information about any Odisha student still stranded in Kharkiv then the information should be forwarded to the government and they will take steps for the safe return of the students.

The state government said that many students were stuck in the

Kharkiv and Pischyn area of Ukraine during the past three days and were suffering a lot. The Odisha government said that as many as 65 Odisha students were evacuated from Kharkiv and Pischyn by making a special arrangement of two buses to eastern Ukraine border. The government has also expedited the work to evacuate all other students stuck in the area and bring them back to India through flights, it said.

Earlier, the state government had nominated four special representatives for Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, who will coordinate with the Resident Commissioner, New Delhi and the respective countries, for smooth evacuation of students and other Odia people stranded in Ukraine. **MORE P3**



56 killed, 200 injured in blast at Pak Shia mosque

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, though the Islamic State and sectarian militant groups have claimed responsibility for deadly attacks targeting Shias in past

AGENCIES

Peshawar, March 4: A suicide bomber blew himself up inside a crowded Shia mosque during the Friday congregation here in north-west Pakistan, killing at least 56 people and wounding nearly 200 others, in one of the deadliest attacks in the restive province, bordering Afghanistan.

The blast occurred at an Imambargah located near the Qissa Khwani Bazaar area of Peshawar when the worshippers were offering Friday prayers.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast in Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa which borders Afghanistan. However, the Islamic State and sectarian militant groups have claimed responsibility for the deadly attacks tar-



getting Shias in the past. Mohammad Asim, a spokesperson for Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), confirmed that at least 56 people were killed while 194 were injured in the blast.

An eyewitness identified a person as dressed in black as the suicide bomber, saying he entered the mosque, shot and killed the security guard first and then fired five to six bullets.

"After that, he quickly entered the [mosque's] main hall and blew himself up in front of the pulpit. Following this, there were bodies and injured people lying everywhere," the eyewitness told Geo News. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa gov-

ernment spokesman Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif said that two terrorists were involved in the suicide bombing.

Talking to the media, Peshawar SSP Operations Haroon Rasheed Khan said the explosion was a suicide blast. There were two attackers but only one of them was a suicide bomber, he said.

President Arif Alvi condemned the blast and expressed grief over the precious lives lost.

Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly condemned the blast and directed authorities to provide medical treatment to the injured. He also sought an inquiry report from the authorities concerned.

Cong announces BMC Mayor pick

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The Congress Friday announced Madhusmita Acharya as its candidate for the election to the post of Mayor of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Senior Congress leader and Jatni MLA Suresh Routray announced the name of Madhusmita, who is the daughter-in-law of late Congress MLA Kangali Charan Panda, for the post.

Meanwhile, the ruling BJD is holding discussions to finalise the names of Mayor candidates for Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur. The names can be announced at any moment, sources said. Former State Commission for Women chairperson Lopamudra Buxipatra, actress-turned Odisha Tourism Development Corporation chairperson Srimayee Mishra and the chairperson of Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Sulochana Das, are the key contenders from the BJD for the BMC Mayor post.

On the other hand, the BJP has given the responsibility of selection of suitable candidate for BMC Mayor post to local MP Aparajita Sarangi. Names of actress-turned politician Anu Choudhury and BJP state general secretary Lekhashree are doing the rounds. However, nothing has been finalised, party sources said.

leisure



SKYLAR ASTIN JOINS CAST OF GREY'S ANATOMY

Actor-singer Skylar Astin has been signed in a recurring role for the medical drama *Grey's Anatomy*. Skylar's arc will begin later this month, in the March 24 episode titled Put the Squeeze on Me, reports *Variety*.

PATTINSON WORE CLOONEY'S BATMAN SUIT: ZOE KRAVITZ

Actress Zoe Kravitz says Robert Pattinson wore George Clooney's Batman costume during their screen test with sweatpants. Kravitz admitted it was 'weird' to see the sight, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today people will actually drag you into altercations, so flash the peace sign if you must. You may face some sort of legal troubles from peace-loving groups. Therefore, Ganesh advises you to meditate, take a walk or just seek out the company of your near and dear ones.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you in a very romantic mood today. Your thoughts, tender and dreamy, will keep drifting towards someone special; someone of the opposite sex. Come evening and you will, in all likelihood, be sitting closely together, arm in arm, with your spouse or your sweetheart. The magic of love will raise your spirits and get you in a light and lively mood.

GEMINI
Today, you may decide to get a little more conscious about your health. Filled with positive drive, you may even plan to join a gymnasium or start taking a hard look at your calorie intake. Don't go overboard, though! You don't want to do it only today, and forget it tomorrow - plan and execute in a step-wise manner, so it doesn't get a bit too much.

CANCER
You will spend your day reflecting on your past and thinking what went wrong, predicts Ganesh. But keep in mind that your mistakes won't lead to the end of the world, unless you are a nuclear scientist. So get your act together, and stop brooding over your mistakes.

LEO
Do not be surprised if you find yourself today in a situation that somehow feels like a landmark moment in your life. Whether it is a personal matter or something related to work, that you must wait to find out, you will need all your grit and diplomacy to sail through.

VIRGO
The bulb of ideas will burn bright today. A possible see-saw between your contractual obligation and current duties may baffle you. New contacts will stand you in good stead. Blood will prove thicker, and family and friends will consolidate their place in your life.

LIBRA
Letting things build up inside you is never a good idea. Learn from this as there is every possibility that today might turn out to be an aggravating and exasperating day for you. You may feel that way due to all the amassed emotions and resentments, so let it all go.

SCORPIO
Investing in real estate could yield maximum profits today, says Ganesh. An unusual gain from speculative trade is also on the cards. But you may need to spend time in the waiting room, before a more profitable opportunity comes by.

SAGITTARIUS
The winds of fortune will usher in your dreams and make them come true. Be careful not to go overboard with your foresightedness, lest they be marked delusions, warns Ganesh. You must realise that the only thing permanent is change, and hence, you must overcome any disappointment with strong will and determination.

CAPRICORN
It may seem too far-fetched, but your boss will bank on your brilliance and unmatched abilities to get respite from the existing problems, says Ganesh. Moreover, much to the dismay of your rivals, you will have your way and gain popularity by winning the hearts of your clients.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will iron out any trouble with ease. But you may choose to play martyr and shoulder a bit of blame. That's quite a lot to do for others, even if it is done out of compassion. You may think you are setting standards for others to follow, says Ganesh, but that may not be the case.

PISCES
Needless rigidity only serves to imprison you within out-moded walls of faulty reasoning. Inculcating some flexibility will give you some much-needed wriggle room to manoeuvre things your way for good, says Ganesh.

ESSAYING COMPLEX CHARACTER IN BACHCHAN PANDEY

Sense of control my anchor point: Kriti

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon, who will be seen essaying the role of a filmmaker Myra Devekar in the upcoming masala entertainer, *Bachchan Pandey*, recently opened up about her approach to her character in the film. Sharing her thoughts on her understanding of a filmmaker's character, Kriti said, "As an actor, once you have gone through a certain number of films, you soak in more than you think, just by observing and looking around, you start understanding how the directors make their vision come alive, their process and mannerisms." The Mimi star added that the sense of control was her anchor point for her character. "I have seen so many talented directors at work, it feels like it was sort of easier for me to pick from them. A director's in control of everything on the set as he/she is the captain of the ship," said the actress. "So my main pick point on Myra was that this girl is very much in control and she is stuck in a place where situations get out of control", she concluded as she drew the contrast between her character's key trait and the situations that get better out of her. Meanwhile, Kriti has multiple big releases lined up including *Shehzada*, *Adipurush*, *Bhedhiya* and *Ganapath*.



Salman to showcase his art in first-ever solo show in India

Mumbai: Actor Salman Khan is all set to showcase his art in a first-ever solo show titled *Motherhood - An Artistic Ode to Mother Teresa*. The show is with Sandeep and Gitanjali Maini Foundation; and AGP World, in association with Being Human - The Salman Khan Foundation, gallery g and Artiere Gallery. Three paintings, including two new large-size works created by the artist will be on display at Bangalore's gallery g from March 11 to 20. Salman's artworks has already gone live online on Google Arts & Culture March 4. Two of his paintings, titled *Still In Hope of Compassion and Begging for Peace* will be on display on the GAC digital platform. A huge admirer of Mother Teresa, Salman appears to have dedicated much of his creative craft to her and the humanitarian work she has done. "I like to say it with my films. With the stories that I tell. With the songs that I sing. With the dialogues that I deliver. And sometimes, I like saying it with colour and a blank canvas," says Salman. Salman primarily works with canvas, acrylic and oil paints, as well as charcoal and ink. Most of his paintings are large, done on canvas or board measuring five feet or more in height. He has also been known to use accessories like chains, wood chips and plastic waste and other material to embellish and enhance his paintings.

PURVA RANGA - DAY 4

Saat Deewane 11 August 1942 evokes patriotic fervour

BHUBANESWAR: Prayas, a Patna (Bihar)-based theatre troupe, presented the Hindi play *Saat Deewane* 11 August 1942 here at Rabindra Mandap, Friday, on the fourth evening of ongoing Purva Ranga, a national multilingual theatre festival. The week-long event is being organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) in collaboration with the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture (OLL&C) and Eastern Zonal Culture Centre of Kolkata. Written and directed by Mithilesh Singh, the play made the audience travel to an era when youths faced the bullets of British forces fearlessly. Today, Sat Murty, a memorial tomb, in front of the Bihar Secretariat reminds people about their sacrifices. The plot revolved around seven school students including Ramgovind Singh and Ramanand Singh, who, in a bid to hoist Tricolour on Patna Secretariat building, were shot dead by the police during the freedom movement. The director added some element of patriotism to the play by using the songs of Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Gopalsingh Nepali, Bismil Azimabadi and Brijbihari Mishra. The actors who portrayed the historical characters included Deepak Anand, Govind Kumar, Satyam Shivam Singh, Sidhant Kumar, Gaurav Kumar Singh, Binod Kumar, Abhishek Mallick and others. Award winning film director Himanshu Khatua, dramatist Narayan Sahoo, theatre director Manoj Pattnaik and OSNA secretary Prabodh Rath were among the dignitaries who attended the show.



A scene from the play

Jhund scores a goal with its emotional appeal

The film may be termed as a Sports film but in reality, it is an inspirational one which arouses patriotic fervor and has a feel-good factor throughout



Film Review

Retired football coach Vijay Borade's (Amitabh Bachchan) ability to spot talent in a bunch of youngsters in the slum nearby and his conviction that they could form a formidable football team, not only represent their country but also channelise their energy to better their lives by giving up violence and drugs, and how he succeeds in his goal, forms the crux of this three-hour film. Nagraj Manjule's *Jhund* is not just a motley crowd of talented football players residing in a slum, but real people with real dreams and aspirations. Not ones wallowing in self-pity even though their lives are full of hardships, they are portrayed as a lot who are ready to seize the chance that life offers them. Their sincerity and ingenuity as the characters they essay are palpable. While in his treatment of the subject, Manjule is focussed and does not waver, with unnecessary

backstories or entertainment gimmicks. He spends too much time painstakingly detailing their lives and milieu and making them look unbelievably real. The film may be termed as a Director: Nagraj Popatrao Manjule. Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Chhaya Kadam, Priyanshu Kshatriya, Akash Thosar and others

Sports film but is in reality, it is an inspirational one. It arouses patriotic fervour; focuses on emancipation, and has a feel-good factor throughout. Nowhere does Vijay Borade appear larger than life. He is immensely relatable. Amitabh Bachchan as Vijay Borade, a character based on the life of a retired sports professor Vijay Barse, who founded an NGO called Slum Soccer, strikes a chord in your heart. Not only is his portrayal natural, but immensely believable and endearing. His emotional appeal to

the Lady Judge on behalf of the slum dwellers is achingly reminiscent of his charisma and oratorical skills. *Jhund* is a very surprising film, perhaps one of Amitabh's greatest films. It breaks everything we've learnt in 20-30 years being in the industry - Amir Khan

All the other ensemble cast deliver pitch-perfect performances, given the characters they are playing. They look and feel their parts effortlessly. Overall, *Jhund* reinforces that if the intent is good and convictions strong, the impossible can be achieved, and as the slum kids leave for the world championship league abroad, you no longer view them as just a crowd.

PEANUTS



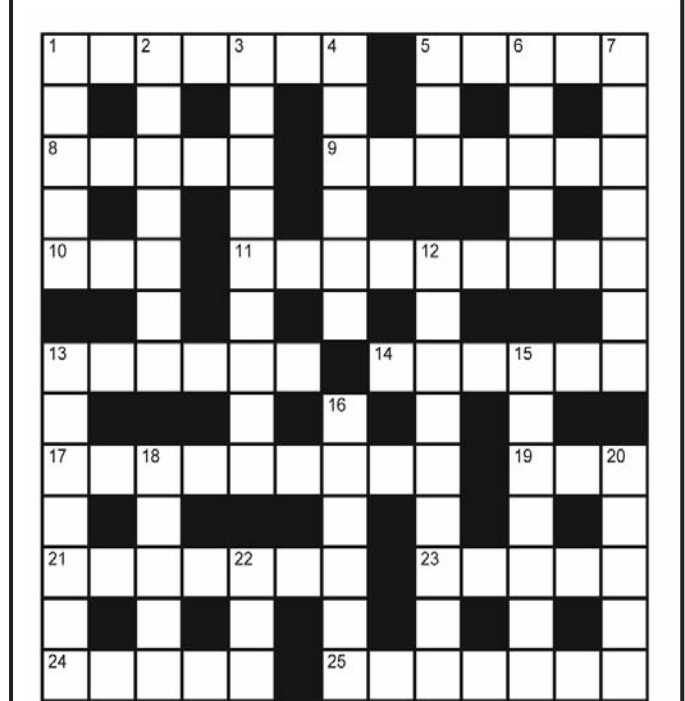
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY

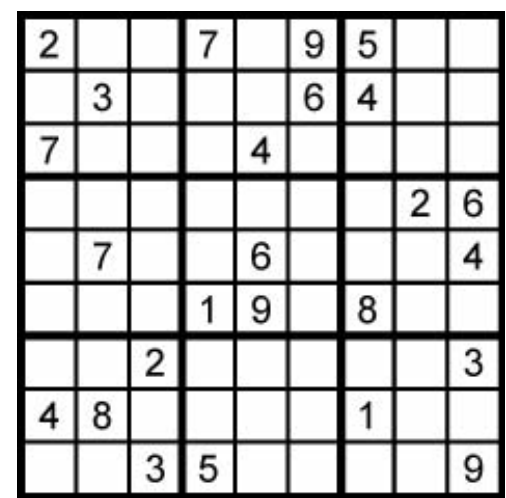


FUN post CROSSWORD

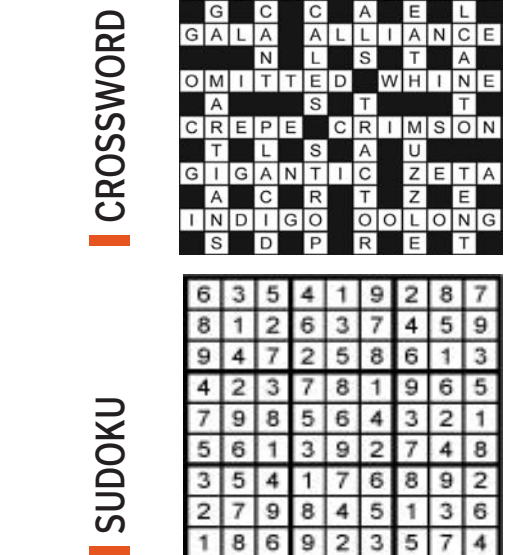


- Across**
1 Beg
5 French romance
8 All-day sucker
9 Invoke admiration
10 Cyst
11 Top-drawer
13 Swab target
14 On the double
17 Ceramic ware
19 Small dog
21 Liberate
- Down**
23 Sir or madam
24 Kind of bird
25 Obstetrician's prognosis (3,4)
1 Acquired relative (2-3)
2 Light lager
3 Acerate
4 Give expression to
5 Egyptian cobra
6 Corpulent plus
7 Italian rice
12 Spectacles of yore
13 Champion
15 Flammable hydrocarbon
16 Cautioned
18 Happen again
20 Honkers
22 Unspecified number

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS



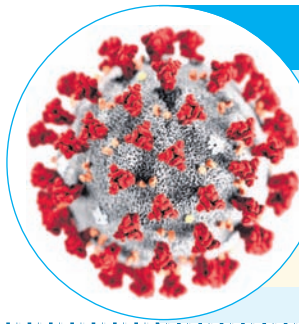
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



NATURE'S BOUNTY

A farmer plucks cauliflowers from his farmland on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	44,29,28,520	37,58,65,030	60,04,574
India	4,29,51,556	4,23,67,070	5,14,589
Odisha	12,85,615	12,74,756	9,091

Youth strangulated to death in City

MUKESH, WHO WAS IN JAIL FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN A BIKE THEFT CASE SINCE 2020, HAD COME OUT OF PRISON 4 DAYS BACK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: A day after the ghastly murder of a Bihari mason from Bhubaneswar, the capital city Friday witnessed the killing of another youth of the neighbouring state in a city slum here.

The deceased was identified as Mukesh Kumar Choudhury who was staying at Munda Sahi slum in Mancheswar area over past few years.

Mukesh was held in a bike theft case in 2020 and released from jail four days back after spending more than a year in prison.

Mukesh's body was found under the heap of bricks at the under-



The victim's body was found from an under-construction Micro Compost Center

construction Micro Compost Center of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation near the slum. Sources claimed that construction, which was stopped for last three months for different reasons, was scheduled to resume from Friday.

However, the labourers while clearing the heap of broken and old bricks to unload new bricks found Mukesh's body underneath. They

immediately informed the contractor who called the police.

Upon receipt of information, the police of Mancheswar police station and other senior officials of commissionerate police reached the crime scene. A police scientific team also reached the spot and collected finger prints and other articles from the spot for examination.

Later, Mukesh's body was recovered and sent to Capital hospital for post mortem. Police claimed that the autopsy report would unravel the causes of the death.

However, sources in police revealed that marks on Mukesh's neck indicated that he was strangulated to death by the murderers with a towel. After murder, the desperadoes had buried his body under a heap of bricks so that none could know about the case.

Police have started an investigation into the matter after registering a case (61/22) under Section 302 of the IPC in this regard.

Meanwhile, locals revealed that some drugs peddlers of the locality are behind the murder. Due to the halt in construction work, the site has turned into a safe zone for illegal drug trade. Recently, Mukesh had a heated argument with one peddler identified as Chandan of the slum.

Some locals also claimed they had seen Chandan and four others arguing with Mukesh at the spot Thursday night. Meanwhile, Chandan and others are absent since Thursday night.

Sustainability is the key: Aditya Das

With seafood exports growing by the day, **Aditya Das**, Managing Director of Ram's, the seafood exports division of the Suryo group of companies, has said Odisha's export volume would soon reach a whopping Rs 5,000 crore. The Suryo group has been in the seafood business for more than 40 years. Ram's has a vertically integrated hatchery to finished product value chain for Vannamei shrimp. Aditya is currently Vice Chairman of MPEDA.

During a *tete-a-tete* with **Orissa POST**, Das shared seafood market scenario and strategies for further devolvement of the industry. Excerpts...



What are the major challenges the seafood industry faced during the pandemic?

Initially, there were uncertainties and farmers incurred losses owing to panic harvests. Typically, shrimp is largely consumed by the HORECA (hotel, restaurant and cafe) sector; and this greatly affected the demand. However, there was a huge increase in demand from the retail segment and that certainly is good for the industry in the long run. However, until the HORECA sector recovers fully, small and medium exporters, who do not sell to the retail markets, would face a tough time.

ume of a whopping Rs 5,000 crore. Odisha has followed the same trajectory that world is seeing. Farm-raised products are increasing but the sale of wild caught products is declining. This situation needs to be addressed by the government.

What are the strategies for the growth of your company?

My strategy is sustainability because it is what we believe in and it is also what our customers want.

Any suggestion for the state government?

As far as shrimp farming is concerned, we have been suffering from the pandemic like white spot virus since 1995. This apart, there are 14 pathogens which affect shrimp farmers. The burden on small holder farmers who account for 90 per cent of the total farming population is severe. The government should invest in disease diagnostic labs and ensure that farmers of Odisha have access to good veterinary services. Diseases are currently responsible for the biggest amount of value destruction in this industry and we hope the government interacts with stakeholders and formulates correct policies. Also, there should be improvement of power infrastructure as most of the farming is in coastal and remote areas. Lack of power connectivity is the main reason why Odisha farmers are lagging behind their Andhra counterparts. Odisha government should also regulate the aquaculture industry to promote best practices and to crack down on bad practices.

Which is more in demand fish or shrimp?

In terms of volume, fish has the highest demand but in terms of value shrimp will overtake fish. However, demand for shrimp is highest in volume as far as Odisha is concerned. We witnessed a phenomenal growth of the industry. In 2006, the overall seafood export from Odisha was around Rs 500 crore but today we are looking at an export vol-



Heckled, walked miles with Indian flag to cross Ukraine: Odia students

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Odia students returning home from war-torn Ukraine Friday narrated their ordeal of having to walk miles in sub-zero temperatures waiving the Indian Tricolour and being heckled by Ukrainian soldiers before crossing the border to safety.

The Odisha government said that 65 students from the state were rescued from war-ravaged Kharkiv during the day, and efforts are underway to evacuate all Odia students from Ukraine within the next 24 hours. It said at least 199 Odia students have returned to the state from the eastern European nation so far.

Arifri Angelina Behera, a medical student from Cuttack who was among the 11 students who returned to Odisha from Ukraine during the day, thanked both the Centre and the state government for making arrangements for their evacuation.

"Once we crossed Ukraine, representatives of the Indian Embassy and the Odisha government made all arrangements for our safe return. But the real challenge was crossing the country. We lived in a bunker since February 24 and exited it only three days later. Every second was challenging while crossing Ukraine. However, we held the Indian Tricolour high and walked miles to reach the border," she said.

Eureka Choudhury, another student who returned to Odisha, alleged that Indians faced discrimination in Ukraine. "The Ukrainian soldiers were cordial to Nigerians and others but were harsh on Indians. I was heckled by them before crossing the international border to enter Romania. We walked 12 km in minus six degrees Celsius, which was really painful," she said.

Asish Bisi and Dinesh Sahu, who returned from Kharkiv, said that more students are still trapped in Ukraine, and they need to be evacuated immediately as the situation was worsening by the day.



The Odisha government, which has nominated special representatives to coordinate the safe evacuation of people from the state, arranged special buses for the transportation of 65 students from Kharkiv to Ukraine's international borders, from where they would return to India

The administration said that several people from Odisha have crossed over to Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia from where they were being evacuated by the Ministry of External Affairs on special flights

borders, from where they would return to India.

The administration said that several people from Odisha have crossed over to Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia from where they were being evacuated by the Ministry of External Affairs on special flights.

The state government has deputed Vikramaditya, vice-president of KIIT and KISS universities, to look after overall coordination for evacuation of students from Poland, while Arushi Ray of UNCHR has been assigned to coordinate the safe passage of students who have reached Hungary.

Similarly, Baishali Mohanty, a UN policy officer in Rome, will look after the evacuation from Romania and Anurag Patnaik, who is based in Hungary, will coordinate in Slovakia.

Students can avail outside scholarships

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The Higher Education (HE) department Friday permitted all degree colleges and public universities in the state to register themselves in the portals of other recognised educational institutions outside Odisha that award various scholarships to students.

In a letter to all principals of degree colleges and VCs of universities, HE department joint secretary Pativa Sahu said some educational agencies /institutions/universities outside Odisha are awarding scholarships to the students on the basis of merit. Many students from Odisha are interested to apply for those scholarships. "The state government has permitted the educational institutions for registration in the portals of the scholarship awarding institutions outside Odisha," Sahu added.

ULB polls: Babus told to keep off politics

ELECTIONS TO 47 MUNICIPALITIES, 59 NOTIFIED AREA COUNCILS AND THREE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS OF BHUBANESWAR, CUTTACK AND BERHAMPUR WILL BE HELD MARCH 24

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The state government has asked its employees to maintain strict neutrality during the urban local body (ULB) polls scheduled for March 24 this year.

In a letter to secretaries to government, director general of police, revenue divisional commissioners, heads of departments and district collectors, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said, government servants should remain absolutely impartial during the elections (ULB polls) and no one should indulge in any campaigning activities for or against any contesting candidate or any political party.

The Chief Secretary said vehicles, machinery and personnel belonging to government, public sector undertakings, cooperatives, local bodies and panchayati raj institutions should not be used in electioneering work in the ULBs.



Vehicles, machinery and personnel belonging to government, public sector undertakings, cooperatives, local bodies and panchayati raj institutions should not be used in electioneering work in the ULBs

Officials have been directed not to allow publication of any advertisement at the cost of the public exchequer, portraying the achievements of the government until completion of the polls

Transfer of the government employees connected with the urban election work has been banned till March 26, 2022

to allow publication of any advertisement at the cost of the public exchequer, portraying the achievements of the government until completion of the polls.

"No public servant should accompany a minister/such other political functionaries for electioneering except on duties from security point of view in ULBs. While dealing with different political parties in day to day official transactions, each public servant shall maintain absolute neutral-

Issuing another order, the Chief Secretary banned transfer of the government employees connected with the urban election work. The ban will remain in force till March 26, 2022.

Grant of leave of officials connected with the conduct of elections will not be allowed without reference to the SEC. Officials associated with the urban poll transferred prior to poll notification but have not been relieved, will not be relieved without concurrence of the commission, the Chief Secretary clarified.

Regular promotion will also not be made without the approval of the commission. Transfer of any other level of staff is also not allowed in the 109 urban areas till March 26, 2022.

Notably, elections to 47 municipalities, 59 Notified Area Councils (NACs) and three municipal corporations of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur will be held March 24. The election results will be declared March 26.

Minor album actress accuses 2 of rape

POLICE LAUNCHED A MANHUNT TO NAB THE ACCUSED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: A minor girl who works as a backup dancer Friday accused an album actor of sexually abusing her on the pretext of making her the lead actress in a short flick based on model Saumya Ranjan Panigrahi who ended his life in January this year over a failed relationship.

The police have started an investigation into the matter after registering a case based on a complaint by the victim.

As per the complaint, the victim started working as a backup dancer in albums after coming into contact with Bishnu Charan, a junior artiste supplier.

Charan recently contacted the girl and informed her about the offer to essay the role of Saumya's girlfriend in

the flick. He, somehow, managed to win the confidence of the minor.

The girl was asked to come to a house at Bharatpur area for the shooting of the flick.

Upon her arrival at the house Thursday evening, accused Suraj Kumar Biswal along with another youth tied her legs and hands on the pretext of shooting an abduction scene. But, the accused raped the girl repeatedly and dropped the latter near her house in Laxmisagar area Friday morning.

The girl revealed the incident to her family members who sought police help to arrest the accused.

Soon, police carried out a raid on the house in Bharatpur area but could not trace the accused. A manhunt has been launched to nab the accused who are absconding now, said a police officer.

Sex victim alleges police inaction

Bhubaneswar: A woman who was allegedly sexually abused by a fake godman Friday accused police of inaction. The woman Friday brought up the allegations against the police while speaking to media here. She alleged that Prafulla Kumar Das and Prakash Kumar Sahani sexually abused her in an ashram in Khandagiri area on the pretext of special ritual to solve her familial problems February 12, 2021. The lady managed to flee the ashram on the same night and filed a case at Khandagiri police station. She alleged Khandagiri police are yet to take action against the godman despite the lapse of over a year.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch (SARB), Sambalpur,
At: Hussain House, P.O.: Ainthapali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha-768004,
Ph.: 0663-2540025, Email: sbi.18398@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property) [Rule 8 (1)]

Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice was issued on the date mentioned against below account and stated hereinafter calling upon him to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against below account. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **STATE BANK OF INDIA, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch** for an amount stated below with interest & expenses thereon. **The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.**

Name & Address of the Borrower /Guarantor/ A/c. No.	Owner of Property	Description of the Property mortgaged / charged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
Borrower: Smt. Priya Ghosh (deceased), W/o- Sri Kamlesh Ghosh & Smt. Geeta Rani Ghosh, W/o- Sri Shankar Kumar Ghosh, At: Station Road, Lamtibahal, P.O.: Brajarajnagar, Dist.: Jharsuguda, State: Odisha, PIN-768216 /A/c.No.: 35841841404 (TL)	Smt. Geetarani Ghosh	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building standing in the name of Smt. Geetarani Ghosh, bearing Khata No.: 610/832, Plot No.: 860, Area: Ac.0.083dec., Kissam: Gharabani, situated at Mouza: Brajarajnagar Town Unit No.: 1, P.S.: Brajarajnagar, Tahasil/Dist.: Jharsuguda, Odisha	29.11.2021	02.03.2022	₹23,98,691/- as on 24.11.2021 + interest & other expenses thereon
Borrower: M/s. Mexa Industries, Represented by its Partners: 1) Sri Shibashis Patro, S/o- Late Prafulla Kumar Patro, 2) Smt. Pramodini Patro, W/o- Late Prafulla Kumar Patro, At: Plot No.: 252/948, Khata No.: 19/30, RTO-2, Bankia, Aero Villa, Complex, Near Omfed Factory, Rourkela-769009, Dist.: Sundergarh, State: Odisha / A/c.No.: 36555615166(CC), 36555471494 (TL)	M/s. Mexa Industries	Hypothecated Plant and Machinery in the name of M/s. Mexa Industries, stocks and receivables.	31.08.2021	03.03.2022	₹36,32,260/- as on 31.08.2021 + interest & other expenses thereon

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 04.03.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India**

Lokayukta seeks Min's reply on Aruha blackstone mining



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, March 4: The Lokayukta has sought a reply from the state revenue and disaster management minister over alleged irregularities including illegal mining of blackstone on Aruha hill under Dharmasala tehsil of Jajpur district, an official said Friday.

The Lokayukta emphasised that the views of the minister should be submitted on or before the next date of hearing March 8.

According to official sources, the revenue minister had intended to do so through his personal secretary vide office letter (No-59/14.02.2022), following which a notice was served on the minister.

The name of erstwhile geology joint director, zonal survey in Dhenkanal Amiya Kumar Rout, who is a party to the case, was wrongly mentioned in the primary probe report, the Lokayukta's letter stated.

The former joint director's actual name is Anup Kumar Rout and he has already got superannuation. Notably, the leaseholder, Jena, was given permission by Dharmasala

The Lokayukta emphasised that the views of the revenue & disaster management minister should be submitted on or before March 8

tehsil office for the mining of blackstone on a three-acre patch at Aruha hill. However, Jena carried out mining over a patch of 6 acre and 80 decimal instead.

The Lokayukta had ordered erstwhile Jajpur District Collector, four tehsildars of Dharmasala and three RIs of Aruha circle, including the lessee Jena in November 26 last year to submit their clarifications.

The officials and the lessee were given six-week's time. The RI of Aruha Circle-I had prepared a wrong sketch map of the leased area covering 6 acre and 80 decimal. The sketch map was later certified by Dharmasala tehsildar and he had ordered geologist Gautam Sahu to pre-

pare a detailed mining plan. The detailed mining plan was approved by joint director Rout. For which, Rout was also earlier ordered to submit his explanation.

Former Revenue Inspector (RI) of Aruha circle Basudev Sahoo, leaseholder Trinath Jena, former Dharmasala tehsildar and presently Deputy Collector of Gajapati Prabbas Kumar Behura were present during the hearing and they gave their clarifications.

Excess mining of the precious blackstone from Aruha hill has resulted in severe revenue loss for the state government. It was alleged that the lease owner mined blackstone from the hill in connivance with Jajpur local police and tehsil officials. The Lokayukta had issued a notice over a petition (1355/2020) filed by social activist Sarbeswar Behura on excess mining of blackstone from the hill and subsequent loss of revenue to the state government December 10, 2020.

The complainant, Behura, had prayed before the Lokayukta to direct an inquiry into the issue by the Crime Branch and accordingly order recovery of the lost revenue.

According to the petition, the Dharmasala tehsil office had issued a notice inviting applications for leasing of Aruha blackstone quarry-1, September 1, 2017. Accordingly, the lessee was given a five-year contract (2017-2018 to 2021-2022) for blackstone mining from Aruha hill on the basis of Odisha Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 2016.



Locals (inset) of Hanspal on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar are in a huddle to see a crocodile in Puri canal, Friday. The reptile was later rescued by Forest officials

Google, Centre hail local startup

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The central government along with Google Play has selected Odisha-based startup's ZyadaShop among 100 startups from across India that will find support and guidance to build high-quality global apps and games.

Aiming to help India's next generation of innovators unlock their potential, MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Google have announced a cohort of 100 Indians early to mid-stage startups to help them grow into successful global businesses part of the Apscale Academy. The 100 startups were chosen from over 400 applications following an in-depth selection process that took into account their creative ideas and innovation, product quality and talent diversity.

Founded by Satyajit Pradhan along with Subhra Das and Debasis Panda, Bhadrak-based startup Appylux's product Zyadashop was recognised by the MeitY for catering for the small scale merchants and traders. With only one year of its formulation the application proved to be a boon for merchants by launching their business through e-commerce by launching websites and applications at very nominal charges.

12 Odisha dists identified for Mission Indradhanush 4.0

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has identified 12 districts and five municipal corporations of Odisha for Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 drive, 2022.

The MoHFW has identified Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Koraput, Khurda, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts for the IMI 4.0 drive. It has also identified Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Rourkela municipal corporations for the purpose, sources said.

The aim of IMI 4.0 is to strengthen routine immunisation coverage through tracking and vaccinating all left out/drop out children in the age group of 0 to 2 years and pregnant women. The Mission Indradhanush was launched in Odisha in 2015 and nine such drives have been conducted in the coastal state so far, sources added.

The state has achieved 90.5 per cent immunisation coverage as



per NFHS 5 report 2020-21. This is highest among all states.

The major strategy of the IMI 4.0 drive is cascade training, head count survey by ASHA Anganwadi workers, sub-centre micro planning, vaccine & logistic supply, supervision & monitoring, and reporting. The district task force meeting is convened regularly by the Collectors to review the preparedness for this initiative. All line departments are involved in the drive.

Three rounds of IMI drive will be conducted from March to May this year and each round will be of seven days. The first round will start March 7 and the subsequent rounds are scheduled to

begin April 4 and May 2. The detailed operational guideline along with the timeline has been communicated to the 12 districts. Nodal officers have been engaged in all such districts for supervision and monitoring, sources said.

The state-level task force meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare department, for smooth conduct of the immunisation drive.

The officials of Panchayat Raj, Women & Child Development, Housing & Urban Affairs, School & Mass Education, Sports & Youth Affairs, ST & SC Development Labours & ESI, and Information & Public relations departments were present at the meeting.

The head count survey in the 12 districts has identified 10,997 children between the age group of 0-23 months and 2,631 pregnant women who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. At least 4,625 IMI sessions will be conducted across the 12 districts for vaccination of such left out/drop out children and pregnant women, sources said.

SPI, Adani Solar to promote solar energy in state's rural areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: Smart Power India (SPI) Friday announced partnering with Adani Solar to encourage solar energy usage in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.

While SPI is a subsidiary of the solar photovoltaic manufacturing arm of Adani Group.

In a statement, SPI said it has signed a non-financial and non-commercial memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Adani Solar in a bid to ensure equitable access to last-mile electricity and encourage energy transition in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha states.

The MoU aims at promoting the usage of solar rooftop panels and achieving five megawatts (MW) of solar deployment through Adani Solar's channel partners in rural and peri-urban areas of the said states, it said.

SPI Chief Executive Officer Jaideep Mukerji said, We are excited to partner with Adani Solar and optimistic that their world-leading expertise in renewable energy will be a tremendous amplifier for SPI's mission of creating C&I (commercial and industrial) ecosystem across the nation.

128 Cov cases, 6 deaths in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Odisha reported 128 new COVID-19 cases, pushing the tally to 12,85,615, the Health department said Friday.

Six more patients succumbed to the coronavirus, taking the death toll 9,091, it said.

The daily positivity rate was 0.26 per cent and 22 children were among the new infections, a bulletin stated, adding that 49,614 samples were tested in the past 24 hours.

The infections are the lowest since 123 cases December 27. The



state had logged 138 COVID-19 cases and zero death Thursday.

Odisha currently has 1,715 active COVID-19 cases, while 12,74,756 people have recovered from the disease, including 330 patients in the last 24 hours, it said.



ENTRANCE TEST

Children come out after appearing for an entrance test to Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya at Unit-I Govt High School in Bhubaneswar, Friday

CBSE: Students of St Xavier Int'l School graded on merit

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 4: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has refuted the allegations of students against St Xavier International School Odisha with regard to preparation of the Class X results in 2021 and told the SC that students were graded on merit only.

The CBSE submitted that the petition alleging the school of putting undue pressure on the students who passed Class X in 2021 to take admission in Class XI at the same school deserves to be dismissed as the enquiry panel did not find any evidence supporting the charge.

A two-judge bench of the SC comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and CT Ravikumar Friday granted two weeks time to the petitioners to file a rejoinder in the petition. The CBSE had contended that the inquiry panel, formed to probe allegations of the students, had submitted in its report that the marks have been awarded as per the historical data and range provided by the CBSE as per the school reference year 2020 by duly following the Tabulation Policy.

The CBSE also submitted that petitioners are entitled to know their internal assessment marks, highest average in the preceding three years and the marks assigned by the Result Committee to them, from their school but they can't claim the attendance sheet, report of result committee and detailed score card of all the students of Class X of their school.



Significantly, a petition has been filed in the SC by some Class X pass out students who alleged that an Odisha-based school has denied providing them detailed scorecard and answer sheets to 'conceal its malpractices' in awarding marks. The plea, filed by 24 students who have passed out Class X from the school, has sought a direction to the CBSE to review and declare their results afresh on the basis of the board's evaluation policy after collecting correct record from the school.

It said the CBSE's Class X board examinations were cancelled in April last year amid the pandemic and the assessment policy was notified by the board in May 2021. The petitioners urged the SC to direct an inquiry against the school for illegally demanding money and putting undue pressure to take admission in Class XI in the same school to get good scores in Class X. It has also sought directions to the school and other respondents to provide rationale documents, attendance sheets of each examination and each subject conducted by the school and also the detailed scorecard for Class X students which had to be prepared in terms of the evaluation policy.

'Antibody therapies, vax blunted by Omicron subvariants'

The effectiveness of mRNA vaccines and antibody therapy is reduced against all three subvariants of Omicron, according to new research.

The study by scientists at Columbia University and the University of Hong Kong showed that only one currently authorised antibody treatment retains its activity against all Omicron subvariants.

Omicron is a highly transmissible variant of SARS-CoV-2 that has caused the biggest surge in Covid cases so far in many countries.

Researchers have identified three subvariants of Omicron that

share 21 mutations in the spike protein, and named them BA.1, BA.1.1 and BA.2.

The findings, published in the journal Nature, showed that in neutralisation experiments, all three variants exhibited a strong resistance to most of the monoclonal antibodies tested.

Of 19 antibodies, 17 were ineffective against the BA.2 subvariant. The researchers found that bebtelovimab, the latest monoclonal antibody to receive FDA Emergency Use Authorisation, is the only currently available antibody therapy that can adequately treat all three Omicron subvariants.



"The emergence of new variants is narrowing our treatment options and challenging the effectiveness of our current vaccines," said David D. Ho, Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Vagelos College of

Physicians and Surgeons.

"It is critical that we don't relax prematurely and continue to devise novel strategies to contain this ever-evolving pathogen," he added.

In laboratory experiments, the team studied the ability of 19 monoclonal antibodies and the sera from individuals immunised with one of two available mRNA vaccines to neutralise the three known subvariants of Omicron.

The researchers observed a loss of neutralisation activity against BA.1.1 and BA.2 in blood samples from individuals who had received two mRNA shots.

However, the decline in neu-

tralisation was less prominent in blood samples from individuals who had received three mRNA shots, reinforcing the importance of booster shots for sustaining immunity.

When Omicron was first identified in November 2021, the dominant variant was BA.1.

Since December, BA.1 cases have declined, while BA.1.1 cases have risen and now make up around 40 per cent of all Omicron cases sequenced globally. The BA.2 subvariant currently represents only 10 per cent of all Omicron cases globally but is increasing in prevalence.

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SHORT TAKES

ASSAULT CASE

Centre probes PMAY 'scam'

Chandikhole: Taking serious note of allegations about irregularities in rural housing scheme in Barchana block of Jajpur district, a team of the Union Rural Development Ministry has started investigations in some panchayats. Reports said a two-member central team visited various villages under Siha, Sunguda and Bantala panchayats. They looked into many cases wherein ineligible people have been provided houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Earlier, some people had apprised the Union Rural Development minister of the large-scale irregularities under PMAY in the above-said panchayats. The two central officials were also accompanied by assistant director of the Panchayati Raj department Kulamani Mishra, Barchana block development officer (BDO) Ajit Narayan Giri and some block officials.

Two-time BJP councillor joins BJD

Bhadrak: Ahead of the urban local body elections, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has been expanding its base in Bhadrak by organising merger meetings. In such a development, Ghauli Jena, a former councillor who was elected twice on the BJP ticket from ward 16 and ward 5 in Bhadrak municipality, has joined the BJD Friday. He along with hundreds of his supporters joined the ruling party at the residence of MLA Sanjib Kumar Mallick. It is said that his joining in the ruling party would bolster the party prospects in the two wards.

Viral video

Bolangir: A video of a man asking voters to return the money he had distributed while seeking votes for his wife, who was defeated in the rural polls, has gone viral. The video is said to be from Uparjhar of Bolangir district. While the authenticity of the video is yet to be ascertained, the clip has gone viral.

Union Minister Tudu deposes before police

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, March 4: In deference to an order of the Orissa High Court, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu deposed at the Baripada Town police station, Friday, in connection with a case filed against him earlier. Notably, two government officials had filed a complaint against Tudu at the police station accusing him of assaulting them during a review meeting January 21. They alleged that the minister had called deputy director of the district planning and monitoring unit (DPMU) Ashwini Kumar Mallick and assistant director Debashish Mohapatra to his office for a review meeting on utilisation of his MPLAD funds in the district. There, the minister had allegedly abused and assaulted them. An audio clip of the conversation between the minister

Two officials had filed a police complaint against Tudu accusing him of assaulting them during a review meeting Jan 21

and the two officials had gone viral, creating flutters in various circles. Following a complaint, police registered a case and got statements of the two officials recorded at JMFC court. Earlier, the High Court had granted anticipatory bail to the Union minister and directed him to depose before the investigating officer March 4. Tudu reached the police station Friday and interacted with the investigating officer for five to seven minutes. However, the minister had earlier dismissed the allegation made against him.

SUMMER DELIGHT



A farmer loading watermelons on a pick-up van in Bhimkund panchayat under Telkoi block of Keonjhar district, Friday

OP PHOTO

Ganjam scripts history in MGNREGA jobs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, March 4: Ganjam district has set a milestone in employment generation by providing 100 days of work to over 1 lakh families, the highest in India, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in financial year 2021-22. As per records, the southern district of Odisha provided 100 days of work to at least 1,01,001 families, topping the list nationally, followed by Rajasthan's Barmer district. Meanwhile, out of the top 40 districts in India, Odisha's Sundargarh stood at 14th position, Bolangir 15th, Kandhamal 26th and Koraput 37th position. These Odisha districts have been applauded for creating job opportunities in rural areas during the pandemic. Lakhs of migrant workers, who had been working in other states for livelihood, had to return to their homes after Covid-19 broke out. Since, then the district administration, under the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik,



effectively implemented the scheme to beat the challenges of Covid-19 on the rural economy. The main aim was to provide employment to all those who needed it and create durable assets for sustainable livelihoods and to change the face of rural Ganjam. Many community projects such as rural parks, tourism circuits, tanks and canal renovation, check dams and rural connectivity were taken up under MGNREGA.

As per records, the southern district of Odisha provided 100 days of work to at least 1,01,001 families, topping the list nationally, followed by Rajasthan's Barmer district. Meanwhile, out of the top 40 districts in India, Odisha's Sundargarh stood at 14th position, Bolangir 15th, Kandhamal 26th and Koraput 37th position. These Odisha districts have been applauded for creating job opportunities in rural areas during the pandemic.

Similarly, individual projects such as cattle sheds, goat sheds, poultry shelters, Mo Upakari Bagicha, fodder cultivation and others were taken up in a massive scale on priority basis. Similarly, coconut, mangoes and other fruit trees were planted to boost the horticulture sector in the district. Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has emphasised on creating livelihoods through MGNREGA for the people and asked all the

Cigarette butts pressed on youth's private parts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, March 4: Police Friday arrested seven people and detained a minor on charges of pressing cigarette butts on the private parts of a youth and attacking him at Sindhiguda village under Papadahandi police limits of Nabarangpur district. The incident had occurred February 28 a video of which has gone viral. The accused had tied the limbs of the youth before attacking him on suspicion of having illicit relationship with his friend's wife. The accused were identified as Anand Goud, Madhab Paika, Jagannath Goud, Indra Goud, Benu Goud, Purnan Goud, Butu Goud and Jayaram Goud - all residents of Sindhiguda. Reports said Anand suspected that the youth was having an affair with his wife. On February 28 night, the victim was in the house of his

friend Anand when some of the latter's associates, who were hiding in the house, immediately tied the victim to a pole, stripped him naked before thrashing him. They also pressed lit cigarettes on his genital before setting him free.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETCPMIBBS2022023, Dt. 28.02.2022
NAME OF WORK: EXECUTION OF GEO-TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION & SOIL EXPLORATION WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO. 182, 183, 184 & 185 BETWEEN BARANG - MANCHESWAR, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 199 BETWEEN RETANG - KHURDA ROAD, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 203 BETWEEN KHURDA ROAD - KAPADAR ROAD, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 225 BETWEEN BHUSANPUR - KALUPARA GHAT, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 233 BETWEEN KALUPARA GHAT - KUHIRI, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 247 BETWEEN GANGADHARPUR - BALUGAON, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 260 & 263 BETWEEN BALUGAON - CHILKA, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 274, 275 & 276 BETWEEN RAMBHA - HUMMA, LEVEL CROSSING NO. 311 BETWEEN JAGANNATHPUR - BRAHMAPUR AND LEVEL CROSSING NO. 317 & 320 BETWEEN BRAHMAPUR - GOLANTHRA STATIONS (TOTAL 17 ROAD OVER BRIDGES) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 54.10 Lakhs, EMD (₹): 1,08,200/-
Completion/Period of the work: 04 (Four) Months.
Date and time of closing of tender: At 1200 hrs of 22.03.2022
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
 Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.
 The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.
Chief Administrative Officer(Con)/ PR-142/CE/21-22 Bhubaneswar

Man gets life term for murder

Anandapur: The court of additional sessions Judge Ranjan Kumar Sutar Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment while hearing a case of murder that took place at Bargoth village under Kathakata panchayat in Keonjhar district. The court also imposed a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict, Surendra Ho. He would undergo one-year additional jail term, if he fails to pay the penalty, the court said in its order. According to the prosecution, Surendra hacked his sister-in-law (his brother's wife) to death with an axe October 16, 2015 over a family dispute. Surendra was arrested on the basis of a complaint filed by his brother.

FOCUS: R UDAYGIRI

BJD, Cong on toes for samiti chief post

POST NEWS NETWORK

R Udaygiri, March 4: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress are making all-out efforts to get their nominees elected as block chairperson of R Udaygiri in Gajapati district, though the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) seems to be lagging behind, a report said.



Both the parties are claiming to have required number of samiti members to elect the block chairperson. There are 17 samiti mem-

A party can grab the chairperson's post if it manages to garner support of at least nine samiti members

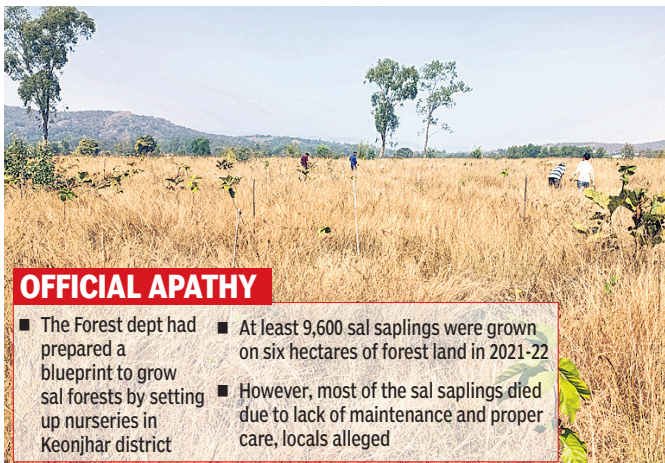
bers elected from 17 panchayats under the block. A party can grab the chairperson's post if it manages to garner support of nine samiti members. The BJD has reportedly kept its 11 samiti members in an undisclosed location. Frontline leaders and workers of the both the parties are now trying to poach samiti members from each other's side. The Congress has also kept some of its samiti members in an unknown place till the election. In 2017 panchayat elections, the block chairman post was reserved for ST women. This time, the post has been reserved for ST men.

Sal afforestation project flops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, March 4: An afforestation project aimed at reviving and creating sal forests in various parts of mineral-rich Keonjhar district has been lying in utter neglect, said sources.

Keonjhar was once rich in sal forests but over the years many sal forests have vanished while several others are depleting due to timber smuggling, rampant mining and lack of maintenance by the Forest department. Now, unwanted herbs and shrubs have grown in the forest land allocated for sal plantation. Locals fear a few sal trees that are left in the forests might get burnt while people clean their fields by setting the unwanted herbs on fire. Meanwhile, a few forest officials were seen cleaning the unwanted trees as the principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) is due to visit Keonjhar to oversee the sal plantation project. "They are doing it just to save their jobs," locals said condemning such act of the officials. According to sources, the Forest department had prepared a blueprint to grow sal forests by setting



OFFICIAL APATHY

- The Forest dept had prepared a blueprint to grow sal forests by setting up nurseries in Keonjhar district
- At least 9,600 sal saplings were grown on six hectares of forest land in 2021-22
- However, most of the sal saplings died due to lack of maintenance and proper care, locals alleged

up nurseries. At least 9,600 sal saplings were grown on six hectares of forest land in 2021-22. As per the project, the Forest department raised saplings through nurseries and then the saplings were transplanted on the forest land. Sal trees are valuable and they grow in natural settings. Sal seeds also germinate naturally and grow faster. However, most of the sal saplings died due to lack of maintenance and proper care, locals alleged. While locals had appreciated

the project idea and the effort of the Forest department in generating sal forests and were hopeful of its success, negligence by some officials ruined the entire project. At least 80,000 sal saplings were raised at nurseries in Padmapur, Belda and other areas. However, most of the saplings have died leaving crores of rupees down the drain. Now, since the PCCF is likely to visit the areas, forest officials are on their toes to save their jobs, angry locals complained and demanded strict action in this regard.

Scam alleged in 'Vyasa Sarovar' facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, March 3: An ambitious plan for beautification of 'Vyasa Sarovar' shrine and its corridor at Vyasaganar here involving a whopping ₹64 crore is mired in allegations of irregularities.

It is being alleged that the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund sanctioned for the project is not being spent properly. The quality of the work has come under scanner. And this comes at a time when the municipality election is round the corner.

Although the Tourism department had prepared a blueprint for the purpose, people have alleged that the construction company is botching up the work, raising doubts about the durability of the project.

Locals alleged that instead of stones, the construction firm is using bricks.



Similarly, it is using mud and murrum instead of sand for laying the foundation for the boundary walls. The boundary is not being constructed as per the blueprint prepared by the Tourism department, the locals added. Since this is a place of mythological significance, it was supposed to be

developed into a place of good tourist destination. "However, irregularities from the beginning of the project, has caused resentment among the people," said a local. As per records, Vyasa Sarovar Peetha sees a footfall of over 7 lakh visitors every year. People from Keonjhar and Dhenkanal districts visit the place to offer prayers to lord Vyasadev and Raghobaji Gosain. But with no proper road to the shrine, the devotees are facing inconvenience. When contacted, Vyasaganar Municipality executive officer Ashok Kumar Rout said a blueprint was prepared by the Tourism department for renovation and beautification of Vyasa Sarovar and the project was carried out through National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC). "So, the officials of NBCC can give their response," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
 RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, JAJPUR, AT- JARAKA
 rwddivision_jaraka@yahoo.co.in
'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. RWD-II/JPR-08/2021-22
 No.0-1767:-

1	Name of work	Construction of building works for the year 2021-22 in the District of Jajpur
2	Total No. of work	1 No. of building work
3	Estimated cost	As indicated against each work in the NIT (Approx.)
4	Period of completion	As indicated against each work in the NIT
5	Class of contractors	As indicated against each work in the NIT
Other details as follows:		
a)	Procurement officer	Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Jajpur at Jarak
b)	Availability of tender online & submission of bid	07.03.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 14.03.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.
c)	Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification	11.03.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
d)	Opening of tender	14.03.2022 at 4.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
 Rural Works Division-II, Jajpur at Jarak
 OIPR-25080/11/0015/2122

ICVL ZAMBEZE LIMITADA
 (A wholly owned subsidiary of ICVL)
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
 Ref. No.: IZL/E01/01/2022 Date: 21.02.2022
 ICVL Zambeze Limitada (IZL), Mozambique, a WoS of International Coal Ventures (P) Ltd., invites qualified entities for submission of EOI for appointment of Mine Developer cum Operator for its Zambeze Coal Project in Mozambique. For detail visit website: <http://icvl.in>
Last date of submission of EOI is 22.03.2022
 davnv 40107/12/0001/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
 MECHANICAL DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR-3
 e-mail I.D. smdivisionbbsr@yahoo.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.20/ W/2021-2022
No.A-864:The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate basis bid in single cover system through e-procurement for the work mentioned below.

1	Total No. of Works	3 (Three) Nos. of Mechanical gate works
2	Estimate cost put tender	Approximately Rs 6,18,268.00 to 7,48,263.00 (Excluding GST)
3	Tender paper cost	Rs 4000/- (Non refundable)
4	Class of Contractor	SSI Units registered under DIC / NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation shutter/ Hydro Mechanical gates
5	Period of Completion	30 (Thirty) days
6	Available of Bid Documents and receipt of bid through online	From 07.03.2022 (11.00 A.M) to 16.03.2022(5.00 P.M)
7	Date, time and place for opening of online tender	17.03.2022 at 11.00 A.M in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, BBSR
8	Lottery	If required the date of lottery to be intimated to the Qualified Bidders after evaluation of Bid
9	Digital Signature certificate	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature certificate (DSC)
10	Name and Address of Officer Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, BBSR-3

Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
 Sd/- Executive Engineer
 Mechanical Division, Bhubaneswar-3
 OIPR-32385/11/0004/2122



The path is long, but self-surrender makes it short; the way is difficult, but perfect trust makes it easy.

THE MOTHER



Babu's posting challenged

A division bench of the Telangana High Court has agreed to hear a plea filed by a social worker seeking directions to the state government to remove IAS officer Neetu Kumari Prasad from the post of Member Secretary, Telangana Pollution Control Board for allegedly not possessing the mandatory qualifications in subjects of environment, forests and science, which are statutory requirements according to the Supreme Court.

Earlier, responding to similar PILs questioning the legality of the guidelines fixed for selecting candidates to post of Member Secretary and Chairperson of the board, the state High Court too had ruled that the state government cannot decide to appoint only an officer from the IAS or IFoS to these posts. Further, the court had pointed out that appointing IAS or IFoS officers would affect the functioning of the board since the government would transfer these officers frequently whereas the post of Member Secretary requires a minimum tenure of two to three years.

Babu watchers say that given the Supreme Court's directive and the High Court's earlier ruling, it is unlikely that the current petition challenging Prasad's appointment will have a different outcome.

Ambitious target for Commerce babu

India's flagging exports have necessitated the restructuring of the Department of Commerce. Sources have told DKB that at a recent meeting with senior officials, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted the need to revamp the department to take advantage of opportunities in global trade due to the rapid growth of services and disruptive potential of climate change. The minister has given Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam and his team an ambitious target of facilitating exports worth \$2 trillion by 2027.

Those aware of these developments say that after the revamp the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and other organizations in the ministry that promote investment and trade will be given a freer hand to achieve the export targets. They also see a stronger role of overseas missions in trade promotion and market intelligence.

Apparently, Goyal has also indicated that a dedicated Trade Remedies Review Committee of specialists will be created, which will also include the Ministry of Finance and line ministries to ensure transparency in investigation outcomes. Clearly, this is yet another push to strengthen Brand India and Subrahmanyam and his colleagues have their work cut out.

Gujarat govt tightens screws on corrupt cops, IAS officers

Besides the recent avalanche of scams that have been unearthed in Gujarat, the state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel faces another problem. Of late there have been several allegations of bribery and corruption against police officers. Most recently there have been allegations of bribery against the Police Commissioner of Rajkot Manoj Agarwal. The complainant is reportedly a BJP MLA, and thus cannot be overlooked.

Sources have informed DKB that the Patel government has received several names and anonymous complaints alleging extortion and misuse of the land grabbing law by cops. Apparently, it is becoming a serious issue, and not just in Rajkot. Now the government is believed to be preparing guidelines to keep police officers away from cases where land deals are involved. Among the new rules will be an instruction that police officials cannot take up an investigation of any complaint in a land matter without the government's permission. The government is planning to set up a high-powered committee to investigate all major allegations of corruption in land matters against senior IPS and IAS officers. The government will consider the recommendations of the panel and take necessary action.

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

WISDOM CORNER

- Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form. **RUMI**
- A great artist can paint a great picture on a small canvas. **CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER**
- Big doesn't necessarily mean better. Sunflowers aren't better than violets. **EDNA FERBER**

WORDSWORTH

Acrophony

For Apple, B for Ball, C for Cat. It's a useful way to teach children the sounds of the letters of the alphabet. Apple, ball and cat are just usefully short and common words that just happen to begin with the letter. They're not the names of the letters, because in English we call the letters of the alphabet by invented words - ay, bee, see - that do no more than convey the sound that it represents (with the notable exception of the name for h, aitch, which doesn't have an initial h in it). But in some languages the names of the letters are words that have a meaning of their own. This is acrophony, the use of a word starting with a letter of the alphabet as the name of the letter. From such pictographic symbols, Egyptian scribes derived the world's first alphabet by the principle of acrophony, in which a hieroglyph for a word came to represent the first consonant of that word. So, for example, the Egyptian word for "owl" began with an (m) sound, so the glyph for "owl" became the letter m. The best-known cases are Classical Greek and Hebrew, both derived from ancient Phoenician. In Hebrew, for example, the first four letters of the alphabet are aleph (the Hebrew word for ox), beth (house), gimel (camel) and dalet (door). It's as though our children's alphabet had been transformed into the actual names for the letters, so that 'a' wouldn't be called or said ay, but apple. There has long been a scholarly disputation about the source of the Phoenician and Hebrew alphabets, with some researchers arguing the names were merely a way by which scribes recalled the alphabet. However, it's now agreed that these alphabets were originally hieroglyphs that pictured the objects named. As the hieroglyphs evolved into letters, the names were carried over with them. Acrophony combines the Greek prefix acro- meaning uppermost or head, with -phony, sound, hence "the sound of the initial letter".

LOL

What's on your back?

Three men are traveling in the Amazon, a German, an American and an Indian, and they get captured by some Amazons. The head of the tribe says to the German, "What do you want on your back for your whipping?" The German responds, "I will take oil!". So they put oil on his back, and a large Amazon whips him ten times. When he is finished the German has these huge welts on his back, and he can hardly move. The



Amazons haul the German away, and say to the American, "What do you want on your back?" "I will take nothing!" says the American, and he stands there straight and takes his ten lashings without a single flinch. "Now this your turn. What will you take on your back?" the Amazons ask the Indian. He responds, "I'll take the American."

BOYCOTT RUSSIAN ENERGY

FOCUS UKRAINE INVASION

Blocking the Russian central bank's foreign-exchange reserves was a brilliant move. Disconnecting some Russian banks from the SWIFT financial messaging system was helpful. And pursuing the offshore wealth of Putin's cronies is appropriate. But none of these actions have stopped the Russian invasion of Ukraine for one reason, and none of them will.

The reason is simple: Russia continues to export oil and gas. Indeed, the war has boosted the price for these products, benefiting the most important sector of the Russian economy. So, a week after it began, Western energy consumption is still financing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the Russian elite is doing better than ever. The only way to stop Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression is to impose a comprehensive boycott on all Russian energy products.

Energy comprises the bulk of Russia's exports, primarily in two forms: gas to Western Europe, via pipelines and paid for on long-term contracts, and oil to world markets, sold mostly on spot markets.

According to figures from the International Energy Agency, "Revenues from oil and gas-related taxes and export tariffs accounted for 45% of Russia's federal budget in January 2022. Considering current market prices, the export value of Russian piped gas to the EU alone amounts to \$400 million per day. Total export revenues for crude oil and refined products currently amount to around \$700 million per day."

So far, there have been some small disruptions to Russian oil exports, but no impact on gas exports, according to the IEA. With Brent oil prices up from around \$90 per barrel to around \$110 per barrel since the invasion started (and up from \$80 at the end of 2021), Russia has plenty of cash coming in. If there is a discount on Urals crude, it is smaller than the increase in oil prices - so Russian oil exporters are still ahead, financially.

Over the past month, the daily value of Russian oil exports has increased by around \$100 million per day (calculated from the IEA estimate of daily Russian exports, multiplied by our estimate of the increase in the effective price for



Very soon Ukrainian agriculture will collapse as no one can plow or plant seeds while being attacked by Russian forces. This will push up global food prices because Ukraine is the world's fifth largest exporter of wheat

Urals crude). The Russian current-account surplus was about \$19 billion in January 2022, or about 50% higher than is typical for January (in most years, the monthly surplus is \$9-12 billion).

There is a view in policymaking circles in the United States that the current policy of financial sanctions is degrading Russian oil capacity in a way that serves US strategic interests. But by putting more cash into the pockets of oil producers, the US and its allies are having the opposite effect. There is no alternative to sanctions that immediately reduce the volume of Russian oil and gas exports.

A comprehensive boycott of Russian energy can start with the US imposing full sanctions, including secondary sanctions, on all Russian oil and gas exports. The world oil price will rise, but if the sanctions are fully enforced, none of that windfall will go to Russian producers. In this scenario, the IEA estimates that oil production around the world will be boosted very quickly - Russia exports five

million barrels per day; additional world supply can add at least three million bpd. Energy conservation measures can and should also be introduced where appropriate.

Of course, the European Union would need to follow suit. But, to put it bluntly, this is only a matter of time. The EU can either stop buying Russian gas now, to halt the invasion, or it can wait a month, until thousands more people have died - and the horrific photos of civilian casualties flood every channel. At some point soon, Europe will no longer be able to stomach the fact that it is paying for Putin's atrocities in Ukraine.

The IEA has a sensible plan for how to wean Europe off Russian gas, and a team at Bruegel has published important proposals and have addressed how to get through the next few months without Russian gas. Every European policymaker needs to confront the issue head-on.

To be sure, Europeans will have to make difficult decisions, not least how to finance the immedi-

ate transition away from Russian gas. But imagine the decisions that must now be made in Ukraine, to keep people alive and to prevent the greatest humanitarian disaster Europe has seen since World War II.

Nor will the impact be limited to Europe. For example, very soon Ukrainian agriculture will collapse: No one can plow or plant seeds while being attacked by Russian forces. This will push up global food prices, because Ukraine is the world's fifth-largest exporter of wheat, implying a major impact on budgets and poverty in low-income countries.

Some Europeans will need help to pay their heating bills, and they may face other economic costs because of what Putin is doing. But compare this with millions of Ukrainians already struggling to find food, safe drinking water, and essential medicine - and to avoid being shot or blown up. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian children are already traumatised for life, and their suffering will only get worse unless Putin is stopped immediately.

The outpouring of support for Ukraine and Ukrainians has been amazing. More than one million refugees have been welcomed by individuals and governments throughout the EU, and the US, the United Kingdom, and other countries are providing many forms of assistance. We are grateful for all of it.

But it is time to face the harsh reality that Putin and his cronies have gone berserk. The world can either boycott Russian energy fully today, to stop the invasion immediately, or it can continue to watch Russian forces commit one outrage after another - every day moving closer to the territory of EU countries.

No one in the world should buy Russian energy. The stigma should be worse than for blood diamonds. The world is arming and encouraging a violent, uncontrollable monster. It must stop.

The author has been Economic Adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy since May 2019.

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SPECTRUM EMPLOYMENT

Fastest jobless economy

Presently we are reaping what is called "demographic dividend." Because of the increase in the production of food and improvements in medical sciences, the life expectancy of our people has increased. As a result, today a large population in age group of 12 to 25 years is entering the labour market. A paper published by the Apeejay School of Management has assessed that an increase of 1% in the GDP leads to about 0.2% growth in employment in India. Another study has assessed that at the global level 1% increase in GDP leads to a growth in employment of 0.3%. This means that if we are able to attain the projected 10% growth rate, which is considered to be very high, even then the increase in employment will only be 2% which is highly inadequate to absorb the increasing number of youths that are entering the labour force.

Capital expenditures have been increased in the Budget. This is most welcome. But it may not create the number of jobs that are required for our youth. In this situation we need to put in place an

employment policy. We have to impart such skills to our youth which will be continue to be in demand even if robots and artificial intelligence take over the jobs of manufacturing and intellectual works. For example, education requires one to one interaction between the students and teachers, healthcare requires one to one interaction between the nurses and the patients, and tourism required one to one interaction between the hoteliers and the tourists. Such jobs are not likely to be extinguished because of robots and artificial intelligence. The difficulty is that obtaining such skills requires much effort. The youth of our country are more focused on obtaining government jobs. They find that those who have got government jobs are making huge money while those who are not in government jobs remain poor. Therefore, they have less interest in obtaining skills of education, health and tourism.

The second step to be taken is to encourage businesses to employ more numbers of workers. A businessperson has to decide whether

to do specified work by manual labour or by machine. For example, loading of trucks can be done by machines or it can be done by manual labour. The businessman may find it profitable to employ labour if it is efficient and the wages are less. However, the organised labour in our country is protected by labour law which makes it difficult to take work from them. There exists a further problem of unionization which leads to derailing production processes. Therefore, businesses are more inclined to use machines rather than labour. The solution is to simplify the labour laws so that businesses can fearlessly employ larger number of workers and create more jobs.

The third step to be taken by the government is to provide tax relief to small and medium industries who do more work by labour and less by machines. The difficulty is that GST has made a single rate of tax for all industries. Small industries are not able to compete with large industries. The market of small industries is increasingly getting transferred to large industries who are, in turn,

using robots or automatic machines. This is leading to less growth of jobs. That is the reason why 1% growth in GDP is leading to only 0.2% growth in employment in India against 0.3% growth in employment globally. The government should introduce two separate rates of GST for small and large industries. In Canada and United States there are number of GST rates yet it is possible to transport goods from one place to another place seamlessly. If we provide lower rate of tax for small industries then they will be able to compete with large industries and create more jobs.

Even if we increase in the capital expenditures and attain a 10% growth rate, even then the increase in employment will only be 2% which will be much less than what is needed. Therefore, we need special efforts to create jobs. Unless this is done, we will see a large unemployment and social disturbances arising out of the same.

The author is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

THE YOUTHS IN INDIA FIND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE GOT GOVERNMENT JOBS ARE MAKING HUGE MONEY WHILE THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN GOVERNMENT JOBS REMAIN POOR

Rise in cybercrime cases

Sir, Our growing dependence on technology has led to the increase of cyber fraudsters. The crooks are now looting hard-earned money from denizens by sitting at a far fetched place. According to the commissionerate police data, cyber crooks have siphoned off more than Rs.1.39crore from the victim's accounts in February 2022 and Rs. 1.31 crore in January 2022 in Bhubaneswar. With the help of the cyber desk, police have recovered some of this money. Nowadays our financial transactions are now mostly through online mode and due to this people turn prey to the fraudsters. Government should enhance cyber security departments with the latest technology and well-informed officers so that these thefts can be brought under control. Citizens need to inform the police as soon as possible after the robbery.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

UN fails the world

Sir, As the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters the second week, much to the agony of all peace-loving people all over the world, the international agency United Nations (UN) has totally failed in its duty. It has neither prevented the war nor stopped it from turning more diabolical. When tensions began mounting in the region, the UN should have put its act together and averted the war. UN officials made some polite remarks, but they had no impact on the Russian leader, who went ahead with his devious plans. It was shocking that a permanent member of the UN Security Council was trying to overturn another UN member by use of brute force. This was in gross violation of the UN Charter, which makes it obligatory for every member nation to eschew the path of violence in settling all bilateral and multilateral disputes. It did not matter to Putin that Ukraine did not have any nuclear weapons. The use of cluster bombs and other deadly weapons against the civilian population, as can be seen from the pictures and videos that emerge from Ukraine, suggests that Russia is guilty under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. When the UN was constituted in 1950 at the end of the Second World War, the global expectation was that it would avert at least major wars. In the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the UN is not even a bit player. It has not been able to put either moral or military pressure on the aggressor, who even threatens to unleash its nuclear arsenal against innocent people.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

The entire world now is passing through a 'najuk daur' (delicate period) of this century. Many countries are today affected by the pandemic, unrest and uncertainty. But you must have seen however deep the crisis is India's attempts (to address them) are even bigger and firm

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Certain incidents happening during Governors' address and violence taking place in certain institutions should be completely avoided as such things will weaken democracy and leave people disillusioned

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

India should not have been divided on lines of religion but it happened and it was unfortunate. But India's native Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jews who were left in Pakistan, and besides them those in Bangladesh and Afghanistan as minorities faced religious persecution

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Three die after consuming liquor

Farrukhabad (UP): Three people have died allegedly after consuming adulterated liquor purchased from a government outlet in Uttar Pradesh's Bharatpur. Jitendra Singh, 50, his friend Omkar, 45, and Monu, 26, had purchased the Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) from the outlet in Ahlapur village under Mohammadabad Kotwali and were partying when they suddenly fell from their chairs after consuming the liquor. They were rushed to a private hospital nearby where the doctors declared them dead, the police said.

Oppn attacks govt on OBC quota issue

Mumbai: The BJP-led opposition Friday attacked the Maharashtra government in the Legislative Council alleging that the latter had failed to protect quota for OBCs in local bodies. The tussle between the opposition and the government on the issue led to the Council being adjourned for the day. "The state government has failed to protect political quota for OBCs in local governing bodies. We are not satisfied with its current assurance that necessary steps would be taken to protect this quota," Pravin Darekar, Leader of Opposition in the Council, said. Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar had informed the House that the MVA government would replicate the Madhya Pradesh model and take some legal steps to postpone local body polls.

Ex- Army Chief Gen Sunith Francis dead

New Delhi/Panaji: General (ret'd) Sunith Francis Rodrigues, who headed the Indian Army between 1990 and 1993 and served as the governor of Punjab between 2004 and 2010, passed away Friday, as per an official statement. He was 88. Rodrigues died peacefully at a private hospital near Panaji, Goa around 1.30 pm, sources said.

4 killed as truck falls off flyover

Durg: Four persons were killed after the truck they were travelling in fell off a flyover in Chhattisgarh's Durg district in the wee hours of Friday, police said. The accident occurred around 12.30 am on the flyover near Green Chowk under Mohan Nagar police station limits here, an official said.



I am very much worried about the lives of Indian students stuck in Ukraine. Life is very precious. Why is it taking so much time to bring them back? Why were steps not taken earlier?

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

BACK ON TRACK

With the improvement in the overall Covid-19 situation, IIT Kharagpur authorities are planning to start offline classes but the dates for that will be decided only after all the students are back in the campus, Registrar Tamal Nath said Friday



UKRAINE CRISIS

1K Indians still in warzones: Centre

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 4: At least 1,000 Indians - 700 in Sumy and 300 in Kharkiv - are still stranded in conflict zones in eastern Ukraine, the government said Friday, adding that arranging buses to evacuate them was proving to be the biggest challenge right now. "We will continue Operation Ganga till the last person gets evacuated. Roughly 2,000-3,000 (more Indians) are likely to be there (in Ukraine), the number



can vary," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam

Indians have left Ukraine's borders since India issued its first travel advisories in mid-February. He said 15 flights landed in India as part of the evacuation mission during last 24 hours, bringing back more than 3,000 nationals. The spokesperson said 16 flights are scheduled for the next 24 hours. Over 10,300 Indians brought back in 48 flights under 'Operation Ganga' so far, he added.

IndiGo said it will operate 12 evacuation flights with over 2,600 Indians from war-torn Ukraine's neighbouring countries between Friday and Sunday.

OVER 2,000 INDIANS TO BE BROUGHT BACK TODAY: Over 2,000 Indian nationals are expected to be evacuated under the 'Operation Ganga' Saturday. The Centre has initiated an airlift operation to evacuate Indians, who have found their way to neighbouring countries of war-torn Ukraine. It has deployed a number of special charter as well as Indian Air Force flights to ferry back the citizens.

New entry point opens for evacuation

New Delhi: The Indian Embassy in Slovakia Friday said that Indian nationals from western and north-western Ukraine are now coming to the newly-identified border checkpoint at Vysne Nemecke to ramp up the evacuation. According to the officials in the Indian mission, Vysne Nemecke is a small village on the Slovakia-Ukraine border and opposite Ukraine's Uzhhorod city. From here, the evacuated Indians are transported to the regional capital, Kosice, from where the Indian flights under 'Operation Ganga' are being operated. The officials in the Indian mission in Slovakia have made arrangements for Indian nationals entering Slovakia from Vysne Nemecke. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has personally visited the site to see the arrangement made there for Indian students who have been advised to get to Slovakia's Kosice, instead of going to Budapest in Hungary.

Bagchi said at a briefing. "Our primary focus is to get Indian students out of conflict zones in eastern Ukraine. We are urging both sides (Russia and Ukraine) to find ways so that we can take out our citizens. A local ceasefire would help," he added.

Indian medical students stranded at the Sumy State University issued a desperate plea for help earlier in the day, saying they were 800-900 were trapped in their hostels without much food or water while there was gunfire, shelling and freezing temperature outside. Mr Bagchi said around 20,000

LAKHIMPUR CASE

SC to hear plea for cancellation of Ashish Mishra's bail March 11



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: The Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear March 11 a plea challenging the grant of bail by the Allahabad High Court to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that left eight people, including four farmers, dead.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan that the other accused in the case are moving courts for grant of bail citing the relief granted to Ashish Mishra and asked him to intimate the high court that the top court is hearing the plea for cancellation of bail. "I can list March 11 only. Other judges have to be available," the CJ said. A single-judge bench of the high court, on February 10, had granted bail to Mishra who had spent four months in custody. Bhushan submitted that the high court while granting the bail, did not follow the law laid down and did not consider aspects like tampering with

evidence and fleeing from justice. "The problem is that other accused are also moving," he added. He sought a direction to the high court that for the time being, the bail plea of other accused be not considered. "File a memo before the high court that we are hearing March 11," the bench said.

Three family members of farmers, who were killed in the violence, have sought a stay on the February 10 bail order of the high court, saying the verdict was "unsustainable in the eyes of law as there has been no meaningful and effective assistance by the state to the court in the matter".

Recently, another plea seeking cancellation of bail of accused Ashish Mishra was filed by advocates Shiv Kumar Tripathi and CS Panda on whose letter the apex court had taken the suo motu cognizance of the incident. On October 3, last year, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

UNDERAGE DRIVING

HC concerned, urges govt to act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, March 4: Expressing concern over underage driving, the Madras High Court has directed the government to effectively implement the Motor Vehicles Act to prevent minors and underaged persons from driving motorised two-wheelers or four-wheelers.

Justice S Kannammal hoped that the law enforcement agencies would find ways and means, so that there may not be any such recurrence of the adolescent getting entangled in untoward incidents of motor vehicle accidents and suffer silently.

"This Court also takes judicial notice of the fact that juvenile driving is on the rise in our state (Tamil Nadu) and it is not encouraging. Innocent lives are being lost or impaired at a young age, much to the chagrin of the lawmakers and the society as a whole," the judge said.

"Instances are galore that teenage boys indulge in bike racing without any impunity, with utter disregard to the safety of other road users. Therefore, it is high time that there should be an effective implementation of the Motor Vehicles Act to curb the menace of underage driving," Justice Kannammal added.

The court gave the direction and made the observation while rejecting a plea from Irfan, who drove a two-wheeler and met with a road accident and sustained serious injuries when he was a minor in September 2010.



FEAST TIME



A white pelican preys on a fish at Anasagar lake in Ajmer district

PTI PHOTO

Chennai gets its 1st Dalit woman mayor



R Priya
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 4: R Priya, the DMK candidate for the post of Chennai mayor, was elected unopposed Friday. Twenty-eight-year-old Priya is a post graduate in

Commerce and a first-time councillor. She is the first Dalit mayor of the Chennai Corporation and the third woman to do so.

Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gagan Singh Bedi administered the oath of office to Priya, who is the 49th mayor of Chennai. She was given the ceremonial robe and mace by the state health minister Ma Subramanian and HR&CE minister Sekar Babu.

Priya thanked Chief Minister MK Stalin, Health minister Ma Subramanian, HR&CE Minister, PK Sekar Babu, and the people of Chennai on her assuming the new office.

The next council meeting will be held after consultations with the mayor and the Commissioner, the corporation officials said.

Council meetings will be held every month to discuss civic issues and pass resolutions in the 15 zones of the city.

ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

Uproar in Haryana Assembly

Home minister Anil Vij introduced the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022, on the third day of the Budget session



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 4: The Haryana government Friday introduced a Bill in the state assembly against religious conversion through force or fraud, triggering an Opposition uproar. Speaker Gian Chand Gupta also suspended Congress MLA Raghuvir Singh Kadian for the remaining part of the budget session for tearing a copy of the bill

in the House. The Congress members staged a walkout in protest against Kadian's suspension.

Home Home minister Anil Vij introduced the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion

of Religion Bill, 2022, on the third day of the budget session. After the bill was presented, Kadian alleged that it reflects "divisive policies".

Chief Minister Manohar Lal

Khattar said there was no mention of any religion in the Bill and it only talks about forcible conversions. Congress members then rose from their seats, objecting to some remark by Khattar. Kadian tore the copy of the bill, inviting the wrath of the Speaker.

When Kadian said it was a simple paper, Gupta insisted that the bill was a legal document and asked the Congress member to express regret over his act, saying he will not allow such behaviour in the House.

Gupta then suspended Kadian for the remaining part of the budget session.

The Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill prohibits religious conversions which are effected through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage by making it an offence.

In election yr, HP's Budget focuses on agriculture, job creation

IN THE POPULIST BUT DEFICIT BUDGET, THAKUR, WHO HOLDS THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO, ANNOUNCED A REDUCTION IN THE ELIGIBILITY FOR OLD AGE PENSION FROM 65 TO 60 YEARS, IRRESPECTIVE OF INCOME CRITERIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, March 4: In an election year, the BJP government in Himachal Pradesh led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur Friday presented a budget of ₹51,365 crore for 2022-23 with the focus on the agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry sectors, the state's mainstay, with a promise to create 30,000 jobs and no new taxes.

He announced that social security pension was being given to 6.35 lakh people and 40,000 new pensioners would be added to the list. He announced to increase the monthly old age pension

from ₹1,001 to ₹1,500 and to increase the Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme (MLALAD) fund from ₹1.80 crore to ₹2 crore. The honorarium of urban and rural local bodies, anganwari workers and Asha workers has been increased.

"According to the revised estimates for 2021-22, the total revenue receipts are ₹37,312 crore and the total revenue expenditure is estimated to be ₹37,034 crore. Thus there is a revenue surplus estimated at ₹278 crore.

"According to the budget estimates for 2022-23, the total revenue receipts are expected to be ₹36,375 crore and the revenue ex-



penditure is estimated as ₹40,278 crore. The revenue deficit is es-

timated to be ₹3,903 crore. "The fiscal deficit is expected to be ₹9,602 crore which is 4.98 per cent of the state's Gross Domestic Product. The budget does not propose new taxes. We will ensure that adequate resources are arranged with effective tax compliance, cooperation of the government of India and better financial management," said Thakur.

According to the budget, out of every ₹100, ₹26 will be spent on salaries, ₹15 on pension, ₹10 on interest payment, ₹11 on loan repayment, ₹9 for grants for autonomous bodies, while the remaining ₹29 will be spent on other

activities, including capital works. He said the state's economy is expected to grow at 8.3 per cent during 2021-22. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, this increase is a big achievement of the government.

The excise and tax collections had risen by 15 per cent to ₹9,282 crore. According to the Advance Estimates for 2021-22, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is expected to be ₹175,173 crore. The estimates also indicate that the per capita income in the state will be ₹201,854 crore, which is ₹51,528 crore higher than the estimated per capita income at the national level. An outlay of ₹12,921 crore is

proposed for development expenditure in 2022-23, the Chief Minister said. "Out of this, ₹9,524 crore is proposed for the state development budget. An outlay of ₹2,400 crore is proposed for Scheduled Caste Development Programme and ₹856 crore is proposed for Tribal Area Development Programme."

Expressing his gratitude to the House, the first-time Chief Minister said it was a matter of pride and joy that he had learned many new things during this period.

In this budget, he said, special care has been taken of all employees and para workers.

KARNATAKA BUDGET

No tax hike, ₹1k crore for Mekedatu project

While presenting his maiden budget in the state Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai reserved ₹6,000 crore for Bangalore infrastructure development

AGENCIES

Bangalore, March 4: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai proposed no increase in taxes in the Budget 2022-23 presented by him in the state Legislative Assembly Friday.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented his maiden budget with an estimated ₹2,65,720 crore consolidated funds for 2022-23 and expressed his government's commitment for the implementation of the Mekedatu project across river Cauvery, to which neighbouring Tamil Nadu is opposed to, and provided ₹1,000 crore for it this year.

With just a year left for the Assembly polls in the state, this is most likely to be the last full-fledged budget ahead of the elections.

"The economy in 2021-21 is on the road to recovery. In these circumstances, I am not willing to put extra burden of additional taxes on the common man," Bommai said.

Presenting the budget in the Legislative Assembly, he said tax collection targets will be achieved by ensuring all the tax departments perform better.

The government has set a collection target of ₹77,010 crore for the Commercial Tax Department; ₹15,000 crore for the Department of Stamps and Registration; ₹29,000 crore for the Excise department and ₹8,007 crore for



The economy in 2021-21 is on the road to recovery. In these circumstances, I am not willing to put extra burden of additional taxes on the common man. Also, realising the difficulties caused by the Covid second and third wave, sales tax on petrol and diesel has been reduced in November 2021. Because of which the petrol and diesel rates had come down by ₹7 per litre

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

transport department. The total revenue receipts amount to ₹2,61,977 while the public debt stands at ₹72,089 crore.

The Chief Minister also said that he is not increasing the petrol and diesel rates. "Realising the difficulties caused by the second and third wave of Covid-19 pandemic in 2021-22, sales tax on petrol and diesel was reduced in November 2021. Because of which the petrol and diesel rates had come down by ₹7 per litre," he noted. Compared to other south Indian states, the rates of petrol and diesel are less in Karnataka, he said adding, "I am not intending to increase the rates in 2022-23." He also announced ₹55,657 crore to boost economic activities in the state. The government allotted ₹40,944 crore for the comprehensive development of children.

Stating that the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Bangalore Drinking Water Project will be implemented by getting required clearances from the appropriate authority of the Union government, Bommai said for implementation of the project, a grant of ₹1,000 crore will be provided in the current year.

Pointing out that his government has given more importance for preservation of cattle resources and has implemented the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, the Chief Minister said for effective implementation of the act, the number of 'Goshalas' will be increased from 31 at present to 100 and ₹50 crore will be provided for the purpose.

Also for the first time in the state, the government will

launch 'Punyakoti Dattu Yojane' to encourage public and private institutions to adopt cows in the Goshalas by paying ₹11,000 annually.

To encourage the use of farm machinery and to reduce fuel expenditure for the first time in the state, diesel subsidy at ₹250 per acre subject to maximum for 5 acres will be given through DBT under a new scheme 'Raitha Shakti' for which ₹500 crore has been provided in the budget.

An amount of ₹500 crore has been provided in the budget for the development of infrastructure in the government schools of the state, and priority will be given for selected aspirational taluks under this grant. Seven engineering colleges will be developed as the Karnataka Institute of Technology (KIT) on the lines of the Indian

Institute of Technology (IIT). The government will collaborate with foreign universities in this regard, he added.

The budget also proposes to establish 438 "Namma Clinics" in major cities of the state; also they will be established in all wards of Bangalore. In these clinics, the services of detection of non-communicable diseases and referral for higher treatment to specialists will be provided.

To enable establishment of enterprises, entrepreneurship training will be provided in the prestigious IIM Bangalore to 300 women graduates of SC/ST. The budget also allotted ₹43,188 crore for women empowerment.

The Chief Minister announced ₹33,700 crore for agriculture and related activities and ₹20,601 crore for the Water Resources Ministry. He also allotted ₹31,980 for Education; ₹16,076 crore for Urban development; ₹13,982 crore for health; ₹12,655 for Power; ₹2,288 crore for Food and Civil Supplies; ₹16,388 crore for the Revenue Department; ₹9,389 crore for Social Welfare; ₹10,447 crore for the PWD; ₹3,594 for Housing and ₹8,457 for Agriculture and Horticulture.

He stated that the government would provide ₹5,000 each for 30,000 pilgrims going on the Kashi pilgrimage. Bommai also reserved ₹6,000 crore for Bangalore infrastructure development.

DGP: 85 terror modules busted in J&K last year



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, March 4: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh recently revealed that around 85 terror modules involving grenades, civilian killings and other terror activities were busted in Jammu and Kashmir last year.

"Attempts (by terrorists) to create disturbance by planting IED (improvised explosive devices) in Jammu have been foiled recently. A huge quantity of arms, explosives, grenade and other material have been seized," Singh said during a cricket tournament here.

Accusing Pakistan of making repeated attempts to create disturbances in Jammu, Singh said the police and other security forces were continuously monitoring and foiling their evil designs.

Thanking the people for their support, he said the Jammu and Kashmir Police proved to be successful in its mission because of them, especially the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. "It is time the young generation comes forward to spread the message of peace

The Jammu and Kashmir Police proved to be successful in its mission because of the people, especially the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. It is time the young generation comes forward to spread the message of peace and love

DILBAG SINGH | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

and love," he said.

Referring to the killing of a civilian in Kulgam, the DGP said it is shameful on the part of the terrorists and their masters.

Calling the participating teams in the cricket tournament as ambassadors of peace, Singh said sports is a tool to promote peace, tolerance, and understanding and it brings people together cutting across cultures and regions.

Sports can be utilised to further strengthen social cohesion. It also promotes equality and serves as a platform to promote values of diversity, he said.

DELVING INTO DIVINITY



Muslims listen to the head priest before offering prayers at the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, Friday. The mosque reopened for Friday congregational prayers for the first time after almost seven months of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic

PTI PHOTO

BJP MLA: Naveen's body would occupy space for 10-12 people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 4: Karnataka BJP MLA Arvind Bellad said the body of Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagouda, who was killed in shelling in Ukraine March 1, would occupy space that could be utilised to evacuate 10 to 12 stranded people from the war-torn country.

Underlining that the Union and the state governments have been making every effort to bring the body of Naveen from Kharkiv in Ukraine, the Hubballi Dharwad West MLA stressed that the place where the body is kept is a war zone and it is difficult to bring it back to India under current circumstances.

"It is a war zone. You all are showing the ground situation on television through your channels. Body will be brought once the flight services become operational," Bellad said Thursday.

"In a situation when bringing the living is proving to be difficult, it will be even more difficult to bring the body because it occupies more space. In place of it, 10 to 12 people can be brought," the



In a situation when bringing the living is proving to be difficult, it will be even more difficult to bring the body because it occupies more space. In place of it, 10 to 12 people can be brought

ARVIND BELLAD | BJP MLA, HUBBALLI DHARWAD WEST, KARNATAKA

BJP MLA said.

The ruling party legislator also noted that students migrate to chase their dream of getting a medical degree abroad because of the hefty fees in India.

Naveen, a native of Chalageri in

Haveri district, was holed in with others in a bunker in Kharkiv. On March 1, he was killed in shelling while he was out to get some food, water and exchange currency notes when.

The body of the 22-year-old youth is lying in a morgue in Kharkiv. His parents have been requesting the Centre to get his son's body back home for the final rites.

Meanwhile, Venkatesh Vaishyar, whose son Amit (23) and nephew Suman (24) from Chalageri are also stuck in the war-ravaged country, told media that they have been lodged in a school 20 kilometres away from Kharkiv along with about 1,700 Indians.

Amit and Suman could not board the train to the safe zones as the Ukraine authorities gave priority to women and the natives of the country, he added. The Indians staying in the school were given a loaf of bread each after three days, Vaishyar said. "Now, there is chilling cold there and they have no food too. I don't know how our children and others are managing," he said.

White Stone Hill caves in; labourers feared trapped

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chamarajanagar, March 4: Several labourers hailing from West Bengal are feared to be trapped inside the White Stone Hill caves of Madahalli village in Bilikaluru quarry area near Chamarajanagar district's Gundlupet here Friday.

The hill collapsed while miners were working inside the cave. As a result, big boulders of white stone rolled down the hill and collided with the tipper trucks and vehicles, causing them to overturn. Several workers present there are feared to have been crushed under these boulders.

The police and the fire department personnel along with the local villagers rushed to the spot to carry out operations to rescue trapped workers from inside the mine.

The incident took place on the land belonging to Mahendrapura, a resident of Bommalapura in Karnataka. One Hakeem had taken the land on lease for mining. However, Superintendent of Police (SP) Shivakumar said illegal mining was being carried out in the area.

As per preliminary information, five labourers were inside the mine when the incident took place. While three of them have been rescued, two are missing.



Gallantry awards to staff of Western Command

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathankot, March 4: Western Army Commander Lt General Nav K Khanduri Friday awarded Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards to Army personnel and their family members at an investiture ceremony held at the Mamun Military Station here.

The Army's Western Command is responsible for operations along the country's western borders and parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Khanduri, who is the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Western Command, felicitated 35 Officers, two Junior Commissioned Officers and family members of five fallen Army personnel, among others.

Twenty-four units and battalions of the Army were also awarded unit appreciation awards for their outstanding performance.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt Gen Khanduri said, "I congratulate all the awardees who, in accordance with the rich traditions of the Indian Army, have earned great honour in



Family members of the Army soldiers inspect a weapons display after an Investiture Ceremony at Mamun Military Station in Pathankot, Friday

PTI PHOTO

service of the nation." "Your indomitable courage, unassailable resolve and selfless sacrifice are indeed praiseworthy and set an example for all

soldiers, units and formations under western command to achieve greater heights of excellence," he said.

On the fallen Army personnel,

Lt Gen Khanduri said they displayed "raw courage in protecting our motherland".

The ceremony was organised by the Gurj division under the aegis

Your indomitable courage, unassailable resolve and selfless sacrifice are indeed praiseworthy and set an example for all soldiers, units and formations under Western Command to achieve greater heights of excellence

NAV K KHANDURI | GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF, WESTERN COMMAND, INDIAN ARMY

of Rising Star Corps of the Western Command. The awardees were felicitated for their exceptional bravery, commendable devotion to duty and distinguished service to the nation.

Lt Gen Khanduri also inspected a ceremonial guard of honour and a display of the Army's modern weapon systems including guns, tanks and other armaments. He later interacted with the awardees and their families.

of the day quote

To get rid of inflation, unemployment and stray animals, the 'double-engine' government needs to go

52 per cent of the people in Bihar are living below the poverty line and the state government is unable to spend the money allocated in the Budget every year

Our government has taught them (criminals) a lesson, and put all (members of) the mafia in jails

SHORT TAKES

Naval aircraft yard gets safety award

Kochi: A naval aircraft yard here has received the Kerala State Industrial Safety Award. The award for 2021 was presented by State Education Minister V Sivankutty at a function Friday, the navy said in a press release.

Terrorist arrested during encounter

Srinagar: A terrorist, injured during an ongoing encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara, has been arrested, officials said Friday. The terrorist, who, police say, was a chronic stone-pelting before joining the terror ranks as an Over Ground Worker (OGW), was arrested in an injured condition.

Man arrested for raping daughter

Shahjahanpur (UP): A 42-year-old man was arrested here on the charge of repeatedly raping his minor daughter, police said Friday. Superintendent of Police S Anand said during questioning, it was found that he has been raping his 13-year-old daughter for the past four months.

Narrow escape

Tirupati: As many as 69 passengers of a bus had a narrow escape as the bus driver suffered cardiac arrest while driving the vehicle in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district Friday. One of the passengers showed presence of mind and controlled the steering to avert a tragedy, officials said.

Girl gangraped

Jaipur: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district, police said Friday. The victim lodged a complaint at Malarna Durgar police station Friday, they said.



Instead of questioning Indian students, why doesn't the Modi government question itself? The students trapped in the crisis have shown the truth of government's cruelty and failure

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

VAX FOR ANIMALS

A South Australian researcher has developed a coronavirus vaccine for animals that will soon be trialed on pets



India abstains in UNHRC vote

The UN General Assembly this week overwhelmingly voted to condemn Russian aggression against Ukraine and demanded that Moscow "completely and unconditionally" withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine

AGENCIES

Geneva/United Nations, March 4: India Friday abstained in the UN Human Rights Council on a vote to urgently establish an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations and related crimes following Russia's military operation in Ukraine.

The 47-member Council voted on a draft resolution on the 'Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression.'

The resolution was adopted with 32 votes in favour, two against (Russia and Eritrea) and 13 abstentions, including India, China, Pakistan, Sudan and Venezuela.

The resolution, which strongly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine, decides to "urgently establish an independent international commission of inquiry" to "investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and related crimes, in the context of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, and to establish the facts, circumstances, and root causes of any such violations and abuses."

A day before the resolution was adopted, India said at the Urgent Debate Thursday regarding the human rights situation in Ukraine at the 49th Human Rights Council Session in Geneva that it is greatly



concerned over the steadily worsening humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

India urged for an immediate cessation of violence and an end to hostilities. "No solution can ever be arrived at the cost of human lives. Dialogue and diplomacy are the only solution for settling differences and disputes," India said.

India called for respect and protection of human rights of people in Ukraine and safe humanitarian access to conflict zones.

"We are also deeply concerned over the safety and security of thousands of Indian nationals, including young Indian students, who are still stranded in Ukraine. We are working together with neighboring States for their evacuation," it said.

Three human rights experts will be appointed to the Commission of Inquiry by the President of the Human Rights Council for an initial duration of one year.

The Commission will be man-

dated to "identify, where possible, those individuals and entities responsible for violations or abuses of international humanitarian law, or other related crimes, in Ukraine, with a view to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable."

The resolution expressed grave concern at the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and calls on Russia to "immediately end its human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine"

It also calls for the "swift and verifiable" withdrawal of Russian troops and Russian-backed armed groups from the entire territory of Ukraine, within its internationally recognised borders.

India has abstained on two resolutions on Ukraine in the 15-nation Security Council and one in the 193-member General Assembly in the last one week.

Nizamuddin Markaz can't be reopened fully: Govt to Delhi HC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 4: Opposing the plea by Delhi Waqf Board for reopening of Nizamuddin Markaz, which has remained shut since March 3, 2020, the Centre Friday submitted before the Delhi High Court that it is a 'case property' and cannot be fully reopened.

The Nizamuddin Markaz was shut following the incident of a spurt of Covid positive cases on the premises in 2020

A bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri was dealing with the Waqf Board's plea for reopening of the religious place considering recent guidelines issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). During the course of the hearing, advocate Wajeeh Shafiq, representing the board, argued for the reopening of the premises in view of the festival of Shab-e-Barat and the coming month of Ramzan for religious purposes.

Advocate Rajat Nair, appearing on behalf of the Centre, said that the offering of 'namaz' by five people was allowed earlier, and can be done this year also in the religious festival.



India seeks ceasefire to evacuate its citizens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: India Friday sought ceasefire by Russian and Ukrainian troops in eastern Ukraine for evacuation of Indian citizens stuck in conflict zones and said it is yet to see the implementation of the decision by the two sides to create safe corridors for the exit of the civilians.

Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said that around 300 Indians are stranded in Kharkiv and 700 are in Sumy while some citizens out of over 900 are being taken out of Pischyn in five buses.

At a media briefing, he said India is primarily focusing on evacuating its nationals out of the conflict zones in eastern Ukraine including from Kharkiv and Sum, adding that the total number of Indians stuck in Ukraine could be roughly in the range of 2,000 to 3,000.

Asked about Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments Thursday that some Indians are being held hostage by Ukrainian forces, the MEA spokesperson once again rejected the claim saying India does not have any such information or reports.

On Thursday too, Bagchi rejected claims by both Russia and Ukraine that Indian students are being held hostage in Kharkiv.

In the briefing, he also said that India has evacuated one Bangladeshi national as part of its mission to bring back the stranded Indians.

Bagchi said India was in touch with all parties concerned on the evacuation of the Indians and sought a "local ceasefire" in the conflict zones to get them out of the areas witnessing fighting and violence.

The spokesperson also said that India has not seen any movement after it emerged that Russia and



An Indian student, evacuated from crisis-hit Ukraine, arrives with his pet dog at the Hindon Air Force Station, in Ghaziabad

Ukraine on Thursday agreed to the need for the creation of humanitarian corridors to help civilians leave the conflict zones.

"We have not seen anything further to that in terms of implementation of the same on the ground. We are closely and eagerly monitoring that," he said.

"If that happens, it will certainly help our process. We have been asking for a cessation of hostilities by both sides. Local ceasefire or whatever works to get our people out of the conflict zones," Bagchi said.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said after talks between Russia and Ukraine that the two sides reached an understanding to establish safe corridors for civilians. Asked about reports that Russian reports that Moscow has arranged 130 buses for evacuation of Indians from eastern Ukrainian cities, Bagchi said the buses are around 50-60 km away from where the students are.



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Indian Air Force (IAF) prepares for a fire power demonstration of the exercise Vayu Shakti 2022 scheduled March 7, at the Air Force firing range at Pokhran, in Jaisalmer

Covovax gets govt panel's nod for 12-17 age group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: An expert panel of the country's central drug authority has recommended granting emergency use authorisation (EUA) to Serum Institute of India's Covid-19 vaccine Covovax for the 12-17 age group, official sources said Friday. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situation in adults December 28. It has not yet been included in the country's vaccination drive.

Prakash Kumar Singh, Director-Government and Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India (SII), had submitted an application to the

DCGI on February 21, seeking EUA for Covovax for the 12 to 17 years age group.

The Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) Friday deliberated on SII's application and recommended granting EUA to Covovax. The recommendation will be sent to the DCGI for approval, sources said.

In the EUA application, Singh is learnt to have stated that data from two studies on about 2,700 children aged 12 to 17 years show that Covovax is highly efficacious, immunogenic, safe and well tolerated in this age group of children.

"This approval will not only be beneficial for our country alone, but



will benefit the entire world, fulfilling our Prime Minister's vision of 'Making in India for the World'.

In line with the philosophy of our CEO Adar C Poonawalla, we are sure that Covovax will play an important role to protect children of our country and world at large against COVID-19 disease and will keep our national flag flying high globally," an official source had quoted Singh as having stated in the application earlier.

Covovax is manufactured by technology transfer from Novavax and is approved by the European Medicines Agency for conditional marketing authorisation and also granted emergency use listing by WHO on December 2017, 2020. India has been using Bharat Biotech's Covaxin to vaccinate adolescents between 15-18 years.

UP principal punishes 84 students with haircut

THE PRINCIPAL TOOK PICTURES AND MADE VIDEOS OF THE PUNISHMENT THAT HAVE NOW GONE VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hapur (UP): The principal of the Marwar Inter College School in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, gave a haircut to 84 students with long hair from class 9 to 12 during the morning assembly.

He termed it a "punishment for breaking school rules."

Calling it a "humiliating move," two parents have complained to the higher authorities of the education department. However, according to the district inspector of schools, nothing in writing has

been submitted to her yet.

One of the students, who received a haircut during the school assembly, said: "Our principal had asked around 84 students to stand in a line in a separate area. He then asked all of us to get down on our knees and then started chopping our hair. We pleaded for exemption and assured him that we would get a haircut from the barber but he refused to let us go."

He added that his parents also called the police and staged a protest in front of the school premises. The principal took pictures and



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

made videos of the punishment that have now gone viral on social media. The faculty members also said that they were "fully in support" of the principal.

"This was the need of the hour to ensure students remained disciplined. These students had been warned many times. They were supposed to come to school with proper hair but many of them had long and coloured hair," said Babita Tomar, a teacher at the school.

The principal said that the students and even their parents were warned of their long hair on var-

ious occasions but when they continued to ignore him he decided to teach them a lesson. He also blamed Covid for "making students disobedient and fashionable."

He said: "Students stayed at home for too long and grew their hair out. There was no one there to stop them. I cut their hair to teach them a lesson. It is my duty to teach students how to be disciplined."

The principal further claimed that no parents had objected to his punishment.

international

NATO WARY

REUTERS
Brussels: NATO allies rejected Ukraine's demand for no-fly zones Friday, saying they were increasing support but that stepping in directly would lead to a broader, even more brutal European war so far limited to Russia's assault on its neighbour.

Ukraine, a former Soviet republic that wants to join the European Union and Western military alliance NATO, is not a currently a member of either. "We are not part of this conflict, and we have a responsibility to ensure it does not escalate and spread beyond Ukraine," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called for Western powers to enforce a no-fly zone since Moscow's invasion started nine days ago, with Russia shelling cities and bringing fighting to Europe's largest nuclear plant.

"We understand the desperation but we also believe that if we did that (a no-fly zone) we would end up with something that could lead to a full-fledged war in Europe involving much more countries and much more suffering," Stoltenberg said. The only way for NATO to implement a no-fly zone would be to send NATO planes to shoot down Russian ones, he said, adding that the risk of escalation would be too big. "Allies agree we should not have NATO planes operating over Ukrainian airspace or NATO troops operating in Ukrainian territory." Thursday, Zelenskyy said that if allies wouldn't meet his request to protect Ukrainian air space, they should instead provide Kyiv with more war planes. NATO members have sent arms to Ukraine, but stopped short of military action that would put them in direct conflict with nuclear-armed Russia. U.S.



Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the alliance would defend "every inch" of NATO territory from attack. "Ours is a defensive alliance. We seek no conflict. But if conflict comes to us, we are ready for it," Blinken said.

Union countries - many of them also NATO members - said they were eyeing more economic sanctions on Russia. In Brussels for talks with NATO and EU peers, the bloc's top diplomat Josep Borrell said that all options remained on the table with regard to new sanctions. It was not immediately clear, however, when the 27-nation EU would be able to agree on exact measures given member states' divisions on doing business with Moscow and some countries' heavy reliance on Russian energy supplies.

"We will consider everything," Borrell said when asked about the possible suspension of the EU's gas imports from Russia. Ireland's Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said a fourth round of sanctions could affect more Russian banks' access to the SWIFT international transfer system, bar Russian ships from European ports and cut imports from Russia. "I also suspect that we'll be banning other imports like steel, timber, aluminum and possibly coal as well," he said. The West is importing about \$700 million of energy from Russia daily, the Euro intelligence think-tank said. Western powers have already punished Russia including with restrictions on central bank activities and by seizing assets from billionaire oligarchs.

MORE EU SANCTIONS
 Instead of a military presence in Ukraine, European

There are no bad intentions towards our neighbours. And I would also advise them not to escalate the situation, not to introduce any restrictions. We fulfill all our obligations and will continue to fulfill them

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIA'S PRESIDENT



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Russia hits back at US

Russia has decided to stop supplying rocket engines to the United States in retaliation for its sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, Dmitry Rogozin, head of the state space agency Roscosmos, said Thursday. "In a situation like this we can't supply the United States with our world's best rocket engines. Let them fly on something else, their broomsticks, I don't know what," Rogozin said on state Russian television. According to Rogozin, Russia has delivered a total of 122 RD-180 engines to the US since 1990s, of which 98 have been used to power Atlas launch vehicles.

Japan arms Ukraine

Japan is sending bulletproof vests, helmets and other defence supplies to Ukraine to help the country fight Russia's invasion. It is a rare move by Japan, which has a principle of not shipping defense supplies to countries in conflict. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters Friday that shipping and other logistical details are being finalized after a decision by the National Security Council.



'Russia sending prisoners'

Russian forces are transporting prisoners from Crimea to destabilise the situation in southern mainland Ukraine, the Armed Forces of Ukraine said. "The movement of a large number of vehicles from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea, where the occupiers are transporting criminals from places of execution of punishments to organize riots in the Nikolaev region," the statement said. In the Black Sea, a naval group of Russian occupiers was withdrawn from bases, tasked with striking the surface forces of a group of heterogeneous forces of the Ukrainian Navy, UNIAN reported.

Kremlin tightens grip

The Russian parliament has passed a bill introducing sentences of up to 15 years in prison for intentionally spreading "fake" information about military action. Russian state news agencies reported Friday the passing of the bill in the third and final reading. The development came amid a crackdown by Russian authorities on independent media and criticism of last week's invasion of Ukraine.

FLEEING WITH FURRY FRIENDS



US targets 50 Russian oligarchs

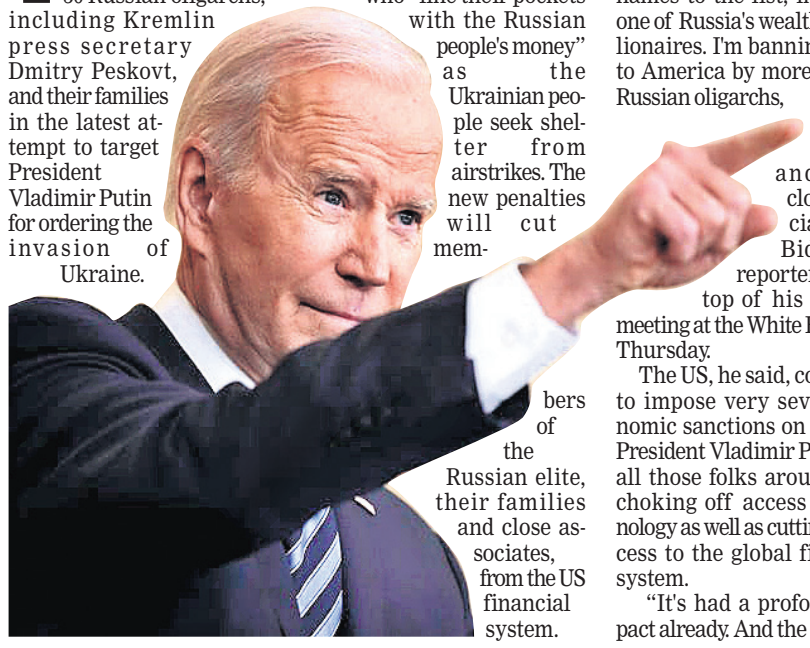
The days to come are likely to be worse, with more deaths, more suffering and more destruction

JENS STOLTENBERG | NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

When bombs fall on your cities, when soldiers rape women in the occupied cities - and we have numerous cases of, unfortunately, when Russian soldiers rape women in Ukrainian cities - it's difficult, of course, to speak about the efficiency of international law

DMYTRO KULEBA | UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The White House has imposed new sanctions on 50 Russian oligarchs, including Kremlin press secretary Dmitry Peskov, and their families in the latest attempt to target President Vladimir Putin for ordering the invasion of Ukraine.



President Joe Biden said the sanctions will target those who "line their pockets with the Russian people's money" as the Ukrainian people seek shelter from airstrikes. The new penalties will cut members of the Russian elite, their families and close associates, from the US financial system.

"Today, I'm announcing that we're adding dozens of names to the list, including one of Russia's wealthiest billionaires. I'm banning travel to America by more than 50 Russian oligarchs, their families, and their close associates," Biden told reporters at the top of his Cabinet meeting at the White House on Thursday.

The US, he said, continues to impose very severe economic sanctions on Russian President Vladimir Putin and all those folks around him, choking off access to technology as well as cutting off access to the global financial system. "It's had a profound impact already. And the goal was to maximise the impact on Putin and Russia and to minimise the harm on us and our allies and friends around the world. Our interest is in maintaining the strongest unified economic impact campaign on Putin in all of history, and I think we're well on the way to doing that," Biden said.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a statement announced the names of some of the wealthiest Russian elites close to Putin who has been subject to the latest sanctions. They are Alisher Usmanov, Boris Arkady, and Igor Rotenberg, and their family members and entities connected to them. Among them is Dmitry Peskov, a prominent spokesperson for the Kremlin, as well as Yevgeniy Prigozhin, a wealthy Russian businessman known as "Putin's chef", NBC News reported.

Horrific deja vu for those who fled other wars

NUREMBERG (GERMANY): When Russia launched its war on Ukraine, a Syrian student in the city of Kharkiv joined the exodus of people fleeing the onslaught. It was the third time that 24-year-old Orwa Staif, who grew up in the suburbs of Damascus, was being displaced by war and crises.

For Staif, it was a jarring deja vu: columns of people, many on foot, carrying what few belongings they could, desperate to escape bombs and missiles. He had seen it all before, in his native Syria. "The same sounds of bombs that I heard in 2013, I heard now in Kharkiv. I told my friends I can't believe I'm reliving the same experience," Staif said in Germany, where he has since reunited with his family. According to the United Nations, more than 1 million people have fled Ukraine following Russia's invasion, the swiftest refugee exodus

this century. They fled to neighboring countries, with Poland taking in the highest number.

In 2013, rebels fighting to topple Syrian autocrat Bashar Assad were in Staif's hometown of Douma, at the doorstep of the capital, Damascus. Airstrikes, shelling and street fighting were common. His father defected from the army and the family was forced to leave Syria. Like so many other families, they scattered — some went to the United Arab Emirates, some to Germany. Staif went to neighboring Lebanon, where he graduated from high school.

In 2019, the situation in Lebanon deteriorated dramatically, with the economy crashing and people taking to the streets in mass protests. Poverty and inflation soared in an unprecedented economic collapse. Staif's father advised him to go study in Ukraine, where getting a visa — at least in theory — was easier than in other places. Staif succeeded and moved to Ukraine the following year, in February 2020.

When Russia invaded last week, pummeling Ukrainian cities with airstrikes and shelling — includ-



Children look out from an evacuation train from Kyiv to Lviv as they say goodbye to their father at Kyiv central train station in Kyiv

ing Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city — many piled into trains and cars to the city of Lviv in western Ukraine, before heading to the Polish border. Staif managed to get on a train for a 16-hour

journey to Lviv, and from there continued on foot toward Poland. Over the weekend, the line of traffic stretched for 30 kilometers (19 miles), backed up with cars and people. The unlucky ones without transportation had to make the trip on foot. Women, the elderly and children were among the masses — along with some foreigners, mostly students from other countries.

"This journey is so tough. I can say ten years of displacement. Whenever I get used to a place, I get new acquaintance with my friends and then I leave everything and go," Staif said. "It's so hard and so disappointing for me and I hate it... It's the war wherever I am. Crises all over the world and those places that I've been."

A Yemeni student of mechanical engineering, a young woman evacuated from Kabul when the Taliban seized Afghanistan and others share much of Staif's story.

of the day quote

As monetary policy is an art of managing expectations, central banks have to make continual efforts to shape and anchor market expectations, not just through pronouncements and actions but also through a constant refinement of their communication strategies to ensure the desired societal outcomes

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

Application of complex economic legislations can be effective only when it is nuanced and appropriately accounts for market specificity

ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA | CHIEF, CCI

We are in an era of digital disruption, where technology and digitization are key catalysts. At Coca-Cola, Innovation, experimentation, and digital acceleration are all key priority pillars for us

SUMELI CHATTERJEE | HEAD (IMX), COCA-COLA

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves fall by \$1.425bn

Mumbai: India's forex reserves declined by \$1.425 billion to \$631.527 billion for the week ended in February 25 due to a dip in currency assets, according to the Reserve Bank data released Friday. The overall reserves had increased by \$2.762 billion to \$632.952 billion in the previous reporting week. During the reporting week, the foreign currency assets (FCA) declined by \$2.228 billion to \$564.832 billion. The value of the gold reserves continued its northward journey and increased by \$958 million to \$42.467 billion in the reporting week.

NSE begins hunt for MD & CEO

New Delhi: Leading stock exchange NSE, which is facing allegations of governance lapses, has started the hunt for a new managing director and chief executive officer as the five-year tenure of incumbent chief Vikram Limaye is ending in July. The exchange has invited applications from candidates having IPO (initial public offering) experience for the role of the top post before March 25, according to a public notice issued Friday.

Kapoor new CEO of Jet Airways

Mumbai: Grounded carrier Jet Airways Friday announced the appointment of Sanjiv Kapoor as the chief executive officer. His appointment to the post comes days after the airline brought in former Sri Lankan Airlines CEO Vipula Gunatileka as the chief financial officer. Kapoor, who is currently the president of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts, has been associated with budget carriers SpiceJet and GoAir as well as with full-service carrier Vistara in various capacities in the past.

Meesho targets early '23 for IPO

Bangalore: Indian startup Meesho, which counts Facebook-owner Meta Platforms and SoftBank Group's Vision Fund 2 as its investors, is aiming to go public in early 2023, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters. The Bangalore-based social commerce platform is working to be ready for a listing by the end of 2022 and is evaluating both Indian and US exchanges. In September, Meesho raised \$570 million at a valuation of \$4.9 billion in a Series F funding round led by Fidelity Management & Research Company and B Capital Group.

FUEL PRICE HIKE FROM NEXT WEEK

Oil prices have been on the boil ever since Russia invaded Ukraine. The crisis has remained the most crucial issue for investors this week as they look to assess its global economic impact. Russia is one of the key oil producers, and prices have been rising as global supplies remain threatened by the conflict

REUTERS

New Delhi, March 4: India will raise petrol and diesel prices next week for the first time in more than four months as global crude prices soar after Russia's invasion of Ukraine last week, three government officials said, amid growing concern about inflation.

Asia's third-largest economy, which imports 80% of its oil needs, faces retail inflation staying above the central bank's tolerance limit of 6% as companies pass on a nearly 40% rise in crude prices since November, as well as rises in prices for other imported raw materials, economists said.

"The oil companies would be free to raise prices in a phased manner once the election is over on March 7," a senior government official with the knowledge of internal discussions on oil prices told Reuters.

Oil prices surged after Russia invaded Ukraine Feb 24, with Brent rising above \$116 a barrel Thursday, while supply disruptions have hit global prices of wheat, soybean, fertiliser and metals like copper, steel and aluminium - raising worries about prices and economic recovery.

A senior official at a state-run oil



There are certain unanticipated events which have taken over right now. We are closely watching the market and certainly whatever the government will do, we will do in the best interest of the investors and also the IPO

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | SECRETARY, DIPAM

MASSIVE FEAT FOR BMW

German luxury carmaker BMW Friday said its Chennai-based manufacturing plant has crossed one lakh cumulative production milestone. "It is a day of great joy and pride for us as the 1,00,000th 'Made-in-India' car drives out of our assembly lines," BMW Group Plant Chennai MD Thomas Dose noted



Foreign capital in realty zooms 3-fold to \$23.9bn in 5 years



ACCORDING TO THE DATA, FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE STOOD AT \$23.9 BILLION DURING 2017-21 PERIOD AS AGAINST \$7.5 BILLION DURING 2012-2016

TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN INDIAN REAL ESTATE STOOD AT \$49.4 BILLION DURING THE 2012-2021 PERIOD, OF WHICH 64 PER CENT CAME FROM FOREIGN INVESTORS

THE SHARE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN INDIAN REAL ESTATE HAS GROWN TO 82 PER CENT DURING 2017-2021, COMPARED TO 37 PER CENT DURING 2012-2016

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: Foreign capital flows into the Indian real estate jumped over three-fold to \$23.9 billion during 2017-21 period as compared to the previous five years, according to Colliers-FICCI report.

In its report 'Foreign investments in Indian real estate turn a corner', property consultant Colliers mentioned that the global investors have shown an increased inclination towards investment in Indian real estate buoyed by regulatory reforms introduced in 2016.

"Foreign investors, who had previously refrained from investing in the Indian real estate market due to the lack of transparency, started investing in the country with greater optimism from 2017," Colliers said.

The investments in the industrial and logistics sector stood at third position, surpassing the residential sector. Foreign investors remained cautious about the residential sector in the aftermath of the NBFC crisis and subdued residential sales, Colliers said.

The share of residential assets in total foreign investments has

reduced to 11 per cent in 2017-2021, from 37 per cent in a preceding five-year period.

Foreign investments in the office sector have consistently reached \$2 billion in each year since 2017 except in 2021, where the quantum of investments almost halved.

During 2017-21, alternative assets saw an inflow of about \$1 billion with a majority of it coming during the pandemic years.

"Government policy for data localisation and infrastructure status received for data centres recently are likely to give a boost to the establishment of new data centres in the country," the consultant said.

The share of investments from the USA and Canada together has been more than 60 per cent in foreign investments each of the years since 2017.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the funds from USA and Canada continue to actively explore the industrial segment, apart from the office and mixed-use assets. Similarly, the majority of the investments from Asia are targeted towards the office and industrial and logistics sector.

MARKET MAYHEM

Markets retreat for 3rd day

In the holiday-shortened week, the Sensex tumbled 1,524.71 points, or 2.72 per cent, while the Nifty shed 413.05 points or 2.47 per cent

Mumbai: The Sensex and Nifty lurched lower for the third day running Friday, in lockstep with global equities, as risk-off sentiment prevailed amid Russia stepping up its military offensive against Ukraine.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened weak and slumped over 1,200 points to the day's low of 53,887.72, before recouping some losses to close at 54,333.81, down by 768.87 points or 1.40 per cent. Similarly, the broader

NSE Nifty slumped 252.70 points or 1.53 per cent to end at 16,245.35. Titan, Maruti Suzuki, Asian Paints, M&M, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance and Axis Bank were the biggest drags on the Sensex, tumbling up to 5.05 per cent. Dr Reddy's Laboratories, ITC, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma and Wipro were among the gainers, spurring as much as 2.95 per cent. Market breadth was negative, with 23 of the 30 Sensex counters closing in the red.



Investors' wealth falls ₹5.59trn in 3 days

Investors' wealth tumbled more than ₹5.59 lakh crore in three days of market fall as sentiments remained muted amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its impact on the global economy. Tracking decline in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies plunged ₹5,59,623.71 crore to ₹2,46,79,421.38 crore in three days. "Markets ended the week with a sharp cut, reflecting the feeble global sentiment. After the sharp reaction in early trade, the benchmark oscillated in the broader range to finally settle around the day's low," Ajit Mishra, vice-president (research) of Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Rupee plunges below 76-mark

The rupee slumped 22 paise to close at 76.16 (provisional) against the US dollar Friday as investors assessed the global economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict amid rising crude oil prices. Persistent foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in domestic equities too weighed on the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened weak at 76.06 against the American dollar and fell further during the session as investors moved away from riskier assets. The domestic unit oscillated between a high of 75.99 and a low of 76.22 during the session.

PV sales dip 8% in Feb

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: Domestic passenger vehicle retail sales declined eight per cent in February as the companies continued to suffer production loss due to chip shortage, automobile dealers' body Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said Friday.

The passenger vehicle (PV) sales dropped to 2,38,096 units last month, down 7.84 per cent from 2,58,337 units in February 2021.

"Even though the passenger vehicle (PV) segment saw some launches and slight respite in supply due to better production, it was not enough to meet customer demand. Vehicle waiting period thus remains similar to what it was in the past few months," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati stated.

CHIP WOES CONTINUE

The industry body warned that the Russia-Ukraine conflict could further impact the production of semiconductors.

"Russia is one of the largest producers of rare-earth metals, especially Palladium, which is an essential metal for semiconductors. Ukraine, on the other hand, is one of the biggest producer and exporter of neon gas, which is used in the manufacturing of semiconductors. Due to the ongoing war, we once again fear the shortage in semiconductors which will create additional supply side issues for PVs," the FADA noted.

Two-wheeler sales last month declined 10.67 per cent to 9,83,358 units, compared with 11,00,754 units in February 2021.

BIZ BUZZ

JSW bags first position in state-level ICT category

Bhubaneswar: India's leading steel producer JSW bagged the first position in ICT category at the CII Odisha Annual Meeting organised here March 4, 2022. The state level award ceremony was hosted under Industry Carnival for Quality Circles, Industry Relations, Environment Safety & Health (ESH) and ICT categories. JSW clinched the prestigious award in ICT segment through digital intervention for best practices model. COO of JSW Steel Ltd Ranjan Nayak congratulated the team for the achievement. "Government of Odisha through continuous hand holding has helped us to navigate the challenges and helped us achieve this milestone," said Nayak.



Panda, Deputy Director- Safety, Chandrakant Dalai, Assistant Director (Factories & Boilers-Paradeep Zone), Sabaleel Nandy, Chief Operating Officer (PPL), Pranab Bhattacharya, Unit Head & Chief Manufacturing Officer (PPL). A 'Surkshya Ratha' was also flagged off which will roam around Paradeep and other parts of Jagatsingpur to spread awareness and messages about National Safety Week.

51st National Safety Week inaugurated at PPL

Bhubaneswar: The 51st National Safety Week, observed March 4, was kicked off at Paradeep Phosphates Limited with the goal of raising awareness and commitment to working safely. This year's campaign theme is 'Nurture young minds, develop safety culture'. N Thirumala Naik, Director, Factories & Boilers & Labour Commissioner, government of Odisha, inaugurated the event in presence of Abanikanta Nayak, Deputy Director (Factories & Boilers - Cuttack & Angul Zone, Manoj Panda, Deputy Director- Safety, Chandrakant Dalai, Assistant Director (Factories & Boilers-Paradeep Zone), Sabaleel Nandy, Chief Operating Officer (PPL), Pranab Bhattacharya, Unit Head & Chief Manufacturing Officer (PPL). A 'Surkshya Ratha' was also flagged off which will roam around Paradeep and other parts of Jagatsingpur to spread awareness and messages about National Safety Week.

NEW ERA OF MOBILITY

Sony, Honda announce partnership to make, sell EVs

The announcement comes as the electronics maker was seeking to further its ambitions to become a key player in next-generation automobiles, while automakers like Honda are under pressure to make carbon-free cars as well as vehicles equipped with features beyond traditional means of transportation

INDO-ASIAN NEW SERVICE

Tokyo, March 4: As electric cars become the flavour of the season, Sony and Honda Friday announced a strategic alliance to form a New Company that aims to create the next era of mobility and mobility services. The sales of the first EV model are expected to start in 2025. The two companies plan to engage in the joint development and sales of high value-added battery electric vehicles (EVs) and commercialise them in conjunction with providing mobility services. The New Company is expected to plan, design, develop, and sell the EVs, but not own and operate manufacturing facilities, so Honda is expected to be responsible for manufacturing the first EV model at its



vehicle manufacturing plant. It is expected that a mobility service platform will be developed by Sony and made available for the New Company, they said in a statement. "Through this alliance with Honda, we intend to build on our

vision to make the mobility space an emotional one, and contribute to the evolution of mobility centred around safety, entertainment and adaptability," said Kenichiro Yoshida, Representative Corporate Executive Officer, Chairman,

Vida: Hero MotoCorp's new EV brand

The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp Friday said it has lined up a \$100-million (around ₹760 crore) global fund to nurture over 10,000 entrepreneurs on ESG (environmental, social and governance) solutions. The auto major announced the fund as it unveiled its new identity 'Vida' for the company's emerging mobility solutions, including upcoming electric vehicles (EVs). The company will introduce emerging mobility solutions under the Vida brand including its electric vehicle that will be officially unveiled July 1, 2022, to coincide with the birth anniversary of Hero MotoCorp Chairman Emeritus Brijmohan Lal.

President and CEO, Sony. The companies will proceed with negotiations toward executing various definitive binding agreements, including a joint development agreement and a joint venture agreement, with a goal of establishing the New Company within this year. "Although Sony and Honda are companies that share many his-

torical and cultural similarities, our areas of technological expertise are very different. Therefore, I believe this alliance which brings together the strengths of our two companies offers great possibilities for the future of mobility," said Toshihiro Mibe, Director, President, Representative Executive Officer and CEO, Honda Motor.

PANT OWNS 'VIRAT DAY'

INDIAN WICKETKEEPER-BATTER MISSES OUT ON HUNDRED BUT ENTERTAINS THE SPECTATORS, WHO WERE LEFT DISAPPOINTED WITH FORMER SKIPPER KOHLI'S PERFORMANCE ON THE OPENING DAY OF HIS LANDMARK 100TH TEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, March 4: Indian cricket's rapidly-rising box-office draw Rishabh Pant owned the centre-stage in Virat Kohli's landmark 100th Test, hammering Sri Lankan bowlers into submission with an enthralling 96 (97b, 9x4, 4x6) as the hosts reached a commanding 357/6 on the opening day of the first Test here.

The 5,000 odd spectators, who had come to watch Kohli (45, 76b, 5x4) perform on a grand stage, saw one of the most flamboyant batters in recent history make a mockery of an average Sri Lankan attack. R Ashwin (10 batting) was giving company to his spin partner Ravindra Jadeja (45 batting, 82b, 5x4) at stumps.

He was especially brutal when it came to going after left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya (2/107), who was taken for 22 in one over.

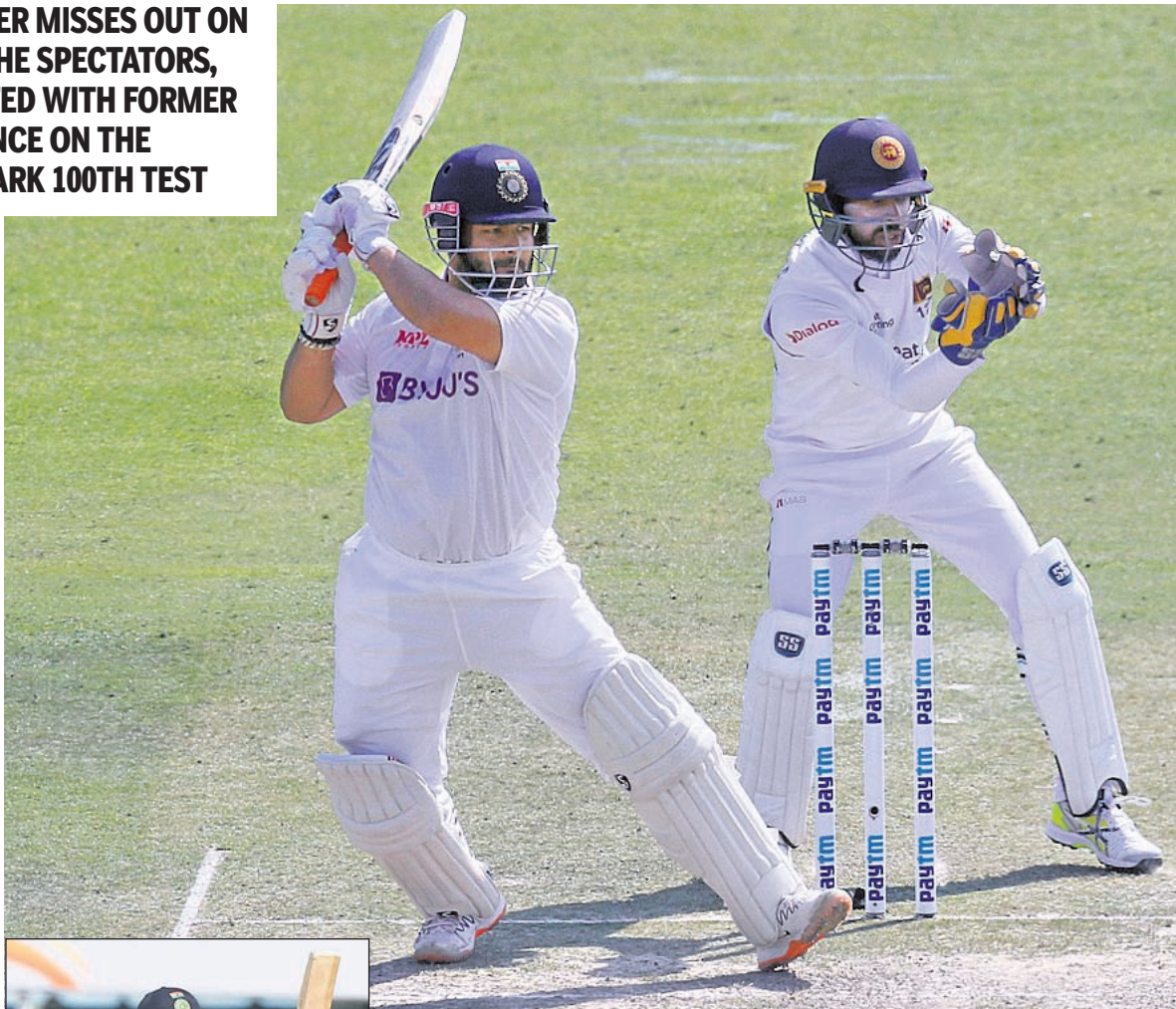
The deathly silence after Kohli's shock exit for a well-made 45 was there for barely a second and half. Because at that point entered the stockily built 24-year-old from India's engineering city of Rourkee and that was followed by a deafening roar which showed his popularity.

On Kohli's day, he had completely overshadowed the legend. And those who came for Kohli, decided to stay back and savour Pant's mayhem as he started with a signature lofted six off Embuldeniya over mid-wicket fence.

Embuldeniya, who must have felt emboldened when he got one to turn a shade away and tickle Kohli's off-stump, didn't know what hit him.

In just over one and half session, Pant nearly reached his fourth hundred in Test cricket before veteran Suranga Lakmal (1/63), in his last international series, breached his defence. One couldn't but feel for the young man who looked completely devastated after another near-miss, the fifth time that he has gotten out in the 90s.

The walk back to the pavilion took an eternity as it seemed that one would need someone to drag him out. But coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma's decision to send him at No.5 to bring in the left-hander's advantage against a left-arm spinner, had paid the rich dividends



Rishabh Pant plays a backfoot-drive during his innings against Sri Lanka, Friday



HANUMA VIHARI

they were hoping for.

The one-handed sixes, which he can now hit on public demand, were in full display for the motley crowd. It also helped that Dimuth Karunaratne's mindset was defensive from the word go since Rohit Sharma (29) and Mayank Agarwal (33) had a brisk 50-run stand.

Once a fielding side skipper stations a deep point, deep square leg and deep fine leg within the first hour of the first day, one can get a sense that he has already thrown the towel and playing a waiting game of cutting down boundaries.

Even then, Pant found the gaps with very little difficulty when he took guard in the 44th over after Kohli and Hanuma Vihari (58, 128b, 5x4) had a 90-run stand. Vihari made good use of his chance in place of veteran Cheteshwar Pujara and

looked in control during his stand with Kohli before he inside edged Vishva Fernando's delivery onto the stumps.

A total of 170/3 is a neither here nor there and a lot of batters will be caught in two minds - whether to defend or to attack.

But not Pant. With him, there are no half measures and if any critic had an iota of difficulty in understanding why Dravid had a hard conversation with Wriddhiman Saha regarding his future, Friday's matinee show should help in dispelling all doubts.

BRIEF SCORES

India 357/6 (Rishabh Pant 96, Hanuma Vihari 58, Ravindra Jadeja 45 batting, Virat Kohli 45; Lasith Embuldeniya 2/107) v Sri Lanka. Match to continue.

KOHLI'S TAKE ON DAY 1

ON HIS INNINGS: You obviously feel disappointed as a batsman. I need to be mindful and convert the 30s and 40s into big scores

PUBLIC OPINIONS ON HIS MILESTONES: We are somehow crazy about milestones and materialistic achievements. I personally don't think like that and I am batting well and that's the most important thing for me

100-TEST FEAT: I am immensely proud of how I have handled myself and handled my physique and fitness levels to come this far. Obviously lot of discipline and lifestyle changes. If you don't have discipline in life, you won't be able to come this far

NO CHANGE AFTER LEAVING CAPTAINCY: As a specialist batter, I have said this before. Even before I became captain, it was exactly the same. It never changed and it never wavered and I have always been a responsible player and took responsibility in different things even when I wasn't captain. Obviously, captaincy brings in lot more responsibility



Mumbai take control versus sloppy Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 24: Sarfaraz Khan (107 batting, 117b, 11x4, 1x6) struck an attacking century to help Mumbai take command of their Ranji Trophy Group D match against Odisha in Ahmedabad, Friday.

After restricting Odisha to 284 in the first innings, Mumbai reached 259/3 at stumps on Day 2, thanks to Sarfaraz, Armaan Jaffer (77 batting, 162b, 8x4, 2x6) and skipper Prithvi Shaw (53, 64b, 6x4, 2x6). Sarfaraz and Jaffer were at the crease, with an unbroken 183-run fourth-wicket stand, when the bats were drawn.

Mumbai were in a spot of bother when they slumped from 73 for no loss to 76/3 within three overs. And it was young Odisha pacer Rajesh Mohanty (3/64) who was responsible for all the three Mumbai wickets.

Mumbai started off strongly, when Shaw and Sachin Yadav (19) added 73 runs for the opening wicket. Mohanty got rid of dangerous looking Shaw to break the stand. In his next over, he dismissed Yadav before piling misery on Mumbai showing the way to Ajinkya Rahane for a first-ball duck.

However, Rahane's dismissal turned out to be the last laugh on the day for Odisha as Jaffer and Sarfaraz ensured Mumbai of no further hiccups. Sarfaraz played the role of an aggressor, while Jaffer played the role of second fiddle, with his watchful strokeplays.

Mumbai were only 25 runs behind Odisha's first innings total of 284. It was after Odisha lost their remaining four wickets in just 34 runs. Mohit Avasthi (3/66) was the highest wicket-taker for Mumbai, and he was well-assisted by Dhawal Kulkarni (2/42) and Shams Mulani (2/53).

Resuming the day's play from their overnight score of 250/6, Odisha lost Abhishek Raut (39) after adding only 14 runs to the total. Rajesh Mohanty (39) tried his best to take Odisha past 300, but failed to do so.

BRIEF SCORES: Odisha 284 (Rajesh Mohanty 39, Abhishek Raut 39; Mohit Avasthi 3/66, Dhawal Kulkarni 2/42, Shams Mulani 2/53); Mumbai 259/3 (Sarfaraz Khan 107 batting, Armaan Jaffer 77 batting, Prithvi Shaw 53; Rajesh Mohanty 3/64). Match to continue.

MAVERICK MAN NO MORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, March 4: Former Australia spinner Shane Warne, unarguably one of the all-time greats of the game who redefined spin bowling, has died of a suspected heart attack in Thailand, according to a statement from his management. He was 52.

Warne's management released a brief statement to the Australian media, saying that he passed away in Koh Samui, Thailand.

"Shane was found unresponsive in his villa and despite the best efforts of medical staff, he could not be revived," the statement reported by various media outlets here said. "The family requests privacy at this time and will provide further details in due course."

An iconic name in international cricket, Warne, since making his debut in 1992, played 145 Tests for Australia, picking up 708 wickets

SHIKHAR DHAWAN: Sad, speechless, and completely shocked. An incredible loss to cricket. I have no words. Thank you for everything you've done for the sport. Rest in Peace, Shane Warne. Sending my condolences to his loved ones.

BABAR AZAM: Find it hard to believe. Such a devastating loss for the cricket world. He literally inspired generations with his magical leg spin. You'll forever be missed #ShaneWarne. My heart and prayers goes to his family, friends, and fans. #legend

BCCI: The global cricketing community is poorer today with the passing away of Australian great Shane Warne. The BCCI mourns the loss of the champion cricketer who enriched the game with his craft.

ECB: One of the greatest of all-time. A legend. A genius. You changed Cricket. RIP Shane Warne

with his leg-spin. In his 194 ODI appearances, Warne snared 293 scalps.

He was the second highest wicket taker in Test history and only Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has more wickets than him with 800. In 2007, Cricket Australia and Sri Lanka Cricket named the Test series between the two sides the Warne-Muralitharan Trophy in the duo's honour.

Warne, who made his Test debut against India at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground, was named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Century for his unparalleled achievements in a 15-year career between 1992 and 2007.

In 2013, he was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. He helped Australia win the World Cup in 1999 and took more wickets than any other bowler in Ashes cricket, the tally standing at 195.

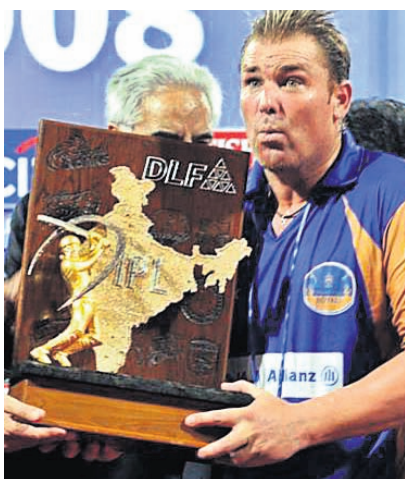
After retiring from international cricket, Warne added to his legend by doubling up as captain and coach

of IPL team Rajasthan Royals' remarkable title triumph in the event's inaugural edition.

A flamboyant personality both on and off the field, Warne also found success as a commentator and was considered among the sharpest analysts of the game.

Warne has passed away on a day when Australian cricket was in mourning after the death of wicket-keeping legend Rod Marsh. He had condoled his demise in a tweet this morning.

"Sad to hear the news that Rod Marsh has passed. He was a legend of our great game & an inspiration to so many young boys & girls. Rod cared deeply about cricket & gave so much-especially to Australia & England players. Sending lots & lots of love to Ros & the family. RIP mate," the legend had posted.



Warne (Rajasthan Royals) with the winners' trophy of the inaugural edition (2008) of IPL

BOWLING STATS

Format	M	W	BBI	BBM	Avg	Eco	SR	4w	5w	10w
Test	145	708	8/71	12/128	25.41	2.65	57.4	48	37	10
ODI	194	293	5/33	5/33	25.73	4.25	36.3	12	1	0
FC	301	1319	8/71	---	26.11	2.76	56.7	---	56	12
List-A	311	473	6/42	6/42	24.61	4.25	34.7	20	3	0
T20	73	70	4/21	4/21	26.61	7.22	22.1	1	0	0



A LOSS FOR CRICKET

The world has lost one of the greatest ever to play the game of cricket - Shane Warne - Friday. It was a shock to many as he was only 52. Formers and present cricketers around the world condoled the passing of the 'Spin King' on social media

VIRENDER SEHWAG: Cannot believe it. One of the greatest spinners, the man who made spin cool, superstar Shane Warne is no more. Life is very fragile, but this is very difficult to fathom. My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and fans all around the world.

BRIAN LARA: (Heartless icon) and speechless at the moment. I literally don't know how to sum up this situation. My friend is gone!! We have lost one of the Greatest Sportsmen of all time!! My condolences goes out to his family. RIP Warne!! You will be missed.

VIRAT KOHLI: Life is so fickle and unpredictable. I cannot process the passing of this great of our sport and also a person I got to know off the field. RIP #goat. Greatest to turn the cricket ball.

ROHIT SHARMA: I'm truly lost for words here, this is extremely sad. An absolute legend and champion of our game has left us. RIP Shane Warne....still can't believe it

HARSHA BHOGLE: I am in agony. Grief. And have no words. I was lucky enough

Shocked, stunned & miserable...

Will miss you Warne. There was never a dull moment with you around, on or off the field. Will always treasure our on field duels & off field banter. You always had a special place for India & Indians had a special place for you.

Gone too young!



to know him well. The magic will stay forever. #ShaneWarne #GreatestOfHisKind. In disbelief

SHAHID AFRIDI: The game of cricket has lost what I consider a university of leg-spin bowling today. I was inspired by his bowling from the start of my career and it was always a privilege to play against him. My deepest condolences are with Warne's family and loved ones. #ShaneWarne