



## EMPOWERING MESSAGE

Actor-model Karishma Kotak says women should be treated with dignity on a regular basis instead of just for a day

LEISURE P2



## OVER 15,920 BACK

India has brought back over 15,920 of its nationals in 76 flights under evacuation mission 'Operation Ganga'

NATIONAL P7



## 11-0 FOR EVES

Indian evs notch up their 11th consecutive victory over Pakistan in the 50 overs format at the World Cup

SPORTS P12

**ODM GLOBAL SCHOOL**  
Unlock your potential

**ADMISSIONS OPEN**  
I - XI (Day Boarding)  
VI - XI (Residential)

www.odmglobalschool.org  
1800-120-2316

## Police caution people against 'digital beauties'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 6:** The Odisha Police Sunday cautioned people against 'digital beauties' who lure people to engage in sleazy chats on social media and then use recordings of those video interactions online to blackmail them.

According to a senior police officer here, such cases have been on the rise in the state, but many fearing shame or embarrassment do not lodge police complaint. "As not many people are willing to come forward (with a complaint), we decided to generate awareness on this menace on social media," he said. Taking to Twitter, the Odisha Police said that cyber frauds, including women, were targeting potential victims by making video calls from fake accounts.

"It is suggested that such calls from strangers be avoided," the tweet said. It said people conned by 'digital beauties', who mostly use fake pictures to draw people to their accounts, should face no hesitation in seeking help from the police.

The Commissionerate Police has urged denizens not to Google search customer care number of companies. Cyber crooks share fake customer numbers of prominent banks, NBFCs and reputed companies to trap gullible surfers.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Hello, everyone! Please go and vote diligently. We don't want to keep doing overtime for the next five years.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	34.4°C	34.8°C
	MIN	17.9°C	19.0°C
Humidity		57%	67%
Rainfall		NIL	NIL
	Forecast	Mainly clear sky	



## REFUGEE CRISIS

People, mostly women and children, try to get onto a train bound for Lviv, at the Kyiv railway station. The head of the United Nations' refugee agency says that more than 1.5 million refugees have crossed from Ukraine into neighbouring countries since Russia invaded. Filippo Grandi, the UN high commissioner for refugees, tweeted Sunday that it is "the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II."

AP PHOTO

**JSW Cement**  
The Leaders' Choice

1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

## Facilitate returnee medicos' education: Patnaik to Modi



**CM urges PM to intervene with National Medical Commission and concerned ministries to prevent disruption in education of thousands of students**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 6:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his urgent intervention to facilitate the continuation of education of the medical students who returned home from war-ravaged Ukraine.

In his letter, Patnaik has urged the Prime Minister to intervene with the National Medical Commission and with the concerned ministries to prevent the disruption in studies of thousands of such medical students.

Patnaik said in view of the situation in Ukraine, large numbers of medical

students from Odisha and other parts of India had to return back home. The disruption in their studies is likely to continue until cessation of the hostilities and restoration of normalcy in their universities in Ukraine.

Patnaik suggested that steps be taken in such a way that the students would be able to continue their studies from the stage where they had to quit studies in Ukraine.

This is an unprecedented crisis that has the potential of disrupting the careers of several thousands of such students who have already gone through the trauma of being in the war zone, Patnaik wrote in the letter. He requested the Prime Minister to urgently intervene with the National Medical Commission and the concerned ministries to enable and facilitate continuation of their studies in the medical colleges in India.

In his letter, Patnaik assured the Prime Minister that the Odisha government will extend full support for implementing a workable solution in this regard.

# Global food supply under war pressure

Russia and Ukraine combine for nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley exports

The two warring countries also combine for 75% of global sunflower oil exports, accounting for 10% of all cooking oils



AGENCIES

**Kyiv, March 6:** The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands of the Black Sea region — known as the 'breadbasket of the world.'

Ukrainian farmers have been forced to neglect their fields as millions flee, fight or try to stay alive. Ports are shut down that send wheat and other food staples worldwide to be made

into bread, noodles and animal feed. And there are worries Russia, another agricultural powerhouse, could have its grain exports upended by Western sanctions.

While there have not yet been global disruptions to wheat supplies, prices have surged 55 per cent since a week before the invasion amid concerns about what could happen next. If the war is prolonged, countries that rely on affordable wheat exports from Ukraine could face shortages starting in July, International Grains Council

## World food prices at all-time high

**NEW DELHI:** The benchmark gauge for world food prices went up in February, reaching an all-time high, led by vegetable oils and dairy products, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 140.7 points in February, up 3.9 per cent from January, 20.7 per cent above its level a year earlier, and 3.1 points higher than reached in February 2011. The Index tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly-traded food commodities. The FAO Vegetable Oils Price Index led the increase, rising 8.5 per cent from the previous month to reach a new record high, mostly driven by increased quotations for palm, soy and sunflower oils.

director Arnaud Petit told The Associated Press.

That could create food insecurity and throw more people into poverty in places like Egypt and Lebanon, where diets are dominated by government-subsidised bread. In Europe, officials are preparing for potential shortages of products from Ukraine and increased prices for livestock feed that could mean more expensive meat and dairy if farmers are forced to pass along costs to customers.

## MASTERCARD, VISA PUNISH RUSSIA

**NEW YORK:** Mastercard and Visa are suspending their operations in Russia, the companies said Saturday, in the latest blow to the country's financial system after its invasion of Ukraine. Mastercard said cards issued by Russian banks will no longer be supported by its network and any Mastercard issued outside the country will not work at Russian stores or ATMs. Visa said it's working with clients and partners in Russia to cease all Visa transactions over the coming days. P11

# WILDLIFE CRIMES ON RISE, FUNDING ON DECLINE

The Centre has eaten into the funds released under three of its flagship schemes for wildlife conservation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** Even when poaching and other threats to wildlife remain rampant, the Centre has eaten into the funds released under three of its flagship schemes for wildlife conservation, an analysis from the 'State of India's Environment 2022' has said.

On the one hand, as many as 2,639 leopards and 579 tigers were killed in the last 15 years; on the other, the funding for three of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) schemes for wildlife conservation has shown de-



## TUSKER CARCASS FOUND IN DEOGARH

**DEOGARH:** Forest officials recovered the carcass of a tusker from Khulundikudjar jungle under Barkote forest section in Deogarh district, Sunday. The matter came to the fore after locals spotted the carcass in the jungle with one of its tusks missing and informed the forest officials. The jumbo was 25 to 30 years old. However, no injury mark was found on the carcass. The carcass was buried in the jungle after a veterinarian conducted a post-mortem. The post-mortem report has revealed that the animal died due to natural reasons, Deogarh DFO Magar Dhanaji Raoso said. Meanwhile, samples from the carcass were collected and sent to the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) in Bhubaneswar to ascertain the actual reason behind the animal's death, the DFO added.

cline ranging between 16-47 per cent, the 'State of India's Environment 2022' released by the Centre for Science & Environment has found out.

Funding for development of wildlife habitat, being implemented in 34 states and UTs, went down from ₹165 crore in 2018-19 to ₹124 crore in 2019-20 to ₹87 crore in 2020-21. Similarly, funding for Project Tiger — implemented

in 19 states with tiger ranges — went down from ₹323.2 crore in 2018-19 to ₹281.8 crore in 2019-20 to ₹194.5 crore in 2020-21. Even the Project Elephant — being implemented in 22 states — saw similar slashing of funds from ₹29.1 crore in 2018-19 to ₹28 crore in 2019-20 to ₹24 crore in 2020-21.

The 'State of India's Environment 2022' report also stated that there has

been a 78 per cent increase in the number of environmental crimes in the country between 2019 and 2020. At the same time, the courts are disposing of cases at a rate much lower than that of new cases recorded, leading to pile ups and delays. Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh accounted for 90 per cent of the environmental crimes.

Another cause of worry for wildlife

lovers is the increasing instances of human-elephant conflicts that have continued to remain high year after year. As per data from the MoEF&CC from 2014-15 till 2020-21 (till August 9, 2021), 696 elephants were killed in those seven years. Although the number of human deaths is far more than elephants, the cause of worry about elephants is more for obvious reasons that there are roughly 30,000 elephants left in the wild in India.

There are 30 elephant reserves across India encompassing 55,000 sq km area. But 80 per cent of the elephants are outside protected areas. The budget announcements this year, however, painted a little different picture. The MoEF&CC received a total of ₹3,030.00 crore in the budget 2022-23 compared to ₹2,869.9 crore in 2021-22 and much higher than ₹2,630.2 crore in 2013-14.

## 5 BSF men killed in fratricidal firing

AGENCIES

**Amritsar, March 6:** A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan allegedly opened fire at a force camp here Sunday, leaving four of his colleagues dead and another injured.

The accused constable, Sateppa SK, was also killed in the fratricidal incident that took place between 9:30 and 9:45 am at the camp of the 144th battalion in the Khasa area of the district, about 12-13 km short of the Attari-Wagah border crossing along the India-Pakistan international front, an officer said.

However, it was not immediately clear if the accused jawan shot himself or was fired upon by others. "It could be a ricochet that killed the accused. It is unclear as of now," a senior officer said.

Officials said the accused was apparently upset about his duty hours and even fired shots at the vehicle of the second-in-command-rank officer parked in the campus. Asif Jalal, who last week took over as the BSF Inspector General for Punjab, spoke to reporters and denied there was any enmity (between the accused and the victims) or a duty-related issue. The IG said the police and his force were investigating the incident.

A BSF spokesperson said that in an unfortunate incident, five BSF troops were killed at a force camp in Amritsar in a fratricidal incident. The sixth jawan is in a critical condition and is admitted to a hospital. The victims include personnel in the ranks of constable and head constable.

The spokesperson said a court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the facts. Senior officers of the border force and the Punjab Police reached the spot soon after the incident, the officials said.





# leisure



## EDWARD SCISSORHANDS' HOUSE ON MARKET FOR \$700,000

The house used as the location setting for Tim Burton's 1990 cult classic, *Edward Scissorhands* starring Johnny Depp, is on the market for a whopping \$700,000. Located just outside of Tampa, Florida, the home was bought two years ago for \$230,000 by current owner Joey Klops, reports *deadline.com*.

## SCHUMER TALKS ABOUT SON'S AUTISM DIAGNOSIS

Actress Amy Schumer has revealed that she is not much worried about her son Gene being diagnosed like his father Chris Fischer, who has autism spectrum disorder. The actress revealed that Gene will not get an official diagnosis until he is six years old, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

#### ARIES

If you're looking to get married, buy the ring today. But before you take the leap, weigh all the pros and cons carefully, says Ganesha. All in all, this may be a day filled with activities related to your relationship and by the time the day ends, you may be on cloud nine!

#### TAURUS

This is one of those dreadful days when you could be unduly touchy and short tempered, fears Ganesha. Don't go around getting into fights and quarrels with anyone who seems unfriendly or ill mannered. You will only end up in spoiling some healthy relationships. Your moods are likely change from moment to moment.

#### GEMINI

You are desirous of perfection in everything that you do, and you practice this philosophy in every aspect of your life. You make sure that all of your energies are concentrated on taking forward your efforts in the right direction.

#### CANCER

A hectic day, combined with domestic pressure will make you exhausted. You feel a heavy burden on mind and heart. Don't be too emotional, says Ganesha. Take care not to pass domestic burdens on to your career or business, and thereby mar your capacity and efficiency.

#### LEO

You will pay more attention to the younger members in the family. You will guide the children in improving their daily schedule. An occasion to celebrate will present itself. You will be desirous of participating in some competition or program, says Ganesha.

#### VIRGO

Foreign contacts will in all likelihood be a source of monetary profits, Ganesha says you will perform wonderfully in anything you might choose to undertake today. Even your ambition of setting up an offshore business enterprise will take root today.

#### LIBRA

Ganesha says that today will be a lucky day for you. You may receive some financial gain. There will be some good news about your children's progress. This is the right time to invest in business. For financial investors and share brokers this period is beneficial, so make the most of it.

#### SCORPIO

Keep your guards up and be wary today, warns Ganesha. A heat seeker meant for someone else may hit you in mid-flight. But all that watchfulness will save you from embarrassment. Like those old fables, these experiences have a lesson in them, says Ganesha.

#### SAGITTARIUS

The rewards of hard labour will be sweet, so start off by unwinding with some fun today. Ganesha sees quality time being spent with friends and family. All in all, a fun day.

#### CAPRICORN

Numerous projects and building work pressure can keep you busy, but get done with whatever you have on hand, for Ganesha says the day has a host of recreational activities lined up for you. This will also be the right time to reach out to more people, and devour whatever knowledge or information they have to offer. Moreover, you will experience complete personal freedom and will communicate freely with those around you.

#### AQUARIUS

You blessed with a very high level of patience and practicality, and you can easily untangle any problem. But, it gives an excuse to the people around you to wash their hands of any responsibility. It may put you in a tight spot at times leaving you frustrated.

#### PISCES

A day of mixed fortunes awaits you, where taking risks could prove to be your undoing, or provide you with handsome returns, says Ganesha. This is because you could come out on top by treading cautiously, but uncalculated risks will probably throw your calculations out of gear.

## Madhuri bares it all to KJo

Mumbai: Twinkle toes Madhuri Dixit Nene and filmmaker Karan Johar got into some unfiltered fun during a conversation. Karan and Madhuri spoke to each other candidly, as old friends. They chatted about all the love *The Fame Game* is getting, the mess that Anamika Anand is and how Madhuri in real life is so far away from the character. Speaking about her equation with her husband Sriram Nene, Madhuri says, "We

met very casually at my brother's house. He had a party and he was a party guest." "We met and started talking, we spoke about everything else. It was so refreshing to meet someone who had nothing in his mind about me. We hit it off. I felt that he knows me as a person first and then he got introduced to me as an actress." *The Fame Game* streams on Netflix. IANS



### AHEAD OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

## Karishma shares her empowering message

Mumbai: As International Women's Day is set to be celebrated March 8, actress-model Karishma Kotak has shared an empowering message. She says women should be treated kindly on a regular basis instead of just one day.

Karishma said: "Women's Day should be celebrated every day and women should be treated kindly on a regular basis instead of just one day." She added: "It should be the norm to love your mother; help your wife, smile at your daughter and appreciate your sister daily."

On the work front, Karishma recently hosted a Cricket league in Oman. She was also featured in a music video titled *Ab Talak* along with Yasser Desai.

The British Indian model-actress-TV presenter met actor Vishal Karwal during *Bigg Boss 6* and connected instantly. When viewers were thinking about Vishal seeing Sana Khan, Karishma's entry in the house shifted his loyalties. The couple dated for a few years after coming out of the house but finally separated in 2014. IANS



### OPENING DAY HAUL

## The Batman earns \$57 mn at US BO

The DC adaptation shows that superhero movie viewing is in a league of its own for cinegoers

Los Angeles: Robert Pattinson-starrer *The Batman* finally hit movie theatres this weekend and has grossed a whopping \$57 million from 4,417 locations in its opening day, though that's a sum that includes \$21.6 million from Thursday's preview screenings.

The DC adaptation is tracking to open some-

where between \$120 million and \$130 million for the weekend. With more than \$50 million already in the bank, *The Batman* is already the biggest opening weekend of 2022, with *Uncharted* standing at a distant second with a \$44 million three-day debut.

It's yet another demonstration that superhero appointment viewing is in a league of its own for moviegoers, reports *variety.com*.

Big-budget spectacles (and comic book adaptations, especially) can tend to be front-loaded in their box office hauls and *The Batman* should be no exception.

*The Batman* sees Robert Pattinson as the seventh actor to don the cowl of the Caped Crusader in a live-action movie. The film also stars Zoe Kravitz as Catwoman, Paul Dano as the Riddler, Andy Serkis as Alfred Pennyworth and Colin Farrell as the Penguin.

Directed by Matt Reeves, the production proved to be a prolonged one due to the Covid pandemic, with a production budget ballooning past \$200 million. IANS



### NATIONAL MULTILINGUAL THEATRE FESTIVAL PURVA RANGA - DAY 6

## Azad's valour steals hearts in Hindi play

BHUBANESWAR: At a time when Mahatma Gandhi was asking people to resort to non-violence ways to get freedom from colonial rule, some youths looked to other ways to achieve the goal. Chandrasekhar Azad was the torchbearer for them. I was free, I am free and I will remain so till my last breath - was his slogan and he stuck to his words. He shot himself dead before being arrested by the British police.

The bravery of Azad and was on full display in the play *Krantiveer Azad*, staged at Rabindra Mandap, Sunday, on the sixth evening of ongoing Purva Ranga, a national multi-



A scene from the play

lingual theatre festival. Needless to say the play held the audience spellbound till the end.

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 is organising the seven-day the-

atre festival which will conclude Monday.

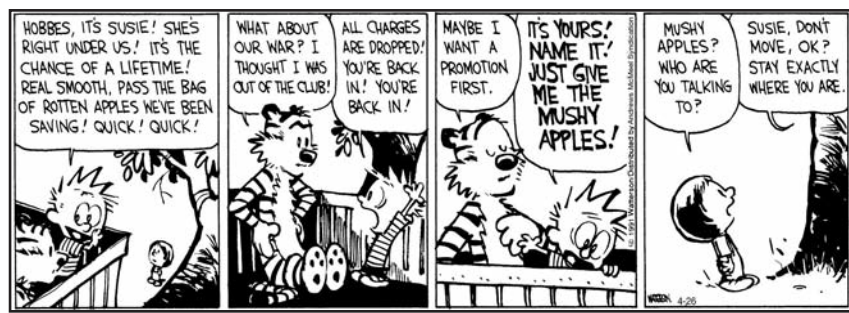
Written by Mithilesh Singh, the play, a venture of Darpan (Rangmandal) theatre troupe of Gorakhpur (UP), was jointly directed by Manavendra Tripathy and Rabindra Gangadhar. Durgesh Kumar scored the music while Rabindra Gangadhar, Swastik Singh, Nabnit Jaiswal, Manabendra Tripathy and Sahil played pivotal roles in the production.

Theatre directors Mihir Meher and Narendra Mishra, OSNA vice-president Manmath Kumar Satpathy and Secretary Prabodh Rath spoke to the audience at the start of the play. PNN

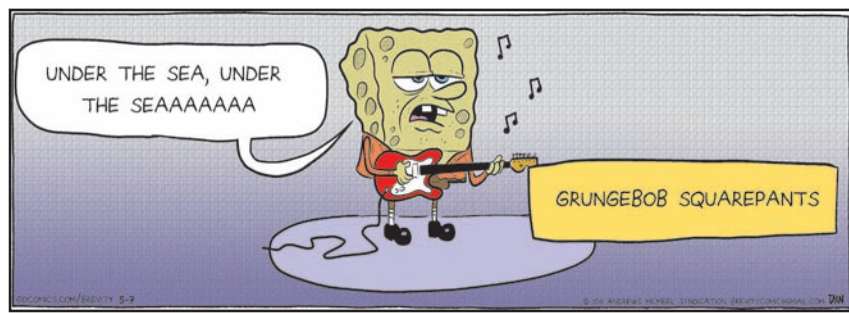
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

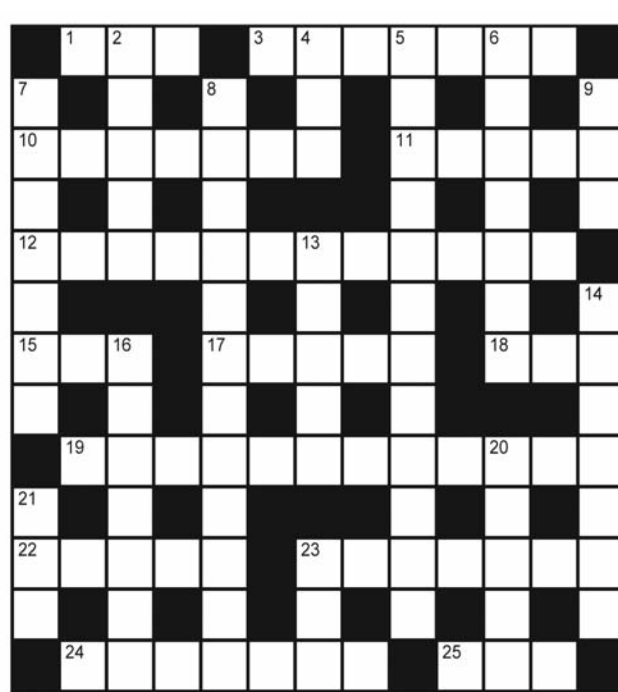


### BREVITY



### FUN post

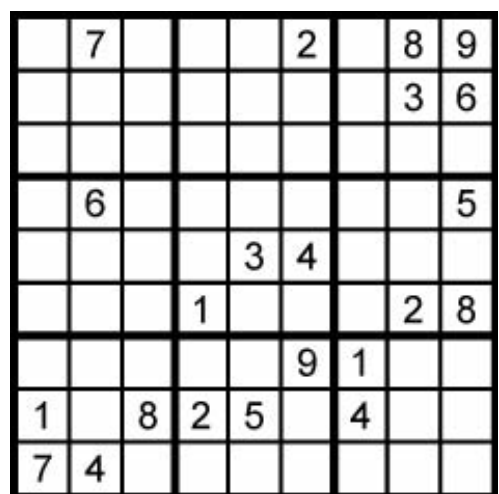
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Caustic chemical
  - 3 Send to the gallows
  - 10 Kind of house?
  - 11 Directory contents
  - 12 How some people live (4,2,3,3)
  - 15 Nuke
  - 17 Pesky insects
  - 18 Colour
  - 19 Squealers (5,7)
  - 22 Shrimp kin
  - 23 Lottery, for one
  - 24 Port on the Clyde
  - 25 Hack
  - 6 Gigantic
  - 7 Chinese breed of small dog (4-3)
  - 8 Assets (6,6)
  - 9 Cigar residue
  - 13 Vagabond
  - 14 E-mail, e.g.
  - 16 Booby trap
  - 20 Kind of supernatural board
  - 21 Choose
  - 23 Twosome
- Down
- 2 Offspring
  - 4 Peculiar
  - 5 Flashing red lights, maybe (6,6)

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



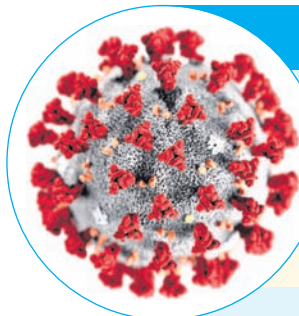
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## THEATRE SHOW

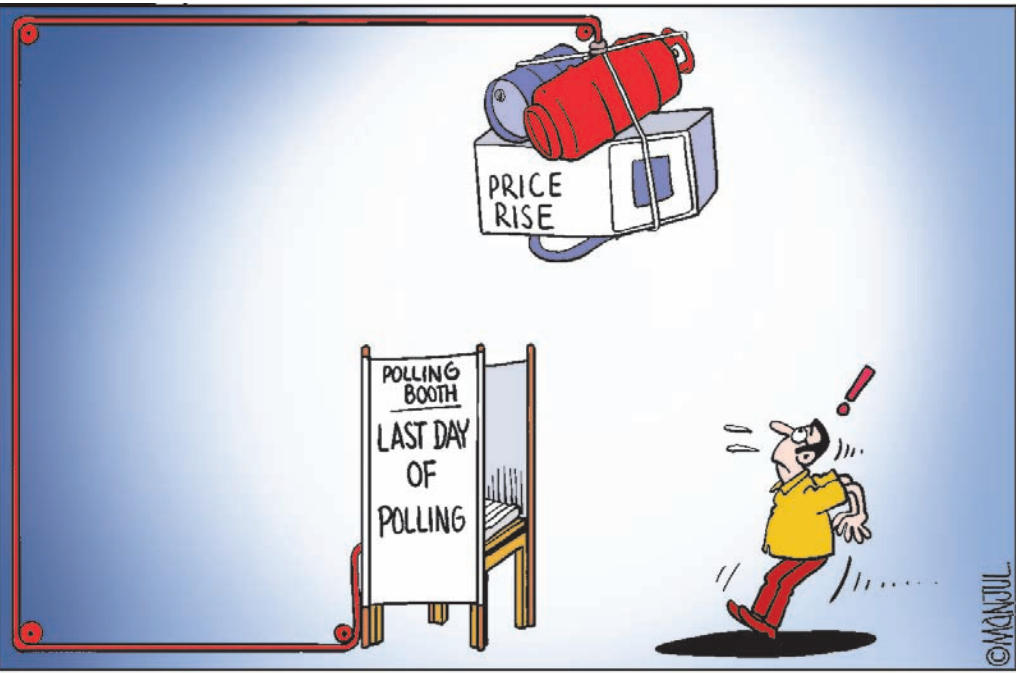
Artistes from Samrat Sie Kalara Pujhari outfit stage play *Raasaila* at Soohana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	44,56,92,899	37,88,31,251	60,17,348
India	4,29,62,953	4,23,88,475	5,15,036
Odisha	12,85,889	12,75,542	9,101

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Plea to withdraw fee hike in medical colleges

POST NEWS NETWORK

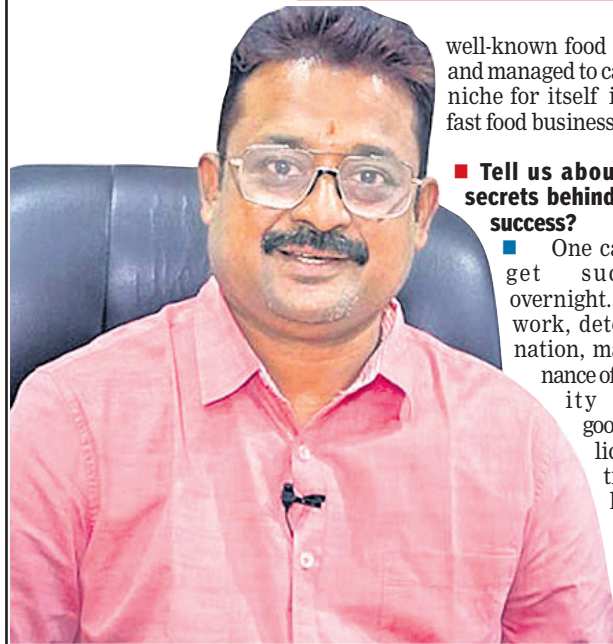
Bhubaneswar, March 6: The Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) Sunday wrote to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik requesting withdrawal of the fee hike at the medical colleges in the state.

OPF chairman Basudev Bhatt said State Fee Regulatory Authority has hiked the fees by 28 per cent in MBBS-BDS and 49 per cent in Super Speciality courses.

"During Covid, we have lost our income and are struggling to manage our families. Parents always have the desire to make their kids doctors or engineers. This may be a cause for which parents were compelled to send their children to Ukraine and Russia. This hike will stop parents from fulfilling their kids' dreams," the parents body said, requesting for withdrawal of the hiked fees.

## Customers' need is our priority: Rao

Greenchillyz was launched in the 1990s at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar and it has become a popular food chain over the years. In a breezy chat with **Orissa POST**, M Keshav Rao, founder of the chain, speaks about its journey, USP and expansion plans. Excerpts:



well-known food chain and managed to carve a niche for itself in the fast food business.

### Tell us about the secrets behind your success?

One cannot get success overnight. Hard work, determination, maintenance of quality and good public relations have contributed to the success of Greenchillyz. We love this fast food business and try our best to fulfill the requirements of the customers. We also maintain a healthy work relationship with our employees.

planned to provide catering service to people.

### What is the USP of Greenchillyz?

We offer a variety of Biryani and Roll to our customers. The success of every business depends upon the satisfaction of its customers. We treat customers of all segments equally. We do not provide any special service to any particular segment.

### What are the recent trends in the food business?

People usually prefer to enjoy fast food with their families and friends under the open sky. But, this trend has received a jolt due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, most of the customers are opting for takeaway meals through both online and offline modes. The availability of food delivery service has also given a boost to the parcel system.

### How do you spend your leisure time?

I hardly get time off from my work. Nevertheless, I spare some time to look after domestic issues, meet friends and relatives, and participate in festivals and events. I also love to spend time with my family, especially with my mother.

### What is your advice to aspiring entrepreneurs?

They should try to win the trust of people through honesty and hard work. Good relation with customers and employees is very important to achieve success.

### How has been the journey so far?

After discontinuing my studies at an early age, I started searching for some work here and there to supplement my family earning. Often I had to buy cheap foods from the street to satiate my hunger. During that phase, I developed a desire to start some business in Bhubaneswar. With the help of BMC and Opolfed, I opened a fast food stall at Master Canteen Square in the capital city in July 1999. However, my stall was completely damaged by the Super Cyclone. But, I restarted the business with much hardship and there was no looking back after that. My business has completed 23 years due to the grace of Lord Jagannath. Now, Greenchillyz has become a

process of Greenchillyz. We love this fast food business and try our best to fulfill the requirements of the customers. We also maintain a healthy work relationship with our employees.

### What are your future plans?

It is very difficult to do a business without having future plans. The fast food business has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. We shouldered the responsibilities of managing our employees and their families during the pandemic induced lockdowns and shutdowns. Things are improving now. We hope that the citizens of Bhubaneswar would have the opportunity to get tasty and healthy foods from a new platform, Goldenchillyz. We have also

## CP drive to check drinking in public places

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Ahead of the civic body polls, the Commissionerate Police (CP) has launched a massive crackdown against consumption of alcohol in public places in the capital city here.

The Commissionerate Police has undertaken a special drive against those who drink in public places, especially near eateries and outside liquor outlets. "The drive was carried out in different parts of the city in the past 48 hours. Around 200 people were fined Rs 500 each for drinking alcohol in public places," said a po-

The Commissionerate Police has decided to act tough on Khatti or hang-out zones of anti-social elements ahead of the civic body polls

lice officer.

Apart from launching crackdown on consumption of alcohol in public places, the Commissionerate Police has decided to act tough on Khatti or hang-out zones of anti-social elements.

The police have razed 12 Khattis at different places of the city and imposed penalties on 92 persons, sources said.

"We have intensified patrolling across the city and launched a

drive to check congregations at various hang-out zones. Many youngsters usually congregate at these hang-out zones in the evening. Our focus is to check anti-social activities and consumption of alcohol in public places," said Additional DCP Prakash Chandra Pal.

Pal also appealed to people not to congregate unnecessary till the model code of conduct is in force. "There is no restriction near eater-

ies. But, we are targeting the places where the anti-social elements usually congregate for various illegal activities," he said.

Speaking to Orissa POST, Deputy Commissioner of Police Umashankar Dash said Khattis have turned into breeding grounds for various illegal activities.

"We have initiated action against such Khattis following the crackdown on the members of KBN group a few months ago. The crackdown on the hang-out zones has been intensified ahead of the civic body polls. We have also intensified patrolling across the city," Dash added.

## ELECTION FERVOUR



1) Congress mayoral candidate Madhusmita Acharya files her nomination in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

2) A BJP candidate on her way to submit her papers for the civic body polls in the capital city

3) Congress leader Giribala Behera files her nomination for the mayor post in Cuttack

4) A BJD candidate takes out a procession to submit his nomination in the Silver City

## Sritam Das BJP's mayoral pick for Cuttack

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 6: The state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sunday named actor Sritam Das as its mayoral candidate for the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), which will go to polls March 24.

Cuttack city BJP president Lalatendu Badu made this announcement. Das, a popular actor in Odia film industry, had joined the saffron party in 2014. He remained an active member of the party and campaigned for its candidates during several elections, a BJP leader said.

Many names were doing the rounds for the post, but the party leadership picked the actor as BJP candidate for the mayor post.

Das, in a statement, said he was really surprised with this an-



ouncement. "Until Saturday, I was unaware that the BJP would nominate me. I have been given a crucial task. The party has reposed faith in me and I will try my best to deliver," he added.

As a resident of the Cuttack city, Das said he is fully aware of the

problems being faced by the locals.

The ruling BJD has named Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Singh as its nominee for the mayoral post in the CMC while the Congress has selected former corporator Giribala Behera for the coveted post.

As per schedule, elections to 47 municipalities, 59 notified area councils and three municipal corporations will be held March 24. The election results will be declared March 26.

The BJP, meanwhile, named Sabita Suar as party's mayoral candidate for Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC).

State BJP president Samir Mohanty Sunday approved the name of Suar as the party's candidate for BeMC mayor post. Suar will be locking horns with BJD's Sanghamitra Dalei.

## High fat diet, liquid fructose linked to fatty liver disease

Eating a high-fat diet combined with the intake of beverages sweetened with liquid fructose, may be linked to fatty liver disease, according to a study.

Fructose is one of the most common sweeteners in the food industry. This simple sugar (monosaccharide) is industrially obtained from corn syrup, a product derived from this gramineae.

With a great sweetener power and low production costs, fructose is used by the food industry to sweeten beverages, sauces and processed foods, despite the scientific evidence that it associates with metabolic diseases which are risk factors of cardiovascular pathologies.

According to the new study published in the journal 'Molecular Nutrition and Food Research', the effect caused by fructose in the increase in the synthesis of fatty acids in the liver is more decisive than the external introduction of fats through the diet.

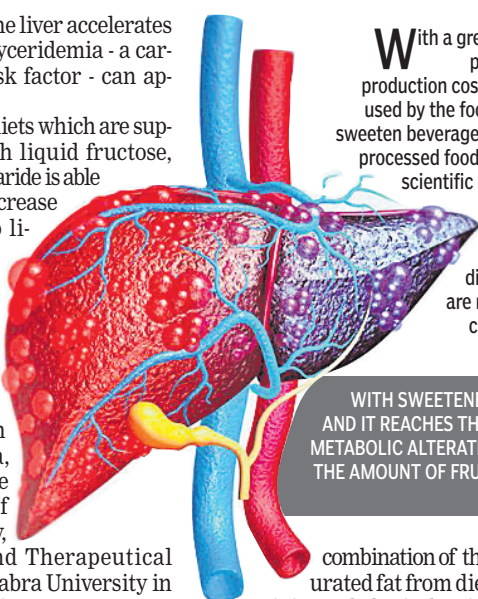
It showed that the accumula-

tion of fats in the liver accelerates and hypertriglyceridemia - a cardiovascular risk factor - can appear.

"In high-fat diets which are supplemented with liquid fructose, this monosaccharide is able to induce an increase in the de novo lipogenesis - that is, the formation of fats through sugar and an inhibition of the lipid oxidation in the liver," said Juan Carlos Laguna, from the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutical Chemistry at Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain.

In particular, fructose intake directly causes an increase in the expression of enzymes that control the hepatic synthesis of fatty acids. The findings showed that the

With a great sweetener power and low production costs, fructose is used by the food industry to sweeten beverages, sauces and processed foods, despite the scientific evidence that it associates with metabolic diseases which are risk factors of cardiovascular pathologies



WITH SWEETENED BEVERAGES, FRUCTOSE IS QUICKLY ABSORBED AND IT REACHES THE LIVER MASSIVELY, PRODUCING THE DESCRIBED METABOLIC ALTERATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN WE EAT FRUIT, THE AMOUNT OF FRUCTOSE TAKEN IS A LOT LOWER COMPARED TO A SWEETENED DRINK

combination of the saturated fat from dietary origin and the induction of the endogenous synthesis of fatty acids is what causes the emergence of the fatty liver.

"Moreover, we are describing for the first time that fructose, un-

Several epidemiologic studies related the consumption of drinks that are sweetened with fructose to the non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), a pathology for which there is no specific pharmacological therapy

The accumulation of fats in the liver accelerates and hypertriglyceridemia - a cardiovascular risk factor - can appear

like high-fat diets, increases the expression of the PNPLA3 protein, associated with the appearance of hypertriglyceridemia, a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases," said Nuria Roglans, from the variety.

Several epidemiologic studies

related the consumption of drinks that are sweetened with fructose to the non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), a pathology for which there is no specific pharmacological therapy.

In these patients, de novo lipogenesis contributes up to 30 per cent of the lipids accumulated in the liver, while in healthy people this synthesis brings only 5 per cent of hepatic lipids.

The effects described in the study are only observable if fructose is taken in its liquid form.

With sweetened beverages, fructose is quickly absorbed and it reaches the liver massively, producing the described metabolic alterations. On the other hand, when we eat fruit, the amount of fructose taken is a lot lower compared to a sweetened drink.

"Also, the process of chewing it and the presence of other elements in the fruit, such as fibre, slows down the absorption of fructose and its arrival to the liver," the researchers said.

## Centre has sought clarifications on legislative council: Patro

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Assembly Speaker SN Patro Sunday said the Centre has sought certain clarifications from the state government on the proposed creation of a legislative council in the state.

Patro also said that the Union Law Ministry wrote to the state government in reply to a letter sent by him.

The Parliamentary Affairs department would respond to the Centre's query on formation of a legislative council, he stated.

Last month, Patro had written to Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju, while replying a question by BJD MP Prasanna Acharya February 11, said he had no information about any resolution passed in Odisha Assembly for creation of the legislative council.

The Speaker, in his letter, mentioned that the Assembly September

18, 2018, adopted a resolution for creating a Legislative Council in the state and the same was communicated to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Union Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and Union Law and Justice Ministry.

Patro had also said that a probe should be conducted to find out why the Union minister was not properly briefed by officials concerned about the resolution.

Replying to a question, Patro, during the day, told reporters that the Budget Session of Odisha Assembly would commence before March 31. The date would be officially announced after an approval is received from the Governor, he said.

The speaker further stated that the Odisha Assembly will soon launch its YouTube channel. This apart, the Assembly will soon start its television channel 'Vidhan Sabha TV' and a monthly magazine titled 'Vidhan Sabha Patrika', he added.



# Steep decline in daily Covid cases lets state breathe easy

SUNDAY'S 129 NEW INFECTIONS WERE THE LOWEST SINCE DECEMBER 27, WHEN ODISHA HAD REPORTED 123 FRESH CASES



**S**undargarh district registered the highest number of new cases with 25 persons testing positive for the disease, followed by Gajapati with 20 new cases

**K**hurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded only 14 new cases.

**T**he State Pool reported three fresh cases, as these are persons who have come from outside Odisha and have tested positive

(1), Jagatsinghpur (1), Jajpur (1), Jharsuguda (9), Kendrapara (8), Koraput (2), Malkangiri (1), Mayurbhanj (8), Puri (2) and Sambalpur (18).

These apart, the State Pool reported three fresh cases. These are persons who have come from outside Odisha and have tested positive.

The infections are the lowest since 123 cases December 27. The state had logged 145 infections and

seven deaths Saturday. A total of 2,95,50,452 swab samples have been cumulatively tested so far. The number of recoveries in the last 24 hours stands at 209.

The state's Covid death toll mounted to 9,101 with three fatalities in Kandhamal district. These are confirmed as Covid deaths after an audit. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to data.

## India's daily TPR dips to 0.60 per cent

**New Delhi:** India reported 5,476 fresh Covid infections and 158 new deaths in the last 24 hours, the Union health ministry said Sunday. With the new deaths, the toll has climbed to 5,15,036 in the country. Meanwhile, the active Covid cases have further reduced to 59,442, which constitute 0.14 per cent of the country's total positive cases, as per the ministry report. The recovery of 9,754 patients in the last 24 hours has increased the cumulative tally to 4,23,88,475. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.66 per cent. Also in the same period, a total of 9,09,985 tests were conducted across the country. India has so far conducted over 77.28 crore cumulative tests. Meanwhile, the weekly positivity rate has further come down to 0.77 per cent while the daily positivity rate has fallen at 0.60 per cent. With the administration of over 26.19 lakhs vaccine doses in the last 24 hours, India's Covid inoculation coverage has reached 178.83 crore as of Sunday morning.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, March 6:** Odisha recorded 129 more Covid-19 cases Sunday while three more persons succumbed to the highly infectious disease, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

Out of the total new infections, 75 were reported from quarantine centres while 54 persons contracted the virus locally.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) dropped to 0.26 per cent and 39 children were among the newly infected, it said, adding that 48,964 samples were tested in the past 24 hours.

Sundargarh logged the highest new cases at 25, followed by Gajapati with 20 new infections.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded only 14 new cases.

Other districts that reported new Covid-19 cases are: Balasore (10), Bhadrak (2), Bolangir (1), Cuttack (2), Deogarh (1), Ganjam



The 31st annual conference of Pharmaceutical Employees Union was held at Town Hall in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## Man loses ₹4L to snatcher

**BHUBANESWAR:** An unidentified miscreant allegedly snatched away a bag containing ₹4 lakh in cash from a former state government employee here Sunday, an official said. The incident took place in the afternoon when the victim Shiba Prasad of Rangamatia in Mancheswar area was on his way to a diagnostic centre near Maharshi College under Sahid Nagar Police limits here. "The victim was parking his vehicle in front of the diagnostic centre when a miscreant snatched away his bag," said a police official, quoting Shiba Prasad's complaint.

# OES: Eco village model needs wider replication

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 6:** The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) Sunday organised an exposure visit programme at the 'Waldenwoods Eco Village' established in Kantamalia village of Bhuban Block in Dhenkanal district, to take stock of the functioning of the model.

The eco village is still in its formative stage, and has been modeled to implement sustainability in people's lives through shared ecological, socio-economic and cultural-spiritual values.

At present, the cities and megacities of the world are experiencing enormous pollution from diverse sources. People are suffocating and suffering from various ailments while inhabiting in such places. The environment in urban areas is deteriorating progressively, compelling people to leave the polluted and congested cities to rather secured, tranquil places where life can be enjoyed with the tranquil touch of nature. Therefore, the concept of eco village has attracted the attention of many across the globe.

The OES observed that for attaining self-sufficiency and implementing the ecological goals of sustainability, the eco village has undertaken cultivation of vegetables, fruits and crops by organic farming; rearing of cows and poultry; plantation of various plant species and ornamental plants along roadsides; rain-water harvesting measures; solar-energy fencing; waste-treatment facilities by composting; and abandoning single-use plastics. Attempts have been made to encourage the inhabitants to adopt the traditional forms of community living in the built up cottages within its premises. It has also provisions of accommodating visitors from outside who intend to enjoy life for a while in such a magnificent, natural setting. Also, plantation of rare and endangered medicinal plants was undertaken after observing all the aspects of the eco-village.



The concept of eco village has attracted the attention of many across the globe

At present, cities and mega-cities of the world are experiencing enormous pollution from diverse sources

People are suffocating and suffering from various ailments while inhabiting in such places

The environment in urban areas is deteriorating progressively, compelling people to leave the polluted and congested cities to rather secured, tranquil places where life can be enjoyed with the serene touch of nature

A meeting was organised at the end of the visit, which was presided over by the OES President Sundara Narayan Patro. In the beginning, OES secretary Jaya Krushna Panigrahi narrated the goals of the eco village and opined that our focus needs to be on lessening the mounting stress on human mind as well as on nature by changing

our mindset and lifestyle. The Founder-Director of the eco village, Ramkrishna Dash narrated his journey and the motto of providing a sustainable, healthy living place as well as diminishing the detrimental impacts of pollution and unchecked human interference on nature.

The newly elected sarpanch Madhab Chandra Das, while explaining the significance of Panchayati Raj Divas, expressed his desire to work for the protection of the environment in his locality. Former professor of FM University Nirmal Chandra Dash opined that as half of the local population constitutes tribal people, they need to be partners of conservation efforts. He was also presented the patron certificate of the society.

## FOR A BIG CATCH



A fisherman casts his net for a prize catch in Daya river on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## AIIMS recruitment

**BHUBANESWAR:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar will hold a walk-in-interview for the engagement of study coordinator and lab personnel for a research project. As per the advertisement, the walk-in-interview for both the posts is tentatively scheduled to be held March 10, 2022 (subject to approval). "Both the engagements will be on a temporary basis for a period of 12 months," a press release by the institution read.

# Identifying behavioural issues key to early detection of cancer in kids: Study

**I**dentifying behaviour and developmental markers is key to early detection of cancer in kids but it is often overlooked, says Abhishek Shankar, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna.

Shankar said that with the development of new medical treatments and technologies, the survival rate of children with cancer has increased.

However, childhood cancer has an undesirable impact on patients and their families. Childhood malignancies raise a range of medical, psychological and social concerns, he added.

"A total of 33.3 per cent of children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia had emotional disorders, as per a study, whereas, 53 per cent of children with neo-

plasms were suffering from some emotional and behavioural disorders, reports another study," AIIMS Professor said.

While talking about the challenges of rising paediatric cancer, Shankar said that one-third of paediatric cancer survivors suffer from cognitive impairments, often due to chemotherapy treatment.

The most common long-term cognitive deficits found in paediatric cancer survivors receiving chemotherapy treatment include



**A total of 33.3 per cent of children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia had emotional disorders, as per a study, whereas, 53 per cent of children with neoplasms were suffering from some emotional and behavioural disorders, reports another study**

ABHISHEK SHANKAR | ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY, AIIMS-PATNA

alterations in attention and executive functioning, altered or decreased processing speed, working memory, and visual spatial abilities.

"There is a need for interven-

ONE-THIRD OF PAEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORS SUFFER FROM COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS, OFTEN DUE TO CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT

THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES IN TERMS OF INTERVENTIONS AND THEY REQUIRE A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM LED BY A DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICIAN FOR ENSURING REGULAR MONITORING AND TAILORING VARIOUS THERAPIES ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF A PARTICULAR CHILD

tion from the beginning, so developmental-behavioural paediatricians should be an important part of the team to ensure better quality of life," the AIIMS Professor added.

Delhi-based leading developmental paediatrician Shubham Roy said that the prevalence of emotional and behavioural problems in children and adolescents is on the rise.

"We have not seen the paediatric cancer patients coming to us for assessments before their treatment begins. However, it is important to understand the treatment related changes if we get a baseline data. This should be an integral component of continued paediatric cancer care," Roy further added.

Roy said that there are many challenges in terms of interventions and they require a multidisciplinary team led by a developmental paediatrician for ensuring regular monitoring and tailoring various therapies according to the needs of a particular child. IANS

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-977682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



SHORT TAKES

**Woman burnt to death for dowry**

**Basudevpur:** A newly-wed woman was allegedly burnt to death over dowry at Khemeswarpur under Basudevpur block of Bhadrak. Police have arrested the husband and the mother-in-law of the deceased, Sunday. The deceased was identified as Mintati Das (23), wife of Dayanidhi Das. Mintati and Dayanidhi were married June 25, 2021. However, Mintati was found critically burnt in her house Saturday and was admitted to SCB MCH, Cuttack, but succumbed Sunday. Mintati's brother Gopal Charan Sahu filed a complaint against Dayanidhi and his mother at Basudevpur police station, alleging that the two had poured kerosene on his sister and burnt her to death. Police started an investigation with a scientific team and arrested the two accused.

**Youth held for rape in Silk City**

**Berhampur:** Sadar police arrested a youth on charge of rape of a girl on the pretext of marriage, Sunday. The accused was identified as Susant Moharana, 27, alias Buddha of Ankushpur village. A case was registered in this connection and a medical examination conducted on the accused and the survivor. Later, the accused was produced in court and remanded to judicial custody after the court rejected his bail plea. The survivor also recorded her statement in the court of the judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) Sonali Mohanty. Police said the accused even threatened to kill her if she disclosed the matter before others.

**Girl shot at by poachers**

**Sundargarh:** In a shocking incident, an 18-year-old girl was shot at by a poacher suspecting her to be a wild boar at a forest near Lamti village under Dharuadihi police limits in Sundargarh district, Sunday morning. The woman Urbashi Naik, a native of Dhumagada village sustained critical injuries after the bullet pierced her back. She is studying in Birbira College by staying at her maternal uncle's house in Lamti village. Urbashi, accompanied by some other women, had gone to a forest to collect firewood where the bullet in that direction. On being informed, police reached the spot and gheraoed the forest to arrest the accused poachers.

**Brown sugar worth ₹26L seized; drug dealer held**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jaleswar, March 6:** In a major breakthrough, a team of police officials from Jaleswar and Bhograi has arrested notorious drug dealer Eklak Saturday night from Kamarda locality in Balasore district. They also seized brown sugar worth around Rs 26 lakh from him. This was informed by IIC Rojalin Behera Sunday. She added that Eklak has been involved various drug peddling cases in Jaleswar and his network spreads from Odisha to Bangladesh. According to the source, a raid was conducted after a video of some youths striking a deal of the contraband went viral on social media earlier in the day. Acting on a tip-off, police officials carried out the raid at Kamarda on SH-57 in the district and seized 260 grams of brown sugar from his possession.

In the viral video, the youths were seen negotiating the price of brown sugar at a shop alongside the State Highway. During interrogation, the accused could not produce any valid document in support of possessing the contraband item, for which he was later arrested. Jaleswar police have registered a case in this connection and initiated a detailed investigation, which is underway. The drug peddler will be forwarded to a local court Monday. Police have been trying to find out the link of a cartel, if any. It is pertinent to mention here that Jaleswar block is a major transit point in Balasore district for brown sugar trade in Odisha. The drug is supplied to different parts of the state through different peddlers after they procure the same from neighbouring West Bengal.



Girls performed traditional 'Dhema' dance at Rajput Ashram School under Semiliguda block in Koraput district as part of a public outreach programme organised by district police, Sunday

**Safety norms thrown to the winds in Chilika**

WITH BOTH THE FLOATING VESSELS LYING DEFUNCT, PILGRIMS HAVE TO TAKE OVERCROWDED BOAT RIDES RISKING THEIR LIVES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Krushnaprasad, March 6:** Despite frequent reports of mishaps including capsizing and grounding of boats and vessels in Chilika lake, the safety concerns in ferry services have continuously been thrown to the winds given the routine scenes of overcrowded boats in the blue lagoon. Ferry services for pilgrims at Chilika to reach Puri are operating with blatant disregard to the established safety and security regulations, putting the passengers' lives at risk. The boats continue to ferry hundreds of tourists and locals across the water body sans adequate safety measures. Those are usually overcrowded beyond their permitted capacity. Making the matter worse, the ferries also transport a large number of vehicles including two-wheelers and four wheelers, without any regard to the maximum weight allowed on board. The Janhikuda-Satpada water way passing through Chilika is the only time-saving and easily available route for pilgrims from south Odisha and Krushnaprasad block to Lord Jagannath's abode in Puri. Hundreds of pilgrims and passengers travelling to Puri prefer this route through the water body to avoid a 200 km-long road journey. However, the hazardous boat rides



TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SAFETY OF THE PILGRIMS, CDA HAD PROVIDED TWO FLOATING VESSELS WHICH ARE NOW LYING DEFUNCT

often put their lives in danger. Taking into consideration the safety of the pilgrims, the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) had provided two floating vessels. Apart from pilgrims, the vessels also ferried buses, trucks, cars and other vehicles. However, the floating vessels have now been lying defunct. "Senior engineers from Paradip and Odisha Diesel Private Ltd and mechanics of CDA have been engaged in the repair work. The vessels will be provided for public use once again as soon as the repair work is done," said CDA junior engineers Dumbrudhar Biswal and Biswaji Das. With both the floating vessels

lying defunct, pilgrims are forced to take overcrowded boat rides thereby risking their lives. While the tourist inflow to Puri is expected to increase in coming days, the slow pace of repair work is a matter of concern. It may be recalled that several tourists have died recently in accidents triggered by lack of safety arrangements at tourist hot spots. At least, six persons met the watery grave after a boat capsized in the lake June 16, 2018. Then it was made mandatory to wear life jackets for pilgrims. However, the boat operators and the riders are blatantly violating the rules, a tourist from Phulbani said.

**Commitment to serve to be deciding factor in Jajpur ULB polls**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, March 6:** 153-year-old Jajpur Municipality, regarded as one of the oldest Municipalities of Odisha, will see Municipal Elections after three years. Both the candidates and voters are eagerly waiting for the elections. Candidates of all the three major parties BJD, BJP and the Congress will contest for 18 wards. Parties have started their exercise to pick up right candidates as voters are looking forward to see new faces. The candidate's commitment to serve the people will be the deciding factor, some voters stated. After announcement of poll schedules, frontline leaders of various political parties who were in hibernation for the last three years have become active again. Interestingly, the post of chairperson in the municipality has been reserved for women belonging to the scheduled tribes while the tribal population under the civic body is negligible. As per colonial history, Jajpur Municipality was formed back in 1869 by the British. It completed 150 years of its formation in 2018 and the latest municipal election was held here in September 30, 2018. Even as all basic works of roads, cleanliness, drainage and garbage management have been done in the previous years, there is much remaining to be done here. The



main issue for the candidates here is garbage management and mosquito menace. Many people say that instead of addressing the poor drainage system, messy sanitation and bad roads, the administration has only laid stress on beautification of the civic body. People here are perennially affected by poor drainage and pollution. Some streets in the colony are always waterlogged. Many residents have alleged of frequent flood-like situations due to mismanagement of drainage system. So, many candidates are making it their election strategy and trying to woo voters with promises to develop these basic infrastructures in Jajpur. Now, it is up to the voters to decide the fate of the candidates. The votes of the educated and conscious denizens of the city will be important, it is said. Meanwhile, candidates can be seen queuing outside political leaders' houses to get the tickets.

**Land of Gajapati royals grabbed**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, March 6:** A deputy commandant of Odisha Special Armed Police (OSAP) 3rd Battalion, Paralakhemundi has reportedly encroached upon the land owned by the king of erstwhile Paralakhemundi royal family and one of the architects of modern Odisha, Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati. The matter came to the fore after Princess Kalyani Devi with the help of local residents and intellectuals of Parala town approached Gumma and Paralakhemundi tehsildars for help. Kalyani Devi alleged that the deputy commandant had encroached upon the king's land at Betaguda under Gumma tehsil. This apart, the commandant has also grabbed acres of government land and is using it for plantation of trees and flowers. Despite repeated requests, the Commandant refused to vacate the land. Later, in the presence of Gumma and Paralakhemundi tehsildar, Kalyani Devi removed all the encroachments. With the help of her staff, the queen also reclaimed her land, reports said. Earlier, there were reports of Andhra government encroaching upon the king's land. The land was then used to build a school. Residents had earlier expressed displeasure and accused the government of turning a blind eye to the issue. "Being the residents of Paralakhemundi, we express immense grief that the government has taken no step to honour the Gajapati, who was a pioneer in the formation of 'Naba Utkal'. He was a rare multi-talented and affectionate ruler," said a local intellectual.



**Admin steps in, residents reverse boycott decision**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, March 6:** With the urban local body (ULB) elections drawing closer, people in ward 3 of Malkangiri municipality have reversed their decision to boycott votes in the ULB polls after the intervention of the district administration. Notably they had warned of shunning the polls over land pattas, which have not been provided to them. They alleged that an official has managed to get lease plots of the residents registered in his name. Taking serious note of the issue, officials of the district administration held talks with the residents Saturday and assured that the issue would be sorted out soon. Subsequently, the locals have reversed their decision to boycott votes in the ULB polls. Reports said, ward 3 has over 1,500 voters while 400 families have been deprived of pattas of their homestead land, even though they have been residing in the municip-

**ULB POLLS IN MALKANGIRI**

ality area for years. "We are exhausted from frequenting to the collectorate and the tehsil office for pattas. As it yielded no results, we moved the court for the land rights. We had decided to boycott poll this time," residents said. Now, several aspirants have started mulling effective ways to tackle such issues and appease the angry voters. Repeated pleas for land pattas by the slum dwellers before the Collector and tehsildar have fallen flat. "We will boycott polls unless we get written assurance from the administration. We will continue our agitation against the administrative apathy towards us," they fumed. Fearing hindrance in the ULB polls, Malkangiri sub-collector Akshay Kumar Khemudu talked to the residents. "After April, steps will be taken to issue pattas of their dwelling places. A survey will be conducted," he added. People in some other wards are sore over other issues and warned of boycotting polls.

**3 women in race for chairperson post**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, March 6:** With nomination filing for elections to the urban local bodies coming to an end Monday, the administration has so far received 11 nomination papers in Kendrapara municipality comprising 21 wards. Meanwhile, three women candidates from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress have thrown their hats into the ring for the post of chairperson. According to reports, March 7 is the last date for filing nomination while elections will be held March 24. Sarita Sahu filed her nominations for ward 10 Saturday while



10 others filed their nominations Sunday. Lawyer Padmini Behera has filed nomination for ward 1; Tulasi Hembram for ward 3; Sasmita Panda for ward 4; Baishnav Panda for ward 5; Jayanti Pani and Suchismita Basantia for ward 7; Abdul Samim and Apurba Ranjan Sethi for ward 13; Farzana Khatun for ward 16 and Sarat Chandra Behra for ward 21. Though BJD, BJP and the Congress have announced the names of their candidates for the post of chairperson, they had not yet announced the names of all the nominees for councilor posts till the last report came in. The BJD has given ticket to Sarita Sahu, wife of party's state secretary Ranjit Sahu for the post of chairperson; the BJP has given ticket to Minakshi Das (wife of for-

**Balasore students recount horrors of war**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baliapal, March 6:** Two medical students of Baliapal and Basta area in Balasore district have returned home safely from war-ravaged Ukraine. They are Bibekananda Patra of Srirampur village under Baliapal block and Akash Parida of Kaenda under Basta block. However, their hearts are still heavy with nightmarish memories of survival in war-torn Ukraine. The two recounted the horror they went through for seven days amid missile attacks from Russia. "At every step, life was fraught with danger. Fearing for life, we had to spend seven days inside a bunker, just 300 metres away from



the place in Kharkiv where Russian forces were attacking with grenades. Every moment was tense and scary. It was a nightmare to hope for survival with a cloud on the horizon," the two said. The missile and grenade attacks were so intense and frightening after February 24 that we had lost all hopes of survival. "Horror pre-

vailed everywhere. The town where we used to stay had been completely ravaged by aerial attacks. It resembled a ghost town. Piles of rubble and blazing fires were visible all over the town. We were terrified and memories of our village and families came flooding our minds," they bemoaned. After seven days, the two along with others ventured out from the bunker in Kharkiv and managed to hire a taxi to the nearby station. From there, they came to Budapest after crossing the Hungary border and then they were flown to New Delhi under Operation Ganga of the Central government. After reaching home and reuniting with family members, they are on cloud nine.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/21-22/E-Tender/112, Dt.03.03.2022

1.Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Bridge-KUR-298-2021, Dt.02.03.2022  
DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF INSPECTION LADDERS, TOP RAILING OF BRIDGE NO.449 DN BETWEEN JAKHAPURA - JENAPUR SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE), CUTTACK/OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 100.81 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,00,400/-

2.Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Bridge-KUR-299-2021, Dt.02.03.2022  
DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF SIDE PATHWAY ON BRIDGE NO.539 DN ON BHADRAK - PALASA SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE) / CUTTACK/OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 93.04 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 1,86,100/-

3.Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Bridge-KUR-300-2021, Dt.02.03.2022  
DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF SIDE PATHWAY ON BRIDGE NO. 950 DN, 951 DN ON BHADRAK - PALASA SECTION AND BRIDGE NO. 63 DN & 66 UP ON KHURDA ROAD - PURI SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE) - SOUTH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 132.04 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,16,000/-  
Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months (For all tenders)  
Date and time of closing of tender : At 1500 hrs of 23.03.2022 (For all tenders)  
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.  
NOTE : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.  
Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in.  
Divisional Railway Manager(Engg.) PR-863/M/21-22 Khurda Road



FOCUS WORLD ORDER

# OLD MAN IN WHITE HOUSE



While the world can be thankful that Joe Biden is now America's President, he personifies an international order crumbling so fast that it almost no longer exists. The sun is setting on Pax Americana, and not only because everything must end at some point

Communist Party lost their desire to prop up a decaying empire. So, it collapsed quickly, and the US and its allies did nothing to soften the humiliation. Putin, who was a KGB officer in East Germany in the late 1980s, has been plotting his revenge ever since.

Things probably won't unravel quite so rapidly in the American case, not least because the US is still a very rich country with a formidable military. But fewer and fewer Americans nowadays feel the need to maintain Pax Americana, which is after all expensive. Republicans in thrall to Trump long to return to the 1990s, when America Firsters promoted US isolation from foreign conflicts and would have been happy to make a deal with Hitler, a leader some of them rather admired anyway.

Many younger Democrats today are just as unenthusiastic about the US throwing its weight around in the world, regarding this as noxious neo-imperialism. Their main interest instead lies in diversity and inclusivity at home, expressed through causes such as gender equality, LGBTQ rights, and Black Lives Matter. The old guard of Atlanticists, who still believe in a liberal world order led by benevolent men (and a handful of women), are now the last of the Mohicans. Biden is one of those Mohicans. I am glad he is in charge now, and not an America Firster or a politician entirely focused on domestic social issues. But, once Biden has played his part in this time of crisis, I hope he will swiftly leave the stage with good grace. It is time for a younger Democrat, who is neither an isolationist nor a quasi-imperialist, to seek the presidency. Such a person need not be a woman, a person of colour, or gay, but it might help.

Still, external enemies are rarely the only reason why an empire ends, even an informal one like America's. It is more common for the empire to run out of steam. The Indian writer Nirad C. Chaudhuri once ascribed the collapse of the British Raj in India to "sheer funk." He was being provocative, of course, but he had a point. When the imperialists stop believing in their own cause, the end is nigh.

Something like that happened in the Soviet Union around 1990, when the leaders of a sclerotic

The writer is the author, most recently, of *The Churchill Complex: The Curse of Being Special, From Winston and FDR to Trump and Brexit* (Penguin, 2020).

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Our best friend is he who loves us in the best of ourselves and yet does not ask of us to be other than we are.

THE MOTHER



## Geopolitical Europe

Some weeks can feel like decades, and this week has been one of them. With Russia's naked act of aggression against Ukraine, the tragedy of war has erupted in Europe once again. Russian forces have shelled residential housing, schools, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure. The Kremlin's propaganda machine has been pushed into overdrive in its effort to justify the unjustifiable. More than one million people have already fled the violence with more to come.

Ukrainians, meanwhile, are mounting a heroic defence of their country, galvanised by President Volodymyr Zelensky's leadership. Faced with an escalating onslaught and the Kremlin's absurd claims denying their national identity, Ukrainians have demonstrated unity and resilience. Stuck in the past, Russian President Vladimir Putin may have convinced himself that Ukraine belongs to him under his vision of a "greater Russia." But Ukrainians have demonstrated that their country belongs to them, and that they intend for it to have a European future.

The European Union has sprung into action. While some expected us to dither, disagree, and delay, we have acted at record speed to support Ukraine, breaking taboos along the way. We have imposed unprecedented sanctions on Kremlin-linked oligarchs and those responsible for the war. Measures that were unthinkable just a few days ago – such as barring leading Russian banks from the SWIFT system and freezing the Russian central bank's assets – are now in place. And for the first time ever, the EU is supporting member states as they supply military equipment to embattled Ukraine, mobilising €500 million (\$553 million) under the European Peace Facility.

We have done all this together with other countries to ensure maximum effect. The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, Japan, Singapore, and many other financial and economic nerve centers have joined us in adopting tough sanctions. The international outrage against Russia is cascading, even into sports and the arts. A stampede of companies is leaving the Russian market.

Still, the news from the ground in Ukraine is horrific and sobering, and no one knows how this war will end. Putin will try to excuse the bloodshed he has unleashed by depicting it as an unavoidable byproduct of some mythical clash between the West and the Rest; but he will convince almost no one. The vast majority of countries and people around the world refuse to accept a world where an autocratic leader can simply seize whatever he wants through military aggression.

March 2, an overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly – 141 countries – voted to support Ukraine's sovereign rights, denouncing Russia's actions as a clear violation of the UN Charter and international law. Only four countries voted with Russia (the remaining 35 abstained). This historic display of global consensus shows just how much Russia's leaders have isolated their country. The EU worked hard to achieve this outcome at the UN, and we fully agree with UN Secretary-General António Guterres that the task now is to end the violence and open the door to diplomacy.

In the week since Russia's invasion, we have also witnessed the belated birth of a geopolitical Europe. For years, Europeans have been debating how the EU can be made more robust and security-conscious, with unity of purpose and capabilities to pursue our political goals on the world stage. We have now arguably gone further down that path in the past week than we did in the previous decade.

This is a welcome development, but there is so much more to do. First, we must prepare to support Ukraine and its people for the long haul – for their sake as well as our own. There will be no security for anyone if we allow Putin to prevail. If there are no longer any rules, we will all be in danger. That is why we must ensure that a free Ukraine survives. And to that end, we must maintain an opening for Russia to return to reason, so that peace can be re-established.

Second, we need to recognise what this war means for European security and resilience more broadly. Consider the energy dimension. Clearly, reducing our dependence on energy imports from authoritarian and aggressive powers is an urgent strategic imperative. It is absurd that we have literally financed our opponent's ability to wage war. The invasion of Ukraine should lend new momentum to our green-energy transition. Every euro that we invest in developing renewables at home will reduce our strategic vulnerabilities, as well as helping to avert catastrophic climate change.

Third, in a world of power politics, we need to build greater capacity to defend ourselves. Strengthening our defence means tackling Russia's aggressive disinformation networks and going after the Kremlin's ecosystem of finance and influence peddling.

Yes, this includes military means, and we need to develop them more. But the essence of what the EU did this week was to use all policies and levers – which remain mainly economic and regulatory in nature – as instruments of power. We should build on this approach in the weeks ahead, in Ukraine but elsewhere, too, as needed.

The core task for "geopolitical Europe" is straightforward. We must use our newfound sense of purpose first to ensure a free Ukraine, and then to re-establish peace and security across our continent.

The writer is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## WORDSWORTH

### Scrumptious

We commonly use this to refer to some especially appetising item of food or a very attractive person. Roald Dahl, who wrote the script for the film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, felt it was appropriate for the character Truly Scrumptious, which must be in contention with Pussy Galore for the worst-ever fictional female name. Critics have not been kind to scrumptious. In 1921, HL Mencken described it as an "artificial word", lumping it with sockdolager, hunky-dory, spondulix, slumgullion and similar creations of American linguistic ingenuity. In his Dictionary of Modern English Usage in 1926, HW Fowler classed it as a "facetious formation". Many dictionaries just say "origin unknown" or "origin uncertain", not wanting to engage in complicated but ultimately unsatisfying discussions about etymology. This writer has no such qualms. It's certainly American in origin, dating from about the 1830s, at a time when so many other splendid terms were emerging from the melting pot of cultural assimilation. But when it first appeared it had a different meaning: I won't trouble you to ride far to find me; – and then it may be broad sword, or pistol, rifle or bagnet – I'm not over-scrumptious which. Horse Shoe Robinson, by John Pendleton Kennedy, 1835. Bagnet is an old term for a bayonet. Here it clearly means scrupulous. In another early example, from Thomas Chandler Haliburton's The Clockmaker of 1836, it's a vague term of praise: "A little tidy scrumptious looking sly" (we would now write the last word as sleigh). In 1846, Sylvester Judd put it in his novel Margaret to mean fastidious ("I don't mean to be scrumptious about it, Judge; but I do want to be a man, if I am a Breakneck, and haven't so much education as the rest"). It could also have about it the idea of a stylish or handsome person. Our current sense evolved around the middle of the century. Some current dictionaries start from the modern meaning to argue that it's from sumptuous, which doesn't fit the earlier senses. Various English dialects have had words of the same spelling.



Ian Buruma

CONTRARY TO TRIUMPHALIST WESTERN CLAIMS AT THE END OF THE COLD WAR, HISTORY NEVER ENDS

The world can be thankful that Donald Trump is no longer President of the United States. When he was in office, Trump envied Russian President Vladimir Putin for his brutal authoritarianism, and infamously took the Kremlin strongman's word about election meddling over that of US intelligence agencies. And, having described Putin's tactics vis-à-vis Ukraine as "genius" just hours before Russia launched a massive invasion of the country, Trump had the gall to claim that the attack would not have happened under his watch.

When Putin put Russia's nuclear forces on alert, US President Joe Biden reacted with a necessary and seasoned calm. What a panicked Trump might have done does not bear thinking about.

After Trump used his presidency to undermine America's allies in Europe and East Asia, Biden has managed with great patience and tact to restore unity among them. Even Germany, by finally boosting its defence budget, has done what several US administrations, including Trump's, had sought, and it is now playing a significant role in support of Ukraine (though this may reflect Putin's actions more than anything Biden did).

But according to a recent opinion poll, 62% of Americans believe that Russia would not have invaded Ukraine with Trump in the White House, and 59% think that Biden's weakness is to blame for the Russian attack. A separate Fox News poll conducted before the invasion found that, while 81% of Republicans have a negative view of Putin, 92% of them dislike Biden.

Although opinion polls are not always reliable, these remarkable numbers demand an explanation. On foreign policy (something that does not interest most Americans), Biden can't win. Many see him either as a weak-kneed appeaser who abandoned Afghanistan, coddles the Europeans, and is soft on Russia, or as a Cold Warrior who provoked the Russian invasion by refusing

to accommodate Putin's security concerns. Biden also has the bad luck of having to deal with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, including high gasoline prices (something that does interest most Americans), surging inflation, and rising street crime. These things are not Biden's fault, but he is stuck with them. As a result, the Democrats could easily lose their slim congressional majority in midterm elections this November.

The sun is setting on that US-led world, and not only because everything must end at some point. The rise of rival superpowers is inevitable. Contrary to triumphalist Western claims at the end of the Cold War, history never ends. America's relative decline also has something to do with its tendency toward hubris. Reckless wars, notably in Vietnam and the Middle East, ended in disasters that greatly damaged America's global standing.

I think Biden's problem runs deeper, however. This is partly a matter of age. At 79, he is an old man. And not only that, but he is an old white liberal man, who personifies a world crumbling so fast that it almost no longer exists. His is the battered, wrinkled face of Pax Americana, the sometimes benign, sometimes perfidious US hegemony over what used to be called the "free world." Safe in the bosom of US military power, West Europeans, as well as Japanese and South Koreans, have enjoyed unprecedented security ever since the end of World War II.

## SPECTRUM DEFENCE

# The South Asia arms race

The Ukraine war has exposed India to several problems and increased the sale of billions of dollars of arms through an atmosphere of jingoism across the world and particularly in the subcontinent. It is critical for India to have its support base wider and remain watchful over western sanctions against Russia and protect its economy plunging into a slowdown of 5.4% growth.

The present situation is apparently the creation of an arms lobby, which seeks to increase arms, counter-arm-cyber gadget sales post-pandemic. In the process the Indian subcontinent is emerging as the US, Russia and China weapons deal hub.

India is hit by the Ukraine crisis not only for the rising fuel prices but also import of sunflower and other edible oils, tea exports and possible restrictions on shipping that could impact exports and its production. But the rising arms race despite a thaw in nuclear contest poses a multi-pronged threat to the region.

The prolonged unsuccessful Afghanistan and West Asian war has drained the US economy, posing problem for the world's largest weapon industry. The economic problems pressurised US President Joe Biden to remain subdued against the blatant Russian invasion of Ukraine. A generation of the US people saw miseries rising; arms'

lobby profits soaring, economy draining and consequently creating an unstable world costing it \$8 trillion in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan, according to Brown University. The nuclear or chemical arsenals propaganda against Saddam Hussein and now Iran has continued with the uncertainties that affect the Indian subcontinent, euphemistically given the name of South Asia by the Pentagon, the most.

The arms lobby is keen that the situation in the subcontinent remains fluid so that it could increase its sales. It keeps Pakistan in a state of flux because of the US policy of not allowing it to have friendly relations with India and carefully working out the collapse of SAARC. The perpetual situation of fear helps the US and its allies sell arms, fighter aircraft and other military arsenal to both India and Pakistan through morphed assessments of security situations and pressurised military build-up.

Interestingly enough, the 20 largest US arms' producers and military services companies, including Lockheed and Boeing, reported \$5.436 billion profits for several trillion dollar arms' sales since 2001. As sales to other countries dip, these increase in the Indian subcontinent. The region is becoming an arms bazaar.

Pakistan finance ministry says since the 2001 US onslaught on terror, it spent \$5.4 billion on arms purchase from the US. The Jang and Geo TV Group study shows that the US doled out \$33 billion since 2001 for curbing terrorism and improving 'health and education'. Since 1947, Pakistan received \$70 billion from the US. Pakistan has \$11.8 trillion debts. The US funding apparently takes care of its revenue.

The major countries that cut arms purchases include Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Iraq, South Korea and Afghanistan. But the US sales to strategic regions such as Taiwan and Poland have increased. Poland gets arms worth \$4.5 billion up from \$12.4 million and Taiwan \$11.8 billion up from \$8.76 million, to keep China and Russia at bay, according to Defense Security Cooperation Agency. The UAE, surprisingly, has increased its arms purchases to \$3.6 billion from \$1.1 billion.

Even Russia since 2014, has been increasing its ties with Pakistan and in 2021 pledged Mi-35 assault helicopters and anti-tank systems. It has also granted \$1 billion arms loans to Bangladesh and agreed to supply arms to Sri Lanka as well.

Interestingly, Indian reliance on Russia is declining despite its large imports. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute states that 49.4% of Indian

arms imports between 2016 and 2020 were from Russia, 0.5% from Ukraine. Between 1996 and 2016, Russia supplied 70 per cent of the arms.

Bangladesh has been buying more arms from the US with purchases touching \$110 million since 2009. It also buys military equipment, including naval armaments, worth \$ 2.59 billion from China. The Chinese bid to increase influence in Nepal is a serious concern for India. Sri Lanka is also emerging as a hub, with the US wooing it for a military cooperation deal and privileges for visiting US troops. China in April 2021 vowed to enhance "pragmatic cooperation" in the military and other sectors.

Even as Ukraine war intensifies, the concern of the Indian subcontinent over the arms race should raise eyebrows. Though no major conflict has been seen in the region since the Kargil conflict in 1999, and India has a 2003 ceasefire treaty with Pakistan, the larger arms acquisition in the region will hopefully not change the equilibrium.

During the past five years, arms sellers have been wooing all countries in the region to buy more sophisticated weaponry and security gadgets. India being sucked into the race itself can divert its resources.

INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

IT IS CRITICAL FOR INDIA TO HAVE ITS SUPPORT BASE WIDER AND REMAIN WATCHFUL OVER WESTERN SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

## Alarming food waste

Sir, Food wastage is an alarming issue in India. Our streets, garbage bins, and landfills show sufficient proof for that. Many people die of hunger every year in India while tonnes of food are wasted. Over 20 crore Indians sleep on empty stomachs every day. According to UNDP, up to 40% of the food produced in India is wasted every year. It is said that India wastes more fruits and vegetables than the entire United Kingdom consumes and more grains than Australia produces. Nearly, ₹50,000 crore worth of food produced is wasted every year in the country, as per the Agriculture Ministry. Food systems have been identified as one of the major contributors to climate change. Globally, food waste's carbon footprint is estimated at 3.3 billion tonnes of CO2. An effective approach is the establishment of 'food banks' across the country to alleviate the hunger of tens of thousands of people. Much awareness and efforts are needed to bring about sustainability in food waste management in the country.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

## Stop blame game

Sir, When people leave India, they leave for better opportunities which India cannot provide. And that is perfectly okay. But then, why does the responsibility of bringing them back home on Indian tax payers' money suddenly end-up lying on Indian shoulders if those opportunities turn into a war zone? On humanitarian grounds, yes definitely. But then why this hue and cry and drama that the Indian government is not doing enough? Everywhere the blame game is played for gainful vote bank politics. It is time to honour the war situation and act accordingly avoiding filthy abuses. After all, we came out of COVID-19 condition and entered the war zone now. By simply blaming we are not going to achieve anything phenomenal.

MR Jayanthi, MUMBAI

## N-plant concern

Sir, The Russian forces seizing the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine, the largest in Europe, have set off alarm bells. A video feed showed shelling and smoke rising near a five-storey building at the plant compound. The plant provides more than a fifth of the total electricity generated in Ukraine. However, we believe that the Ukrainian authorities have extinguished the fire, and there is no sign of elevated radiation levels at the plant.

NJ Ravi Chander, 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

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



## of the day quote

Over 13,000 citizens have reached India and more flights are coming in. This process has a positive impact on elections and on the people also

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The Tripura government plans to establish a film institute in collaboration with Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) and a campus of the National School of Drama (NSD) in the state

BIPLAB DEB | TRIPURA CM

The amendments and laws being framed by the state government are not in keeping with the Constitution. When the governor points this out, he is targeted. This is absolutely wrong

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA BJP LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Man arrested

**Thane:** A man has been arrested for allegedly locking up some people working on a railway project and seeking Rs 10 lakh from the contractor for their release, Thane police said Sunday. The contractor was allotted work of building a protection wall at Kalyan station and the accused, identified as Vijay Kadam, had taken Rs 5,000 as "protection money" after issuing threats, Senior Inspector Bashir Shaikh of Kolsewadi police station said.

### One killed

**Jabalpur:** One person was killed and another injured seriously on Sunday after being hit by a tractor driven by a man who allegedly had a dispute with one of them over a drain construction work in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district, police said. The police were investigating whether it was an accident or an intentional act of the tractor driver, Belkheha police station in-charge Vijay Ambhore said.

### Three injured

**Devbhumi Dwarka:** Three people were injured after a gas cylinder exploded in a house in Khambhaliya town of Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district Sunday, police said. The LPG cylinder, kept in a room on the ground floor of the house, exploded after the gas leaking from it came in contact with an electric spark, an official from Khambhaliya police station said. The persons, aged 18, 19 and 22, suffered burn injuries and they were rushed to a private hospital for treatment, he said.

### Woman, son drown

**Jaipur:** A woman and her three-year-old son drowned in a water tank at their residence in Rajasthan's Barmer district Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Kerna village under Chohtan police station, they said. Krishna Kumar suddenly fell into the water tank at his house and his mother, Chatru Pratapat (25), jumped in to save him. Both of them drowned. Station House Officer Bhutaram Bishnoi said. The bodies have been sent for a post-mortem examination. The matter is being investigated, he said.

### Labourer killed

**Jaipur:** A labourer was killed and another injured at a quarry in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district on Sunday after a trolley used for moving goods crashed, police said. The incident took place at Kolihan quarry of Hindustan Copper Limited in Khetri police station area, they said.



There is a need to think out of the box to increase economic activities rapidly and create more employment opportunities  
ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

## GUJARAT ATS SEIZES DRUGS WORTH ₹2,170 CR IN 3 YRS

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad seized drugs estimated to be worth ₹2,170 crore in the last three years and arrested 73 people, including a number of Pakistani nationals, in this connection, the ATS said Sunday



# Over 15,920 Indians evacuated



An Indian student, evacuated from war-torn Ukraine, being welcomed by her relatives upon her arrival at the Jai Prakash Narayan airport, in Patna

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, March 6:** India has brought back "over 15,920" of its nationals in 76 flights under evacuation mission 'Operation Ganga' that was launched following Russia's military aggression against

Ukraine, officials said Sunday. The Indian embassy in Hungary suggested that the evacuation mission from the country is nearing completion as it is beginning the last leg of flights under the operation. India has been bringing back its nationals from Romania, Poland,

Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova after they crossed over to these countries from Ukraine through land border transit points. The first flight had returned with the stranded Indians on February 26 from Bucharest.

Ukraine had closed its airspace for civilian aircraft after Russia began the military operation. According to the officials, around 2,500 Indians were evacuated on 13 flights in the last 24 hours. They said seven flights are scheduled over the next 24 hours to bring back stranded Indians from Hungary, Romania and Poland.

There will be five flights from Budapest, one each from Rzeszow in Poland and Suceava in Romania. "Under Operation Ganga, so far 76 Flights have brought over 15,920 Indians back to India. Out these 76 flights, 13 flights landed in last 24 hours," said an official.

The Indian embassy in Hungary posted an "important announcement" on Twitter asking Indian students who are still in that country to report to designated contact points for return to India.

"Important Announcement: Embassy of India begins its last leg of Operation Ganga flights today. All those students staying in their

OWN accommodation (other than arranged by Embassy) are requested to reach @Hungariacitycentre, Rakoczi Ut 90, Budapest between 10 am-12 pm," it said.

Separately, the Indian embassy in Ukraine asked all Indian nationals who are still stuck in the conflict-stricken country to fill up an online form on an urgent basis. "All Indian nationals who still remain in Ukraine are requested to fill up the details contained in the attached Google Form on an URGENT BASIS. Be Safe Be Strong," it tweeted.

The details sought in the Google form are name, email, phone number, address of current stay, passport details, gender and age. The embassy also asked for indicating the current location of the Indians still stranded in Ukraine. A list of locations has been provided in the form and an option has been given to select the location from the list. The locations mentioned in the online form are Cherkassy, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Khmelnytsky, Kirovograd, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Mykolaiv and Odessa.

# Pawar's dig at Guv in Modi's presence



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting at MIT College Ground, in Pune district, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, March 6:** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar Sunday said some people holding high posts were making unnecessary comments and this was not acceptable to the people of the state. NCP leader Pawar made the comments, apparently aimed at Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, at Pune's MIT College ground, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Governor were present during the inauguration of various development projects.

Notably, some leaders of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress in Maharashtra as well as the BJP recently objected to Governor Koshyari's remark that Samarth Ramdas was the guru of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Sunday, before Modi's public address, Pawar said, "I want to bring one thing to the Prime Minister's notice. Of late, some people holding important positions are making unnecessary comments which are not acceptable to Maharashtra and its citizens."

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his mother Rajmata Jijau formed Swarajya. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule (both social reformers from Maharashtra) laid the foundation for women's education. We need to carry forward their legacy with-

I want to bring one thing to the Prime Minister's notice. Of late, some people holding important positions are making unnecessary comments which are not acceptable to Maharashtra and its citizens  
AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

out holding grudges against anyone and without bringing politics into the development works," the NCP leader said.

Koshyari, during a programme in Aurangabad last Sunday, underlined the role of the guru (teacher) while citing the examples of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Chandragupta Maurya.

"Many chakravartins (emperors), maharajas took birth on this land. But, who would have asked about Chandragupta had there not been Chanakya? Who would have asked about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had there not been Samarth (Ramdas)," he said. "I am not questioning the calibre of Chandragupta and Shivaji Maharaj. Like a mother who plays a key role in shaping her child, similarly, the role of guru (teacher) has a big place in our society," the Governor had said. In the past, the MVA government and Koshyari have been engaged in a war of words over various issues.

## SL Tamil fishermen write to Stalin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, March 6:** Tamil-origin fishermen in Sri Lanka have urged Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin to intervene in the ongoing conflict between the Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu with the Sri Lankan Navy.

A fishermen association across the northern districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivu located in Northern Sri Lanka have written a joint statement to M.K. Stalin.

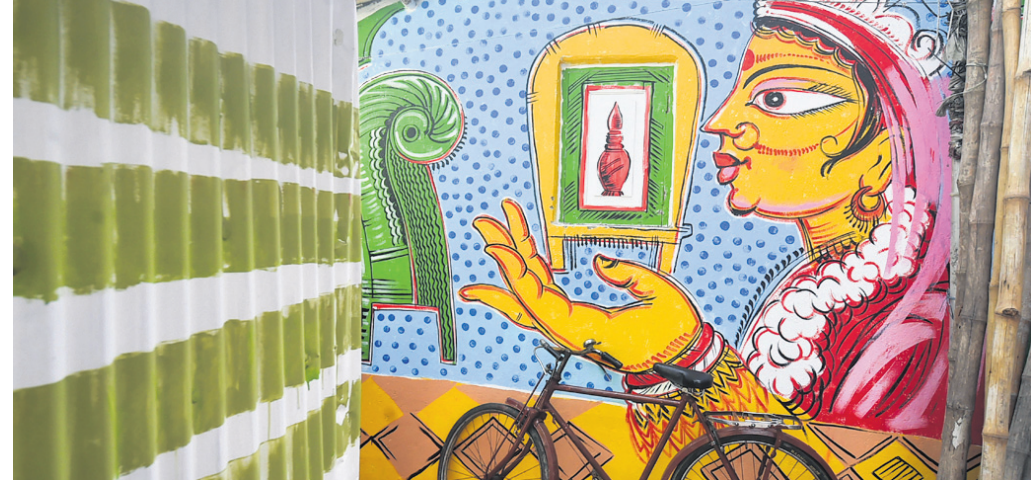
In the statement on Saturday, the Tamil Fishermen community requested the Chief Minister to bring up a 'progressive' solution to the fisheries conflict that affects the fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu.

The statement said that this conflict would affect the historical relationship between the Sri Lankan Tamil fishermen and Indian Tamil fishermen. The fishermen leaders said, "During the war, we were displaced to various parts of Sri Lanka as well as to south India losing our land and property. We were given shelter in South India, especially Tamil Nadu and we thank the government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu for the same."

However, two lakh people from Sri Lanka's Tamil majority Northern province whose life depends on the fisheries sector are struggling to meet the ends after the year ended and most are debt-ridden and the new generation is totally leaving the fishing sector, the statement said.



## BEAUTIFICATION DRIVE



Walls of huts painted with murals as part of beautification of the city, at a slum area in Kolkata, Sunday

## EC to host international poll visitors' event virtually

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** The Election Commission (EC) is going to organise an International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP), 2022, for foreign election management bodies and organisations in virtual mode Monday (March 7) during the last phase of ongoing Assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh.

The IEVP 2022 provides an opportunity for the EC to share best practices and experience of the conduct of the polling process along with the steps taken to ensure compliance of Covid-19 protocols, the EC said in a statement Sunday.

More than 135 delegates from more than 26 countries across the world, including Australia, Bahamas, Bhutan, Croatia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Maldives, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Suriname,

Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Zambia and four international organisations, including International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, International Foundation of Electoral Systems, Association of World Election Bodies and Community of Democracies are going to participate in the event.

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps based in India from 20 countries have also been invited to participate in the virtual IEVP 2022.

The participants will be showcased a recorded broadcast from select polling stations in each of the five states of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh where polls have taken place as well as live streaming from polling stations in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on March 7 to familiarise the participants with the electoral process, polling station arrangements, use of technology, interaction with various stakeholders followed by a Question and Answer session.

## Girl raped, forced to consume poison

WHEN THE GIRL'S COUSIN CALLED, THE ACCUSED ABUSED THE FORMER AND SAID THAT HE HAD DUMPED THE GIRL IN THE FIELD AND THAT HE COULD 'TAKE HER FROM THERE'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh), March 6:** A 16-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped and then forced to consume poison by the accused which resulted in her death.

The accused, a 19-year-old student, her senior in the same school, has been arrested. The incident took place two days ago. The girl had gone missing from her class and was later found in an unconscious state in an agriculture field on the outskirts of her village.

The family rushed her to a hospital where she died.



Saharanpur Superintendent of Police (city) Rajesh Kumar said, "We have booked the accused on charges of rape, murder and other relevant sections of the IPC. The accused has been arrested and sent to jail."

The girl's parents told police that the accused lured her out of the school on the pretext of buying her presents. Her brother, who first called the police helpline, said his sister had left home for school as she had an exam. A teacher contacted her parents after realising that she was not in class, but her

bag was on the desk. "We got worried and called the police and then started searching for her. We found her lying in a semi-conscious state in a field near her school. When I asked her what had happened, she said that a senior student of her school took her to a hotel room, raped her and forced her to consume poison," a relative of the girl said.

When the girl's cousin called, the accused abused the former and said that he had dumped the girl in the field and that he could 'take her from there'.

# Why CRPF bravehearts lose battle of life in 'Red Corridor'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** Timely evacuation of injured jawans of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in anti-Naxal operation, has become a major concern for the CAPFs deployed in the anti-Maoist counter operations.

The issue becomes more important at a time when the Union government is pushing for more operations against these ultras amidst their shrinking footprint in the affected states.

The CRPF and its specialised Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (CoBRA) personnel are mostly deployed in the Naxal affected states and many of its personnel, who sustain injuries during ground operations, even lose

their lives due to late evacuations from the operational ground.

Recently on February 26, three CRPF personnel including an assistant commandant were injured in IED blast in Bihar's Aurangabad district and three injured could not be evacuated to the Gaya because of some technical issues.

All were taken by road to Gaya airport but they could not be airlifted to Delhi as the pilots were not ready to fly, citing weather conditions & low visibility. They were sent back to a hospital in Gaya and operated upon. Later, they were airlifted to AIIMS, Delhi via air ambulance for better medical management.

Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh was hit by the IED blast, he has had a left foot amputation below the knee, his right foot is severely injured and there are multiple injuries on his left hand.



The CRPF officials deployed on operational ground said that these issues sometime impact the morale of the forces and sometimes demotivate the troopers who take on the Maoists head on during the operation.

Retired Inspector General (IG) B.N. Singh of the Border Security Force (BSF) also said that this has become a major issue in counter operations against the Naxals but the commanders on the ground

must take note of these factors like technical glitches, bad weather condition and non availability of choppers in night before planning an operation.

"The choppers has to land in the forest areas and sometimes the helipads are far from the actual operation ground, so the availability of helipads near the 'area of operation' must be taken into consideration while planning an operation against the Maoists," Singh said. The BSF is only central security force having the air wing.

Last year too, the CRPF had lost 22 jawans in Bastar in Chhattisgarh, wherein the chopper could not land due to multiple reasons, and it took hours for the bodies to be removed from the encounter site.

Talking about the procedures, the CRPF officials said that during the operation, if the security person-

nel are hit, they are treated with the nursing staffs who also go with them during the operation; but in case of grievous injury, the injured jawans are taken to forward base or Force's camp and the doctor present there attends the injured personnel. In case of the serious condition, they are airlifted to nearby city hospital, they added.


"Evacuation of injured troopers is really difficult in the forest areas because of the non-availability of roads. Also ambulance cannot be sent to 'operation ground' at once as the road has to be sensitized before sending an ambulance," the officials said.

"Yes, there have been cases where backup or support could not reach in time, endangering lives of jawans injured in operations," a senior official, deployed in the 'Red Corridor' in Chhattisgarh, admitted.



DELHI CIVIC POLLS

Eclectic mix of election symbols



**Representational image**

The State Election Commission, has notified that the election to 272 wards of three municipal corporations is scheduled to be held in April

The list of 197 poll symbols was issued Friday by the Commission in its 'Municipal Corporation of Delhi Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 2022'

The 'free symbols' meant for independents and candidates of unrecognised parties include fruits like apple, grapes and pineapple; food items like biscuits, cake, bread; kitchen items like pressure cooker, mixee, bread roller and many other electronic items

A few of the relatively obscure symbols like electric pole, gift pack, extension board, wall hook, envelope and door handle also find a place in the list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 6:** Independent candidates contesting the Delhi civic body polls this year will have an interesting mix of around 200 election symbols to choose from, including 'Ganna Kisan' (sugarcane farmer), 'Nagriki' (citizen), noodles bowl, ice cream, a range of daily use items, fruits, vegetables and kitchen appliances.

According to the order, each independent candidate will mention three preferences of chosen symbols in his nomination paper. In case more than one candidate falls for the same symbol, the returning officer of the elections will conduct a draw of lot for allocation of the symbol. The candidates of national parties, including the All India Trinamool Congress, BSP, BJP, CPI, CPI(M), Indian National Congress, and Meghalaya-based National People's Party will be allotted reserved symbols.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) recognised by the Election Commission of India as "Delhi State Party" has 'broom' symbol allotted to it, said the order.

The Commission, in another order, also said that maximum limit of expenditure to be incurred by a candidate in the ward elections of three municipal corporations will be ₹8 lakh.

Expenditure limit increased

**New Delhi:** The State Election Commission of Delhi has increased the limit of expenditure that can be incurred by a candidate in the elections for the city's three municipal corporations to ₹8 lakh from ₹5.75 lakh. Polls for 272 wards of the three civic bodies in Delhi are slated to be held in April. A schedule is yet to be announced by the commission.

There are 104 wards each in North and South Delhi municipal corporations. The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has 64 wards. Half of the wards are reserved for women candidates. There are also reserved wards for Scheduled Caste candidates.

In the last MCD polls in Delhi, the BJP registered an impressive victory, returning to power in the three corporations by winning 181 of 272 wards.

The closest rival of the party — AAP managed to win only 49 wards, while the Congress bagged 31 wards in the elections.

The independents won three wards in North Delhi, four in South Delhi and one in East Delhi municipal corporations.

**New Delhi, March 6:** In a bid to beautify the central part of the national capital, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has developed an approximately half a kilometer stretch in a concrete central verge at Barakhamba Road with Petunia Flower beds.

The flowers have given a new look to the centrally located Barakhamba Road, surrounded by office buildings which are full of hustle and bustle.

The Petunia flower is less leafy and much flowery with sufficient period of blooming. "The blooming period is till May end and the reason for planting this flower particularly is because it has a variety of colours and has a long span of life," said NDMC Vice-Chairman Satish Upadhyay.

Delhi's Barakhamba blooms with Petunia

AGENCIES

Notably with this new initiative, NDMC has become the first civic body to develop flower beds on a concrete central verge. "This initiative has not only given uniformity and a beautiful look, but also a pleasant ambience, a happy area with the same level of flower having the same height which looks like a flowery carpet spread in the stretch of half a kilometer," Upadhyay said.



PWD to revamp Delhi arterial roads

THE PWD MANAGES ROADS IN DELHI THAT ARE WIDER THAN 60 FEET, WHILE SMALLER ROADS ARE MANAGED BY MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS. THE PWD MANAGES AROUND 1,260 KM OF ROADS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 6:** Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) will soon revamp its arterial roads having 30 metres or more right of way (ROW) following instructions from the city government to strengthen such stretches, officials said Sunday.

These roads include Flag Staff Road, Sachivalaya Road, Velodrome Road, Satyagrah Marg, Club Road and IG Stadium slip road, among others, the PWD officials said.

"This exercise will be separate from the regular maintenance drill of the major arterial roads. This exercise will focus on smaller arterial roads, tributary roads to bigger ones, slip roads etc. "An amount of ₹8.55 crore has also been set aside for the strengthening of such stretches," a PWD official told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Under the strengthening exercise, the PWD will adopt a "tailor-made solution" approach, which means that the identified roads will undergo minor repair work and

resurfacing or recarpeting depending on the requirement.

According to the PWD official, this decision comes after complaints were received regarding the bad condition of roads in different areas of the city.

"We keep repairing and maintaining major arterial roads like Ring Road, Outer Ring Road, Mathura Road, Vikas Marg etc. Along with other roads. But lately, there were complaints that other roads, especially those leading to bigger arterial roads, were not in good shape. So, this exercise has been ordered," the official said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, after he was allocated the PWD portfolio last month, had asked officials to revamp city roads and make them pothole-free within a month's time.

He had also warned officials of stern action in case any defect is found in the revamped roads.

Sisodia had also asked the officials to inspect all roads falling under the PWD jurisdiction and repair them if needed.

As UP polls show, no party is above dynastic politics

NOT ONLY FORMER CONGRESSMEN, BUT THE BJP HAS ITS OWN SET OF DYNASTS WHO ARE RISING IN POLITICS



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been attacking rival politicians, accusing them of promoting dynastic politics and ignoring the developmental agenda. However, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has refuted the charge and said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) too is mired in dynastic politics.

Campaigning in Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister has been saying that the BJP government is "necessary" for the state and the earlier governments "could not see or think beyond family". His main attack has been on Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav and his ally Jayant Chaudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal along with Congress leader

Priyanka Gandhi. While Akhilesh is the second generation in politics, Jayant Chaudhary is the third and Priyanka Gandhi is the fourth generation of the Nehru-Gandhi family who is leading the Congress in the state.

Priyanka Gandhi said: "The Prime Minister has a problem with only one family, that is the Gandhi family as he knows they will not bow down but he has no problem in admitting the dynasts of the Congress." Her indication was towards Jitin Prasad, Jyotiraditya Scindia and RPN Singh who had ditched Congress and joined the BJP.

Prasada and RPN Singh are second generation in politics while Scindia is third generation in politics.

Talking of Uttar Pradesh, Noida

MLA Pankaj Singh is the son of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Rajveer Singh, MP, is the son of Kalyan Singh, Ashutosh Tandon is the son of Lalji Tandon, Sidharth Nath Singh is related to Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The list doesn't end with Uttar Pradesh. Vasundhara Raje, Yashodhra Raje and Dushyant Singh are from the family of Vijayaraje Scindia who was the founder of the BJP. Similarly, Union Minister Anurag Thakur is the son of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, Dharmendra Pradhan's father was also in the BJP and MoS in the Vajpayee government, Piyush Goyal's father was treasurer of the BJP for a long time. Maneka Gandhi and her son Varun Gandhi too are MPs.

Pramod Mahajan's daughter is a MP in the Lok Sabha, BS Yedyurappa's son has also taken the plunge into politics. So Congress leaders say that dynasts are rising in the BJP also but the BJP says that they are there but the party is not run by a family.

The BJP says that the Congress, SP and the RLD are run by families. However, the Congress points out that the party does not have a problem with YSR Reddy's son Jagan who is the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister as he is supporting the BJP, but has a problem with Uddhav Thackeray, Hemant Soren and MK Stalin as they are opposed to the BJP.

There are 104 wards each in North and South Delhi municipal corporations. The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has 64 wards. Half of the wards are reserved for women candidates. There are also reserved wards for Scheduled Caste candidates.

In the last MCD polls in Delhi, the BJP registered an impressive victory, returning to power in the three corporations by winning 181 of 272 wards.

The closest rival of the party — AAP managed to win only 49 wards, while the Congress bagged 31 wards in the elections.

The independents won three wards in North Delhi, four in South Delhi and one in East Delhi municipal corporations.

Friendship prevails over fear in war-torn Ukraine



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Uttar Pradesh/New Delhi, March 6:** It is said that adversity is the crucible in which friendship is tested. Two Indians, Mohammed Faisal and Kamal Singh stuck in the war-torn Ukraine, have also passed the test of friendship with flying colours.

Two days prior to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, Faisal, a resident of Hapur in Uttar Pradesh, got a chance to return to India but he cancelled his ticket as Kamal, who hails from Varanasi, could not get a ticket. The two friends are students of Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University in Ukraine.

Kamal says: "Faisal and my views are similar and we are serious about our education. I am thankful to God that I have found such a friend in college time. Both of us talk about education and future, that is the reason our bond of friendship got strengthened."

Although they have safely returned to India, they were now worried about the course of their education in the future.

The two are urging the Central government to take a decision about medical studies so that their

one year of education in Ukraine does not go to waste.

Faisal told IANS: "My ticket got booked two days prior to when the war began, but when I enquired the contractor as to whose tickets have been booked, I got to know that Kamal could not get it. After that I decided not return to India without my friend Kamal. My contractor tried to convince me that the situation is worsening in Ukraine but I refused to return.

On the very next day of refusing the ticket to return without his friend, both of them helped other students and dropped them till the railway station safely.

Faisal further said that both of them reached the airport together but the officers present there asked him to embark the Indigo flight, while Kamal had to board the Air Force's C-17 aircraft.

After returning to Delhi, Kamal called Faisal and asked him to meet, but the latter who was staying in Uttar Pradesh Bhavan in the national capital, was denied permission by the officials.

Faisal and Kamal's friendship, as well as the Indian students who returned to India with their pets, have set an example that humanity still exists amid war and crisis.

Seven big cats died at Delhi Zoo in 2.5 years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** Seven big cats have died in around two-and-a-half years at the Delhi Zoo which is a participant in the conservation breeding of Asiatic Lions and Bengal tigers. According to the records, of the seven big cats, at least four died due to kidney dysfunction.

"Big cats in captivity are very much prone to kidney ailments. Furthermore, lack of enrichment tools and exercise, obesity, and stereotypical behaviour have been observed in big cats in captivity." "To



Representational image

address this, special emphasis has been given in providing diverse food (adding chevon) and putting enrichment tools in big cats in particular. Routine investigation (blood parameters) helps in checking health. Creatine: albumin ratio in urine has been found effective in early diagnosis of kidney ailments," the Zoo's annual report for 2020-21 read. Delhi Zoo Director Dharamdeo Rai, who took charge February 21, said the issue needs to be studied in detail.

FIT INDIA



Participants at a run organised as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Free rations vs stray cattle

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Varanasi, March 6:** As campaigning ended Saturday, the main narrative that has emerged from the Uttar Pradesh election is that of the free ration and DBT schemes of the Modi government pitched against the issue of unemployment and stray cattle.

People in several districts where polling will be held Monday spoke at length about how the free ra-

BATTLE FOR UP

tion helped them during the pandemic and the fact that it's continued has helped them plan their budget. The Samajwadi Party (SP) and its alliance partners, however, are hoping to garner the support of the youth by raising the issue of unemployment. The seven phases of the Uttar Pradesh polls come to an end Monday with voting for 54 assembly seats. The counting

of votes will take place March 10. With each phase, political parties tried to build narratives on issues ranging from the migration of people to the new farm laws (since repealed) in western Uttar Pradesh, nationalism to terrorism along with development to inflation and unemployment. For people, however, free ration, DBT schemes, unemployment and stray cattle are the key talking points in the last and final phase of the elections.

'Chipko Bareilly' to save trees from being felled

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), March 6:** To save about 500 trees that are likely to be felled for a road widening project, environment activists in Bareilly have formed a 'Chipko Bareilly' group to mount pressure on the concerned officials to abandon the plan.

Pradeep Kumar, a lecturer at city's law college who started this group, said, "Trees are important not only for humans but also for birds and other arboreal animals and rodents such as squirrels, etc., as they take shelter in trees. We have been meeting the officials concerned and requesting them to stop chopping trees in the name of development. If officials do not take concrete steps, we will be forced to protest on the streets



and move court."

The group, formed in January, is getting bigger with each passing day. It already has over 1,000 members from all walks of life. The original forest conservation (Chipko) movement in the 1970s of Uttarakhand has inspired the people in Bareilly to launch this campaign. The members of the

group claim that Bareilly has lost over a thousand trees, some nearly 100 years old, in the past four months.

"Translocating trees did not work out earlier, as 80 per cent of such trees could not survive," said Kumar.

Mayank Shukla, a businessman and an active member of

the group, said, "Now, we have come to know that the district administration is planning to chop all the trees on the stretch from Delapeer locality to the airport, and the file has been sent to the forest department for approval. We are extremely worried and will continue to fight to save the trees in our city."

Divisional forest officer Samir Kumar said, "On several occasions, the permission comes from higher authorities, and there is nothing much we can do. We are trying to save trees through translocation. Plantation drives are being carried out across the city to ensure its green lungs are maintained."

In December last year, around 20 trees -- mainly Banyan & Peepal -- that are over 100 years old were felled to make way for a paved path under the smart city project. The forest department gave a 'no objection certificate (NOC)' to the municipal corporation for the same, but locals are not happy as they worship these species of trees

These roads include Flag Staff Road, Sachivalaya Road, Velodrome Road, Satyagrah Marg, Club Road and IG Stadium slip road, among others, the PWD officials said.

"This exercise will be separate from the regular maintenance drill of the major arterial roads. This exercise will focus on smaller arterial roads, tributary roads to bigger ones, slip roads etc. "An amount of ₹8.55 crore has also been set aside for the strengthening of such stretches," a PWD official told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Under the strengthening exercise, the PWD will adopt a "tailor-made solution" approach, which means that the identified roads will undergo minor repair work and

resurfacing or recarpeting depending on the requirement.

According to the PWD official, this decision comes after complaints were received regarding the bad condition of roads in different areas of the city.

"We keep repairing and maintaining major arterial roads like Ring Road, Outer Ring Road, Mathura Road, Vikas Marg etc. Along with other roads. But lately, there were complaints that other roads, especially those leading to bigger arterial roads, were not in good shape. So, this exercise has been ordered," the official said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, after he was allocated the PWD portfolio last month, had asked officials to revamp city roads and make them pothole-free within a month's time.

He had also warned officials of stern action in case any defect is found in the revamped roads.

Sisodia had also asked the officials to inspect all roads falling under the PWD jurisdiction and repair them if needed.



## of the day quote

You (public) are being misled through the issue of caste and religion. You will face the maximum loss with the political leaders incurring hardly losing anything. They just want to come back to power by keeping the people poor

**PRİYANKA GANDHI VADRA** | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

One of the important factors is that all the public welfare schemes and programmes rolled out by the Modi government provided benefits to every section of the society in every region, regardless of whether they had voted for the BJP or not in the last election

**JITENDRA SINGH** | UNION MINISTER

Today many people call themselves farmer leaders, but they did nothing for the community. The Congress has misled the farmers in the name of loan waiver. (On the other hand) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given ₹6,000 every year to farmers under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi

**J P NADDA** | BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Mukul Arya passes away

**New Delhi:** Mukul Arya, India's representative at Ramallah in Palestine, passed away Sunday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. "Deeply shocked to learn about the passing away of India's Representative at Ramallah, Shri Mukul Arya," Jaishankar tweeted. "He was a bright and talented officer with so much before him. My heart goes out to his family and loved ones. Om Shanti," he said. It was not immediately known how he died.

### JeM module busted

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir police have busted a terror module of proscribed terror outfit JeM at Awantipora in South Kashmir and arrested four terrorist associates, officials said Sunday. Police in Awantipora have busted a terror module of proscribed terror outfit JeM by arresting four terrorist associates identified as Umar Farooq Dar, resident of Shahbad, Soraj Manzoor Malik, resident of Midoora, Irshad Ahmad Lone, resident of Midora and Afnan Javeed Khan, resident of Shahbad.

### Arms recovered

**Imphal:** Assam Rifles troopers recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from Kahulong village in Tamenglong district in northern Manipur, officials said Sunday. Defence spokesman, Lt Col Mohit Vaishnava said that acting on a specific input over the movement of armed cadres of a militant outfit, a search operation was conducted Saturday leading to the recovery of 13 pistols of various types, several magazines, and 11 live rounds.

### Terrorist arrested

**Srinagar:** Police along with army and CRPF have arrested an active terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT from Ganderbal in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Sunday. Police said during checking near Shuhama Nagbal, the joint party noticed a suspicious person who on seeing the joint naka party tried to flee towards Warprow route. "But his attempt to flee from the spot was foiled by the joint naka party and was apprehended tactfully," police said. He has been identified as Mohd Altaf Wani, resident of Keegam Shopian. Incriminating materials were recovered from his possession.



Those who have been defaming our caps have been forced by the people of Uttar Pradesh to wear a cap. It is another thing that they have changed the colour of their cap

**AKHILESH YADAV** | SP PRESIDENT

### AMIT SHAH PITCHES FOR 'HYBRID' SECURITY MODEL

Amit Shah Sunday pitched for a 'hybrid' security model where the CISF could train and certify private security agencies so that they can take over the task of efficiently guarding various kinds of industrial and manufacturing units



# Liquid explosives return to terror theatre in J&K

**PRSS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**Srinagar/New Delhi, March 6:** Liquid explosives appear to have returned to the militancy theatre of Jammu and Kashmir after 15 years with a consignment of three bottles of a white liquid recently being air-dropped by drones entering from Pakistan along the international border in Jammu, officials said on Sunday.

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh, during his recent interaction with the media in Jammu, had hinted at

the recovery of some chemical explosives and the same being sent to a forensic laboratory.

Preliminary examination indicates it could be trinitrotoluene (TNT) or nitroglycerine, generally used in dynamites, but a final report was awaited, the officials said.

The liquid explosive material, white in colour, was packed in three one-litre bottles and was part of the consignment dropped by drones, which had taken flight from neighbouring Pakistan, on February 24. After a thorough search, police recovered improvised explosive de-



vices (IEDs), arms and ammunition, and these three bottles, along with detonators, the officials said, adding that the consignment was

meant to be smuggled into Kashmir for terrorists or for possible use at a crowded market of Jammu.

They said Jammu has been a target of terrorist groups operating from Pakistan who want to trigger a communal clash in the city. So far, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has been able to thwart four such attempts.

The officials did not rule out the possibility that such explosives may have found their way into the Kashmir valley as some drone droppings, according to intelligence reports, could have suc-

ceeded. Pakistan's external slooping agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which has been providing tactical support to banned terror groups like the Lashker-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Hizbul Mujahideen, operating from across the border, has chosen the way of air-dropping weapons with the help of drones.

Liquid explosives were used by terror groups in South Kashmir during 2007, but after that, it was not seen during the decade of militancy that hit Jammu and Kashmir.

# Indian students abroad helping peers in Ukraine

**PRSS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**New Delhi, March 6:** Need a cab for four people in Kyiv. Do we know someone in Poland who can drop food packets at the border? A group is starting from Kharkiv, any updates on trains?

Thousands of such messages keep pouring in WhatsApp, Telegram and social media groups created by Indian medical students abroad who have volunteered to help their peers stranded in Ukraine amid the Russian invasion.



The volunteering students are studying in China, Uzbekistan and Philippines. While many of them are helping from their university campuses, the others are those who had returned to India in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and are attending online classes.

As soon as the news of Indian students being stranded in war-hit Ukraine spread, these volunteers sprung into action. "We were connected with some of the medical students in different countries since we went to coaching institutions together before leaving India." "We also had multiple groups on Whatsapp and Telegram to exchange updates, notes and other information on Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), which we are supposed to write to practice in India," P Sharma, a student of China's Harbin Medical University, said.

"When things started going south in Ukraine, we thought why not use these to help our fellow students stranded there. We collated all contacts and shared the group links on social media. Within two days, there were over 5,000 subscribers in the Telegram group and we made it a virtual war room," he added. Coordinating across time zones, managing hundreds of messages, watching the news to stay abreast of the constantly evolving situation in Ukraine keeps the young volunteers busy. Another Indian medical student at Cagayan State University in Philippines said the groups receive at least 100 messages every 15 minutes.

"We divided areas among ourselves to ensure that the maximum number of appeals for help are addressed. We reached out to our network for help and also called up embassy officials to seek help on their (stranded students) behalf. Within days, many parents also joined the group to get updates and seek help for their stranded children," she said.

"At times, it takes several hours to address an appeal. But one message from Ukraine that someone has made it safely or help reached in time gives us all the motivation," she added. Rachita, a fourth-year medical student at Shandong University in China's Jinan city, said some of them take turns to take care of moderator duties and filter out irrelevant content from the groups.

"There are too many messages, news updates and all sorts of information that we have to filter out to ensure that appeals for help by those stranded do not get buried in the deluge of messages," she said.

Akshara, who also studies at Harbin Medical University, said volunteers can only help as long as the stranded students have internet connectivity and battery in their phones. "The real trouble is when people are untraceable because of battery and connectivity issues. So, many parents reach out to us for missing students' updates," she said.

### CBI arrests Chitra in co-location scam case

**PRSS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**New Delhi, March 6:** The CBI arrested former National Stock Exchange CEO Chitra Ramkrishna in the co-location scam case Sunday, officials said.

Ramkrishna was arrested in Delhi and was taken for medical checkup, they said. She was later lodged in lockup at the CBI headquarters, they said.

The CBI had grilled Ramkrishna for three consecutive days and carried out searches at her residence, officials said, adding that she was not giving proper responses. The central probe agency had also used services of a senior psychologist of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory who also questioned her, they said.

The officials said the psychologist had also come to the conclusion that she was evasive in responses leaving no option for the agency but to arrest her. A special CBI court had Saturday rejected her anticipatory bail application, they said.

The CBI, which was probing the co-location scam since 2018 against a Delhi-based stock broker, swung into action after a Sebi report showed alleged abuse of power by the then top brass of the NSE, the officials said.

February 25, the CBI had arrested former NSE group operating officer Anand Subramanian after expanding its probe into the co-location scam in the exchange following "fresh facts" in the Sebi report that referred to a mysterious yogi guiding the actions of Ramkrishna.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on February 11 had charged Ramkrishna and others with alleged governance lapses in the appointment of Subramanian as the chief strategic advisor and his re-designation as group operating officer and advisor to MD.

Subramanian was allegedly referred to as the "yogi" in the forensic audit but Sebi in its final report had rejected the claim.

# 1 killed, 24 hurt in grenade attack

The leaders of various parties, including two former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers -- Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti -- condemned the attack

**PRSS TRUST OF INDIA**

**Srinagar, March 6:** A civilian was killed while 24 others, including a policeman, were injured after terrorists hurled a grenade at security forces in the Hari Singh High Street locality of the city here on Sunday, police said.

"At about 4:20 pm, terrorists hurled a grenade upon police and security forces deployment at Hari Singh High Street," a police official said.

He said a policeman and 24 civilians received splinter injuries in the explosion. The injured were rushed to the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital, where a civilian succumbed to his injuries, the official added.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Aslam Makhdoomi (70), a resident of the Nowhatta area of the city.

The Hari Singh High Street area has been cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the attackers, the official said.

The leaders of various political parties, including two former

Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers -- Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti -- condemned the attack. "I condemn this deplorable attack in the strongest possible terms. May the deceased find place in Jannat & may the injured make a complete and speedy recovery," Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

"Condemn this dastardly attack. People of J&K have been paying with their lives & sadly neither India nor Pakistan is doing anything to end the conflict & stop this bloodshed. My prayers are with the bereaved families & loved ones," Mufti said in a tweet. The People's Conference, led by Sajad Lone, also condemned the attack.

"We are shocked at the extremely distressing news of a grenade attack at a crowded marketplace in Amira Kadal, Srinagar. We unreservedly condemn the dastardly and cowardly attack in which one civilian died while many are injured," the party said in a statement.

The perpetrators of the attack must be held accountable and brought to justice, it added.



### OUT OF GEAR



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam due to shifting and modification work of high-tension power cables at Delhi-Gurugram Expressway, in Gurugram, Sunday

# SII gets SEC nod for phase-3 trial of Covovax

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**

**New Delhi, March 6:** The Subject Expert Committee of India's apex drugs authority Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has recommended permission for vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India to conducting phase-3 trial of Covovax as booster dose in adults, said a source familiar with the development.

The Pune-based SII had sought the permission from the DCGI to conduct Phase 3 study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of Covovax as booster dose on those who have received primary vaccination either with Covishield or

### BOOSTER DOSE

Covaxin at least three months back. Earlier, the Subject Expert Committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on Friday recommended granting the Emergency Use Authorisation for SII's Covid-19 vaccine Covovax among 12-17 year age bracket.

The apex drug regulatory body had already approved Covovax for restricted use on December 28. However, this vaccine has not been included in national vaccination programme yet.

India on Sunday reported further decline in fresh Covid cases at 5,476

The apex drug regulatory body had already approved Covovax for restricted use December 28

in the last 24 hours. The active Covid cases have also further reduced to 59,442 which constitute 0.14 per cent of the country's total positive cases, as per the ministry report on Sunday.

With the administration of over 26.19 lakhs covid vaccine doses in the last 24 hours, India's Covid inoculation coverage has reached 178.83 crore as of Sunday morning.



### CBI sniffing NSE scam to fix 'PC'

More than five crore investors in the share market, mutual funds and securities have a reason to worry as another scam is lingering over the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The Modi government has woken up from its

slumber after more than five years and now the CBI and Income Tax are working overtime to find out what went wrong in the NSE since 2004, who manipulated the stock exchange to make a killing and why SEBI took five years to complete the probe. It is no secret that many corporate houses and individuals made a killing in the share market using clout to influence SEBI, NSE and other institutions. The Modi government, too, looked the other way in this case and has woken up now. According to indications, the Modi government is now desperate to fix the former Finance Minister P Chidambaram who was at the helm of affairs during the UPA for almost seven years in North Block between 2004 and 2014. The Modi government has been very keen to fix him for a long time but could not lay its hands on him for one reason or the other. However, it now thinks that the NSE scam has come in handy.

### CBI scouts for mysterious Himalayan Yogi?

As part of unravelling the mystery to find out who is the mysterious Himalayan Yogi behind Chitra Ramkrishna, the CBI finally arrested Anand Subramanian last week. He was the Chief Operating Officer of the NSE and considered very close to Chitra Ramkrishna. The SEBI investigators probed the matter for five years to find out the identity of the Himalayan Yogi and grilled her as well. However, she maintained that she used to interact with the Yogi for guidance only through emails. The CBI believes that Yogi is none other than the person who manipulated the share market to make a killing at the NSE. The CBI which raided Chitra's Chembur residence in Mumbai was desperate to know the identity of the Himalayan Baba.

### Hung House stares in Punjab

With pollsters predicting a hung House in Punjab where no political majority getting an absolute majority, reports have emanated that Akali Dal-AAP may enter into a post-poll understanding. According to indications, AAP is emerging as the single largest party in Punjab followed by Congress, Akali Dal-BSP combine, NDA and others in a House of 117 seats. The BJP has already ruled out any understanding with the Akalis. The BJP chief, JP Nadda dismissed such a possibility saying it's time to rebuild the party. The BJP leadership thinks it's time to build the party in Punjab as it has come out of the shadow of the Akali Dal after almost 40 years. The BJP has stitched an alliance with Captain

Amarinder Singh and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and joining hands with the Akalis will send a wrong signal to the party's cadre.

### Modi wants talent from outside

It is no secret that Prime Minister Modi is not much in favour of bureaucrats being given plum posts after retirement. He has always been favouring bringing in talent from outside and has been making experiments ever since he came to power in 2014. But he didn't want the bureaucracy to sabotage his concept either from within. But he brought talent from outside to head the Swachh Bharat Mission. It's a different matter that the person opted out after a few years as he found working tough.



# international

## ZELENSKY INVITES ELON MUSK TO UKRAINE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has invited Tesla Founder and CEO Elon Musk to visit his country after the war. A video of the meeting was posted on Zelenskyy's Instagram. "Talked to @elonmusk. I'm grateful to him for supporting Ukraine with words and deeds. Next week we will receive another batch of Starlink systems for destroyed cities. Discussed possible space projects. But I'll talk about this after the war," Zelenskyy posted on Twitter



## MISERY AND PAIN



# STOP FIGHTING: PUTIN TELLS UKRAINE

**Lviv/Kyiv, Ukraine, March 6:** Russian President Vladimir Putin said Sunday his campaign in Ukraine was going according to plan and would not end until Kyiv stopped fighting, as efforts to evacuate the heavily bombed city of Mariupol failed for a second day in a row.

He made the comments in a phone call with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, who appealed for a ceasefire in the conflict that the United Nations says has created the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War Two.

Russian media said Putin also held almost two hours of talks Sunday with French President Emmanuel Macron, who has stayed in regular contact but, as with other international efforts, has yet to persuade Moscow to call off a campaign now in an 11th day. Authorities in Mariupol had said Sunday they would make a second attempt to evacuate some of the 400,000 residents, after the Ukrainian coastal city endured days of shelling that



Bid to evacuate residents from Mariupol fails again

has trapped people in without heat, power and water. But the ceasefire plan collapsed, as it had on Saturday, with each side blaming the other for the failure.

Putin holds talks with Turkish and French presidents

Putin told Erdogan he was ready for dialogue with Ukraine and foreign partners but any attempt to draw out negotiation would fail, a Kremlin statement said.

Turkey said Erdogan had called for a ceasefire to ease humanitarian concerns.

Kyiv renewed its appeal to the West to toughen sanctions beyond existing efforts that have hammered Russia's economy. It also requested more weapons, including a plea for Russian-made planes, to help it repel Russian forces.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Washington was "very, very actively" considering how it could backfill aircraft for Poland, if Warsaw decided to supply its warplanes to Ukraine, speaking on a trip to neighbouring Moldova.

**'DESTROYING US'**  
 Moscow calls the campaign it launched February 24 a "special military operation", saying it has no plans to occupy Ukraine, which was once part of the Soviet Union under Moscow's sway but which has now turned West seeking membership of NATO and the European Union.

Russia, which denies attacking civilian areas, has poured troops and

equipment into Ukraine. A huge Russian convoy on a road north of Kyiv has made limited visible progress in recent days, although Russia's defence ministry released footage Sunday showing some tracked military vehicles on the move.

In the capital, Ukrainian soldiers bolstered defences by digging trenches, blocking roads and liaising with civil defence units as Russian forces bombarded areas nearby.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian rockets had destroyed the civilian airport of the central-western region capital of Vinnytsia Sunday. He also said Russia was preparing to bombard another southern city, Odessa.

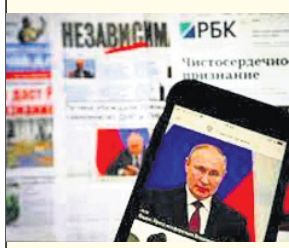
The World Health Organisation said there had been several attacks on Ukrainian healthcare facilities during the conflict. The attacks caused deaths and injuries, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a Twitter message, but gave no details.

## Assault halts evacuations again

**Lviv (Ukraine):** Plans to evacuate civilians from a besieged port city in Ukraine failed to materialise Sunday for the second time along with an expected Russian ceasefire, a Ukrainian official said, as officials tried to persuade Russia to agree on establishing other evacuation routes near Ukraine's capital. Residents expected to leave the port city of Mariupol during a 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. local ceasefire, Ukrainian military authorities said earlier in the day. Interior Ministry adviser Anton Gerashchenko said the planned evacuations were halted because of an ongoing assault by Russian troops.



## Russia cracks down on media, protests



**New York:** Russian authorities Sunday continued to block independent news outlets and to arrest protesters in an effort to tighten control over what information the domestic audience sees about the invasion of Ukraine. Several prominent independent online outlets were blocked on Sunday, on top of dozens of others that were blocked last week. Others decided to halt operation in Russia because of new repressive laws or refused to cover the invasion at all because of the pressure. Hundreds of protesters have been detained all across Russia.

## Israeli PM to continue diplomatic effort

**Tel Aviv:** Israel's Prime Minister said his country will continue to assist in finding a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine crisis, even if the chances for success are few. Naftali Bennett spoke Sunday to a meeting of his Cabinet, hours after he returned from a surprise meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, where the two discussed the war with Ukraine. He then travelled to Germany where he met Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Bennett revealed no details from his talks with Putin, but called the country's mediation efforts "our moral duty." Earlier, his office said he and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke by phone Sunday morning, the third such call between the two leaders over the past day.



## US biological weapons made in Ukraine: Russia

The Russian Defence Ministry showed documents from Ukrainian biological laboratories, which are funded by the US Department of Defense. The documents confirm that Ukrainian biological laboratories located in close proximity to Russia were developing components of biological weapons, *Ren TV* reported. "We have received from employees of Ukrainian biological laboratories documentation on the emergency destruction of especially dangerous pathogens of plague, anthrax, tularemia, cholera and other deadly diseases February 24," the report says. The Ministry of Defence reported that after the start of the Russian special operation in the Donbass, the Pentagon had concerns that information about secret biological experiments conducted on the territory of Ukraine would be disclosed. The received documents are now being analyzed by Russian specialists from the troops of radiation, chemical and biological protection. "In order to prevent the discovery of the facts of violation by the United States and Ukraine of Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health sent an instruction to all biological laboratories on the urgent elimination of stored stocks of dangerous pathogens," the Russian Defence Ministry said.

## JOHNSON'S 6-POINT PLAN

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson outlined a six-point plan to resolve the Russia-Ukraine crisis, calling for renewed international efforts to bring an end to the conflict



I. World leaders should mobilise an "international humanitarian coalition" for Ukraine

II. They should also support Ukraine "in its efforts to provide for its own self-defence"

III. Economic pressure on

ratcheted up

IV. The international community must resist Russia's "creeping normalisation" of its actions in Ukraine

V. Diplomatic resolutions to the war must be pursued, but only with the full participation of Ukraine's legitimate government

VI. There should be a "rapid campaign to strengthen security and resilience" among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries

Russia should be

## Russian forces aiming to capture another N-plant

Russian forces are aiming to capture another nuclear plant in Ukraine after the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant was seized last week, a top official in Kiev said Sunday.

According to Aleksey Arestovich, adviser to the head of the Office of the Ukrainian President, the Russian forces are trying to "advance north of Nikolaev and are trying to turn around in the direction of the south Ukrainian nuclear power plant in order to attempt to capture it, like the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant", UNIAN reported.

At the same time, Arestovich noted that the Zaporizhzhya plant is operating normally, and "there are few enemies there". He also opined that "it will not be easy for the enemy to pass north of Nikolaev... but the efforts of the invaders are directed there". Since Russia's invasion began on February 24, Moscow has lost more than 11,000 personnel, the Ukrainian



Defence Ministry said.

In addition to the personnel, Russia has also lost 285 tanks, 985 armoured combat vehicles, 109 artillery systems, 50 MLRS, 21 air defense systems, 44 aircraft, 48 helicopters, 447 vehicles, two light speedboats, 60 tanks with fuel and lubricants, four drones operationally-tactical level, the Ministry said.

"The data is being specified. The calculation is complicated by the high intensity of hostilities," it added. "The enemy, despite significant losses, is throwing hundreds of supporters of the 'Russian world' into battle. In particular, in the Luhansk region, the entire frontline is littered with corpses and lined equipment of the invaders."

## 'Dirty bomb'

Ukraine used the Chernobyl nuclear power plant zone for work on the manufacture of a "dirty bomb" and the separation of plutonium, a representative of one of the competent departments of Russia said. "It is worth noting separately the use of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant zone as a site for the development of nuclear weapons," the source told RIA Novosti. According to the source, the increased radiation background natural for the Chernobyl zone hid the conduct of such work, RT reported. The use of a "dirty" bomb involves the explosion of a munition with conventional explosives containing radioactive substances. For example, when an ammunition is detonated, the container with isotopes is destroyed, and the shock wave carries radioactive substances. The agency notes that such weapons have never been used in real conditions. At the same time, employees of the Odessa National Polytechnic University, who have experience in the field of mathematical modeling of the kinetics of thermonuclear reactions, were involved in the development of certain problems in this area, the interlocutor noted.



## 'Hero of the night'

**Kyiv:** A boy from Zaporizhzhia in southeast Ukraine, was hailed "a hero of the night" by Slovakian authorities after they said he crossed Ukraine's border into Slovakia on his own, *CNN* reported. The 11-year-old was carrying a backpack, a plastic bag and a passport, and had a telephone number written on his hand, according to the Slovak Ministry of Interior.

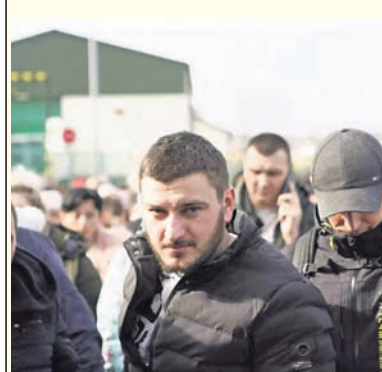
The statement said that thanks to the information written on the boy's hand and on a piece of paper that was folded in his passport, the staff at the border were able to get in touch with the boy's relatives in Slovakia who were then able to come and collect him, *CNN* reported.

## Race to protect heritage

**Lviv:** The director of Ukraine's largest art museum walked its hallways, supervising as staff packed away its collections to protect their national heritage in case the Russian invasion advances west. In one partially empty gallery of the Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum, employees placed carefully wrapped baroque pieces into cardboard boxes. A few meters away, a group walked down the majestic main staircase carrying a giant piece of sacred art, the 18th century Bohorodchany iconostasis. "Sometimes the tears are coming because a lot of labour has been put in here. It takes time, energy. You are doing something good, you feel pleased. Today you see empty walls, so it feels bitter, sad. We didn't believe it till the last minute that this could happen," museum General Director Ihor Kozhan said.



## Men line up to join Ukrainian army



**Kyiv:** Hundreds of men have been lining up in Kyiv to join the Ukrainian army. An order from Ukraine's government prohibited men between the ages of 18 and 60 from leaving the country to keep them available for military conscription. But some like Volodymyr Onysko volunteered to fight. "We know why we are here. We know why we defend our country. And our guys that are actually standing there and fighting Russian military forces," he told Britain's Sky

News. "We know what we are doing and that's why we will win." Others, like British Army veteran Mark Ayres, travelled to Ukraine to help. Ayres said the Ukrainian people have been inspiring and "it's galvanized everybody."



## of the day quote

The economy faces new stresses emanating from geopolitical tensions. The conflict is likely to have adverse effects on both economic growth and on inflation... Policy makers must in my view remain alert and stand ready to respond rapidly to the emerging situation

JAYANTH R VARMA | MEMBER, MPC

India suggests holding a discussion on the role of e-commerce during the time of the pandemic... Within the boundaries of every country, there may have been positive examples. But, did international e-commerce play a big role? It will be good to hear member experiences specifically linked to cross-border trade

BRAJENDRA NAVMIT | AMBASSADOR OF INDIA, WTO

We will have to (get into the EV segment) because we plan a long term future in India. We estimate that by 2030, 25-30 per cent of the market would be electric cars and we need to make sure that we play our part, so we will bring EVs to the market

ZAC HOLLIS | DIRECTOR, SKODA AUTO INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### FPIs pull out ₹17,537 crore

**New Delhi:** Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out as much as ₹17,537 crore from the Indian markets in just three trading sessions of March as investors' sentiment got dented by the uncertainty triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and rising crude oil prices. As per depositories data, they pulled out ₹14,721 crore from equities, ₹2,808 crore from debt segment and ₹9 crore from hybrid instruments between March 2-4. This took the total net outflow to ₹17,537 crore. "The market sentiments have been impacted globally by the uncertainty triggered by the war and the surge in crude," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

### RNEL lenders brace for loss

**Mumbai:** Lenders of Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd. (RNEL), which is undergoing debt resolution process under IBC, are set to face a haircut of whopping 90 per cent to 95 per cent, if the resolution plan of either of the two resolution applicants is accepted by them. The lenders are currently voting on the resolution plans of the two shortlisted resolution applicants, ie, Hazel Mercantile-Swan Energy consortium and Navin Jindal led JSPL. According to banking sources, the net present value (NPV) of the resolution plans submitted by both the shortlisted bidders is even less than the liquidation value of the company (RNEL) set by the resolution professional.

### PNB in limbo

**New Delhi:** The country's second-largest bank Punjab National Bank (PNB) said it was awaiting advisory from the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank with regard to SWIFT-related transactions with Russian entities. In view of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, several countries including the US, Canada and certain European nations have blocked some Russian banks from using SWIFT, a system that is used for global banking transactions. "...We have not received any advisory from the RBI/Finance Ministry regarding SWIFT-related transactions with respect to Russia," PNB said in a response to queries on Russia-related transactions.



It is a very unfortunate situation. Some oil companies are taking advantage of the situation... Respective governments across the world can keep a price control as everything is run by energy

VR SHARMA | MD, JSPL

## LUGANO MAKES CRYPTO LEGAL

Lugano, a city in Switzerland, is adopting cryptocurrency. It plans to make Bitcoin, Tether and the city's own LVGA token legal tender. The city has formed a partnership with stablecoin issuer Tether. The move will allow citizens and companies to use cryptocurrencies to pay their annual taxes, parking tickets, public services and student tuition fees



## REPERCUSSIONS OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

# Visa, Mastercard halt Russian ops

The move by the payments firms could mean more disruption for Russians who are bracing for an uncertain future of spiraling inflation, economic hardship and an even sharper squeeze on imported goods

REUTERS

**Washington, March 6:** US payments firms Visa Inc and Mastercard Inc Saturday said they were suspending operations in Russia over the invasion of Ukraine, and that they would work with clients and partners to cease all transactions there.

Within days, all transactions initiated with Visa cards issued in Russia will no longer work outside of the country and any Visa cards issued outside of Russia will no longer work within the country, the company said.

Mastercard, which has operated in Russia for 25 years, said its cards issued by Russian banks will no longer be supported by Mastercard networks, and that any of the company's card issued outside of the Russia will not work at Russian merchants or ATMs.

Mastercard said it decided to suspend its network services in Russia following its recent action to block multiple Russian financial institutions from the company's payment network, as required by regulators globally.

Visa also said this week it blocked multiple Russian financial institutions from its network in com-



Unprecedented Western sanctions imposed on Russia have frozen its central bank's \$640 billion in assets; barred several banks from global payments system SWIFT; and sent the rouble into free-fall, erasing a third of its value this week

Mastercard and Visa had significant business in Russia. In 2021, about 4% of Mastercard's net revenues were derived from business conducted within, into and out of Russia. Visa also reported that total net revenue was about 4%

We are compelled to act following Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, and the unacceptable events that we have witnessed

AL KELLY | CEO, VISA

pliance with government sanctions imposed over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

US President Joe Biden, in a call with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, welcomed Visa's and Mastercard's decisions to suspend their operations in Russia, the White House said.

### ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM

Sberbank Rossii PAO, Russia's largest lender, said the moves by Visa and Mastercard would not affect users of the cards it issues in Russia, Tass news reported.

Sberbank said its customers would be able to withdraw cash, make transfers, pay both in offline

stores and Russian internet stores because transactions in Russia pass through the domestic National Payment Card System which does not depend on foreign payment systems, according to Tass.

The country set up its own banking messaging system, known as SPFS, as an alternative to SWIFT and its own card payment system MIR began operating in 2015. They were part of Moscow's efforts to develop homegrown financial tools to mirror Western ones, to protect the country in case sanctions are broadened.

### Nike to close all stores

Nike Inc said Thursday it would temporarily close all its stores in Russia, joining a slew of Western brands that have suspended their businesses in the country following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The US sports-wear maker had made merchandise purchases on its website and app unavailable in Russia earlier this week and directed its customers in the country to brick-and-mortar stores instead. The company also said its foundation would be donating \$1 million to the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Rescue Committee to support relief efforts.

### PayPal shuts down services

**San Francisco:** Payments company PayPal has announced that it is suspending its services in Russia in the wake of Ukraine invasion. Ukraine's Vice PM Mykhailo Fedorov tweeted a letter from PayPal CEO Dan Schulman, confirming the company's decision to shut down its operations in Russia. "We received a letter from Dan Schulman, CEO PayPal. So now it's official: PayPal shuts down its services in Russia citing Ukraine aggression. Thank you PayPal for your supporting! Hope that soon you will open it in for Ukraine,"



Fedorov said in a tweet. "Under the current circumstances, we are suspending PayPal services in Russia," Schulman says in the letter. "We are also doing all that we can to support our staff in the region during this deeply difficult time."

## LIC IPO DELAY

# Govt may miss revised disinvestment target

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 6:** India will miss its revised disinvestment target for the second time in the past eight years by a wide margin, as the government may not be able to raise an expected over ₹60,000 crore from the IPO of insurance behemoth LIC in 2021-22.

Since the Modi government came to power in 2014, it was only in the financial year 2019-20 that it failed to achieve the revised CPSE disinvestment target of ₹65,000 crore. The mop-up during the year was only ₹50,304 crore.

In the ongoing financial year 2021-22, the government was all set to go ahead with the share sale of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) this month and draft papers for the same were also filed with markets regulator Sebi.

However, the Russia-Ukraine war has severely impacted the stock markets forcing the government to rethink about the timing of the IPO.

In 2015-16, the actual mop-up was ₹42,132 crore as against RE of

If the LIC IPO fails to hit the market by March 31, the government will stare at a huge shortfall in the disinvestment mop-up. So far, it has collected ₹12,400 crore and was banking on LIC IPO to achieve the revised target of ₹78,000 crore

₹25,313 crore. Similarly, in the financial year 2017-18, the government had set a record of sorts by raising over ₹1 lakh crore, which was nearly the same as was mentioned in the RE.

As regard the current financial year, the government has raised ₹12,434 crore so far, including ₹2,700 crore from Air India sale and ₹3,994 crore from sale of SUUTI stake in Axis Bank.

# GST rationalisation on the cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 6:** The GST Council in its next meeting may look at raising the lowest tax slab to 8 per cent, from 5 per cent, and prune the exemption list in the Goods and Services Tax regime as it looks to increase revenues and do away with states' dependence on Centre for compensation, sources said Sunday.

A panel of state finance ministers is likely to submit its report by this month end to the Council suggesting various steps to raise revenue, including hiking the lowest slab and rationalising the slab.

According to sources, the Group of Ministers (GoM) is likely to propose raising the 5 per cent slab to 8 per cent, which may yield an additional ₹1.50 lakh crore annual revenues. As per calculations, 1 per cent increase in the lowest slab, which mainly include packaged food items, results in a revenue gain of ₹50,000 crore annually.

Besides, the GoM would also propose reducing the number of items which are exempted from GST. Currently, un-packaged and un-branded food and dairy items are exempted from GST.

Sources said the GST Council is expected to meet later this month



Currently, GST is a four-tier structure attracting a tax rate of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent	As part of rationalisation, the GoM is also looking at a 3-tier GST structure, with rates at 8, 18 and 28 per cent
	If the proposal comes through, all the goods and services which are currently taxed at 12 per cent, will move to 18 per cent slab

or early next month and discuss the report of the GoM and take a view on the revenue position of the states. With the GST compensation regime coming to an end in June, it is imperative that states become self-sufficient and not depend on the Centre for bridging the revenue gap in GST collection.

At the time of GST implementation July 1, 2017, the Centre had agreed to compensate states for 5 years till June 2022, and protect their revenue at 14 per cent per annum over

# Price shocks due to war will have impact worldwide, says IMF

This crisis is set to create complex policy tradeoffs, further complicating the policy landscape as the world economy recovers from the pandemic crisis



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** Energy and commodity prices-including wheat and other grains-have surged due to the war in Ukraine, adding to inflationary pressures from supply chain disruptions and the rebound from the Covid-19 pandemic, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

Price shocks will have an impact worldwide, especially on poor households for whom food and fuel are a higher proportion of expenses.

"Should the conflict escalate, the economic damage would be all the more devastating. The sanctions on Russia will also have a substantial impact on the global economy and financial markets, with significant spillovers to other

countries," IMF said.

In many countries, the crisis is creating an "adverse shock" to both inflation and activity, amid already elevated price pressures.

Monetary authorities will need to carefully monitor the pass-through of rising international prices to domestic inflation, to calibrate appropriate responses.

Fiscal policy will need to support the most vulnerable households, to help offset rising living costs. This crisis will create complex policy tradeoffs, further complicating the policy landscape as the world economy recovers from the pandemic crisis.

"While the situation remains highly fluid and the outlook is subject to extraordinary uncertainty, the economic consequences are already very serious," it added.

## CredAvenue becomes fastest fintech unicorn

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, March 6:** Debt marketplace CredAvenue Sunday announced that it is India's fastest fintech to join the unicorn club with a Series B fundraising round of \$137 million.

The fundraising round was led by New York-based global private equity and venture capital firm Insight Partners, B Capital Group, and Dragoneer, with participation from existing investors.

As a result, the company's post-money valuation has grown to \$1.3 billion. "I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new investor partners as we embark on this mission to deepen the Indian debt market," Gaurav Kumar, Founder and CEO, CredAvenue, said.

The Series B round of capital raise was preceded by India's largest Series A round (equity), led by Sequoia Capital, Lightspeed Ventures, TVS Capital, and Lightrock.

CredAvenue is adding some of the biggest names in technology investment from across the world to its capital table, the company said.

These partnerships are expected to improve the strength, depth, and scale of India's largest debt platform, providing enormous value for all stakeholders, it added.

# Women's Day: Must have insurance covers for every woman

Indian women are rising to new heights with each passing day. In the last few years, we have seen you breaking the proverbial 'glass ceiling' and leading on all fronts, making an impact in the lives of people and reaching heights of unprecedented glory and success. When I wonder, what tools or products can empower you and ensure that you march fearlessly on the path of prosperity and success, I conclude that a few insurance and risk management products are a must-have. In this article, I will highlight a few insurance products which will go a long way to further strengthen you financially, and bring you peace and security.

**Health Insurance-** Health care has come to the 'center stage' since the last couple of years, having full-blown health insurance is a necessity nowadays. Having a comprehensive, solid, health insurance plan goes a long way in en-

sureing that during the time of need you can avail quality medical facilities without worrying about the ever-increasing medical cost. A few health insurance plans also provide maternity coverage which gives protection against the expenses associated with childbirth up to the pre-defined limit.

**Women Specific Critical Illness Cover-** Today, apart from the alarming increase in lifestyle diseases, more and more women are being diagnosed with critical illnesses like breast cancer, ovarian cancer, fallopian tube cancer, and other serious ailments. Seeing the surge of such ailments, today the insurance market also offers specific health insurance products for women, which covers critical illnesses like Fallopian Tube Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, Breast Cancer, Fallopian Tube Cancer, Vaginal Cancer to cater to the needs of women. Most of these plans give you

a lump sum payment of 100% of the sum insured if you are diagnosed with a critical illness.

### Cyber Insurance-

Whether you are self-employed, a homemaker, or are in a job, you must have observed our increasing dependency on virtual space. While the ubiquitous world of the internet has brought immense ease,

opportunities, and new prospects, it has also exposed us to new threats and risks. Although everyone is susceptible to cyber cyber-attacks, women, in particular, should be equipped to fight cyber-crime. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), between 2018 and 2020, registered cases of cyber-crimes against women almost doubled. A cyber insurance policy provides

protection against multiple risks, like cyberstalking, identity theft, malware attack, phishing attack, cyber extortion, privacy breach, data breach, and much more. With a comprehensive cyber insurance policy, you can explore the worldwide web without worrying about the associated risks.

**Motor insurance-** If you own a motor vehicle you know how important a role it plays in your independent movement in your routine life. Your vehicle is one of the most important assets you own simply because of your sheer dependency on it. While basic third-party insurance is mandatory to drive a vehicle on road, it is prudent to have comprehensive motor insurance to ensure the complete safety of your vehicle. A comprehensive policy protects against natural calamities like floods, hailstorms, earthquakes, inundation, hurricanes,

landslides, and rockslides.

**Personal Accident Cover-** Uncertainties are a part of life; accidents can occur anywhere, anytime, and any day; even if you take all the precautions and are always on guard, you can never be immune to accidents. Personal accident policy is one of the cheapest insurance policies available in the market which provides 24\*7, worldwide protection. The policy covers you against accidental injuries, accidental death, partial/total disabilities, temporary and permanent disabilities.

Now that you know about the importance and benefits of these insurance covers, I urge you to evaluate these products and buy the necessary covers to ensure that you are duly protected during times of need. You are the true architects of our society; in your growth and prosperity lies the progress and prosperity of our society. Wishing you all a very Happy Women's Day.



TA Ramalingam, Chief Technical Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance



# Spin twins script victory

JADEJA AND ASHWIN CREATE MAGICAL WEB TO TRAP SRI LANKA BATTERS INTO SUBMISSION AS INDIA GO ONE UP IN THE 2-MATCH TEST SERIES



**MENACING DUO:** Ravindra Jadeja (left) and Ravichandran Ashwin worked in tandem to rout the Sri Lankans PFI PHOTO

## Impressive feat

**MOHALI:** Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin went past the legendary Kapil Dev's 434 Test scalps Sunday to become the second highest wicket-taker for India in the longest format of the game. He reached the mark in his 85th match. The 35-year-old Ashwin achieved the feat in the ongoing first Test against Sri Lanka. He began the match with 430 scalps and now has 436 wickets in his kitty. The legendary Anil Kumble tops the chart with 619 wickets in 132 matches. Ashwin is the fourth Indian bowler to take more than 400 wickets in Test cricket.

which of Jadeja's delivery will be a straighter one and which ones will turn. The dilemma in their minds caused mess in their approach too. Sri Lanka did not show any will to fight after they were asked to follow on 400 runs adrift in the first innings. Wickets fell at regular intervals and it seemed that the Sri Lankan players determined to surrender meekly. Niroshan Dickwella (51 n o, 81b, 9x4) was the only batter to show some resistance. Dhananjaya de Silva (30) and Mathews (28) got starts but were not able to convert those to big scores. In the first innings, Sri Lanka suffered a collapse they would like to forget. From 161 for four they lost six wickets for 13 runs to be bowled out for 174 with Jadeja doing the maximum damage. Pathum Nissanka (61 n o) and Charith Asalanka (29) were the only ones to offer some resistance.

taken five wickets in an innings in a Test. Vinoo Mankad achieved the feat in 1952 against England at Lord's, and Polly Umrigar in 1962 versus West Indies at the Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi. Such was the regularity of wickets falling that there was hardly any cause for celebrations in the Indian camp. There was no stomach for a fight by this Sri Lankan team and some of the players, like old guard Angelo Mathews and Niroshan Dickwella seemed primarily disinterested during their stay at the crease. The wicket had its bit of turn and uneven bounce but nothing much to trouble the batters. However, the Lankans made a heavy weather during their two stints, making both Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin (4/47) look more menacing than they actually were. In fact none of the Lankan batters could understand

### BRIEF SCORES

India 574 for 8 declared beat Sri Lanka 174 (Pathum Nissanka 61 n o, Ravindra Jadeja 5/41) and 178 (Niroshan Dickwella 51 n o, Ravindra Jadeja 4/46, Ravichandran Ashwin 4/47) by an innings and 222 runs.

## SHORT TAKES

### 3rd gold for India

**Cairo:** The Indian trio of Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan clinched gold in the women's 25m pistol team event on the penultimate day of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol competition here Sunday. The Indian team registered a 17-13 victory over Singapore in a thrilling match-up to claim the country's third gold of the tournament. This was Esha's second gold and third medal of the World Cup. She had earlier clinched a yellow metal in the women's 10m air pistol team event to add to the silver she won in the individual event. Earlier Saurabh Chaudhary had won gold in the men's air pistol event a few days back.

### Emphatic triumph

**Barcelona:** Luka Modric and Eduardo Camavinga struck goals from outside the area to help Real Madrid beat Real Sociedad 4-1 and increase their lead in the Spanish league. The two other goals were scored by Karim Benzema and Marco Asensio. However, it was Sociedad who had taken the lead early on when Mikel Oyarzabal converted a penalty. However, their joy was short-lived.

### Sailors shine

**Abu Dhabi:** Indian sailors reaped rich rewards at the Asian Sailing Championships 2022 which ended here Saturday. They finished their campaign on a high note by winning nine medals comprising three golds and an equal number of silver and bronze medals. The gold medals were won by KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar (49ers), Vishnu Saravanan (men's laser) and Ritika Dangi (girls' laser)

### CSK face KKR

**Mumbai:** Defending champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will face Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the opening game of the 15th edition of the IPL at the Wankhede stadium here March 26. The BCCI announced Sunday the schedule of the IPL. It will be played across four venues - Wankhede and CCI in Mumbai, DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and MCA stadium in Pune. "Seventy matches and four playoff games will be played in the duration of 65 days," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release. AGENCIES

## INDIAN SKIPPER HAPPY WITH DOMINATING DISPLAY

# ROHIT LAUDS TEAM EFFORT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MOHALI, March 6:** His Test captaincy stint off to a winning start Sunday, an elated Rohit Sharma said India ticked all the boxes against Sri Lanka in the opening Test. "It was a good start. It was a great game of cricket from our perspective. We ticked all the boxes we wanted to. To be honest I didn't think it is going to be that kind of a Test match which would get over in three days," Rohit said at the end of the game. "It was a good batting pitch, there was some turn and some assistance for the seamers as well. Lot of credit to the guys, they bowled very well in tandem, kept the pressure and never made it easy for the Sri Lanka batsmen. We just ensured we ap-

**"I have been watching Ashwin for a long time now. He seems to be getting better with every game"**  
ROHIT SHARMA

plied pressure from both ends," added the Indian skipper. Rohit was all praise of Ravichandran Ashwin who surpassed Kapil Dev's tally of 434 wickets in Tests in this game. "It's a big thing to achieve this feat," Rohit said when asked about Ashwin's achievement in just 85 Tests. "I have been watching Ashwin for a long time now and every time I watch him, he seems to get better

and better," Rohit added. There was no doubt as to who would be the man of the match as Ravindra Jadeja stood out with his 175 not out and nine wickets in the game. He said the PCA stadium here is his 'lucky' ground. "I would say this is my lucky ground. Whenever I come here I get positive vibes. I was looking to build a partnership with Rishabh (Pant), give him the strike and enjoy his batting from the other end. To be honest I don't know about any stats," Jadeja said at the end of the game. The Saurashtra all-rounder said the performance here has boosted his confidence immensely. "Obviously as a player you boost your confidence with such a performance," Jadeja informed.

# MARY KOM MAKES WAY FOR YOUNGSTERS

OLYMPIC MEDALLIST OPTS OUT OF WC, ASIAN GAMES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** Olympic bronze medallist boxer MC Mary Kom has decided to skip the World Championships and the Asian Games this year to give more exposure to youngsters. The six-time World Champion wants to focus on her preparations for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The Women's World Boxing Championships is scheduled to be held from May 6 to 21 in Istanbul, Turkey while the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2022 Asian Games will begin July 28 and September 10 respectively. "I would like to withdraw to give opportunity to the younger generation to make a name for themselves on the international stage and

**"Time has come for the youngsters to get exposure and experience. So I will just concentrate on the Birmingham CWG"**  
MARY KOM

get exposure and experience of major tournaments. I would like to focus on the preparations for the Commonwealth Games only." Mary Kom said Sunday in a communication to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI). The selection trials for all the 12 categories of the World Championships will start Monday and end Wednesday. The trials will also include Asian Games weights divisions, which are the same as IBA.

# India hammer Pakistan in World Cup opener

It is 11-0 for the eves in the 50 overs format against their neighbours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mount Maunganui, March 6:** The Indian eves thrashed arch rivals Pakistan by 107 runs to begin their campaign in the ICC Women's World Cup on a rousing note here Sunday. Pakistan were no match for the Indians and folded tamely.

Electing to bat, Indian scored 244 for seven in their 50 overs and then bowled out the opposition for 137 in 43 overs. In-form opener Smriti Mandhana (52, 75b, 3x4, 1x6), Sneha Rana (53, 48b, 4x4) and Pooja Vastrakar (67, 59b, 8x4) shone with the bat during the game at the Bay Oval here. In fact, the 122 runs partnership for the seventh wicket between Sneha and Pooja helped India recovered from a disastrous 114 for six. Pakistan were never in the chase as spinners Rajeshwari Gayakwad (4/31), Rana (2/27) and veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami (2/26) picked up wickets at regular intervals to stifle the opposition. This incidentally was India's 11th straight win over Pakistan in the 50-over format.

To start with however, the Indians found themselves under pressure after opener Shafali Verma was dismissed for a duck in the third over. A 92-run stand between Mandhana (52) and Deepti Sharma (40) helped steady the ship. However, Pakistan came back strongly by claiming a flurry of wickets, including the scalps of skipper Mithali Raj (9) and her deputy Harymanpreet Kaur (5).

Sneha and Pooja then put in the match-turning partnership. It was the highest for the seventh wicket in ICC Women's World Cups and



**ALL-ROUND SHOW:** Sneha Rana scored an impressive half century and picked up two wickets against Pakistan PFI PHOTO

## Raj in iconic company

**MOUNT MAUNGANUI:** One of the game's finest servants, India captain Mithali Raj became Sunday only the third cricketer and the first woman to play in six World Cups. In the process she joined the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistani great Javed Miandad. Mithali achieved the feat Sunday against Pakistan. Mithali made her maiden World Cup appearance in 2000, before playing the event in 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022.

helped in boosting the Indian total. Pakistan had their tails up at that stage of the game but, batting in the lower order, Sneha and Pooja had other ideas and displayed immense grit to pull India out of trouble. In reply, Pakistan were precariously placed at 78 for five at the halfway point in their innings and they could never recover. **Brief scores:** India 244 for 7 (Pooja Vastrakar 67, Sneha Rana 53, Smriti Mandhana 52) beat Pakistan 137 in 43 overs (Rajeshwari Gayakwad 4/31, Jhulan Goswami 2/26, Sneha Rana 2/27) by 107 runs.

## Odisha suffer innings defeat

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 6:** Odisha suffered their second successive defeat when they were beaten by an innings and 108 runs by Mumbai in their Elite Group D Ranji Trophy encounter Sunday at Ahmedabad. The loss meant that Odisha failed to qualify for the knockout stage. They finished with just three points from the three games they played.

The win propelled Mumbai to the top of the table with 16 points and ensured their spot in the knockouts. Mumbai had scored 532 for nine wickets declared in their first innings in reply to Odisha's score of 284 all out. Chasing a deficit of 248 runs, Odisha began their second innings in disastrous fashion Saturday and were staring at defeat at 84 for five wickets with most of their top batsmen gone. The middle and lower-order did not offer much resistance Sunday and they were bowled out for 140 in their second innings on the fourth day of the game.

Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (5/64) and off-spinner Tanush Kotian (3/31) were the wreckers-in-chief for Mumbai. Except for Abhishek Raut (59, 71b, 9x4), none of the Odia batters could offer any resistance. It is high time that Odisha look into the team competition and the time has come to groom some youngsters. In the second innings, a number of batters were guilty of throwing their wickets away playing extravagant strokes.

**Brief scores:** Odisha 284 and 140 (Abhishek Raut 59, Shams Mulani 5/64) lost to Mumbai 532 for 9 decl by an innings and 108 runs.

# Mithali unhappy with top-order performance

SKIPPER CONCERNED WITH FORM OF INDIA'S TOP BATTERS INCLUDING HER OWN FORM

AGENCIES

**Mount Maunganui, Mar 6:** Her team may have beaten Pakistan by 107 runs in their Women's World Cup opener but India skipper Mithali Raj expressed concerns Sunday about the side's batting, especially the top-order. "I am happy we won the first game but a lot of things we have to work on. When you lose wickets in the middle-order cheaply, it does put a lot of pressure. The top-order has to score runs in a big tournament like this," Mithali said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"When you have all-rounders like Sneha (Rana), Deepti (Sharma) and Pooja (Vastrakar), it helps. But all of us including myself should come good with the bat," the Indian skipper added.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad did the star turn with the ball picking up four wickets. Mithali was all praise for her bowlers, more so for veteran Jhulan. "When she (Jhulan) is in rhythm, she can make life difficult for the opposition. I just hope she continues in this fashion," Mithali said. "Rajeshwari was again brilliant, in fact our bowlers were very good today (Sunday)," she added.

Pooja was named the player of the match for her 67. "I'm very happy, my first player of the match award, in my first World Cup game.



**FINE SHOW:** Rajeshwari Gayakwad picked up four crucial wickets

The plan was to somehow try and get to 200," Vastrakar said. "I like to bat in pressure situations. I told Sneha (Rana), to keep the partnership going. The batters told us that the wicket was slow, so the target was 200 and above. We didn't do anything different, just stuck to the basics," Vastrakar added.

# City win Manchester derby

PEP'S SIDE PLAY FLAWLESS FOOTBALL TO DEFEAT MAN UNITED

AGENCIES

**Manchester, March 6:** Kevin De Bruyne's double strike (6th, 28th) and a brace by Riyad Mahrez (68th, 90th) helped City win the Manchester derby 4-1 at the Etihad here Sunday. It helped Manchester City extend their lead by six points over Liverpool who had defeated West Ham in a late evening match Saturday.

Except for a brief period of the game when Jadon Sancho made the score 1-1 with a fine strike, City were always in control. De Bruyne restored their lead after Sancho's equaliser and then just controlled the pace of the game to outwit Manchester United. Earlier Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp had a nery night as his team scraped past 1-0 with Sadio Mane scoring the all-important goal. "You cannot only win the ones where you are flying, today



Liverpool players celebrate Saturday with Sadio Mane (centre) after the latter's goal against West Ham

(Saturday) we were obviously not flying and had to dig really deep," said Klopp after the match. "I don't know if we will remember this game as one of the important ones. You have to get over the line and I was pleased with that," Klopp added. Liverpool roared out of the blocks

and should have been in front within seconds when Mohamed Salah fired wastefully straight at Lukasz Fabianski with just the 'keeper to beat. Liverpool went in front on 27 minutes when Mane was in the right place to tap in Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross.

# Boria threatens to sue Wriddhiman

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 6:** Talk show host Boria Majumdar has said he will serve a legal notice for defamation on Indian cricketer Wriddhiman Saha in connection with recent allegations made by the wicketkeeper-batter of receiving 'threats' from a journalist for not agreeing to give an interview. In a video he put out on social media, Majumdar said that the screenshots of the WhatsApp chat that Saha had put out was a doctored version of an exchange between the two. "There are always two sides to a story. @Wriddhipops has doctored, tampered screenshots of my WhatsApp chats which have damaged my reputation and credibility. I have requested the @BCCI for a fair hearing. My lawyers are serving @Wriddhipops a defamation notice. Let truth prevail," Majumdar said in a tweet Monday.