



GOING GLOBAL

Actor Alia Bhatt is all set to make her Hollywood debut in Tom Harper directorial *Heart of Stone*

LEISURE P2



NO TRUST AGAINST IMRAN

Pakistan's Opposition parties submitted a no-confidence motion against Imran Khan to remove him from office

INTERNATIONAL P10



SINDHU MARCHES ON

Ace India shuttler PV Sindhu storms into the second round of German Open Super 300 badminton tournament

SPORTS P12

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Assembly budget session March 25-31

Bhubaneswar: The budget session of Odisha Assembly will take place from March 25 to 31. State Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari will present the annual budget (vote-on-account) March 30 and the Appropriation Bill March 31. Speaker S N Patro told reporters Tuesday. Governor Ganeshi Lal has summoned the budget session for seven days from March 25 to March 31, he said. The ninth session of the 16th State Assembly will begin at 11 am March 25 with the Governor's address, a notification said. Vote-on-account is the interim permission given to the government to obtain the vote of the Assembly to withdraw money when the budget for the new financial year is not passed.

Ponzi director arrested for duping ₹15 crore



Bhubaneswar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested Tapan Kumar Samanta, a chit fund company director, for duping investors money of around ₹15 crore, officials said here Tuesday. Earlier, the chit fund company's chairman and managing director, Pratap Kumar Biswal was arrested in the case. Tapan was arrested from Kolkata in West Bengal and produced before the additional chief judicial magistrate, Baruipur, Kolkata Monday. On the strength of a transit remand, the accused has been produced before the designated court, under OPID Act, at Balasore in Odisha, the EOW said. The accused have been arrested in a case registered on the basis of a written complaint filed by Sukadev Hota, Balasore agent Pratap, CMD of Mass Infra Reality Ltd. and Human Welfare Credit & Thrift Co-operative Society Ltd. and its other six directors, including Tapan.

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Biden bans Russian oil and gas imports

The move is likely to escalate further tension between the two countries and would impose a greater economic cost to invading Ukraine



AGENCIES

Washington, March 8: President Joe Biden Tuesday announced that the US would ban the import of Russian oil and gas, "targeting the main artery of Russia's economy" in response to its invasion of Ukraine.

The president said he made the decision in consultation with EU allies but added they may not be in a position to join the US in banning Russian energy imports. "Today I am announcing the United States is targeting the main artery of Russia's economy. We're banning all imports of Russian oil and gas and energy," Biden said in remarks from the White House.

"That means Russian oil will no longer be acceptable at US ports and the American people will deal another powerful blow to Putin's war machine." The action follows pleas by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the US and Western officials to cut off the import of Russian oil and gas.

"Americans have rallied to support the Ukrainian people and have made it clear we will not be part of subsidising Putin's war," Biden told reporters at the White House. The latest move is likely to escalate further tension between the two countries and would impose a greater economic cost to invading Ukraine. "This is a step that we're taking to inflict further pain on Putin, but there will be costs as well here in the United States. I said I would level with the American

people from the beginning, and when I first spoke to this, I said defending freedom is going to cost us as well in the United States," Biden said. Europe, which is far more dependent on Russian energy than the United States, announced Tuesday a plan to cut gas imports from Russia by two-thirds this year, The Washington Post reported. According to The Hill, as of last year, the US was importing nearly 700,000 barrels per day of oil from Russia, while it consumes about 20 million barrels daily.

Senator Rob Portman commended the Biden administration for agreeing to ban the importation of Russian crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and coal into the US.

"I'm pleased the administration made this decision today because it is yet another tool we can use to bankrupt President Putin's economy and his war machine," he said. "Now we must do more here at home to put in place an all-of-the-above energy strategy and expand domestic energy production to help families impacted by higher energy costs and increase our energy security, both now and in the future," Portman said.

US Chamber of Commerce applauded the administration for banning Russian energy imports. "It's time now for the administration to partner with domestic energy producers to leverage America's ability to produce more oil and gas and focus on pro-growth policies to benefit our economy and the world's security," said Martin Durbin, president of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute. Before heading to Texas, Biden told reporters that the latest sanctions mean "tyrants like Putin won't be able to use fossil fuels as weapons against other nations, and it will make America the world leader in manufacturing and exporting clean energy technologies of the future to countries all around the world. P10

AN ODE TO WOMEN



The newly inducted women SHO's of Delhi Police pose for photographs at India Gate on International Women's Day in New Delhi, Tuesday. This is the first time that a large number of women police officers have been appointed as the SHO's of police stations

PTI PHOTO

Not joining NATO: Zelenskyy

Ukraine president said he is open to 'compromise' on the status of two breakaway pro-Russian territories that Putin recognized as independent

AGENCIES

Kyiv, March 8: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he is no longer pressing for NATO membership for Ukraine, a delicate issue that was one of Russia's stated reasons for invading its pro-Western neighbor.

In another apparent nod aimed at placating Moscow, Zelenskyy said he is open to "compromise" on the status of two breakaway pro-Russian territories that President Vladimir Putin recognized as independent just before unleashing the invasion February 24.

"I have cooled down regarding this question a long time ago after we understood that...NATO is not prepared to accept Ukraine," Zelenskyy said in an interview aired Monday night on ABC News.



"The alliance is afraid of controversial things, and confrontation with Russia," the president added. Referring to NATO membership, Zelenskyy said through an interpreter that he does not want to be president of a "country which is begging something on its knees."

Russia has said it does not want neighboring Ukraine to join NATO, the transatlantic alliance created at the start of the Cold War to protect Europe from the Soviet Union.

ULB polls: No exams from March 22 to 24

Higher education department has asked authorities not to schedule any examinations on these dates in view of the upcoming municipal elections in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 8: The higher education department Tuesday directed all colleges and state public universities to not schedule any examination from March 22, 2022 to March 24, 2022 because of elections to Urban Local Bodies.

In a letter, the department said the higher education department had received a letter from the State Election Commission, saying the commission had issued a programme to hold general elections to 106 municipalities/NACs and 3



municipal corporations in the state and some of the colleges both government and aided have been identified as polling booths and the final electoral roll has been published accordingly. These college buildings will be utilised for polling booths from March 22, 2022 to March 24, 2022. Besides, students in urban areas are eligible to vote in these elections March 24, 2022.

But it has been brought to the notice of the commission that some of the universities in the state have issued programme for 5th semester examination for Plus III degree classes which clashes with the poll schedule. It is further understood that the universities have issued the programme as communicated by the higher education department. Thus, the commission desires that the examinations scheduled from 22.3.2022 to 24.3.2022 may be deferred so that general elections to ULBs could be held smoothly. Therefore, the department is directing all principals of colleges and VCs of the universities not to schedule any examinations from March 22 to March 24, 2022.

Odisha tops list of full immunisation at 90.5%



Twenty districts of the state were above 90 per cent in full immunisation, and the remaining 10 districts were below 90 per cent

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 8: Apart from successful vaccination of people against COVID-19, Odisha has

topped the list of full immunisation in the country with 90.5 per cent coverage, a senior health department official said.

This was stated by Additional Chief Secretary, Health, RK Sharma while attending a review meeting on the intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 rolled out in the state Monday. "As per the reports of National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Odisha topped the list at

national level in full immunisation coverage with 90.5 per cent of full immunization," Sharma said.

Generally, full immunisation includes preventive doses against 12 different kinds of diseases including polio, tuberculosis, jaundice, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, HIV, brain fever, pneumonia, measles, rubella, diarrhoea, Japanese fever and others.

Twenty districts of the state were above 90 per cent in full immunisation, and the remaining 10 districts were below 90 per cent. Sharma said that a composite index including five variables was adopted for selecting the districts to be taken up under present IMI 4.0.

Director Family Welfare Dr Bijaya Panigrahi said Cuttack, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Koraput, Khurda, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts were selected for inclusion under IMI as per the composite index assessment.

Malkangiri airport to spread wings in '24



PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 8: The state government has decided to fast track the development of a new airport in Malkangiri in the southern part of the state and make it operational in two years, an official said Tuesday.

The airport in Malkangiri, which is the farthest from state capital Bhubaneswar, will boost the quality of health and education services in the district, the official said. "The airport will enhance the economic and commercial activities in the district," Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said.

Herewith the progress of the construction of the new airport in

Malkangiri at a virtual meeting from Loka Seba Bhavan, according to a release Tuesday. Mohapatra told the works department to operationalise the airport by January 2024 in the first phase, following which it would be extended for bigger flights as the demand grows. He directed officials to clear the obstacles for laying an airstrip of 800-1,000 metres, finish a detailed project report and issue a tender.

AAI TEAM VISITS PURI AIRPORT SITE

Puri: A seven-member technical team of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Tuesday undertook an on-the spot verification of Sipsarubali area on the outskirts of Puri, for the proposed international airport in Puri. The technical team's visit came after Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia during his visit to Jharsuguda said that the AAI had already sent a complete report for an international airport at Puri to the Odisha government and is awaiting its response.

40 cr feature phone users to be on UPI

AGENCIES

Mumbai, March 8: Nearly six years after the launch of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a new service which will enable over 40 crore feature phone users to access the popular digital transactions platform, was launched by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Tuesday.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an RBI-promoted body which created and operates UPI, had launched a USSD-based service to enable UPI access for feature phone users, within months of the launch of the main platform for smartphone users in 2016. However, the service was found to be cumbersome, not free and also not supported by all telcos, Deputy Governor T Rabi Shankar said.

Das rued that the multifaceted features of the UPI are available mostly on smartphones as of now and people from the lower rung of society, especially in rural areas, are not able to access the payments service even as smartphones have become cheaper. "The launch of UPI 123PAY makes facilities under UPI accessible to that section of society which has so far been excluded from the digital payments landscape. In that way, it is promoting great amount of financial inclusion in our economy," Das said at a launch event at the central bank attended by officials from NPCI and banks. He said the brand name derives from a three-step process required to initiate and execute a payment. Feature phone users will now be able to undertake a host of transactions based on four technology alternatives.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

24x7 NOISE

MAHA ELECTION COVERAGE

Parties you declared winners in your exit poll are here to take oath

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	53424.09	↑ 581.34
NIFTY	16013.45	↑ 150.30
DOLLAR	77.54	↓ ₹0.06
EURO	83.94	↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹ 54,942	↑ ₹1425
SILVER	₹ 72,526	↑ ₹2557

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	35.0°C	35.0°C
TEMP. MIN	20.8°C	20.5°C
Humidity	42%	49%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Clear sky mainly	

leisure



KIDMAN MISSES OSCAR NOMINEES' LUNCHEON DUE TO TORN HAMSTRING

Hollywood star Nicole Kidman may be nominated for her fifth Oscar for her work in *Being the Ricardos*, but she wasn't at the annual nominees luncheon. *Variety* revealed that Kidman is at home under doctors' orders, recovering from a torn hamstring.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO DONATES \$10 MN TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio has donated \$10 million to support Ukraine, which is fighting against Russia. DiCaprio also has a personal motive. The actor's maternal grandmother, Helene Indenbirken, was born in Odessa as Jelena Stepanovna Smirnova, reports *polishnews.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you will crave total freedom in whatever you are doing, says Ganesha. And sheer entertainment is on the cards for teenyboppers, like mall-hopping or going for a film. The kids will demand a Jumbo Berry ice cone. All in all, it will be a family day for you.

TAURUS
Your think tank will be running on overdrive today. Your possessiveness might kick in to cause a conflict. Keep your anger under the carpet to avoid any unnecessary complications. Introspection will also play upon your thoughts, leading you to explore your problems and pry for solutions, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI
You will find yourself caught in two minds repeatedly, owing to your unpredictable mood swings. This will be the cause of a lot of mental stress. You can reduce your anxiety by talking out your issues with family members and experts. You need to take care of your health today, says Ganesha.

CANCER
A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesha's blessings in tow.

LEO
Most of your time will be spent at the work place. You will excel in all your tasks today. Professional relationships will be marked by co-operation. You will have cordial relations with your colleagues. It is an auspicious and progressive day for business, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Take up the gauntlet that promises to test your business acumen, especially those related to capital and finances. You are most likely to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to resolve issues, and Ganesha assures that this will work wonders.

LIBRA
Ganesha says those of you who are married or in love will experience a good time today. As you spend more time with your life partner by going out for a drive or for dinner, you will come closer to them. Today is a day full of joy, vigor and happiness for you.

SCORPIO
Today promises to be an exceptional day for those involved in business. With sheer brilliance, you will steer deals right to your door step, and will display great finesse in negotiations and bartering. Bring out the leader in you and take charge when you introduce new products or market them in business, suggests Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
It's time for invitations and grooving all night long. And even eat like a glutton. But, for a change you are not on a mood to party, though it is unlike you. You reject the idea of socialising and hitting the dance floor. And your friends do not like your changed avatar, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You want to enhance your knowledge by exploring foreign shores, but luck hasn't favoured you yet. Ganesha predicts today to be a favourable day for you to try again for higher studies. If associated with the Stock Market or speculation, you are likely to make profits. You will come across many opportunities, but you need to identify and explore them to the fullest.

AQUARIUS
Today is a day of communication and associations. While at a family gathering, you will enjoy chatting nineteen to the dozen! But at work, you may be left teaching, explaining, negotiating, co-ordinating and arranging meetings. A productive but draining day, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Compromise is the name of the game when it comes to relationships, and you are adept at it. You realise the importance of losing an argument to win over a heart, and do so with panache. Indeed, this is an area where others emulate you, says Ganesha.

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN CITY



Santhali author Damayanti Beshra, eminent poets Pratibha Satpathy and Ramakanta Rath, noted novelist Pratibha Ray, Sahitya Akademi secretary K Srinivas Rao and Akademi's executive board member Bijayananda Singh (seated L-R) attended the All India Women Writers' Festival, organised by Ministry of Culture and Sahitya Akademi, at Gita Gobinda Sadan in the capital city on the occasion, Tuesday.



Celebration at the office of Dharitri and Orissa POST in Bhubaneswar in the presence of Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, Tuesday.

Alia to make Hollywood debut in *Heart of Stone*

The 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' actress earlier had signed international talent agency William Morris Endeavour (WME), which represents Hollywood stars like Gal Gadot, Emma Stone and Charlize Theron

MUMBAI: Actress Alia Bhatt is set to join the cast of Netflix's *Heart of Stone*, as she makes her global debut opposite Gal Gadot.

The film will release globally on Netflix this spring and has received great reviews singling out her performance in the title role.

The film follows the story of Rachel Stone (Gal Gadot), an intelligence operative, the only woman who stands between her powerful, global, peacekeeping organisation and the loss of its most valuable -- and dangerous -- asset.

Heart of Stone is directed by Tom Harper. It is written by Greg Rucka and Allison Schroeder.

Skydance's David Ellison, Dana Goldberg, and Don Granger, along with Mockingbird's Bonnie Curtis and Julie Lynn, and Pilot Wave's Gal Gadot and Jaron Varsano are producing the film.

The *Gangubai Kathiawadi* ac-

tress earlier had signed an agreement international talent agency William Morris Endeavour (WME), which represents Hollywood stars like Gal Gadot, Emma Stone and Charlize Theron.



Female protagonists of TV shows share their views on gender bias and the importance of celebrating womanhood

MUMBAI: In order to celebrate womanhood along with asserting the importance of gender equality, March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day every year, and this year the theme is #BreakTheBias.

Female protagonists of TV shows share their views on gender biases and the importance of celebrating womanhood.

Woh To Hai Albelaa actress Hiba Nawab shares: "I believe that even though we are living in a male dominant society, a girl can achieve anything if she is determined. I started my journey at a very young age. I come from a small town Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, so this journey was very difficult one for

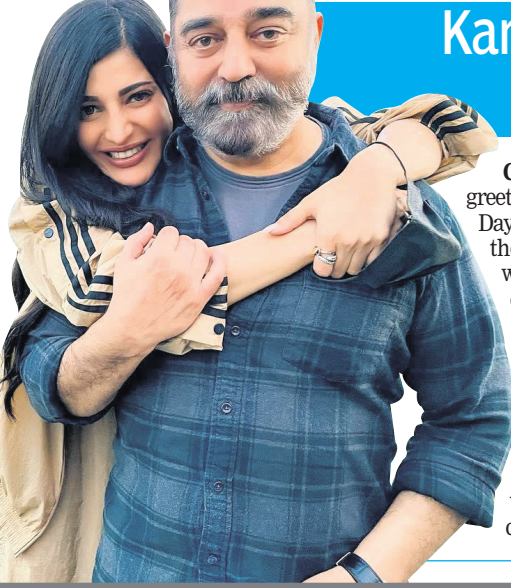
'It's great time to be a woman'



me as a girl, but here the biggest role is of the parents as grown-ups and someone we look up to." Hiba further adds: "TV is a medium which is also considered as a women oriented platform, which increases our responsibility because the characters we play are seen by the people of all age groups." Vidisha Srivastava, essaying Anita Bhabhi's role in *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai* believes in gender equality and how women representation has changed so far in different fields. "Gender inequality is a social issue. We cannot have a free and equal society until women enjoy equal rights as men. It is a basic human right, and we all are entitled to it," she shares. On the other hand, Disha Parmar of *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2* thinks it's a great time to be a woman because one has finally got the world listening and taking note of your hard-work and accomplishments. "In all fields, women everyday are shattering glass-ceiling! Women have got the inherent patience and perseverance to succeed. We just need to really believe in ourselves. While I have tasted success, I believe I have a lot more to do and prove," says the actress. While Sushmita Mukherjee from *Dosti Anokhi* says that every day is women's day. "Women should be celebrated everyday for pushing boundaries, challenging stereotypes, acknowledging her strength. Every woman has the ability to multi-task," she concludes.

Culture bodies from Odisha, Nepal to host literary fest in Kathmandu

BHUBANESWAR: Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) organisers and Sahitya Kala Mandir of Nepal will jointly host an international literary event in Kathmandu this year. The collaboration will strengthen India-Nepal relations, a release has said. KLF Bhubaneswar, and Sahitya Kala Mandir will host the event for the first time, KLF founder Rashmi Ranjan Parida said. A meeting was recently held between members of the two organisations. The event is still in the planning phase and date and other details are yet to be decided.

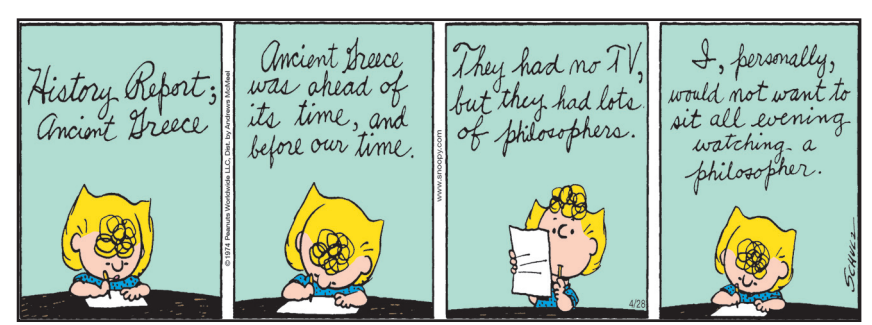


Kamal calls women equal humans, fellow travellers

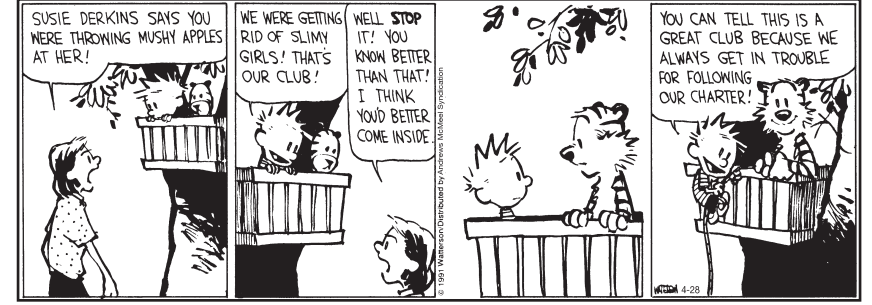
CHENNAI: Actor and politician Kamal Haasan Tuesday greeted all women on the occasion of International Women's Day Taking to Twitter, the actor, in Tamil, wrote, "We called them fairies. We called them Goddesses. Now, in touch with reality, we have begun calling women, like men, equal humans. On a day that marks this, I wish my fellow travellers."

The actor wasn't the only one from his family to share Women's Day wishes. His daughter and actress Shruti Haasan too shared her Women's Day wishes on Instagram. Posting pictures of herself with friends, she wrote, "It's our day everyday! So blessed to work with wonderful women, to know wonderful women and to be a working woman making everyday count - my life my rules."

PEANUTS



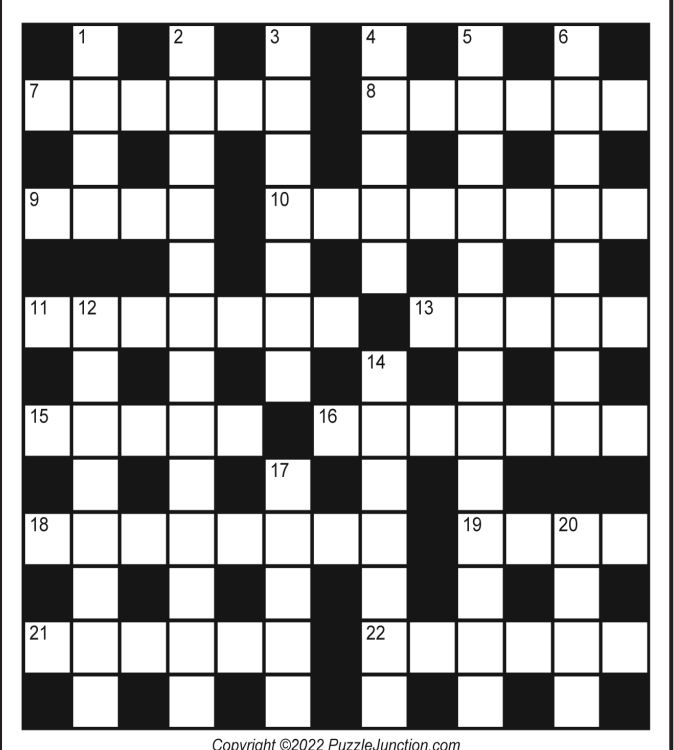
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



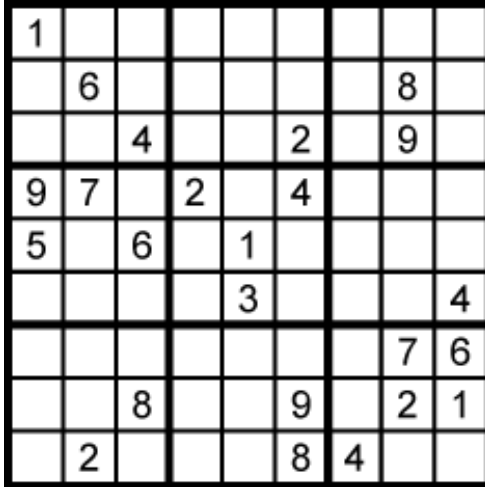
FUN post CROSSWORD



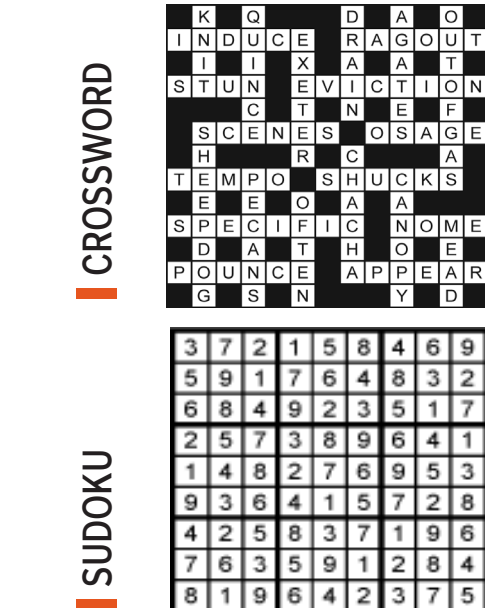
- Across**
- 7 Island in French Polynesia
 - 8 On the ship
 - 9 Vegetable matter
 - 10 Manacle
 - 11 Cheat
 - 13 Last Supper cup
 - 15 Concentrate
 - 16 Dreamy
 - 18 Speed less than that of sound
 - 19 After tooth or back
 - 21 Surrender (4,2)
 - 22 News squib
- Down**
- 1 Identical
 - 2 Like a gentleman and a scholar
 - 3 Just about every PM
 - 4 Shrewd
 - 5 Some expensive pianos (7,6)
 - 6 Writing on the wall
 - 12 Mystery show
 - 14 Resentment
 - 17 Marsh bird
 - 20 Detest

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

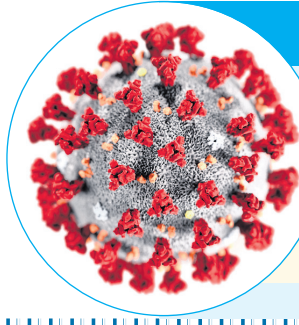


DRAMA SHOW

Artistes from Jeevan Rekha Theatre stage play Aadhe Adhure at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	44,86,09,124	38,28,52,501	60,29,842
India	4,29,71,308	4,24,06,150	5,15,210
Odisha	12,86,117	12,75,980	9,101



POLITICKLE by MANJUL

I WAS EXTREMELY CONFIDENT OF OUR VICTORY TILL I WATCHED THE EXIT POLL RESULTS

YES, IT REMINDS ME OF WEST BENGAL ELECTIONS



10 STOLEN IDOLS RECOVERED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, March 8: Police Tuesday recovered 10 antique 'Astadhatu' (eight metal) idols of different Hindu deities and arrested a man on charge of stealing them from various temples in Puri, an official said.

The district police formed a special squad, led by Puri Sadar SDPO Kishore Chandra Mund and Pipli SDPO Debadutta Baral, to hunt down the antique idol thieves after a series of complaints on idol thefts in the coastal district were reported.

On Tuesday, a police team nabbed a man at Chandanpur bypass on Puri-Bhubaneswar national highway and recovered four antique idols from him. On further search, six more idols were seized from his possession.

In this connection, a case was registered at Chandanpur police station. The accused is a resident of Patapur village under Nimapara police limits of the district.

The police have started contacting different temples from where the idols were stolen earlier and in recent times, Additional SP Purnachandra Pradhan said, adding that three teams were working to detect the missing idols. The police is also probing whether the idol lifters have any international links.

3 held for providing logistical support to Maoists in Kalahandi

AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, March 8: Three people have been arrested for allegedly providing logistics to the Maoists in Kalahandi district, police said Tuesday.

Acting on inputs, police intercepted the three suspects, who were moving suspiciously on the outskirts of Lanjigarh.

Two new walkie-talkies sets were recovered from their possession. They had planned to deliver it to the Naxals of the Kalahandi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division.

The suspects have been identified as Prabin Rout, alias Kabi Rout, Pratinand Rout, and Shaktisamanta Dalabehera.

An inquiry revealed that Kabi Rout is a sympathiser and supporter of the KKBN division, and has been providing logistics. Earlier, Rout had assisted the Maoists to raise funds, collect arms, explosive material, communication devices, besides harbouring them.

They have been arrested under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and an investigation is on, police said.

Timely & proper care of every patient our motto: PK Mohanty

Sadguru Medical and Research Centre Private Limited, a multispecialty healthcare institution, provides cost-effective medical care by adopting a service-oriented approach. In an interview to **Orissa POST**, the Jagatpur-based health institute's Managing Director **Dr Pradip Kumar Mohanty** speaks about the journey, uniqueness and future plans of the institution. Excerpts:



How has been the journey of Sadguru Hospital so far?

Sadguru Hospital was born on the birthday of Sathya Sai Baba November 23, 2010. Since then, the hospital has been providing uninterrupted healthcare to the people. During our 10-year journey, we have achieved success while simultaneously encountering problems. We are marching ahead with the grace of Sadguru. We have expanded our healthcare facilities and our hospital has turned into a multispecialty set-up, thanks to the technical assistance of experts.

ing to us for dialysis service.

Your take on state govt's roles & responsibilities in health sector?

Now, the focus has been shifted completely to the healthcare facilities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The



What is the uniqueness of your hospital and what facilities do you provide?

We usually provide timely and appropriate treatment to each and every patient. This is our USP. We have introduced several welfare measures for patients under the BKKY and BSKY schemes of the state government. We are working in tandem with the state government's plans and programmes and taking appropriate steps so that the beneficiaries get timely assistance.

state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has been giving priority to the health sector. The state government has included many private hospitals in its fight against the deadly virus. The government has won laurels from across the globe for its healthcare service. It has successfully managed three waves of Covid-19 pandemic. We are cooperating with the state government wholeheartedly in this critical juncture. We are also thankful to the state government for providing us an opportunity to serve the people.

wearing PPE kits for hours to treat the infected people. We, with the help of state government, have successfully dealt with the second and third waves of Covid-19.

How many super specialty departments are there in all and tell us about their functioning?

We are adding a new super specialty department to our hospital on every birth anniversary of Sathya Sai Baba. We have now 21 departments including cath lab, complete GI, cardiothoracic, open heart surgery, hip and knee replacement surgery, plastic surgery and brain surgery. We have renovated the burn unit, ICUs and modular OTs as part of revamping the critical infrastructure. Modern equipment have been procured for our dialysis unit. Now, many patients are com-

How challenging was it to provide healthcare to people during Covid-19?

In initial days of the pandemic, it was a challenge to provide proper healthcare to the patients. We made a lot of efforts and experiments to provide proper healthcare to patients after analyzing the symptoms of the infection during the first wave. There was no other option than

Your future plans?

We have added a comprehensive cancer hospital to our multispecialty health institute. This hospital would be made functional by the year end. The hospital would provide radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery and other facilities. Patients from rural areas would be immensely benefited by the cancer hospital. This apart, we have planned to set up an educational hub to create well-trained nurses, technicians and pharmacists.

How do you tackle post-Covid complications?

It was a challenge to treat Covid patients as there were several strains of the virus. Anyway, we handled the situation successfully. Now, we have facilities to treat post-Covid lung complications too.

State launches toolkit to eradicate malaria

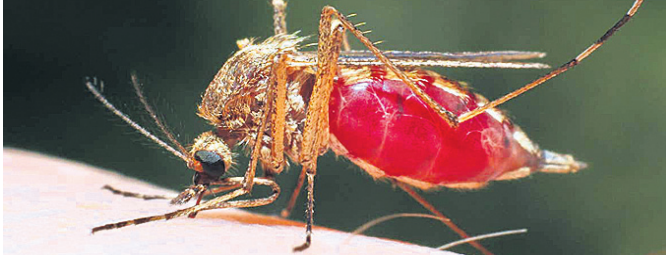
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 8: The state government Tuesday launched a Malaria Prediction and Planning Toolkit (MPPT) to strengthen early warning systems and health decision making for Malaria.

Developed by 'Malaria No More' in collaboration with the Government of Odisha and India Meteorological Department, the toolkit is the first of its kind which uses an advanced data-driven, AI-powered story-telling system.

Malaria is one of the oldest diseases and poses an impending risk because of climate change. Increasing temperatures, extreme weather events and changing rainfall patterns which happen to be the symptoms of Global Warming, are complicating global efforts for eliminating the climate-sensitive disease. MPPT utilises climate, weather data in identifying malaria hotspots and predicts outbreaks, thus allowing health leaders to optimally time and target behavioral interventions, pre-position supplies, and deploy frontline health workers to avoid extreme weather, among other possibilities.

"We are excited to integrate MPPT in Odisha to accelerate progress towards eradication of Malaria. This toolkit presents a compelling opportunity of intersecting disruptive innovations with the Malaria elimination effort and



Malaria Prediction and Planning Toolkit utilises climate and weather data in identifying malaria hotspots and predicts outbreaks thus allowing health workers to tackle the disease effectively

allows improved decision-making and health access at the last mile. The fight against Malaria stands to benefit greatly with initiatives such as these, especially in the endgame stage of eliminating Malaria by 2030," state Health Minister Naba Kisore Das said.

Director of Health and Family Welfare department Niranjan Mishra said that Odisha was synonymous to Malaria in the past but now the scenario has been improved. The yearly caseload reduced from 4.5 lakh cases in 2016 to 25,000 last year, and so did the death cases.

"Still we can't stop but try to eliminate it completely which is a challenge, due to the unique geographical location which in some way supports the disease. It demands more usage of technology and engagement of all stakehold-

ers," he said.

It is worth to mentioning that Odisha's five districts including Malkangiri, Koraput, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Rayagada report 80 percent of Malaria cases.

Emphasising on the collaboration, Director General of Meteorology at the India Meteorological Department Mrutyunjay Mohapatra explained, "Weather information and forecast of various range help in better planning, prevention, and control of many climate-sensitive diseases, including malaria. There is a need for a multi-model consensus for weather-based early warnings while working towards malaria elimination. At the same time, it is critical to formulate an institutional mechanism to take these advanced solutions to the last mile."

Baruipur in the neighbouring state Monday. Sukadev Hota of Balasore, one of the victims, had approached the EOW in 2019 alleging Rs 15 crore fraud by Tapan and Pratap Kumar Biswal, the chairman and managing director of the ponzi firms. The agency registered a case (16/19) and began probe. During probe, the EOW found that Mass Infra Reality Ltd. was registered with Registrar of Companies, Kolkata in September, 2010 under the Companies Act, 1956. Pratap Biswal was its CMD

State logs 108 new Cov cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 8: Odisha recorded 108 new Covid-19 cases Tuesday, the lowest single-day spike in three months, which took the state's coronavirus tally to 12,86,117, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The infections are the lowest since 105 cases were registered December 6 last year. Odisha had logged 120 infections Monday. Of the new patients detected Tuesday, 16 were children, the Health bulletin

said. The state's coronavirus death toll stood at 9,101 as no fresh fatality was recorded for the second consecutive day.

Odisha now has 1,196 active cases, while 12,75,767 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 225 in the last 24 hours. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities to date.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.23 per cent as 46,156 samples were tested for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours.

Chit fund firm dir held for ₹15cr fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 8: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch Tuesday claimed to have arrested a chit fund firm director on charges of duping depositors of Rs 15 crore.

EOW sources said Tapan Kumar Samanta, one of the six directors of Mass Infra Reality Ltd. and Human Welfare Credit & Thrift Co-operative Society Ltd., was arrested from Kolkata and produced before the additional chief judicial magistrate at

and Tapan Samanta was one of the directors.

In 2012, the company changed its name to Human Welfare Credit & Thrift Co-operative Society Ltd. registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2012 and Biswal was its president.

"The accused duped the complainant and many other depositors to the tune of Rs 15 crore on the pretext of high returns under different schemes floated by their company," said an official.

Pratap was arrested from Kolkata in July 25, 2021.

Court nod sought for polygraph test on fake doctor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 8: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday sought the permission of the SDJM court here to conduct polygraph or lie detection test on fake doctor Ramesh Chandra Swain, who was arrested for duping around 18 women from across the country after fraudulently marrying them.

The police produced Swain in the court after completion of his five-day remand period. They also collected important leads while interrogating Swain during the remand period. The cops are likely to seek court's permission to take Swain on remand in other cases, sources said.

"Swain deliberately provided false and misleading information to the investigating officials during interrogation," said DCP Umashankar Dash.

Meanwhile, the police have managed to fetch some videos and images of Swain from social media platforms and his mobile phone. During interrogation, Swain reportedly admitted that he used to trap the victims by blackmailing them emotionally through false and concocted stories.

"Swain used to dupe the victims



Ramesh Chandra Swain

by applying various tricks. We cannot depend upon the information provided by him. So, the Commissionerate Police has sought the court's permission to carry out polygraph test on Swain to check the veracity of the information provided by him. We are also hopeful of collecting some other details from Swain during the lie detection test," Dash said.

A team of the Commissionerate Police will soon visit other states for further investigation into various cases registered against Swain. As many as 15 cases of fraud have been registered against Swain in Odisha and outside, sources said.

Mass nesting of Ridelys likely in fortnight at Gahirmatha

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Kendrapara, March 8: Wildlife officials are optimistic of convergence of lakhs of Olive Ridley turtles at the Gahirmatha in Kendrapara for mass nesting any time in the next fortnight as weather conditions are favourable.

Unlike the past years, the beach has not undergone erosion and the shape is perfect for the turtles to dig pits and lay eggs, a forest official said.

Every year, the marauding sea eats up portions of the geographical boundary of the Gahirmatha beach at the unmanned Nasi II Island. Sea waters inundate the beach, which stretches up to 2.6 kilometre, during high tide.

The Odisha coast is the largest mass nesting site for the Olive



Ridleys. Apart from Gahirmatha, the sea turtles also turn up at Rushikulya river mouth and Devi river mouth.

"We're expecting a large turnout of female turtles to lay eggs. The mass nesting natural heritage is likely to occur by the second week of March," Divisional Forest Officer

(DFO) JD Pati said.

The edge of the Gahirmatha beach is not steep and sharp, and the turtles will find it favourable to emerge from sea waters to crawl, according to the official.

Strong southerly winds and temperatures ranging from 32-38 degrees Celsius are conducive for

turtles' mass nesting. There is a large congregation of the turtles in the deep sea. Everything has turned out to be good this year for the invasion of the reptiles to the nesting ground, Pati said.

The Olive Ridley is under the red list of threatened species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Its status is vulnerable as they nest in a very few places and any

disturbance to even one nest beach could have huge repercussions on the entire population, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The Olive Ridley turtles turn up in millions for mass nesting along the Odisha coast every year. In the last nesting season, around 3.5 lakh turtles laid eggs at the nesting grounds from March 9-23.

During 'arribada' (arrival by sea in Spanish), female turtles reach beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs. After that, they return to the sea. An Olive Ridley usually lays about 120-150 eggs. The hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days and grow up without their mothers.

Reports suggest that out of every 1,000 hatchlings that enter the sea, only one manages to reach adulthood, according to Odisha Tourism.

We're expecting a large turnout of female turtles to lay eggs. The mass nesting natural heritage is likely to occur by the second week of March

JD PATI | DFO

AAI team visits Puri for international airport

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had last year written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he had strongly demanded setting up an international airport at Puri



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, March 8: A seven-member technical team of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Tuesday undertook an on-spot verification of Sipasarubali area for the proposed international airport in the Holy City here.

The technical team's visit came after Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia during his visit to Jharsuguda said that the AAI had already sent a complete report for an international airport at Puri to the state government and is awaiting its response on developing a greenfield airport at Puri.

The team comprised AAI's four officials from Delhi and three from Bhubaneswar. They conducted a survey at Sipasarubali in Puri Sadar block and also examined the land map and other documents in

presence of Puri Sub-Collector Bhabatara Sahu.

The team also held discussions with Puri Collector Samarth Verma on the proposed project.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had last year written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he had strongly demanded setting up an international airport at Puri.

The AAI approved 1,500-acre land at Sipasarubali near Giralva in Brahmagiri Mouza of Puri district after conducting a pre-feasibility study in June 2021.

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh had also said that the responsibility of implementation of the airport project including obtaining necessary approvals from the Centre rests with the project proponent concerned which is the state government.

THE 'WHAT' AND 'HOW' OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL TAX

Sushil Kumar Lohani,
Commissioner of Commercial Taxes & GST, Odisha

What is Professional Tax?

The Odisha State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Act 2000, commonly known as the Professional Tax Act, provides that

- Every Entity who is an Employer is required to be registered under this Act as a Professional Tax Deductor
- Every Person/Professional is required to be enrolled under this Act, if he is liable to pay Professional Tax

Who is liable to pay?

- Deductor/employer:** Business entities in Odisha are required to deduct Professional Tax from the monthly salary of their employee at the applicable rates and deposit the same into the appropriate Head of Account of State Government through Odisha Treasury every month. For applicable rates, please refer to the rate chart.
- Entities registered under GST or VAT Act:** Entities already registered under GST Act or VAT Act in Odisha or liable to be registered under the GST Act or VAT Act are required to enrol themselves under Professional Tax Act and pay a fixed sum of Rs 2,500/- per annum each year. The amount is to be deposited into the appropriate Head of Account of State Government through Odisha Treasury every year.
- Other professionals:** Other Professionals like Medical Practitioners including Medical Consultants, Dentists, Radiologists, Pathologists and persons engaged in other similar professions or callings or a paramedical nature, Postal agents under National Savings Scheme or Chief Agents, Principal Agents, Special Agents, Insurance Agents, Surveyors or Loss Assessors, Estate Agents, Promoters, Brokers or Commission Agents, Del Credere Agents or Mercantile Agents, Technical and Professional Consultants including

RCC Consultants, Architects, Engineers, Actuaries, Management Consultant, Tax Consultants, Chartered Accountants and Cost Accountants etc. are required to enrol under this Act and are required to pay at the applicable Rates every year.

How to pay Professional Tax:

- Professional Tax can be paid online through the Odisha Treasury Portal using Net Banking, UPI, Credit/Debit Cards and through SBI e-Pay.
- Payment can be made using the PT registration/Enrolment Number or the GSTIN by the Taxpayer.
- You can pay easily by yourself using Internet Banking or UPI or Credit or debit Card or through SBI e-Pay.

How to register?

- The process of Registration and Enrolment under Professional Tax Act has been simplified. In order to register or enrolment under the Act, please go to the e-Registration page.
- Please provide your email ID and PAN. Select a Security Question and Answer and submit. The Application page will open with two forms
- Form I - For Deductor/Employers; and
- Form II - for enrolment by others (Business entities, Traders, Professionals etc.)

Sl. No.	Category of Persons Liable to Pay Professions Tax	Rate of Professions Tax based on Annual Gross Income / Salary / Wages		
		LESS than Rs.1.6L	Between Rs. 1.6L to Rs. 3.00L	Above Rs. 3.00 Lakhs
1.	Salary and Wage earners: Such persons including Ministers, Members of Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament from the State of Orissa	NIL	Rs. 125/- per month	Rs. 200/- per month for first 11 months and Rs. 300/- for the last month
2.	Medical Practitioners including Medical Consultants (other than practitioners of Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Unani Systems of Medicines) Dentists, Radiologists, Pathologists and persons engaged in other similar professions or callings or a paramedical nature	NIL	Rs. 1500/- Per annum Per Person	Rs. 2500/- Per annum Per Person
3.	Legal Practitioners including Solicitors and Notaries Public			
4.	Postal agents under National Savings Scheme or Chief Agents, Principal Agents, Special Agents, Insurance Agents and Surveyors or Loss Assessors registered or licensed under the Insurance Act, 1938 (4 of 1938)			
5.	Estate Agents, Promoters, Brokers or Commission Agents, Del Credere Agents or Mercantile Agents			
6.	Technical and Professional Consultants including RCC Consultants, Architects, Engineers, Actuaries, Management Consultant, Tax Consultants, Chartered Accountants and Cost Accountants			

- Fill up the required details in the required form and submit. The Application will be approved by the system and the Registration Number and Password will be sent to the given email ID of the applicant.
- There is NO FEE for applying for Registration/Enrolment.

How to know the details of Professional Tax paid till date?

- The facility to search the details of Professional Tax paid by the taxpayers is made available in the portal of the CT & GST Organisation.
- Click on "PT Payment Details

Search". Enter your TIN/SRIN/GSTIN to view the history of all payments made.

- Enter your TIN/SRIN/GSTIN using which Professional Tax is paid and click on Search.
- The system will display all the details of such tax paid till date.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I am a registered taxpayer under Goods and Services Tax Act. Do I need to pay Professional Tax? And what is the amount of Professional Tax I am required to pay?

Answer: All taxpayers registered under Goods and Services Tax or liable to be registered under the Act are liable to pay Professional Tax of Rs. 2500/- per year.

2. I am a chartered accountant and not registered under GST nor VAT Act. Am I liable to pay Professional Tax? How can I pay it?

Answer: Yes, based on your Gross Annual Income. If your Gross Annual Income is from Rs. 1.6 Lakhs to 3.0 lakhs, you are liable to pay Rs. 1500/- per year and if your Gross Annual

Income is more than Rs. 3.0 Lakhs, you are liable to pay Rs. 2500/- per year. You may go to "e-Payment" Section to go to the payment portal and pay online by yourself. You need not visit any office or visit anyone else to make such payment.

3. I am a business man registered under GST. How much Professional Tax is to be paid by me?

Answer: You are liable to pay Rs. 2500/- per year as a registered taxpayer under GST Act.

4. How do I enrol myself under the Professional Tax? What document am I required to submit for enrolment?

Answer: Enrolment under professional Act is online. Please go to the "e-Registration" Page on the website to go

to the new registration page. You may refer to the Step-by-Step guide provided for registration / enrolment process online. You need not submit any document, online or physically, to enrol yourself under the Act.

5. What are the charges for enrolment under Professional Tax? How do I pay such charges?

Answer: There is NO Charge for registration / enrolment under Professional Tax Act. The service is made available for FREE to the taxpayers.

6. I am a doctor having private practice and my income is about Rs. 5 lakh per annum. Am I required to pay Professional Tax?

Answer: Yes. Based on your income, you are liable to pay Rs. 2500/- per year. You

may go to "e-Payment" Section to go to the payment portal and pay online by yourself.

7. I am a catering service provider. My total income in a year is less than Rs. 7 lakhs. Am I required to pay Professional Tax?

Answer: Yes. Based on your income, you are liable to pay Rs. 2500/- per year, if your Gross Annual Income is above Rs. 3.0 lakhs and Rs. 1500/- if your Gross Annual Income is between Rs. 1.6 lakhs to Rs. 3.0 Lakhs.

8. How can I pay Professional Tax? Is there any online process available for paying professional tax?

Answer: Yes. You can easily pay at the payment portal using Net banking, UPI, Credit/Debit Cards or SBI e-Pay facility available in the payment site.

Tusker dies of electrocution

BANTALA: A tusker, aged around 14-15 years, was electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire reportedly spread to poach wild animals at Dangupal area near Madhup village under Angul forest range Tuesday. Forest ranger Satyabrata Pradhan, ACF Ranjan Behera, RCCF reached the village and started an investigation. "The tusker was around 14-15 years old," the officials said.

Int'l Women's Day at Sparsh Hospital

BHUBANESWAR: Sparsh Hospital here celebrated the International Women's Day at its auditorium Tuesday. The event saw brainstorming on empowering women and making them self-reliant. Actor Archita Sahu joined the event as its chief guest. Hospital superintendent Shreeman Narayan Mishra, Laparoscopic and Bariatric Specialist Madhuri Patnaik and pathology department's Sutapa Biswas among others attended the event.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 8: Nabard Odisha celebrated the International Women's Day Tuesday. The event was organised at Bhubaneswar and in 15 districts. The programme at Bhubaneswar was graced by state Water Resources Department Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg as the chief guest and Mothers Public School Principal Poly Patnaik as guest of honour.

During the event, twelve women micro-entrepreneurs from 10 districts - Bolangir, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Gajapati, Jajpur, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Subarnapur - who transformed themselves into 'change agents' and contributed to the overall development of the society were invited and felicitated. Besides, ten women CEOs of Civil Society Organisation associated with Nabard were felicitated as well.

Women working in NGOs have played key role in advocacy, training and capacity building of women entrepreneurs in remote areas of the state. About 170 SHG members from various districts participated in the programme and showcased their products developed through various micro and livelihood entrepreneurship development projects supported by Nabard.

NABARD Odisha regional office Chief General Manager C Udayabhaskar, while highlighting the relevance of the day, shared various support schemes of Nabard for the development of rural women like SHGs, joint liability groups (JLGs), Micro Enterprise

Development Programme, Livelihood Enterprise Development Programme, Farm and Off Farm Producer Organisations, Tribal Development Programmes, Watershed Development Programmes, Sanitary Literacy campaign, and Save Water campaign among others.

He stressed on the need to develop micro entrepreneurs particularly in the tribal districts and to double the dosage of credit to women SHGs/entrepreneurs so that they can take up various remunerative livelihood activities and contribute to doubling their family income. He also said that Nabard would develop 20,000 micro-entrepreneurs during the next financial year.

Poly Patnaik spoke about gender inequality/disparity and importance of education for the girl child. She also highlighted that the society at large should always be concerned and sensitive towards the needs, requirements of women and one should come forward to support the overall development of women.

Anu Garg congratulated the change agents for their contributions to the society and encouraged the participants to be role models in the society. She shared her experience as the Head of Women and Child Welfare in the state and praised the role of SHGs in various developmental aspects of the government. She has indicated that various steps being taken by the state for empowerment of women. The state government has been making untiring efforts in building required infrastructure, capacity building and linkages.

'GENDER EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW'

RURAL WOMEN CHANGE AGENTS FETED BY NABARD

Empowerment must for nation building

BHUBANESWAR: Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar organised the International Women's Day by organising a highly informative panel discussion, with renowned educationists and scientists as guests and speakers.

Commemorating the event, a panel discussion was organised in which Former Vice Chancellor of University of Hyderabad P Appa Rao; Distinguished Scientist at the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune Vidya Gupta; Director of National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune, Manoj K Bhat; ILS Scientist Soma Chattopadhyay and L V Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar's Medical director Sujata Das participated.

The panel members highlighted the critical challenges women professionals face while establishing a career in science. The panellists

also pointed out that in MSc and PhD, number of women professionals is quite high. However, this number substantially reduces in later stages.

ILS Director Ajay Parida in his opening remarks mentioned that the women scientists of ILS have made significant contributions over the years as evident from the quality publications, research grants as well as awards and recognitions. He also mentioned that many women professionals have established themselves as successful entrepreneurs as evident from the fact that out of 21 startups at ILS Bioincubator, 10 business establishments are from women scientists in the areas of Health care, Agriculture, Functional food, Bioinformatics, Diagnosis and Devices.

Sruti Mohapatra bags Nari Shakti Puraskar

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind Tuesday awarded Nari Shakti Puruskar to Sruti Mohapatra of Bhubaneswar on the occasion of International Women's Day for outstanding contribution towards the upliftment and empowerment of differently-abled people.

Sruti, also known as the 'Crusader in a Wheelchair', worked for the passage of the PWD Act in 1996 and the RPWD Act in 2016. She was awarded with Vidya Bhawan Social Service Award in 2013 and National Young Scientist Award in 1992. Former OSCPCR Chairperson, Sruti is a member of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Bike rally to break stereotypes

BHUBANESWAR: A theme based all-women bike rally was held Tuesday to mark the International women's day. The rally was organised by 'We - The Road Queens' in association with Madhyam, Individual Social Responsibility (ISR).

The rally, flagged off by IGP Operations Amitabh Thakur, was held to raise awareness on breaking the bias towards women riders, countering eve-teasing, obeying traffic rules and glorifying Indian women warriors to remind them of the power that they carry in themselves, said Snageeta Sahoo, founder of ISR and WE - The Road Queens.

City edu bodies join the party

BHUBANESWAR: Educational institutes in the state Capital celebrated the International Women's Day Tuesday. Ramadevi Women's University, Odisha's first women's university, paid homage to Bharat Ratna late Lata Mangeshkar.

Participating in the celebration, Professor at Department of Analytical and Applied Economics of Utkal University Mitali Chinara spoke on the economic liberation of women. Varsity VC Aparajita Chowdhury opined that Women's Day is not just today but forever.

ODM Public School celebrated the day at its premises. ODM Educational Group Founder Satyabrata Minaketan emphasised on the need to focus on women's empowerment and to build their self-confidence.

Government ITI, Bhubaneswar too celebrated the day with much grandeur, inviting almost 1,500



young girls from different schools along with their teachers to the institution.

All school students were guided and exposed to different trades and were elaborated on the facilities available for them by the government. School students enjoyed all the projects made by ITI trainees showcasing their talent and creativity. The girls enjoyed the innovation gallery, flying drones and talking robot.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Magistrate, I changed my name from ALIYO PATI to ALIYA PATI and ELIYAS Senapati is same and one person and there is no other person exist in the same name in the same village except me. Henceforth, I shall be known as ALIYO PATI for all purposes.

ALIYO PATI

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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Man killed in bid to save niece from abductors

The deceased was identified as Bichitrnanda Biswal of Rajnagar area. Police started an investigation and detained four persons for interrogation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, March 8: A man was beaten to death with iron bars when he tried to save his niece from being kidnapped by miscreants at Chandrasekhar village under Rajnagar police limits of Kendrapara district, Monday night.



FILE PHOTO OF BICHITRANANDA

The deceased was identified as Bichitrnanda Biswal of the village. Police started an investigation and picked up four persons for interrogation.

According to the complaint by Debendra Kumar Biswal, the brother of the kidnapped girl, the miscreants arrived on four bikes at around 9:30pm Monday and kidnapped his sister who was then standing outside.

The girl's aunt raised an alarm following which their uncle Bichitrnanda came out of the house and chased the kidnappers on a bike. He intercepted them outside a house in Junupangara village.

Enraged, the prime accused, identified as Srikant Jena alias Lipu, scuffled with Bichitrnanda. Later, Debendra reached the spot with one of his friends where he found Srikant and some of his friends assaulting his uncle.

Later, Srikant hit his uncle on the head with an iron bar following which the latter collapsed on the spot. Family members rushed him to Rajnagar CHC where doctors pronounced him dead. He had suffered hemorrhage due to excessive bleeding.

MURDER CONVICT HACKED TO DEATH

Sambalpur: Miscreants hacked a man to death who was out on bail over murder charge at Gunderpur Turipada village under Dhama police limits in this district Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Kamal Bag, 50, of the village. The miscreants had dumped the body on the state highway before fleeing the spot. Police reached the spot and started an investigation. The body was handed over to the deceased's family members after a post-mortem. A scientific team was also sent to the spot for a detailed probe. Tension was palpable in the area after news of the murder spread. Police have detained two persons in this connection. Police said a villager Makhni Bag, 50, was hacked to death, August 8, 2021. The villagers had then staged a road blockade on Sambalpur-Sonepur state highway. Dhama police then arrested Sushil Bag, 30, his aunt Arati Bag, 50, and father Kamal Bag, on the charge. Arati got bail two months after the murder while her father and brother were released on bail in February this year. After his release, Sushil was threatening the kin of Makhni and terrorizing the people in the area. Makhni's family members decided to retaliate as they killed Kamal.

RACE FOR BLOCK CHIEF POSTS 21 samiti members go into hiding in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, March 8: As many as 21 samiti members from Kishorenagar and Athamallik blocks in Angul district have gone into hiding as BJD and BJP are pulling out all the stops to grab the block chairperson posts, as per a report.

The ruling BJD has won six zilla parishad (ZP) zones in Kishorenagar and Athamallik blocks while the election for the chairperson posts will be held March 12. Political temperature is soaring in these areas as some samiti members from these two blocks have gone into hiding fearing poaching by rival parties.

The post of block chairperson has become a prestige issue for BJD. Similarly, a senior leader of the BJP is also trying to wrest control of the post and is trying to enlist the support of elected samiti members.

Reports said Kishorenagar block



The BJD has won 6 ZP zones in Kishorenagar and Athamallik blocks while the elections for the chairperson posts will be held March 12

has 23 panchayats out of which support of any 12 samiti members can help in forming the panchayat samiti. BJD is trying its best to grab the post which has been reserved for scheduled caste (SC) candidates. In all the 23 panchayats, five elected samiti members are from SC category.

Senior leaders are contemplat-

BUDDING SCIENTISTS



Girls displayed their projects at a science exhibition organised at Government Girls' High School in Kotpad of Koraput district on the occasion of International Women's Day, Tuesday

Edible oil prices pinch pockets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, March 8: Consumers have expressed serious concern over the sudden spurt in prices of essential commodities especially edible oils in this block of Balasore district.

A series of complaints have emerged regarding artificial crisis, black marketing and steep rise in prices of palmolein oil, sunflower oil, refined oil, and also oilseeds and pulses. The prices of cooking oils have gone up by ₹20-30 in various markets of Khaira, Kupari, Gandibed, Tudigadia, Dungura and other areas, consumers alleged.

Angry locals urged the administration to open edible oil company outlets to curb the black marketing. They demanded the administration to safeguard the interests of the common and middle-class people from greedy traders who resorted to black marketing.

The price of edible oil has gone up due to artificial scarcity created by the oil mafia, locals alleged. Market insiders said there is short supply of sunflower oil from Ukraine since Russian invasion began and there is also panic buying which adds to the crisis.

"Wholesale and retail traders, manufacturing units and even supermarkets are selling the cooking oils over and above the printed price. The ad-



The prices of cooking oils have gone up by ₹20-30 in various markets of Khaira, Kupari, Gandibed, Tudigadia and Dungura

ministration should conduct intensive raids on all the godowns and ensure the available stocks are sold at reasonable prices. Officials concerned must conduct raids to check hoarding of edible oils," a consumer said.

"Edible oils have now been priced at ₹140-180 a litre depending on the quality. However, some greedy traders are selling it at higher prices citing demand and supply gap. Some traders are creating artificial shortage to

earn quick money," another consumer said.

Traders charge ₹170 for a ₹140 oil packet. Furthermore, they threaten the consumers that the price would go up in coming days. With no option left, consumers are forced to buy the oil packets at exorbitant rates.

Especially, the poor and the middle-class people face the hardships. Irrate over the unchecked price hike, many consumers threatened to hit the streets if no steps were taken in this regard.

When contacted, block civil supply officer Niranjan Sahu said no raids have been conducted till now as there were no orders from senior officials.

"We will conduct raids and take necessary steps once senior officials ask us to do so," he added.

BJD fears cross-voting in Bahanaga samiti chief poll

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bahanaga, March 8: As election to the block chairperson's post comes closer, the BJD workers and leaders apprehend cross-voting in Bahanaga block of Balasore district.

It is said that horse-trading to gain support of samiti members has started while there are several aspirants from the ruling party for the post. This has become a cause of concern for the local MLA.

Out of 24 gram panchayats in this block, elections were this time held for 23 samiti member posts. The number of BJD-backed samiti members is 15 while eight samiti members owe allegiance to the BJP. To win the block chief post, a contestant needs support of at least 12 samiti members. The BJD has the magic number to eas-

ily grab the post. But the party is in a tight spot over too many aspirants for the post.

Those who are in the race for the post are former block chairperson Sarat Chandra Raj, Gopalpur samiti member Jogesh Chandra Pati, Nuapur samiti member Udaynarayan Mohapatra and another samiti member Raseswari Mohapatra.

On the other hand, the BJP is trying to cash in on such messy situation in the BJD. The party has decided to allow one samiti member to file nomination.

Raj was earlier in Congress and is now in

BJD. In 2017 panchayat elections, the BJD had 11 samiti members, but could not grab the post. The BJD had only three samiti members.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/21-22/E-Tender/115, Dt.04.03.2022

1.Tender Notice No. e-Tender-North-KUR-310-2022, Dt.03.03.2022

DESCRIPTION : FORMATION TREATMENT FOR 3.60 KMS. IN PATCHES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (NORTH) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 417.26 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 3,58,600/-, Completion Period of the work : 10 (Ten) Months

2.Tender Notice No. e-Tender-South-KUR-311-2021, Dt.03.03.2022

DESCRIPTION : THROUGH RENEWAL OF EXISTING 857 NOS. OF STEEL CHANNEL SLEEPERS WITH "H" BEAM / CHANNEL SLEEPERS INCLUSIVE OF ALL FIXTURES AND FASTENINGS OVER VARIOUS BRIDGES AND CASUAL RENEWAL OF STEEL CHANNEL SLEEPERS FIXTURES AND FASTENINGS UNDER KHURDA ROAD - PALASA SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (SOUTH) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 279.42 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,89,700/-, Completion Period of the work : 08 (Eight) Months

3.Tender Notice No. e-Tender-CEN-KUR-312-2021, Dt.03.03.2022

DESCRIPTION : CONSTRUCTION OF 50000 GALLON CAPACITY RCC OVER HEAD TANK ALONG WITH PUMP HOUSE & WATER SOURCE ARRANGEMENTS TO AUGMENT WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT BHUBANESWAR STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 72.03 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 1,44,100/-, Completion Period of the work : 10 (Ten) Months

4.Tender Notice No. e-Tender-CEN-KUR-313-2021, Dt.03.03.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF TRACK DRAINAGE BY PROVIDING SIDE DRAIN IN BETWEEN RADHAKISHOREPUR AND BARANG STATIONS.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 166.12 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,33,100/-, Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months

Date and time of closing of tender : At 1500 hrs of 25.03.2022 (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.) Khurda Road
PR-870/M/21-22

KAMAKHYANAGAR ULB POLLS BJP, CONG FAIL TO GET CANDIDATES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanagar, March 8: The trouble for the opposition BJP and Congress in Dhenkanal district seems to be never-ending as both the parties failed to choose candidates in many of the wards of Kamakhyanagar NAC on the last day of filing of nominations, Monday.

The Congress party had won four wards of Kamakhyanagar NAC and became the second largest party after BJD in the last civic body polls. However, this time as a face saving act the party managed to give candidates only in four out of 15 wards of the civic body with the rest of the ward going unrepresented.

Similarly, BJP managed to field candidates in only 11 wards of the civic body leaving aside the remaining four wards unrepresented.

This has sent the chatters abuzz in the area which is indicative of the rot that is plaguing the two parties in the area.

Kamakhyanagar NAC is termed as another power corridor in Dhenkanal district where the election to the civic body is to be held after eight long years. The announcement of the polls made all to sit up and keep a watch on the selection of candidates.

However, the picture that emerged on the last day of filing of nominations was quite

disappointing for a healthy democracy and triggered a debate in the political circles.

Political observers said the two main opposition parties surrendering before the actual poll war has made the BJD candidates' win all the more easier.

Prabhudatt Bhatt, district Congress vice-president, said, "Many of the party candidates withdrew nominations after being threatened by ruling party leaders. As a result, Congress party failed to field candidates in all the 15 wards of NAC." He said that such highhandedness and open threat is not healthy for democracy. Sandip Patnaik, BJP's Nagar Mandal president, said many candidates withdrew their papers after they were bribed by the ruling party.

Aditya Acharya, BJD's NAC unit president, said, "Both the parties failed to put up candidates in all 15 wards as they were sure of their defeat. They are making baseless allegations to save their face."

Notably, Kamakhyanagar NAC has 13,371 voters. This time, more than 30 candidates have filed their nominations for the post of councillors.

BJD's Dharmananda Parida, BJP's Ranjit Sahu, Congress's Santosh Maharana and an independent Abhimanyu Nayak will contest for chairman's post.



VIGILANCE GLARE ON EX-PRINCIPAL

Bhawanipatna: A former college principal was arrested in Kalahandi district Tuesday for allegedly possessing disproportionate assets (DA) after the Vigilance Directorate unearthed assets worth more than ₹5 crore from his possession. Searches were conducted at five places Monday following inputs that Ramesh Chandra Sahoo was possessing assets disproportionate to the known sources of income. Sahoo was the former principal of the Hira Nila College in Biswanathpur, the Vigilance department said in a release. A single-storey building, a house in Bhubaneswar, a plot and ₹1.94 lakh in cash were among the movable and immovable assets worth over ₹5 crore that were unearthed, it said. A case has been registered.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Smt. Nirupama Dalai, W/o Dibakar Dalai resident of Sabtri Vihar, Nilachakra Nagar, Ph-1, P.O. Gopinathpur, P.S.: Puri Sadar, Puri has lost original RSD No.477 dtd. 03.02.1997 executed by Puri Sadar Sub Divisional House Building Cooperative Society in favour of Sabita Mohapatra relating to Plot No. 154/475 (Gharabari) area Ac. 0.030 decimals under Khata No. 33/251 in Mauza- Kasi Haripur, Puri.

Smt. Nirupama Dalai of the above address has applied for a housing loan to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd., IPICOL House, Bhubaneswar by offering mortgage of the said property document.

All concerned therefore having any claim if any over the property purchased under the said document, i.e. original RSD No. 477 dtd. 03.02.1997 are required to file their claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said document is free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against Nirupama Dalai as a mortgagor and the Company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 (Fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

Cuttack
Dt:08.03.2022

Sd./- (U.K. MISHRA)
Advocate
LIC Housing Finance Ltd
Bhubaneswar Area Office, Bhubaneswar

Technology Development Board

Department of Science & Technology
Block-II, 2nd Floor, Technology Bhawan
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016

Required Consultancy Firms for Credit Appraisal

Technology Development Board invites request for proposal (RFP) from proprietorship firm/partnership firms/Private/Public limited company, for credit appraisal of TDB's investments in equity or loan in various industrial concerns. The consultancy firm's function may include due diligence of proposal, or any other task assigned by the Board on case to case basis. Interested companies/firms having minimum five years varied experience in management of assets of financial institution/Venture Capital Firms /Funds, etc. may apply with complete profile of their companies/firms to "The Under Secretary" on the above mentioned address. For a detailed advertisement please visit our website www.tdb.gov.in.

Last date of receipt of application is 31st March, 2022 till 5:30 PM.

Any update/corrigendum/addendum etc. will be uploaded on the TDB's official website only, hence, applicants are advised to visit TDB's official website regularly.

Smruti Tripathi
(Under Secretary)
Tel:26511184
davp 36106/12/0016/2122

Nisha Kaur proves how women can beat odds

Today's women are empowered enough to march forward with flying colours. Knocking off the society's ask to shut their voice, women are now more assertive and willing to go for what their inner voice says, no matter how difficult it is. When the world celebrates the International Women's Day, March 8, let us meet Nisha Kaur, a self-made woman, who had lost her job during the pandemic but now successfully runs a 'Paratha' stall at Dengbhadri Square in Sundargarh town

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, March 8: Finding your voice is not an easy task, especially in case of women, but Nisha Kaur has overcome all hurdles to become financially independent and create a

niche for herself.

Lakhs of people lost their jobs during the pandemic and Nisha, who was working in a private company, was no different. After remaining jobless for months, she visited one of her friends in Sundargarh during the lock-



down. During her stay, she had once visited a food stall. Dissatisfied with the quality of food, she made up her mind to open a 'Paratha' stall in the town.

Keeping in mind the need of immunity during the pandemic, she began her food venture with 'Alu Paratha',

'Paneer Paratha', 'Mula Paratha' and 'Sattu Paratha'. Now, her dishes attract a good number of customers who flock to her food stall every day.

Most importantly her main focus is boosting the immunity of her customers. Now, her food menu includes 'Dhokla', 'Chhole Bhature'

and other healthy food items. As the summer is approaching, Nisha hopes to add some healthy drinks in the food menu. Customers also love her food.

"Women are capable of handling everything from household chores to taking financial decisions of the family. We don't have to depend on men anymore. Be it investments or savings, we have always had a tight control over everything. We are now able to fulfil the needs of ourselves as well as our loved ones," Nisha said when asked about her message to other women on the occasion of International Women's Day.

"My biggest financial achievement is being able to support my parents and my loved ones during the pandemic," she concluded.



There is no better way to become friends than to laugh together.

THE MOTHER

Women's Fight

International Women's Day (IWD) was observed this year in an atmosphere that does not hold out much hope of a life of dignity for millions of women across the world. Indian women are living in the backdrop of rising crime, with cases such as in Unnao, Hathras or Shahjanpur showcasing a grim reality. At the same time, issues of disparity in wages and safety at the workplace are still worrisome. Solace can, of course, be found if we compare with their counterparts in Afghanistan who are now being barred from regular education available in classrooms elsewhere in the civilised world.

International Women's Day has now become a global event to celebrate and support women's rights while calling for gender equality. The first observance of women's day on a national level was in New York February 28, 1909. It was marked on March 8 in several European countries in 1914 in support of women's suffrage. Over the last 100 years, women in many countries secured labour rights, access to sexual and reproductive health rights as well as reached high positions of social, economic and political leadership. However, the original goal of achieving global gender equality is still a far cry. Women in many countries such as in the Middle East are, even today, victims of female genital mutilation. In some countries, women have no right to pass on their citizenship to their children. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), the gender gap will take at least 100 plus years to close, and 200 plus years for economic gender parity, given the current pace of change.

A UN statistic reveals that one in three women is likely to face violence in her lifetime. At least 740 million women make their living in the informal economy with limited access to social protection, public services and infrastructure. Women do 2.6 times more unpaid care and domestic work than men, with only 41 per cent of the world's mothers with newborns receiving maternity benefits.

Observing one day in a calendar year with the resolve to safeguard the interests of women is paying lip service to nearly half the world's population. The need is for orchestrated actions to bring justice to women suffering inequalities and indignities throughout the world. Latest reports suggest Afghanistan's main universities have reopened six months after the Taliban returned to power last August, but only a trickle of women have returned to now-segregated classes. The saddest part of the story of education for women in Afghanistan is that there is an acute shortage of lecturers. Tens of thousands of Afghans left the country, among them teachers, after the collapse of the West-backed government of Prime Minister Ashraf Ghani. Afghanistan is but only a visible instance of the present day. Human history has witnessed many such phases where women were the first to be subjugated.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened women's plight. Global data released by the UN suggests the pandemic could have put gender equality back by 25 years as a result of women having been forced to do significantly more domestic work and family care than men. The situation was, however, only marginally better before the pandemic when women were burdened with three fourths of 16 billion hours of unpaid work done each day around the world.

Political will is required to ensure gender equality. Even in one of the most developed countries like the United States, women have lost basic rights on their own reproductive health. Politics forever changed the course of women's rights across the USA, taking away abortion rights from women in most states. While 'pro-life' activists rejoice, women as individuals have lost rights on their own life decisions. Not just in the US, but in most countries across the world, policy decisions on women's lives are taken by powerful and privileged men who have no idea on women's perspectives. For now, women will have to continue their fight for equal rights while celebrating small wins along the way.

WISDOM CORNER

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. **CARL JUNG**

The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark. **MICHELANGELO**

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails. **WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD**

WORDSWORTH

Scuttlebutt

The second half is easy enough — a butt is just the old word for a large cask. The first half appears in the language in several senses with different origins, so we have to be sure we've got the right one. It's not the flattish open container, made of wickerwork at one time, whose name survives in coal scuttle; that's Old English, from Latin scutella for a dish or platter (its first sense in English). Nor is it the one that means to move with short quick steps, perhaps like a spider; that comes from an old English dialect word. The sense we want is the one of a hole cut in a ship's timbers. That's been around since the fifteenth century, when sailors called any smallish hatchway or opening in the deck a scuttle, especially if it was covered with a lid of some sort; it was the usual term for an opening to let in light or air. It's of uncertain origin, but might be from the Old French escoutille, meaning a hatchway. The verb to scuttle dates from the mid 17th century, at first in the sense of sinking a ship specifically by cutting holes in it - today we use it for doing so by any means. It was usual to have a water cask on deck so that the crew had easy access to drinking water during the day. To make it easier to scoop the water out with a tin pot or dipper, the head of the cask would be removed. So it became known as the scuttlebutt — the cask with a hatch in it. Fresh water was so precious that a guard was often posted by the scuttlebutt to ensure that water was only taken to drink and not, for example, to wash clothes with. It was the one place where members of the crew on duty in various parts of the ship could meet and talk during the working day. This is how Herman Melville put it in White Jacket; or The World in a Man-of-War of 1850: "There is no part of a frigate where you will see more going and coming of strangers, and overhear more greetings and gossipings of acquaintances, than in the immediate vicinity of the scuttle-butt, just forward of the main-hatchway, on the gun-deck." Today's office water coolers have pretty much the same ambience. Real scuttlebutts have long since passed into naval history and the word has shifted its meaning to the rumour and gossip itself rather than the place where one exchanged it.

LOL

Fishing on the lake

A famous admiral and an equally famous general were fishing together when a sudden squall came up. When it died down both eminent warriors were struggling helplessly in the water.

The admiral floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself painfully in. Then he fished out the general, using an oar. Catching his breath, he puffed:



"Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found I can't swim I'd be disgraced."

"Don't worry," the general said. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water."



Jagdish Rattanan

VIOLATION OF WELL LAID DOWN PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES AND EVEN OUTRIGHT SCANDAL IS NOT UNCOMMON IN THE GOVERNANCE SET UP OF INDIA EVEN TODAY

The National Stock Exchange (NSE), India's premier, tech-driven exchange that was the first to implement electronic trading in the country says this about itself on its website: "Powered by millions of dreams, hopes and aspirations, India today is brimming with potential. At NSE, we are driven by this ambition that makes India charge ahead... Our ambition gives us direction. It pivots, and propels us. It is the leap we take from today, towards a brighter tomorrow."

It is the MD and CEO of this company from 2013-2016, Chitra Ramkrishna, who was arrested in New Delhi over the weekend, quite an expected event that will unlikely throw new light on her shameful, brazen and grossly unscrupulous behaviour that eventually brought the CEO down and sullied the reputation of what was thought to be India's showpiece clearing house. It merits retelling that Ramkrishna played around carelessly with this premier stock market on the advice of one so-called yogi she said she never met. She hired a Chief Strategic Officer and further promoted him to Group Operating Officer flouting all norms and regulations of the company she led. This person, Anand Subramanian, admittedly not qualified for the role, saw his salary grow from ₹1.68 crore per annum in 2013 to ₹3.67 crore in 2015 on repeated increments that had no relation to his work, the company guidelines or policies on remuneration. A SEBI order highlighting the irregularities and criminalities has called her actions "bizarre misconduct." It pointed out that the company board knew of the irregularities and did not act, delayed in sending a reply to regulatory queries and allowed Ramkrishna to resign and even recorded appreciation for her work!

NSE under Ramkrishna stands out as a case study in itself, given the extent of the muck that sits in there. Yes, this is a particularly wild variation of the mis-governance virus but the trouble with Indian corporate governance is that flouting of norms, violation of well laid down practices and

FOCUS INDIA INC.

MESSY GOVERNANCE



If credibility is to come to corporate governance, the pool of directors must be widened to include people from a variety of fields - we need union leaders, social leaders, researchers, scientists, and a host of others to bring fresh air, new thinking and a powerful voice to boardrooms

procedures and even outright scandal is not uncommon in the governance set up of India even today. Further, in a country where hierarchy is still important, where dissent is often not tolerated or even encouraged and the culture of seeing the person up the ladder as the boss who is always right is ingrained, the set up makes it more difficult to enforce modern governance standards. It is true that norms have got stiffer, that directors can go to jail, that standards as they are written down are perhaps among the best in the world but also the way the frameworks play out in practice is very different from the way they are intended to.

If the case of NSE leads to a long 190-page SEBI order in February 2022 for violations that happened more than six years ago and enabled the CEO retire with cozy friendships and packages, if the CEO is arrested a further month after that, then the message to the looters of public wealth sitting on company boards is that anything goes. Weak and slow reg-

ulation, the lack of visible and exemplary punishments, unlike as is seen in the US, makes it more difficult to have good governance.

It needs to be stated boldly that corporate governance has failed India and Indian investors, not something that is likely to be appreciated by the mandarins of corporate India. A key part of the trouble lies in the current crop of directors and the way they are selected and placed in their roles, the relationships that are at work here and the consequent approaches in which they find a way not to do their duty or to perform with the lightest touch. Sure, there are honorable exceptions. Many have quit and limited their directorships. But still, they are all birds of a feather that flock together and more often than not are playing the role of regulators of a company sitting in comfortable surroundings, among friendly people, asking polite questions and pussyfooting about what really is a burning topic of India today.

Most of them have claims to expert knowledge, which really is

the workings of a corporate set up that many have spent their lives in, have since retired and found their sinecures in some similar role—a private version of some 'Yes Minister' brigade that knows how to protect its own interests, where to look and where not to look if the position is to be preserved and maintained. But as we may be learning in many other fields of knowledge, it is best not to leave the important matter only to the experts. It is time to open the pool to a variety of players.

Nawshir Mirza, a leading voice on corporate governance who is probably the only one who says it like it is, writes in one of his columns: "the one common and overriding criterion for the selection of a director by the person in control of a board is the absence of a spine." Mirza has for over 20 years sat on the boards of more than half-a-dozen companies and observed the behaviour of many other directors during the preceding 36 years as an auditor. He notes that "... many directors who are loudest in professions of good governance, are the meekest when seated around the board table. Several of these directors burnish their reputations by holding forth at seminars on corporate governance; for the insider it is shocking to see the chasm between the conduct they preach from the lectern and that which they practice at the board."

If credibility is to come to corporate governance, the pool of directors must be widened to include people from a variety of fields—we need union leaders, social leaders, researchers, scientists, and a host of others to bring fresh air, new thinking and a powerful voice to boardrooms. We need more questions, more noise and more listening to people from down up in our companies if governance has to improve. This will not be an easy task but an easy way to begin is to resist the temptation to hire all those familiar folks who are used to being around our homes, clubs, boards and companies.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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IN JEST THIS

Ukraine invasion reveals many heroes

The International Gymnastics Federation has criticised Russian athlete Ivan Kuliak for wearing a 'Z' on his chest at a gymnastics World Cup event in Doha, Qatar. The 20-year-old gymnast had taped the 'Z' symbol to his leotard and wore it on the podium while accepting a gold medal, standing beside Ukrainian athlete Illia Kovtun, who had won bronze.

The 'Z' symbol has been painted on tanks and other vehicles that the Russian military has used during its invasion of Ukraine. Wearing a 'Z' has become a way for Russians to show their approval for the invasion, and many supporters of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin are displaying the 'Z' proudly on their clothing and cars.

I do not know what the 'Z' stands for. What I do know is that in many conflicts, there are heroes—people we admire for their courage and selflessness—and there are also zeroes.

But I do not know what the 'Z' stands for. If I wore a 'Z' on my chest, it would stand for Zelenskyy, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine, is truly a hero. He is a symbol of bravery, a man who could have fled from a daunting bat-



tle against a stronger opponent, but instead chose to risk his life and inspire the Ukrainian people to defend their motherland, while uttering a memorable one-liner: "I need ammunition, not a ride." Don't call him an Uber—call him an uber leader.

Who would have thought that a former comedian and actor would be imbued with such courage? Perhaps we should have known he's a rare breed when he said this at his 2019 inauguration: "I would

very much like for you to not have my portrait in your offices. No portraits!" This is somewhat similar to what Donald Trump said: "I would very much like for you to not have my portrait in your offices only. Put them in your homes and pick-up trucks, too! More portraits! And please buy them directly from my website: www.Trump2024.com."

Zelenskyy considers his soldiers heroes and has awarded the title of "Hero of Ukraine" to the military leader, Lieutenant General Oleksandr Pavliuk. But what about the other side? Aren't there heroes wearing Russian uniforms, too? Of course there are. I would award medals of heroism to all the Russian soldiers who, while approaching the city of Kyiv, got their tanks stuck in the mud.

Videos of the soldiers abandoning their tanks went viral on social media and allowed people to ridicule the Russian military. But there are many forms of resistance, and one of the best is getting stuck in the mud.

Private Petrov: "What are we doing here? Why are we invading Ukraine? What is Putin thinking?"

Private Volkov: "Those are good questions. Here's another ques-

tion: What does the 'Z' stand for?"

Petrov: "It stands for zany. It is our new national identity."

Volkov: "I thought it stands for zoo. We are behaving like wild animals."

Petrov: "Yes, but what else can we do? We have to follow orders."

Volkov: "We can get stuck in the mud and abandon our tanks."

Petrov: "You are a genius, Volkov!"

Volkov: "Thank you, Petrov. My mother thinks so, too."

Some of these soldiers may be true heroes and some may only be accidental heroes. But it's okay to be an accidental hero. It's okay to faint during a bank robbery and accidentally trip the robber trying to make a getaway.

Few people have the courage to be real heroes, like those brave anti-war protesters in Russia. Putin has made it a crime to oppose the war—and even a crime to call it a "war." It's a "special military operation."

You may also call it "Operation Stuck-in-the-Mud."

Sergeant: "How did you get your tank stuck in the mud?"

Petrov: "It was Volkov. He fell asleep."

Volkov: "Sorry, sir, I was being patriotic: trying to catch some Z's."

Ailing medical education

Sir, The plight of Indian students who pursue medical education in Ukraine puts the spotlight on the inadequacies of medical education in India. The crisis they face has sparked off an intense debate on why medical education in foreign countries is so popular and what India can do to make Indian students join medical courses in Indian universities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently urged corporate India to put in efforts so that Indian students don't have to go to foreign countries for medical education. Unless affordable medical education is provided in India, the exodus of students to foreign countries is likely to continue in future. Likewise, the number of medical seats in Indian universities needs to be increased to stop the flow of students to foreign countries. Although there are only around 90,000 medical seats in private and government medical colleges in India, 1.6 million applied for the NEET to qualify for the under-graduate courses in 2021. Apart from the big gap in demand and supply, the differences in fees structure in government and private colleges is a serious impediment to medical education in India. It is unjustified that it costs between ₹80 lakh to ₹1 crore to study medicine in private colleges. In contrast, medical colleges in Russia, Ukraine, China and Belarus offer these courses at ₹20-45 lakh. As a result, around 25,000 Indian students go to foreign countries every year to study medicine. Considering the present crisis that Indian students face in Ukraine, the government needs to take measures to make medical education in India hassle-free and student-friendly. The number of seats for MBBS must be increased. Also, medical education must be provided at reasonable cost. If the requirements for starting medical colleges are made simple, it will attract private managements. Similarly, those who pass out of medical colleges must have globally recognised medical degrees.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Memorable match

Sir, India kicked off the Rohit era in style by trouncing Sri Lanka by an innings and 22 runs in the first Test at Mohali. Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he snared nine wickets to complement his unbeaten 175. We will also remember the Test for Virat Kohli getting into the 100-Test club and premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin becoming the second-highest wicket-taker for India, going past the legendary Kapil Dev's 434 Test scalps. Sri Lanka, who went down without putting up a fight, will need to raise their game several notches if they are to prove a match for the Indians.

NJ Ravi Chandar, 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, Raulagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

Women are given a pivotal role under the 'Har Ghar Jal' as they are the primary stakeholders and are involved in the programme from the very beginning

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION CABINET MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI.

The Government of India will keep focusing on women empowerment through its various schemes with an emphasis on dignity as well as opportunity

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Women are capable of transforming society with their wisdom, dedication and strength. They must get their long-pending due. Women's Day greetings to all

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Soldier goes missing

Srinagar: A soldier of J&K Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment has gone missing from Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district. He has been reported missing from Monday evening. Police sources said, "An army soldier of JAKLI identified as Sameer Ahmad Malla, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Malla, resident of Lokripora Khag area in Budgam district is missing since Monday evening from his native village."

Student found murdered in Bihar

Patna: A postgraduate student was found murdered in his native village in Bihar's Khagaria district Tuesday, police said. The body of Rakesh Kumar Thakur, 31, was found near an illegal liquor vend in Dumaria Buzurg village.

Terrorist aide held in Kashmir

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the security forces have arrested a terrorist associate from Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said Tuesday. Police said on the basis of specific information regarding the movement of anti-National Elements (ANEs) on March 7, the Sopore police along with the Army's 32 RR and CRPF launched a joint cordon and search operation (CASO) in the Nadihal area of sub division Rafiabab.

Driver charred

Srinagar: A truck driver was charred to death on Tuesday after a high voltage electric wire fell on his truck in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district. Police said the high voltage electric wire fell on the truck in the Qazigund area of Anantnag district during the night intervening March 7 and 8.

All Indian students moved out of Sumy, says MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: All Indian students stranded in the war-torn Ukrainian city of Sumy have been moved out and flights under Operation Ganga are being prepared to bring them back home, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Tuesday.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the Indian students moved out of Sumy were being taken to Poltava, from where they will board trains to western Ukraine. Poltava is at a distance of about 175 km from Sumy. "Happy to inform that we have been able to move out all Indian students from Sumy. They are currently en route to Poltava, from where they will board trains to western Ukraine," Bagchi tweeted. "Flights under Operation Ganga are being prepared to bring them home," he said.

Bagchi, however, did not specify from which border point and when will they be evacuated from Ukraine to board flights for their return to India. The MEA spokesperson also posted a video on Twitter showing Indian students having refreshments in the backdrop of parked buses.

Also, the Indian Embassy in Ukraine issued an advisory urging all stranded Indian nationals to make use of "humanitarian corridor" announced in various parts of Ukraine and evacuate using trains, vehicles or any

SHAH SOUNDS POLL BUGLE IN TRIPURA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, March 8: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday virtually kicked off the BJP's campaign for next year's assembly election in Tripura, claiming that the state had suffered a lot under CPI(M) rule for 25 years, and it became peaceful only after the saffron party came to power.

He said if the BJP is voted to power again, the party will make Tripura the number one state in the country. On the occasion of International Women's Day on Tuesday, Shah announced that 33 per cent of government jobs in Tripura will be reserved for women.

"For 25 years, Tripura had suffered a lot under the communist rule. Today, under PM (Narendra) Modi and CM Biplab Deb, Tripura is known for peace and progress," he said while addressing a rally here to mark the fourth anniversary of the BJP-IPFT government in the state. The BJP-IPFT coalition came to power in March 2018 by de-throning the CPI(M) which had ruled the state for 25-years.



Amit Shah during his visit to inspect the progress of single row fencing work along the India-Bangladesh border, in Sabroom



We fought as hard as we could. We will wait and see the results

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

RARE BRAIN SURGERY

A six-year-old boy from Mongolia successfully underwent a complex surgery, removing a tumor of more than five centimetre in size, from an inaccessible part of his brain



India, China to hold talks Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: India and China will hold the 15th round of high-level military talks Friday to resolve issues related to remaining friction areas in eastern Ladakh, sources in the defence establishment said on Tuesday.

The talks till now have resulted in the resolution of issues in North and South Bank of Pangong Tso, Galwan and Gogra Hot Spring areas. There was, however, no fresh breakthrough in the 14th round of the dialogue that took place on January 12 this year.

The two sides will hold the next round at Chushul Moldo meeting point in Ladakh on Friday to end the 22-month standoff at the remaining friction areas, according to the sources.

Recent statements by both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution have been encouraging and positive in nature, they noted.

India has been talking with China about a quick disengagement on remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh such as Patrolling Point 15 (Hot Springs), Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

International flights to restart March 27



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: Scheduled international flight services to and from India will resume from March 27 after a two-year hiatus following a decline in coronavirus cases in the country, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said Tuesday.

Scheduled international flight services are suspended in India since March 23, 2020, due to the pandemic. However, special international flights have been operating between India and 37 countries since July 2020 under air bubble arrangements.

"After deliberation with stakeholders and keeping in view the decline in the COVID-19 caseload, we have decided to resume international travel from March 27 onwards," Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said, adding that "with this step, I am confident the sector will reach new heights". Air bubble arrangements will

also stand revoked thereafter, he said. In an air bubble arrangement formed between two nations, carriers of each country are allowed to operate limited number of international flights to other's territory with specific restrictions.

Just 3,993 fresh coronavirus infections - the lowest in 662 days - were recorded in India on Tuesday, according to the Union health ministry.

In a statement, the MoCA said that international operations from March 27 will be subject to strict adherence to Union health ministry guidelines that were issued on February 10.

"After having recognised the increased vaccination coverage across the globe and in consultation with stakeholders, the Government of India has decided to resume scheduled commercial international passenger services to and from India from March 27, 2022, i.e. Start of summer schedule 2022," it said.

27 hurt in J'khand violence

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chatra/Ranchi, March 8: At least 27 persons were injured at Tandwa in Chatra district of Jharkhand after a violent clash broke out between the district police and the locals protesting since the last 14 months against the construction of a National Thermal Power Corporation plant.

An angry mob burnt more than a dozen trucks and two-wheelers outside the NTPC plant on Monday. Senior police and district administrative officers of North Chotanagpur division immediately rushed to the site.

Tuesday, several MLAs created a ruckus in the Jharkhand assembly over the incident, after which the state government swung into action by launching an investigation into the incident within 24 hours.

The NTPC plant in Tandwa is under-construction since 1999 and has not become fully operational till date.

People living in the area, whose properties have been taken away for setting up this plant, have been holding protests for the last two decades raising demands such as financial compensation, rehabilitation and jobs.



Indian students who were stranded in Sumy, on their way to Poltava, amid Russia-Ukraine conflict, in Ukraine

Sumy has been witnessing intense fighting between Russian and Ukrainian troops for days now

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the Indian students moved out of Sumy were being taken to Poltava, from where they will board trains to western Ukraine. Poltava is at a distance of about 175 km from Sumy

other available means of transport giving due consideration to safety,

Humanitarian corridor for evacuation of stranded people has been announced in various parts of Ukraine from 1000 hours on March 8, 2022. Considering the security situation, establishment of the next humanitarian corridor is uncertain, the advisory said.

"All stranded Indian nationals are urged to make use of this opportunity and evacuate using trains/vehicles or any other avail-

able means of transport giving due consideration to safety," the advisory said.

Earlier in the day, Union minister Hardeep Singh Singh Puri had confirmed that the evacuation process for Indian students stranded in Sumy has started and they are being taken in buses to Poltava.

"Last night, I checked with the control room, 694 Indian students were remaining in Sumy. Today, they have all left in buses for Poltava," Puri told reporters here.



Girls participated in a self-defence workshop for women on the occasion of International Women's day in Kolkata, Tuesday

Cong deposes post-poll observers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: The Congress Tuesday deposed senior leaders for poll management ahead of election results in Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur, party sources said.

While Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar will be special observer in Goa, party general secretary Mukul Wasnik and Chhattisgarh Health Minister T S Singh Deo besides Vincent Pala have been deputed in Manipur for post-poll management, the sources said.

General secretary Ajay Maken and party spokesperson Pawan Khera have been deployed as party special observers for Punjab, the sources added.

While Maken will leave on



Wednesday, Khera has already reached Chandigarh.

Rajya Sabha member Deepinder Singh Hooda has also left for Dehradun after he was asked by the party leadership to reach there for management of legislators in case of a hung assembly. Hooda will work out modalities with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel once

the results are out on March 10. Hooda has reached Uttarakhand.

The party's in-charges and observers in various poll-bound states will also be stations at the state headquarters ahead of results.

The move is aimed at keeping the Congress flock together in case of a hung assembly in Goa, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Punjab.

In case of hung assembly, BJP eyeing independents in U'khand

AS EXIT POLLS HINTED AT A TOUGH FIGHT BETWEEN THE BJP AND THE CONGRESS IN UTTARAKHAND, THE RULING PARTY IS NOW BANKING ON INDEPENDENTS AND REGIONAL OUTFITS TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 8: The BJP has started working on plans to form a government in case of a fractured mandate in Uttarakhand.

As exit polls hinted at a tough fight between the BJP and the Congress in Uttarakhand, the ruling party is now banking on independents and regional outfits to form the government in the state.

The ABP C-Voter Exit Poll indicates Congress is likely to win 35 seats in the 70-member Uttarakhand Assembly, while the ruling BJP is projected to win 29 seats in the state. The Exit Poll also shows that the key to power is likely to be in the hands



of Independents and others who are projected to win five seats.

Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is likely to win three seats.

Expressing confidence of winning the majority in Uttarakhand, a senior BJP functionary told IANS that the party will form the government and like-minded individuals

will support if fall short of halfway mark. "If we fail to cross the halfway mark then we will seek support from independents and other like-minded people. We are in touch with some people and few will resign to help us form the government," he said.

It is learnt that the BJP will first eye the others which includes in-

dependents and Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (UKD) and the BSP. "As per the exit polls, others are projected to win three to seven seats in the state and the BJP 29. With the help of others we will easily form the government. If more is required there are some others who will resign to help us," a senior BJP leader said.

It is learnt that the saffron camp is also approaching few Congress candidates for their help if required to form the government in the hill state for the second time. BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya reached Dehradun on Sunday and held a meeting with senior state leaders including Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BALLIGUDA (R&B) DIVISION, BALLIGUDA
TELEPHONE & Fax 06846-243242, E-mail- oepwd_balliguda@yahoo.com
Bid Identification No. S.E. BLG-16/ 2021-22
No. B-1036: Dated:-04.03.2022

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Road Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
1	Estimated Cost	Rs.4.44 Lakh & Rs. 33.911lakh
2	No. of Works	03 (Three) Only
3	Period & time of completion	03 (Three) & 01 (One) Calendar Months
4	Date & time of availability of the bid document in the portal	10.03.2022 to 19.03.2022 (up to 5.00 PM) for Online Bidding
5	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	Up to 5.00 PM of 21.03.2022
6	Date & Time of bid opening	11.30 hours on Dated. 21.03.2022
7	Name & Address of the Officer inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Balliguda R&B Division, Balliguda, Dist:-Kandhamal, Pin-762103

Others can be seen from Detailed Notice inviting Tenders, available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Corrigendum if any, shall only be published in the above website.

OIPR-34038/11/0012/2122

Government of Odisha
Department of Water Resources
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SAMBALPUR
Phone No.0663-2412791(Off) Email: eemisbp@yahoo.co.in
No.A-866: No.790, Date:03.03.2022
e-Procurement Notice
BID REF NO. EE, MID, SBP/13/2021-22
Name of Work : Civil Construction Works
Estimated Cost : Varies from approximately Rs.31.00 lakh to Rs.44.00 lakh for 3 Nos. of works is Rs.114.00 Lakh.
No. of Works : 03 (Three) Nos.
Tender paper cost : Referred to DTCN
Period of completion : Referred to DTCN
Availability of bid through online : From dt.14.03.2022 10.00 AM to dt.23.03.2022 upto 05.30 PM in website(www.tendersorissa.gov.in).
Period of receipt of bid through online : From dt.14.03.2022 10.00 AM to dt.23.03.2022 upto 05.30 PM through online.
Date of opening of bid documents : On dt.24.03.2022 at 11.00 AM onwards.
Digital signature certificate of Bidder : The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III. The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website- http://dowrorissa.gov.in
Name & Address of the OIT : Executive Engineer, M.I.Division, Sambalpur, At-Motijharan, PO-B.S.S.Nagar, Dist:-Sambalpur, PIN-768001, Ph-0663-2412791, E-mail ID-eemisbp@yahoo.co.in.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place : http://tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./-Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Sambalpur
OIPR-32036/11/0005/2122

'Snake-woman' among 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' awardees

Known as the 'First woman snake-rescuer of India', Vanita J Borade, launched the NGO, Soyre Vanchare Multipurpose Foundation for protecting nature, wild-life and a pollution-free environment



to mark the International Women's Day, officials said here Tuesday. They include the famous 'snake-woman' from Buldhana, Vanita J Borade, specially-abled Kathak danseuse from Pune Saylee N Agavane and a poultry farmer from Osmanabad Kamal Kumbhar. Known as the 'First woman snake-rescuer of India', Borade,

47, launched the NGO, Soyre Vanchare Multipurpose Foundation for protecting nature, wild-life and a pollution-free environment. Over the past few years, she has caught, rescued over 50,000 snakes and released them into their natural habitat, earning laurels, besides conducting training and awareness on snake-bites, first-aid, pre-

cautions, etc. Suffering from Down syndrome failed to discourage Agavane from pursuing her passion of Kathak and she has performed in over 100 programmes in India and globally, bagging the bronze medal at the Global Olympiad Dance Competition. She launched the Saylee's Dance

Classes and trained more than 50 specially-abled children in dancing to make them face society with confidence despite all odds. Daughter of a labourer, Kumbhar walked out of a failed marriage and in 1998, turned a woman entrepreneur in the field of animal husbandry, founding the Kamal Poultry & Ekta Sakhi Producer Co. In the drought-prone district, she helped over 3,000 women become self-dependent, provided solar energy to 3,000 homes and helped 5,000 women start their own micro-businesses to become self-reliant. These women have not allowed any form of discrimination or disadvantage to come in the way of their pursuit to accomplish excellence and have thus shown incredible resilience and perseverance, said Union Minister for Women & Child Welfare Smriti Irani, congratulating all the Nari Shakti Puraskar awardees.

Shiv Sena terms ED 'extortionist' and BJP's 'ATM'



The maximum activities of the ED and the Income Tax Department are in Maharashtra and West Bengal. Today, there are a series of ITD raids being carried out in Maharashtra
SANJAY RAUT | CHIEF SPOKESPERSON, SHIV SENA

against these builders but soon afterwards large sums of monies were transferred from various targeted persons to the seven companies reportedly owned by Navlani. Who is he and what are his connections with the BJP leaders? Will the ED-ITD investigate and take action against him, as they keep doing against us?" demanded Raut.

The Sena leader reiterated that February 28, he had submitted a detailed 13-page complaint to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is awaiting action. Raut said he has also given around 50 names to the ED-ITD with thousands of documentary evidence, but till date no action has been taken on it.

"Today, our Sena leader Arvind Bhosale has submitted a detailed complaint on these matters to the Mumbai Police which will soon start its probe. Somaiya, his son Neil Somaiya will definitely go to jail, besides other officials," Raut declared. Dismissing outright the allegations against him, Somaiya told mediapersons that he has no connection with Navlani or any of the other persons mentioned by Raut and denied that he acted as an 'agent' for the ED, but vowed to continue his crusade against the Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Top political leaders make a beeline for Goa ahead of results

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, March 8: With Goa gearing up for the results of Assembly polls March 10, leaders of contesting political parties have flown to Goa to fine-tune strategies for D-Day.

Congress' senior observer for Goa polls, P Chidambaram, as well as the party's Secretary in-charge of Goa, Dinesh Gundu Rao Monday, met all the party's candidates and their election agents, even as the party's key troubleshooter in Karnataka, D Shivakumar is scheduled to arrive in Goa by special flight later Tuesday night.

Congress sources said that Shivakumar would be tasked with the responsibility of shepherding MLAs during the critical period from the time when results are announced March 10 till the time the party makes it case for power before Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai, if its numbers carry weight.

The party's candidates and top leaders are currently meeting at a resort in North Goa to celebrate the birthday of former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat.

As a precautionary measure, the Congress had made its candidates sign an affidavit promising not to change political affiliation until the term of the Assembly ends, while also making them take oath to similar effect in the presence

of Hindu, Muslim, and Christian deities.

"We have a foolproof plan for any eventuality," said state Congress chief Girish Chodankar.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital Tuesday and briefed him about the party's prospects as well as its plans to retain power in the coastal state.

Top Trinamool Congress leaders including party General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien and Indian-Political Action Committee's Prashant Kishor are expected to arrive in Goa Tuesday night to take stock of affairs ahead of counting day.

The Trinamool contested the polls in alliance with the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, which pollsters have claimed could emerge as a kingmaker if the BJP or the Congress fall short of the required numbers. 21 is the magic number in the 40-member state assembly.

Aam Aadmi Party's Atishi also arrived in Goa and has conducted a series of meetings with the party's candidates as well as top office bearers in preparation for March 10. The party preferred to stay away from any political collaboration ahead of the polls, going it solo in the elections.

Game of thrones in Goa as hung Assembly looms

THE FATE OF THE STATE WILL DEPEND ON THE SMALLER PARTIES LIKE THE TRINAMOOL-MGP COMBINE AND INDEPENDENTS, WHO CAN EMERGE AS THE KINGMAKER IN THE 40-MEMBER GOA ASSEMBLY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 8: Goa is likely to witness a hung Assembly with ruling BJP and Congress going neck-to-neck, as per as per the ABP C-Voter Exit Poll.

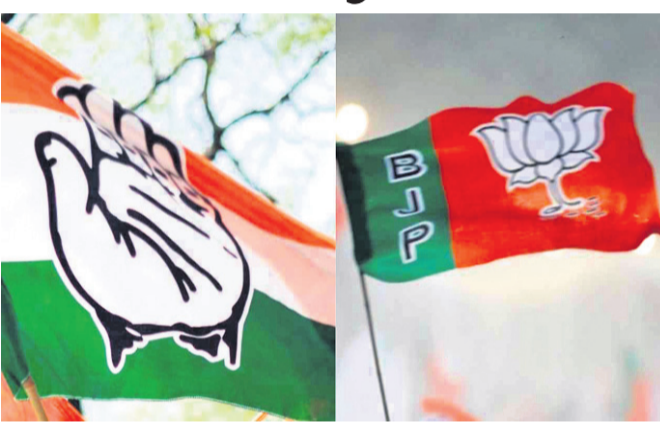
The fate of the state will depend on the smaller parties like the Trinamool-MGP combine and Independents, who can emerge as the kingmaker in the 40-member Goa Assembly.

Anticipating the results, the Congress has said that it will choose a legislative party leader within minutes of the announcement of election results March 10 and stake claim to form the government.

The party's in-charge for Goa, Dinesh Gundu Rao, said the party will not repeat its mistake of 2017, when the party could not decide on a CM face and the BJP went on to form the government taking advantage of the delay by Congress to stake claim despite emerging as the single-largest party.

According to ABP C-Voter Exit Poll, the BJP and the Congress are very close to each other, but both short of the majority mark. The Congress is projected to win 14 seats, three less than its tally of 2017, while BJP is slated to win 15 seats, a gain of two seats from its 2017 tally.

The AAP is expected to win three seats (0 in 2017), while the Maharashtra Gomantak



'Dark horse' MGP in touch with Cong, BJP

PANAJI: With exit polls predicting a tight race between the ruling BJP and the Congress in Goa, the Maharashtra Gomantak Party may emerge as an integral part of the government formation process, with the regional party expected to expand its footprint from three seats to between six and nine according to the surveys. Senior party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sudin Dhavalikar told reporters that his party would take a call on supporting either the Congress or the BJP after detailed discussions. The MGP and the Trinamool had a pre-poll alliance for the February 14 polls. Dhavalikar has already met Congress' senior observer for the Goa polls P Chidambaram and Congress secretary in-charge of Goa Dinesh Gundu Rao Tuesday and said that

his party was open to discussions with the BJP too. The MGP was in alliance with the BJP from 2017-2019, when they were axed from the government. The BJP also split the MGP, by reducing its three member legislative party to one MLA, namely Dhavalikar. The MGP had contested the 2022 polls on an anti-BJP plank. Senior party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sudin Dhavalikar Monday had hinted that the party may consider going ahead with the BJP after announcement of results provided that Pramod Sawant is not propped up as the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, Sawant who spoke to reporters in the national capital after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has said that the party's central leadership was in touch with the MGP to discuss government formation in Goa.

Party (MGP), which fought the polls in alliance with Trinamool Congress, is projected to win seven seats, a gain of four seats compared to its 2017 tally.

Rao said, "We will take decisions at the right time. There will be no delay and as soon as the results are out, we will stake claim and as per the Constitution. I don't see any reason for anything going wrong this time."

happened in 2017 will not happen this time. We are together, we are prepared. We won't allow the repetition of what happened in 2017. This time the Congress will form the government and there will be no scope for anything else to happen," he said.

The Congress is in alliance with the Goa Forward party, which contested three seats.

'COPS CANNOT EXPECT COMFORT EVERYTIME'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, March 8: Goa Director General of Police Indra Dev Shukla downplayed opposition parties' allegations of harassment of 400 Goa Police personnel, who are being ferried from Uttar Pradesh to Goa - a journey of nearly 1,200 kms by bus - for casting of votes through postal ballot.

Talking to reporters, he said that while the road journey across the vast distance from Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi to Goa was difficult, personnel serving in uniformed forces should take such hardships in their stride. "I sympathise with them because to embark on such a journey by bus is difficult, but the life of a policeman is not so easy... In a year, if we have to undertake such (arduous) duty for one day, two days, ten days, our jaws are ready."

"I was posted (to Goa) from Mizoram. My officers (there) worked in the midst of bullets flying. We have also made no distinction between night and day. Sometimes we got food to eat, sometimes we did not.

Sometimes, we stayed in a bunker. Police life is not so easy. Like civilians we cannot expect (comfort)," Shukla said.

Two opposition parties, the Congress and Goa Forward had accused the BJP-led administration of harassing the 400-odd India Reserve Battalion (IRB) police personnel posted in Uttar Pradesh, for poll purposes, and trying to get them to skip voting through postal ballot, through duress by making them take a road journey from UP to Goa by public transport buses.

Both parties had complained to the Election Commission and slammed the state government machinery for not getting them back to Goa via train.

Shukla also acknowledged that a train ride for his police personnel would have been less cumbersome, but added that arrangements for train travel could not be carried out in time. The deadline for casting votes through postal ballots ends March 9, a day before counting of votes polled in the February 14 polls is undertaken.

Cleaning Goa beaches by giving second life to beer bottles

The popularity of the fizzy alcoholic beverage has also manifested a litter menace on a monumental scale, with logistics and lack of obvious feasibility when it comes to recycling used beer bottles, becoming the nub of the issue

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, March 8: That bottle, or those bottles of beer, which you may have left behind on a Goa beach on a holiday or a river-side picnic last year, may see redemption around the corner.

Nearly 40 lakh beer bottles are pushed out every month by three major beer bottling facilities in the state for beer guzzlers to relish, but the absence of a recycling market for the lakhs of spent beer bottles has resulted in pint and large beer bottles lying strewn around



popular tourist sites, roads and the countryside. The 'Beer Bottle Project', an initiative by a Goa-based centre for sustainability, Sensible Earth, aims to fill this gap with an objective to reduce the one-time usage of glass beer bottles in Goa by incentivising waste pickers, collaborating with local beer companies to reuse their own bottles and goad policy intervention to put an end to avoidable litter. "We started the 'Beer Bottle Project' because we realised that beer bottles are becoming a huge

'We started the 'Beer Bottle Project' because we realised that beer bottles are becoming a huge problem, as people have started using glass as a single-use object, like they do with plastic. Glass actually takes much much longer, a million years, to degrade as compared to plastic which can take around 400 years'

JERUSHA D'SOUZA | SPOKESPERSON FOR SENSIBLE EARTH

The Goa government has engaged private agencies to clear the beaches of garbage, but with millions of beer bottles hitting the market every year, the menace appears not an easy one to be rid of.

Beer is one of the most popular alcohols served in tropical Goa, with a recent study suggesting that for nearly every 1,000 tourists visiting Goa, nearly 29 per cent preferred sipping on beer during their beach holiday, across age groups.

But the popularity of the fizzy alcoholic beverage has also manifested a litter menace on a monumental scale, with logistics and lack of obvious feasibility when it comes to recycling used beer bottles, becoming the nub of the issue.

Right now what we want to do is get in touch with some of the local companies and figure out solutions around the issue, like where we can collect the bottles, maybe we can wash the bottles at a particular centre. This is still in the early stages. And hopefully we can bring about policy change at some point, she said.

of the day quote

The DCW is the perfect example of how a women's commission should function. Other women's commissions should learn from the DCW. Even the National Commission For Women (NCW) should learn from a women's panel should function

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

We have to increase the green tree cover in NCR and strive for nature revival, from our lakes to the Aravallis in NCR. We have to work towards an eco-friendly lifestyle as it is the responsibility of all of us to curb pollution crisis

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Women are embodiment of compassion and selflessness. I salute their indomitable spirit and monumental contribution in socio-economic growth, eradicating social evils and strengthening Panchayat and grass-root institution

MANOJ SINHA | JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

LeT module busted; 3 held

Srinagar: J&K Police Tuesday busted a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module in Pulwama district by arresting three persons, officials said. Police, along with 55 Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF's 182 battalion, arrested 3 militant associates of LeT from whose possession a grenade, 15 rounds of AK rifle ammunition, and other incriminating material was recovered.

10 injured

Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh): At least 10 students were injured after a cooking gas cylinder burst at a hostel in the Government Polytechnic College in Bulandshahr's Dibai. Two students were seriously injured in the incident which took place Monday. All the injured students have been sent to a higher medical centre in Aligarh.

Two dead

Kanpur: A straw-laden tractor-trolley rammed into the gate of a temple in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district, leading to the deaths of the driver and his helper. The temple is located in Umri village under the limits of Saadh police station area of Ghatampur. The police said that after the tractor-trolley rammed into the gate of the temple, the two people were killed after the debris fell on them.

Man assaulted

New Delhi: Four people were apprehended by the Delhi Police for assaulting a man in the national capital, however, the injured in revenge filed a complaint of motor vehicle theft to strengthen the case against the accused. The accused were identified as Dhimanu (23), a resident of Madangiri and Nishu (20), Rahul (21) and Jasvinder Singh (19), all residents of Najafgrah, Delhi.

Woman, son held

New Delhi: Three persons, including a woman and her son, were arrested for allegedly killing a man in north Delhi's Sarai Rohilla area, police said Tuesday. The accused have been identified as Chandrawati (44) and Dheeraaj (19), residents of Kakrola Housing Complex, and Satish (22), a resident of Uttam Nagar, they said. According to the police, the deceased, Jaipal (35), had beaten up the woman and made a video of the incident.



Nanotechnology will help the management of energy in an efficient manner at the tiniest level, which is the nano level. The efficient energy management at the smallest level is also expected to bring about sustainability

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

MAJOR MILESTONE

India achieved a major milestone Tuesday as the daily new Covid-19 cases declined to 3,993 in the last 24 hours. This is the lowest new Covid-19 cases recorded in India after a gap of 662 days, since 3,970 cases were reported on May 16, 2020



BATTLE FOR UP

Akhilesh alleges malpractices



AGENCIES

Lucknow, March 8: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav, Tuesday, alleged that a top official in the Chief Minister's secretariat was telephoning District Magistrates across Uttar Pradesh and asking them to slow down the counting process on Thursday if the Bharatiya Janata Party is losing.

Addressing a hurriedly convened press conference here, he alleged that this was being done especially for 47 seats that BJP had won with a margin of less than 5,000 votes in 2017.

He said that a truck carrying EVMs had been intercepted by party workers in Varanasi while two other trucks managed to speed away. "If the EVMs were being

moved, then the candidates concerned should have been informed as per the Election Commission guidelines. We have videos to prove what we are saying,"

he stated.

The SP chief said that ballots had been found in Bareilly and Sonbhadra. Akhilesh Yadav further said that the exit polls were done in a particular manner to create a perception that the BJP is winning so that they can indulge in malpractices during counting.

He appealed to his party workers and "honest officers and journalists" to keep a vigil on strong rooms where EVMs have been kept. "If farmers can stay in one place for a year, why can't we stay for the next three days in one place. This is the last chance to save democracy, to save your vote. If this chance is gone, then we will have to launch a movement to save democracy," he stated.

SP SHOULD BE ALERT: TEJASHWI

Patna: While exit polls for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in favour of the BJP, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav asked the Samajwadi Party and its alliance partners to be alert till the last vote is counted on March 10. "BJP leaders can go to any level to win the elections and officials deployed on the ground will support them. Hence, the representatives of Samajwadi Party, especially candidates, should be alert and closely monitor every movement of the officials until the last vote is counted at the centre. "During Bihar election 2020, around 12 closely contested seats were where RJD candidates had won the election but the officials present at the counting centres had changed the decisions. We have challenged the decision in courts and provided adequate proof of vote rigging at the counting centre. The cases are currently underway. Nitish Kumar and BJP leaders had stolen the mandate and formed the government in Bihar," he said.

LIQUOR LAW: SC RAPS BIHAR GOVT



The prohibition law had come into force in Bihar in 2016 under which manufacture, sale and consumption was banned in the entire state

The law provides for jail terms along with fines for serious offences, besides confiscation of property of the accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: Stringent Bihar liquor law would be changed, the state government Tuesday told the Supreme Court, which again came down heavily on it for framing such a legislation that has led to thousands languishing in jail and clogging of the judicial system.

The top court said it is a matter of concern and remarked that the Bihar government has brought the law without any legislative impact study and 16 Patna High Court judges are engaged in dealing with the bail applications.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M M Sundresh, dealing with a batch of bail applications of the accused booked under the stringent law sought the record to be placed before it on what impact study the state government has made.

"Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for Bihar government, submits that an amendment is to be brought to make the law more efficacious and to deal with its fall-out. We would like to know what is the legislative impact study undertaken before implementing the Bihar prohibition law," the bench said.

The prohibition law had come into force in Bihar in 2016 under which manufacture, sale and consumption was banned in the entire state.

sumption was banned in the entire state. The law provides for jail terms along with fines for serious offences, besides confiscation of property of the accused. The law was amended in 2018 under which some provisions were diluted.

At the outset, the bench said it is a matter of concern that 16 judges of the Patna High Court are sitting on bail matters. "This law is creating crowding. Rectify it or we would say that release everybody on bail till rectification is done. You have passed the law without any legislative impact study. You have not studied what infrastructure will be required in dealing with the cases arising out of the law. Every legislation is bound to create litigation," the bench observed.

It said the state government has made the offence under the law non-bailable which is further creating problems as the matter is reaching High Courts and the Supreme Court. "Burden is on you (Bihar government) to correct the course," the bench said.

Kumar said the state government has decided to amend the legislation keeping in view the recent observations of the court and to make it more efficacious. "The amendment will be brought in the upcoming assembly session," he said, adding that all relevant concerns will be taken care of.

RS, LS to function from March 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha are likely to start functioning simultaneously from 11 am during the second part of the budget session of Parliament from March 14, sources said on Tuesday.

However, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha will use their respective chambers and galleries for the members to seat, as was the case earlier, they pointed out.

According to the sources, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met on Tuesday and discussed the seating arrangements for the second part of the budget session.

The secretaries general of both the houses also discussed the issue in the context of a substantial reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases during the third wave of the pandemic in the country and the extensive vaccination coverage.

The Rajya Sabha functioned from 10 am to 3 pm and the Lok Sabha from 4 pm to 9 pm during the first part of the budget session.

The session started on January 31 with the president's address to a joint sitting of both houses and the Union budget was presented on February 1.

The budget session of the Lok Sabha and the 251st session of the Rajya Sabha in January 2020 were the first sessions to be curtailed by eight sittings due to the outbreak of the pandemic and the 252nd session of the Rajya Sabha in September 2020 and the monsoon session of the Lok Sabha were the first ones to be held under full Covid protocols, with the members seated in both houses and in two shifts, officials said.

HIJAB ROW K'taka Congress leader arrested

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kalaburagi (Karnataka), March 8: The Karnataka Police Tuesday arrested Congress leader Mukarram Khan in Hyderabad for making a controversial statement on hijab.

Khan had given provocative statements during the protests on the hijab row, which had gone viral. In the video, he had said that those who oppose students wearing hijab will be 'chopped to pieces' and had urged the government to permit the hijab-wearing students to attend classes in Sedam city.

A case was lodged in the Sedam police station on February 16 against him. As soon as the case was lodged, Khan went into hiding and moved bail petition in the Kalaburagi District Court.

The police arrested him in Hyderabad, but was later admitted to a private hospital because of his health condition.

Hindu organisations condemned the statements of the accused and demanded his immediate arrest. The police registered cases under IPC sections 153 (want only giving provocation with intent to cause riot) and 293 (whoever, to the annoyance of others; does any obscene act in public place) and 298 (uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person).

The Hijab row, which started as a protest by six students of Udipi Pre-University Girls' College, turned to be a major crisis in the state threatening law and order situation.



K Saravanan, a 42-year-old man, drives his auto-rickshaw, in Kumbakonam, Tuesday. Saravanan has been elected as the first Mayor of Kumbakonam Corporation in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district

PTI PHOTO

Bengal gets woman finance minister

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, March 8: In a minor reshuffle of the state cabinet, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday reallocated the responsibilities of ministers like Chandrima Bhattacharya and Firhad Hakim, sending a strong signal that leaders who work for the party will be rewarded.

Bhattacharya, who was handling the responsibility of finance as Minister of State after Amit Mitra decided not to contest the elections, has now been given independent charge of the crucial

ministry. Till now, Banerjee had kept the portfolio to herself.

On the other hand, Hakim, who was given the responsibility of the transport department, has been brought back to the urban development department.

Hakim was in-charge of the department since Banerjee came to power in 2011, but after last year's elections, he was given the responsibility of the transport department. Hakim, has not only been named the Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, but has also been brought back to the urban development ministry.

GRENADE ATTACK: TWO HELD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, March 8: Jammu and Kashmir police Tuesday arrested two persons in connection with the Sunday's grenade attack at busy Amira Kadal bridge, in the heart of the city, that left two civilians dead and 36 others injured, police said here.

The first accused identified as Mohd Bariq was arrested from Khanyar and his initial examination led to the arrest of the second accused, Fazil Nabi Sofi.

The two wheeler used in this grenade attack was also seized by the Special Investigation Team which had been formed immediately after the terror strike.

During its probe, the team employed modern means of investigation and used technical evidence like minute frame by frame analysis of the CCTV footages of scene of crime, footages of CCTVs in the whole of Srinagar city, Cell Tower dump analysis, IP dump analysis, and recreation of crime



The first accused identified as Mohd Bariq was arrested from Khanyar and his initial examination led to the arrest of the second accused, Fazil Nabi Sofi

scene and by examination of some eye witnesses, officials said. Based on these, the SIT was able to identify the two accused who came on a two wheeler without a number-plate to commit the crime and fled on the same vehicle.

Women's Day against backdrop of ongoing pandemic

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 8: This year's International Women's Day Tuesday took place against the backdrop of the ongoing global pandemic and emerging new strains, but also in a world desperately trying to emerge from the impact of this pandemic and focus again on other urgent and critical global issues such as climate change.

Expanding into the increasing focus on climate change in the political and public sphere, reinforced by COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow),

International Women's Day 2022 recognized and celebrated the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the change for a more sustainable and climate-resilient future for all.

Despite increasing evidence on the vital correlation between gender, social equity and climate change; historically, climate change scientists, researchers, and policymakers have struggled with how to make the connection.

When climate-change induced disasters hit, women and girls' lives and livelihoods are disproportionately affected. This is due to lack of information, mobility, de-



Women police officers celebrate International Women's Day at Vidhan Bhavan, during the ongoing Budget Session of Maharashtra Assembly, in Mumbai

cision-making and access to resources and training, as well as gender-based cultural norms and barriers.

Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond the reach.

Women and girls play a central role in addressing, mitigating, and solving the climate crisis. Women possess unique knowledge and experience, particularly at the local level, in areas such as agriculture, conservation and the management of natural resources.

Women are more likely to consider their families and commu-

nities in decision-making processes, allowing for more holistic and effective climate action. Their inclusion in decision-making processes, as well as including the gender lens into climate and environmental policies is critical to effective climate action.

The United Nations observance of International Women's Day held virtually amidst powerful voices of UN senior officials, activists, government representatives and experts from around the globe to discuss women and girls' contributions to Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow.

**6 TEENS CHARGED WITH MURDER
IN IOWA SCHOOL SHOOTING**

Des Moines Police say they have arrested and charged six teenagers with murder in a shooting outside a school that killed a 15-year-old boy and seriously injured two teenage girls. Police said gunshots fired Monday afternoon outside East High School came from several shooters from multiple vehicles

international

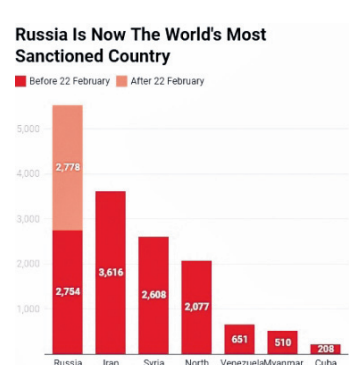


**LIFE AMID
CRISIS**

EUROPE, WHICH IS FAR MORE DEPENDENT ON RUSSIAN ENERGY THAN THE UNITED STATES, ANNOUNCED TUESDAY A PLAN TO CUT GAS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA BY TWO-THIRDS THIS YEAR. THE US WAS IMPORTING NEARLY 700,000 BARRELS PER DAY OF OIL FROM RUSSIA, WHILE IT CONSUMES ABOUT 20 MILLION BARRELS DAILY

Russia faces heat of sanctions

AGENCIES
Moscow: Due to its war on Ukraine, Russia has become the most sanctioned in the world, according to a New York-based sanctions watch-list site.



Castellum.AI said that sanctions were first imposed by the US and its allies on Russia on February 22 a day after President Vladimir Putin declared the two Ukrainian rebel regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as "independent states". After Russia announced its military operations against Russia on February 24, hundreds more sanctions followed.

The site said that 2,754 sanctions were already in place against Russia before February 22 and 2,778 additional were imposed in the days following the assault, bringing the total to 5,532. Russia's number now outstrips Iran's 3,616 sanctions, displacing Tehran from the top position, reports the BBC citing Castellum.AI as saying.

According to the site, the countries and regions targeting Russia with sanctions are Switzerland (568), the European Union (518), Canada (454), Australia (413), the US (243), the UK (35) and Japan (35). Countries across the world are put-

ting sanctions on Russia in an effort to stop the invasion of Ukraine. As a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US and international partners have sanctioned Russia's largest banks, its central bank and finance ministry, and moved to block certain financial institutions from the SWIFT messaging system for international payments.

EUROPE COULD NOW FACE SOMETHING WORSE THAN STAGFLATION

Western sanctions imposed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine have caused global energy prices to spike and consumer confidence to plummet in Europe. Russia is being

A US Ban on Russian oil imports would be the latest move by governments and companies around the world to squeeze Russia's finances following its attack of Ukraine. All the penalties raise questions about how high prices will go for oil, natural gas, wheat and other commodities where the region is a major producer. That's in turn adding more pressure to the already high inflation sweeping the world, cranking up its hold on the global economy.

cut off from Western financial markets, CNN reported. Economists expect Europe's economy to suffer as a result. Barclays analysts have slashed their eurozone growth forecast for this year by 1.7 percentage points to 2.4 per cent.

At the same time, the prices of energy and other commodities such as wheat and metals are rising fast. Barclays has upped its 2022 eurozone inflation forecast by 1.9 percentage points to 5.6 per cent, CNN reported. In other words, the war is stoking stagflation, which describes a period of high inflation and weak economic growth. The best recent example is the 1970s, when an energy supply shock hammered the developed

Zelensky says he's in Kyiv

Kiev: In his latest address to the nation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that he's still in Kyiv and not hiding as Russia's war on his country has continued for the 13th day. In the video posted on his Facebook page late Monday night, Zelensky shows the views of the city from his office in the heart of the capital city. "I stay in Kyiv. On Bankova Street. I'm not hiding. And I'm not afraid of anyone. As much as it takes to win this Patriotic War of ours," the President added. Zelensky's video message came hours after the third round of peace talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations ended without any significant developments. The talks lasted for nearly three hours at the Belovezhskaya Pushcha on the Belarus-Poland border, reports Xinhua news agency. According to Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky, who also heads Moscow's delegation, said although discussions continued on political and military aspects, it however remained difficult and was too early to talk about something positive.



economies. Europe could now face something worse than stagflation: A potential recession with out-of-control inflation, CNN reported. Barclays said that even after the major downgrades to its forecasts, the economy could turn out to be worse than expected. The situa-

WB approves \$723mn for Ukraine

Washington: The World Bank announced that it has approved a \$723 million financial package for Ukraine as the country is fighting the ongoing Russian invasion. In a statement posted on its website, the global lender said that World Bank Board of Executive Directors on Monday approved a supplemental budget support package for Ukraine, called Financing of Recovery from Economic Emergency in Ukraine - or FREE Ukraine - for \$489 million.



NATO not to send fighter jets to Ukraine

Kyiv: Fearing major backlash, the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) members have refused to send fighter jets to Ukraine to fight against Russia despite the US having given a "green signal". NATO was created in 1949 by the US, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the then Soviet Union. There are currently 30 member states. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wanted his country to be part of NATO to which Russian President Vladimir Putin had opposed, eventually leading to war.

'Russian forces resort to looting'

Kyiv: The Ukrainian military Tuesday claimed that Russian forces were increasingly resorting to looting and violating the rules of international humanitarian law on military conflict in regions currently under siege. In its latest update on the situation, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said the robberies were reported in the Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv and Kiev regions, UNIAN reported. Besides the looting, the Russian forces were also resorting to "violent actions against local residents, the seizure of civilian premises, use of agricultural hangars for parking military equipment, arrangement of firing positions in densely populated areas and civilian facilities", it said.



Xi criticises sanctions on Russia

Beijing: Terming the war in Ukraine as "worrisome", Chinese President Xi Jinping in his virtual summit with his French counterpart and German Chancellor Tuesday criticised the US and EU sanctions against Russia, saying such measures would create a global crisis which is in the "interest of no one". The US, EU and the allied countries have imposed punitive sanctions against Russia covering almost all areas, including de-linking Moscow from the international banking system the SWIFT after the Russian military invaded Ukraine February 24.



Ukraine exodus reaches two million

Lviv: Evacuations of people fleeing embattled Ukrainian cities along safe corridors began Tuesday, while UN officials said the exodus of refugees from Russia's invasion reached 2 million. The Russian onslaught has trapped people inside cities that are running low on food, water and medicine amid the biggest ground war in Europe since World War II. Previous attempts to lead civilians to safety have crumbled with renewed attacks. But Tuesday, video posted by Ukrainian officials showed buses with people moving along a snowy road from the eastern city of Sumy and yellow buses with a red cross on them heading toward the southern port of Mariupol. It was not clear how long the efforts would last. "The Ukrainian city of Sumy was given a green corridor, the first stage of evacuation began," the Ukrainian state communications agency tweeted. While some people fled to other cities in Ukraine, many have chosen to leave the country instead. Safa Msehli, a spokesperson for the UN's International Organisation for Migration, tweeted that 2 million have now left, including at least 100,000 people who are not Ukrainian. With the invasion well into its second week, Russian troops have made significant advances in southern Ukraine but stalled in some other regions.

IRG launches 2nd satellite

Tehran, March 8: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a second reconnaissance satellite into space, state media reported Tuesday, just as world powers awaited Tehran's decision in negotiations over the country's tattered nuclear deal.

State television identified the launch as taking place in its north-eastern Shahrud Desert, without specifying when. However, it came as Iran's top diplomat at the month-long talks suddenly flew home late on Monday for consultations, a sign of the growing pressure on Tehran as the negotiations appear to be nearing their end.

The Guard said the Noor-2 satellite reached a low orbit of 500 kilometers (310 miles) above the Earth's surface on the Ghased satellite carrier, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. It described the Ghased, or "Messenger" in Farsi, as a three-phase, mixed fuel satellite carrier. Hossein Salami, according to IRNA. The Guard did not immediately release photos or video of the launch. However, authorities already had begun receiving signals from the satellite as it circles the Earth every 90 minutes, IRNA quoted Iranian Information and Communications Technology Minister Isa Zarepour as saying.



Oppn submits no-confidence motion against Imran

Islamabad, March 8: Pakistan's Opposition parties Tuesday submitted a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan to remove him from office after holding his government responsible for the uncontrolled inflation, prompting him to dismiss the move and flaunt his closeness to the powerful army.

The motion, signed by about 100 lawmakers from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), was submitted with the National Assembly Secretariat, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said.

"We have taken this decision for the people of Pakistan and not for ourselves," PML-N president and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz



Sharif, who was flanked by former president and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Jamiat Ulema-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, told a press conference.

As per rules, signatures of at least 68 Members of Parliament were required to force the Speaker to summon a session, which should be convened between three to seven days to conduct a vote on a no-confidence motion. In the house of 342, the opposition needed the support of 172 members to remove the Prime Minister and his cabinet.

Khan, 69, is heading a coalition government and he can be removed if some of the partners decide to switch sides, which is not unusual in parliamentary democracies. Reacting to the opposition move, Prime Minister Khan said

of its 73 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

"After this, nothing will happen against this government till 2028 (...) Opposition will face a humiliating defeat," the Prime Minister said.

"My lawmakers are being offered Rs180 million (for supporting no-confidence motion). I told them to take the money and distribute it among the poor," he claimed.

Echoing the ruling party's narrative of international conspiracy behind attempts seeking his removal, Khan said people who do not want an independent foreign policy would support the no-confidence motion. Khan had said he was ready for everything the Opposition throws at him.

business

of the day quote

If we look at the trends in the last two years, in spite of COVID-19 and the lockdowns, the market has been growing 30 per cent year-on-year. The growth has been there due to a basic shift in the customer mentality, with focus on personal mobility

ASHISH GUPTA | VOLKSWAGEN PASSENGER CARS INDIA BRAND DIRECTOR

As the world pivots towards a greener future, the company has continually worked on expanding its growing portfolio of green vehicles. With transformative technology like the S-CNG, more and more customers are actively looking to switch to S-CNG vehicles to fulfill their mobility requirements

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | MSI SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Asia Pacific is home to a rapidly growing number of new and emerging corporates, as well as mid-sized companies, that are aggressively pursuing growth

RAJAT MADHOK | HEAD OF CITI COMMERCIAL BANK FOR ASIA PACIFIC

SHORT TAKES

NMDC ups prices of iron ore lumps, fines

New Delhi: The country's largest iron ore miner NMDC Tuesday hiked the prices of lump ore and fines by ₹400 a tonne each with immediate effect. This is the second upward price revision in two weeks time. Iron ore is one of the key raw materials used to manufacture steel. Any movement in the prices of the mineral has a direct impact on the rate of steel, which is already trading at an all-time high in India. In a regulatory filing, the company said it has fixed the prices of per tonne lump ore at ₹6,000 and that of fines at ₹4,960 a tonne. While lump is high-grade iron ore having Fe (iron) content above 65 per cent, fine is inferior grade ore which needs beneficiation. The revised prices are effective from March 8, 2022 and exclude royalty, District Mineral Fund, National Mineral Exploration Trust, cess, forest permit fee, and other taxes, the company said.

Canara Bank holds mega retail expo

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of International Women's Day Canara Bank Bhubaneswar Circle has arranged mega retail expo in all the Branches of Odisha. Under the guidance and leadership of General Manager BL Meena, Bhubaneswar Circle organised Mega Retail Expo at Circle Office, Bhubaneswar. There was special concession in rate of interest in housing loan for women. In the retail expo, 37 spot sanction letters amounting to ₹12 crore were handed over to the beneficiaries of housing, vehicle, education and mortgage loans under retail loan products by General Manager BL Meena.

OHPC celebrates Int'l Women's Day

Bhubaneswar: International Women's Day was celebrated at the Corporate Office and all units of Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd, Tuesday. Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Rath, Member, OPSC was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Dr. Nibedita Mohanty of Feel Alive Group was the facilitator of the programme on the theme of "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow." Amresh Kumar, Managing Director, Pravakar Mohanty, Director (Finance) and Dr. PK Mohanty, Director (HR) were present during the inaugural session and also spoke on the occasion.



I assure you all that there will be no shortage of crude oil. We will make sure that our energy requirements are met

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

MARUTI SUZUKI DRIVES IN DZIRE S-CNG TRIMS

Maruti Suzuki India Tuesday said it has launched its compact sedan Dzire with S-CNG technology at a starting price of ₹8.14 lakh (ex-showroom). The company has introduced the S-CNG trims priced at ₹8.14 lakh and ₹8.82 lakh. S-CNG vehicles are equipped with intelligent injection system. Vehicles are tuned and calibrated to deliver optimum performance and enhanced drivability across all kinds of terrains.



Ukraine crisis could disrupt India's economic recovery

If the conflict lasts, India, which imports close to 85% of its oil needs, is likely to see its fiscal, trade and account deficits swelled by a surge in crude oil prices to their highest in more than a decade

REUTERS

New Delhi/Mumbai, March 8: India is likely to rank among the emerging economies worst affected by the Russia-Ukraine crisis as a surge in global prices of commodities is set to upend spending plans and derail its pandemic recovery, analysts say. If the conflict lasts, India, which imports close to 85% of its oil needs, is likely to see its fiscal, trade and account deficits swelled by a surge in crude oil prices to their highest in more than a decade, which will also fuel inflation.

"The contagion from currently rising geopolitical tension is unlikely to remain limited to financial assets and warrants a change in our key macro forecasts for FY23," said Abheek Barua, chief economist at HDFC Bank.

February's budget was based on an average oil price of \$75 to \$80 a barrel for the fiscal year starting from April 1, but Brent briefly soared Monday to nearly \$140, its highest in over a decade.

A senior government official said if oil prices averaged \$100 a barrel in the fiscal year to March 2023, that could shave 90 basis points off growth, taking it below 8%, from a forecast range of 8% to 8.5%.



In such a scenario, inflation is seen rising by 100 basis points and the current account deficit could widen by 120 basis points to 2.3% to 2.4% of GDP. DBS Bank says every increase of \$10 a barrel in the price of oil lifts India's consumer price index-based inflation by 20 to 25 basis points, widens the current account gap by 0.3% of GDP, and poses a downside risk of 15 basis points to growth.

The oil price spike is also expected to pressure the government to lower fuel levies and reduce the burden on consumers. That in turn would dent revenues, narrowing the room for capital spending needed to boost growth. Retail fuel prices could rise 10% or more, starting from this week, as results flow in from elections in key states. To avoid voter backlash at the polls, state-run oil companies have not raised prices since Nov 4.

"Given the bunched-up increase in the offing, excise duty cuts might be undertaken, to ease pressure on purchasing power and incomes," said Radhika Rao, an economist with DBS Bank.

But every rupee cut from fuel levies shrinks revenue for the gov-

ernment's coffers by 130 billion rupees (\$1.7 billion) a year. Economists say India could lose as much as 900 billion rupees in trying to lower pump prices. And a recent battering of markets, which forced a re-think of plans for an \$8-billion IPO of state-run Life Insurance Corp by the end of March, is likely to further dent the government's financial position.

RATINGS RISK

On the plus side, the government could turn a profit by selling some of its vast grain stockpiles following a rise in global wheat prices that could boost exports of the grain from India. That could defray expenses on its vast annual purchases of grain at prices above global levels in the effort to support farm incomes. But India's fiscal deficit had widened to a record 9.3% in the year that ended in March 2021, thanks to efforts to cushion the shock of the coronavirus pandemic and revive growth.

That meant the ratio of debt to GDP shot up to more than 90%, for the worst among similarly-rated emerging markets.

Although India's ratings have

Rupee slips to record low of 77 per USD

Mumbai: Sliding for the fifth consecutive day, the rupee depreciated by 7 paise to close at a lifetime low of 77 against the US dollar Tuesday, weighed by surging crude oil prices amid the Russia-Ukraine war. Heavy foreign fund outflows and prevailing risk aversion globally added to the woes, forex traders said. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 77.02 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 76.71 and a low of 77.05. The rupee finally finished at 77.00, down 7 paise over its previous close of 76.93. Analysts said the deepening Russia-Ukraine conflict has sapped risk appetite in the market, pushing investors towards safe-haven assets.

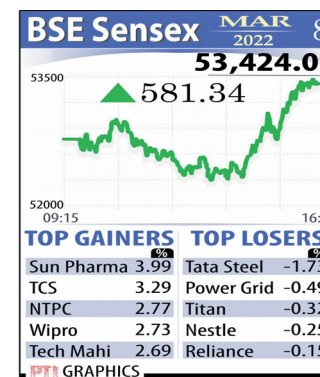


held steady, agencies have warned of long-term challenges and the need to cut the debt-to-GDP ratio to more sustainable levels. Government officials said the fiscal deficit could slip by 20 to 30 basis points from a target of 6.9% of GDP in the current fiscal year ending in March if LIC was not listed by then.

"The ratings agencies were not very happy with the fiscal consolidation path undertaken by us in the budget. Further deterioration could concern them," said a second government official.

Markets rebound after four-day rout

Investors accumulate recently-battered IT, pharma and finance stocks



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 8: Market benchmarks ratcheted higher in a seesaw session Tuesday after four days of steep declines as investors accumulated recently-battered IT, pharma and finance stocks even as the Ukraine crisis remained an overhang.

World equities were mixed as participants tracked Russia's intensifying attack on Ukraine and the cascade of sanctions against Moscow. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note and tumbled 581.93 points or 1.10 per cent to 52,260.82 during the day amid firming oil prices and relentless selling by foreign institutional investors.

Overcoming bouts of volatility, the index gained momentum in the last hour of trade to close 581.34 points or 1.10 per cent higher at 53,424.09.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty lapsed up 150.30 points or 0.95 per cent to 16,013.45.

Sun Pharma topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.99 per cent, followed by TCS, NTPC, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's,

UltraTech Cement and Infosys.

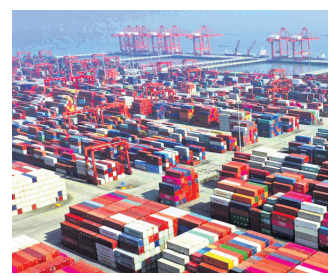
In contrast, Tata Steel, PowerGrid, Titan, Nestle India, Reliance Industries and SBI closed with losses of up to 1.73 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap index gained 1.46 per cent and the smallcap gauge jumped 1.33 per cent.

"Domestic indices reversed its trend and traded with gains led by export-oriented sectors like Pharma and IT which witnessed buying interest as the rupee fell to its record lows. Favourable exit poll results of state election and low-level buying seen in mid and small caps also helped in adding optimism in the domestic market. Major western markets were also trading in the green while other Asian peers continued to trade in negative territory on fear of the impact of global inflationary pressure..." said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo settled lower. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading mostly higher in the afternoon trade.

Alternative pay system for exporters if war prolongs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: India may consider alternative payment mechanisms for exporters if the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues for a long time and key trade sectors such as gems and jewellery face a problem in international cash transfer, government sources said Tuesday.

This consideration came against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war and sanctions being imposed by western countries, including the Group of Seven (G-7) economies, that has imposed punitive sanctions against the Russian central bank. They have also decided to remove Russian banks from the SWIFT inter-banking system — which is intended to isolate Russia from global trade.

"India is closely monitoring its foreign trade situation in the wake of the Ukraine situation and may consider alternative payment mechanisms if the adverse situation continues for a long time and key

trade sectors such as gems and jewellery face a problem in international cash transfer," one of the sources said. Exporters of gems and jewellery have received assurances of support from Russia's Alrosa, which accounts for about 30 per cent of global diamond output, and sells around 10 per cent of its rough-diamond output to India.

Diamonds account for about 50 per cent of India's gems and jewellery exports.

So far, the supply of rough diamonds from Russia has not been interrupted but the industry is concerned about US sanctions on Russia and the country being banned from the SWIFT financial network, sources said adding that bulk of the payments have been done and the gems and jewellery trade in hubs like Surat is doing well. They added that a lot of business has been contracted by the Indian industry before February 24 and as a result, payment-related issues have not come up although banks are being cautious.

Many manufacturers have made payments in euros.

While the trade has continued without any major impact, the government is constantly in touch with importers and exporters and is ready to consider their concerns about adverse outcomes in case the situation develops into a long-term crisis for international trade, they said.

Shell to stop buying Russian oil, natural gas



ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, March 8: Energy giant Shell said Tuesday that it will stop buying Russian oil and natural gas and shut down its service stations, aviation fuels and other operations in the country amid international pressure for companies to sever ties over the invasion of Ukraine.

The company said in a statement that it would withdraw from all Russian hydrocarbons, including crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas and liquefied natural gas, "in a phased manner."

The decision comes as surging oil prices have been rattling global markets and just days after Ukraine's foreign minister criticized Shell for continuing to buy Russian oil, lashing out at the company for continuing to do business with President Vladimir Putin's government. "We are acutely aware that our decision last week to purchase a cargo of Russian crude oil to be refined into products like petrol and diesel — despite being made with security of supplies at the forefront of our thinking — was not the right one and we are sorry," CEO Ben van Beurden said.

PM stresses on green financing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday asked financial institutions to consider innovative financing and risk management systems to support new futuristic ideas to meet the emerging needs of the economy.

Stating that implementation of green financing is the 'need of the hour' to meet net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070, Modi said financial help should be extended to environment-friendly projects.

"Our financing sector will have to consider innovative financing and



sustainable risk management of new futuristic ideas and initiatives," Modi said in a post-Budget webinar on 'Financing for growth and aspirational economy'.

He said the success of the reforms undertaken by the government to strengthen MSMEs is dependent on strengthening financing

Future gets court nod for stake sale in Generali

REUTERS

Mumbai, March 8: An Indian court has cleared the path for Future Enterprises' stake sale in its general insurance joint venture with Italy's Generali, an exchange filing showed Monday.

A Mumbai city court late last month put on hold Future's planned sale of its 25% stake in Future Generali India Insurance Company to Generali for 12.52 billion rupees (\$162.82 million), after a legal challenge from some bondholders of Future companies that had defaulted.

IDBI Trusteeship, the group representing the bondholders, said that they had rights mandating



Future Enterprises not to dilute its Future Generali stake, according to a source.

But after an appeal from

Future Enterprises, the high court on Monday set aside the city court's order, the company said in the filing.

Future, Generali and IDBI Trusteeship did not respond to requests for comment.

Apart from the Generali joint venture, Future Enterprises holds Future Group's investments in textile manufacturing, supply chain and logistics.

The latest order comes as a relief to the Future Group, which is in dire need of funds to pay off a mountain of debt. It has been fighting a legal battle with Amazon.com Inc, which has objected to the sale of its retail assets to rival Reliance Industries.

Rising nickel prices to hit availability of budget EVs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 8: The rising nickel prices, owing to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, have thrown a spanner in Elon Musk and other automakers' dream of introducing affordable electric cars soon.

Nickel prices surged as much as 111 per cent Tuesday during the Asian trade to breach \$100,000 per tonne. Reports said that the rising raw materials costs have hampered Musk and other automakers' plans to introduce more affordable electric vehicles (EVs).

Nickel (Ni) has long been widely used in batteries, most commonly in nickel cadmium (NiCd) and in the

longer-lasting nickel metal hydride (NiMH) rechargeable batteries, which came to the fore in the 1980s.

According to nickelinstitute.org, the mid-1990s saw the first significant use of NiMH batteries in vehicles in the Toyota Prius. The major advantage of using nickel in batteries is that it helps deliver higher energy density and greater storage capacity at a lower cost.

"Li-ion batteries were incorporated into the next generation of electric cars, as their superior power density became critical for moving vehicles over long distances. Although electric vehicles (EVs) currently account for a relatively small proportion of global

automobile stock, their market share is increasing and is forecast to continue to grow rapidly in the coming years," said the institute.

Not just Tesla, several traditional top automakers are investing heavily in EVs.

In its bid to catch up with Tesla, Ford Motor Company just announced to increase its EV investment to \$50 billion till 2026, up from the previous \$30 billion investment announcement by 2025. US-based automaker Jeep, owned by Stellantis, has revealed the first images of its upcoming electric SUV and confirmed that it will launch in 2023.

As electric cars become the flavour of the season, Sony and



Honda last week announced a strategic alliance to form a new company that aims to create the next era of mobility and mobility

services. The sales of the first EV model are expected to start in 2025.

Nearly 6.5 million electric vehicles (EVs) — including fully elec-

tric and plug-in hybrid passenger cars — were sold worldwide in 2021, up 109 per cent from 2020, with Tesla leading the global EV market with 14 per cent share.

The total global car market grew just 4 per cent in 2021 as it continued to struggle with Covid-19 restrictions and chip shortages, while EV sales represented 9 per cent of all passenger car sales last year, according to market research firm Canalis.

The Tesla Model 3 was the best-selling electric car in Europe in 2021, but Volkswagen Group was the leading manufacturer of EVs, with several models from Audi, Skoda and VW selling well.

ASHWIN LAUDS WARNE

Imam hits successive tons in drawn Oz Test



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 8: Still in disbelief by Shane Warne's death, India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin hailed the late Australian legend for redefining bowling and bringing spin as an attacking commodity in world cricket.

Warne, a spin wizard who made the world fall in love with his craft, died of natural causes at the age of 52 in Thailand Friday, leaving the world shell-shocked.

"I see Warne as a flag-bearer for carrying the spin aspect of bowling on the front in the world cricketing map. The top three wicket-takers in the world are spinners in Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble," Ashwin said on his Youtube channel.

"He was an interesting character. So many Australian legends

had so many nice things to say about him. I still can't accept the fact that life is so fickle. We cannot predict what can happen."

Warne, regarded as the greatest spinner of all time, picked up 708 wickets with his leg-spin for Australia in 145 Tests. In his 194 ODI appearances, he snared 293 scalps.

"Shane Warne was a colourful character, he redefined bowling, he has taken more than 1000 international wickets, not many can achieve this rare feat."

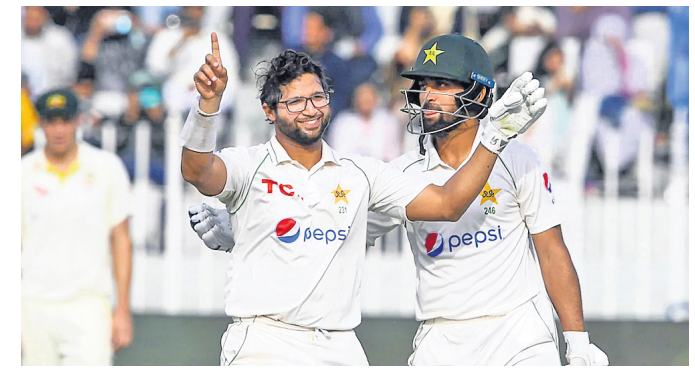
Warne had bowled the 'ball of the century' deceiving Mike Gatting at Old Trafford with a delivery that landed on the leg stump and, as the Englishman tried to defend, turned viciously to clip his off bail.

However, that isn't Ashwin's favourite Warne delivery. "Shane Warne brought spin as an attacking commodity to this cricketing world. Everyone will talk about Warne's delivery to Mike Gatting, but my favourite is Warne's delivery to Andrew Strauss in 2005 Ashes," Ashwin said.

"He almost single-handedly fought for Australia in that series. He was a maestro. He was an extraordinary human being and he lived his life to the fullest," he added.

The seasoned off-spinner, India's second highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, also spoke about how a traumatic childhood accident, breaking both legs helped Warne master one of the most difficult crafts in the game.

SHANE WARNE BROUGHT SPIN AS AN ATTACKING COMMODITY TO THIS CRICKETING WORLD. EVERYONE WILL TALK ABOUT WARNE'S DELIVERY TO MIKE GATTING, BUT MY FAVOURITE IS WARNE'S DELIVERY TO ANDREW STRAUSS IN 2005 ASHES RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN



Imam-ul-Haq is in jolly mood after reaching three-figure mark in second successive innings against Australia in Rawalpindi, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rawalpindi, March 8: Opening batter Imam-ul-Haq hit a century in each innings for Pakistan as Australia could bag only four wickets on a docile pitch in the drawn first Test Tuesday.

Imam followed his 157 in the first innings total of 476/4 declared with an unbeaten 111 in his first test since November 2019. Imam's opening partner, Abdullah Shafique, also prospered to record his maiden test hundred and was unbeaten on 136 when Pakistan finished the fifth and final day on 252/0 in its second innings, leading by 269 runs.

Both teams mutually agreed to end the game with an hour remaining. Shafique hit 15 fours and a six in his 242-ball knock while Imam was more watchful in raising his hundred and faced 223 balls, hitting seven fours and two sixes.

The second opening stand between Imam and Abdullah surpassed Pakistan's previous best against Australia in 1964 when Khalid Ibadulla and Abdul Kadir combined for 249 in Karachi.

Shafique and Imam also became the first Pakistan opening pair to share a century stand in each innings against Australia after combining for 105 runs in the first innings.

It was a tough start for Australia to resume playing test cricket in Pakistan after 24 years on a benign Pindi Cricket Stadium pitch which didn't offer any lateral movement to the visitors' three frontline

pacers or turn to ace spinner Nathan Lyon. Lyon bowled 78 overs and conceded 236 runs for the solitary wicket of Shafique in the first innings.

Australia's innings was wrapped up in the first four overs of the day when it was all out for 459 after resuming on 449-7. Left-arm spinner Nauman Ali took a career-best 6-107 on the grassless pitch to give Pakistan a 17-run, first-innings lead.

The 35-year-old Nauman, playing in his eighth test, picked up two of the last three wickets. The tailenders added only 10 runs off 19 balls as Nauman bettered his previous best figures of 5/35, which he took on debut against South Africa last year.

Shafique and Imam accelerated in the middle session as Australia resorted to Lyon and three part-time spinners without any success. Abdullah raised his century in four hours off 183 balls in the last session when he tucked Cameron Green to fine leg for a single.

Imam took half an hour more to complete back-to-back hundreds by lofting part-time spinner Travis Head over mid-off for two.

The second Test begins in Karachi Saturday. Lahore stages the final test from March 21-25. The Test series will be followed by three ODIs and a one-off T20I in Rawalpindi.

BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan 476/4d & 252 for no loss (Abdullah Shafique 136 n o, Imam-ul-Haq 111 n o); Australia 459. Match drawn.

ASHWIN RECALLS FORMER SELF

Bangalore: Humbled to have crossed the legendary Kapil Dev's tally of 434 Test scalps, premier India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin revealed that he wanted to be a batter and used to bowl medium pace as a child to become the next "Kapil Paaji." Playing in his 85th match, the 35-year-old Ashwin went past the legendary Kapil's 434 Test scalps to become India's second most successful bowler in the longest format Sunday. "Feeling so humbled. 28 years ago, I was cheering for Kapil Paaji along with my da when he went past Richard Hadlee's record," Ashwin said on his Youtube channel. "Even in my wildest dream, I never thought of going past his tally of wickets because I always wanted to be a batsman especially when I started off as an eight-year old. In 1994, batting was my fascination. Sachin Tendulkar was just emerging into the scene and Kapil Dev, himself was a terrific striker of the ball. In fact, I used to bowl medium pace on my dad's advice back then so that I can try to be the next Kapil Paaji." He added: "From then to become an off-spinner and to represent India for so many years... I never thought I will play for India. I am so grateful and so humbled on his achievement," he said.

Sindhu, 4 others sail through

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muelheim An Der Ruhr (Germany), March 8: Top Indian shuttlers, including double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and World Championships silver and bronze winners Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen, progressed to the second round of the German Open, here Tuesday.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal and former top 10 player HS Prannoy also made an impressive start at the USD 180,000 Super 300 badminton tournament.

Seventh seed Sindhu trounced Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan 21-8, 21-7 in a lopsided contest after Srikanth, seeded eighth, saw off France's World No.39 Brice Leverdez 21-10, 13-21, 21-7 in 48 minutes.

It was Sindhu's 15th win over the World No.11 Thai player, while Srikanth too extended his head-to-head count over Leverdez to 4-0 after this victory. Sindhu will meet China's Zhang Yi Man next, while world number 11 Srikanth will take on China's Lu Guang Zu.

Later in the day, Sen dished out a superb performance to oust Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen 21-6, 22-20. Saina, who has been struggling with fitness issues for most part of last year



and early this year, had to dig deep to stave off a challenge from Spain's Clara Azurmendi with a 21-15, 17-21, 21-14 win.

Sen will now square off against fourth seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia, while Saina is likely to take on eighth seed Ratchanok Intanon.

On a comeback trail, Prannoy, who had reached the quarterfinals at World Championships, also made a winning start, beating Ng Ka Long Angus 21-14, 21-19 in 40 minutes. He will face either Indonesia's Shesha Hiren Rhustavitto or Malaysia's Lee Cheuk Yiu.

In other results, Indonesian pair of Adnan Maulana and Mychelle Chrystine Bandaso ended the campaign of India's Dhruv Kapila and

Gayatri Gopichand with a 21-19, 21-19 win, while Haritha Manazhiyil Harinarayanan and Ashna Roy were no match for Italian combination of Martina Corsini and Judith Mair, losing 9-21, 10-21.

The mixed doubles pair of Sai Pratheek K and N Sikki Reddy endured a difficult time against top seeds Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai of Thailand, going down 19-21, 8-21 in their opening match.

Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto played their hearts out before going down 19-21, 22-20, 9-21 to England pairing of Gregory Mairs and Jenny Moore. MR Arjun and Treesa Jolly also lost 9-21, 18-21 to seventh seeded French pair of Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue.

Kane helps Spurs rout Everton

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, March 8: Tottenham stayed in the race for the English Premier League top four after a 5-0 hammering of an Everton side that is in grave relegation danger.

Spurs have been inconsistent in recent weeks but showed their best as, after Michael Keane's own goal put them ahead early on, they ran riot. Harry Kane scored twice and Son Heung-min and Sergio Reguilon also netted.

It was another Kane masterclass, with his second goal a particular highlight, and he took his tally to 14 goals in 15 games against Everton. This was as bad a performance as the Toffees have put in this season and there has been no bounce under Frank Lampard, with a fourth loss in five league games since he took over.

There is little doubt that they are involved in a relegation dogfight as they are just a point above 18th-placed Burnley, though they do have a game in hand.

Spurs equalled their best ever Premier League win at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and will have real relief that they can gate-crash the Champions League qualification



DEADLY DUO: Harry Kane (L) and Son Heung-min celebrate a goal against Everton, Monday

tion places. Antonio Conte's men, although still in seventh, are three points behind Arsenal and firmly

in the race ahead of a crunch visit to Manchester United next week. It was clear from early on that this

Mbappe slightly injured ahead of Real Madrid tie



A PSG player accidentally stomps on Mbappe's (R) foot during practice session

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, March 8: Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe injured his left foot during training two days before the team travels to Real Madrid for a Champions League game.

The club said Mbappe, who scored a stoppage time winner in the first leg of the round of 16 against Real, was hurt during Monday's training session but that initial medical

exams were reassuring.

PSG said Mbappe received treatment and that his fitness will be reassessed Tuesday. The match against Madrid is Wednesday. Mbappe has been linked with a move to Real Madrid when his contract expires this year.

Mbappe has been in stellar form this season, with 24 goals and 17 assists in all competitions as PSG has become increasingly reliant on its star.

India men's Pro League games postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 8: The Pro League double-header between the Indian men's hockey team and Germany later this week has been postponed following an outbreak of COVID-19 in the visitors' camp, the sport's governing body FIH said Tuesday.

The matches were scheduled March 12 and 13 here but "have been postponed due to a high number of COVID cases affecting the German team." "FIH, Hockey India and Hockey Germany are already working together to find alternative dates," the International Hockey federation (FIH) said in a statement.

The Indian men's team have had a topsy-turvy campaign so far in the FIH Pro League as it defeated South Africa in both the matches, but had a win and a loss in the ties against France and Spain.

While the men's matches were deferred, the international governing body said that the women's



Germany women's hockey team players walk out of the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

matches between India and Germany will go on as planned this weekend at the Kalinga Stadium.

The Germany women's team arrived here Tuesday and skipper Lisa Nolte expressed delight at the prospect of playing India at the Kalinga Stadium.

"We have never played at the Kalinga Stadium before, so we are very excited about it. It will be amazing to play at such a big stadium, and we are looking forward to it," Lisa said.

"We definitely see India as a strong team, especially they per-

4 boxers enter Asian meet final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8: Mahi Siwach, Palak Zambre and two more Indian junior girls registered sensational victories to enter the finals of the ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan Tuesday. Vini (50kg) and Yakshika (52kg) were the other two pugilists to make their way into the finals on the seventh day of the competition.

Mahi (46kg) unsettled Jordan's Sadeen Alramhi before the referee stopped the contest in the third round. Palak (48kg) outpunched Kazakhstan's Gaukhar Zarden by unanimous margin without breaking a sweat. Vini (50kg) defeated Iraq's Dalya Al-Sammarraya by RSC verdict. Yakshika blanked Kazakhstan's Shakhnaz Tairzhanova 5-0.

The Indian contingent has secured 21 medals in the junior section at the prestigious continental event where both the age groups of men and women - youth and junior - are being played together.