

Punjab AAP stalls saffron surge

The Aam Aadmi Party is well on its way to gain national status and requires to win in 2 more states. It also established a foothold in Goa with 2 seats

BJP SWEEPS BACK TO POWER IN UP

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, March 10: Rising from the ashes like the phoenix, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), in a maiden emphatic win Thursday, crushed the traditional players that ruled the border state of Punjab for over seven decades with a stunning victory largely by its greenhorns on 92 of the 117 seats of the Legislative Assembly. Bhagwant Mann, the party's pick for the top post, is all set to become the next Chief Minister.

The ruling Congress managed to win only 18 seats this time with most of its stalwarts like Chief Minister Charanjit Channi and state party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu suffering defeats. Interestingly the BJP and its previous alliance partner the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) failed in securing even a double-digit tally. The BJP secured only two seats, while SAD won four.

Mann in his first public address after his victory said: "Bade (elderly) Badal Sahib has lost, Sukhbir (Badal) has lost from Jalalabad, Capt (Amarinder Singh) has lost from Patiala, Sidhu and Majithia are also losing, Channi has lost on both the seats. It just shows how the people of Punjab want a change." Mann easily won from Dhuri. His vote margin from his closest competition, Congress's Dalvir Singh Goldy, was 58,206.

Buoyed by a massive victory,



Punjab Chief Minister designate AAP's Bhagwant Mann with his wife and mother waves to party supporters at Sangrur

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, who aggressively campaigned in Punjab, promised to make India a developed and progressive country. He said that he will ensure that Indian students do not have to go to countries like Ukraine to study medicine.

The BJP however, had the last laugh winning in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur. In Goa it will form the government with the support of the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP). The latter has won two seats and it will help BJP go past

the magic figure of 21 in the 40-strong Goa Assembly.

Even though, BJP won lesser seats (49) this time around in comparison to the 57 it won in 2017, it was enough for the saffron party to retain Uttarakhand. The Congress was a distant second with 18 seats.

Lucknow: The BJP swept back to power in Uttar Pradesh even though it failed to equal its tally of 2017.

The saffron party with its allies was winning or leading in 274 seats out of 403, becoming the first party in over three decades to form a government for a second consecutive time in UP. In the 2017 elections, the BJP alone had won 312 seats.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) led by Akhilesh Yadav and its allies lost after a spirited bid to dislodge the BJP, winning or leading in 124 seats, while national parties like the Congress (two seats) and the BSP (one seat) were reduced to insignificance in the race.

As counting of votes continued late into the night, CM Yogi Adityanath defeated Subhawati Shukla of the SP in the Gorakhpur Urban constituency by 1,03,990 votes. However, his deputy Keshav Prasad Mawrya lost in Sirathu by 7,337 votes to SP's Pallavi Patel.

The BJP was winning or leading in 256 seats, Apna Dal (Soneylal) and the NISHAD party, the two allies of the BJP, were winning or leading in 12 seats and six seats respectively, according to the (EC) website.

Addressing BJP workers at the party's state headquarters here as the poll results and trends showed a clear BJP majority, Yogi said the "misleading" campaign run by the Opposition over the past 2-3 days have been set aside by the people who reposed faith in the good gov-



BJP workers apply gulal on Yogi Adityanath as part of victory celebrations

ernance of the BJP'. "The false propaganda regarding EVMs and election material over the last few days have been rejected," Yogi said.

In the process, Yogi earned a new sobriquet, 'Bulldozer Baba'. A meme in Hindi started doing the rounds on social media after it became clear that Yogi was returning to power for the second time. It said, "A massive road accident in Uttar Pradesh as a bulldozer decimates an oncoming speeding bicycle," the meme read.

Yogi, who is generally referred to as 'Maharaji', earned this new sobriquet of 'bulldozer baba' during

the current elections due to his frequent reference of 'the heavy machine which his dispensation deployed to raze the ill-gotten property of criminals and mafias in Uttar Pradesh.'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah lauded the people of Uttar Pradesh for bringing back the BJP to power again. "The grand victory of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh is a victory of unshakable faith of the people in the welfare programmes of PM @narendramodi. People have put their stamp on @myogiadityanath ji's fear and corruption free good governance. Heartfelt gratitude to the people of UP," Shah tweeted.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If all we get to see is comedy by elected politicians, why not elect a professional comedian itself?

STATE	BJP	SP	INC	BSP	OTH
UTTAR PRADESH	274 (-48)	124 (+72)	2 (-5)	1 (-18)	2 (-1)
TOTAL SEATS 403					
PUNJAB	92 (+72)	18 (-59)	4 (-11)	2 (-1)	1 (-1)
TOTAL SEATS 117					
UTTARAKHAND	48 (-9)	18 (+7)	2 (+2)	2 (0)	2 (0)
TOTAL SEATS 70					
MANIPUR	32 (+11)	5 (+1)	5 (-23)	6 (+6)	12 (+5)
TOTAL SEATS 60					
GOA	20 (+7)	11 (-8)	2 (-2)	2 (+2)	5 (-1)
TOTAL SEATS 40					

* Bracket figure denotes number of seats gained or lost in comparison to the last Assembly elections. FIGURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

QUOTABLE QUOTES



The (four) state results strongly vindicate BJP's pro-poor and proactive governance. Earlier, people could not reach governments for basic amenities such as electricity, gas and water. Now we are delivering the poor their rights

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER



People have buried the politics of caste and religion by ensuring the victory of BJP and its allies in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM



Many congratulations to the people of Punjab for this revolution. People have said through this mandate that Kejriwal is not a terrorist

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM



Those who did not vote for the AAP need not worry as the government will work for all sections of the society. The thrust areas would be improving the condition of schools and health infrastructure

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM DESIGNATE

BJP BAGS LAKHIMPUR KHERI, UNNAO SEATS

Lucknow: Many had thought that Lakhimpur Kheri would sound the death knell for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh. The district was in the news over the killing of four farmers and a journalist during Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni's rally in October last year. However, all the eight Assembly constituencies in the district namely - Paliya, Nighasan, Gola Nighasan, Gola Gorakhnath, Sri Nagar, Dhorhara, Lakhimpur, Kasta and Mohammadi - have been bagged by the BJP, a result which surprised political analysts. It was also expected that BJP will face tough challenge due to the incident of gangrape of a 17-year-old in Unnao when the Congress fielded the mother of victim Asha Singh. In the end, however, she managed to get only 438 votes in the constituency which BJP's Pankaj Gupta won by a handsome margin of over 80,000 votes over his nearest Samajwadi Party rival.

'SAD' day for Badals as they lose with their kin

Chandigarh: All the Badals, led by five-time Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal, the eldest candidate at 94 in fray for the 117-member Punjab Assembly, as well as their kin, Thursday lost to AAP's greenhorns. Prakash lost to AAP's Gurmeet Khuddian from the Lambi constituency by 11,357 votes. His son and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief and MP Sukhbir Badal was humiliated by a margin close to 30,000 votes from Jalalabad by AAP's Jagdeep Kambo. Prakash's son-in-law Partap Singh Kairon was defeated by AAP's Laljit Singh Bhullar. Sukhbir's brother-in-law Bikram Majithia and estranged cousin Manpreet Badal who was in the fray on a Congress ticket, also lost the polls from their respective seats. Bikram (25,112 votes) was beaten by AAP's novice Jeevan Jyot Kaur (39,520 votes). "With total humility we accept the mandate given by Punjabis. I am grateful to lakhs of Punjabis who placed their trust in us and to SAD-BSP workers for their selfless toil. We will continue to serve them with humility in the role they have assigned to us," Sukhbir tweeted after the results were announced.

RUSSIAN AIRSTRIKE ON HOSPITAL KILLS 3

The WHO has said that since the invasion began, 10 people have been killed in attack on health facilities

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mariupol, March 10: An airstrike on a hospital in this port city killed three people, including a child, the city council said Thursday, as Russian forces intensified their siege of Ukrainian cities. The attack in the southern port city wounded women waiting to give birth and doctors and buried children in the rubble. City officials said that at least 17 others were wounded and the condition of some of them are 'very critical'.

Bombs also fell on two hospitals in another city west of Kyiv. The World Health Organisation (WHO) said it has confirmed 18 attacks on medical facilities since the Russian invasion began two weeks ago. Artillery fire was also heard on the western edge

of Kyiv, the country's Deputy Interior Minister Vadym Denysenko informed. The ground shook more than a mile away when the series of blasts hit the hospital here. Explosions blew out windows and ripped away much of the front of one building. Police and soldiers rushed to the scene to evacuate victims, carrying a bleeding woman with a swollen belly on a stretcher past burning and mangled cars. Another woman wailed as she clutched her child. In the courtyard, a blast crater extended at least two stories deep.

In Zhytomyr, a city of 2,60,000 to the west of Kyiv, bombs fell on two hospitals, one of them a children's health facility, Mayor Serhii Sukhomlyn said on Facebook. He said luckily there were no injuries.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the strike in Mariupol trapped children and others under debris. "A children's hospital. A maternity hospital," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address, switching to Russian to express



Emergency workers carry an injured pregnant woman to safety after the airstrike on a hospital in Mariupol

horror at the strike. "What kind of country is this, the Russian Federation, which is afraid of hospitals, afraid of maternity hospitals, and destroys them?"

The WHO said it had confirmed 10 people died and 16 were injured in attacks on health facilities and ambulances since the fighting began.

CEASEFIRE TALKS PROVE FUTILE

Aantaly: Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Thursday that talks between the top diplomats of Moscow and Kyiv produced no breakthrough on ending the war. He met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov here to discuss humanitarian corridors and a ceasefire. He also informed that he agreed with Lavrov to continue to seek a solution to humanitarian issues caused by the war. Kuleba said Moscow is not ready to offer a ceasefire. "They seek Ukraine's surrender. This is not going to happen," asserted Kuleba. He also informed that the Ukrainians will never compromise with their freedom. "I want the talks to continue as I don't want the people of my country to lose hope," Kuleba stated. **P10**

Brown sugar worth ₹1.32 crore seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch has seized 1.32 kg of brown sugar worth over ₹1.32 crore from Khurda district and arrested three persons in this connection, police said Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the STF conducted a raid at the house of one of the drug peddler's house at Rajabazar under Jatni police station and seized the contraband along with ₹1.65 lakh in cash and one motorcycle.

Two of the accused SK Samir and Syed Intiyaz are residents of Rajabazar area while the third Ratiranjana Routray belongs to Delanga of Puri district. Another accused Sk Irfan managed to give a slip to the cops taking advantage of darkness.



During interrogation, Routray confessed that he had come with the cash to buy the contraband item from absconding accused Irfan.

Police registered a case (7/22) under relevant sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The trio was produced before a court which sent them to judicial custody.

Since 2020, the STF sleuths have succeeded in seizing more than 50 kg of brown sugar and 90 quintals of ganja. A total of 128 drug peddlers have been arrested by the STF during its special drive against narcotic drugs since then.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you may get to share your ideas and opinions with like-minded people. Ganesh says you may finally have a heart-to-heart chat with your beloved, and express your deep commitment. You may even talk of your long cherished dreams.

TAURUS

Money matters are likely to take up most of your time, this day. Ganesh sees that you will have quite a time handling the difficulties and complexities they pose. You may not find an easy way out of your financial problems and will find it hard to take firm decisions. Your experience and expertise plus your great way of dealing with people will eventually enable you to make correct and profitable investments.

GEMINI

You will witness a marked improvement in your emotional quotient, says Ganesh. This change may either come through watching a film, listening to a song or just a simple insight. At the workplace, people will be lavishing praise on you for your excellent performance.

CANCER

You know how to make money, and you are even better in putting it to good use. Today, you will have your one eye on the developments in the stock market, and the other on brochures of tourism companies. Yes, you may plan to spend some money on leisure, entertainment and getting closer to your family. What better investment than the one made on strengthening the family bond.

LEO

It may be that the best daffodils bloom early in the morning, but good ideas can come any time of the day, says Ganesh. So spruce up your management skills, as you shall need them to help organise and cash in on the multitude of ideas that will bombard you today. Remember, says Ganesh, a good idea can change your life, just the way a good poem can help you win a wife! So, if it is some love that you are fishing for, then express yourself without inhibitions today.

VIRGO

Motivation will remain high today, says Ganesh. Your talents and skills make you stand out as a superb artist. Words will glow if you let your creativity flow, and should you decide to dance or sing, you'll set the stage on fire today. Cultivate hobbies in performing arts and literature, advises Ganesh.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that any pending legal issues will be sorted out today either in court or through an out of court settlement. Your workload will get eased today and you will be able to find your way out from certain problematic situations. Ganesh showers you with his blessings.

SCORPIO

There is a big black hole in your pocket, and it's high time you looked for remedies there. Loved ones will make use of your money as suntan cream - liberally and carelessly. You are most likely to burn the holes larger by spending lavishly, especially to impress a member of the opposite sex. Ganesh advises you to keep in mind that time is money and time never returns.

SAGITTARIUS

Take it as a piece of advice: tough times don't last; tough people do. The day has a lot of ups and downs in store for you. However, you are the sailor of stormy seas and would sail through all the troubles easily. Take the advice given by your near and dear ones, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

Work will suck you dry of your energy today, says Ganesh. Business rivals will go out of their way to mar your reputation and project you as incompetent. But to their dismay, you will prove to be way too smart to let them succeed in their sinister motives. In fact, you will hit where it hurts most and show your foes that you have all it takes to be a winner. Your superiority will reign over theirs.

AQUARIUS

You get a pat on the back due to your brilliant academic standing. People will admire your business acumen and may imitate your choices. But this doesn't mean you become haughty and unapproachable. Carry on the good work with a humble attitude, says Ganesh.

PISCES

Anticipation is all the fun. Sadly, this only alludes to your months-in-preparation travel plans that are most likely to be delayed today on one count or the other. Though, if this finally occurs, will bring you as much pleasure and satisfaction that you expected out of it, if not more, says Ganesh.



DRAKE AND JOSH STAR JOSH PECK JOINS NOLAN'S OPPENHEIMER

American actor Josh Peck has joined the cast of Christopher Nolan's WW II epic *Oppenheimer*. He will play Kenneth Bainbridge, a real scientist who was involved in the Manhattan Project, the code name for America's effort to develop nuclear weapons during the war.

SEBASTIAN: LEARNING DRUMS FOR TOMMY LEE ROLE WAS TERRIFYING

Pam and Tommy star Sebastian Stan says that the most challenging part of playing rocker Tommy Lee was learning how to play the drums from scratch. "I don't play the drums or any other musical instruments. So just kind of going at it and learning from scratch was pretty terrifying," adds Sebastian.



Being vulnerable doesn't make a man weak: Saba

MUMBAI: Pakistani actress Saba Qamar who also has a fan following for her Hindi film *Hindi Medium*, says being vulnerable does not make a man weak or unworthy of equal respect.

Saba is appearing in the upcoming web series *Mrs and Mr Shammen*, a Zindagi original, directed by Kashif Nisar, and written by Sajjad Gul.

The actress said: "One of the reasons I found this story very unique is, the representation of the male character in the story. In our patriarchal society, we have been practicing toxic masculinity to the extent that we insult, humiliate men who are vulnerable, effeminate, or even soft-spoken. When we grow up, girls also tend to fall in love with men who are rough-tough and well-built. But there we celebrate toxicity. It is time to address the issue, give respect to men of every nature, and never make those men feel inferior who are vulnerable and effeminate."

While the actress believes that the show will start a conversation on gender equality from a different perspective, she also mentioned, "Being responsible as a man has nothing to do with your muscles. In entertainment space also, all this while we have written characters of effeminate men as comic relief. That is pathetic...really. If cinema and web series have the power to change minds and thoughts in the real sense, it is time we should stop making fun of people of any gender!" *Mrs and Mr Shammen* releases on Zee5 March 11.



Navya never considered acting as a career

MUMBAI: Contrary to speculations, Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda does not want to make a career in acting. The young diva wants to join her father in their family business.

In a recent interview with a news portal, Navya revealed that she enjoys dancing and things like that but it was never something she would do as a career. According to her, she was always more inclined towards business.

Elaborating further, Navya also added that she is the fourth generation of the Nandas to take over that.

The young diva stated that she really wanted to carry that legacy forward, support her

father and everything that he is doing. She also revealed that being a woman in the family and taking that forward was a matter of pride for her.

Navya shares a close bond with other star kids on the block like Ananya Panday, Suhana Khan, Shanaya Kapoor and others. While Ananya is already making her presence felt in the industry, Shanaya is all set to make her debut with *Bedhadak*. Suhana, on the other hand, is reportedly gearing up for her big debut.



STATE LEVEL THEATRE FESTIVAL RANGA SANGAM- DAY 2

Sambalpuri play *Dur Akashe* highlights life's myriad hues

BHUBANESWAR: Mirror Theatre from Belpahar of Jharsuguda district Thursday staged Sambalpuri play *Dur Akashe* here at Rabindra Mandap on the second evening of *Ranga Sangam*, a five-day state level drama festival organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) in collaboration Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, Govt. of Odisha.

Written and directed by Subas Chandra Pradhan, the one hour and 30 minutes production highlighted a man's journey from birth to death through layers of joy, sorrow, pain and regret. The director tried to establish that despite life's roller coaster ride, certain things remain constant and they are mother's affection, and father's ideology and guidance. They don't mislead people. Moreover, the path shown by the parents opens new horizons for their children.

The artistes who performed on stage included Saraswati Pradhan,



A scene from the play

Bhabesh Pradhan, Anand Mahakur, Soubhagya Ranjan Sahoo, Sushant Maharana and Sonia Behera while Gauri Shankar Kumbhar scored the music.

Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS) president Haren Sahoo and OSNA secretary Prabodh Rath attended the pre-show meet held ahead of the show. ONS public relation officer and actor Prakash Maharana coordinated the meeting.

Nothing teaches you like work: Ananya

MUMBAI: As an actress, Ananya Panday's launch vehicle was *Student of the Year 2*, a glossy campus romance. Her subsequent films have gradually distanced her from that space.

Talking about starting off her film career right after school, Ananya admits that it temporarily distanced her from her friend circle. The actress, who was recently seen hanging out with childhood besties Suhana Khan and Shanaya Kapoor, says, "All my friends were still in school and some in college while I was going to work. I value the experience of working; nothing teaches you like work. There's no text book in the world that can educate you like your workplace can. I've also had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with some amazing technicians who give you such insights into the work you're doing."

The Gehraiyaan actress adds, "In these three-four years, I have seen a fair share of success and failure, both personally and professionally. These things force you to grow up sooner than you'd like. And I am not complaining about that. I always did have this side to myself and I am just growing into my true self every single day." AGENCIES



PEANUTS



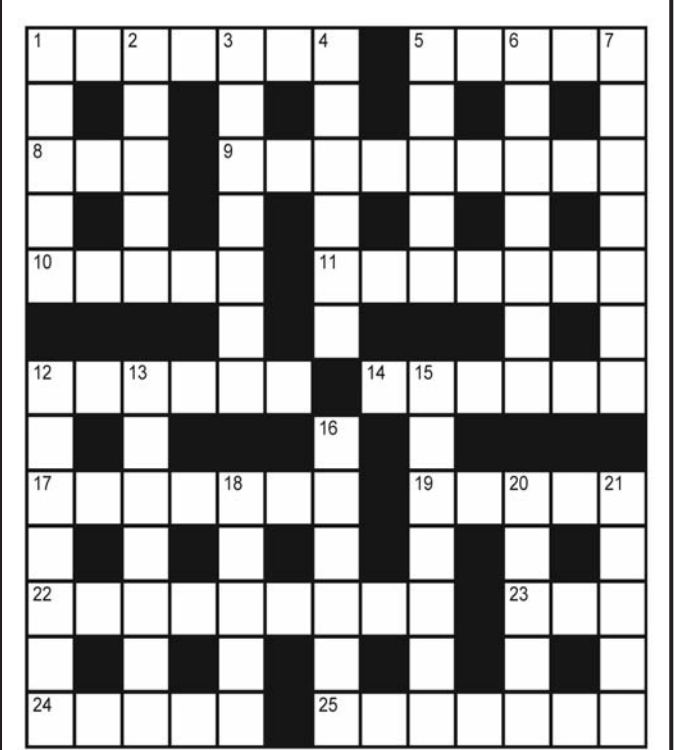
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



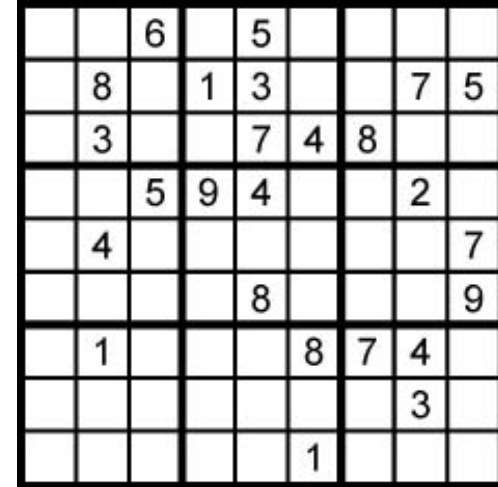
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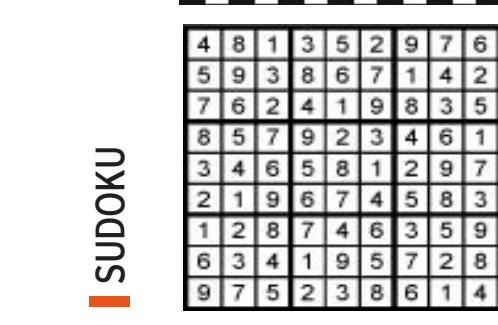
- Across
- 1 Queues (5,2)
 - 5 Latin dance
 - 8 Kind of truck
 - 9 Bowled over
 - 10 Red fluorescent dye
 - 11 Merit
 - 12 Gun shot
 - 14 Tilts
 - 17 More suspect
 - 19 American buffalo
 - 22 Kind of park
 - 23 Auction unit
 - 24 Requires bracelets
 - 25 Make like an owl
- Down
- 1 Unit of petrol
 - 2 Salamanders
 - 3 Wrench
 - 4 Beggars
 - 5 Positions
 - 6 Jealousy parts
 - 7 Some
 - 12 Desist
 - 13 Grazing land
 - 15 Satellite
 - 16 Salad starters
 - 18 Notions
 - 20 Figure out
 - 21 Tally mark

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

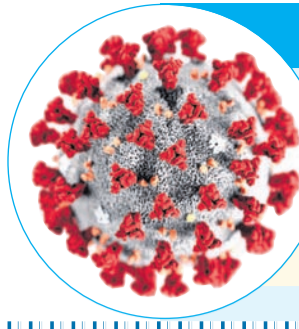


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ETERNAL BONDING

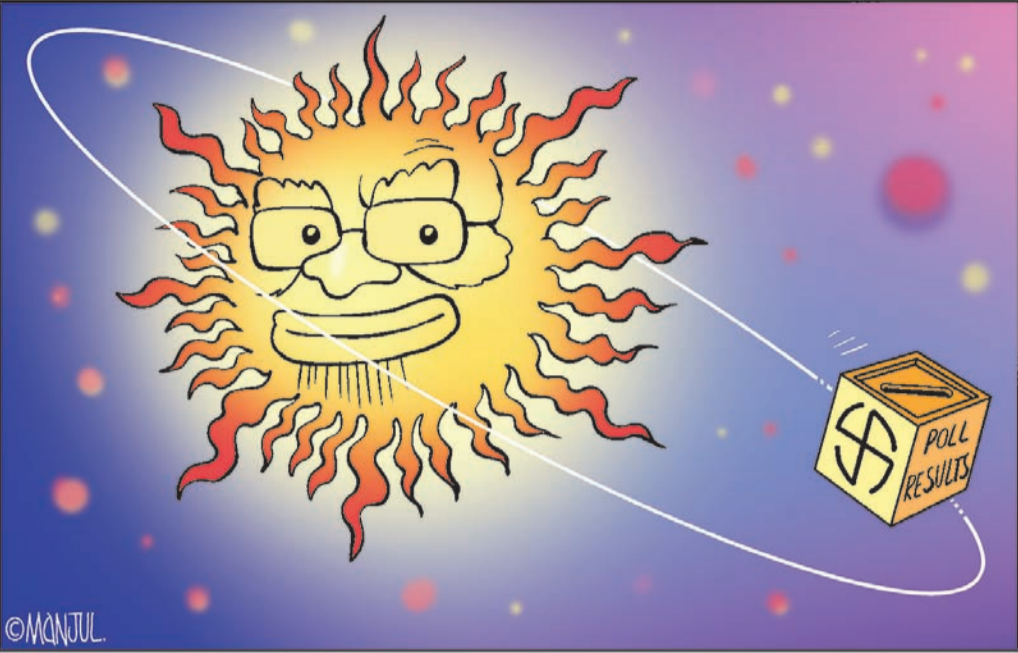
Artistes dressed as Radha-Krishna participate in a religious procession organised by the Marwari Samaj in Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	45,23,98,805	38,67,80,712	60,46,277
India	4,29,80,067	4,24,20,120	5,15,459
Odisha	12,86,353	12,76,285	9,103

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



28 kidnapping cases filed in City in Feb

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: As many as 28 kidnapping cases were registered at different police stations of the capital city here in February this year.

This was revealed by the Commissionerate Police in its monthly data regarding the registration of abduction cases in the city.

As many as 27 kidnapping cases were registered at different police stations in the city in January this year

As per the data, Mancheswar police recorded four kidnapping cases while three each were registered at Saheed Nagar, Khandagiri and Dhauli police stations.

Similarly, two cases each were registered at Capital, Bharatpur, Jatni and Chandrasekharpur police stations. On the other hand, the city police managed to close 45 kidnapping cases following the rescue of the victims.

Nayapalli police have closed the highest seven cases of kidnapping during the above period while Saheed Nagar and Khandagiri police managed to solve four abduction cases each, said the data.

Nandankanan zoo reopens to visitors

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: The Nandankanan Zoological Park has been reopened to visitors Thursday as the two elephants that had strayed into the Zoological Park early Wednesday morning have moved outside the zoo premises, said a zoo official.

The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here was temporarily closed for visitors after two wild jumbos entered the zoo premises officials said Wednesday.

"At 3 am Wednesday, two wild elephants entered the zoo area by breaking the outer boundary wall," informed Sanjeet Kumar, Deputy Director of NZP. "Our staff tried to drive the elephants back to the Chandaka sanctuary. However, the elephants did not budge and remained in a small forest area near the tigers' line," Kumar added.

We provide all genres of silver ornaments under one roof: Lipsa

She was born into a well-known family in Bhubaneswar. After completing her higher education, she worked in many renowned firms. However, a desire to do something new drove her to launch **Chandi Bhandar**. In an interview to **Orissa POST**, Director of Chandi Bhandar, **Lipsa Hans**, speaks about her journey and future plans of the company. Excerpts:



How has been the journey of Chandi Bhandar?

We have been marching ahead since the opening of Chandi Bhandar in 2013. We will try our best to continue our forward journey. We think we have realised the aspirations that had driven us to set up Chandi Bhandar. We are getting good response from the customers.

What is your USP and why customers are drawn to Chandi Bhandar?

Indian women, especially those from Odisha, always have a preference to wear some silver jewellery. People also need silverwares for auspicious occasions. This had prompted us to open Chandi Bhandar. We are providing all varieties of silver ornaments and silverwares under one roof. We are catering for the requirements of all segments of customers with a wide range of products.

What facilities do you provide to customers?

We don't say Chandi Bhandar is altogether different from other outlets. However, we always give priority to quality, proper arrangement, good public relations and transparency in business. We invariably provide receipts for any purchase from our stores. Usually, stores dealing in silver jewellery do not provide receipts to customers. We also provide exchange facilities and other offers to customers.

Your future plans?

We were quite apprehensive about the success of Chandi Bhandar. However, it has won the confidence of customers through transparency and quality products. In addition to our stores in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, we are planning to open outlets in other cities of Odisha. We have gained experience from our 10 years' journey and we will capitalise on this to move ahead in our business. We are witnessing growth with each passing year.

How do you divide your time between family and business?

As a woman, I have a few responsibilities towards

my family. Similarly, I am entrusted with certain tasks as the head of a business entity. I have been successfully managing the two due to active cooperation from my family members and our staff who are not less than my own siblings.

Your advice to aspiring businessmen?

Business has become a fashion for some people. But, customers always occupy the centre stage for a true businessman. There is no alternative to quality and transparency for the success of a business.



Indirect poll to PRI posts begins today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: The State Election Commission (SEC) has made all arrangements for indirect election to various posts in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

As per the schedule, the election for the post of Naib Sarpanch in Gram Panchayats will be held March 11 while the same for block chairman will be conducted March 12. The indirect poll for the posts of Zilla Parishad (ZP) presidents will be held March 13, said SEC secretary RN Sahu here Thursday.

The Naib Sarpanch election will be held in the Panchayats where election for Sarpanch and more than half of the ward members have been completed, he added.

If a male candidate has been elected as the Sarpanch of a panchayat, a female ward member will be allowed to contest for the post of Naib Sarpanch. However, if a female candidate has been elected as the Sarpanch, a male or female ward member can fight for the post of Naib Sarpanch, informed Sahu.

The interested ward members can submit their nominations between 10am and 11am while scrutiny of nominations will be

THE ELECTION FOR THE POST OF NAIB SARPANCH IN GRAM PANCHAYATS WILL BE HELD MARCH 11 WHILE THE SAME FOR BLOCK CHAIRMAN WILL BE CONDUCTED MARCH 12

THE INDIRECT POLL FOR THE POSTS OF ZILLA PARISHAD (ZP) PRESIDENTS WILL BE HELD MARCH 13

THE NAIB SARPANCH ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN THE PANCHAYATS WHERE ELECTION FOR SARPANCH AND MORE THAN HALF OF THE WARD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

done from 11am to 11.30am. Candidates can withdraw their nominations by 12 noon and voting, if required, will be held between 12 noon to 1pm. Counting and declaration of results will be done soon after that, Sahu added.

Any interested elected Zilla Parishad member can submit his/her nomination paper for the post of the president in between 10.30am to 11.30am on the election day. The nominations will be scrutinised in the next one hour while the candidates can withdraw their nominations by 1 pm. If required, voting will be held from 1.30 pm to 4 pm and then the result will be declared.

The state government has recently amended the Odisha Zilla Parishad (ZP) Election Rules, 1994 by adding another clause. The new clause provides for appointment of agents by every political party and the election officer will allow the authorised agents to verify the vote cast by the elected Zilla Parishad members of their respective parties as is being done during Rajya Sabha elections.

As per the new norms, during the indirect election to Zilla Parishad president posts, all the members will have to show their votes to the political agent appointed by their own party before dropping it in the ballot box.

Urban polls: SEC seeks strict enforcement of Model Code of Conduct

DISTRICT COLLECTORS, SPs ASKED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST VIOLATORS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: As the campaigning for urban poll has gathered momentum, the State Election Commission (SEC) has asked District Collectors and SPs to ensure strict enforcement of Model Code of Conduct in their respective districts and strong action against the violators.



The Model Code of Conduct issued by the Commission will remain in force only in the jurisdictions of the poll-bound 109 urban local bodies till March 26

The commission has directed the Collectors and SPs to give special emphasis to proper enforcement of the poll norms at ground level

State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi Thursday held a meeting with all Collectors and SPs to review the preparedness made for the urban election to be held March 24. DGP Sunil Bansal, additional DG (law and order) RK Sharma and senior officers of SEC attended the meeting. The Model Code of Conduct is-

sued by the Commission will remain in force only in the jurisdictions of the poll-bound 109 urban local bodies till March 26. So, the commission has directed the Collectors and SPs to give special emphasis to proper enforcement of the poll norms at ground level.

This time there will be a direct election for the post of mayor and chairperson. Two EVMs will be used in each booth- one to elect mayor/chairperson and another for corporators or councillors. For the first time, there will be a none-of-the-above (NOTA) option for voters in the EVMs.

The commission officials also informed the Collectors that there will be ballot papers of two different colours to be used in the EVMs. The colour of ballot papers for the corporators/councillors will be 'pink' and the mayor/chairperson will be 'yellow'. The papers will be passed on to the control unit of EVM.

ADG RK Shamra has said that 24x7 security and CCTV cameras will be installed at the strong rooms. Full proof security arrangements will be made for the counting day, he said.

The election for 47 municipalities, 59 Notified Area Councils (NACs) and three municipal corporations of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur, will be held March 24 and results will be declared March 26. Over 41 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes in the urban poll.

SHIELD AGAINST SUN



Girls carry umbrellas to save themselves from the scorching sun in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. The Capital city has witnessed a steep rise in daytime temperature recently

Centre allocates ₹2,249cr to state under JJM, SBM

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 10: The Union government has allocated Rs 2249 crore to Odisha under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission for the year 2022-23, the Union ministry of Jal Shakti said. The Centre allocated Rs 2036 crore under the Jal Jeevan mission while Rs 213.71 crore was allocated under the Swachh Bharat Mission to Odisha.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has chaired a Regional Conference of six states, including Odisha at Kolkata to review the progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen by the participating states.

It has been stated that there are 88.33 lakh rural households in Odisha. Around 44 per cent (38.62 lakh) rural households have tap water connections. The minister said at the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, hardly 4 per cent



rural households in Odisha were having tap water connections. Since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	ARIATION
SENSEX	55464.39	↑ 817.06
NIFTY	16594.90	↑ 249.50
DOLLAR	77.1950	↓ ₹0.27
EURO	83.9870	↓ ₹0.35
GOLD	₹53,380	↑ ₹635
SILVER	₹70,669	↑ ₹1094

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.6°C	35.2°C
MIN	21.2°C	21.0°C
Humidity	55%	44%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Clear sky mainly	

OJS prelims March 27

CUTTACK: The preliminary examination for Odisha Judicial Service-2021 is scheduled to be held March 27. Altogether 3,202 candidates will appear for the examination at 10 centres under five zones across the state. The OPSC would start issuing admit cards to the candidates March 21.

The Union Jal Shakti Minister said when Jal Jeevan Mission was launched by the Prime Minister August 15, 2019, only 17 per cent rural households had access to tap water connection. "Despite disruptions and lockdown over last two and half years, we have managed to provide more than 5.91 crore tap water connections and 47.39 percent of households in villages are benefiting from clean drinking water," the minister said.

To stand for the Truth in all circumstances, to declare it if necessary in the teeth of the worst opposition and to be ready to do all you can for its sake, is the definition of heroism.

THE MOTHER



Close Tax Havens

Russia's war in Ukraine may not be going as it had planned, but the worst is still to come. And while Western financial sanctions against Russian institutions and oligarchs have exceeded what some were expecting, they have not targeted the Western-based roots of Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime.

As in many other kleptocratic regimes, Putin's power is based on a deal between an autocrat and oligarchs. The autocrat rules the country however he wants and enriches his allies, who make huge fortunes from the country's natural resources or through regime-sanctioned monopolies.

But there is a catch: As the oligarchs' coffers grow, they become more concerned about the autocrat's power to seize their assets or harm their families. They are left with two options. The first is to develop formal and de facto institutions to constrain the autocrat, perhaps even paving the way for much-needed structural reform. The second option is to move their assets and their families abroad, so that they can avoid the fate of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the leading Russian oligarch whom Putin expropriated and imprisoned in the early 2000s.

Many Russian oligarchs have availed themselves of the second option, which requires two essential forms of Western assistance. First, the Western banking system needs to provide easy opportunities for them to launder their wealth. London, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Jersey, the Bahamas, and many smaller jurisdictions such as the Cayman Islands have been meeting this demand for years. European banks also have been enthusiastic participants in the process, and the US financial system has provided all of them with the critical infrastructure.

Second, Western financial capitals need to welcome the oligarchs' families, allowing them to buy property (often via trusts and shell companies) and enroll their children in premier educational institutions. Cities like London and New York have welcomed oligarchs and their kin to the heart of high society.

It is reasonable to assume that Putin's ability to establish a personalist autocracy would have been substantially curtailed if Russian elites had not had these golden trap doors to the West. But this is not just a Russian story. The superrich in many other countries – including the Gulf petrostates, China, India, Turkey, some Latin American countries, and Ukraine in earlier times – have also secured their illicit gains with the complicity of Western financial institutions and governments.

These arrangements have not only helped to sustain autocratic regimes in Russia and elsewhere. They have also engulfed Western financial institutions and economies. Oligarchs' money has transformed financial markets by injecting huge amounts of liquidity, thereby changing the nature of financial intermediation and contributing to growing global imbalances. Since 1990, the United States, the United Kingdom, and several other Western countries have run large current-account deficits financed by capital flows from the rest of the world.

After three decades of this, the amount of dark money circulating in the international financial system has reached gargantuan proportions. Gabriel Zucman of the University of California, Berkeley estimates that at least 8% of global financial wealth (more than \$7.5 trillion) is now held in tax havens – a figure that does not include the other forms of dark money residing at the heart of the Western financial system. Not surprisingly, autocratic regimes account for a disproportionately large share of these dark-money activities. Zucman finds that some 52% of all household wealth in Russia – and even greater shares in the Gulf states – is held offshore.

These illicit flows have exacerbated social and political problems around the world. The demand for luxury housing has fueled disruptive real-estate booms in hotspots like London, New York, and Vancouver. Because prime real estate in these cities was already predominantly owned by the wealthy, the resulting housing-price inflation has exacerbated inequality. Illicit financial flows probably have contributed to the remarkable boom in Western stock markets in recent years as well, further benefiting them.

But the most pernicious effects can be found within Western financial and fiscal institutions. The West's accommodation of dark money has accelerated the trend toward more opaque ownership structures and complex trusts aimed at evading taxes, supported by a massive infrastructure of bankers, accountants, and lawyers around the world. When Zucman and his colleagues analyzed data from random audits to determine the scale of tax evasion in the US, they concluded that the richest 1% of American households hide more than 20% of their income using the tools provided by this nefarious industry.

Similarly, through the Panama Papers and then the Pandora Papers, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists has demonstrated that offshore tax evasion is much more systemic and widespread than was commonly believed. Thousands of businesspeople, politicians, and celebrities from around the world have been implicated in what amounts to a global money-laundering operation.

These schemes have left a stain on Western democracies and financial institutions. While the world's kleptocrats have amassed vast, illegitimate fortunes – and while Western elites have gotten in on the action – Western governments have been unable to generate tax revenues from the rich. As a result, welfare-state institutions and services have been cut back, and existing inequalities have deepened.

Shocked by Putin's unprovoked war, Western politicians have rushed to support severe trade sanctions, kicking most (but not all) Russian banks out of the SWIFT financial messaging system and freezing the bulk of the Russian central bank's foreign-exchange holdings. But it will take more courage to clamp down on tax evasion and dark money now that they have become integral features of the current financial system.

Still, if there was ever a moment to change course, this is it. Western policymakers can rein in a tax-evasion scheme that has been unfairly benefiting the world's most powerful corporations and tycoons for years. In doing so, they can also raise sorely needed tax revenues to support new infrastructure and social programs at home. If the West wants to see itself on the right side of history, targeting Russia is not enough. It must clean out its own Augean stables.

The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WORDSWORTH

Selmelier

The grand term sommelier for a wine waiter has been in English for more than a century (it's from the French word for a butler; in the early days a greater variety of butling was done than just serving wine). A sommelier helps you choose an appropriate gourmet salt to go with every dish. Salt is never just salt for a sommelier, who would hate you to have to season every dish with the same bland table condiment. There's no shortage of alternatives. There are claimed to be more 150 different types of rock and sea salts, such as Icelandic hot springs salt, sel gris, Hawaiian Black Lava Salt and smoked sea salt. The word is most often linked to the American Mark Bitterman, who sells such salts from a series of specialist stores and who coined it in 2006, he tells me, by blending the French word for salt, sel, with sommelier. A delightful partner for it would be peppier, one of Rich Hall's Sniglets ("words that should appear in dictionaries, but don't"). He defined it as "The waiter at a fancy restaurant whose sole purpose seems to be walking around asking diners if they want fresh ground pepper."

MULTIFACETED FALLOUT

FOCUS UKRAINE WAR

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the sweeping sanctions the United States and Europe have imposed on Russia in response, have triggered economic disruptions at four levels: direct, blowback, spillover, and systemic. To contain their longer-term consequences, we must start working on recovery plans now.

Needless to say, the Ukrainian and Russian economies are being hit the hardest. Economic activity in Ukraine is likely to contract by well over a third this year, aggravating the rapidly escalating humanitarian crisis. Already, the war has led to more than 750 civilian casualties and driven 1.5 million Ukrainians to flee to neighbouring countries, with millions more on the move internally.

While Russia is not enduring large-scale human suffering or physical destruction, its economy is set also to contract by about a third, owing to the unprecedented severity of the sanctions it is now under. In particular, a freeze on the central bank's assets and the exclusion of selected Russian banks from SWIFT, the financial messaging system that enables most international bank payments, are bringing the economy to its knees, with "self-sanctions" by households and companies, from Apple to BP, compounding the damage.

Russia is now headed toward severe foreign-exchange constraints, massive goods shortages, a collapsing ruble, mounting arrears, and the expectation among households that things will get worse before they get better. This picture has much in common with what I saw when visiting Moscow in August 1998.

Even if the war ended tomorrow, it would take years for these economies to recover; and the longer the war continues, the greater the damage, the larger the potential for vicious interactions and



While it is imperative that countries continue to come together to oppose Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, it is also vital that they take timely action to mitigate the longer-term economic risks the conflict raises

adverse cycles, and the deeper the consequences. In Ukraine, physical and human infrastructure have been hit very hard. The country can expect massive external support for its reconstruction, during which it might be able to address past weaknesses and build new economic structures and relationships at home and abroad. But the process will take time, and there will be bumps along the way.

For its part, Russia will find it very difficult to reestablish economic, financial, and institutional links with the outside world, particularly the West. This will hamper the eventual economic recovery, which will depend on the pursuit of a number of complex and costly internal restructurings with institutional, political, and social dimensions.

But the economic consequences of the war will not be confined to the countries fighting it. Already, the West has started to feel the "stagflationary" blowback. Existing inflationary pressures will be compounded by the surging prices of commodities, including energy and wheat. Meanwhile, another round of supply-chain disruptions

has begun, and transportation costs are again increasing. Disrupted trade routes are likely to place further downward pressure on growth. The extent of the damage these developments cause will vary widely, both across and within countries. Absent a timely policy response, the advanced economies should expect lower growth, worsening inequality, and wider performance discrepancies among countries. Overall, the US is likely to outperform Europe, which is likely to slide into recession, owing to the American economy's greater internal resilience and agility, though the US Federal Reserve's failure to respond to inflation in a timely manner last year – a historic policy mistake – will undermine policy flexibility.

On both sides of the Atlantic, one can expect increased – and, at times, unsettling – market volatility. The financial losses will be greater in Europe, with certain sectors – notably, certain banks and energy companies – being hit very hard.

Economic and financial divergence will also increase elsewhere in the world. Some commodity

producers stand to gain enough from higher export prices to offset losses caused by lower global growth. But a far greater number of countries – especially those located near the fighting and fragile developing economies – will face pressure from several sources, including adverse terms of trade, migration flows, a strengthened US dollar, reduced global demand, and financial-market instability.

Commodity importers will struggle to cope with sudden across-the-board price surges, which are both hard to pass on to consumers and difficult to subsidize. The potential impact could include more debt restructurings. Unless policymakers pursue timely responses, the weakest economies face the prospect of food riots.

Then there is the future of multilateralism, the fourth fallout. In the short term, the West has reasserted its dominance over the international system that it built in the aftermath of World War II. But it should expect a serious longer-term challenge from an intensification of the China-led effort to build an alternative system one economic or financial brick at a time.

It is often said that within every terrible crisis lies great opportunity. While it is imperative that countries continue to come together to oppose Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, it is also vital that they take timely action to mitigate the longer-term economic risks the conflict raises – and even to bolster future resilience and cooperation. The world proved up to the challenge in the aftermath of WWII. We must now focus on ensuring a similar response as and when peace returns to Ukraine and Europe.

The writer is a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

Exploring disaster studies

In a recent notification, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has initiated introduction of disaster risk reduction and management courses at the UG and PG level. It was earlier mandated to be offered as an elective subject, which several institutions across the country are already doing. The Government of Odisha made it mandatory at the UG level through an announcement in July 2021. The new initiative nevertheless can build disaster resilience through education. For example, it will now be part of the syllabus for all college and university students. Notwithstanding the benefits of the initiative, there are key pedagogical questions which remain unresolved. For example, what should be the goal, method and contents to be included in these courses?

These questions arise because unlike conventional academic disciplines, the subject of disaster management is not just multidisciplinary in nature, but it is also embedded historically within a practice paradigm. It draws from a range of disciplines, from public administration, public health, sociology, geoscience, environment science, medicine, geography to varied kinds of engineering sciences. As a fledgling inter-multi-disciplinary specialisation, it is not quite unusual that the subject gets shaped by the academic environment or available expertise. However, if the overall scope and fluidness of the young field is not recognised, it potentially leads to early standardisation at the cost

of its own organic growth.

The UGC notification in this regard carries a model course curriculum prepared by the National Institute of Disaster Management and all universities and colleges require introducing courses following this particular model. It thus calls for a closer examination than generally accorded to introduction of a new subject. The approach overall carries the risk of constricting potential of the evolving subject which it otherwise intends to serve. Take for example, the proposed masters level course curriculum comprising twelve courses including internship. Two of them are from geography and geo-informatics, three relate to health emergencies including one on pandemic, and one each on environment and ecology, financial resilience, research methodology. It thus leaves only three courses which are introduction to disaster management, vulnerability and risk assessment and incident response system which can be said to be the core area of specialisation. With due regards to the methodology involved in curriculum designing, a detailed description of a rationale with which specific courses are selected or omitted would have been much more useful.

The overall approach seeks to train university students to contribute to the field of 'disaster management' which is not necessarily the same as 'disaster studies'. This distinction, often overlooked, is important because the former is enshrined within management spe-

cialisation and aims primarily at training, for example, to become working professionals, volunteers to supplement during real world practice. In contrast 'disaster studies' as a subject is much more encompassing that brings within its fold not just management dimensions but also social, cultural and developmental underpinnings. It includes theoretical frameworks both from contributing disciplines as well as those emerging from its own subject advancement. The subject from this perspective has evolved from its original conception of being practice-oriented with usefulness in civil defence during wars or similar roles.

The new conception of 'disaster studies' on the other hand has excited researchers from across disciplines and practitioners around the world both for the scope it provides to examine disasters from novel perspectives and for the linkage it provides to other emerging areas such as climate change, peace and conflict studies and sustainable development. The question gains prominence here because if the university students fail to engage with such diverse aspects of the subject beyond its immediate management challenges, will it be helpful from the point of view of building a disaster resilient nation? To enable them to do so, not only the nomenclature of the subject but also its conception, approach and framework requires rethinking. The current approach unfortunately falls short. Take for example usage of the term 'nat-

ural disaster' in the course curriculum which has long been seen inappropriate within disaster research community.

A more appropriate pedagogical approach need not undervalue the role of practice as it is often misunderstood. Far from it, there should be integration of it as much as necessary but on a larger canvas to ensure that theoretical and conceptual knowledge are not without real world application. The requirement is of an approach that distinguishes between trained human resources to contribute to disaster preparedness and response and ability to fertilise new ideas and develop new approaches to understand disasters, their complexity, management practices and relevant policies. The former can be achieved through training programmes and certificate courses, leaving the latter for a much deeper level of learning experience at higher education level. This approach will be no doubt more consistent with the new National Education Policy in terms of its emphasis on cognitive capacities and creative thinking. The least the proposed curriculum should allow is thus to have a set of foundational subjects from the core area of specialisation with a provision for students to choose from a range of electives as per their interest and availability.

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Biswanath Dash

THE NEW INITIATIVE CAN BUILD DISASTER RESILIENCE THROUGH EDUCATION

Privatisation spree

Sir, The Union Cabinet has recently approved disinvestment of 100% equity shareholding in the Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a central public sector enterprise under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and sell it to a financial intermediary or trading company called M/s Nandal Finance & Leasing Private Limited. The government has sold a PSU company engaged in satellite manufacturing system and electric generator fuse for hand grenades and bullet proof materials for body armours to a furniture company for reasons best known to it. CEL established in 1974, with an objective to commercially use indigenous technologies, is known for the development of products in the domain of strategic electronics through its own efforts and in close association with the premier national and international laboratories. It has due professional expertise and 130 odd efficient engineers are working in it. It produced the first solar cell (1977) and solar modules (1978), the first solar power plant (1992), Phase Control Module, Electronics Radar & Development Establishment for use in Radar, and Cadmium Zinc Telluride for defence applications. Now the same PSU is handed over to an enterprise having only 10 employees. The selling of CEL is not a mere addition to the ongoing privatisation spree, it is a big blow to the works and researches in the scientific field.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Is it time for UCC?

Sir, It has been reported that the Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to bring Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the wake of changing times and conditions. The Court has observed that the modern Indian society has been changing for uniformity. The observations made by the Court are: the country has been facing problems from the personal law; the Centre needs to take action to enact a law to bring about UCC; and the changing conditions are demanding UCC. Personal laws should not supersede Constitutional laws. On the occasion of congregate in a symposium on "Fostering Unity in Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities" organised by Ekam Sat Trust in Bangalore March 5, the panelists have voiced their opinion in favour of UCC. Religious matters should be confined to four walls in the houses or places of worship. There are no two opinions that religious laws should not come in conflict with the Constitutional laws. If any of the Constitutional laws are becoming irrelevant to the changing times and needs, the Parliament can take recourse to additions, amendments or deletions. KV Seetharamaiah, 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

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CENTRE DISSOLVES VAMSADHARA TRIBUNAL

POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, March 10: The Centre Thursday dissolved the Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal which was constituted in February 2010 to resolve Vamsadhara river dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Union Ministry of Jal Shakti is satisfied that no further reference to the tribunal in the matter would be necessary as Odisha has moved to the Supreme Court against the order of the tribunal and now the matter is pending before the apex court. Significantly, the tribunal had given its final verdict in September 2017 in the river dispute but Odisha and the Centre had sought clarification on the order and filed applications for the same in December 2017.

In its order in 2019, the tribunal sought a survey to identify 106 acres of land to be acquired by Odisha. The tribunal submitted another report in June 2021 thereby permitting Andhra Pradesh to construct the Neradi barrage across the river with ancillary structures. The tribunal had said that the barrage can have a Right Head Sluice (RHS) of 8,000 cusecs of design capacity for meeting the requirements of AP and have a Left Head Sluice (LHS) to cater to the requirements of Odisha below the Neradi barrage. The cost of LHS is to be borne by Odisha. However, aggrieved by the verdict of the tribunal, Odisha has filed three special leave petitions in the Supreme Court.

On World Kidney Day, Apollo Hospitals holds yoga session, diet expo

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, March 10: In a bid to create awareness on kidney care, Apollo Hospitals here organised a yoga session on its premises and a diet exhibition at Esplanade One mall in the City Thursday—World Kidney Day. Apollo Hospitals-Bhubaneswar COO-cum-DMS Alok Srivastava said they aim at encouraging general public to adopt a healthy diet and lifestyle. Kidney disease is a worldwide health crisis. World Kidney Day is observed as a global health campaign highlighting the importance of fighting kidney disease, said Apollo Hospitals-Bhubaneswar senior consultant (Nephrology) Nisith K Mohanty. Bibekanda Panda, a senior consultant (Nephrology) at Apollo Hospitals-Bhubaneswar, spoke about the ill impact of excessive alcohol and meat consumption on kidneys. "Intake of less amount of water and more salt is harmful for the kidney. Apart from these, excessive smoking is also known to strain the kidneys," added Panda. Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited Regional CEO Sudhir M Diggikar urged people to avoid unnecessary medication, especially painkillers, as they damage the kidney.

City AIIMS to start renal transplant soon

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, March 10: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar is going to start a renal transplant programme very soon. The institute is about to get the required permission in this regard from the state government, sources said. "The much-needed renal transplant programme will commence in our institute once we get the required permission in this regard," said AIIMS, Bhubaneswar Medical Superintendent Dr SN Mohanty on the occasion of World Kidney Day Thursday. Many kidney patients from Odisha and neighbouring states will be benefited from this service. The health institute has developed the required infrastructure for renal transplant, Mohanty added. Speaking on the occasion, nephrology department chief Dr Sandip Kumar Panda informed that AIIMS, Bhubaneswar has



Medicos of SCB Medical College and Hospital take out an awareness rally on their campus in Cuttack on World Kidney Day, Thursday



been providing dialysis service since 2019. This apart, kidney patients are getting plasmapheresis, CRRT and renal biopsy services at the hospital, Panda added. "Odisha is witnessing a steady rise in chronic kidney diseases. Though the exact data is not available, various studies show the prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) is around 10-14 per cent of the population in Odisha, which is more than the national average. Moreover, there are some

'2 lakh people hit by CKD every year'
A disciplined lifestyle and regular health check up can help avoid Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), experts said at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here Thursday. Around two lakh people in the country were afflicted by CKD and half of the cases developed serious complications while 25,000 people required frequent dialysis or transplantation, Prof Suren Das, head of the department of urology in the hospital said. However, kidney problems could be avoided through a disciplined lifestyle and practice of yoga and exercise, he said. The programme was organised to mark the World Kidney Day. The Medical Superintendent, Prof Puspuraj Samantashinhar said CKD had emerged as a major challenge in healthcare but it could be addressed through awareness. Prof Tapas Ranjan Behera of the nephrology department said kidney related diseases would emerge as the fifth biggest cause of death in the world by 2040. Dr Deba Prasad Kar, associate professor in the nephrology department said no symptoms were found at the initial stage in 70 to 80 per cent of the patients while head of the department Dr Biswa Ranjan Mohanty said around 1400 patients underwent dialysis in the hospital every month. In recent years, many young non-diabetic and non-hypertensive people are developing kidney diseases, sources said. "We can keep our kidney safe by controlling blood pressure, controlling diabetes, drinking enough water, avoiding smoking, avoiding unnecessary medications and undergoing early medical check-ups in case of any problem," said an expert.

Cuttack bridge wall collapse: Report sought in 3 days

Cuttack: Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani Thursday directed the R&B division to submit a report within three days in connection with the death of two persons due to the collapse of a portion of the guard wall of a British-era bridge connecting Chhatra Bazar and Malgodown here Wednesday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had earlier ordered an administrative probe by the Revenue Divisional Commission into the incident. The authorities of SCB Medical College and Hospital, meanwhile, have handed over the bodies of the deceased to their family members after autopsy, sources said. Chandan Dehury, who had sustained injuries in the incident and was rushed to SCBMCH, has been released from the hospital, sources added. A portion of the guard wall of the bridge had collapsed during the expansion of the Taladanda canal road Wednesday.

Scholarship, Mo Sarkar databases to be merged

Bhubaneswar: The higher education department Thursday directed the Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) to integrate the state scholarship portal database with the Mo Sarkar database.

Activists seek focus on development of Odia language

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, March 10: As Odisha will celebrate the Shastriya Odia Bhasa Divas March 11 to commemorate the day as on this day in 2014 the Centre had issued a gazette notification declaring Odia as a classical language, the Utkal Sammilani members Thursday questioned the Centre's intention about development of the Odia language after getting the classical status. As per rules after getting the classical language status, Odia became the sixth

SHASTRIYA ODIA BHASHA DIVAS
language of the country to get classical language status after the Centre bracketed it with Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. Once a language is declared classical, it gets financial assistance for setting up a centre of excellence for the study of that language. It also opens up an avenue for two major awards for scholars of eminence. Utkal Sammilani president Dillip Das

Sharma said the Centre is not showing interest in development of Odia language. The centre of excellence after a lot of delays started in 2020 and an amount of Rs 140 crore, which the central government should have given for the Odia language development, has not been given. In recent times, the state has raised objections with the Centre for alleged downgrading of the Odia language. It took up the matter of excluding study materials in Odia from Swayam portal with the MoE.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM
Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.
Date and Venue: Friday, 11th March, 2022; 5:30 p.m. onwards, at Hotel Radhika Regency, Birsra Road, Rourkela - 769 001. For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035. Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm. It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event. No walk-ins will be allowed.

Animal to human transplantation can be successful in future, say experts

The success of animal-to-human transplantation is unlikely in the near future, but possible in the next 30-40 years, said experts Thursday. The process, known as xenotransplantation, dates back to the 17th century, when attempts were made to use animal blood for transfusions. Due to paucity of organs from humans, scientists started looking at non-human primates like monkeys, chimpanzees, and baboons, and even pigs. The experiments in pigs have shown more positive results as their organs are comparable to humans. However, nobody has, so far, made any lasting progress in animal-to-human transplant, Dr. Sudhindran S., Professor, Dept. of Gastrointestinal Surgery, at Amrita Hospital, Kochi, told IANS. "We are unlikely to see a major breakthrough in the next 30-40 years because the process involves a situation where an animal organ becomes acceptable to the human body. To overcome the rejection process, it requires a multitude of steps that are intricately complex and definitely not going to be easy for long term success," he said. However, Dr Udgeath Dhir, Director and Head, CTVS, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram disagrees. According to him, xenotransplantation may be a success as animal organs would be made more compatible with the human body. "In the near future, we are damn confident that we will be able to go for xenotransplantation where we are going to modify the immune system or rather balance the immune system in such a way that the body accepts these organs as a part and doesn't reject it," Dhir told IANS. He noted that "the field is diversifying a lot. We have gone to the genetic level where we are capping those or masking those cells which would cause immediate or late rejections of these organs. And with the development of new cellular technology, we can modify the DNA that becomes a part of our body. So in the near future, we would definitely have much more successful results". In a rare medical feat, the US doctors in

January successfully transplanted a genetically-modified pig heart to 57-year-old David Bennett suffering from terminal heart disease. Following surgery, the transplanted heart performed very well for several weeks without any signs of rejection. The patient was able to spend time with his family and participate in physical therapy to help regain strength. But two months later, he died. Although it's unclear whether only organ rejection played a role in Bennett's death, researchers involved in xenotransplantation procedures have said that early, positive outcomes don't necessarily mean long-term success. The main challenge in the process have been the immunological barriers that lead to rejection of pig organs by the human immune system, the doctors said. Yet several recent xenotransplantations have included only pigs. Researchers at University of Alabama at Birmingham, US, successfully conducted transplant of pig kidneys into a brain-dead human, which were not rejected and also produced urine. In September 2021, a study published in the American Journal of Transplantation, showed a transplantation of a gene-edited pig's two kidneys onto a brain-dead patient. Again in October, doctors at NYU Langone Health, New York performed a similar surgery. But why only were pig organs picked for the process? "The pig model has been the focus of research for the last two decades because of physiological similarities to humans, large litter size of 10 or more, short gestation period of less than 4 months and less risk of transmission of infections as compared to non-human primates," Dr Avnish Seth, Head, Organ Donation and Transplant at Manipal Hospitals, told IANS. "Pigs are most commonly used as their genetic sequencing can be easily matched with humans, organ size is anatomically same and risks of cross infections is less," added Dr Vikram Raut, Consultant, Liver Transplant & HPB Surgery, Apollo Hospitals, Navi Mumbai.

Regional Office: Sambalpur
1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha

VEHICLE AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank on "As is where is basis" as per terms and conditions listed below. This public notice will be treated as a notice to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of the loans. They are hereby advised to be present at the auction venue on the auction date and are free to liquidate their entire dues before the auction date, failing which the vehicles will be auctioned and balance dues, if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost.

Sl No.	Branch/Contact Number	Name of Borrower	Vehicle No.	Make & Model	Month / Year of Manufacturing	Reserve Price
1.	SUNDARGARH / 9040050918	Pradeep Mishra	OR 16 C 7353	BAJAJ AUTO	12/2017	₹72,000/-
2.		Sukumari Dila	OR 16 D 9472	ATUL AUTO	01/2017	₹89,000/-
3.		Tapan Tarzan	OR 16 E 3613	ATUL AUTO	11/2017	₹95,000/-
4.		Sumanta Dung Dung	OD 16 D 5434	ATUL AUTO LTD	10/2017	₹82,500/-
5.		Sarojini Minz	OD 14 N 6290	ATUL AUTO LTD	12/2017	₹77,000/-
6.		Shankar Sekhar Deo	OD 16 E 4463	ATUL AUTO LTD	04/2018	₹85,000/-
7.		Sima Singh	OD 16 E 5626	ATUL AUTO LTD	01/2018	₹80,000/-
8.	SAMBALPUR-1 / 9112500524	Khetra Minz	OD 16 D 5705	ATUL AUTO LTD	11/2017	₹57,500/-
9.		Naba Soreng	OD 16 G 7312	ATUL GEM	04/2018	₹90,000/-
10.		Jaya Kumari Naik	OD 14 M 5491	PREMIUM	08/2017	₹80,000/-
11.		Md Azad Khan	OD 23 F 5700	BAJAJ	08/2017	₹85,000/-
12.		Ananga Meher	OD 15 J 2119	APE	08/2017	₹78,000/-
13.		Namita Sahu	OD 15 G 7405	APE	01/2017	₹54,000/-
14.		Saroj Ku Behera	OD 15 L 4221	PIAGGIO	2017	₹85,000/-
15.		Ramakrushna Nanda	OD 15 L 9435	PIAGGIO	2018	₹1,12,000/-
16.		Krushna Chandra Pattnaik	OD 15 H 0381	PIAGGIO	01/2017	₹85,000/-

Auction Date & Time : 26.03.2022, 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M., Auction Venue: At the Concerned Branch as stated above, EMD is 10% of the Reserve Price mentioned above.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1) Applications accompanied by ID/address proof copy (originals to be verified) and EMD as applicable for each vehicle in shape of Banker's cheque/Draft drawn in favour of Union Bank of India, payable at Concerned Branch should reach on or before 25.03.2022 upto 11.00 A.M. 2) However the bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction process of any/all vehicles at its own discretion at any point of time without assigning any reason whatsoever. 3) Bid amount does not include any statutory tax pending and applicable RTA fees. All these cost are additional and must be borne by the successfully bidder. 4) Dispute pertaining to year of manufacture, documents, condition of vehicle/assets, etc. will not be considered after successful bid. 5) Entry to the event is strictly restricted to the registered bidder only. 6) The refund of EMD will be made immediately after the closure of the bidding process to the unsuccessful bidders. 7) Successful Highest bidder has to deposit a minimum amount of 25% of the bid amount inclusive EMD on the same day, failing which the bid taken will not be considered as EMD amount will be forfeited without further intimation. 8) The balance should be paid by the successful bidder within next 15 days from the date of auction. 9) Delayed interest @18%p.a. will be charged against any amount due and payable by the successful bidder beyond 15 days from the date of the event, subject to a maximum waiting period of 22 days from the date of auction. 10) Default in payment beyond the stipulated 22 days, will lead to deal cancellation and forfeiture of EMD paid and the vehicle/equipment/machinery will be resold without further information. Acceptance of payment on later date will be sole discretion of Bank. 11) Successful Bidders are fully responsible for taking delivery of all vehicles or equipment from Stockyard after full payment is made. 12) Successful bidders must remove the vehicles/equipments within 7 days from the date of release order along with RC Transfer in to their name.

Place : Sambalpur, Date: 10.03.2022 Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)
प्रधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 14th February, 2022

S.O. 644(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four lane etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 in the stretch of land from Km.117 to Km.136.5 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, At/Po/PS- Bhadrak, Dist- Bhadrak, Pin-756100, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Tahasildar, Bhadrak in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH 16 in the stretch of land from NH16 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, At/Po/PS- Bhadrak, Dist- Bhadrak, Pin-756100, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the State of ODISHA State : ODISHA District : BHADRAK

Sl. No.	Survey/Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk :	Bhadrak				
Village :	Gelapur-64				
1	3156	Government	Rakhita	0.0800000(Acre)	0.0323756
Village : Samarapur-86					
1	1629	Private	Gharabari	0.0800000(Acre)	0.0323756
				Total	0.1600
					0.0648

[F. No. NHA1/BOT/11012/58/2005/PULA/NH-1 6/3A1]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

VERDICT 2022

FRIDAY | MARCH 11 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR



BJP WINS BIG, AAP STANDS OUT

The monk who proved unstoppable

LUCKNOW: Yogi Adityanath was an unexpected pick for the Chief Minister's post after the BJP scored a landslide win in the 17th Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. A poster boy for Hindutva, saffron-robed Adityanath was considered a firebrand and often accused of making provocative remarks against Muslims. As Chief Minister of the country's most populous state, he might have toned down. But not by much, his critics say. With the Bharatiya Janata Party set for a second consecutive win in the state, Adityanath is almost certain to get another stint in office. Briefly last year, there was speculation that the BJP wanted to replace Adityanath as Chief Minister. But the rumours died down with top leaders saying that he needed to be back as Chief Minister in 2022 if the party sought to return to power at the Centre in 2024. Party leaders hailed the Adityanath Narendra Modi 'double-engine' government in the state. The BJP's 2022 Assembly election win may have further consolidated his stock in the party. The saffron party is now set to win the



MAYA DISILLUSIONED

LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), a Dalit-centric party that had a Brahmin as its most visible face in the 2022 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, has come up with its worst-ever performance and not quite unexpectedly either. With Mayawati making a very restricted appearance in the election campaign, it was left to BSP MP Satish Chandra Mishra, a Brahmin, to carry the campaign on his shoulders. The BSP now has no second rung leadership and even Jatavs, who had stood behind Mayawati during all her politically turbulent years, now seem to have deserted her. Jatavs, the sub-caste to which Mayawati belongs, hold a 14 per cent share in the scheduled caste category.



The outcome of the elections in UP, Punjab, U'khand, Goa & Manipur will not just chart the future roadmap for these states but also, in many ways, for the nation's politics

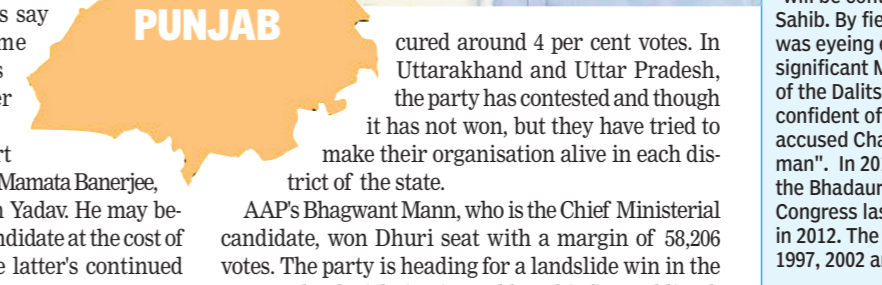
AAP HAS THE LAST LAUGH

NEW DELHI: The first regional party that has won outside its state of origin, Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is set to foray into national politics. The landslide win in Punjab has positioned AAP in direct competition to the nation's grand old party, the Congress. In the five-state Assembly polls, which were regarded as a kind of semi-final, the Congress has been decimated. After the loss in Punjab, Congress is left with only two states - Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Arvind Kejriwal, while addressing the party workers at the party office in Delhi Thursday after the results, said that this was a stamp on honest politics and "Bhagat Singh said that the system has to be changed and the people of Punjab have changed the system." The party has often made a mention of its national ambition, and has fielded candidates in several states. With the Punjab win, the ambition finally seems to be taking shape. The elated party workers say that Kejriwal will be the Prime Ministerial candidate in future as an alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kejriwal shares a good rapport with non-BJP leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, Sharad Pawar and Akhilesh Yadav. He may become a joint opposition candidate at the cost of Congress in view of the latter's continued downslide since 2014. AAP's Punjab in-charge Raghav Chadha said that the BJP took 10 years to form its government in a state, but AAP has expanded its base to second state in Punjab and in both the states the AAP has got landslide victory. Apart from Punjab, AAP has performed well in Goa where



AAP greenhorn, eye surgeon make Channi bite the dust

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi was defeated by AAP's first-timer and an eye surgeon from Bhadaur and Chamkaur Sahib seats, respectively. Bhadaur AAP candidate Labh Singh Ugoke defeated Channi by a comprehensive margin of 37,558 votes. Dr Charanjit Singh, an eye surgeon, trounced Channi by a margin of 7,942 votes from Chamkaur Sahib. Channi represented Chamkaur Sahib thrice. Ugoke, 35, comes from a humble background. His father is a driver, his mother works as a sweeper and he also ran a mobile repair shop. Ugoke joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a volunteer in 2013. The Bhadaur Assembly segment in Barnala district shot into limelight when the Congress announced that Channi will be contesting from the seat besides Chamkaur Sahib. By fielding Channi from Bhadaur, the Congress was eyeing electoral gains in Punjab's politically significant Malwa region, which has a good presence of the Dalits. A Class 12 pass-out, Ugoke was confident of his victory from day one and had accused Channi of wearing a "mask of common man". In 2017, AAP's Pirmal Singh Dhaula won from the Bhadaur seat. However, Dhaula joined the Congress last year. The Congress had won Bhadaur in 2012. The Shiromani Akali Dal won this seat in 1997, 2002 and 2007.



cured around 4 per cent votes. In Uttarakhnad and Uttar Pradesh, the party has contested and though it has not won, but they have tried to make their organisation alive in each district of the state. AAP's Bhagwan Mann, who is the Chief Ministerial candidate, won Dhuri seat with a margin of 58,206 votes. The party is heading for a landslide win in the 117-member legislative Assembly in his first public address in his home town Sangrur after winning the seat and seeing the meteoric rise of the party. Mann promised to fix unemployment as his first task in office. "No government office in the state will have the photo of the Punjab CM, but will carry a portrait of B.R. Ambedkar... We will ensure that the youth do not have to go abroad... Within a month, you will observe

THE LUCKY & THE UNLUCKY

Like in every other election, the Assembly polls in the five states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa have thrown up surprise results with some heavyweights biting the dust. Then again there are some star politicians who have continued to woo voters with their charisma. Here's a list of prominent winners and losers

WINNERS section containing portraits and names of winners from various states: Charanjit Singh Channi, Arvind Kejriwal, Yogi Adityanath, etc.

LOSERS section containing portraits and names of losers from various states: Charanjit Singh Channi, Atanasio Monserratte, etc.

Humbly accept the people's verdict. Best wishes to those who have won the mandate. My gratitude to all Congress workers and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. We will learn from this and keep working for the interests of the people of India

I humbly accept the verdict of the people of Punjab and Congratulate @AamAdmiParty and their elected CM @BhagwanMann Ji for the victory, I hope they will deliver on the expectations of people

The results of Assembly elections in Punjab are a "shock" for Congress while the Aam Aadmi Party benefitted because of the performance of its government in Delhi

In the coming days AAP will become a national force. The party will emerge as the national and natural replacement of Congress

We accept the verdict of the people of Goa. Our candidates fought bravely, fought against several obstacles and 11 of our candidates and one of our ally Goa Forward party won. People have voted the BJP to power and we accept that and we wish the people of Goa very well

What success did the BJP, a national party with Modi-Shah at its face, achieve in Punjab?

The landslide victory of the BJP in Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and other states proves that the people have accepted the "Modi model of good governance"

People rejected the communal and divisive politics of the Congress party

Dhami played like Dhoni but gave away own wicket cheaply

DEHRADUN: Defence minister Rajnath Singh has compared Pushkar Singh Dhami to cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Dhami, who he said is a "good finisher". Dhami was plucked out of obscurity by the Bharatiya Janata Party leadership last July to be made the Uttarakhand Chief Minister, with just months to go before the party faced the Assembly elections. He also happened to be the party's second CM replacement in 2021 - earlier Trivendra Singh Rawat was made to make way for Tirath Singh Rawat. Dhami seems to have justified the BJP's choice. The ruling party appears set to form the government in Uttarakhand again, the first time in the state's 21-year history that a party will come to power for a second term in a row. But in his own Khatima constituency, Dhami lost by a margin of about 6,500 votes. At 45, he was the state's youngest Chief Minister when he took over in July. The state was then grappling with a series of problems and with elections just around the corner and Dhami ran against the clock. The state's economy was battered by Covid, the Char Dham priests were agitating against a new regulatory board, and a massive Covid testing scam had grabbed head-

CM FACES BITE THE DUST IN UTTARAKHAND

The Himalayan state has the unique distinction of handing out defeats to all the three main contenders for the chief minister's office

- List of candidates for Uttarakhand CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami, Bhuvan Chand Kapri, Harish Rawat, Mohan Singh Bisht, Ajay Singh Kothiyal, Suresh Chandra Chauhan.

GOA DEPUTY CMs LOSE

PANAJI: Both Deputy Chief Ministers of Goa lost Assembly elections to their nearest Congress rivals Thursday. Deputy Chief Minister Manohar Aijaonkar was defeated by Leader of Opposition and Congress candidate Digambar Kamat by a huge margin of almost 6,000 votes in the Margao Assembly constituency. Aijaonkar, who had been traditionally contesting from Pernem in North Goa, was this time fielded by the BJP from Margao in South Goa. Margao has been represented in the Assembly by Kamat, a former chief minister, since 1994. The second Deputy Chief Minister in the Pramod Sawant-led cabinet, Chandrakant Kavlekar, lost to Congress candidate Altono D Costa in Quepem. Kavlekar had won from Quepem in 2017 on a Congress ticket. He shifted to the BJP in 2019 along with nine other Congress MLAs and was rewarded with the Deputy CM's post. D Costa, a first-time contestant from the constituency, defeated Kavlekar by a margin of more than 3,000 votes.

AAP's CM face loses

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) chief ministerial candidate in Goa, Amit Palekar, Thursday lost the Assembly poll battle with the Congress snatching the seat from the BJP. Palekar, a lawyer-turned-politician, was declared the party's CM face ahead of the February 14 state election. He was in the fray from St Cruz assembly segment. Congress candidate Rudolph Fernandes defeated his closest rival and BJP candidate Antonio Fernandes from the seat. Fernandes was a sitting MLA of the constituency. While the Congress candidate polled 8,841 votes, BJP's Fernandes bagged 6,377 votes. Palekar got 4,048 votes.

This is my victory, not party's: Monserratte

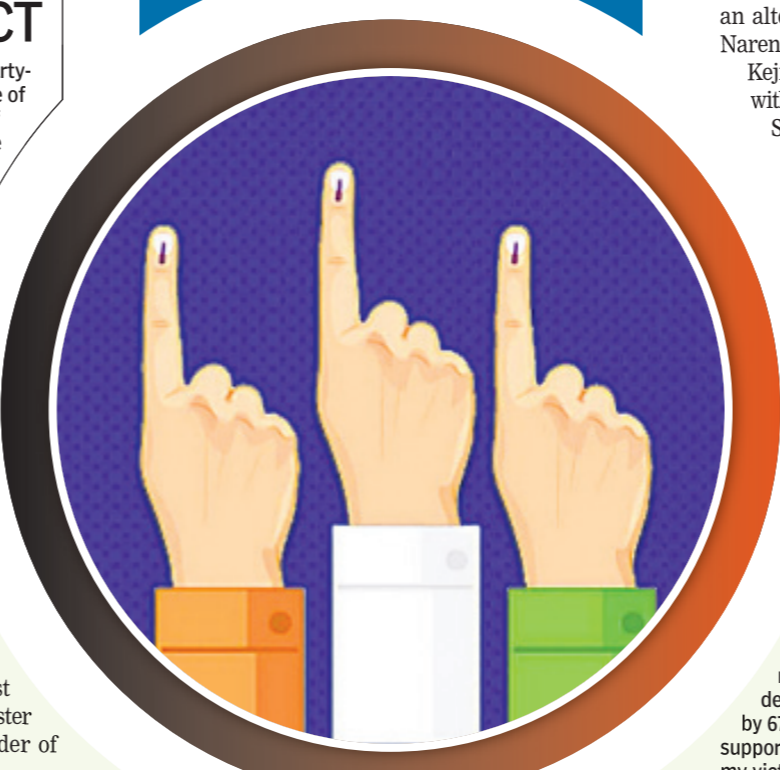
PANAJI: Atanasio Monserratte, who won from Panaji Assembly constituency on BJP ticket, Thursday, said it was his victory and not that of the party. Monserratte, who defeated independent candidate Utpal Parrikar by 674 votes, also claimed that the party did not support him. "This is not a victory of the party, this is my victory. The party did not stand with me, it never did any damage control," said Monserratte, who crossed over to the BJP from Congress only in 2019.

The man who ensured BJP win

IMPHAL: Exactly 20 years after he joined politics, Nongthombam Biren Singh, the former footballer and journalist-turned Chief Minister of Manipur, has led BJP to a position where it is set to form the government for a second consecutive term. The 61-year-old has been widely credited for bringing peace and bridging the divide between the people of the valley and the hills, in this insurgency-hit, multi-ethnic state during his tenure as Chief Minister in the past five years. The man whose initiatives - 'Go to hills', 'Meeyangni Nuni' (People's Day on 15th of every month) and 'Hill Leaders' Day' - has made it easier for people in far flung hamlets to access their elected leaders and top bureaucrats, is considered by many as a grassroots man. The former footballer who later became editor of a vernacular daily 'Naharlogi Thoudang' was managed to strike a chord with the youth, promoting entrepreneurship through programmes such as 'Start Up Manipur' as an alternative for young people who were being attracted to insurgency. Singh, who

MANIPUR

switched to Congress and in 2003 became a Minister of State of Vigilance besides holding independent charge for Forest & Environment ministry in the then Ikiram Ibobi Singh-led government. He became one of Ibobi Singh's trusted lieutenant and after retaining his assembly seat in 2007 election, was given charge of the Ministry of Irrigation & Flood Control, Youth Affairs & Sports, and Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution. Although he retained his seat again in 2012 for a third consecutive term, Biren Singh had a fallout with Ibobi Singh, against whom he led a revolt. In October 2016 he resigned from the Manipur Legislative Assembly and the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee to join the BJP. There he became the party spokesperson and co-convenor of the Election Management Committee of BJP Manipur Pradesh. He won from the Heingang assembly constituency for a record 4th time on BJP ticket in 2017, paving the way to his becoming the Chief Minister.



SHORT TAKES

Power supply restored at govt sports hostel



Malkangiri: A day after 25 students abandoned the government sports hostel here and left for home, power supply to the hostel was restored after the district administration intervened, Thursday. On being informed, Collector Vishal Singh directed the power discom, Tata Power, to immediately resume power supply to the hostel at Malkangiri Stadium. Efforts were also made to bring back the students who had left for their homes. Tata Power had terminated power supply to the hostel over ₹49 lakh pending bills before the panchayat polls. Later, ₹19.75 lakh was paid with an assurance that the remaining amount will be paid within a month following which the power supply was restored. Ten days back, Tata Power again cut off the power supply after the hostel authorities failed to clear the arrears.

3 suspended over user fee scam

Koraput/Pottangi: Three officials – a tehsildar, an additional tehsildar and a former tehsildar of Pottangi tehsil in Koraput district – have been suspended for misappropriating user fee to the tune of ₹3.70 crore. According to reports, the officials had embezzled user fee that has been collected during registration of land in Koraput sub-registrar's office. Pottangi tehsildar Haripada Mandal, additional tehsildar Mahadev Bhadra, and former tehsildar Arun Kumar Khanda had not deposited the fee in the office since 2017. The trio along with clerk Sudhir Kumar Sahoo had allegedly embezzled funds of the office of the sub-registrar from 2017 to 2022. Sahoo was suspended 10 days ago and he is currently absconding. Revenue divisional commissioner (southern range) Satyabrata Sahu has suspended them.

Man gets 3-year jail for rape

Phulbani: A court in Kandhamal district Wednesday sentenced a 23-year-old man to three years of imprisonment for abducting and raping a minor girl four years ago. POCSO judge Bhaskar Chandra Sahu also imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on the accused. The man October 31, 2018 had abducted the 15-year-old girl from near her house at a village under Daringbadi police station area and committed the crime. Ten witnesses were examined in the case, special public prosecutor Banamali Behera said.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit on the Court of Executive Magistrate, Khaira, I Raghunath Sanatan Das, S/o. Sanatan Jena of Parbatipur, P.O.-Gandibed, P.S.-Khaira, Dist.-Balasore previously known as Raghunath Jena (School records) & Indramani Jena (Land records) have changed my name to Raghunath Sanatan Das. Henceforth I shall be known as Raghunath Sanatan Das for all purposes.

Rebels may queer BJD pitch in Bhadrak polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, March 10: Seven women candidates have thrown their hats into the ring for election to the Bhadrak Municipality chairperson post while rebels in three political parties – the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress – have also hit the campaign trail.

There are 30 wards in the civic body but election will be held for 29 wards, as there are legal hassles for ward no-4.

Meanwhile, candidates for the posts of chairperson and councillors have started door-to-door campaign Thursday. The post of chairperson has been reserved for general category women.

The women aspirants for the chairperson post are: Samita Mishra (BJD), Amitabala Acharya (Congress), Gitanjali Padhiary (BJP) and social activist Anjana Mishra.

This apart, Gulmaki Dalwaji, Sawana Parwin and Tahib Tabsum have also joined the fray.



RACE FOR CIVIC BODY CHIEF

The chairperson post of Bhadrak Municipality has been reserved for general category women

The women aspirants for the chairperson post are: Samita Mishra (BJD), Amitabala Acharya (Congress), Gitanjali Padhiary (BJP) and social activist Anjana Mishra

This apart, Gulmaki Dalwaji, Sawana Parwin and Tahib Tabsum have also joined the fray

would create problems for the ruling party candidate, said some voters.

They added that since Purunabazar area is dominated by people of minority community, Dalwaji may pull votes of the community to her side. Though the municipality was earlier won by the BJD, this time several rebel candidates

have thrown challenges for the party.

Addressing a presser here Thursday, Congress leaders including Nalini Mohanty urged the State Election Commission to ensure free and fair elections as some forces are trying to disturb communal harmony to take advantage of the situation.

BJD mum on candidates for 2 block chief posts



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, March 10: The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is all set to grab the posts of chairperson in Bhanjanagar, Jagannathprasad and Belaguntha blocks of Ganjam district, as the party has the magic numbers for its leaders. However, the party has kept secret the names of candidates for the chairperson posts in Bhanjanagar and Jagannathprasad blocks.

The party is likely to give the Belaguntha chairperson post to BJD's block president Prashant Nayak. However, speculations are rife about candidates, preferably women, for chairpersons for Bhanjanagar and Jagannathprasad blocks.

Meanwhile, Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha has discussed with party-backed samiti members about the chairperson candidate in Bhanjanagar and Jagannathprasad. Party sources said that names of the candidates

will be announced just a few hours before the nomination filing for the block chairpersons March 12. In such a situation, hopefuls are keeping their fingers crossed.

Some samiti members said the minister will take a call about the block chairperson candidates.

On the other hand, Prashant along with 11 samiti members are holed up in an undisclosed location and will reach the block office well before the nomination filing.

Meanwhile, after scrutiny of nomination papers, BJD councillors were found uncontested in four wards in the 15-ward strong Bhanjanagar NAC. In ward 14, the candidature of BJP's councillor nominee Ramesh Chandra Behera was cancelled.

For the post of chairperson in Bhanjanagar NAC, the BJD has fielded Gopabandhu Mohapatra, Congress Bikram Bisoyi and BJP Shibabanda Mohapatra while Independent candidate Ramesh Chandra Behera is also in the fray.

Lokayukta probes 'scams' in Chandbali

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandbali, March 10: Two teams from Lokayukta have started investigations into alleged irregularities in Khadalapokhari and Bhatapada panchayats under Chandbali block of Bhadrak.

The Lokayukta investigation came after people of both the panchayats had complained of large-scale irregularities in various government schemes and projects. They had drawn the attention of the BDO, the Collector and the Panchayati Raj department. As the administration and the department did not take any action on the alleged irregularities, the locals moved the Lokayukta.

Officials of the two teams looked into various irregularities in toilet construction under the Swachh Bharat Mission in the two panchayats. They visited houses and inspected the status of the toilets and interacted with people. However, some villagers expressed apprehension about the fairness of the probe as some block officials were present during the investigation.



Gajapati's war cry against child trafficking

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gajapati, March 10: In view of the fact that children from socially and economically backward classes require special attention in their early childhood and need ample care in terms of basic needs like food, clothing, shelter and other needs, the Gajapati district administration has taken significant steps for the healthy development of the children of the tribal-dominated district.

Due to poor literacy rate and financial exclusion, the children of this district were languishing in poor living conditions, inadequate health care, malnutrition, unavailability of safe drinking water, and problems of housing and environmental pollution. The district administration took cognisance of it and took major steps towards ensuring basic needs in inaccessible areas.

The district had become a perfect ground for the brokers for child-trafficking to Goa, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Chennai and Surat for the purpose of maid servant, child labour, prostitution and other illegal acts.

After the establishment of district child protection unit (DCPU) in February 2013, under the chairmanship of Gajapati Collector, as many as 183 children have been rescued by the unit.

After a full-fledged review, the district administration took cognisance of it and initiated steps aimed at identifying the most vulnerable children and bringing them back to mainstream.

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) has supplied grant to one Child Care Institute in every local area.



A 30-ft high dinosaur model is being built by using around 3,000-4,000 worn-out tyres on Government ITI premises in Berhampur. The model weighing over 4 tonne will be installed at the largest tyre art park of the country to be set up by the institute

SMUGGLING, BRICK KILNS BANE OF MAHIPUR FOREST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuagaon, March 10: Forest cover in various parts under Mahipur range in Nayagarh has been fast depleting, thanks to rampant timber smuggling and operation of brick kilns, as per a report.

The report added that the laid-back attitude of the Forest department officials has rather encouraged the mafia and brick kiln owners to plunder the valuable sylvan resources in Brahmanidevi forest.

Crores of rupees are being spent on afforestation and regeneration of forests on fallow land, but lack of protection measures has made the government efforts futile.

Valuable trees are being felled and carted away in broad daylight. Locals are using forest wood to burn bricks. Brick making units have mushroomed around the forest, because the owners easily find wood from forest to burn the bricks. Such units are contributing to air pollution, apart from raising temperature in the region.



Laid-back attitude of Forest officials has encouraged the mafia and brick kiln owners to plunder the valuable sylvan resources in Brahmanidevi forest

As per norms, anyone interested in making bricks is required

to take permission of the Revenue and Forest departments. However, this involves huge costs in terms of environmental pollution, though it fetches revenue for the local administration.

As for timber smuggling and depleting forest cover, range officer Sushant Kumar Swain said, "The department is trying its best to protect forests. Brick kilns using forest wood will be seized and action will be taken against the those involved in such illegal activities."

FOREST RANGER SUSPENDED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Athagarh, March 10: Forest department has suspended Ashok Kumar Behera, the ranger of Narasinghpur West under Athagarh forest division in Cuttack district, in connection with the death of an elephant about a month ago.

A forest guard and a forester had been suspended in this connection, a week after the incident. Sufficient evidence was available against ranger Behera's involvement in the incident, said sources. However, no one has been arrested following the recovery of skeletal remains and seizure of the tusks. Environmentalists argued that the evidence based on which the three Forest department staffers have been suspended was also sufficient for their arrest.

Watermelon sweetens hopes of Telkoi farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, March 10: It's watermelon time and summer will not be fulfilling without the succulent fruit which keeps you hydrated. Much to the delight of the district administration and agriculturists, the juicy fruit has brought smiles on the faces of scores of small and marginal farmers of Telkoi block by helping them double their farm income.

The summer fruit has benefitted many farmers and given fresh hope to debt-ridden peasants. Apart from sugarcane farming, watermelon has also become a profitable business for the farmers here.

Furthermore, the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) has been encouraging the farmers and providing them with seeds, fertilisers and other

support. The farmers are also provided with irrigation facilities to boost watermelon farming.

The watermelon cultivation has seen robust growth in this block since last year. Especially, farmers of Golagadia village under Bhimakand panchayat under the block have already earned in lakhs through watermelon farming.

Farmers of this village have become a source of inspiration for others. Seeing the profits, other farmers have also turned to watermelon farming and are earning handsome money.

In fiscal year 2019-20, a few farmers had taken up watermelon cultivation. They had cultivated the tropical fruit in just five acre of land. However, this year, at least 34 farmers have grown watermelon



in 30,000 acre farmland. They expect to sell the first pro-

duce in the next 15 days. Watermelons are harvested when

they grow up to the size of 3 to 5 kg. Now, farmers are very happy about the way the watermelons are growing.

"Watermelon is turning to be a profitable business. We are planning to increase the production soon," a farmer said.

"If watermelons sell at a good price, a grower makes a profit in the range of ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh per acre. But if the market rate dips below ₹10/kg or the crop suffers from disease, the grower would be in trouble," he added.

Farmers of Telkoi block have been associated with agriculture for years now. Severe water problem was forcing them to limit it to seasonal farming. However, now by opting for new crops like sugarcane and watermelon, most of the farmers are able to augment their income.

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TN associations demand release of fishermen held in Seychelles, Indonesia

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 10: Fishermen associations of Tamil Nadu have appealed to the Centre to safely bring back fishermen from the state and Kerala detained in Seychelles and Indonesia.

Justin Antony, President, International Fishermen Development Trust (Infidet) in a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that 32 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and one from Thiruvananthapuram were detained in the East African country of Seychelles.

He stated that three boats with the Indian fishermen had drifted into the waters of Seychelles, which is around 2,700 km from Kochi due to bad weather, leading to their detention by the authorities of that country.

The captains of the three boats were taken to the police station in Seychelles, while the fishermen are detained in their boats. Antony said that the Indian consular office is already assisting the fishermen and providing necessary support to them.

According to information available, Seychelles authorities have provided food and drinking water to the fishermen.

South Asian Fishermen Fraternity General secretary, Charles said that in another incident, eight fishermen, including five from Kanniyakumari district in

Stalin urges EAM for intervention

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday sought External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's personal intervention to secure the release of Indian fishermen arrested by the Indonesian and Seychelles authorities. Stalin in a letter to Jaishankar citing reports said five fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu and Kerala were apprehended by the Indonesian air and sea police for allegedly entering Indonesian waters and were taken to Ditpolairud Pier, Aceh, Indonesia, for legal proceedings. The fishermen had gone fishing February 17 in an Andaman registered fishing vessel. Stalin said that according to fishermen associations, 33 fishermen and three mechanised fishing boats had left from Cochin harbour February 22. On March 7, the fishermen were apprehended by the Seychelles authorities for allegedly entering Seychelles waters.

Tamil Nadu and three from Thiruvananthapuram, are detained in Indonesia for drifting into the waters of that country.

An appeal has already been sent to the President, Prime Minister, and External Affairs Ministry for the immediate release of the Indian fishermen.

Congress' poll debacle could have repercussions in Kerala

The first hurdle to cross in Kerala in the wake of the near washout in the current round of Assembly polls is that the party will have to clear a nominee for the one Rajya Sabha seat which it can win out of the three to which polls, if required, will be held March 31

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

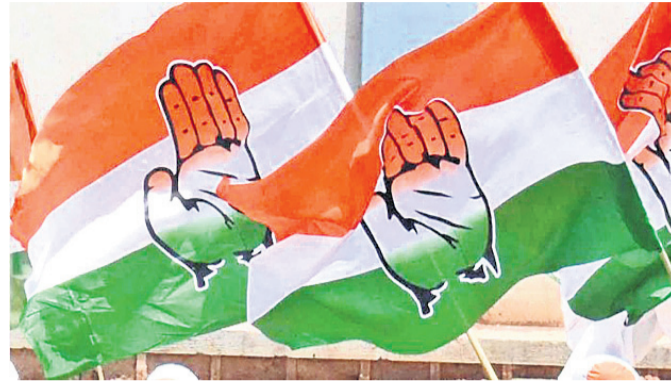
Thiruvananthapuram, March 10: With the Assembly poll results in five states Thursday giving nothing for the Congress to cheer about as it lost Punjab, while failing to make headway in the other four, it does not also portend well for the party's faction-ridden Kerala unit.

In the Kerala unit, ever since the 2021 Assembly poll reversal, it was the party high command, especially senior leader Rahul Gandhi, along with his now close aide KC Venugopal, calling the shots, and this had ruffled seasoned veterans like Oommen Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala.

The high command, perhaps for the first time, decided to ignore veterans and brought in K Sudhakaran as the new state chief and VD Satheesan as Leader of Opposition and since then, affairs in the party have not been smooth.

The first hurdle to cross in Kerala in the wake of the near washout in the current round of Assembly polls is that the party will have to clear a nominee for the one Rajya Sabha seat which it can win out of the three to which polls, if required, will be held March 31.

That could be a problem because there are quite a good number of senior leaders hoping against hope and are looking forward to the lone seat. In the bargain, the high command will be able to please just one leader and those who are left out will certainly be displeased. Another issue which is on the cards is the revamp of the district level office bearers and here too, with factional feuds also in the air, it could



Vijayan must now stop attacking Yogi: Ker BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, March 10: With the resounding poll victory of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, at least now Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan should stop criticising the former, said Kerala BJP President K Surendran.

People saw what Vijayan was saying against Yogi and even went to the extent of advising him that Uttar Pradesh must adopt the 'Kerala model'. Now we (BJP) will say Kerala should adopt the Uttar Pradesh model as the so-called Kerala model has been rejected by the people there, Surendran added.

During the election campaign in Uttar Pradesh, a political war of words had broken out between the two Chief Ministers.

According to a video, Yogi told the people that their vote will decide the future of Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh CM said the state could soon become a Kashmir, Bengal or Kerala if the people repeat the mistake of not electing the BJP government back to power.

Many good things have taken place in five years. Vote cautiously or the work done in the past five years will be ruined. Uttar Pradesh could become Kashmir, Kerala and Bengal. This is a time for taking

lead to washing dirty linen in public and a free for all, a political



commentator, who did not want to be identified, said.

major decisions, Adityanath added. The Kerala Chief Minister retorted to Yogi and wrote on his Twitter account, "If Uttar Pradesh turns into Kerala as @myogiadityanath fears, it will enjoy the best education, health services, social welfare, living standards and create a harmonious society in which people won't be killed in the name of religion and caste. That's what the people of Uttar Pradesh would want."

Slamming the Congress and its former President Rahul Gandhi, the Kerala BJP President said the Congress is on the verge of being routed from the country and now Gandhi can only dream of becoming the Prime Minister of Wayanad.

The election results show the people of all five states have voted for Narendra Modi and the way he is charting the growth trajectory of the country, Surendran added.

Stalin calls for action against those breaking communal harmony

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 10: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday called on the administration to immediately act against those disturbing communal harmony in the state.

Addressing a three-day brainstorming session of District Collectors, police officers, and forest officers, he said that his government would not compromise on the law and order situation in the state and instructed officials not to allow illegal activities in any form in Tamil Nadu.

He said that his government would not allow offenses against women and children committed under the influence of psychotropic substances. He also said that no leniency should be given to those involved in 'katta panchayat' and 'land grabbing' and called upon officials to crackdown upon rowdy elements.

The Chief Minister said that maintaining law and order was important for bringing in investments to the state and thereby, providing jobs to the youths. He also said that he was targeting the state to become a trillion-dollar economy and for that proper law and order situation was indispensable.

He also called upon the District collectors to listen to the grievances of the people and added that around 70 per cent of the 550 assurances given to the people before the elections were met.

The Chief Minister said that

I will not make any compromise on matters related to maintenance of law and order. I believe that all of you would have realised it. In particular, the government will never allow crimes against women and children, economic offences, drug and narcotics related offences

MK STALIN | CHIEF MINISTER, TAMIL NADU

'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam', 'Illam Thedi Kalvi', and 'Innuyur Kappom Nammai Kakkum' schemes had reached the people of the state. He said that the state government was able to contain Covid-19 in the state during the ten months of his government and thanked officials for their support.

He also said that the government was planning to increase the green cover in the state from the present 24 per cent to 33 per cent and called upon the support of the state government officers to implement it.

The meeting was attended by the council of ministers, Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu, and DGP C Sylendra Babu.



New Kodaikanal road threat to Indian gaur, deer corridor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 10: Environmentalists and activists are up in arms against the proposed new road in Kodaikanal, the tourist spot of the state, charging that it would threaten the Indian gaur and deer corridor that is close to the Kodaikanal Wildlife sanctuary.

Social activist and nature lover, MK Senthil while speaking to IANS said, "A road is now being cut through an important route where Indian gaur and deer frequent in large numbers and is almost touching the Vattakanal Shola Reserve Forest and grasslands."

He adds, "This is a biodiversity hotspot within the Palani hills that harbours many endan-

The road is being laid at Dolphin's Nose, a tourist spot six kilometre from Kodaikanal town and it passes through a reserve forest

gered species like Nilgiri marten, Nilgiri langur, Nilgiri pipit, sambar barking deer, and rare terrestrial orchids, and cutting a road through this route will lead to a major issue for these endangered species."

Several other activists are of the opinion that the new route was the least suited for all the earlier surveyed road routes for ecological and economic reasons.

Sukumaran Jayan, an environmentalist while speaking to IANS said, "This new road project is exclusively meant for promoting tourism in an eco-sensitive area in close proximity to the Kodaikanal Wildlife sanctuary area."

The environmental groups have also come out against the new road project in Kodaikanal and R Iswaran, Secretary, Centre for Study of Forests, said, "Rampant tourism in the Vattakanal area has already destroyed several habitats and the new road and the tourist inflow would be detrimental to wildlife."

Forest officials, however, said that the new road is being laid out on Revenue Department Land and Revenue officials have not approached the state forest department.

'K-Rail will be an environmental disaster'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, March 10: With the BJP's Kerala unit deciding to launch its agitation against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's proposed dream project, K-Rail (Silverline), 'metroman' E Sreedharan has been nominated to head the series of protests that have been planned.

Expressing his thoughts, the veteran, who had contested as a BJP candidate in the April 2021 assembly polls from Palakkad and lost, said this project, if implemented, will become an environmental disaster for Kerala.

The pet project of Vijayan, estimated to cost Rs 63,940 crore, envisages a 529.45 km corridor connecting Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod and a high-speed train will cover this distance in around four hours. However, the NITI Aayog says it might cost Rs 1.24 lakh crore and is expected to be



completed in 2025 according to the detailed project report.

Sreedharan went on to pick holes in the detailed project report of the K-Rail, saying that all along the sides of the proposed track, an eight-foot-high wall, which will cost Rs 8 crore for one kilometre,

has to be constructed, and there has to be a mesh on its top, but this not mentioned in the DPR.

He further pointed out that there is no mention of the flyovers and subways in the DPR.

The high power meeting that concluded at Alappuzha consisted

all the top brass of the BJP and decided that a series of protests against this project will take place across the state over four days.

The Congress has already started their protests against this, even as Vijayan is determined that, come what may, he and his government will go forward with the project and has slammed both opposition parties of playing spoilsport when a major development project which will change the face of the state is being planned.

There have been protests across the state for the past many days wherever the K-Rail officials reached to lay the marking stones and Wednesday also, it was the same. In a related development, the children of yesteryear's top CPI leaders like C Achutha Menon, MN Govindan Nair, Unni Raja, to name a few, have decided to express their displeasure against this project and will give a letter to CPI state Secretary Kanam Rajendran.

Constellation of 75 student satellites getting ready in India

Three student-built satellites known as UNITYSat were launched by ISRO's rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in 2021 and now the students are building the 75 satellites based on the learnings from that project

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 10: As part of celebrating 75 years of India's Independence, a constellation of 75 student satellites is planned to be launched in a year's time, said M Annadurai, a former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Speaking to IANS Annadurai said, "The Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) has initiated the ambitious 75 student satellites constellation programme with various Indian educational institutions."

The satellites will be built by the students and launched by ISRO rockets in phases.

"We are planning to launch three or four satellites sometime this year. The balance satellites are expected to be launched before 2023," Annadurai, who is also a Mentor-Advisor to ITCA, said.

In order to ready the 75 satellites, an Indian space startup will be supplying the satellite kit so that the students at various universities can assemble the same and cutting short the development time, Annadurai added.

Three student-built satellites known as UNITYSat were launched by ISRO's rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in 2021 and now the students are building the 75 satellites based on the learnings from that project.



According to ITCA, the UNITYSat's resounding success opened the door for a plethora of satellite developmental possibilities that leveraged the domain knowledge garnered in small satellite platforms. With this accomplishment, ITCA mentored and promoted two spin-off companies, TSC

Technologies in India and TMISAT in Israel, in 2020, to apply its SpaceTech team's research and consultancy breakthroughs to the development of SmallSats, ITCA said.

Annadurai said the project will give the students hands-on experience in building and managing the ground stations.

"We are also aiming for inter-satellite communication. The satellites will also take pictures during its lifetime estimated to be between six months to one year," he added. Each educational institution involved in the project will be spending about Rs.80 lakh towards satellite and ground station network. All the educational institutions part of the project will have access to all the satellites in the constellation, Annadurai said.

According to ITCA, with the initial backing of organisations/agencies from Israel, Russia, Serbia, and Japan, the mission has expanded with over 50 countries contributing to build strong capabilities in academic institutions for the design and development of student-built SmallSats.

Annadurai said foreign institutions that are part of the project can have access to the satellite data when the satellites pass over their nations.

WW-I vintage bunker discovered in Madurai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 10: A bunker built by the then British rulers during World War I was discovered accidentally at an old building in the American College in Tamil Nadu's Madurai.

Talking to IANS, College Principal Davamani Christober said During WWI, British had built bunkers in any new buildings that were constructed. This bunker would also have been made during that period. The bunker was built under the James Hall Building and the foundation stone for the building was laid March 1, 1912, which is just before the World War I.

The bunker was discovered accidentally while the workers were cleaning and it has one entrance

that extends underground.

We accidentally discovered the bunker which was used as storage for junk material like old furniture and when we cleared the area, it was found that it was a huge hall and there were four exits. However the exits were buried in sand and stone in the ground and no one has noticed it earlier, said Christober. He said that one of the exits that were on the ground floor of the James Hall has been cleared and kept covered.

The bunker is about 10ft high and is built with iron girders which were made in UK's Newcastle. College authorities said that the bunker would be converted into a museum and the collection of old coins, artefacts, and manuscripts in college will be displayed in it.

international

of the day quote

Tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the PRC (People's Republic of China) and India are the worst in over four decades

JOHN AQUILINO | ADMIRAL, INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND, US

Although reported cases and deaths are declining globally, and several countries have lifted restrictions, the pandemic is far from over. It will not be over anywhere until it's over everywhere

TEDROS ADHANOM GEBREYESUS | DIRECTOR GENERAL, WHO

Food security is surely the most pressing issue for humanity. About 305.7 million people in South Asia still suffer from hunger. We can arrange food for them easily if we all make sincere efforts

SHEIKH HASINA | PRIME MINISTER, BANGLADESH

SHORT TAKES

US House okays \$1.5 trillion bill

Washington: The US House of Representatives has passed a \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill for the fiscal year 2022 to fund the federal government through the end of September. The bill includes \$730 billion in non-defence funding, an increase of \$46 billion over fiscal year 2021, and \$782 billion in defence funding, an increase of \$42 billion over the previous fiscal year, according to the House Appropriations Committee, which oversees federal discretionary spending.

China fights new Covid-19 spike

Beijing: China is tackling a Covid-19 spike with selective lockdowns and other measures that appear to slightly ease its draconian "zero tolerance" strategy. In Hong Kong, which recorded more than 58,000 new cases Thursday, barber shops and hair salons were reopening. Many are seeing that as an example of mixed messages from the government of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory that has been ordered to follow the "zero tolerance" approach used on the mainland. The 402 cases of local transmission recorded on the mainland Thursday were quadruple the number of cases a week ago.

SL bans import of 367 items

Colombo: Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa issued a gazette notification restricting the import of 367 non-essential items with no valid import license. The gazette came into effect from Thursday midnight. Xinhua news agency quoted the Department of Imports and Exports Control as saying. The restricted items include fish fillets and other fish items; milk and cream; buttermilk, curdled milk and cream; yogurt, butter, cheese and curd; televisions; and some fruits.

US spl forces kill IS leader

Cairo: Islamic State confirmed the death of its leader Abu Ibrahim Al-hashemi Al-Quraishi Thursday and announced Abu Al-Hassan Al-Hashemi Al-Quraishi as its new leader. US special forces killed the leader of the jihadist group in a raid in northwest Syria, President Joe Biden said in February. The death of Quraishi, 45, was another crushing blow to IS two years after the violent Sunni Muslim group lost longtime leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a similar raid in 2019.



US approach to Iran's principled demands, coupled with its unreasonable offers and unjustified pressure to hastily reach an agreement, show that the US isn't interested in a strong deal that would satisfy both parties

ALI SHAMKHANI | IRAN'S TOP SECURITY OFFICIAL

HUNGARY GETS 1ST FEMALE PRESIDENT

The Hungarian parliament Thursday elected Katalin Novak as the country's first female president for a five-year term, winning over economist Peter Rona in a vote split along party lines



RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Talks yield no progress

Two weeks into its war in Ukraine, Russia has achieved less and struggled more than anticipated at the outset of the biggest land conflict in Europe since World War II. The invading force of more than 150,000 troops retains large and possibly decisive advantages in firepower as they bear down on key cities



Nuclear War? I don't want to believe it. Of course it gives us cause for concern when the West, like Freud, keeps on returning and returning to this topic

SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

I want to repeat that Ukraine has not surrendered, does not surrender, and will not surrender

DMYTRIO KULEBA | FOREIGN MINISTER, UKRAINE

the highest level contact between the two countries since the war began Feb 24, but in simultaneous duelling news conferences made clear they had made no progress. Ukraine's Dmytro Kuleba said he had secured no promise from Russia's Sergei Lavrov to halt fir-

ing so aid could reach civilians, including Kyiv's main humanitarian priority - evacuating hundreds of thousands of people trapped in the besieged port of Mariupol. Lavrov showed no sign of making any concessions, repeating Russian demands that Ukraine be disarmed and accept neutral status. He said Kyiv appeared to want meetings for the sake of meetings, and blamed the West for intensifying the conflict by arming its neighbour.

The city council of Mariupol said the port had come under fresh air strikes Thursday morning and Ukraine said Russia committed "genocide" by bombing a maternity hospital there Wednesday. Lavrov said the building was no longer used as a hospital and had been occupied by Ukrainian forces. "What kind of country is this, the Russian Federation, which is afraid of hospitals, is afraid of mater-

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he had secured no promise from his Russian counterpart to halt firing so aid could reach civilians

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov showed no sign of making any concessions, repeating Russian demands that Ukraine be disarmed and accept neutral status

Russian forces have advanced in the south but have yet to capture a single city in the north or east

nity hospitals, and destroys them?" President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a televised address late Wednesday, after posting footage of the wreckage, showing massive damage to the building.

Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Ukraine would try to open seven humanitarian corridors Thursday, including another attempt to reach Mariupol. Daily missions to rescue civilians there have failed since Saturday.

Moscow's stated objectives of crushing Ukraine's military and removing its leaders remained out of reach, with Zelenskyy unshaken and Western military aid pouring across the Polish and Romanian borders.

The UK Defence Ministry said Thursday that a large Russian column northwest of Kyiv had made little progress in over a week and was suffering continued losses. It added that as casualties mount, Russian President Vladimir Putin would have to draw from across the armed forces to replace the losses.

Western-led sanctions designed to cut the Russian economy and government from international financial markets have bit hard, with the rouble plunging and ordinary Russians rushing to hoard cash.

UK, US: Russia could use chemical weapons

London: Britain is very concerned about the potential use of chemical weapons by Russia in Ukraine, British foreign minister Liz Truss told CNN, warning that it would be a grave mistake for Russian President Vladimir Putin to use them. "We are very concerned about the potential use of chemical weapons," Truss said. "We have seen Russia use these weapons before in fields of conflict, but that would be a grave mistake on the part of Russia, adding to the grave mistakes already being made by Putin."



secretary Jen Psaki tweeted Wednesday.

"Now that Russia has made these false claims, and China has seemingly endorsed this propaganda, we should all be on the lookout for Russia to possibly use chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine, or to create a false flag operation using them." Earlier Thursday, Britain's armed forces minister James Heappey was asked whether the use of chemical weapons might cross a 'red line' that led to cause NATO members becoming involved in the conflict.

The comments come a day after the United States denied renewed Russian accusations that Washington was operating biowarfare labs in Ukraine. It called the claims "laughable" and suggested Moscow may be laying the groundwork to use a chemical or biological weapon.

"This is all an obvious ploy by Russia to try to justify its further premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified attack on Ukraine," US White House press

Cost of war: \$100bn so far

Ukraine's top government economic adviser Oleg Ustenko said Thursday that invading Russian forces have so far destroyed at least \$100 billion worth of infrastructure, buildings and other physical assets. Ustenko, chief economic adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, told an online event hosted by the Peterson Institute for International Economics that the war has caused 50% of Ukrainian businesses to shut down completely, while the other half are operating at well below their capacity.



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Russia leaves Council of Europe

Moscow: Russia has left the Council of Europe, the continent's leading human rights organisation, the Foreign Ministry in Moscow announced Thursday. In a statement, the Ministry said that the European Union and NATO countries "are using their absolute majority in the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to continue the destruction of the Council of Europe and the common humanitarian and legal space" on the continent, reports Xinhua news agency. The Ministry stressed that Russia will not tolerate actions by the West to impose its own "rules-based order" and trample on international law. The country will not participate in efforts to turn the organisation "into another platform for preaching about Western superiority and for grandstanding", it added. "Let them enjoy each other's company without Russia," the statement added. The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation with 47 member states. Twenty-seven members are from the EU. Russia joined the council in February 1996 as its 39th member.

HUNDREDS FLEE

Merapi spews out volcanic lava, ash

REUTERS

Jakarta, March 10: Indonesia's Merapi volcano erupted overnight, sending hot lava and ash down its slopes and prompting over 250 residents in the surrounding area to evacuate, the country's disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) said Thursday.



The 2,963 metre-high (9,721 feet) Merapi is one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes and was already on the country's second-highest alert level

Fire, Indonesia has more volcanoes than any other country. Merapi last violently erupted in 2010, killing more than 350 people. In December, the Semeru volcano in East Java province erupted, killing nearly 60 people.

Yoon Suk-yeol elected S Korea Prez

It is also a dramatic victory for the opposition People Power party, who were left in disarray in 2017 after their president Park Gung-hye was impeached

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Seoul, March 10: The opposition conservative Yoon Suk-yeol has won South Korea's presidential election. Yonhap reported early Thursday, propelling a political novice and avowed anti-feminist to the helm of Asia's fourth largest economy.

After a bitter, hard-fought election campaign, Yoon, formerly a top government prosecutor who has never held elected office, was declared winner early Thursday after rival Lee Jae-myung from the incumbent Democratic Party conceded defeat.

This is a victory of the great South Korean people, Yoon told cheering supporters, who were chanting his name at the country's National Assembly.

Despite a campaign dominated by mud-slinging between frontrunners Yoon and Lee, voter turnout was 77.1 percent, including record early voting, with interest strong and the policy stakes high in the country of some 52 million.

The two parties are ideologically poles

apart, and Yoon's victory looks set to usher in a more hawkish, fiscally conservative regime after five years under outgoing President Moon Jae-in's dovish liberals.

It is also a dramatic victory for the opposition People Power party, who were left in disarray in 2017 after their president Park Gung-hye was impeached. It could restart the cycle of revenge in South Korea's famously adversarial politics, analysts say, where presidents serve just a single term of five years and every living former leader has been jailed



for corruption after leaving office. On the campaign trail, Yoon had threatened to investigate outgoing President Moon Jae-in, citing unspecified irregularities.

But in his victory speech, he struck a more conciliatory tone, telling the country after a divisive race The competition is over now, and everyone must make joint efforts to become one.

The frontrunners, who were both so unpopular that local media branded it the election of the unfavourables, have been neck and neck for months. Exit polls had shown the candidates separated by less than a percentage point.

Yoon has many unknowns which are difficult to account for, Karl Friedhoff of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs told AFP.

His lack of experience on any real policy making is a serious concern, he said.

However, he appears to be aggressive and ambitious, and he has consolidated support of a huge chunk of the country's elite, Vladimir Tikhonov, professor of Korean studies at the University of Oslo, told AFP.

100 years on, 'Endurance' found beneath Antarctic ice

THE THREE-MASTED SAILING SHIP WAS LOST IN NOVEMBER 1915 DURING SHACKLETON'S FAILED ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE FIRST LAND CROSSING OF ANTARCTICA

REUTERS

London, March 10: The wreckage of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance, which was crushed by Antarctic ice and sank some 3,000 metre to the ocean floor more than a century ago, has

been found, a team searching for it said Wednesday.

The three-masted sailing ship was lost in November 1915 during Shackleton's failed attempt to make the first land crossing of Antarctica.

Previous attempts to locate the 144-foot-long wooden wreck, whose location was logged by its captain Frank Worsley, had failed due to the hostile conditions of the ice-covered Weddell Sea under which it lies.

However, the Endurance22 mission, organised by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust and using advanced underwater vehicles called Sabertooths fitted with high-definition cameras and scanners, tracked the vessel's remains down.

Footage showed the ship in a remarkably good condition, with its name clearly visible on the stern. "We are overwhelmed by our



good fortune..." said Mensun Bound, the expedition's Director of Exploration.

"This is by far the finest wooden shipwreck I have ever seen. It is upright, well proud of the seabed, intact, and in a brilliant state of

miles (six km) from the position recorded by Worsley.

Despite being stranded on the ice, the 28-man crew of the Endurance made it back home alive and theirs is considered one of the great survival stories of human history.

They trekked across the sea ice, living off seals and penguins, before setting sail in three lifeboats and reaching the uninhabited Elephant Island.

From there, Shackleton and handful of the crew rowed some 1,300 km on the lifeboat James Caird to South Georgia, where they sought help from a whaling station.

On his fourth rescue attempt, Shackleton managed to return to pick up the rest of the crew from Elephant Island in August 1916, two years after his Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition left London.

US inflation soared 7.9% in past year; fresh 40-year high

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, March 10: Propelled by surging costs for gas, food and housing, consumer inflation jumped 7.9% over the past year, the sharpest spike since 1982 and likely only a harbinger of even higher prices to come.

The increase reported Thursday by the Labor Department reflected the 12 months ending in February and didn't include most of the oil and gas price increases that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine Feb 24. Since then, average gas prices nationally have jumped about 62 cents a gallon to \$4.32, according to AAA.

Even before the war further accelerated price increases, robust consumer spending, solid pay raises and persistent supply shortages had sent US consumer inflation to its highest level in four decades. The government's report Thursday also showed that inflation rose 0.8% from January to February, up from the 0.6% increase from December to January.

For most Americans, inflation is running far ahead of the pay raises that many have received in the past year, making it harder for them to afford necessities like food, gas and rent. As a consequence, inflation has become the top political threat to President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats as the midterm elections draw closer. Small business people say in surveys that it's their primary economic concern, too.

Seeking to stem the inflation surge, the Federal Reserve is set to raise interest rates several times this year beginning with a modest hike next week. The Fed faces a delicate challenge, though: If it tightens credit too aggressively this year, it risks undercutting the economy and possibly triggering a recession.

In the final three months of last year, wages and salaries jumped 4.5%, the sharpest such increase in at least 20 years. Those pay raises have, in turn, led many companies to raise prices to offset their higher labor costs.

That pattern is akin to the "stagflation" dynamic that made the economy of the 1970s miserable for many Americans.

of the day quote

The Indian apparel industry is very well aware of the alarming fact that without sustainable supply chains, the fashion industry will become less and less viable. Sustainability is now counted as one of the major pillars of apparel export business and a growth tool

We should look into how all stakeholders can work together to help develop a conducive ecosystem for drone applications in agriculture and specifically agrochemical spraying

Our association with IIT-M will help us further empower our teams, collaborate on digital innovation, and strengthen the education ecosystem in India

SHORT TAKES

RIL sells CBM gas for over \$23

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has sold natural gas produced from a coalfield in Madhya Pradesh for over \$23 to firms, including GAIL, GSPC and Shell, but its price discovery was beaten by smaller explorer HOEC, which sold half of its sales volume for over \$25. Reliance sold 0.65 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of gas from its coal-bed methane (CBM) block SP-(West)-CBM-2001/1 at a \$8.28 per million British thermal unit premium over prevailing Brent crude oil prices.

Gold imports rise near 28% in 2021

New Delhi: India's gold imports bounced back to 1,067.72 tonne in 2021 from 430.11 tonne during 2020 when the demand was hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gem Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJPEC) said Thursday. The gold imports in 2021 were up by 27.66 per cent from 836.38 tonne during 2020, it said in a statement. The maximum quantity of gold was imported from Switzerland at 469.66 tonne, followed by UAE (120.16 tonne), South Africa (71.68 tonne) and Guinea (58.72 tonne) in 2021, it added.

JSPL sales up 8% in February

New Delhi: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) Thursday posted 8 per cent jump in sales at 5.90 lakh tonne for February 2022. In a statement, the company said it sold 5.47 lakh tonne (LT) steel in the same period a year ago. Exports contributed 24 per cent to total sales volume last month. "JSPL's steel production stood at 6.57 lakh tonne in February 2022 which was modestly higher than previous years," the company said. JSPL further noted that its sales would have been higher if rake availability was not limited in the eastern part of the country. Railway rake availability issue is not yet fully resolved.

Future arm snubs JV with Fonterra

New Delhi: Future Consumer, a part of Kishore Biyani-led Future Group, Thursday said it has decided to terminate a joint venture (JV) pact with New Zealand's dairy firm Fonterra. The company's board at a meeting held today considered and approved the termination of joint venture arrangement with Fonterra (Europe) Cooperative, Future Consumer said in a regulatory filing.



We had expected a gradual start to the normalisation of rates and monetary policy as a whole from the RBI. But should inflation breach its 4% to 6% target for a longer period of time, the central bank could face pressure to normalise more quickly

ANDREW WOOD | S&P GLOBAL RATINGS

BMW DRIVES IN NEW X4

German luxury carmaker BMW Thursday said it has launched the updated version of SUV Coupe X4 in India with price starting at ₹70.5 lakh (ex-showroom). The petrol trim is priced at ₹70.5 lakh while the diesel variant is tagged at ₹72.5 lakh. The company said it has refreshed the sports activity coupe (SAC) with design elements, added equipment and new features



'WAR A DOWNSIDE RISK'

7.8% GDP growth in FY23: CRISIL

Any potential upside due to the early end of a mild third wave of Covid-19 infections will be offset by the ongoing geopolitical strife stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which is creating a dampening effect on global growth and pushing up oil and commodity prices



We believe the fiscal policy will need to be deployed more aggressively than envisaged in the Union Budget for next fiscal. This can be done by increasing allocation for employment-generating schemes and food subsidy, and cutting duty on petroleum products

DHARMAKIRTI JOSHI | CHIEF ECONOMIST, CRISIL

As for the average Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation, it will stay firm at 5.4 per cent next fiscal - if the price of crude oil averages \$85-90 per barrel

During that period, food and core inflation, which together have 86 per cent weight in CPI, had averaged 9.8 per cent and 8.6 per cent, respectively

The earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) margin to sustain above 20 per cent

plays out in the labour market, and private consumption demand becomes self-sustaining, he noted.

The near-term impact of high oil prices on inflation, assuming a significant pass-through, will be more pronounced than on growth, it said, adding all bets are off if oil stays around or above \$100 a barrel for a prolonged period. The ripple effects of higher commodity prices have been reflected strongly in the operating profitability of India Inc during past cycles.

This time around, pass-throughs have been good. Hence, we expect the earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) margin to sustain above 20 per cent for the second year in a row for the top 700 corporates (excluding oil and banking, financial services and insurance, or BFSI) this fiscal, as per the report.

The recovery next fiscal will be broad-based, supported by

normalisation of volumes if geopolitical and other unforeseen events don't pose significant challenges, it said.

"Across consumption segments, recovery curves have been staggered, and income sentiment will be the key driver. As things stand, we expect India Inc to see revenue growth of 10-14 per cent next fiscal," the report added.

While utilisation levels in legacy sectors do not support a rounded CAPEX recovery, spending under schemes such as Production Linked Incentive (PLI) will result in industrial CAPEX rising to above ₹4-4.5 lakh crore on average in the medium term (through fiscal 2026) compared to ₹3-3.5 lakh crore in the three years through fiscal 2020.

India's investment focus is now shifting towards green capital expenditure, with an expected spend of over ₹2.85 lakh crore per annum over fiscals 2023 to 2030, account-

'CAD TO WIDEN TO 10-YEAR HIGH'

New Delhi: Morgan Stanley expects the April RBI policy to mark the process of policy normalisation with a reverse repo rate hike. However, if the RBI were to delay its normalisation process, the risk of disruptive policy rate hikes would rise, it said.

"We see less room for fiscal policy stimulus to support growth given the high deficit and debt levels... We see a possibility of a modest fuel tax cut and reliance on the national rural employment programme as an automatic stabiliser," Morgan Stanley said. The investment banking company said that the ongoing geopolitical tensions exacerbate external risks and impart a stagflationary impulse to the Indian economy. Morgan Stanley has lowered GDP growth estimate by 50bps to 7.9 per cent, and raised CPI inflation forecast to 6 per cent. It expects the current account deficit (CAD) to widen to a 10-year high of 3 per cent of GDP in FY2023.

The key channel of impact for the economy will be higher cost-push inflation, feeding into broader price pressures, which will weigh on all economic agents, i.e., households, business and government, Morgan Stanley said.

3 key challenges

- Higher prices of oil and other commodities
- Trade
- Tighter financial conditions, influencing business/investment sentiment

ing for nearly 15-20 per cent of total investments - into the infrastructure and industrial sectors - per annum, it said.

Oil bounces as tight supply gives high floor to prices

REUTERS

London, March 10: Oil prices bounced Thursday from a sharp drop in the previous session after the United Arab Emirates backtracked on statements saying that OPEC and its allies might increase output to help to plug the gap in exports from Russia.

In a volatile market, Brent crude futures were up \$5.43, or 4.9%, at \$116.57 a barrel after trading in an \$8 range. The benchmark contract slumped 13% in the previous session in its biggest daily drop in percentage terms for about two years.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were up \$4.49, or 4.1%, at \$113.19 after trading in a \$7 range. The contract had tumbled 12% in the previous session in the biggest daily decline since November.

PVM oil market analyst Tamas Varga called Wednesday's slump a "temporary correction".

Uncertainty over where and when supply will come from to replace crude from Russia has led to wide-ranging forecasts for oil prices up to \$200 a barrel.

While oil from the world's second-largest exporter is being shunned over its invasion of Ukraine, comments from the United Arab Emirates energy minister and the ambassador to Washington sent conflicting signals.

UAE Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei said on Twitter that his country was committed to the agreement by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia to ramp up oil supply by only 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) monthly after sharp cuts in 2020.

Only hours earlier prices slumped on comments from UAE's ambassador to Washington, saying his country will be encouraging OPEC to consider higher out-



Brent crude futures were up \$5.43, or 4.9%, at \$116.57

WTI crude futures were up \$4.49, or 4.1%, at \$113.19

UAE officials give differing views on output plans

put to fill the supply gap created by sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

While the UAE and Saudi Arabia have spare capacity, some other OPEC+ producers are struggling to meet their output targets because of infrastructure underinvestment over the past few years.

The comments from UAE officials came as the market also took into account moves by the United States to ease sanctions on Venezuelan oil and efforts to seal a nuclear deal with Tehran, which could lead to increased oil supply.

Further supply could also come from stockpile releases coordinated by the International Energy Agency and growing US output.

"With some goodwill, co-ordination and luck, the supply shock can greatly be mitigated but probably not neutralised," Varga said.

Meanwhile, US crude oil and fuel stockpiles fell last week, adding to worries over already tight global supplies. Crude inventories fell by 1.9 million barrels in the week to March 4 to 411.6 million barrels. U.S. crude stocks in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve fell to 577.5 million barrels, the lowest since July 2002.

BIZ BUZZ

JSW installs second O2 plant

Jagatsinghpur: Country's leading steel maker JSW Steel contributed an advanced oxygen plant and machinery to adequately cover the needs of people at Jagatsinghpur. The oxygen plant has been installed at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) amid the third wave of Covid-19 outbreak. "At JSW we believe in inclusive industrialisation and we are consistently taking people along with us" said Ranjan Nayak, COO & spokesperson of JSW. The company invested over ₹42 lakh from its Corporate Social Responsibility fund through JSW Foundation to install state of the art advanced machinery. The plant capacity is 400 LPM (liters per minute) of oxygen and it will cater to 12 ICU beds in the hospital and other high dependence units from Pediatrics Department. This is the second oxygen plant in the facility. Considering high oxygen demand during the outbreak, the central government had already established 1,000-litre oxygen plant here at the Jagatsinghpur DHH, which is connected to 56 beds of Medicine department. "We are currently conducting thorough need assessment to identify areas with critical needs at the plant site and trying our best to address them," said Prasanta Biswal, Head Odisha CSR, JSW Foundation.

BoB Bhubaneswar-2 regional office inaugurated

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Baroda (BoB), Bhubaneswar-2 Regional office was inaugurated at Chalachitra Bhaban, Buxi Bazar, Cuttack by Vishal Kumar Dev, IAS, Principal Secretary (Finance), Govt of Odisha, Debadatta Chand, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda and Satyabrata Tripathy, Chairman, OFDC today. Speaking on the occasion, Dev spoke about the history of Cuttack and showed hope about the achievement of the business growth in Odisha. Executive Director Chand emphasised on customer service and focused to have administrative offices in key cities with branch offices. Even though there are less number of branches in the state, the bank is far ahead with its profitability and business opportunities, he mentioned. Apart from this, he also emphasised on digital banking services and technologies. OFDC Chairman Tripathy lauded bank's commitment on women's empowerment. Among others, Sanjeev Menon, Zonal Head, Patna Zone gave welcome speech and highlighted on the financial help provided by the Bank to SHGs. Anmaya Mishra, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar-2 thanked to all and reiterated his commitment to make the region the best it can be.

Sensex rallies for 3rd day

Equity investors have become richer by over ₹10.83 lakh crore as stocks extended their rising streak for the third consecutive session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 10: Equity benchmarks maintained their winning momentum for the third session running Thursday, buoyed by a bullish trend in Asian markets and state election results being in line with expectations.

A strengthening rupee added to the momentum despite uncertainties related to the Ukraine crisis, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a firm footing and zoomed over 1,500 points in intra-day trade, before paring some gains to end at 55,464.39, up 817.06 points or 1.50 per cent. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 249.55 points or 1.53 per cent to close at 16,594.90.

Hindustan Unilever Ltd hogged the limelight in the Sensex pack,



surging 5.17 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, SBI, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle and Maruti Suzuki.

Only three counters ended in the red - Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and TCS, slipping up to 1.28 per cent.

"With hopes of progress in high-level talks between Russia and Ukraine and a surge in the Asian market, the Indian market started with a strong gap-up. The outper-

formance was supported by positive state election results being in line with expectations. However, a weak western market ahead of ECB and US CPI data and rise in crude prices added volatility in between," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Mohit Nigam, Head - PMS, Hem Securities, said, "The market's optimism has been fuelled by the prospect of a favourable outcome from the Russia-Ukraine talks. The BJP's strong showing in the state elections encouraged the bullish mood even further."

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices jumped as much as 1.18 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices settled in the green, with FMCG, realty, metal and bank climbing up to 2.68 per cent.

What would be the impact of a US "digital dollar"?

A digital dollar would represent "a natural evolution rather than a revolution" as more than \$6.5 trillion are already exchanged in electronic form every day on the foreign exchange market

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, March 10: US president Joe Biden has ordered the federal government to look into creating a digital dollar, a move with the potential to reshape how money is moved and used around the world.

Before his order results in a virtual greenback, there will be numerous major impacts - and risks - to consider first. Here are some key questions:

What form would a digital

dollar take?

It would still be a dollar issued by the US Federal Reserve central bank, like all US bills and coins used now, but in a digital form that is accessible to everyone, not just financial institutions.

Unlike money deposited in a bank account or spent via apps like Venmo and Apple Pay, it would be registered in the accounts of the Federal Reserve, not a bank.

At the same time, the digital dollar would be worth the same as its paper counterpart, a divergence from cryptocurrencies which currently have highly volatile valuations. Key questions remain unanswered, like whether a digital dollar would be based on blockchain technology like bitcoin or if it would be linked with some sort of payment card.

If the government decides to go ahead, it could take "a number of years" before we can use a digital dollar - authorities will have to explore for instance which tech-



nology to use, said Darrell Duffie, a digital currencies expert at Stanford University in California.

Why launch a digital dollar?

It would reduce or even eliminate transaction fees since exchanges would no longer go through banks, bank cards or apps that take commissions on every payment.

Proponents say it would help

people without bank accounts, about five percent of households in the United States, and could make it easier for the government to pay benefits. There are risks like a system failure or a cyberattack, and there are also questions about privacy, as the government could theoretically have access to all transactions.

The banking system could also

The overwhelming dominance of the dollar gives the US the luxury of learning from... other countries

ESWAR PRASAD | PROFESSOR, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

be undermined as banks currently use customers' deposits to lend to others, and with a digital dollar they could have less money at their disposal.

How will global finance be affected?

An operation that currently takes two days to be validated could be done in one hour, said Marc Chandler, a foreign exchange expert for the broker Bannockburn.

For Chandler, the geopolitical role of the US dollar would not be upset by the digital version's introduction. The digital dollar would represent "a natural evolution rather than a revolution", he noted, recalling that more than \$6.5 tril-

lion are already exchanged in electronic form every day on the foreign exchange market.

Even if China launches a large-scale digital yuan, as is being discussed, he said he doesn't think that changes China's role in the world economy as "there will always be questions of trust, transparency, depth of markets."

Would the crypto world be turned upside down?

If properly designed, a digital dollar could be more preferable for domestic use than a cryptocurrency, said Mr Duffie.

For international transfers, however, he said he was "skeptical that large central banks like the Fed or the ECB, China or Japan, will give accounts at the central bank to people all over the world."

If the United States did so, he noted, it could wreck the monetary system of small countries whose people might prefer to use the digital dollar rather than the local currency.

INDIA EVES GO DOWN

Mithali blames batters for loss to White Ferns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamilton, March 10: An inept batting performance by India led to an all-too familiar surrender against New Zealand as the Mithali Raj-led side went down by 62 runs in its second league stage match of the ICC Women's World Cup here Thursday.

New Zealand, who have dominated the Indians throughout this summer, didn't let anything change in a familiar script by first scoring a healthy 260/9. They then choked the 'Women in Blue' before bowling them out for only 198 in 46.4 overs.

India have now slipped to fifth among eight teams after this defeat while New Zealand, with two wins from three games, are now second behind Australia in the overall standings.

Puja Vastrakar's 4/34 in 10 overs and Harmanpreet Kaur's 71 (63b, 6x4, 2x6) were two isolated performances which hardly made any impact on the larger outcome.

While Vastrakar's four-for could still be credited for stopping New Zealand's total from going north of 280, Harmanpreet's runs might just help her regain confidence for the coming games.

Amelia Kerr (50, 64b, 5x4 & 3/56), one half of the famous Kerr sisters, first laid the platform with a solid half century and then breached the defences of rival skipper Mithali Raj (31) with a flighted delivery. Her fast googly dismissed Richa Ghosh (0) off the successive de-



Pooja Vastrakar reacts after getting a wicket

balls in those first 15 overs to choke the flow of runs.

India haven't found a way to counter New Zealand and in past one month, have lost five of the six WODIs against the White Ferns. The game could be divided into two sets of first 20 overs where the two teams battled.

In case of New Zealand, the first 20 overs yielded 117 runs for the loss of just two wickets while India, in their response, painfully reached 50/3 in their share of 20.

The difference was 67 and if one looks at the margin of victory for 'White Ferns', it won't be very difficult to gauge why things went downhill for Mithali's team.

New Zealand's batting has four pillars - Suzie Bates (5), skipper Devine (35), No.3 Kerr and No.4 Amy Satterthwaite (75, 84b, 9x4) and three performed on the day.



AMELIA KERR

BRIEF SCORES
New Zealand Women 260/9 (Amy Satterthwaite 75, Amelia Kerr 50, Katey Martin 41; Pooja Vastrakar 4/34, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/46) beat India Women 198 (Harmanpreet Kaur 71, Mithali Raj 31; Lea Tahuhu 3/17, Hayley Jansen 3/30, Amelia Kerr 3/56) by 62 runs.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamilton, March 10: Captain Mithali Raj had no hesitation in admitting that top order's performance hasn't been up to the mark as India didn't have "a batter to take the game deep" in their 62-run defeat against New Zealand in the ICC Women's World Cup.

"Our batting, especially the top and middle order needs to fire because other teams are posting 250-260," Raj said at post-match presentation ceremony. "We thought it was chaseable but provided we had the top order going. But back-to-back wickets put a lot of pressure because we didn't have batter who can take it deep."

"There was bounce and good carry off the surface but it was not a tough strip to bat on. Their seamers were hitting the right areas with the bounce, but it wasn't unplayable and we could have done better," she added.

Raj has expressed the same concern after the win against Pakistan in India's campaign opener when the lower order made up for the faltering top order.

The silver lining for India once again was the bowling effort according to the skipper as they were able to restrict the hosts, who were cruising towards a huge total at one stage, to 260/9.

"Our bowlers have done well

today and earlier as well. After the early wickets we got, the way they had a partnership I thought they'd get around 270-280. There was bounce and it got slower in the second innings," Raj observed.

For home team skipper Sophie Devine, it was a "complete performance". "Really complete performance. We built partnerships throughout, (Amy) Satterthwaite was outstanding, we laid the platform and we knew it was a good score," Devine said.

She was all praise for the bowlers as they tightened the noose around Indian top order. "Our bowlers were outstanding, didn't give them anything. We have different people putting their hand up in different phases of the game, that's what we want in the World Cup."

"The girls were outstanding today, they had the pressure on them to make sure they stood up, (Frances) Mackay (off spinner) was outstanding as well. (Lea) Tahuhu in the middle overs was certainly a role we saw her play last year in the UK."

Devine said that she is spoilt for choice with multiple bowling options. "We've got so many options now to bowl, our spinners, so it's a really good space. (This World Cup) is an interesting one, the first one was a bad game of cricket but we took a lot of positives. We didn't play our best that day."

JHULAN ON PAR WITH RECORD



Veteran Indian quick Jhulan Goswami equalled former Australia spinner Lyn Fullston's tally of 39 scalps to become the joint-highest wicket taker in Women's World Cup. The 39-year-old, playing in her fifth ODI World Cup, achieved the feat against New Zealand in the ongoing tournament when she dismissed wicketkeeper Katey Martin in the 50th over. Fullston, who played from 1982 to 1988, had snapped 39 wickets in 20 matches while Goswami achieved the feat in her 30th game

livery to make it virtually impossible for India.

Towards the end, she also snapped up Harmanpreet to make it a perfect all-round performance. Seamers Lea Tahuhu (3/17 in 10 overs) and Hayley Jansen (3/30) shared the other scalps.

The pursuit of 261 started on a discordant note with Smriti Mandhana (6), Yastika Bhatia (28) and Deepti Sharma (5) unable find ways to rotate the strike. Mithali's struggles have been well documented and it's not getting any

better in her last tournament for India.

Even more baffling was coach Ramesh Powar's strategy of sending three left-handers (out of form Shafali Verma was dropped) with home team skipper Sophie Devine giving the new ball to off-break bowler Frances Mackay (8-1-25-0), who would take it away from left-handers.

The figures don't seem exceptional but much like what Deepak Patel did for men's team in 1992, Mackay bowled as many as 27 dot

Srikanth, Prannoy in quarters Benzema treble dismantles Parisians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muelheim An Der Ruhr (Germany), March 10: Indian shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy progressed to the men's singles quarterfinals but PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal crashed out of the women's competition following second-round losses in the German Open Super 300 badminton tournament here Thursday.

The Indian men's doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala also advanced to the last-eight round.

World Championships silver medallist Srikanth, who is seeded eighth here, prevailed 21-16, 21-23, 21-18 over China's Lu Guang Zu in a second round match to set up a clash with Olympic champion and top seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, who beat France's Toma Junior Popov 21-17, 21-10 in another match.

Prannoy, a former World No.8, also dished out a gritty performance to outwit Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu 21-19, 24-22 in a thrilling contest. He will square off against the winner of the match between India's Lakshya Sen and Indonesia's fourth seed Anthony Sinisuka



KIDAMBI SRIKANTH

Ginting.

The seventh seeded Sindhu, a 2019 World Champion and two-time Olympic medallist, however, suffered a shock 14-21, 21-15, 14-21 loss against China's Zhang Yi Man in 55 minutes in the women's singles second round.

London bronze winner Saina, who has been struggling with fit-

ness issues, also proved no match against eighth seeded Thai Ratchanok Intanon, going down 10-21, 15-21 in a lopsided contest.

In men's doubles, the pairing of Krishna and Vishnuvardhan registered a 23-21, 16-21, 21-14 win over compatriots Ishaan Bhatnagar and Sai Pratheek K in an hour and three minutes.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, March 10: Real Madrid fans started the evening by applauding Kylian Mbappé and ended it by cheering Karim Benzema and celebrating another epic Champions League night the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Benzema responded to another goal by Mbappé by scoring a hat-trick in less than 20 minutes in the second half Wednesday as Madrid came from behind to defeat Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 and advance to the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

It was yet another frustrating result in Europe for PSG, which won the first leg 1-0 and doubled its advantage through Mbappé in the first half but again failed to live up to the massive expectations after adding Lionel Messi to its star-studded team this season.

Mbappé opened the scoring in the 39th minute to increase PSG's aggregate lead after the France striker also netted in stoppage time to secure the first-leg win in Paris.

Mbappé has been widely linked with a move to Madrid after his contract expires at the end of the season and was cheered by part of the Madrid fans when his name was announced in the PSG lineup before the match. His family was also at the Bernabéu.

But when it was all over the ovation was for Madrid and Benzema, who at 34 years, 80 days became the oldest player to score a Champions League hat-trick. He surpassed Olivier Giroud, who was 34 years, 63 days when he hit a treble for Chelsea at Sevilla in 2020.

Benzema also reached 309 goals with Madrid to surpass Alfredo Di Stefano for third place on the club's all-time scoring list, and 67 in the Champions League to surpass Raúl González's 66 with the club and become second-best to Cristiano Ronaldo.

Benzema's third Champions League hat-trick started in the 61st after a blunder by PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma. He then scored again in the 76th and 78th min-



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Karim Benzema is ecstatic after scoring one of his goals against PSG, while Lionel Messi (blurred) looks devastated, Wednesday

utes to give the 13-time European champions a 3-2 aggregate win. Madrid reached the last eight for the second straight season after consecutive eliminations in the round of 16.

PSG, seeking its first Champions League title, had advanced past the round of 16 the last two seasons,

losing the final to Bayern Munich in 2020 and being eliminated by Manchester City in the semifinals in 2021.

In the other last 16 match Wednesday, Manchester City advanced past Sporting Lisbon 5-0 on aggregate after a scoreless draw in England.

Krrish, Ravi in Asian Youth boxing finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: Indian boxers Krrish Pal (46kg) and Ravi Saini (48kg) progressed to the junior boys' finals with contrasting victories at the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan Thursday.

While Krrish dominated Thailand's Kangpi Bokhunthod, winning comfortably by unanimous decision, Saini worked hard for a close 3-2 win over Kazakhstan's Beuxtlan Boranbek.

In the finals, Krrish and Ravi will take on Tajikistan's Anushervon Fazylov and Ilkhomjon Ergashev of Uzbekistan respectively.

Later on the day, seven more Indian junior boxers - Jayant Dagar (54kg), Chetan (57kg), Yashwardhan Singh (60kg), Jackson Singh Laishram (70kg), Dev Pratap Singh (75kg), Rishabh Singh Shikharwar (80kg), Gaurav Mhaske (+80kg) - will be in action in the boys semifinals.



India's junior boxers have secured 21 medals, 12 in girls and nine in boys categories, at the prestigious continental event. Among girls, 11 have progressed into the final.

In the youth women's semi-final matches, played late Wednesday night, Shaheen Gill (60kg), Ravina (63kg), Priyanka (66kg), Muskan (75kg) recorded wins, while four including Tanisha Lamba (54kg), Prachi (57kg), Pranjal Yadav (70kg) and Sheha (81kg), exited with bronze medals after defeats.

Seven women will fight for gold in the youth category. The finals will be played March 13 and 14.

Focus on combination in 2nd SL Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: India's head coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma are firm believers in continuity but it will be interesting to see their plans for the playing XI when the team takes on Sri Lanka in the Day/Night game starting Saturday in Bangalore.

The weakest link in the playing XI is Haryana off-spinner Jayant Yadav but it didn't matter much as India won in a canter by an innings and 222 runs.

Jayant bowled a total of 17 wicketless overs across two innings while Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin shared 15 of the 20 wickets among themselves.

But the dynamics of the team combination change with pink SG Test ball coming into the picture and how it will behave under lights on a Chinnaswamy track that will not have any grass covering.

India cannot afford to lose even one among the next 9 Tests in the World Test Championship cycle and hence they might not go for a pacer-friendly track.



MOHAMMED SIRAJ



AXAR PATEL



JAYANT YADAV

While no team loves tinkering with a winning combination, Axar Patel's inclusion and his record in the Day/Night Test against England in Ahmedabad on a rank turner, where he got 11 for 70 would be of immense significance.

But with Sri Lanka having four left-handers in top six - Lahiru Thirimanne, Dimuth Karunaratne, Charith Asalanka and Niroshan Dickwella - of their playing XI the in last game, will Dravid go for two left-arm spinners or not is the big question.

Jadeja's match haul of 9/87 and Axar's under-cutters on a track that promises to have wear and tear can cause a lot of problems.

The counter-view is that Jayant wasn't required enough to prove his mettle in the last game and dropping a player after one bad game never ever inspires confidence. Dravid isn't from that school of thought also.

However, conditions do dictate the approach to a game. If there is underlying moisture first up, being at higher altitude might aid the new ball bowlers.

Therein comes Mohammed Siraj, currently India's fastest at the international level and someone whose skiddy deliveries can cause real problems.

Siraj had shown against New Zealand in Mumbai that he can hurry the batters for pace and one sharp opening spell can completely dismantle the opposition.

The batting order, if everyone is fit and available, picks itself unless the team management decides on trying out Shubman Gill in place of Shreyas Iyer.

EDGAR NAMED ODISHA HOCKEY TEAMS' COACH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 10: Former India international Edgar Mascarenhas has been appointed as coach of the Odisha hockey teams for the upcoming Hockey India National Championships. Mascarenhas, a former India goalkeeper and an Air India player for two decades, is a FIH Level-2 certified coach.

His impressive resume includes a gold medal with the Indian team at the 1995 SAF Games and a silver medallist at the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup. He also represented India at the 1996 Olympic Qualifiers.

Mascarenhas secured the FIH coaching certificate in 2019 and since then has coached Maharashtra senior men's team in 2017, 2019, and 2021 National Championships. He was also the goalkeeping coach for the Dabang Mumbai team in the now-defunct Hockey India League.