

ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ



୩୦ଟି ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପରିଷଦରେ ସେବା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବିଜେଡିକୁ ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ କରିଥିବାରୁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ରଣୀ

ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ, ନିର୍ମଳ ଭାବମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ଥିବା ଉଚ୍ଚ ଶିକ୍ଷିତ ଯୁବବର୍ଗଙ୍କୁ ଚୟନ କରାଯାଇଛି

ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପରିଷଦ ସଭାପତିଙ୍କ ହାରାହାରି ବୟସ ୪୧ ବର୍ଷ ରହିଛି

ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ସ୍ୱାଭିମାନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ମହିଳାଙ୍କୁ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପରିଷଦ ସଭାପତି କରାଯାଇଛି

୭୦% ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପରିଷଦ ସଭାପତି ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ମହିଳା

୬୭% ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପରିଷଦ ସଭାପତି ଆସନ (ଅଣସଂରକ୍ଷିତ/ମହିଳା) ଓବିସି ସଦସ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପୂରଣ କରାଯାଇଛି

Courtesy: Shri Pranab Prakash Das, Organisational Secretary, Biju Janata Dal, Odisha

ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କ ବଳ



eisure

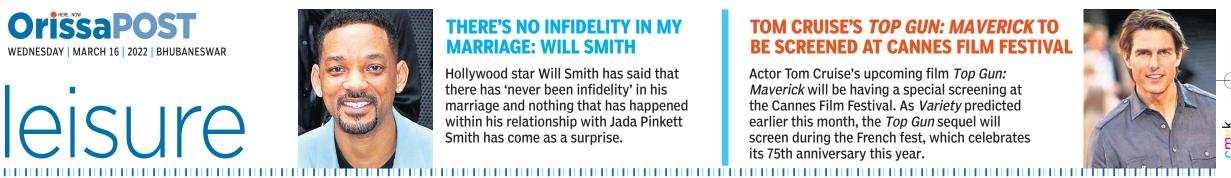


THERE'S NO INFIDELITY IN MY **MARRIAGE: WILL SMITH**

Hollywood star Will Smith has said that there has 'never been infidelity' in his marriage and nothing that has happened within his relationship with Jada Pinkett Smith has come as a surprise.

TOM CRUISE'S TOP GUN: MAVERICK TO **BE SCREENED AT CANNES FILM FESTIVA**

Actor Tom Cruise's upcoming film Top Gun: Maverick will be having a special screening at the Cannes Film Festival. As Variety predicted earlier this month, the Top Gun sequel will screen during the French fest, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

You are ever eager to socialise, and today especial ly, you may want to mix business with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesha

TAURUS

Ganesha finds this an excellent day for managers and administrators. If you are one, the results you will achieve by the end of the day will far exceed the efforts you put in. This is mainly because your

subordinates will be enthusiastic, compli ant and cooperative. You will be focusing on the elements of leadership and team work and will use them resourcefully.

GEMINI

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

You may feel like flaunting vour so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end

up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked. However, if you only stick to buying a household item for your spouse, it may turn out to be a pretty satisfying day.



Sonali to make a comeback in Telugu films after 18 years

Hyderabad: Actress Sonali Bendre is in talks for an upcoming biggie in Telugu, as the news has now caught the attention of all

It is reported that Sonali will star in Jr NTR's untitled movie, which is to be helmed by Srimanthudu, Mirchi, and Janatha Garage fame Koratala Siva.

The makers want to get Sonali on board, for an important role. So, they seemed to have approached the Manmadhudu actress, for which she apparently gave it a nod.

If the news is to be believed, Sonali Bendre is all set to make a comeback in the Tollywood film industry after 18 years. Sonali was last seen in Chiranjeevi's Shankar Dada MBBS before she quit acting in Tollywood.

Now that she is all set to play a pivotal role in the film combination of Koratala Shiva and Jr NTR, her fans

Sonali Bendre had appeared in super hit Telugu movies like Murari, Indra, Manmadhudu, Shankar Dada MBBS and many more. She was well-received by the Telugu audience, but the actress had to move back to Mumbai, as she had started her family. More details about the project are expected to be out soon. IANS

First look of Alia's character from Brahmastra out

Mumbai: The makers of the upcoming film Brahmastra Tuesday presented the first look of Alia Bhatt from the movie to mark her 29th birthday.

Filmmaker Karan Johar, who launched Alia in 2012 with the film Student Of The Year, took to Instagram, where he shared a picture of Alia's char acter.

Alongside the image, he wrote a long post. He wrote: "My darling Alia, There is so much love that I feel for you while I write this but also so much respect respect for your immense talent, your incredible growth as an artist and your ability to be so real through all the beats of your life!

"10 years ago I didn't know that one day I could proudly call you my very own Brahmastra ... my weapon of love and of abundant joy ... Happy birthday my darling, shine bright always. Thank you for being YOU and for being the wind beneath the wings of this labour of love. I love you always and forever.

After releasing Ranbir Kapoor's character Shiva's look in December 2021, director Avan Mukerji and the team of Brahmastra surprised fans and the audiences today with Isha's official poster and brand new exciting footage giving an exclusive glimpse into the film!

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the magnum opus will hit theatres on September 9 in five Indian languages. IANS

HMAS ART ONE: SH 9.09.2022

RE ASTRON KA

Shraddha clocks 70 mn followers on Instagram

The actress becomes second most-followed Indian actress after Priyanka Chopra

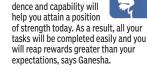
Mumbai: Leaving behind the likes of Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone, Katrina Kaif, Anushka Sharma and others. Shraddha Kapoor has become the second most followed Indian actress on Instagram with 70 million followers.

Shraddha is quite active on social media. She is often seen sharing pictures and videos of herself and her loved ones with her fans and they never get enough of the gorgeous actress. Shraddha also entertains and interacts with her followers through her posts and interactive sessions. She has shared about 1849 posts on her official Instagram

handle. Priyanka Chopra tops the list with 75.2 million followers. The former Miss World has shared over 3400 posts on her official Instagram handle.

On the professional front Shraddha will next be seen in Luv Ranjan's untitled next with Ranbir Kapoor in the lead role. The film also stars Boney Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia in key roles. Apart from this, the actress also has films like, Naagin series and Chaalbaaz In London in her kitty.

Priyanka, on the other hand, recently welcomed her first kid with her husband Nick Jonas through surrogacy. They are vet to reveal the gender of their bundle of joy. The 'Desi Girl' will be seen in Farhan Akhtar's upcoming directorial, Jee Le Zaraa. The film will bring together Priyanka, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt together



Your natural self-confi-

VIRGO

LEO

You will be faced with serious financial problems today. You may even have to pay through your nose to get what you desire. Later in the evening, you might accomplish some short-term goals. Ganesha predicts that some vital business agreements will end your day in high spirits.

LIBRA Ganesha says you will be able to improve your relations abroad. There will be

Shah Rukh Khan teases new OTT venture

Mumbai: Megastar Shah Rukh Khan, who recently set the pulse raising with Pathan first look is now coming up with his own OTT plat-form called 'SRK+'. The actor took to his Twitter to share the news with his followers. Sharing a creative where he is seen giving

a thumbs up next to the font 'SRK+ coming soon', he tweeted, "Kuch kuch hone wala hai, OTT ki duniva mein. In a surprising turn of events, filmmaker

Anurag Kashyap, who is known as the flagbearer of independent cinema, quote-tweeter

son Aryan Khan was involved in a controversy related to a drug bust case. Few days back, the Special Investigation Team of the NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau), had issued a statement saying that Aryan Khan was never in possession of drugs hence there was no need to take his phone and check his chats.

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In addition, Aryan's chats id not suggest that he was part of any international syndicate, NCB said IANS

FUN

can't get happier.

atives living abroad. Your working ability and efficiency will make you popular in the office today. In the day today you shall have a variety of good and bad experiences

SRK's tweet and announced his collaboration with King Khan's OTT. Kashyap tweeted, "Dream come true! Collaborating with @iamsrk

PEANUTS

on his new OTT app, SRK+". Shah Rukh Khan had gone silent after his

OMING SOON

for the first time. AGENCIES

SCORPIO

You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter. As the day pro gresses, things will begin to look up. Take a break from the rigmarole if stress begins to take a toll on you, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees a day full of promises. People in the creative field, especially artists are going to benefit more. Radio jockey and television anchors can make a note of this day in their diary, as it may serve as a memorable day, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You have projected yourself as a confused individual. You may have a tendency to remain in a double mind. But, today you'll come up with a very specific plan that will surprise many of the people around you. Be clear about what you want to do in life, how you want your life to be and make sin cere efforts to achieve it, guides Ganesha. Rest assured, success shall be with you!

You roar with absolute bliss today! Simplicity is your new avatar, and naturally, friends and acquaintances are mystified. You may wish to commune with the higher spirit and will seek solace in a quiet temple. Ganesha approves and predicts peace in plenty.



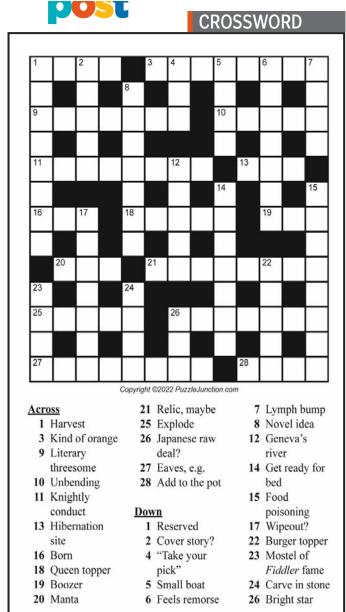
as much effort as swimming. Cryptic as this may sound what it means is you need to constantly reinvent yourself if you wish to keep going. You will shine in your profession only if it is also your passion, says Ganesha



CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

6				1			9
5		9			8		
2 2			2			5	
9	7		1				
		8	С. 			3	
4		1				8	
· · · ·	5			8			2
3 - S	2		1	4	6	1	

SOLUTIONS RAB CROSSWORD LILIES ANA S IE IUI E 2 5 7 8 7 6 9 1 3 4 2 5 3 1 4 2 6 7 SUDOKU

5

7	9	7	1	8	6	4	5	2	Ì
2	6	5	8	4	2	7	9	3	
C	2	1	7	9	3	5	8	6	
	4	3	9	1	8	6	7	5	
	1	4	2	5	7	8	3	9	
-(3	9	5	6	4	1	2	8	
	7	8	6	2	9	3	1	4	



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AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 15: Heads have

started rolling after the poll deba-

cle in five states as Congress in-

terim president Sonia Gandhi has

asked state party presidents to put

in their papers. The party suffered

massive defeats in five states which

went to polls in February and March.

Randeep Surjewala, General

Secretary of the party said,

"Congress President, Sonia Gandhi has asked the PCC Presidents of

Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa & Manipur to put in

their resignations in order to fa-

cilitate reorganisation of PCCs." Those who have been asked to resign include Navjot Sidhu (Punjab),

Ganesh Godiyal (Uttarakhand),

Nameirakpam Loken Singh

(Manipur), Ajay Kumar Lallu (UP)

The decision comes two days after the Congress Working

Committee (CWC) meet, which au-

thorised Sonia Gandhi to undertake

"necessary and comprehensive"

and Girish Chodankar (Goa).

ELDER BRO MOWED DOWN WITH DUMPER JENAPUR: A youth mowed down his elder cousin to death with a dumper over a

property dispute at Dalit Sahi in Balisahi village under this police limits in Jajpur district late Monday night. The deceased was identified as Akshaya Mallik, 36. Police have arrested accused Ajay Mallik, 30, and launched an investigation. A case was registered and the accused will be produced in court Wednesday, Jenapur IIC Umakant Nayak said. The family members of Akshaya and Ajay had a fight over some property. Tension was simmering between the two families. Ajay came driving a dumper near the house of Akshaya and hurled abuses at him. The two cousins had a heated altercation when Akshaya came out and retaliated. In a fit of rage, Ajay drove the dumper and hit Akshaya with the vehicle. Akshaya was thrown off from his place when Ajay ran the vehicle over him.

ED ATTACHES ₹3.94CR **OF OFFICER COUPLE** chiefs of 5 states

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 15: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday said it has provisionally attached assets worth ₹3.94 crore in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case registered against Odisha financial official Nalini Prusty and her husband Bijaya Ketan Sahoo, an Odisha Administrative Service officer and others for assets disproportionate to their known source of income.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of the FIR registered at vigilance police station, Cuttack under Section 13(2) read with Section 13(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, against Prusty and others. They

₹1.5cr worth assets of ex-MLA attached

NEW DELHI: Assets worth ₹1.5 crore of former Odisha BJD MLA Anam Naik have been attached under the anti-money laundering law, the ED said Tuesday. It said Naik is being probed in a case of alleged possession of disproportionate assets. The politician has earlier worked as a junior clerk in the state revenue department.

were accused of indulging in malpractices and acquiring huge wealth. The accused were in possession of disproportionate assets worth ₹5.05 crore. Prusty and Sahoo had invested their ill-gotten income in acquiring various landed properties and bank investments.



BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 | 2022

Man hacks 4-yr old niece to death

DEOGARH: A man Tuesday hacked his 4-year-old niece to death at Hetakhamar village under Riamal police limits in Deogarh district Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Rojalin Bhainsa while the accused paternal uncle was Nagarjuna Bhainsa. The body was severed into two parts. The little girl was having her breakfast when Nagarjuna struck her neck with an axe. The reason behind the gruesome killing is yet to be ascertained as villagers detained Nagarjuna and handed him over to police. Police arrested Nagarjuna and initiated a probe.



SPORTS |

P1



Border Security Force personnel stand near trucks carrying wheat from India as part of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, before they pass through the Attari-Wagah border between India and Pakistan near Amritsar, Tuesday.

HC upholds Hijab ban

Verdict challenged in apex court

New Delhi: A plea was filed in the Supreme Court Tuesday challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict which dismissed the petitions seeking permission to wear Hijab inside the classroom saying Hijab is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith. The petition has been filed in the apex court by a

CBSE CLASS X ODIA EXAM MARKS OF 28,301 **STUDENTS REVISED**



Vax guidelines for 12-14 years out

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 15: The Centre Tuesday released guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination of children between 12-14 years that will begin from March 16 and said only Corbevax vaccine would be used for the beneficiaries of this age group.

Two doses of Biological E's in-_ tramuscular vaccine Corbevax would be administered to the beneficiaries in the 12-14 years age group at an interval of 28 days, the guidelines said. The Centre shared also these guidelines with states in a letter issued on Monday. COVID-19 vaccination of children between 12-14 years will begin from March 16 and only Corbevax vaccine would be used for the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries between 14-15 years have already been cov-

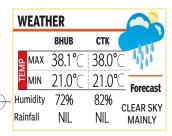
organisational changes. The CWC unanimously reaffirms its faith in the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and requests the Congress President to lead from the front, address the organisational

weaknesses, effect necessary and comprehensive organisational changes in order to take on the po litical challenges," the CWC resolution had said. The CWC statement said that the recent Assembly election results of five states are a cause of serious concern for the Congress



lothing has happened. We are here as a precaution. There are reports the film is highly inflammable

MARKET WATCH							
INDEX VARIATION							
RSES	SENSEX	55776.85	₽	709.17			
BOURSE	NIFTY	16663.00	₽	208.30			
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	76.61		₹0.05			
CURR	EURO	83.80		₹0.20			
NO	GOLD	₹51,437	₽	₹867			
BULLION	SILVER	₹67,973	₽	₹871			





■ We are of the considered opinion that wearing of Hijab by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith: CJ Awasthi

AGENCIES

Bangalore, March 15: The Karnataka High Court Tuesday dismissed petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi, seeking permission to wear Hijab inside the classroom, saying the headscarf is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith.

The prescription of school uniform is only a reasonable restric-

tion, constitutionally permissible which the students cannot object to, a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi further noted. Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh welcomed the order and described it as "landmark." 'We are of the considered opin-

ion that wearing of Hijab by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith," Chief Justice Awasthi, who headed the full bench of the High Court, said reading out portion of the order. The other two judges in the panel were Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice J M Khazi. The bench also maintained that the government has power to issue impugned order dated February 5, 2022 and no case is made out for its invalidation

By the said order, the Karnataka

Muslim student who was one of the petitioners before the HC. Earlier in the day, the high court dismissed the petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Gov Pre-University Girls College in Udupi. seeking permission to wear Hijab.



government had banned wearing clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public order in schools and colleges, which the Muslim girls had challenged in the HC. The bench also rejected the plea to initiate a disciplinary inquiry against the college, its principal and a teacher. "All these writ pleas being devoid of merits are liable to be and accordingly are dismissed. In view of the dismissal of the writ petition. all the pending applications are accordingly disposed of," it said.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 15: The CBSE has re-evaluated the OMR sheets of Class X Odia exam with the correct answer key approved by an expert committee. The exercise has benefitted over 28,000 students, officials said Tuesday.

In a notification Tuesday, CBSE said the performance of students in Class X Term-l examinations was communicated to respective schools through email by CBSE March 11, 2022. The CBSE also made available a dispute redressal mechanism on the same day.

After the anomaly was brought to the notice of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan March 14, 2022, it was directed that the dispute be resolved within next 24 hours and students awarded marks immediately and appropriately. Accordingly with a view to ascertaining the factual position,

an expert committee was constituted by CBSE for examining the discrepancies. The committee submitted its report at 6 pm March 14 and based on the report of the committee, the CBSE evaluated the OMRS of Odia Class-X exam with the correct answer key. The revised performance of students has since been sent to concerned schools for onward information of the students. A total of 28,310 students have benefitted as a result of this revision. Meanwhile, Odisha Parents

Federation Tuesday welcomed the steps taken by CBSE in 24 hours. Basudev Bhatt, chairman of OPF, said. "We thank Union Education Minister and CBSE officials." Bhatt also demanded strong action against the officials who caused the anomaly. After our demand, CBSE ignored and tried to harass our students and parents. It is high time strong action was taken against the errant teachers," Bhatt added.



ered during the vaccination for 15-18 years' age group. According to the guidelines, as of March 1, 2021 there are as many as 4.7 crore children aged 12 and 13 years in the country. Also, precaution dose can now be provided to all persons aged 60 years and above and the prioritization and sequencing of this dose would be based on completion of nine months.

Relief for medicos as online classes start in Ukraine

Thousands of Indian students had to leave their studies mid-way and flee *Ukraine following the* Russian offensive

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 15: Several Ukrainian medical universities have started online classes, giving a ray of hope to the Indian students who feared a bleak future after fleeing the war-torn country amid a fierce Russian military offensive. Some students are, however, con-

cerned about not being able attend practical classes. Several medical universities, mostly located in western Ukraine, have started online classes from Monday as holding physical classes in Ukraine has



become impossible amid continued shelling by Russian forces.

Other universities have also planned to resume online classes in the coming days, according to the Indian students. Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University, Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, Vinnytsia National

Medical University said he is relieved that the classes have resumed as they were uncertainties around their future. "Something is better than noth-

ing. I am happy that the classes have resumed, finally. We were really worried about what would happen to our future now that Ukraine is engaged in a war with Russia." Kanishk told PTI.

Kanishk said he and other students received a notice from the Dean's office about the resumption of classes from March 14.

Another first-year student Manogya said the classes resumed on Monday and termed it a "very emotional" moment. "Teachers got very emotional. We discussed a little about the war. They have been teaching us from hideouts and safe places. I am glad the classes have resumed," she said.

Telangana aid for medical students

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government will bear the educational expenses of over 700 students brought back from war-torn Ukraine to enable them to complete their medical education in India. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announced Tuesday. He told the Assembly that the state government will write to the Centre to give permission to 740 students who returned from Ukraine to complete their MBBS course. KCR said the students were studying medicine in Ukraine and the war has forced them to return home. He said since the students face an uncertain future. the state government is ready to bear their expenses to help them.

SC bench to hear plea against Mishra's bail

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 15: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would set up a bench to hear Wednesday a plea challenging the grant of bail by the Allahabad High Court to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that left eight people, including four farmers, dead.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana took note of the submission of lawyer Prashant Bhushan that there was an attack on one of the prime witnesses of the case. The people who attacked the witness threatened by saying "now that BJP has won, they will take care of him," Bhushan said, adding other co-accused are also seeking bail re-lying on the Allahabad High Court order granting bail to Ashish.





Pirogov Medical University and

Bogomolets National Medical

University have started online

classes from Monday. The Indian

students said their teachers are

taking classes from their home or

safe places amid continued shelling.

Kanishk, a first-year student at

Danylo Halytsky Lviv National



downtown

147 modified bike

POST NEWS NETWORK

silencers seized in City

Bhubaneswar, March 15: Continuing its drive against noise pollution, the Commissionerate Police Tuesday carried out raids at several stores dealing in modified bike silencers in the city.

The police have seized 147 mod-

ified bike silencers from a few

stores in Khandagiri, Laxmisagar

and Chandrasekharpur area of

the capital city. Similarly, the police have so far seized 46 bikes fit-

ted with modified silencers from he city. "Many youths were found

riding bikes with modified silencers

during some rallies in the city re-

cently. The city police has launched

a drive to take action against such

bikers," DCP Umashankar Dash

had told media persons Sunday.

a WhatsApp number (8039028107)

urging locals to register their complaints against people who cause

noise pollution by riding bikes

with modified silencers.

The city police had also issued

BJD seeks new railway division at Jajpur Road



POST NEWS NETWORK

Delhi, March 15: New Appreciating Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for his initiatives towards im provement of railway connectivity in

OrissaPOST

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 16 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

Odisha, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday de manded a new railway division at Jajpur Road. While speak-

ing in the Lok Sabha on the demands for grants under the control of Ministry of

Railways for 2022 23, BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab said Odisha has three rail divi sions. Establishment of a new railway division at Jajpur Road is the need of the hour as the region has been witnessing a lot of activities these days, added Mahtab.

The BJD MP also requested the Railways minister to extend the Cuttack-Delhi train upto Amritsar as it would go a long way helping pilgrims from Sikh and Shia community, who often travel to Amritsar. Mahtab demanded a turnaround at Cuttack railway station so that any train can start

The BJD MP lauded Vaishnaw for strengthening the railway network in Ŏdisha.

He said, "I often wondered whether a train line from Balasore to Nilgiri Road will ever come up. But the day when he (Vaishnaw) along with the local MP travelled to Nilgiri Road, I became aware that things are feasible and achievable under his leadership."

"He also went to the southern part of our state which has been totally neglected for years now. Out of the 30 districts in Odisha,

'These projects are across cat-

On being asked about the proj-

ects proposed to be developed in

Odisha under the Sagartat

Samriddhi Yojana, it has been

informed that the ministry has en-

visaged the programme for over-

all growth and prosperity of the

programme is expected to boost

economic activities in the coastal

areas and create employment op-

nortunities for coastal commu-

nities," said the minister.

"Upon implementation, this

been completed so far.



Devotees carry deities on wooden palanquins during the celebration of Dola festival at Shyampur on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

4-day ban on liquor sale in urban areas

POST NEWS NETWORKS

Bhubaneswar, March 15: The state government has banned sale, transport and distribution of liquor in the urban areas from March 22 evening to March 26 to ensure free and fair election to the civic bodies, scheduled to be held March 24. Excise Commissioner Ashish

Kumar Singh has informed this to all district collectors.

In view of general elections to 106 Municipalities/NACs and three Municipal Corporations.....you are requested to declare Dry Day under section 26(1) of the Odisha Excise Act, 2008 read with Rule 45(3) of the Odisha Excise Rules, 2017 ensuring closure of licensed premises for retail sale of foreign liquor/IMFL/country liquor in the aforesaid ULBs during the period from 5 pm of March 22 to March 26," Singh said in the letter. This order has been issued as per Section 135C of the Representation

CIVIC BODY POLLS

of the Peoples Act, 1951, he added. Singh said no liquor shops, hotels, restaurants, clubs and other establishments selling or serving liquor will be permitted to sell/serve liquor to anyone whosoever, on the

aforesaid period. Non-proprietary clubs, star hotels, restaurants and hotels run by anyone, even if they are issued different categories of licences for possession and supply of liquor, will also

THIS ORDER HAS BEEN **ISSUED AS PER SECTION 135C OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLES ACT. 1951**

not be permitted to serve liquor on these days, he pointed out.

The collectors have been asked to curtail storage of liquor by individuals during the period and strengthen enforcement activities to ensure there is no storage of liquor in unlicensed premises.

In addition to the above, the Excise Commissioner instructed the collectors to take steps to prohibit clandestine movement of liquor from the areas where the restrictions have not been in-force.

Joint raids by excise, police and forest personnel may be resorted to avert any liquor related issue, he added.

Inter-varsity cultural meet kicks off at Utkal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 15: The three-day state level inter-university literary and cultural competition got off to an electrifying start at the MKCG Auditorium of Utkal University here Tuesday with Vice Chancellor Sabita Acharva addressing the participants from various universities across Odisha.

In the opening ceremony, Acharva encouraged the stu dents to imbibe positive thoughts and values along with education. The inter-university literary and cultural competition provides a best platform for students to exhibit their skills and gain confidence, she said. On the first day, competitions like easy writing in Odia, English and Hindi, quiz, instrumental and a few others were organised for the participating students. More than 100 students participated in



Over 15.21L children in 12-14 age group to take vaccine from today

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar; March 15: Odisha government Tuesday said the state is fully prepared to start the COVID-19 vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years from Wednesday, a senior Health and Family Welfare department official said



not available. Four members of a family can register against one mobile number, the official said.

Apart from health workers, the school teachers will also help in the vaccination drive. The Chief District Medical Officers (CDMOs) have been directed to run the drive during the school hours in the first phase. The Education Department

Welfare Director Bija

who is also the nodal officer of the immunization. Panigrahi said as many as 15.21 lakh children will be given jabs by specially trained 600 health workers. The gap between the two doses will be 28 days. About 15.47 lakh vaccine doses are available with the state now. he said.

coastal areas.

more than six are yet to see a rail line. I think all the districts will have rail connectivity soon, added Mahtab

from Bhubaneswar side and

to a query

from Cuttack. He also requested Vaishnaw to construct a bridge for the third railway line which comes

egories of port modernisation, ects under the port connectivity, port led in-Sagarmala programme dustrialisation, coastal community development and coastal have been shipping & inland waterways. completed in Odisha, These projects are being imple-

NEW DELHI: As

many as 16 proj-

16 Sagarmala projects completed in Odisha

informed mented by the authorities of major ports, central ministries, the Centre the Indian Railways, NHAI and varto Rajya ious state agencies," he said.

ODISHAIN Sabha Tuesday. Replying

of Biju Janata Dal MP Bhaskar

Rao, the Union Minister of Port,

Shipping and Waterways

Sarbananda Sonowal said a

total of 54 projects with esti-

mated investment of more than

Rs 63,000 crore were identified

for implementation in Odisha

under Sagarmala programme.

Out of them, 16 projects have

these competitions, sources said. the guest of honour. Debate in Odia, English and

Secretary Saswat Mishra will be

Hindi languages, drawing/paint-Registrar Avaya Kumar Nayak, ing, mono acting, skit competi-PG Council chairman Durga tions and final round of quiz will Shankar Pattanaik, Comptroller be held Wednesday. Governor of Finance Surendra Kumar Sahoo and Chancellor of universities and director of student welfare Ganeshi Lal will grace the clos-Mitali Chinara also spoke at the ing ceremony and give away the opening ceremony. awards to the winners. Higher Students from Utkal University, Education department Principal

Berhampur University, Sambalpur University, Ravenshaw

Among others, Utkal University

University, Fakir Mohan University, Gangadhar Meher University, Rajendra University, Khallikote University, Kalahandi University, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University, RD Women's University, Odisha State Open University, OUTR, NISER and IISER are taking part in the mega event, sources added.

The vaccination for this group will start from schools in the first phase and latter be extended to other places, where children will be vaccinated with Corbevax manufactured by Biological E. Limited, Hyderabad.

"Children born before Mar 15, 2010, can take the COVID vaccine. Birth certificate or any other relevant documents is mandatory. Registration can be done in both online/offline modes," said Family

The children can register either with their family members or separately. Student ID cards can be used in case Aadhaar cards are

will coordinate with the SC-ST Department to streamline the drive. Panigrahi said. After schools, Panigrahi said, dedicated centres will be gradually set up for vaccination of the children in the next phases.

He said, with the Centre removing condition of comorbidity all above 60 years of age will also be eligible for precaution dose from Wednesday. Earlier vaccination of children between 15 and 18 had begun January 3.

No complacency in fight against Covid: RMRC dir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 15: Although the shadow of Covid-19 has been on the wane and life has been returning to normal after two years, one should not let the guard down, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre director Sanghamitra Pati said during the inauguration of a two-day national conference on 'Qualitative research methodology: Exploring the innovative spectrum' at SUM Nursing College (SNC) here, Tuesday.

There was every reason to be careful and continue with Covid appropriate behavior, Pati said.

Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University's VC Ashok Kumar Mahapatra heaped praises on the nurses for their exceptional role in providing treatment to Covid patients.

While symptoms of depression and anxiety mostly subsided within two months for non-hospitalised patients, those

bedridden for seven days or more continued to be 50-60 per cent more likely to experience depression and anxiety upto 16-months

eople bedridden for seven days or more with Covid-19 showed a higher rate of depression and anxiety, compared to those who were infected but never bedridden, according to a new study published in The Lancet Public Health.

The findings suggest that, on the whole, non-hospitalised patients with a SARS-CoV-2 infection were more likely to experience depressive symptoms up to 16 months after diagnosis compared to those never infected. While symptoms of depression

and anxiety mostly subsided within two months for non-hospitalised patients, those bedridden for seven days or more continued to be 50-60 per cent more likely to experience depression and anxi-

ety upto 16-months. The quicker recovery of physical Covid-19 symptoms may explain in part why mental health symptoms decline at a similar rate



Severe Covid linked to long-term adverse mental health risk: Lancet

for those with a mild infection. However, patients with severe Covid-19 often experience inflammation which has previously been linked to chronic mental health effects, particularly depression.

"The higher occurrence of depression and anxiety among patients with Covid-19 who spent seven days or longer bedridden could be due to a combination of worrying about long-term health

effects as well as the persistence of physical long Covid symptoms well beyond the illness that limit social contact and may result in a sense of helplessness," said Ingibjorg Magnusdottir, from the University of Iceland.

To capture long-term mental health impacts, the researchers looked at symptom-prevalence of depression, anxiety, Covid-19 related distress, and poor sleep quality among people with and without a diagnosis of Covid-19 from 0-16 months (mean follow-up 5.65 months).

The analysis drew upon data from 247,249 people in seven cohorts across Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the UK

Overall, participants diagnosed with Covid-19 had a higher prevalence of depression and poorer

sleep quality compared to individuals who were never diagnosed.

"Our research is among the first to explore mental health symptoms after a serious Covid-19 illness in the general population up to 16 months after diagnosis. It suggests that mental health effects aren't equal for all Covid-19 patients and that time spent bedridden is a key factor in determining the severity of the impacts on mental health. said Professor Unnur Anna Valdimarsdottir. from the varsity

"As we enter the third year of the pandemic, increased clinical vigilance of adverse mental health among the proportion of patients with a severe acute disease of Covid-19 and follow-up studies beyond the first year after infections are critical to ensure timely access to care.

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YOU SEE,

GETTING

ATE

Quality products, good PR our priorities: Das

He was born in a middleclass family but his desire to do something new and create employment opportunities for others drove him to become an entrepreneur. In a freewheeling conversation with Orissa POST, Hari Plaast Udyog and Hari Motors director Sanjay Kumar

Das speaks about his journey, impact of Covid-19 pandemic on industrial sector and many more. Excerpts:

You were an engineering student. What prompted you to become an entrepreneur?

I was a good student. So, my family encouraged me to study engineering. But, my father always had a view that achieving selfreliance is the biggest achievement in life. After completing my education, I started my career as a small entrepreneur with the blessings of my father. I explored new business avenues with each passing year. We set up Hari Plaast after completing almost 15 years in the business sector. My father's guidance and cooperation from family members helped me a lot to mature into a successful entrepreneur

How has Covid-19 affected your business?

Plastic products have become a part of our life. Nevertheless, an entrepreneur needs to take appropriate and timely steps to survive the competition in this business. The business was somehow good in the pre-Covid era. But, many businessmen have encountered a host of issues after the outbreak of Covid-19. Now, we are facing stiff competition

from big players who are giving various attractive offers to boost their sales

What was the secret to win customers' confidence?

Now, the plastic product sector is passing through a critical phase. We have retained the confidence of our customers and cre

ated a special identity for our products by maintaining quality and honesty in our business

AWARDS Your future plans? We have invested in several sec-

ଧରିତ୍ରୀ | OrissaPC

BUSINESS

EMINENCE

tors. We are doing well in some sectors while facing difficulties in a few others. We are already in the process of foraving into automobile and gas pipeline businesses this year. This apart, we have plans to expand our existing business.

How do you manage things in tandem with the system?

An entrepreneur has to work in cooperation with the system, be it the government machinery or the law of the land. We are law-abiding people. We give utmost importance to quality products and good public relations.

Your favourite pastime? Time is definitely the most precious thing for all of us. Nevertheless, I try to spare some time to extend help and cooperation to social outfits and their activities. I hope that I will continue participating in social work

in future.

Techie loses lakhs to online trading, ends life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, March 15: A young engineer committed suicide after losing lakhs of rupees to online trading and games.

Unable to bear the trauma of incurring huge losses, Soumitra Nandi alias Chiku, 27, the only son of former ward member Swarup Nandi and Anganwadi worker Kalpana Nandi consumed poison, sources said.

The incident occurred at Ambaliatha village under this police limits in Balasore district. Chiku was an engineer by profession and was engaged in an IT company in Bangalore. However, he was working from home due to the pandemic.



Chiku. who was addicted to online gaming and trading, had lost lakhs of rupees and was in a debt trap. His father had sold lands to clear loans

Meanwhile, he was addicted to online gaming and trading. He lost lakhs of rupees and was in debt trap. His father had recently sold his lands and deposited ₹12 lakh to clear the debts. A case regarding defaulting on loan repayment was also registered following which Jaleswar police had seized his laptop and cellphone.

Since then, he was going through severe mental pressure. Later, he wrote a suicide note, apologising to his parents before consuming pesticide. His parents first rushed him to a local hospital and then to the district headquarters hospital.

He was then referred to Cuttack-based SCB Medical College and Hospital where he breathed his last.



SORRY, I'VE

TO MEET

10 arrested for post-poll clash

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

SIR,

NO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SIR,

FALLING

Berhampur, March 15: Ten people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in a clash between two groups of BJD supporters in Ganjam district, a police officer said Tuesday.

The violence at Kendupadara in Gangapur police station Saturday night had claimed the life of a newly-elected ward member besides injuring four others.

The clash occurred after a heated argument on casting of votes in the election for the panchavat samiti chairperson in Aska block Saturday.

'We have arrested 10 people for their involvement in the clash,'

BJD faces rebel hurdle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, March 15: Though some of the dissident Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders have withdrawn their nominations for Kendrapara municipality election, several frontline organisers are still in the fray, without any fear of action from the party end.

It is apprehended that this may make the victory of some ruling party candidates in some wards an arduous task.

Monday was the last date for withdrawal of nominations. The party leadership managed to convince 16 councillor candidates to withdraw their nominations in wards 2, 8, 6, 9, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21. All the 16 candidates had filed their nominations on party symbol.

BJD leaders of Kendrapara unit had been trying their best

POLL VIOLENCE: 8 ACQUITTED

Berhampur: Chhatrapur additional district and sessions judge Raja Raman Padhi Tuesday acquitted eight people in a poll-related group clash case due to lack of evidence. The acquitted have been identified as Kalu Gouda, Chaila Muduli, Surendra Pradhan, Ram Sahu, Ganapati Sahu, Gantei Muduli, Bhawani Muduli and Narayan Pradhan of Rengitipali village under Purushottampur police limits in Ganjam district. According to case diary, Bijay Kumar Sethy, a member of a group, was on his way back home after taking bath in a pond when he was attacked by another group led by Kalu Gouda and his seven supporters over election issues April 16, 2004.

samiti

Bhanjanagar SDPO Subhransu Mishra said.

The police have seized three sharp-edged weapons, bamboos and cricket bats which were used during the clash, the SDPO said. Several others, who were involved in the incident, have been

identified and they will be arrested soon, Mishra said. The clash took place between supporters of BJD legislator Manjula Swain and those of Harekrushna Mallick, former chairperson of the panchayat



e-mail ID : eemidkl@yahoo.co.in No.A-888: The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Dhenkanal on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" procurement for the works as detailed in the

Civil works in different Block of Dhenkana



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhamnagar, March 15: Bhadrak Collector Trilochan Majhi and **Revenue Divisional Commissioner** (RDC-Central) Suresh Chandra Dalei Tuesday started an investigation into the alleged financial irregularities committed through various bank accounts opened in the name of Dhamnagar tehsil. The top officials have checked

various official records, said sources An internal audit was earlier conducted on the activities of the tehsil in the current year. The



IN TEHSIL CASHBOOKS WHILE THERE IS NO MENTION ABOUT THE REMAINING 18 BANK COUNTS IN THE CA

FUNDS TO THE TUNE OF ₹2, 67, 85, 780 HAVE BEEN PARKED IN THESE **18 BANK**

in DCB

mentioned in tehsil cashbooks while there is no mention of the remaining 18 bank accounts in the cashbook. Funds to the tune of ₹2,

67, 85, 780 have been parked in these 18 bank accounts. However, Dhamnagar tehsildar Khirod Kumar Panda refused to comment on the investigation and the alleged irregularities. "No new account has been opened during my stint here. As many as 17 accounts

had been opened between 2011 and 2020 financial years and seven tehsildars had served during the period. One account was opened in 2003. The remaining five accounts have been mentioned in the cash-

audit report revealed about 23 bank accounts being operated in the name of the tehsil of which 8 are current accounts.

Of the bank accounts, three are in UCO Bank (Dhamnagar), one in Gramya Bank (Dhamnagar), three

in HDFC Bank (Bhadrak), two in (Dobal), ICICI Bank (Bhadrak), two in IndusInd Bank (Bhadrak), one in ICICI Bank (Nirgundi), three in

Bank(Bhadrak), two in Canara Bank (Kothar) and one in UCO Bank (Jainagar). Only five accounts have been

one

books and these too were old," he added

The RDC told mediapersons that the irregularities are being investigated and action will be taken against those involved in it

Special designer traps

to check armyworms

Chemical disaster plan a pipedream

Axis Bank (Bhadrak), two in SBI

POST NEWS NETWORK

March 15: Jajpur, Industrialisation has thrown several challenges like chemical disasters at us notwithstanding the significant changes it has brought in our lives. Though Odisha State **Disaster Management Authority** (OSDMA) had directed district Collectors to prepare a plan to mitigate industrial disasters, not a single plan has been prepared as of now

Thousands of factories in the state are releasing numerous ranges of hazardous effluents posing serious and complex levels of disaster risks. As a result, the number of chemical disasters has been rising over the years

OSDMA had directed district Collectors to prepare and update an off-site emergency management plan (OFF-SEMP) to deal with emergencies like possible chemical accidents

Though a year has passed since the order was issued, not a single plan has been prepared as of now, OSDMA revealed in a letter.

The letter said OSDMA had directed the collectors to formulate plans within four months. However, no steps have been taken in this regard even as one year as passed by. Expressing displeasure over the issue, OSDMA sent a letter to the Collectors of Angul, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Rayagada, Ganjam, Cuttack, Khurdha, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Dhenkanal and Sambalpur to immediately prepare a meaningful plan to deal with emergencies during a possible chemical accident.



OSDMA HAD DIRECTED DISTRICT THOUGH A YEAR HAS PASSED COLLECTORS TO PREPARE AND UPDATE SINCE THE ORDER WAS ISSUED, AN OFF-SITE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NOT A SINGLE PLAN HAS BEEN PLAN TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCIES LIKE PREPARED AS OF NOW, OSDMA CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS **REVEALED IN A LETTER**

Unlike natural disasters, chemical accidents can be prevented and their impacts minimised by better planning, preparedness and response

OFF-SEMP is prepared to assess, minimise and elimination risks to the maximum possible extent. It is equally important that Contingency Plan coordinating the resources is prepared and kept ready in to handle any eventualities. The plan is based on those on-site accidents which could affect people and environment along with the accidents involving transport of hazardous chemicals.

Emergency services such as police, fire, medical and others need to be prepared to handle such situations effectively.

OSDMA has urged the collectors of several districts to take initiatives in preparing a comprehensive OFF-SEMP to manage the eventualities at hazardous industries. Notably, at least four people died and two developed illness after inhaling poisonous gas allegedly leaked from a steel plant in Sambalpur district. The mishap had occurred in the plant of Bhushan Power & Steel Limited located at Thelkoloi village.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, March 15: A special designer trap can protect maize cultivations from the invasive armyworms, a training programme organised recently by National Rice Research Institute (NRRI) in Nabarangpur district revealed.

Maize farmers mostly use pesticides to curb armyworm menace but the same destroys the soil fertility and biodiversity in the region. However, by using the special designer traps farmers can reduce the use of pesticides on their farmlands.

This was the essence of the field visit and training programme of farm officials organised under Rashtriya Krushi Vikash Yojana by NRRI Monday. The programme was organised to train farmers on management of armyworms without using harmful pesticides.

The farm officials visited the maize farmlands at Badakumari and other villages in Umerkote and Raighar blocks. The farm officials provided training on pest management to the farmers in both the blocks. Dr K Rajsekhar Rao, principal scientist of NRRI, explained to the farmers how they can manage armyworms by using the special designer traps instead of pesticides.

The traps have been developed by Indian Institute of Chemical Technology. He said farmers mostly use pesticides in great quantity to check the spread of armyworms. The use of pesticides destroys the soil quality and the biodiversity in the area. However, with the help of the special designer traps they can check the use of pesticides. At the outset, the traps will be used on an experimental basis over 700 hectare of farmlands in Raighar and Umerkote blocks. As many as 1,700 farmers have been given the traps for free of cost in Raighar block.

to appease the rebels.

		District for the year 2022-23 under Critical grant and Completion of Incomplete project		
	No. of Works:	11 (Eleven) Only		
EAST COAST RAILWAY	Estimated Cost:	Varies from 17.72 lakh to 50.00 lakh (Approximately)		
Tender No. MCSW-PAINT-21-22-24	Cost of Tender Paper:	6000/- (Non-Refundable)		
	Period of Completion:	06 (Six) Calendar months		
NAME OF WORK : EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR PAINTING OF RAILWAY BG	Availability of bid documents for sale and receipt through on-line			
COACHES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	04.04.2022 (5.00 P.M.)		
Advertised Value (₹) : 88,49,133.00, EMD (₹) : 1,77,000.00, <u>Period of</u>	Date of opening of bid through online	On dt. 05.04.2022 at 11 .00 A.M in the Office of the E.E, M.I. Division, Dhenkanal.		
Completion : 12 Months.	Mode of payment of Bid Cost	Online		
Bidding Start Date : 21.03.2022 Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of	Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder:	The Bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).		
04.04.2022.	The detail tender call notice can a dowrorissa.gov.in	Iso be seen in the DOWR website http:/		
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available	Name & Address of the OIT:	Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Dhenkanal. At/ P.O / District - Dhenkanal. Ph.No / Fax NO06762-224461, Email ID:eemidkl@yahoo.co.in		
in website : http://www.ireps.gov.in	Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place, http://tendersorissa.gov.in			
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	Duration :Up to 31.01.2024	-	
5505	Project No: MLP-074	Project Assistant	01
	Duration :Upto 31.01.2024	<u>^</u>	
5506	Project No: MLP-074	Project Assistant	01
	Duration :Up to 31.01.2024		

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The last date of receipt of application is 28.03.2022.











power post

FOCUS HEALTH CARE

A thought is an arrow shot at the truth; it can hit a point, but not cover the whole target. But the archer is too well satisfied with his success to ask anything farther.



SRI AUROBINDO

Uncertain N-Deal

t is unfortunate that a crucial and highly sensitive issue such as the restoration of Iran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers has become L a casualty of the ongoing confrontation between the USA and the European Union on the one hand and Russia on the other following the latter's invasion of Ukraine. It reflects intransigence and obstinacy on the part of both sides and a refusal to recognise the gravity of the situation as delay in reviving the deal would only encourage Iran to get closer to making a N-bomb. Negotiations for restarting the deal after the US under former President Donald Trump had unilaterally opted out in 2018 were put on 'pause' late last week after Russia demanded relief from sanctions targeting Moscow's economic engagements with Tehran over its war against Ukraine. Diplomats declined to set any timetable for resuming the talks that were to be held in Vienna. What is sad is that the negotiators, immediately before putting the discussion on hold, maintained that a roadmap was almost ready for the USA's rejoining of the accord and Iran limiting its rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell did not spell out the reason for the pause, but merely referred to "external factors" forcing it. Last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergev Lavrov gave broad hints about the position that Russia would take on the issue. He said he wanted "guarantees at least at the level of the secretary of state" that the US sanctions would not affect Moscow's relationship with Tehran. While American officials sought to explain away that the demand had nothing to do with the Vienna talks, Borrell left no one in doubt about the cause for the postponement when he said the "pause is needed due to external factors." He, however, assured all the stakeholders that he and his team would continue to be in touch with all Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) participants and the USA to overcome the current situation and make the agreement become a reality. The JCPOA is the formal name of the 2015 deal that saw Iran limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for lifting of economic sanctions.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh tried to gloss over the development and asserted no external factor would "affect our joint will to go forward for a collective agreement." At the same time, Iran has been extra cautious about not incurring the displeasure of Moscow as it views Russia as an ally against the US. However, Iran is desperate to see the deal back into operation and does not want Russia's invasion of Ukraine to scupper or delay it. It used the state-run IRNA news agency to explain its position that there are some "issues between Russia and the United States," which, it hopes, would be "unrelated to the issue of Iran's talks.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Qun was more forthcoming and he did not mince words when he "regretted" the pause and said negotiation cannot be conducted in "a political vacuum." The USA, on the other hand, appears to have got an opportunity in the Iran nuke deal to further arm twist Russia into stopping its shelling of Ukraine and sit for a negotiated settlement. For this reason it is not showing any hurry to clinch the deal. US State Department spokesman Ned Price made the Biden administration's intentions clear when he insisted that though negotiators are still working to sort out "a number of difficult issues," America had no intention of offering Russia anything new or specific as "it relates to the Ukraine sanctions."

The USA has left the ball in the court of Russia and Iran and expects the two countries to show the political will and seriousness of purpose if the latter really want it to rejoin the deal. In other words, it is a tactic to force Iran to use its leverage with Russia to persuade President Putin to stop his adventure in Ukraine so that the all-important nuke deal can be saved.

However, British negotiator Stephanie Al-Qaq put the position in a blunt manner by asserting that the external factors must be resolved in the next few days or else the agreement may run into rough weather. The 2015 nuclear deal saw Iran put advanced centrifuges into storage under the watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency, while keeping its enrichment at 3.67 per cent purity and its stockpile at only 300 kilograms (661 pounds) of uranium. It also halted enrichment at its underground Fordo nuclear facility. As of February 19, the IAEA says Iran's stockpile of all enriched uranium was nearly 3,200 kilograms (7,055 pounds). Some has been enriched up to 60 per cent purity which is a short technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. Meanwhile, Iran has stopped the IAEA from accessing its surveillance camera footage and has resumed enrichment at Fordo.

This is the stark reality. It will be unwise for both Russia and the USA to use the Iran nuke deal to settle scores with each other over the Ukraine issue after the NATO membership offer to the latter was used only to leave Ukrainians to be slaughtered and their infrastructure shattered by invading Russian troops.

INSULIN BELONGS TO ALL

Lot# 10163009

Hill St We

fter insulin was discovered in 1921, the Canadian scientists behind the breakthrough sold the patent for their formula for just C\$1. As medical researcher Frederick Banting said at the time, they wanted to make it as widely available as possible because "it belongs to the world." In the century since then, a host of improved forms of insulin have been developed, offering greater efficiency and convenience to people with diabetes. Yet millions still struggle to access any version of this lifesaving drug. More than a half-billion adults

Jayasree K. Iyer

ANALOGS HAVE BEEN A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR WINDFALL FOR THE THREE LARGEST MANUFACTURERS - ELI LILLY, NOVO **NORDISK. AND SANOFI - WHICH CONTROL OVER 90 PER CENT OF THE INSULIN** MARKET

GLOBALLY

pected to reach nearly 800 million by 2045. For people with Type 1 diabetes, insulin transforms a deadly disease into a manageable condition. For those with the more common Type 2 form, insulin prevents kidney failure, blindness, and the risk of gangrene. Sadly, poor availability and unaffordable prices mean that one in two people globally who need insulin to treat Type 2 diabetes lack

are estimated to be living with di-

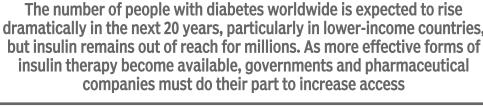
abetes, and this number is ex-

access to it. The shortfall is most severe in low- and middle-income countries, where diabetes cases are rising at an alarming rate. The inability to ensure equi-

table access to insulin is a tragic failure of the world's health system. It betrays the scientists' original vision for their lifesaving therapy and causes patients unnecessary harm. And it has continued despite significant progress in product development and manufacture over the past two decades.

As insulin has evolved from a tool for managing Type 1 diabetes to an important treatment for Type 2, pharmaceutical companies have scaled up production and developed innovative new products like synthetic insulins. These analogs have expanded the possibilities for diabetes treatment by offering longer duration of action and improved control of blood-sugar levels between meals and overnight. They can make patients' lives easier and cut the risk of dangerous hypoglycemia. Increasingly, analogs are the preferred choice of both doctors and patients.

Analogs also have been a multibillion-dollar windfall for the three largest manufacturers – Eli Lilly Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi-which control over 90 per cent of the insulin market globally and twothirds of the market in low- and



middle-income countries. But these products largely are inaccessible in poorer countries, so millions of patients cannot choose which treatment option is right for their medical needs. And while the expiration of patents on certain analogs should open the door for the production of cheaper biosimilar versions few rival manufacturers have entered the market. despite some notable launches from India's Biocon and US-domiciled Viatris.

Recently, the World Health Organisation decided to add longacting insulin analogs and their generic equivalents to its Model Lists of Essential Medicines – an inventory of basic products every health system should have for its patients. This move could be a catalyst for improved access, but only if industry increases production and governments are ready to foot the bill.

Cost remains a primary factor in insulin accessibility. While the Big Three manufacturers have initiatives to address the access gap. they are not enough to solve the problem. One study of insulin pricing in 13 low- and middle-income countries found wide discrepancies and inconsistencies in insulin costs. While a few countries do provide insulin free of charge through their public-health systems, the median cost for pa-

tients who pay out of pocket is \$9.36 for traditional insulin and \$29.39 for analogs in public pharmacies, and \$9.65 for traditional insulin and \$43.81 for analogs in private pharmacies.

But median costs can obscure the stark affordability gap between countries. For example, patients in Madhya Pradesh, India, pay around \$13 for the analog insulin glargine in private pharmacies, whereas patients in Brazil pay ten times as much.

Part of the problem is that governments also pay vastly different prices for insulin procurement. The same study found that Indonesia pays \$21.56 for one brandname insulin analog, whereas China is charged \$106.52 for the same product.

To improve access to insulin in poorer countries, the number of producers of all insulin types must increase. Complex and expensive regulatory processes should be simplified to allow more manufacturers to enter the market. Government policies also must be reformed to expand regulatory authorities' capacity to process approvals for biological products. Analogs often are excluded from national reimbursement systems because they are caught in bureaucratic backlogs.

For their part, the Big Three insulin producers must do more

to ensure their products reach those who need them, no matter where in the world they live. Their current programmes to donate insulin to the poorest are admirable, but these companies also must work to support regional production of both traditional and analog insulins. Expanded production capacity will ensure availability and reduce costs.

With further improvements in analogs in the pipeline, these changes must start now. For example, a new product developed by Novo Nordisk, insulin icodec, will be taken once a week rather than daily. This could reduce costs for patients significantly and improve their adherence to treatment regimens.

Innovations like these should be available to all patients who need them, not just those with the deepest pockets or those who live in countries with well-funded health systems. Until chronic problems in the insulin market are addressed. many vulnerable patients will continue to suffer unnecessarily. Only when every insulin-dependent diabetes patient has reliable access to an affordable supply of the treatments that suit them best will insulin truly "belong to the world."

The writer is the CEO of the Access to Medicine Foundation. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- We're never so vulnerable than when we trust someone but paradoxically, if we cannot trust, neither can we find love or joy WALTER ANDERSON
- Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships.

STEPHEN COVEY

Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters. ALBERT EINSTEIN

WORDS**WORTH**

Settle a score

Before the days of paper records (or, indeed, widespread literacy), the Busual way of keeping count was to cut marks into wooden rods called tallies (hence our verb tally, to count). Tally sticks have been used for thousands of years - Roman numerals evolved out of a system for notching them - and they survived until very recently (tallies were usually split in two lengthways so both parties had an identical record). For example, the English government kept its tax records on tallies until they were abolished in 1826 (the Palace of Westminster was gutted in 1834 because somebody over enthusiastically burned old tally sticks in a furnace under the House of Lords). Cutting the notches on tallies was called scoring (from Old Norse scora, to make an incision, related to our shear), a word we still use in much the same sense. From about 1400. score was also the word for a record or an amount due, the total of the score marks on a tally. It became a common word for the total of a tradesman's or innkeeper's account. So, to settle the score originally meant just to pay one's bill. But it acquired the figurative sense of taking revenge on somebody, and that's usually what we mean by it now. The same idea is behind our word for the number of points achieved in a game: this was first used in print by the famous Edmund Hoyle (as in according to Hoyle) in his Short Treatise on the Game of Whist of 1742

LOL

Biologist experiments

here was this biologist who was doing some experiments with frogs. He was measuring just how far frogs could jump. So he puts a frog on a line and says "Jump frog, jump!" The frog jumps 2 feet. He writes in his lab book: 'Frog with 4 legs - jumps 2 feet'. Next he chops off one of the legs and repeats the experiment. "Jump frog jump!" he says. The frog manages to jump 1.5 feet. So he writes in his lab book: 'Frog with 3 legs - jumps 1.5



He chops off another and the frog only jumps 1 foot. He writes in his book: 'Frog with 2 legs jumps 1 foot'. He continues and removes yet another leg. "Jump frog jump!" and the frog somehow jumps a half of a foot. So he writes in his lab book again: 'Frog with one leg - jumps 0.5 feet'. Finally he chops off the last leg. He puts the frog on the line and tells it to jump. The frog doesn't move. The biologist finally writes in his book: 'Frog with no legs - goes deaf'



IN JEST THIS

Melvin Durai **BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT PIGS BEING** FORCED TO BE

DONORS, MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE SIGNED UP TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

Do we need organs from pigs?

edical history was made recently when a 57-yearold American man received the heart of a genetically altered pig. David Bennett Sr. of Maryland had severe heart disease and desperately needed a heart transplant. But he couldn't find a human donor, so he bravely agreed to the experimental procedure and managed to survive two months.

Two months may not seem like a long time, but it's fairly long when you consider the average lifespan of a pig.

Pigs can live for 15 to 20 years, but the average pig probably doesn't live that long, even if it hasn't signed up to be an organ donor.

It's worth noting that the first heart transplant—from human to human—was performed in 1967 by renowned South African surgeon Christiaan Barnard in 1967 and the patient survived only 18 days. These days, heart recipients often survive years and even decades. Harold Sokyrka of Canada holds

the world record, having survived more than 35 years since undergoing a heart transplant in 1986. This is why I hope to be an organ donorto extend my own life. How can I be declared dead when my heart is still beating?

Bennett's willingness to receive the heart of a pig helped advance medical science. Dr. Bartley Griffith, the surgeon who performed the transplant at University of Maryland Medical Center, told The New York Times that Bennett was a "a brave and noble patient" who became known around the world for his "courage and steadfast will to live.'

Bennett was indeed courageous. Before he had the heart of a pig, he had the heart of a lion.

Thanks partly to him, pig-tohuman transplants may one day be quite common. Don't be surprised if you see these three newspaper headlines in the coming years: (1) Man Celebrates One-Year Anniversary with Pig's Heart,

Hams it up for Cameras; (2) Doctors Transplant Pig's Stomach into Man Who Already Eats Like a Pig: (3) Woman Leaves Hospital with Pig's Kidney, Relieves Herself in Bushes.

The procedure of receiving organs from a non-human animal source is known as xenotransplantation. You may know the prefix "xeno" from the term "xenophobia," which means "fear of foreigners." Many people around the world are afraid of foreigners, but they'd rather receive a heart or kidney from a foreigner than a pig. Even a member of a white supremacist group like the Ku Klux Klan would rather receive a heart from a black or brown person than a white pig.

Receiving an organ from an animal seems unnatural-and it certainly is. That's why recipients have to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of their lives and why the donor animal has to be genetically altered. Bennett's heart came from a pig that had undergone 10 genetic modifications. One of its genes, for example, was inactivated to ensure that the heart didn't keep growing after it had been implanted. Another gene was inactivated to ensure that the heart didn't pop out of Bennett's chest if he happened to encounter a wolf.

Many people have ethical concerns about xenotransplantation. Not only do they find it unethical to genetically modify an animal for human purposes, they find it unethical to remove organs from the animal to save a human. "What about the poor pig?" they ask. "Doesn't it need a heart?"

But there are not enough human organs for all the people who are waiting for transplants. Indeed, before you complain about pigs being forced to be donors, make sure that you have signed up to be an organ donor or told your loved ones that you wish to be a donor.

By having a big heart, you'll save someone from a pig heart.

Safety cover essential

Sir, The Government of India has now opened vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years from March 16 onwards. The government has also removed the comorbidity clause for administering precaution doses to senior citizens. This step will add many more citizens to vaccine coverage. This will also ensure a safety shield for all children and senior citizens. Some nations like China have recently witnessed a surge in COVID-19 cases so this proves the fact the pandemic is still there. If anything which can ensure safety is complete vaccination of all populations above a certain age. So this move will provide a safety cover for the upcoming wave which has been predicted by some experts.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Sir; The Congress refused to toe a fresh line, keeping faith in party president Sonia Gandhi. She will continue to helm the grand old party until they elect later a new president this year. The Congress Working Committee (CWC) agreed to hold a 'Chintan Shivir' after the Budget Session of the Parliament in April to brainstorm their future strategies. Sonia indicated that all three members of the Gandhi family are ready to step down from the leadership roles and make any sacrifice if the party so desires. But with the party's stock hitting rock-bottom, the Congress must shed its lackadaisical approach and reinvent itself. NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Lackadaisical approach

Be a smart consumer

Sir, World Consumer Rights Day is a global event aiming to raise awareness about consumer rights and needs. Safeguarding the rights of consumers is an important aspect of any nation. The Consumer Affairs Department is organising 'Consumer Empowerment Week' during March 14-20. It is an accepted fact that the world has changed due to the advent of COVID-19. In an age where digital communication platforms dominate everyday life, consumers need to be aware of the impact of online services on them. The ongoing digital transformation brings about radical changes through new technologies, business models, and how consumers interact in markets. Therefore, every consumer must be aware of the provisions provided in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to avoid market exploitation. The new Consumer Protection Act 2019, which is in force, seeks to revamp the process of administration and settlement of consumer disputes, with strict penalties. provided under the Act (2019).

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD



Despite our efforts, however, a large majority of students elected to continue staying in Ukraine. We must understand the predicament in this regard. There was natural reluctance to leave the educational institutions. Some universities showed reluctance to offer online courses. Many of them received conflicting advice regarding safety S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

MALDIVES PRESIDENT THANKS INDIA

Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has thanked India for providing support to his country during the last two years of pandemic



uote 🦅

OrissaPOST

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 16 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

I demand a courtmonitored CBI inquiry into the murder of Tapan Kandu and Anis Khan. I urge the Human Rights Commission, Scheduled Caste Commission and the Minorities Commission that they also demand such an inquiry

ADHIR CHOWDHURY CONGRESS LEADER

Naxal violence in the country has reduced by 77 per cent, from an all-time high of 2.258 in 2009 to 509 in 2021 NITYANAND RAI UNION

The ministry has issued an advisory to private satellite TV channels to comply with the guidelines of ASCI on

MINISTER

advertisements relating to online gaming to protect consumers and inform them regarding the financial risks and other factors involved

ANURAG THAKUR MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

SHORT TAKES

Truck mows down child

Noida: A 15-month-old girl child was killed Tuesday morning after she came under the wheels of a truck here in the Surajpur area of the city. According to an official, the deceased child was identified as Aanshika, a resident of Plot No 27, Gate No 4, near Sheela Foam company. "As soon as we received the information about the incident, the police staff rushed to the spot," the official informed. The official said that the girl child was mowed down by a truck bearing Haryana registration number, just outside her shanty. "The girl died on the spot," SHO Surjapur said.

Dog killed

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man was arrested for knifing a stray dog to death in the area, an official said Tuesday. The accused was identified as Vijay, a resident of Kalyanpuri. According to the official, the incident took place on March 13 and they received information about it on the same day.

Missile incident 'regrettable': Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 15: Asserting that India's missile system is very reliable and the safety procedures are of the highest order. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday described the recent accidental missile release as "regrettable" and said a review of standard operations and maintenance was being conducted and any shortcoming if found, will be immediately rectified. Making a statement in Rajva

Sabha and Lok Sabha on the inadvertent release of a missile during an inspection on March 9, 2022. Singh said the government has taken serious note of the incident, and a formal high-level inquiry has been ordered which will determine the exact cause of the incident.

"During routine maintenance and inspection, a missile was accidentally released at around 7 pm. It was later learnt that the missile had landed inside the territory of Pakistan. While this incident is regretted, we are relieved that nobody was hurt due to the accident." the minister said

The minister also said Indian



armed forces are well-trained and disciplined and are well experienced in handling such systems."I would also like to state that a review of the Standard Operating Procedures for operations, maintenance and inspections is being conducted in the wake of this incident. We attach the highest priority to the safety and security of our weapon systems. If any shortcoming is found, the same would be im-

mediately rectified," Singh said. The Defence Minister assured the

Parliament that India's missile system is "very reliable and safe" "Moreover, our safety procedures and protocols are of the highest order and are reviewed from time to time. Our Armed Forces are well-trained and disciplined and are well experienced in handling such systems," he added. Singh made the statement in Rajva Sabh first and later in Lok Sabha.

Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar, the Director-General of the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) of

THE DEFENCE MINISTER ASSURED THE PARLIAMENT THAT INDIA'S MISSILE SYSTEM IS VERY RELIABLE AND SAFE"

RAJNATH SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SERIOUS NOTE OF THE INCIDENT, AND A FORMAL HIGH-LEVEL INOUIRY HAS BEEN ORDERED WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE EXACT CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT

Pakistan, had claimed last Thursday that an unarmed projectile launched from India entered the Pakistani airspace travelling 124 km and fell near Mian Channu in Khanewal district.

Pakistan also summoned the Charge d'Affaires at the Indian embassy in Islamabad and conveyed its strong protest over the "unprovoked" violation of its airspace by what it described as a supersonic "projectile"

Noting that the missile that landed in Pakistan was fired "accidentally" due to a technical malfunction, the defence ministry last Friday had also ordered a 'Court of Enquiry' into the incident.

bodies and adverse events are also

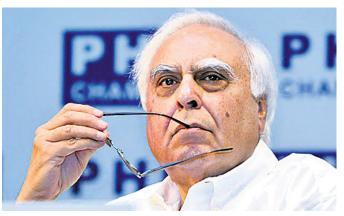
and immunogenicity of these vac-

cines, which are rolled out after

'Further the efficacy, safety,

found to be minimum.

Cong slams Sibal for criticising Gandhis



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 15: Reflecting the dissensions in the party, senior Congress leaders lashed out at their colleague Kapil Sibal Tuesday for his remarks against the leadership, with the party's Lok Sabha whip accusing him of speaking the language of the BJP and the RSS.

Manickam Tagore, a staunch Rahul Gandhi lovalist, said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) want the Gandhis to be out of leadership positions in the Congress to kill the party and destroy the idea of India.

National spokesperson of the Congress Pawan Khera said Sibal should contest the election for the post of Congress president, instead of making public comments against the party leadership. "Why RSS and BJP wants Nehru-Gandhi's out of the leadership? Because without Gandhi's leadership Congress will be become Janata party. It's easy to kill Congress then it's easy to destroy the idea of India (sic)," Tagore said on Twitter."Kapil Sibal knows it but why he is speaking the language of RSS/BJP?" the Congress's whip in the Lok Sabha asked. Khera also put out a tweet, hit-

ting out at Sibal."Dr Harshvardhan did not ask you to step aside from Chandni Chowk. He fought an election and defeated you Kapil

Sibal has said Gandhis should step aside and give some other leader a chance to lead the party

Sibal. Those who want to lead Congress are free to fight upcoming election for the position of party president instead of chanting everyday against current leadership," he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot too termed Sibal's comment "unfortunate". "At a time when the party is losing elections, the leaders should stand united," he told reporters in Jaipur. Gehlot asserted that the Congress is the only party that can fight against the ruling BJP and praised Rahul Gandhi for taking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Those who are talking about finishing the Congress party will themselves get finished. The Congress is a years-old party and our leaders have made supreme sacrifices before and after the independence," he said. Senior Congress leader and former Union minister Salman Khurshid also criticised Sibal's comment, saying it does not help the party as all such matters should be discussed within the organisation and not in the public domain.

UP SHOCKER Woman raped thrice in a day

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

With BJP back, **UP** man burns his certificates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mainpuri (Uttar Pradesh), March 15: In a bizarre incident, a 32-yearold man burnt his academic certificates of high school and intermediate in the Karhal town area of Mainpuri district because he said that he had lost hopes of getting a job after the BJP returned to power

in Uttar Pradesh. Sheelratan Bodh, who runs a computer centre, said, "I was hopeful that Akhilesh Yadav will form the government and I will get a job. But the BJP returned to power."

He said that in the next five vears, he will be overage and disqualified for government jobs. "I was upset by the election results and in frustration, I have burnt my academic certificates," he said. For the past few years, Bodh

has been providing service to students applying for jobs and admission at his computer centre located in front of the Karhal block

77,314 adverse events reported: Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 15: The Centre Tuesday told the Supreme Court that as on March 13 this year, a total of over 180 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines has been administered in the country and 77,314 adverse events, which come to 0.004 per cent, have been reported.

The government said that over 8.91 crore doses of vaccine Covaxin has been administered in the age group of 15-18 years as on March 12 and the number of adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reported are 1.739 minor.

81 serious, and six severe. The Centre told a bench of Justices L N Rao and B R Gavai

Research Institute (SIPRI).

New Delhi, March 15: Russia's creased efforts to diversify its arms share of arm imports to India fell



that a substantial number of individuals in the country are vaccinated and the vaccines have proved to be "very effective and safe'

It said both vaccines -- Covaxin and Covishield -- generate anti-

Sharp fall in Russia's share of arms import to India: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

from 69 per cent in 2012-17 to 46 per

an elaborate procedure by domain experts, are also accepted by World Health Organisation which shows recognition by global experts also," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said in their brief submission on behalf of the Centre.

The court is hearing arguments on a plea seeking directions for disclosure of data on clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines and post-jab cases. The arguments would con-





UP cops suspended

Prayagraj: A sub-inspector (SI) of the Uttar Pradesh Police has been booked and suspended for negligence and partisan action in a case of assault on vouths celebrating the Bharativa Janata Party's (BJP's) win in the Nevada village. The youth was killed Saturday night. An FIR against S-I Ajay Yadav was registered along with nine other named accused at the Baharia police station.

"In 2011, I met with a road accident in which both my legs were damaged. It took me over four years to recover. Otherwise, I would have secured a government job during the Akhilesh Yadav government from 2012-

office. He also sells stationery.

2017," he said. He is also worried about his 26year-old graduate brother who is struggling to get a government job. Their father runs a homeopathy medicine centre in Karhal. Both brothers are unmarried.

Asked why the Samajwadi Party failed to form a government in the state, Bodh said, "I cannot point out the exact reasons but I think the party needs to work harder to win the confidence of the people. Akhilesh Yadav needs to remain in the election mode for the next five years if SP wants to overcome the BJP."

cent in 2017-21, according to a report released Monday by Stockholmbased defence think-tank SIPRI.

Russia started a war against Ukraine on February 24, which led the US and other western countries to impose extremely harsh economic sanctions on the country "Between 2012–16 and 2017–21 Indian arms imports decreased by 21 per cent. Despite this, India was the world's largest importer of major arms in 2017-21 and accounted for 11 per cent of total global arms imports in

the period," the report noted. Russia was the largest supplier of major arms to India in both 2012-16 and 2017-21, but India's imports of Russian arms dropped by 47 per cent between the two periods as several large programmes for Russian arms wound down, said the report by the Stockholm International Peace

share of total Indian arms imports fell from 69 per cent to 46 per cent, it mentioned. In contrast, India's arms imports from France increased more than tenfold, making it India's second largest arms supplier in 2017–21, it stated

This, combined with India's in-

supplier base, meant that Russia's

Because of the perceived growing threats from China and Pakistan and because of significant delays in the production of its own major arms, India has large-scale plans for arms imports, it noted. "The drop in India's arms imports is, therefore, probably a temporary result of its slow and complex procurement process as well as its shift in suppliers," it mentioned.

Globally, Russia's arms exports fell by 26 per cent between 2012-16 and 2017-21, and its share of global arms exports decreased from 24 per cent to 19 per cent, it noted. Russia delivered major arms to 45 states in 2017-21, it said.



Participants pose for photos in front of a bus ahead of the 26th International Film Festival of Kerala, in Thiruvananthapuram PTI PHOTO

Lucknow, March 15: In a shocking incident, a woman was raped thrice in a day by three different men at three different locations in Lucknow

The police have arrested one Shabab Alam, 25, who raped the woman and left her near Charbagh. For a second time, she was raped at the riverfront and was later picked up by another man who raped her again.

The other two alleged rapists have not been arrested as yet.

The Hazratganj police had received a complaint about a woman lving unconsciously near Parivartan Chowk.

Police rushed the woman to Queen Mary's Hospital where she was found to have been raped.

The police have registered a case and started investigating the matter. The three men have no connection with each other.

Criminal arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested a dreaded criminal who was involved in multiple cases, including murder and interstate supply of arms and ammunition, an official said Tuesday. The accused, identified as Amit Dedha (30), a resident of Loni, Ghaziabad, UP, was an associate of Ankit Gujjar, who was recently murdered in Tihar Jail.

Couple found dead

Kanpur: The bodies of a young couple were found from their house in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district. The deceased have been identified as Rahul Kushwaha. 33. and his wife Neelam, 28. They were married nine years ago. Their bodies were found on Monday when Rahul's mother Sushma went inside the couple's room and found his body hanging on a bamboo ladder, while Neelam was lying on the ground.

CRPF scouts for additional helipads in LWE areas

SORE POINT FOR THE FORCE

The government has said the number of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts in the country has come down from 126 to 70 over the last few years and it is working to better these numbers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 15: The CRPF is mulling creation of more night landing capable helipads as air evacuation of its injured troops from remote Left Wing Extremismaffected areas remains a sore point for the force.

The paramilitary force has deployed close to 40 per cent of its total



strength (about 1.20 lakh personnel) for anti-Naxal operations in various states with its troops and special jungle warfare units like the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) undertaking a "decisive battle" in some of the worst violence affected areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. The force, as per senior officers

and documents, is establishing at least 30 new forward operating bases (FOB) in deep jungles of Chhattisgarh (south Bastar) while about half-a-dozen such locations are being scouted in Jharkhand and Bihar as part of the strategy of "moving deep into the Maoist stronghold and hitting them hard.' The government has said the

number of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts in the country has come down from 126 to 70 over the last few years and it is working to better these numbers.

"Helipads are a pre-requisite to meet any contingency while implementing the government's strategy of going deep. During an encounter or IED blast in these far flung areas, air evacuation of iniured troops is the most important factor so that they can get quick medical care and lives are saved,' a senior officer deployed in the LWE operations grid said. Now, he adds, here is the catch.

"There have been numerous instances when troops undertaking an operation secured a landing site near them but the helicopters got delayed or pilots refused the sortie due to a variety of technical reasons. The 'golden hour' is lost, he said.

A commanding officer of a battalion who operates with the specialised jungle warfare CoBRA unit of the CRPF in Chhattisgarh said. "Helicopter operations for anti-Naxal operations are governed by a set of standard operating procedures and once the pilots say an air evacuation is not possible, you have no other option but to look for other means to evacuate the injured troops.

Weather conditions and availability of natural light are two most important factors due to which choppers are either delayed or sorties are cancelled leading to huge resentment among the ground troops, he said.

The officer said such issues are often encountered by all the security forces operating in this theatre and hence the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), as the lead combat arm, is looking at ways to

"create, secure and light up" more helipads in the interior regions of these states so that the rate of choppers' landing increases. The sector offices of the CRPF in the three states have been entrusted with the task, he said.

An officer posted with the antinaxal operations air wing said a pool of choppers from the Indian Air Force and the BSF have been "strategically" based at Raipur and Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi in Jharkhand for these evacuation sorties and for air dropping reinforcements.

"The pilots and crew just cannot 🛁 throw caution to the winds. They have to weigh all options as they themselves carry about 4-5 soldiers onboard in every such sortie. They need to come back safe too and issues of weather, terrain and lightcannot be comprised," the air wing officer said.





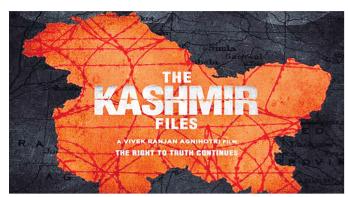






Gehlot in a fix over making 'The Kashmir Files' tax-free **'Issue Aadhaar to 19L NRC locked out pronto'**

While six BJP-ruled states have made it tax-free, the film on the exodus of the Pandit community from the Valley in the early 90s has been evoking jolting reactions



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, March 15: The Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan seems to be in a fix regarding the film 'The Kashmir Files' as a few Congress leaders have raised a demand to make the film tax-free while the others have warned against the move or else stay prepared for a protest.

Senior Rajasthan Congress MLA Bhanwarlal Sharma has raised a demand that the film should be made tax-free. He said he would write to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot demanding that the film be made tax-free in the state as it shows how the Pandits have been subjected to atrocities in Kashmir.

BJP leader Rajendra Rathod argued that many Kashmiri Pandits who have fled the Valley after

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, March 15: The Assam government is pursuing with the Centre the issue of nonissuance of Aadhaar cards to 'many eligible people' whose biometric details were locked during the process of updating National Register of Citizens (NRC) as the document is necessary for availing benefits of welfare schemes, the assembly was informed Tuesday.

Biometrics of over 27 lakh applicants were collected during the claims and objections phase of the NRC, which is yet to be notified by the Registrar General of India (RGI). Out of these, 19 lakh names were not included in the final draft of the NRC published August 31, 2019 and these people are now facing problems in getting Aadhaar cards as their biometric data have been locked as per a directive of the Supreme Court, which is overseeing the NRC undering the supreme

NRC updating process. Sharing the concerns of the opposition parties, General Administration Department Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass informed the House that the state government is aware that many eligible people are facing problems in availing benefits of welfare schemes due to the absence of Aadhaar cards which are mandatory to be linked to their

bank accounts for receiving the benefits. Dass said the state government

has written at least twice to the



Centre in the last two years, requesting the government to allow the Aadhaar card issuing authority to access the biometric details of at least those people whose names had figured in the final draft NRC.

"The Chief Minister had himself brought up this issue in the state Cabinet and a sub-committee has been formed to discuss the way forward with different organisations," he said.

The sub-committee comprising Ajanta Neog, Atul Bora and Pijush Hazarika is scheduled to initiate consultations with different groups including All Assam Students' Union (AASU) later

this month, Parliamentary Affairs Minister and one of the panel members Pijush Hazarika said.

The matter was raised by AIUDF legislator Aminul Islam, who maintained that though the state government has been claiming of being seized of the issue, no fruitful step has been taken to resolve the problem.

"People are being deprived of their rightful benefits. Earlier also the government said steps are being taken but we have not seen any result," Islam said.

Congress MLA Jakir Hussain Sikdar demanded a definite timeframe for resolving the problem, while ruling BJP

UNANIMOUS CONCERN IN ASSAM ASSEMBLY

The matter was raised by AIUDF legislator Aminul Islam, who maintained that though the state government has been claiming of being seized of the issue, no fruitful step has been taken to resolve the problem

Congress MLA Jakir Hussain Sikdar demanded a definite timeframe for resolving the problem, while ruling BJP legislator Biswajit Phukan also urged the government to ensure that at least those people whose names were included in the final draft NRC are not deprived of the benefits Biometrics of over 27 lakh applicants were collected during the claims and objections phase of the NRC, which is yet to be notified by the Registrar General of India

Out of these, 19 lakh names were not included in the final draft of the NRC published August 31, 2019 and these people are now facing problems in getting Aadhaar cards as their biometric data have been locked as per a directive of the Supreme Court, which is overseeing the NRC updating process

General Administration Department Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass informed the House that the CM himself has brought up the issue in state cabinet and a three-member sub-committee has been formed for a way forward

General Administration Department Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass also informed the Assembly that 85.55 per cent of people in the state have registered for Aadhaar enrolment as per data on February 28, 2022

legislator Biswajit Phukan also urged the government to ensure that at least those people whose names were included in the final draft NRC are not deprived of the benefits.

Dass, in his reply, also said that 85.55 per cent of people in the state have registered for Aadhaar enrolment as per data on February 28, 2022.

The process for applying and generation of Aadhaar cards in the state had started full scale only after updating of the NRC un

had come to an end. In response to another question, Dass, who also holds the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department, said in the House that eligible people were not being deprived of benefits under National Food Security Act due to non-issuance of Aadhaar cards.

tta onFacilities like Electronic Point
of Sale, Nominee Policy and
Exception Handling Policy were
being pursued to ensure that ben-
efits reach all eligible population
under NFSA, he added.

Longest vessel ever to sail on Brahmaputra docks at Pandu

being victims of violence now re-

side in Rajasthan. To apply a sooth-

ing balm to their wounds, this

film should be made tax free so that

Singh Khachariyawas clarified

that the decision will be taken

after watching the film. He said

that no decision can be taken with-

out watching the film. RLP con-

venor and Nagaur MPA Hanuman

Beniwal also raised the demand

for making The Kashmir Files

Meanwhile, Congress Gujjar

leader Himmat Singh said, "People

with the Sangh ideology are put-

ting pressure on the Rajasthan

government and CM Ashok Gehlot

to get the movie #Thekashmirfiles

tax-free. If it is made tax free, we

will be forced to hit the streets.

tax-free across India.

Meanwhile, a minister, Pratap

the public can know the reality.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, March 15: The longest vessel ever to sail on Brahmaputra anchored at Pandu Port here Tuesday after completing the cargo movement from Haldia in West Bengal via Bangladesh. The 90-metre long vessel MV

Bengal via Bangladesh. The 90-metre long vessel, MV Ram Prasad Bismil, along with two barges DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam carrying 1,793 metric tonne of steel rods successfully completed the pilot run moving heavy cargo from Haldia Dock. is deeply committed to bring business viability to water transport in Assam and reinvigorate the vitality of Brahmaputra. The vision of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is to energise the "Ashtalakshmi potential of Northeast to power the growth engine of India under his vision of 'Transformation through Transportation," he said.

"This is not only the cheapest and ecologically most adept mode of transportation, it also allows the long awaited connection for the business of Northeast through the marine network with the rest of the world," Sonowal added.

For the people of Assam, the Brahmaputra is the lifeline and



sible by the team to chalk out a working route during this season of challenging depth at many stretches," Sonowal said while joining the programme virtually from New Delhi. He said that the Centre

Union Minister for Shipping,

Ports and Waterways Sarbananda

Sonowal had flagged off the vessels

February 16 from Syama Prasad

vessel plying on the Brahmaputra

anchors a success today, we must

recognise that this was made pos-

"As the pilot run of this longest

Mookerjee Port in Haldia.

this was understood by the Prime
Minister who envisioned shaping
the growth of this ecologically sensitive region via a medium that is
economic and environment friendly,
the minister said.

Folk artists were seen performing a Fire Dance at Gramin Haat Market in Bikaner, Rajasthan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, March 15: Udaipur Holi has made a mark across the world for the grand celebrations by the erstwhile royals. However, this year, the celebration will be about the empowerment of women, which has been scripted by the tribal women themselves, who are engaged in making and marketing herbal gulal made from plants and flowers.

A silent revolution is in the making in Rajasthan's tribal town of Kotda in Udaipur district where the expert hands of tribal women are making this unique gulal by using beetroot for red colour, rose flower for pink, palash flowers for yellow colour and so on.

The women self-help groups of the remote tribal area are working hard to ensure their herbal gulal made by using forest produce reaches tourists who visit Udaipur to celebrate Holi.

In fact, the Rajasthan Grameen Aajivika Vikas Parishad has made special gift hampers which have been showcased at stalls set up in malls, tourist places and cooperative markets too, so that tourists thronging these places can take along the rare products to their places to ensure a chemical-free Holi.

Rajasthan Grameen Aajivika Vikas Parishad, Udaipur district project manager Suman Ajmera said, "Tribal women from Jhadol and Kotda have been making this herbal gulal from flowers. Now we aim to give maximum benefits to these women by selling their products. Also we aim for more people



The idea behind the mission is that the people should know about the ancient history of how the gulal was made, they should use the herbal products on this Holi which will also promote the idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat. We have organised stalls at tourist spots, malls and different places to ensure these women get regular income

SUMAN AJMERA | DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER, RAJASTHAN GRAMEEN AAJIVIKA VIKAS PARISHAD, UDAIPUR

to join the campaign to play herbal holi." "We have prepared special attractive gift hampers on Holi festival, which are being made available to various government organisations, corporates and others at subsidised rates so that the colours of these tribal women's skills can reach the country and the world through these gift hampers,"

she added. "While launching these gift hampers and posters, we have called upon the various governmental, industrial, business and social organisations and interested members of the general public to make these tribals as gift hampers of herbal gulal on this Holi," she added.

Rajeevika Udaipur District

The process of making this herbal gulal is quite simple. Flowers are plucked and boiled in hot water

After cooling it, and grinding in a mixer, aromatic extracts are added and herbal gulal is prepared

Women mix the extracts with their hands before grinding and then pack the gulal in packets.

In other words, herbal gulal is prepared by handpicked flowers by the Self-Help Group women

> The product is promoted by district collector and CEO Zila Parishad

Pratap Gaurav Kendra, Karni Mata Ropeway, Maharana Pratap Memorial Moti Magri, Fish Aquarium Fatehsagar, Lok kala Mandal etc are displaying the colourful packets of Gulal.

"The idea behind the mission is that the people should know about the ancient history of how the gulal was made, they should use the herbal products on this Holi which will also promote the idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat. We have organised stalls at tourist spots, malls and different places to ensure these women get regular income," said Suman.

The process of making this herbal gulal is quite simple. Flowers are plucked and boiled in hot water. After cooling it, and grinding in a mixer, aromatic extracts are added and herbal gulal is prepared. Women mix the extracts with their hands before grinding and then pack the gulal in packets.

Shobhaa De urges Rajasthan govt to stop elephant rides

According to PETA India, captive elephants, which are forced to give rides at Amer Fort are often beaten, denied adequate food and veterinary care, and suffer from foot problems and arthritis because of long periods spent standing on hard surfaces

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, March 15: At the Jaipur Literature Festival, which concluded Monday, author Shobhaa De called on the Rajasthan government to stop elephant rides at the famed Amer Fort.

In a letter on behalf of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, De asked the state's Minister for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Hemaram Choudhary to phase out cruel elephant rides at the fort, located some 11 km from Jaipur, and send the tuskers to sanctuaries where they can live freely.

An inspection report from the committee constituted by the Project



Elephant Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change also seeks to phase out elephant rides at Amer Fort, citing ageing elephants and tourists' declining preference for elephant rides, the author, who was a speaker at the festival, wrote.

"I respectfully request that you take immediate steps to switch to the use (of) electric carriages or other non-animal vehicles," she wrote.

In February 2021, following recommendations by a Central government-appointed committee, the Rajasthan Forest Department had directed the Department of Archaeology and Museums to stop using 20 medically unfit elephants for tourist rides at the Amer Fort. At least 14 elephants suffer from ailments like vision problems caused by corneal opacity and cataracts, as well as chronic foot problems like overgrown nails and flat footpads from walking on concrete roads. However, they are still used for rides at the fort. In fact, one elephant died even before the committee's report was submitted.

According to PETA India, captive elephants, which are forced to give rides at Amer Fort are often beaten, denied adequate food and veterinary care, and suffer from foot problems and arthritis because of long periods spent standing on hard surfaces. Many also develop neurotic forms of behaviour and die prematurely.

Manager Survayeersinh Rathod

said that these herbal gulal pack-

ets and gift hampers are available

in the range of Rs 120 to Rs 500,

which can be obtained from any

has set up counters at various

tourist places of Udaipur city

through Rajivika with a view to

providing reasonable prices for the

products made by these tribal

women. Along with this, packets

of herbal gulal and gift hampers

are also being made available at

the consumer stores of the co-

Places being thronged by tourists.

including Tribes India Showroom.

Rajivika Office, Saheliyon Ki Bari,

operative department.

The district administration

counters set up in the city.





national



No death has been reported due to engaging in manual scavenging RAMDAS ATHAWALE | MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

NO DECISION YET ON COUNTRY-WIDE NRC: GOV

The Centre has not vet taken any decision to prepare the National **Register of Indian Citizens for** the entire country, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha Tuesday



uote

government is ready for discussion on the Ukraine issue. Please give notice for that ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

The

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY

The data of land registries executed between 2010 and 2016 would be investigated to check violation

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR HARYANA CM



JAI RAM THAKUR HIMACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: The terrorist killed during a gunfight with the security forces in the Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district belonged to the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and was involved in several terror crimes, officials said Tuesday. The police said that based on specific input generated by them regarding the presence of terrorist in village Charsoo area of Awnatipora, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by the police, Army's 42 RR and CRPF.

11 TDP MLAs suspended

Amaravati: The Jangareddygudem hooch tragedy rocked Andhra Pradesh Assembly for second day in a row on Tuesday as 11 members of the opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) were suspended from House for one day for disrupting proceedings. Demanding a debate on the death of 25 people allegedly due to consumption of illicitly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ment joined a

host of states in

declaring the film

tax-free. Slamming

the "campaign to dis-

credit" the Vivek

Agnihotri directo

New Delhi, March 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday praised The Kashmir Files, a film based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley in the 1990s, for "bringing the truth in its correct form" and said history has to be presented in the right context from time to time.

The Prime Minister's ringing endorsement of the film while addressing a BJP Parliamentary Party meeting was echoed by Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya

that they tried to suppress is now among others. coming out with the back-You As debate around must have heard the movie escathe discussion about lated, the Uttar 'The Kashmir Files', those Pradesh govern-

film at the centre of a political who carry around the flag of slugfest with the freedom of expression, that Congress and sevwhole group is rattled for eral other opposithe last few days tion parties objecting NARENDRA MODI I to it. The video of the

ing of facts and efforts,'

Modi said about the

PRIME MINISTER Prime Minister's speech was shared on Twitter by the BJP and several party leaders. rial by those who claim to be the flagbearers of freedom of expression, Released last week, The Kashmir Modi said there have been contin-Files stars Anupam Kher, Mithun

uous efforts to "bury the truth".

Chakraborty and Pallavi Joshi. The "They are shocked that the truth film has been written by Agnihotri and produced by Zee Studios.

"You must have heard the dis cussion about 'The Kashmir Files', those who carry around the flag of freedom of expression, that whole group is rattled for the last few days. Instead of assessing the film on the basis of facts and truth, a campaign is on to discredit it." Modi said.

Underlining that history has to be presented in the right context before the society, Modi said just as books, poetry and literature play a role in this, in the same way even films can do the same.

"My issue is not about a film,

but about bringing the truth in its correct form before the country. There can be many aspects of truth and different views, those who think it is not correct can make their own film, but they are shocked that the truth that they tried to suppress is now coming out with the backing of facts and efforts," the PM said.

Referring to British filmmaker Richard Attenborough's 1982 biographical drama "Gandhi", starring Ben Kingsley, Modi said post-inde pendence, the world heard more about Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela."Had someone taken the effort to make a film on Gandhi and presented it to the world, the message may have been delivered.

His comments were followed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's announcement regarding the film's exemption from entertainment tax."#TheKashmirFiles film has been made tax-free in Uttar Pradesh," Adityanath said in a tweet in Hindi. Maurya, the deputy chief minister of UP, said he watched the film in Lucknow and it depicts the "pain and injury of Kashmiri Hindus"

'Campaign to discredit' The Kashmir Files: PM Bombay HC rejects Nawab Malik's plea

Malik, 62, arrested by the ED February 23, contended the central agency's arrest and subsequent remand was "illegal". without jurisdiction and sought setting aside the order of the Special PMLA Court which sent him to ED custody



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 15: The Bombay High Court Tuesday rejected a plea by Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik seeking his release from judicial custody after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged money-laundering case arising out of a tainted

land deal around 20 years ago. Malik, 62, arrested by the ED February 23, contended the central agency's arrest and subsequent remand was "illegal", without jurisdiction and sought setting aside the order of the Special PMLA Court which sent him to ED custody.

His legal team of Rashmikant & Partners argued that the illegal acts of the ED rendered his continued detention illegal and without jurisdiction, entitling him to a writ of habeas corpus and immediate release.

However, a division bench of Justice P.B. Varale and Justice S.M. Modak, which declined Malik's plea, said that certain debatable issues are raised and which need to be heard at length.

At the hearings, Malik's lawyer, senior advocate Amit Desai argued that Malik had implicated in the case which was based on statements by persons with no credibility, and the financial transactions alleged against the Minister

ranged from 1999 to 2003 to 2005 when the Prevention of Money Laundering Act did not exist.

Desai reiterated that PMLA was applied retrospectively by arresting Malik in a 22-year-old case and sought his immediate release given the present circumstances of the case.

Opposition the plea, ED's counsel, Additional Solicitor-General Anil Singh questioned the maintainability of Malik's plea, saying that the remand order was after careful consideration of all material evidence and submissions before the Special PMLA Court, money-laundering was an separate offence on which the Section 45 of the PMLA is applicable, and demanded the plea should be

dismissed According to the ED, Malik had purchased a property, Goawala Compound in Kurla at a throwaway rate, through the power of attorney holder Sardar Shahawali Khan, currently in jail for the March 12, 1993 serial blasts case, and Salim Patel, a henchman for the late Hasina Parkar. the sister of absconding mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar.

Meanwhile, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has vehemently demanded that Malik should resign from Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's ministry or should be sacked.

Army institutes Chair at USI in Rawat's memory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 15: The Indian Army has dedicated a Chair of Excellence in memory of late Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI) on the eve of his 65th birthday.

The formal announcement was made by General M.M. Naravane, Chief of Army Staff and Officiating Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, at a ceremony organised at the South Block on Tuesday. Indian Army Vice Chief

Lieutenant General Manoj Pande, Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal B.R. Krishna and Deputy Chiefs of the Army Staff Lt Gen S.K. Sharma also attended the event. A cheque of ₹5 lakh was handed over to Maj Gen B.K. Sharma (retd), Director, USI which will be paid as honourarium to the nominated Chair of Excellence, Late General Bipin Rawat who served as India's first CDS as well as the 27th Chief



Security personnel with metal detectors and a dog inspect the venue where AAP's Punjab CM-designate Bhagwant Mann will take oath as Punjab Chief Minister at Khatkar Kalan in Nawanshahr near Jalandhar PTI PHOTO

distilled liquor in Jangareddygudem town during the last few days, the TDP members trooped into the well of the House. Speaker Tammineni Seetharam rejected the demand and appealed to the members to resume their seats and cooperate in running the House in a smooth manner.

📕 Varanasi to get its 85th ghat

Varanasi: Varanasi will soon get its 85th ghat, named NaMo. The NaMo Ghat has three pairs of hands, folded in 'namaste'. NaMo, incidentally, is often used for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two 25-feet-tall and one smaller 'namaste' statues have already been installed at one of the three promenades on the ghat. A 75-ft-tall statue will come up behind these statues at this ghat, which will have multiple facilities like an open-air theatre, food court, jetty and CNG filling station. Divisional commissioner Deepak Agrawal said, "The existing ghat area between Rajghat and Shahi Nullah in Ganga downstream is being redeveloped into a modern, fully accessible ghat with recreational facilities. It has been named NaMo Ghat."

of Indian Army was an outstand-



ing professional and was in the midst of steering one of the most radical transformations of the Indian military.

Gen Rawat Memorial Chair of Excellence will focus on the field of Jointness and Integration.

The Chair of Excellence is a befitting tribute to the astute leadership and professionalism of the General. On the occasion, the Army Chief recounted that General Rawat was passionate about strategic thoughts and invested considerable time and energy in the activities of various Think Tanks and therefore, his 65th birthday provided an opportune moment to reinforce the Services' bond with

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore/New Delhi, March 15: Several political parties and minority organisations frowned upon the Karnataka High Court's decision to uphold the ban on hijab in educational institutions in the state Tuesday, terming it "deeply disappointing", "contrary to constitutional guarantees of equality' and "adversely impacting" reli-

gious freedom and education of Muslim girls. The order, however, found favour with many BJP leaders who hailed it saying the entire debate on the issue should be seen from the context of women empowerment. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan also welcomed the court ruling and expressed hope that "such continuous attempts to push back young Muslim women into the four

walls of a house, fail". Reacting to the high court verdict, prominent Muslim body Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind expressed deep disappointment and said the

Karnataka HC's decision to uphold the Hijab ban is deeply disappointing. On one hand we talk about empowering women yet we are denying them the right to a simple choice. Its isn't just about religion but the freedom to choose

Hijab verdict 'disappointing': Parties

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

The Karnataka government should ensure that none is allowed to vitiate the atmosphere in schools and colleges and peace is not sacrificed for BJP's agenda of polarisation on communal lines

RANDEEP SURJEWALA I CONGRESS LEADER

ruling would have adverse impact on religious freedom and education of Muslim girls.

Maulana Mahmood Madani, president, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (Mahmood Madani faction) asserted that no society is governed only by legal nuances on issues in



which traditional and social values matter. In a statement, the Jamiat chief said this verdict would have many negative implications, especially on the education of Muslim girl students as they would lose their right to choice and their con-

fidence in the "present communal

atmosphere".

In Jammu and Kashmir, political parties and religious organisations called the high court ruling "deeply disappointing", saying it was not only about religion but the freedom to choose. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said it was a "travesty" that the court did not uphold the basic right of a woman to choose how she wants to dress.

Meanwhile, Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) – an amalgam of various religious organisations, which is headed by Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, regretted the court decision, terming it "twisted". The MMU said it is interference in the religious matters of Muslims and the Muslim personal law. BJP leaders including Union minister Pralhad Joshi, who hails from Karnataka, and former law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, welcomed the verdict. Joshi appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

45% winners declared criminal cases against themselves: ADR

New Delhi: About 45 percent candidates who won the recent assembly polls in five states have declared criminal cases against themselves, poll-rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said Tuesday. The National Election Watch and ADR have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all 690 winning candidates in the assembly elections of Goa. Manipur, Punjab. Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Of the 690 candidates, 219 (32 percent) winning candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, it said. In Goa, 40 percent of winning candidates declared criminal cases against themselves, while 33 percent declared serious criminal cases. In UP, 51 percent of the winners declared criminal cases, while 39 per cent declared serious criminal cases against themselves, it said. Similarly in Punjab, 50 per cent of the winning candidates declared criminal cases while 23 per cent declared serious criminal cases against themselves, it said.

YOGI'S BULLDOZER BACK IN A

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

their intellectual institutions.

TN to get mega book park

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Tuesday announced that the state government would establish a mega book park in the state and that the land for the same is being identified. He made the announcement while addressing a programme at Kalaivnar Aragam in Chennai after presenting the state government awards to Tamil scholars and social workers.

Lucknow/Varanasi, March 15: 'Bulldozer' has caught on as a fad in markets here transcending from being a banal tractor to a popular mass object, if only temporarily. 'Bulldozer' became an oft-repeated phrase during the run up to the polls as political parties jousted with each other for attention. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was frequently called as 'Bulldozer Baba' by SP leader Akhilesh Yadav for the for-

mer's claims of razing illegal prop-

erties of criminals with a bull-

Adityanath too several times evoked bulldozer in his speeches, conjuring a tough leader image. But with BJP's win, the sturdy bulldozer has now morphed into pop objects, that range from toys to water guns and even tattoos. Mohammad Asif, a water gun seller in Varanasi's Harar Sarai, said, "we are not able to fulfill the growing demand for bulldozer water guns.

"Earlier, there used to be a great demand for water guns with pictures of film stars like Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan, but this time there is a rush for the bulldozer water guns," he said. Water gun sellers in Nai Sarak there also admitted to an increased demand for bulldozer water guns ahead of Holi

Harishchandra Srivastava, a toy-seller in the old city area of Lucknow, said that the sale of remote and battery-operated bulldozer toys have increased. The fad is not limited to water-guns or toys. The machine's popularity has also seen an uptick in its rent prices as well. Many contractors said they couldn't find enough bulldozers to let immediately after the **BJP** victory

Rajveer Singh Sonu, who operates JCB machines in Lucknow

most of my workers were off." Contractors Vinod Nishad and Mayank Srivastava said the charge for renting a JCB is around ₹5,000 per hour usually, but it has now gone up to ₹8,000 to 10,000 per hour. Some pictures that emerged from Varanasi and Prayagraj even showed young men getting bull-

and rents them out to political par-

ties, said, "We could not meet the demand on the counting day as

dozer image tattooed on their arms. On March 10, as the BJP romped home to power a second consecutive time in the state, several victory processions featured bulldozers.

dozer





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international

UKRAINE REALISES IT CANNOT JOIN NATO: ZELENSKYY

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says the country realises that it can't join NATO. Speaking Tuesday to representatives of the UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), Zelenskyy said that "we heard for years about the allegedly open doors" of NATO, but "we have already heard that we won't be able to join." He added "it's the truth we must recognise, and I'm glad that our people are starting to realise that and count on themselves and our partners who are helping us." The JEF may consist of Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway.

3 EU premiers visit Kyiv to show Ukraine support

Despite shelling that has reduced some cities to rubble, Europe's biggest invasion force since World War Two has been halted at the gates of Kyiv, nearly three weeks into a war which Western countries say Moscow

believed it would win within days

WAR COULD BE OVER BY

MAY: ZELENSKYY'S AIDE

REUTERS

Lviv/kyiv, March 15: Three European prime ministers rode a train for Kyiv Tuesday, the first visit by foreign leaders to the Ukrainian capital since Russia launched its invasion, and a striking symbol of Ukraine's success so far in fending off Russia's assault.

"It is our duty to be where history is forged. Because it's not about us, but about the future of our children who deserve to live in a world free from tyranny," said Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, who set off across the border with Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala and Janez Jansa of Slovenia

Fiala said the aim was to confirm

The war in Ukraine is likely to be

L over by early May when Russia

runs out of resources to attack its

neighbour, Oleksiy Arestovich, an ad-

viser to the Ukrainian president's

Talks between Kyiv and Moscow

in which Arestovich is not per-

sonally involved - have so far pro-

duced very few results other than sev-

eral humanitarian corridors out of

In a video published by several

Ukrainian media, Arestovich said the

exact timing would depend on how

much resources the Kremlin was

besieged Ukrainian cities.

chief of staff, said late Monday.

Czech, Polish, Slovenian leaders head to Kviv

- Zelenskyy aide says war over
- by May Apartment in capital hit by
- shells
- 19 said killed in attack on TV tower in west



will see, I am talking about the lat-

est possible dates," Arestovich said.

there will either be a peace deal

struck very quickly, within a week

or two, with troop withdrawal and

everything, or there will be an attempt

to scrape together some, say, Syrians

for a round two and, when we grind

them too, an agreement by mid-April

also involve Russia sending fresh

conscripts after a month of train-

ing, he said. Still, even once peace is

agreed, small tactical clashes could

A completely crazy scenario could

or late April.

We are at a fork in the road now

many are spending nights sheltering in underground stations.

Two powerful explosions rocked the capital before dawn Tuesday and tracer fire lit up the night sky. A high-rise apartment building was in

flames after being struck by artillery. Firefighters tried to douse the blaze and rescue workers helped evacuate residents trapped inside using mobile ladders. A dead body lay on the ground in a bag.

Sitting on the ground outside, resident Igor Krupa said he survived because he had slept under a makeshift shelter of furniture and metal weights. All the windows went out and all the debris went into the apartment.

Major road and train routes from the capital are still open and Russia has failed to capture any of Ukraine's 10 biggest cities

Hosting foreign dignitaries in his own capital would be a remarkable achievement for President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who rejected offers to evac uate early in the war, staying under bombardment to rally his nation.

In his most confident public statement yet, Zelenskiy called on Russian troops to surrender, saying they and their officers already knew that the war was hopeless.

"You will not take anything from Ukraine. You will take lives. Th

EU okays fresh round of sanctions against Russia

An elderly resident waits to be rescued by Ukrainian firefighters after bombing in an apartment building in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday

Bombardment in Kyiv kills four, curfew in place

Russian air strikes and shelling hit Kyiv Tuesday killing at least four people, authorities said, as invading forces tightened their grip on the Ukrainian capital and the mayor announced a 35-hour curfew starting at 8 pm (1800 GMT). Two large blasts echosed across the centre of the

city just before dawn Tuesday. Late Monday, tracer bullets flashed across the night sky as Ukrainian forces apparently targeted an enemy drone. "Today is a difficult and dangerous moment," mayor Vitali Klitschko said. "The capital is the heart of Ukraine, and it will be defended. Kviv. which

is currently the symbol and forward operating base of Europe's freedom and security, will not be given up by us." Reuters witnesses saw a high-

rise apartment block in flames after being struck by artillery. Firefighters tried to douse the blaze and rescue workers helped evacuate residents



trapped inside using mobile ladders. A body lay on the ground in a bag.

Russia sanctions Biden, US officials

Moscow: Russia's foreign ministry said Tuesday that US President Joe Biden and a dozen other top officials had been banned from entering the country in a reciprocal response to US sanctions. The measure, which also applies to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense

691 civilians killed, 3 million flee Ukraine: UN

REUTERS

Geneva, March 15: The United Nations human rights office said Tuesday that the latest confirmed civilian toll in Ukraine is 691 people killed and 1,143 injured since Russia's invasion began 20 days ago.

The death count, which includes 48 children, was up from at least 636 civilians killed according to the previous report Monday from UN human rights monitors in the country The United Nations said the

true civilian casualty figures

are believed to be consider-

ably higher, due to intense hos-

tilities in some areas and re-

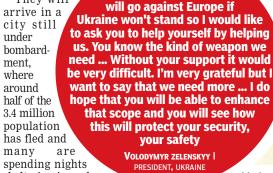
porting delays, including from

Izium in the Kharkiv region,

the southern city of Mariupol.

Fox News cameraman

killed, reporter injured



the unequivocal support of the entire

of

all are the targets

of Russia and everything

European Union for the sov-

ereignty and inde-

pendence

They will

Ukraine.

willing to commit to the campaign. "I think that no later than in May, early May, we should have a peace agreement, maybe much earlier, we

remain possible for a year, according to Arestovich, although Ukraine insists on the complete removal of Russian troops from its territory.

a lot of you. But your life will also be taken. But why should you die? What for? I know that you want to survive." he said.

1 kid turning refugee every second: UN

Geneva: Some 1.4 million kids have now fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion began February 24, meaning nearly one child a second has become a refugee, the UN said Tuesday. Fresh numbers from the International Organisation for Migrantion showed Tuesday that more than three million people have fled Ukraine. Nearly half of them are children. "On average, every day over the last 20 days in Ukraine, more than 70,000 children have become refugees," UNICEF spokesman James Elder told reporters in Geneva. That amounts to around 55 every minute, "so almost one per second", he said, stressing that "this crisis in terms of speed and scale is unprecedented since World War II. They are in desperate need of safety, stability and child protection services.'

300K+ hackers volunteer to fight Russia

More than 300,000 volunteer hackers are helping Ukraine win the cyber war against Russia. On a Telegram group called "IT Army of Ukraine", these volunteers are assigned tasks designed to target Russian websites. These hackers have joined the fight from Ukraine's side to level the playing field, as many cyber security firms report "cyber chaos" amid Russia-Ukraine fight. Russia has, however, denied any involvement in the cyber attacks.

Russian space chief replies to Musk's challenge

Billionaire Elon Musk had challenged Russian President Vladimir Putin to a one-onone fight to stop the Ukraine war. A top Russian official has responded to tech billion aire Elon Musk's challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin for a "single combat" to end the invasion of Ukraine, by guoting verses from Alexander Pushkin's The Tale of the Priest and of His Workman Balda. "You, little devil, are still young," wrote Dmitry Rogozin, Director General of Russia's space programme Roscosmos, quoting Pushkin's poem. "You are weak to compete with me: it would only be a waste of time Overtake my brother first," added Mr Rogozin. Musk had challenged President Putin to a one-on-one fight to stop the Ukraine war.

THE EU ALSO AGREED TO STRIP RUSSIA OF ITS 'MOST-FAVOURED-**NATION' TRADE STATUS**

Brussels: The European Union formally approved Tuesday a new barrage of sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, which include bans on investments in the Russian energy sector, luxury goods exports and imports of steel products from Russia.

The sanctions, which come into effect after publication in the EU official journal later Tuesday, also freeze the assets of more business leaders who support the Russian state, including Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich.

The European Commission said in a statement that the sanctions included "a far-reaching ban on new investment across the Russian energy sector".

The measure will hit Russia's oil majors Rosneft, Transneft and Gazprom Neft, but EU members will be still able to buy oil and gas from them, an EU source told Reuters.

There will also be a total ban on transactions with some Russian state-owned enterprises linked to the Kremlin's military-industrial complex, the EU executive said.

The bloc reached a preliminary agreement on the new sanctions Monday, and no objections were raised before an agreed deadline.

The ban on Russian steel imports is estimated to affect 3.3 billion euros (\$3.6 billion) worth of products, the Commission said. EU companies will also be no longer allowed to export any

Secretary Lloyd Austin, "is the consequence of the extremely Russophobic policy pursued by the current US administration," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement.

luxury goods worth more than and Volnovakha in the Donetsk 300 euros, including jewellery. Exports of cars costing more region. than 50,000 euros will also be banned, EU sources said.

The package also prohibits EU credit rating agencies from issuing ratings for Russia and Russian companies, which the Commission says will further restrict their access to European financial markets.

The latest sanctions follow

three rounds of punitive meas-

ures, which included freezing

of assets of the Russian cen-

tral bank and the exclusion

from the SWIFT banking sys-

tem of some Russian and

Belarusian banks.

New York, March 15: A cameraman for Fox News, Pierre Zakrzewski, has been killed in Ukraine outside Kyiv, the US network said Tuesday. Zakrzewski was killed and

AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE

his colleague Benjamin Hall was wounded when their vehicle was struck Monday by incoming fire in Horenka, outside the capital, Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott said in a statement. Hall, a Briton who works as the network's State Department correspondent, remains hospitalized in Ukraine, Scott said.

"Pierre was a war zone photographer who covered nearly every international story for Fox News from Iraq to Afghanistan to Syria during his long tenure with us," Scott said. "His passion and talent as a journalist were unmatched." Zakrzewski, who was based

in London, had been working in Ukraine since February.

On Sunday, a US journalist was shot dead and another wounded in Irpin, a frontline suburb of Kyiv that has witnessed some of the fiercest fighting since Russia invaded Ukraine. Video documentary maker Brent Renaud, 50, was working for Time Studios on a project about global refugee issues, the media outlet said.

Anti-war activist interrupts live Russian state TV news show

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, March 15: A live evening news program on Russia's state television channel was interrupted Monday by a person who walked into the studio holding a poster protesting the war in Ukraine.

The moment was a risky protest in a country where independent media has been blocked or shuttered and it has become illegal to contradict the government's narrative of the war.

An anchor was speaking during the newscast when a woman appeared on camera behind her hold ing a sign with "no war" scrawled in English across the top, with a message in Russian below calling on people not to believe Russian propaganda.

Within seconds, the news program cut away to another scene.

Russia's state TV regularly amplifies the government line that says troops entered Ukraine to save people from "neo-Nazis" and to defend Russians from a country that was preparing to attack. The invasion of Ukraine is being characterised in Russia as a "special military operation.

An independent human rights group that monitors political arrests identified the woman as Marina Ovsyannikova. The group, OVD-Info, posted on its website that Ovsyannikova, who identified herself as an employee of the station, was taken into police custody.

Ovsyannikova spoke out against the war in a video on OVD-Info's website

"What is going on now is a crime," she said. "Russia is an aggressor country and Vladimir Putin is solely responsible for that aggression."



Speaking in a video address early Tuesday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised Ovsvannikova. People in Russia have limited

access to information from outside their country. Russian President Vladimir

Putin recently signed into law a measure that criminalizes the

Kremlin terms protest on TV 'hooliganism'

he Kremlin Tuesday dismissed as hooliganism an act of dissent by a he Kremin luesuay usinissed as noolganism on Russia's state woman who interrupted a live news bulletin on Russia's state television to denounce the war in Ukraine. As far as this woman is concerned, this is hooliganism, said Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, who went on to laud the state channel as a pillar of objective and timely news. The channel and those who are supposed to will get to the bottom of this, he told reporters. Officials in Moscow describe Russia's offensive in Ukraine as a special military operation to disarm the country and prevent genocide against Russian-speakers, a justification dismissed by Ukraine and the West as a false pretext for an invasion of a democratic country. Almost 15,000 people have been detained across Russia during anti-war protests since Feb. 24, according to a tally kept by OVD-Info, an independent protest-monitoring group.

spread of information that is considered by the Kremlin to be "fake" news

Media outlets and individuals who publish information that deviates from Putin's narrative are being targeted

There have been blocks imposed

on the BBC, the U.S. Governmentfunded Voice of America and Radio Free EuropeRadio Liberty, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle and

Latvia-based website Meduza. Russia has also blocked social media sites like Twitter and Facebook.

















Amazon calls Future store

transfer to Reliance 'fraud'

A sword of **Damocles hangs** over the global economy ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SOFTBANK EXECUTIVES TO LEAVE **BOARDS OF PAYTM, POLICYBAZAAR**

Representatives of SoftBank Group Corp will step down from the boards of Indian digital payments firm Paytm and the parent of online insurance aggregator Policybazaar, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said. The decision is part of SoftBank's global strategy to exit from the boards of most of its listed portfolio companies.

Rupee closes 8 paise down

Mumbai: The rupee pared its early

76.62 against the US dollar Tuesday,

marking its third straight day of loss-

es due to sustained forex outflows,

concerns over inflation and expecta-

tions of rate hike by the US Federal

Reserve. Besides, heavy selling in

domestic equities also weighed on

Uncertainty over the conflict in

Wednesday are keeping markets

the US Federal Reserve on

edgy, they said.

the domestic unit, forex traders said.

Ukraine and an expected rate hike by

components sector. Asian Paints,

Titan, Nestle India and Bharti Airtel

"The world equity market lost its

momentum as new financial and

trade sanctions were imposed on

Russia along with the suspension

of gas imports. It is a setback for

the market sentiment, which was

improving in anticipation of a

truce in war. The Indian market was

outperforming due to ease in com-

modity prices. World markets are

also lower ahead of the US Fed

meeting," according to Vinod Nair,

Head of Research at Geojit

Financial Services

were among the other winners.

gains to close down by 8 paise at

ahead of Fed policy



business



My dream is to make an electric highway between Delhi and Jaipur NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER



States/UTs as per GST (Compensation to States) Act. 2017 for the transition period by extending the levy of Compensation cess beyond 5 years to meet the GST

revenue shortfall as well as servicing the loan borrowed through special window scheme

NIRAMALA SITHARAMAN UNION FINANCE MINISTER

All the perspectives of data usage have shown substantial growth in India SANJAY MALIK NOKIA INDIA HEAD

SHORT TAKES

Over 8.22 crore taxpayers in FY20

New Delhi: India had 8.22 crore taxpayers, which include individuals and corporates, in 2019-20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha Tuesday. "Total number of taxpayers for AY 2020-21 is 8,22,83,407. The projected total population of the country as on March 1, 2021 Was 136.30 crore," Sitharaman said. The number of taxpayers include persons who pay income tax and corporate tax and who have either filed a Return of Income or in whose case tax has been deducted at source. Sitharaman further said the government has implemented the non-filers monitoring system (NMS) which assimilates and analyses inhouse information as well as transactional data received from third-parties to identify such persons/entities who have undertaken high value financial transactions with potential tax liabilities but have not filed their returns.

AMAZON'S PUBLIC OUTCRY CAME EVEN THOUGH MARCH 3, IT OFFERED TO HOLD TALKS TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 15: Days after billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led group took some of the stores of Future Group, whose lease had expired due to the non-payment of rent, Amazon.Com Inc Tuesday accused the two of 'fraud' and said such 'contumacious' transfer will be liable to legal action.

Amazon has been contesting the Rs 24,713 crore sale of Future Group's retail assets to Ambani's Reliance group, first announced in August 2020, and the case is currently before the Supreme Court. Reliance last month signed lease deeds with landlords who haven't been paid rent for months for stores built on their properties by Future Group. Initially, it sub-leased the properties to Future Group for operation, but this month terminated those sub-leases and took over 947 such stores.

In advertisements in leading newspapers headlined 'Public Notice', Amazon said: "These actions have been done in a clandestine manner by playing a fraud on the Constitutional Courts in India, the Arbitral Tribunal and Indian statutory authorities/agen-

cies. It accused Future Retail Ltd and its promoters of making a false submission before the



Future - which has more than 1,700 outlets, including popular Big Bazaar stores - has been unable to make lease payments

With landlords insisting on payments or shutting down of stores, Reliance transferred the leases of some stores to its name and sublet them to Future to operate the stores. It also offered all for a bulk of its outlets the 30,000 employees of Future Retail jobs

N ADDITION, A MAJORITY OF INVENTORY AT THESE STORES WAS BEING SUPPLIED BY RELIANCE JIOMART AS A CASH-STRAPPED FRL COULD NOT CLEAR DUES TO EXISTING SUPPLIERS

Supreme Court that retail assets would continue to vest in FRL until the Reliance deal was approved by the insolvency court - the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). "These false statements were made knowingly as FRL was on the verge of purportedly allowing handing over of the retail assets to the Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani (MDA) Group.

Amazon's public outcry came even though March 3, it offered to hold talks to resolve the dispute. In stock exchange filings this month, Future has said it could

not pay rent at many outlets given its distressed financial situation and that Reliance, which had taken over many of its leases, had issued it with termination notices. "It has now come to light that

FRL and its promoters have been trying to remove the substratum of the dispute by purportedly transferring and alienating FRL's retail assets. comprising the retail stores in favour of the MDA group, Amazon said in the public notice. It went on to warn all concerned against such transfer.

"Amazon hereby puts all persons concerned to notice that any attempt by Future Group promoters to transfer, dispose or alienate criminal consequences under the law," it said.

Sensex snaps 5-day rally amid global weakness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 15: Market benchmarks halted their five-day rally to close with deep cuts Tuesday, in line with a sell-off in global markets as participants dialled back risk exposure ahead of a key policy meeting of the US Federal Reserve amid continuing uncertainty over the Ukraine crisis.

A depreciating rupee and foreign capital outflows also weighed on sentiment, traders said. After opening with gains of over 200 points, the 30-share Sensex turned highly volatile and tumbled in afternoon trade, before finally finishing 709.17 points or 1.26 per cent lower at 55,776.85.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty dived 208.30 points or 1.23 per cent to 16.663.

Tata Steel was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, sliding 4.89 per cent, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech and PowerGrid.

Mahindra & Mahindra and Maruti Suzuki topped the gainers' list, climbing as much as 2.31 per cent, after these firms featured in the list of 75 companies whose applications were cleared under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile and auto



Crude falls below \$100, eases pressure on oil companies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Mar 15: After staying above USD 100 per barrel for two weeks, international oil prices fell to USD 99.84 Tuesday, easing margin pressure on fuel retailers who have been holding petrol and diesel prices despite a spike in the cost of

raw material. Brent crude oil prices, which soared past USD 100 per barrel February 28 and touched a 14-year high of USD 139 per barrel March 7, fell over 7 per cent Tuesday. The market was rattled by a resurgence of virus cases in China, which may impact demand in the world's biggest crude importer, and signs of progress in cease-fire talks between Ukraine and Russia.

International oil prices, which shoot up since Russia invaded Ukraine, have swung about USD 40 per barrel in little more than a week.

For India, the fall in oil prices is good news as it will lower the import bill of the world's third-biggest oil importer. It will also ease margin pressure on state-owned fuel retailers, industry sources said. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) haven't changed petrol and diesel prices for a record 131 days. This despite the cost of raw material jumping over 60 per cent.

The companies were expected to end the election-related freeze on fuel prices once polling in five states including Uttar Pradesh ended last week but they continued to keep rates on hold to not give the opposition any issue to corner the government in the second half of the budget session of Parliament that started Monday. "The fall in crude oil prices is certainly a welcome sign for oil companies," a senior official said. "They were losing Rs 12-13 a litre, without considering marketing margin, on sale of petrol and diesel. This will now come down."

International oil prices we around USD 81 when the companies hit the freeze button November 4. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Monday told the Rajya Sabha that the price of petrol and diesel at the retail point or at the bunk is determined by international price, cost of insurance, freight, exchange rate, refining margins and a number of other factors. "Oil marketing companies will take their decisions (on fuel prices). They will proceed once they can no longer bear it. If they don't have the margin or cushion, they will take the appropriate step,' he had said as he denied suggestions that the firms were holding the prices on government instructions so as not to spoil the ruling BJP's electoral prospects in five states that went to polls.



new range of laptops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 16: ASUS India, Republic of Gamers (ROG) today refreshed its product lineup with the launch of new laptops featuring the latest 12th Gen Intel® Core[™] H-series processors and

Engineered with state-of-theart technology, the gaming machines provide versatility to the gamers, taking the gameplay to the next level

Commenting on new range of gaming computers, Arnold Su, Business Head. Consumer and

any of its retail assets is in violation of the arbitral tribunal, which operates as order of the Indian court and any party assisting in such fraudulent and contumacious actions will be liable for civil and

Europe and Asia-Pacific markets by the middle of this year, Royal Enfield said.

Eicher Motors Ltd Managing Director Siddhartha Lal said the contours of modern urban existence across the world are everchanging.

"With our world increasingly be-

coming more fast-paced, life in

the urban context has become

Paytm shares further tank 13%

New Delhi: Shares of One97 Communications Ltd, the parent firm of Paytm, further tanked nearly 13 per cent Tuesday. The stock tumbled 12.28 per cent to settle at Rs 592.40 on the BSE. During the day, it skidded 13.37 per cent to Rs 585 -- the lowest since its listing in November last year. On the NSE, it plunged 12.71 per cent to settle at Rs 589. Shares of One97 Communications had Monday declined nearly 13 per cent after the RBI asked Vijay Shekhar Sharma-promoted Paytm Payments Bank to stop opening new accounts amid 'material supervisory concerns' observed in the bank. In two days, the company's market valuation plunged by Rs 11,809.43 crore to Rs 38,418.57 crore on the BSE.

Ruchi Soya shares

continue to rally

New Delhi: Shares of Ruchi

second day Tuesday as the company will hit the capital

market with its follow-on

Soya continued to surge for a

public offer (FPO) March 24 to

raise up to Rs 4,300 crore. The

stock rallied 13.10 per cent to

settle at Rs 1,090.70 on BSE.

18.20 per cent to Rs 1,139.95.

On NSE, it jumped 12.78 per

Shares of Ruchi Soya Monday

also rallied 20 per cent. In a

committee of the board has

herring prospectus. It also

opening date of March 24,

2022, and closing date of

March 28, 2022.

approved the bid/issue

approved and adopted the red

cent to close at Rs 1,087.

regulatory filing late on

Friday, Ruchi Soya said a

During the day, it zoomed

the latest AMD Ryzen[™] 6000 series mobile processors in India.



Designed to bolster the gaming experience, boost productivity and offer a personalised choice for consumers, the new range of laptops include ROG Strix Scar 15/17, ROG Strix G15/17, ASUS TUF F15/17, and TUF A15/17.

Gaming PC, System Business Group, ASUS India, stated, "At ASUS we are proud of being able to give our customers the best possible experience when it comes to gaming, by creating synchronicity between modern tech, innovation, and versatility. We are confident that the new TUF and Strix lineup will give competitive gamers an edge and casual players a whole new level of immersion. Designed in a compact form factor, the machines are a perfect match for today's on-the-go lifestyle, allowing one to switch between work and play effortlessly. With the new set of devices, we are optimistic of further elevating the gaming experience and the gaming ecosystem of the Indian gaming community.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 15: Motorcycle maker Royal Enfield Tuesday launched its new bike model Scram 411 with introductory prices starting at Rs 2.03 lakh (ex-showroom Chennai).

The Scram 411 is built on Royal Enfield's LS-410 engine platform and the Harris Performance chassis and combines agility on urban streets with competent rough-

roading capabilities, said the company, a part of Eicher Motor group, in a statement.

Depending on the colour scheme, the bike will be available at prices ranging from Rs 2,03,085 to Rs 2,08,593 (ex-showroom Chennai), it added.

While it will be available immediately in India, the Scram 411 will make its debut in

about the weekday hustle and the weekend getaway, and everything in between. We wanted to build a motorcycle that could effortlessly navigate this entire gamut, and be the perfect ally for the young, modern day rider," he said.

The new bike is powered by a 411 cc, 4-stroke single-cylinder engine which has a maximum power of 24.3 bhp at 6,500 rpm and max torque of 32 Nm at 4,000-4,500 rpm.

It has a digital-analog instrument cluster that provides easy access to essential information on the digital screen, such as auto meter, trip meter, time, fuel gauge with a low warning, and service reminder.

The bike is equipped with front and rear disc brakes with dualchannel ABS.

Investors turn to crypto funds as Ukraine crisis escalates

NEW CRYPTO FUNDS RAISED NEARLY \$3 BILLION OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS

REUTERS

New York, March 15: Global investors are scooping up stakes in cryptocurrency funds and companies, as they seek exposure to a sector many believe could withstand the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Research firm Fundstrat, in its latest note to clients, said venture capital (VC) buyers invested around \$4 billion in the crypto space in the last three weeks of February. VCs poured in another \$400 million to start-ups in the sector last week, data showed.

The VC investment is consistent with broad weekly inflows. Since the beginning of the year, weekly investments in the industry have been averaging anywhere between \$800 million to about \$2 billion, Fundstrat data showed.

New crypto funds also raised nearly \$3 billion over the last two weeks as of Friday, the most so far



this year.

'The conflict in Ukraine has weaponized our financial and digital economy and really accelerated blockchain adoption," said Paul Hsu, founder and chief executive officer of Decasonic, a \$50-million hybrid fund investing in both digital assets and venture capital. He added that there's demand of up to \$200 million to invest in his fund.

"We are seeing a re-allocation to crypto and blockchain away from real estate and bond funds, for instance, because of higher interest rates. I've seen this with my funds but unfortunately, because I'm closed-end, I cannot admit more funds nor investors," Hsu said.

Refinitiv Lipper data showed that US investors pulled a net \$7.8 billion out of bond funds in the Crypto assets have outperformed traditional risk-on assets such as stocks during the crisis. Bitcoin rose 12.2% last month, while ether gained 8.8%

week to March 9.

Real estate funds saw net outflows of \$707 million in the same period, after posting outflows worth \$1.15 billion the previous week.

"Crypto native companies are still raising at very high valuations and many funding rounds are still oversubscribed," said George Melka, chief executive officer at crypto broker SFOX. "In fact, crypto startup valuations are probably the highest I've seen.

Bain Capital Ventures, a unit of private equity firm Bain Capital,

for instance, announced early last week that it is launching a \$560 million fund focused exclusively on crypto-related investment.

Crypto assets have outperformed traditional risk-on assets such as stocks during the crisis. Bitcoin $\operatorname{rose}12.2\%$ last month, while ether gained 8.8%. Since bottoming February 24 when Russia invaded Ukraine, the digital currencies have gained 14.5% and 13.5%, respectively, while the S&P 500 rose just 3.2%.

CAPITAL INFLOWS AND HEDGE FUND RETURNS

Crypto investment products and funds saw \$163 million in new institutional money in the two weeks to March 4, while inflows into blockchain equities totaled about \$15.6 million, according to data from asset manager CoinShares.

The inflows of \$127 million were the largest seen so far this year. Flows into the crypto sector turned

positive in late January, after five straight weeks of outflows. CoinShares data showed.

The BarclayHedge cryptocurrency traders index was down at 1.5% for the month of February, according to data posted on Monday, with 39 funds reporting or about 43% of the total crypto asset managers it tracks. In January the index fell nearly 13% and in December it fell 10%.

'There's really no panic even with the Ukraine conflict," said Joe DiPasquale, chief executive officer at BitBull Capital, which manages a crypto fund of funds and two hedge funds. BitBull's two hedge funds, which employ marketneutral strategies, were up on the year, DiPasquale said, benefiting from the recovery of bitcoin and ether in the month of February.

"People are starting funds, encouraged by the appreciation in -(prices over the last couple of years," he said.



SPOR

England test awaits eves



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mount Maunganui, March 15: Their confidence high after an impressive win over the West Indies, India would look for much-needed consistency with the bat against a struggling England in their fourth league stage match of the ICC Women's World Cup here Wednesday.

Currently placed third after a morale-boosting 155-run against the West Indies, India would like to

Kaur (109 off 107) produce a splen-

did batting display, slamming twin

England.

centuries against the West Indies keep the winning momentum going to power India to their highest total (317/8) in the history of the showand maintain its stay in the top four especially when they take on piece event. table toppers Australia after

Both openers - Mandhana and Yastika Bhatia – showed intent After an inexplicably slow perfrom the very beginning, someformance against New Zealand thing coach Ramesh Powar had when the Indian batters played out stressed upon ahead of the match. 162 dot balls, Smriti Mandhana Mandhana played a fluent 123 (123 off 119) and Harmanpreet

run-knock while Kaur also continued her fine run, bringing up her fourth ton and the first since hitting the famous 171 not out against Australia in the 2017 World Cup. The duo will be eager to con-

tinue in the same vein with the race for semifinal berths heating up. However, all-rounder Deepti Sharma, who has been elevated to the top, has to do more with the bat as does skipper Mithali Raj, who has also been off the boil recently.

Young Richa Ghosh, who has been brilliant behind the wickets, has so far crumbled under the pressure with the bat. The 18-yearold is yet to replicate her sensational form against New Zealand last month.

India also have quality allrounders with Sneh Rana and Puja Vastrakar already displaying their ability to convert a poor show into brilliant final outcome.

The bowling unit, that seemed a cause of concern heading into the World Cup, has so far delivered for the team

While pacers Meghna Singh, Pooja Vastrakar and Jhulan Goswami are doing a decent job, the bulk of the wickets have been shared between the spinners --Rajeshwari Gayakwad (7), who is third on the list of leading wicket takers in the tournament, and Sneh Rana (5 wickets).

Gayakward (3.36) and Rana (3.44) also have the third and fourth best economy rates in the tournament respectively.

On the other hand, England's title defence has been off to a disastrous start. Heather Knight and Co. Have lost all three of their matches to slip down to the seventh spot on the points table.

Their inability to close matches in the dying minutes has cost the defending champions dearly. A loss against India on Wednesday mean the possibility of making the top four would be completely out of their hands, a prospect England would definitely want to avoid.

The defending champions have been sloppy on the field as fielding errors have crept into their performances with several dropped chances and missed stumpings.

Opener Tammy Beaumont continues to remain their star performer with the bat while spinner Sophie Ecclestone and all-rounder Nat Scriver are the team's leading wicket takers with four scalps each.

India squad: Mithali Raj (C), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Yastika Bhatia, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Rich Ghosh (wk), Taniya Bhatia (wk), Sneh Rana, Meghna Singh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Jhulan Goswami & Renuka Singh.

Harmanpreet expects consistency from team



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mount Maunganui, March 15: Delighted by India's performance in the win against West Indies, vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur said the team is looking for a repeat performance against a struggling England side in their ICC Women's World Cup league match here Wednesday.

India had dished out a splendid all-round performance against an in-form West Indies side to notch up a dominating 155-run win in their previous outing.

"I think for us, (it is) very important that the way we performed in the last game we continue that, rather than thinking about what is (are) your negatives and what is (are) your positive points," Kaur said at the pre-match media conference. Kaur and opener Smriti Mandhana had starred with the bat, smashing twin centuries while sharing a 184-run stand against West Indies before the bowlers

sealed the deal for India. 'We got a great partnership while batting and also the way we bowled in partnerships we want to continue that against England and in the upcoming matches. I think those are the areas which we look to continue.

"And apart from that, sometimes

we are losing back-to-back wickets if we can work on that. Otherwise, the way we want (things to be) we are getting them," Kaur added.

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The 33-year-old, who endured a prolonged lean patch, has found her form again. She followed her 71 against New Zealand with a spectacular century (109 off 107) against West Indies.

"Big tournaments are always very important and where your role is more important. You need to take more responsibility and perform for your team.

"I always want to give my best for my team but sometimes things don't go your way but I'll make sure whenever we play the World Cup, I will be there always for my team and that is the reason," she said when asked that three of her ODI hundreds have come in the World Cups and whether playing in the marquee event inspires her. Kaur feels the bilateral series

in New Zealand just before the World Cup helped India gain momentum for the marquee event.

"The greatest thing was before the World Cup we got (to play) five ODIs against the New Zealand and one T20 (and) because of that we got that momentum and getting used to these conditions and that is the reason which is helping us now to perform well," she signed off.

Man City stumble at Palace Benzema secures Real Madrid win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, March 15: Manchester City held a 13-point lead in the English Premier League two months ago. The next time the champions play, they could be in second place.

In the latest twist in the title race. City stumbled against Crystal Palace — again — by drawing 0-0 at an atmospheric Selhurst Park Monday to give second-placed Liverpool fur ther hope of reeling in Pep Guardiola's team and reclaiming the biggest prize in English soccer. City extended its advantage to four points but Liverpool plays twice - the first against Arsenal Wednesday before City is next in action in the league, April 2. Liverpool also has a superior goal difference. The top two also meet at City's Etihad Stadium April 10.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, March 15: Karim Benzema staved hot as Real Madrid kept momentum from its epic win over Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League with a 3-0 victory at Mallorca to extend its Spanish league lead.

Benzema scored twice and set up Vinicius Junior's goal to help give Madrid a 10-point lead over second-placed Sevilla ahead of the clásico against Barcelona Sunday at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. Benzema's double came five days after he scored a hat trick in less than 20 minutes to lead Madrid to the Champions League quarterfinals with a stunning comeback win over PSG. Benzema has eight goals in his last five matches in all competitions and comfortably leads the Spanish league's scoring list with 22. The match ended with concern over Benzema's fitness, though, as the French striker had to leave a few minutes from the end with what appeared to be a left leg injury. Madrid, which had already made all five substitutions, also lost forward Rodrygo and left back Ferland Mendy with injuries ahead of the match against Barcelona.



Palace was the last team to stop City scoring in the league — in a 2-0 win at the Etihad October 30and did so again, even if Patrick Vieira's team rode its luck

Joao Cancelo and Kevin De Bruyne struck the post for City in a match that was mostly one-way traffic except for some sporadic and dangerous counterattacks from Palace, mirroring what happened in the meeting of the teams 41/2 months ago.

Arguably the best chance of the game fell to City midfielder Bernardo Silva, who somehow

Jack Grealish looks disappointed at the end of the match against Crystal Palace

managed to prod a shot wide from barely two meters out following Jack Grealish's low center across the face of goal.

Guardiola opted to make no substitutions, saying he was happy with the way his team was playing despite frustration appearing to set in over the final 15 minutes. And Silva remained bullish about City's position with nine games left.

Liverpool has the better form,

though. While the Reds have won their last eight games in the league, City has dropped points in three of its last seven outings — after a 1-1 draw at Southampton in January and a 2-3 loss at home to Tottenham last month.

And Liverpool's superior firepower may yet prove the difference, with City again missing a cutting edge against Palace without an out-and-out striker in the team.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said it was too early to know the seriousness of their injuries. Madrid

Karim Benzema reacts after scoring, while Nacho Fernandez (L) and David Alaba (R) rush in to join the celebration

has a 15-point advantage over thirdplaced Barcelona, which has a game in hand.

It was the fourth straight league victory for Madrid, whose unbeaten run in the competition reached eight matches. Mallorca has lost five in a row for its worst league streak

since 2012. It sits in 16th place, two points above the relegation zone.

It was a rare Monday appearance for Madrid, which opened the scoring through Vinicius from close range in the 55th minute after a pass by Benzema. The Frenchman added to the lead by converting a penalty kick after a foul on Vinicius in the 77th, and sealed the victory with a header in the 82nd off a cross by Marcelo.

Mallorca, which had most of the good scoring chances early on, has lost 10 of its last 12 league matches against Madrid

TENDS 'PERFECT 2022' TO 17-0

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Wells, March 15: Rafael Nadal is still perfect in 2022. The Spaniard defeated 27th-seeded Daniel Evans 7-5, 6-3 Monday in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open, improving his record to 17-0 this year in pursuit of an ATP Tour-leading fourth title.

Nadal tied Roger Federer (2018) and Pete Sampras (1997) for the third-best overall start to a season in the Open era that began in 1968.

Daniil Medvedev's rise to No.1 in the world came crashing down in a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 loss to Gael Monfils. Medvedev needed to reach the quarterfinals in the desert to stay at the top, where he replaced Novak Djokovic.

Djokovic will reclaim the No.1 ranking next week. The Serb is unvaccinated against COVID-19, so he wasn't allowed to enter the United States to play at Indian

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Wells or the upcoming Miami Open. So far this year, no one is touch-

ing the fourth-ranked Nadal. He became the first player to win 400 matches in ATP Masters 1000 events.

After sitting out much of last year because of injury, Nadal has been on a tear. He won titles at Melbourne, the Australian Open for his record 21st Grand Slam title and Acapulco, and is chasing a third career title at Indian Wells.

Nadal's win over Evans under a searing desert sun had him coming from a break down in the first set. It ended with the Spaniard serving out the match at love, ripping a forehand winner on triple match point.

Before his first match in California, Nadal withdrew from the hard-court event at Miami, which begins March 21. He turns 36 in June and is dealing with chronic pain in his left foot and tendinitis in both knees.



Rafael Nadal reacts after his win over Daniel Evans at Indian Wells

Monfils reached the fourth round six years after his second career at Indian Wells for the fifth time in upset of a No.1 player. He knocked out Nadal in the quarterfinals at Doha in 2009.

Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz defeated countryman and 15thseeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2, 6-0 and next plays Monfils. Reilly Opelka beat 13th-seeded Denis Shapovalov, 6-7(4-7), 6-4, 6-4 to set up a fourth-round match against Nadal. The 24-year-old American is coming off two straight finals appearances that went to tiebreakers in both sets. He won at Dallas and lost at Delray Beach, Florida.

In women's action, No.4 seed Anett Kontaveit lost to Marketa Vondrousova 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(7-5). No.6 seed Maria Sakkari defeated Petra Kvitova 6-3, 6-0. Victoria Azarenka lost to Elena Rybakina 6-3, 6-4.

No.20 Elise Mertens ended the run of Australian qualifier Daria Saville, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3. No.21 Veronika Kudermetova advanced when gualifier Marie Bouzkova retired with the Russian leading 6-4, 0-2.

NEWS IN BRIEF Joga Bonito through

BHUBANESWAR: Joga Bonito gualified for the National finals for the Red Bull Neymar Jr.'s Five, a globally established five-on-five football tournament. after coming out on top in the city qualifiers.



61 teams giving their best. Joga Bonito will represent the capital city in the national finals in May, along with other city champions. The national winners will have a chance to make it to the Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five 2022 World Finals in Oatar for the first time ever. In the World Finals, they will get to meet Neymar Jr. The World Champions will win a unique experience - to play against

India bag 39 medals

NEW DELHI: Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) and Vanshaj (63.5kg) clinched gold medals in the men's youth competition as the Indian contingent concluded its campaign with a whopping 39 medals, including 15 gold, at the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan. The haul also included 10 silver and 14 bronze. Indian youth boxers secured seven gold, three silver and eight bronze medals while the junior team finished with 21 medals including eight gold, seven silver and six bronze. Chennai-boxer Vishwanath produced a clinical performance during his thumping 5-0 win over Kyrgyzstan's Ergeshov Bekzat late Monday night. Later Vanshaj, who hails from Sonipat, added a second gold to youth men's tally as he registered a 4-1 win over

Uzbekistan's Javokhir Neymar Jr in the 'Super Final'. Ummataliev.

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