



ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ

# ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ

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

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

୭୭% 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

# leisure

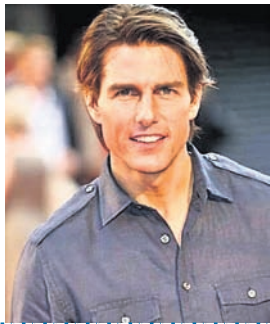


## THERE'S NO INFIDELITY IN MY MARRIAGE: WILL SMITH

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 FESTIVAL

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

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**ARIES**  
You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, 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 Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
Ganesh 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, compliant 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.

**CANCER**  
You may feel like flaunting your 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.

**LEO**  
Your natural self-confidence and capability will help you attain a position of strength today. As a result, all your tasks will be completed easily and you will reap rewards greater than your expectations, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
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. Ganesh predicts that some vital business agreements will end your day in high spirits.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will be able to improve your relations abroad. There will be good news coming from friends or relatives 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

**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 progresses, things will begin to look up. Take a break from the rigmarole if stress begins to take a toll on you, advises Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Ganesh 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 Ganesh.

**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 sincere efforts to achieve it, guides Ganesh. Rest assured, success shall be with you!

**AQUARIUS**  
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. Ganesh approves and predicts peace in plenty.

**PISCES**  
Staying afloat needs about 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 Ganesh.



## 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 can't get happier.

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 character:

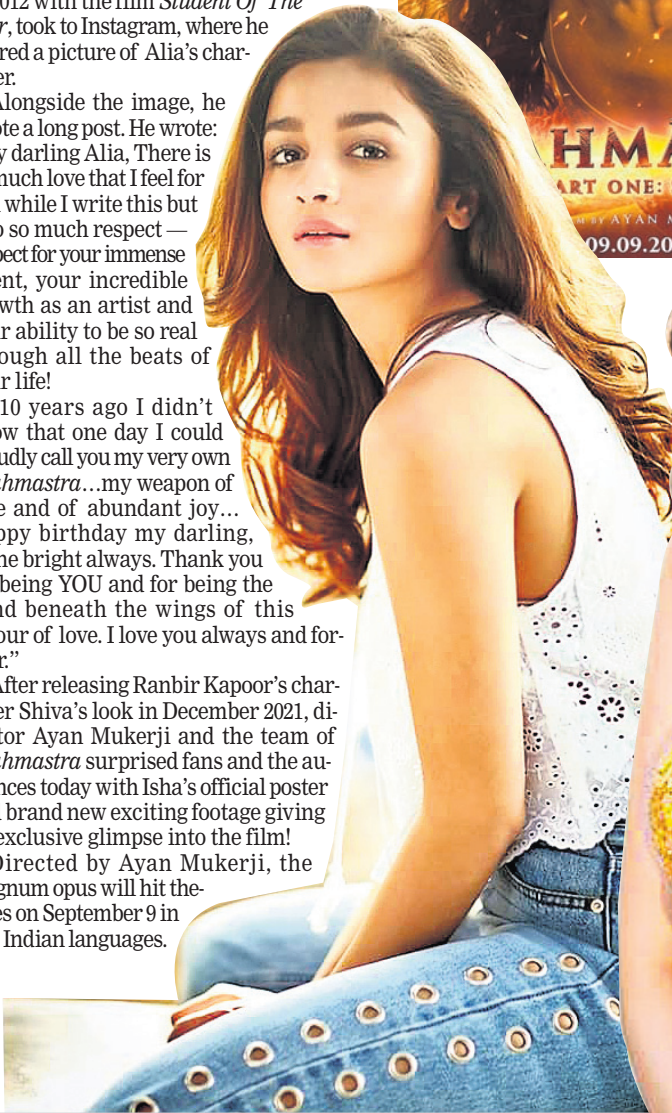
Alongside the image, he wrote a long post. He wrote: "My darling Alia, There is so much love that I feel for you while I write this but also so much respect — respect for your immense talent, your incredible growth as an artist and your ability to be so real through all the beats of your life!"

"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 Ayan 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



## 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 yet to reveal the gender of their bundle of joy. The 'Desi Girl' will be seen in Farhan Akhtar's upcoming directorial, *Je Le Zaraa*. The film will bring together Priyanka, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt together for the first time.

AGENCIES

## 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 platform 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 duniya mein."

In a surprising turn of events, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who is known as the flag-bearer of independent cinema, quote-tweeted SRK's tweet and announced his collaboration with King Khan's OTT. Kashyap tweeted, "Dream come true! Collaborating with @iamsrk



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

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.

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

IANS

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

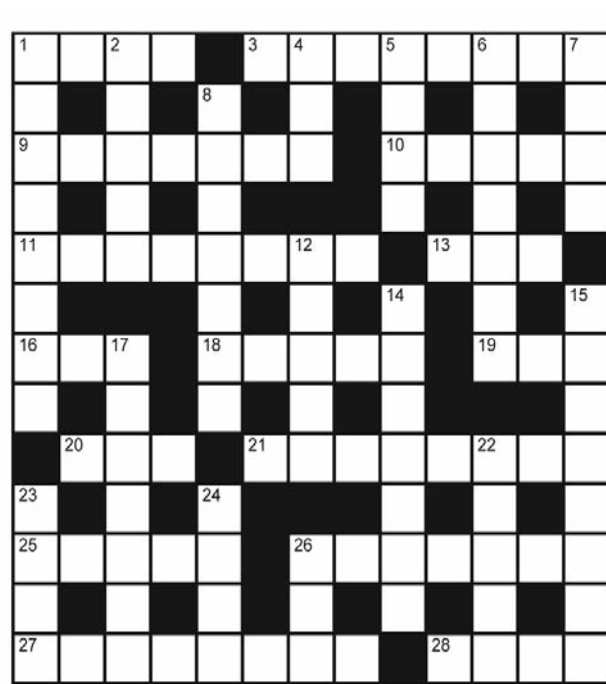


### BREVITY



### FUN post

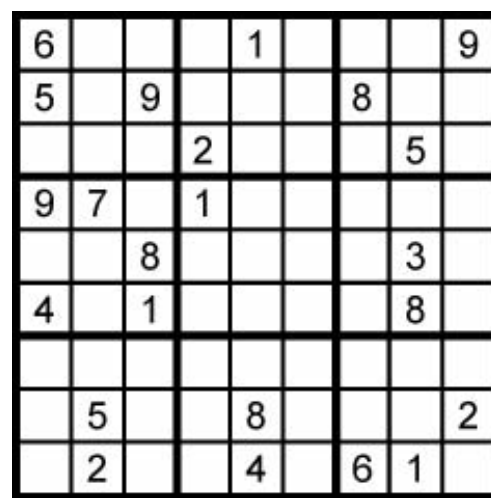
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Harvest
  - 3 Kind of orange
  - 9 Literary threesome
  - 10 Unbending
  - 11 Knightly conduct
  - 13 Hibernation site
  - 16 Born
  - 18 Queen topper
  - 19 Boozer
  - 20 Manta
  - 21 Relic, maybe
  - 25 Explode
  - 26 Japanese raw deal?
  - 27 Eaves, e.g.
  - 28 Add to the pot
  - 7 Lymph bump
  - 8 Novel idea
  - 12 Geneva's river
  - 14 Get ready for bed
  - 15 Food poisoning
  - 17 Wipeout?
  - 22 Burger topper
  - 23 Mostel of Fiddler fame
  - 24 Carve in stone
  - 26 Bright star
- Down
- 1 Reserved
  - 2 Cover story?
  - 4 "Take your pick"
  - 5 Small boat
  - 6 Feels remorse

### SUDOKU

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

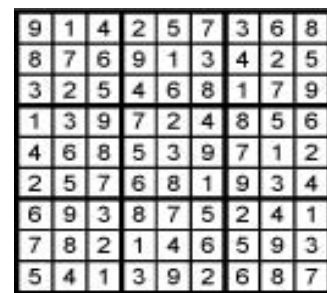


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## INSTAGRAM QUEEN

Leaving behind the likes of Alia and Deepika, Shraddha became second most followed Indian actress on Instagram

LEISURE



## GEHLOT IN A FIX

Gehlot govt is in a fix over *The Kashmir Files* as a few Cong leaders have demanded to make the film tax-free

TWO STATES | P6



## INDIA FACE ENGLAND

Mithali Raj-led India face a tough challenge in England in their ICC Women's World Cup match today

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

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### 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.



### Man hacks 4-yr old niece to death

**DEOGARH:** A man Tuesday hacked his 4-year-old niece to death at Hetakhmar village under Riamal police limits in Deogarh district Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Rojalini 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.

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## ED ATTACHES ₹3.94CR OF OFFICER COUPLE

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.

### ₹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.

They were accused of indulging in mal-practices 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.



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.

### Sonia sacks party chiefs of 5 states



**New Delhi, March 15:** Heads have started rolling after the poll debacle in five states as Congress interim 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 facilitate 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) and Girish Chodankar (Goa).

The decision comes two days after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meet, which authorised Sonia Gandhi to undertake "necessary and comprehensive" 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 political 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.

## HC upholds Hijab ban



**■ 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**

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 opinion 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

### 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 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.

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



**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 benefited over 28,000 students, officials said Tuesday. In a notification Tuesday, CBSE said the performance of students in Class X Term-I 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 benefited 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.

## 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**



**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, concerned 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 nothing. 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. Chandrababu Naidu 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.

### Vax guidelines for 12-14 years out

**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 intramuscular 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 covered 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.



**SC bench to hear plea against Mishra's bail**  
**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 relying on the Allahabad High Court order granting bail to Ashish.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	SENSEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	55776.85	↓ 709.17
NIFTY	16663.00	↓ 208.30
DOLLAR	76.61	↑ ₹0.05
EURO	83.80	↑ ₹0.20
GOLD	₹51,437	↓ ₹867
SILVER	₹67,973	↓ ₹871

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	38.1°C	38.0°C
MIN	21.0°C	21.0°C
Humidity	72%	82%
Rainfall	NIL	NIL

Forecast: CLEAR SKY MAINLY







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

It is unfortunate that a crucial and highly sensitive issue such as the restoration of Iran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers has become a casualty of the ongoing confrontation between the USA and the European Union...



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

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."

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.

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.

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...

INSULIN BELONGS TO ALL

FOCUS HEALTH CARE

After insulin was discovered in 1921, the Canadian scientists behind the breakthrough sold the patent for their formula for just C\$1.



The number of people with diabetes worldwide is expected to rise dramatically in the next 20 years, particularly in lower-income countries, but insulin remains out of reach for millions.

More than a half-billion adults are estimated to be living with diabetes, and this number is expected to reach nearly 800 million by 2045.

Sadly, poor availability and unaffordable prices mean that one in two people globally who need insulin to treat Type 2 diabetes lack access to it.

The inability to ensure equitable access to insulin is a tragic failure of the world's health system. It betrays the scientists' original vision for their lifesaving therapy...

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...

Analogs also 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...

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.

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.

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.

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...

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...

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. Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication.

WORDSWORTH

Settle a score

Before the days of paper records (or, indeed, widespread literacy), the usual way of keeping count was to cut marks into wooden rods called tallies (hence our verb tally, to count).

LOL Biologist experiments

There was this biologist who was doing some experiments with frogs. He was measuring just how far frogs could jump.



He chops off another and the frog only jumps 1 foot. He writes in his book: 'Frog with 2 legs jumps 1 foot'.

IN JEST THIS

Do we need organs from pigs?



Melvin Durai

BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT PIGS BEING FORCED TO BE DONORS, MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE SIGNED UP TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR

Medical history was made recently when a 57-year-old American man received the heart of a genetically altered pig.

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.

the world record, having survived more than 35 years since undergoing a heart transplant in 1986.

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 "brave and noble patient".

Thanks partly to him, pig-to-human transplants may one day be quite common.

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.

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...

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...

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

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID.



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.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Lackadaisical approach

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.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD







of the day quote

The government is ready for discussion on the Ukraine issue. Please give notice for that

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

The government would soon start batch-wise recruitment of JBT posts in educational institutions to ensure ample employment opportunities to the trained JBT youth

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...

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...

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'...

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...



No death has been reported due to engaging in manual scavenging

NO DECISION YET ON COUNTRY-WIDE NRC: GOVT



'Campaign to discredit' The Kashmir Files: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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...



Modi said about the film at the centre of a political slugfest with the Congress and several other opposition parties objecting to it. The video of the Prime Minister's speech was shared on Twitter by the BJP and several party leaders.

Chakraborty and Pallavi Joshi. The film has been written by Agnihotri and produced by Zee Studios. "You must have heard the discussion about 'The Kashmir Files', those who carry around the flag of freedom of expression, that whole group is rattled for the last few days."

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 Rashmikan & 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 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 throw-away 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.

TAKING STOCK



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

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 of Indian Army was an outstanding



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 their intellectual institutions.

Hijab verdict 'disappointing': Parties

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" religious 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

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 | 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

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.

YOGI'S BULLDOZER BACK IN ACTION IN UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 jostled with each other for attention. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was frequently called as "Bulldozer Baba" by SP leader Akhilesh Yadav for the former's claims of razing illegal properties of criminals with a bulldozer.



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 sell-

ers 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

and rents them out to political parties, said, "We could not meet the demand on the counting day as most of my workers were off."

Contractor's 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 bulldozer 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.

**UKRAINE REALISES IT CANNOT JOIN NATO: ZELENSKY**

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.



**international**

# 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*

**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

- Czech, Polish, Slovenian leaders head to Kyiv
- Zelenskyy aide says war over by May
- Apartment in capital hit by shells
- 19 said killed in attack on TV tower in west



the unequivocal support of the entire European Union for the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. They will arrive in a city still under bombardment, where around half of the 3.4 million population has fled and 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.

**We all are the targets of Russia and everything will go against Europe if Ukraine won't stand so I would like to ask you to help yourself by helping us. You know the kind of weapon we need ... Without your support it would be very difficult. I'm very grateful but I want to say that we need more ... I do hope that you will be able to enhance that scope and you will see how this will protect your security, your safety**



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 echoed 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. Kyiv, 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.

## WAR COULD BE OVER BY MAY: ZELENSKY'S AIDE

The war in Ukraine is likely to be over by early May when Russia runs out of resources to attack its neighbour, Oleksiy Arestovich, an advisor to the Ukrainian president's chief of staff, said late Monday. Talks between Kyiv and Moscow - in which Arestovich is not personally involved - have so far produced very few results other than several humanitarian corridors out of besieged Ukrainian cities. In a video published by several Ukrainian media, Arestovich said the exact timing would depend on how much resources the Kremlin was 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

will see, I am talking about the latest possible dates," Arestovich said. We are at a fork in the road now 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 or late April. A completely crazy scenario could also involve Russia sending fresh conscripts after a month of training, he said. Still, even once peace is agreed, small tactical clashes could remain possible for a year, according to Arestovich, although Ukraine insists on the complete removal of Russian troops from its territory.

## EU okays fresh round of sanctions against Russia



### 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 sanc-

tions 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

### 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 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 300 euros, including jewellery. Exports of cars costing more 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 measures, which included freezing of assets of the Russian central bank and the exclusion from the SWIFT banking system of some Russian and Belarusian banks.

## 691 civilians killed, 3 million flee Ukraine: UN

**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 considerably higher, due to intense hostilities in some areas and reporting delays, including from Izyum in the Kharkiv region, the southern city of Mariupol, and Volnovakha in the Donetsk region.

## Fox News cameraman killed, reporter injured

**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 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.

## 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 Migration 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-on-one fight to stop the Ukraine war. A top Russian official has responded to tech billionaire Elon Musk's challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin for a "single combat" to end the invasion of Ukraine, by quoting 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.

# Anti-war activist interrupts live Russian state TV news show

**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 holding 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.



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

## Kremlin terms protest on TV 'hooliganism'

The Kremlin Tuesday dismissed as hooliganism an act of dissent by a 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 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.

access to information from outside their country. Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed into law a measure that criminalizes the

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. Government-funded Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty German broadcaster Deutsche Welle and Latvia-based website Meduza.

Russia has also blocked social media sites like Twitter and Facebook.



