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BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 | 2022

Kolkata/New Delhi: Eight people, including two children, were charred to death as nearly a dozen huts were set ablaze in West Bengal's Birbhum district early Tuesday in a suspected fallout of the murder of a ruling TMC panchayat official, provoking calls by the opposition BJP for imposition of the President's rule. Altogether 11



people have been arrested so far, and the West Bengal government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Additional Director General (CID) Gyanwant Singh to probe the incident, state police chief Manoj Malviya said. MORE P7

8 KILLED AS BENGAL MOB SETS HOUSES AFIRE



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WORLD WATER DAY



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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The most precious things are inside. Door leads to the kitchen

Poll loss snub: After man, wife too dies in Bhadrak



POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur. March 22: A samiti member candidate, who had consumed poison following her husband's death over alleged harassment by winning party's supporters at Bada Agapur village under Basudevpur block in Bhadrak district, succumbed after battling for life for around a week Sumati Parida, wife of Ramakant Parida, contested as a samiti member candidate from Padmapur panchavat in the recently-concluded panchavat elections but lost the polls to the rival party candidate. This had sparked resentment and unhappiness among the couple. The winners of sarpanch and samiti member posts took out a victory procession after the results were announced. The victory procession was passing by their house when some workers of the winning candidates ridiculed the couple over their defeat. This resulted in a fight at the spot between Ramakant and the winning candidates and their supporters. Later, Ramakant returned home and had a spat with his wife Unable to fathom the humiliation. Ramakant hanged himself with a rope and died March 13.

clueless about Sarmistha

FITCH CUTS INDIA GROWTH TO 8.5 PER CENT

cent. "However, we have lowered our growth forecast for FY 2022-2023 to

8.5 per cent (-1.8 pp) on sharply higher energy prices," Fitch said. MORE P11

Lensman murder: Cops

New Delhi: Rating agency Fitch Tuesday

slashed India's growth forecast for the

next fiscal to 8.5 per cent from 10.3 per

cent, citing soaring energy prices and

rising inflation on account of the Russia-

Ukraine war. It has revised upwards the

fiscal by 0.6 percentage points to 8.7 per

GDP growth forecast for the current

Bhubaneswar, March 22: Even

after the arrest of almost all the ac-

cused involved in the murder of

lensman Manas Swain, the Bhadrak

police are still groping in dark to

nab the prime accused, Sarmistha

Rout. Meanwhile, the deceased's family members including his

widow Tuesday alleged the in-

volvement of ministers Pratap Jena and Dibya Shankar Mishra in

The deceased's wife threatened she

will commit suicide before Naveen

Niwas if she does not get justice. They

accused Bhadrak police of work-

ing under political pressure to shield

Sarmistha whose photos with dif-

ferent political leaders are doing

the rounds on social media. However,

Bhadrak police have denied the al-

legations of political pressure in

Sarmistha's brother Parameswar

Rout was arrested from Vijayawada

the gruesome murder.

PNN & AGENCIES

HC junks Rout's bail plea

The Orissa High Court has rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Sarmistha Rout, the prime accused in the sensational murder of Nayagarh cameraman Manas Swain. The deceasedused to work as a cameraperson with web channel 'Sampoorna', owned by Sarmistha.

in Andhra Pradesh, police said Tuesday. Parameswar had prepared the blueprint for the escape of his sister. However, it was learnt that she did not hide in Vijayawada.

The Chandbali police Tuesday searched to nab Sarmsitha and her aide. Raids were carried out at various places related to Sarmistha and her kin.

A three-member police team conducted raids at the house and office of Sarmishtha in Sky Tower Apartment under Airfield police limits here and seized incriminating documents during the raid.

A woman carrying her baby on her back, washes clothes in a pond on World Water Day, in Ranchi, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO



the investigations.

fuel companies have jacked up petroleum prices by up to *₹*1; LPG also goes up to record high after a ₹50 hike



Jagadev behind bars

The Chilika MLA is charged with offences like attempt to *murder*, *obstructing* police from performing duty, injuring public and using car as a weapon to hurt people



M	MARKET WATCH					
IN	DEX	,	VARI	ATION		
BOURSES	SENSEX	57989.30		696.81		
	NIFTY	17315.50		197.90		
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	76.56	₽	₹0.04		
CURR	EURO	83.93	♥	₹0.26		
NO	GOLD	₹51,185	₽	₹470		
BULLION	SILVER	₹67,439	♥	₹910		

	WEAT	IER		
		BHUB	СТК	
	<mark>€</mark> MAX	37.8℃	37.2°	C
	₽ MIN	24.7°C	24.4°	Forecast
-	Humidity	82%	85%	Light to
	Rainfall	Nil	Nil	moderate rain

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 22: Petrol and diesel prices were Tuesday hiked by 80 paise a litre each while domestic cooking gas LPG rates were increased by ₹50 per cylinder as state oil firms ended an over fourand-half month election-related hiatus in rate revision, fanning inflation fears.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost ₹96.21 per litre as against ₹95.41 previously while diesel rates have gone up from ₹86.67 per litre to ₹87.47, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, the petrol price has been hiked by ₹0.84 per litre to ₹110.82, and diesel by ₹0.86 to ₹95. The rates, which differ from

state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT,



FUEL PRICES IN CITY PETROL ₹102.74/L DIESEL ₹92.54/L

are likely to continue to rise over the next few days as state oil firms recoup losses from keeping prices on hold for a record 137 days.

Simultaneously, the price of non-subsidised LPG cylinders has been increased to ₹949.50 per 14.2-kg bottle in the national capital and Mumbai, and to ₹976 in Kolkata.

While LPG rates were last revised on October 6, 2021, petrol and diesel prices had been on a freeze since November 4 as five states, including Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, went to the polls. LPG prices had gone up by close to ₹100 per cylinder between July and October 6, 2021, before criticism halted the monthly revision in rates.

Non-subsidised cooking gas is the one that consumers buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cvlinders at subsidised or below market price. However, the government pays no subsidy on LPG in most cities and the price of the refill that consumers, including the poor women who got free connection under the much-talked Ujjwala scheme, undertake is the same as non-subsidised or market price LPG.

Bhubaneswar, March 22: The Banpur police have arrested Chilika MLA Prasanta Jagadev soon after he was discharged from a private hospital in the city here Tuesday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

The MLA was arrested for ramming his car into a crowd in Khurda district recently which left at least

Inspector General of Police (central range) Narasingha Bhol has confirmed the arrest of Jagadev.

Jagadev was under treatment after he was brutally roughed up by a crowd following the incident that occurred March 12. The incident snowballed into a major controversy in the state. The suspended BJD MLA was produced before the SDJM court in Bhubaneswar and subsequently taken to the Banpur court by an Ambulance Tuesday evening.

Police may also take him on remand for further investigation.

Jagadev has been charged with serious offences like attempt to murder, obstructing police personnel from performing their duty, injuring public and using car as weapon to hurt people in connection with the incident in which several police personnel were also injured.

"We have taken serious note of the brutal act by the legislator. A DSP-ranked officer has been given the responsibility of the probe. Many people have recorded the barbaric incident in their cellphones. Those electronic evidence will be brought under the purview of investigation," Bhol had said earlier.

18 EV CHARGING Delhi most polluted capital for 4th time running

AGENCIES

■India continues to feature prominently in the list with 35 of the top 50 most polluted cities in the world

New Delhi, March 22: Delhi was found to be the most polluted capital in the world for the fourth consecutive year in 2021 and 35 of the 50 cities with the worst air quality were in India, according to a new

report

In 2021, none of the cities in India met the prescribed World Health Organization (WHO) air quality standards of 5 micrograms per cubic metre, stated the World Air Quality Report 2021, prepared by Swiss organization IQAir and

The report, presenting an overview of the state of global air quality in 2021, is based on PM2.5

released globally Tuesday.

air quality data from 6,475 cities in 117 countries.

The report mentioned that among the most polluted capital cities, Dhaka ranked second after Delhi, followed by N'Djamena in Chad, Dushanbe in Tajikistan and Muscat in Oman.

New Delhi saw a 14.6 per cent increase in PM2.5 concentrations in 2021 with the levels rising to 96.4 micrograms per cubic meter from 84 micrograms per cubic meter in 2020, the report said.

"India also continues to feature prominently among the most polluted cities with 35 of the top 50 most polluted cities being in this country. India's annual average PM2.5 levels reached 58.1 µg/m3 in 2021, ending a three-year trend of improving air quality."

It stated, "India's annual PM2.5 averages have returned to preguarantine concentrations as measured in 2019. Alarmingly, in 2021, none of the Indian cities met the



prescribed WHO standards of 5 µg/m3."

The report also revealed that 48 per cent of Indian cities exceeded 50 µg/m3 air quality level, which is well over 10 times the WHO guidelines.

Commenting on IQAir's recent data, Avinash Chanchal, the Campaign Manager at Greenpeace India said the report is a wake-up call for governments and corporations.

"It is once again highlighting

It is once again highlighting that people are breathing dangerously polluted air. Vehicular emissions are one

of the major contributors to urban PM2.5 concentrations. With annual vehicle sales in India expected to increase, it is certainly going to impact air quality if corrective measures are not taken in time

AVINASH CHANCHAL CAMPAIGN MANAGER AT GREENPEACE INDIA

that people are breathing dangerously polluted air. Vehicular emissions are one of the major contributors to urban PM2.5 concentrations. With annual vehicle sales in India expected to increase, it is certainly going to impact air quality if corrective measures are not taken in time, Chanchal said.

POINTS IN CITY POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 22: The Union Ministry of Heavy Industries has sanctioned as many as 18 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations for Odisha's Bhubaneswar.

This was revealed by the Minister of State for Heavy Industries Krishan Pal Gurjar in a written reply in the Lok Sabha Tuesday. This is a part of 2877 EV charging stations sanctioned by the ministry for 68 cities across 25 states/UTs under Phase-II of FAME India scheme.

The ministry has sanctioned 1576 EV charging stations across 16 highways and nine expressways under this phase. As many as $44\,\mathrm{EV}$ charging stations on Kolkata-Bhubaneswar highway and 120 on Chennai-Bhubaneswar highway have been sanctioned, it was learnt. Further, there shall be at least onecharging station at every 25km on both sides of the highway.









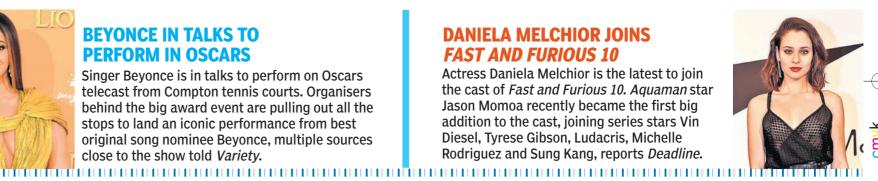


BEYONCE IN TALKS TO PERFORM IN OSCARS

Singer Beyonce is in talks to perform on Oscars telecast from Compton tennis courts. Organisers behind the big award event are pulling out all the stops to land an iconic performance from best original song nominee Beyonce, multiple sources close to the show told *Variety*.

DANIELA MELCHIOR JOINS FAST AND FURIOUS 10

Actress Daniela Melchior is the latest to join the cast of Fast and Furious 10. Aquaman star Jason Momoa recently became the first big addition to the cast, joining series stars Vin Diesel, Tyrese Gibson, Ludacris, Michelle Rodriguez and Sung Kang, reports Deadline.



Swain and rhythm by Guru

The evening's last event was

Contemporary Martial Arts by

the students of Sadhva - a unit

of performing arts, New Delhi

led by Santosh Nair. The pro-

duction drew from the dance vo

cabulary of Mayurbhanj Chhau

with strong grounded move

ments & contemporary inter-

pretation. This year Guru

Gangadhar Pradhan Smruti

Samman Award 2022 was pre-

sented to Guru Durga Charan

Ranvir. Odissi dance exponent

musician Laxmikanta Palit

Sanskrit scholar and poet Pt

Dhaneswar Swain.

FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com

accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

Today, the stars put you on high alert... and not for nothing. You will save your self from being swindled. Though you will easily manage to stay ahead of others. you may make a few enemies on your way. It's not a good day if you're looking to buy a house or vehicle, says Ganesha

TAURUS

People around you will be surprised to witness the considerate and compas

sionate side of you today, says Ganesha Problems may come knocking but you, along with support from your loved ones will handle them with brilliant tact. Enjoy the company of near and dear ones and let your presence be felt in social outings suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI

Today, you will decide to become a bit more conscious about your health. You may or may not join a gym or measure your calories but you will definitely sit up and take notice of your lifestyle and unhealthy food habits, predicts Ganesha. A new job is also likely, which will pen a completely new chapter in your life.

You will be in a joyous mood. You will be de-lighted in whatever task you do. Financial matters will confound you, with even a petty issue causing tension Ganesha says it will be a colourful day, with happy tidings

.

LEO Your entire day will be spent

at work. Those working in large corporations will have to fulfill heightened expectations from their superiors. Housewives will need to tackle other work, apart from their daily chores. It is an important day for you, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You will stay away from partnership ventures. Ganesha says you have the ability to control large-scale projects on your own. You have leadership qualities, and will be able to coordinate team work and direct your colleagues to get the required amount of work from them

LIBRA

Ganesha says that you will be able to attain a huge ben

Nushrratt on cloud nine

Mumbai: Actress Nushrratt Bharuccha says she is on cloud nine as she has back-to-back releases. Her latest is an announcement of a film and a song release at the same time. The actress has recently made

the headlines with the virality of her recent love song, featuring Sunny Kaushal alongside the an nouncement of

her upcoming lead project, Selfiee, co starring Akshav Kumar and Emraan Hashmi

Speaking about the same. the ac tress

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the audience. Yesterday our song, Kya Yehi Pyaar Hai released and we also announced Selfiee so these 2 projects coming together, while I am shooting for other various projects, really feels like I'm walking on

Cloud Nine. "It is definitely very motivating and makes me want to

push myself and keep putting out my best." The actress is to be seen with Sunny Kaushal and Emraan Hashmi for the first time, for Hurdang and Selfiee, respectively.

The actress will be next seen in R*am Setu*, Janhit Mein Jaari, Chhorii Hurdang and Selfiee.



Gully Boy rapper MC Tod Fod passes away at 24

Mumbai: Rapper Dharmesh Parmar, known by his stage name MC Tod Fod passed away at the age of 24. He had lent his voice to the song India 91 from the Zoya Akhtar directorial Gully Boy which starred Ranveer Singh in the eponymous role.

The artiste was associated with Mumbai's multilingual hip-hop group, Swadesi.

The cause of death seems to be a result of a pre-existing heart ailment, said Azadi Records co-founder, Uday Kapur: "He was playing football with his Swadesi crew members at a place near Nashik when he collapsed. Right now, his friends and family are completely shell-shocked," said Kapur. Zoya Akhtar took to her Instagram to offer her condolences on the departure of MC Tod Fod.

"You have gone way too soon. I can only be grateful our paths crossed. Rest in peace Bantai #mctodfod," she wrote.

Gully Boy actors Ranveer Singh and Siddhant Chaturvedi also paid their tributes to the departed soul. Ranveer took to his Instagram story and shared a picture of the rapper with a broken heart emoticon.

Siddhant shared a screenshot of his earlier conversation with the late Gujarati rapper, in which the two are appreciating each other for their music and performance. He wrote, "RIP bhai," along with a broken-heart emoticon.



Scintillating presentations of Manipuri, Odissi and Contemporary Martial Arts hold audience spellbound



A performance by Nrutya Naivedya, Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR- The threeday 18th Dhauli-Kalinga Mahotsav jointly organised by Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha and Orissa Dance Academy in association with Art Vision took off on a colourful note here at Shanti Vihar, Foothills of Dhauli, Tuesday.

The festival opened with a Manipuri dance recital by Bimbabati Devi and group from Manipuri Nartanalaya, Kolkata. Their first presentation was Bhoomi, based on Bhoomi Suktam which is a hymn of 63 mantras in the 12th section of Atharva Veda, choreographed by Devi. It was followed by Purna Purushottam, a celebration of Vishnu in the form of Narasimha.

The second presentation of the evening was Odissi Dance by the artistes of Nrutva Naivedva. Bhubaneswar led by Guru Pravat Swain. They presented Bakulabharana Pallavi set to Raaga-Bakulavarana and Tala-Ektala followed by Sadaripu or six

Nityananda Misra and Somdutt Behura, Promoter of Odissi in USA for their accomplishment in the field of dance and music The event was aired live in DD Bharat and streamed on Odisha Tourism Facebook, Twitter and internal enemies. The dance was YouTube page.



Students of Sadhya performed Contemporary Martial Arts. OP PHOTOS

24TH KALINGA NATYA MAHOTSAV: DAY 3

A scene from the play *Phulanola* staged Tuesday, on the third evening of a national multilingual theatre festival

Mujib biopic an interesting task: Benegal

Mumbai: Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal, who has directed the biographical Bengali film Mujib based on the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - the founding father of Bangladesh, says it was quite an interesting task for him as a filmmaker to encapsulate the multiple layers of Mujib's

life into a film. The film Mujib: The Making of a Nation is by the produced Rahman, also known as Bangladesh Film Bangabandhu, was the **Development Corporation** first Prime Minister of and India's National Film Bangladesh, leader of the Development Corporation Bangladesh Awami

HERE'S THE

JORLD FAMOUS

SETTING OFF

ON A HIKE

CALVIN AND HOBBES

HERE COMES THE SPORTS CAR AT 200 MILES PER HOUR !

n

BREVITY

BEAGLE SCOU

PEANUTS

HE TAKES WITH

HIM ONLY THE BARE

NECESSITIES.

HERE COMES A CEMENT TRUCK

CAFETERIA

LOOK OUT!

(NFDC) Mujibur Sheikh

League who was also the central figure of the **Bangladesh** Liberation War in 1971.

Benegal said: "It was a part of the cultural treaty between two coun-India and tries. Bangladesh, where a film on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was offered to be made by our Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi to Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina. She happilv agreed. They sugmy name.

'When I was asked if I would like to make a film on Bangabandhu, I jumped at the idea because I believe that he was one of the exciting personalities of that time in our subcontinent. If we look at his journey, the story is really extraordinary, very powerful and deeply tragic at the same time." Benegal said, adding, "I think he really was a very pas-

efit because of your nature to take chances. Higher ups in the office will take notice of your skills and ability to work well. Seniors in your office will promote and inspire you to give your best Ganesha says this is not a good time to get into a direct fight with anyone since it will lead to more problems and issues.

SCORPIO

You are ready to take up the challenges that life has to throw at you. Thanks to the confidence within you, which gives you power to fight it out against all odds. Even if you take up a mammoth task, you are bound to succeed today, predicts Ganesha

SAGITTARIUS

Round and round they tumble, the wheels of life smoothly gliding into a rou tine. You may spend your day in discon tent due to the rut of regular activities. Sadly, there is little hope or adventure Ganesha foresees that might make this day worthwhile for you

CAPRICORN

Duping the wisest with your extraordinary power of convincing may have been your forte, but you may have to prove yourself all over again, for Ganesha says you will be tested today. This apart, you are likely to find answers to questions lingering in your subconscious mind for long.

AQUARIUS

You may fall in love today! If single, romance colours your day with a rainbow. If mar ried, you may enjoy a quiet but romantic evening with your spouse. Ganesha says that if nothing else, it's a good time to pour over your photo albums and float in nostalgia.

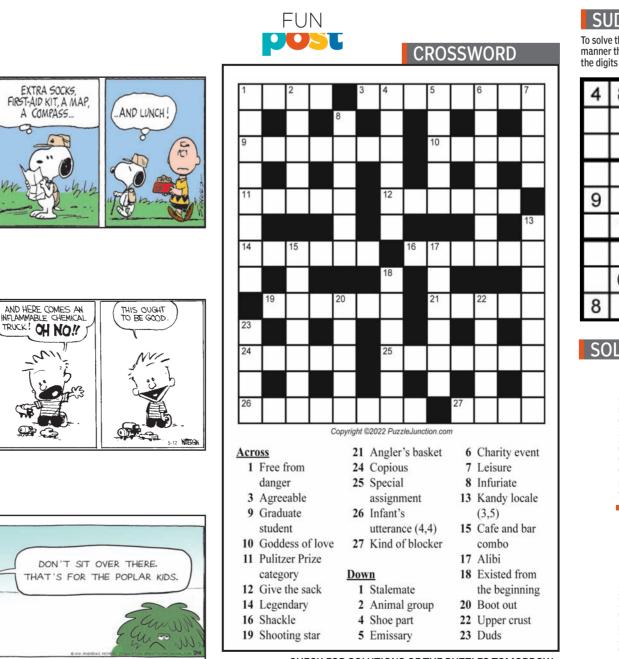
PISCES

You will be treading new ground at work. Exciting as that sounds, it merely means you will have to do a lot of travelling today. You will also find yourself swamped with drafting new business proposals, holding meetings, or otherwise networking over the phone. On the brighter side, your trav els are unlikely to involve the cramps of fly ing economy class, says Ganesha.

gested a couple of names of filmmakers to helm the film and one of the suggestions was that of

sionate man and he gathered all his strength from the love of his country. IANS

organised by Satabdira Kalakar, at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. Written by Gourahari Das on the backdrop of 1999's Supercyclone that ravaged the coastal Odisha, the play was dramatised and directed by Gouranga Rout and presented by City-based theatre troupe Interface. OP PHOTO



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.

4	8	5		1				
			2	4				5
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		2		7	6	Ì		
9		8	÷				2	
	1						9	
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	6							
8		9		1	3		1	

CROSSWORD		S M C M H	A D S A P P R O V I	N P U	I C E B E R G B E F	A R N U	C R A B B Y P S Y C	D	SPOOLRINGL	E 0 E	PATAGOZIA	A E D R	LULLABY
C	A D S	H	N G	Н	F I T	A	H E	S	L E T	E	F O E	M	S 0
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	4	4	6	7	1	3	2	8	3	1	5	t	9
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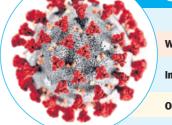


downtown



WISHING GOOD LUCK

Women offer puja to Goddess Mangala in Unit-III area of Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
ld	47,28,50,919	40,91,43,465	61,07,123
a	4,30,10,971	4,24,70,515	5,16,543
sha	12,87,225	12,77,580	9,116

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sabha, Tuesday.

Bhubaneswar, March 22: The

Centre has released ₹817 crore to

the state government for estab-

lishment of seven new medical

colleges in Odisha, said Union

Minister of State (MoS) for

Health and Family Welfare

Bharati Pravin Pawar in Rajya

Replying to a query of BJD

MP Sasmit Patra, Pawar said

the Ministry of Health & Family

Welfare launched a centrally

sponsored scheme (CSS)

for establishment of

new medical colleges,

attached to existing

district/referral

hospitals. Under

this scheme, seven

medical colleges

have been ap-

proved for Odisha

with 60:40 fund

sharing formula be-

tween the Centre

Our aim is to open a medical college: Rath

He has won laurels for successful completion of several flagship projects. He has a special interest for providing quality technical education to students and good healthcare to people. He has carved a niche for himself in hospitality industry as well. In a freewheeling conversation with **Orissa POST**,

Pramod Chandra Rath, chairman of Sri Durga Condev Pvt Ltd DRIEMS Group of Institutions, Pramod Hotel Group and

Padmini Care Hospital speaks about his journey, future plans and impact of Covid-19 pandemic on various sectors. Excerpts:

How has been the journey as an entrepreneur?

During my schooldays. I always had a dream to do something of my own instead of running after jobs. My father was worried about my future. At the crossroads of my career, I had taken a decision to start business. In early 1980s, I had started some construction work with assistance from Idco. Subsequently, we established Sri Durga Condev Private Limited and got opportunities to do construction work under various state government and central agencies in

cluding NHAI and Indian

Railways. We won the confidence of the Centre and the state government by maintaining quality in our construction work and completing projects on time.

What prompted you to set up an engineering college?

My father had always thought that students from our localities tels and restaurants. Taking the would not go to elsewhere for technical education if there was an ensituation as a challenge, we ingineering college nearby. He troduced the 'Fresh Box' system breathed his last in 1994. To fulfill for home delivery of food. This was my father's dreams, we had set up the first and unique initiative by Dhaneswar Rath Institute of any hotel in Odisha. We also Engineering and Management started home delivery of various Studies (DRIEMS) in his name vegetarian foods and traditional in 1999. DRIEMS has got the aucakes during Rath Yatra, Rajo and other festivals. Now, there is tonomous institute status. We have introduced many courses a significant improvement in the in our institute. We have an aim Covid-19 situation. The hotel busi-

Why did you enter the hotel industry?

to open a medical college too.

We did not have any experience in hotel industry. We entered the hotel business in 1997 by setting up hotel Padma at Puri Station Road. In the initial days, we did not give much attention to the hotel business. But, my son Durgaprasad showed interest in hotel and automobile business

modern hospital. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated this. after completing his engineering degree. Now, we have Pramod Convention and Club Resorts in How do you manage things in your busy life? Cuttack and Puri. We are setting up a hotel at Gopalpur in coop-Work is life for me. Nevertheless, we should spend some time with eration with OTDC. There are also proposals to set up a 5 star our family and friends. I truly hotel in Bhubaneswar in collablove to play cards and enjoy food oration with an international with my childhood friends. I also love to go on a trip to abroad with group and another hotel at

our customers during the pandemic-induced lockdowns and shutdowns

Would you elaborate on the new approach? The people were forced to stay

ness is inching towards normalcy.

There is a rise in the number of

domestic tourists. But, we are yet

What was the necessity to open

The administration sought our

help to fight the pandemic. A

Covid care centre was opened at

DRIEMS. We got a first-hand ex-

perience in providing healthcare

to people. This has inspired us to

establish Padmini Care, a 400-bed

to receive overseas tourists.

a hospital?

ଧରିତ୍ରୀ | Orise

BUSINESS

EMINENCE

AWARDS

and government. indoors due to the pandemic-in-The Ministry has duced restrictions and they did not have any scope to eat foods at hoapproved the estab-

lishment of new medical colleges at Balasore, Baripada (Mayurbhanj), Bolangir, Koraput, Puri, Jajpur and Bhawanipatna

state

BJD raises Puri Int'l Airport issue in LS

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 22: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday asked the Union government to expedite the process of setting up of Shri

Taking part in a discussion on the deposed new airport at Puri has become nec-

essary as the nearby Biju Patnaik International Airport at Bhubaneswar has reached its design capacity.

She also said that in June 2021, a team of Airports Authority of

ect site. "I request the minister to expedite the matter." Sethi said. The BJD MP further said that Odisha intends to shift the old Dakota aircraft from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar to commemorate the legacy of the late Biju Patnaik, former Chief Minister of Odisha. "A joint team of AAI and state government officials has selected a site at the Biju Patnaik International Airport to position the Dakota aircraft as a museum display. The Chairman of AAI was requested to issue NOC and give in-principle clearance to position the aircraft. The reply is still awaited," Sethi pointed out.

State got ₹817cr for 7 new med colleges been approved for each medical colleges at Balasore. Baripada, Bolangir, Koraput and Puri, while ₹250 crore has been

The Centre has approved the establishment of new medical colleges at Balasore, Baripada, Bolangir, Koraput, Puri, Jajpur and Bhawanipatna

The Centre has approved ₹1,520 crore for the medical colleges, out of which the state government's share is ₹608 crore and Centre's share is Rs 912 crore. Out of the Central share of ₹912 crore, the Health Ministry has so far released ₹817 crore to Odisha

> Puri, Jajpur and Bhawanipatna is yet to begin, source said.

Under the CSS, seven medical colleges

60:40 fund sharing formula between the

have been approved for Odisha with

Centre and state government

The Centre has approved ₹1,520 crore for the seven medical colleges, out of which the state government's share is ₹608 crore and Centre's share is ₹912 crore. Out of the Central share of ₹912 crore, the Health Ministry has so far released ₹817 crore to Odisha, sources added.

The ministry will provide ₹95 crore for the new medical college at Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district. The approved amount for all other six medical colleges has been released by the Centre, said the minister. An amount of ₹189 crore has

approved for the medical college at Jajpur and ₹325 crore for the medical college in Kalahandi district. Further, the ministry has approved ₹258 crore for five med-

ical colleges in Odisha for raising the MBBS and PG seats. An amount of ₹120 crore has

been approved for each of VSS Medical College at Burla and MKCG Medical College in Berhampur. The Centre has already released its share ₹72 crore for the two institutions.

The Centre has approved ₹5.40 crore, ₹8 crore and ₹6.30 crore for VSS Medical College at Burla, MKCG Medical College in Berhampur and SCB Medical College in Cuttack respectively for raising the PG seats. The Centre has released its share of ₹3.59 crore, ₹5.76 crore and ₹4.38 crore for the medical colleges at Burla, Berhampur and Cuttack respectively. Pawar said.

Further release of funds under the scheme will depend upon the pace of expenditure and receipt of demand from the state government, she added.



Jagannath International Airport at Puri.

mands for grants under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation for 2022-23 in the Lok Sabha, BJD MP Sarmistha Sethi said owing to a large influx of tourists and pilgrims, the pro-

India (AAI) conducted a pre-feasibility study of the proposed proj-

(Kalahandi). Out of the seven institutions, the admission for MBBS course has been started in four colleges while the same





How did vou tackle the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic to hotel industry?

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success?

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NAVEEN HAILS MANIPUR CM FOR SECOND TERM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated N Biren Singh for becoming the CM of Manipur for the second time.

BJP Manipur legislature party leader N Biren Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur for a second time at the Raj Bhavan Monday

Taking to twitter, Patnaik Monday "Congratulate Shri said. @NbirenSingh ji on being sworn in as the Chief Minister of #Manipur for the second time. Wish the state reaches new heights of development under your leadership. Best wishes.'

BJP had won 32 seats in the 60member Manipur Assembly in the recently held elections.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



HC flags off e-libraries for dist bar associations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 22: In a historic move, the Orissa High Court (HC) dedicated e-Libraries for the bar associations of the 30 districts and 2 outlying stations in Koraput and Rourkela in an event organised through virtual mode, Tuesday.

HC Chief Justice S Muralidhar attended the event along with HC Judges, district Judges, judicial of-

ficers and office bearers of the bar associations of all the 30 districts. All India Reporter (AIR) online, Manupatra and CD ROM version of Orissa Law Times (OLT) have been made available in these e-Libraries. The infrastructure for the e-Library and the subscription for the journals have been provided by the HC.

President of the Federation of All Orissa Bar Associations Nirmal Kishore Rath called the initiative of

the HC historic and said that thousands of lawyers in the state would be benefited by the e-Libraries

Justice Arindam Sinha, Judge and Chairman of the Library Committee of HC, highlighted the importance of the e-Library in the legal profession. He expressed hope that the provision of e-Libraries would help the young lawyers stay updated with the developments in the field.

Chief Justice Muralidhar, while delivering the keynote address, discussed the challenges faced by the budding lawyers in keeping themselves abreast with the latest judicial pronouncements of the Supreme Court and High Courts. He said that the objective of dedicating e-Libraries to the bar associations was to help the young aspirants accomplish their ambition of becoming good lawyers.

downtown

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 22: The Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF). an outfit of parents of school students in state, called off their protest Tuesday against sale of wrong books by private schools after discussion with the education department authorities

The federation had decided to launch an indefinite hunger strike protesting against the forceful selling of non-NCERT books by several private schools.

It is pertinent to mention here that the government has ordered the use of NCERT text books in private schools as well. Schools in the country must follow NCERT at national level and SCERT at state level in their respective languages The state School and Mass Education (S&ME) department too has clear guidelines for all schools regarding the usage and sale of these books as per Article 29 of the Right to Education Act and the Revised Juvenile Justice Act 2015. However, private schools have been selling non-NCERT books for years, illegally and forcefully, for thousands of crores of rupees

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Brundaban Satpathy, Director of Elementary Education, and OPF chairman Basudev Bhatt, where it was decided to issue a show cause notice to St Joseph's School regarding the sell ing of wrong books. The school has been told to stop selling such books, failing which the school's certificate of registration (COR) will be withdrawn.

Campaigning for urban polls ends



BJD mayoral candidate for Bhubaneswar, Sulochana Das, during a rally in the capital city. Tuesday OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 22: The ongoing high-voltage campaigning for election to various positions in 109 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in state ended Tuesday evening.

As per the instruction of the State Election Commission (SEC), the campaigning by candidates ended at 5pm Tuesday. On the last day of campaigning, the candidates left no stone unturned to woo the voters in all the urban areas including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur State BJP president Samir

Mohanty campaigned for party candidates in Umerkote assembly constituency of Nabarangpur district while several BJD leaders, ministers, MPs and MLAs sought



paigning trail on the last day. Meanwhile, the SEC has completed all preparedness for the urban election. About 22,000 polling officials and 195 platoons of security forces will be deployed for smooth conduct of the election in the state. As many as 6,411 candidates are in the fray for election. While 569 candidates have remained in the battle field for the post of chairperson and mayor, 5,842 can-

councillor and corporator seat. The voting will be held March 24 from 8 am to 5 pm and the results will be declared March 26.

didates are there for the election to





(Clockwise from top) BJD mayoral candidate Subhas Singh, BJP's Sritam Das and Congress's Giribala Behera taking out rallies on the last day of campaigning for the civic body elections in Cuttack. Tuesday OP PHOTOS

Bank cashier among two held for smuggling ganja

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, March 22: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha police have arrested two persons, including a bank cashier, on charges of smuggling ganja, officials said Tuesday.

"STF seized 165 kg of ganja/cannabis/marijuana/weed s near Banka-Palasa, Angul. Two peddlers were arrested. One country-made shotgun, one SUV and one bike were also seized,' the STF said in a tweet.

According to the task force officials, acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted near village Banka Palasa under Kishore Nagar police station in Angul district Monday and where the incriminating material was seized

The police apprehended two accused identified as Sushanta Kumar Sahoo, presently working as a clerk-cum-cashier in State Bank of India, Kishore Nagar Branch, and Jugal Sahoo. Both belong to Angul district, the officials said.

One gun, one Mahindra XUV 300 car and one Pulsar motorcycle have been seized from the possession of two accused, the STF said.

In this connection, the special task force registered a case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Arms Act. The accused are being forwarded to court, informed the officials.

No Cov death in state for 5 days



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 22: The daily coronavirus cases in Odisha Tuesday were the lowest in nearly two years for the third consecutive day as 32 more people contracted the pathogen, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The state registered no new fatality for the fifth straight day. There are 559 active Covid-19 cases, while Puri district has no coronavirus patient at present, according to the Health bulletin.

The coastal state's daily t

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 22: Residents of the Capital city are showing disinterest to take part in votes for Thursday civic polls owing to issues that have remained unaddressed despite changes in councilors

Political parties are leaving no stone unturned to woo voters and City residents are being bombarded relentlessly with lofty promises and assurances. However, residents have brought up a range of issues such as electrification, waterlogging, parking and drainage just days before the voting.

'Every year, roads are flooded after a few hours of rain. This is followed by traffic congestions due to unrepaired roads or improper parking. We have been urging the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to address these and have also taken the issues to the ward councilor but to no avail. What is the point in voting this



'Why vote when issues remain unaddressed?'

Associations (RWAs) at Saheed Nagar have complained of a fastpaced blame game in play among the authorities, while developmental works move at a snail's pace. Considered one of the top localities of the state Capital, the ward is reported to have been facing extreme paucity of space owing to different construction activities.

"The Bhubaneswar Smart City imited (BSCL) had earlier promis still in limbo. Moreover, the budget provided by the BMC for ward development is usually half of what we demand, which leads to slow progress," said Saswati Mishra, former corporator, Saheed Nagar

Meanwhile, individuals from different slum pockets of Bhubaneswar have expressed their lack of interest in the upcoming civic polls due to "no benefit from the political tussle". Grappling

earlier promised to set up a multi-level car parking at Saheed Nagar. Five years have passed but the project is still in limbo. Moreover, the budget provided by the **BMC for ward development** is usually half of what we demand, which leads to slow progress

SASWATI MISHRA | FORMER CORPORATOR, SAHEED NAGAR

plained of having no listeners to their woes.

"Although we have urged people to cast their votes, it's true that many of their issues have largely remained unaddressed," said Bijay Puhan, a slum activist here. "Every year, improper sanitation leads to spread of vector-borne diseases during monsoon. This is amplified due to water logging that happens because of improper man-

Water resources dept holds session on state water policy

Bhubaneswar, March 22: The state Water Resources department conducted a brainstorming session on State Water Policy on the occasion of the World Water Day,

Chaired by department Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, the session saw the participation of senior officers of the departments of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (A&FE), Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW), Housing and Urban Development (H&UD), Industries, Women and Child Development (WCD), Fisheries & Animal Resources Development (F&ARD), **Electronics & Information** Technology (E&IT), and Information and Public Relations (I&PR), along with UNICEF and its partner agencies like Watershed Support Services

of the State Water Policy in 2007. Many aspects of water governance and issues related to those, in the meanwhile, have undergone perceptible changes

The session highlighted the need to work on the hitherto uncovered or less covered areas, such as emerging areas of data management, IT, sustainability and climate change, gender mainstreaming; elements of evidence-based informed planning; technology driven initiatives; improved Composite Water Management Index (CWMI); convergence and collaborations and Information Education Communication (IEC) and Social & Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC), to reach out to the stakeholders.

This exercise will be followed up with further rounds of discussions with all the stakeholders such as government departments, UN agencies, policy makers, academia. practitioners, industries, farmers, partners, experts and other key stakeholders in times to come.

The BSCL had POST NEWS NETWORK

Tuesday.

itivity rate (TPR) was 0.07 per cent and the infections were detected out of 43,419 sample tests. Seventythree patients recuperated from the highly contagious virus in the last 24 hours, it added.

On May 12, 2020, the cases were lower than the current single-day count when the state logged 23 infections. There were 40 cases Monday

The Covid-19 death toll remained at 9,116 and these have been confirmed as Covid deaths after an audit. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to data.

The state has logged 12,87,225 Covid-19 cases, out of which 12,77,497 people have recovered so far.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By the Virtue of an affidavit on dated 13.01.2022 before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar I, Nirlipta Raj, At/PO/PS Bhanjpur, Baripada, Dist-Mayurbhanj, Odisha, Pin-757002 have changed the name of my minor Son from Pratik Kumar Dey to Pratik Kumar for all future purposes.

time?" questioned Prafulla Swain, a resident of Rasulgarh Similarly, a few Resident Welfare

ised to set up a multi-level car parking at Saheed Nagar. Five years have passed but the project

with issues such as dengue, malaria to sanitation and constant evictions, the slum dwellers have comagement of runaway water which seeps into the slums through urban localities." Puhan added

According to researchers. India's

irrigation planners and bureau-

cracies have largely depended on

canals and other surface water

peratures, CSE said.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Arghyam. Fifteen years have passed since the formulation

and Activities Network (WASSAN).

WORLD WATER DAY

Rising heat serious concern for water security: CSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: The intense heatwave that has gripped large parts of India so early this summer is proof that this is the age of climate change and it can have severe implications for water security, the Centre for Science and Environment said Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion of World Water Day, CSE Director General Sunita Narain said that climate mitigation has to be about water and its management.

"What does this intense heat wave that has hit large parts of India so early this summer really mean? It means, especially today as we mark the World Water Day. that this is the age of climate change. It also means that how we deal with our water in the coming days will determine whether we would survive such extreme climatic conditions," Sunita said.

We all know that climate change impacts are about increased heat and scorching temperatures,

and about variable and extreme rain. Both have a direct correlation with the water cycle. Therefore, climate change mitigation has to be about water and its management," she added.

India is witnessing a repeat of 2021 conditions, when temperatures touched 40 degrees Celsius as early as February in some parts of the country, said Avantika Goswami, deputy programme manager, climate change, CSE. This was when 2021 was the year of the La Niña, the Pacific water currents that are known to bring cooler temperatures globally. Indian weather scientists have informed that global warming has offset this cooling effect of La

Niña, Goswami said. CSE researchers pointed out that rising heat has severe implications for water security and to begin with, it would mean greater evaporation from water bodies.

It means that we need to work not just on storing water in millions of structures, but also plan for reducing losses due to evaporation. It's not that evaporation losses did not happen in the past, but the rate of evaporation will now increase with the soaring tem-

IMPACT OF SOARING TEMPERATURE

Rising heat would mean greater evaporation from water bodies, meaning we need to work not just on storing water in millions of	In a country like India where the bulk of food is still grown in rain-fed regions, it will intensify land degradation and dust bowl formations
structures, but also plan for reduc- ing losses due to evaporation	This means water management must go hand in hand with vegetation plan-
India's irrigation planners and bureaucracies have largely depended on canals and other sur-	ning to improve the ability of soils to hold water, even in times of intense and prolonged heat
face water systems – they should not discount the management of groundwater systems	1

Increased heat can also lead to drying up of moisture in soils, mak ing the land dusty and increasing need for irrigation

Soaring heat will also drive up the use of water, from drinking and irrigation to fighting fires in forests or buildings

systems - they should not discount the management of groundwater systems.

Increased heat can also lead to drying up of moisture in soils, the CSE said, adding that it will make the land dusty and will increase the need for irrigation.

In a country like India where the bulk of food is still grown in rainfed regions, it will intensify land degradation and dust bowl formations. This means water management must go hand in hand with vegetation planning to improve the ability of soils to hold water, even in times of intense and prolonged heat, it said.

The organisation cautioned that heat will drive up the use of water, from drinking and irrigation to fighting fires in forests or buildings.

'We have already seen devastating forest fires rage in many parts of the world, and in the forests of India. This will only increase as temperatures go up. The demand for water will increase

with climate change, making it even more imperative that we do not waste -- either water or wastewater," it said.

CSE also said climate change is already showing up in terms of the increasing number of extreme rain events.

This means that we can expect rain to come as a flood, making the cycle of floods followed by droughts even more intense. India already has fewer rainy days in a year - if is said that it rains for just 100 hours on average in a year. Now the number of rainy days will further go down, but extreme rainy davs will increase. it said.

'We needed to be obsessive about water and its management yesterday because water is the basis of health and wealth. But now we need to be more than obsessive. We need to be determined and deliberate. On this World Water Day in the age of climate change we need to know that the water agenda is the real make or break of our future," said Sunita.

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state

23 STOLEN BOLEROS SEIZED; 12 NABBED



The seized vehicles in Bolangir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir; March 22: In the biggest ever seizure of stolen vehicles in the state. Bolangir police seized 23 four-wheelers (Boleros) worth ₹2 crore and arrested 12 persons, Bolangir SP Shri Kusalkar Nitin Dagdu said at a presser here Tuesday

'Toofan', a special squad of Bolangir police, conducted raids and made the seizure, the SP added. The squad has seized a total of 23 Boleros, pick-up vans, cars, Tata Magic and spare parts worth over ₹15 lakh

At least 12 members of the ve-

SHORT TAKES

Jumbo tramples guard to death

Baripada: An elephant has trampled a forest guard to death at Baunsuli village under Rasgovindpur forest range of Mayurbhanj district, said sources Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Chandrakant Rout, 40. Reports said the forest guard was on patrolling duty to scare away some elephants that had strayed into the locality Monday night. The guard was trying to chase away the jumbo when a tusker attacked him. He was rescued in a critical condition and rushed to the Rasgovindpur hospital. As his condition worsened, he was shifted to the district headquarters hospital where he died.

30 injured as bus overturns

Toma 12

At least 12 members of the vehicle-lifting gang have been arrested while five of them managed to give the police the slip

police limits; Surendra Khandagiri, 32, of Chatapipal village, Radhamadhab Bania, 30, of Burda village under Loisingha police limits and Sidhant Kumar Sahu, 25, of Utkela village under Kesinga police limits in Kalahandi district.

The accused have at least 52 cases against them in Bolangir, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Bargarh and Kalahandi districts. Led by Sadar SDPO Tofan Bag,

the special squad 'Toofan' was formed after repeated complaints of vehicle-lifting came to the fore in the district. On the orders of the SP, the squad conducted raids in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal before making the seizure. "This is the biggest seizure made ever in Odisha," the SP said

at the presser. Meanwhile, the special squad of Bolangir police has received applause from all the quarters for their tremendous efforts. On the other hand all the 12 accused have been forwarded to court while the squad is conducting raids to arrest the five absconders



TIGHT VIGIL

Govt: Expedite work on NABARANGPUR NAC **Drains clogged for** Samaleswari rejuvenation

transformative

improvement of

Bhubaneswar

Samaleswari Temple will

lines of Srimandir in Puri

of the Odisha Bridge and

Construction Corporation (OBCC),

which is implementing the project.

dite the work for timely completion

of the project, which will offer a "di-

vine experience" to the devotees and

give a boost to the local economy,

The board of the 16th-century

shrine, discussed with the team

regarding the implementation

of the ₹200-crore project, which

is expected to be completed by

The land acquisition process

The Samaleswari Temple was

constructed by Balram Dev, the

first Chouhan king of Sambalpur.

The shrine has been constructed

in proto-Nagra style and is a major

tourist attraction of the region.

is underway by the district administration now, an OBCC

according to the CMO.

next year.

official said.

They directed the firm to expe-

and Lingaraj Temple in

be carried out on the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, March 22: The state government has directed the officials concerned to expedite the work on redevelopment of Samaleswari Temple, one of the most revered shrines in the state. so that it can be completed on time.

A high-level team, led by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, visited Sambalpur Monday to assess the progress of Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives (Samalei) Scheme.

Under the project, transformative improvement of the temple in western Odisha will be carried out on the lines of Srimandir in Puri and Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar. The redevelopment includes beautification and peripheral development of the temple, heritage corridor, state-of-theart amenities and the Mahanadi riverfront development.

The delegation reviewed the construction work on the resettlement colony in Durgapali, where people who will be displaced due to the implementation of the scheme will be rehabilitated.

The state government is providing all the amenities for the affected people there, the Chief Minister's Office said.

The team talked to the officials

Governor's pat on BSF officials' back

Koraput: Governor Ganeshi Lal was all praise for the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans for their contribution towards maintaining the peaceful atmosphere and fostering development in Koraput district. The Governor visited the BSF camp here Tuesday and interacted with BSF officials. After reaching here on a helicopter, the Governor was given guard of honour at the BSF office. During the meeting with the BSF officials, the Governor said deployment of BSF in Koraput has helped in accelerating the development of the region. The Governor also visited Bondaghati in Malkangiri district and collected water from Sitakund under Mudulipada panchayat. The holy water will be sent to the underconstruction Ram temple at



Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.



that he is vet to receive some necduce the same.

Notably, Mamita went missing

Mamita case: Hearing on charge frame adjourned

OP PHOTO

hicle-lifting gang have been ar-

rested while five of them managed

as Antaryami Dalei, Satyanarayan

Dalei and Sumant Pradhan, 27, of

Kulathipali village under Puintala

police limits; Shahid Hussain, 26,

of Bhatali square in Bargarh dis-

trict; Malaya Mahanand, 32, of

Kesinga in Kalahandi district; Dilip

Kumar Senapati of Gunupur in

Rayagada district; Narayan Rao, 38,

and A Chinna Rao, 31, of

Kuturuparaparam of Srikakulam

district in Andhra Pradesh:

Panchanan Khamari, 42, of

Budabahal village under Deogaon

The accused have been identified

to give cops the slip.

Bolangir, March 22: A local court Tuesday adjourned the hearing on charge frame against the accused persons in the much-hyped Mamita Meher murder case as one of the accused in the case prayed to direct police to produce some necessary papers relating to the case.

Meanwhile, police produced accused Gobinda Sahu and his associate Radheshyam Chandi alias Radhe in the court of additional sessions judge at Kantabanji, Tuesday. Sahu, the managing committee president of a private school at Mahaling, and his associate Radhe are allegedly involved in the murder of Mamita Meher, who was then the principal of the school.

The court was scheduled to propose for charge frame against the two accused. However, it adjourned the hearing after Radhe pleaded

POST NEWS NETWORK

essary papers from police and pleaded to direct the police to pro-

October 8, 2021. Family members lodged a complaint with Sindhekela police who found that Sahu had kidnapped Mamita from Chandotara Square October 8 and strangled her inside the car. Later, Sahu buried the body of Mamita inside the under-construction stadium at Mahaling

30 years, say voters POST NEWS NETWORK Nabarangpur, March 22: Residents of several wards under Nabarangpur municipality have decided to vote for the candidates

who can assure them of sorting out

the unresolved issues, a report

According to sources, there are

17 wards (29 booths) in Nabarangpur

municipality. As many as 24,785

voters will exercise their franchise

in the upcoming urban local body

polls while candidates in the fray

have ended their door-to-door cam-

However, grapevines have it that

people in ward-8 may change the

political equation this time. The

councillor seat in this ward has

been reserved for scheduled tribe

(women). The BJD had fielded

Santoshi Jani while the BJP has

given ticket to Amaji Tirkey. The

fight will be between the BJD and

the BJP while the Congress has

This ward is most populous with

2,147 voters who will cast their

votes in two wards. People of

Medirisahi and Dandasisahi are

upset over poor drainage. "For

over 30 years, drains have not been

cleared. Garbage piles lay every-

where. Sanitation is poor. No one

removes garbage," locals said.

said

paign Tuesday.

fallen behind.

Under the project,



Dhenkanal: As many as 30 out of 40 passengers were injured after a bus they were travelling in overturned at Banasingh Medical Square under Sadar police limits in this district. Tuesday. Locals and Sadar police rescued the injured passengers and rushed them to the district headquarters hospital in Dhenkanal. Two of the critically injured were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after primary treatment. The mishap occurred after the driver lost balance on the wheels and the bus overturned. Meanwhile, lack of sufficient injections and doctors in the hospital irked the patients as well as their attendants.

Youth held for firing at police

Berhampur: Police arrested a youth who fired at an onduty policeman at First Gate Square late Monday night and seized two guns from his possession. The bullet, however, missed the target. The accused was identified as Pabitra Jena, 26, a resident of Boirani under Kabisuryanagar police limits in Ganjam district. Jena was trying to flee the scene after firing at sub-inspector Ranjit Jena but police personnel present there overpowered him. Police seized some live bullets and two guns from his possession. During interrogation, Pabitra admitted that he was taking the guns to Berhampur for sale. A case was registered and the accused produced in court, Bada Bazaar IIC Prasant Bhupati said. Pabitra was sent to jail after the court rejected his bail plea.

Man hacks sister-in-law to death

Rayagada: A man Tuesday hacked his sister-in-law to death following a heated argument at Gouda Sahi under Muniguda police limits in Rayagada district. An argument ensued between victim Jharana Sahu and accused Balakrishna Sahu over some family issue. It took an ugly turn when Sahu lost his cool. In a fit of rage, he took out an axe and hacked Jharana. Family members rushed Jharana to the community health centre. However, the doctors pronounced her brought dead. On being informed, Muniguda police reached the spot and arrested the accused. The cops seized the body and sent it for an autopsy. The weapon used in the crime was also seized.

Man, son lock horns at Polsara hustings

The lines between family and politics have blurred as Anil Sahu of the BJD bearded his 65-year-old father and BJP leader Durvodhan Sahu in his own den



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, March 22: At ward no-2 in Polsara town of Ganjam district, the fight between the main rivals, a greenhorn and a veteran, is not just political, but also personal.

The lines between family and politics have blurred as Anil Sahu of the BJD bearded his 65-year-old father and BJP leader Duryodhan Sahu in his own den.

A direct contest is all set to be held in the ward, which has over 1,000 voters, as the third candidate has withdrawn his nomination Monday.

Elections to 19 wards in Polsara notified area council (NAC), 150 km southwest of Bhubaneswar, are scheduled to be held Thursday along with 108 other municipal bodies in the state.

"Every citizen has the right to contest an election," said Anil, who filed his nomination a day after Duryodhan did.

"It's not a contest between the son and the father. It's the fight between the BJD and the BJP," the 37-year-old contractor, who is staying separately from his parents, said.

Before filing the nomination, Anil did not consult any of his family members, according to his father, who is a local businessman.

"He did not even consult me before joining the ruling party in the state," said Duryodhan.

Duryodhan, a follower of former minister Ram Krushna Patnaik, has won five times as the councillor in a row and four times from ward no-2 in the past

In the last election, his wife, Soudamini, was elected from the same ward as the councillor and became the NAC chairperson. This time, she had also filed the nomination to contest on a BJP ticket from ward 3, but later withdrew from the race.

Anil acknowledges his father's influence in Polsara, but is determined not to throw in the towel. Duryodhan has not visited Anil's home yet after the latter joined the BJD.

Only time will tell whether there is no love lost between the two men after the count ing of votes Saturday.

2	migrant	workers	arrested	for	gangrape
	5				5 5 1

Kendrapara: Two migrant labourers have been arrested for allegedly gangraping a 19year-old woman in Kendrapara district, police said Tuesday. The accused, who hail from neighbouring West Bengal, invited the survivor for some work at their rented house in a village in Rajnagar police station area Monday evening. Later, they gagged and gangraped her, an officer said. She informed her family about the incident. following which her father lodged a police complaint, he said. The two accused were arrested after medical examination. Prima facie, it seems that the girl was gangraped, the officer added. The accused, who were working as masons for the last six months, have been booked under sections of the Indian Penal Code, and remanded to judicial custody, the police official added.

٩	भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR SEMENT NO. Rectt:VARCO=101/Non-Teaching/2022 dt. 18/03/2022
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guantities and the set of Terms and Conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be available in the Website http://Kalahandi.nic.in and can be downloaded from the Website. Sealed Bids must be enclosed with appropriate cost in shape of a non-refundable Demand Draft of Rs 6000/- or Rs.10,000. 00 only for respective work separately issued from any scheduled bank in favour of ZSS, NHM, CDM & PHO Kalahandi.payble at SBI.Bhawanipatna

Sd./-Chief Dist. Medical & Public Health Officer, Kalahandi OIPR-10076/11/0022/2122





INVITATION FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSALS 42nd INDIAN SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) (erstwhile NCAOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India is the nodal agency responsible for the planning, co-ordination and implementation of Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. The 42nd Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (42-ISEA) to Maitri and Bharati will be launched in November, 2022. The summer team (short term) component of 42 -ISEA shall return to India in March 2023, whereas, the winter team (long term) of 42-ISEA would return to India during January-March 2024.

The 42-ISEA embarks on a new journey of scientific research. ESSO-NCPOR (erstwhile NCAOR) welcomes long term innovative scientific proposals in thematic areas and its sub themes in different disciplines.

NCPOR welcomes nominations from organisations for selection of the Expedition Leaders for Indian research bases Maitri, Bharati and Expedition Voyage.

Proposal/s along with all essential endorsement and certificates in the prescribed format [available on NCPOR website] has to be submitted on email (antarcticscience22@gmail.com) latest by 13th April 2022. Complete programme, eligibility and application information is available at: http://www.ncpor.res.in/

विज्ञापन सं. No: NCPOR/05/2022







power post

FOCUS BUREAUCRACY

Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so. THE MOTHER



Half Truths

oetic lie' is a literary technique employed by poets and playwrights to fathom truths with the help of exaggeration that strains credulity. The intent is not to replace truth with lies, but to make a deeper impression in the mind. Had they merely stated plain facts without an iota of fiction, readers or the audience might not have been able to get drawn to the story. During such a narration, the audiences have no illusion about the lie, but they suspend their disbelief temporarily. But when half-truths are dished out with the claim that they are the whole truth, things get murky. The intentions of the creators of such literary work or films become suspect. If the raging controversy over the film, The Kashmir Files, is judged from this perspective, the truth and intent of both the filmmaker, Vivek Agnihotri, and politicians lauding and lambasting the film will become clear.

The movie shifts between two timelines, 1990 and 2016 onwards, depicting two versions. One is set in Kashmir's past when terrorists were operating with full fury and the other in the present in a Delhi college named ANU where "students, intellectuals, professors and media" figure. The main theme is the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits or the minority Hindoo population who were brutally tortured and their women raped by terrorists. Undoubtedly, the film deals with a sad and sordid history of trouble-torn Kashmir. There cannot be any objection to it. But, the problem stems from the fact that it presents a viciously one-sided story in which Hindoos are shown to be the only victims and Moslems are demonised and bracketed with terrorists. The fact is both Hindoos and Moslems were persecuted by the terrorists during that period and it is a gross distortion of truth to claim that the terrorists targeted only Hindoos. Such inhuman perpetrators, it is well known, target civilians equally to get their point across. Their sole purpose is to spread terror for their own gain and that of their masters both within the country and outside handling them

That the film has a political agenda becomes clear from the way BJP governments both at the Centre and states are patronising it. The Prime Minister himself praised it and several BJP state governments have waived tax on the film. It does not behave constitutionally elected representatives to wax eloquent on a film that overtly communalises a sad chapter of Kashmir's history. The Bihar government, of which BJP is a constituent, has decided to host a special screening later this week for MLAs and other politicians, just like some other BJP state governments have done.

The truth is the exodus occurred in 1989 and 1990 when VP Singh was the Prime Minister and his government had the support of the BJP. The Governor of J&K was Jagmohan, a known RSS supporter. Hundreds of Moslems, including a university vice chancellor and bureaucrats, were also killed and injured by the terrorists. The film is conveniently silent on these aspects of the gory history.

No wonder the film has kicked up a political storm. CPI(M) leader and former MP from Kashmir MY Tarigami rightly pointed out that along with the Pandits, Moslems and Sikhs also suffered at the hands of the terrorists. He condemned the one-sided projection and demanded an impartial probe into the massacre and the rehabilitation of the Pandits in Kashmir. Former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah echoed him and said an atmosphere should be created for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. He also wondered why the film did not show that the BJP was in power supporting VP Singh at the Centre during the time of the exodus. "No single community suffered in isolation," Abdullah said.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar also joined the chorus of protest against the film and the BJP's patronage of it. He said the VP Singh-led government was in power in the country then and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed became Union Home Minister (from December 1989 to November 1990) with the help of the BJP.

The timing of the film's release is significant. The BJP has just won elections to four states, including the crucial UP. This has been possible not only with the promise of development, but through a sustained divisive, communal politics played by the BJP both at the Centre and the states where it runs the government. The process of holding elections in the newly carved out Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is on through a controversial delimitation exercise to redraw the constituencies. The BJP is desperate to cash in on its latest electoral success in Kashmir too. The communal passion being stoked by the film will be, it hopes, to its advantage in the forthcoming Gujarat elections also.

TIME FOR RANK & YANK

deputy commissioner of police in Mumbai has gone missing and has now moved the courts for anticipatory bail after complaints that he sought to extort ₹10 lakh a month from angadias who run a uniquely Indian courier system that delivers high value packages. including cash and diamonds, sans any paperwork. Angadias reflect tradition and ingenuity in finding unique solutions to unique problems in the Indian context, bypassing prying eyes of government agencies and delivering high value cargo with a precision that 'professionals' like DHL and Blue Dart and FedEx cannot or will not deliver. It is their standing that has brought them a hearing and led to the decision to first transfer and then suspend the DCP, Dr Saurabh Tripathi, an IPS officer with a medical degree in dermatology. The case is not particularly shocking in the Mumbai context, which has a former Commissioner of Police, Param Bir Singh, being investigated in a complex and still unex plained case of dynamite sticks being planted near the home of Mukesh Ambani, a host of other allegations and linkages to a murder. Another IPS officer, Rashmi Shukla, is being investigated for her role in illegal wiretaps of several politicians and power-brokers when posted at the intelligence department in

Jagdish Rattanani

NOW MAY BE A

GOOD TIME TO

MAKE SOME

CHANGES TO

THE SERVICE

RULES AT THE

NATIONAL LEVEL

Maharashtra in 2019. What is to be done in these cases? Investigations continue to be notoriously slow and the process of removal and prosecution of black sheep is as arduous as ever in a country that still, like it was under the British system, affords undue protections and defences to the bureaucracy. It is interesting that a Maharashtra minister who exposed some of the wrongs in the case of the arrest of Shah Rukh Khan's son in a narcotics case is behind bars but the officers who, clearly seen in the light of evidence, were on an extortion racket, roam free even now. The disgraced former Commissioner of Police in Mumbai is not vet behind bars either; he obtained interim relief from the Supreme Court. Complicating matters in Maharashtra is a political slugfest between the ruling alliance led by the Shiv Sena and the BJP which was outsmarted, is out of power in the state and is seeking to get even in an alleged witch hunt



The bureaucracy is more than willing to toe the establishment demands - almost always, unfailingly and can even come up with ingenious defences of the indefensible

bureaucratic intransigence, in-

The BJP move in support of lat-

eral hiring is based on the view

broadly that we must make it eas-

ier to hire talent at all levels but

concomitant with that is the idea

that we must make it easier to fire

and bring to book all those who fail

tests of accountability and in-

tegrity. Yes, it is not as simple as

that. Of course, the protections

are meant to guard against the

bureaucracy being pushed to do

wrong. But where have these pro-

tections worked? In effect, we have

the worst of both the worlds -

across bureaucratic services. The

bureaucracy is more than willing

to toe the establishment demands

– almost always, unfailingly and can

even come up with ingenious de-

fences of the indefensible. Take

just one example from the IPS: po-

for killings in cold blood. No IPS

Officers' Association condemns it.

meant to be independent has signed

up for any project it is asked to ex-

ecute, offering political solace to a

given political establishment and

feeding on all round corruption in

return. It comes at a huge cost to the

people of India. It was Atal Behari

Vajpayee who had said at a National

Development Council meeting in

1999, "People often perceive the bu-

reaucracy as an agent of exploita-

tion rather than a provider of serv-

ice. Corruption has become a low

need to bring in tough steps to hold

the bureaucracy to account. Instead

risk and high reward activity." If this has to change, we will

In short, a bureaucratic order

lice encounter killings, euphemisms

competence and worse.

using central agencies.

But beyond this immediate game is a larger national problem centred around holding bureaucrats to account for their misdeeds and taking swift and exemplary action against a class used to unbridled power, humungous perks and almost unlimited ways and means to get away with little accountability. This is one important part of a larger problem that combines gross inefficiency, insensitivity and ingenuity in bending the rules to feed an ugly bureaucratic-business nexus, with or without political chiming, to rob ordinary citizens of their due. The handling of the pandemic and the demonetisation saga, while political blunders, also showed the worst sides of the bureaucracy seen in lathi charging of ordinary people going to withdraw petty cash and poor services at hospitals. This compounded a political disaster with bureaucratic mismanagement heaping misery on ordinary citizens.

This must change. Now may be a good time to make some changes to the service rules at the national level, particularly by a party that believes in opening the bureaucracy to new thinking and ideas. Part of the solution lies in administrative reforms but a large part also rests in taking away sinecures that enable most if not all bureaucrats complete their tenures and retire - irrespective of their accomplishments or lack thereof. When a public servant knows that it is almost impossible to get him or her out and into jail. governance will be frustrated by

which most bureaucrats go on to complete, we need a policy of "rank and yank" - an annual ranking and firing of the bottom ranks on a bipartisan framework agreed by all political players. We need accountability sans political vengeance. With this framework, when corruption shows up, it should be possible to send strong signals with suspensions, a full range of investigations by all arms of the government and a quick sacking. We need to throw the kitchen sink at the officers who have disgraced themselves and the service, as in the case of Maharashtra here.

of time guaranteed promotions

retirement at a fixed age of 60,

To achieve this, we need a very different approach from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which refused at one point to share information on IPS officers retired or dismissed. The ministry later said 13 officers were retired and five dismissed since 2014. In Parliament, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has said on record that two IAS officers have been dismissed and nine IPS officers suspended on corruption charges during 2014-2019. The BJP has done better in preparing lists of those who are inefficient or corrupt. Fifty IRS officers have been compulsorily retired. Their tax returns deserve to be scrutinised. These are laudable steps. We need more. 'Rank and yank' as a forced system of ranking will ensure that large numbers are yanked out every year and the pressure of performance and giving a clean administration will then begin to bite and hopefully help deliver some results. At the very least, flagrant violations will cease, excesses will come under control and a cleaning up process can begin.

One report notes that there are 71 sets of rules and regulations, formally drafted and followed, to govern the IAS, plus another 23 for various states. Many of these offer protections, promise promotions and determine careers. And it is this system that has now drafted a new labour code that will take away the protection of workers in industry and make it easy to hire and fire workers on the shop floor, a contrast as telling as it is baffling.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. ©THE BILLION PRESS

IN JEST THIS

Gender equality's slow progress at home

Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars KAHLIL GIBRAN

Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an

The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places.

WORDS**WORTH**

WISDOM CORNER

Short shrift

o you know the scene in Shakespeare's Richard III of 1594 in which Lord Hastings is condemned by Richard to be taken out at once and beheaded? Richard Ratcliffe says to Hastings, "Make a short shrift: he longs to see your head." That's the first known use of the phrase in English. What's odd about it is that it then doesn't appear again until Sir Walter Scott's poetic romance, The Lord of the Isles in 1815: "Short were his shrift in that debate". After that, it quickly becomes a standard idiom in the language with the sense first of a brief respite, then of giving a matter brief and unsympathetic attention, especially in the phrase to give short shrift to somebody or something. Scott likely extracted the phrase from Shakespeare's play - he loved using archaisms. He was so influential in the early nineteenth century that he was probably single-handedly responsible for making it popular. Shakespeare's meaning for shrift would have been immediately known to his audience. It's from the verb shrive, the act of confessing to a priest followed by penance and absolution. So, when Ratcliffe was telling Hastings "to make a short shrift" he was telling him to be quick about his confession because Richard wanted him dead as soon as possible. Shrive is itself a strange word, since its source is the Latin scriptum, letters or writing, from which we get words such as script. The modern German verb schreiben, to write, comes from the same source, as do similar terms in other European languages. For some reason we don't understand, the verb schrive took on a special sense in the Old English and Scandinavian languages of imposing a penalty, perhaps from the idea of making a written decree. This led to the specific religious meaning and eventually to an idiom for brushing somebody's concerns aside unfeelingly. Such are the oddities of language evolution.

LOL

Never talk to the parrot

Mrs. Peterson phoned the repairman because her dishwasher quit working. He couldn't accommodate her with an "afterhours" appointment and since she had to go to work, she told him, "I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dish washer, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a check. By the way, I have a large Rottweiler inside named Killer: he won't bother you. I also have a parrot, and

whatever you do, do not talk to the bird!" Well, sure enough the dog, Killer, totally ignored the repairman, but the whole time he was there, the parrot cursed, yelled, screamed, and about drove him nuts. As he was ready to leave, he couldn't resist saying, "You stupid bird, why don't vou shut up!" To which the bird replied, "Killer, get him!!!"



Melvin Durai **THE BELIEF THAT WIVES SHOULD ALWAYS OBEY THEIR HUSBANDS IS HELD NOT JUST BY THE MAJORITY OF INDIAN MEN, BUT ALSO THE** MAJORITY

OF WOMEN

cited in 2020 when they Lelected their first female vice-president. Meanwhile, many Indians were remarking to themselves, "Such a backward country, America is. We elected a woman as prime minister more than 50 years ago!'

America may indeed be quite backward compared to India when it comes to female leadership. Not only does India have several women in powerful political positions, a recent Pew Research Center survey of about 30.000 adults throughout India shows that Indians possess a highly favourable view of female leadership. Only 25 per cent of Indians say that men make better political leaders than women, but these Neanderthals are partly balanced out by another group: the 14 per cent of Indians who say that women make better political leaders than men.

The majority of Indians, 55 per cent, say that women and men make equally good political leaders. But these progressive views do not necessarily extend to domestic life.

Focus on physical education

any Americans were ex-Almost nine out of every 10 Indians agree with the statement "A wife must always obey her husband."

In other words, the vast majority of Indians believe that a woman is highly capable of being a chief minister, but if she's married, her husband is really the one in charge.

Chief Minister: "Tomorrow I'm going to write to the Prime Minister requesting him to create new guidelines for our students returning from Ukraine.'

Husband: "No, tomorrow you must cook chicken biryani for me. It's my birthday and your biryani is my favourite.'

CM: "Okay, day after tomorrow, I will write to the Prime Minister.'

Husband: "No, day after tomorrow, you must take my mother shopping for a new handbag."

CM: "Why don't you do it? You are just sitting around giving orders.' Husband: "Who do you think you are, talking to me like that?"

CM: "I am the Chief Minister!" Husband: "Well, I am the Chief Minister's husband!'

The belief that wives should always obey their husbands is held

Sir, Physical education as a subject has not really made it in India's schools. A few minutes in a week is

not just by the majority of Indian men, but also the majority of women (67 per cent of men and 61 per cent of women), according to the survey.

Perhaps they believe that some women, such as those who are chief ministers, are exceptional and do not have to be subservient to their husbands. Or perhaps they believe that a husband's dominance does not extend beyond family business. He cannot, after all, show up at his wife's workplace and order her around, whether or not she's a chief minister.

Client: "Why did you make my website's background blue and vellow? I told you that I preferred red." Designer: "It was my husband.

He said I should make it blue and yellow to show support for Ukraine." While men may have the final say in household matters, many Indians are open-minded about some gender roles in the home. For example, more than 60 per cent of them say that both men and women should be responsible for taking care of children.

Of course, men and women take

care of children in different ways. If a 12-year-old boy kicks a football inside a home and breaks something valuable, his mother may summon his father: "Your son broke my favourite vase. Please take care of him.'

While a slim majority (54 per cent) of Indians says that both men and women in families should be responsible for earning money, 80 per cent say that when jobs are in short supply, men should have more rights to these jobs than women.

Just picture a sign outside an office that says "Data Analyst Wanted. Apply Within." Two women are filling out job applications when a man shows up to ask for an application.

First woman (whispering): "I wanted this job badly. Why did a man have to show up?

Second woman: "Men are like that-always stealing our jobs!"

First woman: "At least you have a husband. I have to fend for myself." Second woman: "My husband told me to apply for this job. At least you have no one to order you around!"

Bolt from the blue

Sir, The Chinese passenger plane crash in which all 132 people on board perished is a bolt from the blue. The Boeing 737 flight, which was on its way from Kunming to Guangzhou, suffered a sudden descent and crashed into a mountain in Guangxi, halfway through its journey. The crash is China's worst air tragedy in over a decade. Three Indian carriers - SpiceJet, 🗅 Vistara and Air India Express have Boeing 737 aircraft in their fleets, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has done well to put them on enhanced surveillance.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 101 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

dedicated for 'PT' classes that do not serve much purpose. A report of senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan can change the current scenario in schools if his report is accepted by the Supreme Court. The report has recommended making physical literacy a fundamental right by amending Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The report has demanded that National Physical Literacy Mission (NPLM) should be the reality for curriculum setup, compliance monitoring, grievance redressal and self-correction mechanism. According to Sankaranarayanan, one and a half hour of each day can be dedicated to free play and games in every school of India. His suggestions deserve a serious look-in because a child should have the freedom to indulge in a wide variety of physical activity with confidence and competence. Knowledge and understanding should supplement the two. He/she should be able to read the surrounding situation to make healthy and active choices not only as a child but also as an adult. Nothing can replace physical literacy as an instrument in achieving the above purpose. If there is no physical literacy, students may go into a shell of their own by shunning games and sports. The result -unhealthy adults of tomorrow. Parents, teachers and school authorities need to display sensitivity to children's requirements to help them engage in physical literacy. Moreover, every stakeholder has to know what exactly constitutes physical literacy. The present physical education classes in schools do no justice to children's overall personality. This is more pronounced in physically, and socioeconomically, challenged children. In a nutshell, personality development aspects of a child by fostering his/her physical literacy is more meaningful than mere sports-based programmes Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA









HARYANA ASSEMBLY PASSES **ANTI-CONVERSION BILL**

Amid a Congress walkout, the Harvana Assembly Tuesday passed a Bill against religious conversion through force, undue influence or allurement. The Bill was introduced in the Assembly March 4 and according to it, the onus of proof lies with the accused. Similar Bills in the recent past have been passed in the BJP-ruled state, including Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

group

gional outfits.

the meeting.

in Punjab.

manding an organisational over-

haul and have been critical of the

party leadership. They have also

questioned some of the decisions

taken by the party leadership, in-

cluding alliances with some re-

Another Congress Rajya Sabha

MP and a leader of the G-23, Vivek

Tankha, was also present during

Deputy Leader of the party in the

Rajya Sabha, Tewari is the Lok

Sabha MP from Anandpur Sahib

Azad, on the other hand, is learnt

Sources said the leadership is

to have met some other leaders of

While Anand Sharma is the



Ever since India won independence. Tamil

Nadu has been raking

up the Cauvery issue

for political gains

KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI



Sustenance of life on our planet, to a large extent, depends on the groundwater. Groundwater

supplies a large proportion of the water we use for drinking, sanitation, food production and industrial processes and is equally significant for the healthy functioning of ecosystems

M VENKAIAH NAIDU RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN



Jharoda Kalan, where students will be trained for the armed forces. It will provide free education and have separate hostels for boys and girls

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

During first and second tenure of Nitish Kumar, he turned every villager into a liquor addict and

suddenly imposed a liquor ban law in the state in April 2016. Lakhs of people went to jail on the charge of sale and consumption of liquor. Even the Supreme Court has criticised the liquor ban and terme it short-sighted

SHIVANAND TIWARI RJD NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

6 SL refugees saved by ICG

Chennai: The Indian Coast Guard Tuesday saved six refugees from Sri Lanka who had fled the island nation following the acute financial crisis there. The six refugees, all Sri Lankan nationals including three children, were stranded on the fourth island off the coast of Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. The refugees, according to sources in the Coast Guard, Chennai Unit, said that they were finding it difficult to find food and other essentials in Sri Lanka and had hence escaped to India.

Teacher arrested under POCSO Act



The incident took place hours after the murder of a Trinamool Congress panchayat leader Monday, DGP Manoj Malaviya said in Kolkata



Security personnel stand near the houses that were set on fire by some miscreants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rampurhat/Kolkata, March 22: Eight persons, including two children, died in the early hours of Tuesday after their houses were gutted in a fire at Rampurhat in West Bengal's Birbhum district, police said.

Malaviya said seven charred bodies were recovered from one of the burnt houses, while one injured person died in hospital.

The top police officer said TMC panchayat deputy chief of Barshal village, Bhadu Sheikh, was murdered around 8.30 pm Monday.

Shortly after the murder, at least eight houses were allegedly set on fire in Bogtui village situated on the outskirts of Rampurhat town, which some claimed was in retaliation to the killing.

"The situation is now under control and a police picket has been established in the village since last night. We are investigating how the houses caught fire and whether the incident is related to the death of the TMC panchayat leader, which appears to be due to a deep-rooted personal en-

mity," he said. Asked about claims by some fire brigade officials that 10 bodies were found, the top police officer clarified while seven of them were recovered after the blaze was brought under control, three injured persons were rescued of

Eleven people have been arrested in connection with the incident

> whom one died in a hospital. The SDPO and in-charge of Rampurhat police station have been removed from active policing duty, the DGP said.

The state government has set up a special investigation team headed by ADG (CID) Gyanwant Singh, Malaviya said. The ruling TMC has also sent a

three-member MLA team led by minister Firhad Hakim to the spot to take stock of the situation. The incident triggered a war of words among political parties,

with the opposition BJP and the CPI(M) alleging the state government was trying to hush up the matter. "We condemn such an attempt by the TMC government. The law-

lessness in Bengal is virtually pushing the state towards President's Rule," state BJP leader Manoj Tigga said. The Union Home Ministry

Tuesday sought a report from the West Bengal government. In a communication, the ministry asked the West Bengal government to maintain law and order and ensure security of common people in view of the killings, officials said.

G-23 CHURN CONTINUES After Azad, Sonia now meets Anand Sharma & Manish Tewari Sources said one or more may be

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: Days after meeting Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress president Sonia Gandhi Tuesday met some more leaders of the G-23 grouping including Anand Sharma and Manish Tewari at her residence and held discussions on resolving internal party issues.

It is learnt that during the meeting, the leaders suggested ways to strengthen the party and revive it to help take on the BJP in the next round of elections.

According to the party sources, Gandhi is likely to meet some more leaders of the G-23 in the coming days. Tuesday's interaction was part of the series of meetings that the Congress top leadership is having with some of the leaders who have raised critical organisational issues and have suggested measures to revamp the party.

These meetings are being held amidst indications that some of the G-23 leaders may be accommodated in the Congress Working Committee or a new body like the



Parliamentary Board, which will be responsible for all policy decisions including finalising chief ministerial candidates and tie-ups with like-minded parties in states.

The group is also reportedly seeking the ouster of some Rahul Gandhi loyalists from key AICC positions and top on their target are AICC general secretary Organisation KC Venugopal, chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala and general secretary Ajay Maken.



A worker carries out restoration work at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus heritage building in Mumbai

Danish Siddiqui's parents lodge complaint in ICC

New Delhi, March 22: The fam-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ily of slain Pulitzer-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui has lodged a complaint with the shifted to placate the dissident International Criminal Court to G-23 is a group of dissenting probe his killing and to bring to Congress leaders who have been de-

book those responsible, including high-level commanders and leaders of the Taliban, their lawyer Avi Singh said Tuesday. Siddiqui, 38, was on assignment

in Afghanistan when he was killed July 16 last year. The journalist was covering clashes between Afghan troops and the Taliban in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar city. Addressing a press conference, Singh said the formal complaint has been filed against Taliban commanders, including Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, Supreme Commander of the Taliban; Mullah Hassan Akhund, Head of the Taliban Leadership Council; Mawlawi Muhammad Yaqoob Mujahid, Minister of Defence, Taliban; Gul Agha Sherzai, Governor of the Kandahar Province; Zabbihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson; and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Head of Taliban's Political Office in Qatar.

All Indians bound to reply to census queries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 22: Every Indian national is legally bound to reply to the census questions and all requisite steps are being taken to carry out the census and compilation of the National Population Register (NPR) exercise smoothly, the Parliament was told Tuesday.

"Every person is legally bound to answer the census questions to the best of his or her knowable or belief and all requisite measures are taken with the support of the state governments to conduct the census and the National Population Register (NPR) exercise smoothly," Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told the Lok Sabha in reply to a question.

He also said that under the provisions of the Census Act 1948, the state governments appoint census officers to to aid or supervise the census exercise.

the grouping. open to suggestions from the G-23 and has reached out to them in a bid to resolve the differences within and work out a resolution to strengthen the party. TOILING HARD

Chennai: A 46-year-old government school teacher in Tamil Nadu was arrested under POCSO Act after a ten-yearold girl student filed a complaint of sexual misconduct against him.On the basis of the complaint, he was arrested Monday and sent to a prison. The girl had lodged a complaint with the headmaster who reported the matter to the police. Police, along with a child counsellor, spoke with the child who confirmed that he had misbehaved with her sexually.

Constable killed in gunfight with ultras

Srinagar: A constable was killed in a brief shoot-out between police and terrorists in the Soura area of Srinagar Tuesday, officials said. The terrorists fired on Constable Amir Hussain Lone of Kupwara at Balochipora in the Soura area during a cordon-and-search operation around 2.30 pm, they said. Hussain sustained critical bullet injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where he died, a police official said.

Nalini seeks bail

Chennai: Soon after the Supreme Court granted bail to Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict AG Perarivalan, another convict, Nalini Sriharan is also seeking bail. On Monday, Nalini moved a sub-application in the Madras High Court seeking bail. The sub-application has been moved along with her writ petition of 2020 seeking the court to grant her bail with immediate effect without waiting for the Governor to accord his consent to a 2018 recommendation of the Tamil Nadu government to release all the convicts in the case.

Akhilesh, Azam resign from Lok Sabha

By quitting as a Lok Sabha member, Yadav has sent out a signal that his focus is now the state politics after his party suffered a big defeat against the BJP in the recent Assembly polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yaday Tuesday resigned as the member of Lok Sabha from Azamgarh constituency, deciding to retain the Karhal assembly seat he won in the recently held Uttar Pradesh polls. Senior Samajwadi Party leader and Rampur MP Azam Khan, who



like Yadav won in the assembly polls, has also sent his resignation from Lok Sabha to the Speaker's office, sources said. Khan is currently in jail on criminal charges. Though an MP is generally required to submit his resignation in person so that the Speaker can verify from him

that he is quitting voluntarily and not under duress, former Lok Sabha secretary general P D T Achary said the Chair can use other means also to convince himself about the bonafides of a member's decision to resign if for some reason he cannot come personally.

Yadav met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Parliament House to put in his papers. The Samajwadi Party tweeted a short video of the party supremo handing over the resignation letter to Birla.

It is the practice of the Chair to announce the acceptance of a member's resignation in the House.

Akhilesh Yadav had won the Karhal assembly seat in Mainpuri district in the recently-held assembly polls, defeating Union minister S P Singh Baghel.

Cabinet nod to Bill to merge 3 Delhi municipal corporations

PTI PHOTO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 22: The Centre Tuesday approved the unification bill to merge the three Municipal Corporations of Delhi.

The decision to merge these three agencies of the MCD was approved by the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday.

As per government sources, the Bill for "The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022" is likely to be tabled in Parliament during the coming week and will unify the MCD by subsuming the existing three bodies. The erstwhile MCD was trifurcated into three civic bodies -= South Delhi Municipal

Corporation (SDMC), North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC). and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) -- in 2011 through the Delhi Municipal Corporation Amendment Act, 1911 (Delhi Act, 12 Of 2011). However, this trifurcation of the corporation was uneven in terms of the territorial divisions and revenue generating potential of each corporation.

The gap then widened over a period of time, increasing the financial difficulties of the three civic bodies, leaving them incapacitated to make timely payment of salaries and retirement benefits to their employees and thereby creating serious impediments in maintaining civic services in Delhi.

Acquittal by court does not stop action by employer: SC

THE RULES OF EVIDENCE WHICH APPLY TO A CRIMINAL TRIAL ARE DISTINCT FROM THOSE WHICH GOVERN A DISCIPLINARY ENOURY, THE APEX COURT SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: The acquittal of an accused in a criminal case does not debar the employer from proceeding in exercise of disciplinary jurisdiction, the Supreme Court said Tuesday.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant allowed the appeal against the November 2017 judgement of the Karnataka High Court which had set aside the verdict of the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal directing compulsory retirement of an employee from service following a disciplinary enquiry on the charges of bribery.

"Unlike a criminal prosecution where the charge has to be established beyond reasonable doubt,

in a disciplinary proceeding, a charge of misconduct has to be established on a preponderance of

probabilities," the bench said. The top court observed that in a prosecution for an offence punishable under the criminal law, the burden lies on the prosecution to establish the ingredients of the offence beyond reasonable doubt. The bench said purpose of a dis-

ciplinary proceeding by an employer is to enquire into an allegation of misconduct by an employee which results in violation of the service rules governing the relationship of employment. "The acquittal of the accused

in a criminal case does not debar the employer from proceeding in the exercise of disciplinary jurisdiction," it said while setting aside



judgement The apex court delivered its ver-

It noted that the man was working as a village accountant in Bijapur district in Karnataka and

the charge against him was that he had demanded bribe for deleting the name of a person with regard to a land situated in a village.

A criminal complaint was registered with the Lokayukta police against him for the commission of alleged offences punishable under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Following investigation, a charge sheet was filed against him in a court which later acquitted him of all charges in October 2013.

A disciplinary enquiry was initiated under Section 7(2) of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, 1984 and the Karnataka Upa Lokayukta, while holding that a prima facie case was established, recommended initiation of disciplinary proceedings against him.

Later, in January 2015, the Lokayukta held that the charge against him was proved and recommended the penalty of compulsory retirement from service.

The disciplinary authority issued a show cause notice to the man who contended that since the special judge had acquitted him on the same set of facts and evidence, there was no ground to hold him guilty of misconduct in the disciplinary proceedings.

The disciplinary authority had ২ June 2015 held that the misconduct was proved and imposed a penalty of compulsory retirement.

The man then moved the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal which upheld the order of compulsory retirement. The matter then reached the high court.







dict on the appeals arising out of

the high court's November 2017







Pb: Martyrdom day of Bhagat K-Rail: Who will rein in Vijayan? Singh to be gazetted holiday

The House also passed a resolution to install statues of Bhagat Singh, Dr BR Ambedkar and first Sikh ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the Vidhan Sabha complex

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 22: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann declared a holiday March 23, the martyrdom day of legendary freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.

He made the announcement on the concluding day of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha session here Tuesday

The House also passed a reso lution to install statues of Bhagat Singh, Dr BR Ambedkar and first Sikh ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the Vidhan Sabha complex.

Announcing the holiday on the martyrdom day of the freedom fighters, Mann said earlier it was declared only in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district to facilitate people from nearby areas to pay tributes at the martyr's memorial in Khatkar Kalan.

Now, the state government has decided to declare a holiday on this day across the state so as to enable the maximum number of people from across the state to pay their tributes to the great martyrs at Khatkar Kalan and Hussainiwala, said Mann.



Mann-Modi meet March 24

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi Thursday, official sources said Tuesday. It is going to be Mann's first meeting with Modi after being sworn in as the chief minister of Punjab. Mann will be meeting Modi at 11am Thursday, the sources said. Mann in a tweet in Hindi said, "After taking over as the chief minister of Punjab, I have sought time from prime minister and home minister for a courtesy call and to discuss issues related to Punjab.'

To this, Congress MLA Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said rather than announcing a holiday, it would be good if students in schools, colleges and employees be told about the life and sacrifice of Bhagat Singh. Reacting

Thereafter, the House passed to it, Mann asked the former transport minister whether he knew when Bhagat Singh was born. "You (Warring) do not know

about it? It is September 28. There will be plays in schools and colleges depicting the life of the martyr on this day," Mann said.

Earlier, Mann proposed that statutes of Bhagat Singh and Dr BR Ambedkar be installed in the

Vidhan Sabha. "As an indebted nation, we can never forget the contribution of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, who laid down his life for the freedom of the country. Likewise, Dr BR Ambedkar shaped the destiny of the country in pre and post independence era as the chief architect of the Indian constitution.' said Mann. Describing them as great leaders, Mann said they will always remain a source of inspiration for millions of people.

Hailing Mann's proposal Congress legislator Partap Singh Bajwa urged that the statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh be also installed.

a resolution on installing statues of Bhagat Singh, Dr BR Ambedkar and Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the Vidhan Sabha.

VIJAYAN HAS GONE ON RECORD TO SAY THAT COME WHAT MAY, THE PROJECT WILL CONTINUE AND THAT HE WILL NOT **BE COWED DOWN BY PROTESTERS WHO ARE BEING LED BY THE CONGRESS AND THE BJP**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, March 22: Ever since Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan guided the Left to a historic win in the April 2021 Assembly polls, becoming the first person to have led a CPI-M government to power for a successive term, he has emerged as a figure no one dares to question.

But with K-Rail, the pet project of Vijayan, starting to go forward with a preliminary survey, it has left the state fuming. For the past one week, massive protests have broken out across the state wherever the project officials are reaching to lay the marking stones as part of the social impact assessment study. In the past several days, the po-

lice are having a tough time and at a few places, the protesters were roughed up by the police. On Tuesday morning in

Malappuram, when the K-Rail officials arrived with a huge police



force, angry locals, especially women, warned Vijayan asking him not to forget that there are more polls to come. In Kottayam, former Home Minister and veteran Congress legislator Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan led the protesters saying the marking stones that have been laid will be pulled out very soon.

CPI-M state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan warned that the protests are a bid to bring back what happened in 1959 when the world's first democratically elected Communist government headed by EMS Nampoothiripad was overthrown by the Centre after huge protests broke out soon after he took over in 1957.

On Tuesday mormning, former CPI-M minister and party central committee member AK Balan echoed Balakrishnan's statement.

"What happened in Changnacherry protests against K-Rail is a re-run of what happened in 1957 when the first protests to overthrow the EMS government began at the same place. But times and things have changed and it will be a futile attempt to revisit those protests. The opposition is hell bent on creating trouble and they want a martyr in the protests,' said Balan.

Asked about the protests, State Revenue Minister K Rajan from the CPI refused to comment saying he will make his views clear at an appropriate time.

Nobody from Vijayan's party or from the allies has spoken a single word against this project, despite massive protests from all quarters. The other day the kith and kin of legendary late CPI leaders in the state wrote a letter to

Vijayan asking him to recon-

sider this project. Meanwhile, Vijayan has gone on record to say that come what may, the project will continue and that he will not be cowed down by protesters who are being led by the Congress and the BJP.

But according to a media critic on condition of anonymity, even though outside there is not even a murmur of protest either in the party or in the Left Front, talks have begun and it's now only a matter of time when things will come out in the open.

None in the CPI-M will dare to come out at the moment, as the 23rd Party Congress is being held early next month in Kannur- the home town of Vijayan. The stage is such that even the national leadership of the CPI-M is at the mercy of Vijayan and even though Sitaram Yechuri strongly opposed the Mumbai-Ahmedabad rail corridor, he has uttered no word on the K-Rail. All eyes are on what the national leadership of the CPI-M do when they come to Kannur. So as things stand now, very soon one can see the first signs of a surge against Vijayan, said the critic.

If completed, it will see a 529.45 km corridor connecting Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod with high speed trains covering the distance in around four hours.

As per NITI Aayog, it might cost ₹1.24 lakh crore when it nears completion in 2025, while the detailed project report on this published by the Pinarayi Vijayan government says it will cost ₹63,940 crore.

HC setback for KSRTC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, March 22: In a jolt to the KSRTC, the Kerala High Court Tuesday refused to stay stateowned oil marketing companies' (OMCs) decision to increase fuel prices for bulk diesel purchase.

As soon as the hike was announced, the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) had announced they would approach the Kerala High Court.

With the current price hike which came into effect from last week, bulk consumers will have to pay ₹121.36 per litre.

The public utility already reeling under huge losses will have to shell out around ₹80 lakh per day and hence they have been refilling fuel from different fuel pumps.

The court said this is a policy decision and it cannot intervene in this issue. If the government had not been pumping funds into the KSRTC, it would have closed down. Over 35,000 employees are working in the corporation, which operates 5,000 buses, has around 5,100 schedules and runs on an average of 1.6 million km every day. The matter has been posted

till April 4.





his death anniversary, in Amritsar, Tuesday

Four Punjab ministers face serious criminal cases: ADR-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, March 22: Seven of the 11 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ministers in Punjab have been facing criminal cases, four of them serious charges, while two of them are doctors and two advocates, an analysis by a poll rights group has said.

The Punjab Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) have analysed the affidavits of all 11 ministers, including Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

According to ADR, seven ministers (64 per cent) had declared criminal cases against them. Four of them (36 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against them. Nine ministers are multimillionber of the Revolutionary Marxist Party of India before joining AAP.

Another matriculate Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, 60, who has been allotted the portfolios of Rural Development and Panchayats, Animal Husbandry and NRI Affairs. had roots in the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist).

Meanwhile, Shanker, 56, a Congress rebel and four-time municipal councillor who has been given the portfolios of Revenue. Rehabilitation and Disaster Management, has the highest liabilities of ₹1.08 crore.

The ADR said five ministers (45 per cent) have declared their educational qualification below Class 12, while the remaining are graduate or above. Two of them are doctors by profession -- Dr Baljit Kaur, who did MS (Ophthalmology) from Baba Farid University of Health Science in 2010, and Dr Vijay Singla, who did Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Punjabi University in Patiala in 1992. Six ministers (55 per cent) are of the age between 31 and 50, while five (45 per cent) between 51 and 60

Kartarpur corridor



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amritsar, March 22: It could be the rendition of Sufi singer Arif Lohar's famous song 'Jugni' or the beats of dhol or horse dance show enthralling the 'audience' at Kartapur Corridor in the Naorwal district of Pakistan during Jashne-Baharan festival being organised by Pakistan government from March 23 to 27 but could hurt the Sikh religious sentiments.

The scheduled festival is believed to be a desperate attempt of the Pakistan government to 'commercialise' the Kartarpur Corridor and increase its income. Earlier, it had allowed a cycle and a motorcycle rally to culminate at the Kartarpur Corridor

The Kartapur Corridor was constructed jointly by India and Pakistan for the Indian Sikh pilgrims to pay obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib, about 4.5 km from India-Pakistan international border, via Integrated Check Post at Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Pakistan, and return on the same day.

The cultural and entertainment activities hosted by Pakistan at one of the holiest places of Sikhs could invite the wrath of Sikhs.

Muhammad Latif, Chief Executive Officer of Project Management informed media that the Jashn-e-Bahar would be held from March 23 to 27 at Kartarpur Corridor, Narowal.

The Kartapur Corridor was constructed jointly by India and Pakistan for the Indian Sikh pilgrims to pay obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib, about 4.5 km from India-Pak international border

The cultural and entertainment activities hosted by Pakistan at one of the holiest places of Sikhs could invite the wrath of Sikhs

The events during the scheduled function include Pakistan Day Celebration, Sufi Music Evening, Qawwali Night, Cultural Day, and Family Gathering. He informed that Sufi singer Arif Lohar would be the star attraction of the show besides other artists.

The festival is being held adjacent to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib. "We have taken care and ensured that rehat maryada (Sikh code of religious conduct) is not violated," said Latif.

Sources said the Pakistan government spends anything between ₹5 to 6 crore per month on the upkeep and the maintenance of Kartapur Corridor and had employed over 1,000 employees. They have a capacity to cater to the needs of 5,000 pilgrims per day but postoutbreak of Covid-19, the number of devotees visiting Kartapur Sahib was left to around 200 to 300 per day.

4th edition of India Boat and Marine Show from March 25

Nearly 45 exhibitors will display their products and services at the expo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, March 22: The fourth edition of India Boat and Marine Show (IBMS) will be held as a physical expo at Bolgatty Palace here from March 25 to 27. The event, which has emerged

as the country's premier boat and marine industry-related expo, will include a full range of stakeholders from the recreational and leisure boating market, Cruz Expos, the organisers of the event said. Nearly 45 exhibitors will dis-



play their products and services at the expo, including speed boats, engines, navigational and other systems and equipment, other supply and service providers, the organisers said in a release Tuesday.

The expo will be formally inaugurated by Kerala Industries Minister R Rajeev and the keynote address will be delivered by Ravi, DIG, Indian Coast Guard, the release said.

Joseph Kuriakose, the Director of Cruz Expos, said Kochi has emerged as a maritime hub due to various factors including being an all-weather port and being located in the most strategic location along the east-west trade route.

This year's expo will include a full range of stakeholders from the recreational and leisure boating market, including speed boats, engines, navigational and other systems and equipment, other supply and service providers. The event will not be just about boats and marine equipment, but will cover all water sports and activities, Kuriakose said.

aires with each having average assets of ₹2.87 crore and equal number of them have liabilities.

The richest among them is Class 12 passout Bram Shanker from Hoshiarpur, whose assets have worth ₹8.56 crore, while matriculate Lal Chand Kataruchak, 51. from Bhoa (reserved constituency) has declared the lowest assets of ₹6.19 lakh. Kataruchak was a mem-



RUBBER ESTATE FACES 'JUMBO TRESPASS'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, March 22: A rubber estate bordering the forests in Kerala's Thrissur has been "overrun" by wild trespassers and a group of state forest officials are working day and night to see how soon they can drive off the over 40 wild adult and baby elephants who are comfortably ensconced there.

Top forest official Prem Sankar. and his team, are stationed at the Cochin-Malabar rubber estate near Thrissur, about 220 kms from the state capital, for the past one week. "The elephants have strayed into

the rubber estate from the forests... there is a stream that flows through



groups," he said.

"The elephants do not appear to be that violent but they are very protective of the baby elephants

Forest officials have advised the rubber tappers not to come to the plantation early in the morning for work

which are also there in the groups. We have now moved these wild elephants about 1.5 km by bursting crackers. So far, we have counted 37 elephants but there are more."

Incidentally, on account of the new "residents" in the rubber estate, the nearly 150 are having a problem as their schedule of waking up early in the morning and starting tapping the rubber around 4am is not possible.

"We have asked the rubber tappers to see that they should not venture out before sunrise as spotting an elephant in the dark is tough. We have also told them not to move alone but only in groups. We are now holding a meeting of various departments and also the local population to discuss various options on how soon we can put these wild elephants back into their natural habitation," Sankar said.

With the mercury rising, it is common for elephants to go in search for fresh water and of late, parts of Kerala have been witnessing unprecedented heat andthis movement of elephants can be attributed to it.



the estate and most of the time,

they are there. They have been in

the estate for around a week now

and are mostly divided into two









national



India has one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturing industries which supplies vaccines to more than 150 countries and meets 65-70 per cent of the WHO's vaccine requirements MANSUKH MANDAVIYA UNION HEALTH MINISTER

LALU'S HEALTH CONDITION DETERIORATES

Incarcerated Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad's health condition has deteriorated and he has been shifted to AIIMS, New Delhi for better treatment, officials said



ministers of state for home af-

fairs Nityanand Rai and Nitish



When Jayalalithaa was admitted to Apollo hospital, Sasikala told me a few times that

Jayalalithaa was doing fine. I was not aware of the food given to the former Chief Minister. Personally, I still have high regards and respect for VK Sasikala

O PANNEERSELVAM AIADMK LEADER



political reasons. The Union and state governments should not enter into a new blame game and ensure holding of MCD elections as soon as possible

AJAY MAKEN CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

Whatever happened in 1990 was a tragedy. My Kashmiri pandit brothers and sisters had to leave their homes. I would like everything to be investigated properly as to who were the 'parties'

interested in ethnic cleansing at that part of the time FAROOQ ABDULLAH FORMER JAMMU AND

KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Man gets 10-yr jail in rape case

Nagaon: A person accused of raping a six-year old minor girl was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment by a special judge of the Nagaon district court Tuesday. The judge, Ipsita Barthakur, also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on him and ordered increase of the prison sentence by another three months if the convict failed to pay the fine on time. The person had lured the girl, belonging to the same village in Nagaon district, to his house and repeatedly raped her in 2018.

2 men gunned down in clash

Amritsar: Two men were shot



Significant number

of terrorists present

in Pak, PoK: Govt

in launch pads

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's brother-in-law found himself targeted by the Enforcement Directorate Tuesday with the agency freezing ₹6.45 crore in his assets in a money laundering case, officials said

> connection with the case. Subsequent probes revealed that Mahesh Patel had siphoned off and layered funds of Pushpak Group's concern, Pushpak Realty, in connivance with Nandkishore

Chaturvedi, who provided the 'accommodation entry'. Under the garb of a sale, Pushpak Realty transferred funds to the tune of ₹20.02 crore back to Chaturvedi after lavering it through various connected/unconnected entities, said the ED. The ED said Chaturvedi, who operates several shell companies, further transferred these monies through his bogus company, Humsafar Dealer Pvt Ltd, under the cover of extending'unsecured loans' of more than ₹30 crore to Shree Saibaba Grihanirmiti Pvt Ltd. Accordingly, the agency said that the money siphoned off by Mahesh Patel in connivance with Chaturvedi was finally parked in the realty projects of the housing company owned/controlled by

Patankar, the CM's brother-in-law. The development came soon after Shiv Sena MP and its chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut accused the BJP of letting loose various central probe agencies against the state leaders in a bid to topple the Maha Vikas Aghadi government comprising Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress.

Reacting to the latest ED action, BJP activist and ex-MP Kirit



Pramaik gave details of steps taken by the government in countering the menace of infiltration and dropping of arms and am-

munition using drones Rai told the house that the infiltration across the LoC has decreased significantly since 2018 in Jammu and Kashmir. He said in 2021, the figure of infiltration stood at 34 whereas it was 143 in 2018, 138 in 2019 and 51 in 2020. However, there was a word of

caution as the minister informed the house that "as per inputs, a significant number of suspected terrorists remain present at various launch pads in Pakistan/Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)". Pakistan and India have been observing a ceasefire along the LoC for over a year now. He said the government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain cross-border infiltration which includes multitiered deployment along the international border and LoC, border fencing, improved intelligence and operational coordination, equipping security forces with advanced weapons and taking proactive action against infiltrators



A fisherman spreads a fishing net in the river Brahmaputra in Guwahati

Oppn attacks govt, protests in Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: Opposition parties Tuesday attacked the government over the rise in prices of cooking gas, petrol and diesel, alleging it had held back for the last few months only because of elections and had once again "inflicted pain" on the common man as the assembly polls were over.

They also protested in both houses of Parliament, with parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC, NCP, JMM, CPI, CPI-M, IUML, RSP, MDMK and VCK walking out from the Lok Sabha, while their members protested in Rajva Sabha forcing the chair to adjourn the House twice.

The Congress accused the government of "looting" ₹10,000 crore through this "triple assault" on

Explaining the reasons why it

happened, IMD's Director General,

Meteorology, Mrutyunjay

Mohapatra said: "The system

moved a little faster than expected

and started interacting with the

land surface (the northern end

touching Myanmar). Also, the ver-

tical wind shear was expected to be

at 5-10 knots but it was actually

15-20 knots." In December last year,

when IMD had predicted the Jawad,

which had originated in the Bay of

Bengal, will gain increased speed

as it reached Puri onwards towards

West Bengal, it may witness less

speed but the cyclone weakened

even before it reached Puri.



prices has been lifted and the government will now increase their cost as assembly elections are now over. The Congress party in a statement demanded that the rise in petrol, diesel and gas prices be taken back and brought to the level that existed during the UPA rule.

"The 'lockdown' imposed on the prices of gas, diesel and petrol has been lifted. Now the government

Akhilesh Yadav said, "Another gift of inflation given by the BJP government to the public... LPG cylinder in Lucknow is now near the ₹1000 mark and crosses ₹1000 in Patna! Elections end, inflation starts..

Opposing the move, CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury tweeted, "Modi government's cruel whiplashing of people. Prices of petrol, diesel and

PTI PHOTO

Cov regulation for air travels relaxed -

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has relaxed Covid-19-related regulations stating that cabin crew members need not wear PPE kit, airlines need not keep three seats vacant on international flights for medical emergencies and security personnel at airports can resume patdown search of passengers.

The relaxation has been given to facilitate "smooth conduct of air operations", the ministry's order, dated March 21, stated.

The aviation market in India is currently recovering after the Omicron variant suppressed the demand in January. Around 76.96 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in February approximately 20 per cent more than in January

dead Tuesday in a clash in Anayatpur village allegedly over harassment of a woman. police here said. The deceased were identified as Surmu (22) and Arri (32), said police. They said that the shooting arose out of an altercation that took place between two groups over some minor issue. However, the victims' families challenged the version, alleging that the assailants were harassing some women and when they were asked to stop. they opened fire. Police said several police teams have been dispatched to nab the accused.

Major fertilizer scam busted

Guwahati: The Assam Police's CID has busted a major fertiliser scam in Assam and arrested nine people, including owners of various retail and wholesale outlets and hoarders, officials said Tuesday. A police spokesman said that following the direction of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the CID had earlier registered a criminal case and conducted raids at various places in Morigaon, Kamrup, Darrang, Cachar, Goalpara, and Darrang districts recently.

BSF officer found dead

Jammu: The body of a Border Security Force (BSF) officer was found hanging inside his quarters in a camp in J&K's Rajouri district Tuesday, police said. Police sources said at around 6 p.m., the body of BSF Sub-Inspector Ladup Bomza was found inside his quarters in the camp in Sunderbani area of Rajouri. Inquest proceedings have been started into the death of the sub-inspector who belonged to West Bengal.

said. Till date, the central probe agency has attached other properties worth ₹21.46 crore owned by Mahesh Patel, Chandrakant Patel, their family members and companies controlled by them, in

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 22: Faster

speed and wind shear were the two

major factors that prevented the

deep depression skirting Andaman

& Nicobar Islands from intensify-

ing into a cyclonic storm Tuesday.

Department (IMD) had been pre-

dicting till Monday that the deep

depression would intensify into

Cyclone Asani Tuesday and hit

the Myanmar coast Wednesday

in the early hours. However, the

system did not intensify as a cyclone

and remained as deep depression

and even hit the Myanmar coast in

the afternoon Tuesday itself.

The India Meteorological

AGENCIES

Mumbai, March 22: In a major

development, the Enforcement

Directorate (ED) said Tuesday that

it has attached immovable prop-

erties worth around ₹6.45 core be-

longing to Pushpak Group's entity,

These include 11 flats in the

Neelambari project in Thane, be-

longing to Shree Saibaba

Grihanirmiti Pvt Ltd, which is

owned and controlled by Shridhar

Patankar is the brother-in-law of

Maharashtra Chief Minister

Uddhav Thackeray (brother of

Thackeray's wife Rashmi

Thackeray). The action follows a

money-laundering case registered

in March 2017 against Pushpak

Bullion and other group compa-

nies under the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA), the ED

Pushpak Bullion, in Thane.

Madhav Patankar.

Somaiya said that Thackeray's brother-in-law (brother of Rashmi Thackerav) is involved in "money laundering scam" with "use of shell companies" and "scamsters will not be spared".

Asani, the cyclone that was not!

The IMD's initial forecast, even

when the system was just a low

pressure area, had mentioned wind

speeds would increase to 70-80 kmph,

gusting to 90 kmph, which was then

revised to 65-75 kmph, gusting to 85

kmph, by Monday evening. The ob-

servations show that the actual

wind speed was recorded at 55-65

the poor and common people and said it had warned of such price hike after the assembly election in five states. Several party leaders including Rahul Gandhi said the "lockdown" on petrol, diesel and gas

kmph gusting to 75.

will continuously increase the prices. If you ask the prime minister about the epidemic of inflation, he will say #ThaliBajao, Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. Samajwadi Party leader

cooking gas hiked massively. Cascading inflationary impact will push up already soaring prices of all essentials. Inhuman callousness. Withdraw central cess/surcharges now.'



The Ministry of Civil Aviation

(MoCA), in its order, said that the

restriction of keeping three seats

vacant on international flights for

No re-exam if candidate fails to appear: UPSC to apex court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 22: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has informed the Supreme Court that there is no provision to conduct a re-examination, if a candidate fails to take the test on the scheduled date for any reasons.

In an affidavit, filed in the top court, the UPSC said it usually holds 13 examinations, apart from several recruitment tests, during a year and there is no provision for holding a re-examination in case a candidate fails to appear in the examination, for

any reason including any ailment or accident incapacitating him or her. It said it conducts the civil services examination strictly in accordance with the rules of examination framed annually by the government. It clarified that any decision regarding age relaxation and compensatory/extra attempt is a policy matter falling under the domain of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

On Monday, the top court was informed that the call regarding extra attempts to appear in the UPSC examination will have to be taken by the DoPT.

handling medical emergencies related to Covid-19 stands removed. "Airlines may carry a few additional PPE protective gears, sanitiser and N-95 masks, to handle any respiratory infections related to cases on air, for passengers as well as the crew," the MoCA noted.

It said it had allowed full domestic flight operations from October 18, 2021, and has now decided to recommence scheduled international flight operations from March 27, 2022, "in view of the declining Covid-19 cases, high level of vaccinations and prevailing Covid-19 situation".

Covid-19 vaccines not mandatory: Centre to SC

The Centre had earlier told the apex court that all documents related to Covid-19 vaccines and their compositions were available in public domain, and the vaccine had proven to be very effective and safe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: The centre Tuesday clarified in the Supreme Court that it has not made Covid-19 vaccines mandatory and has

only said that the vaccination should be 100 per cent.

The clarification from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, came after Additional Advocate General for Tamil Nadu Amit Anand Tiwari told a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai that the union government had issued a mandate to us that 100 per cent people should be vaccinated. "Milords one clarification... That the State of Tamil Nadu said they made it mandatory as the Centre said 100 per cent vaccination. This is not a mandate. The Centre has not issued any mandate, the stand

of centre is that it should be 100 per

cent but it is not a mandate," Mehta

Representational image

told the top court which reserved its order on the plea seeking directions for disclosure of data on clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccines and post-jab cases. At the outset, Tiwari submitted

that Tamil Nadu has come out with the vaccination mandate for the reason that vaccination against Covid-19 is essential to prevent serious disease in the population. He said that the vaccination mandate is in larger public interest with a view to provide security from higher epidemics.

"I have submitted expert reports. Unvaccinated people are the cause of mutation of viruses . Where there is a likelihood that it would infect others or if there is a likelihood of spread, we have the power to issue such mandates... There is enough evidence to show that vaccines are preventing serious disease.'

"It is further submitted that these provisions are also designed to nudge the public into getting vaccinated to stop the spread of disease. They are passed not only for the safety of the concerned individual but also serve a greater purpose of ensuring the safety of others," he said.

The counsel for Maharashtra government also justified the state government orders which mandated the taking of Covid vaccines to access public areas.

The counsel for Bharat Biotech Ltd submitted that it has extensively published the findings of clinical trials in publicly available reputed peer-reviewed journals and are available on its website.

The centre had earlier told the apex court that all documents related to Covid-19 vaccines and their compositions were available in public domain, and thevaccine had proven to be very effective and safe.



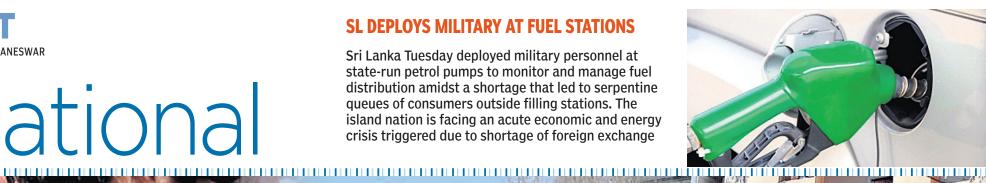
international

OrissaPOST

VEDNESDAY | MARCH 23 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

SL DEPLOYS MILITARY AT FUEL STATIONS

Sri Lanka Tuesday deployed military personnel at state-run petrol pumps to monitor and manage fuel distribution amidst a shortage that led to serpentine queues of consumers outside filling stations. The island nation is facing an acute economic and energy crisis triggered due to shortage of foreign exchange



A UKRAINE OF DESTRUCTION, FEAR, PAIN

Kyiv: Ukraine said it retook a strategically important suburb of Kyiv Tuesday, as Russian forces squeezed other areas near the capital and pressed their attack on the embattled southern port of Mariupol.

Explosions and bursts of gunfire shook Kyiv, and black smoke rose from a spot in the north. Intensified artillery fire could be heard from the northwest, where Russia has sought to encircle and capture several suburban areas of the capital, a crucial target.

Residents sheltered at home or underground under a 35-hour curfew imposed by city authorities that runs to Wednesday morning. Russian forces also continued their siege of Mariupol after the southern port city's defenders refused demands to surrender, with fleeing civilians describing relentless bombardments and corpses lying in the streets. But the Kremlin's ground offensive in other parts of the country advanced slowly or not at all, knocked back by lethal hitand-run attacks by the Ukrainians.

Early Tuesday, Ukrainian troops drove Russian forces out of the Kyiv suburb of Makariv after a fierce battle, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said. The regained territory allowed Ukrainian forces to retake control of a key highway and block Russian troops from surrounding Kviv from the northwest

Still, the Defense Ministry said Russian forces were able to partially take other northwest sub-

RAGES Putin may deliberately

Kyiv because

some of which had been under attack almost since Russia's militarv invaded almost a month ago.

impose

unrealistic

demands on

he wants to

conquer not

only Ukraine

but also the

Baltic states

VOLODYMYR

Russia's invasion has driven more than 10 million people from their homes, almost a quarter of Ukraine's pre-war population, ac-

U.N. Has confirmed 953 civilian deaths while saying the real toll is probably much higher. Estimates of Russian military ca-

sualties in the grinding war have been hard to come by and vary, but even conservative figures by

Medyka (Poland): Yulia Bondarieva

spent 10 days in a basement as Russian

planes flew over and bombs were falling

on the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. Having

reached safety in Poland, Bondarieva's

only wish now is for her twin sister in the

besieged city of Mariupol to get out, too.

February 24, they have not been out at all,"

Bondarieva said. "They are running out

of food and water." Bondarieva, 24, man-

aged to speak to her sister on the phone

recently. The fear of what will happen to

her in the encircled and bombed-out city

that is going through some of the worst

fighting in the war has been overwhelming.

city." Bondarieva said after arriving in

the Polish border town of Medyka. Before

She does not know how to leave the

'They have been in the basement since

thousands. Russia has not given an update since it said March 2 that 498 soldiers had been killed in action in Ukraine. Russia's pro-Kremlin Komsomolskava Pravda newspaper, citing the Defense Ministry, briefly reported Monday that almost 10,000 Russian soldiers working

Washington

must stop

escalating tensions if

it wishes to normalise

ties with Moscow

SERGEI RYABKOV

RUSSIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN

MINISTER

Bombs, half-empty cities, hunger

on Monday, but other at-

tempts have been

had been killed. The report was quickly removed, and newspaper blamed hackers. The Kremlin refused to comment on Tuesday. Beyond the terrible human toll, the war has shaken the post-Cold War global security consensus, imperiled the global supply of key crops including wheat, and repeatedly raised worries it could set off a nuclear accident. Ukraine's natural resources minister said wildfires near the Chernobyl nuclear power plant have been extinguished

🗋 ussian President Vladimir Putin's forces are increasingly concentrating their air power and artillery on Ukraine's cities and the civilians living there

alks to end the fighting have continued by video but failed to bridge the chasm between the two sides

and radiation levels in the area are within norms. Fires are not uncommon in the area, but raise concern about the potential release of radiation from fallout from the 1986 explosion and fire at the plant.

Concerns have been expressed for safety at the decommissioned plant since it was seized by Russian forces last month. The power supply was temporarily cut amid fighting earlier this month, and Ukraine's nuclear regulatory agency said Monday that radiation monitors around the plant had stopped

India 'somewhat shaky': Biden



Washington: US President Joe Biden has said that India is being "somewhat shaky" in terms of showing support against the Russian invasion of Ukraine as he asserted that most of the friends and allies of America have presented a united front in terms of dealing with Vladimir Putin's "aggression".

February 24. Russian forces launched military operations in Ukraine, three days after Moscow recognised Ukraine's breakaway regions -Donetsk and Luhansk - as independent entities. "The one thing I'm confident, knowing Putin fairly well — as well as, I guess, another leader could know one another — is that he was counting on being able to split NATO. He never thought NATO would stay resolved stay totally, thoroughly united. And I can assure you, NATO has never been stronger or more united in its entire history than it is today, in large part, because of Vladimir Putin," Biden told a busiAustralia, in terms of dealing with Putin's aggression," he said.

Last month, Biden had said that India and the US were trying to resolve their differences on the issue of Russian aggression against Ukraine. "We presented a united front throughout NATO and the Pacific, and you did a hell of a lot to help us impose sanctions and incur costs, real costs, on

urbs, Bucha, Hostomel and Irpin,

cording to the United Nations. The

Western officials are in the low

ASSOCIATED PRESS

the city" in Mariupol, and

people not being allowed out.

'Civilians cannot leave," she

said. "They don't give them

77-year-old refugee from

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mariupol who arrived Monday

in Medyka, said 90% of the city has been

anything." Maria Fiodorova, a

ness roundtable of CEOs on Monday. "But in response to his aggression, there has been - he's pretty we presented a united front throughout NATO and in the Pacific. The QUAD is, with the possible exception of India being somewhat shaky on some of this. But Japan has been extremely strong, so has

the Russian economy. We are seeing now **Russia's false**

The

(NATO) is a group of 30 North American and European nations. According to NATO, its purpose "is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members

and military means"

The QUAD - comprising Japan, India, Australia and the United States - is not an alliance but a grouping of countries driven by shared interests and values and interested in strengthening a rules-based order in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region. Press trust of India/ Reuters Photos

that it mattered. It was really important what you all did. Not every one of you, but I'm not suggesting you all had to. But those of you who did step up, it made a big difference," he said.

accusation that Ukraine has biological and chemical weapons is a 'clear sign' that a desperate **President Vladimir Putin is considering** using them himself. He's already used chemical weapons in the past and we should be careful of what's about to come JOE BIDEN I US PRESIDENT

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

through political



of a humanitarian corridor, including 3,000

2 teachers killed, student arrested

Stockholm: Two teachers were killed by a student at a high school in southern Sweden, police said Tuesday. The 18-year-old student was arrested at the scene Monday in Malmo, Sweden's third-largest city, for killing the women who were in their fifties, police said. The suspect was not previously known to the police and had no criminal record, and police did not disclose how the teachers were killed. A motive has not been established."For now it is far too early to comment on that," Malmo Police Chief Petra Stenkula told a news conference. She said officers arrived and found the suspect and two victims on the third floor of the downtown Malmo Latin School 10 minutes after they were alerted, adding that the situation was then "under control".

Canada PM Trudeau strikes deal

Toronto: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday his

Liberal Party has reached an agreement with the opposition New Democratic Party that would keep his party in power until 2025. "What this means is during this uncertain time the government can function with predictability and stability, present and implement budgets and get things done

pass legislation.

for Canadians," Trudeau said. Trudeau's Liberal Party won reelection in September but failed to win a majority of seats in Parliament and must rely on the opposition to

Imran's 'forgiveness' offer rejected

Islamabad: Rejecting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's offer of "forgiveness" ahead of voting on the noconfidence motion, the ruling PTI's dissident lawmakers have refused to rejoin the party, The News reported. PTI minority lawmaker Dr Ramesh Kumar claimed that the

number of dissident MNAs of the ruling party has surged to 35, adding that none of them will rejoin PTI, the report said. Ramesh Kumar said stability is a must to steer Pakistan in the right direction. The disgruntled lawmaker said that he

put up all issues before the Prime Minister, but nothing was done for the welfare of the minorities. Responding to a question, he said that three or four of the dissidents were elected on reserved seats while the remaining are all senior politicians.



warned of potential blackouts here due to a shortfall in power generation after several coal-fired plants temporarily stopped generating electricity following an earthquake last week. The rare alert on Tuesday came as people used more heat than usual due to snow and unusually cold weather for the early spring. The magnitude-7.4 earthquake off the coast of Fukushima on March 16 killed four people and injured more than 230 others. It was a reminder of the deadly March 2011 guake and tsunami that killed thousands, triggered a nuclear disaster and devastated northeastern Japan's coast. Last week's quake caused temporary power outages, peaking at two million homes in Tokvo and eight other areas, as the coal-fired plants in the region serviced by the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings assessed and repaired damage. Several plants are still down and might not resume operations for several months. With the power grid under unusual strain, Economy and Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda warned the conservation effort might not avert blackouts. He asked department stores, supermarkets and convenience stores to turn off their neon signs and urged factories to conserve as much power as possible. Tokyo's Haneda International Airport turned off some lighting and air conditioning in its terminals.

No survivors found in plane crash

destroyed.

Beijing: Over a day after a passenger aircraft with 132 people on board crashed in south China, a Chinese official announced Tuesday that no survivors have been found, official media here reported. No survivors have been found in the China plane crash, state-run Xinhua news agency guoted a Chinese official in a brief report. The announcement came as hundreds of rescuers carried desperate search operations in the mountainous regions of China's Guangxi

Zhuang Autonomous Region where the Boeing 737 on the way from the Chinese city of Kunming to Guangzhou plunged and crashed on Monday. "People onboard the aircraft are still unaccounted for as the rescue work is underway at the mountainous site." state television CGTN reported Tuesday over 24hours after China's worst air disaster in a decade. Aircraft debris and some personal

belongings have been found at the air crash site in Tengxian County of Wuzhou City, but no survivors, state-run CGTN reported Tuesday.



Moscow: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was convicted of fraud and contempt of court and sentenced to nine years in a maximum security prison Tuesday, in a trial Kremlin critics see as an attempt to keep President Vladimir Putin's most ardent foe in prison for as long as possible. A judge also ruled that Navalny would have to pay a fine of 1.2 million rubles (about USD 11,500). Navalny can appeal the ruling. Navalny, who is already serving 21/2

years in a penal colony east of Moscow, had been accused of embezzling money that he and his foundation raised over the years and of insulting a judge during a previous trial. The politician has rejected the allegations as politically motivated. The prosecution had asked for 13 years in a maximum security prison for the anti-corruption crusader and a 1.2 million-ruble fine. The trial, which opened about a month ago, unfolded in a makeshift courtroom in the prison colony hours away from Moscow where Navalny is serving a sentence for parole violations. Navalny's supporters have criticized the authorities' decision to move the proceedings there from a courthouse in Moscow, saying it has effectively limited access to the proceedings for the media and supporters.

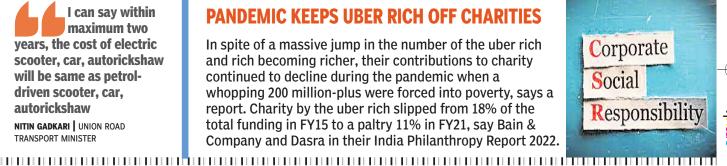




I can say within maximum two years, the cost of electric scooter, car, autorickshaw will be same as petroldriven scooter, car, autorickshaw NITIN GADKARI UNION ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER

PANDEMIC KEEPS UBER RICH OFF CHARITIES

In spite of a massive jump in the number of the uber rich and rich becoming richer, their contributions to charity continued to decline during the pandemic when a whopping 200 million-plus were forced into poverty, says a report. Charity by the uber rich slipped from 18% of the total funding in FY15 to a paltry 11% in FY21, say Bain & Company and Dasra in their India Philanthropy Report 2022.



CCPA slaps ₹10 lakh penalty for misleading

ads of Sensodyne

SENSODYNE

New Delhi, March 22: The Central

Consumer Protection Authority

(CCPA) has ordered discontinua-

tion of certain misleading adver-

tisements of Sensodyne tooth-

paste within seven days and

imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on

stated that advertisements of

Sensodyne products which make

the claims 'Recommended by den-

tists worldwide' and 'World's No.1

sensitivity toothpaste' have been

ordered to be discontinued within

seven days. The authority also di-

rected payment of penalty of ₹10

endorsements by foreign dentists

have been ordered to be discon-

tinued as per the earlier order

Khare, "recently passed order

against misleading advertisements

of Sensodyne products which

make the claims 'Recommended by

dentists worldwide' and 'World's No

1 sensitivity toothpaste," the state-

Previously February 9, 2022

the CCPA had passed an order di-

recting discontinuation of ad-

vertisement of Sensodyne products

which show endorsement by for

The CCPA, headed by Nidhi

passed by CCPA.

ment said.

Advertisements which show

An official release Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the manufacturer.

lakh.

uote 77

By 2030, all (our) hotels will be single-use plastic-free, have onsite organic waste management systems, and all of the wastewater will be recycled or

reused PUNEET CHHATWAL | IHCL MD & CEO

Government of India is closely monitoring the alobal price movements and their impact on India's economy through trade

PANKAJ CHAUDHURY MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

Energy transition is an important step to cater to the increasing demand and can help the economy by creating jobs, which is estimated to employ 3.2 million people by 2050

BHAGWANTH KHUBA UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Zomato faces backlash

New Delhi: Online food delivery platform Zomato was Tuesday forced to clarify over the road safety of its delivery partners as its plans to start instant 10-minute food delivery faced backlash on social media. Zomato founder Deepinder Goyal, who had Monday announced the company's plans to start a pilot of 'Zomato Instant' with four stations in Gurugram from next month, took to social media to clarify that there are no penalties for late deliveries and no incentives for on-time deliveries for both 10-minute and 30-minute deliveries.

Adani Power ties up with IHI. Kowa

New Delhi: Adani Power on Tuesday said it has collaborated with IHI Corporation and Kowa Company to study ammonia co-firing for environmentally sustainable power generation.

FITCH SLASHES FY23 GROWTH FORECAST TO 8.5 PC ON INFLATION

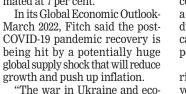
In its Global Economic Outlook-March 2022, the rating agency says the post-COVID-19 pandemic

recovery is being hit by a potentially huge global supply shock that will reduce growth and push up inflation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: Rating agency Fitch Tuesday slashed India's growth forecast for the next fiscal to 8.5 per cent from 10.3 per cent, citing soaring energy prices and rising inflation on account of the Russia-Ukraine war. It has revised upwards the GDP

growth forecast for the current fiscal by 0.6 percentage points to 8.7 per cent. "However, we have lowered our growth forecast for FY 2022-2023 to 8.5 per cent (-1.8 pp) on sharply higher energy prices," Fitch said. For 2023-24, it is estimated at 7 per cent.



BSNL is working with TCS and C-DoT to roll-out an

lier this month as an aftermath of nomic sanctions on Russia have

put global energy supplies at risk. Sanctions seem unlikely to be rescinded any time soon," the agency said. Last week, another global rating agency Moody's had slashed India's growth estimate for the 2022 calendar year to 9.1 per cent from 9.5 per cent earlier, saying high fuel and fertiliser import bill

could limit capital expenditure. Russia supplies around 10 per cent of the world's energy, including 17 per cent of its natural gas and 12 per cent of oil.

'The jump in oil and gas prices will add to industry costs and reduce consumers' real incomes...Higher energy prices are a given," Fitch said as it has reduced the world GDP growth forecast by 0.7 percentage points to 3.5 per cent.

International oil prices started rising this year and jumped to a 13vear high of USD 140 per barrel earthe Russia-Ukraine war. Brent was trading at USD 118.59 per barrel Tuesday.

India relies on overseas pur chases to meet about 85 per cent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices

Observing that Indian GDP growth was very strong in the December quarter, Fitch said the GDP is more than 6 per cent above its pre-pandemic level though it is still well below its implied pre-pandemic trend.

"High-frequency data indicate that the Indian economy has ridden out the Omicron wave with little damage – in stark contrast with the two previous coronavirus waves in 2020 and 2021," it said.

Fitch now sees inflation strengthening further, peaking above 7 per cent in the December quarter of 2022, before gradually easing.

TCS ready to roll out BPCL privatisation process has



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 22: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty made a spirited recovery to close over 1 per cent higher Tuesday, riding on gains in Reliance Industries, Infosys and TCS amid a recovery in global equities.

After opening lower, the 30-share BSE Sensex had plunged to a day's low of 56,930.30 points on concerns over inflation and growth as India hiked fuel prices after a 137-day hiatus. However, the barometer rebounded in afternoon trade in line with gains in European and Asian stocks. The BSE Sensex closed up by 696.81 points or 1.22 per cent at 57,989.30 as 26 of its constituents ended in green. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 197.90 points or 1.16 per cent to finish at 17,315.50.

markets driven by buying in Reliance. Market recovery after the morning fall is a good sign for Indian market. In coming days, we still expect volatility to persist till the war situation between Russia and Ukraine and crude price stabilize," said Rahul Sharma of Equity 99. Gains in the broader market

were marginal compared to the benchmark index, with the BSE midcap index gaining 0.17 per cent and smallcap gauge 0.15 per cent.

Tech Mahindra emerged as the lead gainer with a jump of 3.83 per cent, followed by RIL (2.59 per cent), Bajaj Finserv (2.46 per cent), ITC (2.21 per cent), TCS (2.09 per cent), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.88 per cent) and Infosys (1.87 per cent).

Limited, Nestle India, NTPC, and



17,315.50 TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS -2.85 -2.65 -2.23 -1.55 -0.16

5G network anyday reached second stage: Govt the non-disclosure agreement for not sharing the information relating to bidders during the "cur-

> petitive non-collusive bidding." On the question of whether the government has a plan in place to ensure job security of current BPCL employees, Karad said: "The terms and conditions of the strategic disinvestment in the Share Purchase Agreement suitably address employees' concerns.'

statement said.

claims that Sensodyne is 'Recommended by dentists worldwide'. 'World's No. 1 sensitivity toothpaste' and 'clinically proven relief, works in 60 seconds', the

eign dentists. The CCPA had initiated suomoto action against advertisement of Sensodyne products on various platforms including television, Youtube, Facebook and Twitter. The ads show dentists practising outside India (UK) endorsing the use of Sensodyne products namely Sensodyne Rapid Relief and Sensodyne Fresh Gel for protection against

teeth sensitivity. These advertisements make_

52.97 per cent shareholding in BPCL to a strategic investor via a bidding process

rency of the process to ensure com-

The Centre is divesting its entire

indigenously developed 5G-enabled 4G network BSNL 4G network to be launched by August 15. Bhadada said TCS is a system integrator and it builds networks of telecom operators

based on their requirements. The government is gearing up to hold 5G auctions before June so that 5G networks can also be launched by August 15.

"In my view 5G has at least 3 more years of cycle left before it starts, I mean India is in the very tail end of it. If you really look at it in the western markets everybody

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 22: The privatisation process of state-owned oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation has reached its second stage, the Parliament was informed Tuesday.

"The Transaction Advisor appointed for the privatisation of BPCL had informed that multiple Expressions of Interest (EoIs) had been received for privatisation of BPCL, and the transaction is in second stage of the process,' Minister of State for Finance

World Water Day at PPL



58250

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Reliance

GRAPHICS

ITC

TCS

the Rajya Sabha in a written reply. According to the minister, the Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad told transaction advisor is bound by



"Adani Power Ltd (APL), IH Corporation, and Kowa Company, Ltd (Kowa), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to study the feasibility on a modification to achieve 20 per cent liquid ammonia co-firing ratio and thereafter extend this to a ratio up to 100 per cent mono-firing at the Adani Power Mundra Coal Fired Power Plant," a company statement said. APL aims to lead India's initiatives in achieving the targets of greenhouse gas reduction by evaluating the possibility and potential of ammonia as a fuel in thermal power generation which will utilize Green Hydrogen-derived ammonia in the existing thermal power plant. Kowa supported APL by conducting a global survey of hydrogen and ammoniarelated technologies being utilised for power generation.

Infy to acquire oddity for ₹419cr

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New Delhi: IT company Infosys will acquire oddity -- a Germany-based digital marketing, experience, and commerce agency -- in an all cash deal for 50 million euros (about ₹419 crore), the company said Tuesday. As part of Infosys' digital experience and design offering, oddity will become part of Wongdoody and join its network of studios across Seattle, Los Angeles, New York. Providence. Houston. and London, and design hubs in five cities in India. Infosys said in a statement. The company had acquired USbased Wongdoody, which offers creative and marketing services, in a USD 75 million deal in 2018. "To consummate the transaction. Infosvs will also acquire Germany-based Kristall 247 for 3.000 euros (about ₹2.5 lakh)," the Indian IT firm said.

aging their networks, swapping equipment and technology providers. When asked about the readiness of TCS to roll-out 5G network for telecom customers, Bhadada said, "TCS can stitch it today. TCS is doing it today. So it's not about whether TCS is ready or not. TCS is ready. What we are working for in India is India-specific stack," Bhadada said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: IT major TCS

is ready to put in place 5G network

for any telecom operator across the

globe on any given day and the com-

pany is working in India on a coun-

try-specific gears for the network,

TCS head for Communication,

Media & Information Services

Kamal Bhadada told PTI that the

company is already helping telecom

operators across the globe in man-

a senior company official said.

BSNL is working with TCS and C-DoT to roll-out an indigenously developed 5G-enabled 4G network. The government expects the

is in the middle of it. By 2023 or 2024 I feel all the 5G roll outs will be complete," Bhadada said. He said that it will take another

3-4 years for full exploitation of the 5G network and then the process for 6G networks will start.

"6G is interesting, but I feel 5G will take five years for exploitation. I mean as I said 2-3 years for completing the rollouts and another 3-4 years for exploitation. 6G even in other markets is in my view at least four years away from any commercial right," he said.



BHUBANESWAR: World Water Day-2022 was observed at PPL Water Treatment Plant in presence of teachers and students of PPL DAV School. It's a great initiative from PPL Management where school students were invited to the Water Treatment Plant. The students were made aware of the different processes of treatment of water through a flowchart. This Year the theme of the National Safety Day is 'groundwater, making the invisible visible.' Anil Verma, Jt. General Manager (Production) led the technical team which explained the process and the importance of water treatment. Prachi Sourabh Panda, Dy. General Manager (Production) highlighted the importance of chlorination of water and functions of different equipment. He was supported by Prassanna Kumar Acharya,

the event in large numbers. All the senior executives attended the meeting, while Soumyashree Omprakash Sahoo conducted the proceedings.

BIZ BUZZ

Academia-Industry Innovation Conclave

BHUBANESWAR: Academia-Industry Innovation Conclave, specific to Minerals, Materials & Life Sciences Technology was organised at CSIR -IMMT Auditorium, Bhubaneswar. The conclave was jointly organised by National Research



Development Corporation, and CSIR-IMMT. The one day conclave was inaugurated in presence of Chief Guest, Pratap Sarangi, Honourable Member of Parliament, Dr Shekhar C Mande, Secretary DSIR & DG CSIR Govt of India in the presence of Prof. S Basu, Director, CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar, Commodore Amit Rastogi(Rtd), CMD, NRDC, Dr Ashok K Sahu, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IMMT, Dr T Pavan Kumar, Sr. Scientist, CSIR IMMT, Mr N G Lakshminarayan, Chief-BD, NRDC, Dr Bijay Kumar Sahu, Head-IPFC & TISC, NRDC. Delivering his inaugural speech, Sarangi emphasised on more and more technological support for the growth of the country particularly during this pandemic time. He advised the industry and institutions to formulate their excellence and increase productivity with their expertise in this field.

Suzuki, SkyDrive sign deal to develop 'flying cars' Tata Motors to hike commercial vehicle

Manager (Production). Pranab Bhattacharyya, Chief Manufacturing

Officer and Unit Head expressed his happiness over students attending

The two companies said they will also work to open up new markets with an initial focus on India, where Suzuki has a roughly half share of the auto market

REUTERS Tokyo, March 22: Japanese automaker Suzuki Motor Corp and 'flying car' firm SkyDrive Inc said Tuesday they have signed a deal to team up in research, development and marketing of electric, vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. In a joint statement, the two

companies said they will also work to open up new markets with an initial focus on India, where Suzuki has a roughly half share of the auto market. Suzuki announced Sunday it plans to invest 104.4 billion rupees (\$1.37 billion) in its India factory to produce electric ve-

hicles and batteries The companies didn't disclose details of investments in their part-



nership, nor outline any production timetable or target. Founded in 2018, Tokyo-headquartered SkyDrive counts big

Japan businesses like trading house Itochu Corp, tech firm NEC Corp and a unit of energy company Eneos Holdings Incamong its main

shareholders. In 2020 it raised 5.1 billion yen (\$42 million) in total in Series B funds, according to its website.

SkyDrive is currently engaged in the development of a compact, two-seating electric-powered flying car with plans for full-scale production. The statement did not say whether Suzuki would be working on this specific vehicle.

The company, which is also developing cargo drones, aims to launch a 'flying car' service in Osaka in 2025 when the Japanese city hosts the World Expo.

For Suzuki, the partnership will add 'flying cars' as a fourth mobility business, in addition to automobiles, motorcycles and outboard motors, the statement said.

prices from April 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: Homegrown auto major Tata Motors Tuesday said it will hike prices of its commercial vehicles range by 2-2.5 per cent, depending upon individual model and variant, from April 1.

The increase in the prices of commodities, such as steel, aluminium and other precious metals -- in addition to higher costs of other raw materials -- has incited this price hike of commercial vehicles, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing. Last week, Mercedes-Benz India had said it would increase prices of the en-tire model range by up to 3 per cent from April 1.













India women keep semis hopes alive



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamilton, March 22: Yastika Bhatia's gritty half century (50, 80b, 2x4) and Sneh Rana's all-round performance (27; 4/30) powered India to a dominating 110-run win over Bangladesh and kept them in the hunt for a semifinal spot at the ICC Women's World Cup here Tuesday. Opting to bat, India recovered

from a mid-innings collapse to post a modest 229/7, riding a responsible knock by Bhatia and a late flourish from Rana and Pooja Vastrakar (30).

Defending the total, the spinners, led by Rana, controlled the proceedings as they struck at regular intervals. As a result, India bowled out Bangladesh for 119 in 40.3 overs to register their third win of the tournament. The big victory helped India improve their net run-rate (0.768) further:

The Mithali Raj-led side will take on South Africa in its final league match Sunday. Before that game however, if the second-placed Proteas beat West Indies Thursday, India's semifinal chances will get better. India's decision to bring in sen-

ior spinner Poonam Yadav (1/25) in place of pacer Meghna Singh paid dividends. With the spinners operating from both ends on a slow track, Bangladesh struggled to force the pace and were reeling at 69/5 after 25 overs.

Lata Mondal (24) and Salma Khatun (32) provided some resistance with a 40-run partnership, which was broken by Jhulan Goswami when she dismissed the latter, while Vastrakar accounted for Mondal a few overs later.

The pace duo of Goswami (2/19) and Vastrakar (2/26) shared four wickets between them while the spinners accounted for the rest.

Earlier, Smriti Mandhana (30) and Shafali Verma (42) shared 74 runs for the opening wicket but Ritu Moni (3/37) and Nahida Akter (2/42) shared five wickets between them to reduce India from 74 for no loss to 108/4.

Mandhana ended up hitting straight to Fargana Hoque off Akter, while Moni struck twice in two balls in the next over to leave India at 74/3 in 15.4 overs. While Verma was stumped by Nigar Sultana, skipper Mithali Raj (0) was out for a first-ball duck as India lost three wickets in quick succession.

Vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur (14) then joined Bhatia as the two

rs opslow tried to resurrect the innings, but the duo scored only 34 runs in 70 balls before a direct throw from Hoque caught the former short of

her crease. Bhatia and Richa Ghosh (26) then added 54 runs to take India past the 150-run mark. The duo played at a good pace with Ghosh slamming Lata Mondal (0/20) for suc-

RANA (R

cessive fours in the 30th over. However, Akter brought Bangladesh back into the game when she had Ghosh caught behind while she tried to cut a ball that was too close to her body. After completing her fifty, Bhatia too perished in the next ball while trying for a paddle scoop. Vastrakar and Rana came to-

gether at 180/6 at the end of 44th over and added 48 runs in 38 balls, taking India past the 200-run mark. With the two going strong, the last 10 overs vielded 64 runs.

BRIEF SCORES India Women 229/7 (Yastika Bhatia 50, Shafali Verma 42, Smriti Mandhana 30, Pooja Vastrakar 30; Ritu Moni 3/37, Nahida Akter 2/42) beat Bangladesh Women 119 (Salma Khatun 32, Lata Mondal 24; Sneh Rana 4/30, Jhulan Goswami 2/19, Pooja Vastrakar 2/26) by 110 runs.

IPL one of greatest physiotherapists: Shastri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 22: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri Tuesday said the IPL acts as one of the world's greatest physiotherapists, with its ability to get the injured players fit in time for the league. In his own inimitable way, Shastri said what many within the cricket fraternity, and outside of it, feel.

"IPL is one of the greatest leagues in the world, and it's also one of the greatest physios in the world, because, before the IPL auction everyone wants to get fit, because everyone wants to play in the IPL," Shastri said during a press conference organised by Star Sports, the official broadcaster of IPL 2022. Shastri is returning to the com-

Paris 2024 sets USD 26 lowest rate for tickets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, March 22: One million tickets for the 2024 Paris Olympics will be sold for 24 euros (USD 26.50) each with availability for all 32 sports, organizers have said.

The Paris proposal to the IOC sets the basic price lower than at the 2012 London Olympics, where the 20 pounds tickets cost more than USD 31 at the exchange rate then.

"This is something important for us," Paris organizing committee president Tony Estanguet said. "This is a very strong promise to offer accessibility of everyone to Olympic sports." A centralized global sales program unveiled by Paris Olympics organizers calls for pricing nearly half of the 10 million total tickets at no more than 50 euros (USD 55).

For the 2024 Paralympics, prices start at 15 euros (USD 15.60) and about half of the 3.4 million tickets will cost no more than 25 euros (USD 27.50). Paris aims to raise 1.1 billion euros (USD 1.22 billion) in revenue — about 30% of its budget —from ticket sales, Estanguet said.

Hitting that target would lift ticket income for Paris above the USD 1 billion raised by London from more than eight million tickets sold. mentary box after a seven-year absence. He will however be a part of the hindi commentary team, something he has not been associated with in the past.

Shastri, who was serving as the India head coach till last year's T20 World Cup, said he could not do commentary because of "a stupid clause that binds us".

This edition of the tournament will see 10 teams in action, with the addition of Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants. All the league stage matches will be played in three venues of Mumbai and one in Pune.

"All these three pitches (in Mumbai venues) are red soil pitches so you get to know how they behave very quickly, you will get similar pitches in the three venues of Mumbai," he said. Shastri and Suresh Raina will be

of Star Sports for the upcoming IPL. Meanwhile, Raina said he sees, among others, leading allrounder Ravindra Jadeja as a possible successor to the legendary MS Dhoni at Chennai Super Kings, where the southpaw established himself as one of IPL's greatest performers.

Both Shastri and Raina were asked if young players coming into the tournament with big price tags puts them under pressure. Raina said, "It matters a lot to those young players who come with a huge price tag. He needs to be very grounded and only focus on the process."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Lakshya breaks into top 10 in BWF rankings

NEW DELHI: Indian badmiton star Lakshya Sen's silver medal winning feat at the All England Badminton Championships helped him break into the top 10 of the latest BWF World Ranking Tuesday. The 20-year-old from Uttarakhand, who became only the fifth Indian ever to reach the summit clash of All England Championships, improved two places to become World No.9 with 74,786 points, surpassing reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. The former world junior number one Indian thus became the country's highest ranked men's singles player, surpassing Kidambi Srikanth, who slipped to the 12th spot this week. PV Sindhu remained at No.7, while Saina climbed two places to 23rd, following a second round defeat at All England. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had claimed the men's doubles title at India Open in January, jumped a place to the seventh spot.

Russia loses third football ruling at CAS

LAUSANNE (Switzerland): The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) dismissed a third request by the Russian soccer federation for urgent rulings to freeze FIFA and UEFA decisions before World Cup playoffs begin this week. The latest challenge was against a decision by FIFA leaders March 8 to award Poland a bye into a playoff bracket final scheduled next week without having to face Russia. The latest dismissal confirms Poland will host either Sweden or the Czech Republic next week with a place at the World Cup tournament in Qatar at stake. All three teams had already refused to play Russia. Previous CAS rulings this month rejected the Football Union of Russia's requests to freeze bans on its teams imposed by FIFA and UEFA since the country's invasion of Ukraine February 24.

Dharambir sets new Asian record

DUBAI: Indian para athlete Dharambir set a new Asian record in the men's F32/51 club throw event en-route winning a silver on the opening day of the 13th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships here. India won three medals on the opening day with Devendra Singh also clinching a silver in the F44 men's discus throw event, while Jyoti Behera claimed a bronze in 400m women's final T37/38/47 final. In the club throw F32/51 men's final, Dharambir threw the club to a distance of 31.09m in his second attempt to finish second behind Algeria's Walid Ferhah (37.42m) Monday.

No NOC for Taskin

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed, who was approached by IPL side Lucknow Super Giants as a replacement for injured England quick Mark Wood, will not participate in the cash-rich league, the country's cricket board (BCB) has said. According to a report by local media, Super Giants reached out to the 26-year old pacer after Wood was ruled out of the tournament due to an elbow injury. However, the Bangladesh Cricket Board has refused to give Taskin the No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to take part in the IPL as it clashes with the ongoing tour of South Africa.

Mickelson opts out

WASHINGTON: Three-time Masters champion Phil Mickelson, out of public view since his inflammatory remarks about the Saudi-funded rival league and the PGA Tour, has decided not to play at Augusta National this year. Mickelson's name was moved from the list of players expected to compete in the Masters to a section at the bottom titled, "past champions not plaving." The club confirmed that Mickelson has notified Augusta National he will not be playing. It will be the first time Mickelson is not at the Masters since 1994. when he was recovering from a broken leg suffered while skiing



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