BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, MARCH 26 | 2022

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 352 | www.orissapost.com

South Asian excellence

North Korea says it test-fired its biggest intercontinental ballistic missile under orders of Kim Jong Un

INTERNATIONAL P10



European Champions Italy are out of FIFA World Cup for second time in a row after losing to North Macedonia

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00



LEISURE

Priyanka Chopra flaunts her sari looks during

an event which she hosted to celebrate



I - XI (Day Boarding) VI - XI (Residential)

www.odmglobalschool.org 1800-120-2316

Petrol, diesel prices hiked by 80 paise

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 25: Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by 80 paise a litre each Friday, the third increase in four days as oil firms recoup losses from holding rates during the period prior to the recently-concluded Assembly elections

Petrol in Delhi will now cost ₹97.81 per litre as against ₹97.01 previously while diesel rates have gone up from ₹88.27 per litre to ₹89.07, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers. The increases are the steepest single-day rise since the daily price revision was started in June 2017.



CITY FUEL PRICES PETROL ₹104.37/litre

DIESEL

₹94.18/litre

With three increases beginning March 22, petrol and diesel prices have gone up by ₹2.40 a litre.

A record 137-day hiatus in rate revision ended on March 22 with an 80 paise per litre increase in rates and similar proportion hikes

have followed in subsequent days. Prices had been on a freeze since November 4 ahead of the Assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab - a period during which the cost of raw material (crude oil) soared by USD 30 per barrel.

The rate revision was expected soon after elections ended March 10 but it was put off.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The way we won, I'd prefer taking oath in the name of God rather than the Constitution

SENSEX **57362.20** 🖊 233.48

17153.00

83.93

₹51.885

₹68,860

VARIATION

69.80

1 ₹0.04

₹193

₹460

Dry weather

MARKET WATCH

INDEX

VIFTY

EURO

GOLD

WEATHER

SILVER

DOLLAR **76.54**

HIGH DRAMA



Tension prevailed at the strongroom of BJB (Autonomous) College in Bhubaneswar over allegation of EVM tampering, Friday. (REPORT ON P3)

One nation, one electoral roll: Govt

■ Govt says one way of checking fraudulent voting is linking Aadhaar with the electoral roll which is voluntary as of now

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 25: The government is considering proposals for linking Aadhaar with the electoral rolls to check fraudulent voting and granting of online voting to Indians working abroad, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said in Lok Sabha Friday.

Rijiju said electoral fraud is a serious matter and the government is considering at the union law minister's level how to check fraudulent voting.

"Linking Aadhaar with the electoral roll is one of the ways. As of now linking Aadhaar with electoral rolls is voluntary. Our aim is to ensure 'one nation, one electoral roll' to check double names in electoral rolls and fraudulent voting and ensure a clean voting process," he said during Question Hour.

Replying to a supplementary on the proposal to grant voting rights to 'Pravasi' Indians, the minister said the government has suggested to the Election Commission to look into how to give voting rights to those Indians who are working abroad or whether to allow them online voting.

"But before taking any decision, we have to ensure safety and transparency of the process and that it is free from malfunctioning," he said.

When Congress member Manish Tewari asked whether the source code of the EVMs remains with the company which manufactures the EVMs or it is passed on to the EC, Rijiju said it was like appointment of judges. "The judges are appointed by the government but once they are appointed, they

for Indian democracy. He said it is the biggest democracy in the world and yet it conducts the elections so smoothly.

People say that they have not seen such a good system working in such a big country and everyone should appreciate the system, he said. Rijiju said, "We want maximum voting and a healthy system. India's election system has been termed as the best system in the world."

Replying to another question, he said there is no proposal under consideration of the government to enact any law to enforce compulsory voting in the country.

Neither the government can force those who are in jails to give votes as they are under the jurisdiction of the courts, he said.

"We want maximum voting and a healthy system. People from the whole world appreciate our system," he said.

CM in House in person



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: After a gap of nearly two years, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik attended the Budget session of Odisha Assembly which commenced here Friday amid strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

Before attending the session, Patnaik also presided over a meeting of ruling BJD legislators party held on the Assembly premises and advised the treasury bench members on how to face the challenges of the Opposition parties which have earlier announced to attack the government over the alleged rise in the poll related violence and deteriorating law and order situation across the state.

"The government is prepared to debate on any issue raised by the Opposition members. The party will also raise issues like central negligence towards Odisha and price rise of essential items and fuel," said Parliamentary Affairs Minister BK Arukha.

Though Patnaik used to attend official meetings and Assembly proceedings during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic through virtual mode, the Opposition members used to criticise him for not attending the House.

The Assembly session is being held with strict adherence to the COVID-19 protocol as all the attendants had to undergo RT-PCR test and maintain social distancing in seating arrangement between MLAs. Apart from members, ministers, all the staff and media persons also underwent COVID-19 tests, a health department official said. The Budget session will be held for only seven days. The discussion on Governor's Address will take place for two days March 26 and March 28. The session will conclude March 31.

CBI TAKES OVER BIRBHUM KILLINGS PROBE



New Delhi: The CBI Friday took over the case of killing of eight people in Birbhum district of West Bengal, hours after a Calcutta High Court order. The CBI case will be monitored by a Joint Director-level officer and supervised by a DIG/SP-ranked

official, they said. The agency has already dispatched a team, along with eight experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) who have visited the site of crime, they said. Miscreants had March 21 set 10 houses on fire in Bogtui in Birbhum district.



Man beheads 8-yr-old girl

In a barbaric display of terror, the accused roamed around the village with the severed head

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, March 25: In a horrendous incident, a man Friday beheaded an eight-yearold girl and roamed around the village with the severed head

The 35-year-old accused, the father of a child, spread a reign of terror in the village before he was finally overpowered, thrashed and handed over to the cops.

The barbaric incident has been reported from Kasada village under Jamankira police limits in Sambalpur district.

The motive of the killer has not been ascertained yet," a senior police official said, while the body was seized. A probe into the incident has been launched. The deceased was identified as Lusi, daughter of Nabakishore Dharua. The accused was identified as Prashant Bagar.

As per reports, the minor girl had gone out to a field to attend nature's call while her parents had gone to collect 'mahua' flowers.

"Lusi had gone out to a field to attend na-



ture's call early in the morning. The accused came out of nowhere and attacked the girl with an axe beheading her on the spot," a senior official at Jamankira police station said.

Later, the accused went to the village holding the severed head and walked around, terrifying the inhabitants.

Palpable tension mounted in the village following the incident. Jamankira IIC Premjit Das visited the crime scene and took stock of the situation."The accused has been arrested and will be taken for interrogation," Das said.

IIC killed as revolver goes off accidentally

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aska, March 25: The IIC of Gangapur police station in Ganjam district died after being hit by a bullet when his service revolver accidentally went off Friday.

Debkumar Gamango was rushed to Aska Community Health Centre where he was declared

brought dead, Ganjam SP Brijesh Rai informed. Gangapur police registered a case and sent the body for autopsy.

The IIC was reportedly cleaning his service revolver when the loaded firearm went off accidentally. 'Gamango had taken charge

as IIC about four months ago. A detailed investigation has been ordered into the case. Further details will emerge soon," the SP added.







leisure



CRUISE EYES MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 8 AS FINAL FILM OF THE FRANCHISE

Hollywood star Tom Cruise is seeing the end of his missions. The actor, who has portrayed Ethan Hunt since the first film, reportedly plots Mission: Impossible 8 as the final installment of the franchise.

SEAN PENN PLANS TO HELP UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Award winning-actor Sean Penn has been filming a documentary about the Russian invasion of Ukrain. Now, he has struck a deal with Mayor of Krakow Jacek Majchrowski to supply aid to Ukrainian refugees through his charity.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks,co™ accuracy • reliability • trust

Your work and family will vie with each other for your attention. Merry-making will seem a good idea in the evening. You desire for name and fame will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesha showers his blessings on you.

TAURUS

You will win the heart of your family members today forecasts Ganesha. Try and delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Job aspirants may look forward to belated success in interviews. Ganesha advises critical matters.

GEMINI

It's time you took stock of your personal life. Is there someone you want to propose but are afraid to do so? Ganesha advises you not to let the fear of rejection stop you from making an effort. There are strong indications that you will be accepted if you speak your heart today.

CANCER

Ganesha believes that you are likely to have a heightphilosophy and the working of the metaphysical world. This may be mere curiosity or a part of your effort to improve your

LEO

It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesha foresees you taking time out for some leisure and frolic today. Broaden your horizon with a bit of travel since you are very likely to be going on a small trip

Contemplating on past successes will help you gather the resources for achieving more of it in the near future. New contacts will help you make considerable headway on the road to success. Ganesha says your amiable nature will help you in ting along easily with people

Ganesha says that you need to be more careful in your work field as your enemies or your competitors will try to pull you down today. You will have to be very careful in making business agreements or tions regarding give and take in grow distant from you today.

SCORPIO

Long pending task of getting your home renovated may begin today. There are a couple of object de art that have caught your eyes and you wish to decorate your home with those artefacts. You may even plan a small celebration to share your home's new look! A great day indeed.

SAGITTARIUS

Beauty therapies or a new hair do, pick one; makeover and personal grooming is or your mind. Once you decide to shop, nothing in the world can stop you. You have decided to de-stress yourself with shopping. Clothes and jewellery is what your wardrobe is awaiting for, says

CAPRICORN

Generally, it is difficult for you to maintain a cool head over your shoulders, especially during the stressful times. But, to everyone's surprise, you will display remarkable composure while dealing with challenges today, feels Ganesha. Family life will be smooth and it will enable you to fully concentrate on you career and increasing your efficiency level.

AQUARIUS

With no major highs or anced day today. You will handle everything with great efficiency and Ganesha gives you a pat on your back for that. Continue to work hard for the day as your efforts will get noticed and not only that, you will also understand the value of your hardships.

PISCES

Today will not find you in the best of spirits. You need to guard against being sad for the smallest of reasons. Pessimistic thoughts could creep in, owing to some external influences. You need to keep your

will-power strong to remain positive.



Priyanka rocks in sari once again

Chopra over the years has served some gorgeous sari looks in films and red carpet. She did it once again as she hosted a pre-Oscar event to celebrate South Asian excellence and nominees. Priyanka put on display the elegance that comes with wearing

Los Angeles: India-born

Hollywood star Priyanka

a sari She put India on the global map again by wearing a black saree paired with a strapless blouse. Her soft curls complemented her look for the day. The event was also hosted by Mindy Kaling, Kumail Naniiani. Aniula Acharia. Bela Bajaria, Maneesh K Goya and Shruti

Ganguly. This is not the first time that Priyanka Chopra is making her presence felt at the Oscars. In her previous Oscar outings, the cross-continental queen was seen presenting awards and announcing nominees. Priyanka's latest project in Hollywood, *The Matrix* Resurrections, made a splash globally.



Big B's heartfelt note to Irrfan's son

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan recently sent a heartfelt note to late legendary actor Irrfan Khan's son Babil.

In the fond memory of the Madaari actor who had passed away April 29, 2020, Big B wrote, "Life is transient and death is unfathomable, but 'Friendship' transcends death. Memories made, create a lasting impression on those left behind, and will never be forgotten. Each time we are reminded of a loved one through a phrase, a joke, an action. These are the things that will keep us close despite death.'

'Your father Irrfan was a great soul and everyone whose lives he touched, are better for having known him. He is missed dearly," Big B

For the unversed, Irrfan and Big B had shared screen space in 2015 comedy-drama *Piku* co-starring Deepika Padukone in the lead role.

His elder son Babil is now taking his father's legacy forward in the field of acting. He is all set to make his acting debut with Qala co-starring Tripti Dimri of Bulbul fame. AGENCIES



Mrunal's uncanny resemblance with Madhubala



Mumbai: Mrunal Thakur, who was last seen in an extended cameo in Kartik Aarvan's crime thriller, Dhamaka will next be seen debuting in a Telugu film opposite south sen-Dulquer sation Salmaan. Produced

> the film is being directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. It will be presented by Vyjayanthi Films. What's interesting is that the

by Swapna Cinema,

actor's look film bears a striking resemblance with the yesteryear su-

Often called the most beautiful Indian actress of all time. Madhubala is an icon, so any comparison to her is a huge compliment. Despite having such big shoes to fill, Mrunal seems to love the attention. "It's an honour to be told I resemble one of the most beautiful actresses, Madhubala Ji."

The actor adds, "This film just got a whole lot special for me after being associated with such a legendary actor. Really looking forward to this one and I hope that my fans love the film as much as we loved making it!"

Besides that, Mrunal Thakur will also be seen in Shahid Kapoor's upcoming sports drama Jersev, directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, releasing worldwide April 14, 2022. AGENCIES

FUN

DOST

Suryamayee has her hands full

ing projects, she says,

"I am looking forward

to the release of three

commercial movies in April. Besides, I will

be seen in two content-

driven projects. It

SUDOKU

2

9

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

5

Bhubaneswar: With several opposite Avisekh Rath released projects lined up for release and on Zee Sarthak, says many others in the pipeline, Suryamayee. "Apart from the positive reemerging glam-girl of the Odia sponse from the audience, the filmdom Suryamayee Mohapatra looks forward project helped me fulfill my to a busy 2022. long-held dream of working About her upcom-

Her Daalcheeni and Samapaju

with director Chandi Parija. I

also learnt a lot from senior

actor Prithiviraj Nayak who

plays my father's role in the

film." says the Mr Mainu ac-

Ra Raghu were also well received by the audience with the former being screened at Shimla International Festival.



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

9 4 3 5

8

9

5 2 8

9

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

3

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



I'M LOOKING FOR A

NICE COLLARD SHIRT.

BREVITY



BIG&



Across

1 Dessert dish

- 5 Pago Pago
- locale
- 8 Scimitar
- medication
- (3,6)
- 14 Unnerve
- topping (4,5)
- 17 Baked potato
- list 19 Stage hog 4 Pouched rat

CROSSWORD

Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com 21 Compel

22 Talking bird

of poetry

sometimes

23 Flower girl,

24 Nipper

- 9 Inert
- 10 Arles assent 11 Contact sport
- 12 Saunters
- Down 1 Basil-based
- sauce 2 Persian Gulf
- emirate
- 3 Enumerate;

13 Curt 15 Popular 16 Veto 18 Upbraid

5 British

military hat

6 Four-toed

African

7 Altar boy

(4-3)

viverrine

12 Election loser

- 19 Shanty 20 Underground

8 9 2 1 6

5

6

OFTAPTERYX

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



MATTER OF FAITH

Members of Marwari community buy idols from a stall in Nayasadak area of Cuttack ahead of the Gangaur festival, Friday

222	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	47,86,67,582	41,33,51,866	61,35,450
	India	4,30,16,372	4,24,78,087	5,16,755
	Odisha	12,87,378	12,77,819	9,117
		· - - - - - - - - - - - - -	111111111111111	

Will open exclusive outlets for women & kids' wear: Agarwal

The demand for branded garments has been constantly rising in Odisha. To cater to the needs of customers, showrooms of various brands have come up in urban areas. In an

interview to **Orissa POST**, garments trader **Riddhi Siddhi's** director **Amit Agarwal** speaks about his journey, future plans and the status of branded garments business in Odisha. *Excerpts of the interview:*



■ How did you begin your journey as a

businessman? ■ My father Bijay Kumar Agarwal has been associated with edible oil and sugar trade at Malgodown in Cuttack. I used to assist him in his business during my college days. After finishing graduation in Commerce, I started supplying stationery to var-Later, I got an opportunity to

ious government agencies. Subsequently, I worked as a FMCG distributor. However, I incurred losses as rainwater inundated our warehouse during super cyclone of 1999. open an outlet of consumer electronics major Videocon. ■ Why did you shift your focus to garment trade from electronics? Jajpur and Sambalpur. I had opened a Videocon show-

We were forced to deal in products of other electronics company after Videocon decided to close down all its exclusive outlets. I had decided to leave electronics business due to frequent undercutting by our com-

Ranihaat in Cuttack in 2000. Initially,

we were doing well in that business.

How has been your journey as a garments trader?

Initially, I had opened an outlet of kids' garments at Matamatha in Cuttack. Later, I secured franchises of renowned brands like Levis. Blackberry and Adidas. We also opened exclusive outlets of brands like K-Lounge, BIBA, Monte Carlo, Raymond, Arrow, Linen Club, Manyavar and Puma. We have now multiple outlets at

■ What are the major challenges in garments trade and how do you overcome them?

Bhubaneswar, Angul, Dhenkanal,

Online shopping has become a major challenge for us. High discounts in online shopping are making things difficult for our business. However, customers have the opportunity for trials and can check other details of the garments in of-

fline shopping. Besides, they ean get new and seasonal collections from our stores. We are also providing attractive offers during festivals and wedding seasons and undertaking stock clearance sales twice a year.

Your future plans?

■ We have plans to get associated with more international and national level brands. We will also expand our business to other towns in Odisha. Steps are being taken to open a few excusive outlets for women and kids'

How did you manage things during Covid-19 pandemic?

The market was witnessing a downturn prior to Covid-19 pandemic. We were providing various offers to deal with the situation. But, the pandemic-induced lockdowns and shutdowns and restrictions on celebration of festivals gave a severe jolt to our business. We overcame the situation due to cooperation from our employees, banks and garments com-

What about the business prospects of branded garments?

■ The demand for branded garments has been showing an upward trend. Now, customers are coming to exclusive outlets of branded clothes. Youngsters who were earlier working in cities outside Odisha have returned to their native places due to the prevalence of work from home culture. They are turning up at our outlets. We are also getting customers from city outskirts.

■ Malls are mushrooming in Odsiha. Is it a threat to small outlets?

Customers can get new and wide varieties of collections from exclusive showrooms. Youngsters usually buy garments from exclusive stores.

Priority on rail link to all dists: Guv

Bhubaneswar, March 25: The state government has identified railways as a priority area and has plans to cover all 30 districts with railway connectivity over the next few years, said Governor Ganeshi Lal here Friday.

While addressing the state Assembly on the first day of the Budget Session, the Governor said, "We have collaborated with the railways to fill the viability gap wherever required, taken several initiatives by forming joint ventures/special purpose vehicles with the railways and other ministries to construct new rail lines and corridors, and have been directly funding construction of new railway lines besides providing free land for new railway projects."

During the current financial year, 171 bridge projects have been completed, 815 km of roads have been improved and 868 km of rural roads have been completed by incurring expenditure of Rs 2,807



crores under different schemes by December 2021, he said.

As many as 58 Maoists were neutralised, 194 were arrested and 108 surrendered during last five years, he said.

The Governor further said the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) was dealt with firmly during the last five years. The number of LWE affected districts has come down to 10 from 21 due to proactive response

of the state government and security forces, he said. He said the turnaround in the situation in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district, which once was a Maoist bastion, has been the most redeeming feature in the success achieved in the anti-LWE front in the state.

He said the government has notified 14 potential locations for development of non-major ports in the state, out of which two -- Dhamara and Gopalpur -- are now operational. Another two non-major ports -- Subarnarekha and Astaranga -- are in the pipeline.

"We are also taking steps for development of a riverine port in Mahanadi in Kendrapara district, two inland water transport projects, development of Ro-Pax Jetty and allied infrastructure at Kaninali in Bhadrak district to Talachua in Kendrapara and at Balugaon in Khurda district to Krushnaprasadgada in Puri district have been included in the Sagarmala Project," he added.

STATE BANK OF INDIA Small and Medium Enterprises Center (SMEC, Bhubaneswar),

AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLES

SI. No.	Borrowers Name	Vehicle Type/ Model	Regd. No.	Chasis No.	Engine No.	Year of Manufacture	Minimum Bid Price (Rs.)
1.	Purna Chandra Khuntia	TVS KING AUTO	OD02AQ 6802	MD6M1DSK1H4G13992	R7F2885224	2017	42,500/-
2.	HIRANYA KUMAR PUHAN	TRAVER NE03LT	OD33F7066	MA5ABCL5FFH009445	3KQ198710	2015	1,90,000/-
3.	SEKH TASLIM	TATA ZEST	OD02AQ5109	MAT6240STRTU25192	100A2000071 1316	2017	3,57,000/-
4.	MOHAN JENA	BAJAJ CNG AUTO	OD33R3805	MD2A27AY3JWK37845	AZYWJK00297	2018	1,19,000/-
Date of Austion: 20.02. 2022. Austion Vanue: SAMIL Chaudway Kushnangi Cuttack							

Date of Auction: 30.03.2022, Auction Venue: SAMIL, Choudwar, Kushpangi, Cuttack Terms and Conditions: Vehicles can be inspected at the premises of (1) SAMIL, Choudwar, Kushpangi, Cuttack & (2) SBI Main

Branch Parking Area, Bhubaneswar. Application & quotes to participate in the auction would be supplied by SAMIL (Contact No.: 8249273250). The application along with caution money, mentioned against respective vehicles separately to be submitted well before public auction. The bidders are informed to be present at the venue positvely. The winner has to deposit 25% of bid amount within one day after bid is successful and the balance amount within 7 days failing which the money deposited would be forfeited. Draft/Banker's Cheque issued in favour of "State Bank of India, SMEC, BBSR" only will be accepted. The cost of transfer of ownership and statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any is to borne by the auction purchaser. Vehicles will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". However the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction sale process of any/all vehicle(s) at its own discretion at any point of time. There will be bidding in the auction and the highest bidder will be delcared as winner. For further information & clarification contact at Mobile No.: 8249273250/9437570026/8895387276.

Date: 25.03.2022, Place: Bhubaneswar Sd/- Asst. General Manager, SBI, SMEC, Bhubaneswar



INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

(A Central University, Government of India) Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

ADMISSION OPEN 2022-2023

Registration starts from 29.03.2022



Be a Part of IMU to be the Leader of Tomorrow

Programmes offered B. Tech - Marine Engineering B. Tech - Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering Programm **B. Sc - Nautical Science** B.Sc. Ship Building & Repair (Offered in one affiliated

BBA - Logistics, Retailing &

BBA - Apprenticeship Embedded

For enquiries,

email us at

institute only)

Maritime Logistics

Diploma in Nautical Science (DNS)

M. Tech - Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering

M. Tech - Dredging & Harbour **Engineering**

M. Tech - Marine Engineering & Management

MBA - International Transportation & Logistics Management

MBA - Port & Shipping Management

Post Graduate Diploma in Marine Engineering(PGDME) **Campus Facilities**

IMU Campuses

Facilities

Campuses at

Navi Mumbai

Visakhapatnam

Chennai

Mumbai

Kochi

Kolkata

Hostels

Library & Knowledge

Centre Workshops &

Laboratories

Smart & Digital

Classrooms

Mess **Facilities**

Wi-Fi Enabled

Bloody scuffle near strongroom sonnel including Lingaraj police station IIC Sarat Chandra Patra and Airport



Police trying to rescue an injured from the spot

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 25: Hours before the counting of votes for civic body polls begins, tension ran high at BJB Autonomous College here over allegations of tampering with electronic voting machines (EVMs) kept in the strongroom Friday evening. Several persons including five police officials sustained injuries during the scuffle at the spot.

sorted to baton charge to disperse the irate public gathered outside the strongroom.

According to sources, members of several political parties and representatives of various candidates spotted a suspicious person coming out of strongroom. The enraged workers claimed the person failed to give any reply as to what was he doing inside the strong room.

People went berserk when the cops tried to rescue the person gheraoed by the mob. As many as five police perpolice station IIC Umakanta Pradhan were injured while rescuing the person from the clutches of violent public. Another person identified as Jibanjyoti Lenka, reportedly a polling official, also sustained severe injuries.

"We found the person carrying a paper in his pocket having the list of booths with tick marks on some booth numbers. We found the CCTVs were closed and the LED display boards installed at the strong room were blacking out for a long time. Later, a few others also came out of the room one after the other. We are sure the EVMs have been tampered by supporters of the ruling party after the CCTVs and display TVs were shut down," alleged Abhijit Kar, a resident of Bhimtangi area.

Later, police resorted to lathi charge to disperse the public during which several people sustained injuries.

Security personnel were called in by the police for deployment at BJB College to prevent further escalation of tension.

Meanwhile, the authorities rubbished the tampering allegations and claimed that tight security arrangements have been put in place around the strong room and the machines are secured.

The counting of the votes will be held



Sangram Keshari Mohapatra along with other officials taking stock of the situation



DAVP 37208/12/0010/2122 cet22@imu.ac.in bba22@imu.ac.in

For more details, visit www.imu.edu.in

044-24539027 **CET Helpline** 044-24539028 Follow us @IMUHeadquarters

@IMU_Headquarters @IMU_HQ



Urban election results today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 25: The result of the recently conducted election to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) will be declared Saturday. The State Election Commission (SEC) has made elaborate arrangements for the counting of votes of the poll, which were taken March 24.

Briefing media here Friday, SEC Secretary RN Sahu said the counting will start at 8 am in all 109 ULBs, excluding Dhamnagar NAC, and continue till all votes are counted.

There will be two tables for counting of votes for councilor and chairperson posts in NACs while a maximum of five tables will be there for councilor and chairperson posts in municipalities, he said.

Similarly, the counting of votes will be conducted simultaneously at 12 tables each for councilor and mayor posts in the municipal cor-

porations, Sahu said.
"To ensure transparency, we have decided to provide one counting supervisor and one counting assistant for each table. There will

A three-tier security arrangement has been put in place for the counting of votes in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar,

be Group D staff to assist the teams in transporting EVMs to the counting tables," the Secretary said.

Jatni and Choudwar

He further informed that first the votes of the polling officials, who exercised their voting rights through election duty certificate, will be counted and subsequently the counting of votes in EVMs will begin. Ward-wise results will be announced at the counting centre, he added

The entire counting process will be recorded through CCTV cameras.

Twin City police commissioner Saumendra Priyadarsi said that a three-tier security arrangement has been made for the counting of votes in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Jatni and Choudwar. To ensure transparency, we have decided to provide one counting supervisor and one counting assistant for each table. There will be Group D

RN SAHU I SECRETARY, STATE ELECTION

staff to assist the teams in

transporting EVMs to the

counting tables

A day before the counting, all parties have made their claims to their stake in the civic body polls. "As the educated voters in the urban areas have mostly voted in favour of BJP, we are confident that we will win more seats than the last time. As per my estimate, we will win around 30·35 ULBs," said senior BJP MLA Bishnu Sethi.

Congress MLA Sura Routray has predicted that his party would be able to form councils in 17 ULBs.

Alleging that the ruling party is buying votes by splurging money, Routray said his party will secure second position in the election and form councils in Jatni and Cuttack. The BJP will remain in third position in this poll, he added.

On the other hand, ruling BJD said the result will be more or less in line with the Panchayat poll, where BJD was able to form councils in all 30 districts of the state. "Our party will win around 95 per cent seats in the urban election," claimed BJD leader Raj Kishore Das.

State slips to 13th position in EPI 2021

According to NITI Aayog, the reason behind the fall in the overall rank of Odisha and Kerala was high performance of Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 25: Odisha has slipped to 13th position in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021 released by the NITI Aayog Friday. The state was ranked fifth in EPI 2020.

Odisha was placed at 6th position among the coastal states. The state was ranked 10th in the export performance pillar. On the policy pillar, the state was ranked fifth while it was placed at 22nd rank in the business ecosystem pillar.

According to NITI Aayog, the reason behind the fall in overall rank of Odisha and Kerala was the high performance of Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

"Some coastal states like Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andra Pradesh will always



dominate India's overall export performance. Their combined share of exports is more than 54 per cent, especially compared to the rest of the country. Therefore, their relative high performance has outpaced the scores of Odisha and Kerala despite the two states' sat-

isfactory performance across other pillars," said the NITI Aayog report.

Odisha along with Gujarat, Andra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh are the only eight states that have scored above the national average in sub-pillars, growth and orientation, and export diversification.

The index found poor performance of Odisha in creating an export ecosystem in the state. The coastal state's performance was not

up to the mark in creating R&D and

export infrastructure. Significantly, the NITI Aayog stated that the report was a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements. The index can be used by states and Union Territories (UTs) to benchmark their performance against their peers and analyse potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms to foster exportled growth at the sub-national level. The Export Preparedness Index is a data-driven endeavour to identify the fundamental areas critical for sub-national

'Odisha Parba' kicks off today

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 25: Odia Samaj is all set to celebrate Odisha Parba on a virtual platform from 6:30pm to 9:00pm March 26 and 27, an official said Friday.

Odia diaspora across the globe can enjoy the grand event show-casing the best of Odisha's rich heritage, tradition and culture by visiting www.odishaparba.live.

The inaugural ceremony of the mega event—Virtual International Odisha Parba 2022—will be held at Kamani Auditorium New Delhi 6.30pm March 26. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will grace the event as chief guest while eminent



writer Pratibha Ray will be the guest of honour.

Elaborating its role and contributions to the growth of Odia community since its inception in 2017,

Odia Samaj president Sidhartha Pradhan said, "Odia Samaj, New Delhi is a not for profit, socio-cultural organization where our focus is to provide a platform to the Odia diaspora of the world, to meet, interact and showcase the best of Odisha to the world."

About this year's edition, Pradhan said, "The event will present a unique & enthralling side of Odisha consisting of a variety of entertaining cultural programmes, inspiring interviews and interactions with Odia achievers, entrepreneurs and people possessing extraordinary talents. It will showcase exclusive films on Odisha's rich legacy, history, culture and tourism."

'Send status report on Chitalo college lecturer'

POST NEWS NETWORK

export promotion.

Bhubaneswar, March 25: The Higher Education (HE) department Tuesday directed the Chitalo Degree College in Jajpur to give status report on the alleged harassment of Niranjan Rout, a lecturer of commerce department in the college.

Rout was not allowed to enter the college, was mishandled and even threatened to be killed.

The OHRC ordered the college to let Rout join the college and perform his duties. However, no confirmation has been given by the college regarding the compliance of the same yet.

TEACHERS' RALLY



Members of Odisha Art and Sports Teachers' Association take out a rally at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Friday, to press for their various demands, including job regularisation

Mo School training prog for HMs-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 25: The Mo School Abhiyan has launched residential training programmes for the headmasters of select 100 high schools across the state, with representation of at least three schools from each district, for holistic development in school ecosystem.

A three-day training programme for the select schools of the central zone was inaugurated at Gopabandhu Academy of Administration here Friday. The programme will continue till March 27. The training programme for the schools of the south zone will commence at Koraput Government Girls High School March 28 and the same for the north zone will commence at DIET Sambalpur March 31. The training programmes are being conducted in collaboration with People for Action as knowledge and technical partner.

The primary objective of the programme is to demonstrate predetermined components for devel-



opment of curricular and co-curricular activities and strengthening school-community partnerships. The programme also puts emphasis on utility of the assets and digital infrastructure created by the state government.

"The training programme puts emphasis on the leadership potential of headmasters of 100 high schools across Odisha. The training will help in mastering strategic leadership tools among the head teachers and holistic development in school ecosystem," sources said. The inaugural session

witnessed participation of 36 head teachers from central zone. Experts from diverse fields were roped in to train and upgrade the skills of head teachers.

Mo School Programme Officer Abhinash Satpathy appreciated the role of the head teachers in the effective management of school affairs and imparting quality education to the students. "The Mo School programme is committed to provide equal importance to infrastructure development and academic enrichment in government and aided schools," he added.

Only chair, power concern BJD: BJP

POST NEWS NETWORK POST NEWS NETWO

Bhubaneswar, March 25: BJP state president Samir Mohnaty Friday attacked the ruling BJD over incidents of violence in various parts of the state during ULB polls conducted Thursday.

Mohanty said, "Political intolerance has increased manifold. Violent incidents during the Panchayat and Urban body elections bear testimony to it. Our state is now trailing West Bengal."

"The power-hungry government in Odisha is only concerned about the chair and nothing else. Because of this, it has lost people's faith," alleged Mohanty.

The ruling BJD was quick with a counter attack. "They (BJP) were the precipitators of the violent activities they are referring to. A bombing incident was reported from my area yesterday and the man behind it is none other than a BJP candidate who is contesting the election," said BJD chief whip Pramila Mallick.

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 25: Expressing displeasure over Centre's decision to build Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum in 10 states except in Odisha, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sujeet Kumar Friday urged the Centre to establish a museum in the coastal state in order to honour the unsung tribal heroes.

Speaking during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Kumar commended the efforts to establish Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums in 10

states. "It is noteworthy that the contributions of the unsung tribal freedom fighters are not just relegated to the textbooks. However, I would like to express the displeasure of the state of Odisha as it has been excluded from the states chosen to establish a museum," the parliamentarian said.

According to Kumar, Odisha is

leade Garbi

PARLIAMENT

home to numerous tribal heroes who have contributed immensely to the freedom struggle. In a bid to establish a Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum, a state like Gujarat with only 14.8 per cent ST population has been chosen. However, Odisha where 22.8 per cent of the population are STs (as per the Census-2011) was not con-

sidered, the BJD MP said.

"Nirmal Munda, an agrarian leader, organised the tribals of Gangpur to refuse to pay exorbitant taxes and demanded 'Khuntkatti' rights. Kamal

Sujeet seeks Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum in Odisha

Lochan Dora Bisoi took the commanding charge of Kandha Uprising in 1836. Although the British suppressed this rebellion, arrested Dora Besoyee in 1837, destroyed many Kandha villages and imposed martial law, they could not suppress it com-

pletely," he said.

Denying a chance to the tribal leaders of Odisha to be etched into history will be doing injustice to the tribal popu-

lation in the state, the BJD MP said.
Notably, the Centre has decided to build Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum in Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Goa.

'Aim of demonetisation defeated'

NEW DELHI: Coming down heavily on demonetisation, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Friday said the Prime Minister's vision and objective behind the demonetisation has been completely "belied."

While speaking on the Finance Bill 2022 in the Lok Sabha, senior BJD MP Pinaki Misra said the objectives of demonetisation were removal of black money, brining in digital economy, doing away with fake currency, curbing financing of terrorism, among others. He said the Prime Minister's

dream and vision have been belied.
"I think the Treasury Benches, which are unfortunately empty at present, will understand that the Prime Minister's vision has been completely belied. A sum of Rs.16 lakh crore which were demonetised



came back in its entirety," Pinaki Misra said.

Misra further said that some Rs 30,000 crore more than the issued currency also came back. So, Rs.30,000 crore fake currency also came back into our currency system, he said.

"What is the present position?

It was Rs 16 lack crore cash in circulation in 2016. Today, it has gone up to Rs 29 lakh crore. It is almost double. This is the present position with regard to cash currency in circular to the control of the control

culation," Misra said.

The BJD MP also criticised the tax system of the country and said there is a need to bring reforms in it

"Something is seriously still wrong with our tax compliance, because something is seriously still wrong with the method of tax collection in this country; the Government must be the first to come to terms with it. There is an army of tax collectors out there which is not necessary. You do not have to give them job and pension; they are there only to get job and pension," he said.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488,

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD

AGE-OLD FESTIVAL

The lensman has mentioned *in the letters that his body* should not be handed over to his tormentors

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandbali, March 25: The sensational murder of cameraman Manas Swain has taken a new twist after the caretaker of Daval Ashram, where Manas was held hostage and tortured before his death, made startling revelations

The caretaker revealed that she had found three letters from under a bed in the room where Manas was held captive. The letters were purportedly written by him before his death.

In the letter, he had mentioned how he was being brutally tortured. He had also mentioned that they would kill him and requested that his body should not be left in the hands of his killers.

As per the lady caretaker, there were three letters which were kept in a polythene bag.

"I found the letters when I was cleaning the room. In the letter, Manas had mentioned his name. his contact number and his father's name. He had also written that he was being tortured and those who had abducted him had also taken away ₹4.000, his camera. wallet and bank passbook," the caretaker said. "Manas had written in the event if he died, his body should be sent to his village and should not be handed over to his tormentors," she said.

The caretaker also said Sarmistha had forcefully taken the letter away after knowing about it. Now, the police are looking for the letters as it might prove to be a big lead in the case.

CB team visits kidnap site, quizzes villagers

Chandbali: A five-member team of Odisha Crime Branch investigating the kidnapping and murder of lensman Manas Swain Friday visited the kidnapping site at Palaspur village under Chandbali police limits in Bhadrak district and quizzed a few

Led by DSP Kalpana Sahu, the team quizzed a few villagers regarding the murder of the cameraman. The team met senior police officials in Bhadrak and was briefed about the progress in the probe.

The probe team was accompanied by Chandbali IIC Karunakar Rout and Mato outpost in-charge Buddhiram Mohanty.

The team is likely to proceed back to Bhubaneswar and subsequently to Nayagarh where Swain was buried. Another team

of the Crime Branch has reportedly moved outside Odisha to nab Sarmistha, the prime accused in

A man named Achinta Rout had invited Swain. After learning about his visit, Sarmistha along with her associates hatched a plan and reached the village. They waited throughout the night at the village end and kidnapped Swain while he was heading back to Bhubaneswar February 7 morning.

They then brought him to Dayal Ashram in Bhubaneswar, where he is believed to have been killed.

It is said that Swain was asked to return a memory chip and was severely beaten up before his death. Later, the accused took his body and buried it at a hill located in Ranpur of



Notably, it was February 7 when Manas was kidnapped by Sarmistha, the owner of a web portal where Manas was working. Sarmistha then took him to Dayal Ashram where he was held captive. On March 12, police had found Manas' body buried near Badhipatna hill under Ranapur police limits in



to run from Nayagarh to Puri. One train left Nayagarh station at 5 am while another departed at 9:20 am. Both trains went to Puri and took

their journey back However, now, these services have been halted since Covid-19 thereby affecting pilgrims who want to visit Puri. Since there is no direct bus service from Puri to Nayagarh and vice-versa, pilgrims face a lot of problems. Taking advantage of the situation, cabs, autos, taxis and mini buses are charging excess fares from the

sbicap securities

SBICAP Securities Ltd.

C/o State Bank of India, 1st Floor, Main Branch, Zonal Office Building, Unit 1, Bhubaneswar - 751009

SBICAP Securities Ltd invites offers in Two Bid system

from owners/power of attorney holders for the

commercial/office premises having carpet area of

approximate 1700 Sq. ft., (excluding Lavatory, lift lobby

etc.,) on Lease Rental basis for its Regional Office at near

2. The premises should be preferably in prime locality in

the vicinity of Rajmahal Square, Bapuji Nagar

Bhubaneswar, (within 500 meter radius) preferably on a

main road with adequate dedicated parking space and

predominantly in the cluster of commercial establishment

preferably ready/likely to be ready for immediate

Prescribed format of bids may be obtained from our

office or may be downloaded from our website

www.sbisecurities.in/request for proposal. Sealed bids

may be submitted at the above address. Last date for

submission of bids is 05.04.2022; 4.00 pm. Technical bids

4. The company reserves the right to reject all or any of the

Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar.

possession

The ECoR ran two trains from Nayagarh to Puri. However, these train services have also been halted since Covid-19, affecting pilgrims and devotees alike

pilgrims.

Pramod Pattnaik, Arun Kumar Mohanty, Laxmidhar Sahu, Sheikh Abdul Khalik, Prasant Kumar Das, Niranjan Mishra, Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Umakant Mishra, Prashant Pattnaik and Ashok Malla are the members of various associations who demanded restoration of train services immediately.

They also demanded resumption of railway works at Nuagaon railway station and warned of a massive agitation if their demands were not met.

NAME OF WORK: CONSTRUCTION OF 106.825 TO KM 107.625), TUNNEL T2 1775 M LENGTH, CH. KM 108.225 TO KM 110.000) & TUNNEL T3 (2620 M LENGTH CH. KM 126.420 TO KM CH. 129.040 FIXING FOR OHE AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS BETWEEN DASAPALLA BANIGOCHHA STATION OF KHURD ROAD - BALANGIR NEW BG RAIL LINK PROJECT OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) 34521.00 Lakhs, EMD (₹): 1,73,00, Completion Period of the Work: 2 (Twenty six) Months

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 120

Complete information including http://www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website for any changes orrigenda issued for this tender. Th tenderers / bidders must have Class-I Digital Signature Certificate and must b registered on IREPS portal. On

The tenderers should read al

Jajpur murder: SI suspended

SHORT TAKES

Jajpur: A day after death of sand quarry supervisor Surendra Das in a bomb-hurling at Maneiganda sand quarry near Kharasrota river in Jajpur district, SP Rahul PR Friday suspended a sub-inspector for dereliction of duty. SI Kanduri Das of Binjharpur police station has been suspended following protest by villagers of Kalyanpur. Angry villagers had called for a protest demanding arrest of the culprits and compensation to the family of deceased Das. Reportedly, Surendra had also been attacked earlier by the sand mafia. A complaint in this regard had been lodged earlier at Binjharpur police station but no action was taken against it.

Superintending engineer raided

Malkangiri: Superintending Engineer of Rural Works department, Malkangiri, Ashish Kumar Dash was detained by Vigilance sleuths Friday based on allegations of amassing properties disproportionate to his known source of income. The anti-corruption officials recovered ₹10,23,970 in cash from his possession. The Vigilance has launched simultane ous raids at several places. The exact details of his assets is still to be ascertained, the probing teams have already laid their hands on crucial documents.

Transporters embezzle MDM rice during transit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, March 25: Parents of many primary school students here have alleged that rice provided through mid-day meal (MDM) scheme under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) with a purpose to better the nutritional standing of schoolchildren is being embezzled in at least nine districts of the state.

Irregularities worth lakhs of rupees has been reported, thanks to the dishonesty of transporters engaged in the daily shifting of the MDM rice directly from godowns to schools in Angul, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts.

According to a source, the transport firms engaged by respective district administrations usually pilfer around 10-15 kg of MDM rice per quintal before the vehicles reach their destinations.

It is also alleged that some employees of the primary schools have unholy nexus with the transporters. In such a situation, making complaints before the district administrations becomes infructuous.

As many as 15,68,000 primary school students (both upper and



It is alleged that some employees of the primary the transporters

In such a situation, making complaints before the district administrations becomes infructuous

lower) in the state are supposed to be provided with the MDM on all working days. Accordingly, the government has ordered Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) Limited to supply 4435.63 metric tonne rice every month to schools in the nine districts. More than 10 per cent of the rice meant for schools is taken out from the

total pool, the parents rued. Some of the parents, on condition of anonymity, said, "Several primary schools have stopped providing cooked food to students. The parents have been collecting raw rice instead."

Furthermore, some transporters replace the government

supplied rice with low-quality rice picked up from open markets, some others manage to take out the foodgrain, the parents said. If ever the parents complain the school authorities about shortages in the rice quantity, they are convinced saving that MDM rice is being distributed as per the quantity

mum upset price (MUP) for by 50 per cent.

When contacted, Jajpur dis-

Samal said, "It transporters have been supplying lesser quantity of MDM rice, then why are the school authorities accepting it? However, we will take im mediate steps to prevent such misappropriation, if parents

file complaints.

supplied by the transporters.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Expressing dissatisfaction, the

residents here demanded restora-

tion of train services from

Nayagarh Town station to Puri.

They also demanded train serv-

ices from Nayagarh to Kharagpur

and Berhampur which has been

The train services were previ-

ously stopped in the wake of Covid-

19 outbreak around two years ago.

As Covid-19 situation has already

improved in the state, essential

train services need to be restored

The East Coast Railway had ex-

tended train services from

Navagarh to Puri. Two trains used

immediately, they said.

hanging fire for years now.

It is said that tenders are being invited with the minitransportation fixed in between ₹70 to ₹100 per quintal. However, the transporters allegedly manage to obtain the work orders by quoting under value than MUP

trict welfare officer Subash

Zonal Manager (Administration) भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR

offers without assigning any reason.

shall be opened on the same day at 4.30 pm.

ADVERTISEMENT No. Rectt-VARCoE/01/Non-Teaching/2022 dt. 18/03/202 IIT Bhubaneswar invites applications from the eligible aspiring candidates for the following positions through online mode. These positions are purely temporary in nature (i.e. on contract / outsourced basis) under VARCoE Project

Consolidated Name of the Post vacancies Remuneration Program Manager Rs. 75,000/- P.M. 01 Technical Officer Rs. 50,000/- P.M. 01 08 3 Technical Staff Rs. 31,000/- P.M.

The last date of submission of online application is 06.04.2022. For details, please visit http://www.iitbbs.ac.in Sd/- Registrar

> DEMAND NOTICE

PROBE BEGINS INTO **PUGMARK MYSTERY**



POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, March 25: The Forest department has started an investigation into the pugmarks of some unknown wild animals that were found near a cashew farm at Ramnagar under Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara. The probe has come in the wake of media reports about the mysterious footprints. This had caused panic among locals.

Range officer Sahaji Charan Biswal along with other forest officials studied footprints on the forest road. He said that the department has taken up this case seriously and is trying to confirm about the kind of animal that is staying in a forest sprawling over 354 hectares. The forest is being looked after by the Odisha Cashew

Corporation Limited. The forest is home to a variety of wildlife such as boars, deer, jackals, foxes and reptiles.



CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No. 2, N. S. C. Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001 Branch Office: Sreemaa Construction, 3rd Floor,

Naya Chowk Link Road, Madhupatna, Cuttack - 753010

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13[2] OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s

has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company. Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding Loan Amount Name & Address of the Borrower/s Description of the Property / Secured Assets

Loan Account No. X0HECUK00002391769 and Rs. 2,23,00,000/X0HECUK00002902691 Rs. 2,23,00,000/ Narayan Behera Phiringi Bajar, P. O. -Telenga Bazar, P. S. Purighat, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha, Pin - 753009 Nira Kishore Behera

Upper Telenga Bazar, Cuttack Sadar, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753009 Santosh Kumar Behera Upper Telenga Bazar, Cuttack Sadar, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753009

Hotel Sunita 5/2993,Badambadi New Bus Stand Link Road Cuttack, Odisha, Cuttack Sadar, Pin - 753012 Sujata Behera Upper Telenga Bazar, Cuttack Sadar, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753009

Date: 26.03.2022

Place: Cuttack / Odisha

Totaling Rs 2,73,00,000/-(Rupees Two **Crore Seventy** Three Lakhs Only)

Rs. 50.00,000/-

Rs. 2,72,42,408.98 [Rupees Two Crore Seventy Two Lakhs

Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Eight and Paisa Ninety Eight Only] as on 10/03/2022

Non-Performing Asset on 25-03-2021

District - Cuttack, Tahasil No. 226, P. S.

Madhupatna No. 4, Mouza - Cuttack, Sahar Unit No. 37, Badmbadi, Khata No. 535/431, Plot No. 15/2993, Area, Acre 0.060 Decimals,Near New Bus Stand, Cuttack Sadar - 753003, **Butted and** bounded as follows - By North - Birakishore Behera, South - By Plot No. 6, East - By Plot No. 14. West - By Private Joint Passage

Authorized Officer

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited





Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

NOTICE FOR FOOD BUSINESSES

Regarding - Mandatory modification of license

Last Date - 31st March, 2022

Who are required to modify their

- 1. Manufacturers (including repackers and relabellers) having licenses issued through old methodology (granted from FLRS) have to shift to product selection methodology of
- 2. Manufacturers holding state licenses for products under Nutraceuticals, Health Supplements, Special Dietary & Medical Use Foods, Functional and Novel Foods Regulation have to shift to Central License.
- License number will not change on modification
- Wef 1st April 2022 above stated manufacturers (who have not modified their license) will not be allowed to file renewal application of their existing licenses, File application for modification of license through FoSCoS portal i.e. https://foscos.fssai.gov.in or call us @1800112100 in case of queries.

Executive Director(CS)

FSSAI

davp 17163/12/0019/2122



The great are strongest when they stand alone, a God-given might of being is their force.

SRI AUROBINDO



BABUDOM

BYTES

Dilip Cherian

The Endless Wait

ore than three months after Defence Production Secretary Raj Kumar (Dilli Ka Babu, Dec 2, 2021) was prematurely repatriated to his parent state of Gujarat, the position is still vacant. Some observers believed that the position has not been filled since the government was keeping it for a particular IAS officer who may be brought to the Centre after the Assembly elections.

The polls are concluded now. But the mystery persists. At that time, it was speculated that Raj Kumar was sent back to Gujarat at the request of the state government, which has shown interest in appointing him as the next chief secretary. Meanwhile, the state government is in no hurry to accommodate Raj Kumar in Gandhinagar and the Centre is waiting for the poll results to come in before announcing the babu's successor, and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar continues to hold additional charge of this crucial department. But with every passing day speculation about this incoming defence babu, for whom the position has

been kept vacant for several weeks, continues to grow.

Meanwhile, a sectoral group of secretaries (SGOS) recently made a presentation to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba detailing that India should aim at raising defence pro-

duction to \$150 billion by 2047, and target \$30 billion in exports annually. That's ambitious, indeed, and having the right person for this task is even

J&K gets more posts from AGMUT cadre

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has formally allocated 189 posts of IAS, IPS and IFoS of the AGMUT cadre to the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The amended service rules were notified by PK Tripathi, Secretary DoPT, and will bring Jammu & Kashmir at par with other

According to the notifications, 65 senior duty posts of AGMUT cadre have been allotted to Jammu & Kashmir in Indian Administrative Services, 70 in Indian Police Services and 58 in Indian Forest Services. J&K will have one post of Chief Secretary, six Principal Secretaries, one Chairman Special Tribunal, one Principal Secretary to Governor, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), one Principal Resident Commissioner, nine Commissioner Secretaries, two Divisional Commissioners and 20 Deputy Commissioners among others.

Sources have informed DKB that several IAS and IPS officers from erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre, now merged into AGMUT, are posted in Ladakh. Presently, only 60 IAS and 64 IPS officers are part of Jammu & Kashmir, including those on deputation to the Centre and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Ex-babu to head insurance regulator

Senior babus, at least some of them, continue to make themselves useful to the Modi sarkar even after retiring from service. Former Finance Secretary Debasish Panda is the new chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) nearly ten months after the term of SC Khuntia ended. The delay in the appointment did raise eyebrows in babu circles, but the speculation will surely end now.

Also, in another decision, the government has appointed former Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola as the new chairman of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) for a three-year tenure. He will be overseeing the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for the selection to Group C and Group D posts in all central government establishments. The agency was created in 2020 to organise CET to shortlist candidates who were earlier selected by the Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Board and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection. The agency will eliminate the multiple recruitment examinations and also boost transparency.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com.

Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.

to you: love, prayer, and forgiveness.

A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others. Share this Quote.

WORDS**WORTH**

Adam's off ox

Some discussion about this expression followed its use by President Clinton in a news conference in June 1993. It puzzled many American commentators then, because it's a phrase that is known only in some parts of the USA. It's one of a whole set of expressions of which the basic and oldest form is 'not to know somebody from Adam.' meaning that the person is entirely unknown to the speaker. That form is recorded from Britain in a report of a court case at the London Sessions as far back in 1784: "Some man stopped me, I do not know him from Adam". It's almost certainly older in the spoken language. This expression has so long been a familiar idiom that people have felt the need to make it more emphatic. Speakers in various parts of the US have at times commented they don't know somebody from Adam's housecat, Adam's brother, Adam's foot, and Adam's pet monkey. Adam's off ox is easily the most puzzling of these variations to us today, because the days of ox teams are now long past. The off ox was the one on the off-side of the vehicle. If you stood behind the team looking forwards it was the one on the right-hand side. The driver walked on the left-hand side of the team, with the near-side ox at his right shoulder. He would get to know the personality and idiosyncrasies of this ox very well. However, the off ox was hidden behind the near-side one, and was yoked to it so that it could do nothing but follow it. So the off ox was — figuratively at least — less well known. The term is found in print from 1894 onwards, but must surely be older. One of its appearances was in Flying U Ranch by B M Bower, of about 1914: "Andy shook hands all round. swore amiably at Weary, and advanced finally upon Miguel. 'You don't know me from Adam's off ox,' he began genially, "but I know you, all right, all right." The Dictionary of American Regional English has a nice map of its distribution, based on the research it did in the 1960s. Its informants then must all have been older people. It is now even less well known, except from the occasional old film and US presidential folk idiom.

Adimpleate

Ralph Maus sent me on an intriguing search, courtesy of Jan Karon, who wrote in her most recent book, Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good, of 2014: "She smiled a little: he saw the light in her eyes. 'You adimpleate my spirit,' she said." A number of sites online claim to know it but only a couple correctly say that it means to fill up or make complete. It derives from Latin adimplere, to fill up. My best guess is that it's pronounced as spelled, AD-implete. It's in the online Oxford English Dictionary, but spelled adimplete. In the 1989 Second Edition it was adimpleate, which is no doubt where Ms Karon found it. The entry was revised in 2011 and the headword changed to adimplete because the two examples which its compilers unearthed, from 1657 and 1778, both spell it without the second a; this matches the Latin past participle adimplet- that is considered to be its direct origin. The word is justly described as obsolete and rare. Ms Karon seems to be the first person for more than two centuries to use it in print. Her example is so rare that it stands a good chance of being included in the next edition of the OED.

FOCUS INDO-JAPAN TIE

CREATING SUPPLY CHAINS



Dr DK Giri

NEW DELHI MUST HAVE CLOSEST COLLABORATION WITH JAPAN AS THEY SHARE SECURITY CONCERNS RELATING TO BEIJING

apanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was in Delhi to attend the 14th India-Japan summit. Notably, this was his first visit abroad after taking over as head of the Government, Since that first country happened to be India, observers are alluding to the significance Japan attaches to its bilateralism with New Delhi. Be that as it may, will the summit, taking place after three years, create new supply chains for the world economy? This is the call of the times as alternatives to the existing supply chains held by China are direly sought by world economies.

Recall that India-Japan bilateral relations grew by leaps and bounds since 2006 when the two signed the 'strategic and global partnership'. The bilateral summits are occasions for boosting trade and investment, and this Summit last week (19th-20th March) took place after three years. The 2019 Summit in which former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was to attend got cancelled due to the anti-CAA agitation in Assam. And subsequent summits in 2020-21 were cancelled because of the pandemic.

In 2014, under the Investment Promotion Partnership, Japan made an investment of 3.5 trillion JPY (28 billion USD). Had the summits taken place in the last three years, there could have been more investments. Fumio Kishida has made a commitment of 5 trillion JPY (42 billion USD) to be invested in India. This investment is aimed at deepening the Indo-Japanese collaboration in the face of Chinese dominance in the region and shall cover a wide range of activities involving Japanese finance and skilled Indian labour, and is expected to build supply chains.

In this visit, six major agreements were signed between India and Japan, covering various sec tors -- mainly digital security and green technologies. The agreements are: Memorandum of cooperation in the field of cyber security, the activities envisaged are information sharing, capacity building and cyber city cooperation; loans from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), under which there will be seven loans from JICA to the tune



Japan has taken a clear and categorical position on Russian invasion of Ukraine, whereas New Delhi has been disappointingly evasive on it

of ₹20,400 crore for projects in connectivity, water supply and sewage, horticulture, healthcare and biodiversity conservation; amendment to the India-Japan comprehensive economic partnership, which relates to certification of origin of fish surimi.

The fourth agreement is memorandum of cooperation on decentralising domestic waste water management, wherein Japan will transfer the 'Johkasou' technology for wastewater treatment. This technology is used in places where sewage disposal is not developed. The fifth is India-Japan industrial competitiveness partnership roadmap for two industrial partnerships signed in November 2021 is to be drawn. This is a working roadmap to the Memorandum of Cooperation on India-Japan **Industrial Competitiveness** Partnership that was signed in November 2021. Working groups have been formed in various sectors to facilitate the companies. Setting up of supply chains is also within the scope of this agreement.

The sixth agreement is related to urban development that builds on the MoU signed in 2007. The latest projects include affordable housing, smart cities development, urban flood management and waste water management etc. All the above sound quite encourage ing as the third and the fourth biggest economies in Asia begin to deepen their collaboration. Indeed, Japanese capital and India's labour force as well as market will form a formidable combination for economic activities and both countries and in the 3rd country. But the matter of concern is the divergence of positions and perceptions on security and strategic issues.

Under Shinzo Abe, Japan amended its Constitution to engage militarily in international relations and security issues. Tokyo also has been taking clear positions on strategic and security matters, take for example, Japan's active involvement in QUAD. It has also taken a clear and categorical position on Russian invasion of Ukraine, whereas New Delhi has been disappointingly evasive on it. New Delhi has been abstaining from voting in condemning Russia or naming it as aggressor.

From available reports, Japan is nudging India to be more vocal on the war launched by Russia. While New Delhi and Tokyo are on the same page, vis-à-vis China, on Ukraine they are divergent. Kishida told a joint news conference on Saturday that "Russia's invasion . shakes the very foundations of

the international order and must be dealt with firmly" whereas Prime Minister Modi talked about dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the Ukrainian tangle. The joint statement issued after

the Summit, did not name Russia.

It "emphasised the need for all

countries to seek peaceful reso-

lution of disputes in accordance

days on the Moon, Artemis plans

change the status quo". In the past, India was known for its commitment to international norms and practice of democ-

with international law without

resorting to threat or use of force

or any attempt to unilaterally

racy within the country. Although India's economy was not growing so rapidly commensurate with its potential, it was known for up holding a robust democratic politics inside and for a rule-based order outside in international politics. Currently, the reverse of that trend is being noticed, New Delhi seems to do smart business with other countries, including Russia India continues to buy oil and weapons from Russia which is at war with its neighbour.

Interestingly Japan, which was part of the Axis Powers in the Second World War, built its econ omy systematically as it was politically shackled by post-war restrictions. It is now opening up to the world more assertively in politics and security issues. New Delhi on the other hand emerged as an independent political power in the Third World in 1947, when it got decolonised. Since 90s, with the opening up of the economy. India seems to be forging ahead in building its economic growth, overseas trade, self-dependence, self-preservation and so on. But, politically, especially, on China and Russia, New Delhi has been fumbling.

It may be an order, after Kishida's visit during which Modi would have talked on a range of issues, that Modi takes a leaf out of Japanese book and reaffirm its international political identity by speaking up on major international developments. New Delhi's tacit support to Russia in Ukraine war and espousal of democracy and diplomacy do not go hand in hand. New Delhi must have closest collaboration with Japan as they share security concerns relating to Beijing. This collaboration should extend to Afghanistan, Myanmar and other and South-East Asian countries. The ball is certainly in New Delhi's court.

> The writer is Professor of International Politics,

SPECTRUM SPACE MISSION

The Moon race returns after 50 years



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

WITH ITS AMBITIOUS ARTEMIS PROGRAMME. **NASA AIMS TO EXPLORE DEEP SPACE IN A WAY** THAT HAS NEVER **HAPPENED BEFORE**

s the world's most powerful 'Space Launch System' Larocket carrying atop the Orion capsule arrives at the launch pad of Kennedy Space Center, Florida for its final tests before embarking on a landmark mission to the Moon, the moon race is back again. NASA is going to resume from where it had left in 1972 which was the last crewed lunar mission with Apollo 17 spacecraft. With its ambitious Artemis program. NASA aims not just to become our nearest celestial neighbour, but is set to explore deep space in a way that has never happened before.

If everything goes right, the first Artemis mission will fly off in late May this year, injecting an uncrewed Orion capsule into lunar orbit which will ultimately return to the Earth after six days. This will be followed by a second Artemis mission in 2024 carrying four crew members to the lunar orbit who. without landing on the Moon, will be brought back to the Earth in the Orion capsule with an atmospheric re-entry and splashdown in the sea. The most crucial third Artemis mission of 2025 will actually land four astronauts on the Moon including a woman who will spend 6 days there before returning to the Earth. The other successive missions of the series will be utilised to build up an Artemis base camp on the Moon's surface and a Moon Gateway in the lunar orbit that will help landing a number of hardwares on the Moon including humanoids and robots for extensive study by the future astronauts taking advantage of its extended infrastructural buildup. The mission is named after Artemis. the mythological Greek goddess of the Moon and the twin sister of Apollo. The crewed capsule Orion owes its name to one of the prominent constellations of the night sky who, in Classical mythology, was the hunting companion of Artemis.

The implications of the Artemis mission are many. First, the mission will be a different one from the earlier Apollo program as, through this, NASA will be able to establish a permanent and sustainable presence on the Moon to prepare for missions to Mars and beyond. Some of these missions will be manned ones which are yet to be accomplished. While the crew of the last Apollo-17 mission spent only three to extend the trip for weeks or possibly for months. Second, the mission will provide a platform for new scientific discovery and enhance our knowledge on the Moon, as the mission will be able to retrieve samples more strategically than during the Apollo era. Third, the mission would usher in economic benefits for associated industries and provide inspiration for a new generation of explorers while reaffirming American supremacy in space, even overtaking its traditional competitors like Russia and China. The discovery of water and the potential deposits of rare minerals on the Moon's surface hold promise for both scientific and economic exploration and exploitation. Fourth, this will pave the way for building a new global alliance and private partnership to explore the depths of the heavens for the benefit of the entire humanity. The Artemis programme is one of NASA's first large scale collaborations with commercial companies such as Blue Origin, SpaceX and Boeing.

The entire cost of the mission will be a whopping \$93 billion which will heavily impact the individual taxpayers. However, unraveling the secrets of nature and opening up a new world that will someday become the cradle for our future generations are what should matter the most for humanity. Our sphere of living should be extended further beyond the Earth limits to encompass new horizons to ensure the flexibility and continuity of the human race in the universe in the event of a catastrophic event threatening our very existence on the planet. In that case, space beyond Earth will be our new frontier to propagate the unique human species. In this venture, we won't simply consider ourselves as citizens of a particular region like the Indians, the Americans or the Britons, but a whole global community belonging to a single planet Earth in our pursuit to collectively fight the challenge. If that sense of consciousness is able to be aroused in this existing coercive world by the technological innovations associated with the Artemis mission, then it would be a programme worth spending time and money on.

> The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Lockdown files

Sir, Delightfully, on March 23, Indian government revoked all the restrictions of Epidemic Act. Now, wearing mask and maintaining social distance are only remaining two restrictions. Just two years back, whole India was shutdown and lockdown was imposed for the maiden occasion. Indian economy had shrunk profusely, inflation and unemployment were skyrocketing. As every cloud has a silver lining, we as a nation not only overcame all the predicaments but we improved significantly. India is progressing massively in several areas. Let's talks with facts. GDP has grown 30% from its lowest ebb. Unemployment has seen the decline of 15%. In April 2020, Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) had reached its record at 5.4 while in February 2022, it was 51.8. PMI above 50 is considered good. Sensex after witnessing its nadir at 25,981, touched its zenith at 62,345 in Oct 2021 and it has climbed 31,000 points from the lowest. India had the digital transaction of 2.06 lakh crore rupees in March and in February 2022, it was 8.26 lakh crore rupees. In April 2020, manufacturing had touched record low of 27.4 PMI and in February 2022, it has doubled and reached 54.9 PMI. Retail inflation is now around 7.6% (Highest in 6 years) while in February 2022, it was 6.01%. While 2,61, 633 cars were sold in April 2020 and it has now shot to 2,62,984 in March 2022. *Rahul Chouhan,* UJJAIN

Seamless transition

Sir, Tension is a state of mind that distracts you from every possible thing happening around and leaves you worried and frustrated, disturbing both your physical as well as mental state. CSK side playing 13th season of IPL, after 2 years of forced band now find their team is having a takeover of captaincy. MS Dhoni passed on the mantle of captaincy to Ravinder Jadeja and that was a smooth transmission of power. Dhoni's performance with the bat was found wanting and needed a young guy to take over wicket keeping for the resurgence of the team. Jadeja is inexperienced with captaincy forced on him, but mentor Dhoni is there to assist him from behind the stumps. But that is not the real issue. He needs to lead the side from the front and bowl a full quota of 4 overs, rather than just playing as a part time bowler and bowl one or two overs and get hit for runs. Cricket is a game of luck and lady luck will not favour Jadeja all the time. On the other hand, Dhoni has to perform from behind and in front of the stumps to prune up the team's chances. It appears that Dhoni prefers to rest in between matches and give a chance to a young wicket keeper to don the gloves. *CK Subramaniam*, BANGALORE



national



Were Covid victims treated for free? No. Did the poor and workers get minimum income? No. Were small industries saved from sinking? No. The PM does not CARE!

RAHUL GANDHI FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF

OCT 5 TO BE CELEBRATED AS NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY

The ministry of environment Friday announced that October 5 will be celebrated as National Dolphin Day from this year as part of the conservation campaign for the species and to generate awareness



UPSC EXAM

Additional attempt not possible: Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: The Centre Friday told the Supreme Court that additional attempt in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) civil services examination is "not possible".

The apex court is hearing a plea filed by three aspirants who had cleared the UPSC 2021 prelims exam but could not appear in all papers of the main exam after testing positive for COVID-19 and are now seeking an extra attempt to appear in the exams.

We have filed an affidavit. Additional attempts are not possible. We have considered that." Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, told a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and A S Oka.

The UPSC had recently told the top court there is no provision for holding re-examination in case a candidate fails to appear in the test on the scheduled date for any reasons, including ailment or accident incapacitating him to take the exam. During the hearing on Friday, Bhati said the Centre has filed an affidavit in the matter. The bench said it would hear the matter March 28.

CBI takes over Birbhum killings probe

Kolkata, March 25: The CBI Friday took over the case of killing of eight people in Birbhum district of West Bengal, hours after a Calcutta High

The CBI case will be monitored by a Joint Director-level officer and supervised by a DIG/SP-ranked official, they said. The agency has already dispatched a team, along with eight experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) who have visited the site of crime, they said.

Miscreants had on March 21 set 10 houses on fire in Bogtui village in Birbhum district, killing eight peo-

Roopa Ganguly breaks down in RS

New Delhi: BJP's Rajya Sabha member Roopa Ganguly Friday demanded the imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal in the wake of violence and deaths in the state's Birbhum district, leading to a massive protest by the TMC members and a brief adjournment of the House proceedings. Ganguly broke down as she raised the issue of eight people, including two children, being burnt to death in Bogtui village in Birbhum, saving to be born in West Bengal is not a crime.



Members of SFI and activists during a protest rally, after 8 people died in the violence that broke out at Bogtui village Tuesday morning, in Kolkata, Friday ртгрното

ple including women and children, in a suspected fallout of the murder of a ruling Trinamool Congress leader and 'upa-pradhan' (deputy chief) of the local panchayat.

The Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the CBI to take over the investigation into the case from the state police and submit a progress report before it on the next date of hearing. The court, which suo motu took up the case on Wednesday, said that facts and circumstances demand that the investigation be handed over to the CBI in the interest of justice and also to instill confidence in the society.

"We direct the CBI to forthwith take over the investigation in the case and submit the progress report before us on the next date of hearing," the court said in its order.

The matter will be heard again by the court on April 7.

Noting that the incident had a "nationwide ramification", a division bench headed by Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava asked the West Bengal government to extend full cooperation to the central agency.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 25: Out of the sanctioned strength of 1,104 judges in high courts across the country, there are 699 judges, while 405 posts are va-

cant, the Parliament was told Friday.

405 posts of HC judges vacant

"Against 405 vacancies, at present, 175 proposals are at various stages of processing between the government and the Supreme Court Collegium.

Further recommendations from High Court Collegiums are yet to be received in respect of 230 vacancies in high courts." Law Minister Kiren Rijuju told the Lok Sabha in a reply to a question.

(Formerly Orissa Forest Development Corporation Limited) (A Government of Odisha Undertaking), CIN-U02005OR1962SGC000446

Regd. Off.: Plot No. A/84 Kharavel Nagar, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751001, Telephone: 0674-2534086 2534269, Fax: 0674-2535934, (Website: www.odishafdc.com, E-mail ID: general@odishafdc.com Notification No. 6010/T/SM/60/2021-22 Dated: Bhubaneswar, the 23rd March 2022

TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 4 NOS OF AUTOMATED SAWMILL UNITS INCLUDING DESIGN OF LAY OUT & WORKSHED, OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS

Request for proposal is reinvited from reputed Automated Sawmill Equipment Manufacturers/ Integrators having proven track records of manufacturing Automated Saw Mills for supply, installation, testing & Commissioning of 4 Nos of Automated Sawmill Units inside the sawmill premises of OFDC Ltd. situated at Cuttack, Raghunathpur, Remed and Rourkela. The proposal is to be submitted to the Managing Director, Odisha Forest Development Corporation Limited (OFDC) in two parts viz. (a) Technical and (b) Financial in sealed covers strictly as per terms and conditions and instructions to bidders. Interested firms are required to obtain details of terms and conditions of the RFP from Corporate Office, OFDC Ltd, A/84 Kharavel Nagar, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on payment of Rs. 10,000/- + GST @ 18% towards tender document fees. The RFP document can also be viewed/ downloaded from OFDC's website www.odishafdc.com and submitted by paying document fees of Rs.10,000/- + GST @ 18% in shape of a Bank Draft drawn from any nationalized bank in favour of Managing Director, Odisha Forest Development Corporation Ltd. Payable at Bhubaneswar. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.5,00,000/- in shape of a separate bank draft should accompany the bids. Cash or cheque will not be accepted. Tenders will be received up to 4.00 p.m of 12.04.2022 and opened thereafter at 5.00 p.m. in presence of authorized representatives of the firms. OFDC reserve the right to accept or reject all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof

For Odisha Forest Development Corporation Limited. Sd/- Managing Director

Uddhav dares BJP to jail him

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 25: In one of the bitterest attacks till date, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Friday accused the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party of being a 'pervert' and dared it to arrest him if it wanted to grab power in Maharashtra

Coming three days after his brotherin-law faced action by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Thackeray also questioned the corruption allegations levelled by the BJP and the actions of various central probe agencies to defame the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, its leaders and their

"I am not scared by these tactics. If you want to jail me to come to power then do it... Put me in a cell like Lord Krishna. But don't indulge in such vicious tactics to grab power. Don't harass us or our family members. We never bothered your family members," Thackeray de-

The Chief Minister recalled how Indira Gandhi had declared Emergency, but now we are in a state of 'undeclared Emergency' and said "it needs great courage to declare a public Emergency". Wondering if the ED has become the

maid-servant of the BJP, especially after the arrests of former home minister Anil Deshmukh and later Nawab Malik, the Chief Minister took strong umbrage at the Opposition for linking Malik and the MVA in general with the fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar.

Taking a swipe at Devendra Fadnavis's 2-man 80-hour long government, Thackeray said if the early morning oath ceremony experiment had succeeded. "then Malik and Deshmukh would have been sitting in the BJP's lap".

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at a large that, all that pieces and parcels of agricultural lands lying, being and situated in Mouza/Thana No-211 in Jasoda village, Dist- Balasore, which are described the Schedule written herein under more particularly are owned and possessed by the respective persons mentioned therein. Those owners assured to my client that they are in actual, physical and peaceful possession of their respective land/s as a lawful owner/s and occupiers thereof and accordingly their names are recorded in the Patta and other revenue record of their land/s as a lawful owner and occupiers thereof. Those owners further assured to my client they have clean, clear and marketable title and their respective land/s is/are free from all kind of encumbrances and have full rights and powers to sell and transfer their respective land and agreed to sell and transfer their respective lands to my client.

If any person/s has/have any sort of claim, right, title or interest he/she can file his/her written objection, if any, before the undersigned within a period of 15 days from the publication of this notice along with the Original/Certified documents showing his/her right, title, interest in the said property and he/she should prove and establish his/her claim before me. Otherwise my client shall complete the transaction presuming that the said property is free from all encumbrances and nobody has any right. title or interest in the said property and all such prior claims, if any, have been waived, relinquished by the respective persons and my clients shall not be responsible in any way, if any objection is raised afterwards

Schedule of the Property:-

schedule of the			12/1 22		
Survey No	Chaka No	Plot No	Owners Name		ea
			***************************************	Acr.	Dec
211	1	1	ADITYA BALLABHA NAYAK	7	49
211	2	2	CHAKRADHARA PARIDA	0	60
211	3	3	SOMANATHA DANDAPATA	0	38
211	4	4	DAMODAR BARIK	0	59
211	5	5	SITARAM MAHALIK	1	63
211	6	6	NARENDRA NATH DAS	0	13
211	7	7	CHANDAKISHORE ADHYA AND OTHER	0	13
211	8	8	DILLIP KUMAR PANDA AND OTHERS	0	51
211	9	9	MANDADORI RANA	0	64
211	10	10	RAMAKANTA ROUL	0	77
211	11	11	DAMODARA PANDA	0	90
211		14	PURNA CHANDRA PARIDA AND OTHERS	0	30
211	13	15	RADHAKRUSHNA PRADHAN	1	.08
211	14	16	CHAKRADHARA PRADHAN	1	48
211	15	17	ADIKANDA NAYAK	0	99
211	16	18	RAGHUNATH PRADHAN	0	84
211	17	19	BAIDHARA GIRI	1	25
211	18	20	BHOALNATHA PATRA	1	69
211	19	21	SITARAM MAHALIK	1	77
211	20	22	PURNA CHANDRA MOHAPATRA	0	34
211	21	23	PURI ROUT	0	70
211	22	24	KAMALAMANI BEHERA	0	46
211	23	25	ANKURA CHARANA BEHERA	0	39
211	24	26	GHANASHYAMA PRADHAN AND OTHERS	0	50
211	25	27	MADHUSUDAN BEHERA AND OTHERS	0	53
211	26	28	SHRIKANTA DALAI	0	77
211	27	29	SASIKANTA DALAI	0	38
211	28	30	ANANTA KUMAR BEHERA	0	60
211	29	31	NARAYANA BEHERA AND OTHERS	0	40
211	30	32	HAREKRUSHNA MOHAPATRA	0	49
211	31	33	SHYAMASUNDAR NAYAK AND OTHERS	0	67
211	32	34	BHAGABAN NAYAK AND OTHERS	0	74
211	33	35	SANATANA SETHI	0	92
211	34	36	RAMAKANTA NAYAK AND OTHERS	0	74
211	35	37	RABINDRA NARAYAN PARIDA	0	37
211	36	38	BIJAY KUMAR DALAI AND OTHERS	0	35
211	37	39	RAJU BEHERA	0	37
211	38	40	GOURAHARI SAHU AND OTHERS	1	28
211	39	41	DAMADORA PANDA	3	83
211	40	42	LAXMIDHARA PANDA	0	62
211	41	43	MANJULATA PRADHAN	0	45
211	42	44	KARTIKA CHANDRA PRADHAN	0	45
211	43	45	KARTIKA BADHEI	0	28
211	44	46	SHISHIRA KUMAR NAYAK AND OTHERS	0	36
211	45	47	SHANTILATA BEHERA	0	23
211	46	48	BAIDHARA BEHERA	0	55
211	47	49	CHAKRADHARA BEHERA	0	80
211	48	50	SRIKANTA MAHALIK	1	.06
211	49	51	SATRUGHANA BARIK	Ö	66
211	50	52	SANATANA SETHI	1	21
211	51	53	HRUSHIKESHA BEHERA AND OTHERS	0	32
211	52	54	PURNA CHANDRA PARIDA AND OTHERS	0	23
211	53	55	BENUDHARA PANDIT AND OTHERS	0	88
211	54	56	AJIT KUMAR PRADHAN AND OTHERS	0	40
211	55	57	JALADHARA BEHERA AND OTHERS	0	97
211	57	59	GAGANA PARIDA	1	16
211		60	BINAPANI PARIDA	Ö	87
211	58	61	PURASTAM BARIK	1	23
211	59	62	SURENDRA MAHALIK	0	32
211	60	63	SANATANA SETHI	0	99
211	61	64	UPENDRANATHA SAHU	0	56
211	62	65	MOUSAM RANA AND OTHERS	0	50
211	UZ	00	WOOODIN INTINATION OTTILING	U	50

Peace must for normal ties: India to China

Wang flew into Delhi from Kabul Thursday evening in an unannounced trip in the first highest-level visit to India by a Chinese leader after the border standoff in eastern Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: India Friday pressed China hard to complete the disengagement process in the remaining friction points in east

Disputes should be ern Ladakh resolved without use quickly, asof threat or use of force. serting Nor should there be that bilat eral ties attempts to unilaterally cannot rechange the status quo turn to nor S JAISHANKAR I mal if the sit INDIA'S EXTERNAL uation in the

border areas is "abnormal" In his nearly three-hour "candid" talks with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed that the frictions and tensions triggered by China's mili-

gion since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between two neighbours

At a media briefing after the talks, Jaishankar said if both sides are committed to improving ties then this commitment must find "full expression" in the ongoing disengagement talks and that relationship is best served by observing the three mutuals -- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity

and mutual interests. Describing the current situation as "not normal" and a "work in progress", he also said relations between India and China have been "disturbed" as a result of the Chinese actions in

April 2020. The external affairs minister said he laid out India's principled approach to international relations at the

talks, adding it is AFFAIRS MINISTER based on respect for international law, UN Charter and sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

> "Disputes should be resolved without use of threat or use of force. Nor should there be attempts to unilaterally change the status quo," he said, seen as a message to China.



ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Odisha Undertaking) Central Store & Machinery Project, Bhubaneswar - 751012

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 15/OCC/CST-04/21-22 Dtd.: 25.03.2022 On behalf of M/s. Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd. ("OCCL"), Senion Manager (Mech.), Central Store & Machinery Project, Unit-VIII, Gopabandhu

SI.	Description of works	Cost of tender document + CGST @ 9%
-----	----------------------	-------------------------------------

Dismantling, loading and transportation of TATA (P&H) 955 ALC Crane, presently at Deo Gate Erection Project site in the district of Mayurbhanj to Lower Suktel Project Bolangir, Dist: Bolangir and unloading, assembly along with trail testing and load test of the said crane at Lower Suktel Project, Bolangir, Dist: Bolangir as per direction of Engineer-in-Charge

The tender document may be downloaded from O.C.C. Ltd., website www.odishaconstruction.com or from Govt. of Odisha website www.dishaconstruction.com or from Govt. of Odisha website www.tendersodisha.gov.in and submitted along with non-refundable cost of tender document amounting to Rs. 6000/++CGST @ 9% & SGST @ 9% = Rs. 7,080/- in shape of Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized / Scheduled Bank payable at Bhubaneswar only in favour of "Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd. - Project Account" may be deposited along with the tender. The authority shall not be responsible for missing of any page during downloading.

The tenders must be submitted to the Senior Manger (Mech), Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd., Central Store & Machinery Project, Unit-6 Bhubaneswar-12 on before 03:00 PM on 05.04.2022 and will be opened on 05.04.2022 at 04:00 PM in the presence of the tenderer, who may like to be present. If there will be a public holiday on the last date of sale of tender document and receipt & opening of the tenders as specified above, the tender document will be sold and tenders will be received & opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Senior Manager (Mech.), Central Store & Machinery Project, OCCL

Rs.7,080/-

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT IDENTIFICATION NO: RWS&S DIVN., PURI - 44 OF 2021-22 Ph: (06752) 251276 Fax - (06752) 251276

E-mail - eerwss_puri@nic.in No.O-1877: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in single cover system according to the norms of

e-pro	ocurement system, in on-li	ne mode from eligible contractors.
SI. No.	Nature of work:	Execution of electrical installation work for providing Power supply to different RWSS Points for the purpose of supply of drinking water in Puri District.
1.	No. of works:	03(THREE)
2.	Estimated Cost:	Rs 6.96 Lakh (app.) to 10.51 Lakh (app.)
2. 3. 4.	Time for completion:	02 (Two) Months
4.	Cost of bidding document:	Rs.6000/-
5.	Class of Contractors eligible:	Holder of HT Licenses of ELBO
6.	Availability of bids on-line:	From 11.00 hour of 30.03.2022 to 17.00 hours of 11.04.2022
7.	Last date and time for seeking clarification:	17.00 hours of 06.04.2022
8.	Date & time of opening of technical bids:	On dt 12.04.2022 at 11.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri (All documents should be submitted in online only. No original documents should be dropped in dropping box before opening of technical bid in Division Office).
9.	Date and time of opening of financial bids:	Does not arise.

Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersorissa

gov.in. Subsequent corrigendum if any shall appear in the website Place: - Balasore Sd./-Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri Date: - 26/ 03/2022. OIPR-25017/11/0024/2122

211

HAREKRUSHNA SAHU 21 **TOTAL IN ACRES** A 54.31D Sd./- Bhagirathi Barik, Ex - Special Judicial Magistrate, Advocate, At-Mansing Bazar, PO-Motiganj, Dist-Balasore M. No.- 7978831718



TWOSTATES

Properties

sheltering ultras

to be attached

conspiracies were hatched to attack

erties is being started from Srinagar

of the loan issued to Bhat and de-

clined to approve subsequent in-

stalments. Bhat moved the high

court challenging this decision,

contending that she was forced to

change her admission due to non-

availability of seats in Community

Based Medical College

district in the Valley.

security forces and civilians.





SATURDAY | MARCH 26 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

'Need to promote youth of Kashmir by educating them'



New Delhi, March 25: The Supreme Court Friday observed that it is essential to promote youth hailing from Kashmir by educating them, while observing that everybody makes mistakes in their youth.

Hearing a plea by the UT government challenging the Jammu and Kashmir High Court order, directing the Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation to release further loan instalments to Mubashir Ashraf Bhat, a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said: "We need to promote the youth of Kashmir by educating them.'

It added that if it were to set aside the high court order, then it would have a negative impact.

As advocate Taruna Prasad, the standing counsel for J&K, contended that the matter should be heard as there was a breach of trust, the bench said that Bhat might have

Srinagar: In a major development, Jammu and Kashmir Police Thursday started the process of attaching mmovable properties used to provide shelter to militants or where

Process has started for attachment of some immovable properties which have been used for purpose of militancy as per section 2(g) & 25 of ULP Act. Don't give shelter or harcommitted a mistake, but it can be bour militants/associates. Legal overlooked in this case. action will be supplemented by prop-There is a mistake on her part, erty attachments as per law," Srinagar police posted on its official "but we all have done mistakes Twitter handle. SSP, Srinagar, Rakesh in our youth", it said, adding that if the appeal were to be allowed, Balwal told some reporters that the houses where encounters took place, then it may result in cancellation and houses where militants took of loan resources available for shelter and planned attacks on the the Kashmiri vouth as it declined security forces and the civilians will to entertain the appeal. be attached. "So far, during 2020-Initially, the corporation 2021, over one dozen such houses released the first instalment of have been identified in downtown, loan in favour of Bhat, however Soura, Pantha Chowk, Batmaloo, she was denied the subsequent Nowgam, Harwan etc," he said. The instalment for changing her adprocess of attachment of such prop-

timating the corporation. A single-judge $\bar{b}ench$ of the high court had ruled against Bhat, but a division bench ruled in her favour. The Union Territory challenged this order before the apex court.

mission to Khwaja Yunus Ali

Medical College, Bangladesh from

the Community Based Medical

College, Bangladesh without in-

The corporation had demanded the return of the first instalment

1.42L TOURISTS VISITED J&K **LAST MONTH**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: As many as 1.42 lakh tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir during the last month. which is the highest recorded in the past seven years, the government informed Rajya Sabha Thursday.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy said the central government is helping in promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and this is giving good results. The financial assistance given by the central government is highest to Jammu in the country, which includes 3,902 loans during Covid and under the emergency credit line guarantee scheme, and as many as 1,03,750 people have been helped, Reddy said.



"The situation has improved after Covid in Jammu and Kashmir. In the last month alone, 1,42,000 tourists visited Kashmir This is the highest number of tourists in the last seven years in Jammu and Kashmir," the minister informed the Upper House of Parliament.

"Since June 2021 onwards, as many as 72 lakh tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir and this has helped local people and promote their arts and handicrafts," Reddy said. In his written reply, he said as a result of the steps taken, domestic tourism is at its peak in the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh

Delhi ranks 3rd in per capita income after Sikkim, Goa: Survey

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, DELHI'S PER CAPITA INCOME GREW 16.81 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR TO ₹4,01,982 IN FISCAL 2021-22

New Delhi, March 25: The per capita income of Delhi is ranked at third place among the states and union territories while Goa stood at first place and Sikkim at second, according to the Economic Survey of Delhi 2021-22.

As per the economic survey, Delhi's per capita income during 2021-22 at current prices has been worked out to ₹4,01,982 as against ₹3,44,136 during 2020-21 showing a growth of 16.81 per cent.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia Friday presented the Outcome Budget for the year 2021-22 in the Legislative Assembly. The Delhi government is the first to introduce the Outcome Budget in which it announces details of various projects and schemes, Sisodia said.

The advance estimate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Delhi at current prices during 2021-22 is ₹9,23,967 crore which recorded a growth of 17.65 per cent over the previous year.

Delhi has maintained its consistent Revenue Surplus ₹1,450 crore during 2020-2021. However, the survey shows the revenue surplus slightly dropped by .04 per cent as



Advance estimate of **Gross State Domestic** Product of Delhi at current prices during FY 2021-22 is ₹9,23,967 crore which recorded a growth of 17.65 per cent over the previous year

Delhi's revenue surplus was 0.18 per cent of GSDP during 2020-21 and 0.14 per cent during 2021-22.

The fiscal deficit also increased three times this year as compared to last year. There is a fiscal deficit of ₹9,972.96 crore during 2020-21 as compared to the fiscal deficit of ₹3,227.79 crore in 2019-20 which is 1.27 per cent of GSDP as compared to 0.41. The GSDP at current prices increased by about 50 per cent in the last six years, i.e., from ₹6,16,085 crore in 2016-17 to ₹9,23,967 crore during 2021-22, said the survey.

The total number of motor vehicles on road in Delhi as of March 31, 2021, was 122.53 lakh, showing 3.03 per cent year-onyear growth, it added. According to the survey, the forest and tree cover area of Delhi increased to 342 sq km in 2021. It means that the share of forests in the total geographical area has increased to 23.06 per cent.

Forest Report, 2021, and said Delhi has the largest forest cover of 194.24 sq km followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru, among the seven major megacities.

It cited the latest India State of

The income from manufacturing has increased from ₹18,907 crore in 2011-12 to ₹42,230 crore in 2021-22, the report noted.

As per India Tourism Statistics-2021, Delhi secured 4th rank in total foreign tourist visits in 2020, with a total share of 9.50 per cent, it added.



Members of Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) raise slogans during their protest over the arrival of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in front of Hyderabad House

LOVE WINS OVER WAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 25: Love transcends borders even in the time of war. This may sound like a cliche out of a romantic film's promo, but it did happen in the case of a Delhi High Court lawyer, Anubhav Bhasin, 33, who proposed to his Ukrainian girlfriend, Anna Horodetska, 29, as soon as she landed here, taking an agonisingly circuitous route from her home

Talking about their relationship, Anubhav said: "We have known each other for about two and a half years.

Then came the se of Covid-19, and with it, another lockdown, yet Anubhav and Anna staved in touch with each other.

It was going according to plan till the war erupted in Ukraine. "When the war broke out February 24, Anna woke up to the sound of bombs," recalled Anubhay. "For the next three days she was in and out of bomb shel-

ters that were close to her home. On the 27th morning she decided to move to Poland, so she packed a bag with warm clothes

MATTER OF CONCERN



and other essentials and found a cab to reach the station, from where she left with her dog and her mother.

Continuing with his account of Anna's escape from war, Anubhav said: "She reached Lviv on the 27th night and stayed there overnight. On the 28th, Anna decided to take a bus to

Delhi is the

polluted

capital for

the fourth

consecutive

vear in 2021.

with pollution

rising almost

15 per cent

according to

the World Air

released by

over the

previous

vear.

Ouality

Report

IOAir

world's most

were people who had been waiting at the Polish border for more than 24 hours and not been able to get through. She finally found a bus going to the border with Slovakia and reached there around midnight, and crossed the border on foot after waiting for a couple hours. After entering Slovakia, Anna

Poland, but she learnt that there

managed to find a minibus heading to Kraków, Poland, where stayed for a couple of weeks. "I had some friends there who helped her and provided her accommodation," Anubhav said.

"Finally, she applied for a visa at the Indian embassy in Poland and when it was granted, she flew to India and I proposed to her at the airport.

Now that Anna is in India, Anubhav says they are going to get married soon and then she will apply for Indian citizenship.

As of now, she has a one-year visa. "We just need to go back to get the dog whenever the war gets over," Anubhav concluded. It may be a long time, though, before Anna gets to be reunited with her dog.

Bill tabled in LS to merge three MCDs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: A Bill to merge the three municipal corporations in the national capital into a single entity was introduced in the Lok Sabha Friday amid opposition claims that the move was bevond the legislative competence of Parliament.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai introduced the Delhi Corporation Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2022, dismissing the claims made by the opposition. Rai said Article 239AA gave

Parliament the right to make laws with respect to any matter of Union Territory.

N member Premachandran, Congress members Gaurav Gogoi and Manish Tewari, BSP member Ritesh Pandey opposed the introduction of the bill contending that Parliament lacked the legislative competence to amend the Bill. Premachandran said the Bill to trifurcate the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was passed by the Delhi Assembly and it was beyond the domain of Parliament to pass law to merge the

civic bodies. Gogoi claimed that the move by



the Centre to merge the three municipal corporations into one through a law of Parliament was an attack on the federal structure of the constitution. He also questioned the rationale behind capping the number of seats in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi at 250, contending that the same should be decided after taking into account the population of the national capital.

Pandey said that the Constitution granted powers to states to constitute municipal corporations. The Bill states that the 2011 trifurcation of the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi was "uneven" in terms of territorial divisions and revenue generating potential.



area over which the pollutants disperse due to meteorological and geographical factors. Air pollution levels (96.4 micrograms per cubic meter) in

the capital were around 20 times above the WHO-prescribed safe limit of five micrograms per cubic meter. The reason why Delhi hasn't been able to improve its air quality all these years is the lack of a systematic and comprehensive policy implementation targeting absolute emission load reduction. Sunil Dahiya from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said.

London and Beijing were more polluted than Delhi at one time but they improved their air quality with the systematic and coordinated implementation of policies, he said.



Despite transportation accounting for a large share in the overall emission load in Delhi, the government has shied away from capping the number of cars and setting a target to reduce the consumption of diesel and petrol.

Though the Delhi government has introduced Delhi Electric Vehicles policy which aims at increasing the EV share in total vehicle sales to 25 percent by 2024, vehicles plying in neighbouring areas also affect its air quality, Dahiya said.

According to The Energy and Resources Institute, Delhi could reduce its PM 2.5 concentrations by nearly 35 percent by 2030 as compared to the 2019 emissions if efforts are made to manage pollution in the entire national capital region.

Karthik Ganesan, a research fellow at Council on Energy, Environment and Water, said all industries in the national capital region are vet to switch to PNG, barring Delhi and that doesn't solve the problem. Also, public transport augmentation in Delhi has

happened speedily. The authorities are constructing peripheral expressways but that doesn't take the fossil fuel-driven vehicles far from the city, he said.

Another problem with Delhi is the multiplicity of agencies which hamper the implementation of plans and policies to curb air pollution, Ganesan rued.

'The steps to reduce air pollution are all laid out in the city action plan. The authorities should now focus on their implementation," he added. Chandra Bhushan,

Policy paralysis blamed for Delhi air pollution: Experts President and CEO of the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology, said the problem is that authorities have a very simplistic approach to deal with air

pollution in India. Chandra Bushan said the biggest step that authorities in India have taken to reduce pollution is providing LPG connection to every household. Biomass burning is the one common source responsible for a large percentage of air pollution in the country.

Desertification is the second major factor for increased air pollution in Delhi over the last 15 years. We will have to restore large parcels of degraded land, restore our water bodies and plant trees.

Jai Dhar Gupta, founding member of Citizens Movement 'My Right to Breathe', said, "15-20 times the WHO safe level is alarming.'

What's more alarming is that we've known about it for years and chose to disregard it. The only explanation for those wondering why levels have moved up 15 percent in a Covid year is that economic hardship has pushed theurban poor from LPG cylinders to using chulas with biomass.

national

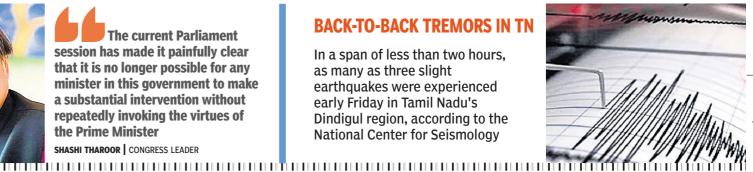


The current Parliament session has made it painfully clear that it is no longer possible for any minister in this government to make a substantial intervention without repeatedly invoking the virtues of the Prime Minister

SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS LEADER

BACK-TO-BACK TREMORS IN TN

In a span of less than two hours, as many as three slight earthquakes were experienced early Friday in Tamil Nadu's Dindigul region, according to the **National Center for Seismology**



has been taking up the matter of the return of Indian students with the Chinese

authorities both in New Delhi and through our Embassy in China. Regular updates have been given in this regard by the Embassy to the Indian students

V MURALEEDHARAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Central government stands committed to buying whatever excess stocks of raw rice in Telangana as per the quality specified by the Food Corporation of India and as per the agreement.... The farmers of Telangana can rest assured there is absolutely no discrimination

PIYUSH GOYAL UNION FOOD MINISTER



Organization (ISRO),

in-situ measurements show the black carbon concentration over the Himalayan region is highly variable with very low values over the western Himalayas, moderate values over the eastern Himalayas and high values over the foothills of

BHUPENDER YADAV UNION

the Himalayas

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Delhi teen's body found inside bag

New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy's body was found stuffed inside a travel bag Friday morning in Delhi's Mangolpuri area, an official said. The deceased was a resident of Rohini Sector 1 in Delhi. According to **Deputy Commissioner of** Police (DCP) Sameer Sharma, a PCR call was received around 7 a.m. at Mangolpuri police station after which the local police immediately reached the spot near Peer Baba Mazar main road opposite Y Block Mangolpuri.

Hoax bomb threat triggers panic

Gurugram: A hoax bomb threat made to the Medanta hospital in Gurugram's Sector 38 triggered panic which disturbed the operation of the facility. According to the police. an anonymous call was made to the hospital call centre's landline Thursday at around 12.15 p.m., warning of a bomb inside the premises. Once the hospital authorities were alerted, the bomb squad along with a fire tender were rushed to the spot. Upon inspection of the hospital, the authorities did not find explosives of any kind.

One dead in Delhi fire

New Delhi: A person was charred to death while another was injured after a fire broke out at a plastic factory in the national capital Friday, a Fire Department official said. The official informed that they received a call about the fire incident around 10.40 a.m. at K-82, ADSIDC Bhawan, Sector 1, Bawana in North West Delhi after which as many as four fire tenders were immediately pressed into the service.

Noida builder held

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested a notorious land mafia and interstate cheater from Maharashtra's Nashik, for duping people of ₹1,000 crore on the pretext of allotting flats in Uttar Pradesh's Noida, a senior police official said Friday. The accused, identified as Pivush Tiwari (42) alias Puneet Bhardwai was also declared a proclaimed offender in 2018 in the cheating cases and a reward of ₹50.000 was also declared against him.

Team Yogi takes oath

Lucknow, March 25: Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as the 33rd Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Friday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers and a galaxy of Chief Ministers.

Adityanath was administered the oath of office by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel at the Ekana stadium here, with over 75,000 people from different walks of life, cheering him on.

Two deputy Chief Ministers were also sworn in along with the Chief Minister. They include Keshav Maurya -- who recently lost the election, and Brajesh Pathak. Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma in the previous government, has been dropped this time. Sources said that he would now be given an organisational post.

The new ministry sworn in Friday includes 52 ministers, including 18 in cabinet rank, and the government now has a new complexion. Five women ministers have been included. They are --Baby Rani Maurya, Gulab Devi, Pratibha Shukla, Rajni Tiwari and Vijay Laxmi Gautam.

Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Swatantra Dev Singh has been inducted into the ministry while some senior leaders including Shrikant

Physically-challenged

New Delhi, March 25: The

Supreme Court Friday permit-

ted people with disabilities to

apply for Indian Police Service

(IPS), DANIPS and Indian Railway

Protection Force Service (IRPFS)

provisionally as their preferences

in the civil services and asked

them to submit their application

forms in this regard to the UPSC

while hearing a plea challenging the

Centre's August 18, 2021 notification

on the ground that it has granted

a "blanket exemption" to all cate-

gories of posts under the IPS, Delhi,

Daman and Diu, Dadar and Nagar

Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, Lakshadweep Police Service

(DANIPS) and IRPFS from the

purview of reservation required to

A bench of justices A M

Khanwilkar and A S Oka was in-

formed by Attorney General K K

Venugopal that the government

wants time for filing counter affi-

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta

told the bench that two-week time

would be required for filing

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, ap-

pearing for petitioner 'National

Platform for the Rights of the

Disabled', said the exams are over

and some of these persons have

Contending that they had to file

their preferences by March 24

evening which was the last date.

Datar said they want extension of

time for this by a week or two since

the selection process is already in

ilarly placed persons may be per-

mitted to submit their application

form to the UPSC and their claims

can be considered subject to the

outcome of the proceedings.

He said the petitioner and sim-

be provided there under.

davit in the matter.

the affidavit.

cleared it.

The apex court passed the order

by April 1.

can now apply for

IPS, IRPFS, DANIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Adityanath was administered the oath of office by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel at the Ekana stadium with over 75,000 people from different walks of life, cheering him on

The new ministry sworn in Friday includes 52 ministers, including 18 in cabinet rank, and the government now

Sharma, Siddhartha Nath Singh, Ashutosh Tandon, Mahendra Singh, Jai Pratap Singh, Satish Mahana and Mohsin Raza have been dropped. A much-awaited inclusion was that of former IAS officer Arvind Sharma who had quit his job in the PMO last year made was MLC in Uttar Pradesh.

Asheesh Patel of Apna Dal and Sanjay Nishad of Nishad Party have also found a berth in the council of ministers as cabinet ministers. Daya Shankar Singh, husband of former minister Swati Singh, has also been made minister of state. Former IPS officer Aseem Arun, who quit his job in January to join politics, has also been made

minister. However, former ED official Rajeshwar Singh, who won the election after quitting his job, has not been made minister. Among the surprise omissions in the government formation are rebel Congress MLA Aditi Singh who had contested the elections on a BJP ticket from Rae Bareli. Aparna Yadav, younger daughter-in-law of Mulayam Singh Yadav, who was also tipped to become a min-

ister, was not on the list.

80-yr-old on wheelchair 'strip-searched' at airport

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, March 25: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) female constable was suspended after a complaint that a wheelchair bound elderly woman passenger, who had undergone a hip implant, was reportedly stripsearched at the Guwahati international airport during a security check, officials said Friday

According to CISF sources, the woman constable has been suspended and an inquiry into the incident is underway. Thursday, taking to Twitter, the daughter of the 80-year-old Delhi-bound woman, Dolly Kikon, complained that her disabled mother was made to strip at the CISF security check at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport here. The security personnel wanted "proof" of her titanium hip implant and forced her to undress, said Dolly.

The CISF also tweeted: "Security and dignity of needy pax (passenger) go hand in hand. CISF has already started enquiry in connection with the unfortunate incident at Guwahati airport. The concerned personnel has been suspended. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) CISF has spoken with the passenger.

In another tweet, Dolly said: "Met with Guwahati airport authorities and CISF officials to fol-



According to CISF sources, the woman constable has been suspended and an inquiry into the incident is underway

low up. The DIG CISF also reached out over the phone. They have assured me that the matter will be taken up. Thank you for promising to look into the case.

As per CISF sources, the woman constable had asked the female passenger to remove the clothing from her lower body as the metal detector beeped indicating metal on her body.

"As the metal detector beeped, the CISF constable requested the woman passenger to undergo thorough checking and show her the hip implant area to confirm the passenger's claim of having undergone a hip implant," a CISF officer said.

577 Indian fishermen in Pak's custody: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: As many as 577 Indian fishermen are in the custody of Pakistan and India has been consistently raising the incidents of their detention and the capture of fishing boats by the neighbouring country, the Lok Sabha was informed Friday.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs Muraleedharan said according to the India-Pakistan "Agreement on Consular Access" signed on May 21, 2008, lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen of each country, lodged in the jails of the other, are exchanged on January 1 and July 1 every year.

"According to the lists exchanged on January 1, 2022, Pakistan has acknowledged the custody of 577 fishermen who are Indian or are believed to be Indian,' he said during the Question Hour.

Besides, the minister said, according to government records, 1,164 Indian fishing boats are also believed to be in Pakistan's custody. However, the neighbouring country has not acknowledged the custody

the boats. He said incidents of apprehension of Indian fishermen and their boats by Pakistani authorities are consistently raised with the neighbouring country and it is conveyed that the issue may be considered on purely humanitarian and livelihood grounds.

Apex court refuses to entertain plea against PM Cares Fund _

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to disclose accounts, activity and expenditure details of the PM-CARES Fund and make it open for audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai asked the petitioner to approach the Allahabad high court and file a review petition in the matter.

Senior advocate Devadatt_ Kamat, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the ambit of relief sought is totally different and validity and disclosure of PM-CARES Fund was sought.

He said the High Court missed the petition relying on CPIL (judgment of the top court) and stated that the High Court was not correct in relying solely on



Chandigarh, March 25: Punjab

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Friday said former MLAs will now get pension for only one term, doing away with the practice of drawing the benefit for each term served by them.

An MLA gets a pension of around ₹75,000 per month for one term. Thereafter, an additional 66 per cent of the pension amount is given for each subsequent term.

More than 250 former MLAs are getting pension at present."Ex-MLAs in Punjab, even if they have won twice, five times or ten times, they will now get pension for one term only," said Mann in a video

MPs are also getting pension for remaining MLAs earlier.

The CM said money saved from it will be spent on the welfare of people."Our political leaders, including MLAs, seek votes from you with folded hands by saying that give us a chance to serve you," Mann said addressing people. "But you will be surprised to know that several MLAs who won thrice, four times or five times and then after losing the elections or after not getting tickets for contesting the polls, get lakhs of rupees in pension per month," Mann said.

"Somebody gets ₹3.50 lakh and somebody gets ₹4.50 lakh and somebody gets ₹5.25 lakh as pension. It

Somebody gets Rs 3.50 lakh and somebody aets ₹4.50 lakh and somebody gets ₹5.25 lakh as pension. It

financial burden of crores of rupees on the exchequer



puts a financial burden of crores of rupees on the exchequer," Mann said. A reduction will also be made in their family pensions as well,

given necessary directions to the officers concerned in this regard.

A few days ago, SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, who is 11time legislator, had said he will not accept pension as an ex-MLA. The nonagenarian had asked the Punjab government and the Vidhan Sabha speaker to divert his pension to some social work, "preferably to help some needy girl students in their education"

Had Badal decided not to forego the pension, he would have received more than ₹5 lakh per month as pension. Meanwhile, Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira welcomed the decision.

"I welcome the decision of one

@BhagwantMann particularly in view of the colossal debt of ₹3 Lac Cr on which we're paying an annual interest of ₹30 K. One pension is justified as lots of MLAs have virtually contributed their lifetime in politics," said Khaira in a tweet.

Congress MLA and former minister Pargat Singh too hailed the move."I welcome the 'one MLAone pension' decision of @BhagwantMann Govt . This will reduce the burden on Punjab's finances. As the main opposition, we will continue to play a constructive and responsible role. Punjab comes first to us," said the Jalandhar Cantt MLA.

Give us justice, Disha Salian's parents write to President

Satish Salian and Vasanti Salian, Disha's father and mother, say if they do not get justice, they will be left with no other alternative but to end their lives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 25: The parents of celebrity manager Disha Salian have written to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking action against Union Minister Narayan Rane, his MLA son Nitesh and others for allegedly spreading fake news about the circumstances of their daughter's death and de-

faming the family. Satish Salian and Vasanti Salian, Disha's father and mother, also said if they did not get justice, they will be left with no other alternative but to end their lives. They also demanded that defamter's death be expunged from all media platforms.

Disha Salian at one time was the manager of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Satish and Vasanti Salian Wednesday wrote a letter to the President urging him to stop the 'harassment' by BJP leaders Narayan Rane and his son Nitesh Rane.

A criminal case has already been registered by Mumbai Police against the Ranes for allegedly making defamatory remarks and spreading false information about Disha's death. Narayan Rane was also questioned by police in the case earlier this month.

Disha Salian (28) allegedly com-

mitted suicide by jumping from a high-rise building in suburban Malad June 8, 2020, six days before Rajput (34) was found hanging his apartment in Bandra. The Salians, in the letter, said that after their daughter's death, some people who were active on social media started connecting the incident with the death of Rajput and started spreading "imaginary and factually incorrect information' on social media and news chan-

"Some politicians like Narayan Rane and Nitesh Rane jumped on the issue due to their rivalry with (Maharashtra Chief Minister) Uddhav Thackeray and (his son



and minister) Aaditya to settle their personal scores, and dragged us into their political battle and have made our life miserable," Disha's parents claimed in

"The Ranes have no proof whatsoever and the facts are in our personal knowledge. We are well aware that they cannot give any proof, as they are liars and they are giving false excuses of giv-

(Mumbai) police," they said. The Salians requested the President to issue directions to the authorities concerned to take appropriate steps to ensure that justice is done, adding that otherwise they will be left with no other alternative but to end their lives.

ing proof to the CBI and not to the

A case was registered against Union MSME minister Rane and MLA Nitesh Rane at the Malwani police station here after the former, during a press conference on February 19, made certain remarks about Disha Salian's death. Disha's parents also wrote in the letter that because of the scandalous claims about the circumstances of their daughter's death, they fear stepping out of their house.

"We fear meeting new people. Even those we know have that look of suspicion towards us when we try to go out of our house and meet them accidentally. The trauma of losing our own daughter still haunts us but these people have not let us grieve properly," the letter said.

















international

TALIBAN UNDER FIRE

In a joint statement, the Foreign Ministers of the UK, US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, as well as the High Representative of the European Union, have condemned the decision of the Taliban over not reopening secondary and high schools in Afghanistan for girls, Khaama Press reported

CRISIS DEEPENS







300 killed in theatre attack

Kyiv: About 300 people were killed in the Russian airstrike last week that blasted open a Mariupol theatre, Ukrainian authorities said Friday in what would make it the war's deadliest known attack on civilians yet.

In a vain attempt to protect the hundreds of people taking cover inside the theatre, "CHILDREN" in Russian had been printed in huge white letters on the ground in two places outside the grand, columned building to make it visible from the air.

For days, the government in the besieged and ruined city of Mariupol was unable to give a casualty count for the March 16 attack. In announcing the death toll on its Telegram channel Friday, it cited eyewitnesses. But it was not immediately clear whether emergency workers had finished excavating the ruins of the Mariupol Drama Theatre or how witnesses arrived at the figure

Still, the emerging picture is certain to fuel allegations Moscow has committed war crimes by killing civilians, whether deliberately or by indiscriminate fire. And it could increase pressure on NATO to step up military aid. The alliance has refused so far to supply warplanes or establish a no-fly zone over Ukraine for fear of getting into a war with Russia.

US President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said Friday the reaction to the theatre bombing was "just absolute shock, particularly given the fact that it was so clearly a civilian target".

He said it showed "a brazen disregard for the lives of innocent people". The scale of devastation in Mariupol, where bodies have been left unburied amid bomb craters and hollowed-out buildings, has made information difficult to obtain.

But soon after the attack, the



Bombing in Mariupol DramaTheatre

WEEKS AT KYIV'S GATES

BIDEN TO ASSESS RESPONSE

TO REFUGEES IN POLAND

CHINA'S SINOPEC HALTS

DISCUSSION ON INVESTMENTS

Ukrainian Parliament's human

rights commissioner said more

than 1,300 people had taken shelter

in the theatre, many of them be-

cause their homes had been de-

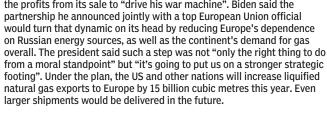
stroyed. The building had a base-**RUSSIAN FORCES HALTED FOR** ment bomb shelter, and some survivors did emerge from the rubble after the attack.

> The reported death toll came a day after Biden and allied leaders promised that more military aid for Ukraine is on the way. But they stopped short of providing some of the heavy weaponry that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said is urgently needed. Zelenskky has pleaded for planes, tanks and no-fly patrols over Ukraine.

US, EU ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP

Brussels: The US and European Union Friday announced a new partnership to reduce the continent's reliance on Russian energy, a step top officials characterised as the start of a years-long initiative to further isolate Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine. US President Joe Biden asserted that Russian President Vladimir





HUNGER GRIPS UKRAINIAN CITIES

Kharkiv: As Russia relentlessly besieges and nummels Ukraine's cities, nearly anyone who can is trying to leave and those left behind face desperate food shortages in a country once known as the breadbasket for the world. For civilians refugees from Ukraine,



the days of plenty in the country are becoming just a fading memory, as the war grinds into a second month. With Ukrainian soldiers battling Russia's invasion force to a near stalemate in many places and the president urging people to remain steadfast, the US and the European Union announced a move to further squeeze Russia: a new partnership to reduce Europe's reliance on Russian energy and slowly squeeze off the billions of dollars the Kremlin gets from sales of fossil fuels. Fidgeting with anticipation, a young girl in Kharkiv watched intently this week as a volunteer's knife cut through a giant slab of cheese, carving out thick slices - one for each hungry person waiting stoically in line. Hanna Spitsyna took charge of divvying up the delivery of food aid from the Ukrainian Red Cross, handing it out to her neighbors. Each got a lump of the cheese that was cut under the child's watchful gaze. dropped chunk by chunk into plastic bags that people in line held open like hungry mouths. "They brought us aid, brought us aid for the elderly women that stayed here," Spitsyna said. "All these people need diapers, swaddle blankets and food."

Russia is preparing to attack Poland: Envoy

Warsaw: Aggression by Russia against Poland or another European Union (EU) country is possible in the near future, said Andrii Deshchytsia, the Ambassador of Kyiv in Warsaw. "Russia is preparing to attack Poland. Diplomatic missions, including the Russian Embassy in Warsaw, probably have this information. And they are covering their tracks," European Pravda quoted the envoy as saying. The Ambassador referred to the smoke over the Russian embassy in Warsaw. A similar smoke over the Kyiv embassy in Russia was noticed on the eve of the invasion

Half the population of Kharkiv has fled

Kharkiv: About half the population of the eastern city of Kharkiv has left, and food and other essentials are dwindling for those who stay behind. A line formed Thursday at an apartment block as neighbours waited for aid from the Red Cross. "Among those who stayed, there are people who can walk on their own, but many who cannot walk, the elderly," said Hanna Spitsyna, who distributed the food to the sound of explosions behind her. Kharkiv has been under siege by Russian forces since the start of the invasion, with relentless shelling that has forced people to sleep in metro stations and in basements. Ukraine's government said shelling on a group of people awaiting aid elsewhere in the city killed six people Thursday.

Ukraine, Russia conduct first prisoner swap

Kyiv: Ukraine and Russia have conducted the first prisoner swap since Moscow waged its war on Kiev February 24, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said here Ten Ukrainian prisoners-of-war held by the Russian military were released in exchange for 10 Russian soldiers captured by Ukrainian forces, Xinhua news agency quoted Vereshchuk as saying in a Facebook post. Besides, Ukraine handed over 11 civilian Russian sailors, who were rescued from a sunken ship near Odessa to Russia in exchange for 19 Ukrainian civilian sailors, she added. "Under terms of exchange, the rescue ship itself will also be returned to Ukraine and will be sent to the port in Turkey."

'Evidence growing of Mariupol mass graves'

Geneva: The head of the UN human rights team in Ukraine said Friday that monitors had received more information about mass graves in the besieged port city of Mariupol, including one that appeared to hold 200 bodies. "We have got increasing information on mass graves that are there," Matilda Bogner told journalists by video link from Ukraine, saying some of the evidence came from satellite images. She did not elaborate further on the evidence, adding that it was not clear whether the dead were soldiers or civilians.

1,351 soldiers died in Ukraine, says Russia

New York: The deputy head of Russia's military general staff says that 1,351 Russian soldiers have died in Ukraine. Col.-Gen. Sergei Rudskoi also said Friday that 3,825 have been wounded. NATO estimated on Wednesday that 7,000 to 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in four weeks of war in Ukraine. The Russian figure did not appear to include the Moscow-backed separatists fighting in eastern Ukraine, and it was not clear whether the toll encompassed Russian forces not part of the Defence Ministry, such as the National Guard.

FOR A CHANGE



ctivist Greta Thunberg takes part in a Fridays For Future school strike for climate and social justice march through Stockholm, Friday. Climate activists staged a tenth series of worldwide protests Friday to demand leaders take stronger action against global warming, with some linking their environmental message to calls for an end to the war in Ukraine. Climate activists staged a 10th series of worldwide protests Friday to demand that leaders take stronger action against global warming.

What made North Korea test giant new ICBM?

THE UNITED STATES ALSO IMPOSED FRESH **SANCTIONS AGAINST FIVE ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN RUSSIA AND NORTH KOREA OVER TRANSFERRING SENSITIVE ITEMS TO** THE NORTH'S **MISSILE PROGRAMME**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, March 25: In firing an almost cartoonishly massive intercontinental ballistic missile into space, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has turned back the clock to the "fire and fury" days of 2017 as he revives nuclear brinkmanship aimed at pressuring the US to accept his country as a nuclear power and remove crippling sanctions.

Thursday's launch of the Hwasong-17 was North Korea's

most provocative weapons test since US President Joe Biden took office and underscores Kim's determination to continue building his military while diplomacy remains frozen. The North, however, may need more tests — including of nuclear bombs — in coming months as Kim tries to both perfect his technology and get a response from the Biden administration, which is distracted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and an intensifying rivalry with China.

Here's a closer look at Kim's new missile and what he may be up to next:

DOES SIZE OF MISSILE **MATTER?**

At around 25 metres (82 feet) long, the Hwasong-17 is by some estimates the world's largest roadmobile ballistic missile system.

North Korea revealed the missile during a military parade in October 2020, and Thursday's launch from an airport near the capital Pyongyang was its first full-range test. Kim could be seen in images released by his state media relishing the test's success as he walks past the missile wearing sunglasses and a black leather motorcycle



jacket. He leads military officials along the airport's runway in a scene reminiscent of a Hollywood action movie, at one point whipping his shades off to stare at the camera. North Korea last flew an ICBM in November 2017 when it tested the Hwasong-15. That was during a run of nuclear and missile tests that led to an exchange of insults and threats between Kim and then-US President Donald Trump, who said the North's threats against the US would be "met with fire and fury like the world has never seen".

While Hwasong-15 demonstrated the potential to reach targets in the American homeland, the latest test displayed a missile that could possibly travel even farther.

The Hwasong-17, which was fired at a high angle to avoid the territorial waters of neighbours, reached a maximum altitude of 6,248 kilometres (3,880 miles) and travelled 1.090 kilometres (680 miles) during a 67-minute flight before landing in waters between North Korea and Japan, according to North Korea's state media.

Extending its ICBM range is crucial for North Korea as it tries to build a more credible nuclear threat to target the US, said Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

To strike the US mainland, North Korea's previous ICBMs would have had to pass Alaska, where the US deploys a larger number of missile interception systems. WILL THE WARHEAD SURVIVE?

North Korea's development of a larger ICBM could be a reflection of a desire to eventually arm it with multiple nuclear warheads to improve its chances of defeating missile defences. It, however, may take years and major technological advancements to perfect such designs. It also remains unclear after Thursday's launch whether the North has solved the problem of ensuring that its ICBM warheads can withstand the harsh conditions of atmospheric reentry. IS A NUKE TEST COMING?

North Korea is showing signs that it may be restoring tunnels at its nuclear testing ground that it detonated in 2018, as Kim tried to leverage his nukes for badly

needed economic benefits from the

US. Kim held his first summit with

Trump weeks later. The diplomacy derailed after their second meeting in February 2019, when the Americans rejected the North's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a \leftarrow

limited surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

business



Along with our thrust on narrow body aircraft, we must also increase our fleet of wide body aircraft. It is not enough to connect all points in India, we need to connect the world to India JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

ISRAEL'S LARGEST BANK ENABLES CRYPTO TRADING

Bank Leumi, one of the largest banks in Israel, has become the first in Israel to offer crypto trading after an agreement with US crypto firm Paxos. Customers will be able to buy, hold and sell cryptocurrencies worth at least 50 shekels per transaction, which is approx. \$15.49





Crypto is a risk come out with legislation soon to prevent their misuse for purposes such as terror financing and drug smuggling

GAURAV GOGOI MP, CONGRESS

dialogue with shipping companies and those who operate containers The government is keeping

taken it will take action PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE MINISTER

a close watch on the situation and

whatever steps are required to be

As on 31.01.2022, a total of 13,15,806 cases of refund of deposits by consumers, who have surrendered

landline connections are pending with BSNL and 1,44,201 cases are pending with MTNL

DEVUSINH CHAUHAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

SHORT **TAKES**

Agri, processed food exports up

New Delhi: India's agricultural and processed food products exports have touched \$21.5 billion in April to February this fiscal, the commerce ministry said Friday. The ministry said that rice exports have crossed \$8.67 billion during the same period. Moreover, the outbound shipments of wheat have reached \$1.74 billion during April-January of the current financial year, it added. Exports of agricultura and processed food products stood at "\$21.5 billion in the 11-months period of the current fiscal and is all set to achieve the annual export target of \$23.71 billion for 2021-22," it added.

HDFC sells over 2% stake in HOEC

New Delhi: Country's largest mortgage lender HDFC Ltd has sold over 28.89 lakh shares held in Hindustan Oil **Exploration Ltd (HOEC)** during July 2021 to March 2022 for ₹61 crore. Out of 1,15,72,786 equity shares of ₹10 each held by the Corporation in Hindustan Oil **Exploration Company Ltd** (HOEC), the Corporation has sold 28,89,638 shares representing 2.19 per cent of the paid-up share capital of HOEC, HDFC said in a regulatory filing Friday.

Airtel prepays **₹8.815cr dues**

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel Friday said it has naid ₹8.815 crore to the government towards part prepayment of deferred liabilities pertaining to spectrum acquired in the 2015 auction. The prepayment is for instalments due in FY2027 and FY2028, the Sunil Mittal-led telco said in a statement. "Airtel prepays ₹8.815 crore to clear deferred liabilities for spectrum acquired in 2015," the company said. Over the last four months. Airtel has cleared ₹24.334 crore of its deferred spectrum liabilities ahead of schedule.

BMW to hike

New Delhi: Luxury carmaker BMW India Friday said it will increase prices of its entire model range by up to 3.5 per cent from April 1 to offset the impact of rise in input costs. The price increase will be brought into effect to adjust the material and logistics costs, impact of current geopolitical situation and exchange rates, the German automaker said.

Cap on sugar exports likely

Lower output in top producer Brazil and firm oil prices which encourage mills to produce more sugarcane-based ethanol have spurred global price gains. Export curbs by India, the world's number 2 sugar exporter, would likely further lift prices

Mumbai, March 25: India plans to restrict sugar exports for the first time in six years to prevent a surge in domestic prices and could cap this season's exports at 8 million tonne, government and industry sources told Reuters. An announcement could come early next month, they said.

Shares in sugar manufacturers slid on the news, with Dhampur Sugar Mills and Balrampur Chini each tumbling 5% and Dwarikesh Sugar losing 6%

"Sugar output is going to be a record high, but stocks are depleting fast because of exports. Uncontrolled exports could create scarcity and local prices could spike during festive season," said a senior government official with knowledge of the matter who asked not to be identified.

Two of three sources said the government has planned a cap of 8 million while one official said the government is also exploring the option of a levy on exports to discourage overseas sales.

A cap of 8 million tonne for the marketing year to end-September could result in a defacto ban for exports from May as dealers say mills have already contracted to export 7 million tonne so far.

Based on March deals for around 1 million tonne of exports, they estimate mills could sign contracts for another 1 million tonne in April after global white sugar prices, jumped to a 5-year high Thursday.

Earlier projections estimated domestic sugar stocks as of Oct 1 could fall to a five-year low of 6.8 million tonne due to record exports, but those forecasts now look optimistic after the rise in



WHITE SUGAR PRICE **HITS 5-YEAR HIGH**

INDIA COULD RESTRICT SUGAR **EXPORTS AT 8MILLION TONNE** FOR 2021/22

MILLS HAVE SO FAR SIGNED **CONTRACTS TO EXPORT 7 MILLION TONNE**

SHARES IN SUGAR FIRMS SLIDE

global sugar prices.

"New Delhi is keen to start the new season with opening stock of 6 to 7 million tonne, which is enough to fulfill December quarter demand," an industry official said.

Any sugar exports curbs would be the first since India imposed a 20% tax in 2016 and would represent an about-face for a government which until last year was providing subsidies for mills that were struggling to make cane payments to farmers due to record stockpiles.

But bumper exports of more

than 14 million tonne over two years now mean that government's priorities have switched to producing enough sugar to meet local demand.

"Government policy is clear. Produce enough sugar to fulfill local demand and make as much ethanol as possible from remaining surplus sugar cane. Don't rely on exports as global prices are volatile," said a policymaker who declined to be identified.

The government is also naturally concerned about food inflation as prices of essential commodities such as edible oils and grains are rising in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trading firm.

In the past, the government was embarrassed to import sugar at higher prices after exporting record quantities, the dealer said but added he didn't think the government would be reticent about imports

Anil Ambani steps down as director of RPower, RInfra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani Friday resigned as director of Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure, following markets regulator SEBI order restraining him from associating with any listed company.

"Anil D Ambani, non-executive director, steps down from the board of Reliance Power in compliance of SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) interim order, Reliance Power said in a BSE filing.

In a separate filing to the stock exchange, Reliance Infrastructure said that Anil Ambani has stepped down from its board "in compliance of SEBI interim order"

Sebi in February barred Reliance Home Finance Ltd, industrialist Anil Ambani and three other in dividuals from the securities market for allegedly siphoning off funds from the company.

The regulator also restrained Ambani and three others from "associating themselves with any intermediary registered with Sebi, any listed public company or acting directors/promoters of any public company which intends to raise money from the public till further orders." The two Reliance Group companies said that Rahul Sarin has been appointed as an Additional Director in the capacity of Independent Director for a term of five years Friday on the boards of RPower and RInfra, subject to approval of members at the general meeting.

The board of directors of the company unanimously reposed full trust in Ambani's leadership and invaluable contribution to steering the company through great financial challenges and to wards being potentially debt-free in the course of the coming financial year, the firms said.

25K HOMEBUYERS' FATE IN LIMBO

Supertech declared bankrupt by NCLT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Friday initiated insolvency proceedings against real estate firm Supertech Ltd, one of the companies of Supertech group. This is the second major setback for Noidabased developer in the last one year.

August 31 last year, the Supreme Court had ordered the demolition of Supertech Ltd's twin 40-storeyed towers, which are part of the under construction Emerald Court project in Noida for violation of building norms.

A NCLT bench Friday allowed the plea filed by Union Bank of India, a financial creditor, claiming default against Supertech Ltd, and appointed an interim resolution professional superseding the board of the company. The order was passed orally in the court and a detailed order in this regard is awaited.

While confirming the development, Supertech Group said it would challenge the order before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

"In the matter of appointment of IRP (Interim Resolution Professional) in one of the Supertech Group companies by the NCLT management of the company stated that the company will be approaching NCLAT in an appeal against the order," Supertech Group said in a statement.

However, it also added the NCLT order will not affect operations of other companies of the Supertech Group. The NCLT order will not impact the construction at all ongoing projects or operation of the company and "we are committed to giving delivery of units to allottees," it said.

When contacted, Supertech **Group Managing Director Mohit** Arora said, "there are around 11-12 housing projects in the Supertech Ltd against which insolvency proceedings have been initiated. Around 90 per cent of these projects are completed."

According to Arora, there are three-four other companies in the group that are developing many projects across Delhi-NCR, including luxury project Supernova.

Emami buys Dermicool for ₹432cr Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: FMCG major Emami Friday said it has acquired the 'Dermicool' brand from Reckitt for a total consideration of ₹432 crore The acquisition is funded

through internal accruals and is subject to the customary closing conditions, the company said in a statement. The Dermicool brand is popular

for providing respite from the prickly heat caused during summer season.

"We are very happy to announce the acquisition of Dermicool brand,



which offers great synergy with our existing businesses and is a perfect strategic fit. It will strengthen our presence to make us #1 in the prickly heat powder & Director Harsha V Agarwal noted. Emami, as one of its core business strategies, has always been open to growth through inor-

cool talc category," Emami Ltd

ganic route. The company considers acquisitions that not only add value and have synergy with the current line of businesses, but also offer opportunities for the organisation

to be present in categories that have high growth potential, it said. Zandu, Kesh King, and German brand Creme 21 are some of the brands or businesses acquired by the company in the past few years,

JSW Jajang Iron Ore Mines bags

'Productivity Excellence Award'

Odisha State Productivity Council during its 47th Annual General

body meeting. The top recognition was bestowed to the company

logistics management system, trace & track, fleet & fuel manage-

ment system and QA/QC management systems. The award was

received by company's senior officials Vijay Kumar and Basanta

Marrion hotel. COO of JSW Steel Ltd Ranjan Nayak Project Head

Ashesh Padhy, Mines Head Biswaranjan Padhi and senior officials

Kumar Sahoo from the Chief Guest Rajiv Kumar, IFS at New

congratulated the team for their efforts and commitments.

for its innovative ideas like safety management system, digital

Bhubaneswar: Jajang Iron Ore Mines

of JSW Steel Ltd has been conferred

innovative ideas applied in its mines.

The prestigious award was given by

Excellence Award" for its multiple

with the "Best Productivity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: The Lok Sabha Friday approved the Finance Bill, which gives effect to new taxation, thus completing the Budgetary exercise for 2022-23 fiscal.

The Finance Bill was approved by the Lower House after accepting 39 official amendments moved by Finance jecting the amendments proposed by the opposition by voice vote.

Replying to a discussion on the Finance Bill, Sitharaman said India was probably the only country that did not resort to new taxes to fund the recovery of the economy hit by

INDIA DID NOT RESORT TO NEW TAXES TO FUND ECONOMIC RECOVERY HIT BY COVID: FM CORPORATE TAX MOP-UP AT ₹7.3

LAKH CRORE SO FAR THIS FISCAL TAXPAYER BASE INCREASED TO 9.1 CRORE FROM 5 CRORE FEW

YEARS AGO

the Covid pandemic. She said that according to an OECD report, as

many as 32 countries have increased the tax rates after the pandemic.

"Instead, we put more money where multiplier effect would be maximum," she said while referring to the Budget's focus on raising capex.

The Budget 2022-23 raised capex by 35.4 per cent to ₹7.5 lakh crore to continue the public investmentled recovery of the pandemic battered economy. She said the reduction in corporate tax has "helped the economy, government and companies, and we are seeing the progress". She said ₹7.3 lakh crore has been collected as corporate

The number of taxpayers has increased to 9.1 crore from 5 crore a few years back, she said, adding the government is taking steps to widen the tax base and the faceless assessment has been received well by the people.

tax so far this fiscal

TOWARDS BALANCED TRADE

Chinese imports slip 7.2%, exports up 26%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: Imports from China declined 7.2 per cent to \$65.21 billion in 2020-21 from \$70.31 billion in 2018-19, Parliament was informed Friday.

On the other hand, India's exports to China rose 26 per cent to \$21.18 billion in 2020-21 from \$16.75 billion in 2018-19, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriva Patel said in a written reply to the Rajya Saha.

The imports from China have exhibited a declining trend from \$70.31 billion in 2018-19 to \$65.21 billion in 2020-21, a decline of 7.2 per cent," she said.

The minister said India has made sustained efforts to achieve a more balanced trade with China, including bilateral engagements to address the non-tariff barriers on Indian exports to China and

measures against unfair trade practices. In a

separate

reply, the minister said the trade deficit with China stood at \$44.02 billion in 2020-21 as against \$48.65 billion.

Replying to another question, Patel said representations from industry are received from time to time on surge in imports from ASEAN countries, Japan and Korea, which are examined in consultation with the concerned administrative ministries.

They are taken up with the respective trading partners under the existing institutional mechanism enshrined in the respective free trade agreements, she added.

"FTAs have inbuilt provisions to check any misuse of the FTA concessions, which inter-alia include strict compliance of the Rules of Origin, checking misdeclaration, if any, and taking trade remedial actions," the minister said.

efforts by the government have recal, the Parliament was informed Friday.

'Startup India' initiative January 16, 2016, with an aim to build a stronger ecosystem for nurturing the startup culture that would further drive economic growth, support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale employment opportunities.

"Sustained government efforts in this direction have resulted in



Vedanta unveils Skill Training Program for youth

Laniigarh: Vedanta Limited, Laniigarh unit, India's premier producer of metallurgical grade alumina, has launched a Skill Training Program to create employment opportunities for local youth by enhancing their skill sets in the housekeeping trade. The company has partnered with NABARD for the programme, which will be implemented by the Vedanta Foundation. Inaugurated by Malay Kumar Meher, District Development Manager, NABARD, Kalahandi, in the presence of Dhruv Prasad Singh, Lead District Manager, Kalahandi and Bibhudendu Panda, Head - CSR (Vedanta Laniigarh), the programme will run for three months, starting March. Sharing the company's mission of fostering sustainable livelihoods in the region, GG Pal. Deputy CEO, Vedanta Lanjigarh, said, "Vedanta Lanjigarh strive to enable youth from our local communities with skills and financial know-how, as part of our endeavours to create thriving liveli-

hoods in the region. Our first project under skil development, the commencing batch of 30 students shall truly champion that vision. Together, we have been able to bring skills of various trades, entrepreneurial expertise, and financial knowhow to the rural margins, enabling the local youth to become skilled and financially empowered.

Number of recognised startups soars to 65,861

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25: Sustained sulted in increasing the number of recognised startups from 726 in 2016-17 to 65,861 as March 14 this fis-

The government had launched

increasing the number of recognised startups from 726 in FY 2016-17 to 65,861 in FY 2021-22 (as on 14th March 2022)," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

said in a written reply to the Rajya are spread across 56 diversified Sabha. He said that the recognised sectors such as IT services, finance startups are spread across over technology, technology hardware, 640 districts and have reported a creenterprise software, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology.

tion, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation... ₹945 crore has been allocated under the scheme for a period of four years starting from 2021-22 PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND

financial assistance to

startups for proof of concept,

The Startup India

aims to provide

Seed Fund Scheme

ation of more than seven lakh jobs with an average of 11 jobs being created by them. The recognised startups, he said,

Replying to an another ques-

Parkash said that as on February 28 this year, the ministry has allocated ₹2,791.29 crore to SIDBI, which in turn committed ₹6,795 crore to 82 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), while ₹8,785 crore have beeninvested by supported AIFs in 574 startups.



CATASTROPHE IN PALERMO

European Champions Italy to miss World Cup again after loss to minnows North Macedonia at home



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palermo, March 25: European champion Italy will miss the World Cup... Again. The unthinkable happened here Thursday as the Azzurri were beaten 0-1 by North Macedonia following a last-gasp goal by Aleksandar Trajkovski in their play-off semifinal.

Italy had 32 shots on goal, compared to just four for their opponent. But it was Trajkovski's effort from outside the area as defenders closed in around him that made the dif-

It was North Macedonia's only real opportunity after a completely dominant performance by Italy, which missed a number of chances and had several others saved by visiting goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski.

But, just like five years ago, at the final whistle the Italy players fell to the ground in disbelief and disappointment — with several of them in tears — as the opposition celebrated wildly.

Italy also failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup after losing to Sweden in a two-legged play-off the previous November. Missing two straight World Cups is an unprecedented low point for the fourtime champion, especially just months after winning Euro 2020.

But Roberto Mancini, who took over as Italy coach after the last qual-

ifying failure, said on Thursday that the disappointment "was too great to talk about the future."

"I feel that just as last July was the best thing I experienced at a professional level, this is the greatest disappointment," Mancini added. "Soccer is like that, sometimes incredible things happen."

North Macedonia will play Portugal Tuesday for a spot in the tournament in Qatar after Cristiano Ronaldo's side beat Turkey 3-1. Euro 2020 is the only major tournament North Macedonia has qualified for.

Mancini was missing a number of players that helped Italy win the European Championship last summer and had to field a makeshift defence, but it was barely troubled by North Macedonia until the very

Italy got off to an aggressive start but struggled to find a way past the wall of red shirts. The Azzurri were gifted a great chance in the 30th minute after a horrendous kick from the North Macedonia goalkeeper left Domenico Berardi with an open goal but he scuffed his shot and Dimitrievski got back in time to make the save.

Dimitrievski did better moments later when he fingertipped Ciro I feel that just as last July (Euro 2020) was the best thing I experienced at a professional level, this is the greatest disappointment. Soccer is like that, sometimes incredible things happen

ROBERTO MANCINI I ITALY HEAD COACH

Immobile's angled shot over the bar. Italy was getting closer and Dimitrievski had to make another save, this time to palm Lorenzo Insigne's effort around the post.

North Macedonia had its first attempt on goal on the stroke of halftime when Enis Bardi threaded a ball through for Trajkovski but his effort was straight at Giangluigi Donnarumma.

Berardi almost atoned for his first-half error early in the second period but saw one attempt well saved by Dimitrievski and curled another just past the left post.

another just past the left post.

Italy was laying siege to the goal but saw everything charged down by North Macedonia. And it was made to pay for its profligacy in stoppage time as Trajkovski fired a low shot into the bottom left corner from 25 yards, leaving Mancini looking stunned on the sideline.

Portugal move closer to World Cup with win

ASSOCIATED PRES

Porto (Portugal), March 25: The Portugal fans at the Estadio do Dragao looked stunned when the referee returned from the video review booth and pointed to the penalty spot. Where they about to witness another late collapse at home that could jeopardize the national team's hopes of making it to the World Cup?

The 85th-minute penalty gave Turkey a chance for an equalizer after Portugal had opened a two-goal lead in their European qualifying playoff semifinal. But Burak Yilmaz's spot-kick sailed over the crossbar, letting Portugal off the hook.

The hosts went on to score again in stoppage time for a 3-1 victory Thursday that moved Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal a step closer to the World Cup.

It was a 90th-minute goal against Serbia in November in Lisbon that relegated Portugal to the qualifying play-offs to begin with, having blown a chance to finish as group winner.

Ronaldo's hopes of reaching a 10th straight major tournament will now come down to a winner-takes-all game against North Macedonia, which earned a stunning 1-0 win at Italy to end the European Champion's hopes of making it to the World Cup. The game against North Macedonia will be Tuesday in Portugal.

Otavio opened the scoring in the 15th off the rebound of a shot by Bernardo Silva onto the post, and Diogo Jota added to the lead with a header in the 42nd after an assist by Otávio.

Yilmaz pulled Turkey closer with a goal from inside the area in the 65th. Portugal sealed the victory with substitute Matheus Nunes scoring on a breakaway four minutes into stoppage time.



 $\label{lem:congratulating} \textbf{Cristiano Ronaldo hugs his teammates congratulating them after their win}$

URUGUAY, ECUADOR BOOK WC BERTHS

Sao Paulo: Uruguay and Ecuador have secured their spots at FIFA World Cup in Qatar, joining Brazil and Argentina from South America. The third-place Ecuadorians lost 1-3 at Paraguay Thursday, but they achieved one of the four direct spots after the Uruguayans, in fourth position, beat Peru 1-0 in Montevideo, a result that also allowed them to book their flights to Qatar. Ecuador and Uruguay reached 25 points on the table and can no longer be overtaken by other teams. Brazil and Argentina had earlier secured two of the region's direct spots. Brazil humbled Chile 4-0. Neymar scored from the spot in the 44th minute and two minutes later assisted Vinicius Jr. to score his first goal for the national team. Philippe Coutinho then made it 3-0 in the 72 minute from the spot. In added time, substitute Richarlison scored his with a crossed shot.

REACTIONS

JORGINHO: We played good football, we won the European Championship last summer, but unfortunately in the last few games we made small errors and were unable to recover from them. They made the difference. It hurts when I think about it, because I do still think about it and it will haunt me for the rest of my life. Stepping up there twice and not being able to help your team and your country is something that I will carry with me forever, and it weighs on me. I'll be honest, I am still incredulous

GEORGIO CHIELLINI: We weren't presumptuous. We made mistakes from September until today and we paid them. I am proud of this team, it is obvious that we are disappointed and destroyed. We have to start again. A large void is now within us and we hope it can give us the strength to go forward in future. I hope it will still be with this coach, who has given so much to the Nazionale

Wales, S Korea secure victories

LONDON: Gareth Bale and

Son Heung-min were stars for their respective sides as Wales and South Korea in their World Cup qualifying matches, Thursday. Bale scored two brilliant goals, including one from a direct free-kick, in a vintage individual performance to take Wales a step closer to qualifying for their first World Cup since 1958 with victory over Austria in their play-off semifinal. They beat Austria 2-1. In Seoul. Son came through with the match's first goal in the first-half injury time, and Kim Young-gwon locked down the 2-0 victory over Iran with his 63rd-minute goal.

England fans mock Italy

London: Fans of England have taken to social media to poke fun at Italy after they missed out on a second successive World Cup by losing 0-1 at home to North Macedonia in their play-off semifinal. Some fans referred to Italy's inability to qualify for the World Cup as 'an incredible disaster', while Gary Lineker described their omission as an 'almighty and devastating fall'. Others sought revenge after the time Italian talisman Leonardo Bonucci goaded England fans by screaming 'It's coming Rome!' into a TV camera in the aftermath of his country's famous penalty shootout triumph in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley.

CR7 warns teammates of complacency

Lisbon: Cristiano Ronaldo has warned his Portugal teammates to continue 'respecting the opponent', knowing that North Macedonia stand in their way of a spot at the World Cup. The Manchester United star has sent a defiant message to his team to remind them that 'nothing is won, nothing is achieved' yet. In an Instagram post, Ronaldo wrote: 'The first step has been taken towards our great objective, towards the 2022 World Cup. Nothing is won, nothing is achieved. We have to continue to work in a serious and focused way, respecting the opponent but always believing in our abilities. Power Portugal! Go to Qatar!'

ITALIAN MEDIA LEFT SHELL-SHOCKED

Italian newspapers were left in dismay following their side's shock defeat by North Macedonia that dumped them out of the World Cup play-offs

There was an outpouring of grief among the popular Italian outlets, with 'Tuttosport' leading with a headline of: 'Noooooooo!', underneath an image of Giorgio Chiellini confronting goalkeeper





same image with the headline

while claiming under fire boss

reading: 'Out of the World Cup',

about resignation from his post.

Roberto Mancini would have to think

alongside Donnarumma with a headline reading 'To Hell'. The paper also reflects on an 'elimination shock' and Mancini's 'immense disappointment' but that 'for now, he remains' in charge.

Front page of 'Corriere dello Sport'

face buried inside his match shirt

showed Chelsea star Jorginho with his



NEWS IN BRIEF

Osaka scripts win

MIAMI GARDENS: Two days, two wins and making it look easy. Naomi Osaka sure seems like herself again. The former World No.1 is through to the third round at the Miami Open, easily handling 13th-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-2, 6-3 Thursday. A stunning series of results headlined by Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu defeating top-seeded Arvna Sabalenka 6-4, 6-4. Also gone: No.3 seed Anett Kontaveit. She lost to Ann Li, a 21-year-old American who got her first win over a top-10 opponent — a 6-0, 3-6, 6-4 triumph. The rest of the ousted women's seeds are No.6 Karolina Pliskova. No.11 Emma Raducanu, No.15 Elina Svitolina, No. 18 Leylah Fernandez,

No.19 Tamara Zidansek.

Sindhu, Prannoy in Swiss Open semifinals

BASEL: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy stormed into the semifinals of the Swiss Open badminton tournament with straight-game victories in their respective women and men singles events here Friday. While Sindhu, seeded second in the tournament, made short work of fifth seed Michelle Li of Canada 21-10, 21-19 in 36 minutes, Prannoy beat compatriot and former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Parupalli Kashyap 21-16, 21-16 in a quarterfinal match that lasted 43 minutes. Former world champion Sindhu will meet unseeded Supanida Katethong of Thailand in the semifinals Saturday. Prannoy, on the other hand, faces the winner of the match between Sameer Verma and Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia.

Australia beat Pakistan, clinch series 1-0

LAHORE: Pakistan failed Friday to hold out in the last session of the third and final cricket test which Australia won by 115 runs to clinch the series 1-0. The hosts were dismissed for 235 in their second innings on a worn-out wicket as Australia enjoyed a successful end to its first test series in Pakistan since 1998. Resuming on 73/0, and entering the final session at 190-5, Pakistan collapsed against veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who got plenty of turn and bounce from a fifth-day wicket and finished with 5/83 from 37 overs.

IPL returns home bigger than ever

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 25: Indian cricket's crown jewel, the IPL, is back home: bigger, better and longer. It will be the first time since 2011 that 10 teams fighting it out for the most coveted T20 trophy in world cricket.

Two new entrants, Lucknow Supergiants and Gujarat Titans, fetching a combined price of approximately USD 1.7 billion shows

that brand IPL keeps getting bigger. It took 14 years but the league has now well and truly gone global. The owners of the iconic Manchester Untied also wanted a slice of the IPL pie but lost to the RPSG Group and Britain-based

CVC group on the bidding table.

With the COVID situation under control in the country, the board's top-brass can breathe easy and after a two year gap, IPL is set to be held in India in its entirety with at least 25 percent capacity of crowd allowed in stadiums this season.

The number of games have been increased to 74 from 60 with the addition of new teams, extending the IPL window to over two months.

All teams however will play 14 games each like in the past but will a longer tournament impact the intensity and quality of cricket,

only time will tell.

The board has learnt from the harsh lessons of the 2021 edition when the tournament had to be

TODAY'S MATCH

CSK v KKR

Time: 07:30 pm

& Hotstar
suspended midway due to the

TELECAST: Star Sports channels

raging pandemic and could only be completed in the UAE four months later.

No air travel will be required this season with all the league games to be organised in four venues in Maharashtra (three Mumbai and one in Pune).

For curators, maintaining the trueness of pitches over two

months will be a challenge but at least the half of the tournament is set to be a high-scoring affair. One can expect more bounce on the red soil pitches of Wankhede, CCI and D Y Patil while the black soil surface in Pune is expected to offer more turn.

With Supergiants and Titans building their teams from scratch and the existing franchises having to release a chunk of their players before the mega auction, the 2022 edition can well be one of the most competitive in tournament history.

ment history.

Ahead of the World Cup to be played in Australia later this year, the IPL will also decided fate of a

few Indian players.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159