POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Actor Pooja Hegde hopes that she can inspire women by performing certain characters on screen

LEISURE P2



RUSSIA TO SCALE DOWN OPS

Russia promised at peace talks to scale down its military operations around Kyiv and northern Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL

RCB TAKE ON KKR

Royal Challengers Bangalore look for their first win of this season when they face Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 356 | www.orissapost.com

ADMISSIONS OPEN

I - XI (Day Boarding)

VI - XI (Residential)

1800-120-2316

WHEELERS PUT LTD

We accept payments only in one rupee

coins. It helps our staff to pass time as

sales are not that great

SENSEX **57943.65 1** 350.16

17325.30 103.30

VARIATION

₹0.14

₹0.15

₹ 759

₹1355

Dry weather

very likely

MARKET WATCH

NIFTY

EURO

GOLD

SILVER

WEATHER

MAX 36.5°

MIN

Humidity

26.5°

75%

Shanghai, March 29: More

than 20,000 bankers, traders

and other workers are bed-

ding down in office towers in

Shanghai's Luiiazui district

as they bid to keep China's

giant financial hub ticking

over through a Covid-19 lock-

down, according to local ad-

Brokerages, asset managers and financial exchanges in

Lujiazui - China's answer to

Wall Street - rushed to sum-

mon key personnel to offices

ahead of Monday's lockdown in

Shanghai, and prepared sleep-

ing bags and basic supplies for

overnight stays.

ministration officials.

DOLLAR **76.57**

83.55

₹50,812

₹66,750

CTK

36.5°

25.5°(

OIL PRICES UP AGAIN; 7TH HIKE IN 8 DAYS



₹96.83/litre

normal, fuel prices were increased again for the seventh time in the last eight days, Tuesday. Petrol price was hiked by 80 paise a litre and diesel by 70 paise, taking the total increase in rates to around ₹4.80 per litre. Rates have been ncreased across the country and vary from state to state depending upon the incidence of PETROL ₹107.11/litre local taxation. In the first four occasions, prices were increased by 80 paise a litre - the steepest

Bhubaneswar: In what seems to be the new

INDIA BUYS RUSSIAN SUNOIL AT RECORD PRICE



Mumbai: India has contracted 45,000 tonne of Russian sunflower oil at a record high price for shipments in April as edible oil prices in the local market surged after supplies from rival Ukraine stopped, industry officials said Tuesday. Sunflower oil from Russia could help the world's biggest edible oil importer in easing the shortfall at a time when availability of

vegetable oils is stretched because of Indonesia's decision to restrict palm oil supplies and lower soybean crop in South America. Refiners bought crude sunflower oil at a record price of \$2,150 a tonne, including cost, insurance and freight (CIF), in India for April shipments, compared with \$1,630 before Russia invaded Ukraine, dealers said.

Cement The Leaders' Choice 1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

Ruckus in House over Puri heritage corridor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 29: The state Assembly Tuesday witnessed a pandemonium as opposition MLAs raised questions over the impact of construction work undertaken by the government to develop a heritage corridor

near Srimandir in Puri. BJP's Puri MLA Jayanta Sarangi alleged that the constructions were being carried out for the Srimandir Heritage Corridor Project without the permission of the National Monument Authority and the Archaeological Survey of India. Deep pits are being dug close to the temple, which may create cracks on the walls of the temple

that may threaten the struc-

ture, he said.

Supporting Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra demanded the formation of a House panel so that the members can inspect the construction works being carried out within the 75-metre of the shrine.

As Speaker SN Patro re-

mained silent over the de-

mand, the BJP MLAs

trooped into the Well of the

House and raised slogans against the state. Unable to run the House, Patro adjourned the pro-

ceeding till 4:21pm.

On Opposition's demand, Parliamentary Affairs Minister BK Arukha said that the government is prepared to constitute a committee when various panels of the Assembly will be formed March 31.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik shares a light moment with Biju Janata Dal MPs at Parliament House in New Delhi, Tuesday

Haven't given a thought: Naveen on Prez election

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 29: There has been no discussion on presidential election and neither the government nor the opposition has approached the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) over it, said the party's supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Naveen visited Parliament Tuesday and held a meeting with his party MPs from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He was welcomed by all BJD MPs at the entrance of the Parliament.

Patnaik said he only came to Parliament to meet BJD MPs and to follow up on various programmes and welfare schemes for Odisha, underlining that he is not scheduled to meet the Prime Minister or the Union Home minister.

Asked whether there should be a

didate, Patnaik said, "I haven't given a thought to it. There is time for presidential election and no one has approached us so far.' There was speculation that Patnaik may meet the PM during his three-day trip to Delhi beginning Monday and that

consensus between the government

and opposition over a presidential can-

the BJP might seek the BJD's support for its candidate. Patnaik last visited Delhi in September 2021 to attend a meeting of chief ministers of Maoist-hit states convened by the Home

In 2017, BJD supported the BJP-led national coalition's candidate Ram Nath Kovind over the Opposition's Meira Kumar after PM Narendra Modi spoke to the Odisha CM.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 29: The per capita income of Odisha rose from ₹1,09,071 in a growth of about 16.8 per cent, according to the Odisha Economic Survey Report 2021 22 circulated in the Assembly here Tuesday

The average growth of Odisha's per capita income over the last 10 years (2012-13 to 2021-22) is 10.3 per cent against the national average of 9.15 per cent.

Odisha's per capita income of ₹48,499 in 2011-12 reached ₹1,27,383 in 2021-22. While in absolute terms, it is lower than India's per capita income, the rate at which it is growing implies that it would soon exceed the national level, the report said. The per capita income, which was 76 per

cent of the per capita income of India in 2011-12, now stands at 84.7 per cent.

The state economy registered a sharp recovery and the real Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has grown at a rate of 10.1 per cent in the financial year 2021-22. "Odisha is one of the fastest growing

states in the country and registered a growth rate much higher than India's GDP growth rate of 8.8 per cent as per the first advance estimate," it said. The GSDP may grow in real terms by 9.0 to 9.5 per cent in 2022-23. However. the Russia and Ukraine conflict has brought in further uncertainty, it said.

Beating agriculture & allied activities, industries and service sectors have become the lead sectors and the new driver

Shanghai, home to 26 million

people, started a lockdown

Monday by dividing the city

River, to allow staggered testing

roughly along the Huangpu

Shanghai houses China's

derivative trading

biggest markets for stock,

bond, foreign exchange and

Some have also adopted two-

team rotation shifts, and ini-

tiated disaster recovery centres

in a financial hub that

processed more than 2,500 tril-

lion yuan (\$292 trillion) of fi-

20K sleep in offices to beat lockdown

COVID IN SHANGHAI

Lujiazui Financial City, east of

the Huangpu River, include

white collar workers and some

service staff, according to the

administration bureau of the

district, also home to some

ODISHA ECONOMIC SURVEY

- The industry sector grew at 14.5% followed by the service sector with 7.9% growth rate in 2021-22
- The agriculture and allied sectors registered a contraction of 3.4% in
- The health expenditure as percentage of GSDP in the state has increased from 1.19% in 2019-20 to 1.59% in 2021-22
- The real Gross State Domestic Product has grown at 10.1% in 2021-22

of growth in Odisha.

In 2021-22, agriculture and allied activities contributed 20.61 per cent, while industry contributed 39.51 per cent and services contributed the remaining 39.88 per cent to Gross State Value Added (GSVA).

The industry sector in the state grew at 14.5 per cent followed by the service sector with 7.9 per cent growth rate in 2021-22. The agriculture and allied sectors registered a contraction of 3.4 per cent in the year 2021-22.

The unemployment rate of Odisha declined from 7.1 per cent in 2017-18 to 6.2 per cent in 2019-20 as compared to 4.8 per cent at national level. The inflation rate was also low at 2.7 per cent in 2021-22 (April-January) compared to 5.3 per cent at all-India level during the period. The health expenditure as percentage of GSDP in the state has increased from 1.19 per cent in 2019-20 to 1.59 per cent in 2021-22, as per the report.

Monday by dividing the city

roughly along the Huangpu

River, to allow for staggered

testing. Shanghai houses

China's biggest markets for

stock, bond, foreign exchange

Among others, Haitong

Securities Co (600837.SS) said

Chairman Zhou Jie arranged

emergency on-site duty shifts

at its subsidiaries in Pudong

Sunday night, and led more

than 150 key staff to work in of-

The Shanghai Stock

Exchange said it kept mini-

mum teams of staff in key po-

fices starting Monday.

and derivative trading.

KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (KIIT) Deemed to be University

Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India







through KIIT websites

www.kiit.ac.in/www.kiitee.ac.in

No Application / Examination Fee (Computer Based Online Test)

KIIT DU Rank 21

















Communication

Chemical Technology

System Engineering

B.Sc. Computer Science

B.Sc. Nursing (4 Yrs)

Psychology (3 Yrs)

B.Com. (Hons) (3 Yrs)

M.A in Spiritualism (2 Yrs)

M.A in Yoga Therapy

(2 Yrs)

(2 Yrs)

BA (Hons) in English /

Economics / Sociology /

Computer Science &



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE Computer Science & Electronics & Electrical

B.Tech

(4 Years) in following branches of

Engineering:

Bachelors

Masters

Programmes

Programmes

- Mechanical
- Electrical
- **Electronics &** Telecommunication
- Computer Science

- Information Technology

B.Tech (4 Yrs)

B.Arch (5 Yrs)

M.Sc. Applied

Bachelor of Design

(3 Yrs)

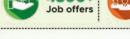
B.Tech (Lateral Entry)

(Fashion/Textile) (4 Yrs)

- Electronics & Instrumentation Mechanical (Automobile)
- Aerospace Mechatronics
- Electronics & Computer Science
- BA.LLB. BBA.LLB &
- B.Sc.LLB (5 Yrs) Bachelor of Film &
- **Television Production**
- BBA (3 Yrs) BCA (3 Yrs)
- M.Sc. Biotechnology (2 Yrs)
 MBA in Healthcare Management (2 Yrs)
- M.Sc. in Computer Science Management (2 Yrs) MBA in Rural Management
- (2 Yrs) M.Sc. Nursing (2 Yrs) Integrated M.Sc. & Ph.D
- (Phy/Chem/Math) (5 Yrs) B.Tech & M.Tech -M.Sc. By Research - S&T
- Translation (2 Yrs) M.Com. (2 Yrs)
- MCA (2 Yrs) MBA (2 Yrs)
- MBA in Business Analytics (2 Yrs)
- MBA in Supply Chain Management (2 Yrs)

- Microbiology (2 Yrs) MBA in Construction
 - MBA in Agribusiness Management (2 Yrs)
 - Biotechnology (Dual Degree)
 - M.Tech. (2 Yrs) M.Tech. in Defence
 - Technology (2 Yrs) Integrated M.Tech & PhD (5 Yrs)
 - M.Arch (2 Yrs)
 - M.A in English/Economics/ Sociology/Psychology (2Yrs)
- M.A in Public Policy (2 Yrs) M.A in Leadership (2 Yrs) M.A in Anthropology (2 Yrs) Master of Public Health
 - Master of Hospital Administration (2 Yrs)
 - Master of Mass
 - Communication (2 Yrs) Master of Mass
 - Communication (Integrated) (5 Yrs)
- LLM (2 Yrs) Ph.D Programmes

CAMPUS PLACEMENT 2022 HIGHLIGHTS





Students







opportunities

Email: admission@kiit.ac.in, Websites: www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in & www.kiit.ac.in

400+ Companies

Director, Admissions: Admission Cell, Koel Campus, Po-KIIT, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha, India Ph: 8114373311/12/13/14/15, 0674-2741747, Fax: 0674 - 2741465





nancial transactions last year. non-financial institutions. sitions within the bourse while KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The 20,000 people working Shanghai, home to 26 million others work from home while It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe. at 285 office towers in Pudong's people, started a lockdown ensuring safety of trading.





leisure

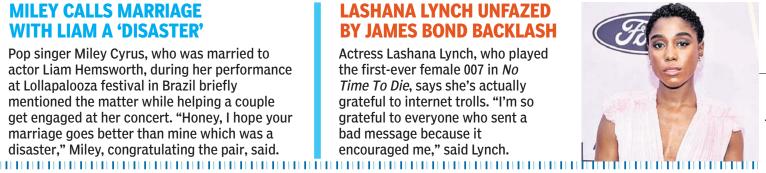


Pop singer Miley Cyrus, who was married to actor Liam Hemsworth, during her performance at Lollapalooza festival in Brazil briefly mentioned the matter while helping a couple get engaged at her concert. "Honey, I hope your marriage goes better than mine which was a disaster," Miley, congratulating the pair, said.

LASHANA LYNCH UNFAZED BY JAMES BOND BACKLASH

Actress Lashana Lynch, who played the first-ever female 007 in No Time To Die, says she's actually grateful to internet trolls. "I'm so grateful to everyone who sent a bad message because it encouraged me," said Lynch.





FORTUNE **FORECAST** GaneshaSpeaks,co™

accuracy • reliability • trust 🙇

Today you will feel like going green, and Ganesha approves. You could plant a sapling, or organise some dustbins to keep the neighbourhood clean. If you wish to make the world a better place to live in, do it but take it step by step.

TAURUS

Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesha. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesha

GEMINI

You will be busy organising some religious function today or in visiting a place of religious significance. You will encounter expenses in religious and charitable work. However, you should guard against ignoring your daily work in pursuit of all these matters, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will labour more to finish pending tasks. You will give priority to career compared to personal chores. So you will be caught up in your career and business riddles. By evening, however, you will have cheerful moments as Ganesha sees you having cherishing time with your beloved

You will be able to meet all challenges and obstacles successfully. Your ultimate goal is to come out victorious from any situations. There is a possibility that you will have to face severe competition in business or trade Personal life will proceed without any hiccups though, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Your renewed enthusiasm for life will bring about a radical change in you. Ganesha says today is a good time to let others see how important and how brilliant you can be. Your intelligence will become very evident as you demonstrate how things should be done

Ganesha says you will try to gain knowledge in new topics today. You will feel enthusiasm and a feeling of positivity today. You will show more interest when iends and this will mak you come closer to them. There will be benefits to you from your life partner. You will be happy to be in the company of a close relative today. Ganesha says he will be with you always.

SCORPIO The ground beneath you

seems a bit shaky; watch your steps. A time would come when your confidence would be shattered, however, don't let set-backs and failures affect you. Adapt the attitude of 'this too shall pass' and the rest would fall in place, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Benevolence will be your middle name today. Being frank and open-minded wil have its own advantages. You might just give your life partner a patient ear. This will make them feel treated well,

CAPRICORN

You are a die-hard romantic and with every plan to please your sweetheart, you are taking him/her closer to the cloud nine. But, don't live in fantasy world, warns Ganesha, as problems are going to follow you everywhere. If you are a businessman, your rivals may give you a hard time. Take proper care of your health, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You will remember this day for the rest of of life as today you will make some important decisions and give a new direction to your life. You are in for a windfall and cher ry on the cake will be all the recognition and rewards you get for your sincerity and hard work, predicts Ganesha. These positive vibes will help you make sure that you are on the right track.

PISCES

You will finally realize the worth of your resources today. You will take a decision to increase your savings and clamp down on unnecessary expenses. Your expenses are likely to increase temporarily It is a good idea to invest in debt schemes today, says Ganesha.



MUMBAI: Rimi Sen, who had virtually disappeared, has surfaced to make a comeback. Sen, who made a sensational splash in Yash Raj Films' Dhoom, will be seen in a music video. This venture will be directed by Prerna

> The Hungama actress says, "I have been away from the movies and film industry and the sole reason behind that is - I tried so many things, different kinds of movies, but I never could achieve that creative satisfaction which I was looking for all this while.'

Elaborating further, she said 'I then realised, in order to get reative satisfaction, you don't nave to always act, you can direct, you can be a producer as well. Now, things have opened up for everyone with the emergence of OTT platforms. So, I thought of being a producer. I made a film called Budhiya Singh Won't Run which fetched us National Award in 2015. I was quite happy behind the camera. But when we (Rimi and Prerna) spoke about this music video, I really loved it and told her,

Meanwhile, Prerna is equally excited about this collaboration. "Rimi and I connected. We gelled very well. She is an extremely beautiful and talented girl. I can't wait for the shoot to start." IANS

'We've always wanted to be represented well'



MUMBAI: With just three months into 2022, Pooja Hegde has already had a pan-India theatrical release -Prabhas-starrer Radhe Shyam. The Hindi-Telugu bilingual will soon make its way to an OTT platform,

languages, Pooja has also trained her mind to look for screenplays that lean more on the female protagonist. Talking about what she now wishes to include

> I can inspire women by performing certain characters on screen. We don't tell enough stories with women at the core. We've always

wanted to be represented The Mohenjo Daro actress adds: "When I watch Seeta Aur Geeta, and I see Hema Maliniji throwing kicks and punches, a voice in my heart says, 'You go

That's inspiring to watch and that's what we all need to believe in as women. Gal Gadot's world in Wonder Woman is just as inspiring. Alia Bhatt's part in Raazi is another such space that want to inhabit at some point. These are the kinds of stories that we need to tell

OSCARS SLAP

Smith's unconditional apology

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Will Smith has issued an apology after slapping comedian Chris Rock on the Oscars stage.

"Violence in all of its forms is poisonous and destructive. My behaviour at last night's Academy Awards was unacceptable and inexcusable. Jokes at my expense are part of the job, but a joke about Jada's medical condition was too much for me to bear and I reacted emotionally," Smith wrote.
"I would like to publicly apol-

ogise to you, Chris. I was out of line and I was wrong. I am embarrassed and my actions were not indicative of the man I want to be. There is no place for violence in a world of love and kindness.

The post continued, "I deeply regret that my behavior has stained what has been an otherwise gorgeous journey for all of us. I am a work in progress.

The altercation happened when Rock took the stage to present the best documentary award and made a joke about Jada Pinkett Smith being in a sequel to G.I. Jane. IANS



City comics condemn Smith's unsavoury act

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

BHUBANESWAR: What could have been a wonderful and memorable day for actor Will Smith, will now be a day he will remember for all the wrong reasons. While so many things have been told and heard about Smith's slap at Oscars, a couple of local stand-up comedians Tuesday shared with Orissa POST their anguish on the

Humourist Alokesh Sinha said, "It has certainly sent the wrong message. After all, it is a matter of safety of a performer. If Smith is not held accountable, we may see similar incidents in future too when comedians are assaulted in clubs and cafes for their skills.'

Sinha went on to add that comics have often found themselves at the receiving end in India.

Across

1 After-dinner

3 Fair-skinned

9 Sinus problem

11 Pugilist's wear

feature, at times

drink

10 Slice

(6.6)

16 Pick-me-up

17 Formal vote

Flaubert novel

14 Fellow

18 Gustave

(6,6)

FUN



"It is very unfortunate that Smith's fans are celebrating his display of 'masculinity'. It has set a wrong precedent, liking giving a license for violence. We shouldn't be surprised if we see this kind of celebrations in India too if a comedian is beaten up for showing his comic skills," he added.

CROSSWORD

another comedian, said, "If Smith's action is not condemned, it can open the flood gates for others to justify their unacceptable behaviours towards the stand-up comedians.

Satyabrat Mohapatra,

He appreciated Chris Rock for handling the situation well and not pressing a charge against

Meanwhile, actor Partha Sarthi Ray also didn't like Smith's act. He said, "At times, actors get emotional, which is not the right thing to do at public places. I think Smith got carried away by his wife's reaction to Chris' jokes on her physical disorder. Since Smith has already tendered an unconditional apology we should move on instead of blowing up the matter further.'

He added that violence has no place in any civilised society and it shouldn't be encouraged

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



SUDOKU

7 Lawn starter

8 Get stuck

13 South

(5,2,1,4)

12 Writing style

American

European

19 At a distance

from one

another

20 Young seal

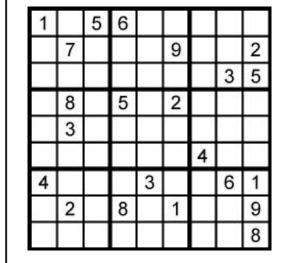
22 Embargo

cavalryman

rodent

15 Former

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



SOLUTIONS



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

SUDOKU 5 7 1 2 9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Copyright @2022 PuzzleJunction.com

pastry

24 Lab item

1 Theatre

handout

2 Kick back and

take it easy

5 Swiss exports

6 It's a crime

(6,6)

4 Bit of sunshine

Down

23 Tweak (4-4)

22 Middle Eastern

21 Scent



downtown



THEATRE TREAT

EMINENCE

proper trainers and craftsmen,

and availability of opportunities

should inspire the youth to work

for the preservation of their art.

THEATRE TREAT A scene from the play	22 23	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
<i>Kandamastre</i> , staged			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
on the 2nd day of a state-level theatre		World	48,41,49,094	41,82,37,727	61,53,482
festival organised by Panchamveda at Biju		India	4,30,21,982	4,24,85,534	5,21,070
Natya Kendra in the Capital, Tuesday		Odisha	12,87,549	12,77,970	9,120
oupitui, ruesuay		111111111	: - - - - - - - - - - - - -	: 	:

23	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	48,41,49,094	41,82,37,727	61,53,482
	India	4,30,21,982	4,24,85,534	5,21,070
A	Odisha	12,87,549	12,77,970	9,120

'Recognition comes when you put your heart into the work'

A government servant by profession, his love for local handloom and the art and craft of Odisha propelled him to master the skills of weaving mesmerising garments. In the 80s, when the Central government was scouting individuals learned and skilled in indigenous textile production, the founder of Vayan Vihar, a handloom factory and research and training centre, joined the weavers' service centre under the Union Ministry of Textiles. Years of research and commitment led to the inception of Meher's, a dedicated handloom store in Bhubaneswar, in 2001. Recipient of accolades like 'Shilp Guru' and the prestigious 'Padma Shree' by the Government of India, Dr. Chaturbhuja Meher speaks to **Orissa POST** about his journey so far as well as the craft's way forward...

- How did you balance profession
- and passion? Everyone in my family and relatives were associated with art. Handloom intrigued me despite not being in demand back then. That interest incited endeavour and I went ahead with the traditional teachings, keeping in mind that no job is inferior and knowledge never goes wasted. Meanwhile, the government presented an opportunity with a job. Although difficult at times, I tried to give equal attention to both profession and passion. That endeavour continues even now.
- Your take on success and fame?
- To succeed, one should dream. At the same time, one must work accordingly to materialise that dream. Success turns to failure if the job is not satisfactory. Years of learning and experience brought me fame. Recognition comes when one puts his heart into his work. Once recognised. your work brings you fame and fortune. Even in the final days of my life, many social institutions, government and non-government organisations have honoured me. I put success and fame at the same pedestal but have never chased the later. In every stage of my life, my hard work has been rewarded.
- How was the leap from 'Vayan Vihar' to Meher's?

My father wanted to establish a handloom training centre to train local youths and interested artists. To fulfil his wish and with the help of his teachings, I began 'Vayan Vihar', a handlooms factory and research and training centre, in Sonepur. As the centre gained impetus. Meher's was inaugurated in Bhubaneswar in 2001, with a hope for something new. Goods produced at 'Vayan Vihar' were traded at Meher's. Similarly, local artistry from districts other than Sonepur too were accom-

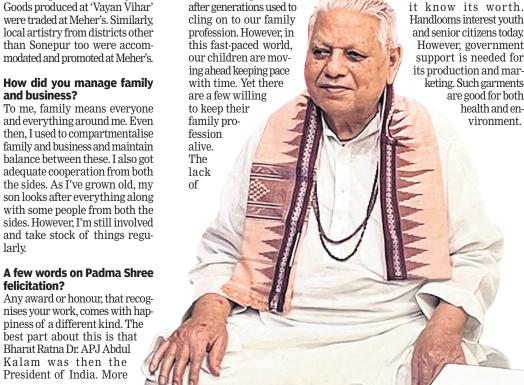
How did you manage family and business?

- To me, family means everyone and everything around me. Even then, I used to compartmentalise family and business and maintain balance between these. I also got adequate cooperation from both the sides. As I've grown old, my son looks after everything along with some people from both the sides. However, I'm still involved and take stock of things regu-
- A few words on Padma Shree felicitation?
- Any award or honour, that recognises your work, comes with hap piness of a different kind. The best part about this is that Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was then the President of India. More

exhilarating than receiving the fourth highest civilian honour of my country was having my work recognised nationwide and more importantly, receiving the

Those in love with their art have award from the hands of Dr miles to go before they and their works are duly recognised. Your advice to today's artisans How is the demand for

and vouth? handlooms now? In our times, generations Those who wear



Suspended home guard arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 29: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a former home guard for duping a person of Rs 62,000 on the pretext of selling a second-hand motorcycle to the victim. The accused, identified as Bijay Kumar Pandi, 35, is a resident of Chandradeipur under Balanga police limits in Puri, who was previously suspended from service.

The accused reportedly identified himself as the driver of PCR van of the Chandaka Police Station in City to cheat the victim.

Sources said, the complainant, who was planning to buy a used motorcycle through one of his friends. came into contact with Pandi in February. The complainant was later instructed by Pandi to come near Maa Charchika used bike shop at Acharya Vihar. Accordingly, the complainant along with his friends reached at the shop February 18 and selected two used bikes parked at the shop. However, Pandi didn't turn up and sent his photo donning the home guard uniform and standing before the PCR van of Chandaka police.

Subsequently, Pandi called the complainant to pay Rs 5,000 as first installment and later Rs 57,000 through UPI payment system on promise of delivering the bike in time.

However, the accused did not hand over the bike February 28 to the victim as promised and also verbally abused the victim when he called him over phone.

The victim lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime and Economic Offence Police Station March ch 21.



REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE MANIKHAMB, OT ROAD, POLICE LINE,

BHASKARGANJ, DIST.: BALASORE, PIN-756001,

with further interest

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES

(E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" and "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 29.04.2022, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder

BHADRAK BRANCH - 1, BHADRAK, Dist.: BHADRAK Ph No.: 9693980986, Email: bhadrak@unionbankofindia.com Name & Address of Borrower, Co-applicants & Guarantors : **Amount Due** as on 28.02.2021

Borrower: Metal Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Space No.: A-1, Block No. A, First Floor, Krishna Tower Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751014 / Co-Applicants/Guarantors: 1) Nirmal Kumar Jha, Flat No.: A9, 3rd Floor, Lord Gunjan Palace, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751001, 2) Smt. Urmila Parida, W/o Batakrushna Parida, Ward No.: 22, Cuttack Municipal Corporation, Samanta Sahi, Mangalabag, P.O.: Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001, 3) Bijay Kumar Satpathy, S/o: Maheswar Satpathy, Space No.: A-1, Block No. A, First Floor, Krishna Cost and expenses Tower, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751014, 4) Mr. Jaykrushna Satpathy, S/o: Maheswar Satpathy, Space No.: A-1, Block No. A, First Floor, Krishna Tower, Nayapalli, PIN-751014

Property No.1: All that part and parcel of the Land and Building over Plot No.: 123, Area: Ac.0.027 Dec. and Plot No.: 124, Area Ac.0.097 Dec. out of Ac.0.221 Dec., Total Area: Ac.0.124Dec. out of Ac.0.248 Dec., Khata No.: 45, Corresponding to Sabak Plo No.: 272 & Khata No.: 84 under Mouza: Bhubaneswar City Unit No.: 31, Laxmisagar, Thana: New Capital, Thana No.: 48, Tahasil Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurdha having status held in the name of Smt. Urmila Parida, Kissam: Homestead Land, Bounded by North

Property of Arjun Garabadu, South: Property of Gopal Chandra Patnaik, East: Property of Dai Sahoo, West: Main Road Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹1,89,03,500/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹18,90,350/-KEONJHAR BRANCH-2, Near Thana Chowk, Keonjhar, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001

Ph.: 06766-253783, Email: bm1299@unionbankofindia.com Name & Address of Borrower, Co-applicant & Guarantor:

Borrower: Chitta Ranjan Giri, S/o: Pradeep Kumar Giri, At: Dhanurjyapur, Old Town, Keonjhar, ₹ 21,62,168/- as on 26.10.2021
Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 / Co-applicant/Guarantor: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Giri, S/o: Kamalakant with further interest, Cost and with further interest, Cost and Giri, At: Dhanurjyapur, Old Town, Keonjhar, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 expenses Property No.2: All that part and parcel of the Residential Land and Building in the Name of Chitta Ranjan Giri, S/o: Pradeep Kumar Giri, At/P.O.: Dhanurjyapur, Unit No.: 4 P.S.: Keonjhar Sadar, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN-758001, Khata No.: 313/240, Plot No.: 492/ 1452, Total Area: Ac.0.050 Dec., Bounded by North: Pond Embankment, South: Private Road, East: Property of Rabindra Das,

Property of Debendra Mohanty Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹40,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,00,000/-

DHAMRA BRANCH-2, Dist.: Bhadrak Ph.: 8050030050, Email: bm1412@unionbankofindia.com Name & Address of Borrower, Co-applicants & Guarantors: **Amount Due** Borrower: Mr. Khageswar Majhi, S/o: Late Khetrabasi Majhi, At/P.O.: Dhamra, P.S.: Bansada. Dist.: ₹ 3,14,579/-Bhadrak, Odisha-756171 / Co-applicants / Guarantors: 1) Aja Majhi, W/o: Late Khetrabasi Majhi, as on 31.08.2020 At/P.O.: Dhamra, P.S.: Bansada, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha-756171, 2) Mr. Mayadhar Parida, S/o: with further interest, Cost Radhashyam Parida, At: Gobindpur, P.O.: Narasinghapur, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha-756117

Property No.3: All that part and parcel of the Land & Building for Land Measuring Area: Ac.0.05 Dec. & Building there in Khata No. 143/95, Plot No.: 106/474, Corresponds to M.S. Khata No.: 69, Plot No.: 106 situated at Mouza: Dakshin Dhamra, P.O.: Dhamra P.S.: Bansada, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756171, Bounded by North: Jayram Jena, South: Ajodhya Majhi, East: Jayram Tarai, West: Hari Behera in the name of Sri Khageswar Majhi

Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹6,24,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹62,400/-

BID INCREMENT AMOUNT FOR EACH PROPERTY: ₹10,000/-DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 29.04.2022 between 01:00 P.M. to 05:00 P.M. (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extention), e-Auction Website: www.mstcecommerce.com

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit:

https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in

https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/tendelviewallauction.aspx Place : Balasore, Date: 29.03.2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

Four Bills passed in House

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 29: Amid ruckus by Opposition, the state Assembly Tuesday passed four Bills including the Shri Jagannath Temple (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

The Bill has been framed for speedy and efficacious disposal of land alienation cases of the landed properties of the Jagannath Temple Managing Committee in favour of person/persons in long possession.

The main purpose of the Bill is to amend the section 16(2) of the Shri Jagannath Temple Act. 1955 thereby to prescribe delegation of power to grant sanction to sale or otherwise alienate lands belonging to the temple managing committee.

The grant of sanction to sell or alienate lands by the state government which was required invariably in all cases of alienation may not be necessary after framing of Rule in this

passed the Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 amending certain sections of the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act, 1964, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and the Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991.

The Odisha Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed to provide land rights to the slum dwellers. Besides, the Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed in the House.



National Highways Authority of India (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India) Project Implementation Unit, Badadera, Mandua, Keonjhar-758014, Odisha

भारतमाला



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public is hereby informed that pursuant user fee rates vide letter No. NHAI/12011/ 30/22-23/RO/OD/922/2022 dated 25.03.2022 of RO, NHAI, Odisha, the revised user fee rates for use of section 0.000 Km, to 163,000 Km, (Design Length of 166,173 Km.) of Panikoili to Rimuli Section of NH-215 (New NH-20) at Hasanpur Toll Plaza at Km. 32,900. Khantagarh Toll Plaza at Km. 91,900 & Banajodi Toll Plaza at Km.134.380, for use of section 414.000 Km to 491.710 Km (Design Chainage 414.982 Km to 493.300 Km) of Binjabahal to Telebani section of NH-6 (New NH-49) at Bideibadkudar Toll Plaza at Km. 439.515 and for use of section Km.311.000 to 414.000 Km. (Design Chainage from 310.806 Km. to 414.982 Km.) of Singara to Binjabahal Section of NH-6 (New NH-49) at Jansanpur Toll Plaza at Km. 401.800 & Khireitangiri Toll Plaza at Km.339.500 in the State of Odisha to be applicable w.e.f. 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023 are as under

(a) At Km.32.900 near **Hasanpur** Village in Keonjhar District for 55.700 Km length {{completed road length 45.750, Jajpur by pass (6.450 Km) and Anandapur bypass (3.500 Km)}.

Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	the commercial vehicles
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	85	125	2755	40
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	135	200	4445	65
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	280	420	9315	140
Three-Axle Commercial Vehicles	305	455	10165	150
HCM or EME or MAV (Four to Six axles)	440	660	14610	220
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	535	800	17790	265

32.350, and Ghatagaon bypass 4.200 Km) Fee for single journey for Category of Vehicles registered within the Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle 1755 Light Commercial Vehicle, Light 2835 40 Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus Bus or Truck 265 5935 90 195 6475 95 Three-Axle Commercial Vehicles 290 HCM or EME or MAV 420 9310 140 (Four to Six axles) Oversized Vehicles

(c) At Km. 134.380 near Banajodi Village in Keonjhar District for 52.873 Km length {road length 34.223 Km Keonjhar bypass 15.650 km and Junpur bypass 3.000 Km).

Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for single journey for the commercial vehicles registered within the District of fee plaza
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	85	125	2820	40
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	135	205	4560	70
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	285	430	9550	145
Three-Axle Commercial Vehicles	315	470	10420	155
HCM or EME or MAV (Four to Six axles)	450	675	14980	225
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	545	820	18235	275

(d) At Km. 439.515 near Bideibadkudar Village in Deogarh District for 78.246 Km length (road length 71.157 Km, Keonjhar bypass 5.274 km and Structure Length 1.815 Km).

	(iii Rupee:			
Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for single journey fo the commercial vehicles registered within the District of fee plaza
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	135	200	4445	65
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	215	325	7180	110
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	450	675	15040	225
Three-Axle Commercial Vehicles	490	740	16405	245
HCM or EME or MAV (Four to Six axles)	710	1060	23585	355
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	860	1290	28710	430

(e) At Km. 339.500 near Khireitangiri Village in Keonjhar District for 57.045 Km length (Completed road length 46.293 Km, Keonjhar bypass 10.276 km and Structure Length 0.476 Km).

Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for single journey for the commercial vehicles registered within the District of fee plaza
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	90	135	3015	45
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	145	220	4870	75
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	305	460	10205	155
Three-Axle Commercial Vehicles	335	500	11135	165
HCM or EME or MAV (Four to Six axles)	480	720	16005	240
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	585	875	19485	290

(f) At Km. 401.800 near **Jansanpur** Village in Keonjhar District for 42.872 Km length (Completed road length

42.793 Km and Structure Length 0.079		(in Rupees		
Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for single journey for the commercial vehicles registered within the District of fee plaza
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	60	90	1975	30
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	95	145	3195	50
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	200	300	6695	100
Three-Axle Commercial Vehicles	220	330	7300	110
HCM or EME or MAV (Four to Six axles)	315	470	10495	155
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	385	575	12775	190

2. The rates for monthly pass applicable for local personal vehicle shall be Rs. 315/- for the year 2022-23 at

Project Director

2 held in Mumbai for ₹2cr fraud in state 'Talcher fert plant to be

Bhubaneswar, March 29: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has arrested two persons from Mumbai on charges of duping an Odisha businessman of Rs 2.02 crore.

The accused, identified as Rakesh Kumar Girija Shankar Pandev and Sarman Singh Tomar, were arrested by the EOW sleuths with the help of Mumbai Police March 26 and have been brought to Odisha on transit remand, said an official

EOW revealed that accused Tomar runs an illegal Hawala busi ness in Mumbai while Rakesh Pandey, a native of Uttar Pradesh, is a hardcore fraudster and extortionist having numerous criminal cases pending against him in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh

Both the accused were arrested in a case (3/22) registered on the basis of the complaint filed by Ashok Kumar Singh against nine persons including the duo March

5-day remand for

Sarmistha, 3 others

BHUBANESWAR: The Crime Branch

Sarmistha Rout, Retd OIS officer

team Tuesday brought prime accused

Niranjan Sethi, Jhuna Bhoi and Ranjan

Navak on five-day remand for further

investigation into the sensational mur-

der case of cameraman Manas Swain

The Bhadrak JMFC had earlier granted

sons. Sources claimed that four teams

of Crime Branch have been interrogat-

behind the memory chip. The cops are

polygraph test on the accused soon. The police also reportedly received the post

mortem report that revealed severe rup

tures in the ribcage, head and other

body parts of the deceased Swain.

five days for the above accused per-



3. The complainant had alleged that Tomar, Rakesh and seven others had duped him of Rs 2.02 crore on the pretext of financing Rs 100 crore for his business.

Sources said Singh, who is into real-estate business in Odisha, had suffered huge losses during the Covid-19 pandemic. In June, 2021, Singh failed to arrange finance from banks to sustain his business and later contacted Rakesh who assured him of arranging a finance of Rs 100 crore. However, Rakesh demanded Rs 2 crore so that the fund could be raised immediately.

"Subsequently, the complainant went to Mumbai and arranged cash of Rs 2.02 crore and paid the amount to the accused persons. He also received several emails from the accused promising sanction of the

During investigation, it was found that the accused duo along with their aides had cheated the complainant on the pretext of arranging loan to the tune of Rs 100 crore. The accused used a fake email id of a reported private finance company to dupe the complainant and his business partner of Rs 2.02 crore. Several incriminating documents, debit cards, credit cards and cheques of different banks, mobile phones, one pistol with eight rounds of live ammunitions and cash of Rs 50.000 has been seized from the possession of accused Rakesh Pandey

EOW said accused Pandey is involved in at least 15 crimes like fraud, dacoity, robbery, swindling, forgery, attempt to murder and impersonation in different police station areas of Maharastra and Uttar Pradesh. CB sources claimed that search is on to nab other accused and unravel the hawala link

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 29: There will be a delay of at least one year in the commissioning of the Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Odisha, said Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya in Rajya Sabha Tuesday.

Replying to a query by BJD MP Sasmit Patra, the Union Minister said the plant is expected to be com-

missioned by September 2024. plant was sched-

uled to be commissioned in September

work has been delayed due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, he added 'The project has been delayed for

at least 12 months primarily due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Lump Sum Turn Key (LSTK) global contract for coal gasification and ammonia urea package was awarded in September 2019. The Covid-19

functional by Sept 2024'

by that period and became a pandemic by March, 2020. The nationwide lockdown was declared March 23, 2020. As a result, all project activities came to a standstill, the minister said.

Once commissioned, the plant will improve the availability of fertilizer for the farmers and boost economic development in the eastern region. It will also help reduce transport subsidy for supply of urea to the farmers of the eastern region. This apart, the plant will help reduce urea imports to the tune of 12.7 LMT per annum, the ministry said.

Mo Seva Kendra starts in City for hassle-free citizen service

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 29: For swift provision of all the government services at a single window to the denizens, one Mo Seva Kendra has been established in the Integrated Public Service Centre located at Bapuiee Nagar in City.

The citizen service centre for delivering e-Services is established by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited in association with state IT department under the 5T initiative of the state government.



BSCL, IT Department and SAHAJ have inked a tripartite agreement for establishing Mo Seva Kendras

Mo Seva Kendra will enable public to connect with government de-

partments, essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education, and agriculture services (multiple services-single point model) and to avail digital services in their neighbourhood, all under one roof.

Chores like energy and water bill payment, acquiring essential certifications, paying taxes, and accessing many other public services are set to get hassle-free in city. This was possible thanks to the efforts of BMC commissioner and BSCL CEO Sanjay Kumar Singh.

Include Sambalpuri in Eighth Schedule: Pujari

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Suresh Pujari requested the Union government

to take steps for the inclusion of Sambalpuri language in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution.

While speaking during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, the BJP MP said that Sambalpuri language is an old language and more than 1.5 crore people who reside in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and other states speak this language

"It is an ancient and scientific language which has its own grammar, vocabulary and literature. Ramayana, Mahabharata, Shrimad Bhagwat Gita and other religious books have already been translated into Sambalpuri. Sambalpuri language has its own set of music. dance, poetry and literature," he said.

He also told the house that the Union government has awarded Padma Shri to Sambalpuri poet Haldhar Nag and singer Jitendra Haripal which recognises the contribution of Sambalpuri language.

"This is indirectly recognition of the contribution of Sambalpuri language. We have requested you several times in the past to include Sambalpuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. I would once again request you to include it in the Eighth Schedule," the BJP MP said.

MeT issues heatwave alert; Titilagarh hottest at 41.5°C

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 29: Odisha is staring down the barrel of a blistering heatwave that may sweep several districts over the next three days, the Met office warned Tuesday.

The weather will be dry across the state, and hot winds are likely to intensify from the northwest. The mercury can touch 43 degrees Celsius in some areas, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

The maximum temperature will gradually rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius during the next three days. It will be significantly above normal at many places during the next threefour davs, a bulletin said.

It issued a yellow warning of the second heatwave of the summer at some places in Boudh, Bolangir, Bargarh and Subarnapur for three days from Wednesday.

Such conditions are likely in Kalahandi, Angul and Sambalpur Thursday and Friday

A yellow warning denotes that the conditions would continue for two days, during which people should avoid heat exposure. It is tolerable, but there is a moderate health concern for vulnerable people such as the elderly and infants.

The department advised people to take precautionary measures while going outside from noon to 3 pm in these areas.

A heatwave is declared if the departure from the normal temperature is 4.5-6.4 degrees when the maximum reaches at least 40 degrees in the plains or 37 in the coastal weather stations. A few other criteria can also lead to its declaration.

The air temperature becomes fatal to the human body when exposed to a heatwave, according to the India Meteorological Department.

There is no forecast for a he wave in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, but the maximum may be around 38 degrees in the twin cities. People should wear light clothes

and avoid going outside during the afternoon unless necessary, the They can have fruits such as

bulletin said. grapes and watermelon, replace intake of fizzy drinks with water to stay hydrated and be safe from heatstroke, the Health Department

Swami Sarvapriyananda delivers lecture at KIIT

Bhubaneswar, March 29: Swami Sarvapriyananda, Minister & Spiritual Leader, Vedanta Society of New York delivered KIIT Knowledge Tree Lecture at KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

KIIT Knowledge Tree Lecture series is a unique initiative of KIIT-DU to host, on regular basis, eminent scholars, spiritual leaders, celebrities, public servants, and leaders, who share their lives' experiences and wisdom with the students and staff. It seeks to bring knowledge of the world closer to the students.

Delivering the lecture, Swami Sarvaprivananda stated that India. unlike the US and other advanced countries, is undergoing transformation at a rapid pace. Young people, particularly students, are at the forefront of this transformation. "While going around the wonderful campus of KIIT and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) this morning, my feeling was that while Harvard, a great university and one of the best in



campus of KIIT and Kalinga Institute of

Social Sciences (KISS) this morning, my feeling was that while Harvard, a great university and one of the best in the world, is the present, this is the future SWAMI SARVAPRIYANANDA

the world, is the present, this is

to achieve success and happiness

Enlightening students on ways

who is a well-known speaker on Vedanta, said, success assumes different meanings in different fields - in Hollywood, success is connected with the celebrities; in Wall Street, success is the accumulation of wealth; while at Harvard University, success is the amount of learning. However, successful people, irrespective of their field, fail to find happiness and peace, he pointed out emphasising that happiness and peace remain elusive in absence of spirituality.

Summarising Vivekananda's teachings, he told students three essentials -- self-confidence, focus, and selflessness - for achieving their full potential in life.

Firstly one needs to believe in oneself, he told students. Without selfconfidence and self-esteem, even the best resources will not help. He elaborated that living consciously, accepting who we are, the practice of self-responsibility, the practice of self-assertiveness, living a purposeful life, and the practice of integrity are six attributes required to inculcate self-confidence.

Padhy reviews devpt at CUO



Bhubaneswar, March 29: Academician Aditya Prasad Padhy paid a two-day visit to the Central University of Odisha (CUO) to review the progress of various developmental activities and to mentor the students, teachers and staff to make the University is one of the best learning centres of higher education of the state.

Padhy is the UGC nominee to Executive Council of Central University of Odisha, member of Finance Committee and Chairman, Project Monitoring Committee of CUO, member of advisory board of NAAC and former Vice-Chancellor. Berhampur University

He visited the construction site of the University Tuesday, where one permanent academic block and staff quarters are coming up and rea visit to the Central Library of the University and advised Library officials to motivate the students for

best use of library resources. He was happy to see the plantation area with medicinal and ornamental plants grown by the district forest division. He advised the University officials to take up revenue vielding plantations in suitable patches in consultation with scientists of Agricultural University or Forest Institute.

Earlier, he had addressed the teachers and officers on best practices of teaching and learning and how to excel academically and administratively Monday. Prof SK Palita, Vice-Chancellor in-charge presided over the meeting and expressed that quality assurance needs to be a way of life in any academic institution.

Faculty development programme at BGU

BHUBANESWAR: The Birla School of Commerce of the Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar organised a week-long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Methodology for Advanced Research and Quality Publication". In each session, eminent resource persons fervidly apportioned their knowledge and information regarding the various methodologies used for quality publications, which illuminated the participants. Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Hyderabad, Director Ravi Kumar Jain and Professor Jamini Kanta Pattanayak from Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad joined the inaugural session as guest speakers, accompanied by BGU VC PP Mathur, Registrar BK Das and Birla School of Commerce Dean Samson Moharana. Eighty participants from different universities and institutions attended the FDP. The concluding remark and vote of thanks were delivered by BP Bijay Sankar.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sao Paulo, March 29: Ultraprocessed foods are having a negative impact on the diversity of plant species available for human consumption while also damaging human and planetary health, according to a commentary published in the journal BMJ Global Health.

Ultra-processed foods such as sweetened or salty snacks, soft drinks, instant noodles, reconstituted meat products, pre-prepared pizza and pasta dishes, biscuits and confectionery are made by assembling food substances, mostly commodity ingredients, and 'cosmetic' additives (notably flavours, colours and emulsifiers) through a series of industrial processes.

Nutrition experts from Brazil, the US and Australia have investigated

the issue and warned that these products are the basis of a 'globalised diet' and are becoming dominant in the global food supply, with sales and consumption growing in all regions and almost all countries, particularly in the uppermiddle-income and lower-middle in-

> According to the experts, the global agrobiodiversity - the variety and variability of animals, plants and microorganisms used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture -- is declining, especially the genetic diversity of plants used for human consumption. Peoples' diets are becoming less diverse, with ultra-processed foods replacing the variety of wholefoods necessary for a balanced and healthy diet.

As much as 90 per cent of hu-



Soft drinks, noodles harm human, planetary health

manity's energy intake comes from just 15 crop plants, and more than four billion people rely on just three

of them - rice, wheat and maize. Production of ultra-processed foods involved greater use of ingredients extracted from a handful of high-yielding plant species (such as maize, wheat, soy and oil seed crops) which meant that animalsourced ingredients used in many ultra-processed foods were often derived from confined animals fed on the same crops.

utrition experts have investigated the issue and warned that these products are the basis of a 'globalised diet' and are becoming dominant in the global food supply

Global agrobiodiversity - the variety and variability of animals, plants and microorganisms used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture -- is on decline

Another issue of concern was that ultra-processed food production used large quantities of land, water, energy, herbicides and fertilisers, causing environmental degradation

Another issue of concern was that ultra-processed food production used large quantities of land, water, energy, herbicides and fertilisers, causing environmental degradation from greenhouse gas emissions and accumulation of packaging waste.

"The very rapid rise of ultraprocessed foods in human diets will continue to place pressure on the diversity of plant species avail able for human consumption," said Fernanda Helena Marrocos Leite, from the School of Public Health at University of Sao Paulo in Brazil,

and her team. "Future global food systems fora, biodiversity conventions and climate change conferences need to highlight the destruction of agrobiodiversity caused by ultraprocessed foods, and to agree on policies and actions designed to slow and reverse this disaster,' Leite added.

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 Books-9658061373

We focus on after-sales service: Utkal Auto

In today's fast-paced lifestyle, advantages like better manoeuvrability, parking convenience and good mileage have made two-wheelers an essential mode of transport. Whether they belong to working class or professionals, a bike is the first choice for all sections of the society. In an extensive chat with **Orissa POST**, Utkal Auto's managing partner **Akhil Poddar** narrates his success story, existing challenges and the impact of Covid-19 on the automobile business. Excerpts:

- Tell us about the early phase of your career?
- Idid my schooling from Ranchi and graduation in Commerce from St. Xavier's College. I also topped in Ranchi University But to everyone's surprise, I took a calculated risk by taking charge of a sick outlet of an Ashok Leyland dealership at the age of 18.
- How did you foray into automobile business?
- First, I managed to revive this lossmaking unit with limited investment. Later, I took charge of the management of Utkal Auto, a Bajaj dealer in Cuttack from one of my relatives in 1998. This unit too was in crisis and it was a challenge to overcome.
- What is the prospect of auto-

mobile business at the moment?

From my 32 years of experience, I can assure you that this business would play a key role in the economic and social development of India. Frequent spikes in oil prices may create high demand for e-vehicles but people's love for twowheelers will not diminish any time soon.

How has been the journey of Utkal Auto?

Utkal Auto was the first dealer in Bajaj two-wheelers in Odisha. It started the journey in 1970. At that time, people used to wait for a long period to get a Bajaj scooter even after making deposits in advance. Now, the situation showrooms are well-prepared to meet the requirements of the customers. Meanwhile, we are dealing with Honda motor-

has changed a lot and

cycles and scooters after leaving the Bajaj dealership. We always put emphasis on after-sales services to win the confidence of our

customers. Utkal Auto has been recognised as the number one dealer in Honda

bikes in the eastern region.

- What are the major challenges involved in the auto business?
- Auto dealers are more dependent on the vehicle manufacturers to meet the customers' requirements. So, getting the consignments from the company is a big challenge. An automobile dealer always faces difficulty in maintaining adequate stock from all models to attract the customers in this era of stiff competition.
- What was the impact of Covid-19 on your business?
- Covid-19 pandemic was the testing time for the management of each and every business entity. We managed to tide over the situation due to unconditional sup-

port from my family and the employees of Utkal Auto.

BUSINESS

EMINANCE

AWARDS

- Your future plans?
- Utkal Auto will try its best to remain a popular showroom for two-wheelers. We will make all efforts to mature into the best in two-wheeler and four-wheeler business segment in Odisha.
- Your favourite pastime?
- I usually prefer to visit less-explored destinations with my family. I have been associated with several social outfits, including Marwari Yuva Manch and Lions Club, for the last several years. I work with some social outfits for the wellbeing of the underprivileged children when I am free.

Five arrested for blaze in Similipal

Baripada: Five people were arrested as the 'man-made' fire in Similipal forests continue to spread to more areas Tuesday, officials said. There are six fire points in the north wildlife division and three in the south. All the reported incidents are being dealt with, an official said, as the authorities battle to prevent a repeat of last year's devastation. "The fire is man-made. It is lit by tribals with dry leaves to collect forest produce like sal seeds, mohua flowers and firewood, besides poaching," Similipal Tiger Reserve field director M Yogajayanand said. Five poachers were arrested for kindling a fire to hunt wild animals and felling trees at Nawana range in North.

Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, Gol

120, 'F' Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, 011-23384106

"Invitation of Bids for Auction of Coal Mines/ Blocks for Sale of Coal"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4(1) and 4(2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Section 11A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Rules made thereunder, the Government of India has directed the Nominated Authority to undertake the auction of coal mines under 15th Tranche of Auction under CM(SP) Act, 2015 and 5th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act 1957 and 2nd attempt of auction of coal mines which received single bids under 13th/14th Tranche of CMSP Act and 3rd/4th Tranche under MMDR Act. The tender process shall be launched on 30.03.2022. Tender document and other details can be accessed on https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/coalblock/index.jsp davp 04107/11/0005/2122

5 held for quadruple murder in Hinjilicut



POST NEWS NETWORK

Hinjilicut, March 29: Police

Tuesday arrested five per-

sons in connection with the

murder of four siblings at

Pital Chhak under Shergarh

block of Ganjam district,

Raja Swain, 28, Sambhu

Swain, 25, Pandab Swain,

23. of Narendrapur and their

cousin Chandan Swain, 16,

were killed over passing of

comments and subsequent

arguments. All the four were

running a fast food shop at

Addressing a presser on

the premises of Hinjili po-

lice station, SP Brijesh

Kumar Rai said the main

accused of the murders

Amiya Swain alias Sadhu.

36, of Ramchandrapur and

Bargarh: A farmer died after coming in contact with a

Tuesday. The deceased was identified as S Satraju, 65.

The incident occurred when Satya was on his way to

his farm to cut grass. He came in contact with the 11-

KV wire that was lying in a farmland, resulting in his

death on the spot. Demanding aid for the victim's fam-

Gulmaki first Muslim woman

live wire in Kalapani locality of Bargarh district,

ily, enraged locals blocked National Highway-6.

March 22.

Pital Chhak.

accused has cases of murder. extortion & snatching

against him

four others - Bahinipati Behera, 28, Dipu Sethi, 19, Chitrasen Sethi, 19, and Santosh Swain, 23 – all from the same village, were arrested Tuesday and produced in Shergarh court. The main accused has

several cases of murder, extortion, snatching and other criminal cases pending against him at Hinjili, Shergarh and Aska police stations, the SP said, adding that another accused has been absconding and a team of police has launched a manhunt to nab him.

Police have also seized two scooters, wooden planks, iron rods and other weapons used in the crime. On the other hand, shops and commercial establishments have remained closed at the Chhak

Farmer dies of electrocution | Woman trampled to death

as fear still prevails in the area. The traders have demanded stern action against the culprits.

The SP said Aska SDPO has been told to form a peace committee so as to hold talks with local traders to restore normalcy. He also added that the demand of the local traders for establishment of a police outpost at Pital Chhak has been intimated to the top officials. The SP also added that till the outpost is set up, police will be deployed in the area.

According to police, main accused Sadhu and fast food seller Bahinipati had arguments in the evening of March 22. Sensing danger from Sadhu, Bahinipati had called in his siblings for

On seeing the brothers of Bahinipati, the main accused had threatened them of murder and left the place.

Hours later. Sadhu came along with his aides in two scooters, armed with weapons and attacked the four brothers. Three of them died on the spot while one died on the way to hospital.

Deogarh: A woman was trampled to death by a

Khandadhuan village under Kundheigola section

under Deogarh forest division. The deceased has

been identified as Pramila Padhan, 40. Villagers

spotted her body and informed forest officials

who reached the village and launched a probe.

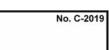
wild elephant while she had been to collect

'mahua' flowers early Tuesday morning at

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mouza - Madanpur, Bhubaneswar has been accorded Environmental Clearance. The copies of clearance letters are available with Odisha State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at http://www.envfor.nic.in

Regards
D.N. Homes (P) Ltd., Plot No: 15, VIP Colony Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar- 751015



WATCO OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B. Colony, Satyanagar,

Bhubaneswar - 751007, Odisha, India, Telefax: +91-674-2391444 E-mail: mail@watcoodisha.in, md@watcoodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) Bid Identification No. WATCO(W) - 40/2021-22 Dtd.28.03.2022

WATCO No. 1130 Construction of ESR along Kathajodi Rising Name of the Work : 1 Main for Improvement of Intermittent Water

Supply to 24×7 Continious Water Supply ir Cuttack City (at CDA Sector - 7, Kaffla Police Station, CDA Sector - 6 (Near RTO Office)). Construction of ESR along Kathajodi Risin Main for Improvement of Intermittent Water Supply to 24×7 Continious Water Supply i Cuttack City (at Near Park, Jhola Sahi Mair Road, Police Colony Raja Bagicha, High

Court Colony, Badambadi). Construction of ESR along Kathajodi Rising Main for Improvement of Intermittent Water Supply to 24×7 Continious Water Supply in Cuttack City (at Bidyadharpur, Poparada, Matagaja Park, Sartol UGR Site).
Construction of ESR along Mahanadi Rising

Main for Improvement of Intermittent Water Supply to 24×7 Continious Water Supply in Cuttack City (at CDA Sector-13, Near LI Office/Circuit House, Ranihat Head Works)

Construction of ESR along Mahanadi Rising Main for Improvement of Intermittent Water Supply to 24×7 Continious Water Supply in Cuttack City (at Pareswar Sahi, OSAP 6th Battalion, Near Commandant Residence Chauliaganj).

OIPR-13194/11/0020/2122

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India) PUBLIC NOTICE

National Highways Authority of India

The public is hereby informed that the User fee rate shall be revised w.e.f. 01.04.2022 (00.00 hrs.) up to 31.03.2023 in respect of Toll Plaza at Pipl at Km. 21.000 in Puri District for Bhubaneswar-Puri section from Km. 0.000 to Km. 67.238 of NH-316 (Old NH-203) in the State of Odisha, as per table below:

Category of vehicles	single journey (Rs.)	return journey within a day (Rs.)	pass for 50 single journeys in a month (Rs.)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	130	190	4270
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	200	300	6665
Bus or Truck	410	610	13595
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (3-6 axles)	625	940	20860
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	795	1195	26565

The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicles residing with a distance of 20 km. from the above toll plaza shall be Rs. 315/- for the year 2022-23 PIU- Bhubaneswar, NHAI: Email: bhu@nhai.org

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Project Director

Project Director

National Highways Authority of India (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the User fee rate shall be revised w.e.f. 01.04.2022 (00.00 hrs.) up to 31.03.2023, in respect of Toll Plaza at Srirampur at Km. 3.588 in Jajpur District for ndikhole-Paradip section from Km. 0.000 to Km. 76.588 of NH-53 (Old NH-5A) in the Stat of Odisha, as per table below:

Category of vehicles	Fee for single journey (Rs.)	Fee for return journey within a day (Rs.)	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month (Rs.)	Fee for single journey for the commercial vehicles registered within the district of fee plaza (Rs.)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	140	210	4700	70
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	230	340	7590	115
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	475	715	15910	240
Three-Axle commercial vehicles	520	780	17355	260
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six axles)	750	1125	24945	375
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	910	1365	30370	455

of 20 km. from the above toll plaza shall be Rs. 315.00 for the year 2022-23. PIU- Bhubaneswar, NHAI: Email: bhu@nhai.org

BUILDING A NATION,

National Highways Authority of India

Project Implementation Unit, Sambalpur Sarlakani Chowk, Infront of St.John's School Near NH-6 Sakhipara Road, Sambalpur, Odisha-768006



11040/NHAI PIU/SBP/JSG-KNTR/TOLL/319/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Revision of user fee rate for 2022-23 in respect of Brajaraj Nagar Fee Plaza at Km.62.100 in section from Kanaktora-Jharsuguda from Km.197.300 to Km 265.300 on NH-49 (Old NH-200) in the state of Odisha w.e.f. 01.04.2022.

Category of vehicle	Fee for single journey	return journey within a day	pass for 50 single journeys in a month	the commercial vehicles registered within the district of fee plaza
Car,Jeep,Van or Light Motor Vehicle	55	85	1880	30
Light commercial vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	90	135	3035	45
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	190	285	6365	95
Three Axle Commercial Vehicles	210	310	6940	105
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six axies)	300	450	9980	150
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	365	545	12145	180
The rates of monthly pa	ss applic	able for local	non commercial	vehicle residing within a

distance of 20 Km. from the above toll plaza for the year 2022-23 shall be Rs.315/-, subject to revision every year as per the provisions of said rules. Ph. No. (0663) 2548966, Email. piusambalpur@nhai.org, nhaisambalpur@gmail.com Sd/- Project Director

NOT JUST ROADS, BUILDING A NATION



from 01.04.2022 at 08:00 Hours

National Highways Authority of India Project Implementation Unit, Sambalpur Sarlakani Chowk, Infront of St.John's School Near NH-6



Sakhipara Road, Sambalpur, Odisha-768006

Date: 28.03.2022

11040/NHAI PIU/SBP/NH-57(0TO45.750)/TOLL/320/2022 PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Govt. of India, Gazette Notification S.O.4423 (E) dt.07.12.2020, the initial fixation of user fee rates of Fee Plaza At Ch.15.250 near town Bolangir, in Bolangir District in the section from Bolangir to Sonepur from Km.0.00 to Km.45.750 on NH-57 in the state of Odisha for net road length of 45.750 Km. to be applicable with effect from 01.04.2022 at 08:00 Hours as per the rates given below. Accordingly, the User Fee collection will be started

Fee for single journey for Fee for Fee for monthly Fee for return pass for 50 single the commercial vehicles Category of vehicle single journey journeys in a registered within the journey district of fee plaza within a day month Car, Jeep, Van or Light 35 55 1245 20 Motor Vehicle ight commercial vehicle, Ligh 60 2010 30 Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus Bus or Truck (Two Axles) 125 190 4215 65

Three Axle 140 205 4600 70 Commercial Vehicles HCM or EME or MAV 200 295 6610 100 (four to six axies) Oversized Vehicles 240 360 8045 120 (Seven or more axles) The rates of monthly pass applicable for local non commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20

Km. from the above toll plaza for the year 2022-23 shall be Rs.315/-, subject to revision every year as per the provisions of said rules

As FASTag is mandatory for all vehicles hence all users are requested to purchase FASTag Ph. No. (0663) 2548966, Email: piusambalpur@nhai.org, nhaisambalpur@gmail.com

Sd/- Project Director

NOT JUST ROADS, BUILDING A NATION National Highways Authority of India Project Implementation Unit, Sambalpur Sarlakani Chowk, Infront of St.John's School Near NH-6

Sakhipara Road, Sambalpur, Odisha-768006



11040/NHAI PIU/SBP/NH-57(140.900 to 224.900)/TOLL/321/2022 PUBLIC NOTICE

n accordance with the Govt. of India, Gazette Notification S.O.3637 (E) dt.16.10.2020, the initial fixation of user fee rates of Fee Plaza At Ch.190.050 near Rangamatia Village, in Nayagarh District in the section from Adenigada-Maichheli from Km.140.900 to Km.224.180 on NH-57 in the state of Odisha for net road length of 83.800 Km. to be applicable with effect from 01.04.2022 at 08:00 Hours as per the rates given below. Accordingly, the Us collection will be started from 01.04.2022 at 08:00 Hours.

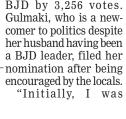
Category of vehicle	Fee for single journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for single journey for the commercial vehicles registered within the district of fee plaza
Car,Jeep,Van or Light Motor Vehicle	70	100	2265	35
Light commercial vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	110	165	3660	55
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	230	345	7675	115
Three Axle Commercial Vehicles	250	375	8370	125
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six axies)	360	540	12035	180
Oversized Vehicles	440	660	14650	220

Km. from the above toll plaza for the year 2022-23 shall be Rs.315/-, subject to revision every year as per the provisions of said rules

As FASTag is mandatory for all vehicles hence all users are requested to purchase FASTag. Ph. No. (0663) 2548966, Email: piusambalpur@nhai.org, nhaisambalpur@gmail.com

The rates of monthly pass applicable for local non commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20

Sd/- Project Director NOT JUST ROADS, BUILDING A NATION



Independent candidate Gulmaki was elected as the chairperson defeating Sasmita Mishra of the BJD by 3,256 votes. Gulmaki, who is a newcomer to politics despite her husband having been a BJD leader, filed her nomination after being encouraged by the locals.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March

29: Meet 31-year-old

Gulmaki Dalwazi Habib,

a Business Administration

graduate, who was elected

as the first Muslim woman

chairperson of Bhadrak

Of the 108 civic body

election results declared

Saturday, only Gulmaki

was elected as the chair-

person from the Muslim

Municipality.

community.

to become civic body chief scared...But gradually people from all communities came forward to support me as they have trust on an educated woman like me," Gulmaki said.

> She said Bhadrak town, situated on the Odisha coast, has people from all communities. "People voted for me because they want development of their areas which I can do," she said adding that her family members and local people campaigned for her.

"I think I can also be a good politician. My uncle, aunts and others in the family are active in politics. My maternal uncle was a councilor and my maternal aunt was elected as vice-chairperson many years ago," she added.

According to political analysts, no Muslim woman has so far been elected as chairperson of any civic body in Odisha so far.

However, one Md Akbar was the chairperson of another Muslim dominated municipality in Kendrapara from 1983 to 1990.

<u>east coast</u> railway Notice No. ETCECONIBBS2022027 Dated: 15.03.2022

ALANGIR NEW B. G. LINK PROJECT XECUTION OF EARTHWORK IN FORMATION, MINOR BRIDGES, EXECUTION OF P. WAY LINKING WORKS, SUPPLY OF BALLAST AND CONSTRUCTION OF STATION BUILDING, STAFF QUARTERS & OTHER ALLIED WORKS INCLUDING ELECTRICAL GENERAL SERVICE WORK AT BANIGOCHHA STATION II BETWEEN BUGUDA - BANIGOCHHA SECTION i.e. FROM KM 123 TO KM 143 AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS OFFICE / SERVICE BUILDINGS AT IAYAGARH & DASAPALLA OF KHURDA

Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) 4439.35 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 1,00,00,000 Completion Period of the Work: 24
(Twenty four) Months.

OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

ROAD - BALANGIR NEW LINE PROJECT

ender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 rs. of 18.04.2022. lo manual offers sent by Post / Courier ax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitte n firm's letter head and received in time

Il such manual offers shall be considere rivalid and shall be rejected summaril without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tend ocuments of the above e-tender is vailable in website: http://www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen

note any changes / corrigenda issue he tenderers should read al and ensure compliance of al nstructions including check lists, para 1.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form nd sheet) Annexure-I of chapter of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B/F & F1 duly verified and digned by Chartered Accountant.

days before the date of closing of tender

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)



The spiritual path is one of falling on your face, getting up, brushing yourself off, turning and looking sheepishly at God and then taking the next step.

SRI AUROBINDO



Uncertainty in Pak

s Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan faces a no-confidence motion moved March 28 and his fate hangs in the balance, a period of political instability looms large before that country. Three Opposition parties - Pakistan People's Party, PML (N) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl - have closed ranks in their bid to topple his party Pakistan Tehreeke-Insuf (PTI)-run government. Most significantly, the military establishment, which is known to have propped up the government helping Imran win the elections in 2018, has made it clear that it would play a neutral role in this parliamentary exercise. The message that it seeks to give is that it will not interfere with the political process. Nothing can be further from the truth since in Pakistan politics the military plays a pivotal role. When it supposedly distances itself from Khan, it suggests not only fissures in the understanding between the two, but also a deeper trouble brewing in the relationship of the military and the Prime Minister. There is also a distinct possibility that this drama could be happening to divert international pressure on Pakistan to take sides in the present Ukraine war scenario. Russia, which has endeared itself to the Pakistan establishment after the Afghanistan events of last August, obviously wants active support. On the other hand, the West and especially the US, would be demanding obeisance from the Pak military. An internal political turmoil could act as the best antidote in such a situation since Pakistan, till date, has avoided getting closer to either side.

The PTI organised a big rally on the eve of the no-confidence motion to demonstrate Khan's support base. His government is struggling with the required numbers to stay in power after 20 of his party legislators declared they would join the Opposition ranks. What appeared to be political rhetoric and a well known survival strategy used by India's ruling parties at different times, Khan has alleged that a foreign hand is working to bring down his government. The no-confidence motion, he categorically stated, is a conspiracy hatched abroad.

A complex situation has arisen in Pakistan with the Prime Minister reportedly trying to break himself free of the army's control and taking decisions with international ramifications that do not find favour with the army. He has for some time been cozying up to Russia and China and moving away from the US. In February, he visited the two former countries, whereas the Joe Biden administration is yet to send an invitation to him. The US has apparently become cold towards Khan as its relationship with Pakistan has so long been shaped by its policy towards Afghanistan. From the moment the US began the exercise of pulling out its troops from Afghanistan, Pakistan's importance in America's scheme of things waned. The US is reportedly not happy with the way Khan and Pakistan's intelligence service the ISI - monitored the developments in Afghanistan leading to the installation of the Taliban government.

One explanation for the rift between the military and Khan is the ISI chief's appointment. The military had presented Lt General Nadeem Anjum as its candidate to succeed Lt Gen. Faiz Hameed, for the next chief of the ISI in October, 2021. But, Khan dragged his feet over that, leading to an impasse. This was embarrassing for the military which smarted under the fact that Khan did not accept its choice. The appointment was finally made as per the military's preference. Faiz Hameed is seen as a Khan loyalist and known to have helped him in the 2018 election. He is believed to be Khan's choice for the next chief of army staff. The current chief of army staff, General Bajwa, who is serving his second three-year term, is set to retire in November. General Bajwa, it is an open secret, wants another extension to which Khan may not give his nod.

That apart, Pakistan's military establishment wants the country's closeness to the US to continue, while Khan is in favour of cementing the relationship with Russia and China which have been friendly towards his government. This is the reason, analysts believe, which has prompted Khan to refer to a foreign hand that he believes is working against him so that his policy of building bridges with China and Russia is thwarted. He has himself stated that the US and the West do not want Pakistan to follow an independent foreign policy.

In recent weeks, more than 20 lawmakers deserted Khan, leaving him short of the minimum 172 that he needs for a simple majority in parliament. Political analysts expect Khan's supporters to persuade some of the turn coats to return to the fold. The National Assembly has 342 members Imran and other PTI leaders are trying to get three allies, the PML-Q, the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, which have between them 17 seats, to declare their opposition to the no-confidence motion. Imran Khan's strategy appears to be to buy time and hope for a last-minute deal with the Pakistan army and the ISI. A snap poll, a year ahead from when it is due in 2023, could also be

All these boil down to the fact that however much Imran Khan tries to carve out an independent path in Pakistan politics, it is well nigh impossible for any political configuration in the country to break free from the military.

WISDOM CORNER

Anyone who stons learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.

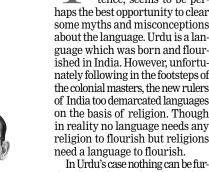
WORDS**WORTH**

Skedaddle

his archetypal American expression — meaning to run away, scram, leave in a hurry or escape — has led etymologists a pretty dance in trying to work out where it comes from. What we do know for certain is that it suddenly appears at the beginning of the Civil War. Out of the blue, it became fashionable in 1862, with lots of examples appearing in American newspapers and books. The focus of all the early examples is the War; without doubt it started out as military slang with the meaning of fleeing the battlefield or retreating hurriedly. Its first appearance in print, in the New York Tribune of 10 August 1861, made this clear: "No sooner did the traitors discover their approach than they 'skiddaddled', (a phrase the Union boys up here apply to the good use the seceshers make of their legs in time of danger)." However, it quickly moved into civilian circles with the broader sense of leaving in a hurry. It crossed the Atlantic astonishingly quickly, being recorded in the Illustrated London News in 1862 and then being put in the mouth of a young lady character by Anthony Trollope in his novel The Last Chronicle of Barset in 1867: " 'Mamma, Major Grantly has - skedaddled.' 'Oh, Lily, what a word!' " So far so good. Where it comes from is almost totally obscure. Was it Greek, as John Hotten argued in his Dictionary of Modern Slang in 1874, from skedannumi, to "retire tumultuously", perhaps "set afloat by some Harvard professor"? It sounds plausible, but probably not. The English Dialect Dictionary, compiled at the end of the nineteenth century, argues that it's from a Scottish or Northern English dialect word meaning to spill or scatter, in particular to spill milk. This may be from Scots skiddle, meaning to splash water about or spill. Jonathon Green, in the Cassell Dictionary of Slang, suggests this transferred to the US through "the image of blood and corpses being thus 'spilled and scattered' on the battlefield before the flight of a demoralised army".

FOCUS URDU

A LANGUAGE OF INDIA



Asad Mirza

CONTRARY TO POPULAR PERCEPTION. **URDU IS NOT** THE LANGUAGE **OF MUSLIMS**

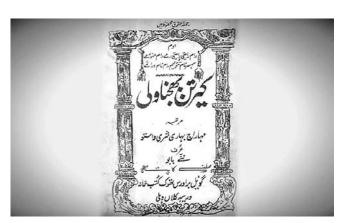
√he occasion, when Urdu journalism is celebrating 200 years of its existence, seems to be perhaps the best opportunity to clear some myths and misconceptions about the language. Urdu is a language which was born and flourished in India. However, unfortunately following in the footsteps of the colonial masters, the new rulers of India too demarcated languages on the basis of religion. Though in reality no language needs any religion to flourish but religions

ther from the truth. It was a language, which was patronised by all sections of the society, irrespective of their religion. But petty mindedness clubbed it together with a particular community. The colonial masters ascribed Hindi to Hindus and Urdu to Muslims, though both languages possess a rich tradition of substantial contributions from both sides. It would be pertinent to note that in Urdu, litterateurs consider Malik Ram to be an authority on Ghalib and similarly Jagan Nath Azad on the life, philosophy and works of Muhammad Iqbal. On the occasion of 200 years of Urdu journalism in India, let's try to see how various Indians irrespective of their religion, enriched the language.

Journalism in Urdu, the language of millions of Indians -both Muslims and non-Muslims -- has survived for two hundred years in spite of several odds. Right from the beginning, Urdu espoused nationalist sentiments amongst its readers and was completely anti-colonial and anti-imperialist in its treatment of the government of the day.

From its infancy in 1822, Urdu newspapers and journalists forged nationalist sentiments through their reporting and articles. Hindus and Muslims shared ownership and editorial responsibilities equally in the initial phase of Urdu journalism. Promoting Indian nationalist ideals and negating anticolonialist narratives was the foremost duty of Urdu journalists.

Pandit Harihar Dutta founded Jam-i-Jahan Numa, in 1822 in Kolkata (then Calcutta). He was the son of Pandit Tara Chand Dutta, an eminent Bengali journalist and one of the founders of Bengali weekly Sambad Koumudi, Editor of this three page weekly paper was Pandit Sadasukh Lal. It was the



After 70 years of a step-brotherly treatment being meted out to Urdu, it would be better if we could recognise it as the language of India and all communities work for its betterment and give it the recognition and honour which it deserves

third language newspaper in India after English and Bengali, and was published till 1888.

After the unsuccessful revolt of 1857. Urdu journalism continued with its nationalistic fervour, as Urdu seemed to be the only language which could play the role of a bridge between the nationalist leaders of emerging political parties in India and the common reader. However, after 1857, the centre of Urdu journalism shifted first to Lucknow and then Delhi from Kolkata. In spite of this, various centres of Urdu journalism were present in almost all states of India, like Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Patna, Bhopal and Srinagar, some of the current oldest dailies were started from these cities

From 1857 onwards, Urdu journalism entered a new era of development under the patronage of all communities of India. An example is Oudh Akhbar, which was published from Lucknow by Munshi Nawal Kishore, under the editorship of Ratan Nath 'Sarshar'.

From the beginning of the 20th century, politics and social reforms dominated Urdu journalism. The political and social-reform movements launched by the Congress, the Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Arya Samaj, the Khilafat Committee and the Aligarh Movement, exercised profound influence on Urdu language newspapers and periodicals. All these movements started various Urdu newspapers to propagate their thinking amongst the masses.

In 1919, Mahashey Krishnan started Daily Pratap from Lahore. It vigorously supported Mahatma Gandhi's policies and the Indian National Congress. It faced continuous government harassment and had to cease publication several times. It had great influence among Urdu reading Hindus of Punjab and Delhi, However, after Independence it changed tone and

became pro-Hindu to a large extent.

In 1923, Swami Shraddhanand founded Daily Tej with Lala Deshbandhu Gupta as its editor. It had a wide circulation in Rajasthan, UP, and Delhi. It too faced harassment by the colonial masters and was banned in a number of princely states. In the same year, the Arya Samaj started Daily Milap, from Lahore. It was known for its powerful nationalistic editorials. Later. Jawaharlal Nehru founded Qaumi Awaaz in 1945, which survives even today through a web edition.

After Independence, with Hindi becoming the official state language, Urdu journalism suffered a lot. It resulted in its subscriber base being eroded and the state patronage more or less nil for its growth. Though many organisations were floated both individually and by government too, to fuel the growth of Urdu journalism, very little was achieved.

This might have been due to the wrong impression carried by the ruling class that they can't connect with their supporters through Urdu newspapers, and also due to the self-detrimental actions taken by the so-called Urdu

lovers too. This class prospered at the cost of Urdu and wanted everyone to support Urdu, but they themselves in their personal lives paid little heed to its growth.

The Punjab Kesari Group of Newspapers of Ambala started Hind Samachar in 1948. During this phase it used to be one of the highest circulated Urdu newspapers of the country. Its current Chairman VK Chopra was once quoted as saying that his newspaper loses one reader every day, but he doesn't have the heart to close it down, which showed his love and commitment to Urdu.

In 1992, Urdu journalism received a shot in the arm with the launch of UNI-Urdu, the first wire agency in Urdu in the world. This service helped many old newspapers to grow with more content being available and also helped many new and small newspapers to start publication. At present, the two largest multi-edition Urdu newspaper groups, are Rashtriya Sahara and Roznama Inquilab and ETV-Bharat a 24-hour Urdu TV channel, Zee Salaam and Network 18 Urdu, are all owned by non-Muslim groups, which again cements the central argument that Urdu is not a language of Indian Muslims but it is a language of Indians. Muslims were burdened with the weight of Urdu as being a Muslim language by the ultra nationalist forces after Independence, an anomaly, which has not been set right till now.

Contrary to popular perception, Urdu is not the language of Muslims. It was the soldier's language and flourished during the Mughal period, assimilating words from Persian and local languages. The purpose was to make communication easy among soldiers who used to be Arab, Turk and locals. Later, Urdu became the language of the literate and masses both, assimilating local Persian, Arabic, and Turkic influence over the course of almost 900 years.

After 70 years of a step-broth erly treatment being meted out to Urdu, it would be better if we could recognise it as the language of India and all communities work for its betterment and give it the recognition and honour which it rightly deserves.

> The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi.

IN JEST THIS

Living to 150? It may one day be possible



Melvin Durai

EVENTUALLY, WE COULD HAVE MANY PEOPLE AGED 120 TO 150 WALKING AROUND, AND THE **PEOPLE WE NOW REFER TO AS** 'ELDERLY' WILL BE **KNOWN AS 'YOUTHLY'**

Then she died in 1997, Jeanne Calment of France was 122 years old and had set the world record for oldest person ever. She became a centenarian in 1975 and lived for almost a quarter-century beyond that, but what her doctors were probably wondering was this: How much longer could she have lived if she didn't smoke, drink and eat lots of junk?

Perhaps Calment could have been the first human to live to 150, but she enjoyed herself too much. She insisted on having a cigarette a day, drinking cheap red wine, and consuming fried foods, red meat and chocolates. But on the positive side, she did not experience some of the stresses of modern life, such as tormenting herself over why her elderly neighbour did not 'like' her post on Facebook.

Is it really possible to live to 150? Well, that's the maximum age that, according to a recent research

study, a human could hope to reach, assuming that the human is completely free of cancer and other diseases, experiences very little stress, and avoids risky behaviour such as train-surfing in Mumbai, bullfighting in Madrid or journalism in Moscow.

Even in ideal conditions, the human body's capacity to continually restore itself after undergoing stress has a limit. If you're 20 years old, you can lose a fortune on the stock market and completely recover within a few days. If you're 40, it may take you two weeks. But if you're 80, you might have to spend a couple of months undergoing fiscal therapy.

The ability to recover from various stresses gradually declines as we age, culminating in a "complete loss of human body resilience" somewhere between the ages of 120 and 150, according to the research study conducted at Gero, a Singapore-based biotech company, in collaboration with Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, New York,

"Aging in humans exhibits universal features common to complex systems operating on the brink of disintegration," said Peter Fedichev, co-founder and CEO of Gero.

In other words, just like a wellmaintained Honda that keeps going for years and years, we will eventually end up in a junkyard. The most we can hope for is that some of our parts will be salvaged and that those who drove us relentlessly in our lifetimes will spare us an occasional thought.

If you were hoping to live forever, this study may put you in a bad mood. But most of us should feel good about the possibility of living to 150. And Prince Charles should be thrilled that the longest he'll have to wait to be crowned King of England is another 50 years or so.

Advances in medical science and improved living conditions are already ensuring that many of

us will not only live longer than our ancestors did, we have a fairly good chance of living to 100. What does "fairly good" mean? Well, let me put it this way: In any tournament, golfer Anirban Lahiri has an excellent chance of hitting a birdie, a decent chance of hitting an eagle, and a "fairly good" chance of hitting a crow.

In 2015, there were 451,000 centenarians in the world (including 27,000 in India), more than four times as many as in 1990, according to the United Nations data. By 2050, that number is expected to increase to 3.7 million. Eventually, we could have many people aged 120 to 150 walking around, and the people we now refer to as "elderly" will be known as "youthly."

The retirement age will need to be raised, of course. I've always thought that 60 (or even 65) is too voung to retire. I hope to work until ľm 75. But I'm not quite sure how I'll spend the remaining half of my life.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Lankan economic crisis

Sir, There have been various reports of the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka. Firstly, the people of Sri Lanka have been caught unawares, unable to buy essentials and food items in the wake of shortage of food products. Rice or sugar, most essentials have been out of reach of the people now. Incidentally, the current situation, if allowed to continue, will create humanitarian issues like droughts and hunger deaths in the island nation. Despite being home to agricultural activities and crop cultivation, Sri Lanka has been pushed to the current economic crisis by various factors from lack of funds to the inefficient governance. Besides, natural disasters have always been playing havoc with the country's economic growth. For example, the 2004 tsunami disasters and the tsunami-triggered train tragedy in Sri Lanka have been fresh in minds even now - the Tonga volcano eruption being the latest on the world front. Only robust agricultural activities will facilitate growth across the board. Unfortunately, this spirit is missing in Sri Lanka now. So the agriculture sector should be given a new lease of life right away through funds, crops and fertilizers. Next, the United Nations, the global and Asian communities should come forward to help Sri Lanka come out of this crisis soon through proper financial measures.

P Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI

Southern delicacy

Sir, Every year, March 30 is observed as World Idli Day. The celebration of the day started some years ago when an enthusiastic Idli lover from Chennai decided to dedicate a day to this South India's most popular staple food. The reputation of the humble Idli is really a phenomenon in the 20th century. Steamed, puffy and delectable, Idli doused in sambhar and chutney, easily makes one of the nation's much sought after nutrients for breakfast. Idli, for long has been making the South-Indian cuisine proud across the sub-continent. This popular, yet simple food is not oily or greasy, and is considered to be one of the most delicious and intelligent nourishments in the South. Idli is also a 'street food', yet it shares no infamous reputation of being unhealthy or calorie-laden. Idli may have originated elsewhere, but it was in the South that the process of making it from a painstakingly ground fermented batter of urad dal and rice was perfected.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

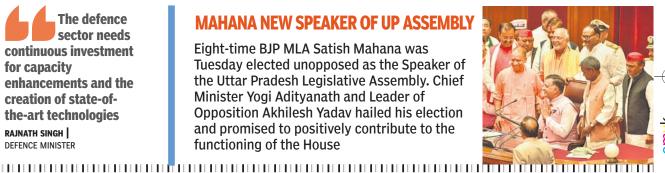
national



The defence sector needs continuous investment for capacity enhancements and the creation of state-ofthe-art technologies RAJNATH SINGH **DEFENCE MINISTER**

MAHANA NEW SPEAKER OF UP ASSEMBLY

Eight-time BJP MLA Satish Mahana was Tuesday elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Leader of Opposition Akhilesh Yadav hailed his election and promised to positively contribute to the functioning of the House





corruption has plunders, loots and

robs Karnataka as the poor suffer in misery. People will purge the corrupt

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

Approximately 10 per cent of the jobs in the Indian aviation sector were lost between April 2020 and December 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic



Nearly 3,400 communal riot cases were



NITYANAND RAI UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME



Man lynched

Agartala: A 26-year-old man was lynched Tuesday in Tripura's Sepahijala district on the suspicion that he was a cattle thief, police said. Two people were arrested in connection with the incident that happened in Baramura, they said. The deceased was identified as Litan Miah, a resident of Tarapukur in Jatrapur police station area in Sonamura subdivision, they added. Information was received in the morning that

Raje meets Nadda

villagers have detained a

youth, police said.

New Delhi: Days after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje met BJP president J P Nadda Tuesday as the party works to put its house in order in the Congress-ruled state that will go to the assembly polls next year. Sources said Nadda discussed with Raie, who led the BJP to power in the desert state twice, the party's affairs in Rajasthan and tool feedback from her.

Kashmir residents file plea in SC

New Delhi: A plea has been moved in the Supreme Court by two Kashmir residents challenging the Centre's decision to constitute the delimitation commission for redrawing the assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The plea filed by Srinagar residents Haii Abdul Gani Khan and Dr. Mohammad Avub Mattoo sought declaration that the increase of number of seats from 107 to 114 (including 24 seats in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) in Jammu & Kashmir is Ultra vires the Constitutional Provisions such as Articles 81, 82, 170, 330 and 332 and Statutory Provisions particularly under Section 63 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act. 2019.

British national arrested

New Delhi: A British national has been arrested for allegedly forging a document in the name of the finance ministry to stay proceedings against his company under a law to recover nonperforming asset loans, police said Tuesday. London resident Bharat Amritlal Parikh's Gujarat-based GPT Steel industries Ltd was facing proceedings under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, they said. The Act empowers banks and financial institutions of India to take over assets and properties of a borrower to recover an unpaid debt.

Huge fire breaks out at Sariska tiger reserve



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, March 29: Over 200 people and two Indian Air Force helicopters were pressed into service to control a wildfire that spread over 10 sq km of Rajasthan's Sariska Tiger Reserve, officials said Tuesday.

By Tuesday night, the fire shrunk to five or six square kilometres, the officials added. The blaze had started Sunday evening and was brought under control on Monday. That evening, a few hours later, it flared again and continued through Tuesday.

The Forest Department asked people of nearby villages not to enter the forest. The officials said no tiger is stuck in the affected area and their movement is being monitored.

The Sariska reserve in Alwar district has 27 tigers and hosts several other species of animals, they added. The air operation by IAS choppers was halted at night and will resume Wednesday morning, D N Pandey, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, said.

He said a team will carry out the assessment of the affected area The officials said no tiger is stuck in the affected area and their movement is being monitored. The Sariska reserve has 27 tigers, they added

on Tuesday night. "We are hopeful of controlling the fire tomorrow,' he said. Meanwhile, CM Ashok Gehlot tweeted that efforts are on to control the fire

The state and central governments are working in coordination. Two helicopters of the Indian Air Force joined the task of extinguishing the fire today. This fire has come under control to a large extent and I am sure it will be brought under control by tomorrow," he tweeted.

"It is a matter of relief that no loss of life or loss of wildlife has been reported," he added. Earlier looking at the situation, the district administration sought air assistance from the IAF, which deployed two Mi-17 V5 helicopters to control the fire.

Sariska Field Director R N Meena said the forest staff, nature guides and local people are engaged in efforts to control the fire but they are facing difficulties due to hilly terrain, he said.

District Forest Officer (Sariska) Sudharshan Sharma had said the helicopters made eight sorties till Tuesday evening."The area under fire is at a height due to which there are difficulties in firefighting," he said. The officer said the fire spread due to dry grassland and bamboo trees.

People in Baletha, Prithvipura, Nayawas and Bhatyla villages have been asked to take precautions and avoid entering the forest. The fire spread in Rodkela, Narandi Kalakadi, Katighati, and Naharsati area of the Reserve.



Participants ride bullock carts on a field, during a traditional race in Karad

Assam, Meghalaya sign border accord

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 29: Assam and Meghalaya Tuesday signed an accord to resolve the 50-year-old boundary dispute when Chief Ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma signed an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the chief secretaries of the two states and other officials of the Home Ministry.

Describing as the historic day for the northeast, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that this will usher in a new era of peace, harmony and progress in both the states. This accord paved the way for resolving the interstate boundary disputes at six places out of 12 which comprise 70 per cent of the boundary, he added.

"In 2019, there was an agreement between the armed groups in Tripura. The Bru Reang Agreement, signed on January 16, 2020, which benefited over 34,000 people. The historic Bodo Accord was signed on

January 27, 2020, ending the 50year-old problem without disturbing Assam's geographical entity format and without disturbing its original character. Then, the Karbi Anglong agreement was reached in September, 2021 and today this agreement and about 70 per cent of the border between the two States has become dispute-free," Shah further said.

He said the development of the northeast is not possible unless disputes between states are resolved and armed groups do not surrender. He thanked the Chief

usher in a new era of states on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central

Speaking about the pact, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma said: "Of the 12 areas of difference, we have come to an agreement with Assam on six areas. Further. a survey will be done by the Survey of India with both states' involvement, and when that's done, the actual demarcation will take place.'

Government.

The Assam and Meghalaya governments had come up with a draft resolution to resolve the border disputes in six of 12 regions along their state boundaries

Maha withdraws order to raze Rane's bungalow



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 29: The Maharashtra government Tuesday informed the Bombay High Court that it has withdrawn an order to demolish illegal constructions in the bungalow owned by Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane.

Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni made the submission before a division bench of Justices A.A. Sayed and M.S. Karnik. The statement followed a plea against the March 21 order of the Collector ordering Rane to remove the alleged unauthorised constructions carried out in the bungalow failing which the authorities concerned would raze it.

Kumbhakoni also said that the government will consider any application by Rane seeking regularisation of the purported illegalities before taking action in the matter, and the court allowed the state liberty to initiate any fresh necessary action in accordance with the law.

Even as a huge row erupted between the Maha Vikas Aghadi government and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, Rane had challenged the Collector's order

mental rights of the petitioner, etc. Following the state government's submissions, the high court disposed of Rane's plea.

LAKHIMPUR CASE

Opposed bail plea: UP to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29: The Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday told the Supreme Court it had "vehemently opposed" the bail application of Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that had left eight people, including four farmers, dead

Refuting allegations that it had not effectively opposed the bail plea, the state government also submitted that a decision to challenge the grant of bail by the Allahabad High Court to Ashish Mishra is pending consideration before the relevant authorities.

In its reply affidavit filed on the appeal by the family members of the farmers against the high court order, the state government further said investigations showed that a key witness in the case, Diljot Singh, was allegedly beaten up by miscreants on March 10 due to a "sudden altercation"



Holi colours on him.

The state government made the submission while rejecting allegations in the FIR filed by the witness that the attackers had issued threats that now that the BJP had won the UP elections, they would "see to him".

Asserting that the March 10 incident is not "related at all" to the Lakhimpur violence, it contended that the attack is sought to be "conflated and connected" with the farmer deaths in the town on October 3, 2021.

The state government said the Allahabad High Court order as demonstrate it has vehemently opposed the bail application of Ashish Mishra. "The same clearly demonstrates

that the Respondent No.1 (Ashish

Mishra) Bail application was ve-

hemently opposed by the State, and any averments to the contrary in the SLP(filed by the family members against HC order) are completely false and merit to be rejected," it added. The government further said

the high court order being of February 10, 2022, the limitation period against the same is still running, and the decision to file a Special Leave Petition(SLP) is pending consideration before the relevant authorities.

Giving details about the March 10 incident, the state government said that as per the petitioners' case, one Diljot Singh, son of Jarnail Singh, was beaten up by miscreants on March 10.

Bandh partially hits transport services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29: Banking and transport services were partially affected in a few states Tuesday as various central trade unions went on a nationwide strike for the second consecutive day to protest against policies of the central government.

The two-day strike was called by a central trade unions' joint forum, which on Tuesday claimed that the strike elicited good response by way of mobilisation of workers.

Various unions of bank employees also participated in the strike. Bank unions protested against the government's move to privatise two public sector banks as announced in Budget 2021-22. They also demanded an increase in interest rate on deposits and reduction in service charges.

According to reports, normal life was partially affected in Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. "Workers in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh joined the

strike on the second day... Workers in almost all sectors joined the Secretary of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), said.

In a statement, the joint forum lauded the workers of organised and unorganised sectors, government departments, public sector and private establishments, medium, small and micro enterprises as well as rural and urban working people, for making a "grand success of this two-day general strike".

'The participation crossed 20 crore (people) facing all odds, ESMA, intimidation, and obstructions of all kinds, including the high handedness of police in some cases and High Court order in Kerala prohibiting strike for BPCL and government employees," the statement said.

Road transport workers in Haryana began their strike by picketing at depots from Monday onwards. The issue of strike also echoed in both the Houses of Parliament Tuesday

citing various grounds. These included that there was no show cause notice preceding the order nor a reply sought, no hearings were conducted prior to passing the order, it was without jurisdiction or powers and arbitrary, violated the funda-

Sexual assault by husband is rape: K'taka HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, March 29: The victim in a landmark judgment case which ruled that sexual assault even by the husband is rape, has appealed to other sufferers to speak up if they are going through a similar traumatic experience.

March 24, Karnataka High Court Justice M. Nagaprasanna dismissed the petition of the accused husband in the case seeking to quash the legal proceedings against him. The judge had pronounced that sexual assault even by the husband is rape. In the order the bench has noted that Section 375 (rape) of the

IPC is not progressive but regressive. The young victim who got relief by the verdict shared her experience of brutal sexual assault by her husband. "I was quiet regarding the matter for 11 years," she said.

"I had become a sex slave to my husband right from the day of my



marriage. I was compelled and forced to have unnatural sex by imitating sex films. My husband forced me to have sex even after my pregnancy and continued to have sex even after my baby got termi-

nated," she said. "I didn't tell my mother. I didn't even go to my parents home. I was able to share what happened to me

only after learning of the plight of another victim of sexual assault. I came out of depression and dared to speak about my experience."

Speaking about the court's judgment, the victim stated that she awaited the order for five years. The ruling should have come much earlier. "Itna tadpaya humko, aisa lag raha tha ki useeke saath hi

hoon," she said. "My husband is totally inhuman and he forced me to have sex in front of my daughter and on many occasions he had beaten her and had forcible sex with me. There was continuing sexual harassment which no female in the world would like to express. I am in pain from knowing that my husband had sexually harassed my daughter by bringing her early from school. I do not want any daughter or mother to undergo the suffering which both me and my daughter have undergone," she stated.

The bench has directed the jurisdictional POCSO court to also register a case under section 377 (unnatural offences) of the IPC, which is a more heinous crime than section 376 (rape) of the IPC. The stay issued on the trial of the case was also vacated after 4 years, said senior advocate Ramananda who represented the victim.

Maha to withdraw lockdown cases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 29: In a significant move, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government has decided to withdraw all cases filed against students and general citizens for violation of lockdown orders during the past two years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil said that the cases were mostly filed under Indian Penal Code Section 188, and the proposal shall be put up before the state cabinet for approval.

After the cabinet nod, all such cases lodged across the state shall be taken back, Walse-Patil indicated here Tuesday. During the pandemic and the series of lockdowns implemented, especially during the first and second Covid-19 waves during 2020-2021, thousands of cases were lodged against students, youth and common citizens, even some families, for al-

legedly flouting the lockdown rules.

A police official explained that the cases were largely for moving around during the strict curfew hours at night, stepping out in groups flouting the prohibitory orders, people venturing out to public places like beaches where entry was banned during the lockdown, families violating the rules of travel by private vehicles, certain logistics and service providers exceeding the stipulated working hours, etc. Though the exact number of such violations is not immediately available and being compiled by various authorities, most cases under the IPC Section-188 stand to be withdrawn, giving huge relief to the offenders.



TWOSTATES





WEDNESDAY | MARCH 30 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

J&K: Only 34 outsiders bought properties since August 2019

After the abrogation of Article 370, the Union government changed the laws for procurement of land and properties in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, and new land procurement laws were formed thereafter



AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 29: A total of 34 people from outside Jammu and Kashmir have bought properties in the union territory after the abrogation of Article 370, said Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai Tuesday in the Lok Sabha.

Responding to a query of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Hazi Fazlur Rehman on whether the Minister of Home Affairs 'be pleased to state the number of people from outside the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir who

have bought property in the UT after the abrogation of Article 370, the MoS in a written reply said that 34 persons have so far bought properties in the UT.

"As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, 34 persons from outside the Jammu and Kashmir have bought properties in UT of J-K after the abrogation of Article 370" said Minister Rai.

On the question of the areas where the said properties have been bought, MoS Home Affairs said, "The properties are located in Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur

J&K govt receives 4,226 proposals worth ₹47,441Cr

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government has received 4,226 investment proposals worth ₹47,441 crore for land allotment to set up industrial units in the Union Territory. The Jammu and Kashmir ad ministration in January last year announced a new industrial developmental scheme with an outlay of ₹28,400 crore to encourage new investment and take industrial development to the block level. The new policy, which has been applicable till 2037, also paved the way for foreigners to invest in the region.

and Ganderbal districts."

After the abrogation of Article 370, the Union government changed the laws for the procurement of land and properties in J&K and Ladakh and new land procurement laws were formed thereafter.

Earlier in December 2021, the Centre had told Parliament that two people from outside Jammu and Kashmir have bought a property in the region since August 2019. In October 2020, the central government had notified new land rules allowing any Indian citizen to purchase non-agricultural land in the Union territory.

Delhi to get 211 forest guards soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29: Delhi will soon get 211 forest guards, with the forest department Monday releasing the results of an online test conducted a year ago.

Based on their performance in the computer-based test, 253 candidates have been provisionally shortlisted for physical endurance and physical standard tests, a no-

tice issued by the department said.

The coronavirus pandemic and procedural delays in the payment of exam fees amounting to around ₹50 crore had impeded the recruitment of forest guards by the severely short-staffed forest department, according to officials.

Hearing a plea moved by lawyer Aditya Prasad, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had in July 2019 ordered the department to fill up vacant posts at the earliest. In November that year, the NGT again directed the authorities to complete the recruitment process within four months. According to the officials, the Delhi government outsourced the online testing and assessment services to EdCIL India Limited in November 2019, taking them out of the purview of the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board, and issued an advertisement in December to fill up 226 vacant sanctioned posts – four forest rangers, 211 forest guards



Delhi Assembly passes ₹75,800 crore Budget

The Budget was passed by voice vote. The Demands for Grants for year 2022-23 and Appropriation Bill 2022 were also passed by the House

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 29: The Delhi government's 'Rozgar' Budget worth ₹75,800 crore for the financial year 2022-23 was passed by the Assembly after a debate Tuesday.

The Speaker adjourned the Assembly sine die after conclusion of the Budget session that had started March 23.

The Budget presented last Saturday focussed on creating 20 lakh job opportunities in the next five years through boosting retail sector, redevelopment of famous markets and industrial areas in non-conforming zones, startups, tourism and promoting night-time economy.

Participating in the debate on the Budget, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said various measures announced in the Budget reflected Aam Aadi Party's ideology of "hardcore patriotism, diehard honest and humanity".

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the Finance portfolio, said the budget was prepared based on 6,500 suggestions received from the Delhiites.

Twelve people whose suggestions were considered in the budget presentation were present in the session and Sisodia cited their names, recognising their inputs.

"Over 150 meetings were conucted with various associations



and regulatory bodies by our economy team. As a result some of the important suggestions were included in the budget such as redevelopment and regeneration of the city's iconic markets, IT parks, startup policy, e-commerce boost, creation of new jobs through var-

Several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators and ministers Gopal Rai and Satyendar Jain also participated in the debate. Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri termed the budget as "disappointing" pointing to rising fiscal deficit, and charged that the government failed on health

ious channels," Sisodia said.

education, transport and other fronts. The Budget was passed by voice vote. The Demands for Grants for year 2022-23 and Appropriation Bill 2022 were also passed by the House

BJP MLAs Vijender Gupta and O P Sharma were marshalled out of the Delhi Assembly for the day by the speaker for allegedly obstructing the AAP members from raising law-and-order and other issues.

The two opposition MALs objected when the ruling AAP legislators attacked the Centre over the law-and-order situation in the national capital.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



'Parallel system required to support food industry'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29: Asserting that opening eateries and food hubs is "not enough" to stimulate the night-time economy of Delhi, restaurant owners have said a parallel system must be devised like allowing offices and cinema halls to remain open till late to ensure customer availability.

Moreover, they have suggested that the city government must lay out a plan to ensure safety and security at night.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced a raft of measures in the Budget for the financial year 2022-23 Saturday like providing land for cloud kitchens, redeveloping major food hubs and introducing a food-truck policy in the national capital.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government also has plans to boost



the hospitality sector, including allowing bars in hotels, clubs and restaurants to remain open till late at night under the new excise policy.

Karan Srivastava, a worker at a popular food outlet at Connaught Place, said eateries will only re-

main open till late if there is a scope for business. He added that the government must ensure that offices and cinema halls are also allowed to remain open so that customers arrive and food is not wasted.

"It will be a good step as it will generate jobs and help businesses flourish. But I feel everything depends on how effectively it is implemented. Earlier, there was business at night as cinema halls and corporate offices used to remain open till late. But that is not the case now. Opening restaurants will not be enough. Other facilities should also be opened," Srivastava said.

Madan Taneja, who operates a stall near ITO, said shops will benefit only if customers arrive. "There are usually not many customers at night. So there is no point keeping shops open till late. If the government allows other establishments such as offices, shopping centres and cinema halls to remain open, then only customers will arrive," he said. Restaurant and eatery owners in the capital also said they will need to overhaul the entire structure of their businesses and it will take at least a few months to adjust to the new system.

J&K'S RAMBAN FACES SHORTAGE OF TEACHING STAFF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ramban/Jammu, March 29: Government-run schools in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district are facing an acute shortage of teaching staff as 586 posts of principals, lecturers, headmasters and teachers are vacant out a sanctioned strength of 2,073.

In addition, two school buildings have been declared unsafe, according to official data. Schools in the district reopened last month after a long break due to the cornavirus-induced lockdown and the winter vacation, and there have been frequent protests by parents and students for adequate teaching staff and better infrastructure.

Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam wrote to the director of education in Jammu early this month over the "virtual collapse" of the education system in the district and suggested sending a team of senior officers for spot assessment

assessment.

The district commissioner has also raised the issue of dilapidated condition of certain school buildings after conducting a safety audit of the structures, officials said, adding at least two schools – the Government Middle School Hiller, Rajgarh, and the Government Higher Secondary School Rajgarh – have been declared unsafe.

On the shortage of teaching staff, the officials said that against a sanctioned strength of 23 principals, 12 posts are vacant.

Likewise, there are 269 posts of lecturers, but only 128 are posted in the district.

Child rights body to rehabilitate street kids soon

THE PROJECT DDC AIMS TO DEVELOP VULNERABLE CHILDREN INTO RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS



AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 29: The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and a state government think-tank have launched a project to rehabilitate street children

rights body and the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi have collaborated with Salaam Baalak Trust and Youth Reach to roll out a taskforce in a phased manner, starting with South and South-East districts.

Highlighting that thousands of children live on the streets of Delhi, they said in a statement, "Engaging in informal work and begging as a means for survival, these children survive precariously in the unsafe environment of city streets. They are deprived of adequate and appropriate adult protection, education and health care."

Setting up of residential schools by the Delhi government will further strengthen this project's effort to provide street children with a safe environment immersed with learning and socio-psycho-

logical support, it said.

DDC Delhi vice-chairperson
Jasmine Shah said, "The Delhi
government has developed a comprehensive plan aimed at bringing dignity and care into the lives
of homeless and street associated
children. In this year's budget,
we have set aside ₹10 crore to create a residential school that will
not only provide education but
also emotional and psychological support to vulnerable children. By launching this taskforce,
we will be able to deploy focussed

efforts to start providing these children with the basic amenities they deserve, including education, financial support and

guardianship."
Case workers and counsellors
will be deployed district-wise and
they will work in close collaboration with Child Welfare
Committees.

The taskforce will focus on a fivepillar model of rehabilitation: education and vocational training, counselling and medical support, sponsorship, guardianship, and shelter for the child, it said.

Akhnoor, the treasure trove from Mahabharata to Hindustan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 29: Jammu and Kashmir's Akhnoor sub-division is a historical gamut. Going by history and archaeological findings it is perhaps the most important place in Jammu territory. Quietly sitting on the banks of the river Chenab with the backdrop of Shivaliks, the quaint archaeological site of Akhnoor holds the secrets of ancient India, waiting to be discovered.

Akhnoor or 'Aankhon-ka-Noor' (light of the eyes) was coined by Mughal Emperor Jahangir after his infected eyes were cured with the water of Chenab at Jia Pota Ghat (river bathing point), the western bank of Chenab. A Hindu priest had asked him to wash his

eyes with the water and let the river breeze dry them up; to his surprise, his eyes were cured instantly. There is primeval magic in this ancient city, located just 28 km from Jammu.

It is believed to be the city of

Virat Nagar from Mahabharata where the Pandavas spent their year of Agyatvas on the banks of Chenab, then known as Chandrabhaga. The Pandava Gufa adjacent to Jia Pota stands with inscriptions as its testimony. Lord Krishna visited them in this cave to plan the war strategies. At Jia Pota, the turbulent Chenab is calm and serene. It is said that when the Virat Nagri warriors returned from the battle of Mahabharata, they thrashed the river water to calm it down so they could rest



peacefully. Jia Pota was selected for these reasons as the foundation of the Dogra Empire by the Punjab Emperor. It gets its name from the Jia Pota tree under which a grand Coronation Ceremony of Raja Gulab Singh was performed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the emperor of Punjab, 200 hundred years ago on 17 June 1822. For the Dogras it mark the form the form the form in India year of while Faja Gulab Singh was performed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the emperor of Punjab, 200 hundred years ago on 17 June 1822. For the Dogras

it marked the first step towards the formation of what would be known as the largest princely state in India. 2022 is the bicentenary year of the foundation of the erstwhile 'Riyasat e Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-wa-Tibet-ha', the vast empire which spanned over 84,743 sq miles. This makes Akhnoor a significant place of political, reli-

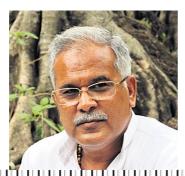
gious, and spiritual value in North India. This year Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust under the trusteeship of Dr. Karan Singh will celebrate the bicentenary of the historic event over a three day period to remember and commemorate their ancestors' glories.

A magnanimous Akhnoor Fort overlooks Jia Pota representing the might of the state which later brought a major political transformation in the region. Recognising the strategic significance of the place, it was Raja Mian Tej Singh who started the construction of the fort made exclusively of bricks of different sizes overlooking the Jia Pota Ghat. Archaeological Society of India (ASI) found relics of 5,000-year-old Harappan and pre-Harappan civ-

ilizations here. The Fort and the Palace is a protected national monument under ASI's jurisdiction since 1982. Presently the Fort is undergoing a major renovation to safeguard the heritage of J&K.

Excavations at Akhnoor confirm that it was the last bastion of the Indus Valley Civilization and Manda, the northernmost site from where the Harappans used to collect timber. Just one kilometer upstream from the Ghat are the remains of a Buddhist monastery and Stupa at a site called Ambaran dating back to 1st century A.D. to 7th century A.D. After the Dalai Lama of Tibet visited this Buddhist monastic complex at Ambaran in 2011, the site was in limelight and many Buddhists from foreign lands came to witness it.

national



The BJP-led Central government is "anti-reservation" and selling public undertakings like Railways and Air India so that intended beneficiaries are deprived of quota BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

TAWADKAR NEW SPEAKER OF GOA ASSEMBLY

Former Sports Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, 53, was elected as the Speaker of the Goa legislative Assembly Tuesday. Tawadkar defeated his Congress rival Aleixo Sequeira by 24-15 votes





In the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), under the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray, all of us are running the government together. Thackeray's role is important in that. The NCP and Congress are supporting him AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

proactive steps to bring the economy back on track by creating new employment opportunities. In this direction, the tourism sector will play a major role in generating

MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM

employment in Delhi

We want to send Union Home Minister Amit Shah a chartered plane and request him to come to Rajasthan to see

the law and order-related innovations made in the state and the strict action taken against crimes so that the confusion being spread by his party is cleared

ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Two die in UP

Rae Bareli (UP): Two labourers died when they inhaled poisonous gas while cleaning a sewer line in Rae Bareli Tuesday. The bodies were taken out and have been sent for post mortem. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the incident and has directed the district administration to provide relief to the families of the deceased.

Narcotics seized

New Delhi: In two separate operations in Patna and Chennai, a man was arrested and 10 kg narcotic substances seized, the Narcotics Control Bureau said Tuesday. In the first case, a man was held in Patna with 14 kg opium worth Rs one lakh. He was supplying opium through an SUV in Bihar. The NCB got a tip off about the accused and laid a trap following which the culprit was held and opium packed in polythene was recovered from him.

Four arrested

Kushinagar(UP): Four persons have been arrested from Kushinagar district for allegedly killing a Muslim youth, who was celebrating BJP's victory in the recentlyconcluded state Assembly elections. Gorakhpur Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) J.Ravinder Gaud, who met the family of the deceased Babar Ali, and assured them of police protection, said on Tuesday that: "Four accused have been arrested but the family is naming another accused. We will probe this further and provide protection to the family."

Soldier injured

Srinagar: A soldier was injured Tuesday in accidental fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, Police sources said the soldier belongs to the 34 Rashtriya Rifles. "The soldier was injured when his service rifle went off accidentally during cleaning in Behibagh camp in Kulgam district, "The injured soldier was removed to the Army's 92 base hospital in Srinagar for treatment,' sources added.

Six held for fraud

Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh): The Azamgarh police have busted a gang of frauds involved in duping people in the name of arranging their marriages. Six persons, including three women, were arrested late Monday night.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 29: TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee has written to all non-BJP chief ministers and opposition parties, including the Congress which her party had been attacking recently, calling on all "progressive forces" to come together and put up a united fight against the "oppressive BJP regime".

The West Bengal Chief Minister called for a meeting to discuss strategies to take on the saffron party and also commit to the cause of a unified and principled opposition that will make way for the "government that the country deserves'

Slamming the BJP-led Centre's alleged vindictive politics, she said that the democratic fabric of the country was being attacked with the use of agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to "harass and corner political opponents".

"I urge everyone to come together for a meeting to deliberate on the way forward at a place as per everyone's convenience and suitability. Let us commit to the cause of a unified and principled opposition that will make way for the government that our country deserves," the letter dated March 27 said. It was shared with the media on Tuesday morning.

The BJP, however, claimed that the TMC's national ambitions have fallen flat, while the Congress said the ruling party in West Bengal lacks credibility in fighting the

Sulli Deals, Bulli Bai

app creators get bail

New Delhi, March 29: The al-

leged masterminds behind the

derogatory "Sulli Deals" and "Bulli

Bai" apps were granted bail by a

local court in the national capital

Deputy Commissioner of Police

K.P.S. Malhotra told IANS that the

main grounds for granting the bail

to the accused persons -- Sulli Deal

app creator Aumkareshwar Thakur

and Niraj Bishnoi for Bulli Bai

app -- was that the Forensic Science

Laboratory (FSL) results and replies

from Intermediaries were still

the evidence against the accused

persons and no shortcoming in

the investigation was pointed out,"

He said that the court has granted

bail on humanitarian grounds and

considered that the alleged per-

sons were first-time offenders and

continued incarceration would be

detrimental to the alleged

Pradesh's Indore, was apprehended

by the Delhi Police on January 8.

The derogatory app had surfaced

in July 2021, where photos of

Muslim women were maliciously

The Delhi Police's Cyber Crime

Unit had registered an FIR under

section 354-A (Sexual harassment

and punishment for sexual ha-

rassment) of the Indian Penal Code

Meanwhile, "Bulli Bai" came to

light in January 2022 after a Delhi-

based woman journalist lodged a

police complaint stating that she

was being targeted by some uniden-

tified group of people on a mobile

application. The app was hosted

on Github.

displayed for "auction".

Thakur, 25, a resident of Madhya

awaited.

Malhotra said.

overall wellbeing.

on Monday, an official said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



The BJP, however, claimed that the Mamata Banerjee's reaching TMC's national ambitions have fallen flat, while the Congress said the ruling party in West Bengal lacks credibility in fighting the saffron party

out to opposition leaders comes at a time when her party is braving a political picture of their hollow governance

saffron party. In her letter, Banerjee also alleged that the Delhi Special Police (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the CVC (Amendment) Bill, 2021 were passed in the Parliament during the winter session amidst walk out by the opposition.

'These laws enable the Centre to extend the tenure of the directors of ED and CBI up to five years in blatant violation of a previous Supreme Court judgment," she said. Alleging that the central agencies "jolt to action' whenever elections are around the corner, she urged the parties to resist the BJP's intention to misuse the agencies to suppress the opposition.

"It is amply clear that the opposition is being targeted, and the BJP-ruled states get a free pass from these agencies so that a rosy

কাকা

firestorm over Birbhum killings

can be painted," the letter stated. Seeking transparency and accountability in governance, she said that the opposition leaders should not tolerate the vindictive politics of the BJP that has led to political witch-hunting becoming a norm.

Banerjee also alleged that the BJP is attempting to influence the judiciary. "Time and again, the BJP is trying to attack the federal structure of the country by attempting to influence a certain section of the judiciary," she said.

Mamata Banerjee's reaching out to opposition leaders comes at a time when her party is braving a political firestorm over Birbhum killings, in which nine people were killed, and several of its leaders facing CBI and ED probes in various other cases.

Rhino population rises in Kaziranga

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, March 29: The population of one-horned rhinos or Indian rhinoceros in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has increased by 8.28 per cent in four years, officials said on Tuesday, citing the latest census conducted on March 25-28.

Kaziranga Director Jatindra Sarma said that in the 14th rhino population estimation/census, conducted on March 25 to 28, it is estimated that a total of 2,613 rhinos living in the Unesco world heritage site against 2,413 rhinos enumerated in the previous census

The senior Indian Forest Service officer said that of the total of 2.613 rhinos, 1.823 are adult (above six years), out of which 903 are female, 750 are male, and 170 are unspecified.

In the latest census, there are 365 sub-adults (3 to 6 years), 279 juvenile (one to three years) and 146 rhino calves (up to one year old) found in the national park.

Sarma said that before the actual rhino census, a training cum briefing was imparted to the enumerators by experts on March 25 and a sample survey was conducted on March 28 in 26 numbers of compartments randomly selected.

All together 64 enumerators, 12 independent observers, and 49 media observers participated in the entire exercise, while 50 elephants were deployed to cover all 84 compartments, the Director said. Further, 252 frontline staff were directly involved in the four-day exercise.



Prez confers 'Best State' award on UP

Speaking at the event, the President appealed to the people to join the government's movement of water conservation



President Ram Nath Kovind awards the first prize to the state of Uttar Pradesh, being received by Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, during the 3rd National Water Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29: President Ram Nath Kovind Tuesday appealed to the people to join the government's movement of water conservation and asked district administration and sarpanches to play a special role in inspiring them to become its part.

The President presented the National Water Awards to states, districts, local bodies and schools among others. He also launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022' during the event.

The Catch the Rain campaign will continue to be implemented this vear till November 30.

Some new features such as spring shed development, protection of water catchment areas, gender mainstreaming in water sector have been added to the campaign. National Water Mission's (NWM) campaign 'Catch The Rain' with the tagline "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" is to nudge the states and stakeholders to create appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions.

Speaking at the event, he appealed to the people to join the government's movement of water conservation and asked district administration and sarpanches to play a special role in inspiring people to become part of the movement.

'We must take a pledge that as the biggest vaccination programme is being run in the country, in the same way we make this abhiyan too the biggest movement of water conservation," he said.

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have secured the first.

second and third prizes, respectively, in the best state category in the National Water Awards while Muzaffarnagar in UP and Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in Punjab secured the first and second position respectively among best per forming districts in north while Thiruvanathapuram and Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh secured the first and second rank in the south

East Champaran in Bihar, and Godda in Jharkhand secured the first and second rank respectively in the east zone while Indore won the first prize in west and Vadodara and Banswara were declared joint second winners in the west zone.

Dhaspad, Almora in Uttarakhand, Yelerampura Panchayat, Tumakuru District in Karnataka, Telari Panchayat, Gava District in Bihar and Takhatgadh, Sabarkantha in Gujarat and Sialsir, Sirchip, Mizoram bagged the first prize in north, south, east, west and northeast regions, respectively.

The best urban local body award was given to Vapi Urban Local Body Gujarat, while Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kaveripattinam, Tamil Nadu bagged the first prize among schools following water conservation practices.

Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Jammu was awarded the best institution in following water conservation practices. Terming it as a "matter of pride"

for the Union Territory, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said the recognition will inspire more institutions of Jammu and Kashmir for effective water management, minimizing pollution and strengthening sanitation facilities

TMC activists staged a protest over hike in petrol, diesel and LPG cylinder prices in Malda district

Farmers hold govt officials hostage in Lambi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 29: A group of farmers demanding relief for crop damage allegedly held 12 government officials hostage for several hours inside a sub-tehsil office in Muktsar district's Lambi.

The officials, including a naibtehsildar and patwaris, were freed by police late in the night Monday as the protesters refused to let them go, according to an official. The farmers have been demanding relief for damage to their cotton crop by pink bollworm.

Revenue officials Tuesday went on strike against the incident in the state. Police said a group of over 100 farmers under the banner of a farm union held a protest outside the sub-tehsil in Lambi on Monday. The protesters entered the office building in the evening and held the officials hostage till midnight, police added.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Kumar Malik said 12 government officials were held hostage. The SSP said senior police officers and the subdivisional magistrate there tried to placate

them and assured a meeting with higher officials to address their concerns

"But they were adamant and the officials were held hostage until late in the night," Malik said over the phone on Tuesday. He said keep ing in view the safety of those taken hostage, the administration directed police to take them out

Malik denied reports that police had used force against farmers to free the officials. "We freed the officials in a restrained and peaceful manner. No force was used. Before moving to free the officials, we requested them (farmers) many times that they can hold their dharna but the government officials performing their duty cannot be taken captive," he said.

NO JOY IN THE 'CITY OF JOY'

Horses continue to be maltreated in Kolkata: Report

USING INJURED AND MALNOURISHED HORSES FOR CARRIAGE RIDES VIOLAT ES THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT. 1960

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Kolkata, March 29: Cruel practices such as forcing emaciated and injured horses to work and injuries to horses caused by being hit by cars and other vehicles, often leading to slow, painful deaths, are part of a new report about the horse-drawn carriage industry in Kolkata.

For 20-odd horses, after a since similar assessment done last year. there has been no change in the

practices, which include horses with a fracture or multiple fractures; a horse that collapsed on the road; horses with open festering wounds; a partially blind horse, and a horse that died from suspected rabies -- the report by PETA India describing the dire conditions of horses as assessed between November 2021 and March 2022 said.

Most of the horses were found to be severely emaciated and chronically malnourished, indicating



that the majority of Kolkata's horses have been starving for a long time and are routinely denied basic nutrition, the report said, as it pointed

out that the horses are also denied proper farriery (services for hoofs) and other veterinary services.

Using injured and malnourished horses for carriage rides violates The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

"The animals' faeces strewn around the city also creates a tetanus risk and other health hazards for humans," the report submitted to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Home Department, the Animal as well as the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Commissioner of Police, said. "There is no joy for horses in

Resource Development Department

the City of Joy," said PETA India 🗅 Advocacy Officer, Samit Roy. PETA India is calling on the authorities to replace horses with eco-friendly electric carriages to spare them suffering from fractures and festering wounds caused by trafficaccidents and other cruelty, he added.





international



I've been in very close contact with our Turkish friends, with Qatar, with Israel, with India, France & Germany. It is my belief that all these efforts are essential in order to create the conditions to allow for finally this **Russian invasion of Ukraine to come to**

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

OUEEN PAYS TRIBUTE TO HER LATE HUSBAND

Britain's Queen Elizabeth made her first public appearance in five months Tuesday when she joined the royal family and other dignitaries at a memorial service to her "remarkable" husband Prince Philip, who died last year



We consider the position of the West which supplies lethal weapons to Ukraine, to be irresponsible

SERGEI SHOIGU RUSSIAN

DEFENCE MINISTER

The aspirations of Sudanese women and men for a prosperous, civilian-

led, democratic future are at risk Unless the current trajectory is corrected, the country will head toward an economic and security collapse, and significant humanitarian suffering

VOLKER PERTHES HEAD OF THE UNITAMS







PRESIDENT OF THE OPPOSITION PML-N

SHORT TAKES

Seoul: N Korea fired old ICBM

Seoul: South Korea Tuesday dismissed North Korea's claim to have launched a newly developed intercontinental ballistic missile last week. accusing the country of firing a less-powerful existing weapon and fabricating data following an earlier failed launch. North Korea said it launched a Hwasong-17 missile, its longest-range developmental ICBM, last Thursday in its biggest weapons test in years. Its state media called the launch "a historical event" and released a stylized Hollywood style video showing leader Kim Jong Un, in sunglasses and leather iacket. supervising the launch. But South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday it has determined that what North Korea fired wasn't a Hwasong 17 but a Hwasong-15, another ICBM that it successfully

SL Navy arrests 4

tested in 2017.

Chennai: The Sri Lankan Navy has apprehended four Indian fishermen in the wee hours of Tuesday near Katchatheevu for allegedly violating the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Fishermen organisations of Tamil Nadu alleged that the Sri Lankan navy also seized one mechanised boat used by the fishermen. Since January, 87 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu were arrested by the Sri Lankan navy. While 42 fishermen were released after the Government of India's intervention, the rest are still languishing in jails at Jaffna in Sri Lanka.

Slovenia reopens embassy in Ukraine

Liubliana: Slovenia has reopened its embassy in Kiev. after it evacuated all its dinlomats from Ukraine February 26 two days after Russia launched its full scale invasion. The Embassy was reopened Monday by temporary charge d'affaires Bostjan Lesjak, while Slovenian Ambassador to Ukraine Tomaz Mencin continues to work from the Polish city of Rzeszow which lies close to the Ukrainian border, the Foreign Ministry in Ljubljana said.

Malta's PM sworn in

Valletta: Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela was sworn in after his Labour Party won the March 26 general election. He was administered the oath of office Monday during a ceremony at the Palace in Valletta presided by President George Vella, reports Xinhua news agency. The Labour Party won the general election with 55.1 per cent of the vote, against the Nationalist Party's (PN) 41.7 per cent.

Russia vows to scale down ops

Istanbul/Kyiv Outskirts/MariupoL, Ukraine, March 29: Russia promised Tuesday to scale down military operations around Kyiv and northern Ukraine as a confidence-building step, in the most tangible sign vet of progress towards negotiating an end to the war.

During talks at a palace in Istanbul, Ukraine for its part proposed adopting neutral status in the most detailed formula yet for a potential settlement to the five-week

Moscow's February 24 invasion has been halted on most fronts by strong resistance, with Ukrainians recapturing territory even as civil-

SCAVENGING IN RUINS

More than a month into the biggest attack on a European nation since World War Two, more than 3.9 million people have fled abroad, thousands have been killed and injured, and Russia's economy has been pummelled by sanctions. In Mariupol, besieged by Russian forces, nearly 5,000 people have been killed, according to figures from the mayor which cannot be verified. In parts now held by Russian troops, the few visible residents appeared ghostlike among charred and bombed apartment blocks. One little girl in a pink puffy coat and yellow knitted hat was playing with a stick in the ruins as explosions crackled in the distance. Two youths scavenged through rubble with a wheelbarrow.



negotiators before their face-to-face talks in Istanbul. Turkey

Moscow's pledge comes at peace talks with Ukraine

Kyiv proposes neutral status with

guarantees

ians are trapped in besieged cities. Some analysts noted that Russia's promise to reduce fighting mostly covered areas where it has been los-

ing ground. "Does 'we'll drastically reduce military operations around Kyiv' = 'we're getting our ass kicked, transitioned to a hasty defense?" tweeted Mark Hertling, a retired U.S. lieutenant general and former commander of U.S. forces in Europe.

PEACE IN SIGHT?

Ukrainian negotiators said that under their proposals, Kyiv would agree not to join alliances or host bases of foreign troops, but would have security guaranteed in terms similar to "Article 5", the collective defence clause of the transatlantic NATO military alliance.

They named Israel and NATO members Canada, Poland and Turkey as countries that may give such guarantees. Russia, the United States, Britain, Germany and Italy

SHOWERING LOVE

Russia's invasion has been halted on most fronts

Traumatised Ukrainians scavenge in besieged cities

could also be involved.

The proposals mentioned a 15year consultation period on the status of Russian-annexed Crimea, and could come into force only in the event of a complete ceasefire, the negotiators said.

The fate of the southeastern Donbas region, which Russia demands Ukraine cede to separatists, would be discussed by the Ukrainian and Russian leaders, they added.

Any peace deal would require a referendum in Ukraine. The Russian delegation said it would study and present the proposals to President Vladimir Putin. The Ukrainian negotiators called for a meeting between Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, with top Russian negotiator Vladimir Medinsky saying that could take place when foreign ministers were prepared to initial an

Jaishankar offers assistance to Lankan hospital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, March 29: Visiting Indian External Affairs Minister. Jaishnakar Tuesday offered assistance to a Sri Lankan government hospital which had to halt all surgeries due to lack of

Disturbed over the news that the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital in Kandy has halted all surgeries, Jaishnakar directed the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay to find out how New Delhi could assist in resolving the issue. Subsequently Indian envoy contacted senior medical officials attached to the hospital and had inquired about the required medicines that are needed to continue regular surgeries.



Voting on no-trust motion against Imran on April 3

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, March 29: Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed announced Tuesday that voting on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan will take place April 3, Geo News reported.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he revealed the much-awaited date, adding that debate on the motion, tabled by Leader of the Opposition National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif Monday, will begin Tuesday.

Rasheed said that the final decision would be taken at the last hour, adding that PM Imran Khan will "play"till the last ball

Reiterating his support for the PTI-led government, he stated: "I stand with Imran Khan" and hoped that voting will be held peacefully April 3. He also said that the official notification will be issued after the PM accepts the resignation of Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar: "In politics, some people win even after losing," he said.

PM DIRECTS PARTY LAW-MAKERS TO ABSTAIN FROM



VOTING: Imran Khan Tuesday strictly directed his party lawmakers to either abstain or not attend the National Assembly session on the day of voting on the no-confidence motion against

In a letter to the PTI lawmakers. Prime Minister Khan, who is the party's chairman, said: "All the members of the (PTI) in the National Assembly shall abstain from voting/not attend the meeting of the National Assembly on the date when the said resolution is set out on the agenda,

Biden proposes \$1.8bn for Indo-Pacific Strategy

The US, India and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, March 29: US President Joe Biden has proposed \$1.8 billion to support his Indo-Pacific Strategy along with another \$400 million to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the strategically vital region.

"In the Indo-Pacific, America is strengthening its role and expanding its cooperation with longtime allies and partners, including new diplomatic, defence and security, critical and emerging technology and supply chain, and climate and global health initiatives, while supporting stronger ties between our European and Indo Pacific allies," Biden said

The President has prioritised strategic competition with China and worked with allies and partners to resist coercion and deter aggression from Beijing and Moscow, and has ended America's 20-year war in Afghanistan while removing all US troops, the White House said.

Both the proposals for the Indo-Pacific are part of the \$773 billion annual defence budget of the US for the year 2023, which was submitted by the White House to Congress as part of its annual budgetary proposals.

The Budget, the White House said, promotes integrated deterrence in the Indo-Pacific and globally. To sustain and strengthen deterrence, the budget prioritises China as the Department's pacing challenge. China claims nearly all of the disputed South



China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. Resource-rich Indo-Pacific region is the lifeline and also the highway for trade and prosperity.

To support American leadership in defending democracy, freedom, and security worldwide, the budget includes nearly \$1.8 billion to support a free and open, connected, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific Region and the Indo-Pacific Strategy, and \$400 million for the

Chinese Malign Influence Fund. In addition, the budget provides \$682 million for Ukraine, an increase of \$219 million above the 2021 enacted level, to counter Russian

malign influence and to meet emerging needs related to security, energy, cybersecurity issues, disinformation, macroeconomic stabilisation, and civil society resilience.

According to the White House, the Department Of Defence's 2023 Pacific Deterrence Initiative highlights some of the key investments the Department is making that are focused on strengthening deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Department is building the concepts, capabilities, and posture necessary to meet these challenges, working in concert with the interagency and US allies and partners to ensure US deterrence is integrated across domains, theatres, and the spectrum of

With war next door, EU is warned on cyber security gaps

CYBER ATTACKS AGAINST EU BODIES ARE INCREASING 'SHARPLY.' WITH MAJOR INCIDENTS JUMPING MORE THAN TENFOLD BETWEEN 2018 AND 2021, ACCORDING TO THE LUXEMBOURG-BASED ECA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai (United Arab Emirates),

March 29: Gulf Arab states were

to gather for a summit Tuesday

about the years-long war in Yemen,

which the country's Houthi rebels

were boycotting because it is tak-

ing place in Saudi Arabia, their

Houthis to skip the summit, called

The decision by the Iran-backed

adversary in the conflict.

Brussels, March 29: As Russia's invasion of Ukraine accelerates European Union defense cooperation, a watchdog said Tuesday that EU institutions face vulnerabilities on another front: cvber security.

A Palestinian man feeds cats at the beach of Gaza City

The warning by the European Court of Auditors covers the wide range of EU bodies - from the executive arm based in Brussels to specialist agencies located across Europe — that run the 27-nation

bloc's day-to-day business. "The EU must step up its efforts to protect its own organisations," Bettina Jakobsen, a member of the ECA, said in a statement accompanying a special report on cyber threats

"Such attacks can have significant political implications.

Gulf states plan Yemen talks without Houthi rebels

by the Saudi-based Gulf

Cooperation Council, immediately

called into question the effective-

The United Nations, diplomats

and others have been pushing for

another potential cease-fire to mark

the Muslim holy month of

Ramadan, similar to efforts for a

Ramadan is likely to start this

weekend, depending on the sight-

ness of such a gathering.

truce over the past years.

Cyber security has jumped up the political agenda in Europe following attacks in recent years that targeted EU nations such as Germany and other industrialised countries including the United States, Britain and Australia.

In 2020, the EU imposed cyber sanctions for the first time, blacklisting a number of Russian, Chinese and North Korean hackers. Nonetheless, the European auditors said Tuesday that EU organisations were failing to enact some "essential" cybersecurity controls and underspending in this area. The auditors also alleged a lack of "systematic" cybersecurity training and information sharing.

EU entities as a whole handle political, diplomatic, financial, economic and regulatory matters.

ing of the new crescent moon. The GCC—a six-nation club in-

cluding Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman,

Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

- was to hold closed-door talks in

Rivadh. On Monday, the GCC's

Secretary-General Nayef al-Hajraf

held talks with British Ambassador

to Yemen Richard Oppenheim and

Yemeni officials allied with its in-

ternationally recognised but ex-

The spectrum of activities underpins the bloc's status as a geopolitical force, a global setter of industrial rules and the world's most lucrative single market.

The sensitive information processed by EU bodies makes them attractive targets for hackers, according to the report, which said the risks have grown as a result of

"This has considerably in-

remote working prompted by the

Covid-19 pandemic.

creased the number of potential access points for attackers," the ECA said. It said a "particularly concerning trend is the dramatic increase in significant incidents," which are described as attacks that involve the use of new methods and technologies and that can take weeks or even months to investigate and resolve.

One example cited is a high-profile cyberattack on the European Medicines Agency in late 2020, when the EU was pushing to authorize the first Covid-19 vaccines. "Sensitive data was leaked and manipulated in a way designed to undermine trust in vaccines," the ECA said.

Because the EU's organisations are strongly interconnected, a vulnerability anywhere could have a cascading effect, it said.

"A weakness in one can expose others to security threats." said the ECA. It recommended the EU draw up legislation that would set common binding rules on cybersecurity for all the bloc's i nstitutions

The auditors also urged more resources to support the Computer Emergency Response Team of EU bodies, or CERT-EU, saying "its effectiveness is compromised by an increasing workload, unstable funding and staffing, and insufficient cooperation from some" of the bloc's organisations.

In sum, according to the ECA, the network of EU institutions "has not achieved a level of cyber-preparedness commensurate with the threats.







business



Taxpayers of today are paying for subsidy dished out to consumers more than a decade ago in the name of oil bonds. And they will continue to pay for the next five years as the redemption of bonds continues till 2026 NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

TRIUMPH DRIVES IN TIGER SPORT 660

British premium motorcycle maker Triumph Motorcycles Tuesday said it has launched an all-new Tiger Sport 660 in India, priced at ₹8.95 lakh (ex-showroom). The company said it has entered the premium middleweight adventure category with Tiger Sport 660, designed to deliver significant advantages.



to ensure that institutions are board-driven and do not end up being individuals. Experience has shown that this leads to undesirable

It is important

MK JAIN RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Any hike in material cost will have an impact on cost structures. Material costs have been nushed higher due to Covid restrictions and mines being closed in Russia and South Africa besides others

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA MARUTI SUZUKI SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

unparalleled quality of our efficiency and fast key strengths of the (Chennai) plant that have contributed towards building a fine product offensive strategy and sales success

BMW GROUP INDIA, PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Hero MotoCorp to hike prices

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp Tuesday said it will increase prices of its motorcycles and scooters by up to ₹2,000 from April 5. The price revision has been necessitated to partially commodity prices, the country's largest two-wheeler maker said in a statement. The company will make an upward revision in the exshowroom prices of its entire product range. The price revision will be up to ₹2,000, and the exact quantum of increase will be subject to specific model and the market. Various companies, including Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, have already made the announcement to increase the product prices from the next month, owing to a rise in input costs.

Ruchi Soya shares rally nearly 16 pc

New Delhi: Shares of Ruchi Sova Industries Tuesday rallied nearly 16 per cent, halting its four-day decline amid value buying. The stock jumped 15.94 per cent to settle at ₹944.95 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it surged 19.99 per cent to ₹978.05. On the NSE, it zoomed 15.19 per cent to settle at ₹938. In the past four days, the stock had declined 10.73 per cent. The rally also came a day after the company's ₹4.300 crore Followon Public Offer(FPO) ended Monday, Capital market regulator Sebi Monday asked hankers of Ruchi Soya to give an option to investors in its FPO to withdraw their hids while also cautioning them about "circulation of unsolicited SMS" regarding the share sale.

Samsung revamps **Galaxy A Series**

Chennai: Korean electronic major Samsung Tuesday unveiled slew of smartphones under the Galaxy A Series as part of revamping exercise, according to a company official. The company launched Galaxy A13, A23, A33 5G, A53 5G, A73 5G aimed at offering a complete package of the latest Galaxy range of smartphones at an affordable price making awesome technology. "The Galaxy A series epitomises that belief by making flagship like features accessible at an affordable price point. The five new models we are launching are curated to inspire consumers with style, power and versatility," company Director and Head of Retail and Marketing operations -India, Mahesh Alanthat said.

Govt to sell up to 1.5% in ONGC to raise ₹3,000 crore

The government owns a 60.41 per cent stake in ONGC which produces half of India's oil and gas



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29: The government will this week sell up to 1.5 per cent of its stake in the country's top oil and gas producer ONGC to raise about ₹ 3,000 crore.

The Offer For Sale (OFS) by the government will be open March 30 and 31, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) said in a stock exchange filing Tuesday.

"The promoter (the government) proposes to sell up to 94,352,094 equity shares of the company, (representing 0.75 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital of the company) on March 30, 2022 (to non-retail investors) and on March 31, 2022 (to retail investors) with an option to additionally sell 94,352,094 equity shares (in case of oversubscription)," it said.

The floor price for the OFS has been set at ₹159 per share.

This price is at a 7 per cent discount to the ₹171.05 stock closing price of ONGC on the BSE Tuesday.

The government owns a 60.41 per cent stake in ONGC which produces half of India's oil and gas. In the OFS, a minimum of 25 per cent of the shares are reserved for mutual funds and insurance companies while 10 per cent earmarked for retail investors.

Retail investors are defined as an individual investor who bids for not more than 2 lakh shares.

ONGC employees can apply for equity shares worth up to ₹5 lakh each, the filing said, adding that 0.075 per cent of equity shares sold in the OFS would be offered to eligible employees at the cut-off price.

Gross NPAs down to ₹7.73 lakh crore: FM

New Delhi, March 29: Gross NPAs have reduced to ₹7.73 lakh crore as of December 31, 2021, against ₹10.36 lakh crore as of March 31, 2018, due to transparent recognition of stressed assets, the government informed the Rajya Sabha Tuesday

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said as per inputs received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country-wise ratio of non-performing loans to total gross loans is available on the website of the International Monetary Fund under its Finance Sound Indicator database.

"It is observed that the said ratio for India compared adversely with those of US, UK and China, and information in respect of Japan is not available," the minister said.

"Primarily as a result of transparent recognition of stressed assets, gross NPAs of SCBs peaked at ₹10,36,187 crore (gross NPA ratio of 11.8 per cent) as on March 31, 2018, from ₹3,23,464 crore (Gross NPA ratio of 4.28 per cent) as on March 31, 2015, and as a result of government's strategy of recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reforms, have since declined to ₹8,35,051 crore (Gross NPA ratio of 7.33 per cent) as on March 31, 2021, and further to ₹7.73.470 crore (Gross NPA ratio of 6.39 per cent) as on December 31, 2021," Sitharaman said in her



She also disclosed that as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, aggregate gross advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) increased from ₹25,03,431 crore as of March 31, 2008, to ₹68,75,748 crore as on March 31, 2014. As per RBI inputs, aggressive lending practices during this period along with wilful default/loan frauds/corruption in some cases, economic slowdown etc were observed to be primary reasons for the spurt in the stressed assets of SCBs and Asset Quality Review (AQR) initiated in 2015 for clean and fully provisional bank balance-sheets revealed high incidence of non-performing assets (NPAs), she said.

As a result of AQR and subsequent transparent recognition by banks, stressed accounts were reclassified as NPAs and expected losses on stressed loans, not provided for earlier under flexibility given to restructured loans, were provided for, the minister also said.

India buys Russian sunoil at record price

Mumbai, March 29: India has contracted 45,000 tonnes of Russian sunflower oil at a record high price for shipments in April as edible oil prices in the local market surged after supplies from rival Ukraine stopped, five industry officials told Reuters.

Sunflower oil from Russia could help the world's biggest edible oil importer in easing the shortfall at a time when availability of vegetable oils is stretched because of Indonesia's decision to restrict palm oil supplies and lower soybean crop in South America.

"As vessel loading is not possible in Ukraine, buyers are trying to secure supplies from Russia," said Pradeep Chowdhry, managing director of Gemini Edibles & Fats India Pvt. Ltd, which contracted 12,000 tonnes of Russian sunflower oil for April shipments.

Refiners bought crude sunflower oil at a record price of \$2,150 a tonne, including cost, insurance and freight (CIF), in India for April shipments, compared with \$1,630

before Russia invaded Ukraine, dealers said.

Sunflower oil was cheaper than rival palm oil and soyoil before the conflict, but as supplies from top exporter Ukraine stopped, buyers have to pay hefty premium, Chowdhry said.

The Black Sea accounts for 60% of world sunoil output and 76% of exports. Indian buyers were not making purchases of Russian sunflower oil for nearly a month, but now they are placing orders as

banks are opening letters of credit (LC) for the imports, said a New Delhi-based dealer with a global trading firm.

"Indian buyers are paying in dollars. Indian insurance companies are providing cover to vessels bringing sunoil from Russia," the dealer said. Shipments of more than 300,000 tonnes of sunflower oil from Ukraine to India are stuck as loading at Ukrainian ports is suspended, said a Mumbai-

India imports sunoil mainly from Russia and Ukraine. It imports palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, whereas the bulk of soyoil is sourced from Argentina and Brazil.

India has now been trying to increase imports of sunflower oil from Argentina, said Sandeep Bajoria, chief executive of Sunvin Group, a vegetable oil brokerage and consultancy firm.

"Even after the imports from Russia and Argentina, there would be shortfall of sunoil. Nobody can replace Ukraine's shipments, Bajoria said. India consumes around 200,000

tonnes of sunflower oil but currently refiners can import around 80,000 tonnes only, the New Delhibased dealer said

Consumers are forced to switch to soyoil, rapeseed oil and groundnut oil as sunflower oil supplies are limited, the dealer said.

"Sunflower oil is very expensive. This is forcing price sensitive buyers to shift to other oils,"

Oldest stock

exchange also

on CEO search

The move comes at a

time when its bigger

rival NSE, which

controls a large part of

Indices rally for 2nd day on weak crude

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 29: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for a second straight session Tuesday after gains in index majors HDFC twins, Bharti Airtel and Infosys as global shares advanced ahead of peace talks between Ukraine and Russia.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 350.16 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 57,943.65 with 20 of its constituents closing higher. During the day, the index rallied 408.04 points or 0.70 per cent to 58,001.53.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 103.30 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 17,325.30 as its 32 components closed in green.

"Reports of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine along with weakening crude prices helped the global markets trade firm," said inod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among Sensex stocks, HDFC was the biggest gainer on value-buying after recent losses. The housing finance major spurted 3.06 per cent. Bharti Airtel rallied 2.89 per cent after reports said that the telco may consider a tariff hike and continue with 'premiumisation' to boost its ARPU to ₹300.

Among major index movers HDFC Bank rose by 1.4 per cent, Ultratech Cement by 2.7 per cent,

JSW Paints, India's

company and part

new age paints

of US\$ 13 billion

released its new

marketing cam-

naign "Sawalia"

with Alia Bhatt to

JSW Group.



Sun Pharma by 1.62 per cent and Dr Reddy's by 1.09 per cent.

while Infosys by 0.66 per cent. ICICI Bank, HUL, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints and Nestle also advanced.

On the other hand, ITC fell the most by 0.99 per cent while Tata Steel, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv and NTPC also dropped.

"For yet another session, mar-

BIZ BUZZ



Kotak Bank rose by 0.74 per cent

ets traded highly volatile and ended with gains of more than half a per cent. Supportive global

-3.03-2.67 -1.13cues led to a gap-up opening and thereafter the benchmark traded with positive bias throughout the session but with volatile swings,"

Broking Ltd said. Ukrainian and Russian officials are meeting in Istanbul for face-toface talks for the first time in two weeks as the war between the countries entered its second month.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare

Crude oil prices traded lower in the day before recovering 0.52 per cent to USD 113.1 per barrel in after market hours.

HDFC Bank opens 166th

branch near Sum Hospital

range of world class banking solutions to meet

Manojranjan Nayak, Founder & President of SOA

University as Chief Guest and Upasana Nayak as

Guest of Honour. The new branch will offer serv-

ices mostly to SUM Hospital and its employees,

and the residents of Shampur, Kalinga Nagar,

Gotha Patana, Malipada, Andharua, Bharatpur,

Daspur, kateni, Mendhasala, Ghatikia of

Chandaka tehsil covering a population of

approximately 70,000 with the flexibility to

carry out their banking transaction hassle-free.

the needs of the local population. The new

branch was inaugurated by Prof (Dr.)

HDFC Bank

its 166th

today opened

branch in the

Sum Hospital,

Bhubaneswar.

state near

The new

branch will

offer the full

trade volumes in the country, has also initiated a similar process for its chief PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 29: The country's oldest stock exchange BSE has also embarked on a search for a chief executive and managing director ahead of incumbent Ashish Kumar Chauhan's term ending in November.



The move comes at a time when its bigger rival NSE, which controls a large part of trade volumes in the country, has also initiated a similar process for its chief.

Interestingly, some reports mention that Chauhan is in the race to take over the corner office at NSE

In an advertisement posted Tuesday, the 1875-established BSE said it is looking for a results-oriented leader having an experience of 20 years, with the "highest ethical standards". Stock exchanges have frequently

faced troubles over integrity - witnessed through the emergence of scandals. NSE, which is passing through

a scandal involving an ex-chief, is also stressing on governance aspect in its search for a new head. Understanding of the financial

markets, technology and operations are the desired qualities in the candidate, the advertisement said.

India to invest in exploring lithium, cobalt mines in Aus

JSW Paints' 'any colour one price' campaign

coincide with IPL 2022. The new TV campaign features Alia Bhatt in a

unique double role. In the new ad campaign, Alia Bhatt plays the guintes-

sential Indian consumer as well as an alter ego - Sawalia. The alter ego,

Sawalia prods the consumers to ask questions before making their choice

of paints. Sawalia is a contextually important marketing campaign consid-

ering that all other paint companies in the Indian industry charge extra for

colour and a different price for every colour. The deeper the colour higher

away the consumers' 'freedom to choose their favourite colour'. According

to Anuradha Bose, Chief Marketing Officer of JSW Paints, "JSW Paints is on

a mission to give the freedom of choosing colours to consumers with its

'Any Colour One Price' offering. However, surprisingly, consumers are not

even aware that they have been paying extra for decades and that they no

longer have to. For this to change, the first step is to encourage our con-

conscious that when they don't question, they pay the price.'

sumers to question why they are charged extra for colour and make them

is the cost. This not only increases the cost of the paints but also takes

THE MOVE COMES AT A TIME WHEN **INDIA IS OFFERING** \$2.4 BILLION OF **INCENTIVES FOR COMPANIES TO BUILD BATTERY CELLS LOCALLY FOR ELECTRIC**

VEHICLES

New Delhi, March 29: India has committed to jointly invest \$6 million with the Australian government to explore lithium and cobalt mines in Australia over the next six months, in a bid to firm up supplies of key minerals needed to further its electric vehicle plans.

India's KABIL, a mining joint venture between state-run firms National Aluminium Co, Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration Corp Ltd, has signed a preliminary agree-



ment with Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO), the Indian government said Tuesday.

The move comes at a time when India is offering \$2.4 billion of incentives for companies to build battery cells locally for electric vehicles. Lithium, whose price has surged in the recent days, is a key raw material used to make electric vehicle batteries.

CMFO and KABIL will carry out "joint due diligence of select greenfield and brownfield projects to identify Lithium and Cobalt mineral assets for final joint investment decisions and acquisition," the Indian government said in a statement.

The agreement also provides for inclusion of any other Indian state-run firm as an investment partner, and envisages the due diligence process will be completed and further \rightarrow investment decisions taken over the next six months.

India has also shortlisted Latin American countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile for exploring mines of strategic minerals abroad, the statement said.

ROYALS CRUSH SUNRISERS RCB eye 1st win, face in-form KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, March 29: A new-look and re-energised Rajasthan Royals attacked from the outset and inflicted on Sunrisers Hyderabad a 61-run hammering to begin their campaign in IPL-15 on a rousing note here Tuesday.

RR got the better of SRH in every department after skipper Sanju Samson led from the front with a scintillating 27-ball 55 (3x4, 5x6) to power his team to an imposing 210/6.

Smarting from the pounding in the first half of their opening fixture, SRH failed to pose any serious threat to RR after a disastrous start to their innings, which saw them slip to 9/3 and then 29/4.

In the end, Kane Williamson's (2) team was stopped at 149/7, with the captain himself enduring a bad day in office.

SRH wouldn't have got even that many had it not been for Aiden Markram's unbeaten 57 (41b, 5x4, 2x6) and Washington Sundar's 14ball 40 (5x4, 2x6), the latter somewhat making up with the willow after his forgettable outing with the ball.

SRH's top-order batting was in stark contrast to Samson and Devdutt Padikkal (41, 29b, 4x4, 2x6), who added 73 runs for the third wicket off 41 balls, before Shimron



Hetmyer used his brute power to clobber 32 in only 13 deliveries (2x4, 3x6) and take RR past 200.

Samson's six-hitting prowess was on display, sparing no bowler durdle. Later Hetymar smashed three sixes to pile on SRH's misery. A clin-

Would be emotional thinking about ABD if we win IPL: Kohli

MUMBAI: Virat Kohli feels if Royal Challengers Bangalore were crowned champions for the first time in the coming seasons it would mean a lot to AB de Villiers, who would be the first person on the former captain's mind after the triumph.

One of contemporary cricket's greatest batters, de Villiers retired from all forms of the game in November last year. Since starting his association with RCB in 2011, the South African batting legend enjoyed 11 fruitful seasons with the franchise

"The other day, it got me thinking, if we manage to win the title in the coming seasons, I would be very emotional thinking about him first," Kohli, who had stepped down



as captain after the 2021 season, said on RCB Bold Diaries.

"Rather than what I would experience after such hard work of so many years, I would actually think of him. It would still mean a lot to him even if he is watching the game from home. He is a special human being as he has touched everyone, and we all can vouch for that," he added.

Kohli revealed that he had an inkling during the last IPL that De Villers was going to hang his boots. "It's very strange I mean, I clearly remember when he decided to finally call it a day. "He sent me a voice note, we

were coming back from Dubai after the World Cup. I got a voice note from AB de Villiers while we were driving back home. I kind of had the impression and was guessing it in the last IPL.

"Our rooms were next to each other, and we would walk the same way and disperse, every time we walked to our room and he would see me outside, he would be like 'I want to see you for coffee, one of these days'

"I kept getting nervous and was like 'I am not sitting with you because I think there is something coming' to which he always said 'No man there is nothing, I just want to have a chat with you, it's been a while and he never speaks like that because we interact all the time. So, I knew something is brewing up.

"It is a very strange feeling I got very emotional. The voice note was very emotional as well for me when he said, 'Look I don't have it in me anymore.' I have shared so many moments with him, highs and lows, everything we have been through he was right next to me.'

spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (3/22), then completed the task for RR.

Chasing an improbable 211, Sunrisers lost key batter Williamson after a diving catch by Padikkal before Rahul Tripathi (0) became Prasidh Krishna's (2/16) second victim of the day. It became 9/3 as Trent Boult (2/23) trapped Nicolas Pooran (0) in front of the wicket.

To make matters worse, Chahal removed two more batters in Abhishek Sharma and Abdul Samad in quick succession, as Sunrisers lost half their side for 37 runs and stared at a heavy defeat

But Markram, Romario Shepherd (24) and Sundar, who got 24 runs in the 17th over, delayed the inevitable and reduced the margin of defeat. During the final over, pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile injured himself while landing and was taken off.

Put into bat, Royals opener Jos Buttler got a life on zero courtesy a no ball. Buttler (35) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (20) then gave the side a flying start, adding 58 runs to lay the foundation for a big total.

Buttler was brutal on Umran Malik (2/39), hammering him for two fours and two maximums in the fourth over, as RR collected 21 runs The two openers then struck a six each off Sundar (0/47) in the next over as RR raced to 52 for no loss in five overs

Jaiswal however perished in the seventh over, holing out to Markram off Shepherd. While Buttler was dismissed at the start of the ninth over as RR slipped to 75/2.

Showing intent straightaway Samson took on the SRH attack with gusto. While Samson found the fence at will, Padikkal too got into the groove soon.

SRH removed Paddikkal and Samson in quick succession, but a lot of damage had been done by then, before Hetmyer compounded the bowling team's woes with his massive hits as RR scored 123 runs in the back 10.

BRIEF SCORES: RR 210/6 (Sanju Samson 55, Devdutt Padikkal 41: Umran Malik 2/39, T Natarajan 2/43) beat SRH 149/7 (Aiden Markram 57 n o, Washington Sundar 40; Yuzvendra Chahal 3/22, Prasidh Krishna 2/16, Trent Boult 2/23) by 61 runs.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, March 29: Seeking to consolidate their position after a winning start, Kolkata Knight Riders will have their task cut out as they take on a determined Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here Wednesday.

The two outfits head into the game on the back of contrasting results. While the Shreyas Iyer-led KKR humbled defending champions Chennai Super Kings by six wickets, Royal Challengers Bangalore suffered a five-wicket loss to Punjab Kings, despite posting a 200-plus score.

For RCB, skipper Faf Du Plessis is in prime form and would like to continue in the same vein. Opener Anuj Rawat was unable to capitalise on a good start and would be aiming for consistency.

Unburdened by the captaincy pressure, Virat Kohli made a statement and played with more intent against Punjab. He will definitely look to rediscover his glorious touch and continue to torment the opposition bowlers like he did during his prime.

Wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik also played a significant cameo and his role would be crucial once again, if RCB have to set or chase a big total. If these four go all guns blazing, then it would be a daunting task for the varied KKR attack.

While the KKR bowling unit will have to be particularly cautious of the six-hitting prowess of Du Plessis, which was on display Sunday, RCB bowlers would have to quickly forget the hammering they received at the hands of the Punjab batters.

A profligate Mohammed Siraj,



who leaked 59 runs, will have to pull up his socks. Another key bowler is death overs specialist and last edition's Purple Cap holder Harshal Patel. Even the role of Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who is capable of spinning a web around the batters, could decide the fate of the match

For KKR, they ticked all the boxes in their lung-opener against CSK and they would be hoping that they can repeat their performance. The biggest positive for KKR was Ajinkya Rahane finding his mojo and scoring runs.

Although all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer managed only 16 runs in the first game, he is capable of pummelling any attack into submission. Skipper Shreyas Iyer along with Sam Billings and Sheldon Jackson would need to shoulder responsibility in the middle-order.

On the bowling front, Umesh Yadav was sensational at the Wankhede. But others including Shivam Mavi, spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine would need to put up an improved show. All-rounder Andre Russell's role with the bat and ball could eventually be the difference between the two sides. KKR are unlikely to tinker with their winning combination. Being an evening game, dew would certainly be a factor and one can expect a highscoring affair.

TODAY'S MATCH



India's Pro League ties vs England postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

coming FIH Pro League doubleheader between the women hockey teams of India and England was postponed Tuesday due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the British camp. The matches were scheduled to be played April 2 and 3 at the iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Game's governing body - FIH - said the matches have been postponed "due to a high number of COVID cases and injuries affecting the English team.

"FIH, @TheHockeyIndia and @EnglandHockey are monitoring the situation. Further information will be given as soon as available," the FIH tweeted.

"The England Women's Team have had to cancel their travel to India for the double-header FIH Pro League matches on 2nd and 3rd April due to several members of the team testing positive for Covid-19 while some were unavailable due to injuries in the squad," Hockey India said in re-

While the women's matches were deferred, the men's fixtures between India and England will be played as planned this weekend.

Commenting on the rescheduling, Hockey India President Gyanendro Ningombam said, "It is unfortunate that the England Women's Hockey Team had to cancel their India trip for the weekend matches Bhubaneswar.

"We understand these are challenging times for every team as we all continue to battle the pandemic," he added.

The Indian women's team is currently third in the league standing, having won three games, drawn two and lost one. This is not the first time India's Pro League fixture has been postponed.

Earlier this month, the Indian men's team's matches against Germany were postponed following an outbreak of COVID-19 in the German camp.

Jayanti, Rashmi sprint SACHIN HEAPS PRAISE ON WARN to gold at Para Nat'ls



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 29: Odisha's Jayanti Behera and Rashmi Ranjan Mallick had wonderful outings Tuesday as they secured the gold medal in their respective events of the 20th National Para Athletics Championships at the iconic Kalinga Stadium here. Jayanti, who made a name for

herself with some quality performance in the global arena, bagged the yellow metal in the women's T-47 category of 100m event. She achieved the feat with a timing of 12.92 seconds.

Later on the day, Rashmi extended Odisha's gold count finishing on the top of the podium in



the men's T-44 category of 100m event with a timing of 12.64 seconds.

The day also turned into a special one when visually-impaired cricketer Pankaj Bhue, who has represented India, had won the first medal - a bronze - for the hosts in the T-13 category of the men's 100m event (12.17 seconds).

Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Governor of Odisha, graced the occasion with his presence Tuesday and distrib-

uted medals. Earlier Sunday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had honoured Jayanti with a cash award of Rs 15,00,000 for winning as many as three medals in the recently concluded World Para Athletics Championships in Dubai.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29: Calling Shane Warne a "fierce competitor" against whom he always had to prepare differently iconic Sachin Tendulkar says as the Australian spin legend was good at playing mind games and gave nothing away with his body language.

One of the all-time greats of the game, Warne died at the age of 52 due to a suspected heart attack in Thailand, March 4. A state memorial service has been scheduled at the MCG Wednesday.

"My first proper series against Shane Warne was in 1998 in India and everyone tagged that series as Tendulkar versus Shane Warne clash. That kind of following is going to put you under pressure,"

said Tendulkar. "When you are playing a world class bowler like him, you just can't turn up and hope that things are going to be okay. So I had to prepare properly, not just out being there at the nets but when you're sitting in the room, you have to be a step ahead of him, what he would be thinking because he was ex-



tremely good in putting pressure and playing mind games and trying to plan your dismissal."

Tendulkar had many fierce battles with Warne and the 1998 series in India will remain a part of cricketing folklore. "It didn't matter. you looked at his body language. One didn't know whether Warne had picked up four wickets, five wickets or he was bowling wicketless. Every delivery that he bowled, he was a fierce competitor.

"So even if you're facing the second last over of the day, one had to keep their eyes open, because he was always up to something and trying to figure out how could he dismissed

Remembering his last meeting with Warne in 2021, Tendulkar said: "After the last IPL, I went to spend some time in London where we got in touch. There was never a dull moment. He was full of entertainment, full of jokes and you know those battles those mini competitions.

"I realised that it was not just about spin, the swing also came naturally to him. He was a good golfer. I hate saying he was a good golfer because it's hard to accept what has happened and for us he will continue to live in our hearts.

"He had this tremendous attitude towards life. Always positive and always welcoming. It's really hard to accept that he is no more among us..." Tendulkar said "there were number of good spinners,

ANOTHER NEERAJ IN THE MAKING FROM SONEPAT!

From selling vegetables to Asiad team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 29: Uncapped 19-year-old India archer Neeraj Chauhan was driven into penury as the novel coronavirus had begun to spread its ugly tentacles, forcing him to sell vegetables to make ends

As he hit the road as a vendor in the face of the all-pervading poverty two years ago, Chauhan was left with no option but to contemplate quitting the sport. He didn't take that extreme step, though

Instead, thanks to his resilience and never-say-die attitude, the archer from Meerut is now bracing for his World Cup debut in three months, followed by an Asian Games participation.

"Sabzi bechte bechte, archery se kaafi dur chala gaya tha (Was sell-



with archery) but thankfully we Chauhan, who grew up near the got help from the sports ministry Kailash Prakash Stadium where his and got back to archery," Chauhan father Akshay Lal Chauhan worked

as a cook for 30 years in its mess, took up archery after being picked by the academy in 2013, and went on to win a handful of medals at the national level But the COVID-19 outbreak in

2020 halted his progress as the archer, along with his two elder brothers (one of them a national boxer), got down to selling vegetables. To survive, they sold vegetables on the bylanes of Meerut for nearly two years.

"Majboori thi (we're helpless) Dad earned about Rs 7,000-8,000 and everything had stopped after lockdown, so it was all about survival - archery and boxing took a back seat," he said of his days of

Their plight was highlighted by Archery Association of India (AAI) president Arjun Munda, who had

requested then union sports minister Kiren Rijiju for help.

Rijiju's department took stock of the situation and promptly sanctioned Chauhan and his brother Sunil financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each under the ministry's Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund.

Since then he joined the Sports Authority of India where his transformation came under coach Jitendra Chauhan. That he had sharp focus and stable head was known to him since childhood when he would easily outperform his friends in the game of seven stones, which is also called 'Satolia' or 'Lagori' in many places.

"I used to love target-hitting games, so archery naturally became my first love," Chauhan said.

At the senior level however, it was

a different ball game and he realised it after failing to make the cut in two India selection trials last year.

"I knew there was something missing and I was not up to the mark," he said, adding that his real transformation came under coach Jitendra. "He kept working on me all the time from day one, and I'm blessed to have him as my coach.'

For the Asian Games and the preceding three World Cups, the national federation had a three-week long trial, with heavyweights like Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Praveen Jadhav also participating in the elimination round. Chauhan edged out the Tokyo Olympian duo of Das and Jadhav to join Rai, Jayanta Talukdar and Sachin Gupta in the four-member squad.

