



Arundhati JEWELLERS

Odisha's Most Preferred Jewellery Brand

CONGRATULATIONS

OrissaPOST

HERE . NOW.

For providing



OF FLAWLESS NEWS COVERAGE



CITY CAVES THAT TAKE US BACK TO MAHABHARAT ERA

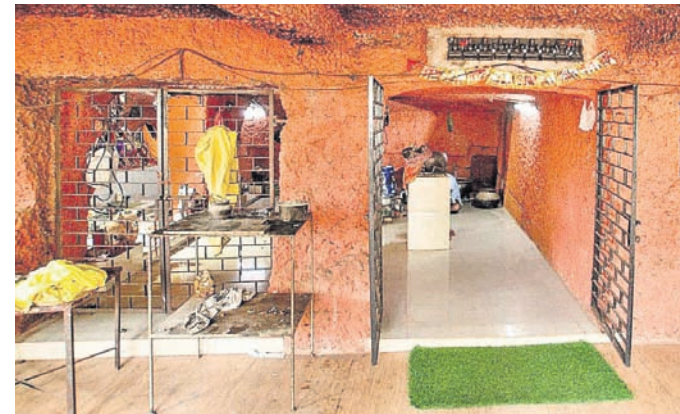
As per the legend, the Pandavas and their queen Draupadi had spent a few days in five laterite stone caves located at Badagada Brit Colony of modern-day Bhubaneswar, during their 12 years of exile

One of the five caves has been developed as a temple. Lord Shiva is being worshipped in this cave. Many people visit this cave to offer prayers

Many people visit this cave to offer prayers. Shivratri and other festivals are organised here with the cooperation of the locals," said Priyabrata Nayak, another local youth who is pursuing his higher studies in Utkal University.

A few locals, meanwhile, alleged that the Archaeology department is yet to develop the remaining four caves and take steps to attract visitors to the site.

They claimed that four of the five caves are lying in utter neglect. "We do not think the department requires huge amount of



funds to develop these caves. They should at least undertake some cleanliness work at the site," said a local, on condition of anonymity.

The surroundings of these ancient caves were covered with thick forests till 1950s. The state government came to know about these caves around 60 years ago.

The Archaeology department of the state government took control over the site in 1970s. Subsequently, the government tried to preserve the caves by constructing concrete pillars and roofs, Jena added.

"We have heard that these caves had been connected with the twin hills of Khandagiri and Udayagiri with a tunnel. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) should carry out a detailed research on this site to unravel new dimensions," said Debashish Patnaik, a local youth.

According to the locals, some development works, including the construction of a boundary wall, were carried out at the site in 1999. Subsequently, the floors and walls of one of these caves were renovated with marble sheets.

"One of the five caves has been developed as a temple. Lord Shiva is being worshipped in this cave.

PRIYARANJAN SWAIN, OP

The Capital city of Odisha, is home to several historical monuments. It is well-known for Hindu, Buddhist and Jain heritage sites. There are also legends which describe Bhubaneswar's tryst with the Pandavas of Mahabharat era.

As per the legend, the Pandavas and their queen Draupadi had spent a few days in five laterite stone caves located at Badagada Brit Colony of modern-day Bhubaneswar, during their 12 years of exile.

"It is believed that the Pandavas had taken shelter in these caves around 5,000 years ago. They were offering prayers before Bhimeshwar Mahadev after taking bath in the Bhimkund tank. Even today, one can find a Shivaling and stone idols of the Pandava brothers in one of the five caves. An ancient well is also there," said Mantu Jena, a local.

Ancient cave on Sandul river bank pulls crowd

Locals hope that further excavation at the site may lead to findings of many other caves which may shed light into its antiquity and its extinct occupants

BHIKARI GOUD, OP

PALAM: Odisha, which is known for its incredible tourism destinations, attracts visitors from across the state and outside throughout the year. One such scenic place of historical significance has been discovered on the bank of Sandul river in Bhimkela panchayat under Narla block of Kalahandi district recently.

There is massive rocky floor on the river bank and to its east exists a small opening of the cave. Locals said a sage used to live in the cave in the past but he abandoned it later. The intriguing cave has raised the curiosity among the locals.

late Thabir Majhi. Thabir had told us that there are 18 caves beneath the massive rock floor, a Shivaling and a water tank."

An anxious Jaylal Majhi with help of people from nearby Bhimkela, Asuragad, Kerandikhunti, Jekunpada and Phalsapada started excavation on the north and western sides of the rocky floor following which a 20-ft long new cave was discovered.

The place pulls curious crowds every day. They hope that further excavation at the site may lead to findings of many other caves which may shed light into its antiquity and its extinct occupants.

Significantly, a delicately carved

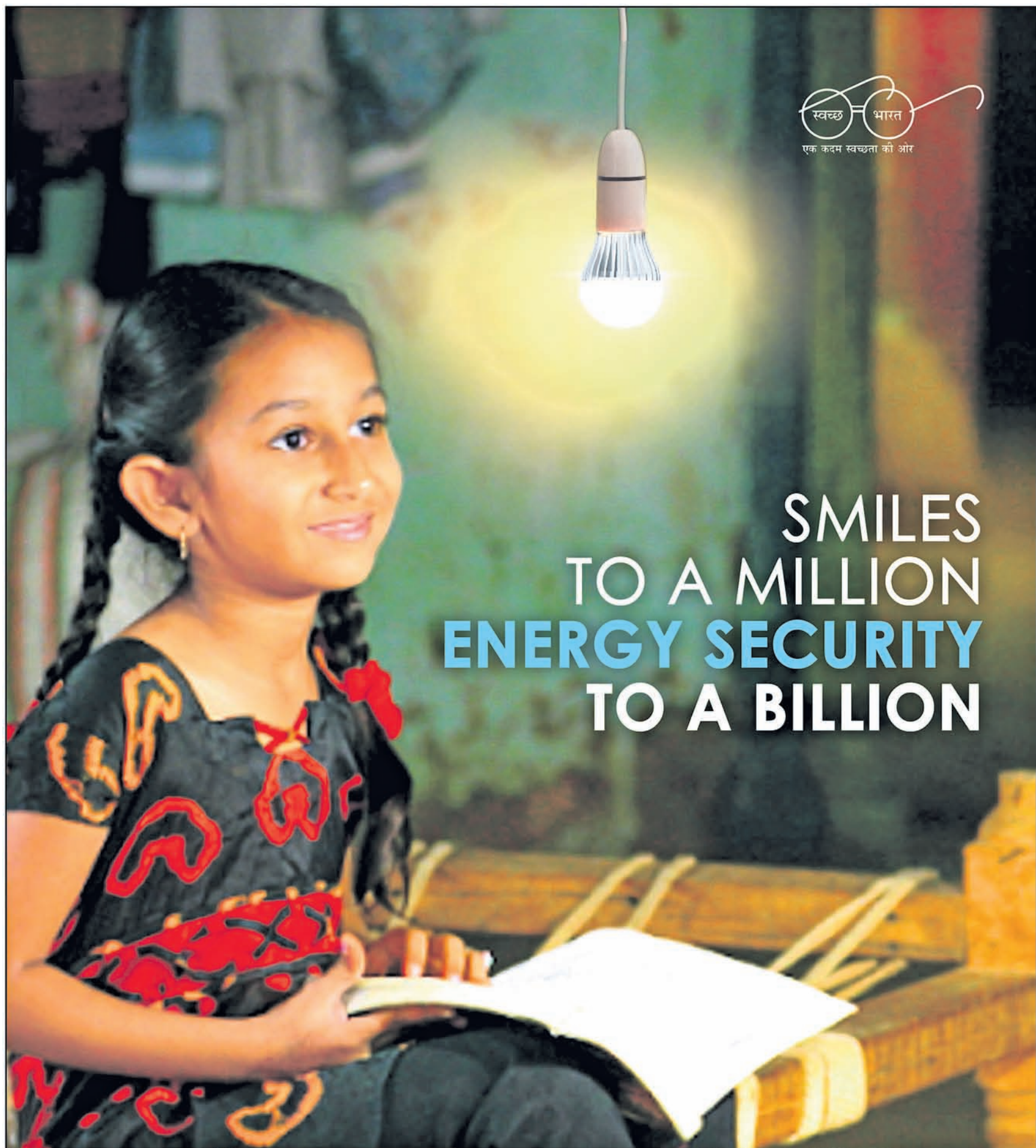


Now, Jaylal Majhi, a resident of Gudvela block of Bolangir district, is staying near the cave.

Majhi said, "There is description of a cave here in the palm leaf scrolls written decades ago by late poet Daitari Majhi, a resident of Bagpur under Narla block. Daitari was the forefather of his friend

stone image of Lord Bishnu is at Bhimkela village. The stone statue is believed to be of Gupta and Mauryan era. To the south of this statue is historically famous Asuragad fort, which is in ruins.

Meanwhile, citizens have demanded an archaeological excavation of the area.



SMILES TO A MILLION ENERGY SECURITY TO A BILLION



MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Undertaking & Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Corporate Office: At/Po.- Jagruti Vihar, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha-768 020

www.mahanadicoal.in mahanadicoal mahanadicoal



ADVANCED TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR BSKY BENEFICIARIES AVAILABLE IN PREMIER HOSPITALS ACROSS INDIA



50 NEW PREMIER HOSPITALS OUTSIDE ODISHA ARE EMPANELLED UNDER BSKY FROM 1ST APRIL 2022

CITY	NAME OF HOSPITALS	CITY	NAME OF HOSPITALS	CITY	NAME OF HOSPITALS
Visakhapatnam	Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Vizag	Delhi	Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh	Mumbai	Hiranandani Hospital, Vashi
	HCG Cancer Centre		Fortis C-Doc, Chirag Enclave		Punjab
	Medicover Hospital		Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Okhla Road	Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Inside Civil Hospital Campus, Sangrur	
	OMEGA Cancer Hospital		Fortis Hospital, Noida	Fortis Hospital, Ludhiana	
	Indus Hospital	Dehradun	Fortis Hospital	Raipur	
	Queens NRI Hospital	Faridabad	Fortis Escorts Hospital		Ramkrishna Care Hospital
	Anil Neerukonda Hospital	Guwahati	Dr. Bhubaneswar Borooh Cancer Institute (BBCI)		Life Worth Super Speciality Hospital
	Bengaluru	Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road	Gurgaon		Fortis Memorial Research Institute
Fortis Hospital, Cunningham Road		Jaipur	Fortis Escorts Hospital		Medishine Health Care & Research Pvt. Ltd.
Fortis Hospital, Rajaji Nagar		Jamshedpur	Brahmananda Narayana Multispeciality Hospital		Kanha Children's Hospital
Fortis Hospital, Nagarbhavi		Kolkata	Fortis Medical Centre		Sanjeevani CBCC USA Cancer Hospital
Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center			Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences		OM Hospital & Multispeciality
Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences			Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, Howrah		Shree Narayana Hospital
Varanasi	Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital	Mumbai	Fortis Kalyan Hospital		Surat
	Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre		Fortis Hospital, Mulund	Srikakulam	
Chennai	Fortis Hospital, Arcot Road		NH SRCC Children's Hospital		Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer
	Fortis Malar Hospital				
Delhi	Fortis Flt Lt Rajan Dhall Hospital, Vasant Kunj				

FOLLOWING PREMIER HOSPITALS OUTSIDE ODISHA HAVE BEEN PROVIDING SERVICES UNDER BSKY SINCE 10TH JANUARY 2022

- Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai
- Tata Medical Center, Kolkata
- Christian Medical College, Vellore
- Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Bengaluru
- Fortis Hospital, Mohali, Punjab
- Fortis Hospital, Anandpur, Kolkata
- Fortis Hospital and Kidney Institute, Kolkata
- BALCO Medical Centre, Raipur
- Shree Balaji Institute of Medical Science, Raipur
- CARE Hospital, Visakhapatnam
- Mahatma Gandhi Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, Visakhapatnam
- Tirumala Multispeciality Hospital, Visakhapatnam
- Apollo Hospital, Visakhapatnam
- Tristar Hospital, Surat
- Unity Trauma Centre & ICU, Surat



CALL 104 HEALTH HELPLINE

Allow scribes' entry to Press Gallery, Secretariat: Oppn

CONG SLAMS CENTRE FOR FUEL PRICE HIKE, ASKS STATE TO REDUCE VAT

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Opposition BJP and Congress Thursday asked the BJD government to immediately withdraw restrictions on the entry of journalists into Lok Seva Bhawan (state secretariat) and the Assembly press gallery.

The issue was raised during the Zero Hour in the Assembly by Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra who came down heavily on the government for denying entry of journalists to the Lok Seva Bhawan, the highest administrative office of the state and also to the press gallery of the Assembly.

The state government two years ago imposed restrictions on journalists in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak and the order still continues even as the situation has improved significantly.

"Media is the fourth pillar of democracy. Why are journalists being barred from entering the Assembly Press Gallery and Lok Seva Bhawan?" Mishra asked.

Stating this detrimental to democracy, Mishra said the government should pay special at-

Cong slams Centre for fuel price hike, asks state to reduce VAT

Bhubaneswar: The Opposition Congress Thursday criticised the BJP-led government at the Centre over the soaring prices of petrol and diesel, and urged the state government to reduce VAT on fuel to ease people's burden.

The issue was raised during the Zero Hour in the Assembly by Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra, who said petrol prices never reached Rs 107 a litre in the past. The Centre has failed to regulate the price of fuel, he rued.

Party MLA SS

Saluja noted that the state was levying 28 per cent VAT on petrol and 24 per cent on diesel.

He pointed out that the hike in rate of petrol and diesel has led to price rise of other essential items, affecting common people.

He demanded that the state government waive tax on the petroleum products.

Meanwhile, prices of petrol and diesel increased again in Odisha Thursday - the ninth such hike in the last 10 days.

With the fresh hike, the prices of petrol and diesel have touched Rs 108.82 and Rs 98.53 per litre respectively in Bhubaneswar.

IN THE HOUSE

Chief Whip Mohan Majhi demanded that journalists be allowed to enter Assembly Press Gallery and Lok Seva Bhawan to cover news as soon as possible.

Opposition BJP

He said the Covid situation is under control as the state is witnessing a significant decline in daily Covid-19 cases. The Centre has also revoked the curbs that

were imposed during the pandemic, said Majhi.

While journalists are invited to political programmes, there is no point in barring media persons to the government programmes and administrative buildings. "What is the state government trying to cover up by doing this?" Majhi asked.

Senior Congress MLA Suresh Routray also made similar demand and said it was not justified to deny journalists' entry to Lok Seva Bhawan and the Assembly Press Gallery.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The Assembly passed the Odisha Appropriation (Vote-On-Account) Bill, 2022 on the last day of the Budget Session Thursday allowing the state government to spend Rs 1.06 lakh crore from its consolidated fund during the first four months of the 2022-23 financial year.

Replying to the debate in the House, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari said Rs 1 lakh crore has been allocated as programme expenditure, Rs 89,620 crore as administrative expenditure, Rs 3,210 crore as disaster response fund and Rs 7,170 crore towards transfers from the state to the local bodies during 2022-23 fiscal.

Besides, Rs 10,000 crore has been allocated for the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other extra budgetary resources, which



The Odisha Assembly decorated with colourful lights on the eve of Utkal Diwas

will help the government in enhancing its spending. The proposed programme budget size for 2022-23 fiscal is 33 per cent higher than that of 2021-22, said Pujari.

"Our dependence on Central

transfers has come down with state's own revenue contributing about 58 per cent to the total revenue pool," he said.

The estimated revenue surplus would be 2.7 per cent of GSDP. The estimated fiscal deficit would be 3 per cent of the GSDP. The capital outlay in 2022-23 fiscal is Rs 40,011 crore, which is about 5.6 per cent of the GSDP, he pointed out.

"Provisions for the ongoing schemes can only be made on the Vote-On-Account. That is why no new scheme has been announced in the budget. However, new schemes will be announced during the presentation of the full budget in the House," Pujari said.

The House was adjourned for an indefinite period after the passage of the Appropriation Bill.

Panel on Puri heritage corridor

Bhubaneswar: A House Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Speaker SN Patro to examine the heritage corridor project, being constructed by the state government, around Srimandir in Puri. The Speaker has formed the panel on the request of Opposition BJP and Congress members of the Assembly. The members of the committee are—Law Minister Pratap Jena, Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha, senior MLAs Debi Prasad Mishra, Narasingha Mishra, Puri MLA Jayant Sarangi, Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra and Atanu Sabhasachi Nayak. The Speaker said he will convey a meeting of the committee very soon. The panel will also make a field visit to Puri and hold discussion with the National Monument Authority (NMA) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), he informed.

During the six-day session, five Bills were passed, two adjournment motions were taken for discussions and four Ordinances were

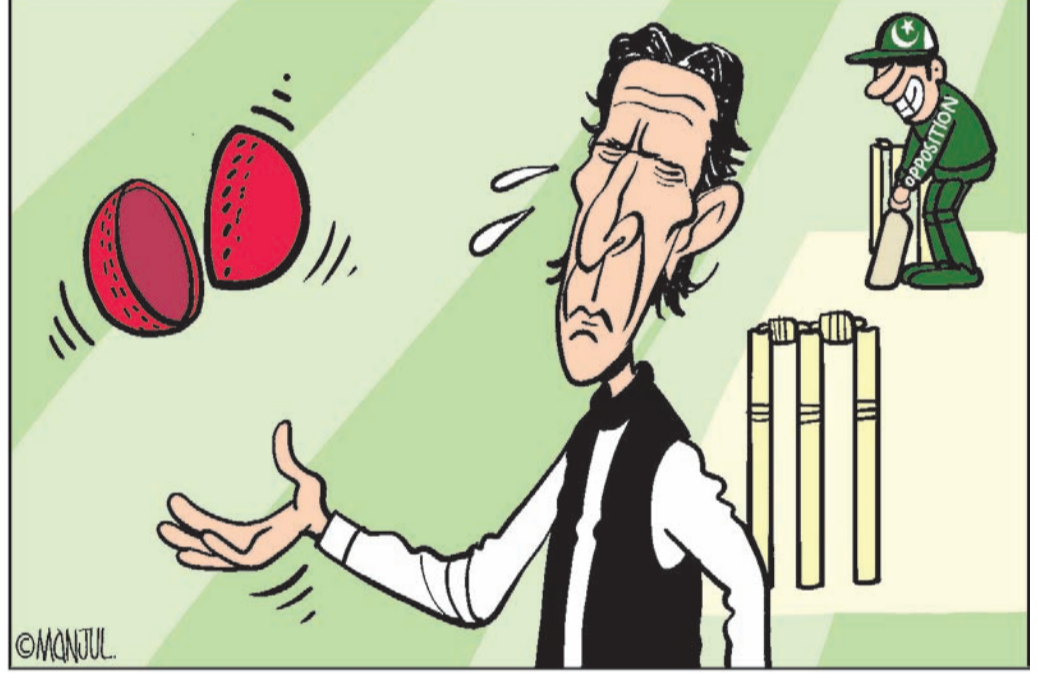
MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VIATION
SENSEX	58568.51	↓ 115.48
NIFTY	17464.80	↓ 33.50
DOLLAR	76.17	↓ ₹0.24
EURO	84.41	↓ ₹0.46
GOLD	₹51,555	↑ ₹602
SILVER	₹67,350	↓ ₹56

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.6°C	34.6°C
MIN	26.5°C	26.5°C
Humidity	77%	74%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



CAG finds chinks in irrigation projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) found several irregularities in the execution of surface irrigation projects in the state.

The state government had initiated various irrigation projects (major, minor, mega lift etc) at considerable cost with the objective of providing adequate and assured water supply for farming.

However, as noticed in the audit, lack of adequate and assured supply of water through completion of irrigation projects has deprived the farmers of irrigation facilities, the CAG said in its latest audit report on surface irrigation.

During the period (2014-19) covered by this performance audit, the CAG test checked five major irrigation projects, nine mega lift projects (MLPs) and 10 minor irrigation projects (MIPs) for which a



sum of Rs 12,742.11 crore had been incurred up to March 2020.

Other than nine mega lift points (MLPs), increase in cost of the projects ranged between 182 and 4,596 per cent. Despite escalation, only one major project - the Upper Indravati Irrigation Project (UIIP) had been completed and four other major projects were in different stages of execution, said the report, which was tabled before Assembly, Thursday.

"Performance audit of surface irrigation revealed several deficiencies in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the projects. The financial management of the test-checked projects was marred due

to surrendering of funds resulting in non-completion of projects despite availability," it said.

The auditor said there were also instances of loss of central assistance, parking of funds without utilization, non-realisation of government revenue, non-adjustment of advances and inadmissible payment of tax.

Projects were found deficient in preparation and execution of DPRs and incorrect calculation of Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of the projects. These led to modifications in design and scope of works and revision in cost estimates affecting the schedule of implementation of the projects.

Similarly, in spite of incurring expenditure of Rs 12,742.11 crore in all of the test-checked projects, the irrigation potential (IP) achieved was 1,22,418 hectares against the proposed IP of 5,02,842 hectares which constituted only 24 per cent of the envisaged potential.

1/3rd of coastline faces erosion: Centre in RS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 31: About 33.6 per cent of the coastline is under varying degree of erosion, an analysis of the total 6,632 km-long Indian coastline of the mainland from 1990 to 2018 has found, the Rajya Sabha was informed Thursday.

The National Center for Coastal Research (NCCR), an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has been monitoring the shoreline erosion since 1990 using

remote sensing data and GIS mapping techniques.

On the western coast, Kerala with 275.33 kms shoreline has lost 46.4 per cent to erosion while on the eastern coast, West Bengal with 323.07 kms coastline, has lost 60.5 per cent to it.

The reasons for coastal erosions include increase in frequency of cyclones and sea level rise and anthropogenic activities such as construction of harbours, beach mining and building of dams, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh said in a written reply to a question in the House.

There are 526 maps prepared for the entire Indian coast for identifying areas vulnerable to coastal erosion in 1:25000 scale along with 66 district maps, 10 state/UTs maps. A Report on 'National Assessment of Shoreline Changes along Indian Coast' was released in July 2018 and shared with various Central and state government agencies and stakeholders for implementing shore line protection measures.

The MoES had successfully demonstrated innovative coastal erosion mitigation measures at two pilot locations Puducherry Beach Restoration Project, Puducherry and Kadalur Periya Kuppam, Tamil Nadu.

In farewell speech, Acharya urges MPs to introspect

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 31: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Prasanna Acharya Thursday urged his fellow MPs, who have been completing their six-year term in the Rajya Sabha, to introspect whether they have discharged their duties to the satisfaction of the countrymen.

BJD's Prasanna Acharya, Sasmit Patra and Bhaskar Rao will be retiring from the Rajya Sabha July 1.

Delivering his farewell speech in the Upper House, Acharya said as he is retiring after six years, it has been in his conscience that whether he fulfilled the promises he had given to the country and the oath he had taken in this House. Acharya urged other retiring MPs too to introspect.

He said that Parliament is not just a monument but a living witness to great movements. He remembered "historical moments like the Bills relating to abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir".

"I don't know whether this House has taken the right decision or not; it is the posterity which will decide, it is the history which will decide about the decisions of this House," Acharya said.

Emphasising the significance of opposition in the democracy, he said democracy cannot live without the opposition.

"When the majority prevails,



Three BJD MPs - Prasanna Acharya, Sasmit Patra and Bhaskar Rao - will be retiring from the Rajya Sabha July 1

the minority should not be ignored. The opposition gives vibration to democratic bodies. I hope, both sides and all of us will realize this," the BJD MP said.

Acharya thanked Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu for his support and encouragement. He also lauded the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman for successfully managing the proceedings of the House.

Acharya also thanked Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

for giving him several opportunities in his public life. He also remembered working under former Chief Minister of Odisha Biju Patnaik.

"We know that Biju Patnaik ji was not only the Chief Minister of Odisha, but also a great freedom fighter. When Biju Patnaik ji died, National Flags of three countries - Indonesia, Russia and India - were laid on his body," Acharya said and reiterated BJD's demand seeking conferment of Bharat Ratna to

Biju Patnaik.

While concluding his speech, Acharya acknowledged that never any member of BJD had tried to disrupt the House and assured that the BJD will keep this tradition and maintain the dignity of the house.

Sasmit Patra, another BJD MP retiring from the house, said that he always tried to raise Odisha's issue in the House. He thanked CM Naveen Patnaik for sending him to the Parliament and also thanked Chairman of the House and his party in Rajya Sabha Prasanna Acharya for their support and guidance.

Sasmit Patra was also a Vice-Chairman of the panel and conducted proceedings of the house.

Significantly, Chairman Venkaiah Naidu in his speech on farewell to retiring members praised Sasmit Patra and Prasanna Acharya.

"Several first-time Members like Sasmit Patra have shown a lot of promise by quickly adopting to the nuances of the functioning of the House. Sasmit Patra was also in the panel of Vice-Chairmen and he conducted the proceedings also in a very dignified manner," The Chairman said.

As many as 72 Members of the Rajya Sabha are slated for retirement between March and July this year. Sixty-five of them represent 19 states while seven are Nominated Members.

Pinaki refutes Aparajita's charges on Srimandir construction work

New Delhi: BJD MP Pinaki Misra Thursday refuted the charges levied by BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi in the Lok Sabha that the state government is doing constructions illegally in the prohibited area around Srimandir. The BJD MP said that the state government is strictly following the rules and the work is happening after the NOC from National Monument Authority. He said the ASI was also involved in the work and they aren't digging big holes at the site. The state government is constructing four toilets.

"Female devotees face a lot of problems due to the absence of toilets at the shrine. Therefore, the state government is constructing two male and two female toilets. I request the MP to do some work at the Lingraj temple in Bhubaneswar instead of interfering in the work at Puri," Misra said.

Earlier, Sarangi had said in the house that illegal construction work is going on in the prohibited area around Srimandir without any permission from ASI or NMA. She had requested the Union Culture Ministry to interfere and stop the work.

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-984236754, 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-Jagapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-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-750457743, 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.

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

Partial rollback of AFSPA in 3 NE states

Political parties and people of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur were wanting the revocation of the draconian Act for decades now

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 31: In a major outreach to the Northeast, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Thursday reduction of the disturbed areas imposed under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur from April 1. This came after decades of protests and discussions.

A Home Ministry spokesperson, however, said the decision does not imply that the AFSPA has been completely withdrawn from the three insurgency-hit states but will continue to be in force in some areas. The move



came three months after the central government constituted a high-level committee to examine the possibility of lifting AFSPA in Nagaland where 14 civilians were killed by the Army in December 2021 in a case of 'mistaken identity'. In Assam AFSPA has been completely revoked in 23 districts and partially in one district. In Manipur 15 police station areas of six districts will be excluded from the Act while in Manipur the notification is

being withdrawn from 15 police stations in seven districts. The spokesperson also said in comparison to 2014, there has been a reduction of 74 per cent in militancy incidents in 2021 in the Northeast. Similarly, deaths of security personnel and civilians have also come down by 60 per cent and 84 per cent respectively during this period. Hence the decision to reduce the ambit of AFSPA has been taken and will be done in a phased manner for other areas.

Double murder rocks Bolangir village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, March 31: Two women were found dead with their throats slit and their bodies lying in a pool of blood at their residence in Nuapada village under Tushra police limits in this district, Thursday morning. Police suspect it to be a case of murder and efforts are on to identify the miscreants and nab them.

The deceased were identified as Ambika Meher, 50, wife of Subhranshu Meher, and her elderly mother-in-law Premashila Meher, 65. No weapons however, have been found in close proximity to the murder spot.

The tragic incident has created panic in the locality. The alleged murders are

stated to have been carried out when no male members were present in the house.

The gruesome killings came to the fore when Ambika's brother, who lives in the same village, came to meet his sister. He arrived at the residence and found the two women lying dead at around 10.00am. Subhranshu, who owns a medicine shop in the area, had gone to his workplace at that time.

On being informed, police reached the village and launched an investigation. A forensic team has been pressed into service. A case has been registered in this connection and the bodies have been sent for post-mortem. Police are questioning Subhranshu and two of his nephews.

Odisha revokes order on Covid curbs

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government said Thursday that as of now there would be no orders and guidelines to contain Covid-19 for the month of April. Currently there are 345 active Covid-19 cases in Odisha. The Special Relief Commissioner's (SRC) office said in an order that under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Covid-19 containment measures will not be implemented from April 1. However, whenever there will be an increase in coronavirus cases, the Health and Family Welfare Department will implement preventive measures as advised by the Centre, the order further stated. This is the first time since March 13, 2020, that no guidelines or orders have been issued in the state to fight Covid-19.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I find it quite childish... making fool of people only once in a year!

BUS FARES HIKED AS FUEL RATES INCREASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Bus fares in Odisha were hiked Thursday under the automatic fare revision mechanism after fuel prices were hiked for the ninth time in 10 days across the country. Fares for ordinary bus services have been increased from ₹0.87/km to ₹0.90/km. The same for express buses has been increased from 91 paise/km to 94p/km. Similarly, deluxe bus fares

rose from ₹1.25/km to ₹1.31/km and AC deluxe bus fares from ₹1.53/km to ₹1.59/km.

Meanwhile state-owned oil marketing companies (OMC) raised Thursday the prices of petrol and diesel again. Both petrol and diesel prices were increased by 80 paise per litre each respectively across India. Petrol prices in the Odisha capital went up to ₹108.65/litre while diesel rate stood at ₹98.42/litre.

On the auspicious occasion of *Utkal Divas*
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha
Shri Naveen Patnaik
to inaugurate
Apollo Cancer Centre, Bhubaneswar
with Odisha's first and only **TrueBeam STx**
Precision Radiation. Better clinical outcomes.
Friday, 1st April 2022, 5:15pm
(Please follow CM's security protocol)
#WinningOverCancer

In the august presence of:

- Shri Naba Kishore Das, Hon'ble Minister Health & Family Welfare, Govt of Odisha
- Shri Susanta Rout, Hon'ble MLA, Bhubaneswar (North)
- Ms Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd.

1800-203-1066 | apollocancercentres.com | askapollo.com | apollo247.com
Plot no 251, Sainik School Road, Unit 15, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751005

OrissaPOST
DHARITRI

BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS

2ND APRIL, 2022

Inaugurator
Shri Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble CM, Odisha

Chief Guest
Shri Suresh Ch. Mohapatra, IAS
Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha

Chief Speaker
Shri Naveen Jindal
Chairman
Jindal Steel and Power

Watch **LIVE** 11.20am onwards
www.dharitri.com | dharitrinews | dharitrilive
www.orissapost.com | OrissaPost.Here.Now | OrissaPostLive

Main Sponsors: vedanta, MGM MINERALS LTD., AM/NS INDIA, JSW, MCL

Associate Sponsors: AM/NS INDIA, JSW, MCL

Co-sponsors: NALCO, imfa 60, JSL, SNM, WEFE

www.falconrealestate.in

Helping Odisha build better

Odisha is ready to touch the skies. And, we at Falcon, give wings to Odisha's dreams.

Our commitment to help Odisha build better, manifests itself through our signature projects, like Falcon Residency which already houses happy families, Falcon Crest which is nearing speedy completion.

We are not ready to perch!

With a futuristic plan to build 6 million square feet of residential & commercial space within the next 7-8 years, we are ready to cement our name in Odisha's flight of success.

Odisha builds the nation's future. We build for Odisha.

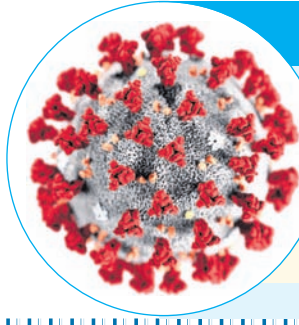
FALCON REAL ESTATE
FALCON REAL ESTATE PVT. LTD.
A/22 | Falcon House | 1st Floor | Cuttack Road | Bhubaneswar - 751 006 | Odisha.

downtown



RALLY FOR ROAD SAFETY

Scouts and Guides take out a rally in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, to create awareness on road safety



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	48,77,17,685	42,27,43,595	61,64,658
India	4,30,24,440	4,24,89,004	5,21,129
Odisha	12,87,640	12,78,121	9,121

LENSMAN MURDER

Ranjan Nayak confesses; CB recovers victim's belongings



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: In a significant development, Ranjan Nayak, one of the accused involved in the sensational murder case of lensman Manas Swain, confessed to the kidnapping and killing the victim during interrogation, the state Crime Branch claimed in a press note Thursday.

Following the disclosure, the sleuths Thursday recovered incriminating items and the belongings of Manas, which the accused tried to destroy, from a place near Chandikhole.

"During interrogation, accused Ranjan Nayak confessed to have kidnapped Manas Swain in collusion with mastermind Sarmistha Rout, Jhuna Bhoi, Bhagyadhar Nayak and Nilu alias Bibek in Sarmistha's car from Palaspur under Chandbali police limits in Bhadrak district to Dayal Ashram under Airfield Police Station in Bhubaneswar," revealed Crime Branch.

The Crime Branch also asserted that the accused including former OIS officer and I&PR Director Niranjana Sethi had brutally assaulted Manas at the old age home

UNSETTLING REVELATIONS

THE CB ASSERTED THAT THE ACCUSED INCLUDING FORMER OIS OFFICER AND I&PR DIRECTOR NIRANJANA SETHI HAD BRUTALLY ASSAULTED MANAS AT THE OLD AGE HOME IN BHUBANESWAR, PROMPTING HIS DEATH

The autopsy report also confirmed that the deceased succumbed to thoracic injuries caused by the brutal assault on him

After his death, they took Manas Swain's body in Sarmistha's car and disposed the same under Ranpur police limit of Nayagarh district

THEY ALSO THREW THE SPADE AND SHOVEL, USED FOR DIGGING AND BURNING THE DECEASED'S BODY, INTO A NEARBY BUSH

here, prompting his death. It is pertinent to mention that the autopsy report of Manas also confirmed that the deceased succumbed to thoracic injuries caused by the brutal assault on him.

"After his death, they took Manas Swain's body in Sarmistha's car and disposed the same under Ranpur police limit of Nayagarh district," added the Crime Branch sources.

Subsequently, they proceeded to a place located about two kilometers from Chandikhole on the

side of Daitari - Paradeep expressway where they burnt the victim's mobile, ear phones, and footwear along with the jute sack and saree used to conceal the body

side of Daitari - Paradeep express way where the accused burnt the victim's mobile, ear phones, footwear and the jute sack and the saree with which they had concealed the dead body. They also threw the spade and gainti, used for digging and burying the deceased's body, into a nearby bush.

The Crime Branch team also visited and inspected the Sankharidiha in Dharamshala where the victim's mobile phone was recovered.

EOW arrests chit fund firm director in ₹500 crore fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch Thursday arrested Nikhilananda Pashupalak, regional director of a chit fund company in a cheating case of ₹500 crore.

Pasupalak, who was on the run since January 2012, was arrested from Berhampur, police said.

The arrest was made on the basis of an FIR registered following a written complaint filed by Parsuram Behera against the office bearers of Success Online Service System (SOSS) Private Ltd, a chit fund company operated through its regional office at Berhampur, they said.



Speaking to media, EOW SP Dilip Tripathy said the company was collecting illegal deposits by floating different schemes under the promise of giving healthcare commodities, food products and tour packages.

Besides, the company was also collecting money under three

different schemes with monthly payment of ₹6,000, ₹15,000 and ₹25,000 promising 5 to 10 per cent interest, he said.

The company has collected more than ₹500 crore such illegal deposits from Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha and other places. Two other persons—Raman Kumar Singh and Rakesh Kumar—were the managing director and secretary of SOSS respectively the officials said.

The EOW has found that a substantial amount of the collected public deposits have been mobilised by the accused persons for making Bhojpuri films under Cine Vision, a sister concern of SOSS and the accused Nikhilananda had also acted in the films (Bhojpuri).

Meet over POCSO Act

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), in association with Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPCR), organised a regional consultative meeting on the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act 2012 and factors hindering the implementation and aspects of assistance to victims, here recently.

OSPCPCR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said that child sexual abuse is a multidimensional problem having legal, social, medical and psychological implications. Successful implementation of the POCSO Act requires the state government to furnish explicit guidelines and principles that need to be strictly adhered to by the professionals and the other officials involved with victims of the child sexual abuse cases, before, during and after the trial.



Assembly visit: OAS probationers pose for a photo with Speaker Surya Narayan Patro near the Gandhi statue during their visit to Odisha Assembly, Thursday

AM/NS India rolls out ALS service at Koira

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has rolled out its 24x7 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance service at Koira block in Sundargarh district.

The new ALS ambulance is equipped with all modern equipment like ventilators, suction machines, nebuliser etc. to attend medical emergencies of critical patients. The community residing in Kalmong, Ghoraburhani and Sagasahi villages will benefit from the initiative. It is believed that more than 1,000 lives will be impacted with this service.

Koira BDO Pallabi Raj flagged off the ambulance service Wednesday in presence of Koira PWD Executive Officer Abhishek Kumar, AM/NS India Head-CSR Vikas Yadvendu, AM/NS India Sagasahi Manager-Mines LD Babu and AM/NS India Lead CSR Jitesh Rath.

Pallabi thanked the CSR team for rolling out the ambulance service. She also said with the launch of the service, critical patients will now avail immediate medical assistance and human lives can be saved.

Vikash Yadvendu said, "AM/NS India is committed towards all round development of the community in our areas of operation. This ALS ambulance service is another step in this direction. It will cater to the immediate need of the patients and save precious lives."

32 Cov cases in state

Bhubaneswar: Odisha registered 32 more coronavirus cases Thursday, while there was another fatality, the state Health department said in a bulletin. There are 385 active Covid-19 cases and 46 patients have recuperated in the last 24 hours. Ten children were among the newly-infected. The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.7 per cent and the infections were detected out of 43,986 sample tests, it said. The state had logged 59 cases and zero fatality Wednesday.

Students, scientists interact at 'Jigyasa' prog by CSIR-IMMT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Under the programme 'Jigyasa', the CSIR-IMMT (Institute of Mineral and Material Technology) Bhubaneswar organised a science demonstration programme for students and teachers Thursday.

Three schools from Bhubaneswar - Nayapalli Government School, DM School and Sainik School participated - in the programme.

Fourteen groups of 10 students each visited the scientific programme that demonstrated five experiments of physics, one of ore materials, two of sophisticated instruments, XRF, SEM (electron microscope), RAMAN, XRD and many more.

It was the first post pandemic demonstration programme organised under the Scientific Social Responsibility Initiative.

Director of CSIR-IMMT,



Bhubaneswar Suddhasatwa Basu said, "Exposing children to the state-of-the-art laboratory facilities and creating interest and awareness to science is important for the nation. These school children will end up in taking R&D and innovation as their profession. IMMT is organising two Jigyasa events after a gap of two years to

interact with scientists and experience the high-end facilities through their own eyes."

Chief Scientist at the institution Bhagyadhar Bhoi interacted with the students and encouraged the young minds to become next generation scientists and play a vital role in the sustainable development of the nation.

3-DAY TRAINING ON NATURAL DYES FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS BEGINS IN CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: A three days training programme on natural dyes for handloom weavers commenced at the Weavers Service Centre (WSC), Bhubaneswar on Thursday.

The event is being organised as a part of a project where the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bhubaneswar, State Agency for Development of Handloom Clusters (SADHAC), Director Textiles, Government of Odisha and Central Silk Board are involved. Weavers Service Centre (WSC) is providing technical support in executing this training programme. Ten weavers from handloom clusters like Nuapatna, Maniabandha, Gopalpur, Atta, and Bhagamunda are participating in it.

The training programme was inaugurated by Bhubaneswar NIFT

Director Shovan Krishna Sahu, SADHAC Member Secretary Indramani Kandi, and WSC Dy. Director Vikash Shroff.

The other members who graced the occasion are Prof. Binaya Bhusan Jena of NIFT Bhubaneswar and Project Coordinator Sobharani Lakra. The training is being provided by Navneet Singh Shekhawat, Technical Superintendent, Processing, WSC.

Odisha has got abundant resources for natural dyes. At the same time, we have got a rich history and heritage in handloom weaving. With the revival of natural dye application, we can not only increase the market potential and income of the artisans, but we can address the issue of climate change and the environment said Prof. Jena, who has been instrumental in setting up a natural dye garden at NIFT Bhubaneswar campus.

26K Odisha students to take part in 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

Bhubaneswar: More than 26,000 students from Odisha will participate in 'Pariksha Pe Charcha-2022' scheduled to be held April 1. Prime Minister will interact with school students of classes 9 to 12, their parents and teachers in a town-hall interactive format at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi from 11 AM onwards. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students, teachers and parents during the 5th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi in hybrid mode. Only 1,000 students of New Delhi, UP and Haryana will watch PM speak from Talkatora stadium. Nearly 26,000 students, 5,000 teachers and 1,200 Parents from Odisha will be connected to the programme virtually. Students, teachers and parents were selected based on an online creative writing competition on a bouquet of themes, sources said. In a first, select students will visit Raj Bhawan and watch Pariksha Pe Charcha with the Governor April 1.

Forfeiture of drug peddler's assets starts

Bhubaneswar: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch initiated steps to forfeit ill-gotten properties worth over ₹2 crore of a drug peddler Chitrasen Parida of Chhachina under Kodala Town police limits of Ganjam. The STF identified two buildings, two vehicles (one mini bus & one car), landed properties and bank deposits possessed by Parida. The buildings owned by Parida have been evaluated by PWD R&B to be worth around ₹1.85 crore. While investigating into a case (29/21) related to the seizure of ganja weighing 10 quintal in August 2021, the STF unearthed the properties. "It is also suspected that he might have acquired such properties in Gujarat too out of drug business. Odisha Police is in touch with Gujarat Police in this regard. Step is being taken to take up the matter with Competent Authority, Kolkata as per provision of Sec 68 (F) NDPS Act, 1985 for forfeiture of the properties earned out of the contraband business," informed STF sources. The absconding Parida was arrested in the above case March 10, 2022 and was forwarded to the court of Dist & Sessions Judge cum-Spl Judge, Balasore.

NCC's 5-day Puneet Sagar Abhiyan begins today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, March 31: The NCC Directorate Odisha will hold a five-day-long campaign in Cuttack and Paradip starting April 1 to spread awareness on clean seashores and beaches under the Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, an official said Thursday.

The NCC cadets will visit the waste recycling plant at Jagatpur here April 1. On the second day—April 2, the cadets will visit Puri beach where they would spread awareness on clean seashores and beaches among the tourists and shopkeepers. The third day of the campaign will see rally and street play by cadets in the Silver City here. On April 4, cadets will take up Mahanadi riverfront cleaning. Later in the day, there will be drawing competitions in local institutions here. April 5, the last day of the drive which coincides with International Maritime Day, will witness beach cleaning at Paradip by the cadets along with interaction with media.

Highest ever scrap disposal by ECoR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has disposed of the highest ever scrap from its jurisdiction in the 2021-22 financial year, sources said.

The scrap disposal in the 2021-22 fiscal is about 42.61 per cent higher in value terms than the target set by the Railway Board, sources added.

This is highest ever scrap sale by East Coast Railway, said principal chief materials manager PB Ninawe while congratulating the entire team involved in the scrap disposal system.

The ECoR has earned revenue to the tune of ₹313.74 crore from scrap disposal as against the target of ₹220 crore fixed by the Railway Board. It has also earned 14.72 per cent more revenue from the scrap sale in comparison to the 2020-21 fiscal. "The ECoR had earned ₹273.49



crore from scrap disposal in 2020-21 financial year," said a source.

During 2021-22 fiscal, the ECoR has conducted 188 e-Auctions under its jurisdiction, including Waltair, Khurda Road and Sambalpur divisions along with Mancheswar carriage repair workshop and sent materials to Rail Wheel Factory (RWF) for recycling, sources said.

According to sources, the ECoR has generated ₹112.27 crore from

scrap sale from Waltair division from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

It has collected ₹95.64 crore from Khurda Road division, ₹39.47 crore from Sambalpur division, ₹31.59 crores from general stores depot at Mancheswar and ₹34.77 crores from other places, sources added.

The ECoR has taken proactive steps for timely disposal of scrap under its jurisdiction. Now, scrap disposal is being done through

THE ECoR HAS EARNED REVENUE TO THE TUNE OF ₹313.74 CRORE FROM SCRAP DISPOSAL AS AGAINST THE TARGET OF ₹220 CRORE FIXED BY THE RAILWAY BOARD

IT HAS ALSO EARNED 14.72 PER CENT MORE REVENUE FROM THE SCRAP SALE IN COMPARISON TO THE 2020-21 FISCAL

e-Auction. The materials management department of ECoR has been doing e-Auction through its dedicated Indian Railways E-Procurement System portal since 2013. The e-Auction system has ensured transparency in the disposal of scrap material and provided equal opportunity to all the bidders. More than 4,000 vendors have registered themselves in the portal.

On a unique mission



Maintaining law and order is her profession, while keeping people entertained through an indigenous art form is her passion, says Sanchar artiste Jayanti Deep

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

Since they often have to go through extreme conditions and deal with law-breakers to protect the lives and properties of citizens, people hardly associate cops with soft emotions like love for music. But any words of appreciation fall short when a police officer, especially if she is a woman, vows to work for the survival of a folk art on the verge of disappearance.

Havaladar Jayanti Deep of the Odisha Reserve Police Force, posted at Bargarh, has been waging a battle for the survival of Sanchar, one of the oldest folk art forms of west-

ern Odisha.

For the unversed, a Sanchar is a form where an artiste plays the quadruple role of a dancer, singer, percussionist and explainer.

With the advent of the modern modes of entertainment, this art form is on the brink of extinction with its exponents fading into oblivion.

"There was a time when the performers would hold the audience spellbound," says Jayanti, who strikes a fine balance between the gun and the mudanga.

Though it seems quite challenging for a police officer to take time off from her job and pursue a unique passion like Sanchar, Jayanti



I would say I am extremely fortunate. While my uncle mentored me during my school days with strong support from my parents, my life partner Suresh Kumbhar, also a police officer, is an art connoisseur. I have the support of my in-laws also

JAYANTI DEEP

has managed both with flair.

On her gun-music 'jugabandi' she says: "Maintaining law and order is my profession, while keeping people entertained through an indigenous art form is my passion. I was attracted towards dance, music and stage when I was not even in school."

After taking admission in Class I, she started learning Sanchar under the guidance of her uncle Kunjabihari Luhar, her first guru.

"By the time I was studying in Class VII, I had already become a known face in the cultural circles of western Odisha, earning the appreciation of critics," says Jayanti, who has a strong fan following in the rural pockets of western Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

For her exploits in this unique art form, she has been felicitated at the Rabindra Mandap and the Jaydev Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, at the world famous Dhanuyatra in Bargarh and by several cultural

organisations across Odisha.

Jayanti has not only excelled in live performances, her soulful renditions often hold radio listeners spellbound. No wonder, she has been placed in the B-High category of All India Radio.

One may wonder, when many Indian families still look down upon dance, how challenging it must have been to pursue her passion especially when she hailed from an underdeveloped region (Jayanti was born in Dunguripali village of Jharbandh block in Bargarh district).

"I would say I am extremely fortunate. While my uncle mentored me during my school days with strong support from my parents, my life partner Suresh Kumbhar, also a police officer, is an art connoisseur. I have the support of my in-laws also," says Jayanti

With the backing from her family and in-laws, she now wants both her daughters - Mrunalini and Mrunmayee - to take her legacy forward.

Jayanti believes that an artiste enriches the culture of a nation and a culture-loving person and her offspring never become wayward.

Though she has already made a name through her art and enjoys the status of a celebrity, she has a dream to perform on the Indian Council of Cultural Research (CCR) stage once in life and set up an akademi to promote Sanchar among young artistes free of cost.

50 YEARS

JINDAL STAINLESS

MAKING BHARAT ATMANIRBHAR SINCE 1970

India's first and largest *Swadeshi* stainless steel company, also serving customers across 60 countries.

Thanking you for letting us add a stainless sparkle to all facets of your life for the last 50 years.

Late Shri Om Prakash Jindal
Founder, Jindal Group

Shri PR Jindal
Pioneered Stainless Steel

INDIA'S NO.1 STAINLESS STEEL BRAND

Admiralty Architecture Garage Defence Nuclear Pipes & Tubes Power Engineering Motors Water Studies Water Gases & Reflow-wares

JINDAL SAATH

JSL JINDAL STEELWORKS artitnax JINDAL STEELWORKS Steelitalia Iberjindal JSL PT. INDONESIA

Dolphin count up in GAHIRMATHA

RAJNAGAR: The dolphin population in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Kendrapara district has increased exponentially this year, according to the latest census.

Forest officials conducted an enumeration of dolphins in the water bodies of Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary and Bhitarkanika National Park.

During the drive, the forest officials found 540 dolphins of seven species - 45 Irrawaddy, 135 Bottlenose, 332 Humpback, 13 Striped and 15 Spinner dolphins.

A total of 342 dolphins of three species were identified during the annual census last year.

This year, favourable climatic conditions played a major role in the dolphin census which helped in identifying an additional 198 dolphins. Nine teams of enumerators led by Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Jagnyadatt Pati, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (retired) NV Rajsekhar of West Bengal and scientist Antony Jhonson participated in the census drive.

The census started from outer Wheeler Island and was carried out in Chinchiri sea mouth, Barunei mouth, Paradip, Hansina bridge, Maipura mouth, Hansua river in Rajnagar, Khola, Dhamra mouth, Nalitapatia, Kalibhanjadiha island, Jambu island, Kharanasi, Hukitola island, Jatadhar mouth in Paradip till Devi mouth.

Apart from Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, the dolphin census was also carried out in areas of the Chilika Wildlife Division, the Puri Wildlife Division, the Berhampur Wildlife Division, the Bhadrak Wildlife Division and the Balasore Wildlife Division. The highest numbers of dolphins were identified in Gahirmatha sanctuary.



SBI

The banker to every Indian

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ମନ୍ଦିର

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଉତ୍ତମ ଚିନ୍ତକ ଉତ୍ତମ ଉପରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

पवित्र उत्कल दिवस के अवसर पर सभी ओडिशावासियों को हार्दिक अभिनन्दन

Best wishes to the people of Odisha on Happy Utkal Diwas

SAFEGUARD YOURSELF FROM ONLINE FRAUDS AND BANK SAFE WITH SBI.

DON'TS

- Do not share OTP with anyone.
- Do not share details like CIF/Account No., Aadhaar No., Date of Birth, Debit Card No., PIN, CVV, Internet Banking User ID/Password through Phone/SMS/e-mail with anyone for any purpose. SBI or any of its representatives will never ask for any such information over telephone/SMS.
- Do not trust or act on any SMS/e-mail from unknown sources offering rewards/gifts/prizes/fictitious offer of funds.
- Do not click on attachments/links received in SMS/e-mails or download any mobile app from unknown sources.

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBER CRIME. DON'T LET IT GO UNREPORTED.

Report complaints related to Cyber Frauds at National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal of Ministry of Home Affairs: <https://cybercrime.gov.in> or dial the helpline number 1930

Report all suspicious calls/sms/links on report.phishing@sbi.co.in

Report unauthorized transactions or block your debit card and internet banking: call SBI Customer Care at 1800111109

bank.sbi | STAY #SAFEWITHSBI

FUTURE TODAY

Tomorrow is not going to be like today.

Because we're building a world that's stronger, loftier, grander.

The science of construction is changing fast.

And Dalmia Cement Future Labs is at the forefront, creating better processes and advanced materials.

The technology we have developed is already at work.

In nuclear plants. New-age dams. Airstrips that set faster.

And millions of homes built with a smaller carbon footprint.

While the world dreams of a beautiful tomorrow, we're already there - building it brick by brick, and bond by bond.

So what you get in a bag of Dalmia Cement is not only the finest quality, but also the shape of tomorrow's world.

Dalmia cement

www.dalmiacement.com
Customer care: 1800 420 3031

Dalmia cement
FUTURE TODAY

Spreading Smiles

VISA GROUP

Shaping the future with Minerals & Metals

BLOOD DONATION CAMP
ରକ୍ତ ଦାନ କାମ୍ପ
BLOOD DONATION CAMP
ରକ୍ତ ଦାନ କାମ୍ପ

VISA STEEL
ଜଳାକୃତ୍ତ ଜଳପୁର
ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ : ଉପା ଶୁଭ

VISA GROUP
FITNESS
NUTRITION

VISA STEEL

“One who loves God finds the object of his love everywhere.”
 SRI AUROBINDO



Whither Centrism

The solidarity on display at the recent NATO, US-EU, and G7 summits has revealed a rejuvenated West. While Russian President Vladimir Putin continues to wage war on Ukraine, the Atlantic democracies are responding with impressive – and somewhat unexpected – unity as they arm Ukraine, re-inforce NATO’s eastern flank, and sanction the Russian economy.

Instead of turning away migrants, European Union member states are opening their doors to millions of Ukrainian refugees. The US Congress seems to have rediscovered the bipartisan comity that has long been missing in Washington. The political theorist Francis Fukuyama even foresees a “new birth of freedom” that will “get us out of our funk about the declining state of global democracy,” adding hopefully that “the spirit of 1989 will live on, thanks to a bunch of brave Ukrainians.”

Not so fast. The political ills plaguing the Atlantic democracies may be out of the headlines, but they have not gone away. While Russia’s invasion is certainly a wake-up call for the West, the prospect of a new cold war will not by itself cure the United States and Europe of illiberalism and political dysfunction.

In fact, the war in Ukraine will likely have economic spillover effects that foster political blowback. Accordingly, both America and Europe need to keep focusing on getting their own houses in order even while ensuring that the tragedy in Ukraine receives the resources and attention it deserves.

In Cold War America, the political discipline engendered by the Soviet threat did help mute partisan conflict over foreign policy. Similarly, the prospect today of a new era of militarised rivalry with Russia is reviving bipartisan centrism on matters of statecraft.

The left wing of the Democratic Party is no longer clamouring for cuts to the defence budget and a fast and deep pullback from fossil fuels. Both the hawkish and the neo-isolationist wings of the Republican Party have toned down their criticism of President Joe Biden and generally rallied behind his response to the Russian invasion.

But this return to bipartisanship is likely to be short-lived. The bipartisanship of the Cold War era rested not just on the Soviet threat, but also on the ideological centrism sustained by widely shared prosperity within America. Yet prolonged economic insecurity and yawning inequality have since depopulated the US political center, and ideological moderation has given way to bitter polarisation.

This erosion of the political center explains the rapid evaporation of the surge in bipartisanship that followed the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. And it explains why, just before the war in Ukraine captured the country’s attention, public intellectuals in the US were debating the prospects for civil war. According to a poll conducted late last year, 64% of Americans fear that US democracy is “in crisis and at risk of failing.”

The highest US inflation rate in 40 years is currently heightening the risk of a return to the illiberal politics of grievance. The rising cost of energy and food is one of the main reasons why Biden’s approval ratings have remained low despite his strong handling of the war in Ukraine.

As the November midterm elections near, scant Republican support for Biden will translate into renewed partisan rivalry. And although the neo-isolationist wing of the Republican Party in Congress may be relatively quiet for now, it enjoys strong support among the party base and is likely to reassert itself as Western-led sanctions against Russia hurt US consumers.

Given the potential for illiberal populism to make a comeback in the US, the Biden administration urgently needs to continue advancing its domestic agenda. Investing in infrastructure, education, technology, health care, and other domestic programmes offers the best way to alleviate the electorate’s discontent and revive the country’s ailing political center. The budget that Biden proposed this week is a step in the right direction.

Europe, too, should keep a close eye on its home front as it focuses on its response to the Ukraine war. While Europe’s political center has remained stronger than America’s, and the EU has shown impressive unity in the face of Russian aggression, strains to European cohesion lurk just beneath the surface.

Europe’s magnanimous welcome to Ukrainian refugees may trigger domestic backlashes as costs mount and the prospect of permanent resettlement looms. Weaning the EU off Russian fossil fuels will require considerable investment and could lead to even higher energy prices, potentially hampering Europe’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. And while Poland and Hungary are now frontline states that deserve allied support, both are still ruled by illiberal governments that threaten core European values; they should not be let off the hook.

Europeans, like Americans, need to continue working hard on domestic renewal. Economic restructuring and investment, reform of immigration policy and border control, and more pooling of sovereignty on foreign and defence policy can all help consolidate the EU’s solidarity and democratic legitimacy.

Putin’s brutal attack on Ukraine has helped revive the West. But the homegrown threats to liberal democracy that were front and center before the war still require urgent attention, even amid the strenuous effort to defeat Russia’s attempt to subjugate its neighbour. It would be tragically ironic if the West succeeds in turning Putin’s gamble in Ukraine into a resounding defeat, only to see liberal democracies then succumb to the enemy within.

The writer, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- “An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”
 MAHATMA GANDHI
- “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”
 ALBERT EINSTEIN
- “When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace.”
 JIMI HENDRIX

WORDSWORTH

Skive

Skive is British slang for avoiding work by staying away or leaving early; it’s often heard in the form skive off; US readers may find it in British works such as the more recent ones in the Harry Potter series. It seems to have been military slang from the time of the First World War and the common assumption is that the British army in France borrowed it from French *esquiver*, to slink away. The usual caveats apply, since that origin is informed guesswork, and there’s another possibility – an English dialect verb meaning to move quickly. The reason why the purported origin is interesting is that another well-known meaning of skive, to split or cut a material such as leather into slices or strips, or to shave or pare a material to reduce its thickness, was incorporated into the story. The word isn’t that old (only recorded from the 1820s) but almost certainly goes back to Old Norse. A person who carries out this work is also a skiver, but is much more respectable than the slang version. So there is an association with leather, but using a piece as a place to rest your elbows certainly isn’t it!



DK Giri

CHINA WOULD BE HOSTING BOTH THE BRICS AND RIC SUMMITS LATER THIS YEAR. BEIJING WOULD LIKE PRIME MINISTER MODI TO ATTEND BOTH

If we blinked, we would have missed the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. He was in New Delhi, 24-25 March 2022, meeting his Indian counterpart for three hours and a short meeting with the National Security Adviser. His visit to New Delhi was officially not announced in Beijing nor was he given any importance or serious audience in India. Unlike other dignitaries, Yi was ushered in at the airport through the normal lounge, not through the air-force station. As he happened to be around India, he dropped by New Delhi. All told, can the visit be downplayed as he represents China, which is in the eyes of world community because of its expansionism in its neighbourhood; and is a constant worry for New Delhi for its egregious attitude towards India.

Wang Yi was visiting Islamabad, Kabul and Kathmandu, and decided to have a stopover in New Delhi. Yi went to Kabul to meet the Taliban, including the UN designated terrorist, now the Afghan Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani. He was there, in the wake of the visit of Russian special envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, for a conference next week in Beijing on Afghanistan land neighbours-Iran, Tajikistan, China, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan. He was in Islamabad to participate in the OIC meeting, wherein he mentioned Kashmir, and was promptly snubbed by New Delhi. His next stop was Kathmandu where he was going to take stock of their mega project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), plus other infrastructure projects.

Why did Wang Yi come to New Delhi? He was not really taking a stopover, as flying from Kabul to Kathmandu is not hours on end. There are a couple of theories doing the rounds. One, he wanted to gauge the Indian mood vis-à-vis the Russia-Ukraine war. Both Beijing and New Delhi, for their respective reasons, have taken similar positions. They have continuously abstained from voting in the UN to name or condemn the Russian invasion.

Second, China would be hosting both the BRICS and RIC summits later this year. Beijing would like

FOCUS WANG YI’S VISIT

WHY DID HE COME?



New Delhi fears that if the border stand-off is put on the backburner, it might end up reconciling to China’s salami slicing tactics used from time to time

Prime Minister Modi to attend both. Likewise, Xi Jinping should be cordially invited to SCO and G-20 meetings which will be hosted by New Delhi next year. Any dilution of BRICS, RIC or SCO will reflect poorly on Beijing as the initiator of such grouping. Beijing will not like these summits to go the SAARC way, become defunct, given the unabating conflict between India and Pakistan.

Be that as it may, the visit was significant, especially after the border stand-off between the two countries since April 2020; Indian soldiers dying in Galwan, and China occupying territories India claims to be hers; the patrolling point 5, Demchok, and Deshpang. That is not all. China has deployed 60,000 soldiers with missiles, rockets, and mobile airborne support. The stand-off continues spilling over to international forums. New Delhi maintains that there could be no other dialogue than the border disputes, that too, not until, China engages in demobilisation, disagreement and de-escalation. New Delhi fears that if the border stand-off is put on the backburner, it might end up reconciling to China’s salami slicing tactics used from time to time.

In the meantime, New Delhi’s China strategy consists of maintaining diplomatic openness and building capabilities while it puts

the onus entirely on Beijing to bring about normalisation of relations. Furthermore, India is suspicious and wary of Chinese intensions. After 15 rounds of border commanders’ talks, and eight rounds of meetings of the special working mechanism for consultation and co-ordination on India-China border affairs, no substantial outcome has been achieved. On the contrary, Beijing has been occasionally sounding out its appetite for more territory. New Delhi has rightly denied Wang Yi to have access to the Prime Minister Modi. It would continue to press for normalisation of relations vis-à-vis the standoff at LAC.

Conversely, China has a different point of view. It would like India to put the border issue at a proper place in bilateral relations. It would rather adopt a three-step strategy on India. One, both the countries should invoke the long-term civilization approach as they have a long and rich civilizational background, at times intersecting with each other’s. The bilateralisms between Beijing and New Delhi should build on their civilizational legacies. Second, both countries should view each other’s development as win-win situation, not win-lose scenario. Third step, both countries should cooperate at multilateral spheres especially those inspired by Beijing- BRICS, RIC, SCO and so on.

Against such a backdrop, less-publicised meetings of Wang Yi with S Jaishankar and Ajit Doval took place. The meeting with EAM lasted for three hours. What did Wang Yi and S. Jaishankar talk about? As it was anticipated, New Delhi would only reiterate its reservations on Beijing talking about Kashmir, and re-emphasise the urgency of resolving the border disputes. But they did talk about other issues too – trade, visa, Indian students, cooperation on health, Ukraine, Afghanistan and so on. India also raised the staggering trade deficit with China to the tune of \$103 billion and the non-tariff barriers China imposes to isolate Indian companies. At any rate, China continues to hold the trade lever.

What is the way forward in India’s bilateralism with China? While New Delhi is building itself and making strategic alliances vis-à-vis China, it is deeply worried about the stand-off and build-up at the border. Beijing considers QUAD, which includes India, as the Asian NATO and grudges India joining the Western bloc.

Wang Yi said India-China should come close. His assertion is that if India and China come on the same page, the entire world will have to notice it. The world cannot ignore the combined strength of India and China. But for that to happen, Beijing needs to have a demilitarised approach, avoid the policy of balance of terror and work towards a synergy between the countries. Certainly, the onus is on China, as the largest economy in the region, to lead in peace, security and co-existence.

In submission, one could say that New Delhi cannot ignore China, but cannot integrate with it. Both India and China should work in good faith and unite to make a better and more promising Asia. Chinese economy is strong, but will its political structure characterised by the dictatorial tendencies of its leader be conducive to Beijing’s leadership role in the region?

The writer is Professor of International Politics, JIMMC.

©INFA

SPECTRUM PANDEMIC

Lessons for democracies

For more than two years, COVID-19 has taken lives, destroyed livelihoods, disrupted daily routines, and dominated political discussion around the world. As the acute phase of the pandemic comes to an end, we must evaluate what COVID-19 has revealed about the ability of democratic systems to respond to such emergencies.

There are several lessons to be learned from a crisis that has caused the death of over six million people and produced the deepest recession since World War II. Over the past year, Club de Madrid’s Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies brought together former heads of state and government, eminent experts, and civil-society leaders from around the world to discuss what COVID-19 has taught us, and how our countries can plan for future crises.

Just as no one ever steps into the same river twice, for it is not the same river and they are not the same person, no country ever experiences the same disaster twice. But learning from one emergency is essential to preparing for the next. Although pandemics are rare, epidemics, natural disasters, financial crises, and industrial accidents are regular occurrences. Governments, legislative bodies,

judicial institutions, civil society, and international organisations must be equipped to promote resilience in the face of crisis.

For starters, governments must elevate the status of emergency preparedness and work with their peers to embrace radical transparency, support responsible journalism and media, promote digital literacy, and work with civil-society organisations to debunk disinformation, especially online. They should engage with technology companies to solve problems arising from the digital environment and increase access to digital resources. And, with COVID-19 having revealed serious gaps in social security systems, they also must advocate for better protections for vulnerable minorities, women, and young people.

In fact, government leaders should mobilise all available tools of fiscal policy to strengthen democratic resilience and improve equity. At the same time, legislatures should evaluate their governments’ COVID-19 response and recommend measures to improve performance in future emergencies. They should review their country’s legal framework to ensure that how emergencies are defined adequately reflects current risks,

and that constitutional provisions for declaring a state of emergency provide sufficient safeguards to mitigate the risk of abuse of power.

Legislatures also must ensure that their plans for emergency preparedness are robust enough to allow for effective oversight during future crises. These plans should include flexible rules of legislative procedure and embrace digital technologies to promote resilience and encourage citizen participation.

Judicial institutions, for their part, must ensure that the rule of law guides democracies’ response to future emergencies. When the pandemic ends, courts will be called upon – as some already have – to scrutinise governments’ actions against the criteria of necessity, proportionality, procedural fairness, and respect for fundamental rights. Courts must make sure that their emergency-preparedness plans allow for swift judicial oversight during times of crisis.

Civil society and the media bear most of the responsibility in a democracy for preventing the spread of disinformation. They also have the power to bring issues into the spotlight and act as a catalyst for emergency policies that better engage and meet the needs of under-

represented groups. In preparing for future emergencies, civil-society organisations should advocate for more public dialogue about critical risks and preventive action.

Lastly, multilateral organisations have a critical role to play, by coordinating lessons learned from member countries and strengthening shared values. International human-rights monitoring mechanisms can serve as a framework for upholding fundamental rights in countries’ emergency response. Regional bodies that have instruments in place to protect democracy and the rule of law among their member states should reflect on how these tools might be used for regional oversight in emergencies.

Every democracy is different, and every emergency is different. But the most important lesson to be learned from the pandemic is that all democratic states have a responsibility, as they prepare for the next crisis, to safeguard their core values.

The writer, a former Prime Minister of Belgium, is Chair of the Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Yves Leterme

CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE MEDIA BEAR MOST OF THE RESPONSIBILITY IN A DEMOCRACY FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISINFORMATION

One nation, one entrance test

Sir, The National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced that central universities will now be required to consider scores from the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission, instead of the traditional 12th-grade board exam results. UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said that the endeavor is to ultimately reach the goal of “one nation, one entrance test.” While it remains to be seen what the impact of the move will be, there are precedents to show how it may not necessarily be a good one. For one thing, it would further diminish the relevance of schools and the different pedagogical practices across boards. Second, homogenising an entrance test would make access to higher education difficult for students from marginalised backgrounds without the means to avail of coaching classes or extra resources that normally provide an advantage to their more privileged counterparts. On the other hand, stratospheric cut-off expectations from universities may now be obsolete. However, in a socio-cultural landscape rife with vast inequalities, a common entrance examination would increase competition and ensure educational access to those who can afford to spend the most time, money, and resources in training for the exam. The idea speaks to the general nature of competitive examinations in India, and the harmful impact they’ve had on young learners. The most notorious example of the same, of course, is the JEE for entry into the IITs. Coaching for JEE begins at a young age — and as competition increases, children are made to train for the exam at ever-younger ages. Coaching institutes, moreover, are prohibitively expensive and are a drain on students’ creativity, freedom, and self-expression, as all identity or even learning is geared towards securing a seat in a college.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Let peace prevail

Sir, War is the ultimate scourge of humanity. It is barbaric, cruel, violent and oppressive. It negates peace and universal brotherhood. It is an anathema for mankind. War has never solved any problem, rather it has multiplied it. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine may pave the way for third world war. Winning in war is a pyrrhic victory – women widowed, children orphaned, houses devastated. In Indian scriptures, there is mentioning of “the whole world as one family” When there is love, there can be no war. And when there is war, there can be no love. Let peace prevail in the world.

Prabhudatt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Gokhibaba Ashram: A pious precinct hitherto unexplored



SITUATED IN THE HEART OF SUNDARPADA, THE 400-YEAR-OLD SHRINE, RECENTLY REVAMPED FOR ITS PRESERVATION, SEES THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES FROM ACROSS THE STATE GATHER ON THE 10-DAY MAKAR MELA

ANSUMAN NANDA, OP

BHUBANESWAR: Not too far from the hustle and bustle of the Capital city of Bhubaneswar, there remains a shrine – an Ashram – tranquil enough to cocoon you from the polluted fast-paced urban life. The complex encompasses the abodes of Lord Dadhibamana (an incarnation of Lord Jagannath) and Lord Sundareshwar (a form of Lord Shiva). Right in the middle of the two temples remains another sanctum, shading the tomb of a much revered saint, Gokhibaba.

Driven by centuries-old faith and folklores, devout from Sundarpada and peripheral localities like Azad Nagar, Kapileshwar and Kapilaprasad visit the Holy Trio on several occasions to seek blessings.

Situated in the heart of Sundarpada, the 400-year-old shrine, recently revamped for its preservation, sees thousands of devotees from across the state gather on the 10-day Makar Mela. The complex echoes with the breaking of thousands of coconuts offered by devotees. On the pious occasion of Deva Snana Poonima, Lord Dadhibamana is bathed with much festivity and fervour. Bhubaneswar's most celebrated festival, Mahashivratri, is celebrated here too. Devotees light lamps throughout the night on Sundareshwar temple premises and the Mahadeepa is lifted immediately following the rituals at Lingaraj Temple. It is believed that Gokhibaba's consciousness

nearby forests, helping villagers in every possible way, working towards keeping the village healthy, and meditation were part of his every day activities. Some of his said miraculous acts include finding people their lost goods, curing seemingly incurable diseases and friendliness from the wildest of animals.

One of the most famous incidents credited to the deity is also said to be the foundation of the communal harmony prevalent in the region. A local Muslim farmer was enraged at Gokhibaba for leaving the gate of his farmland open, as the latter used to bathe in a pool there before sunrise.

One dawn, he confronted the saint and told him not to let the animals lay waste to his hard work. The saint then advised him to break the boundaries and assured that not a single animal would intrude his land. Locals say they don't find even a cow in that piece of land, and have honoured the deity by naming the pool there 'Gokhichua'. During Makar Fest, hundreds of women carry water from the pool to His tomb as a bathing ritual. The fair also witnesses admirers from both the religions participating in various activities, sporting a beautiful miniature of a rather utopian India.

"His final day on the mortal realm established Him as an incarnation of God. Two days before, He had asked fel-

IT IS BELIEVED THAT GOKHIBABA'S CONSCIOUSNESS LIVES TO DATE, BLESSING UPON HIS DEVOTEES
MANY TALES OF HIS 'SIDDHI' CAN BE HEARD FROM THE LOCALS, OLD AND YOUNG ALIKE



Sundareshwar pond near the Ashram

lives to date, blessing upon His devotees. Many tales of His 'siddhi' can be heard from the locals, old and young alike. The legend, born some four centuries ago as Gokhidas, was orphaned at a very tender age. While residing at his maternal uncle's place in the nearby Pokhariput village, he came across three saints and was moved by their aura, so much so that he joined them in quest for God realisation. Returning after several years, he resided in his native village Sundarpada. His changed pleasant self had the aura that attracted people around him, and he was thereafter called Gokhibaba.

Educating children, collecting medicinal plants from

low villagers to lock the door of his house from the outside as he went into meditative trance. However, concerned followers defied His instruction and opened the door to check on Him, only to find Him elevated in the air. The intrusion broke His trance and He fell on the ground, gasping while instructing the villagers to build His tomb right there. What shocked people more were several villagers' confessions of having seen Him at Puri Srimandir, Khandagiri, and many other places that very day. Even today, His presence is felt. Or maybe His consciousness..." said Swayam Prava Mishra, a resident of Sundarpada.

CARE HOSPITALS

A WARM EMBRACE OF COMPASSION AND COMMITMENT

Introducing the all-new **Woman & Child Centre** at CARE Hospitals

- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Birthing
- Gynaec Surgeries
- High Risk Pregnancies
- Paediatrics
- Neonatology

Prachi Enclave, Bhubaneswar

0674 6165656

www.vedantalimited.com

ଆଲୁମିନିୟମର ଶକ୍ତିରେ ସଞ୍ଚାଳିତ ଦେଶର ପ୍ରଗତି

ଭଞ୍ଜାହାରୀ ଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ଭୟଗ୍ରହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ, ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ ହେଉଛି ଭବିଷ୍ୟତର ସବୁଜ ଯାତ୍ରା।

vedanta transforming elements

ଦେଶର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ନିମନ୍ତେ

ଆଲୁମିନିୟମ ଚଳେ ବିକସ୍ତ ଶକ୍ତି। ଦକ୍ଷା-ସାଧା-ରୂପା। ତୈଳ ଚଳେ ଗ୍ୟାସା ତମ୍ବା। ଲୁହା ପଥର ଚଳେ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀତ ଶୂନ୍ୟ କ୍ଷତି, ଶୂନ୍ୟ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ଚଳେ ଶୂନ୍ୟ ନିର୍ଗମନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତିବଦ୍ଧ

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You may be alone, but not necessarily lonely. You may want to listen to your inner voice, and express your true self creatively. Spend the evening with a loved one who can hear the music in your silence too, suggests Ganesh.

TAURUS
Today, you may experience the juxtaposition of pleasure and pain. Household tasks may weigh you down around afternoon. Later in the day, you will be able to achieve whatever you desire solely on account of your determination and mental strength. Pleasure awaits in the warmth and company of your soul mate, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
You need to pay more attention to yourself today. Your kind and generous nature means you often think about others rather than about yourself. Now is the time to pay attention to your own needs. You need to spend more time with your family and friends as well, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will secure your place with hard work in your job or business. Ties with partners will improve. Closeness with spouse is indicated. Melody and joy will mark domestic bliss. You will spend the evening with your beloved. Ganesh's blessings are with you.

LEO
The pressure at work will be high. Some person may try to tempt you with lucrative offers to go against your principles. However, you will be able to resist the lure of easy money. Your health may suffer today, so be on guard, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will stay calm and steady today, and there is hardly anything that can disturb your peace of mind. Your family and friends will back you fully and motivate you to overcome hurdles. You will work with devotion, says Ganesh. You may ask for work that others may find very difficult to do.

LIBRA
Ganesh says people will try to take advantage of your amiable nature and disposition. Small issues will crop up today making your nature a little tensed and enhance your anger too. You will be inspired to take chances in monetary matters. Ganesh says you need to keep your mind steady and regain your lost charm soon.

SCORPIO
Your imagination runs wild today. Though you do not travel geographically, your mind travels beyond boundaries. Think and act according to your will, advises Ganesh. However, practice caution before taking any major step.

SAGITTARIUS
You will be loaded with responsibilities at work today, fore sees Ganesh. But, you are pro challenges and will take it up sportingly. On personal front, the list of your friends is likely to get longer. All in all, Ganesh sees you in an active avatar today.

CAPRICORN
Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport while deciding about the future. Think practically, otherwise, your expectations and reality will not be on the same boat, guides Ganesh. Friendly and supportive, today you will spread happiness and win the love of one and all.

AQUARIUS
Set any target, take up any activity or accept any challenge; you will succeed in any of them with flying colours, foresees Ganesh. Your well-wishers will shower praises upon you for those hard earned achievements. Friends are like family to you, take them out and have a gala time before another busy day begins.

PISCES
You will be busy with romance throughout the day. While singles are likely to find the person of their dreams, those who are married will establish a new closeness in their relationship. Your attitude towards work will begin to change.



KATY PERRY SET TO LAUNCH ELIZABETH TAYLOR PODCAST

Pop star Katy Perry is launching a podcast based on the life of legendary actress Elizabeth Taylor. The 37-year-old star has always felt a kinship towards the iconic actress - who died in 2011 at the age of 79 - and will narrate the ten-part audio series *Elizabeth the First*.

BRUCE WILLIS STEPPING AWAY FROM ACTING

Hollywood action star Bruce Willis' family has announced the actor is retiring from the profession after being diagnosed with aphasia, a language disorder caused by brain damage that affects a person's ability to communicate.



I'm a Bollywood actor, won't do any regional films: John Abraham

Hyderabad: Actor John Abraham, who is busy publicising his upcoming movie *Attack*, was quizzed about his appearance in a south Indian movie, which apparently irked the actor. John, who was visibly irked with the question, asserted his choice not to act in regional movies. Of late, there have been reports that John will be seen in an important role in Prabhas's upcoming multi-lingual action movie *Salaar*. When quizzed about the same, John said, "I am not acting in any regional films. I don't know where this speculations started. I will never do supporting roles in regional films. I am a Bollywood actor."

With this, it is confirmed that John isn't a part of Prabhas's upcoming magnum opus *Salaar*, but John's way of answering the question has raised eyebrows.

While some south Indian websites reported the incident, they have raised a question on what was so offensive that John had reacted in that way.

John Abraham, was earlier quizzed regarding the box office clash of his movie *Attack* with Ram Charan, NTR-starrer *RRR*. John's cold reply to that question was discussed among fans as well.

Alia clears air over RRR

Hyderabad: Alia Bhatt, who is rumoured to have deleted *RRR* related Instagram posts after the movie's release, reacted with a lengthy note.

Thursday, Alia finally broke her silence on the matter, as she stated, the rumours about her being upset with the *RRR* team are absolutely baseless.

"In today's randomness, I've heard that I apparently deleted my *RRR* posts because I'm upset with the team."

"I sincerely request everyone not to make assumptions based on something as random as an Instagram grid. I ALWAYS realign old video posts from my profile grid because I prefer it to look less cluttered," Alia added.

Alia Bhatt's post further reads, "I am eternally grateful that I got to be a part of the world of *RRR*. I loved playing Sita, I loved being directed by Rajamouli sir, I loved working with Tarak and Charan - I loved every single thing about my experience on this film."

Alia Bhatt essayed the role of Sita in *RRR*, which marked the debut of the *Highway* actress in south Indian movies.



Chiranjeevi regrets not having worked with Taapsee Pannu

Hyderabad: Megastar Chiranjeevi, who attended the pre-release event for Taapsee Pannu-starrer *Mishan Impossible*, had showered praise on the actress.

Stating that he regrets not having worked with Taapsee, Chiranjeevi spoke highly of the Pink actress.

"I was surprised at Taapsee's appearance in the movie *Jhummandi Naadam*. By the time I could work with her, I had become busy in politics. I regret being in politics, without having worked with actresses like Taapsee," Chiranjeevi said on a witty note.

The movie *Mishan Impossible* is produced by Niranjan Reddy and Anvesh Reddy on Matinee



Entertainment, while it is directed by Agent Sai Srinivasa Athreya fame Swaroop RSJ. Billed as a comedy-thriller, *Mishan Impossible* surrounds the life of three children, who are on the hunt to find the underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. With comedy as the core essence, this thriller is one of the most hyped upcoming movies. *Mishan Impossible* will hit the screens April 1, with Taapsee Pannu in the lead role.

PROMOTION OF MATRIMONIAL SITE EXCLUSIVELY FOR IIT, IIM ALUMNI

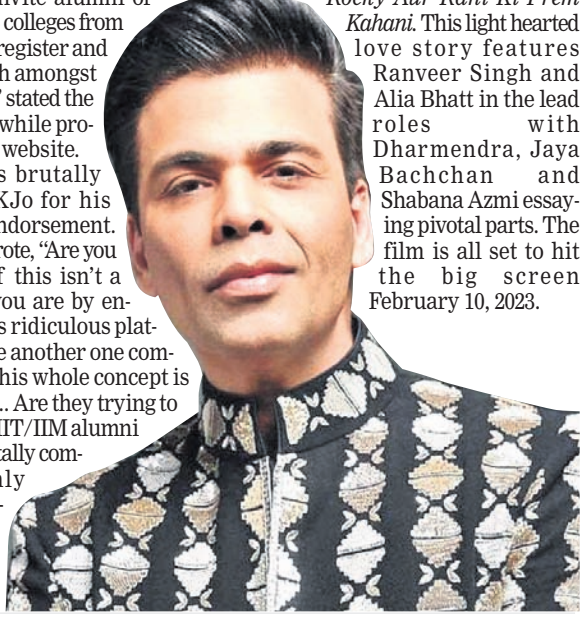
Karan Johar brutally trolled by netizens

Mumbai: Karan Johar was trolled for promoting a matrimonial site exclusively for IIT and IIM alumni.

"They invite alumni of the top 10-15 colleges from all fields to register and find a match amongst each other!" stated the filmmaker while promoting the website.

Netizens brutally slammed KJo for his choice of endorsement. One user wrote, "Are you serious?? If this isn't a joke then you are by endorsing this ridiculous platform" while another one commented, "This whole concept is so offensive.. Are they trying to say that an IIT/IIM alumni will be mentally compatible only with another IIT/IIM alumni?!"

Ridiculous!" Currently, Karan Johar is busy shooting for his next directorial *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani*. This light hearted love story features Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt in the lead roles with Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi essaying pivotal parts. The film is all set to hit the big screen February 10, 2023.



State theatre fest concludes



BHUBANESWAR: A four-day state-level drama festival, organised by City-based theatre troupe Panchamveda came to an end here at Biju Natya Kendra, Thursday. Sriketra Natya Shala from Puri presented the Odia play *Lajja*, on the last day of the festival. Written by Satya Dash and directed by Laxmidhar Pujapanda, the play conveyed a message that insanity in the name of modernity is always dangerous and not acceptable to the society. Among the dignitaries who attended the event as guest included Tourism and Culture minister Jyotiprakash Panigrahi, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi secretary Prabodh Rath and noted theatre director Dhirendranath Mallick. Prof Samar Mudali was conferred with Amiya Pattnaik Smruti Samman-2022 while, Sitakanta Mohanty, Satyaranjan Behera, (both theatre directors), Panchanan Dash, Lingaraj Nahak (both playwrights) and actress Alhadini Kar were felicitated with Panchamveda Samman-2022.

FUN post

PEANUTS



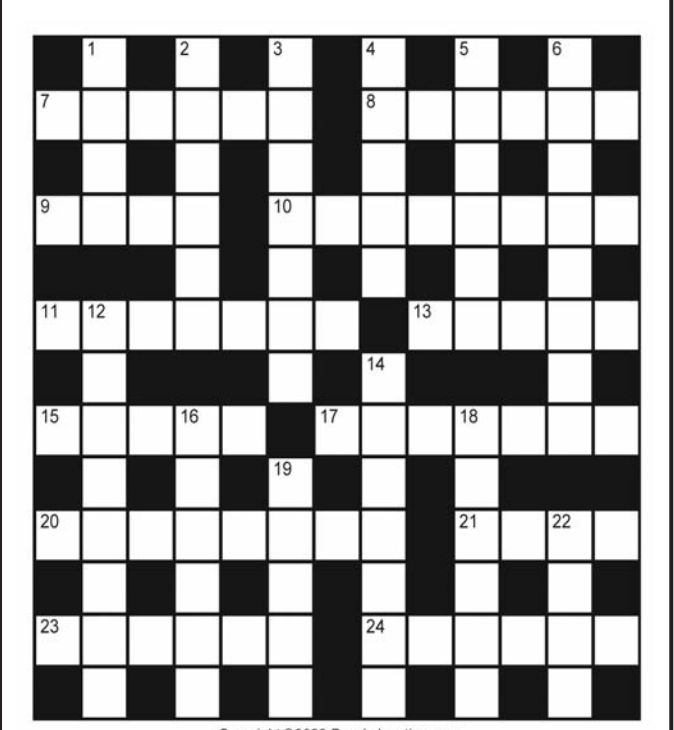
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Fix
 - 8 Spanish capital
 - 9 Parking place
 - 10 Martini ingredient
 - 11 Delivery aid (3,4)
 - 13 Off-center
 - 15 Incursion
 - 17 Spurs
 - 20 Pitiful
 - 21 German automaker
 - 23 Anise cordial
 - 24 Mal de mer, e.g.
- Down**
- 1 Blubber
 - 2 Plan of action
 - 3 Swagger
 - 4 On the ball, intellectually
 - 5 Detestable
 - 6 Abuse
 - 12 Remote
 - 14 Swordplay
 - 16 Capital of Greece
 - 18 Uris novel
 - 19 Short musical composition
 - 22 Shangri-la

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

535 Ganjam high schools to go solar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, March 31: Schools in Ganjam district will harness solar energy to electrify their premises instead of using power from conventional energy sources.

The district administration has taken an initiative to make the high schools energy-independent by installing solar panels, Ganjam Collector Vijaya Amruta Kulange said.

The installation is set to be done from Friday by a Noida-based firm and likely to be completed in the next six months. There are 535 government high schools in the district, officials said.

The district administration will spend over ₹9 crore for the purpose.

Reports said 83 smart schools will be electrified in the first phase while 233 smart schools will be taken up in the second phase. Later, the rest of the schools will be electrified



The move will help reduce energy bills and protect the natural resources

REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WILL SPEND OVER ₹9 CRORE FOR THE PURPOSE AND HAS SET A TARGET OF COMPLETING THE WORKS WITHIN SIX MONTHS

with solar energy. The smaller schools will have solar power systems of 2kw while the bigger schools will be installed with 4kw solar panel systems.

The district Collector talked to all concerned headmasters, block development officers (BDOs) and other officials in this regard through video-conferencing last week.

As part of this move, 25 high schools under Bhanjanagar block will be electrified through solar panels. The move, however, is likely to hit road-blocks as works on many of the schools upgraded to smart schools are yet to get completed.

Meanwhile, work on transformation of 11 schools into smart schools has started in the second phase in Bhanjanagar block. The state government is providing ₹45 lakh for upgradation of each school into a smart school. Moreover, those schools which require more funds will be assisted through block funds.

When contacted, Bhanjanagar BDO Anil Kumar Sethi said the schools will go solar for which funds will be made available from Mo School Abhiyan and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. The district rural development agency will implement the project.

26 Kanyashram inmates taken ill

BHAWANIPATNA: As many as 26 girl students were down with diarrhoea Thursday due to suspected food poisoning at government-run Dulkibandh Government Kanyashram in Kalampur block of Kalahandi district. The block administration admitted the students to Kalampur community health centre. A special medical team led by additional district chief medical officer Rakesh Kumar Sahoo talked to the teachers at the school and enquired about foods served to the students.

28 Malkangiri hosps win 'Kayakalp Award'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, March 31: Good news for people of tribal-dominated Malkangiri as 28 hospitals of the district have won the prestigious 'Kayakalp Award'.

The Kayakalp Award given under the health centres were evaluated on the basis of eight major parameters such as hospital upkeep, sanitation and hygiene, waste management, infection control, support services, hygiene promotion, cleanliness beyond hospital boundary wall and eco-friendly facility.

The Kayakalp Award given under National Health Mission (NHM) was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015 to encourage cleanliness and hygiene in health centres across the country.

The Malkangiri district headquarters hospital (DHH) has bagged the first position to win a sum of ₹50 lakh and got the recognition of Kayakalp Winner Hospital. In addition, two sub-divisional hospi-



tals (SDHs), six community health centres (CHCs), 11 primary health centres (PHCs), and eight health and wellness centres (HWCs) were qualified for the award. Kudumuluguma CHC bagged the first prize with award money of ₹15 lakh. Besides, the CHC also won the best "eco-friendly" hospital under Kayakalp scheme and received cash award of ₹5 lakh. Commendation awards of ₹1 lakh each was given to CHC (Korukonda), CHC (Pandripani), CHC (Khairiput), CHC (Kalimela), CHC (Podia), SDH (Mathili) and SDH (Chitrakonda).

In PHC category, the first prize was bagged by MV-79 PHC which got cash prize of ₹2 lakh. While the commendation prize of ₹50,000 was given to PHC-MPV-55, PHC-Manyamkonda, PHC-MV-19, PHC-Padmagiri, PHC-Govindapalli, PHC-Metapaka, PHC-Salimi, PHC-MV-47, PHC-Pangam, and PHC-Motu.

In the sub-centre category, Udulibeda got the first prize with ₹1 lakh cash while commendation prize of ₹25,000 was given to SC-Chaulimendi, SC-Salimi, SC-Panighata, SC-Challanguda, SC-Tunnelcamp, SC-Bapanpally, and SC-Venkpalam.

"I dedicate the award to the people of Malkangiri. Our target is to serve people by delivering the best public health service. We are happy that the government has recognised the health delivery system in the district," Malkangiri Collector Vishal Singh said, expressing pleasure over this achievement.

ULB chief's house shot at in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, March 31: The newly-elected chairperson of Dhenkanal Municipality, Jayanti Patra, had a close shave as some henchmen of the defeated candidate allegedly fired five rounds at her house and issued death threat to her and her husband, Wednesday night.

The matter came to the fore after Jayanti, wife of Rama Chandra Patra, met the SP L Divya V and lodged a complaint. Her husband is the vice-president of BJP's state Krushak Morcha.

The miscreants also issued murder threat to Artabandhu Mallik, father of newly-elected councillor of ward no-19 at Similia village, as well as a co-villager Sailendu Narayan Sahu. Later, Sailendu also lodged a police complaint.

Police registered two separate cases and arrested Satyabrata Behera, 26 of Housing Board Colony and Somanath Sahu, 22 of Jaygopal Sahi. A scooter, cash worth ₹1 lakh and two lathis were seized from their possession.



Beautiful Graceful

& Royal

FEEL EVERYTHING ON YOUR BIG DAY

Mebers®

Woman. God's most beautiful creation.

SRIYA SQUARE, PH.: 2380826, 2380830 | G-51, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, MOB.: +91 8249681032, BHUBANESWAR

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

adventz

DEFINING A NEW PRESENT ENVISAGING A BETTER FUTURE

PARADEEP PHOSPHATES LIMITED
www.paradeepphosphates.com

imfa 60 YEARS

90th Birth Anniversary
Dr Bansidhar Panda
26th Nov 1931 - 22nd May 2018

Mrs Ila Panda
26th Oct 1932 - 11th Jan 2005

60 YEARS OF TRUST AND TRANSFORMATION

A transformative journey of six decades from a single furnace in a remote corner of Odisha to becoming India's leading, fully integrated producer of ferro alloys has been rewarding because of our values, focus on operational excellence and sustainable growth. The special anniversary logo references infinity signifying many more milestones to come.

INDIAN METALS & FERRO ALLOYS LIMITED

www.imfa.in | in.linkedin.com/company/imfa | @IMFALtd | bit.ly/IMFALtd

of the day quote

The administration has largely brought the Sariska fire under control and there is a small fire left now in a limited area which too will be doused soon

Recently 16 Sri Lankan Tamils had reached the state as they were not able to afford the essential commodities in Sri Lanka

Our demand is that the government should control prices and stop raising petrol and diesel prices

SHORT TAKES

7 more held in paper leak case

Ballaia (UP): Seven more persons, including two local journalists, were arrested Thursday in connection with the leak of the intermediate English paper of the Uttar Pradesh school board.

Avian flu scare in Bihar's Supaul

Patna: The fear of avian influenza has spread in Bihar's Supaul district after a large number of crows and ducks were found dead Thursday.

3 Indian fishermen held by Lankan Navy

Chennai: Three Indian fishermen, hailing from Pudukottai in Tamil Nadu, were arrested by Sri Lankan navy for crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

J&K: Over 20 houses damaged in blaze

Srinagar: Over 20 houses suffered extensive damage and property worth crores of rupees was destroyed in two fire incidents in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital.

Stalin meets PM

New Delhi/Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and M K Stalin Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi and sought the Centre's approval for the state government to provide humanitarian aid to Sri Lankan Tamils.



The prices of petrol and diesel have gone up across the country after the recent assembly elections in five states. This is directly affecting the poor and the middle class.

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

ANIMALS GET COOLERS

With Jharkhand experiencing sweltering heat, zoo authorities are making arrangements like providing air-coolers and special diet to ensure that inmates stay healthy at Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park.



'No red' line for India's Russian oil imports: US

Russia has long been India's biggest supplier of defence equipment, despite growing purchases from the United States in the past decade. Defence analysts say Russian supplies are more cost-competitive and vital for India as it faces a superior Chinese military

REUTERS

New Delhi, March 31: The United States will not set any "red line" for India on its energy imports from Russia but does not want to see a "rapid acceleration" in purchases.

Lured by steep discounts following Western sanctions on Russian entities, India has bought at least 13 million barrels of Russian crude oil since the country invaded Ukraine in late February.

"Friends don't set red lines," Daleep Singh, US Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics, told reporters.

Singh spoke ahead of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's arrival in the Indian capital for a two-day trip.

Singh said the United States was ready to help India diversify its energy and defence supplies.

"We stand ready to help India diversify its energy resources, much like is the case for defence resources over a period of time. But there is no prohibition at present on energy imports from Russia," he said.

"What we would not like to see is a rapid acceleration of India's imports from Russia as it relates to energy or any other exports that are currently being prohibited by us or by other aspects of the international sanctions regime."

He also said the United States would not like to see its allies helping resurrect the rouble, which nosedived immediately after the war began but has recovered in recent days.



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla with US Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics Daleep Singh, during their meeting in New Delhi.

Lavrov in Delhi, to hold talks today

New Delhi: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov landed in New Delhi Thursday evening to hold talks with Indian counterpart S Jaishankar over crude oil offer, rupee-ruble payment and arms deals.

RS BIDS ADIEU TO 72 MPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: The Rajya Sabha Thursday bid an emotional farewell to 72 members, including A K Antony, P Chidambaram, Anand Sharma, Jairam Ramesh and Subramanian Swamy.

The terms of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in the Upper House are coming to an end as well.

Members cutting across party lines shared memories of their retiring colleagues and hoped that they would return to the House.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu asked the lawmakers to desist from disrupting law-making bodies while upholding the honour and privilege bestowed on them by people.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, during a photo session with retiring members of Rajya Sabha, at Parliament in New Delhi

are retiring, shared their experiences.

The speakers included the chairman, the prime minister, the deputy chairman, the leader of the opposition, the floor leaders of nine other parties, 11 other members and 40 retiring Members.

In the end, Goyal, who is the leader of the House, responded to the day-long proceedings.

A total of 72 Rajya Sabha MPs, including seven nominated members, are retiring between March and July, which is one-third of the strength of the House.

retiring members represent 19 states. Those retiring also include Ambika Soni, Kapil Sibal, Suresh Prabhu, Praful Patel, Prasanna Acharya, Sanjay Raut, Nareish Guiral, Satish Chandra Mishra, M C Mary Kom, Swapan Dasgupta and Narendra Jadhav.

Chidambaram, Patel and Sibal were not present in the House when the prime minister, the chairman and the leader of opposition spoke in the morning session.

In his speech, Modi emphasised that experience has more power than knowledge and the MPs should take it forward in the service of the nation.

Kejri house vandalism: CM targets BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday said he can lay down his life for the country, a day after members of the BJP's youth wing vandalised property outside his residence.

Without naming the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kejriwal further said such "hooliganism" by a party in power at the Centre will not help in the progress of the nation.

"Arvind Kejriwal is not important but the country is. I am a very small person and a common man. I can lay down my life for the nation. India will not progress through such hooliganism," Kejriwal said at an event to flag off e-autos at IP Depot here.



which is in power at the Centre, resorts to such hooliganism in the capital, it will spread a bad message among people.

Kejriwal also said the country cannot progress in such a scenario. People will have to work with love, then only the nation can prosper, he said.

The BJP's youth wing BJYM allegedly damaged property outside Kejriwal's residence Wednesday during their protest against the CM's remarks on 'The Kashmir Files' film

ready wasted 75 years by doing dirty politics, indulging in fighting and hooliganism. Now if we want to take our country forward, make it an India of 21st century, then we will have to work together with love," Kejriwal said.

Maha, Delhi, WB lift all Cov curbs

Maharashtra, one of the worst-hit states, and West Bengal Thursday announced that all curbs related to the viral disease would be lifted, while Delhi decided to do away with the mandatory wearing of face masks at public places

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: With the Covid-19 cases declining significantly over the past few weeks, several states have decided to lift all the pandemic-related restrictions, including the mandatory wearing of face masks.

The withdrawal of the Covid-19 curbs came almost two years after the pandemic struck in March 2020. It is expected that some other states may follow suit in the coming days.

At a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) chaired by Lt Governor Anil Bajjal, it was decided that there will be no fine for not wearing face masks at public places in

the national capital, officials said. They added that the DDMA, however, is likely to issue an advisory for people, asking them to use masks at crowded places.

In Maharashtra, the state government announced that all Covid-related curbs, including the wearing of masks, would be lifted from April 2. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

"From Gudhi Padwa (Marathi New Year which falls on April 2 this time), all Covid-19 related restrictions under the Epidemic



Diseases Act and Disaster Management Act will be withdrawn," Tope said.

Wearing of face mask will be voluntary from April 2, he said. Similarly, the West Bengal government said that all curbs related to the contagion would stand withdrawn from midnight.

In a notification, the government, however, stressed the use

of masks and hygiene maintenance. "Accordingly, it is hereby notified that restrictions as currently in force by aforesaid orders are hereby withdrawn.

However, advisory in respect of health and hygiene protocols, including wearing of masks at all times, hand hygiene and sanitisation of public places shall continue to be strictly observed until further order," it stated.

Meanwhile, with 1,225 new coronavirus infections reported in a day, India's Covid tally rose to 4,30,24,440, while the active cases dipped to 14,307, the Union health ministry said.

The death toll climbed to 5,21,129 with 28 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

EXTRA ATTEMPT IN UPSC EXAM

Consider Cov-hit students' plea: Top court asks Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: The Supreme Court Thursday asked the Centre to consider the representation of some aspirants, who could not appear in the UPSC civil services main examination after being infected with COVID-19.

In the March 24 report, the committee has said that keeping in view the hardships faced by the student community during the first and second waves of COVID-19, it recommends the government

to change its mind and sympathetically consider the demand of civil services examination (CSE) aspirants and grant an extra attempt with corresponding age relaxation to all candidates.

The Centre had last week told the apex court that additional attempt in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) civil services examination is "not possible". A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar was hearing a plea filed by three aspirants who had cleared the UPSC 2021 prelims exam but could not appear in all papers of the main exam after testing positive for COVID-19 and are now seeking an extra attempt to appear in the exams.



TN: SC strikes down 10.5 pc reservation for Vanniyars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: Observing that there is no substantial basis for classifying the Vanniakula Kshatriyas differentially, the Supreme Court Thursday struck down the 10.5 per cent reservation provided to Vanniyars, a Most Backward Community (MBC) in Tamil Nadu.

A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai said population has been made the sole basis for recommending internal reservation for the Vanniakula Kshatriyas, which is directly in the teeth of the law laid down by

this court. "We are of the opinion that there is no substantial basis for classifying the Vanniakula Kshatriyas into one group to be treated differentially from the remaining 115 communities within the MBCs and Denotified Communities, and therefore, the 2021 Act is in violation of Articles 14, 15 and 16. We uphold the judgment of the High Court on this aspect," the bench said.

The top court said though caste can be the basis of internal reservation, it cannot be the sole basis. "Accordingly, while caste can be the starting point for providing internal reservation, it is incumbent on the State Government to justify the reasonableness of the decision and



demonstrate that caste is not the sole basis," the bench said.

The bench said that as the 2021 Act dealt with sub-classification and apportionment of certain percentage of reservation for the purpose of determining the extent of

reservation of communities within the MBCs and DNCs, it is a permissible exercise of power by the State Government under Article 342-A of the Constitution. "Prior to the 105th Amendment Act, what was prohibited for the State to carry out

under Article 342-A is the identification of SEBCs, by inclusion or exclusion of communities in the Presidential list of SEBCs.

"It is clear that the exercise of identification of MBCs and DNCs had been completed by the State pursuant to the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of appointments or posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1991," it said.

of any exercise undertaken or any findings arrived at to demonstrate that members of the Vanniakula Kshatriya community are unable to compete with the remaining communities.

With regard to the letter of Justice Thanikachalam, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission, which formed the basis of the Reservation for the Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities Act, 2021, the apex court said that the government has committed an error in accepting the recommendations because it was based on the report of the Chairman of the Janarthanam Commission, which had relied on antiquated data.

international

of the day quote

The US must give up its excessive demands so that strenuous efforts in Vienna to get all sides to return to their commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal will pay off

A new financial order will be negotiated in the world, and the West won't have the main say in it anymore

A peaceful, stable, developed and prosperous Afghanistan is what Afghans aspire to, which serves the common interests of regional countries and the international community

Biden tapping oil reserve for 6 months to control gas prices

Washington, March 31: President Joe Biden is ordering the release of 1 million barrels of oil per day from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve for six months, the White House said Thursday, in a bid to control energy prices that have spiked after the U.S. and allies imposed steep sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Heavy fighting rages near Kyiv



Wrecks of Russian Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) and military vehicles on the front line near Kyiv

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, March 31: Heavy fighting raged on the outskirts of Kyiv and other zones Thursday amid indications the Kremlin is using talk of de-escalation as cover while regrouping and resupplying its forces and redeploying them for a stepped-up offensive in eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an early morning video address that Ukraine is seeing "a buildup of Russian forces for new strikes on the Donbas, and we are preparing for that."

Meanwhile, a convoy of buses headed to Mariupol in another bid to evacuate people from the besieged port city after the Russian military agreed to a limited cease-fire in the area. And a new round of talks aimed at stopping the fighting was scheduled for Friday.

The Red Cross said its teams were headed for Mariupol with relief and medical supplies and hoped to help pull civilians out of the beleaguered city. Tens of thousands have managed to get out in the past few weeks by way of humanitarian corridors, reducing the city's population from a prewar 430,000 to an estimated 100,000, but other efforts have been thwarted by continued Russian attacks.

confirmed "significant Russian shelling and missile strikes" around Chernihiv. The area's governor, Viacheslav Chaus, said Russian troops were on the move but may not be withdrawing. Russia's Defense Ministry also reported new strikes on Ukrainian fuel stores late Wednesday, and Ukrainian officials said there were artillery barrages in and around the northeastern city of Kharkiv over the past day.

Despite the fighting raging in those areas, the Russian military said it committed to a cease-fire along the route from Mariupol to the Ukraine-held city of Zaporizhzhia. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said 45 buses would be sent to collect civilians who have suffered some of the worst privations of the war. Food, water and medical supplies have all run low during a weeks long blockade and bombardment of the city. Civilians who have managed to leave have typically done so using private cars, but the number of drivable vehicles left in the city has dwindled and fuel is low.

"It's desperately important that this operation takes place," the Red Cross said in a statement. "The lives of tens of thousands of people in Mariupol depend on it."

As the new evacuation attempt was announced, evidence emerged that a Red Cross warehouse in the city had been struck earlier this month amid intense Russian shelling.

In satellite pictures from Planet Labs PBC, holes can be seen in the roof, along with a painted red cross on a white background.

Pak to issue 'strong demarche' on threat letter

Imran Thursday indicated that he will not resign from the post despite losing majority and insisted that he will face the vote of no-confidence which would take place Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, March 31: Pakistan's top security body Thursday decided to issue a strong demarche to a country, that it did not name, over a "threatening letter" - purportedly showing evidence of a foreign conspiracy to oust Imran Khan government - and expressed concern at the undiplomatic communication and "interference" in its internal affairs.

Prime Minister Imran Khan

chaired the 37th meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) at Prime Minister's House to discuss a controversial letter sent by the Pakistan ambassador in that country, which according to Prime Minister Khan threatened to remove him from office.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers of Defence, Energy, Information and Broadcasting, Interior, Finance, Human Rights, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, National Security Adviser and senior officers.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), NSA Moeed Yusuf briefed the committee about the "formal communication of a senior official of a foreign country" to Pakistan's ambassador in that country in a formal meeting which was



Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General

subsequently conveyed. "The committee expressed grave concern at the communication, terming the language used by the foreign official as undiplomatic," according to the statement. "The Committee concluded that the communication amounted to blatant interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan by the country in question, which was unacceptable under any circumstances." The NSC decided that the protest should be launched with that country.

"The Committee decided that Pakistan will issue a strong demarche to the country in question both in Islamabad and in the country's capital through proper channel in keeping with diplomatic norms," according to the statement.

The participants also endorsed the Cabinet's decision in the Special Cabinet meeting held on March 30 to take the parliament into confidence through an in-camera briefing of the National Security Committee of the Parliament.

The meeting comes a day after Khan shared some content of a letter - purportedly showing evidence of a foreign conspiracy to oust his government - with his cabinet members and a selected group of journalists. Khan waved the purported letter at a public rally on March 27 and claimed that a foreign conspiracy was afoot to remove him from power.

Will Smith could face Academy expulsion



Will Smith and Chris Rock on stage during the Oscars ceremony.

Los Angeles, March 31: "Disciplinary proceedings" are underway against Will Smith for slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars, said the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, adding that the actor was asked to leave the awards ceremony after the incident but refused to do so.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the Academy Wednesday said through its actions Smith violated its Standards of Conduct, "including inappropriate physical contact, abusive or threatening behavior, and compromising the integrity of the Academy".

In a statement released after a Board of Governors meeting, the institution said the actor could face suspension, expulsion or other sanctions if the board chooses to take action at the next scheduled meeting April 18.

Smith will also receive 15 days' notice of a vote as well as an opportunity to be heard by written response beforehand. "Things unfolded in a way

we could not have anticipated. While we would like to clarify that Mr. Smith was asked to leave the ceremony and refused, we also recognize we could have handled the situation differently," the Academy said.

The statement from the Academy didn't provide details about who asked Smith to leave. The Academy also apologized directly to Rock in the statement, as well as nominees, guests and viewers. While presenting the Oscar for best feature documentary on Sunday night, Rock cracked a joke about Smith's actor-wife Jada Pinkett Smith, who currently sports a shaved head due to alopecia. After apparently laughing at the quip, Smith walked up to the stage to slap Rock, which will go down as one of the most shocking incidents in Oscars history.

Smith later went on to win the best actor award for his performance in "King Richard". In his maiden Oscar acceptance speech, he apologized to the Academy and fellow nominees but didn't mention Rock. After outrage and many condemnations, including from the Academy, Smith took to Instagram on Monday to publicly apologize to Rock. "Violence in all of its forms is poisonous and destructive. My behavior at last night's Academy Awards was unacceptable and inexcusable... I would like to publicly apologize to you, Chris. I was out of line and I was wrong," he wrote.

Prosecutor seeks end to Khashoggi trial in Turkey

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ankara, March 31: The prosecutor in the case against 26 Saudi nationals charged in the slaying of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi made a surprise request Thursday that their trial in absentia be suspended and the case be transferred to Saudi Arabia.

The panel of judges made no ruling on the prosecutor's request but decided that a letter should be sent to Turkey's Justice Ministry seeking its opinion on the possible transfer of the file to the Saudi judicial authorities, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. Trial was adjourned until April 7.

The private DHA news agency reported that the prosecutor told the court that in a letter dated March 13, the Saudi chief public prosecutor's office requested that the proceedings in Turkey be transferred to the Kingdom and that international warrants issued by Ankara against the defendants be lifted.

Arguing for the transfer, the prosecutor said that because the arrest warrants cannot be executed and defense statements cannot be taken, the case would remain inconclusive in Turkey. The development, comes as Turkey has been trying to normalise its relationship with Saudi Arabia, which reached an all-time low following Khashoggi's grisly killing.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in an interview on Thursday that Saudi authorities were more cooperative on judicial issues with Turkey, but did not elaborate.

Arguing for the transfer, the prosecutor said that because the arrest warrants cannot be executed and defense statements cannot be taken, the case would remain inconclusive in Turkey. The development, comes as Turkey has been trying to normalise its relationship with Saudi Arabia, which reached an all-time low following Khashoggi's grisly killing.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in an interview on Thursday that Saudi authorities were more cooperative on judicial issues with Turkey, but did not elaborate.

Protest near SL President's home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, March 31: Police fired tear gas and water cannons at angry protesters Thursday as they gathered in front of the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's residence here Thursday clamouring for his resignation, as the island nation continued to reel under its worst economic crisis in decades.

A foreign exchange crunch in Sri Lanka has led to a shortage of essential goods such as fuel. Protesters shouted slogans, directing their ire against what they perceive as the Rajapaksa regime's gross mismanagement that has exacerbated Sri Lanka's foreign-exchange woes. "No petrol, no gas, no milk powder, no electricity", "Go home Gota", placard carrying protesters were then seen walking towards the Rajapaksa private residence here at Pangiriwatte Lane.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
At: Ichhapur, Post: Shree Baladevjev, E-mail: eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com
Identification No. RWS/108/2021-2022

Letter No. 2675

1st Corrigendum Dated: 28.03.2022

No. O-1897: This corrigendum has been made for the NIT-108 invited online vide this office letter No. 1750/ Dated 10.03.2022 with date for selling, closing, clarification and opening which was on Dt.29.03.2022 (selling date), 12.04.2022 (closing date), 31.03.2022 (clarification date), 13.04.2022 (opening date) to be read as 16.04.2022, 29.04.2022, 19.04.2022 and 30.04.2022 respectively and EMD @ 1% to be deposited online as the date of closing of tender falls on 29.04.2022 as per the corrigendum for which EMD relaxation was upto 31.03.2022. All other terms and condition remain unaltered.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Apprx.) Rs. in Lakhs	EMD to be Deposited Online	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of Completion
1	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to Ramachandrapur under Marshaghai Block in the District of Kendrapara. (JJM Funds)	Rs.59.03	Rs.59500	Rs.10000	330 Days

OIPR-25004/11/0068/2122 Sd./- (Er. B.K. Nayak), Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA
e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.com, eerwss_kld@nic.in, Phone No.06670-230784

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e-TENDERING
Bid Identification No- 120/EE/RWS/2021-22 /Bpt Dated-29.03.2022

No.O-1901: 01.Name of the work :- As per ANNEXURE - A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only.		Date of Opening (Technical Bid)
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	120/SE/RWSS/2021-22 /Bpt Dated- 29.03.2022	04.04.2022 10.00 A.M.	13.04.2022 05.30 PM	16.04.2022 10.00 A.M. onwards

Cost of tender paper to be made online payment system.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.
The original documents should be scanned and uploaded.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna
OIPR-25005/11/0036/2122

STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), Plot No.: 778, First Floor, Maharshi College Road, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Ph.No.: 0674-2549663, 2549621, Fax No.: 0674-2549713, E-mail ID: sbi.05174@sbi.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO BANK UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, has taken over Possession of the following property/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-Auction (Under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 19.04.2022 and on the terms & conditions specified hereunder.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 19.04.2022 from 02.00 PM to 04.00 PM with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Property Details & Name of Owner of the property	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which property/ies are being Sold / Demand Notice Date	Reserve Price EMD Bid Amount
1.	Borrowers : 1) Smt. Sanjukta Pattnaik, 2) Mr. Prasant Kumar Pattanaik, Both are At: Flat No.: 103, Shashwat Enclave, Alakapuri Main Road, Behind Govt. ITI, Berhampur	All that part and parcel of the property situated at Mouza: Gouindun, Tahasil: Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, Dist.: Ganjam, Khata No.: 1166/5297, Plot No.: 604/9331, having Area: Ac. 0.049 dec. standing in the name of Smt. Sanjukta Pattnaik.	₹68,71,167/- as on 24.05.2021 with Further interest & Incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 24.05.2021	₹79,24,000/- ₹7,92,400/- ₹50,000/-
2.	Borrower : Mr. V. Bikash Raju, C/o.: Mr. K. Nageswar Patro, Old Market Street, Ward No.: 04, P.O.: Bhanjanagar, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN: 761126 / Guarantor: Mr. V. Someswar Raju, At: Majhidera Street, P.O.: Patrapur, Via: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN: 761004	All that part and parcel of the property situated at Mouza: Patrapur, Tahasil: Patrapur, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, Khata No.: 354/856, Plot No.: 1696, having Area: Ac. 0.022 dec. standing in the name of Mr. V. Someswar Raju	₹69,70,709/- as on 31.03.2019 with Further interest & Incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 03.04.2019	₹30,89,000/- ₹3,08,900/- ₹50,000/-
3.	Borrower : M/s. Pradhan Construction, Prop.: Sri Ranjan Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Ladu Pradhan, / Guarantor: Smt. Mamata Pradhan, W/o: Sri Ranjan Kumar Pradhan, Both are at Plot No.: 252/1414, Forest Gate Road, Near Maa Santoshi Temple, P.O./ P.S.: Paralakhemundi, Dist.: Gajapati, Odisha, Hal Khata No.: 92/757, Plot No.: 252/1414, Area: Ac.0.018 dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, standing in the name of Smt. Mamata Pradhan, W/o.: Sri Ranjan Kumar Pradhan	All that part and parcel of the property consist of Land & building situated at Mouza: Ramaswamyapur, Sub Dist.: Paralakhemundi, Dist.: Gajapati, Odisha, Hal Khata No.: 92/757, Plot No.: 252/1414, Area: Ac.0.018 dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, standing in the name of Smt. Mamata Pradhan, W/o.: Sri Ranjan Kumar Pradhan	₹25,84,479/- as on 22.08.2018 with Further interest & Incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 23.08.2018	₹32,10,000/- ₹3,21,000/- ₹50,000/-
4.	Borrower: Mrs. Rupali Maity, Flat No.: 209, 2nd Floor, Block-B, Baishnodevi Enclave, At: Panchagaon, Bhubaneswar - 751002	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No.: 209, 2nd Floor, Block-B, Type-2BR, Measuring carpet Area:857 sqft, Built Area: 1010sqft, Super Built-up Area: 1300 sqft of the Apartment named & style as "BAISHNODEVI ENCLAVE", Dist.: Khordha, S.R.O.: Jatni, Mouza: Panchagaon, Khata No.: 469/409, Plot No.: 390, Area: Ac0.555 Dec., Full Plot & Khata No.:469/408, Plot No.: 392, Area: Ac0.115 Dec., Total one Mouza, Two Khatas, Two Plots & Total Area: Ac0.670 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari. The Area transferred in favour of the Purchaser being the undivided impartible interest measuring Ac.0.010.10 Dec., i.e., 440 sqft out of Ac. 0.670 Dec., with Building thereon Standing in the name of Mrs. Rupali Maity	₹31,23,081/- as on 28.07.2021 with Further interest & Incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 28.07.2021	₹27,65,000/- ₹2,76,500/- ₹50,000/-

Properties of Sl No. 1 & 2 are under Physical Possession and for SL. No. 3 & 4 are under Symbolic possession

Date & Time of inspection of the property : 13.04.2022, Between 11.00 AM to 04.00PM

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER/GUARANTORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

For Registration and Login & Bidding rules visit: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

For detailed Terms & Conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor Website: www.sbi.co.in, <https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>, <https://ibapi.in> For further detailed any query please contact: Sri Ashish Kumar Mohanty (Authorised Officer) Mob.: 9437552535

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 31.03.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

of the day **QUOTE**

Government of India is ready to take all appropriate action, as deemed fit, including supporting initiatives for releases from SPR, for mitigating market volatility and calming the rise in crude oil prices

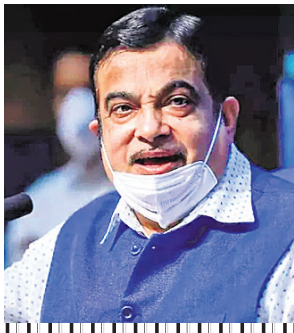
RAMESWAR TELI | MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Within the time frame of 18-24 months we want to be IPO-ready, which means the shape of our P&L (Profit and Loss), our systems and associated processes, we want to be robust and mature in those

VAMSI KRISHNA | CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, VEDANTU

With proven technology capabilities and deep customer trust enjoyed by the two brands (Airtel & Tech Mahindra), we believe this is a win-win partnership

GANESH LAKSHMINARAYANAN | CEO-ENTERPRISE BUSINESS, BHARTI AIRTEL



I will assure all the honourable members that within two years the cost of electric two-wheelers, electric three-wheelers and electric four-wheelers will be equivalent to the cost of petrol vehicles and the country will change

NITIN GADKARI | ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

WOMEN-LED MSMEs SURGE 75%

The number of women-led micro, small and medium enterprises in India has increased substantially by over 75 per cent in FY22 to 8.59 lakh units, against 4.9 lakh units in the previous fiscal, Parliament was informed Thursday



Q3 CAD widens to 2.7% of GDP

Mumbai, March 31: India's current account deficit widened in the three months to December, mainly on the back the higher trade deficit, the Reserve Bank of India said Thursday.

The country's current account deficit (CAD) stood at \$23 billion or 2.7% of GDP in the third quarter of fiscal year 2021/22, compared with a deficit of \$2.2 billion or 0.3% of GDP as year earlier.

In the preceding quarter, the shortfall stood at \$9.9 billion or 1.3% of GDP, RBI data showed.

"The widening of CAD in Q3:2021-22 was mainly on account of higher trade deficit," the RBI said. Net services receipts increased both sequentially and on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of robust performance of net exports of computer and business services.

"We expect the current account deficit to recede somewhat in Q4 FY2022, to around \$17-\$21 billion, with the third wave temporarily curtailing certain imports," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, referring to a surge in coronavirus



Private transfer receipts, mainly remittances by overseas Indians, rose 13.1% on the year

Net foreign direct investment showed an inflow of \$5.1 billion, lower than \$17.4 billion in the same quarter

Balance of payments stood at a small surplus of \$0.5 billion in the third quarter of the financial year

infections. The central bank said net services receipts increased both sequentially and on year-on-year basis on the back of the robust performance of net exports of computer and business services.

Private transfer receipts, mainly remittances by overseas Indians, rose 13.1% on the year, while net foreign direct investment showed an inflow of \$5.1 billion, lower than \$17.4 billion in the same quarter a year ago. The country's balance

External debt rose to \$614.9 billion

New Delhi: India's external debt rose by \$11.5 billion to \$614.9 billion in the three months ended December 2021, the finance ministry said Thursday. The external debt to GDP ratio fell marginally to 20 per cent at the end of December last year from 20.3 per cent at the end of September 2021. According to India's Quarterly External Debt Report for quarter ended December 2021, the country's external debt was placed at \$614.9 billion, recording an increase of \$11.5 billion over its level at the end of September 2021. "India's external debt continues to be sustainable and prudently managed," it said.

of payments stood at a small surplus of \$0.5 billion in the third quarter of the financial year, compared with a surplus of \$32.5 billion a year earlier.

"If the ongoing geo-political tensions between Ukraine and Russia push up the average price of the Indian crude oil basket in FY2023 to \$105/barrel, then the CAD (current account deficit) is projected to widen to US\$90-95 billion," Nayar said.

FOR Q1 OF FY23

No change in NSC, PPF interest rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: The government Thursday kept interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, unchanged for the first quarter of 2022-23 due to an elevated level of inflation. The interest rate has not been revised since the first quarter of 2020-21.

Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively, in the first quarter.

"The rate of interest on various small savings schemes for the first quarter of the financial year 2022-23, starting from April 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2022, shall remain unchanged from the current rates applicable for the fourth quarter (January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022) for FY 2021-22," the finance ministry said in a notification.

Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.

The one-year term deposit scheme will continue to earn an interest rate of 5.5 per cent in the first quarter of the next fiscal, while the girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account will earn 7.6 per cent.

The interest rate on the five-year senior citizens' savings scheme will be retained at 7.4 per cent. The interest on the senior citizens' scheme is paid quarterly.

The interest rate on savings de-



posits will continue to be 4 per cent per annum.

Term deposits of one to five years will fetch an interest rate in the range of 5.5-6.7 per cent, to be paid quarterly, while the interest rate on five-year recurring deposits will earn a higher interest of 5.8 per cent.

Recently, the Provident Fund (PF) rate was reduced to a four-decade low of 8.1 per cent for 2021-22 from 8.5 per cent.

Defending the proposal to cut interest rate paid on employees' provident fund deposits, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, earlier this month, said the rate is dictated by today's realities where interest rate on other small saving instruments was even lower.

Sitharaman had also cited the comparative prevailing interest rates of other schemes saying Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana offers 7.6 per cent, Senior Citizen saving scheme (7.4 per cent) and PPF (7.1 per cent) while SBI's 5-10 year fixed deposits gives 5.50 per cent.

SHORT TAKES

Infra sector output rises by 5.8% in Feb

New Delhi: Production of eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 5.8 per cent in February against a contraction of 3.3 per cent in the same month last year on better show by coal, natural gas, refinery products and cement industries, according to official data released Thursday. Production of crude oil and fertiliser declined in February this year. The core sector industries had grown by 4 per cent in January. The growth rate of the eight infrastructure sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity - stood at 11 per cent during April-February this fiscal, as against a negative growth rate of 8.1 per cent during the same period last fiscal. According to the data, production of coal rose by 6.6 per cent, natural gas by 12.5 per cent, refinery products by 8.8 per cent, and cement by 5 per cent in February.

ONGC share sale fully subscribed

New Delhi: The government's 1.5 per cent stake sale in ONGC got fully subscribed, ensuring ₹3,000 crore to the exchequer that is to be accounted for in the next fiscal. The government is selling up to 1.5 per cent of its stake in the country's top oil and gas producer ONGC at a floor price of ₹159 per share. The Offer-For-Sale (OFS), which opened for retail investors on Thursday, received bids for over 1.33 crore shares. This represents 71 per cent of the total issue size of over 1.88 crore shares. The unsubscribed portion of retail investors will be allotted to institutional buyers, who Wednesday put in bids worth ₹4,854 crore, which is three-and-a-half times their quota.

GAIL to buy back 5.7 crore shares

New Delhi: GAIL (India) Ltd Thursday said it will buy back about 5.7 crore shares for ₹1,083 crore as it looks to use its healthy balance sheet to reward shareholders for the second time in as many years. GAIL had in 2020-21 spent ₹1,046.35 crore on a similar share buyback. The board of directors of GAIL approved the "buyback of about 5.70 crore shares at the rate of ₹190 per share aggregating to about ₹1,083 crores (excluding taxes)," the company said in a statement. The buyback price of equity shares is at a 24 per cent premium over Wednesday's close price at NSE.

Govt to borrow ₹8.45L crore

New Delhi: The Union government is looking to raise ₹8.45 lakh crore through borrowing in the first half of 2022-23 to fund the revenue gap for reviving the economy, the Finance Ministry said Thursday. Out of gross market borrowing of ₹14.31 lakh crore estimated for FY2022-23, ₹8.45 lakh crore is planned to be borrowed in the first half (H1), an official statement said. As per the Budget document, the gross market borrowing through dated securities for 2022-23 is ₹14,95,000 crore. Taking into account the switch operations conducted on January 28, 2022, the gross market borrowing through dated securities for 2022-23 is expected at ₹14,31,352 crore, it said.

Fiscal deficit touched 82.7% of target in February

New Delhi: The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of February stood at 82.7 per cent of the full year budget target, mainly on account of higher expenditure, according to government data released Thursday. In the last financial year, the fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and revenue was 76 per cent of the Revised Estimate (RE) of 2020-21. In actual terms, the deficit stood at ₹13,16,595 crore at the end of February this year, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). The central government's total receipts stood at ₹18.27 lakh crore or 83.9 per cent of the RE of Budget 2021-22. It was 88.2 per cent of the RE of 2020-21 in the corresponding period. The government's total expenditure was at ₹31.43 lakh crore or 83.4 per cent of the current year's RE. It was 81.7 per cent of RE in the corresponding period last financial year. The government expects the fiscal deficit to be at 6.9 per cent of the GDP or ₹15.91 lakh crore in the current financial year ending March 31, 2022.

SpiceJet settles \$24 million dispute with Credit Suisse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: SpiceJet Thursday said it has settled its commercial dispute worth around \$24 million with Swiss financial services company Credit Suisse, with the low-cost airline agreeing to pay the settlement amount over a mutually agreed period of time.

"With regard to the dispute pending between Credit Suisse and SpiceJet Limited, we would like to inform that the parties have now reached an in-principle commercial settlement of the dispute and the process of documentation is underway," SpiceJet said in a statement.

Credit Suisse had filed a case in the Madras High Court alleging that SpiceJet failed to honour its commitment to pay the bills for over \$24 million raised by it towards maintenance, repairing, and

overhauling of the aircraft engines and components.

The high court in December 2021 ordered winding up the airline. SpiceJet then moved the Supreme Court, which January 28 stayed the high court order and granted three weeks to the budget carrier to resolve the commercial dispute. "SpiceJet had already deposited \$5 million on the direction of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the Credit Suisse case and there is no adverse financial liability on the company," the statement said.

The settlement involves payment of settlement amount over a mutually agreed period of time, mentioned. As per the statement, the settlement with Credit Suisse follows SpiceJet's successful settlements with De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited, Boeing, aircraft lessors CDB Aviation and Avolon.



Natural gas price doubled to record levels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: The government Thursday more than doubled the price of natural gas that is used to produce electricity, make fertilisers, turned into CNG and piped to household kitchens for cooking, on the back of a spike in global energy prices.

The price of gas produced from old regulated fields, such as the nation's largest gas field of Bassein of ONGC, will rise to a record high of \$6.10 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) from the current \$2.90 per mmBtu, according to the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

The new price, which is likely to result in a hike in CNG and piped cooking gas rates, will be for six



months beginning April 1. Petrol and diesel prices have been raised nine times in the last 10 days, totalling ₹6.4 per litre while cooking gas LPG rates too have gone up by

₹50 per cylinder. The latest gas price hike will further fuel inflation.

The rate applicable to newer and difficult fields such as ones of Reliance Industries Ltd in deepsea

The price of gas will rise to a record high of \$6.10/mmBtu from the current \$2.90/mmBtu

These are the highest prices ever paid to Indian gas producers

KG-D6 block, will get \$9.92 per mmBtu for April-September as compared to current \$6.13 per mmBtu, the PPAC notification said.

The government sets the price of gas every six months - April 1 and October 1 - each year based on rates prevalent in gas surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia. The increase in gas price is likely to result in a 10-15 per cent rise in CNG and piped cooking gas rates in cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, industry sources said.

BIZ BUZZ

HDFC Bank's assistance to Kendrapara DHH

Bhubaneswar: In a welcome effort by HDFC Bank Parivartan, CSR wing of the leading bank, high end ICU equipment and motorised beds were handed over to CDMO Dr Anita Patnaik in presence of ADMO and other senior officials at Kendrapara New District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). Notably, HDFC Bank is the leading bank in CSR activities in Odisha. Kendrapara Collector Amrit Raturaj's developmental initiative and coordination helped in getting the noble cause fulfilled. Raturaj was handed over the Memorandum Letter by HDFC Bank Vice President Animesh Biswal, Government Business Head Sanjib Mohapatra and Branch Manager Prasanta Mishra. HDFC Bank has been continuously pushing forward to reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalised communities through its Parivartan wing. HDFC Bank Parivartan provided three ventilators, five motorised ICU beds, five 5-channel patient monitors, five infusion pumps and three defibrillators. CONCERN India Foundation was the NGO partner who supplied all equipment.



IMFA seeks nominations for 30th Ekalabya Puraskar '22

Bhubaneswar: Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), managed by IMFA Group invites nominations for prestigious Ekalabya Puraskar-2022. Ekalabya Puraskar is the annual sports award for outstanding young sportsperson of Odisha which carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. Besides the main award two citation awards are also given which carry prize of ₹50,000/- each. Interested candidates, below 25 years of age as March 31, 2022, could send their nominations through sports organisations/boards/associations, universities, colleges and schools within the state. The submitted application should state clearly, supported by evidence, and proof of age, events performance history at State, National and International level sports competitions in the past two years i.e. from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2022, said the company release. The nominations must reach Ekalabya Puraskar, IMPACT, IMFA Building, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar-751010 latest by May 31, 2022. Alternatively, nominations can be e-mailed to ekalabya@imfa.in in which case the supporting documents must be sent separately to the postal address mentioned above, it added.



Reliance defends takeover of Future Retail stores

REUTERS

New Delhi, March 31: India's top retailer, Reliance, has privately defended an abrupt takeover of the stores of debt-laden rival Future Retail, saying mounting dues of \$634 million compelled it to act beyond expectations, a company letter shows.

The takeover was part of the race to dominate a \$900-billion retail sector that set off a bitter dispute in which India's Supreme Court will decide whether Reliance or Amazon.com Inc gets to scoop up Future's assets.

The March 8 letter, seen by Reuters, reveals for the first time Reliance's stance on the events of the night of Feb 25, when staff sud-

denly showed up at many of its rival's stores to take control over missed lease payments.

That move stunned not only Future but also Amazon, which has cited violation of certain contracts to legally block, since 2020, a \$3.4-billion deal between the two Indian giants.

In the letter, Reliance said it went "well and truly beyond what can be expected" to keep Future "out of harm's way," as it took "significant steps" to ensure business continuity at Future and make sure there was "no impediment" to their deal.

These steps included financial support of ₹48 billion (\$634 million), comprising 11 billion rupees of unpaid lease rentals and ₹37 bil-



lion of working capital. Over months, Reliance had taken over the leases of more than 900 of

Future's 1,500 stores, while still allowing the company to run them. As Future proved unable to pay

Reliance took over Future stores in 'compelling circumstances'

Months-long fight with Amazon over Future assets

Reliance's sudden takeover of stores spooked Future, Amazon

Firm helped Future, acted as dues unpaid-letter

outstanding dues and losses in its retail operations swelled, Reliance faced "compelling circumstances" and decided to exercise its legal right to take over the stores, the letter added.

Future, which is staring at bankruptcy as its losses grow, has previously called Reliance's move "drastic and unilateral".

Before Amazon blocked it, Reliance, led by India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, had proposed a \$3.4-billion deal to buy Future's retail, wholesale and logistics operations, as well as some other businesses.

But following Reliance's abrupt takeover of its stores, Future sought several assurances in a March 2 letter, also seen by Reuters, asking if Reliance would stick to the deal without changing its value or terms.

In its response March 8, Reliance said Future's request for assurances had to be seen "in the light of the rapidly evolving circumstances".

It added, "As and when the scheme (deal) is implemented, it will be in accordance with its terms."

Pegula enters semifinals at Miami Open



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Gardens, March 31: Forget three-setters. These days, Jessica Pegula doesn't even need second sets. The No.16 seed has made the semifinals at the Miami Open, benefiting from a second consecutive abrupt ending. She won her quarterfinal against fifth-seeded Paula Badosa Wednesday, after the Spaniard retired five games into the first set.

Pegula has played four matches so far in this tournament, needing only 5 1/2 sets to record those victories. She had a first-round bye, won her next two matches in straight sets and her fourth-round match ended when unseeded Anhelina Kalinina retired after Pegula won the first set 6-0. Then came Wednesday, when Badosa bowed out down 4-1.

Badosa — who was No.71 in the world rankings at this time last year — will climb to a career-best No.3 when the computer numbers are updated Monday. She would have gone to No.2 had she beaten Pegula.

Pegula will next face No.2 Iga Swiatek — who becomes No.1 in the world rankings next week — in Thursday night's semifinals. Swiatek ousted No.28 Petra Kvitova 6-3, 6-3 in the last women's quarterfinal.

The other women's semifinal is Thursday afternoon, when No.22 Belinda Bencic will face unseeded Naomi Osaka.

The quick end of the Pegula-Badosa match meant the stadium court sat empty for nearly two hours, until No.9 Jannik Sinner — a finalist in Miami last year — faced unseeded Francisco Cerundolo in a men's quarterfinal. And after 22 minutes, that match was over — also in just five games. Cerundolo advanced when Sinner, down 4-1, retired with a blister on his right foot.

In the late men's quarterfinal, sixth-seeded Casper Ruud earned a semifinal matchup with Cerundolo. Ruud beat an ailing No.2 seed Alexander Zverev 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

City, Liverpool wade into title-race finale

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, March 31: The final international break is over. The remaining games are right there in front of them. The starting gun is about to be fired on another sprint to the line between Manchester City and Liverpool in the Premier League.

Saturday marks the beginning of a six-week fight for the title between two teams that have dominated English soccer over the past five years and set a new bar when it comes to what's required to win the league.

And here they are again, back as the top two and separated by just one point with nine matches to go — one of which sees them face each other in what could be the defining match of the season.

City, the defending champion, holds the lead — as it has done since the end of December — but an advantage that was as large as 14 points in mid-January, when Liverpool had games in hand, has shrunk to such an extent that Jurgen Klopp's team might be some people's favorites.

Liverpool have fewer losses — two — and is on a nine-match winning run in the league. Heading into April, Liverpool has already won the League Cup and is still alive in the FA Cup and the Champions League. The unprecedented quadruple, amazingly, remains on.

City have won three of the last four league titles — and five of the last 10 — and has pedigree in mounting strong finishes. Their players know how to finish the job off.

Crucially, City have home advantage in their April 10 showdown with Liverpool at Etihad Stadium. Avoid defeat and few would be surprised if Guardiola's team wins its other matches.

It promises to be a riveting finale between two closely matched teams. City is at home and unbeaten in the teams' last four meetings. Liverpool has the momentum. It's a tough one to call and a draw might be the best bet. That would suit City more, keeping the destiny of the title in its hands, and Guardiola has curbed his attacking instincts to set his team up more compactly in the big games over the last two seasons.

If, however, the match turns out being more chaotic, Liverpool has the firepower to pull off victory. The availability of Alexander-Arnold, Liverpool's most creative player despite being a right back, could be key.



INDIA EYE BEST-EVER FINISH AT JR WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Potchefstroom, March 31: The presence of three Olympians, including skipper Salima Tete, will certainly be an advantage for the Indian hockey team when it competes at the FIH Women's Junior World Cup, beginning here Friday.

Apart from Tete, mid-fielder Sharmila Devi and striker Lalresiami were part of the senior team which finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Indian team will begin its campaign in Pool D against Wales Saturday before taking on formidable Germany Sunday. The Indians will then take on Malaysia in the final pool match before the quarterfinal round which starts April 8.

The 20-year-old Salima is a vital cog in the Indian midfield. She has already proved her capabilities in the successful Olympics campaign.

Her swiftness is a treat to watch. She mesmerised with her brilliant runs in the bronze medal match against Great Britain, earning three penalty corners, albeit in a losing cause.

Lalresiami, the first woman Olympian from Mizoram, is a nimble-footed striker, known for quick and poaching movements inside the opposition circle.

The 20-year-old Sharmila, also an energetic forward, has impressed all with her brilliant runs from both the flanks during the Olympics. She also scored a goal in India's pool stage match against

Great Britain.

The coveted quadrennial tournament, which was originally scheduled for December, was postponed due to the Omicron-threat in South Africa.

"There is a lot of excitement among the players. Everyone has worked so hard for this moment and used the postponement to gain better exposure, improve as a team so we can put up our best performance here," said Tete, who had led the U-18 team to a silver medal at the Youth Olympics in 2018.

Highlighting the team's preparations, the Indian skipper said: "Coming here early has helped us tremendously. We have been able to get a good amount of training sessions here which has helped

in acclimatising to the weather.

"It gets very warm and humid during the day. It definitely helped to have our last camp before coming here in Bhubaneswar where we trained in quite hot conditions."

The squad also boasts of vice-captain Ishika Chaudhary, goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam, defender Akshata Abaso Dekhale and Sangita Kumari, who made their senior India debut recently at the FIH Hockey Pro League matches against Germany.

The Indian team also played two warm-up matches against England and Netherlands with both the games ending in a draw.

India, who have appeared in four editions of the junior global event, claimed their best finish in 2013 with a bronze.

The team did not qualify for the last edition of the tournament.

Going by form and current standings, India are expected to qualify for quarterfinal alongside Germany from their pool. The Netherlands, who are the most successful team at the event with three titles, are placed in Pool A while defending champions Argentina are in Pool C.

It remains to be seen if lack of international exposure, going into the tournament, hurts as they have hardly played any international events in the last two years, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BORN IN ODISHA REPRESENTING INDIA GLOBALLY

WISHING YOU A HAPPY UTKAL DIWAS

NALCO is known for its industrial might as

No.1
Lowest Cost
Producer
of Bauxite in
the World

2nd
Highest Net
Foreign Exchange
Earning CPSE
in the Country

No.1
Lowest Cost
Producer of
Alumina in
the World

नालको **NALCO**
National Aluminium Company Limited

[f @nalcoindia](#)
[t @NALCO_India](#)
[y @NALCO_India](#)
[i @nalco_india](#)

LEWIS, DE KOCK LIFT LSG

Fit-again Surya joins MI ahead of RR game



EVIN LEWIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 31: Evin Lewis (55 n o, 23b, 6x4, 3x6) and Quinton de Kock (61, 45b, 9x4) were excellent with the bat helping new entrants Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) register their maiden victory in the Indian Premier League – a six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings – here, Thursday.

Chasing a massive target of 211, LSG openers – skipper KL Rahul (40, 26b, 2x4, 3x6) and De Kock – provided a fiery start adding 99 runs in 10 overs. Dwayne Pretorius (2/31) broke the stand dismissing Rahul.

Then a couple of quick wickets restricted LSG to 139/3 in 15th over. However, Lewis continued his assault on CSK bowlers and guided his side home in the final over. Deepak Hooda (13) and Ayush Badoni (19 n o), who struck the winning run, also chipped with crucial innings.

Earlier, Robin Uthappa (50, 27b, 8x4, 1x6) turned back the clock with his beautiful yet brutal assault before his colleagues joined the party to propel CSK to 210/7.

Uthappa scored a fluent half century to give CSK a solid start

before Shivam Dube made 49 (30b, 5x4, 2x6), while skipper Ravindra Jadeja (17) and MS Dhoni (16 n o), who slammed two fours and a six, provided the final flourish to ensure that the four-time champions have plenty of runs on the board.

Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2/24) did a tremendous job with the wet ball in an otherwise insipid performance by the Super Giants' bowling unit. Andrew Tye (2/41) managed to pick two wickets in his final over.

Put in to bat, Uthappa looked like a man on a mission as he slammed Avesh Khan (2/38) for back-to-back boundaries off the first two balls of the innings.

With the ball coming nicely onto the bat, he smashed it all over the park. CSK were dealt a blow when a direct hit by Bishnoi from backward point marked the end of Ruturaj Gaikwad (1), who was well short of the crease in the third over.

But Uthappa, and new man Moeen Ali (35), continued the assault by dealing only in fours and sixes. The Super Giants bowlers had no answer for the duo as CSK raced to 73/1 at the end of the Powerplay.

It was Bishnoi again who gave the second breakthrough when he trapped Uthappa leg before with a quick delivery, soon after the batter reached his fifty.

Dube picked up from where Uthappa left, cracking three boundaries off Dushmantha Chameera (0/49), who struggled with his line, in the ninth over. It was a bad day for the Sri Lankan as he repeatedly fumbled with the ball in the field, giving away easy boundaries.

With the bowlers struggling after getting nothing from the wicket, sloppy fielding made matters worse for LSG. Dube and Ambati Rayudu (27), then, shared a 60-run stand to keep CSK on course for a big total.

BRIEF SCORES

Chennai Super Kings 210/7 (Robin Uthappa 50, Shivam Dube 49, Moeen Ali 35, Ambati Rayudu 27; Ravi Bishnoi 2/24, Avesh Khan 2/38, Andrew Tye 2/41) **lost to Lucknow Super Giants 211/4** (Quinton de Kock 61, Evin Lewis 55 n o, KL Rahul 40; Dwayne Pretorius 2/31) **by 6 wickets.**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 31: Having recovered from his finger injury, star India batter Suryakumar Yadav has joined the Mumbai Indians ahead of their second IPL game against Rajasthan Royals, the five-time champions said Thursday.

Surya, who was undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy after suffering a finger injury during the home series against West Indies last month, missed MI's IPL opener against Delhi Capitals March 27.

"Suryakumar Yadav exited his mandatory quarantine and joined the team (Wednesday) for the gym session in the company of his mates Kieron Pollard, Ishan Kishan and Jasprit Bumrah... The mood in the camp is upbeat," MI said in a statement.

"The team underwent a strength and conditioning session yesterday under the watchful eyes of Paul Chapman. The session involved weight and fitness training, with the focus on working on core fitness and building strength."

Mumbai Indians had lost to Delhi Capitals by four wickets in their IPL

opener at the Brabourne Stadium here. Mumbai failed to defend 178 as Delhi shot off the target in just 18.2 overs, thanks to an unbroken 75-run stand between Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav for the seventh wicket.

Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah had a lacklustre outing, leaking 43 runs from 3.2 overs and it was their English debutant Tymal Mills who impressed returning with figures of 3-0-26-1. Mills struck in his very first over for MI, removing Delhi captain Rishabh Pant.

Death bowling all about mindset: Tymal Mills

As someone who employs a lot of variations to win the battle in the slog overs, Mills said it's about mindset. "Bowling at the death is a lot about the mindset. You need to want to bowl the difficult overs when the pressure is on. It is something that I enjoy," the English pacer said.

"I understand that I am not gonna come out on top every time but when I do, it is a great feeling. Obviously, practice is very important so that when you are in those pressure situations, you are confident of your execution," he added.

KKR promise bold game against PBKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 31: Kolkata Knight Riders are expected to continue with their risk-taking approach despite mixed returns when they on Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the IPL here Friday.

KKR head into Friday's game at the back of a three-wicket loss against RCB though managed to make the game close after a below-par total.

Punjab began their campaign with a win but they would expect a better bowling effort after conceding more than 200 runs in their first game. South Africa speedster Kagiso Rabada is expected to play after completing his three-day quarantine and that will give a big boost to the Punjab attack.

Batting at the Wankhede, where the track is relatively fresh, has not been easy as seen in the two games played at the venue so far.

It may be early days in the two-month long IPL but the toss is already playing a significant role in the game's outcome with dew coming into picture in the second half of the game.

Kolkata's openers, Ajinkya Rahane and the attacking Venkatesh Iyer perished cheaply against RCB and the duo would be looking to provide a strong start to the team.

While skipper Shreyas Iyer, who has been in good form despite the failure against RCB, would be an important cog in the wheel, but would need support from the likes of Nitish Rana.

For left-handed Rana, consistency would be the key. Apart from the duo, the responsibility in the middle

order needs to be shouldered by Sam Billings, Sheldon Jackson and the big-hitting Andre Russell.

The KKR line-up has batters who can tear into any attack and the management would hope that they all fire in unison against Punjab.

On the bowling front, pacer Umesh Yadav was splendid in both the games with the new ball. Experienced Kiwi bowler Tim Southee, who replaced Shivam Mavi and picked up three wickets, too has a key role to play upfront.

The concern for Kolkata would be the form of spinner Varun Chakaravathy, who needs to hit the straps quickly.

For Punjab, a lot would rest on how their top three – skipper Mayank Agarwal, flamboyant Shikhar Dhawan and Sri Lankan Bhanuka Rajapaksa, who played a match-winning cameo against RCB, perform.

While head coach Anil Kumble would expect more contributions from the middle order, the likes of Odean Smith and Shahrukh Khan proved their mettle when they steered the side home against RCB and would be keen to be among the runs again. It remains to be seen if U-19 World Cup star Raj Bawa, who failed on IPL debut, gets another chance.

Punjab bowlers came up against a marauding Faf Du Plessis in the first game and the likes of Sandeep Sharma, Arshdeep Singh and Odean Smith would need to up their game against KKR. The eight overs from spin duo of Rahul Chahar and Harpreet Brar could also make a difference in the game.

Powar's term ends as eves team coach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: Indian women's team head coach Ramesh Powar's contract has expired at the conclusion of the side's campaign in the ICC World Cup and he might have to reapply for the post as per BCCI rules.

The disastrous World Cup campaign could also lead to a radical shift in women's cricket, with National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman taking an active part in mentoring the next batch of the country's cricketers. The team failed to make the semifinals of the ongoing tournament.


Powar had replaced WV Raman, who had guided the team into the T20 World Cup final in 2020. "Powar's contract was till World Cup. There is no provision for extension. So the entire process starts with applications and interviews. Powar can certainly reapply and CAC

(Cricket Advisory Committee), as per the constitution, will take a call," a senior BCCI source told this agency on the condition of anonymity.

Eyebrows were raised after Raman wasn't given a second term after a good show with the team and Powar, who had a chequered history with skipper Mithali Raj, was brought back.


With the inaugural U-19 women's T20 World Cup scheduled next year, the BCCI is keen on preparing the next batch of players, with Laxman playing a bigger role in formulating a model for long-term success. One of the major concerns is finding veteran fast bowler Jhulan Goswami's replacement.

Laxman, and the men's team head coach Rahul Dravid, who had drawn up the NCA module, is expected to be consulted going forward.

KALINGA KE LOHE SE, KONARK SA AJOOBA

JINDAL PANTHER SARIYA AUR CEMENT



A PRODUCT OF JINDAL STEEL & POWER LIMITED

www.jindalpanther.com | sales@jindalpanther.com

Fe 550D