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Papanga: Hills, history, heritage



PRATYUSH DASH, OP

A secluded group of hills lies near a village with the same name, Papanga, in Bheden block of Bargarh district with its rocks etched with history. It had once sheltered in its lap Veer Surendra Sai during his rebellion against the British Raj. Stories of his bravery live on among the locals and carrying the pride, they happily take their guests on a hike in these hills. The easy-to-climb yet thrilling terrain of the 600-feet-high Papanga hills

makes for a perfect one-day trekking experience. The place is a go-to picnic spot for the locals, but occasional tourists from beyond the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border also come here. Months back, foreigners visiting the hills made a buzz in the locality. Now let's turn to the history lessons. Today's Bargarh district was an erstwhile stronghold of the former state of Patna. Forts here were ruled by zamindars or Pattayat kings and many mass protests or rebellions took place in the 1850s against the British government in the

region. One of Surendra Sai's most trusted associates was Bheden zamindar Manohar Singh, whose Rajbati, as the villagers call his palace, still stands. According to historians, Papanga hills were strategically used because of the location and the presence of wild vines that helped in guerrilla warfare. Secret routes and thick forest helped the fighters to hide from their enemies and attack. Even now, large boulders atop the hills' cliffs and slanting edges with rocks as stoppers indicate the

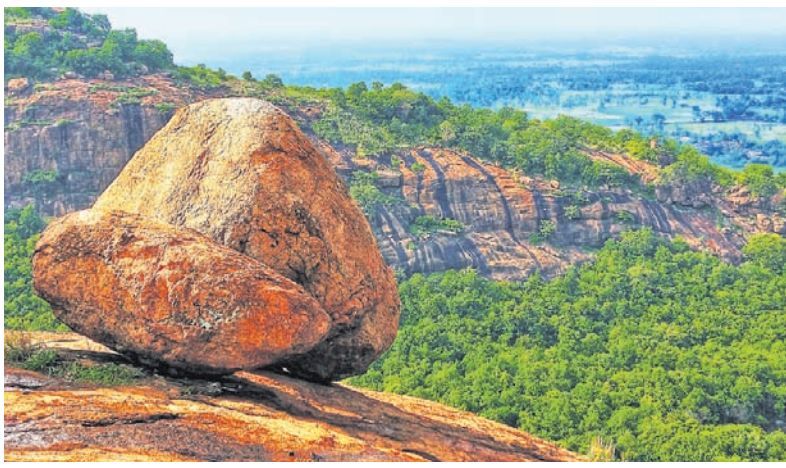
ferocity of the guerrilla wars the hills have witnessed.

The hills surround a beautiful forest garden called 'Bankhol' with a triangular natural pond with water year-round. There is a Ram temple with some hermits living in cottages. It also works as a place to catch breath. To reach here, you have to climb some 250 steps starting from the foot of the hills. A natural stream runs

by the stairs and when you look behind, you



can see swatches of paddy fields stretching till the horizon. It makes you realise, you're indeed in Bargarh, the 'Rice Bowl' of Odisha. After crossing the temple, the hilly trail leads



up to the cave and the hilltop.

The climb up the hill will excite the adventurer in you with lush foliage all around and amidst the greenery, birds and butterflies shy away while monkeys tease you. The cave, locally called Baghduel (tiger's den) evokes curiosity. You can enter the cave and inside it there is another narrow opening on the wall where one can feel the breeze blowing. As per local belief, Sai and other fighters used this secret passage (tunnel) that leads all the way to Sambalpur across the Mahanadi. The cave's roof is bliss for a thrill-monger as the sharp cliff offers a bird's eye view of the temple and the triangular pond cradled amongst the hills. A little more effort will lead you to the summit of the hill. And the panoramic view will not disappoint you. The nearby villages are seen amid a network of tiny paddy fields. On a clear day, if one turns out to be lucky, one can see the majestic 'Barpahad' ranges across the Mahanadi

that itself looks like a silver lining resembling a wriggling serpent. Technically you can see Sambalpur district standing on the hilltop in Bargarh district. The two presiding deities of the hill - 'Budharaja' and 'Khetrapal' - reside at the foot. They are worshiped on the full moon day of Chaitra every year at the hilltop and a fair takes place. Goddess Samaleswari is also worshiped here on the hill. The 'Papanga Pahad Lok Mahotsav', an annual local festival held at the foothills, has stopped for the last couple of years due to the outbreak of the pandemic. Once a tourist-magnet, the festival used to be fitting tribute to the heritage of the place. The key event on the local calendar, potent enough to be one of the best in Odisha, needs to be revived. Also, the prospect of the hill developing as a full-fledged adventure spot should be worked on. The addition of a deer park could add to the beauty of the hills.

Cuttack's unique flood management



SUMAN MOHANTY, OP

Unknown to even most of the residents of Cuttack, there stands an ancient landmark below the Ring Road encircling the city on three sides. This is the 'stone revetment', an early 11th century barricade, which protected the city from frequent floods. History has it that the Somavamsi rulers shifted their capital from Toshali (currently Bhubaneswar) to Cuttack after former Royal Nrupa Keshari founded it in 989 AD. However, the new capital was constantly inundated when the Mahanadi and its distributary Kathajodi were in spate. According to history and popular belief, around 1,000 years ago, the then Somavamsi Royal, Markat Kesari was riding on his horse in Cuttack when an elderly man named Baimundi stopped him. Baimundi appealed to the king to save Cuttack from the fury of floods of the two rivers and offered a bag of coins as his contribution for construction of a wall to protect the people of the city from flood waters. The famous local adage 'Kataka Chinta Baimundi Ku' which literally translates into 'Baimundi's concern for Cuttack' establishes the fact.

Coming up of the Ring Road on Mahanadi and Kathajodi in the 1980s, has covered most of the original stone revetment while some stretches of original stone between Sati Chaura and Chahata and between Chahata and Gadgadiah can still be seen

The elderly man's plea moved the king and he constructed the stone revetment during his rule (1005-21 AD). Huge stone blocks of different sizes were used to build the massive wall and keep the rivers on their course and not overflow their banks. The wall extended from Chahata to Gadgadiah on the right bank of Mahanadi to protect the north side and from Chahata to Purighat via Satichaura along the left bank of Kathajodi to protect the south side. A unique example of the ancient engineering skill, the gigantic stone revetment standing from a depth of water with subsequent refurbishments acted as a deterrent to the flood



fury for over thousand years now.

Andrew Stirling, an administrator-geographer, in his book 'An Account, Geographical, Statistical and Historical, of Orissa Proper, or Cuttack' published in 1822 writes that a striking characteristic of the coastal tract is its river system, which is peculiarly subject to inundation. He mentions about the incessant rainfall of 1817 and the subsequent flood in Cajori (Kathajodi). The floodwaters rose up to 18 ft in one night. This immense volume of water which was then perhaps 1.5 mile in breadth and 30-40 ft in depth topped the general level of the town by a height of nearly six feet and was only restrained from overwhelming it by a solid embankment faced with stone and supported by buttresses, the work of former Governments.

It is evident from this account that the possibility of inundation of Cuttack by floods was effectively taken care of after the protection wall was constructed. The subsequent rulers took care of its protection. Some short accounts of British engineers shed light on the condition of the structure and the steps taken during the British era for its repair and maintenance. Lieutenant John C Harris, the then executive engineer of Cuttack submitted a report mentioning the disastrous effect of floods in 1856 in Mahanadi and Kathajodi on Cuttack town and suggested remedial measures.

"The revetment may be described as an irregular line of masonry, partaking of character of a wall in some portions of a simple casting in others, constructed of large blocks of laterite and sandstone set in mud cement, and painted with lime plaster exteriorly the weight of its crest varying from 17 to 36 ft above the low waterline, and width at top and bottom respectively from 3 to 4 and 5 to 8 ft."

It is matter of speculation now about the base this wall rests on. It is not known in fact to have any foundations whatsoever. It has formed for itself by settlements, either gradual, owing to the action of gravity upon the loose soil under it, reduce as this is, during floods to a semi-fluid state or again bodily in the form of breaches after the subsidence of the waters.

Notably, Markata Keshari's original stone revetment has been buried due to repair, renovation and reconstruction during which the British officers used stone blocks from the dismantled ramparts of Barabati Fort and temple fragments. In fact, with protective works involving widening of the embankments by extending them into the river, both in the Mahanadi and Kathajodi faces and coming up of the Ring Road on it in the 1980s, has covered most of the original stone revetment. However, some stretches of original stone between Sati Chaura and Chahata and between Chahata and Gadgadiah can still be seen.



FILE PHOTOS

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HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR COMPANIES ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY WORK IN ODISHA (2020-21)

We reach out to more than 5 lakh people annually in 6 districts of Odisha. Touch 2,15,000 lives across 212 villages.

HEALTHCARE

400 Awareness Camps on Covid-19; Over 5 lakh masks, soaps, sanitisers distributed in the villages. Running of the 22-bedded state-of-the-art Utkal Hospital at Tikiri in Rayagada district with Multi-Disciplinary Healthcare Services. Also recognised as Covid Hospital & Covid Vaccination Centre. An IT-enabled Vision Care Centre at Aditya Aluminium servicing more than 10,000 people. Over 755 medical camps organised benefitting more than 75,000 people. Immunised 40,000 children.

EDUCATION

Assigned 100 teachers to 85 primary schools and provided study material to 4,200 students. Organise computer literacy programmes every six months. Set up a centralised midday meal kitchen in Keonjhar district in partnership with the Odisha Government. Midday meals given to 30,000 children every day. Solar Lamps given to 1 lakh school children. Through the NGO Swabhiman, we support the differently abled children.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Kitchen Gardens empowered 500 families. In partnership with the Government, implemented commercial vegetable farming in 178 acres of 480 farmers under 'Project Samridhi'. More than 155 SHGs formed, empowering 2000 women. Worked in collaboration with the NABARD on project Wadi for tribal farmers in 424 acres and 68 goat rearing units for landless families. Introduced Lemon grass cultivation project (with aromatic and medicinal value) in 165 acres of 131 farmers in 16 villages. 30 SHGs are engaged in Project Saksham, a sustainable livelihood initiative at Utkal Alumina.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Constructed a 50,000 kilo liter overhead tank to supply drinking water to residents of Champua subdivision in Keonjhar district. Constructing and maintaining approach roads and internal concrete roads, drains, check dams, borewells, water harvesting structures and river steps. Maintaining bathing ghats, culverts, playgrounds, health centres and community halls. Aditya Birla Group has ploughed in ₹20 Crores to help make a difference to the lives of the underprivileged in Odisha.

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Odisha most favoured destination: CM

Orissa POST and Dharitri organise **Business Eminence Awards-2022** to recognise and celebrate local entrepreneurship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 2: Inaugurating the Orissa POST-Dharitri Business Eminence Awards-2022 here, Saturday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Odisha has received over ₹4.4 lakh crore investment intents during the last three years despite Covid-19 pandemic and that the state would continue to be the most favoured destination of investors from across the globe.

After a stellar performance in the 2021-22 fiscal, Patnaik said the industry sector of Odisha is set for a 14.5 per cent growth in the current financial year.

Patnaik pointed out that “spectacular growth” of 10.1 per cent in the industry sector in 2021-22 was “way ahead” of the national GDP of 8.8 per cent in the same period.

“This is really quite a good time for our industries. I hope all entrepreneurs and top business leaders of the state will carry the momentum forward in the current financial year,” the Chief Minister said. He also congratulated Dharitri and Orissa POST for organising the event.

“Our business eco-system is one of the best in India and we will continue to make improvements to provide the best possible opportunities to people who can create jobs in our state,” he said.

Congratulating the award winners, he said they have become role models for the state's young entrepreneurs by registering achievements through the tough times of the pandemic.

Gracing the occasion as chief speaker, Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power (JSP), recalled the days of struggle while setting up



Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra flanked by Dharitri & Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and JSP Chairman Naveen Jindal during the inauguration of Business Eminence Awards-2022 in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

the first coal gasification plant in India which would shift focus of consumption of coal for power generation to manufacturing of steel.

“During our struggle of 2014-18 Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his government helped us a lot. The administration helped us run the largest steel plant in Angul where we produced more than 4.5 million tonne in last financial year,” Jindal added.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra

Mahapatra hailed Orissa POST and Dharitri for taking steps in organising such a mega event. Discussing the progressive policies taken by the state government in the last couple of years, Mahapatra stated that they are bringing up more developmental projects and policies in future.

Welcoming the guests and awardees, Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy said, “We have been constantly representing voice

Elaborating on progressive policies of the state govt, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra stated that they are bringing up more developmental projects and policies in future

of people without fear or favour. Society mostly notices achievers but rarely acknowledges the struggle that one has to face and overcome to achieve success. Observing this, we want to acknowledge and recognise the entrepreneurs and bring them to limelight through this event,” Satpathy said.

Concluding the event, Chief Executive of the newspapers Adyasha Satpathy delivered the vote of thanks.

MORE P 5, 6 & 7

Double murder: Life term for Anup Sai

AGENCIES

Raigarh, April 2: A court in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district Saturday sentenced former Odisha MLA Anup Sai to life imprisonment for the murder of a woman and her daughter in 2016.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (V) Kamlesh Jagdalla convicted Sai under IPC Sections 302 and 120B and also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on him, Public Prosecutor Deepak Sharma said. “Besides, he was also awarded 7 years rigorous imprisonment under Section 201 of the IPC along with a fine of ₹5,000. Both the sentences will run concurrently. In case of non-payment of fine, he would have to undergo an additional imprisonment of six



months in both the sentences,” he said.

Sai's driver Vardhan Toppo, who was also arrested in the case, was acquitted for lack of evidence, he added. On May 7, 2016, Raigarh police had recovered disfigured bodies of a woman and a girl from Chankaradharnagar police station area on Raigarh-Odisha road. They were later identified as Kalpana Das, 40, and her daughter Babli Das, 14, from Brajarajnagar area.

VV Yadav new SJTA chief

Bhubaneswar: In a minor reshuffle among senior bureaucrats, the state government Saturday appointed 1996-batch IAS officer Vir Vikram Yadav as new Works secretary. He has been given additional charge of Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the principal secretary to Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) department.

MORE P2

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP		
MAX	34.9°C	34.5°C
MIN	26.0°C	26.0°C
Humidity	83%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather likely	

DEEPENING CRISIS

SRI LANKA DECLARES PUBLIC EMERGENCY

■ Lankan President G Rajapaksa says it is expedient to do so in the interests of public security, protection of public order and maintenance of essential services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, April 2: Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has declared a nationwide public emergency amidst a spate of protests, including outside his house, over the worst economic crisis in the island nation.

Rajapaksa issued a special gazette notification late Friday night, declaring a public emergency in Sri Lanka with immediate effect from April 1.

In the gazette, the President states: “Whereas I am of the opinion that by reason of a public emergency in Sri Lanka it is expedient to do so in the interests of public security, the protection of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community.”

40K tonne diesel from India reaches Lanka

Colombo: A consignment of 40,000 tonne diesel from India reached Sri Lanka Saturday, the fourth such assistance from New Delhi, to mitigate the spike in power cuts in the island nation, which is facing an unprecedented economic and energy crisis caused due to shortage of foreign exchange.

The move also came as the island nation braced for country-wide protests Sunday against the government's poor handling of the ongoing economic crisis where people currently endure long hours of power outages and scarcity of essentials.

Commenting on the emergency, independent think-tank Centre for Policy Alternatives said, “Regulations may impose restrictions on certain fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution” one of them would be among others: the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, association, movement, occupation, religion, culture and language.

FUEL PRICES UP ₹7.20 IN 10 HIKES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 2: Petrol and diesel prices were Saturday hiked by 80 paise a litre each, taking the total increase in the last 12 days to ₹7.20 per litre.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost ₹102.61 per litre as against ₹101.81 previously, while diesel rates have gone up from ₹93.07 per litre to ₹93.87, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.



CITY FUEL PRICES

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DIESEL	₹99.27/litre

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending upon the incidence of local taxation.

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Expression of Interest for the Role of Facilitating Agency under Special Programme for promotion of millets in Tribal Areas in Odisha

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment is extending Special Programme for promotion of millets in Tribal Areas in Odisha (Odisha Millets Mission), Keonjhar districts. Eligible NGOs through Expression of Interest (EoI) are invited for applying for role of facilitating agency for “Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal-cum-Mining Areas of Keonjhar, Odisha under DMF & OMBADC” in 7 blocks (Sadar, Banspal, Harichandanpur, Patna, Saharapada, Ghatagaon, Telkoi).

Expression of Interest including list of proposed block and Guidelines for the programme are available at the website www.milletsodisha.com & kendujhar.nic.in in the notice section under “Tenders & Notice” in word and PDF format respectively.

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LENSMAN MURDER

Sethi confesses to assaulting Manas at Dayal Ashram

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 2: Former OIS officer and I&PR Director (Technical) Niranjana Sethi has confessed to have assaulted cameraman Manas Swain at the Dayal Ashram under the Airfield police limits here, following the latter's abduction from Palaspaur village in Bhadrak February 7, informed Crime Branch sources Saturday.

The sources also claimed that Sethi has started revealing vital information related to the gruesome murder of Manas and his role in it.

Sethi also admitted before the sleuths that he used to visit Dayal Ashram and the office of the web channel 'Sampoorna' regularly. He also confessed to have helped prime accused Sarmistha in fleeing Bhubaneswar.

"Niranjan came to Sampoorna office at about 7 pm February 7. At that time, Sarmistha, Raj, Jhuna, her husband, one person operating the computer and Sarmistha's sister in law were present in the office. Manas was brought to the office from the Ashram. Niranjana had also assaulted Manas in the office. At about 10 pm he left the office," revealed crime branch.

Sethi also told the crime branch officials that prime accused Sarmistha had met him at his residence in Prashanti Vihar before escaping to Kaliapani in Jajpur March 8. Sethi allegedly gave Sarmistha ₹10,000 and also arranged one car for taking her and Jhuna to Kaliapani.

The sleuths took Sethi and Sarmistha to Sampoorna office where the former led the team and demonstrated activities of the

persons present in the office on February 7. The cops recovered Sarmistha's mobile phone which she had left deliberately to mislead police from her rental accommodation close to her office.

Sources claimed that Sarmistha's sister-in-law who had been staying at her rental house had decamped with vital documents and other articles from the residence and office located at the flat in Sky Tower apartment here.

Sethi, Sarmistha, her accomplice Jhuna Bhoi and Ranjan Nayak will be produced before the JMFC court at Chandbali Sunday following the ending of 5-day remand period Saturday. As many as eight persons including prime accused Sarmistha and Sethi have been arrested in the sensational murder case of lensman Manas Swain.

REWARDING EXCELLENCE



Guests and awardees felicitated in the Basant Utsav celebration organised by Sarala Sahitya Sansad at Sarala Bhavan in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Gross GST collection grows 49%

Odisha's gross GST collection in March 2022 was ₹4,124.66 crore as against ₹3,285.29 crore collected during March 2021, registering a growth of 26 per cent, the highest growth rate amongst all the major states

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 2: The gross GST collection in Odisha has recorded a 49 per cent growth during the financial year 2021-22 against the collection made during the previous financial year 2020-21, officials said here Saturday.

According to the data shared by State GST Commissioner's office, the gross GST collection for the financial year 2021-22 was ₹44,334.67 crore, whereas ₹29,852.76 crore GST was collected during the previous financial year.

Odisha's gross GST collection in March 2022 was ₹4,124.66 crore as against ₹3,285.29 crore collected during March 2021, thereby registering a growth of 26 per cent. This is the highest growth rate amongst all the major states in the country, claimed the officials.

Similarly, the collection of OGST (State GST) during the last month



was ₹1,351.25 crore against the collection of ₹954.62 crore during March 2021 with a growth rate of 42 per cent. The OGST collection for the entire financial year 2021-22 was ₹12,743.01 crore whereas the state had collected ₹8,292.15 crore OGST during the previous fiscal. With this, the OGST collection during the last fiscal recorded a growth rate of 54 per cent.

There is a collection of ₹1,109.85 crore in CGST, ₹1,003.47 crore in

IGST and ₹660.09 crore in cess in the month of March this year. The officials informed that the growth in GST is mostly driven by mining and manufacturing sectors.

Among the top 100 taxpayers, while the mining sector witnessed a growth of 81 per cent, the manufacturing sector recorded 84 per cent growth during the financial year (2021-22). Similarly, the service sector, trading and work contract sector have witnessed growth of

56.78 per cent, 52.07 per cent and 36.99 per cent in the last fiscal over the corresponding period of its previous year.

The total collection from VAT for the entire year 2021-22 was ₹9,954.91 crore, which included ₹2,093.70 crore from liquor. The professional tax collection also witnessed a decent growth of 8.48 per cent with collection of ₹248.55 crore during the year.

During the year 2021-22, six accused persons have been arrested involved in availing & passing on of bogus ITC of total amounting of ₹462.49 crore. Further, 231 business premises have been raided resulting in detection of fraud and collection of tax and penalty to the tune of ₹35.74 crore on spot.

Moreover, the tax and penalty collection through mobile activities and transport godown checking was ₹23.63 crore during the fiscal.

STF seizes 310gm brown sugar, 3 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 2: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch, with the help of Jagatsinghpur police, has arrested three drug peddlers and seized contraband brown sugar weighing 310 gram during a raid near village Charnar sahi under Jagatsinghpur Town Police limits late Friday night.

The accused persons were identified as Prasanta Kumar Behera alias Mangu of Mahakalasara, Paresh Ranjan Mohanty alias Gudu of Raibarai and Tofan Kumar Mallik of Balikuda area in Jagatsinghpur. The Crime Branch also seized two motor cycles and other incriminating materials during the raid.

The accused were arrested following the registration of a case (199/22) under different sections of the NDPS Act at Jagatsinghpur Police Station for necessary legal action. This refers to Jagatsinghpur Police Station Case No. 199/2022 U/s 21(c)/29 of NDPS Act 1985. Further investigation is underway.

40 new Cov cases

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha registered 40 more coronavirus cases Saturday, pushing the tally to 12,87,701, the state Health department said in a bulletin. The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.10 per cent and the 40 new infections were detected out of 39,291 samples tested, it said. The Covid-19 death toll remained at 9,121 as no fresh fatality was reported, the bulletin said. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to data.

OLIC bags 15th Water Digest Water Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 2: The Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC), under the state Water Resources Department, won the 15th Water Digest Water Award in the Best Community Lift Irrigation Project category for the year 2021-22 for its outstanding efforts.

OLIC Managing Director-cum-Special Secretary Archana Pattnaik received the award from Union Jal



Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Sekhawati in a ceremony held at New Delhi recently.

The contribution of Community Lift Irrigation Projects in the state has empowered the diversification

into other crops, upliftment of communities, on-ground tangible changes and cost-effectiveness, ease of implementation and high social impacts. This year OLIC is going to celebrate its Golden Jubilee as well.

The OLIC received such national award for the first time in the history of Odisha. State Water Resources Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg said that the consistent effort of OLIC will achieve more success in future days.

WORLD AUTISM DAY



Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena along with Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries and senior officers of different departments put on the Autism Day Cap while observing the World Autism Day in the Lok Seva Bhawan here, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Three systems initiated at Odisha Judicial Academy



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 2: Supreme Court Judge and Chairperson of the Supreme Court's e-Committee Justice DY Chandrachud, in presence of Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar, inaugurated three initiatives namely e-Filing 3.0, Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres & Virtual Courtrooms, and Odisha Judicial Workflow Automation System at the Odisha Judicial Academy Saturday.

The e-Filing 3.0 is the latest version of the software developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the aegis of the Supreme Court's e-Committee, aimed to make case filing in electronic mode more convenient and effective for advocates and litigants. The Orissa High Court became the first high court in the country to implement

this version. This advanced version of e-Filing shall also be available in various district and taluka level courts of Odisha.

The initiative of opening Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre with Virtual Courtrooms was undertaken by the High Court at the behest of Chief Justice Muralidhar a few months back in Bhadrak and Malkangiri with the objective of providing conducive ambience to vulnerable witnesses for depositing their evidences before courts.

Virtual Courtrooms aim to introduce hybrid hearing in district courts to facilitate trials regardless of where judges, advocates, the witnesses or the accused are present. This would enable official witnesses to depose before courts at different locations without having to hamper their usual duties. Vulnerable Witness

Deposition Centres and Virtual Courtrooms shall now be available in 15 districts.

Chief Justice Muralidhar acknowledged the support provided to e-Filing by the Advocate General for State Government filings and the Asst Solicitor General for Central Government filings, and spoke about consistent efforts made by the High Court in training advocates across the state on digital services to cope up with the ICT eco system.

Justice Chandrachud hailed the initiatives spearheaded by the Odisha Chief Justice with the support of the state government, and reminded that State and Judiciary must put in bipartisan effort in the administrative workspace because they share the common mission of serving the common citizens.

IAS reshuffle: VV Yadav SJTA chief

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 2: In a minor reshuffle among senior bureaucrats, the state government Saturday appointed 1996-batch IAS officer Vir Vikram Yadav as new Works secretary. He has been given additional charge of Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the principal secretary to Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) department.

Yadav will also remain in additional charge of commissioner, Trade Promotion & Investment, member secretary of Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes and chairman of Odisha State Warehousing Corporation (OSWC), as per a notification of General Administration department.

Similarly, 1987-batch IAS officer Nikunja Kishore Sundaray has been appointed as additional chief secretary to Public Enterprises department while IFS officer Sanjeev Kumar Chadha has been appointed as special secretary to Agriculture department. Chadha will remain in additional charge as Cooperation secretary, director agricultural marketing and member secretary of OSAM board.

Central task force to synergise forest policy



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 2: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced the constitution of a task force to develop what it called "synergies" between the National Forest Policy, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and National Agro-Forestry Policy. "It has been decided to constitute a Task Force under the chairmanship of Director General, Forests and Special Secretary to study and analyse the National Forest Policy, 1988, the proposed National Forest Policy, proposed amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the current regulatory regimes

on agro-forestry/tree outside forests across the country, in order to make recommendations to develop synergies for promotion of sustainable development and management of forests and trees outside forests in the country," the Ministry said in an Office Memorandum issued Thursday night.

The task force with a tenure of two months will submit its report in 60 days. If needed, it can co-opt any member, the memorandum noted.

Most of the proposed members of the 19-member task force are either directly or indirectly part of the Ministry with only three from outside this circle.

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A SEAT OF TANTRIC CULT

KUANSA MANGALA, ONCE AN IMPORTANT SEAT OF TANTRIC CULT, HAS SCULPTURALLY AND TRADITIONALLY UPHELD A COHESION OF MULTIPLE FAITHS AND CULTURES LINKED TO SHAIVISM, BUDDHISM, JAINISM AND SHAKTA



HIMANSU ROUT,OP

A large number of tourists and devotees visit Biraja temple in Jajpur, one of the ancient seats of tantric cult, but many of them hardly set their foot on another ancient Shakti Peetha nearby - Kuansa Mangala, about 18 km away from Jajpur town and three km from Dasrathpur block.

The shrine was once an important seat of tantric cult. This shrine has sculpturally and traditionally upheld a cohesion of multiple faiths and cultures linked to Shaivism, Buddhism, Jainism and Shakta.

However, locals and culture aficionados say lack of proper and in-depth research have failed to ferret out much about the shrine. Tourists and devotees keen to know about the shrine have to return disappointed.

Kunasa Mangala is a five foot-high image of Goddess Durga with eight hands. It is carved out of a single block of black stone. Its architectural design is so fine and delicate that the glossy stone statue easily draws attention of the tourists outside the temple, locals said.

However, three hands of the Goddess are broken. It is believed that the idol



was vandalised by foreign invaders. The remaining hands of the Goddess have various weapons. The image of the Goddess is posed in battle position - killing demon Mahishasura and another demon Raktabija.

"Inside the temple is a Shiva Linga of Gadeswar Mahadev. What is most surprising is that though there are stone images of Goddess Parvati and Lord Kartikeya, many wonder about the missing of statue of Lord Ganesha, the most lovable son of Shiva and Parvati," said Rabinranath Samal, a culture en-

thusiast. Here, Devi Parvati has four hands while two hands have Ketaki flowers. The deity is flanked by her female servants and a lion. The idol of Kartikeya was also broken.

Another deity -- Sasthi Devi -- finds a place on the temple premises. Below the stone idol, 58 warriors in battle gears have been nicely carved out. On one side of this idol is a statue of Lord Buddha, apart from five statues of Jain Tirthankaras.

At nearby village Nandipur, there is a broken stone statue of Lord Ganesha with his carrier mouse. However, villagers worship it as a Goddess.

On outer premises of the Kuansa Mangala temple are two statues. One of them looks like a royal scion while another idol, half broken with matted hair, is worshipped as Yogini by locals.



Here, locals make sacrificial offerings to the Yogini. They give sacrificial blood on the idol on the occasion of Chaitra Parba. "There are two stone pitchers at the shrine. These pitchers represent Kubera (the Lord of wealth)," said researcher Jagabandhu Padhi.

Another one-and-a-half-foot high stone statue is of Sadhabhuja Mahisa Mardini (eight-armed Goddess). "This idol is marvelous. The Goddess is armed with a spear, a sword, a chopping blade, an arrow (snake). With one hand, the Goddess has gripped the hair of demon Mahishasura," said culture researcher Narayan Routray, lamenting that over 14 broken stone sculptures, including four statues of lions are lying scattered around the temple. One of them resembles the top part of a broken temple.

It is believed that another temple used to exist nearby, but has crumbled over the years for lack of preservation. It was alleged that scores of stones of the temple have been stolen away.

But there have been no efforts to preserve these ancient sculptures, he rued.

Locals suggested that tourists coming to Biraja Temple can also visit Kuansa Mangala if proper information plaques and guide maps are set up near Biraja temple.

Rout also stated that Biraja Kehtra and its nearby areas have scores of sculptural heritage lying unprotected.

Culture enthusiasts like Ghana Parida, Biraja Bal, Minaketan Ray and Rabinranath Samal observed that the tourism department and archaeological department can do a lot of developmental works for the temple to exploit its tourism potential. The place has been neglected while there is need for research on the antiquity of the shrine so that people would get to know more about it.

After asteroid impact, mammals got bigger before they got smarter

In the aftermath of the asteroid impact 66 million years ago that doomed the dinosaurs, it appears that brawn was more important

than brains for the mammals that managed to survive the calamity and conquer a changed world. Researchers have said an analysis of fossils

of mammals from the Paleocene Epoch - spanning the 10 million years after the asteroid wiped out three-fourths of Earth's species - found that

while their bodies got much bigger, their brain size relative to body mass actually declined. The findings contradict the notion that it was intelligence that drove mammals - bit players during the age of dinosaurs - to become the planet's new rulers following the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous Period.



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#Better Everyday

“Each victory gained over oneself means new strength to gain more victories.”

SRI AUROBINDO



Where we’ve arrived

On Saturday the prices of fuel were raised again, the tenth time in the last 12 days. But this is not especially the subject of much debate in the media. The Opposition has tried to raise the issue of inflation, which several surveys have claimed is the single most important issue for Indians, along with unemployment.

For some reason there is no traction on this at the moment. The Congress in Karnataka said last week that “it is a cause of concern that people-related issues are being ignored in the frenzy stoked by communal elements” and that “we can only raise pertinent issues. However, we can move forward only with public support.” This means that little or no enthusiasm for opposing the price rise was forthcoming from the public.

The state’s former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy of the Janata Dal (Secular) said of this phenomenon that “people are prosperous under Modi’s rule and that is probably why they are not protesting against price rise.” The case is similar with unemployment. A Union government survey from just before the 2019 election showed that joblessness in 2018 was at a 50 year high of 6 per cent. It has remained above that since then for four years but like with fuel and LPG prices, there appears to be no way for it to become a subject of politics.

It would be interesting to examine why it is that the Opposition cannot mobilise public support on something that is clearly in the public’s interest. The first of their hurdles is the issue with the media. The structure of Indian media is that it is heavily dependent on the government, for licenses, for advertising and for other favours. Mass media in India is owned by corporates which have many other companies and treat their media outlets as an extension of their larger business interests. This is why most of them sound like government mouthpieces. This could be one reason why the ruling party feels no pressure, but it is not the only one.

Another could be that the Opposition leaders are not competent at mobilising against the ruling party. Perhaps this is true but it cannot be entirely true. The BJP has not won all states and it is not possible to claim that it has total dominance over the polity. Some space for Opposition exists, but on this issue it does not appear to be gaining mass support. In Pakistan, Imran Khan’s government has become unpopular and is about to fall because of inflation. In India, with fuel prices lower than in Pakistan, the government continues to remain popular.

What other reasons can we ascribe to this unusual phenomenon? Let us hear again from the Opposition what they say. In Karnataka, the focus has been on introducing the Bhagavad Gita in schools, banning the hijab and keeping Muslim girls out of school, on the controversy over a movie on Kashmir, on banning halal meat, and banning non-Hindus from trading at temple festivals. There is no doubt that these are popular issues, meaning that the public is interested in reading and watching news about them. They are certainly the dominant issues if we examine how much time the media spends on them. What India’s political parties are saying is that these issues are more important to many and perhaps most Indians than fuel prices and LPG prices and unemployment. The ruling party is saying this by pushing for communal issues constantly and the Opposition is saying it by admitting that non-communal issues have no traction.

How long does such a state continue and what does this mean for our future? A couple of years ago, I wrote a book whose thesis was that Hindutva has no end state. Meaning that there is no particular goal that it wants to achieve. It does not seek, for instance, to drastically change or scrap the Constitution, because current law gives it enough space to be able to do what it wants. Its only aim is a constant stirring of the communal pot. And there is always something to be used here. Today beef, tomorrow namaz, the third day Sunday mass, (which has also been attacked by Hindu organisations in Karnataka) the fourth day hijab, the fifth day halal, the sixth day love jihad.

On April 2, Uttar Pradesh announced that all meat shops would be shut for the entire duration of Navratri till April 10. Why? Because other people buying and eating meat offends some Hindus. There will be no shortage of things we have to torture our minorities and for this reason it will continue like this. Because India is a democratic nation, our discourse is disproportionately focussed on political victory and defeat. Very little thought is given to what happens after elections and between elections. For a writer, India in the current times provides rich and fascinating material but as a citizen it is disheartening to see where we have arrived.

WISDOM CORNER

- “Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children.”

KAHLIL GIBRAN
- “I am certain of nothing but the holiness of the heart’s affections, and the truth of imagination.”

JOHN KEATS
- “I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.”

PABLO PICASSO

WORDSWORTH

■ Slipshod

In the beginning, around the middle of the sixteenth century, there was the word slip-shoe, about which there is nothing mysterious. It was simply a shoe that one could easily slip on or off, one that English speakers even then also called a slipper. A little later in the same century, a person who wore a slip-shoe began to be described – naturally enough – as slip-shod. Within a few decades, however, it began to take on the negative associations that have remained with it down the generations. A person who was described as slip-shod was wearing shoes that weren’t suitable for polite company because they were literally down at heel, shabby, over-loose or untidy. Our modern meaning of some activity that was lacking in care, badly organised or slovenly came about in the nineteenth century. Writers were the first to suffer its disapprobrium, with critics describing what they felt was “slipshod English”; the wider sense grew out of this. Most of us have forgotten – or never knew – the connection between slip-shod and those comfortable sixteenth-century slip-on shoes, whose shabbiness and unfashionableness has bequeathed the language a useful term.

LOL

Dealing with a juggler

A juggler driving to his next performance was stopped by the police. “What are those knives doing in your car?” asked the officer. “I juggle them in my act.”



“Oh yeah?” says the cop. “Let’s see you do it.”

So the juggler starts tossing and juggling the knives. A guy driving by sees this and says, “Wow, am I glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they’re making you do now!”

FOCUS

GEOPOLITICS

TAIWAN’S FATAL ATTRACTIONS



Chang-Tai Hsieh

TAIWAN’S POOR CHOICE OF FRIENDS IS NOT LIMITED TO AMERICAN POLITICIANS

In the same week that Taiwanese took to the streets to repudiate Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Taiwan’s leaders rolled out the red carpet for a visit by former US President Donald Trump’s secretary of state, Mike Pompeo. This is the same man who, together with Trump, withheld military aid from Ukraine to pressure its government to initiate a bogus investigation into Joe Biden’s son, and who then fired the US ambassador to Ukraine when she refused to go along with the extortion attempt.

The jarring juxtaposition of these two events – the Taiwanese people supporting a fellow democracy while their leaders lavished praise on the man who undermined that democracy’s security – reflects a reckless willingness to embrace any foreign politician who will “stand with Taiwan.” Taiwanese leaders are focused so intently on gaining international recognition that they ignore the key threat Taiwan faces: an invasion by China similar to what Russia has done in Ukraine.

Taiwan’s development over the past few decades has been truly miraculous, even in a region with some of the most successful countries in the world. Within the span of a generation, Taiwan has grown from a poor, primarily agrarian society with an authoritarian regime into a vibrant democracy boasting some of the world’s most important companies, such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). Even more remarkably, this transformation occurred in the absence of formal diplomatic ties or participation in international organisations such as the United Nations.

But Taiwan has continued to push for formal diplomatic recognition and participation in international forums. If that requires embracing figures like Pompeo – who used his latest visit to declare that the United States should extend formal diplomatic recognition to Taiwan – so be it.

Taiwan’s poor choice of friends is not limited to American politi-



Taiwanese leaders are focussed so intently on gaining international recognition that they ignore the key threat Taiwan faces: an invasion by China similar to what Russia has done in Ukraine

cians. When multilateral lenders cut off Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega’s corrupt regime following its brutal crackdown on protesters, Taiwan stepped in with a \$100 million loan to the dictator. And in November 2021, Taiwan hosted then-Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, even though it was widely known that Hernández was involved in drug trafficking (in March 2022, he was indicted on federal drug charges in the US). Both Nicaragua and Honduras belong to the small minority of UN member states that formally recognize Taiwan as a sovereign country.

Obviously, Taiwan cannot be both a beacon of democracy and a financier of “white terror” operations in other countries. It cannot claim to stand with the world’s democracies if it is also going out of its way to support US politicians who have threatened and undermined democratic regimes both abroad and at home. Such behaviour not only betrays the democratic ideals that Taiwan stands for; it also ignores the threat that Taiwan faces from China.

That threat outweighs all others. The central goal of Taiwan’s for-

eign policy, therefore, should be to deter China from pursuing the kind of reckless aggression that Russian President Vladimir Putin has launched in Ukraine.

For Taiwan, effective deterrence has two components. First, China must be made to understand that it would pay a high price – militarily, economically, and diplomatically – were it to invade. Taiwan and the rest of the world’s democracies must make it absolutely clear that the day China invades Taiwan would also be the day China gives up on Deng Xiaoping’s programme of “reform and opening up.” Second, Taiwan must avoid actions that would put Chinese leaders in an impossible situation. Specifically, it must not formally declare its independence or seek to secure membership in the UN.

Deterrence has been effective so far, but it now faces two major challenges. First, America’s own strategic disengagement from China may eventually lead Chinese leaders to conclude that they have little to lose – at least in terms of China’s ties to the rest of the world – by taking Taiwan by force. Although there is not much that

Taiwan can do about the battle between the two superpowers, it should think twice before embracing US politicians whose only interest in Taiwan is to use it as a cudgel against China.

The second challenge comes from Taiwan’s push for formal recognition. A critical part of deterrence is to avoid actions that would give China an excuse to attack. UN membership or formal diplomatic recognition by the US would be viewed as a step on the path to formal independence. That could force China’s hand, because no Chinese leader could survive if he did nothing in response to such a step.

Pompeo’s statement of support for formal diplomatic ties between the US and Taiwan is thus extremely reckless, as is the Taiwan leadership’s decision to give him a platform to disseminate that message. The strong ties between Taiwan and the US would not be made any stronger if Taiwan’s representative office in Washington, DC, were to change its name to “Embassy of Taiwan.” On the contrary, formal diplomatic recognition would leave China no choice but to sever ties with the US, an outcome that would ultimately endanger Taiwan.

Taiwan’s most important international relationships are with Japan and the US, neither of which has formal diplomatic ties with the island. The strength of these relationships is rooted in trade, business ties, and millions of people-to-people exchanges. These are what matter – not UN speeches or 21-gun salutes during formal state visits. Taiwan must not confuse the trappings of nationhood with the reality of nationhood. It should focus on strengthening a status quo that has enabled it to prosper, and it should politely decline future overtures from craven opportunists and authoritarians.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

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SPECTRUM

TRADE

Exports at \$400bn: The party has just begun



Bikash Narayan Mishra

MUCH OF THE UPSWING IS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Indeed, it’s a big milestone. India’s merchandise exports have achieved a remarkable landmark by surpassing the \$400 billion mark for the first time in 2021-22. This is significantly higher than the previous high of \$330 billion in FY2019. This does call for celebration. The continuation of pandemic for two years not only affected our domestic growth but also exports. In the last fiscal, our merchandise exports, like our GDP, went down. So, this marks a kind of rebound after a 7 per cent decline.

The growth this year can be attributed to, inter alia, a stellar performance by sectors like engineering goods, electronics, gems & jewellery, chemicals and petroleum products. All these sectors have benefitted from a strong global recovery. Besides the export basket was widened to farm produce with India emerging as a major supplier of food or essential agriculture products. Liquidity measures announced by the government for MSMEs, which contribute for over 40 per cent of exports; especially the (ECLGS) emergency credit line guarantee schemes came to the rescue of export-oriented units and the MSME sector in general in a big way by helping them deal with their working capital bottlenecks. Undoubtedly, a sustained robust growth in merchandise ex-

ports can go a long way to provide the much-needed fillip to the Indian economy.

Our states have also started playing a more active role on this front in boosting exports. To continue the success story, we need to critically introspect what brought us to this comfort zone and what challenges lie ahead. Much of the upswing is a consequence of the global economic recovery. Things were indeed looking up and the whole world was looking forward to a long phase of peace and prosperity post pandemic. But that was not to be. The story has become a bit shaky post the Ukraine crisis. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has changed the geopolitical environment raising questions over sustainability of such growth. India has benefitted from the rebound in the US and the EU economies with higher demands for Indian goods. The Western market resistance to Chinese goods also helped India. Even as India will continue to have this advantage of Western countries remaining away from Chinese goods the geopolitical changes have brought some uncertainties. Apart from this, the ongoing war has already started its adverse impact on the oil front. This is going to worsen our trade deficit and further widen the current account deficit. The inter-

national oil prices are likely to remain elevated. As per latest information made available by government sources while we are likely to end up with merchandise exports of over \$410 billion this fiscal, India’s merchandise imports, thanks to increase in oil prices, is likely to be over \$600 billion. The Ukraine crisis has affected global supply chains and is likely to pose fresh risks to Indian exporters. Shipping costs have gone up across the countries.

We are a huge country – a country of 1.40 billion people; more than the whole of Europe and the USA. In fact, if the population of the whole of South America is also added we will stand near to the aggregate population of all these three distinct geographical entities. So, although we should make all efforts to sustain the growth in exports perhaps, we cannot exclusively depend on export-led growth. We are not a Hong Kong, Taiwan or Singapore where export-led growth did happen in the post-World War II period. We are a huge country. The principal drivers of growth will continue to be domestic demand and investments, especially government investment, to make the growth more inclusive. It again depends on the ability of the government to spend on projects with high employment

generation potential. This automatically will push domestic demand. With removal of the supply bottlenecks, we can be back in the high growth trajectory once again. Exports can play a subsidiary yet very important role. If we are able to maintain the present tempo and consolidate the gains, our trade/current account deficits can be put on check. As is well known, a current account deficit in international trade has a repercussion on domestic fiscal deficit.

Moreover, while the latest exports numbers are encouraging this will only raise India’s share in the global merchandise exports from just 1.6 per cent in 2020 and 1.7 per cent in the pre-pandemic year of 2018. Therefore, a sustained surge in exports for a few years will be crucial for India to regain its lost glory in global trade. We have a negligible market share by every standard. With the Chinese goods at a disadvantage in the West we need to increase the competitiveness. We must also seek deeper integration with global value chains. In order to do that we also need to look closely at the import tariff side which of late has seen sustained increase in the recent past.

The writer is a senior adviser at the Indian Banks’ Association. Views are personal.

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, Rasulguri Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

BJP’s Rajya Sabha feat

Sir, This refers to “BJP tally crosses 100-mark in RS”, **Orissa POST**, April 2. For some time, it has been clear that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was on its way to gaining a majority on its own in both chambers of Parliament, on the back of its back-to-back victories in the Lok Sabha, and consistent performances in state elections – despite some setbacks in south and east. In contrast, the Opposition space was in greater disarray, with the Congress having fallen to less than half of its tally in 2014, and performing poorly in the state polls. This meant that the Congress was no longer the natural leader of the Opposition in the Upper House. However, a key victor was the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which won all five seats in Punjab on the back of its landslide Assembly poll victory and which is now expected to stake a stronger claim to the national Opposition mantle. Also, with these elections, the BJP crosses 100 seats in the Rajya Sabha for the first time in its history. The NDA is now within striking distance of the majority mark of 123 – though as key legislation such as the triple talaq bill or nullification of Article 370 showed, it is adept at manoeuvring friendly non-NDA parties to its advantage. But this hegemonic status also raises questions about the quality of scrutiny key bills will receive, and whether the Opposition can remain an effective check on the government. Not since the Congress’ heyday has one party dominated both Houses of Parliament. India’s democracy is entering a critical phase.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Safety first

Sir, On January 13 this year, the Bikaner-Guwahati express train derailed near Domohani in West Bengal’s Jalpaiguri district, killing nine passengers and injuring 50. A study by NITI Aayog reveals that since 2012, six out of every 10 rail accidents in India have happened due to mistakes by or the negligence of the railway staff. Self-evidently, safety must be the highest priority of railway network. Figuratively, over 700,000 people work on safety-related operations at the country’s largest employer. A minor slip by any one of them, or a single blemish in the roughly 68,000-km track-length, criss-crossing the country, can affect one or more of 10,000-odd locomotives, 63,000 plus coaches and 245,000 wagons, endangering the 23 million passengers and 3 million tonnes of freight that the network carries every day.

Ranganathan sivakumar, CHENNAI

MOODS...MOMENTS



1—Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra lights the inaugural lamp of the second edition of Business Eminence Awards as its chief guest in presence of the event's chief speaker Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) Chairman Naveen Jindal, Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy and the newspapers' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

2&8—Awardees and audience at the event

3,4,5&6—Suresh Mahapatra, Naveen Jindal, Tathagata Satpathy and Adyasha Satpathy address the gathering

7— Naveen Jindal being greeted by Tathagata Satpathy and Adyasha Satpathy

9,10&11—Guests and award recipients share a light moment

12—The JSP Chairman and Chief Secretary in a conversation



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Padmashree Dr Chaturbhuja Meher, Mehers', received the award from Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and Jindal Steel and Power Chairman Naveen Jindal in the presence of **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** Editor Tathagata Satpathy

Entrepreneurs play a key role in the economic development of a country. They not only bring in innovations but also create employment opportunities for others. **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** honoured some of the top business minds of Odisha in the second edition of Business Eminence Awards held in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



Purshotam Budhbraja, Narayani Motors, was felicitated by chief guest Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and chief speaker Naveen Jindal



Achyutananda Meher, Arundhati Hero, received the trophy



Aditya Dash
Ram's Assorted Cold Storage Limited



Akhil Poddar
Utkal Auto



Amit Agarwal
Riddhi Siddhi



Anil Kumar Agrawal
Orissa Twin City Builder Pvt. Limited



Dr Arijit Mohapatra
Jagannath Hospital



Ashok Jalan, Odyssey Motors, received the award from Kandhamal MP and KIIT- KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta



Avinash Chhapolia
GRC Garments Pvt. Limited



Bichitrnanda Senapati
Homefills



Binod Dash
Synergy Institute of Technology



Biswa Chetan Mishra
Hallmark Ornaments Pvt. Limited



Charchit Mishra
OSL Group



D Murli Krishna
Vikash Group of Institutions



Deepak Kumar Sharma
Ujjwal Bajaj



Prof Dr. Krupasindhu Panda
HCG Panda Cancer Hospital



Kalinga Keshari Rath
EVOS Buildcon Private Limited



Lalatendu Mohanty (R), Priyadarshini, received the award from MGM Minerals Chairman Pankaj Lochan Mohanty



Lipsa Hans
Chandi Bhandar



M Keshav Rao
Greenchillyz



Mahendra Gupta
Gupta Power & Infrastructure Limited



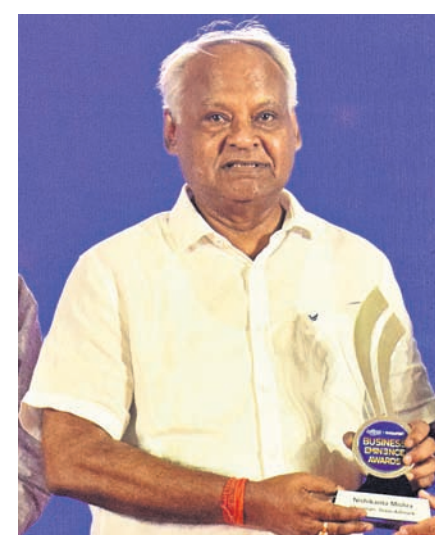
Mala Mishra, Pro Vice Chairperson, DPS Kalinga, received the award from Naveen Jindal



Manoranjan Das
PMG Motors



Natwar Kumar Banka
Hotel Welcome Resort



Nishikanta Mishra
Team Admark



Prabhu Charan Mohanty
St. Xavier's Group of Schools



Dr Pradip Kumar Mohanty
Sadbhava Medical & Research Centre(P) Ltd



Pradosh Kumar Rout
Pragati Milk Products Pvt. Limited



Pramod Chandra Rath
Pramod Convention and Club Resort



Dr Prakash Chandra Dalai (C), Gastro & Kidney Care Hospital, was felicitated by Tapan Kumar Chand, President, Business Development and Strategy, Vedanta Limited, Odisha and Chhattisgarh



Pratap Balabantaray
BIITM



Sanjay Didwania
Provisuals



Sanjay Kumar Das
Hari Udyog Pvt. Limited



Shloke Sen
Supersales Motors



Sourav Roy
Radhagobinda Roy and Grandson



Sriram Panda
MITS Group of Institutions



Dr Subhash Chandra Nayak
NIIS Group of Institutions

FORTUNE FORECAST



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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES



If you are aiming to marry soon, you can start making preparations today. However, before you take the final decision, it would be better to look at both sides of the coin, advises Ganesha. Activities related to such an alliance will dominate today, and by the end of the day you may feel very elated.

TAURUS



This day appears to be earmarked for a long shopping spree. Ganesha sees you doing the rounds of malls, markets, dollar stores and bargain counters. You are likely to be happily busy in haggling over prices, trying to get the best deals for your purchases. Before you are done you would have bought tons of stuff.

GEMINI



A progressive day awaits you. However, you need to keep yourself in check when enjoying yourself. You will spend time with your friends and family and bond emotionally. Do not neglect your family members in the group activities that you take up, says Ganesha.

CANCER



Today, your ability to think clearly in the most adverse conditions will be your key weapon as you get cornered by unrelenting assaults of work and deadlines. The clarity will reflect in your work as you deal with inhuman work pressure.

LEO



Your children's health may be a cause of concern today, says Ganesha. The best way to put your and your family's fears to rest would be by paying a quick visit to the doctor. As always, kids remain a surprise package of delights; the happiness of your children shall double your joy as a parent.

VIRGO



Ganesha foretells that you will start off on a long, arduous path to success. Some tough work will play a vital role in your progress. Don't cut corners, and your labours will pay rich dividends and you will reap due rewards.

LIBRA



Nothing overshadows your love for your children today. And love is precisely what drives you incessantly to give them the best possible of everything. Be it special classes for that extra edge in education, or a visit to a holy place to seek divine blessing, you will do it all today. And spending time with children isn't all – you may end up taking a small but sweet trip in the evening, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO



There are strong indications that today you will be receptive and sensitive towards the needs of other people. Negative vibes will disrupt your thinking, and you will rely on the company of close friends to keep you in good cheer. Do not succumb to the pessimism that might cloud your thought today as it is only a passing phase, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS



Those around you will be impressed by the leader in you. You are the general and others will rally at your call to arms. And all the while, you swing your sword and make your way to the top, defying all odds.

CAPRICORN



Despite repeated failures, very few realise that the key to success is in having the patience of a saint. Vexation invariably leads to an outburst which, in turn, can ruin your reputation and future prospects in innumerable ways. Today, Ganesha advises you to keep your calm and smile back even if faced with an adverse situation.

AQUARIUS



Optimism rules today, and you are assured of your success. You are not usually affected by others' opinions, and that is how it should be. But you must keep in mind the inconvenience your decisions may cause people. Any stress or tension will vanish in the arms of your beloved, says Ganesha.

PISCES



The focus today will be on self-improvement. You may find yourself attending seminars or workshops. Self-employed people are likely to find lucrative deals landing in their laps in the afternoon.

ACTOR CHRIS PINE LOVES TAKING BALLET LESSONS

Actor Chris Pine regrets not starting the ballet classes 'years ago' and described it as an 'incredible' form of exercise. The 41-year-old actor told *People* magazine: "I love it. I wish I'd done it years ago. It's an incredible workout."

THE DREW BARRYMORE SHOW RENEWED FOR 3RD SEASON

The *Drew Barrymore Show* has been renewed for a third season. The 47-year-old actress, who began hosting her self-titled daytime talk show back in 2020, says she is honoured and grateful that it will be returning for the 2022-23 season.

Cycle, skating rallies mark World Autism Awareness Day in City

Bhubaneswar: Zain Foundation Trust in collaboration with SEN Global KIIT International School organised a cycle and skating rally here Saturday to observe the World Autism Awareness Day. SEN Globe, which takes care of the special education needs of autistic kids in KIIT, is the only outfit in Odisha that addresses learning disability of special children. Around 200 cyclists and skaters of Iron Monk Sporting Solution and students of KIIT International School and KISS participated in the event to support the initiative. The event was flagged off by Social Security & Empowerment of Persons With Disabilities (SSEPD) Minister Ashok Chandra Panda,

Students took out a cycle rally, organised by Zain Foundation Trust in collaboration with SEN Global KIIT International School, Saturday

Kandhamal MP and KIIT-KISS Founder Achyuta Samanta, Chairperson of KIIT Int'l School Mona Lisa Bal, Director, Intelligence, Odisha Police Lalit

Das and Founder of Zain Foundation Trust Gargi Bhattacharya. "Statistics suggest that one in every 38 children suffers from

autism. Therefore, our main objective is to include people with autism in the main stream of society," said Gargi. Samanta was of the view that autistic children, more than any-

thing else, need love and affection of the parents and guardians. Minister Ashok Panda said that SSPED department on the occasion of World Autism Awareness day had organised rally for autistic chil-

dren. Minister Panda said as many as 104 special schools are functioning in Odisha to address the needs of the special children. State Institute for Empowerment of Persons with disabilities is preparing special training module for these kids, he added. **Awareness drive by SSEPD** Meanwhile, SSEPD also organised an awareness rally in the City which kicked off at Ram Mandir Square and culminated at Bhima Bhoi School for The Blind. Attending the event Minister Panda said, "People should realise that autism is a neurological disorder which makes the kids suffer socially. So, there is an urgent need to bring them into the mainstream of society."

SSEPD organised an awareness event near Ram Mandir Square

OP PHOTO

Shraddha charms netizens with her 'Gudi Padwa' look

Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor on the special occasion of 'Gudi Padwa' donned the traditional Nauvari saree that holds special meaning to the actress. For those unaware, the Nauvari celebrated the strength and fighting spirit of a woman. Traditionally worn by women to fight in wars back in the day, the saree allowed for mobility and

strength and power. It was also worn by women to fight in wars back in the day, as it allowed mobility and freedom of movement." She also took to her social media, sharing pictures of herself dressed in a beautiful Nauvari saree. On the work front, Shraddha will be seen in Luv Ranjan's as-yet-untitled film alongside Ranbir Kapoor. In addition, she also has Pankaj Parashar's *Chaalbaaz* in London and Vishal Furia's *Nagin* coming up next.

IAN S

Janhvi brutally trolled for 'copying' Kim Kardashian

Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor was among the who's who of the showbiz industry attending a recently concluded awards ceremony in Mumbai. The B-town starlet who made her Hindi film debut in 2018 with the romantic drama *Dhadak*, made a fashion statement in a shimmery silver number on the red carpet. She sported a sexy Falguni and Shane outfit that fitted well and accentuated her curves. The plunging neckline of the attire and the no accessories look lent

Janhvi's overall look for the event a sexy and chic vibe, respectively. Janhvi opted to tie her hair in a neat and long ponytail. However, the look did not go down too well with netizens who called her out for trying to copy Kim Kardashian. Some even called her 'sasti Kylie Jenner.' "Aapni local Kim Kardashian," wrote an Instagram user: "It's just me who thinks she trying to look like Kim Kardashian?" wrote another. "India's kim," wrote another Instagram user "Lol She's trying very hard to be Kardashian/ Jenner please someone tell her she can't," wrote yet another user. A section of social media users even speculated if Janhvi had gone under the knife and gotten body surgery done.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS

CALVIN AND HOBBS

BREVITY

FUN post

CROSSWORD

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Across

7 Vanity object

8 On base

9 Switchblade

10 Vigour

11 Tavern item

13 Quagmire

16 French vineyard

17 Postal need

20 Proclaim

21 Engage

23 Jettison

24 Thief

Down

1 Plate

2 Confidential

3 Picayune

4 Pudding type

5 Clergy's concern

6 Salty treats

12 Olympic runner

14 Qualifiers, in speech or writing

15 Sand dollars, e.g.

18 Man of steel?

19 Keypad key

22 Destroy

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Blazes spread in Sambalpur forests

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, April 2: Local residents expressed their deep concern Saturday after wildfires recently erupted in four forests including Godloisingh, Jujumura, Basiapada and Bhimkhoj under Sadar range of Sambalpur.

Despite bringing it to the knowledge of Forest officials in the district, the latter seems to have taken no step to douse the blazes that pose serious threat to the wild animals and people living in adjoining villages, the residents alleged.

The forest fire was witnessed even in Dhama and Padia Bahal under Sambalpur division, including Sadar range.

“It is a gross negligence on part of forest officials concerned. Usually due to man-made causes, wildfires are seen every year from the middle of March to April end. Even as the department is quite aware of it, a number of forests in Sambalpur are still on fire,” some of the local residents rued.

According to a source, several Vana Surakhya Samitis (VSSs) were earlier formed with a view to restore lost forest covers as well as to protect existing forests in the district. Members of the Samitis were trained and provided with fire-fighting equipment for effective and real time control of wildfires.

Odisha government spends lakhs of rupees for the purpose and even then the target is not met due to embezzlement of the funds.



FOREST DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO TWO FACTIONS. KENDU LEAF AND TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS LACK PROPER COORDINATION AMONG THEM

THE KENDU LEAF DIVISION IS ALLEGEDLY ASKING PEOPLE TO SET THE FORESTS ABLAZE, IN ORDER TO ENHANCE ITS PRODUCTION

Most of the times, Forest officials blame it on the public.

Besides, setting any forest on fire is a criminal offence and hence punishable. Neither the Samitis, nor the Forest department personnel seem to be discharging their duties and responsibilities properly.

When contacted, Sambalpur divisional forest officer (DFO) Biswanath Nilambar said,

“Provisions of special squads have already been made at range levels for dousing fires and around 80 percent of the wildfire has been brought under control.” On the other hand, some residents also alleged that few unscrupulous personnel of the department themselves have set the forests on fire with some evil intentions.

Forest department has been divided into two factions. Kendu leaf and territorial divisions lack proper coordination among them. The Kendu leaf division is asking people to set the forests ablaze, in order to enhance its production.

On the contrary, territorial division spends lakhs of rupees towards wildfire control, the locals stated.

Reacting to this, Rairakhole DFO Ramakant Nayak admitted it saying, “Some employees of the Kendu

5 days on, wildfires continue to wreak havoc in Nuapada

Nuapada: Five days have passed since fires broke out in some forests of Nuapada district. The fires are spreading to new areas and the Forest department's efforts have failed to contain the blaze. Wildfires in three reserve forests of Nuapada district have destroyed scores of trees, bushes and valuable plants. Wildfires have been reported in Lankeswari hill, Mungi and Muramuri reserve forests, 3 km from NH-353. Fires have been raging in these forests for the last three days. Meanwhile, the Forest department has taken steps to douse fires. It has deployed altogether 30 teams in three ranges – 10 teams each in Komna, Sunabeda and Nuapada

ranges. As the fires keep on spreading, people living in nearby villages are panicked about possible impacts of wildfires. Earlier, groups of people from nearby Bharuamunda, Mahulabhatta, Bhatipada and Sihnamunda had initiated their efforts to bring the fires under control, but it was not possible on their part to contain the blaze. Villagers alleged that though the Forest department had been reminded of the fires several times, the latter did not care a fig for this. They pointed out that as fires keep spreading wild animals are seen breaking out of their forest habitats to end up in the hands of poachers and stray dogs in villages.

leaf division are behind the inferno. Recently, we had arrested two of them for torching forests. They did this with an intention to get good yield of Kendu leaves.”

However, territorial division in Sambalpur district is keeping strict vigil on the situation. Legal action will be taken whosoever will be found at fault, Nayak asserted.

It is pertinent to mention, tribals often set forests on fire to facilitate plucking of Kendu leaves and Mahula flowers in summer. Action can be taken against owner of a land located near a forest.

Man hacked on road over political rivalry



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khallikote, April 2: Like a scene straight out of a movie, a man was chased and hacked with sharp-edged weapons in full public view over political rivalry at Langaleswar on National Highway-16 here in Ganjam district Saturday.

Stunned locals feared to save the victim as he was hacked by four people in broad daylight. The victim has been identified as Asit Kumar Nayak of Athgarh in Patana panchayat under Kabisuryanagar election committee.

According to sources, Asit along with his friend Paresk Kumar Sethy had been to Bhubaneswar over some work Friday. On their way back home, four miscreants believed to be waiting for them in a pre-planned manner, threw chili powder at their face.

Later, they attacked the two with sharp-edged weapons. Fearing for his life, Paresk managed to flee from the scene while Asit was crit-

ically injured in the attack.

A few passers-by informed the cops who reached the spot and took him to Khallikote health centre from where he was referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

“They are supporters of a defeated candidate who attacked me. Since, I supported the candidate who won the recently-concluded election, they had planned to attack me,” Asit said in his statement to the cops.

A case has been registered in this connection and a manhunt to nab the four miscreants.

SCIENCE EXPO



Girl students of Attabira High School in Bargarh district performing at a block-level science, mathematics and environment exhibition in their school premises, Saturday

OP PHOTO

1 killed, 15 injured as bus hits tanker

Nayagarh: One person was killed and 15 others were injured when a state-run bus carrying around 60 passengers collided head-on with a liquefied petroleum gas tanker in Nayagarh district Saturday, police said. The accident took place in Takara Ghat area under the Daspalla Police Station limits, a senior officer said. The driver of the tanker died on the spot, while the injured were taken to Daspalla Community Health Centre, he said. Of the 15 injured, seven were stated to be critical, the officer said. The Odisha State Road Transport Corporation bus was going to Jatni from Kantamal in Boudh district, police added.

Girl falls to death; inmates leave hostel

Sundargarh: A day after a Class X girl fell off the roof of the hostel and died at Patuadihi village under Lefripada police limits in this district, some other girl inmates have left the hostel out of fear Saturday. The family members of the deceased student had alleged that the girl might have been pushed from the roof as part of a murder conspiracy. The deceased was a student of the local Panchayat Samiti High School, residing at the school hostel. While the school authorities termed it as an accident, the family members of the girl said she committed suicide because of the physical torture meted out to her by one of her teachers. Lefripada police sent the body for autopsy and are investigating the case. A complaint has been lodged by the deceased girl's family in this connection. The principal and hostel warden have been detained for questioning, reports said.

Girl ran over

Berhampur: A girl was killed after a speeding passenger bus ran over her from rear when she was overtaking a waste collection van in front of the labour office on National Highway-59 under Traffic police limits here, Saturday. The deceased girl was identified as Shalini Patra, 19, daughter of P Tirupati Patra and a student of BCA in a private college in the town. The mishap occurred after the driver suddenly opened the door of the waste collection van of Berhampur Municipal Corporation she was overtaking. She was thrown off her scooter as van's door banged against her head. The helmet she was wearing flew off her head as the passenger bus behind the van ran over her.

PARADIP PORT SEES BIZ, INFRA BOOST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, April 2: Paradip Port has been witnessing major changes in the field of business as well as infrastructure development, a report said.

This has become possible after funds worth Rs 3,200 crore were pumped in during last seven years under the Centre-sponsored Sagarmala project.

Many changes such as better connectivity to the port, infrastructural development and renovations have been brought in by using these funds.

The port has registered a record turnover of 116.13 MMTA (million metric tonne per annum) of cargo when businesses all over the world were on a downslide due to Covid-

19 pandemic and a slump was seen in iron-ore trade in the global market during 2021-22.

This feat has been achieved against its business of 114.55 MMTA in the previous financial year of 2020-21. The daily cargo transaction was 23,943 MT in the previous year, whereas this year it has increased to 27,295 MT.

This was stated here in the annual report released by the Paradip Port Authority Chairman PL Harandh, Friday.

Harandh said works on the construction of three western docks are underway with funds available under the Sagarmala project.

The dock works, when completed, will help 2 lakh MT cargo ships take berth in the port. Similarly, cargo

116.13 MMTA CARGO TRADE IN 2021-22

NH-53 TO BE 8-LANE HIGHWAY

PROJECTS WILL HELP BOOST THE TRADE TO 750 MMTA BY 2047

transportation to the port has become easier after the construction of 82-km-long Paradip-Haridaspur rail route.

Moreover, process has been completed to make National Highway-53 connecting Chandikhole with Paradip an eight-lane highway so that commuting to Paradip Port becomes easier.

This apart, with the participation of the state government, a world class truck terminal will come up on 100 acre of land.

Construction of a riverine port and increasing cargo trade through the port has started under Centre sponsored Gatishakti plan.

The plan, when implemented, will help users reap many benefits. Post implementation, all the projects will help boost the cargo trading in the port to 750 MMTA by 2047.

In this press meet, Harandh defended the renaming of Paradip Port Trust (PPT) to Paradip Port Authority (PPA). He said that the name change will help the chairman take some important decisions on his own.

Earlier, a plethora of issues had

to be sent to the Union Shipping Ministry for decisions and approvals at their end. However, after the name change, the port chairman can directly take decisions in this regard as per the requirement.

Some important steps have been taken to develop the port into a world-class port under Sagarmala project and Gatishakti plan. Among those are, 25 per cent increase in coastal shipping, expediting of cargo unloading through mechanised coal handling plant (MCHP).

The cargo unloading was done through 5,698 trains in 2020-21, while it increased to 7,156 trains in 2021-22. Similarly, the time taken in anchoring of ships in the berths and unloading of cargo has been reduced to nine hours.

Teacher found dead, wife critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, April 2: The body of a retired teacher was spotted by some locals early Saturday morning under mysterious circumstances at a farmland near his house at Balikhanda bazaar of Soro locality under Simulia police limits in Balasore district.

A police source said that the body had a number of deep injuries on it. Obviously, it has raised suspicion that the elderly man might have been attacked with sharp weapons and murdered. After his death, the body would have been thrown by the assailants in the farmland. Meanwhile, the teacher's wife was rescued from their house located at Balikhanda bazaar in critical condition. As it appears, she was also stabbed by the unidentified miscreants, the source added.

“The deceased was identified as 62-

year-old Anand Chandra Patri and his wife as Manorama,” a senior police official said.

Following the rescue, police immediately admitted the injured elderly woman to a government-run health facility in Bhadrak. Manorama is presently undergoing treatment. Her health condition is said to be in danger and she is still battling for survival.

Based on prima facie evidence, the police official informed that the miscreants had entered the house with an intention to loot when the elderly couple was sleeping. However, the husband-wife duo later would have woken up and opposed the miscreants, following which they (looters) might have attacked the couple with sharp weapons.

On being informed by the locals, Simulia police reached the spot and recovered the retired teacher's body lying in the farmland.

TRAINING PROGRAMME



Girls of Government Higher Secondary School at Dabugaon in Nabarangpur district participating in a disaster management training programme on their school premises, Saturday

OP PHOTO

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
SARB, Sambalpur
CORRIGENDUM
With reference to the "Possession Notice" Published in the "Orissa Post" on 07.02.2022, the Plot No. mentioned in the 'Description' of the Property mortgaged / charged/ column of Borrower: **Sri Raj Kumar Sahu** should be read as 'Plot No.: 673/1798' instead of 'Plot No.: 637/1798'. All other Facts will remain unchanged.
Dt.: 02.04.2022 / Authorised Officer

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/21-22/E-Tender/122 Dt. 30.03.2022
1) Tender No. e-tender-East-KUR-340-2021, Dtd. 28.03.2022
DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL LOOP AT BADABANDHA (BDBA) STATION OF KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION.
Approx.Cost of the Work (₹) 200.25 Lakhs, EMD (₹): 2,50,100.00, Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months.
2) Tender No. e-tender-HQ-KUR-338-2021, Dtd. 28.03.2022
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 2 UNITS TYPE-V QUARTERS OVER EXISTING QUARTERS AT TRAFFIC COLONY AT KHURDA ROAD.
Approx.Cost of the Work (₹) 87.36 Lakhs, EMD (₹): 1,74,700.00, Completion Period : 08 (Eight) Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 20.04.2022 (for both the tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-01(N/22-23) Khurda Road

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
No.A-1: e-Procurement Notice Online Tender
BID Identification No. EEMIDBNJ-04/2021-22
Name of work : Civil Construction Works.
No. of work : 22 Nos.
Estimated cost : Rs. 7.81 Lakh to 49.84 Lakh
Period of Completion : 03 (Three) and 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
Date & Time of availability : From 04.04.2022 to 11.04.2022 upto 17.00 hours in the portal
of Bid Documents : 11.04.2022 upto 17.00 hours in the portal
Date for opening of Bid : 12.04.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
Lottery Date if required : 16.04.2022 at 10.30 A.M.
Name & Address of the OIT : Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division Bhanjanagar
Further details & corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
OIPR-32287/11/0001/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KALAHANDI MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA
Ph : 06670-230755 , e-mail - eemikld@rediffmail.com
No.573/MIKLD, Dt.23.03.2022
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. online kldmi-14/2021-22
No.A-3: Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
1. Name of the work :- Civil construction / Renovation & Improvement works
2. No. of Works :- 19 (Nineteen) Nos.
3. Estimated cost :- Varies from Rs. 7.00 lakh to Rs. 27.00 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Period of completion :- 3 (Three) calendar months.
5. Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal :- From 05.04.2022 (10.00 A.M.) to 19.04.2022 (5.00 PM)
6. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 19.04.2022 (5.00 P.M.)
7. Date of opening of Bid :- 20.04.2022 at 11.00 A.M. onwards
8. Name and address of the OIT :- Executive Engineer, Kalahandi Minor Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna
9. Mode of Payment of Bid Cost & Bid Security :- Online
10. Date of transparent lottery if cases arise :- 04.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M. or onwards
11. N.B.: Bidders are requested to mention their valid email I.D. & Telephone/ Mobile Contact No. for communication (must be a valid ID & Mobile Number). This office has not been responsible for invalid email & Mobile no. of the bidders.
** Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Kalahandi M.I. Division, Bhawanipatna
OIPR-32035/11/0001/2223

of the day

quote

Chandigarh will remain the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. Both states have several issues to discuss other than Chandigarh

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

Punjab had demanded extra electricity from the central pool but it was denied, however, it was given to Haryana. On the other hand, the PM says 'sabka saath sabka vikas'. Where is our 'saath'? Neither you take our 'saath' nor give the same to us

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

The relationship between the governor and us is good. Governor Ravi is pleasant to associate with. He is always interested in meeting and conversing at length. We do not want to criticise him on a personal note

MK STALIN | TN CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

4 killed in accident

Hyderabad: Four persons were killed and one was injured in a road accident in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district Saturday, police said. A car overturned after the driver apparently lost control near Turkalapalli in Charakonda mandal, about 130 km from Hyderabad. Four members of a family travelling in the car died on the spot while another person was injured. Police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to a hospital in Hyderabad. The bodies were shifted to Kalwakurti government hospital for autopsy.

Heroin seized

Kolkata: In one of the largest drug hauls in Kolkata airport, the DRI has seized 16.15 kg of heroin valued at nearly Rs 113 crore from three African passengers, including two women, a senior official said Saturday. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI people intercepted the three persons - a man and a woman from Kenya and a female passenger from Malawi. During examination of their four trolley bags, 14 packets filled with some brown powdery substance were found concealed in cavities created in them.

Woman gangraped

New Delhi: A 26-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by two men in the national capital's Hari Nagar area, a police official said Saturday. The accused duo has been arrested. According to the official, the incident took place Tuesday night when the survivor was returning home from work. Sources said when the woman reached Hari Nagar area of west Delhi, she was confronted by two men who then took her to a nearby park and committed the heinous crime.

India, Nepal vow to expand ties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 2: India and Nepal Saturday unveiled a cross-border railway network and several other developmental initiatives even as Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba pitched for setting up of a bilateral mechanism to resolve the lingering boundary issue.

After their wide-ranging talks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Deuba virtually inaugurated the 35-km railway network from Bihar's Jaynagar to Kurtha in Nepal, launched a 90-km power transmission line and rolled out the RuPay payment card in Nepal.

Signalling a major reset of ties that came under severe strain after the boundary row escalated in 2020, the two sides unveiled a vision document for cooperation in the power sector and inked four pacts providing for ramping up India's sup-

ply of petroleum products to Nepal and boosting ties in sectors such as clean energy and railways.

In his media statement, Modi referred to the discussion on ensuring that the open borders between India and Nepal are not misused by undesirable elements. "We discussed that the open borders between India and Nepal are not misused by undesirable elements. We emphasised on deepening of cooperation between our defence

- The two sides inked four pacts to expand cooperation in areas of railways and energy
- Modi said the friendly ties between India and Nepal are unique and such a relationship is not seen anywhere else in the world
- Modi said the joint vision statement between the two sides on power cooperation will prove to be a blueprint for future cooperation in the sector

and security authorities. I am confident that our talks today will be able to attain the objective of achieving the ambitious targets of the India-Nepal ties," he said.

Deuba arrived in New Delhi on Friday in his first bilateral visit abroad after becoming prime minister for the fifth time in July 2021. In his remarks, Modi said India has been a firm partner in the journey of peace, progress and development of Nepal and will always remain so.

"The friendship of India and Nepal, the relationships of our people, such an example is not seen anywhere else in the world. Our civilization, our culture, the threads of our exchanges; are connected since ancient times," Modi said in his media statement.

Seven bills on Rajya Sabha agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 2: The government will bring seven bills in Rajya Sabha during the final week of the budget session of which three have already been passed by Lok Sabha.

The business advisory committee of the Upper House of Parliament has allocated 17 hours for these Bills in the coming week. Rajya Sabha has also reported a productivity of 101 per cent during three weeks of the second part of the budget session that started on March 14, an official state-

ment said. The Bills that are proposed to be taken up by the Upper House during the last week of the current session include the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022, relating to Tripura as passed by Lok Sabha, and the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, passed by Lok Sabha earlier this week.

The Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which has also been passed by Lok Sabha, will be taken

up in Rajya Sabha this week.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022, pertaining to Uttar Pradesh, the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, and the Indian Antarctica Bill, 2022, will also be taken after they are passed by Lok Sabha.

Besides, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities Amendment) Bill, 2022, will be introduced for consideration and passage.



People take part in a procession celebrating the Maharashtrian New Year, in Navi Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

SHIVPAL FOLLOWING MODI, ADITYANATH ON TWITTER

Sulking socialist leader Shivpal Singh Yadav Saturday started following Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath on Twitter, further fuelling speculation about strains in the Samajwadi Party-led opposition alliance



Cruiser witness dies; Maha orders probe



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, April 2: Taking serious cognisance of the death of Prabhakar Sail due to a suspected heart attack, the Maharashtra government Saturday ordered the police to probe his sudden demise.

After doubts were raised over the death of Sail - a key 'panch witness' in the infamous Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raids on the Cordelia Cruise ship last October, Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil has directed Mumbai Police to investigate. Sail, in his mid-40s reportedly suffered a cardiac arrest at his home in Mahul, Chembur, according to his lawyer Tushar Khandare.

His grieving and aged mother Hiravati Sail told mediapersons that her son had been incommunicado for the past few days, and leaves behind two minor daughters. Earlier, on Saturday morning, the ruling ally Nationalist Congress Party and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) raised questions on the witness' death that suspended political circles on the auspicious Gudi Padwa Day (Maharashtrian New Year).

Terming it as a 'suspicious development', NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation probe.

BJP legislator Atul Bhatkalkar

Terming it as a 'suspicious development', NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation probe

Besides Aryan Khan, around 19 others were nabbed and two are still in custody, while the NCB has been granted two months' extension to file its chargesheet in the Cordelia Cruise ship swoop case

wondered whether Sail had meted a fate similar to the Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran who was found murdered after the sensational case involving a SUV with 20 gelatin sticks was recovered near the home of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, erupted in February 2021.

Soon after the October 2 raids aboard the cruiser, Sail had created a stir accusing then NCB Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede of various irregularities, and hurled allegations of extortion from Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan whose son Aryan was among those detained and later arrested.

Besides Aryan Khan, around 19 others were nabbed and two are still in custody, while the NCB has been granted two months' extension to file its chargesheet in the Cordelia Cruise ship swoop case.

Sail - who was described as a personal bodyguard of another independent witness and a BJP activist K.P. Gosavi, had later made several shocking revelations that raised serious questions on the NCB raids and Wankhede.

Incidentally, after the claims by Sail and later the serial exposes made by Minister Nawab Malik in the case, Gosavi came under a cloud and was arrested by the Pune Police in a cheating case.

SEVEN KILLED AFTER VAN TOPPLES IN TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tirupathur (TN), April 2: Seven people, including women who were on their way to a temple in a village here were killed while 22 others sustained grievous injuries after the pick-up truck they were travelling in plunged into a valley Saturday.

Chief Minister M K Stalin offered his condolences to the bereaved families and announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each to the kin of those who died. He also announced a relief of ₹50,000 for the families of those injured. Around 30 devotees from Puliur village were proceeding to a temple located on the hilltop of Sembarai in the district when the mishap took place.

The driver of the truck, while negotiating a curve on the ghat road lost control of the vehicle leading to the accident, a police official said. "We received information that seven people died and 22 others were injured in the accident. Officials have gone to the spot for further investigation," the official said. Expressing grief over the deaths, Stalin said, "... I have ordered authorities to speed up the treatment to the injured at the district government hospital."

INDIA SEES WARMEST MARCH IN 122 YEARS

The countrywide average minimum temperature of 20.24 degrees Celsius in March this year was the third highest in 122 years after 20.26 degrees Celsius in 1953 and 20.25 degrees Celsius in 2010

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 2: India recorded its warmest March in 122 years with a severe heat wave scorching large swathes of the country in the month, the India Meteorological

Department said Saturday.

The weather department attributed the unusual heat to the lack of rainfall due to the absence of active western disturbances over north India and any major system over south India. The country as a whole recorded a rainfall of 8.9 mm, which was 71 per cent less than its long period average rainfall of 30.4 mm. It was also the third-lowest precipitation in March since 1901 after 7.2 mm in 1909 and 8.7 mm in 1908.

"Over the country as a whole, the average maximum temperature (33.10 degrees Celsius) recorded in March 2022 is the highest ever in the last 122 years," the IMD said in a statement.



In March 2010, the country had recorded a maximum tempera-

ture of 33.09 degrees Celsius. The MeT department said the

country's average mean tempera-

March was the second highest after 26.671 degrees Celsius recorded in March 2010.

The countrywide average minimum temperature of 20.24 degrees Celsius in March this year was the third highest in 122 years after 20.26 degrees Celsius in 1953 and 20.25 degrees Celsius in 2010.

In Northwest India, the average maximum temperature (30.73 degrees Celsius) is the highest in the last 122 years. March 2004 saw an average maximum temperature of 30.67 degrees Celsius.

The average minimum temperature of 15.26 degrees Celsius was the second highest in the region. March 2010 had a mean minimum temperature of 15.4 degrees Celsius, it said.

Northwest India recorded 5.2mm of rainfall against a normal of 47.5 mm, a shortfall of 89 percent. Central India saw 87 percent less rainfall during the month, gauging only 1.1mm of precipitation against a normal of 8.4 mm.

The IMD said the heat wave spell is likely to continue over Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh over the next two to four days.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is predicted over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya from April 2 to April 4 with isolated extremely heavy rainfall over Meghalaya over the next two days.

of the day quote

Pakistan continues to believe in using dialogue and diplomacy to resolve all outstanding issues, including the Kashmir dispute and is ready to move forward on this front if India also agrees to do so

GEN QAMAR JAVED BAJWA | PAKISTAN'S CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (COAS)

The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories must end through a political solution

MAHMOUD ABBAS | PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT

If the international community and parties can work together this could be built into a lasting ceasefire and inclusive political process that ultimately gives shape to a new Yemen

TIM LENDERKING | U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR YEMEN

SHORT TAKES

Malaysian King, Queen test Cov +ve

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah and the Queen have tested positive for Covid-19, a palace official confirmed Saturday. The royal couple were experiencing mild symptoms from the infection but are doing well, Xinhua news agency quoted Comptroller of the Royal Household Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin as saying in a statement. "The royal couple are carrying out self-quarantine as per the SOPs set by the Health Ministry for Covid cases with light symptoms or those asymptomatic," Ahmad Fadil said.

IAEA chief to head mission to Chernobyl

Vienna: Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director-General of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said he would head an assistance and support mission to Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power plant "as soon as possible" to help ensure the facility's safety. In a tweet, Grossi said that the mission "will be the first in a series of such nuclear safety and security missions to Ukraine", reports Xinhua news agency. He also told a press conference in Vienna that the IAEA mission would be in Chernobyl "very, very soon". The IAEA chief has just returned from his recent visits to Ukraine and Russia, during which he held discussions with officials on both sides about ensuring the security of the war-torn nation's nuclear facilities.

Ukr conducts 2nd prisoner exchange

Kyiv: Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk announced that the country has conducted a second prisoner exchange with Russia after the first took place late last month. Friday's "86 for 86" prisoner exchange took place on President Volodymyr Zelensky's order, Ukrayinska Pravda quoted Vereshchuk as saying in a statement. According to the Deputy Prime Minister, of the 86 prisoners that have returned home, 15 were women soldiers.

US cancels ICBM test

Washington: The US has cancelled a planned test-launch of its Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), according to the Air Force. The Air Force's press desk confirmed the cancellation to Xinhua news agency late Friday night, saying the reason for the decision was the same as when the Air Force announced the delay of the test on March 2, which was to avoid misinterpretation or miscommunication with Russia amid the war in Ukraine.



No matter how the situation changes, China will support Myanmar in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and in exploring a development path suited to its national conditions

WANG YI | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER

POPE BLASTS RUSSIA'S 'INFANTILE' WAR

Blasted Russian President Vladimir Putin for launching a "savage" war, Pope Francis Saturday said he was studying a possible visit to Kyiv. Speaking after his arrival in Malta, the pope delivered his most pointed and personalised denunciation yet of Russia's invasion of Ukraine



UKRAINE AWAITS 'GOOD NEWS'

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) SENT A TEAM ON FRIDAY TO LEAD A CONVOY OF ABOUT 54 UKRAINIAN BUSES AND OTHER PRIVATE VEHICLES OUT OF MARIUPOLE

AGENCIES

Lviv, Ukraine, April 2: Ukraine expects good news over the week-end regarding evacuations of people from the besieged southeastern city of Mariupol, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday.

"Our delegation has reached an agreement in Istanbul (during Ukraine-Russia peace talks) to provide evacuations," Oleksiy Arestovych told Ukraine's television. "I think that today or maybe tomorrow we will hear good news regarding the evacuation of the inhabitants of Mariupol."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent a team on Friday to lead a convoy of about 54 Ukrainian buses and other private vehicles out of the city, but they turned back, saying conditions made it impossible to proceed. They were due to try again on Saturday.

Encircled since the early days of Russia's five-week-old invasion, Mariupol has been Moscow's main target in the southeastern region of Donbas. Tens of thousands of people are trapped in the city with scant access to food and water.

As Russian forces pull back from Ukraine's capital region, retreating troops are creating a "catastrophic"



'Global arrest warrant for Putin'

Geneva: The former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has called for an international arrest warrant to be issued for Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Putin is a war criminal," Carla Del Ponte told the Swiss newspaper Le Temps in an interview published Saturday. In interviews given to Swiss media to mark the release of her latest book, the Swiss lawyer who oversaw ICC war crimes investigations in Rwanda, Syria and the former Yugoslavia said there were clear war crimes being committed in Ukraine. She said she was particularly shocked by the use of mass graves in Russia's war on Ukraine, which recalls the worst of the wars in the former Yugoslavia. "I hoped never to see mass graves again," she told the newspaper Blick. "These dead people have loved ones who don't even know what's become of them. That is unacceptable."

situation for civilians by leaving mines around homes, abandoned equipment and "even the bodies of those killed", President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Saturday. Ukraine and its Western allies re-

ported mounting evidence of Russia withdrawing its forces from around Kyiv and building up troop strength in eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian fighters reclaimed several areas near the capital after

Imran Khan may not accept vote to oust him



AGENCIES

Islamabad, April 2: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan suggested Saturday that he might not accept a vote to oust him, a move he alleged was being orchestrated by the United States.

Opposition parties say Khan has failed to revive an economy battered by the coronavirus pandemic or fulfil promises to make his government more transparent and accountable, and have put forward a no-confidence motion due to be voted Sunday. "How can I accept the result when the entire process is discredited?" Khan told a select group of foreign journalists at his office. "Democracy functions on moral authority - what moral authority

is left after this connivance?"

"The move to oust me is blatant interference in domestic politics by the United States," he said, terming it an attempt at "regime change". Khan has already lost his parliamentary majority after key allies quit his coalition government and joined the opposition.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed revealed Saturday that even if the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan succeeds, the premier will continue to hold office until a new leader is sworn-in, Dawn reported. At a media talk in Islamabad, he referred to Article 94 of the Constitution - related to the Prime Minister continuing in office -- which states, "The President may ask the Prime Minister to continue to hold office until his successor enters upon the office of Prime Minister."

Hours before he spoke, the head of the army, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, had said Pakistan wanted to expand its ties with Washington.

US President Joe Biden has not called Khan since taking office, but the White House has denied that it is seeking to topple him.

Pak doesn't believe in 'camp politics': Bajwa

Islamabad: Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa Saturday said that Pakistan shares a "long and excellent" strategic relationship with the US but it does not believe in "camp politics" and the country's bilateral relations with its partners are not at the expense of its relationships with other nations. Bajwa's comments came a day ahead of Sunday's no-trust motion against embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan, who without naming the US directly has been claiming that the Opposition's no-confidence motion against him was the result of a "foreign conspiracy" because of his independent foreign policy. Speaking at the Islamabad Security Dialogue, Bajwa said amid concerns about a contest between global powers, Pakistan was positioning itself as a melting pot for international economic interests by focusing on connectivity and friendship.

New variant XE, more transmissible than Omicron: WHO

XE IS A 'RECOMBINANT' WHICH IS A MUTATION OF BA.1 AND BA.2 OMICRON STRAINS. RECOMBINANT MUTATIONS EMERGE WHEN A PATIENT IS INFECTED BY MULTIPLE VARIANTS OF COVID-19

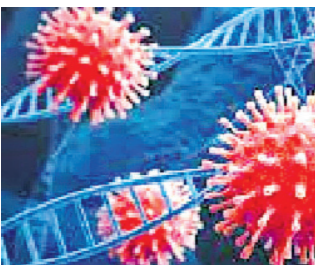
AGENCIES

Washington/New Delhi: A new strain of the Covid-19 Omicron variant, first detected in the UK, appears to be more transmissible than previous strains of the coronavirus, the WHO has said, asserting that Covid-19 remains a public health emergency of international concern and warning that it is "too early" to reduce the quality of surveillance.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said in its latest update that the XE recombinant (BA.1-BA.2) was first detected in the UK on January 19 and more than 600 sequences have been reported and con-

firmed since then. "Early-day estimates indicate a community growth rate advantage of 10% as compared to BA.2. However, this finding requires further confirmation," it said. The Geneva-based UN health agency said that XE belongs to the Omicron variant until significant differences in transmission and disease characteristics, including severity, may be reported.

"WHO continues to closely monitor and assess the public health risk associated with recombinant variants, alongside other SARS-CoV-2 variants, and will provide updates as further evidence becomes available," it said. The COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update, released



Wednesday, had said that deaths from COVID-19 last week increased by 43 per cent, driven by factors including retrospective adjustments reported from India in the South-East Asia Region. Between the end of January and early March 2022, there was a decreasing trend in

World gets 1st nasal vax

Moscow: The Russian Health Ministry has registered the nasal version of its Covid-19 jab, Sputnik V, which is said to be the world's first nasal vaccine against the virus. "Russian Health Ministry registers the nasal version of Sputnik V, the world's first nasal vaccine against Covid-19," Sputnik V wrote on Twitter. In January, the Russian news agency TASS reported that the nasal vaccine against will be in civil circulation and available for Russians in three to four months. Director of the Gamaleya Center, had earlier told the agency that it will be efficient against the new Omicron strain.

the number of new COVID-19 cases, which was followed by two consecutive weeks of increases in cases, the WHO said. During the week of March 21 to 27 this year, the number of new cases declined again with a 14 per cent decrease as compared with the previous week. Across the six WHO regions, over 10 million new cases and over 45,000 fresh deaths were reported. All regions reported decreasing trends in the number of new weekly cases and four regions reported a decreasing trend in new weekly deaths. As of March 27, over 479 million confirmed cases and over 6 million deaths have been reported globally.

Will Smith calls it quits

The actor dubs his actions 'shocking, painful and inexcusable'

AGENCIES

Los Angeles, April 2: Hollywood star Will Smith, facing possible expulsion or suspension after he assaulted comedian Chris Rock during last Sunday's Oscars telecast, has instead resigned from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

The move comes as the actor is embroiled in the gravest crisis of his career and as the organisation behind the Academy Awards has struggled in its attempts to deal with the fallout from the altercation, reports 'Variety'. In a statement, Smith called his actions "shocking, painful and inexcusable" and said that he will accept any additional consequences that the Academy's Board of Governors deems appropriate. "The list of those I have hurt is long and includes Chris, his family, many of my dear friends and loved ones, all those in attendance, and global audiences at home," Smith said.

"I betrayed the trust of the Academy. I deprived other nominees and winners of their opportunity to celebrate and be celebrated for their extraordinary work. I am heartbroken." Smith also acknowledged that his actions overshadowed other winners at the 94th Academy Awards.

Academy president David Rubin



replied to his resignation, saying in a statement: "We have received and accepted Will Smith's immediate resignation from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. We will continue to move forward with our disciplinary proceedings against Smith for violations of the Academy's Standards of Conduct, in advance of our next scheduled board meeting April 18."

During the ceremony, Smith charged the stage and struck Rock during the broadcast after Rock made a joke about the actor's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, likening her shaved head to the buzzcut sported by Demi Moore in 'GI Jane'. Pinkett Smith suffers from hair loss due to alopecia.

The Academy later said it asked Smith to leave the ceremony and he refused.

Biden nominates two Indian Americans to key admin positions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, April 1: US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to nominate Indian-origin civil rights attorney Kalpana Kotagal and certified public accountant Vinay Singh to key administration positions.

Kotagal is the nominee for Commissioner on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission while Singh has been nominated as Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the White House said Friday.

Kotagal, who is the daughter of immigrants from India, is a partner at Cohen Milstein, a member of the firm's Civil Rights and Employment practice group, and co-chair of the firm's Hiring and Diversity Committee.



She is the co-author of the seminal legal template 'Inclusion Rider'. Kotagal is also a diversity, equity and inclusion expert, and represents disenfranchised people in employment and civil rights litigation involving issues related to Title VII, Equal Pay Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act, the White House said.

Indian-American Impact, nation's leading civic Indian American and South Asian organisation, welcomed the nomination of Kotagal to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Vinay Singh, a Certified Public Accountant, is currently senior advisor to the Administrator at the US Small Business Administration (SBA), assisting agency teams to deliver organisational efficiencies to better serve our communities' small businesses. He has 25 years of private sector leadership experience with a deep understanding of finance, analytics and strategy.

Singh had also served in the Obama-Biden administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary (US Field). He played a key role in leading trade and investment policy and promotion efforts to better market conditions for US companies. Last month, President Biden nominated two Indian-Americans as US envoys. He nominated diplomat Puneet Talwar as the country's ambassador to Morocco and political activist Shefali Razdan Duggal as his envoy to the Netherlands.

of the day quote

We have seen demand for talent rise across almost every occupational category, although to a much greater extent in some occupations than in others. Workers in India, especially in the tech segment have greater choice and might get more bargaining power than before the pandemic



SASHI KUMAR | INDEED INDIA HEAD OF SALES

Refurbished equipment is an economical and environment-friendly solution that can make healthcare available to all Indians. At Blue Star E&E we are committed to understanding the needs of radiologists, and thereby recommending the right solution that fits their requirements as well as their budgets



PREM KALLIATH | BLUE STAR ENGINEERING & ELECTRONICS CEO

Electrification of commercial vehicles, public transport, especially the bus sector, is key to India's decarbonization strategy. Today, we are excited to launch our first electric bus EKA E9, to empower cities to achieve their zero-emissions targets



SUDHIR MEHTA | CHAIRMAN OF EKA AND PINNACLE INDUSTRIES LTD

SHORT TAKES

Dr Reddy's inks pact with Novartis

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Friday said it has inked a pact with Novartis AG to acquire the cardiovascular medicine brand Cidmus in India for USD 61 million (about 463 crore). Under the agreement, Dr Reddy's will be assigned and transferred the Cidmus trademark in India from Novartis AG for a consideration of USD 61 million, the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a regulatory filing. The Cidmus brand shall be affixed on the pharmaceutical composition comprising a combination of Valsartan and Sacubitril (currently under Novartis patent) which is indicated for heart failure patients with reduced ejection fraction, it added. The tablets are available in three strengths.

WhatsApp bans 14.26L accounts

New Delhi: WhatsApp banned 14.26 lakh Indian accounts in February on the basis of complaints received from users via grievances channel and through its own mechanism to prevent and detect violations, according to monthly report published by the messaging platform. As many as 335 grievance reports were received and 21 accounts were "actioned" between February 1 and February 28. Out of the total reports received, 194 pertained to ban appeal while others were in the categories of account support, product support and safety, among others. "We respond to all grievances received except in cases where a grievance is deemed to be a duplicate of a previous ticket. An account is 'actioned' when an account is banned or a previously banned account is restored, as a result of a complaint," the report release Friday said.

High raw material cost to hit textiles

New Delhi: Higher raw material cost is likely to impact textile demand during Q1FY23 on a quarter-on-quarter basis. As per India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), sustained rub-off impact from high man-made fibre (MMF) prices amid new arrivals will keep domestic cotton prices to remain at the current high levels during Q1FY23.



The global semiconductor industry is already facing a shortage due to supply chain disruptions during the COVID-19 period. The Russia-Ukraine conflict might cause extra disruptions and affect supply chains of semiconductors

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

ROYAL ENFIELD TOTAL SALES UP 2.45 PER CENT IN MARCH

Motorcycle maker Royal Enfield on Saturday reported a 2.45 per cent increase in total sales at 67,677 units in March 2022. The company had sold 66,058 units in the same month last year, the company said in a statement.



India, Aus ink trade pact

THOUSANDS OF INDIAN GOODS TO GET DUTY-FREE ACCESS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 2: India and Australia Saturday signed an economic cooperation and trade agreement under which Canberra would provide duty-free access in its market for over 6,000 broad sectors of India, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery.

The agreement is likely to be implemented in about four months. The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) was inked by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan in a virtual ceremony, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison.

Goyal said the agreement would help in taking bilateral trade from USD 27.5 billion at present to USD 45-50 billion in the next five years.

He further said the pact will contribute towards large employment generation, which is estimated at around 10 lakh over the next 5-7 years as the labour-intensive sectors are likely to gain the most.

Under the pact, Australia is offering zero duty access to India for about 96.4 per cent of exports (by value) from day one. This covers many products which currently attract 4-5 per cent customs duty in



Australia. Labour-intensive sectors which would gain immensely include textiles and apparel, few agricultural and fish products, leather, footwear, furniture, sports goods, jewellery, machinery, electrical goods and railway wagons.

On the very first day of the implementation of the pact, over 6,000 tariff lines would be available for Indian exporters at zero duty. Australia trades in about 6,500 tariff lines, while India has over 11,500 tariff lines. Since Australian exports are more concentrated in raw materials and intermediates, many industries in India will get cheaper raw materials which will make them competitive, in particular sectors like steel, aluminium and

fabric/ garments.

To safeguard sensitive sectors, India has several goods in the exclusion category in which no duty concessions will be accorded to Australian imports.

Such goods will include milk and other dairy products, toys, sunflowers, seed oil, walnuts, pistachio nuts, platinum, wheat, rice, bajra, apple, sugar, oil cake, gold, silver, chickpeas, jewellery, iron ore and most medical devices.

The agreement will also have a safeguard mechanism that includes stricter rules of origin to prevent any routing of products from a third country; safeguard mechanism to deal with any unusual surge in imports; and similar norms

for the steel sector.

For the pharma segment, the pact would provide fast-track approvals and fast-track quality assessment/inspections of manufacturing facilities.

In the services sector, benefits for India include post study work visa of 2-4 years for Indian students on reciprocal basis; and work and holiday visa arrangement for young professionals, Goyal said.

"Post study work visas will provide extended options for working in Australia to eligible Indian graduates, post graduates and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) specialists," he said, adding that currently, there are more than 1 lakh Indian students enrolled in various courses in Australia. He added that Australia has agreed to resolve the double taxation issue being faced by domestic IT companies in that market.

Canberra has also agreed to amend its domestic tax law to stop the taxation of offshore income of Indian firms providing technical services in Australia.

On the other hand, India will be offering zero duty access for over 85 per cent of its tariff lines for Australia which will include products like coal, sheep meat, wool, LNG, coal, alumina, metallic ores, including manganese, copper and nickel; titanium and zirconium.

BIZ BUZZ

Utkal Diwas at Esplanade One

Bhubaneswar: Utkal Diwas was celebrated at Esplanade One April 1, 2022, Friday. During this occasion, a statue of Utkal Gourab Barrister Madhusudan Das was unveiled in the presence of chief guest of the evening Additional Director General of Police & Director Intelligence Lalit Das along with chief speaker Birendra Pandit Kishore Tripathy Sharma. Tripathy Sharma narrated Odisha's culture, language, and heritage and how importantly this was brought into existence by Madhusudan Das. The state anthem "Bande Utkala Janani" was played during the evening. The audience witnessed the state anthem and the Utkal Diwas celebrations at Esplanade One. From the mall management team, Marketing Head -Tilak Das and Chief Security Head Debasish Mishra actively took part in this event. A cultural programme featuring Odissi, Sambalpuri and other dance forms was held. The celebrations will continue till Sunday with some mouth melting traditional food items available for visitors.



BGU celebrates 6th foundation day

Bhubaneswar: Birla Global University (BGU) celebrated its 6th foundation day April 1 which incidentally falls on Utkal Diwas, the auspicious foundation day of Odisha. Celebrated sculptor Adwaita Gadanayak, the Director-General, National Gallery of Modern Art, delivered the foundation day lecture. In his address, Gadanayak discussed various aspects of the vast culture of our country. Guest of honour Nivedita Mishra, an eminent sculptor, shared a powerful message on Shakti and defined Shakti as the undivided part of Shiva, a power and pleasure that one feels in them. In his welcome address, Prof PP Mathur, Vice Chancellor, Birla Global University, focused on the contribution of the founders of the Birla Global University Late BK Birla and Late Sarala Birla in the fields of art, culture and education. He also appreciated the efforts made by the faculty and staff members towards the growth of the university.



Bank of India's new zonal office in Baripada

Baripada: Bank of India, one of the India's premier public sector banks, has announced the inauguration of its new zonal office at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district. The zonal office, which commenced operations April 1, will oversee 67 branches with a business mix valued over ₹6, 200 crore. The Board of Bank of India approved the establishment of the zonal office in Baripada in view of the digital banking trends in a post-pandemic world and to be at par with peer banks and for expanding business mix. Baripada is an important business hub for Bank of India as well as its plans to improve administrative operations and boost financial inclusion. The primary reason for establishing a new zonal office in Baripada is Bank of India's position as the lead bank in the district.

Utkal Diwas at AIC Nalanda

Bhubaneswar: Atal Incubation Center (AIC) Nalanda set up under Atal Incubation Mission of NITI Aayog in public-private partnership celebrated Utkal Diwas in an innovative way by launching its fifth edition of launchpad - Greenovation by Governor Ganeshi LaL in the presence of noted industry professional Tapan Chand and other dignitaries. While launching the new startup the Governor said: "Nothing is useless in this world if properly used it can be beneficial and for that new ideas need to be in place." This startup will be a one-stop solution to your organic and eco-friendly lifestyle. AIC Nalanda is guided by 12 eminent board of advisors, 20 mentors, 30-plus investors ready to invest in new startups and 20 collaborations and partnership. The center has supported 73 startups and has successfully escalated five startups to commercial scale.



How zero-depreciation cover helps during motor insurance claim

A comprehensive motor insurance policy is an excellent tool to protect your vehicle. It covers you against the third-party liability that may arise due to the use of your vehicle, and also covers your vehicle for damage due to natural calamities like floods, inundation, hailstorms, hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides, and rockslides. It also covers loss or damage suffered to vehicles due to man-made disasters like riots and accidental external means. Apart from these standard covers, the industry also offers a few useful add-ons that further strengthen your safety net and protect you against unseen financial losses. Today, we will discuss one such add-on, the zero-depreciation cover. The zero-depreciation cover is also known as nil depreciation cover or bumper to bumper cover. Like every other asset that you own, the value of your vehicle also depreciates over the years. Before we talk more about zero-depreciation cover, you must know about the rate of depreciation applicable to various party type.

During the time of the claim, the above depreciation rate, which is also explicitly mentioned in your policy copy is factored in before settling the claim. However, if you have zero-depreciation cover, the

rate of depreciation mentioned in Table 1 won't be taken into account. This provides you wider financial protection during the time of loss as you are paid the claim without taking the relevant depreciation rate into consideration. Let us understand this with help of an example, if you met with an accident in which the fiberglass component of your vehicle got

You must also know about the following depreciation rates are applied for specific components:-

- For all rubber/nylon/plastic parts, tubes, batteries, paint work, and airbags - 50%
- For fiberglass components - 30%
- For all parts made of glass - Nil

damaged, the replacement cost is ₹20,000. A simple motor insurance policy will pay you only ₹14,000, as the fiberglass component attracts a 30% depreciation if the said component is agreed for replacement by the insurer; however, if you have a zero-depreciation cover the policy will pay you the entire replacement cost of ₹20,000 or maximum percentage

as defined in the policy otherwise. This feature helps you reduce the out-of-pocket expenses substantially, and entitles you to the total cost of the replacement of the particular part of the vehicle. Simply put, this add-on cancels out the impact of depreciation on your vehicle.

The zero-depreciation cover is available for relatively new vehicles; it is usually offered for cars not older than 5 to 7 years. Additionally, the add-on is designed for those parts of the vehicle which do not undergo wear and tear in regular use, hence the cover is not applicable to tyres and battery of the vehicle. Zero-depreciation also does not cover engine damage due to oil leakage or water ingress. You must buy an engine protection cover to protect your engine from eventual-

ties like water ingress, damage due to leakage of oil, damage arising from the hydrostatic lock, when you try starting the car after the water has entered the engine, damage to various components of the engine. Barring the mentioned exclusions, the zero-depreciation cover protects all the relevant components of your vehicle.

If you are wondering about the cost of this super effective add-on, then I must tell you that it comes at a pocket-friendly price.

If you assess thoroughly, you will realize that this is a nominal price to pay, to ensure that you are duly protected during the time of claim. Since most of the insurers allow at least two zero-depreciation claims in a policy year, it is a worthwhile deal.

Now, that you understand how zero-depreciation cover can help you during the time of claim and can add value to your motor insurance policy, buy the cover and shield yourself from unexpected financial losses to your vehicle!

The rate of depreciation for all other parts including wooden parts is to be as per the following schedule:		
Age of the vehicle	Rate of depreciation	
Not exceeding 6 months	Nil	
Exceeding 6 months but not exceeding 1 year	5%	
Exceeding 1 year but not exceeding 2 years	10%	
Exceeding 2 years but not exceeding 3 years	15%	
Exceeding 3 years but not exceeding 4 years	25%	
Exceeding 4 years but not exceeding 5 years	35%	
Exceeding 5 year but not exceeding 10 years	40%	
Exceeding 10 years	50%	
I am sure that by now, you must be evaluating if this cover is apt for you or not. Zero-depreciation is a great cover to have for anyone, but it is highly recommended for the following situations: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none">People residing in accident-prone areasNew driversNew car	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ownersLuxury car ownersIf the car has expensive spare parts

TA Ramalingam, Chief Technical Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Buttler ton helps Royals deflate MI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, April 2: Jos Buttler's manic mayhem (100, 68b, 11x4, 5x6) was matched in equal measure by spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin (1/30) and Yuzvendra Chahal (2/26) as Rajasthan Royals beat Mumbai Indians by 23 runs in an IPL match Saturday.

Buttler scored his second IPL ton off only 66 balls to help the Royals to 193/8, which seemed slightly sub-par due to Jasprit Bumrah's (3/17) brilliant effort.

Ishan Kishan (54, 43b, 5x4, 1x6) and un-

heralded N Tilak Verma (61, 33b, 3x4, 5x6) added 81 in 8 overs before Ashwin and Chahal decisively tilted the game in RR's favour between overs 14 to 16 as MI managed only 170/8 after 20 overs.

While Royals have now won two out of two, MI have lost both their games in another dismal start to an IPL season. In the end, there were two factors that combined to bring about MI's downfall.

Firstly, it was Buttler's assault against MI's weak-links like Basil Thampi and Murugan Ashwin that made the difference. Three such overs yielded 73 runs

and even Bumrah's brilliance didn't seem to be enough in the final context of the match.

And then while bowling, in between overs 14 and 16, Chahal-Ashwin combination gave away only 16 runs and the chase was derailed.

In the last four overs also, Trent Boult (1/29), Prasidh Krishna (1/37) and Navdeep Saini (2/36) kept things tight by not giving Kieron Pollard (22) any room to free his arms. All of them knowing Pollard's weakness against fast wide yorkers, bowled them aplenty to keep the West Indies white-ball skipper under tight leash.

If there was one plus point for MI, that will be young Verma, who could be the next big player for the franchise with his eye-catching elegance coupled with brute power. The reverse swept six off Ashwin was brilliant but Tilak played one slog sweep too many to get out off the next ball.

Buttler played shots all round the park to bring up his second IPL hundred and first of the current edition. It was all the more praiseworthy as Yashasvi Jaiswal (1) and Devdutt Padikkal (7) were dismissed cheaply. Skipper Sanju Samson (30) played a good knock as he and Buttler conjured 82 runs for the third wicket. A late cameo by Shimron Hetmyr (35, 14b, 3x4, 3x6) compounded the bowling team's woes.

At 87/2, after 10 overs, the stage was set for a big score. Buttler was playing big shots at will and was ably supported by his captain. The duo was brutal on Murugan Ashwin, hitting him for 21-runs in the 11th over.

Samson was dismissed by Kieron Pollard in the 15th over. Then it was the Hetmyr show. Buttler paced his innings well and reached to the three-figure mark with a single. However Bumrah's 19th over partially got MI back in the game.

BRIEF SCORES

Rajasthan Royals 193/8 (Jos Buttler 100, Shimron Hetmyr 35, Sanju Samson 30; Jasprit Bumrah 3/17, Tymal Mills 3/35) beat Mumbai Indians 170/8 (N Tilak Verma 61, Ishan Kishan 54; Yuzvendra Chahal 2/26, Navdeep Saini 2/36) by 23 runs.

Australia face England for women's WC title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Christchurch, April 2: Relentless Australia will be out to underline their credentials as one of game's greatest sides against a battle-hardened England unit that will also seek greatness in a blockbuster ICC Women's World Cup final here Sunday.

Both England and Australia have been marching towards the big day in their own way. Defending champions England have been emboldened by an incredible turnaround that saw them prevail in five must-win games after losing their first three matches of the tournament.

While the Australians, gunning for a

record seventh world title, have been on a roll extending their winning streak to 11 matches.

Interestingly, despite having won 10 of the previous 11 World Cups between them, England and Australia will face off in an World Cup final for the first time in 34 years.

The two sides started their campaigns together almost a month ago in Hamilton and will end them together, one holding the trophy, the other looking on at the Hagley Oval. Australia have lost only one World Cup final but it was not too far away from the setting for Sunday's finale. Back in 2000, just down the road from Christchurch at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln, Australia lost the closest final the

tournament has ever seen, defeated by New Zealand by just four runs.

That year, England recorded their worst-ever World Cup finish of fifth before fighting back to take the trophy from Australia in 2009. In doing so, they would go on to have a remarkable year also claiming their first, and only, T20 World Cup as well as an Ashes victory.

It is something that Australia are hoping to match 13 years later, as they already hold the T20 trophy having secured that on home soil in 2020 before the Ashes were wrapped up with two games to spare in February, but the one-day World Cup evades them.



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Gill, Ferguson seal Titans win over DC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, April 2: New Zealand fast bowler Lockie Ferguson scalped 4/28 in a stunning display of pace and accuracy after Shubman Gill's imperious 84 (46b, 6x4, 4x6) to help Gujarat Titans beat Delhi Capitals by 14 runs and register their second consecutive win in their maiden IPL season here Saturday.

Ferguson dismissed dangerous opener Prithvi Shaw (10), Mandeep Singh (18), captain Rishabh Pant (43, 29b, 7x4) and Axar Patel (8) to rock the DC's run chase of 172. Veteran pacer Mohammed Shami (2/30) chipped in with two late wickets to hand DC, who finished on 157/9, their first defeat in the tournament.

Titans captain Hardik Pandya got his first wicket as he dismissed DC opener Tim Seifert (3) while Rashid Khan (1/30) also chipped in with the scalp of Shardul Thakur.

It was not the best of starts for DC as they lost opener Seifert in the second over. Ferguson then rocked DC's innings with two wickets in the fifth over - Shaw and Mandeep - as the Titans found themselves in the ascendency.

But DC captain Pant and Lalit Yadav (25) revived the chase with a 61-run stand in 6.5 overs for the fourth wicket. Lalit was run out in a dramatic fashion in the 12th over. Once Pant was out, it was becoming increasingly difficult for DC to chase down the target.

Earlier, Gill played an imperious knock to power the Titans to 171/6 after being asked to bat. Gill and captain Pandya (31) revived the Titans innings with a 65-run partnership for the third wicket after they lost Matthew Wade (1) and Shankar (13) cheaply. Wade was out in the third ball of the innings off Mustafizur Rahman (3/23) while Kuldeep Yadav (1/32) bamboozled Shankar.

Brief scores: GT 171/6 (Shubman Gill 84, Hardik Pandya 31, David Miller 20 n o; Mustafizur Rahman 3/23, Khaleel Ahmed 2/34) beat DC 157/9 (Rishabh Pant 43; Lockie Ferguson 4/28, Mohammed Shami 2/30) by 14 runs.

Reds, City win; Blues thumped

AGENCIES

London, April 2: On a day, where Manchester City and Liverpool continued their battle for the top spot in the Premier League, Chelsea suffered a 1-4 defeat at home against Brentford.

Liverpool came out 2-0 winners over Watford at the Anfield. Liverpool took the lead through Diogo Jota in the 22nd minute before Fabinho doubled the advantage from the spot in the 89th minute.

Man City too came out on top, also with 2-0 scoreline, at Burnley. Two first half goals by Kevin de Bruyne in the fifth minute and Ilkay Gundogan in the 25th minute were enough for the league leaders to keep their position intact.

No-one really dreamed of this

back in mid-January when Liverpool were 14 points behind City. So, they had games in hand but such has been the relentless domination of Liverpool and City these past five years, that it was hard to conceive City could concede such a lead. Now after 30 matches, only a point separates the sides at the top.

However, it was a day to forget for the Blues as they were thumped 1-4 against Brentford at the Stamford Bridge. The hosts drew the first blood through Antonio Rudiger three minutes into the second period. However, Vitaly Janelt found the equaliser in the 50th minute before Christian Eriksen put Brentford ahead four minutes later. Janelt extended the lead on 60 minutes before Yoane Wissa completed a dream win for Brentford.



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